

BUDGET VOTE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION

VOTE 6

SIPHO MFUNDISI

UCDP

One of the key impediments to service delivery in the South African context is the Public Service and bureaucracy around it. Front-line public sector workers complain about the red tape they have to comply with before they can render service. Even the president has lamented the long it takes to have something done.

While we in the UCDP welcome the establishment of this department, we are astounded that government concedes that service delivery is a problem even in high offices. We note that the president has no time for business as usual, where people feel entitled to positions even if they behave like place holders.

The work ethic of government officials has to improve to see them depart from setting date stamps for hours before they sit behind their desks. The UCDP believes that the success of the country depends on hard work. Excellence is wrought by diligence not indolence.

It is this department that has to ensure that payments to all government service providers are effected within 30 days. We noticed that even yesterday as the president was addressing this constituency there is still no compliance.

We appreciate that the department is striving to ameliorate working relations among departments to avoid the silo operations which in some cases end up induplication of half-done projects.

As this department's monitoring cuts across all three spheres of government, we put it to you minister to prevail upon municipalities to ensure that as they develop new residential places they should not leave out naming the streets accordingly. One notices for example in Pretoria that such places that were established post 1994 have street names that will in future be changed to what is usually termed appropriate ones. This is a waste of resources; there should be no need to undo what has been done in the present taking into account

what is going on at present regarding this matter. Let us nip the matter in the bud.

The basic 12 delivery outcomes as listed indicate that Basic Education needs urgent attention. We should move away from producing semi literate and semi numerate products. We argue, if government has a department to monitor the performance of other departments why should the department of Basic Education develop cold feet at the slightest sneeze of SADTU against education officers or inspectors at schools?

It is disconcerting that up to this point senior managers in government do not comply with the simple issue of declaring their interests. We maintain that it is the duty of this department to follow up on this matter and find out why the eight per cent or so are not complying if the mother department, Department of Public Service and Administration, is at a loss on how to deal with the matter. Let us strive for consistency and not harbour some holy cows.

While we do not want to sound prescriptive, we notice that some areas in Gauteng and Free State that had disruptions because of lack of or poor service delivery have had visits of reassurance from the highest office in the land yet there have been quite a number of such disturbances in the North West but no such visitation. This creates an impression that the province is forsaken, taking into account that it is one of the poorest and the only without flight facilities.

We hope political heads will have the will and decisive leadership to implement the strategic plans with acceptable and impressive objectives that departments always present and not call for being policed by this department.

I thank you