

Budget Speech Debate by ANC MP Mrs Xoliswa Tom on Vote 37: Arts and Culture

19 May 2015

Sihlalo obekekileyo

Mphathiswa

Sekela Mphathiswa

Malungu eKomiti ejongene ne Sebe lobugcisa nenkubela

Malungu endlu yomiso mthetho kwazwelonke ngokubanzi

Osihlalo, amasekela namalungu eebhodi amaqumrhu alawula imicimbi ngokuphathiswa lisebe

Manene namanenekazi

Ndilibulela ngokungenzisiyo elithuba lokuba ndithi thaca ingxelo yomsebenzi esiwenzileyo siyiKomiti yobugcisa nenkcubeko. Phambi kokuba ndenze lonto mandiqale ndikhahlele kwisithwalandwe, igqala, lamagqala, iqhawekazi uMam'Ruth Mompoti osanduleleyo. Ithandazwe elimisebenzi iyakuhlala ihleli ezintliziyweni zethu.

Makhe ndicaphule kwincwadi ka Fidel Castro ethi "My life" kwaye la mazwi akhe ndiwagqamanisa nale meko sizibona sikuyo ngalo mzuzu "Current and future generations will continue to soldier on, no matter how great the difficulties may be, fighting tirelessly so that what you fought for and others even died for can be achieved. With even greater energy we will continue to fight and resist being pulled backwards. We will continue to defeat every imperialist aggression, every lie in their propaganda, every cunning and diplomatic manoeuvre. We will continue to resist and fight the consequences of the Apartheid System which will someday be defeated by the dignity of South African people both black and white. Aluta Continua Qobokazana, Phumla ngoxolo, umzamo omhle uwuzamile, ugqatso ulufezile.

Isebe lobugcisa nenkcubeko liqulathe okuninzi kunokuba abantu becinga. Xa ulijongisisa linazo zonke izinongo ezingenza ukuba umntu agqibelele, kunjalonje liyaphendula kwimigomo eliqela ebekwe phambili ngurhulumente. Xa besiqwalasela siyikomiti sibone ukuba izicwangciso zesebe ziyahambelana noxanduva eliwunikwa ngumgaqo-siseko womzantsi Afrika, ubeka umnwe kwimicimbi yeelwimi nenkcubeko, ukufumana ulwazi ngendlela efanelekeleyo kanti kwanezemfundo.

Umsebenzi owenziwa leli sebe (namaqumrhu ancedisayo) usekelezwe kwisahluke seshumi elinesihlanu (15) kumqulu kaZwelonke wezicwangciso zoPhuhliso. (Yombona wonyaka we 2030) (National Development Plan, Vision 2030). Umqulu wenkululeko nawo kumhlathi othi "The doors of learning and culture shall be opened" iqhubeka ithi, "The government shall discover, develop and encourage national talent for the enhancement of our cultural life. All the cultural treasures of mankind shall be opened to all by free exchange of books, ideas and contact with other lands. The aim of education shall be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace".

Uxanduva olujamelene neli sebe, sihlalo obekekileyo kukuba luyenze lento kuluntu olwafundiswa ukuzithiya, ukuzicekisa, nokuzisingela phantsi. Le ntiyo nokuzicekisa yayijoliswe kuyo yonke inokwenza nobuthina amasiko nezithethe zethu zafakwa ityeneba nomdintsi. Yenziwa lento ngendlela apha eyenza safuna ukuvezela kwizinto zethu. Ibuyambo ibalulekile ke ukuze sifunde ukuzithanda nokuzihlonipha, sikwazi ke ukuhlonipha nokuthanda abanye abantu.

Kwintetho yakhe yobume besizwe uMongameli ohloniphekileyo uMnu JG Zuma uwuchaphazele umcimbi wenkcubeko kunjalo nje esithi kunikwa ingqwalasela, Quote"

Kulo msebenzei isebe lisebenza namaqumrhu angamashumi anesibhozo (28) isixa esingamashumi

asibhozo ekhulwini (80%) inikwa la maqumrhu. Into ke leyo ethetha ukuba isebe malifune indlela eluqilima yokulandela imali leyo. Siyibethelele siyikomiti into yokuba asixolanga yindlela abaqhuba ngayo batsho basungula icandelo elizakujongana ncakasa nalomba. Siyayincoma loo nto.

Kuyo yonke lento sihlalo, kukho intsomantsomane ka PANSALB. Alikho iqumrhu esisebenze nalo ngaphezulu ko PANSALB kodwa imeko ngathi iya iba maxongo. Ukubaluleka komsebenzi owenziwa leli qumrhu asinakuze siwulinganise nanto kuba ujongene ncakasana nokulinganisa iilwimi ezithethwayo emzantsi Afrika. Lo msebenzi uchaphazela zonke iinkonzo zobom bethu kodwa kesenzima kulo. Sicelile ke kwizindululo zethu ukuba uMphathiswa wezemali nesebe bancedise ukuba imali eliqumrhu isetyenziswe kwizinto ezicwangciselwe zona, siqwenela isisombululo sikanaphakade kulo mba.

Amathala olwazi (Archives), amathala eencwadi (Libraries), Amaziko olondolozo lwendalo engasaphiliyo nemiboniso ekhumbuza ngemvela phi yethu (Museums), Amaziko emidlalo yeqonga, Imiboniso bhanya-bhanya njalo-njalo, ziphantsi kolawulo lweli sebe. La maziko ebekade ebhexeshwa sisandla esinqwabalala sobandlululo netswela-bulungisa kodwa ngoku azamela ukunika umbono womzantsi Afrika omtsha. Kunzima ke ukuguqula inqondo nendlela abantu abaqhele ukuziphatha ngayo. Akululanga ukwakha.

Honourable Chairperson, just 21 years ago South Africans witnessed the official end of the brutal system of apartheid, a system that disconnected the majority of South Africans not only their citizenry but their dignity as well. Through that process South Africans lost touch with their cultures, their languages and the ability to identify themselves as part of Africa. The victory of 1994 was not only a victory of the African National Congress but it was a victory for all South Africans. Since 1994 we have worked hard to build a new South African identity that includes all its citizens. We would not have done this without the support and courage from South Africans from their different corners. Despite the challenges that we are still facing all South Africans now have equal right to use their own languages, and to develop their own folk culture and customs as envisaged in the Freedom Charter in 1955. This Department oversees a crucial task of building the fabric that binds diverse people into one nation. It cannot achieve this alone without the support of all South Africans.

Honourable Chairperson, since the 2015/16 budget was tabled together with the 2015/16 annual performance plan and the 2015 to 2020 strategic plan, the Portfolio Committee on Arts and Culture interrogated it extensively. We invited the Department to do a presentation on their key strategic goals and priorities, and explain in details how they would spend the budget. Given that the Department oversees a number of entities and over 80% of its budget is transferred to them, we invited 8 of these to present their strategic plans and annual performance. I want the nation to know that the work of the Department and its entities address key issues that are raised by the National Development Plan.

Honourable Chairperson, members of this Portfolio Committee are all committed to see that the Department succeeds. This they do merely because we are all mindful that the success of the Department is a success of the entire nation, especially the people whom we represent. As a chairperson of the Portfolio Committee I would like to thank all members for the spirit of cooperation have shown when we were processing the budget of the Department. Since the beginning of the 5th Parliament, this Portfolio Committee has conducted numerous oversight visits to the entities of the Department with the aim of ensuring that they deliver on their mandate. Members of the opposition parties represented in the Portfolio Committee have cooperated with us exceptionally well as we provide oversight to the Department.

Honourable Chairperson, as we process the budget of the Department the NATION should be aware of the following:

This Department and its entities derive their mandate from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, with specific focus on language and culture, access to information and, to some extent, education;

As the nation has committed itself to the National Development Plan as its roadmap leading to 2030, the work of the Department and its entities is central to the implementation of Chapter 15 (Transforming Society and Uniting the Country);

The President of Republic of South Africa has assigned the Department the responsibility to lead Outcome 14 (A diverse, socially cohesive society with a common national identity) of the 2014-2019 Medium Term Strategic Framework. This outcome is linked to the NDP. The Department's programmes and that of entities are structured towards achieving the goals of the NDP;

This Department administers the Library Conditional Grant which has witnessed an exponential increase to over a R1 billion. This is yet another way that this government realises its commitment to the Freedom Charter as it opens the doors of learning to all South Africans. Between 2015 and 2018 this Department will build 69 new library; lastly

The worst sin that the apartheid system inculcated among South Africans was hatred. It is for this reason that South Africa experiences violent acts of crimes and xenophobia. The work of this Department is geared to address these social ills and build a new value system that is based on respect, human dignity, tolerance and Ubuntu.

Honourable Chairperson, for South Africa to realise its goals of being a united nation that is socially cohesive it is vital that the nation must have constructive conversations that will lead to acceptance of each other. This Department provides a platform for the conversations to take place. Through museum exhibitions, theatre productions, funding opportunities, and social cohesion the Department creates opportunities for dialogue to take place and South Africans to find one another.

Honourable Chairperson, since the beginning of the 5th Parliament this Portfolio Committee has been confronted by the difficulty of institutional dysfunctionality at the Pan South African Language Board, a Constitutional institution whose role is to protect and preserve indigenous languages. The Board of this institution has not submitted its Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plans as required by law. The Committee has recommended that the Minister of Finance, as empowered by law, must prescribe conditions of transfer until such documents are submitted. In the meantime, the Portfolio Committee is urgently seeking a lasting solution to the problems at PanSALB.

Honourable Chairperson, the overwhelming number of South Africans have voted for the African National Congress to deliver on the commitments that were made in the Freedom Charter. This therefore gives us the responsibility to ensure that as committed in the Freedom Charter, our youth are taught to love their cultures, to honour brotherhood, liberty and peace. Through the existing partnership between this Department and that of Basic Education, we will teach our youth to be better citizens of South Africa, the African continent and the world.

Honourable Chairperson, we are all Africa and Africa is us. This is not only a dream but a reality. For this reality to be sustainable it is this Department that has the capacity and a Constitutional mandate to do so. This Department is the mantle that holds the reality of a united South Africa. For this reality to unfold, we need to support this Department and the work it does. The ANC supports this budget as it is through this Department that the nation will realise its goals.

“The Doors of Learning and Culture shall be opened”