**DEBATE ON VOTE 37: SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE 09/05/2023**

1. Chairperson, for the past 29 years the ANC has not had a single original idea of what exactly needs to be done to reimagine the role of the arts in this country, nor have they developed a single coherent plan for the development of sports in the country.
2. Today, this very House is still unsure of what it exactly needs to do to protect the interests of creatives who have spared no sweat or blood in pouring themselves and their talents in service of the creative industry int his country.
3. The department has shown little interest in tightening the protections for artists in the Bill in front of this parliament, and those in leadership have allowed the industry to dictate the levels to which the Bill in front of this house must provide protections to creatives.
4. Many of our veteran creatives are now languishing in poverty. Take shows such as Yizo Yizo for instance, which is now showing on Netflix. Ask yourselves who is benefiting from the Netflix deal? It is surely not the artists, but a few of those who control and manage the production companies.
5. The actors see themselves on TV, and they are benefiting nothing.
6. The same goes for shows such as Sgudy’s Nice, and many others. The department has not done anything to come to the assistance of all these creatives, old and new.
7. Chairperson, it is a reality that ever since the covid pandemic, creatives are still in a very serious crisis mode. Monies meant to aid artists and other creatives has disappeared through these PESP initiatives.
8. This sector is riddled with litigations. The Department is forever fighting against covering its entities against accusations of money mismanagement and embezzlement.
9. The Robben Island Museum is thoroughly mismanaged, and there has been no grand imagination of what that site could be used for in advancing not only our knowledge of history, but also to nurture a sense of national pride and rededication to the ideal of decolonization of society.
10. But the museum, as with many others under the department, is thoroughly mismanaged and used for political point scoring.
11. Jafta Masemola spent 30 years in that Island, but because he was fromt eh PAC, he is not talked about much, and that Island is made to seem that it only housed freedom fighters from the ANC.
12. This year marks 150 years since Chief Maqoma was killed in that Island for fighting against colonial land dispossession. His name is relegated to the dustbin of history by those now in power.
13. Chairperson, the less said about sports the better. This department has not done a single notable thing to develop sport in this country.
14. Rugby and cricket remain untransformed, boxing has been systematically collapsed, and football is degenerating every single year
15. It is an open secret that whites would still prefer to have all white players in sporting codes that previously were dominated by white people.
16. The department is yet to implement the White Papers that was introduced during the 5th parliament. This white paper would have helped position the arts and culture sector in a much better stead than it is today.
17. Chairperson, this department has more acting officials than permanent ones. None of these acting individuals can be held accountable thereby social delivery suffers.
18. We need to urgently re-imagine the role played by this department. It is not servicing any of the constituencies it is meant to service.
19. The cultural lands ape in this country is still dominated by Dutch and English settler influences. Our languages are still treated as second class languages, and colonial monuments are celebrated at the expense of our own.
20. The EFF therefore rejects this budget vote