

Final Version

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

BUDGET ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR SPORT AND RECREATION, MRS W.G. THUSI, MPL ON THE TABLING OF THE BUDGET IN THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

31 JULY 2009

Mr 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

In his State of the Nation address in Cape Town, President Jacob Zuma said; "*Sport is a powerful nation-building tool. Working together we must support all our national teams from Bafana Bafana to the Proteas and the Springboks; from Banyana Banyana to Paralympians...*"

I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation to the former MEC for Sport and Recreation, Mr A. Rajbansi who has laid a solid foundation for sport and recreation on which we can build and drive our programmes to ensure maximum benefit for the citizens of the province, especially in the most disadvantaged areas.

By its very nature sport and recreation is about participation. It is about inclusion and citizenship. Sport and recreation brings individuals and communities together, highlighting commonalities and bridging cultural or ethnic divides. Sport provides a forum to learn skills such as discipline, confidence and leadership and it teaches core principles such as tolerance, cooperation and respect. Sport teaches the value of effort and how to manage victory, as well as defeat. When these positive aspects of sport are emphasized, sport and recreation becomes a powerful vehicle through which the government can work towards achieving its goals.

In support of the Millenium Development Goals and the Provincial Priorities of Government, programmes in sport and recreation are innovative and effective tools to assist existing efforts to achieve specific targets such as those concerning education, gender equality, HIV/AIDS and the reduction of major diseases. More broadly, well-designed sport and recreation programmes are also a cost-effective way to contribute

significantly to health, education, development and peace and, a powerful medium through which to mobilize societies as well as to communicate key messages.

As the preparations towards the 2010 FIFA World Cup intensify, the Department of Sport and Recreation will, through the 2010 Provincial Coordinating Committee continue to interact with all departments responsible for the implementation of government's priorities in this regard. The department will intensify its mass mobilisation road shows across the province. The programme seeks to galvanise and inspire communities to support the hosting of the 2010 FIFA World Cup. The public will be encouraged to come out in huge numbers to support this global epic and ensure that the spirit of 2010 permeates every facet of our South African society. Fan Parks and Public Viewing Areas will be prioritised as we begin to prepare to exhibit the authentic cultural way of life to the football fans that will be in our country.

The lack of sporting facilities will continue to provide a hindrance towards progress in ensuring that transformation in sport is fast tracked. We need to ensure that sport and recreation facilities are incorporated in new housing developments and new schools are built with sports fields, as physical activity plays a strategic role in the holistic development of the child. My department's development of sport and recreation infrastructure will be realised by constructing basic facilities, combination courts, futsal courts (Indoor Soccer) and renovations to existing facilities. While the department has initiated projects to speed up the process of providing infrastructure for sport and recreation, we need to emphasize the need for all our Municipalities to contribute towards achieving this critical milestone of sports development as emphasized by the President during his State of the Nation Address last month. The Municipalities need to seize the opportunity and utilize the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) to build sports and recreation facilities. We are also extending a hand to local government structures to partner with us and co-fund the basic sports facilities that we are initiating in their areas. We need to seriously look at strategies and different approaches we may use to sustain the existing facilities. The department is engaging all stakeholders to try and look at better ways of re-sourcing the maintenance of the existing facilities and prepare our communities to assume greater responsibility for their sports fields and fight against vandalism.

The programmes of the Department of Sport and Recreation give impetus to the notion that whilst sport is essential to human development; it also contributes to economic development. The economic potential of sport and recreation is highlighted by its economic weight, resulting from activities such as the manufacture of sporting goods, sports events, sport-related services and the media. Beyond being an economic force in itself, sport and recreation is also a potential catalyst for economic development. A physically active population is a healthier population, improving the productivity of the workforce and increasing economic output. Sport and physical activity also provide one of the most cost effective forms of preventive medicine, with the potential to cut health-care costs dramatically. The promotion, development and enhancement of sport and recreation programmes in the province will contribute immensely to an improved quality of life for all who participate.

Transformation in sport is a subject that has been debated and debated at length ever since we became a democracy. Imposing quotas was seen as a way to speed-up the process but this is clearly not working. Change has to take place from the ground up and that means that it has to start at school level. As we embark on a new five year term in office let us prioritise to make sport and recreation accessible to all; providing sports facilities; empowering young persons with requisite skills and, of course, evaluate progress made in the transformation of sport and recreation in particular, but also of society in general. We have persistently and correctly said that sport and recreation can forge social cohesion and national identity.

School sport and community clubs are important as they form the broader base to identify and trap emerging talent, especially from deprived areas. This calls for an integrated system from the school level in order for talent to be identified and nurtured at an early stage and then developed to an elite level using scientific methods. Sports federations, government and the Academy need to forge partnerships if we expect to intensify the identification and nurturing of talent. A systematic and scientific approach to development is imperative if we wish to be serious about transforming our sport.

The department's high performance programme intends to sustain our competitive sports strategy by investing in the development of identified athletes to ensure their progression from broad based mass participation through to provincial, national and international competition. The establishment of "virtual" offices is a serious attempt by the department to begin to level the playing fields for the less fortunate sport federations. The investment in a High Performance Centre as part of the Legacy Programme is expected to yield huge dividends as the department falls in sync with SRSA and SASCOG in pursuing excellence in preparation for the Olympic Games, London, 2012. There is an urgent need for the department to work closely with tertiary institutions in an effort to ensure that disadvantaged athletes can access their programmes thereby enjoying the benefits of scientific testing, medical screening, competition and nutritional support, high performance training and competitions. The department will support the Ikusaselihle Sports Academy in Willowfontein as part of its strategy to identify and nurture football talent and provide high performance training. There is a need to establish satellite academies in other areas.

Our strategy outlines our approach to fulfil our responsibility in such a way that we contribute to transforming South Africa into a country that truly reflects the diversity of our people. We can make an important contribution in realising the vision as expressed by President Jacob Zuma on 3 June 2009, namely to create *"an inclusive society, a South Africa that belongs to all, a nation united in its diversity, a people working together for the greater good of all."*

There is no doubt that KwaZulu-Natal will continue to make a more significant impact in the next few years as we marshal increasing resources in the direction of sport and recreation. However we need to denounce the racism that is still prevalent in sport and other areas and the poor leadership that was suffocating our federations from

performing to their full potential. In defining the department's strategy over the next five years consideration was given to the mandates governing sport and recreation, the Millennium Development Goals, provincial priorities linked to the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) and key provincial focus areas.

In summary the key deliverables for the Department are defined as follows:

- Development of sport into two categories: those that can realise more medals for the country and those that need support to develop to levels of high achievement.
- Skills developmental programmes for coaches, technical officials and administrators,
- Provide administrative support to various sport and recreation organisations,
- Implement high performance programmes for identified athletes,
- Extending the mass school sport and community mass participation programmes and legacy development programmes.
- The provision of sport and recreation facilities through the construction of combination courts, futsal (Indoor Soccer) courts and various types of sports facilities,
- Implement the 2010 FIFA World Cup and beyond strategy,
- Provision of key recreation programmes, including those that support the African Renaissance.
- Provide support for the hosting of major sports events in the Province.

Fraud and corruption are morally wrong and they take away resources that could change the lives of the poor. We share the Premier's concern about corrupt government officials whose task it is to serve the public, but instead they steal money meant to improve the lives of our people. We will pay particular attention to combating fraud and corruption in the department and promote good governance within all sectors. The department will utilise monitoring and evaluation as an essential tool in delivering effective services.

The continued dedication and commitment to achieving our goals will ensure that sport and recreation contributes significantly to Government's Programme of Action of amongst others, eradicating poverty, improving human capability, empowering youth and women, creating healthy and sustainable communities, promoting social cohesion and national identity.

BUDGET SUMMARY

The budget allocation has decreased by R 8 million from the original baseline allocation of R267 million. Included in this is a conditional grant of R 85 million for Mass Participation Programmes. Funding of R2.2 million was received for the increase in the wage adjustment for 2008 which was higher than the amount originally budgeted for. There was a reduction of R3,9 million based on the fact that there is now one MEC for

two departments and a general reduction of 7,5% on our goods and services budget to fund provincial over-expenditure.

The budget allocation for **Programme I: Administration** is R47,6 million and the funds will be used to render support services to the department and provide overall management. The main aims are policy formulation, strategic planning and management, human resource management and auxiliary services and financial management.

In Human Resources, the budget caters for 202 permanent posts and 1,710 volunteers. The 202 posts is further analysed into 83 posts for Administration and 119 posts for Sport Co-ordination. The 1,710 volunteers are appointed in terms of the mass participation conditional grant.

The department currently has a staff of 165 comprising 94 females and 71 males. This constitutes a ratio of 57:43 (percent). The department has a staff complement of 52 for junior, middle and senior management (Assistant Managers up to Senior Management). The ratio of male to female members constitutes 56:44 (percent). The department will address the shortage of women in management, especially at SMS. The current ratio of male to female stands at 67:33 (percent).

The department has completed its restructuring into 11 Districts. However, the budget caters for eight district offices in Ethekwini, Umgungundlovu, Uthukela, Zululand, Ugu, Uthungulu, Umkhanyakhude and Sisonke. The Department of Public Works has been tasked to find the office accommodation required and it is anticipated that office accommodation will be secured by the end of October 2009. The department will also be relocating head office staff from Durban to Pietermaritzburg.

A summary of the budget allocation for the 2009/2010 financial year for this programme is as follows:

Programme Name: Administration	Actual 2008/09	Budget 2009/10
Office of the MEC	R 6,282,000	R2,189,000
Head of Department	R 3,520,000	R 4,007,000
Financial Management	R 6,240,000	R 7,392,000
Corporate Services	R 25,748,000	R 33,968,000
Total	R 41,790,000	R 47,556,000

The budget allocation for **Programme 2: Sport Coordination** is R211,6 million and the funds will be utilised to promote, develop, administer and fund sport in the province.. It also ensures advancement of participation in sport and recreation, talent identification and the promotion of performance excellence.

A summary of the budget allocation for the 2009/2010 financial year for this programme is as follows:

Programme Name: Sport Management	Actual 2008/2009	Budget 2009/2010
Sport Management	R 38,692,000	R 54,666,000
Junior Sport	R 5,277,000	R3,000,000
Community Sport	R 16,235,000	R11,300,000
Recreation	R 5,032,000	R6,750,000
Facilities	R 33,711,000	R35,713,000
Mass School Sport	R 20,526,000	R22,516,000
Community Mass Participation	R 22,593,000	R23,462,000
Legacy	R 13,737,000	R39,170,000
World Cup 2010	R 15,672,000	R15,054,000
Total	R 171,477,000	R211,631,000

There are nine sub-programmes under Programme 2: Sport Coordination, namely:

Client Services, Junior Sport, Recreation, Facilities, Mass School Sport, Community Mass Participation, Legacy, World Cup 2010 and Sport Management which provides strategic direction for promotion and development of sport;

Client Services

The Department's Client Services programme aims to promote and develop sport within the community and encourage high performance. Programmes in this component are run in partnership with the governing bodies of the different codes of sport.

The total budget available for Client Services is R11,3 million excluding salary and administration costs. The key focus areas for Client Services shall be:

- **Capacity Building** - Aligned to the government's priority of education and skills for all, the department's development programmes will primarily focus on sustainable development and capacity building programmes conducted with sport federations and aimed at increasing the skill levels amongst coaches, administrators and technical officials with the target group being individuals from historically disadvantaged areas.
- **Maintain a database of trained individuals** to track where these trained individuals are and whether they have been utilising these skills to promote and develop sport.
- **Youth and Women empowerment programmes** will be realized via an investment in programmes such as the National Youth Run targeting 3000 youth from mainly rural communities, a partnership with KwaZulu-Natal Athletics to promote the Spar/Sport and Recreation Run to more than 13,000 women from all walks of life and a bigger focus on the Rural Girls Games as the department attempts to use these Games to address the serious cultural and religious bias affecting women in rural areas.
- **Addressing Gender Balance** - The department will ensure that the composition of sports team reflect gender balance in athlete representation, technical and administrative officials and general leadership. Greater advocacy is required to ensure that sporting federations elect women on their executive committees. The department will continue to support programmes and facilitate activities that provide opportunities for women to participate in sport and recreation.
- **Equity Programmes** - The department will renew its efforts to ensure that the mass participation programme will continue to be a platform for the recruitment of disabled persons, ensure compliance to the needs of the disabled in the provision of sport and recreation facilities, and provide financial and scientific support for athletes with disabilities to participate in major provincial, national and international sport and recreation events.
- **Transfer Payments** - Funding will be made available to sports federations in the priority codes via transfer payments to further enhance their high performance programmes and for the development of athletes via coaching clinics, talent identification, training camps and competitions.

- **Supporting Disadvantaged Athletes** - The continued support of the Comrades Village and other programmes aimed at leveling the playing fields and ensuring support for athletes from deprived backgrounds.
- **Boxing Development** - The Department of Sport and Recreation, in partnership with Boxing South Africa, SANABO and a number of other stakeholders have started a number of initiatives to revive the sport in the province and restore it to its former glory. The department will continue with its endeavours to ensure the development programmes such as the Baby Champs receives the necessary funding to identify rural talent and ensure their continued growth. If implemented properly in tandem with a rich development and high performance programme this programme must yield a KwaZulu-Natal Olympian in London, 2012.

Junior Sport

The future of sport in the country is undoubtedly determined by the degree of investment in the youth. The Junior Sport programmes focus on the promotion and development of sport with the prime purpose of empowering the youth, encouraging broad-based development, talent identification and, high performance. Programmes are designed to ensure inclusive and integrated involvement of both the able-bodied as well as those with special needs. The plan and implementation of these programmes are to be undertaken together with the federations and the Department of Education who are the key stakeholders.

In the long term, it is my fervent wish that physical education is fully implemented in schools and for educators to be trained in physical education. It would be ideal to have basic sports science integrated into their physical education training in order to ensure that correct training methods are implemented from the school level. There is a need to develop South African generic coaching materials for the primary schools and sport specific coaching materials for high schools. This thinking would be in keeping with the President's call in his State of the Nation address when he stated; "... *It is clear that we need to invest on a large scale in sports development. We will speed up the revival of school sport and ensure that it forms part of the school curriculum. In addition we will ensure that the provision of sport facilities in poorer communities receives priority ...*"

The department's Junior Sport Programme, with a budget of R3m aims to support and implement participation in school sport competitions and promote high performance programmes for the youth. In 2009/2010 the programme will support the participation of 3,500 learners (1,750 female) in provincial and national school sport and, junior sport competitions. The programme will cater for 150 athletes with disabilities with 500 elite junior athletes taken into high performance programmes. The department will implement high performance training camps to prepare athletes for top-level provincial and national competition.

Recreation:

A failure to invest in resources that pre-empt potential social problems is most likely to produce seriously intractable problems later at a much greater cost to society. Put simply, the department's recreation programme, with a budget of R6,7m aims to promote healthy living. Facilitating healthier lifestyles via community recreation programs is a growing recognition among health care professionals as a key to preventing illnesses and curtailing expensive health care costs.

Communities where recreation and a pursuit of a healthy lifestyle play a vital role in the lives of their residents are invigorated places to live, and more likely to experience continual regeneration of their physical, cultural and historic aspects, which in turn leads to greater social opportunities.

The department's Recreation Programme has seven flagship sub-programmes targeting all age groups, and a variety of sport and recreation activities to lead an active and healthy lifestyle, promoting social cohesion and addressing crime. Continued emphasis will be placed via our programmes on promoting health and well-being – reducing smoking, alcohol-related harm, obesity, increasing physical activity and promoting good mental health. Focus will be placed on the youth to devise strategies to fight HIV/AIDS and avoid stigmatization and mobilize community solidarity.

These sub-programmes will be implemented at a local municipality level, in institutions and a variety of recreation sites. This programme aims to target 360,000 participants with 207 programme sites planned and the hosting of 59 festivals to promote an active and healthy lifestyle.

The key programmes are:

- **Indigenous Games** which will provide insight into cultural practices of various groups in the province and reinforce community values, customs, and symbolize the beauty of diversity. The department intends to carry this momentum from local communities to national festivals. 120,000 Participants will participate in 11 district festivals which will culminate in a provincial and national championship. The department hosted a successful Provincial Indigenous Games Festival this year in the Ugu District where the KZN Indigenous Games team was selected. KwaZulu-Natal will host the National Indigenous Games Festival in September this year.
- **Rural Horse Riding** is a popular past time pursued by African men and boys. The programme will provide equipment to 32 horse training facilitators and 320 horse owners and jockeys will receive accredited training in horse care and life skills. 240 Horses are expected to be graded with 40,000 expected to benefit from weekly stakes in 8 districts. The department hosted an exciting Provincial Rural Horse Riding Festival in Dundee over the last weekend and if the event continues to on its upward growth pattern it is expected to give the Durban July

a run for its money. The event is a flagship programme of the department and there was glitz, glamour and spectators galore. Over 6,000 spectators attended the event where horse racing and traditional fashion was the order of the day.

Khulekani Kunene, a product of the Rural Horse Riding programme will take up a five month training scholarship in Sweden. His trip has been made possible through a partnership between the department, Harness Racing South Africa and the Swedish Harness Racing Association.

- **Recre-Hab** - This is a rehabilitation programme for prisoners and street children. In the prisons, the recre-hab programmes will be integrated with other prison programmes on a daily and weekly basis. Recre-Hab will be operational in 20 correctional sites in the province.
- **Work And Play** - Employee wellbeing and attitude can affect production and service delivery. Work and Play will provide the necessary atmosphere and environment to energise employees, encourage inter-departmental co-operation and improve wellbeing. 30,000 Participants are targeted with 140 volunteers trained to run the programme.
- **Active Seniors will benefit from** recreation by improving their wellness and confidence. Activities will therefore be structured such that their needs to socialize and improve physical and emotional strength are enhanced. 50 Service delivery sites will be targeted with 40,000 senior citizens expected to benefit from the programme.
- **Beach Games** - This initiative is part of a broader development plans to revive coastline beaches, especially in the former disadvantaged areas.

Facilities

With its limited resources the department has delivered 60 sports facilities to the neediest communities of our province over the five years to date. As part of our World Cup 2010 funding 17 Futsal courts (promoting indoor soccer) and 73 combination courts have been constructed. In 2009/2010 the department aims to build 12 new sports facilities, 17 combination courts and 27 futsal courts. The 12 new sports facilities are targeted for amongst others Msinga, KwaSani, Impendle, Ezakheni,

Umhlabuyalingana, Ndumeni, Mpofana, and Mbumbulu/Inanda. All areas/projects have been identified with the Municipalities concerned and are part of the Integrated Planning and Development (IDP) processes.

In addition the department will be upgrading 4 facilities at Ndumeni (Dundee), Ladysmith/Mnambithi (Ezakheni), Newcastle and Maphumulo. A budget of R28,5m has been set aside in our facilities component for the construction of facilities and combination courts whilst a further R6,8 million is allocated from World Cup 2010 for the construction of futsal (Indoor Soccer) courts.

This is part of our contribution and intervention towards addressing backlogs in sport and recreation infrastructure in this province in especially the previously disadvantaged communities. It is also a mean towards the provincial strategy of investing in community infrastructure while fighting poverty, creating job opportunities and providing enabling skills. Since its inception this programme has created more than one thousand job opportunities including those for project managers, SMMEs, and skilled and unskilled labour from the hosting local communities.

More than four hundred (400) additional job opportunities will be created with 50% of jobs earmarked for women; and mainly those who are heads of households. The department will enhance its advocacy campaign to address and persuade municipalities, both District and Local to invest in infrastructure for sports and recreation especially through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG).

MASS PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME

In support of the Millenium Development Goals, the department has recognised the value of the mass participation programme as a tool of development, and will support programmes to use sport and recreation as a means of empowerment and development. Programmes in sport and recreation is an innovative and effective tool to assist existing efforts to achieve specific targets such as those concerning education, gender equality, HIV/AIDS and the reduction of major diseases. More broadly, well-designed sports programmes are also a cost-effective way to contribute significantly to health, education, development and peace and a powerful medium through which to mobilize societies as well as communicate key messages.

The department aims to develop talented young sportsmen and women from historically disadvantaged communities and offer them the best possible coaching to realise their potential. We believe that we can use sport as a vehicle to reach the next generation and create a better future for our citizens.

School Sport Mass Participation Programme (SSMPP)

The introduction of the School Sport Mass Participation Programme (SSMPP) is an attempt to address the lack of organised sport in schools especially those in disadvantaged areas and, focuses on the promotion and development of sport amongst learners. SSMPP, a joint initiative of both the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Department of Education, carries a budget of R22.5m and will target 645 schools. By the end of the year this programme is expected to reach 250,000 learners. Some 95,000 of these learners are females with 1,200 learners with disability will benefit from the programme. The SSMPP will create employment for 685 previously unemployed youth,

The success of the School Sport Mass Participation Programme funded through the DORA grant, will increase participation in sport as well as develop sports champions. I emphasize the need for all stakeholders in sport to work together to intensify the development of sport at local delivery points – schools, clubs and communities – and for Sports Academies and High Performance Centres in the country to deliver support to learners who display talent.

Community Mass Participation

The Community Mass Participation Programme (CMPP) is the cradle of community sport in South Africa. The programme was launched to facilitate access to sport and recreation by as many South Africans as possible, especially those from historically disadvantaged communities. This programme is funded mainly through conditional grants to the provinces. The programme carries a budget of R23,4m and is the most supported project of the department. Our goal is to see funds used properly and leading to a 20% increase in participation in sport and recreation in the province, with more sport festivals being held and legacy projects supported.

The Community Mass Participation Programme addresses government's call for an active and healthy nation, safer communities, increasing the skill level of our people and contributes to social cohesion and creating decent work. At the core of the programme is an activity Hub which is the nucleus that encourages the youth to engage themselves in an active and healthy life style. The department will target 106 Hubs with 80,000 participants in 2009/2010. The eventual aim is to ensure that no child has to walk more than five kilometres to access an activity hub anywhere in the province. The ideal is to establish at least one hub in every ward in every municipality across South Africa.

The Programme will appoint 160 new volunteers to coordinate the activities in the Hubs bringing the total number of volunteers employed, and who will earn a monthly stipend to 1,068.

Leaving a Legacy for Ordinary South Africans

In his maiden State of the Nation Address President Jacob Zuma said; “We have, as government and the nation at large, pledged that the World Cup will leave a proud legacy from which our children and our communities will benefit for many years to come.” Legacy projects must provide a platform for communities to address social issues such as children’s rights, education, health, HIV/AIDS prevention, social integration and the environment, and must leave a legacy for Africa that will last long after the final whistle of the 2010 FIFA World Cup has been blown.

The department’s Legacy Programme is an essential part of the Mass Participation Programme which will focus on ensuring the sustainable involvement of communities in sport and recreation, infrastructure investment, and in the programmes aimed at talent identification and fostering the ideals of a healthy nation.

With a budget of R39m as part of the conditional grant, the department will focus on the following legacy programmes for 2009/2010:

- **Club Development** which will be aimed at increasing participation in sport and recreation at grass roots, at the simplest level of organisation, the club. A further 40 clubs will be launched in the 2009/2010 financial year bringing the number of clubs to 169 and a total of 10,000 participants involved in the programme. The programme also entails job creation, training of technical officials and the provision of equipment to all participating clubs.

The provincial federations need to ensure that community clubs and federation-specific community league systems are developed and sustained. Support is crucial at this level as talent that is identified through league competitions by provincial federations should then be provided to the Provincial Academy for scientific support and tracking. The Provincial Academies would have to ensure that suitably qualified individuals are appointed to ensure effective support or would have to refer the athletes to tertiary institutions/ high performance centres for support.

- **Provincial Champion Schools/Clubs/Hub/Games** - This programme will offer participants, especially from disadvantaged areas, an opportunity to compete in selected codes of sport at a provincial level. A total of 3000 selected participants will be involved in the regional and provincial games scheduled for the 2009/2010 financial year.
- **Provincial DISSA Development Games** - The programme will afford 1,500 selected athletes an opportunity to participate in various codes of sport with the intention of being included in the provincial squads. This programme is indicative of the achievement of our objective of ensuring the inclusion of athletes with disability to the mainstream of sports. In order to address the issues of transformation and needs of people with disabilities, the department will

continue to work closely with Disability Sport South Africa (DISSA) to ensure the recruitment of disabled persons in the mass participation programme, inclusion of the disabled in all major sport and recreation activities and, provide financial support for these athletes to participate in major provincial and national sport and recreation events.

- **High Performance Centre** - The High Performance Centre has been visualized as a co-operative venture between the Department of Sport and Recreation KwaZulu-Natal, KZN Academy of Sport, sports federations and sponsors from public and private sectors. The concept of the HPC is to select the best available potential in sport between 15 - 19 years of age and scientifically groom them over years of secondary school and, then carry the proven and tested potential to university and club level.

The High Performance Centre will form the breeding ground for selection into provincial/national teams for participation at international events; thereby a proper channel will be created for training sports persons, from raw talent, to highly skilled and motivated individuals. The department is in an advanced stage of establishing a High Performance Centre centrally at the Sahara Cricket Stadium.

- **Establishing Offices for Deprived Provincial Sport Federations** - The department will be focussing its efforts on establishing six fully serviced offices for those provincial sport federations who after more than a decade of sports unity still conduct their affairs out of “private garages, classrooms or the boots of their cars.” These offices will be centrally situated at the Sahara Stadium and is aimed at improving the capacity of deprived sport federations.
- **Sports Goods Industry** – As a legacy to 2010 and beyond, the department is looking to provide support to co-operatives in developing the sports goods industry in KwaZulu-Natal. Developing the skills of individuals and providing them with the necessary support to ensure success will lead to the sustained development and growth of the co-operative industry of the province.
- **Activity Parks** - The department intends to use public parks and recreation facilities as a low-cost opportunity to all citizens of every age, ability and income level to increase their daily amount of physical activity and thus prevent chronic health conditions. As part of its legacy to encourage healthy living my department will aim to increase physical activity levels by developing policies and programs that support park, trail, and greenway development and use. The premise of this program lies in suggesting that when communities invest in parks and other recreational facilities, they invest in the health of their citizens. The programme will seek to identify 6 recreational sites in Parks and establish partnerships with local municipalities and community based organizations and will provide specialized outdoor recreational equipment and activities designed to improve mobility, co-ordination and balance, as well as opportunities for social interaction – a critical healthy living component for older people.

South Africa's World Cup Dream emerges from a mountain of bricks and mortar

South Africa's successful hosting of the Confederations Cup was a real test of the organisational ability of the country whose preparations for 2010 are now well on track. Our potential in staging a highly successful 2010 FIFA World Cup is now beginning to emerge from beneath the mountains of bricks and mortar and the dramatic skyline of cranes. South Africa emerged from the Confederations Cup with its head held high and the President of FIFA, Sepp Blatter gave the country a thumbs-up for their hosting of the Confederations Cup.

The stadiums are all scheduled to be completed ahead of time and the country's infrastructure is already looking sleeker and smarter, although new road works and airport upgrades continue at pace. Ultimately, though, it will be the people who make or break the event. South Africans have an underlying spirit of hospitality and we are quietly confident that we will stage the "Best World Cup ever".

In allocating its 2010 budget of R15m, the department is committed to significantly raising the bar as it integrates the province's 2010 plans and activities into existing initiatives that dovetails with a number of our province's shared economic growth and development initiatives. It serves the dual purpose of successfully hosting the World Cup and enhancing longer-term sustainability of the province, creating job opportunities and contributing to the tourism industry. The overall driving factor underpinning the line function responsibilities of the department relating to the 2010 FIFA World Cup is to leave a legacy that contributes to improved administration, skilled coaches and highly qualified technical officials. In addition the programme aims at developing a high level football enrichment programme in partnership with SAFA, building infrastructure, creating awareness, and granting access to matches for masses of people via the promotion of Public Viewing Areas.

By the directive of the Premier, Dr Z.L. Mkhize the funding and functions for football development from the Office of the Premier is now transferred to the Department of Sport and Recreation. The funding shall be allocated for the promotion of development programmes in partnership with FET Colleges, hosting of football coaching clinics and community road-shows leading to the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

It is a given fact that various stakeholders have different obligations towards achieving a successful 2010 World Cup and the Department of Sport and Recreation has been toiling with its efforts to mobilize ordinary South Africans to get behind the World Cup. The department is working closely with SAFA and other stakeholders to restore the sport of soccer in our province to its full strength, and play our role in ensuring that the World Cup makes a huge contribution to improve the lives of all the citizens of this province, giving additional impetus to the development of the country and continent as a

whole. Despite the global economic downturn, we are hopeful that the 2010 FIFA World Cup will contribute positively to our economy and help us attract more investment and grow our tourism figures.

Conclusion

More than stimulating economic growth, effectively designed sports programmes strengthen basic human capabilities, create connections between individuals, and teach core values and life skills. They are a valuable tool to initiate social development and improve social cohesion, especially when implemented with young people. Together, the benefits from such programmes provide a powerful means to tackle social exclusion, rehabilitate child offenders and integrate marginalized groups into their communities. To succeed in this, we have a responsibility to use sport and recreation to transform and develop all parts of the country and people equally, in line with the mandates and Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. As per our electoral mandate, working together we can do more to build a better life for all. Our people not only demand and expect it, they deserve it!

Finally I wish to thank the Honourable Premier, Dr ZL. Mkhize for his astute leadership, vision and, his unequivocal support for the programmes and initiatives of the department, the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Sport, Mr John Mchunu and members of the Portfolio Committee for their contributions to the development of sport. I must also express my appreciation to the Head of Department, Mrs S Khan, senior management and the rest of my staff for the manner in which they have handled the challenges experienced by the department. We are indeed grateful to the members of the sporting fraternity and the media for all their efforts in ensuring that our sportsmen and women continue to develop on their path towards national and international prominence.