



sport and recreation

25 April 2017

Department:
Sport and Recreation
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

2017 BUDGET SPEECH PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

BUDGET ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR ARTS, CULTURE, SPORT AND RECREATION, MRS B.N. SITHOLE-MOLOI, MPL, ON THE TABLING OF THE SPORT AND RECREATION BUDGET IN THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

02 May 2017

Madam Speaker
Honourable Premier and colleagues in the Executive
Deputy Speaker
Honourable Members
Distinguished Guests, Business Leaders,
Members of the Sporting Fraternity, Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Honourable Members,

It is my honour to table this year's budget in the centenary year of one of South Africa's stalwarts, the late Oliver Reginald Tambo and I thank God for allowing me to live during this period in our nation's history. It is a new period and a wonderful phase that the State President and the ANC has mobilized all South Africans to embrace and, accordingly, rejoice in it. With this declaration, it is indeed a new revolutionary period during which I table the 2017/2018 budget for the Department of Sport and Recreation and I hope that all sport personalities and all sporting codes will indeed be mobilized.

Further, it is my honour to present the department's budget five days after the successful Freedom Day Celebrations in Manguzi at Umkhanyakude District and one day after the May Day celebrations in the Free State.

We commend the working class for their sustenance of these historic events that mark the sector, its value and contributions in the world. We believe that all the issues that affect their livelihood and conditions in the work place will continue to be addressed to the benefit of all.

The sporting fraternity is also one of the major employers and economic drivers that must comply with the codes of good employer and employee relations in a way that is economically beneficial to all involved. As an ardent fan and a former netball player myself, I know the value of the sports economy. For this reason I salute the working class for their dedication in dealing with the shop floor challenges and developing policy and legislation from these encounters. I must proudly mention that my department has contributed 2.9% in employment opportunities for the people with disabilities beyond the employment equity target of 2%.

Since 1994, the government continues to work to improve the welfare and conditions of service for workers. In line with the government directive, my department is eliminating the use of labour brokers in an effort to create sustainable jobs. This milestone pronouncement extends also to ending the outsourcing of cleaning services within the department which has already been scaled down during the financial year under review.

Let us continue to celebrate and consolidate the victories of the working class whose struggles delivered a democratic South Africa where we now enjoy the freedom and rights of citizenship as a united nation

Madame Speaker,

I have directed my department to ensure that our *modus operandi* gives impetus to the implementation of Radical Economic Transformation. We are a small, but significant department in contributing to social cohesion. It is in this context that the former State President Nelson Mandela once said, "Sports has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite the people that little else does. It speaks to the youth in the language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than

government in breaking down racial barriers.”

Even in this house, sport can influence power relations and yield new energy amongst all politicians and political parties present here. I challenge all political parties to mobilize society through sport with the view to promote healthy life styles in all communities.

Honourable Members,

The national agenda of reconciliation, nation-building and social cohesion forms a key mandate for the Department of Sport and Recreation. The key activities delivered through our programmes creates the opportunities for sustainable social interaction through active sport and recreation participation, talent identification, skills development and the provision of sport infrastructure. The value of sport as a transformational tool, both politically and economically, is clearly illustrated by our ANC-led Government whose organized approach to sport promotion and development depicts its commitment in adhering to the prescripts of the Constitution.

Madam Speaker,

I wish to draw attention once more to the Preamble to our Constitution which was adopted in 1996, that asserts that we as a government intend to:

- *Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights, as well as to*
- *Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person.*

The United Nations Declaration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development clearly states that: *"Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognize the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives."*

At a press conference in London on 21 March 1984, Comrade OR said, *"The interesting thing about the sports/cultural boycotts is that they have succeeded so*

far where other forms of sanctions have not been a success... So in the sports field a lot of apartheid barriers have crashed. Not all, but the fact that many have as a result of the boycott is a justification of the correctness of the cultural and sports boycott and we ought to intensify it.”

My department will pay homage to South Africa’s iconic leader and freedom fighter by hosting a series of regional tournaments that will culminate in the OR Tambo Challenge to be held in October 2017.

Madam Speaker,

The Department’s plans finds resonance in the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Provincial Growth and Development Plan (PGDP). The NDP recognises that sport plays an important role in promoting wellness and social cohesion, and treats sport as a crosscutting issue, with related proposals in the chapters on education, health and nation-building. To address the strategic intent of the NDP, I have guided the department towards the realisation of the following strategic priorities: Transformation, Youth development, Infrastructure development in rural areas, Women & People with disability, and Stakeholder co-ordination.

Honourable Members,

My Department’s Budget Statement for the 2017/18 financial year is premised on the department’s engagement with stakeholders on government’s priorities, with the strategic goals of optimizing citizens’ access to sport and recreation, transformation of the sector, and supporting athletes to achieve international success.

The total budget of my department for the 2017-18 financial year is **four hundred and sixty three million, five hundred and ninety thousand rand** (R463,590 million) comprising two streams of funding, i.e. voted funds and grant funding.

Madame Speaker,

The National Transformation Charter as set out in the National Sport and Recreation Plan guides the department’s transformation programme. The Charter

specifically focusses on spatial reach, demographic profiles on and off the field-of-play, as well as fair and equitable access to participation and provision of infrastructure. School Sport, Club Development, Infrastructure Development, Academies and High Performance are amongst the key programmes that address the strategic priority of transformation.

The Department will pursue integrated, aligned and cooperative multi-level government and federation sport structures to deliver programmes and projects that are focused on optimising access, opportunities to participate and skills development.

Honourable Members

We are all aware of the challenges facing the implementation of school sport which is the foundation of the South African sport system. The need for improving the coordination and alignment of all role-players involved in school sport is critical.

I am happy to announce to this house that I have successfully completed the review and signing of a new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Education on 7 April 2017. The MOA is extended to include the promotion of Arts & Culture in schools. In brief, the purpose of the MOA is for the three departments (DAC/DOE/DSR) to constitute themselves in a partnership for mutual benefit in promoting access to sport and recreation, creative and cultural learning and experience in KZN.

In implementing the department's vision on schools and community sport we draw our inspiration from the stalwart and visionary leader, Cde OR Tambo, when he said, "the children of any nation are its future. A country, a movement, a person that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future."

Madam Speaker,

The foundation for sport transformation is schools. The school sport programme facilitates the early identification of talent and maximises access to sport and

recreation in every school in the province.

Over the last 3 years my department has provided 1,500 schools with sport equipment and attire which has enabled 16 000 learners to participate in the school sport programme. We also provided educators, with an interest in sport, accredited training in coaching through the implementation of the National Coaching Framework.

Honourable Members,

Our achievements, in the National School Sport arena, in the last year, is evidence that talent resides within all corners of our Province and given the opportunity and support, our youth will deliver podium finishes.

KZN emerged as the Champions at the National Summer School Sport Championships held at Wits University in Gauteng from 10 – 14 December 2016. The 520 strong KZN Team brought home 17 Gold, 8 Silver and 12 Bronze Medals.

The most heart-warming story of the Summer Games was that of Siyabonga Mkhwanazi, an intellectually impaired gymnast from Madadeni who missed the bus on departure. The KZN Team Management had him driven up to the Games on Monday (12 December) after calling his parents. He went onto the floor the next morning to win Gold in the rhythmic gymnastics section of the competition.

Team KZN followed that up with 109 medals (38 gold, 36 silver and 35 bronze) to place second overall at the National Schools Aquatics Championships held in Polokwane from 10 – 13 April 2017. This was in spite of the withdrawal of a number of top elite swimmers to participate in other competitions.

Madam Speaker,

I am proud to announce that two of our athletes received special awards at the Aquatics Championships. Ozzy Aromin won the Junior Victor Ludorium Award whilst Tori Oliver won the Senior Victrix Ludorium Awards. This clearly indicates the fact that significant progress is being made in spite of the limitations of our

budget.

Between 2013 and 2016, 13 talented learners received Ministerial bursaries of R100 000 each per academic year to access talent-development and support in sport-focus schools.

Please join me in congratulating the following learners on this achievement:

Cassidy Williamson (athletics), Keyana Padayachee (chess), Mnotho Thobela (volleyball), Angelo Lorenzo Walstroom (hockey), Alwande Skhosana (wheelchair tennis), Bonga Luca Mbhele (wheelchair tennis), Lorraine Mbali Madi (netball), Manello Zamokuhle Kunene (netball), Minenhle Cebekhulu (football), Zama Mthalane (hockey), Siyabonga Ndumo (wheelchair tennis), Thembeke Thwala (volleyball) and Zanele Hadebe (table tennis).

Madam Speaker,

My new approach is to clearly distinguish between the services provided by sport-focus schools and academies. Sport Focus Schools are existing and well-resourced in terms of facilities and coaching personnel to support school-going athletes that are identified through the various talent-scouting programmes.

All sport-focus schools sign service level agreements with the Department. They also receive appropriate gym equipment, nutritional supplements and a High Performance and Scientific Testing Toolkit to enhance their capacity to deliver this programme.

In addition to the eight schools that were included in Phase One in 2015-16, five more schools have been identified as Phase Two to increase opportunities for learners with disability and female athletes.

Honourable Members,

A total of 38% (R34m) of our Mass Participation and Sport Development Conditional Grant is allocated to the School Sport Programme. The department commits an additional R9.2m from its equitable share. With over 6 000 schools in the province our allocation falls considerably short in addressing the disparities

that exist within the school sport system.

Additional funding is needed if we are to make significant progress in addressing the lack of equipment and infrastructure in rural schools for our youth to participate regularly in sustainable sport and recreation leagues.

Honourable Members,

This programme will remain the flagship programme in the Department with the focus being devoted to the school leagues which will culminate in the National School Sport Championships. The school sport programme encourages inclusivity through the involvement of able-bodied learners as well as learners with special needs.

Madam Speaker,

The Department's Township and Rural Cricket Development Programme, in partnership with the KZN Cricket Union (KZNCU), extends participation and talent-identification opportunities to all children. The programme currently reaches 7630 children in 36 townships and rural areas. Last year 72 players were selected into an elite development squad which would provide an opportunity to be included in the Dolphins Academy and, in the long term, a professional cricketing career

In 2017/18 we will invest an additional R2 million into this programme to nurture talent from township and rural clubs and fast-track the development of the game in these areas. Whilst the programme also installs cricket nets in communities and schools, additional funding is required for us to make a greater impact.

The emergence of KZN's own Keshav Maharaj and Andile Phehlukwayo who have both been called-up for the Proteas Series against England and the ICC Champions Trophy, is evidence that our investment in cricket development is beginning to pay dividends. Khaya Zondo who has been a part of the Township and Rural Development Cricket Programme was included in the South African "A" side to play in the four-day series against the England Lions.

Honourable Members,

In partnership with the KZN Rugby Union, the department delivers the Hotspots Rugby Development Programme, in a phased-in approach, to schools where rugby has not been introduced. The programme provides schools with opportunities to play in leagues, and creates structures within communities to sustain the game. The delivery of coaching and capacity building programmes creates a pathway for skills and talent development.

In 2016/17 320 educators and volunteers were trained as coaches and technical officials. Our support for the KZN Talent Identification Programme has seen 64 bursaries offered to talented players in established rugby schools in the province.

I am happy to announce that our investment of R2 million in this financial year will reach 500 schools and over 28 000 learners. This investment will create employment for 6 district development officers and 200 coaches required to implement the programme.

Madam Speaker,

I have directed my department to promote the establishment of sustainable sport structures in order to enable sport development within communities. Sport provision, development and excellence will not be possible if there is not a strong foundation of club structures in place. Clubs are the fundamental building blocks or primary units in our sport system and are best positioned within communities to identify and nurture sporting talent to high performance levels.

An allocation of R12.8 million from the Mass Participation and Sport Development conditional grant will be utilised to support the formation or revitalisation of clubs and leagues at a local level. This will be delivered in conjunction with Provincial Federations and their recognised structures by introducing programmes, conducting training and procuring sports equipment and attire.

In 2017/18, the club development programme will deliver 120 junior leagues for the Under 15, Under 16 and Under 19 age groups in football, volleyball and netball respectively. Club officials from these sporting codes will be trained in sport specific areas such as technical officiating, administration and coaching.

By the end of the year, 900 clubs would have been supported to participate in the developmental leagues which would culminate in District Competitions. Local

coaches, ex-professional players and sporting legends shall be engaged to implement programmes aligned to the Talent Development Pathway.

Honourable Members,

In 2015, KwaZulu-Natal was selected by SRSA to pilot a club development system within an urban centre. EThekweni Municipality was identified for the pilot. The codes of football, athletics and netball have been included in the sample study. The Club Development Pilot Project, with a total budget of R8.8 million over a period of three years, had been introduced with the purpose of creating an integrated and sustainable model for the establishment and development of clubs nationally.

In Phase One, an audit of 349 clubs revealed that 98% of the Clubs do not have banking accounts and individuals run clubs from voluntary contributions. Almost all the clubs have no fixed access to play and administrative facilities, as well as storage space. Club officials also lack expertise in basic administrative, management, coaching and financial management skills. In response to the finding, the Department in 2016/17, completed Phase One of skills development and training.

In this financial year, the department will embark on the Second Phase of development by introducing a ClubSmart Grading Framework and Toolkit, where the club's growth and performance against the Grading Framework shall be monitored.

Honourable Members,

It is my belief that KZN can be entrenched as a winning province if access to increased levels of athlete and coach support is sustained. In collaboration with federations the Department will, for the third year, offer access to high quality scientific, medical, nutritional and capacity-building support to talented athletes and skilled coaches through its iconic Elite Athlete Development Programme (EADP).

The Department's implementation of the National Long-Term-Participant-

Development Programme (LTPD), SA Coaching Framework, and the National Academy Framework is integral to our high performance strategy. The alignment of all three frameworks will yield greater benefits in the enhanced performance of athletes and coaches.

As part of the talent optimization programme, the Department will work closely with the National High Performance Training Centre to access specialized athlete and coach services, as well as assist in the establishment of the KZN Academy System.

Madam Speaker,

In this financial year my Department will extend the KZN Academy system to the Harry Gwala, Uthukela, Amajuba, Umzinyathi, Zululand and Umgungundlovu Districts. This will be done in partnership with District Municipalities and their family of municipalities, Tertiary Vocational-Education and Training (TVET) colleges, as well as the KZN Sports Confederation (KZNSC).

Honourable Members,

Please allow me, at this juncture, to request the house to join me in celebrating the accolades of our high performance athletes.

In the Rio Olympics/Paralympics of 2016, a total of 19 KZN athletes participated. Twelve of these athletes are beneficiaries of the department's Elite Athlete Development Programme. I congratulate all these athletes on their inclusion in Team SA and for their sterling performance at the Games. Moreover, it is with great pride that I announce the following athletes who attained medals at the Games:

- ✓ Kevin Paul (Paralympics - Swimming) 1 Gold
- ✓ Tyrone Pillay (Paralympics – Athletics Shot Putt) 1 Bronze
- ✓ Henri Schoeman (Triathlon) 1 Bronze, and
- ✓ Chad le Clos, for 2 Silver medals in Swimming. (Chad is a participant in the National OPEX Programme).

The other noteworthy achievements of athletes in our EADP in 2016 are:

- ✓ Bongiwé Msomi and Precious Mthembu represented the country at the Diamond Challenge League featuring Malawi, Zambia, Uganda and South Africa and the Quad Series involving the World Netball powerhouses Australia, New Zealand, England and South Africa. Apart from South Africa recording their best performance ever at these international events, Bongiwé Msomi, was elected as captain of the Spar Proteas team.
- ✓ Andy Birkett and fellow EADP athlete, Sbonelo Khwela were placed 1st and 2nd respectively at the 2017 Dusi Canoe Marathon.
- ✓ In the 2016 Comrades Marathon, four EADP athletes earned gold medals. In the women's category, Fikile Mbuthuma was placed in 8th position, her best performance to date. In the men's category, Bongmusa Mthembu finished in 3rd position, Siphwe Ndlela 7th with his first gold medal, and Mncedisi Mkhize in 10th position.
- ✓ Bongmusa Mthembu also finished 2nd in the IAU one hundred kilometres World Championships in Spain in 2016.
- ✓ Ayanda Maphumulo from Pinetown represented the country at the Orange Cup Lifesaving Championship in Netherlands where she was placed 7th overall in both the 200m Obstacle Swim and the 4x50m medley relay. She also went on to represent the country at the International Water Polo Championship in Denmark where Team SA emerged victorious.
- ✓ Manqoba Madida from Tshelimnyama, Marianhill, was placed 2nd at the National Junior BMX Championship and 3rd at the African Continental Championships. He was selected to attend a training camp in Switzerland.

Honourable Members,

The Elite Athlete Development Programme allocation for this year is R5,5 million. These funds will be used prudently to maximise the number of beneficiaries from rural and disadvantaged communities, and thus increase the KZN medal tally.

I would like to acknowledge the presence of some of our medal winners and key stakeholders seated in the gallery. I laud your tireless work in promoting sport and recreation in this province, and I am certain that our relationship will continue

to grow as we elevate our athletes to greater achievements and accolades.

Honourable Members,

The provision of infrastructure is a catalytic cornerstone in both the transformation of, and access to, all codes of sport and recreation programmes by all communities. The need for a paradigm shift in the planning and provisioning of facilities is essential if we truly and honestly intend to address the racial presumptions associated with the choice of sporting codes.

The NDP proposes that all communities should have access to sport facilities and *Government must ensure, that there are adequate facilities for the majority of the population to exercise and play sport and that these are adequately maintained. The NDP also prioritizes infrastructure development in schools (infrastructure for at least two sports) and the construction of outdoor gyms...*

Madam Speaker,

With our limited budget we continue to provide sport infrastructure in schools and communities. Over the last three years my department has completed 174 sport and recreation facilities to the value of R78,9 million.

- 4 newly constructed major sport facilities,
- 10 upgraded/renovated/refurbished sports fields,
- 35 kick-about fields,
- 59 combination courts,
- 33 outdoor gym fitness parks, and
- 33 children's play gyms.

Our infrastructure development programme also contributes to job creation for 67 caretakers employed through municipalities, with a grant contribution from my department of R6,7 million over a three-year period.

The upgrading of the Ndumo Sport Complex which is classified as a District Hub Sports Complex was identified as a catalytic project by Provincial Cabinet with a total budget allocation of R7,5 million. All three phases of the project were completed in 2016.

Madam Speaker,

In 2015/16 the Department entered into a MOA with eThekweni Municipality for the construction of the Hoy Park Sports Development Centre. The Executive Committee had agreed on a contribution of R30m from the province towards the development of the structure. In 2015, the department transferred R10m as per the agreement, however, there are legal matters between the tenants residing in the proposed site and the Municipality which has delayed construction. The department has requested the eThekweni Municipality to return the R10m and Treasury has also been requested to suspend the remaining amount of R20m until the matter is resolved.

Honourable Members,

For 2017/18, I have directed my department to speed up the process of providing infrastructure for sport and recreation in partnership with municipalities and schools. The sustained maintenance of the facilities is regulated through the signing of Service Level Agreements and Memoranda of Agreement.

The focus of our infrastructure development plan is now rural areas. The development of infrastructure is aligned to the roll out of the healthy lifestyles programme, the revival of school sport as a nursery for sport development, and the Academies programme.

We have also changed the spatial allocation for sport infrastructure. It is our intention to ensure that every ward has a kick-about sports field, combination court, basic sports field and play gym. This will be delivered in phases in partnership with local government.

Honourable Members,

A new focus of my department in 2017/18 will be the establishment of Hub Fitness Centres which are multi-coded complexes containing a basic sports field, jogging/walking track, Outdoor Fitness Park (Gym), combination court, ablution and administration facilities and club/change-rooms.

In the long term, the Department envisages the construction of high quality District and Regional Sports Complexes. These will however require resource contributions from sector departments, municipalities and other key stakeholders.

To address the constraints in resources allocated to the department to adequately deal with the infrastructure backlog, the Executive Authority continues to lobby Municipal Leadership to appropriately utilise the 15% of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) ring-fenced for sport and recreation facilities. The matter stands on the agenda of both the Sport and Recreation and the Finance Portfolio Committees.

Madam Speaker,

In 2017-18 we have allocated a budget of R2 million, through the transfer of grants to municipalities, for the continued employment of the 52 facility managers. In addition, five hundred thousand rand (R 500,000) is allocated for the purchase of maintenance equipment for facilities constructed by the department.

The total budget for the construction and maintenance of sport and recreation infrastructure for R2017/18 is R68 million.

Madam Speaker,

A structured and focussed rural sport development programme is key to the process of sport transformation. The Rural Sport Development Programme is an initiative of SRSA, with a budget of R3.2 million funded through the Mass Participation conditional grant. It is aimed at uplifting sport in communities under

traditional leadership.

The programme strives to enhance the level of performance of talented athletes and coaches by creating a platform for continuous training and participation up to national level. In 2017/18 this programme will be piloted within two traditional councils in the province.

Honourable Members,

The annual Rural Horse-riding Festivals in Dundee and Kilimon remain major flagship programmes on the DSR calendar. This programme has served to promote, develop and recognise rural horse riding as a key activity within rural communities in KZN. The strategic partnerships between government, business and NGOs is rapidly transforming the quality and care of the horses, growing the races into mega-events and duly entrenching rural horse riding as an industry.

I would like to acknowledge the contributions made by the *Coastal Horse Care Unit* in capacitating rural communities with farrier training which includes manufacturing of saddles, harnesses and horse-shoes. The training includes animal welfare and associated scientific skills to minimise the number of horse deaths. This programme is now successfully producing community equine entrepreneurs and artisans.

I have directed that, in 2017, the department extend the rural horse riding programme to include all districts. Moreover, the department will also embark on promotion and advocacy of the KZN Rural Horse-riding programme at events such as the Vodacom Durban July. My intention with this exposure is to drive rural sport into the economic mainstream.

Madam Speaker,

The programmes delivered by my department attract greater youth participation. In line with this, I have appointed a Youth Ambassador within my Ministry at a strategic level to advise on activities regarding youth out of school.

The Annual National Youth Camp Programme provides for youth between the ages of 15-23 across religious, race, ethnic, class and gender groups. Since its inception in 2012, more than 1,000 youth have passed through the programme which provides an enabling environment for youth to engage with issues of nation building, leadership and social cohesion.

The sharing of a common national identity is a key mandate of NDP 2030. Sport is a natural catalyst that encourages sharing of common spaces, practicing tolerance, displaying respect and discipline, thus providing opportunities for social cohesion.

Madam Speaker,

The Indigenous Games programme celebrates our diverse cultural heritage and fosters social inclusivity and acceptance. KZN continues to lead nationally in the programme, achieving 1st place in the 2016 National Indigenous Games for the fifth consecutive year.

The funding transferred to the Indigenous Games Council is to improve its administration, capacitate the district structures, and to roll out a sustainable Indigenous Games league programme at local level. An amount of R7,2 million has been budgeted for the local, district, provincial and national delivery of this programme.

Honourable Members,

The Department's sport and recreation programmes, whilst facilitating social integration, focusses on promoting healthy lifestyles. Obesity remains endemic in South Africa.

The study conducted in 2015 by the University of North West School of Biokinetics, Recreation and Sport Science, revealed that nearly two thirds of the South African population is overweight; approximately 70% of women are overweight, and South African children have the third highest obesity rate in the world.

We know that being overweight impacts significantly on non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hyper-tension, and these place an extra burden on our over-extended health services. In response to the critical need of curbing the decline of the health of our people, I have advised my department to allocate a fair portion of its resources to provide communities with opportunities to practice active lifestyles.

Honourable Members,

As an intervention to widen the reach of the Healthy Lifestyles Programme throughout the province, I have requested the KwaZulu-Natal Executive Council to support my initiative in declaring every Friday an Active Friday. Citizens are encouraged to wear their favourite team attire or active sportswear to support the initiative. We are calling on all schools and workplaces to engage in organised activity on a Friday. I have also begun a series of Active Friday activations in each district to mobilise communities into action.

The Active & Healthy Lifestyles programme is incorporated within the Community Recreation and Organised Recreation programmes with a total allocation of twenty three million, five hundred and eighty seven thousand rand (R23,587 million).

Madam Speaker,

The 55 outdoor gyms installed in local municipalities now serve as Health and Fitness Centres with department-trained fitness instructors to present daily programmes of aerobics, jogging, walking, nutritional tips and assistance with the use of the gym equipment.

The 142 Community Activity Hubs that are supported with equipment, attire, training, provision of sports coordinators and organized activities are now being incorporated into the Club Development programme to sustain active and healthy lifestyles.

The Department of Sport and Recreation will promote targeted programmes at their Health and Fitness Centres (Hubs), Golden Wednesdays (targeting Senior Citizens), Intra-mural Programmes at schools, Indigenous Games, Learn and Play

Programmes targeting Early Childhood Development Centres, Fun Walks and Runs as well as programmes for people with disabilities.

Honourable Members,

In 2016, my department supported the provision of 33 children's play-gyms in community crèches and Health Fitness Centres. 150 Early Childhood Development Centres, with a geographic spread over the 11 districts, have been provided with Learn and Play equipment. We intend forging stronger partnerships with sector departments in order to improve access to ECD programmes to a wider range of beneficiaries. The department will roll out training of ECD facilitators to deliver sport-specific programmes.

Madam Speaker,

It is of significance that government leads by example. All government departments now participate in the Provincial Work and Play Programme which forms part of the Healthy Lifestyles Strategy. This sustained wellness programme culminates in an annual Provincial Work and Play Games with the participation of approximately 5000 public servants. I proudly announce that officials in my department participate in weekly and, in some offices, daily aerobics programmes.

Madam Speaker,

I have directed my department that, in the execution of its programmes, special focus must be placed on the promotion of sport amongst people with disabilities, as well as women.

The area of disability sport has steadily gained global prominence. The sterling performances of athletes in the 2016 Rio Paralympics remains fresh in our memories. Disability Sport remains a priority, and talented athletes are nurtured through the Department's Elite Athlete Development Programme. Amongst these athletes are national and international medalists:

- Tyrone Pillay (Athletics);
- Sebastian Crawford (Triathlon);
- Smisokhule Mtungwa (Judo);

- Kevin Paul (Aquatics); and
- Siphso Mjoko (Aquatics).

In November 2016, I convened a provincial disability summit that was inclusive of the sectors of sport, recreation, arts and culture. The resolutions of the summit are being implemented through the strategic plans and the annual performance plans of the department. The department will continue to work with DISSA-KZN in the promotion, development and administration of Disability Sport.

Madam Speaker,

All programmes, in all codes, rolled out by the department are totally inclusive of women. The EADP programme has an equal number of males and females. The area that remains a challenge, however, is the representation of women in leadership roles within sport federations. Capacity development programmes in sport administration, financial management and coaching serves to create opportunities for women to assume management and leadership roles.

The Youth Camp in 2016 primarily focussed on young women as participants. In 2017, the department will identify women that act as change agents in sport and profile them as leaders and ambassadors within the sector.

Honourable Members,

Our senior citizens are the gems of our society, and their well-being is of paramount importance. In collaboration with the Department of Social Development, and with the objective of minimising age-related medical conditions, we have supported 382 luncheon and seniors clubs within all districts. These clubs received sport equipment and the training of activity facilitators to ensure sustainable programme delivery.

The Department's Active Ageing Programme, for the benefit of those who are over 60 years, includes the Golden Games Programme which is offered to all senior citizens across the Province. In 2016, Team KZN attained 1st position in the National Golden Games that was held in Polokwane.

In 2017-18 this programme has been allocated a budget of R6,5 million with the intent to increase the number of participants.

Madam Speakers,

The key to the successful execution of the department's programmes is partnerships with stakeholders. My department expends both energy and time in managing and nurturing these relationships to ensure sound governance and financial management. There has been progressive improvement in the compliance of accounting procedures by sports federations and NGOs. This has enabled greater investment in sport structures to benefit athlete development.

Honourable Members,

I am happy to announce that the KZN Sport Confederation is formally structured once again and is working in close collaboration with the department. I wish to congratulate the president, Mr Thami Mchunu and his executive, and to remind them that the KZN sports fraternity has demonstrated their confidence in their leadership.

As critical stakeholders, federations are our mechanisms of transformation in sport. The Transformation Charter and Scorecard compel Federations to submit long-term business plans (8-years or more) to plot a pathway for athletes to elite international levels. The transformation process will be tracked by demographic, gender and disability profiling of federation activity to display equitable access to participation, resource availability and skills development.

My plans this year include the signing of service-level agreements with all federations funded by the department. These agreements will incorporate closer monitoring of performance to ensure compliance and results.

Madame Speaker,

I wish to remind federations of their critical role in extending their services to the most-needy and deserving athletes within our province. We must be ever mindful

of the fact that the imperatives set out in the National Development Plan (NDP) calls for national teams to be more representative of the demographics of the country.

Honourable Members,

Allow me to present some of the iconic programmes on our annual calendar of events that are delivered through our partnerships with stakeholders in sport.

The SALGA-KZNDSR Games are conducted in partnership with SALGA and federations. These games provide crucial entry points to mainstream sport for youth at a very localised level. The department invests in the provision of technical support through federations, talent-identification and team preparation. In this financial year my Department has allocated R6,2 million for this programme.

The KZNDSR Youth Run, initiated in 2006 in collaboration with KZN Athletics, and held annually on the eve of the Comrades Marathon, serves to motivate developing athletes to prepare for the ultimate human race. The Youth Run is delivered at ward and district levels, and culminates in the provincial event. In 2016, over 10 000 athletes participated in the run, and that number is expected to increase this year.

Honourable Members,

The department will deliver its third annual Premier's Cup in July this year. This milestone event serves as a pre-season tournament to allow the KZN teams an opportunity to showcase their readiness for the new season. The platform created by the department bears testimony to the commitment of government to supporting both professional and developmental football.

Madam Speaker,

It is my intention this year to build on the revival of the boxing programme within the province. Developmental programmes will be delivered to both amateur and

professional levels, with an emphasis on women-in-boxing. There will be four regional tournaments culminating in a provincial tournament.

In line with the KZN Boxing Plan and its Professional Card adopted in 2016, the focus will be on strengthening partnerships amongst all stakeholders in boxing. These include trainers, promoters, sponsors and boxers.

Honourable Members,

I deem it appropriate to record my appreciation for the sterling work done in the sphere of boxing by Mr Thulani Magudulela of Ludonga Boxing Promotions. One of Mr Magudulela's outstanding achievers from the eThekweni Gym is Dukuduku born boxer, Siboniso Gonya.

Mr Gonya is a sporting star who, at the young age of 24, and as the current holder of the WBA International Title, recently also won the WBO Bantam Weight World Title at a tournament held in Namibia on 1 April 2017.

I wish to congratulate both Mr Magudulela for his ongoing commitment to the boxing industry, and as well as Mr Gonya, the champion with two titles.

Honourable Members,

About 40% of all deaths in the Province arise from drownings, and these include deaths associated with beaches, public and private pools, rivers and dams. In response to this frightening phenomenon, my department has begun the process of developing the KZN Water Safety Strategy, together with key stakeholders such as KZN Aquatics, SA Lifesaving, Sharks Board, KZN Canoeing, KZN Sailing, and municipalities, amongst others.

My department is well aware of the recreation activities associated with water hence advocacy extending beyond water sport itself has become a key consideration. Approximately R35 million has been invested over the past four years in promoting water sport and water safety through 10 Water Sport Federations and related entities.

Madam Speaker,

The *Siyaswima* Programme had been delivered in partnership with KZN Aquatics to 200 learners, as well as educators and departmental sports officials in Zululand. I am also happy to announce that in 2017-18, the Club Development Programme will facilitate the formation of swimming clubs in the schools that have participated in this programme.

The *Siyaswima* programme will be rolled out in rural areas that are adjacent to, or incorporate, rivers, dams, and the sea.

This implementation of our water safety strategy will allow for the maximization of the available resources to increase participation in the following codes of water sport: canoeing, sailing, aquatics, lifesaving and surfing.

I have allocated a total budget of R3 million for programmes on water sport and water safety.

Honourable Speaker,

KwaZulu-Natal is a sought-after destination to host major sporting events. KZN government looks forward to supporting some of the following events:

- Comrades Marathon,
- World Canoe Marathon Championships,
- 10th International Forum for Elite Sport,
- Netball Quad Series involving Australia, England, New Zealand and South Africa,
- Brutal Fruit Netball Premier League Play-Offs,
- Para-World Cycling Championships,
- UCI Cross Country CAF 1 Championships,
- Dusi Canoe Marathon (2017-18).

Honourable Members,

With regard to job creation, 32 critical posts on the organogram have been approved and are in the process of being filled. The grant received through the EPWP funding has enabled the advertisement of 642 contract posts as sports assistants for the period of 12 months. The department is in the process of finalizing the placement of 14 interns.

Madam Speaker,

My department is responding to the call for radical economic transformation by implementing the *Procurement Set-Aside* allocation for women, the youth and the physically challenged with a bias towards historically disadvantaged black communities.

Honourable Members,

I am pleased to report that in the last financial year the Department received an unqualified audit, having missed out on a clean audit because of minor challenges we experienced in complying with the 30-day payment to suppliers. In December 2016, through my interventions, the department closed the year by meeting all outstanding payments to suppliers that were compliant. I am continuing with the practice of close monitoring of payments to ensure that we do not regress in this regard in pursuit of our goal of attaining a clean audit.

Honourable Members,

I am of the view that the programmes offered by my department are not an end in itself but rather a means to an end. It is for this particular reason that I have adopted a thematic approach to remind us that the mandate of government lies not only in the provision of services but also in the outcomes to be achieved.

I continue to point out to my department that the beneficiaries of our programmes are real people with real issues, and our mandate is to alleviate and

address as many of these issues as possible.

Madam Speaker,

I now wish to pay tribute to the fallen heroes for their sterling contribution to the development of sport in our province and in our country. They are:

- Veteran football administrator, Lawrence “Big Bear” Ngubane;
- Former football legend Wellington “Chippa” Khoza;
- Former football legend Petros “Ten Ten” Nzimande ;
- Former boxing trainer Nick Durandt, who produced a number of world and national champions from the province;
- Sports activist Sthuli Gumede;
- Amazulu kit manager John Ndlangisa.

The contribution of these heroes to nation building and social-cohesion through sport will forever form part of our South African fabric.

Madam Speaker and Honourable Members,

My department, together with its stakeholders and partners, is ready to deliver another year of innovative and creative sport and recreation programmes to the people of KwaZulu-Natal. So kindly allow me the opportunity to table the Budget for the Department of Sport and Recreation for the 2017/18 Financial Year:

Programme 1: Administration – R87, 290 million.

Programme 2: Sport and Recreation – R376, 300 million

Total Budget: R463,590 million

Honourable Members,

The responsibility of delivery at this level is a great one, and failure is not an option. I would like to acknowledge the support of those who continue to make my work possible, enjoyable and fulfilling, despite its many challenges.

- The Honourable Premier for his continued support and guidance. Your

mentorship is truly appreciated;

- The Portfolio Committee on Sport and Recreation, under the leadership of the Honourable Lizzy Shabalala, for playing an effective oversight role to the Department.
- The staff of the Department of Sport and Recreation, under the able leadership of the Head of Department, Mrs Rohini Naidoo, who are at the coalface of service delivery;
- The stakeholders and partners, who are central to the delivery of sport and recreation services in the province. My heartfelt thanks to you for your ongoing support.
- The African National Congress for the confidence it has shown in me to lead this Department, and
- Finally my loving husband and my family for unconditionally supporting me in the execution of my duties.

I thank you!

Ngiyabonga kakhulu!