

DEBATE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND LIAISON

ISAAC S MFUNDISI

(UCDP)

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Establishing the department of Human Settlements is the best thing that ever happened in the post apartheid period because the department seeks to entrench integrated development planning at best.

This model strives to ensure that when homesteads are built so should other amenities such as schools, roads and social centres.

This model has clearly and evidently parted ways with the "*dis goed genoeg vir hulle*" mentality when structures were built for some race without the necessary amenities.

While the idea of government is noble, there are of course unscrupulous officials in some municipalities and certainly some contractors are equally to blame for the poor structures they deliver as houses for our people.

We in the UCDP applaud the stance taken by the Hon MEC Mohono to ensure that much as the structures may be small in accordance with the free funding they are built from, they have to be decent, comfortable and accord dignity to the owners.

We support her stance that those who delivered the poor structures have to be hauled before the authorities to answer for their misdeeds.

We wait with bated breath when some of the demeaning names given to some of these places of residence will be outlawed. It is not acceptable to have names such as *mme ga mpone*, *phuma sibethane* and many such others given to places where children have to be born and bred.

We hope that with all being well the department will meet the 2015 target Millennium Development Goal to provide shelter to all in the province.

It is common knowledge that very many people go to urban areas because of poverty in the country side. They go to seek jobs and therefore do not need permanent structures; so they need temporary shelter in the form of rental housing but such housing should be decent.

We welcome the establishment of the Human Settlements Implementation Forum by the national department to ensure that there is coordination in the delivery of houses so that when a residential place is declared complete it should have everything needed by the public.

There is of course some discontent on the provision of the so-called RDP houses by some municipalities in the province. Some such houses are built in yards of well-to-do people while in other instances it looks like there is no clear policy on where and which villages such house have to be built.

We take note that Seolong village is not forsaken in so far as delivery of housing is concerned. I have no doubt that Bataung ba ga Sefanyetso will feel at home with the 50 units to be built in their village and will be forgiven if they sing “ joo ke motlholo ha ke ratwa le nna”.

While it is not within the sphere of competence of the department we believe the department should take interest in ensuring that those employed by contractors at building sites pay their employees decent salaries. The issue that played itself out at Skierlik where people are paid a pittance should not be tolerated

As we move to Public Safety and Liaison we need to acknowledge the good work they continue doing and have set themselves to do.

We applaud that police stations continue to be built in an effort to ensure that services are brought to the people and crime is fought from all angles. Having noted that moving the provincial Police Head Quarters is delayed by lack of funds to put up such a structure, we in the UCDP recommend that the powers that be in the province approach the national government and request that instead of using R500 m and even R1, 1bn to lease offices in Pretoria and Durban respectively such money be appropriated to the North West Province so that this province, like all provinces, may have the Head Quarters in the seat

of the provincial government. This should be gnawing the national government that this province is treated as an exception to the rule.

We note with appreciation that we have been vindicated when early in the year we said people in the North West are not *au fait* with AARTO. The department is about to begin to educate the public on this very important piece of legislation which was promulgated in 1998.

We urge that the sooner the education begins the better as the act has very important implications for motorists because some may lose their drivers licenses if caught transgressing the traffic rules while others may lose their jobs. It has to be borne in mind that service delayed is service denied.

We also applaud the intention to start or introduce learner driving lessons to matriculants so that as they leave school they can be qualified drivers.

Our roads are a menace to all; this to a larger extent can be attributed to the heavy vehicles that pound them. We urge that weigh bridges along the roads be refurbished and kept functional all the time.

The province is blessed with the leadership of this department.

The UCDP supports the budget vote.