

Budget Vote 37: Sport, Arts and Culture

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Honourable Speaker Budget Vote 37 is aligned to Sports, Arts, Culture and need to create the environment for the Department and its entities to implement government priorities in 2023/2024 financial year, which include participation of an active sporting nation, a winning nation spirit, a creative and socially cohesive nation enhancing arts and culture. R6.3 billion for Sports, Arts, Culture from a government budget of R2.1 trillion, is not enough.

Honourable Speaker let me start with acknowledgement of South African Jazz Legend Hugh Masekela whose name has been placed with other legends at the Ertegun Hall of Fame in New York, as well as Dr Katriena Esau who received the acknowledgement from UCT for keeping the Nluu language alive for the San People and her contribution towards the first Nluu children's book.

One of the entities linked to sports, namely The South African institute for Drug Free Sports is highly valued at the World Anti-Doping Association. The SA Institute for Drug Free Sport (SAIDS) maintains the integrity of sports and athletes via respect for rules, fair competition, anti-doping education and to promote general well-being of sportspersons.

Honourable Speaker the Committee must inform Parliament of an emerging risk that SAIDS is non-compliant in terms of the World Anti-Doping Association (WADA). South Africa has until May 2024 to amend and update the legislation to remain internationally compliant or we face far reaching implications for sport whereby South Africa will no longer compete under the SA flag.

We urge SAIDS, SASCOC, the Department and Parliament to ensure the new legislation is passed before May 2024.

The Committee has been informed that doping (use of illegal substances) are high in SA compared to international standards and that the main transgressors are in some categories of body building, distance athletics and rugby. There appears to be confusion over traditional medicine and we encourage all athletes to consult before using non prescribed medication and not to use illegal substances to boost your performance.

Honourable House Chair, on infrastructure the following is important. Ministers Zikalala and Kodwa must use this platform to apologise to the Khoisan People that the Sarah Baartman Memorial Centre is still not open after 9 years and R169 million rand spent. Die Eerste Nasie Mense – First Indigenous People are recognised on paper, Recognised in ACT 3 of 2019 without a budget, without resources, without recognised traditional Khoisan Structures.

The incomplete Sarah Baartman Memorial Centre as well as the derelict buildings at Robben Island is a true reflection on what the ANC government thinks about the First Indigenous Peoples. An embarrassment to the political heroes who sacrificed their lives on the island.

Sports, Arts, Culture from the smallest rural town to the biggest metro, with big stadiums, from one person to a team effort in Sport, Art, Culture contribute significantly, directly and indirectly to the economy and job creation.

I take this opportunity to thank all sponsors, all the Sports, Arts, Culture organisations, schools, the parents, sport lovers in all provinces who week after week ensure that mass participation is alive and vibrant in South Africa.

Sports, Arts, Culture is the example of reconciliation, nation building and social cohesion.