**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY - INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY**

**BUDGET VOTE 37: SPORT, ARTS, AND CULTURE**

**HONOURABLE INKOSI LUTHULI**

Honourable Speaker

The Department of Sports, Arts and Culture over the past year, has been made infamous for the poor quality of programmes that it has intended to fund.

Initially, the controversy started with the proposed R22 Billion flag project, as promised by the former minister to muster up social cohesion. It destroys any hope South African citizens have in the government’s ability to make the right decisions with public funds in ways that will actually create an enabling environment for investment, growth and social cohesion. Statements like this within the public space are dangerous and in fact, it goes against the very grain of social cohesion initiatives.

The programmes emanating from the department seem to be out of touch with the needs of the South African population, as it was announced that South Africa would be investing in a United Kingdom football club. This happened at a time when South Africans had to start tightening their belts as they prepare for some of the worst economic periods the country has faced since democracy.

In dealing with the budget of this department, we are left with very little hope as the current and new Minister has been left to toe the line of a poor legacy. It is disappointing that this department has yet to prioritise many sporting federations especially as we are coming up to Olympic qualifications. Earlier this year I wrote to the department on behalf of a gentleman Mr Moses for funding in order to take part and captain the blackball nations cup held in England and the response by the department is that there is no funding available.

Honourable Speaker, these are initiatives that this government should be looking to support, where our own citizens feel that the taxpayer's monies are spent in constructive ways for the people’s benefit. There need to be tangible programmes that actually give back to, recognise and grow our local talent.

The IFP remains concerned that the spending of this department in promoting sports, arts and culture will indeed turn to vain. We must encourage this department to ensure that building Boxing South Africa and Karate South Africa remains at the top of the priorities list, as these institutions can be set on a path to run independently and take decisions for their own interest.

On the other hand, the IFP supports the initiative to fund more programmes that promote diversity such as gender representation. To make the changes required for this department, the Minister and staff must actively take note of the recommendations made by the auditor general and work towards rebuilding the confidence of the people of South Africa.

The IFP supports the budget.

I thank you.