

**Arts and Culture : Budget Vote**

**UCDP : Hon MN Matladi**

**Wednesday, 1 June 2011**

I must start by saying that I'm beginning to think that the economic recession felt by the world over is starting to be an excuse employed by government departments in their failure to deliver on given mandate. Having said that, I acknowledge the efforts of the National Language Service and acknowledge the editing of 1000 official documents; however, this has not been felt at many other levels and has not been advocated well. More often than not you find government official documents written in English and Afrikaans and 17 years after attainment of freedom and democracy, I dare say this is absolutely unacceptable as it is the continuation of the legacy of a colonial past and apartheid.

Building on this point, I have not witnessed any progress in promotion of South African literature written in indigenous South African languages, it is almost as if indigenous South African have no role in development of literature and have no stories to tell. I therefore would love to know what the Department is doing in promoting South African Black languages in literature. I'd like to urge this Department to embark on promotion of our own story-telling as part of preservation of our heritage. I'd like to walk into a book shop and find children's stories in Setswana, Sepedi, Xhosa etc. I acknowledge that the Department awarded bursaries to 102 post graduate students to enrol in language studies, this is commendable and more need to be done.

I noted the Director General's utterances in the Annual report that the Department practices a zero tolerance approach to corruption and that several officials had been suspended. However, I submit that zero tolerance cannot be practiced as an after-effect as that changes very little, I'd like to know what systems the Department established in order to ensure for instance that the irregular expense of R60 771 000 does not happen again? Why was there a deviation from set rules in the first place? Has the investigation by the Special Investigations Unit been completed and what has come of it?

The Auditor General's opinion is that the Accounting Officer has not complied with the Public Finance Management Act and that there are effective transparent control systems, this is a sad state of affairs for any department and I'd like to hope that this has been remedied.