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Department:
Sport, Arts and Culture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

LIASA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 27-30 SEPTEMBER 2021

LIBRARY CONDITIONAL GRANT

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Chief Director: National Archives & Libraries

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1. PURPOSE

- The purpose of this presentation is to provide feedback to the stakeholders on the work of the Department Sport, Arts and Culture in relation to Public Library and Information Services sector.
- The Department is managing the Community Library Services Grant, serves as a secretariat for the Legal Deposit Committee and the National Council for Library and Information Services.



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2. BACKGROUND

- The Community Library Services Grant was initiated in 2007/08 financial year with the purpose of transforming urban and rural community library infrastructure, facilities and services (primarily targeting previously disadvantaged communities) through a recapitalised programme at provincial level in support of local government and national initiatives.
- The Community Library Services Grant is managed according to the prescripts of the Division of Revenue Act (DORA) and the Grant Framework.



3. FOCUS AREAS

- Focus areas include Infrastructure development, ICT (information and computer technology), library resources, staff capacity, visually impaired services.
- Established partnerships with DBE for the establishment of dual-purpose libraries and with the South African Library for the Blind for the establishment of mini libraries.
- Appointment and capacity building of staff at urban and rural libraries to respond appropriately to community knowledge and information needs



4. GRANT ALLOCATIONS

Below are the allocations set aside in the 2021 Medium Term Expenditure Framework

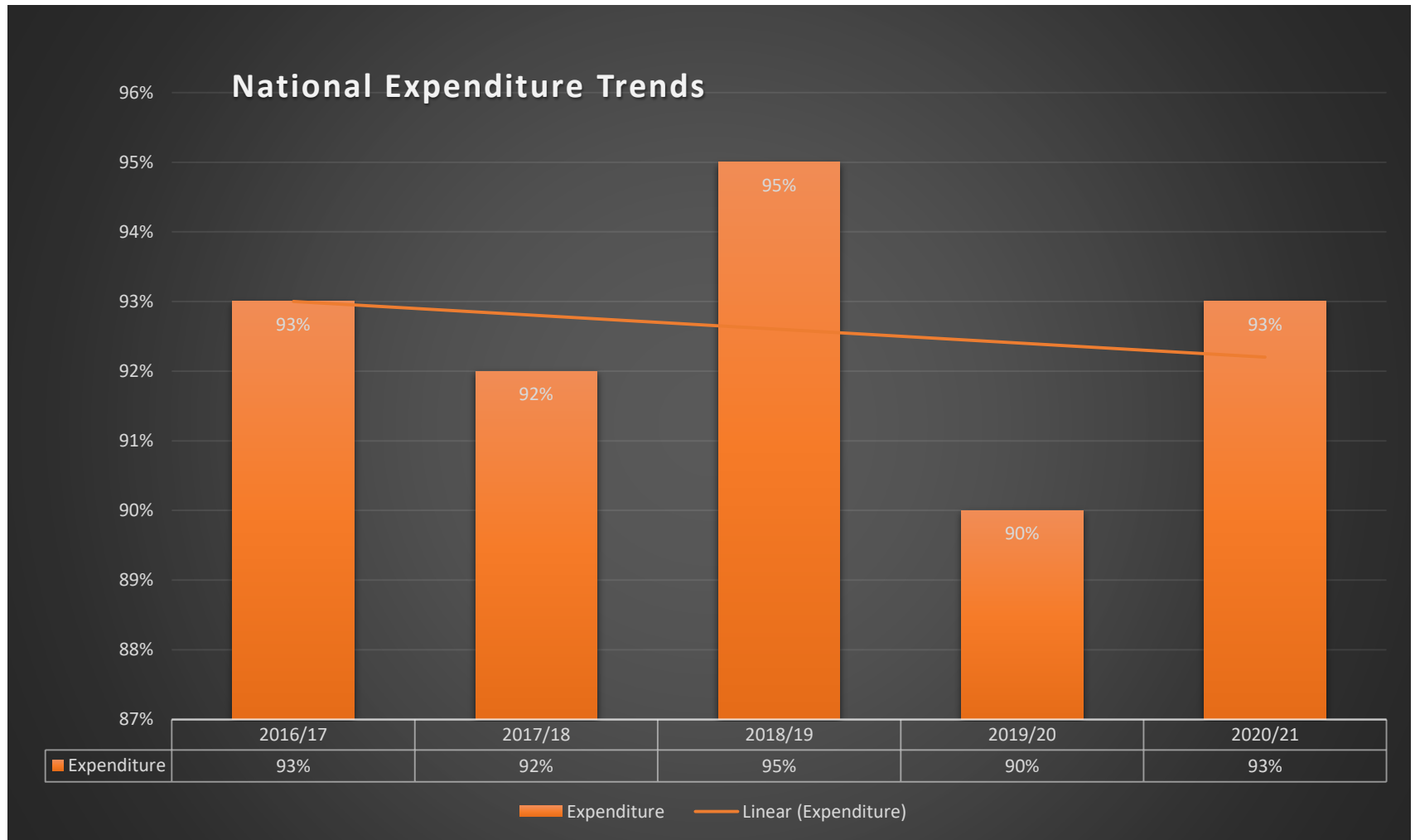
Provinces	Column A	Column B		
	Allocation	MTEF Estimates		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Eastern Cape	169 310	178 199	178 089	185 927
Free State	168 771	178 609	178 472	186 311
Gauteng	167 899	174 050	176 522	184 360
KwaZulu-Natal	185 572	186 505	189 050	196 888
Limpopo	140 606	150 846	153 597	161 435
Mpumalanga	165 056	166 623	170 726	178 564
Northern Cape	168 855	178 695	178 562	186 400
North West	140 905	150 190	152 451	160 289
Western Cape	188 862	190 102	193 331	201 169
Total	1 495 836	1 553 819	1 570 800	1 641 343



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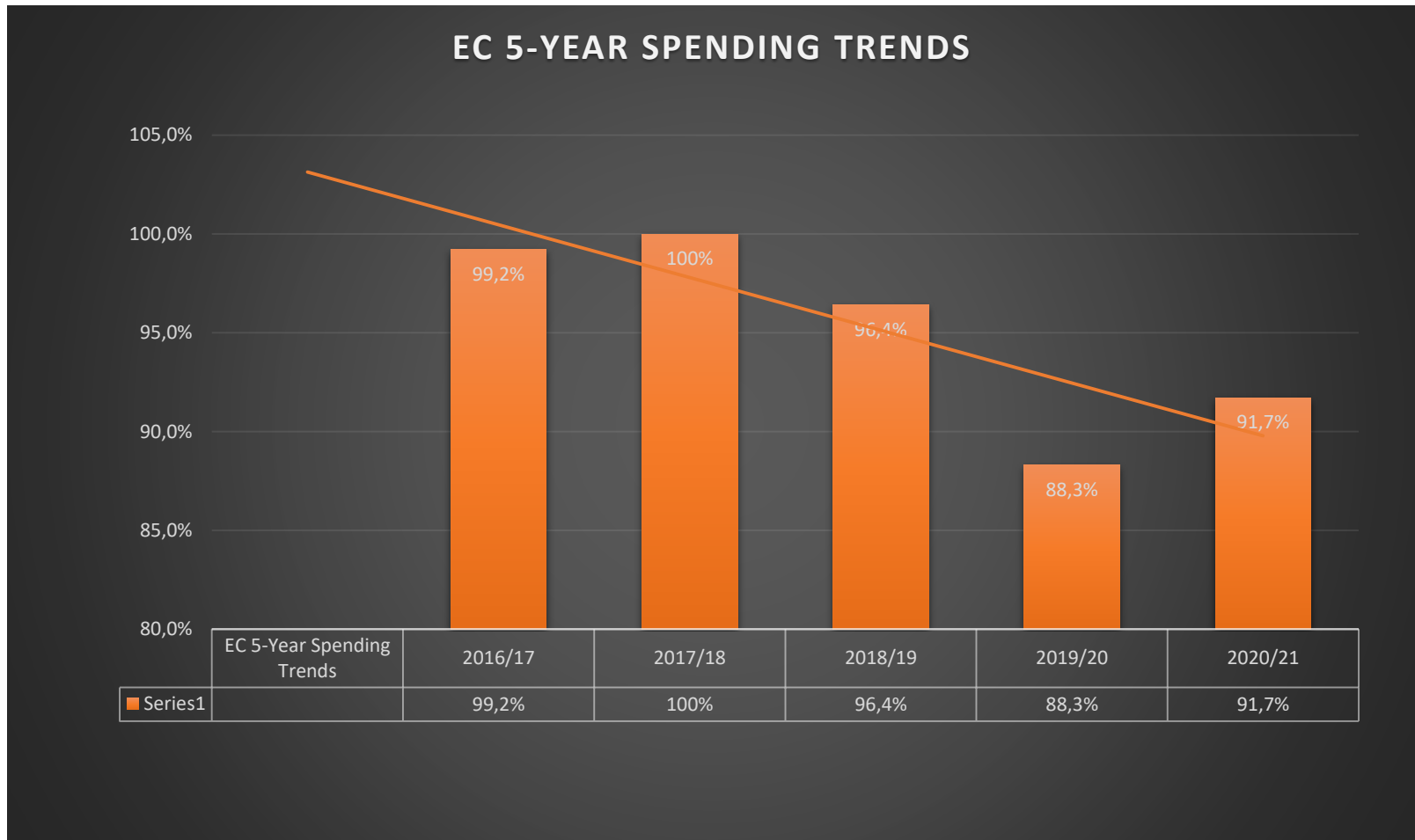
5. NATIONAL EXPENDITURE TRENDS



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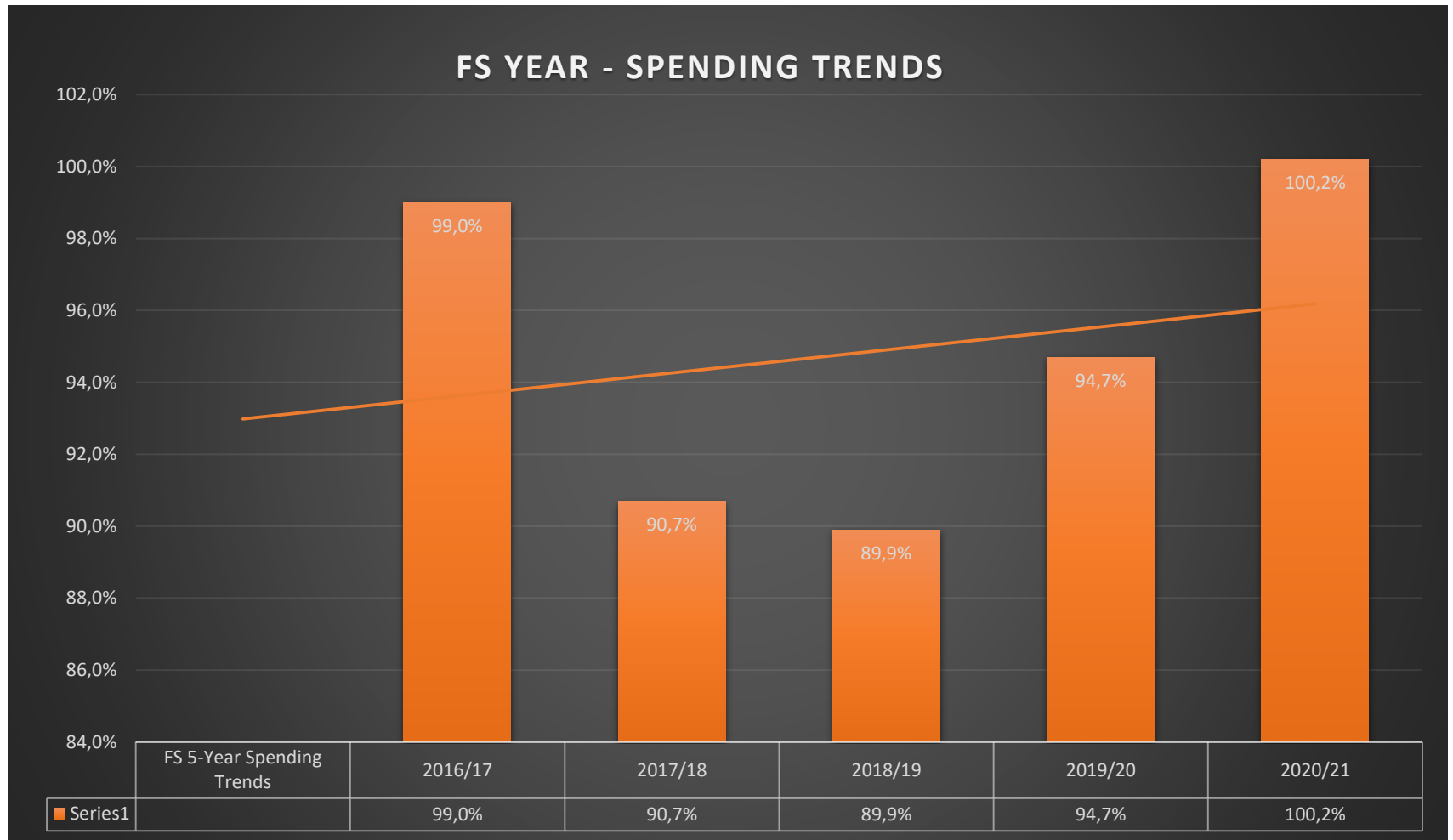
6. EASTERN CAPE EXPENDITURE TRENDS



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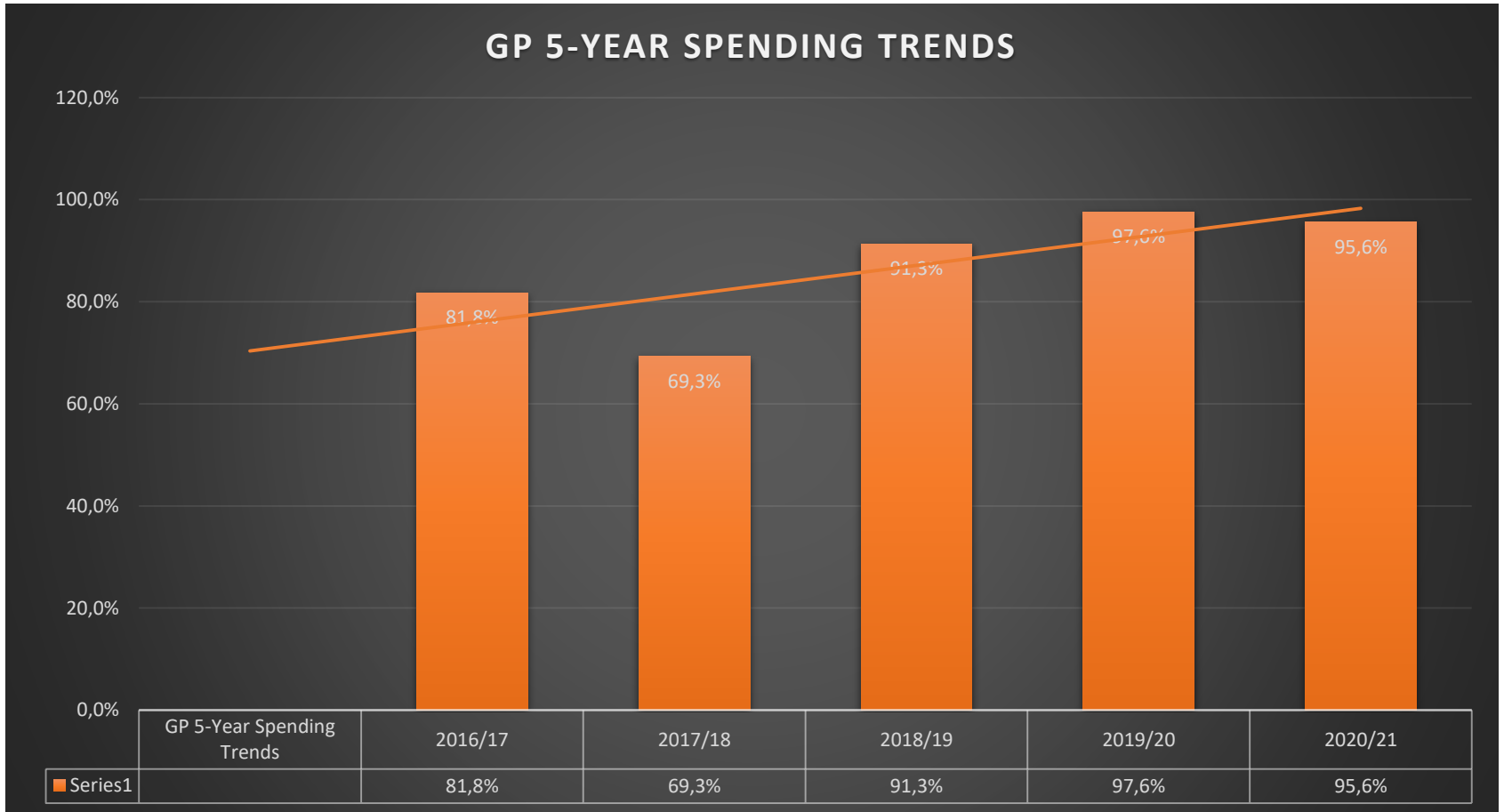
6. FREE STATE EXPENDITURE TRENDS



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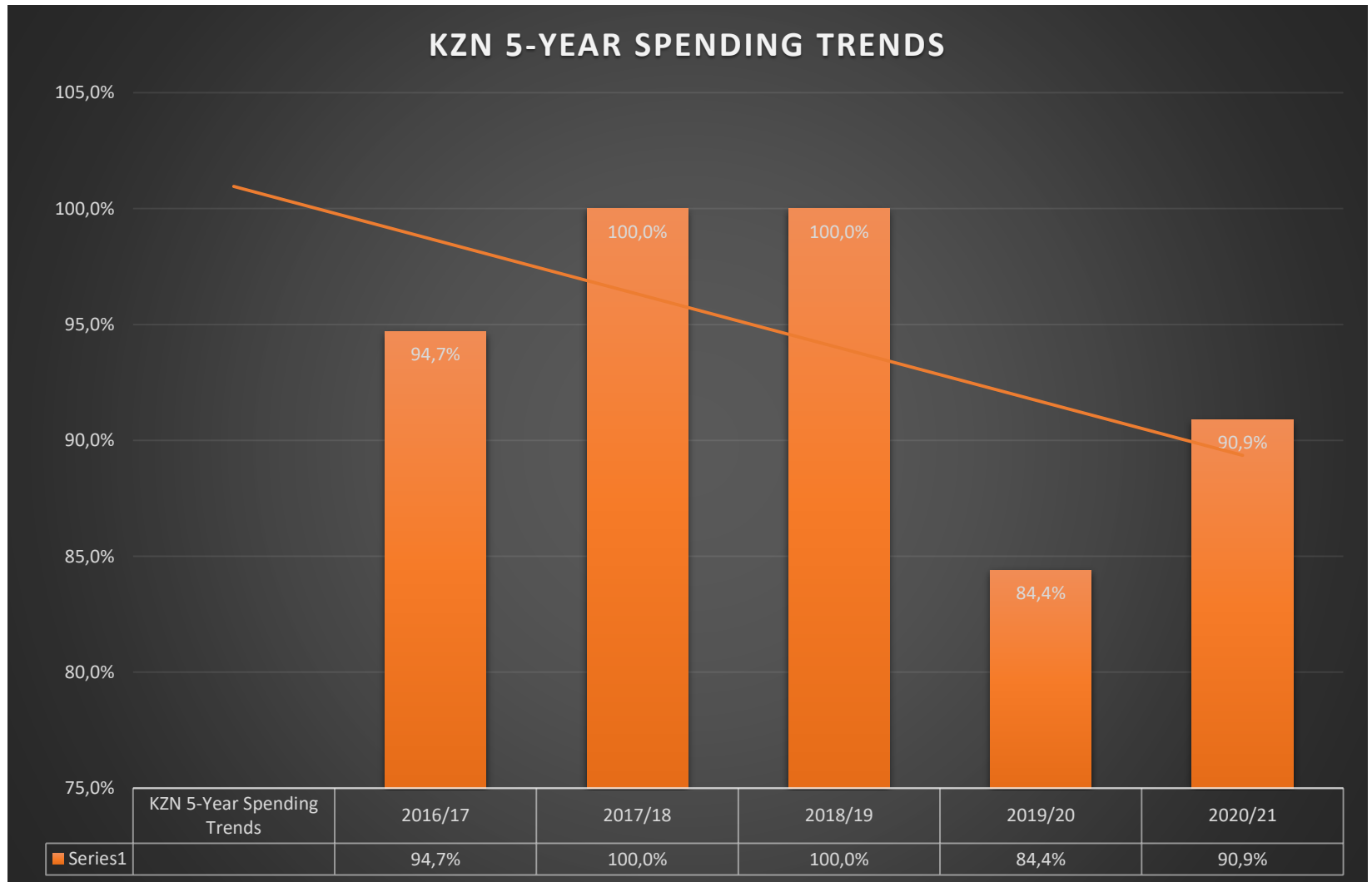
6. GAUTENG EXPENDITURE TRENDS



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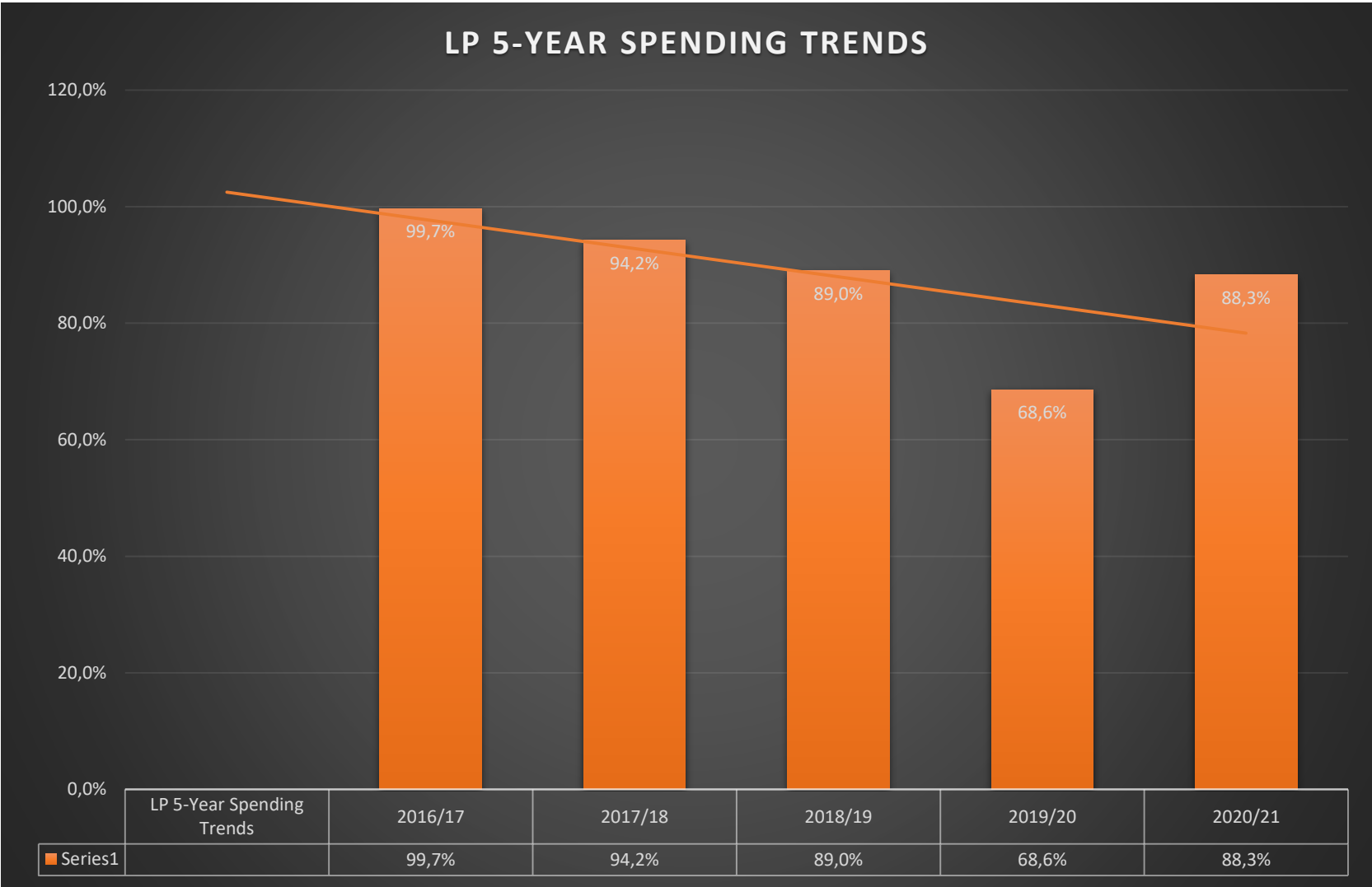
6. KWAZULU-NATAL EXPENDITURE TRENDS



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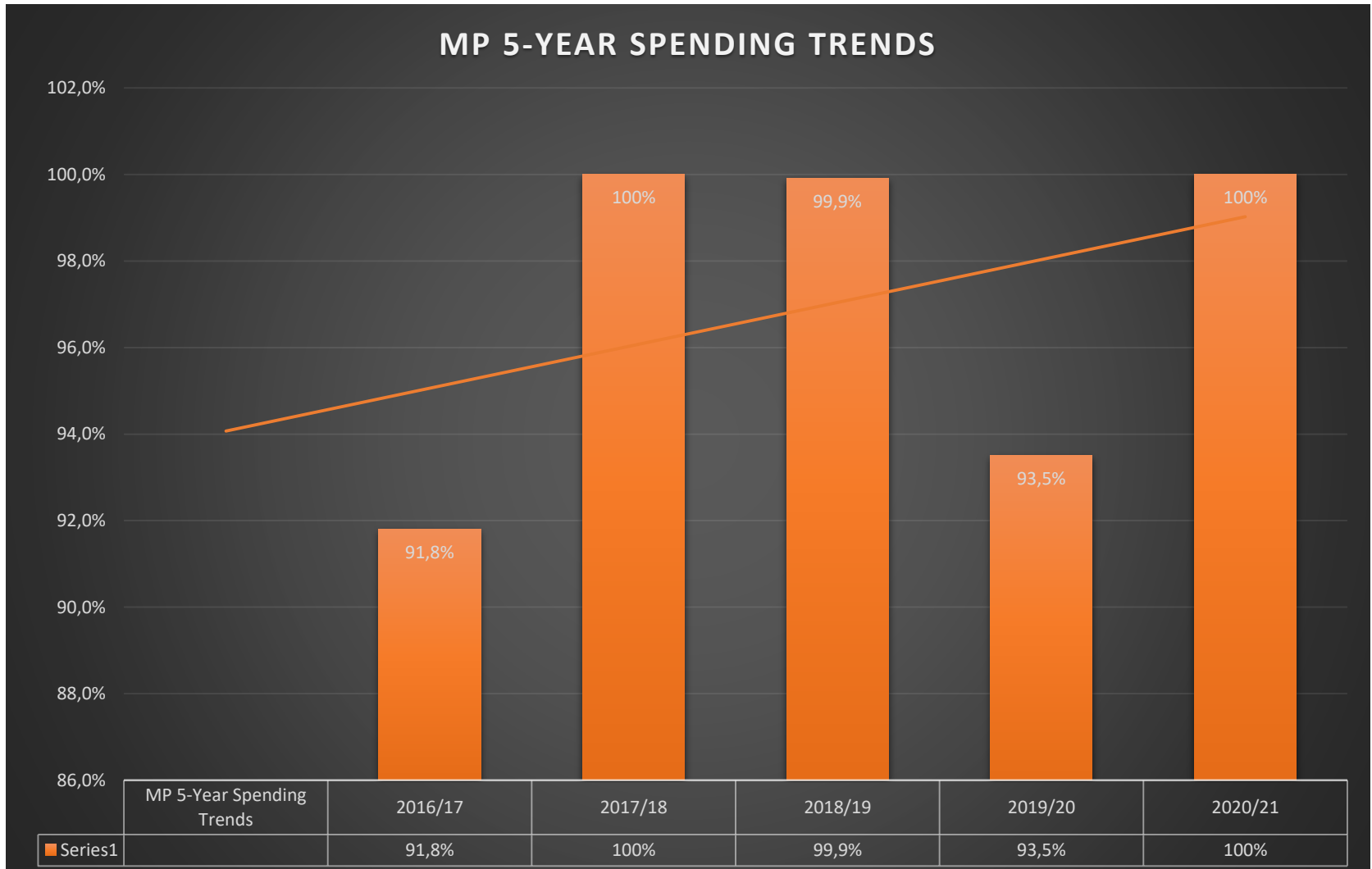
6. LIMPOPO EXPENDITURE TRENDS



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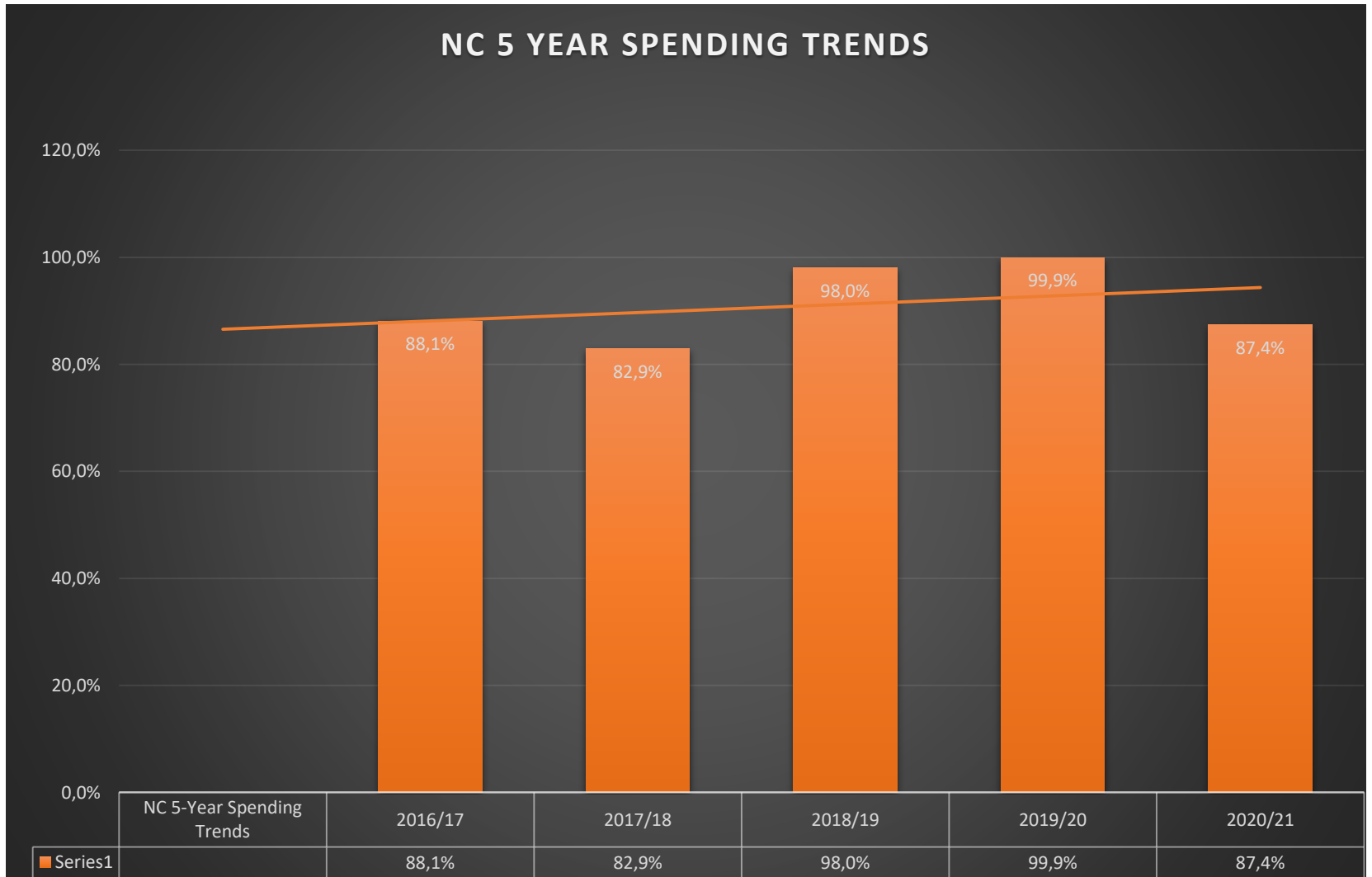
6. MPUMALANGA EXPENDITURE TRENDS



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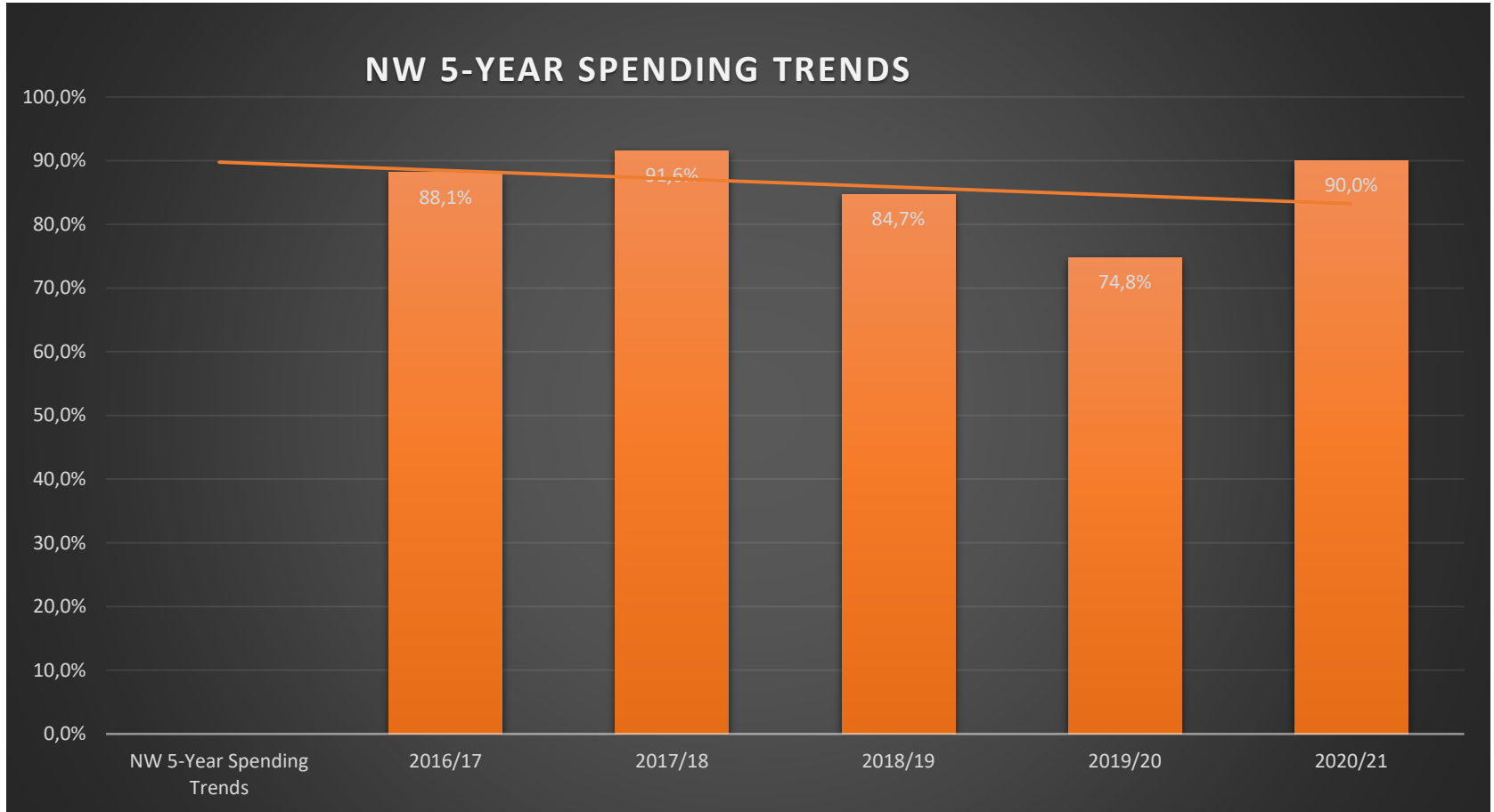
6. NORTHERN CAPE EXPENDITURE TRENDS



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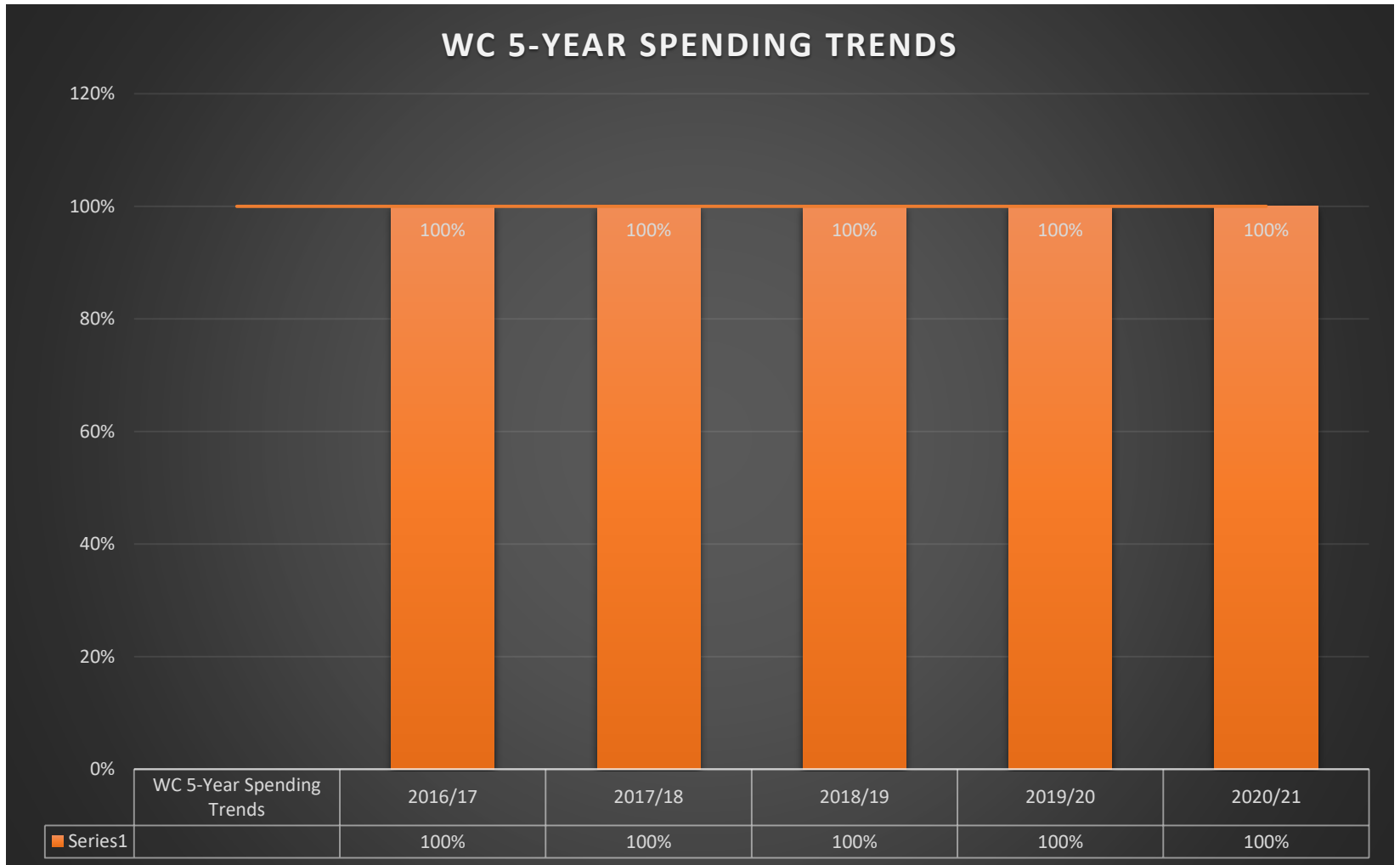
6. NORTH WEST EXPENDITURE TRENDS



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6. WESTERN CAPE EXPENDITURE TRENDS



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7. ACHIEVEMENTS

- **227 new library infrastructures including modular structures established since the inception of the grant**

PROVINCE	TOTAL NEW LIBRARIES ESTABLISHED
EASTERN CAPE	30
FREE STATE	5
GAUTENG	34
KWAZULU-NATAL	33
LIMPOPO	31
MPUMALANGA	30
NORTHERN CAPE	25
NORTH WEST	19
WESTERN CAPE	20
TOTAL	227



7. ACHIEVEMENTS cont.

- **626 existing library infrastructure upgraded / maintained**

EASTERN CAPE	123
FREE STATE	27
GAUTENG	43
KWAZULU-NATAL	76
LIMPOPO	89
MPUMALANGA	47
NORTHERN CAPE	143
NORTH WEST	40
WESTERN CAPE	38
TOTAL	626



7. ACHIEVEMENTS cont.

- 210 services for the visually impaired citizens established

PROVINCE	MINI-LIBRARIES
EASTERN CAPE	47
FREE STATE	22
GAUTENG	7
KWAZULU-NATAL	33
LIMPOPO	6
MPUMALANGA	28
NORTHERN CAPE	19
NORTH WEST	24
WESTERN CAPE	24
TOTAL	210



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7. ACHIEVEMENTS cont.

- 2 495 staff maintained by the grant

PROVINCE	TOTAL POSITIONS
EASTERN CAPE	183
FREE STATE	424
GAUTENG	310
KWAZULU-NATAL	191
LIMPOPO	122
MPUMALANGA	167
NORTHERN CAPE	262
NORTH WEST	180
WESTERN CAPE	656
TOTAL	2 495



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7. ACHIEVEMENTS cont.

- Information Communication Technology (ICT)
 - provision of free Internet and Wi-Fi access to the public, cabling of libraries, procurement of computers, multi-purpose photocopiers and the monthly payments of SLIMS and other online subscriptions
- Reading programmes to enhance a culture of reading.
- Reprint and cross Language Translation of South African Classics. 96 titles reprinted and 10 cross translated.



8. IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Libraries like any other sector felt the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a sector, we were also required to reposition ourselves and conform to the new norm.
- Public Libraries had to adapt to the new way of conducting business virtually.
- Funds had to be reprioritised to cater for compliance of the COVID-19 requirements.
- Decline in the number of library users.
- Limitations to provide a service (compliance to COVID regulations – opening hours, capacity - some libraries are too small for social distancing).
- Some services put on-hold due to lack of funds.
- Limited outreach programmes.
- Holding infrastructure contributed to existing infrastructure backlog.
- Delays in infrastructure resulted into variations.



9. INITIATIVES

- Due to the disruptions brought by Covid-19 pandemic, Provinces subscribed to Overdrive for the provision of eBooks to communities
- Library services across the country moving to 4IR in order to keep the service active and accessible to the end users.
- Reading programmes and writing workshops conducted online to avoid travelling and physical interactions.
- Library awareness programmes and story telling conducted online through radio and social media programmes.
- Meetings conducted online to sustain continuity and service delivery
- Conferences, seminars and workshops conducted online for easy access by all.
- NW initiated a project of narrating published indigenous language books into audio in partnership with SALB.



10. DEVELOPMENTS BY THE DEPARTMENT

- Schedule 5 part A of the constitution place the mandate of public library service on provinces.
- The Department conducted a Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIAS) report, 2017, which recommended a phased implementation of the norms and standard Bill.
- A proposed ten-year roll-out plan for the implementation of the Bill costed R18 544 billion.
- Due to the financial constraints, the implementation of the Bill was delayed by at least 3 years.



10. DEVELOPMENTS BY THE DEPARTMENT, cont.

- The White Paper on Arts, Culture and Heritage has been approved. Given the historical background of our country in general and the sector in particular, there was a need for “radical socio-economic transformation” in the production, consumption, promotion, preservation and protection of South African Arts, Culture, Language and Heritage.
- Therefore, the White Paper outlines policy parameters and proposes an institutional realignment to promote efficiency and effectiveness across the cultural and heritage landscape.
- The Department will consider the extent to which the White Paper impact on the sector and review our policy accordingly.



10. DEVELOPMENTS BY THE DEPARTMENT, cont.

- The process to finalise the Copyright Amendment Bill is taking too long to finalise due to its complex nature. The delay in finalizing the Bill is also delaying the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty, which caters for the information needs of people with visual impairment.
- The need to provide services to the people with print disabilities is critical in the country since the production of documents for the visually impaired and print disabled is expensive.
- The ratification of the Treaty will indeed have a significant impact on access to information for print disabled citizens of our country and we will continue to support the ratification at all costs.



11. CHALLENGES

- Budget cuts
- Underspending by some provinces.
- Delays in the construction of infrastructure projects due to COVID Regulations.
- Obsolete library material in some provinces and inadequate collection to serve visually impaired.
- The process to convert contract staff to permanent. Provinces to comply with Labour Relation Act and Regulations.



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12. PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- Reallocation of funds in terms of the Division of Revenue Act. Funds will still be retained within the sector.
- Mobilising resources to provide expansion to provide vernacular collection for visually impaired.
- Adoption of best practices in the procurement of library material to accelerate collection development in public libraries at a reasonable cost.
- Appointment of contract staff permanently be expedited to stabilise the sector.



13. PLANS GOING FORWARD

- 96 new libraries built in the next three years
- 135 libraries upgraded in the next three years
- 2 495 new staff maintained
- Procurement of new library materials
- Established mini-libraries (visually impaired services)
- Provision of free public internet access in all public libraries



14. CONCLUSION

- There is a commitment from National Treasury for the continued support in the next 3 years
- The Department is committed to ensure that library and information services is provided to the poorest community.
- More funding required to invest on ICT infrastructure and procurement of library material (e-resources).
- All Provinces to introduce e-services (e-lending, virtual libraries, overdrive)
- Some libraries are not yet 4IR compliant.
- Below are some of the highlights of what has been achieved through the grant.



Luckhoff Public Library: FS



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Luckhoff Public (Toy) Library: FS



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Smithfield Public (Toy) Library: FS



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Brandwag Modular Library: Western Cape



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Noordhoek Public Library: Western Cape




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MFEKAYO MODULAR LIBRARY IN KWAZULU-NATAL

New modular provided with a Guardhouse and Fencing



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BATLHAROS LIBRARY IN NC

- Toy Library and Visually Impaired Service



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MUTALE LIBRARY IN LIMPOPO

- Book drop box provided for libraries in LP



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THUBELIHLE LIBRARY IN MP



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AKASIA LIBRARY IN GP



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REKGARATLHILE/STELLA IN NW



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THANK YOU



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