

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Arts and Culture Artists Cry for Recognition from Parliamentarians

On Friday, 02 August, the North West Provincial Legislature was met with disgruntled emotions from artists in the province who made it clear that the government fails to recognize their talents.

This was during the Arts and Culture Sectoral Parliament that was hosted by the Legislature in Moretele, which provided artists a platform to view and state challenges they are experiencing in the industry.

The Deputy Speaker of the Legislature, Hon Phillemon Mapulane, MEC for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, MEC Tebogo Modise and the Mayor for Moretele Municipality, Cllr Sello Lehari including members of parliament, ward councillors and officials from the department descended to the platform provided and welcomed all inputs made at the event.

About 250 artists came from all four districts of the province came to showcase their talents as singers, songwriters, producers, crafters, dancers, broidery and more, as well as state their challenges they are faced with in the Arts and Culture industry

Amongst some of the challenges raised were that there is poor support from the government in providing finance, resources, and sustaining the development of artists. The others were that there is dysfunctionality around the Provincial Arts and Culture Council, which does not cater well to the needs and development of artists.

One lady artist, Mabebe Legalamitlwe from Atamelang, mentioned that there no coordinators at service points who know and have a database of all artists residing around at different municipalities.

“We struggle a lot as artists, those put in positions that are supposed to assist us and fight for us to end this unnecessary struggle don’t care about us,”

“The Legislature should a make a provision for a law that allows disadvantaged artists to be led by qualified and passionate artists, who will stand beside us and take us forward,” said Ms. Legalamitlwe

Another participant, Ms. Thandi Legodu, also mentioned that the current state of Mmabana Cultural Centres is worrying.

“I am really worried at the low level of support that is given to all centres of Mmabana, they should really be developed so that other provinces can invest in us,” said Ms. Legodu

Many of the participants requested for a three (3) day session with the MECs for Departments of Sport, Arts and Culture, for Tourism as well as Local Government and Traditional Affairs at the Legislature Chamber to discuss each and every need they would require for all forms of talent, whether, professional dancing, crafting, music, songwriting and so on.

They deemed this a necessary exercise to place proper regulations of legislation around all factors that concern the arts.

The MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, MEC Tebogo Modise, made sure that even after the event had ended, to sit down with all artists who attended to hear their concerns and also their recommendations.

She instructed the officials from her department to provide a report of all issues raised as well as resolutions of those that can be implemented at the end of this month. She encouraged all artists to structure themselves accordingly in their forums, respect each other and work together to reach their intended objectives.

“Artists should organise themselves into structures and develop a feasible document where recommendations can be made to suit their needs,” said MEC Modise

The NWPL has reviewed the approach to sectoral parliaments, and has increased them from five to 18. Amongst the eighteen is the Mining Sector, Health Practitioner’ Sector, Tourism Sector, Transport Sector, Information, Communication and Technology Sector. The workers in these sectors will participate in the sector specific parliaments during the course of the year.

Ends

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