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

1. Chairperson, there is no denying the fact that we are in a very serious crisis, not just as a country, but as humanity. The coronavirus pandemic should force all of us to dig deep in, and find a supernatural will to deal with a super ordinary challenge.
2. This challenge is even more acutely pronounced in our sector. We are a sector that is meant to be the embodiment of new societal norms, a sector meant to synthesize the kaleidoscope of our rich cultures into one diverse but unified national culture, a sector that is meant to forcefully ensure that what is called national is truly nationally representative.
3. The COVID 19 pandemic has exposed the fault lines in society, and more so in this sector.
4. We have always know that our sports, particularly those sports previously dominated by whites at a professional level, are used by whites to exclude blacks.
5. We have always know that in rugby, it is the Afrikaans language and the Afrikaans culture that is the sine qua non for full participation and acceptance. Those who do not belong to this culture, or to the race, have always been excluded.
6. We should use the legislative mechanisms we have to change this, and the opportunity to reboot offered by the COVID pandemic ought not to be missed.
7. Equally so with cricket. The revelations by Makhaya Ntini about the deep rooted racism racism in cricket should not come as a shock. We have allowed white supremacists to dictate terms in our society for far too long.
8. This department has failed to inculcate new cultural norms in society, and failed to ensure that sporting codes adhere to these new cultural norms.
9. Creative and Cultural Industries are the fastest growing Industries and should be kept at the center of national strategic priority, but this department doesn’t seem to believe what they preach.
10. Why is the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture taking too long to offer relief to the needy practitioners in the sector? Why is it taking more than three months to use less than a fifth of the R150 Million funds, the government allocated for this sector?
11. Which part of sector within the Sports, Arts and Culture needs R5 Million worth of PPEs, besides office staff?
12. Projects like Mzansi Golden Economy, (MGE-mainly comprises of music festivals that needs crowds to gather in one place), has been allocated R95 Million, when no festivals have occurred during lockdown. Where are these monies disappearing into?
13. As if that was not enough, this department working with IMPRA, a collection organization, distributed hard earned monies, generated by musicians legitimately through NeedleTime as a relief fund for Covid-19, while less than a quarter of the R150 Million has been allocated for beneficiaries. Poor black artists are being robbed by the same department that should be protecting them.
14. This department has not strategic vision, no intellectual depth to reposition sports, arts and culture in this country.
15. The EFF therefore rejects this adjustment budget