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TO :HONORABLE SPEAKER

FROM : MEC FOR SPORT , RECREATION, ARTS CULTURE

SUBJECT :- DSRAC RESPONSE TO IQP 16 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

Question	Response
<p>434. Mr L Kruger to ask the MEC responsible for Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture:</p> <p><i>With regard to public libraries within the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM):</i></p> <p>(a) How many public libraries are located within the BCMM region and (b) can she kindly provide a breakdown of the state of the public libraries, ranging from (i) good, (ii) fair and (iii) bad condition;</p>	<p>BCMM Coastal and Midlands has 16 libraries including 2 mobile libraries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parkside library is currently in a bad state due to continuous break-ins, from 2019- 2025 the building maintenance funding allocation is mostly used to Parkside Library and have other libraries been ignored as this library is getting minimum of 5 burglaries a year. The department is preparing to move the library from the original library building to Parkside Hall. - Buffalo Flats – in good condition - Braelyn Library – in good condition - Central library – divided into 3 different fully functioning sections which are operating as branches, i.e. Juvenile library and reference library. The building is currently experiencing plumbing and electrical problems, reported to the building maintenance section, windows are not clipping to close, men's public toilets need serious refurbishment, lights are damaged making the library dark when the weather is bad in reference library. - Central lending sections and juvey are experiencing electrical problems which have been reported to maintenance team. - Beacon Bay Library – leaking roof on the adults and juvey areas, the activities room also is leaking, walls have mould in the workroom and branch librarian's office, request has been submitted for roof leaks repairs. - Gonubie Library- lights are damaged in the activities room, leaking roof is allocated on the budget to be fixed. - Braelyn Library – is currently having the ceiling fix, the plumbing is reported for the outside leaking pipes.





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with regard to (2) above, in the event that a public library is considered as being in a bad state of condition, (a) can she kindly provide reasons as to why the public library is in such a state and (b) what interventions has her Department pursued to improve the condition of the library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cambridge library- electrical problems that have been reported to the maintenance team, still waiting for them to come and fix. - Mdantsane library NU 5 – in good condition - Mdantsane library NU 3- damaged main door due to break-in, floor tiles broken still reported to maintenance team. - Gompo library – in good condition, recently had roof leaks fixed - Kids Beach Library – in good condition - Greenfields Library – in good condition - West Bank Library – in good condition - Mobile bus 1- in bad condition, requires serious mechanical fixing, currently at stand still. Books that were in the bus have been moved to revolving stack so that they can be loaned for other branches and circulate. - Mobile bus 2- in fair condition, can be driven around but not build in a way to accommodate the users, it's just a container which can transport goods than being a library
whether she can kindly provide a breakdown of how much was allocated by her Department to each of the above public libraries for the last financial year, inclusive of how much was spent for the last financial year;	For the 2024/25 financial year, the department considered the following variables: (60% - Number of libraries per municipality, 20% - illiteracy rate per municipality, 20% - Population per municipality and increased the subsidy amount to R17 883 000.00 for all the libraries under Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality.
of the public libraries within the BCMM region, (a) how many have been planned for major refurbishment and/or minor refurbishment and (b) can she kindly provide the cost for each public library which will be renovated;	None
how many of these libraries have access to broadband and (b) desktops for residents to utilize?	All the libraries that are in buildings have the broadband and have desktop computers allocated to for public access. Only mobile buses that are not included since they haven't been on the route for many years.





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<p>435. Mr L Kruger to ask the MEC responsible for Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture:</p> <p><i>With regard to the Chatty library located in Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality (NMBMM) and noting that the structure has reportedly been vandalized beyond repair and also noting that the municipality allegedly plans to demolish the remains of the building:</i></p>	
Whether her Department has engaged with the NMBMM with a view to ascertaining whether they have identified available land for the construction of the library; if not, why;	The Chatty library is asset that belongs to the NMBMM. The municipality has requested Human Settlement to take back the land and offer them the vacant land next to the police station. The municipality is presented this plan to the standing committee on the 09 May 2025.
noting that the current positioning of the Chatty library is located on two different ERFs, can she kindly provide the valid custodians of the land:	Erf 6973 – South African Post Office Erf 3889 - NMBMM
noting that the extension of the Chatty Library into an adjacent ERF was irregular, whether she was informed of such; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what action has her Department taken against such an illegal act;	NMBMM never communicated the matter to DSRAC regarding the encroachment of the Erf. NMBM is attending to the matter.
whether her Department has budgeted for the construction of the new Chatty Library; if so, (a) how much has been budgeted in this regard, and (b) which sphere of government will be funding the construction;	The department has not budgeted for re-construction of the library. NMBMM is still to request budget for the new project.
what is the estimated (a) commencement date and (b) completion date of the new Chatty Library;	No plans yet, the budget is still to be requested
whether her Department has any safety plan in place towards safeguarding its assets,	NMBMM has place security guards at libraries that are prone to vandalism and are in secluded areas. This exercise is faced with budget constraints





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especially libraries within the NMBMM; if so, can she kindly provide a copy of the plan;	
Noticing that the vandalism of libraries persists post-Covid-19, what measures will her Department be pursuing to ensure that the new Chatty Library is secured?	When that happens the NMBMM will investigate effective ways of securing the libraries and request more funds to support the initiative.

Regards


Head of Department

Date


28/05/2025


Member of Executive Council

03/06/2025

Date





"A United, Active and Winning Province Through Sport, Recreation, Arts, Culture & Heritage"