**TABLING OF VOTE 15 BY MEC FOR ARTS, CULTURE, SPORT AND RECREATION Ms. HLENGIWE MAVIMBELA 2021-2022**

**Madame Speaker**

**Honourable Premier and colleagues in the Executive**

**Deputy Speaker**

**Honourable Members**

**Distinguished Guests, Business Leaders,**

**Members of the Arts and Creative Industries,**

**Members of the Media,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Madam Speaker, before I table the budget vote for the Department of Arts and Culture, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mama Charlotte Maxeke who was selfless and fought against oppression at a time when such defiance was met with unrelenting force. Her love for the arts and culture during her time is clearly documented, she had a passion for choral music and travelled the world to showcase her talent in a time when many thought it was impossible.

This year as we mark the 150th anniversary of umama wethu under the theme *“The Year of Charlotte Maxeke: The Meaning of Freedom under COVID-19”.* We as the generation of today, especially women can still learn from her teachings and experiences even in this lifetime. I am reminded of her words, and I quote, **“This work is not for yourselves – kill that spirit of ‘self’, and do not live above your people but live with them. If you can rise, bring someone with you. Do away with that fearful animal of jealousy - kill that spirit and love one another as brothers and sisters.”**

To honour our stalwart, this year we pledge our commitment to roll out a series to mark commemoration to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Mama Maxeke and Dr JL Dube through various activities which will highlight their role in the country’s social and political landscape.

As we take in strides made in the fight against Gender Based Violence, we must take a leaf from the women of the 1956 women’s march and reflect on where we come from 65 years later. During the budget statement last year, the Department took an active role in reviving the cultural and creative industry through financial assistance to various beneficiaries. This season we are undertaking the third phase of this revival of the industry with special focus on visual arts especially *omama bobuhlalu* (beadwork makers) nababazi (woodwork artists) as well as a ward-based stimulus package.

Namuhla ngimi kule Ndlu ngiyathuthumela njengalokhu kuthe izwe lethu lisakhungethwe ubhubhane loKhuvethe (i-COVID-19) saphinda sagqemeka engeqiwa ntwala ngo*kukhothama* *koHlanga Lomhlabathi*, iSilo Samabandla uBhejane Phuma eSqiwini kaBhekuzulu kanye nebambabukhosi uNdlunkulu Indlovukazi Mantfombi Dlamini-Zulu. UNdlunkulu Mantfombi Dlamini Zulu ubambe elikhulu iqhaza ekuvuseleleni imikhosi kaZulu esingabala kuyo uMkhosi Wesivivane ohlomisa abesifazane ngolwazi, uMkhosi Womhlanga kanye noMkhosi Wamaganu. Uma sibheka iqhaza alibambile kuyo yonke le minyaka, kuyacaca bha ukuthi ube ngumama wesizwe. Impela ngemuva kwowesilisa ophumelelayo kusuka kunewesifazane okhaliphile.

**Ward based stimulus package**

***Honourable members***, as indicated, for the entire 2020/21 financial year, the Cultural and Creative Industries sector has been ineffective because of COVID-19. At the district level, the department will introduce a ward-based stimulus programme to be implemented with speed to assist the sector and create an environment that seeks to resuscitate what has been battered by the pandemic. The ward-based programme will have a specific bias for unemployed rural communities, women, youth and the disabled arts and cultural practitioners. The programme will take the initiative "Public Arts Project" to create work for artists, designers, researchers and craftsmen.

The Department has an investment of **R26.5 million** towards this stimulus programme. The budget will be used to recruit **960** arts practitioners at ward level using the expanded public works programme, run ward-based programmes working with local communities to boost local morale, beautify public spaces, conduct music masterclasses for youth and the elders and also conduct community culture dialogues. It is important to note that all these programmes will be in line with COVID-19 regulations. In this regard, we call up the whole creative sector to rally behind us and support our efforts as we do everything to boost the sector.

Our district offices will further sharpen their efforts to boost skills development at the local level. In this financial year, the district offices will conduct various training programmes working with TVET colleges to train over **500 artists** in the province. **Honourable Members**, we must continue to provide capacity building programmes in the sector, the creative sector continues to evolve, technology and other factors are influencing how the sector is evolving, as such we as the province must ensure that our artists are continuously developed with skills necessary for them to trade their craft. For this reason, we have secured partnerships with some TVET colleges in the Province as we want to provide recognised skills training. We will further seek ways to enhance this programme to prepare our artists, especially those coming from disadvantaged communities, to be better prepared for a competitive environment.

**CCIFSA**

One of the challenges in dealing with the arts and cultural sectors is that the industry was not organised. Working with the National Department of Arts and Culture, a decision was taken to formulate a federation which will be working with government to organise the industry. It is through this engagement that the Cultural and Creative Industries Federation of South Africa (CCIFSA) was born. Last year CCIFSA in KZN successfully held its policy conference in Durban and as the Department we will be working with CCIFSA to ensure that the organisation is operational for it to properly serve the Arts and Creative industry in the Province. We have set aside a budget of **R1,5 million** to provide CCIFSA administrative support.

**Signature event**

Over the years, the department has invested heavily in supporting event promoters and organizers who pitched proposals. What we found is that this approach has only benefited a few, hence this financial year we have decided to increase our footprint across all Districts. We will ensure that privately owned projects are funded up to a maximum of R1,5 million depending on the project, to ensure that we spread funding to as many projects as possible.

This year we will also be launching a signature event that will showcase a bouquet of arts and cultural activities across our Province. The signature event will cover a variety of genres such as photography, fine arts, theatre, music and workshops and will culminate to a bigger event. It is envisaged that this will level the playing field for the artists and add to the tourism appeal of KwaZulu-Natal.

This event will be launched towards the end of the year, and if we are still under lockdown because of Covid 19, we will ensure that we host the signature event virtually until we are able have a physical event. We have all witnessed the devastation caused by Covid 19, now is the time to lift the mood of the Province while creating opportunities through arts and reviving the tourism sector at the same time. We have set aside a budget of **R6 million** to kickstart the event, and we hope that over the years it will grow into a bigger event we can all be proud of.

**Amafa and Research Institute**

The Department of Arts and Culture provides support and oversight to the public entity, the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute. The Institute, under the leadership of the Council, plays a crucial role of identifying, managing, preserving both the intangible and tangible heritage of out Province. Furthermore, the Institute conducts cutting-edge research on issues pertaining to our heritage.

As we position our province towards a new trajectory of economic growth, Amafa Institute will fast-track the process of considering heritage applications as these often cause delays in the construction industry. In addition, the following will be delivered during the 2021/22 financial year:

* As part of the commemorating the role of His Majesty, *uBhejane Phum’ esiqiwini*, the Department will work with the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to redevelop Isandlwana battlefield. Amafa will conduct an Integrated Conservation Management Plan for Isandlwana and nominate the battlefield to be a National Heritage Site. Emakhosini area presents a unique opportunity for the heritage of this province. It is not just a place but a sacred valley where ancient Zulu kings lie buried. Amafa will work with stakeholders to ensure that Emakhosini receives a special recognition that befits its status.

* Amafa will conduct a Baseline Heritage Study of the Georgetown precinct at Edendale in Pietermaritzburg. Georgetown is well known as a home of many liberation stalwarts.
* Amafa will conduct a survey of intangible heritage in the district of uMkhanyakude. Once identified this heritage will play a role in building social cohesion and will have economic spin-offs to promote cultural tourism in the district.
* The Province is working with the National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries to finalise a World Heritage Site Nomination Dossier for the Emergency of Modern Humans: The Pleistocene Occupation Sites of South Africa. Among the six sites is Sibhudu caves in the area of oThongathi as well as the Border Caves at Nkungwini, at the border of South Africa and eSwatini. Sibhudu was declared a National Heritage Site on 18 December 2020. Amafa will conduct an Integrated Conservation Management Plan for the Border Caves and nominate it to be a National Heritage Site.
* As part of the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Charlotte Maxeke, Amafa will research and publish a booklet on the life and times this heroine of the liberation struggle.
* The large part of Resistance and Liberation Heritage stalwarts remain unrecognised, sites related to them and the entire liberation struggle unprotected in terms of the heritage legislations. In order to address this, Amafa will initiate the **IZINGQALABUTHO ZOMZABALAZO** heritage project in order to spearhead the transformation of heritage in KwaZulu-Natal.

Honourable members, the Provincial legislature precinct is a centre of both legislative and political power in our Province. It is in this precinct where provincial legislations are debated and adopted. As a centre of power, it is therefore crucial that it also reflects the will, aspirations and heritage of the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

The precinct presents an opportunity as a place that promotes tolerance, respect and nation building. However, while the Provincial legislature has promulgated laws that entrench democracy and build a better life for all the people of KwaZulu-Natal, it maintains public symbols of colonialism, racism and segregation that undermine the very freedom and democracy that the people of KwaZulu-Natal fought so hard to achieve.

The statues of Sir Theophilus Shepstone, a colonialist who was responsible for the execution of many of our leaders, and the English Queen, also responsible for the destruction of our nation, cultures and values, require the liberated people of this Province to think deeply about our identities and the kind of heritage we want for our KZN.

We have had a unique experience of having a King who reigned for 50 years. The late King, *Ubhejane phum’ esiqiniwini*, is the only King who opened this legislature for over 20 years! Any yet we give respect to a colonial and racist English dynasty.

I propose that in honour of the late King of the Zulu nation, Goodwill Zwelithini ka Bhekuzulu, the Department of Arts and Culture engages Amafa and Research Institute to give guidance on how to undertake this process and report back to the house.

**Employment Equity**

Achieving equity and women representation at Senior Management Service (SMS) level remains at the top of our agenda. Currently, women employed at this level stand at 36%. The Department is committing itself to recruit more women at SMS level to reach the 50% national target in this coming financial year (2021/2022).

 For the Department to address the under-representation of disabled people (PWDs), the Department is committing to reach the 2% national target. Currently, the Department is under-represented at 1.51% as far as PWDs are concerned.

We will keep on improving especially for these two categories so that we can reach and exceed the minimum thresholds.

**Skills Development and Youth Development**

In the spirit of “quickening the tempo to economic recovery and job creation”, the Department continues to appreciate and regard training and development as a strategic tool towards improving competencies, expediting service delivery and enhancing youth development. As a result, an amount equivalent to 1% of its annual payroll continues to be set aside for training purposes as required by law. On top of this, the Department will roll-out various programmes to promote employability of youth. This includes the Young Patriots Programme which is delivered through partnerships with the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA). Internships which will be implemented throughout the Province and will lead to transfer of skills and insight to the participants, thus improving their employment prospects. Bursaries for youth intending to pursue scarce and critical skills in the Arts and Culture space will continue to be rolled out as means to promote relevant and economic growth driven skills within the Province. A budget of R1.2 Million will be made available for this programme.

**Infrastructure**

*Honourable Members*, A lot of work has been done to ensure that we build libraries across the Province. This Provincial government now boasts at least one public library per local municipality, with the exception of Umzumbe municipality. We are pleased to announce that planning process for uMzumbe library has already commenced, with project managers already appointed to do designs and funding has been made available for construction to start in November this year. Meanwhile we have deployed our mobile library truck to assist the municipality until the construction is complete.

The following libraries have been completed Danny Dalton (Ulundi), KwaNzimakwe (Ray Nkonyeni), KwaNkosi Khumalo (Zululand), Mfekayi (Mtubatuba), Nibela (Big 5 Hlabisa), Mpembeni (uMhlathuze) and Ntunjambili (ilembe).

The libraries we build are world class with facilities of great standard boasting with internet connectivity and access to modern information. Our people are now able to access Wi-Fi in our public libraries, using personal devices like smart phones, tablets, laptops and iPads with 45 minutes limitless access to connectivity to the world of information per device per day. Our learners and students wishing to apply online are also assisted by our cyber cadets to do their online applications. The Department is committed to supporting our people to take full advantage of the opportunities presented by the 4th industrial revolution.

During the 2021/22 financial year **R74,153 million** will be spent on the construction of new libraries as well as the finalization of those already under construction.

KwaMdakane planning, and designs have been concluded and Construction of Dukuduku library is in its final phase.

These infrastructure projects will see hundreds of job opportunities created during construction and permanent jobs for staff employed to run these libraries. The Department provides funding for staffing and operational costs as follows: R1.067 million for a standard library and **R682 000** for a modular in the 2021/22 financial year. The Department will be transferring a total of R250.829 million to local municipalities toward addressing the unfunded mandate of provision of public library services by the municipalities.

The specialized library service includes toy collections to help entice young children in 36 libraries and gaming equipment also available in 65 libraries. These services are geared towards attracting youth to use the library for recreational purposes. The public libraries also provide library materials to support students who are studying at various tertiary institutions and learner support material to support learners in schools. A total budget for library materials for 2021/22 is **R33 million** will be used to procure the above library materials including magazines and electronic resources (eBooks).

As a department we also cater for information needs for people with visual disabilities through our partnership with the South African Library for the Blind. We will transfer **R1, 860 million** to maintain existing mini libraries for the blind in 34 libraries and the Department is committed in ensuring that every year two new mini libraries are established.

During the 2020/21 financial year two mini libraries in Pinetown library & Thembimfundo Special School in Mbongolwane, Eshowe were established. The continued expansion of this project is to enable accessible formats such as braille, large print, digital audio to blind and print-disabled people. This provides access to information and reading materials to all citizens of our province irrespective of where they live.

During the 2021/22 financial year the department will also provide an eBooks service to the citizens of KZN. The digital book collection supports the school curriculum, promotion of literacy through reading materials and distance learning. As we have experienced with COVID 19, this service will allow continued access to information without physically visiting the library.

As part of efforts to enhance youth skills development, libraries will undertake promotional projects which include participation in National Library Week, World Book Day and celebration of National Book Week. We have found that storytelling and drama have ignited enthusiasm and momentum in public libraries.

**Reading for meaning**

We are still committed to the call made by the President to ensure that children can read for meaning by the age of 10. We want to compliment the Department of Education through our reading camps programme. This will be done through our mobile libraries linking two schools per district. As part of our ward-based programme, we will employ reading cadets, through our EPWP programme who will be placed in various wards across the Province.

**Preservation**

Notwithstanding the challenges, our plans for the establishment of an Archive Repository are at an advanced stage. The Department of Public Works has allocated **10000 square metre site for building the repository** in a government precinct complex at the provincial Capital, Pietermaritzburg. The department funding set aside for this project is **R330 million**. To date, infrastructure specialists from the Department of Public Works have completed a Master Plan for the development of the Government Precinct site where the new Repository will be constructed. Currently, the Public Works professional Team is finalising the Archives concept in conjunction with the Legislature.

Due to the impact of Covid-19 related pressure on the Professional Teams work, unfortunately progress on the implementation of the construction of the Archives Repository has been delayed by about 12 months.

The Archives and Records Service continues to roll out campaigns promoting national symbols and orders. The focus in this Financial Year is on “Am the Flag Campaign”. Through this provincial campaign, we aim to educate our people on how to handle, care and protect all our natural heritage as embodied in national symbols and orders. In 2021/2022 Financial Year, we will involve Young Patriots in all our activities.

Our Records Management unit within the Archives Service continues to work with the Auditor General of South Africa to strengthen record keeping practices within all provincial government departments, municipalities and State entities. As Arts and Culture, we believe that a sound record keeping culture facilitates easy access to government information and enhances service delivery.

The departmental Oral history project continues with its popularity and this bodes well with the Department’s intention to transform the Arts and Culture sector. More and more people come forward to tell authentic stories about various oral history themes.

Oral history assist a great deal in transforming collections as some previous errors get to be rectified so that a collection become a true reflection of the occurrence or what happened in the past. The Department will focus on transcribing interviews and make them available to the public using the DAC online platform. Archives digitization project continues in this financial year. This process will save numerous fragile heritage records of our Province.

Archives, will this year in July, receive death registers from the Missing Persons Unit of the National Prosecuting Authority. These registers will be digitized and preserved for current and future generations. Most of these records contain important information which is of interest to MK activists' families whose loved ones disappeared before 1994.

KZN is honoured to be chosen as the host Province for the 2021/22 National Archives Awareness Week. The purpose of the week long activities is to highlight:

* The critical role of Archives as official Repositories of public and non-public records.
* Create awareness of the holdings or records in Repositories
* Share good practices of preserving records with the public
* Do dialogue on records keeping practices in government
* Have a public session on intangible heritage for the benefit of the public

**Legacy**

The year 2020 was the centenary of Themba Harry Gwala affectionately known as the “Lion of the Midlands” the Department commemorated his legacy by staging an exhibition to showcase his life and times of his liberation struggle, this was staged at the Project Gateway (Old Prison) Museum. This exhibition will be housed there and open to all until end of July.

In recognition of Mme Manyi Maxeke, we have aligned the Women’s Month and dedicated it to her. This is when we will host uMkhosi Wesivivane highlighting women development and recognizing those who have contributed to the development of other women. We seek to position women development in culture to take a posture that will benefit women in rural economies as our collective effort. In this regard, we will have a Women Indaba that will seek to address challenges of women across board, paying particular attention to cultural practices that erode the role of women in their own development. We hope to host a Provincial Women Indaba that will be coupled by cultural ensembles and performances that will epitomize the role of our struggle doyen Charlotte Maxeke.

In addition to the programme to celebrate Maxeke and Dube, this year’s Provincial Theatre Festival will be themed on their contribution and the Provincial Choral Competition we have prescriptions celebrating them in small ensembles, solo performances and chamber choirs. Each choir will be expected to prepare *isitibili* in celebrating 150years of Charlotte Mxeke and Dr J.L. Dube.

All our libraries will have an information corner dedicated to umama Charlotte Maxeke, in a bid to create awareness and educate our patriots about the role she played in society.

The Department will in this financial year stage exhibitions on the life and times of Charlotte Maxeke and Dr John Langalibalele Dube and execution of iNkosi Miskhofini kaKhukhulela Dlamini of amaKhuze.

**Museum Service**

KwaDukuza Museum which had been condemned for years will finally get much needed upgrade. The Department has budgeted **R10 Million** over the MTEF to upgrade this facility.

The funding of the 41 affiliated Museums in the Province continues to be a major part of the budget from Museum Service. For this financial year the Department will **transfer R13, 012 million** to local Municipalities and **R4, 660 million to Board of Trustees Museums** as support for salaries and operational costs. The preservation and the promotion of the heritage of the people of the Province is made possible through this funding.

Most Museums don’t have enough funding to send their employees to conferences and workshops, the Department will continue to hold free workshops and training sessions for affiliated Museum employees. Museum Service will continue to transform the affiliated Museums through exhibitions. For this financial year we will transform exhibitions at Richmond, KwaDukuza and Lucas Meijer Museum, Baynesfield Museum, Utrecht Museum, Rhode House Museum and East Griqualand Museum.

This financial year we will host 16 community dialogues to address social ills especially gender-based violence. We will partner with other departments and key stakeholders such as Isithangami Samadoda which is a Men’s Forum discussing issues and sharing values that groom young men to be responsible men and to be pillars of society.

**Ukuhumusha, Ukutolika kanye Nokulungisa Imibhalo**

Sihlalo Ohloniphekile***,*** ngiyathokoza ukusho ukuthi uMnyango uzoqhubeka nokuhlinzeka mahhala ngemisebenzi yokuhumusha nokutolika kubandakanya nokutolika ngezandla (Sign Language) eminyangweni kahulumeni nakomasipala. UMnyango uzoqhubeka nokuqamba amagama asetshenziswa emikhakheni ethile abe ngezilimi zomdabu. Le misebenzi yiyona engumgogodla wokufinyelela olwazini ngolimi umuntu azikhethele lona.

UMnyango ubulokhu uhlinzeka ngemisebenzi yokuhumusha kuyo yonke iminyango kahulumeni nakomasipala; uhumusha imibhalo esingabala kuyo izinkulumo zesabelomali, izaziso, imithetho kamasipala kanye nohlelo lwentuthuko edidiyelwe, kanti futhi uhlinzeka nangemisebenzi yokutolika kubandakanya ukutolikelwa ngezandla, uma ucelwe nanoma yimuphi umnyango kahulumeni kumbe umasipala. Usazoqhubeka nokuhlinzeka ngale misebenzi yokuhumusha eminyangweni kahulumeni nakomasipala ukuze kuqinisekiswe ukuthi zonke izakhamuzi zaKwaZulu Natali zithola ulwazi ngezilimi ezizikhethela zona. UMnyango uzoqhubeka nokuhlinzeka ngezinsiza zokutolika, kubandakanya ukutolika ngoLimi Lwezimpawu eminyangweni kahulumeni nakomasipala okuyingxenye yokukhuthaza ukubandakanywa kwabantu bonke kubalwa nabantu abakhubazekile, kanjalo noqinisekisa ukuthi ulwazi kanye nezinsiza zikahulumeni ziyatholakala ngezilimi ezazincishwe amathuba phambilini.

**One Township: One book and One Village: One book initiative**

The department will promote the culture of writing and archiving the history of the Province through the *One Township: One book and One Village: One book* initiative aimed at supporting seasoned authors like Mr Eric Muzi Ngcobo who have written lot of radio dramas for uKhozi FM and they will do research with the aim of preserving the history of townships such as uMlaza, eSikhaleni, Mandeni and villages such as iNkandla and Mandlakazi. These books will be published and be distributed to our libraries and also to bookshops. We strongly believe that these books will improve the mood of the Province as they will be revealing social issues, economic development and political struggles that took place in the townships and villages. **R150 000** has been reserved to produce 5 books this year.

 A comprehensive programme on how the department plans to assist emerging authors to develop their literary works through Literature Writing Workshops, Literature Competitions and Publishing the books the winning manuscripts of the budding writers who won in the previous years. To anchor this project, we will also direct our efforts in finding platforms for publishers and emerging authors to market their literary works. In addition, we will create space in public libraries for the literature written in indigenous languages such as isiZulu and isiXhosa.

**Geographical naming**

The new Provincial Geographical Place Names Committee (PGNC) has been established and will be fully functional. The PGNC will also assist the municipalities in changing the geographical names under their jurisdiction. The committee will be conducting awareness campaigns in the districts to educate the community on the processes that are followed when changing the place names, it will also change the focus and no longer focus on orthography and spelling rules but on town names i.e., Richards Bay, Newcastle, Utrecht etc.

**Heritage**

Honourable Members, we will continue to support Imikhosi yaseNdlunkulu within the limitations of the mourning period. The Department is busy aggregating information for better results and economic beneficiation in hosting of Imikhosi to give back to the communities that we serve. A holistic approach from build-ups to summitted Cultural Events including the hosting of Significant Days should produce a 21st century Event Manager that will be able to profile the Province at a global stage.

Imikhosi will be hosted in accordance with Major Events Calendar of 2021. This must be done in line with DPSA regulations, especially regulation 1 of 2021.

The Department will continue to empower women, build a nation and recognize women as gateway to life through all of the hosting of imikhosi by ensuring healthy lifestyle and sustainable livelihood through Umkhosi Wesivivane and related events.

**King Shaka statue**

The King Shaka statue which was commissioned and constructed a few years ago, is now ready to be installed and unveiled. It is important to mention that the late His Majesty, the King gave his unequivocal endorsement of the statue during its sculpturing and completion. The installation of the statue is supposed to preceded by the building of a base upon which the statue will be installed. In this regard, before the end of this week the service provider,  an architect company, will be appointed to commence the construction of the base, which will,  according to the architects, take 3 to 4 months. It is envisaged that the statue would be unveiled on 24 of September, which is the Heritage/King Shaka day.

Honourable members, we are all aware of the challenges that we have faced at the Heroes Acre in iMbali in Pietermaritzburg, where mortal remains of two of our stalwarts are buried. As a result of the Imbali Heroes' land being water logged, the tombstones of Moses Mabhida and Johnny Makhathini had become slightly disfigured, as occasioned by the corrosive nature of the soil where the tombstones are erected. I am honoured to report that, consequently new tombstones that befit the international stature of the two struggle stalwarts were erected. This was followed by the handing over ceremony of the tombstone of Moses Mabhida to the Mabhida family. The handing over ceremony for the tombstone of Johnny Makhathini is being planned in consultation with the Makhathini family. In the spirit of cooperative governance, Umsunduzi municipality is maintaining the site of the Heroes Acre where the mortal remains of our revered struggle giants are buried.

I am also pleased to announce that the burial site where one of the heroes of liberation, Harry  Gwala and his family, was declared a heritage site on 18 December 2020. The Department of Arts and Culture shall in due course, in anticipation of the 100 years celebration of Harry Gwala, install a palisade fence around the area ( family cemetery) where the mortal remains of Harry Gwala and his family members are buried in KwaSwayimane. The Department of Arts and Culture will be doing all these projects to heed to the call of Fannie Lou Hammer, an African American woman activist, who said, **"there are two important things that we need to remember in life, where we came from and remember the bridges that carried us over."** Moses Mabhida, Harry Gwala and Johny Makhathini are indeed the bridges that carried us over to the promised land, that is, a liberated, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa.

**Social Cohesion**

The Department of Arts and Culture both Nationally and Provincially has a mandate to lead the programme of social cohesion and nation building. A community or society is cohesive to the extent that the inequalities, exclusions and disparities based on ethnicity, gender, class, nationality, age, disability or any other distinctions which engender divisions distrust and conflict are reduced and/or eliminated in a planned and sustained manner. Community members and citizens should be active participants working together for the attainment of shared goals designed and agreed upon to improve the living conditions for all.

A programme and policy are developed to propel this directive forward. As I table this budget vote, the Department and the Office of the Premier have hit the ground running in establishing task teams that will be delivering on the marching orders as issued by the Premier. This will take a provincial posture to be cascaded to districts in line with the District Delivery Model.

We will continue to host cultural events to preserve and promote cultural practices and enhance social cohesion. These include Africa Day celebration, Heritage Day, Freedom Day, Women’s Day, Human Rights Day**.**

This financial year the Department will be honouring centenarians as part of recognition, protection and continued advancement of the inherent rights of the elderly. Honouring the elders also serve to empower and uplift their Constitutional Rights and help restore their dignity.

Last month it was an honour to visit uGogo Zibekile Gwala, from eShowe who turned 100 years this year. In the spirit on Mama uMaxeke, it is important for us to celebrate this milestone and to celebrate our centenarians for the role they have played in society. It was also encouraging to see her in good spirits and still active at her age. It is important to treasure our centenarians as the knowledge they have especially in indigenous knowledge systems can be beneficial in today’s world.

Honourable Speaker, I am at pains at the barbaric slaughtering of our people because of their sexual orientation. The issues of identity and difference remain a cornerstone of our Constitutional mandates. In this regard, we have enriched our content, ***ekukhulisweni kwabafana*** to focus on LGBTQI and rights-based approach to this program. The LGBTQI summit (informed by ward-based consultations) will be in November this year. This will be from wards that have high incidents report, that will be escalated to district level to culminate to a Provincial Cultural Indaba against homophobia and related intolerances. This will be further enriched with this year’s ***ukubuthwa kwezinsizwa*** that will be hosted at the Cultural precinct at the end of the year.

**Arts Development**

This financial year, we will still continue to support our Cultural Institutions i.e., Durban Playhouse Company and KZNPO for the development of our artists in the Cultural Creative Industries and provide marketing spaces for well renowned artists.

The department supports 13 Entities financially for the development and promotion of music, theatre, drama, filmmaking, craft production and fashion design. We’ve also made inroads in partnering with the Department of Sport and Recreation, this saw artists such as Play to Legal produce the jockey attire for the Dundee July in order to promote the local production. This initiative will be expanded to other Districts and not be confined to UMzinyathi District.

Honourable members, as the Department of Arts and Culture, we take pride in supporting our artists, especially those who fly the KZN flag high. It is in this regard that we will be supporting the Kholwa Brothers, an cappella (Isicathamiya) group based in Durban, when they will be representing South Africa at the World Championship .

The Kholwa Project competed in the South African Performing Art competition which is a national competition and includes a variety of genres. The Kholwa Project won 64 gold medals at the South African Performing Art competition and was offered the privileged opportunity to represent South Africa at the World Championship.

The World Championship is a highly prestigious event, which offers a once in a lifetime opportunity to its participants and could be equated with the Olympics where the best artists in the world compete against each other.

In this regard, we will sponsor **R1.2 million** to The Kholwa Project to participate in the World Championship, scheduled to take place from 30 July 2021 until the 07 August 2021 in Los Angeles. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Kholwa Project all the best on their trip, I know that they will be flying the KZN flag high while in the US and make us proud as the Province.

**CONCLUSION**

Honorable members, this concludes the budget vote for the Department of Arts and Culture. I would like to thank the African National Congress and Honourable Premier for entrusting me with the responsibility of leading the Department of Arts and Culture. I also extend my appreciation to the Arts and Culture and the Finance Portfolio Committees, the Head of Department with his team for their continued support. I would also like to thank HOM, and ministry staff for always being on my side.

To my family, my mother uMntwana my son Lindokuhle and my daughter Sphesihle, thank you for continuing to be my pillars of strength.

I now table the budget for the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Arts and Culture (Vote 15) for 2021/22 financial year:

Programme 1 (Administration) = R177 898 000

Programme 2 (Cultural Affairs) = R 317 827 000

Programme 3 (Library and Archive Service) = 506 043 000

**Total Budget = R1 001 768 000**