

**BUDGET DEBATE ON EDUCATION
VOTE 8**

09 JULY 2009

**ISAAC SIPHO MFUNDISI
UCDP**

The department of education is charged with a great responsibility, that of moulding the minds of the young ones to prepare them for life. This has to be done with great circumspection and dedication because human beings are not like cars that can be return to the assembly floor to rectify errors that were made when the car or any product was made.

If teaching is done badly at the early stages of life such child will grow up with that it is therefore very important to **accept the responsibility of being involved in education with great responsibility.**

In my earlier life in education I used to tell teachers to teach and not cheat while advising principals to run their schools lest the schools run them down.

In stead of bewailing less allocation they get, the department should clean up their act and strive for unqualified reports from the auditor general, after all this department gets the biggest slice of the financial pie in the province.

We note that the department is only a facilitator as all policy, norms and

standards are set up by the national department. The result is that a programme like *Kha ri gu de* is to this extent the baby of Pretoria when mass adult education has to be done on the round in the province. The department has to strive to claim back this mandate of theirs in order to meet the ideal of the Millennium Development Goals of doing away with illiteracy by 2014.

In her state of the province address Hon Premier Modiselle concedes that we have yet to achieve universal access to all children in the province and we in the UCDP put it to the department that Section 29 (1) (a) of the Constitution of the republic enjoins us to ensure that everyone has a right to basic education. The department has to ensure that the children of this province receive education!

As in other instances there is an acute shortage of skills in the fields of ICT as such it is an arduous task to educate children in computers and this is a hurdle still to be overcome.

While there are pockets of excellence in the delivery of education at Grade 12 level, your Potchefstroom Gymnasium, Bergsig and others our provincial output has always been mediocre; we have yet to be among the top three provinces nationally.

The UCDP maintains that better results are achievable with hard work. We call on teachers to dedicate themselves to teaching the young people placed under their stewardship just like Gamaliel did with Saul who turned to be Paul. Let them accept that **responsibility of teaching with responsibility.**

We in the UCDP still hold the view that mainstreaming is not in the interest of learners with disabilities nor that of their parents. We will argue for the retention of special schools. We hold the view that each person is unique and has to be trained and taught in the best possible way to get the best out of them. There is no educational value to the so-called inclusive education.