

Book-Manuscript-to-Film Script Call



Literary Adaptation Specialist Team (Book-Manuscript-to-Film Script)



12th June 2026

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1. BACKGROUND OF ECPACC

ECPACC's core mandate is to provide **short, medium, long term and once-off funding** to cultural, arts and heritage institutions, groups and individual artists from professional and amateur. Conduct research into fields that concern arts, culture and heritage. Establish, compile and maintain database, of persons, organisations, institutions, equipment and facilities connected with arts and culture. Develop and promote arts and culture and encourage excellence thereof.

The Eastern Cape Province boasts a rich literary heritage and has produced numerous authors who have published high-quality, culturally significant books. Recognizing the potential of these narratives to translate into compelling visual media, the Eastern Cape Provincial Arts and Culture Council (ECPACC) seeks to support the development of a sustainable pipeline of film productions.

This initiative aims to bridge the gap between literature and film by providing targeted support for the adaptation of selected Eastern Cape book manuscripts into industry-standard, shoot-ready film scripts. This process will align with ECPACC's broader development slate and financing windows, ensuring that these stories are primed for production and broader audience reach.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The primary objective of this assignment is to commission experienced screenwriters, script editors, or adaptation specialists to convert a Eastern Cape book manuscript into a polished, shoot-ready film script.

3. TIMEFRAMES

The final deliverables must be completed and submitted no later than **15 March 2027**.

4. SCOPE OF PROJECT

The appointed beneficiary (Screenwriter/Adapter) will be expected to undertake the following activities:

1. Inception and Rights Alignment:

Collaborate with original author(s) to understand the core themes, cultural nuances, and narrative intent of the source material. (*Note: Applicant must facilitate or confirm that underlying adaptation rights are secured*).

2. Treatment and Step Outline Development:

Draft a comprehensive film treatment (5–10 pages) and a detailed step outline/beat sheet, mapping the transition from literary narrative to cinematic structure.

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3. First Draft Script:

Develop the first draft of the screenplay, adhering to industry-standard formatting (e.g., Final Draft software), including clear character arcs, dialogue, and visual storytelling.

4. Consultation and Revisions:

Participate in at least two structured feedback sessions with ECPACC and the original author or its representative to refine the script. Incorporate feedback to produce a second draft.

5. Final Polish and Shoot-Ready Delivery:

Deliver a final, shoot-ready script. A "shoot-ready" script is defined as:

- Professionally formatted to South African film industry standards.
- Free of structural, grammatical, and formatting errors.
- Accompanied by a brief character breakdown (Bible) and a scene-by-scene synopsis.
- Culturally authentic.

5. Deliverables and Milestone Timeline

To ensure alignment with the March 2027 financing window, the project will follow a strict milestone schedule. *(Exact start dates will be confirmed upon contract signing, but the following relative timeline applies):*

Milestone	Deliverable	Target Deadline	Payment Tranche
Milestone 1	Inception Report, Rights Confirmation, and Approved Film Treatment / Step Outline	6 weeks from contract signing	20%
Milestone 2	First Draft Screenplay	12 weeks from Milestone 1 approval	30%
Milestone 3	Second Draft Screenplay & Pitch Deck (incorporating/Author feedback)	8 weeks from Milestone 2 approval	30%
Milestone 4	Final Shoot-Ready Script , Character Breakdowns, and Sign-off Documentation	No later than 15 March 2027	20%

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6. Eligibility and Qualifications

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Proven track record as a screenwriter, script adapter, or script developer, with at least two (2) previously produced or commissioned feature film or television scripts.
- Demonstrated experience in adapting literary works (books, short stories, or plays) into screenplays.
- Strong understanding of, and sensitivity to, the cultural, linguistic, and historical context of the Eastern Cape Province.
- Have an identified eastern cape authored book manuscript.
- Registered as a legal entity with a valid SARS Tax Clearance Certificate and BBBEE certification.
- Availability to commit to the timeline and participate in required feedback sessions.

7. Intellectual Property (IP) and Rights

- The original author(s) will retain all underlying Intellectual Property Rights to the source material and the adapted screenplay.
- The appointed screenwriter will be credited appropriately (e.g., "Screenplay by" or "Adapted by") in all future productions and promotional materials derived from the script.
- The beneficiary will be required to sign a Script Adaptation Agreement.

8. Intellectual Property (IP) and Rights

Interested and qualified candidates must submit the following:

1. **Cover Letter:**
Expressing interest and confirming availability to meet the March 2027 deadline.
2. **Company/Individual Profile:**
Including CV(s) of key personnel and proof of registration/tax compliance.
3. **Portfolio:**
Links or copies of two (2) previous screenplays or adaptation treatments, preferably with proof of production or industry recognition.
4. **Methodology and Work Plan:**
A brief outline of the applicant's approach to adaptation and a proposed timeline aligning with the March 2027 deadline.
5. **Financial Proposal:**
A detailed, itemized budget for the entire scope of work, inclusive of all taxes.

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9. Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- **Relevant Experience and Portfolio (40%):**
Quality of past adaptation work and screenwriting credentials.
- **Understanding of the Eastern Cape Context (20%):**
Demonstrated cultural competence and sensitivity.
- **Methodology and Timeline Feasibility (20%):**
Clarity and realism of the proposed work plan to meet the March 2027 deadline.
- **Financial Proposal (20%):**
Cost-effectiveness and alignment with industry-standard rates.

10. Submission Details

- **Closing Date for Applications:** **[13TH July 2026]** at 12:00 PM.
- **Submission Method:** Electronic submissions only, in PDF format, sent to Filmfunding@ecpacc.co.za.
- **Subject Line:** "Literary-to-Film Adaptation – [Applicant Name/Company]".
- **Enquiries** may be directed to Mr. Bonganjalo Marala at bmarala@ecpacc.co.za or 043 743 6187.

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11. General Conditions

- ECPACC is not bound to accept the lowest-priced application.
- **Late submissions will not be considered.**

Yours in the development of Arts and Culture in the Province of Eastern Cape.

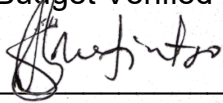
Prepared by:



Mr. Bonganjalo Marala

Film Development Manager - **ECPACC**

Budget Verified by:

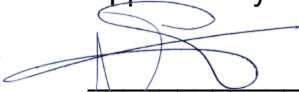


Mr. Silas Mtintso

Chief Financial Officer – **ECPACC**

Date: ...15. /06 /2026

Approved by:



Mr. Monde Nkasawe

Chief Executive Officer – **ECPACC**

Date:15. /06/2026