



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

BUDGET ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR SPORT AND RECREATION, MR A. RAJBANSI MPL ON TABLING OF THE BUDGET IN THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE 24 APRIL 2007

Mr Speaker

Honourable Premier and colleagues in the Executive

Deputy Speaker

Honourable Members

Chairperson and Members of the Sport and Recreation Portfolio Committee

Members of the diplomatic corps

Distinguished guests, business leaders, members of the sporting fraternity, media, ladies and gentlemen

INTRODUCTION

This budget speech is dedicated to the late Inkosi Albert Luthuli, a stalwart of the struggle and a champion of football in Kwazulu-Natal. Inkosi Luthuli was uncompromising in his stance against racism, tribalism and all forms of racial and sectional exclusiveness. He believed in and fought for full political, economic and social opportunities for the oppressed people of South Africa regardless of colour or creed.

In his biography, Inkosi Albert Luthuli describes how his passion for football developed whilst he was teaching at Adams College in Umbumbulu. 2007 marks the 40th anniversary of his passing away.

The spectacular development of sport through the media and its popularity, and ability to attract massive numbers of fans with diversified interests, lead inevitably to greater

consideration of its educational role, to convey messages and contribute to the communication of UNESCO's ideals of *contributing to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the people of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations*. The practice of sport is a recognized instrument for promoting peace, as it disregards both geographical borders and social classes.

One of our rallying calls during the struggle for the liberation of our people and our country was that the struggle for a non-racial sports environment was an essential part of the struggle for freedom. We argued that sport in every part of the world reflected the society it is practiced in. A racially divided society, a society which gives preference to a particular gender or class, all these things tend to be reflected in the sports of a particular country subtly or sharply. A positive and developmental approach to sport has potentially positive benefits as it can contribute to community and nation building.

FOCUS AREAS

As we endeavour to grow the economy,, our partnership with the federations, sponsors, other government departments and municipalities, has ensured that development and transformation in sport is taking place throughout the length and breadth of our Province to the extent, that many from our previously disadvantaged communities are now taking part in competitive sport such as surfing, canoeing, swimming, rugby and tennis. Through innovative programmes the Department has ensured that the poorest of the poor athletes are accorded opportunities to participate in other major sporting events, like the Comrades Marathon, Spar Ladies Race, Amashovashova Cycle Race, Rural Horse Riding, Midmar Mile, International Gymnastrada Competition and the National Indigenous Games. There is a resurgent interest in sport in the Province and my Department has been able to rise to the challenge in spite of our limited human and financial resources.

The Department of Sport and Recreation has focused its efforts on the following high leverage Programmes:

- Development programmes with Sports Federations
- Infrastructure Development
- African Renaissance Programmes- Rural Horse Riding And Indigenous Games
- Community Recreation programmes focusing on Active Seniors and Rehabilitation of vulnerable groups
- Football Enrichment Initiatives
- Siyadlala Community Mass Participation Programme
- School Sport Mass Participation Programme
- Club Development
- Equity programmes focusing on Women and athletes with disability.

We are also challenged to equip the elite sportspersons of our province with the skills and technical and scientific know-how to make sure that KwaZulu-Natal rises to become a major role player in the South African and international sporting arenas. This is also very important for pride and social cohesion. I must confess we have not always been successful in this regard, especially with respect to football.

TAKING SPORT AND RECREATION TO THE PEOPLE

With the Department's focus on good corporate governance, human resource development has become critical. Sports federations and other institutions have supported us admirably in these initiatives. In the past year, we have truly taken sport and recreation to the people of Kwazulu-Natal.

The following rate as our critical success factors:

- Over 80% of our budget was spent in previously disadvantaged areas and on previously disadvantaged people, thus facilitating transformation.

- We have received high commendation from the National Department for the effective utilisation of the Conditional Grant.
- Kwazulu-Natal is the leading province in respect of School Sport Mass Participation Programme. The excellent partnership with the Department of Education has benefited 159 rural schools, 2852 educators, 41 976 learners, recruitment and training of 170 unemployed youth in the community, 954 technical officials were trained, and R45,000 of equipment supplied to each of the 159 schools
- The Club Development Programme has successfully been piloted in Nkandla Msinga, Mzimkhulu and Mtubatuba (Dukuduku Forest).
- Completion of 38 sport and recreation facilities, including two swimming pools (one in Gamalakhe opened on 3 March 2007 amongst much fanfare and a fantastic response from the community), one athletic track and 37 Combi (multi-purpose) courts. Agreements have been signed with all affected Municipalities for provision of 2007/8 facilities. Of the R15m allocated for 2010 football enrichment and legacy, amounts of R6.5m and R1.5m were utilized for the construction of new facilities and for renovations to existing facilities respectively.
- The number of Mass Participation hubs increased from 20 to 48 benefiting over 500 000 people and creating 440 temporary employment for unemployed youth in the communities, mostly women.
- We have successfully assisted in the restructuring of SAFA along district municipality lines and the start of a similar process with other codes.
- Increased participation of women in sport related activities.

- Capacity Building – My Department, in partnership with the Provincial Academy of Sport and sports federations have trained and qualified coaches, administrators, technical officials and administrators in football, athletics, cricket, rugby, volleyball, aquatics, boxing, netball, hockey, table tennis, golf, boxing, and dancesport.
- The Department focused on developing policy to establish due processes, capacitating staff and recruitment of volunteers for our Mass participation Programmes.
- All components of the Department have secured permanent office accommodation and in the 2007/8 financial year the Department will begin its restructuring into Districts with the establishment of 2 new District offices in Ugu and Uthungulu
- In partnership with SAFA, we have trained and qualified 457 football referees at a basic level; conducted introductory level coaches' courses for 130 aspiring coaches and Level I for 60 delegates. 120 Football administrators were trained in basic administration.

SUCCESSING, IN SPITE OF CONSTRAINTS

Whilst the allocation for the Department of Sport and Recreation for 2007/8 shows an approximate increase of 51.95% from the previous baseline allocation, closer examination will reveal that this amount includes an increased conditional grant of R37, 276m from the National Department of Sport and Recreation for our School Sport Mass Participation Programme, Siyadlala Mass Participation Programme and Club Development Programme. The budget grows over the outer years of the MTEF period due mainly to the substantial increase in the conditional grant.

The Mass Participation Programmes will impact on human resources and administrative support and thus place a tremendous burden on the Department to meet its mandates.

REDRESSING DISPARITIES OF THE PAST

By its very nature, sport is a natural catalyst for an integrated and united nation. Go to any place where children come together, until socialised otherwise, children readily play together without prejudice.

Sport has potentially positive benefits in a transforming society, and investments and an increased budget to the Department of Sport and Recreation will ensure that KwaZulu-Natal edges its way to the helm on team performances and developmental programmes. Sport and recreation must necessarily contribute to our country's transformation agenda.

The preamble to our Constitution declares South Africa to belong "to all who live in it, united in our diversity." Non-racialism and non-sexism are added to human dignity, equality and human rights mentioned in the preamble. The transformation agenda needs to transform those who must drive it in the first place, black and white. By transformation we do not simply confine ourselves to the demographics of national teams. Sport must contribute in an improved situation in the health of our people. It must contribute to the reduction of substance abuse and criminal activities. Above all, sport must contribute to the provision of infra-structure in our communities and in human resource development and participation in the economy. For this reason our development must work at forging linkages with other governments and organizations. way, we believe we can truly make a contribution to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, Section seven (1),: "participation in sport and recreation is recognised by the United Nations (UN) as a fundamental human right and all governments must ensure access for all their people." Equality of access and opportunity to participate in physical activity should be made available to all, including those with disabilities and chronic illness.

BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR SPORT AND RECREATION

Chairperson, it is important that the programmes of sport and recreation are aligned to the policy pronouncements as contained in Government's programme of Action, the

Millennium Development Goals, ASGI-SA. Sport and recreation has a responsibility to promote national identity and social cohesion, and we hope that our participation in sport and recreational events in 2007, especially in the South African Games in September 2007 will also unite us as a province and ensure that we improve on our previous performance in the Games. The South African Games is the largest developmental games incorporating 14 codes of sport and also caters for youth with disability. The Department will assist with the selection, preparation, provision of kit and clothing, transport and accommodation of Team KwaZulu-Natal. The South African Games has been instrumental in ensuring the integration of our mainstream athletes and those with disabilities. It has also been an excellent medium through which we identify our talented athletes and accelerate their high performance path.

We also have a responsibility of enrolling volunteers in various community development activities to increase the participation of youth in our Mass Participation programmes that also enhance social cohesion.

In an attempt to ensure that we subscribe to Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment, we make a concerted effort to implement a developmentally oriented supply chain management that targets specific groups in particular poor women, youth and the disabled.

OVERVIEW OF BUDGET

DEPARTMENT BUDGET ALLOCATION

The budget of the department for the 2007/08 financial year is R161 177million. Included in this is an amount of R37, 276 million for the Mass Sport and Recreation Participation Programme. The budget of the department grows over the outer years of the MTEF period due mainly to the increase in the conditional grant. The grant reaches a substantial R81, 771 million in the 2009/10 financial year. The conditional grant represents 23%, 33% and 37% respectively of the department's allocation over the MTEF period.

ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS

The following additional allocations have been made to the Department for the 2007/08 financial year:

- R10 million for the establishment of two district offices and for the employment of additional support staff,
- R5.9 million for the hosting of major events,
- R16.96 million for infrastructure development. This amount was made available during the 2006/07 MTEF process
- R1,8 million for the incorporation of Umzimkhulu into KwaZulu-Natal, to be used for improving service delivery within the area,
- R1.5 million for administration costs.

PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION

The budget allocation for this programme is R35, 347,000 and the funds will be used to render support services to the Department and provide overall management. The budget allocation will mainly be utilized on:

- Office accommodation for the two new District offices of Ugu and Uthungulu.
- Maintenance of the existing office accommodation.
- Maintenance of IT equipment and licensing thereof
- Maintenance of government vehicles.

The main aims are policy formulation by the MEC, strategic planning and management by the Head of Department, financial, human resource management and auxiliary services. The Administration Programme is also responsible for the development of policies and procedures.

PROGRAMME 2: SPORT COORDINATION

A summary of the budget allocation for the 2007/2008 financial year for this programme is as follows:

Sub Programme	Budget 2007/2008
Junior Sport	8,630,000
Community Sport	15,834,000
Sport Management	31,498,000
Recreation	8,485,000
Facilities	26,107,000
Mass School Sport	18,960,000
Community Mass Participation	16,316,000
Total	125,830,000

The purpose of this programme is to promote, develop, administer and fund sport in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal. It also ensures advancement of participation in sport and recreation, talent identification and the promotion of performance excellence.

The purpose of each sub-programme is as follows:

- Sport Management: To provide strategic direction for promotion and development of sport;
- Community Sport: To promote and develop sport within the community, promote high performance and the management and implementation of the club development grant. The total budget available for Community Sport is R15, 834 million including salary and administration costs. The community sport projects promote and develop sport within the community and in collaboration with the governing bodies of the different codes of Sport. The projects will be implemented at a local municipality level to ensure that we are reaching the communities. Sport structures will be established in each district and local municipality. Approximately 500 000 will benefit from all programmes. 6 000

people will benefit from skills development with, at least 500 athletes benefiting from the high performance programme.

- Junior Sport: To promote and develop sport and recreation amongst the youth in order to foster leadership, positive and healthy lifestyles and act as a catalyst to high performance. Juniors are the founding blocks for skills development, talent identification and sporting achievements. The total budget available for Junior Sport is R8.630 million which includes salary and administration costs. This programme will reach at least 200 000 participants (3 000 athletes with disability) with another 2 000 people benefiting from skills development.
- Recreation: To promote recreational activities in an attempt to promote mass participation, healthy and active lifestyles, fun and enjoyment through social interaction. The total available for Recreation projects is R8.485 million including salary and administration costs. The projects will be implemented at a local municipality level, in institutions and a variety of recreation sites and benefiting approximately 400 000 people and at least 1800 people benefiting from skills development.
- Facilities: To facilitate the provision and upgrading of sport and recreation facilities in partnership with local authorities and to ensure the provision of sport and recreation programmes where facilities exist. To facilitate the establishment of committees in communities where facilities are constructed and to use this project as a means of addressing poverty, unemployment and economic development.
- Mass School Sport: To promote mass participation at a school level.
- Community Mass Sport: To promote mass participation at a community level.

CREATING A SOCCER LEGACY

The awarding of the 2010 World Cup host to South Africa by FIFA is a legacy on its own. For South Africa and the rest of Africa, the memory of that tournament will be a lasting legacy. But we cannot end there. As government, we believe that preparations for the 2010 World Cup must leverage the fast-tracking of some elements of our transformation agenda. What our President refers to as the “two Nations” in our country cannot be allowed to continue unscathed by such a huge event. We must use this opportunity to level the proverbial playing grounds, both in respect of infrastructure and otherwise.

Our leaders have launched the African Renaissance and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). This is our time to fit football concretely into these initiatives. Good managerial skills, sound finance management skills and overall good governance are a sine qua non of this Renaissance and the end of Afro-pessimism.

Aligned to the National & Overall Provincial 2010 Soccer World Cup strategy the Department’s focus is on:

- Team preparation & support
- Improving the standard of football in the province.
- Leaving a legacy of infrastructure development by the provision of appropriate facilities, equipment and support services.
- Assistance with the structural transformation of SAFA from 4 to 11 Districts. Each of these 11 SAFA Districts were equipped with computers, appropriate software, office furniture, fax machines and printers. Specialized stationery was also provided to all the Districts.
- Develop a high level Under 17 Soccer Enrichment Programme in partnership with SAFA. A total of 600 players participated in qualification matches in the 2006/7 version of the event. 150 Trained officials were also catered for. From each of the Districts a selected team (both men and women) participated in a Provincial Final. Each of these District teams was equipped with kits, balls, training equipment and track suits.
- Capacity building of administrators, players, coaches & technical officials.

- Development and implementation of a soccer management software system in the 11 districts of KZN.
- Marketing and communication tool for all stakeholders: public; administrators & management. Create awareness, sponsor advertising and communication.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO NON-PROFIT INSTITUTIONS

My Department consciously supports the development plans and initiatives of Sports Federations, Associations and Community Organizations because it has prioritised the good governance of these bodies. Good governance should improve the quality of our sport. We are making a humble but important contribution to Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (AsgiSA) and Joint Initiative on Priority Skills Acquisition (JIPSA).

Financial assistance will be rendered to these non profit institutions for:

- development programmes,
- hosting provincial, national and international events
- assisting athletes who will participate in National events outside the province

Funding will be made available as per the Department's funding policy and based on the business plans submitted by these Institutions. The Department has allocated an amount of R4, 2 million for transfer payments to sporting organisations.

PREMIER'S SPORTS AWARDS

This annual sports awards function serves to acknowledge the talent and achievements of the most outstanding sporting personalities in Kwazulu-Natal. While the Ceremony acknowledges our high achievers in the Province, recognition is also given to the contribution made by the communities and municipalities towards the upliftment of sport & recreation from grass roots level to excellence. The Premier's Sports Awards is

an annual event that provides an ideal opportunity for the province to showcase & reward its abundant talent from the sporting fraternity.

SALGA-KZN/KWANALOGA GAMES

The Department supports SALGA in these games by making funding and human resource available. These are developmental games aimed primarily at developing the youth in the Province from grass roots to world-class level and encourage partnerships and co-ordination with relevant stakeholders. The vision of these Games is to nurture sports potential in all KZN municipalities and the games serve as a crucial point of entry for the youth into various provincial, national and international competitions.

OPERATION MBO

Operation MBO is the provincial massification programme based on geographic integration and coordination, with joint planning and implementation of projects, that all contribute comprehensively towards poverty eradication, human development and improved quality of life. Operation Mbo has been undertaken across all the sub-programmes i.e. community sport, junior sport, recreation, facilities, mass school sport and community mass participation. The Department will continue to facilitate programmes and projects in the identified areas of Nkandla, Msinga, Mzimkhulu and Makhatini Flats.

BUILDING THE ECONOMY THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH SPORTS FEDERATIONS

Our partnerships with Sports federations are key to the delivery of Sport and Recreation in the province. Our sports federations are the custodians of our athletes and by virtue of their constituency, govern the respective codes of sport.

Having successfully assisted SAFA through the process of structural transformation, and starting a similar process in some of the other codes of sport, greater emphasis will be

placed on ensuring that every district municipality benefits from the programmes and projects of sports federations. This will be done through the formation of clubs, the establishment of leagues and the rolling out of projects to build the capacity of administrators, coaches and technical officials in the Nationally recognized priority codes of Sport. Focus will also be on talent identification and scientific support, where the Provincial Academy of Sport will play a key role. All programmes will cater for athletes with special needs.

Priority codes of Sport are: Athletics, Aquatics, Boxing, Cricket, Basketball, Netball, Volleyball, Golf, Hockey, Gymnastics, Baseball, Tennis, Table Tennis, Canoeing, Surfing, Lifesaving, Karate, Dance Sport and Handball. Our approach will be developmental in nature and skill development projects will culminate in Community Development Games, selection tournaments for competitions of the various sports codes and importantly serve as a preparation for the South African Games in September 2007.

SCHOOL SPORT MASS PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME

The Department has received an allocation of R18, 960 million as a conditional grant for the School Sport Mass Participation Programme. This programme is run in conjunction with the Department of Education for the resuscitation and revitalisation of our schools sports and physical education programmes.

In 2006/7 , 159 schools in the most rural areas benefited from this programme, creating employment for 170 sport assistants and admin staff, involving 2862 educators and giving 100 000 learners an opportunity to participate in sport and recreation. There were 9 festivals that took place throughout the province, where approximately 500 learners and 100 officials participated and attendance at each event was approximately 1000 indicating the interest and enthusiasm in this programme. Other benefits included the provision of equipment and SETA accredited training to all sports assistants and cluster co-ordinators.

In 2007/8, financial year focuses on schools and clusters from both previously disadvantaged rural and urban areas and a further 162 schools will benefit from this programme. 12 schools in this programme have been identified as having a high rate of crime and have been included in an endeavour to provide learners with a positive alternative and to also assess the impact of sport and recreation in the reduction of crime. A further 173 personnel will be employed as sports assistants, cluster co-ordinators and admin support staff in this programme, bringing the total number of jobs created to 343, benefiting 321 schools. Equipment and human resource development will also be part of the benefits. Amongst the areas benefiting from this programme will be Msinga, Buffalo Flats, Wentworth, Klip River and Hlazakazi.

This programme also has a link to the United Kingdom programme of “Dreams and Teams”, “Junior Football Organisers’ Programmes” and the “Fairplay Today” project which provide human resource development for identified sports assistants, educators and learners.

GENDER AND DISABILITY

Our transformation agenda cannot be complete without attending to gender and disability issues. “All sporting federations in South Africa still treat women as ‘add-ons’. This is more so in team sport than it is in individual sport and for this reason most women athletes remain marginalised. The challenge would be to mobilise and to consociate women to ensure they become truly liberal” A quick look at the organization, budget and media coverage of such codes as football, rugby, cricket, netball, hockey, etc will verify our argument. Sponsors are also very prejudiced against women in sport.

The Department aims to mobilise and increase the number of women and girls participating in sports. Programmes are also aimed at dealing with areas facing the development and participation of women and Sports Federations are urged to have definite strategies and make concerted efforts to address the challenges facing women’s participation in sport and recreation.

The Department’s Equity Programme targets active involvement of women and the disabled in sporting activities.

This includes

- Capacity building to prepare women for leadership/decision making roles in sport organisations
- Celebration of Women’s Month with sport and Recreation Activities
- Women’s seminars
- Affording access to mostly disadvantaged women to the Spar Ladies Race, the largest women’s road race in the country.

In order to address the issues of transformation and needs of people with disabilities, the Department works closely with Disability Sport South Africa (DISSA) to:

- Ensure inclusivity in as many of the mainstream activities as possible.

- Co-ordinate and arrange development programmes for the different disability groups.
- Organize events for the disabled in communities.
- Provides financial and human resource assistance at major events and festivals.
- Form new structures in rural areas and townships.
- Encourage the club links and capacity building programmes

CLUB DEVELOPMENT

Club Development is a new national programme that aims to:

- Develop the human resource potential of sports federations.
- Ensure that sport and recreation bodies achieve their transformation/ affirmative action objectives
- Increase participation in Sport and recreation at grass roots level at the simplest level of organisation, the club
- To serve as a link between the mass participation and high performance programme

A number of clubs will be formed to play in the leagues within communities. The following areas will benefit: Nkandla, Msinga, Mtubatuba, uMzimkhulu, uMziwabantu. Codes of sport will include football and netball. A conditional grant has been made available to fund the club development programme.

Our vision is to see the participation in our programmes lead to community clubs. These will in turn be the basic sites of sport development and the building bricks of social cohesion. Together with school sport, community clubs are also where the catchments of players for skills and transformation will come from.

INDIGENOUS GAMES

My Department is driven to protect and promote indigenous Games to further community spirit, bring people together and instill a sense of pride in a society's cultural roots. Indigenous sports and games are part of intangible heritage and a symbol of the

cultural diversities of our societies. They are also an efficient means to convey values of solidarity, diversity, inclusiveness, and cultural awareness.

The Department has been able to rise to the challenge of tracing, reintroducing and promoting the rich games such as Induku, Mlabalaba, Khokho, and Juskei. The momentum will be carried from local communities to the provincial and national Indigenous Games Festivals.

RURAL HORSE RIDING

An initiative was undertaken by the Department by staging the biggest Rural Horse Riding festival at Dundee in July 2005 and 2006 and has become an annual event taking place on the last Saturday of July. In 2007 this project will be introduced to other districts across the province. Activities will include ukutelebhela, show jumping, tripling and traditional fashion. This year's event will take place on the 28 July 2007.

OTHER RECREATION PROGRAMMES

LEARN TO SWIM: This programme focuses on water safety, basic swimming skills and fun.

LEARN AND PLAY: *This* is a fun filled activity for those under 12 years of age. . Unhealthy lifestyles leading to obesity is a serious problem among children in South Africa. The goal is to promote active lifestyles at a young age and provide learning opportunities at the same time.

RECRE-HAB: This is a rehabilitation programme for prisoners and street children. Recreation can be an alternative to unhealthy behavior such as drug abuse and violence. In the prisons, the Recre-Hab programmes are integrated with other prison programmes on a daily and weekly basis. In the case of street children, the programme is integrated with other activities which seek to re-integrate street children with society.

WORK AND PLAY: *Employee* well-being and attitude can affect production and service delivery. Recreation provides the necessary atmosphere and environment to energise employees, encourage interdepartmental co-operation and improve their well-being.

ACTIVE SENIORS: Senior Citizens, like children, are classified as most vulnerable. Senior citizens recreation clubs will be created and/or supported, with some activities held during pension days. The Department will work closely with the Department of Social Welfare to maximize resources.

SIYADLALA MASS PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME (MPP)

The aim of this grant is to fund the promotion of mass participation within disadvantaged communities in a selected number of sports codes, in conjunction with local municipalities. The total available for the Mass Participation conditional grant is R16, 316 million

Siyadlala is a national flagship programme. South Africa has a high level of lifestyle challenges, diseases, including high blood pressure, heart attacks and crime. The programme will focus on high crime areas, government nodal points, rural and poverty stricken areas. An additional 24 new hubs will be created bringing the total number of hubs to 64. New hubs will be established in Jolivet, Ezingolweni, Utrecht and Mboza amongst other areas. A variety of activities will be offered in the hubs including aerobics, gymnasthada, fun walks/joggings, street ball (soccer, netball, basket ball, and handball) and indigenous games. The hubs will render life skills support to the youth in their communities.

A total of 500 000 people shall benefit from this programme, with a total of 640 youth being employed on a contract basis, with women receiving priority.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Infrastructure development is a flagship programme of the Department that focuses on building and upgrading of sport and recreation facilities, The programmes has been instrumental in creating job opportunities, poverty alleviation, capacity building and strengthening inter-governmental relations.

The construction of 26 of the facilities has been completed in the 2004/05 and 2005/06 financial years. The Department allocated R26, 107 million in the 2007/08 financial year

towards the building and upgrading of 19 sports facilities throughout the Province. Amongst other, facilities will be built in Ndumo, Kokstad, Umzumbe, Hlabisa, Mpolweni, Ndumeni, Ezakheni and Mondlo. An allocation of R6 million has been made for the construction of combination courts in communities. These facilities will accommodate various codes of sport and will be open to everyone in the community. They are housed within school compounds to avoid vandalism and malicious damage to the facilities.

By 2009/10 the Department would have constructed 89 facilities and created more than 2000 job opportunities throughout the Province.

CONCLUSION

Finally I wish to thank the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Mr Paulus Ngcobo and members of the committee for the excellent partnership that exists between my Department and the committee. I must also express my appreciation to the Head of Department, Mrs S Khan, senior management and the rest of my small staff of 124 for the manner in which they have handled the challenges experienced by the Department, where the DPSA has suggested that in order to perform our task effectively we require a compliment of 313. This small staff has effectively carried out the mandate given to us by the Honourable Premier, the National Department of Sport and Recreation and SASCO, the supreme sports controlling body in South Africa. We are indeed grateful to the members of the sporting fraternity and the media for all their efforts.

I recommend that the budget be adopted.