



2026/27 Budget Vote 10 Speech

Hon. MEC Funani Jerry Maseko @ Limpopo Provincial Legislature

07 MAY 2026 @ 09:00

Speaker of our Provincial Legislature, Honourable Makoma Makhurupetše

Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, Honourable Tebogo Mamorobela

Honourable Premier, Dr Phophi Constance Ramathuba,

My Colleagues in the Executive Council,

Chief Whip of the Governing Party and Deputy Chief Whip

Chair of Chairs and Deputy Chair of Chairs

Leaders of the Opposition political parties,

Chairpersons of various Portfolio committees,

Esteemed members of this house

Our Mayors, Magoši and esteemed business community,

Heads of various departments and staff members

Statutory Bodies of the Department

Sport Personalities and All Federations

School Sport Structures and All Recreation Structures

Artists from the Cultural and Creative Industry

Members of the Media,

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Thobela! Avuxeni! Ndi matsheloni! Silotshile! Gooie more! Good morning!

Honourable Speaker, and esteemed Members of this House,

The tabling of this Budget Vote comes at a time when the African continent commemorates Africa Month, marking the historic formation of the Organisation of African Unity, now known as the African Union. This period reminds us of the enduring vision of a united, prosperous and self-reliant Africa, anchored in solidarity and shared economic development. In reaffirming the shared vision of advancing unity and inclusive growth, we will host the Provincial Africa Day celebration on the 25th of May at the University of Limpopo.

Esteemed Members of the House.

This is the era of reflection. Just days ago, the people of Limpopo gathered at Saselemani Stadium in Xikundu village in Collins Chabane Municipality, to commemorate Freedom Day, a reminder of the hard-won right of all South Africans to participate equally in our democracy, but also the reflection of the tangible gains of the freedom attained.

Madam Speaker.

We have also marked Workers' Day, a day that honours the enduring contribution of workers and the labour movement in shaping our nation's democracy and economic progress. In this spirit, the Department, in collaboration with Empore Publishers, successfully hosted the official launch of the book "Business Unionism and the Proliferation of Trade Unions in South Africa" by Mr. Sechaba Nkoana.

The launch was not merely ceremonial, but it was purposeful. It aligned with the significance of Workers' Day, offering critical insights into the evolution of trade unionism in South Africa and reinforcing the importance of organised labour in advancing social justice and economic transformation.

Honourable Members

During the State of Province Address (SOPA), Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba said that Sport, Arts and Culture Programmes are not ‘**extras**’ in development, but essential pillars that drive social cohesion, preservation of heritage, and the capacity to unlock economic opportunities for the creative industry and sport sector. These programmes are the fundamental instruments to foster stability, promote peace, strengthen unity.

Madam Speaker.

Allow me to highlight on the work we have done as per our commitment last year on the 10th of April 2025, before this August House. The Department has made significant progress in addressing the incident relating to the withdrawal of some learners from participation in the final stages of the 2025 National School Sports Championships Autumn Games, held at the Free State Stadium in Bloemfontein.

The investigation process was concluded and currently, the Department is implementing the recommendations contained in the report, including the enforcement of consequence management measures and repayment of debts. We are resolute in our commitment to ensure that such an incident is never repeated.

This is evidenced by the recent participation of Team Limpopo in the National Athletics Championships, held at Pilditch Stadium in **Gauteng, where Team Limpopo secured an impressive total of 24 medals; 12 bronze, 7 silver, and 5 gold.** Another major achievement is in Swimming; where Team Limpopo successfully participated during the SA Schools Swimming Championship that took place in Western Cape and brought home eleven (11) medals with 7 being gold. Some of these outstanding athletes have joined us here today in the Chamber. **You are acknowledged and appreciated.**

Madam Speaker

The department is striving for inclusivity; hence the enhancement of Disability community participation in Sport. Recently, Provincial Para volley Team participated in the Southern African Para volley Championships held in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe from 24 to 27 April where they won gold medals in both female and male categories. Well done, Team Para volley!

This exceptional performance has firmly placed Limpopo on the national map and stands as clear proof that our commitment to restoring the dignity of our province's participation in national sporting championships is indeed bearing fruit.

Honourable Members.

We report to this esteemed House that the Department remains unwavering in its commitment to building a capable and ethical department; one that serves our people with integrity and accountability.

In line with this, we are focused on sustaining the Clean Audit Outcome that was achieved in the previous financial years. We take this opportunity to express our appreciation to all the committed oversight structures and the hardworking administration Team for their efforts in developing reliable internal systems to ensure that we sustain the clean audit. We are proud to announce that for the first time in many years, the Department managed to spend 99,9 percent of the overall Budget for the 2024/2025 financial year.

Honourable Members

Limpopo Province continues to perform exceptionally well in fostering social cohesion and cultural tolerance. This is evidenced by the successful hosting of the inaugural Limpopo Arts and Culture Awards (LACA), which brought together artists from all the five districts. During the ceremony various creative industry representatives were awarded.

The MEC's Special Awards went to the Internationally Recognised Artist-Limpopo Boy, while Dr. Colbert Mukwevho received the Lifetime Achievement; Mr. Paul Rapetsoa is the Posthumous Award Recipient, Mr. Rapson Mbilu Rambuwani received the Artist with Disability, the outstanding Fashion and Textile Designer Award Candid went to Frank Ramatsetse, while Mashabela wa Galane received the outstanding Comedian.

The rate at which the Limpopo's creative industry is growing, has made the Department to fast-track the operationalisation of the Limpopo Provincial Theatre Programme, which is currently under construction. The completion of the facility is critical, as it will play a pivotal role in growing the creative economy and nurturing homegrown talent.

Our vision is clear: Limpopo must harvest and retain its own talent. Our artists should not be compelled to migrate to other provinces due to a lack of critical infrastructure such as a fully functional Theatre.

Madam Speaker.

The recent approval of Cultural and Creative Industry Strategy will enable the province to accelerate the rollout of creative industry programmes; that serve as incubators and capacity-building platforms to support the full operationalization of the Limpopo Provincial Theatre. The approval of this strategy has directly led to the allocation of R18 million towards the optimal utilization and sustained functioning of the Provincial Theatre.

Honourable Members

Limpopo music continues to make waves in the national and international music industry, showcasing the province's rich cultural expression and creative talent. This milestone not only highlights the artists' dedication and hard work but also affirms the growing impact of Limpopo's music on national platform. Allow me to extend our heartfelt congratulations to our artists for their outstanding

achievements at the Metro FM Awards 2026, where they have brought honour and distinction to our Province. Kharishma (Melita Mogale): Won Best New Artist and Best Lekompo Song for her hit "Wa Inama" featuring DJ Janisto, Buddy Sax, and DJ Angelo. Shandesh: Scooped Best Female Artist. Una Rams (Unarine Rambani): Won Best R&B Artist. Master KG: Secured Best Viral Challenge for "Ngishutheni" (with Goon Flavour and Eemoh) while Musa Keys: claimed Best Styled Artist. Still in the spirit of Limpopo music, we also mourn the passing of an upcoming Lekompo Artists, Maebela Mmabatho Tercia also known as "Queen Terc". May her soul rest in peace.

Madam Speaker

We have successfully hosted the Annual Limpopo Sport Awards, where deserving athletes and sport personalities (some of them are in the chamber) from all districts were recognised and celebrated for their outstanding performance. We have honoured the likes on Ntate Johannes Mosehla, Mandla Mashimbi Sheryl James, Tebogo Mahanyele, Moses Mohale and many other ins various post sector.

In the quest to harvest sport talent, the Department has prioritised the construction of Sport High Performance Centre in collaboration with Limpopo Academy of Sport (LAS) and Limpopo Sports Confederation. We appreciate the allocation of R15 million to develop a feasibility study for the construction of the project. Furthermore, the Department is working with Polokwane Municipality to ensure that the allocation of land for this major construction is appropriated.

Madam Speaker.

We are pleased to announce that we have successfully handed over the functional Vleifontein and Baphoting Libraries. We further commit to officially open the completed Mampane, Northam, Mulamula and Moepetsi libraries during the current financial year.

Honourable Speaker.

The Department has made significant strides in the development of the **Resistance Heritage and Liberation Route**. We are pleased to announce a strategic partnership with the **Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality** for the implementation of Phase One of the development of Tjate Heritage Site.

On the development of the **Tshitangadzimeni** site, we are working closely with the **Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure**, which is currently in the process of appointing a Land Surveyor and GIS specialist.

Honourable Speaker,

It is with a profound sense of historical justice that we report that we have successfully facilitated the **repatriation of the Shiluvane ancestral gift (Ditaola)** from Switzerland back to its rightful home. For decades, these sacred items remained far from our soil. Its return is not just a logistical victory; but a spiritual homecoming for the Shiluvane family. The significance of the return is part of cultural restoration and is also a healing process for the Shiluvane Family.

Madam Speaker

Allow me to present to this August House the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture budget vote 10. The overall budget has decreased from **R877.492 million** in 2025/26 financial year to **R852.902 million** by 2.8% in 2026/27 financial year.

The budget comprises of Equitable Share allocation of **R605.371 million** which takes 71% of the overall budget and the remaining 29% amounting to **R247.531 million** is allocated to Conditional Grants.

Within the allocation of R852.902 million, **Administration** has been allocated R216.372 million (25%), **Cultural Affairs** R221.946 million (26%), **Library and Archive Services** R278.718 million (33%) and **Sport and Recreation** with R135.866 million (16%).

Madam Speaker.

The Administration programme conducts the overall management and administrative support to the department. A total allocation of **R216.372 million** has been set aside as an enabler of the programme to execute its objectives.

The **Administration** programme is wholly funded by the equitable share and takes **25.4%** of the overall allocation.

Honourable Members.

As the Ghanaian politician, political theorist and revolutionary Kwame Nkrumah once said “Culture is the soul of a nation” we are committing to move the Cultural Affairs programme forward. This programme has a total allocation of **R221.946 million** for **2026/27** financial year. The programme is funded from both equitable share and EPWP Integrated grant.

The **Cultural Affairs** programme takes up only **26.0%** of the total budget allocation. While the construction of the Provincial Theatre which takes 60.4% of the total programme budget. Within the cultural affairs budget allocation, an amount of R1.8 million is allocated for EPWP Integrated Grant for Provinces for museums.

Madam Speaker.

The Library and Archives Services programme provide library, information, and archive services in the province. This programme has been allocated a budget of **R278.718 million** in the 2026/27 financial year.

Library and Archives Services has been allocated **32.7%** of the budget as it is funded by both equitable share and conditional grant. Within the allocations an amount of R169.153 million is for conditional grant which constitutes 60.7% of the total budget for the programme and an amount of R1.642 million is allocated for EPWP Integrated Grant for Provinces for libraries.

The budget will be directed towards the construction of new libraries, maintenance and repairs of existing libraries, provision of ICT infrastructure, security services for all libraries and library general workers; the R3.048 million allocated for EPWP model under equitable share.

Madam Speaker,

I am pleased to announce that the Department was honoured as the second best during the Provincial EPWP Awards in March 2026 for excellence in implementing EPWP programmes in environmental preservation. The Department employed created 166 EPWP job opportunities in libraries and museums in the previous year and the plan is to increase 229 employees in the current year.

Honourable Members

Let us remember that 'Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does.' As the former President Nelson Mandela once said. The department through Sport and Recreation Programme assist provincial sport associations and other relevant bodies to stimulate the development of sport and recreational services on the ground. The programme has been allocated a total budget of **R135.866 million** in the **2026/27** financial year.

The **Sport and Recreation** programme takes **15.9%** of the total allocation and is funded by both equitable share and conditional grant. The allocation includes a conditional grant funding of **R74.936 million** which constitutes 55.2% of the total budget for the programme. Both equitable share and conditional grant allocations will be utilized to promote sport participation in communities. Our vision is to become a recreational and active Limpopo!

Madam Speaker

We take pride in announcing that the Limpopo Government in collaboration with Polokwane Municipality will host the Winter National Championship Table Tennis in June and the School Sports Summer Games National Championship in December 2026.

Let me also express my sincere appreciation for all the oversight structures for making us accountable. We remain steadfast in our commitment to sustaining the Department's Clean Audit outcome.

To all our stakeholders, the broader sporting fraternity, and the creative industry, your support in advancing the Department's mandate is deeply appreciated.

Honourable Speaker.

Through sport, arts and culture, we continue to build a united inclusive and prosperous Limpopo Province! United in Diversity.

Let me conclude by saying "The future belongs to those who prepare for it today" as the former Tanzanian first President, anti-colonial activist and political theorist, Julius Nyerere once said.

It is with great pride and responsibility that I present to this August House the 2026/2027 Budget Vote 10 of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

NDO LIVHUWA! NGIYABONGA KAKHULU! NDZI KHENSE NGOPFU! KE A LEBOGA and I THANK YOU!

Summary of receipts: Sport, Arts and Culture

R thousand	Outcome			Main appropriation	Adjusted appropriation 2025/26	Revised estimate	Medium-term estimates		
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25				2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Equitable share	325 201	411 699	501 957	643 637	518 637	518 637	605 371	548 325	478 648
Conditional grants	224 628	229 850	242 379	233 855	233 855	233 855	247 531	253 380	264 429
<i>EPWP Intergrated Grant</i>	2 106	1 769	2 049	3 531	3 531	3 531	3 442	-	-
<i>Community Library Services Grant</i>	-	-	873	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Mass Sport Participation Programme</i>	157 544	166 685	168 969	161 431	161 431	161 431	169 153	175 036	183 618
<i>EPWP Social Sector Grant</i>	64 978	61 396	70 488	68 893	68 893	68 893	74 936	78 344	80 811
Departmental receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	549 829	641 549	744 336	877 492	752 492	752 492	852 902	801 705	743 077

Summary of payments and estimates by programme: Sport, Arts and Culture

R thousand	Outcome			Main appropriation	Adjusted appropriation 2025/26	Revised estimate	Medium-term estimates		
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25				2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Programmes									
1. Administration	202 608	181 218	186 331	210 507	207 220	207 220	216 372	226 110	234 161
2. Cultural Affairs	69 838	111 145	173 535	292 682	158 109	158 109	221 946	161 196	84 148
3. Library and Archives	158 382	231 954	262 591	263 258	276 118	276 118	278 718	289 911	299 671
4. Sport and Recreation	81 139	101 451	109 038	111 045	111 045	111 045	135 866	124 488	125 097
Total	511 967	625 768	731 495	877 492	752 492	752 492	852 902	801 705	743 077

Summary of payments and estimates by sub-programme: Programme 1: Administration

R thousand	Outcome			Main appropriation	Adjusted appropriation 2025/26	Revised estimate	Medium-term estimates		
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25				2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
1. MEC's Office	8 921	9 527	9 899	11 974	11 974	11 974	11 885	12 279	12 659
2. Corporate services	193 687	171 691	176 432	198 533	195 246	195 246	204 487	213 831	221 502
Total payments and estimates	202 608	181 218	186 331	210 507	207 220	207 220	216 372	226 110	234 161

Summary of payments and estimates by sub-programme: Programme 2: Cultural Affairs

R thousand	Outcome			Main appropriation	Adjusted appropriation 2025/26	Revised estimate	Medium-term estimates		
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25				2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
1. Management	1 860	2 052	2 151	2 660	2 634	2 634	1 645	1 699	1 749
2. Arts and Culture	33 616	74 555	142 511	257 821	122 821	122 821	187 779	127 974	49 767
3. Museum and Heritage Resource St	24 730	21 503	16 735	17 060	17 513	17 513	17 862	16 645	17 052
4. Language Services	9 632	13 035	12 138	15 141	15 141	15 141	14 660	14 878	15 580
Total payments and estimates	69 838	111 145	173 535	292 682	158 109	158 109	221 946	161 196	84 148

Summary of payments and estimates by sub-programme: Programme 3: Library and Archives

R thousand	Outcome			Main appropriation	Adjusted appropriation	Revised estimate	Medium-term estimates		
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25				2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
1. Library services	152 071	223 290	254 343	245 935	258 795	258 795	265 872	281 579	291 080
2. Archives services	6 311	8 664	8 248	17 323	17 323	17 323	12 846	8 332	8 591
Total payments and estimates	158 382	231 954	262 591	263 258	276 118	276 118	278 718	289 911	299 671

Summary of payments and estimates by sub-programme: Programme 4: Sport and Recreation

R thousand	Outcome			Main appropriation	Adjusted appropriation	Revised estimate	Medium-term estimates		
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25				2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
1. Management	-	286	14	1 985	1 985	1 985	1 546	1 593	1 643
2. Sports	6 896	12 931	13 071	15 341	15 341	15 341	32 579	16 118	15 132
3. School Sports	74 243	88 234	95 953	93 719	93 719	93 719	101 741	106 777	108 322
Total payments and estimates	81 139	101 451	109 038	111 045	111 045	111 045	135 866	124 488	125 097