

**BUDGET DEBATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**

**VOTE 9
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If there is a troubled department in the province, it is that of Local Government. There is no doubt that Hon MEC Kegakilwe has a poisoned chalice on his hands. The problems in some municipalities have even brought to the surface tensions between Hon Premier and the provincial leadership of the ANC as much as they have caused the Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs to intervene and reverse the expulsion of some mayors and councillors.

At issue is not whether the municipalities are functioning well but how they can be assisted as all agree that they are failing.

The firing and reinstatement, within days, of the Greater Taung Municipality ANC aligned councillors surely has not been a healthy public relations exercise for the ruling party. One cannot but say there is a clear writing on the wall!

The failure of the municipalities to live up to expectations is another indicator to the government of the day that wall-to-wall municipalities are

not an option in a country that has vast differences in resources and outlook.

Combining rural, tribal and farming areas with urban settings is a recipe for disaster because of the lopsided services and different interests. Whatever amount of *kragdadigheid* to push this there will be no success except to a limited extent in the Phokeng area where the tribe is apparently even richer than the provincial government.

Of the 25 municipalities in the province there are very few whose performance merits writing home about, that is why intervention from the highest level has had to be made in some with the viability others still being investigated. It does not need a rocket scientist to predict that the results are an obvious let down.

The unfortunate thing Hon Chair is the ostrich mentality of those in power who continue to deny that there are problems when it is obvious that all is not well in the running of these municipalities.

Greed and the deployment of inept cadres of the ruling party to strategic positions in the municipalities are the cause of poor performance. The bloated municipal employees, lack of qualifications and skills, to a great measure affirmative action, the culture of non payment and the pursuit of

hegemony by the ruling party are the root causes of failure.

Perhaps the Hon MEC in his response may shed light on the areas that still use the bucket system for night soil and indicate how many such household are there and when this repugnant system will be eradicated.

The short sighted interpretation of the Freedom Charter on “the people shall govern” has been applied to mean that if one is not in the ANC fold one may not be considered for any position of responsibility. The result is the fall of the municipalities.

Concerning *dikgosi and bogosi* we can only advise that we should *go kahle*.

Those communities should neither be taken for granted nor for a ride.

Traditions of other countries should not be super imposed on our people under the guise of democracy; while people may be equal there is always the first among them. **Lenaka la ntlo e nngwe le e nngwe le nna kwa kgotleng e seng kwa lapeng.**

In closing let us call on all who send young people to initiation schools to ensure that the candidates are examined and passed as fit by medical doctors and the register of names of all who go for initiation is sent to the tribal office for record purposes.

