

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

ORAL REPLY

Question 29 a. Mr. D D Gamede (ANC – KZN) to ask the Minister of Arts and Culture

1. **Whether there is a way or programme of (a) integrating different races and (b) teaching different cultures, especially in the rural areas, if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the details;**
2. **how do we put into practice the policy which stipulates that we are united in our diversity?**

CO232E

REPLY:

1. (a) The approach to integrate all races, is central to the mandate of this department, and as such the advancement of social cohesion, has therefore been done through various programmes within the department.

In October 2009 we held Social Cohesion Colloquium, mainly to start the national dialogue on social cohesion, the national conference on Social Cohesion will be held later this year.

- (b) The department supports rural community projects that educate young people, women and people with disabilities, towards mainstreaming them into the arts, culture and heritage sector. We have signed a Framework of Collaboration with the Departments of Education, through which we collaborate in the promotion of arts and culture in schools. We have set up Community Arts Centres in the rural areas, in partnership with the provincial and local government.
2. The department offers funding through its agencies, which is accessible to many people, including those in rural areas. We have looked at promotion of African Classics, which is a project that promotes African Classic literature, written in indigenous languages and promote the culture of reading. These include books such as *Mhudi* by Sol Plaatjie and AC Jordan's *Ingqubo Yeminyanya (The Wrath of Ancestors)*

The department will use Youth Month as a platform to popularise the correct singing of the National Anthem and internationalization of the etiquette thereof, the National Anthem should be regarded as a "national prayer" which is said with seriousness and calmness.

Through most of the projects above, and many more, we have demonstrated that we are united in our diversity.