

BUDGET VOTE ON SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE

VOTE 4

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The English adage “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy” comes in handy in this instance.

There is a great need for sporting facilities in the province although elsewhere resources were wasted by duplicating services or re-inventing the wheel while elsewhere facilities have been left to deteriorate and decay because sport unifies the nation. The successes of the national teams are examples. All people across the colour lines and political spectrum rooted for the Springboks when they won the world cup as much as they did a fortnight ago when the football national team participated in the FIFA Confederations Cup games.

We, in the UCDP, would like to advise that government resources can never be enough to run sports. Policies have to be put in place to raise funds for sporting activities. This of course presupposes that those appointed to run such venture should be sharing the same vision as the authorities.

Our province is at the lowest rungs of the sporting world and this has to change.

We have a unique institution in this province Mmabana; it is found only in this province south of the Mediterranean Sea and this is what we should be promoting. It is this institution that produced the likes of Tseko Mogotsi, a gymnast of international repute and Tebogo Kgobokoe of the “Let’s go dancing” fame on SABC 2 on Saturday evenings.

The institution has registered other successes in the arts too. Musicians and actors of world fame cut their teeth in those fields in this North West capital while learning at that institution. It is for this reason that we call on all to stand up and speak out in support of the province as we have the potential to beat the world.

It is high time that the Mmabana in Tlhabane is built and completed and the one envisaged for the Dr Kaunda District is also urgently looked into and completed so that the provision of services should not be viewed as lopsided.

We should remind ourselves that Shakespeare was right when he said:

“The fault dear Brutus is not in our stars that we are underlings, but in ourselves”.

The greatest concern that militates against the development of the arts came about when this house decided to combine the Provincial Arts Council and Mmabana Foundation each of which operated on a budget of more or less

R15 million rand. After combining them they were left to operate on the R15 million instead. This has greatly compromised their quality of work.

It will become necessary for this legislature to find money to ensure that the provincial Arts and Culture Council stands up and stops being a parasite on Mmabana. This entity can hardly afford to appoint a Chief Executive Officer because of the paltry R2 million allocated to it.

Hon Chair, we agitate that the arts have to be allocated more funds.

What is noticeable and regrettable is that instances in this province do not depict the rainbow nation that South Africa is.

We note with pleasure that, fully aware that reading maketh a man the department is putting up libraries in communities. The question is the extent to which such libraries will be equipped and the extent to which the public will use them. Also notable is the state of the art structure of the library opposite the university which will soon open its door to the public.