

**BUDGET VOTE NO:3
FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**M MATLADI MP
18 JUNE 2009**

The global financial crises has severely affected governments around the globe and South Africa is not an exception. As the effects of the crisis deepen governments will have to make some drastic adjustments and this carries implications for Departments.

The UCDP supports the reduction of the departmental budget from R5,56 billion in 2008/09 to R5,3 billion for this financial year. The focus should remain on the department's core activities that is why the departmental allocation to the programmes responsible for the department's core activities has increased.

Major investments in the upgrading of the department's ICT infrastructure and the occupation of the new head office campus should make an improvement in service delivery. It will also be important to know the extent to which the latest developments translate into savings for the department. Vote 3 of the 2009 Estimates of national Expenditure states that the project to build a permanent structure to accommodate the Pan-African Parliament has begun. This project will contribute to the department's main expenses which began in 2008/09 and will continue through 2010/11. Monitoring will be essential to this project in a way to avoid delays that could result in the escalation of expenses, and thus the need for increase in the budget.

2.

South Africa will host several international events during 2009/10. Expenses for communication and promoting these events will have to be kept at a minimum reasonable level. This will require a new approach to communicating and promoting South Africa's foreign policy on various issues and the involvement of Parliament in the planning phases of the upcoming events may prove to be crucial.

In his State of the Nation Address, the Hon President Jacob Zuma said, "working with Africa and the rest of the world, we will pursue African advancement and enhanced international co-operation. We will ensure sustainable resource management and use".

The UCDP therefore applauds South Africa for strengthening African Union (AU), for ensuring the success of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), for promoting regional integration through the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and its representation to PAP as well as the hosting of the Pan African Parliament (PAP).

The United Christian Democratic Party (UCDP) supports the Budget vote on Foreign Affairs.

I thank you.

