

Budget Vote 37: Sport, Arts and Culture

Speech by Tsepo Mhlongo MP, DA Shadow Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture

Chairperson,

I would like to congratulate AthleticsSA for their excellence at the Championship Confederation of African Athletics. We call on the minister to ensure adequate support is provided to our athletes and ensure that all medal winners are fairly compensated at the 2024 Olympics.

Minister, I applaud your stance on school sport – it is vital that we see the implementation in all schools in SA and we hope these are not just empty promises.

The following need urgent attention:

It is clear that clarity is needed on the relationship between SAFA and the PSL. South African soccer cannot flourish when there is strife between the bodies meant to promote and foster it. Bafana Bafana a former shell of the 1996-team that won the African Cup of Nations.

We wish new SAFA CEO, Lydia Monyepao, the best of luck.

R40 million must be redirected from Love Life to develop school sports facilities in Makhaya - eBhiso nase Lusikisiki.

For the past decade, money has been wasted on Love Life, with little to show. The money must be prioritised to develop school sport in rural areas or women's sport.

I've noted that the department has a plan for the youth but there is no allocation of budget.

The Minister needs to report in depth on the outcomes of the Mzansi Golden Economy and how many youths have benefited from it over the years, especially when there are young people, like Maja Khathatha, who surely qualifies, but have not benefited from these funds?

Boxing SA – Building the capacity of the organisation to regulate the boxing sector. An urgent review of the funding model for Boxing SA is needed.

The Soweto Theatre allows the youth to access create programs that they might not experience otherwise, yet there is no budget allocated towards them.

The Department has forked out R18 million to a new service provider despite Indingliz Advertising & Marketing being awarded the R14.9 million tender to pilot the programme for the last three years. The appointment of new company is very suspicious as no performance evaluation of the former company has been presented to Parliament.

The decision to re-pilot the same programme with a new service provider who has no experience in wellness reeks of corruption and wasteful expenditure.

In order for these types of interventions to be successful, there needs to be continuity. The Minister can't scrap out and start anew every three years. This has a severe impact on artists' mental health.

Minister, you must fix this mess.

The National Arts Council's continuous abuse of public funds must be stopped. The NAC continues to use litigation against SARA and its President, Mr Nyathela.

Chairperson, poverty has manifested in our artists and the sector because of the NAC, the Department and its entities.

Things are different in DA-run municipalities.

The DA-run uMngeni Municipality has opened the new Mpophomeni stadium. When the DA took over, this project was short of R3.5 million. The construction site had been vandalized and there were serious challenges to getting it open.

The DA team has worked hard to allocate resources and complete the stadium, creating a public space for all to enjoy.

Minister please explain the delegations of authority as to who authorised the shifting of R65 million to the Reserve Bank?

I've just submitted a petition against the R54 million rand Mzansi Orchestra. Our people are saying no to this project.

Under your watch, R54 million is wasted and mismanaged. This project is being investigated by the SIU and the Public Protector.