**FF Plus**

**W Wessels**

**Debate on Sports, Arts and Culture**

**9 May 2023**

House Chair,

Getting rid of Nathi Mthethwa was probably the best thing that ever happened to sport, arts and culture in this country. His legacy, is money that was misappropriated, stolen, that was intended to provide relieve to artists as the hon. Chairperson of the committee pointed out.

His legacy is failed school project infrastructure. His legacy is failed sports body, mis managed sports bodies and athletes, specially disabled athletes that are excluded from participation in sports internationally because of the mismanagement by his department under his leadership. But a even better thing that could happen, to sports, arts and culture in this country is when we get rid of the ANC in entirety for then we can start building a department that respects the culture history of all South Africans. A department that supports the arts without stealing the very bread from those artists’ mouths. It could be a department That makes it its business to oversee the proper maintenance and protection of our heritage sites. Because hon minister, it doesn’t help that you declare new heritage sites whilst your department and government in its entirety are destroying and allowing the destruction of current heritage sites. We also need a department that has and protects art institutions such as museums and theatres and sports facilities and that ensures that they are properly run and where funds are properly allocated and are not mis-managed.

This could be possible if we have a government that is a real custodian of sports, arts and culture for all South Africans out there.

If we look at the department’s mandate, we see that amongst other, it needs to provide leadership to the sport, arts and culture sector, to exhilarate its transformation, oversee the development and management of sport, arts and culture in SA, legislate on sports participation, sport infrastructure and safety and to improve South Africa’s international ranking in selected sports. With transformation is also included the need to promote participation of disabled persons on all levels of sports, arts and culture promotion. But in contrast, to this shining over-promising mandate, disabled athletes are barred from taking part in international competition. And their world records are not recognised because this department can not ensure the proper management of sport bodies like the SASSA II. This is a shame and the department should acknowledge this. The former minister did not use his powers of oversight to intervene and to ensure the participation of these athletes. I really hope, minister Kodwa, that you will not follow your predecessor’s example but you will serious about the mandate of your department.

Agbare voorsitter, sport in SA is onder beleg agv onnodige politieke inmenging. Die regering moenie by sport inmeng nie maar moet sorg dat daar ontwikkeling plaasvind. En dit is verla op skoolvlak so. Ons verwelkom die feit dat daar wel fondse bewillig word vir fasiliteite vir die mees arm gemeenskappe, maar dan moet daardie projekte uitgvoer word. En moet daar nie toegelaat word dat daar net gesteel word nie.

Sport kan regmaak wat politiek breek, maar ongelukkig op die oomblik, is politiek besig om sport te breek.