**DRAFT DEBATE ON BUDGET VOTE 37 ON SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE**

1. Chairperson, it was on this day in May 1835 during the Sixth War of Dispossession, that British soldiers shot and killed King Hintsa “ Aa Zanzolo” of AmaXhosa. King Hintsa was a great supporter of that great war general of AmaXhosa, Chief Maqoma ka Ngqika, Aa Jongumsobomvu.
2. The British not only shot and killed the King on the banks of Nqabarha River, they also beheaded him and took his head as a trophy back to Britain. His head has never been repatriated back to his native land to this day.
3. When we speak of culture and heritage in the context of a neo-colonial arrangement such as the one we have in this country, we speak about this brutal history of land dispossession, we speak about the uprooting of a people’s humanity, we speak about displacement, we speak about erasure.
4. True national culture can only be reclaimed back when everything that was lost is returned back to the people.
5. We also acknowledge that today would have been the 92nd birthday of Professor Mazisi Kunene, who was born on the 12th of May in 1930.
6. Professor Kunene is one of many distinguished literary giants produced by our country’s long struggle against colonialism and apartheid, and has produced timeless works of literature, chief amongst which was Emperor Shaka the Great, in which he documents the life story of Ilembe, King Shaka of the Zulu nation.
7. Perhaps it is important to go back to one of Professor Kunene’s timeless poems, titled **LELO LIHLO LETHU**, which goes as follows:

Kuzobe kuyilihlo elifunayo
Eliyobe libona ububanzi bethu
Bona bungezintaba ezimangelengele
Bona bungezimpophoma ezidilika zilandelana
Bona bungamahlathi ahlobise ngamahlamvu
Sengishaya phansi ngenduku yami yenganekwane
Sekuvela imithombo kuvela abantu
Kuvela bona abalandikazi bezindaba

1. It is important that we cite this poem today because we are led by a minister and a department that has lost ability to see and acknowledge the great strides made by South African artists and cultural icons throughout history up to this day.
2. Some of the country’s brilliant literary icons, such as Professor Ntongela Masilela, died still exiled, without any recognition from the country of their birth despite the invaluable work they have done in documenting the country’s literary and cultural evolution
3. This department has over the years failed to protect the interests of not just literary giants, but artists who have for generations been used and exploited by production companies who continue to benefit from the works of these artists to this day.
4. The belated attempts by the Department of Trade and Industry to tighten legislate for the protection of Intellectual Property rights of artists is simply not enough to offer full protection to those who have been displaced and exploited for generations.
5. The sad manner in which the department handled the devastation brought to artists by COVID restrictions will remain a very dark blight on the way this department is prepared to take care of the interests of those in the creative industry.
6. Today, many creatives stand to lose their homes because they have been unable to make a living over the past couple of years. The department has not lifted a finger to assist.
7. The less said about sport the better. There is no coherent programme of sport development led and coordinated by the department across all sporting codes dominated by African people. Rugby, cricket and other sporting codes that have been historically dominated by whites are dependent on the deep pockets of wite businesses.
8. There is no coordination between the department and the department of basic education to ensure there is a ongoing programme of schools sports.
9. Football is still led by that corrupt fossil called Danny Jordan, who has not initiated a single development programme int is country.
10. The EFF rejects this budget, because it does not address any of the issues that are critical for the development of sports and arts in this country.