**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION NO. 3547-2015**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

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**“Mr JA Esterhuizen (IFP) asks the Minister of Arts and Culture:**

In view of the country having a rich pool of raw talent from which to grow the arts and culture industry, but which is not nurtured from a young age, especially in rural areas, what is his position regarding the need to set up centres in rural areas where children can explore and develop their artistic talent?

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**REPLY**

The importance of community arts and the development and upgrading of community arts infrastructure has been recognised as a driver of social cohesion and nation building in Outcome 14: Nation Building and Social Cohesion. The community arts programme is a contributor to the Sub-Outcome: Equal Opportunities, Inclusion and Redress. Approved by Cabinet, Outcome 14 stipulates that the Department of Arts and Culture, within the 5 year Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF), will build 15 new community arts centres, refurbish 80 centres and activate 500 community arts programmes by 2018/19. The focus of this work will be rural and township areas.