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PROGRESS REPORT TO THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE- MARCH 2006

Good afternoon to you honourable members of the Portfolio Committee on Arts and Culture.

As you are all aware, the NAC receives its annual grant from the National Department of Arts Culture. In the next financial year the NAC will receive approximately R51m from the Department of Arts and Culture.

Before anything else, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that up to date neither the board nor the CEO has been appointed and that therefore the Department of Arts and Culture is the accounting entity.

1. NAC Funding Activities

1.1 Project Funding and Bursaries

During the September 2006 funding session, a total of one thousand one hundred eighty five (1185) applications were received. Gauteng Province submitted six hundred and seven (607) applications, which accounts for approximately fifty percent (50%) of the total number of applications received. The previous meeting between the National Arts and Council and the Portfolio Committee on Arts and Culture raised concern about ensuring equitable distribution of funds across the nine provinces.

The NAC has taken steps to address this matter by assessing applications that come from the provinces that have traditionally received a small percentage of the NAC funding. Provinces such as Mpumalanga, Limpopo and the Free State for instance were now given priority when allocating funding. Gauteng Province was considered lastly. However, if one considers the statistics closely, Gauteng Province still received the bulk of the funding. The obvious reason for this is that more than 40% of the country's creative industries are located in Gauteng as stated by MEC Barbara Creecy (Daily Sun 28 February 2006, see copy enclosed). Equitable distribution of funding is therefore a challenge.

1.2 Company funding

Company funding is a funding category for registered companies practising the arts. It is a three year funding to companies which is reviewed annually through narrative progress reports, field visits and accounted financial records made available by the funded organisations. The NAC recently published a list of successful companies in the main national newspapers. The total budget for company funding amounted to R 20 million.

In the current phase of company funding, invitations were extended to other disciplines such as visual arts, crafts and literature. Previously only the performing arts companies enjoyed the funding. In the past, most of the organisations that received this funding were well established white companies, mainly practising European art forms.

The NAC is there to ensure that this funding is obtainable for previously disadvantaged and newly established organisations that practice African art forms. Some of these organisations were more often than not precluded on the basis of not having three year audited financial statements and not having been in existence for the obligatory minimum of five years.

The NAC has now also included these organisation, decisions were made based on - artistic merit, developmental elements and financial accountability.

2. Achievements

2.1 Funding

The NAC has undertaken to make all application forms available in all official languages of South Africa enabling all applicants to use their own language when filling in an application form. The translation services at the Department of Arts and Culture are in the process of translating the NAC application forms and information guidelines. At the moment, the NAC encourages and allows artists to fill in the existing application forms in their language of choice. This measure has been taken to ensure that applicants can express themselves adequately and thus not be discriminated on their usage of the English language.

The NAC has now implemented a more effective system of monitoring some of the applicants' projects which is actually done before the various panel meetings wherein funding decisions are taken. This system gives the advisory panels a better insight into the projects and their activities. This ensures that the panels are better informed when assessing projects rather than only making decisions based upon what the applicant has written down. This also eliminates the chances of applicants being disadvantaged or advantaged based purely on how well or bad their application was written.

The NAC management found that nor procedures nor guidelines for the processes of applications, appeals, etc were in place. We are in the process of reviewing and recording guidelines for all NAC activities related to processing of applications.

The NAC internal auditors are completing their audit and the external auditors are to start the audit plan in April 2006.

3. Human Resources

We have implemented the performance management system which was never before put into practice within the NAC. All members of the NAC staff have now signed a performance agreement. Job evaluations have been done and some posts have subsequently been re-graded.

We have however not implemented a full staff complement as this requires an additional amount of almost R4m (3.989.064) to our current budget.

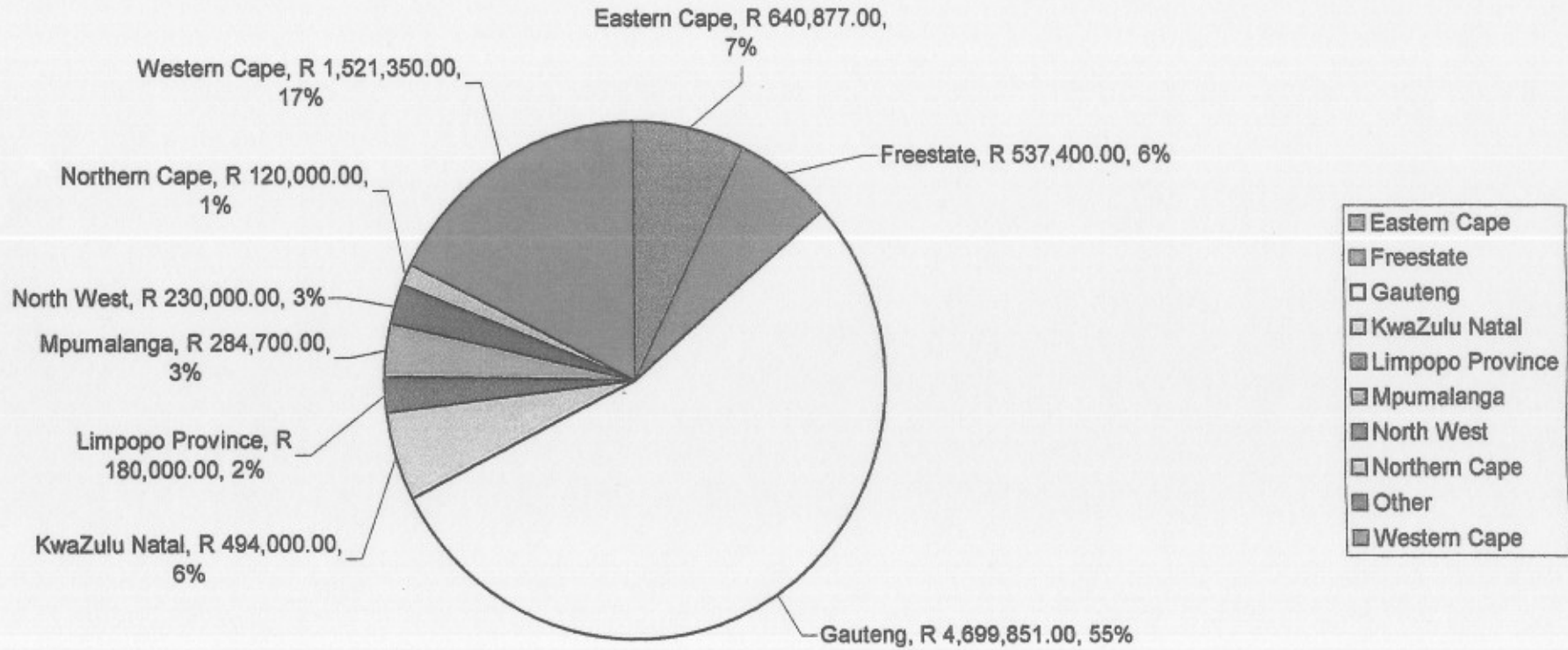
4. Conclusion

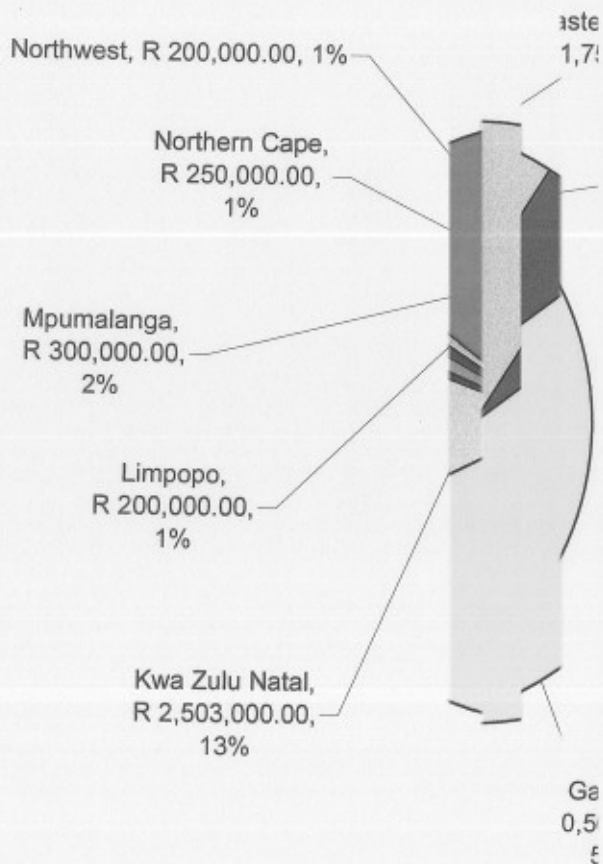
Ladies and gentlemen, as far as the way forward is concerned, I can be very brief: there is only one way forward for the NAC and that is the imminent appointment of a Board and a CEO.

I thank you.

Julie Diphofa,
March 2006

Funded Applications Per Province - September 2005





Summit to get creative!

Gauteng bid to develop skills in arts and crafts

A MAJOR creative industries summit is to be held in Gauteng next month.

The summit will be hosted by the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation.

More than 400 delegates from government, the arts and culture sector, organised labour and community organisations will decide how they can promote growth in this area.

Some of the plans are to support cultural business initiatives, expanding cultural markets, the development of skills, networking and cultural exchanges, promoting performance circuits and marketing crafts.

The strategy hopes to build on the initiatives taken last year by the department. This include the Pale ya Rona Carnival which involved 5000 participants last September, a partnership to promote the Joy of Jazz festival, renovating Uncle Tom's Hall to promote community theatre and upgrades to the Katlehong and Daveyton Art Centres.

According to MEC Barbara Creecy 40% of the country's creative industries are located in the province.

This underlines the importance of synchronising government interventions to Gauteng's Growth and Development Strategy.



The African Jazz Pioneers during a performance at the Mary Fitzgerald Square in Joburg during the Standard Bank Joy of Jazz festival.

Photo: Jerry Mokgwankgwa

DON'T LET A HEADACHE GET YOU DOWN

DOES your job give you a headache?

Don't feel alone, you are in good company.

Up to one in five employees at the average South African company suffer from acute or chronic headaches that affect their ability to do their jobs efficiently and effectively.

That's the word from Dr. Elliot Shevel, a

headache-related productivity losses are costing the economy millions or perhaps even billions of rands.

Says Shevel: "Few people will skip work because of a headache, which means that absenteeism reports do not paint a clear picture of how much productivity your company may be losing to headaches.

"Most headache and migraine sufferers

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Province launches creative industries framework

Nearly half of South Africa's creative industries are found in Gauteng, and there is a need to enlist them in the province's growth and development strategy.

March 9, 2006

By Lucky Sindane

THE success of Joburg film *Tsotsi* at the recent Academy Awards indicates the potential of the creative industries sector.

This was said by the MEC for finance and economic affairs, Paul Mashatile, during the launch on 7 March of the province's framework for the sector.

"Let us make Gauteng the home for hosting major events," he added.

The creative industries development framework, launched by the MEC for sports, arts, culture and recreation, Barbara Creecy, has been put in place to promote Gauteng as a creative mecca.

Her department has set aside R12-million to promote enterprises and entrepreneurship, build artistic communities, develop skills – and turn Gauteng into the leading location for art and culture events.

Creative industries include performing arts and dance, film and television, design, publishing, music, visual arts, crafts, multimedia, cultural heritage, ethno-tourism and cultural tourism.

Creecy pointed out that this sector could make enormous contributions to tourism, urban regeneration, youth development, cultural identity and nation-building.

"Research shows that 40 percent of the creative industries are located in Gauteng, which emphasises the importance of synchronising government intervention with Gauteng's growth and development strategy."

The government, the private sector and community organisations needed to find ways in which to work with artists, including:

- setting up finance and business initiatives;
- finding tourism links;
- training;
- caring for artists at the end of their careers; and
- investing in live performance circuits.

Joburg's Oscar-winning movie, *Tsotsi*, tells the story of a township thug, or *tsotsi*, who is confronted with the depravity of his life while caring for a baby he found in the backseat of a car he hijacked. It was filmed in and around Johannesburg, mainly in the sprawling township of Soweto.