

Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs: Budget Vote

UCDP : Hon IC Ditshetelo

Tuesday, 31 May 2011

Old Assembly : 11:00 am

This budget vote comes at an opportune time just after the Local Government Election were held and there are imperative issues that need to be addressed before the dust settles. Also this budget vote comes amidst very disturbing media reports on the Executive leader of the Department and we anxiously await to hear what the Public Protector shall come up with.

I would also like to take the opportunity and wish the Minister a speedy recovery. On the same note I'd like to also congratulate the Ministry and the entire Department on an unqualified audit report from the Auditor General. Indeed, this is commendable and we hope to see it replicated again and again. Having said that, it cannot be stressed in any less terms the imperative and important task of addressing effectively and efficiently all the irregular expenses picked by the Auditor General which is essential in rendering quality service delivery.

I acknowledge the progress made by the Department in implementing the Local Government Turnaround Strategy and further acknowledge the progress made in the provision of water, electricity and sanitation, though much work still needs to be done and there can be no dull moment in the provision of these essential needs which are inherent constitutional rights.

Amongst other priorities, we've heard and have come to understand that the funding model for municipalities is deeply flawed and needs review. This we view as an uppermost task as service delivery to the masses depends on the fair distribution of funds across all spheres. Coherent and cohesive service delivery needs to underpin programmes and projects at national, provincial and local government level. And that brings me to the question of: What is the Department planning to do in order to address this flaw and when shall parliament be involved in such a process?