

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND TRANSPORT 2010/2011 VOTE

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(UCDP)

Hon Mahlakeng Mahlakeng is most unfortunate to have inherited and head a poisoned chalice of the provincial government in this department. It is fraught with many ills and shortcomings.

Some of the mishaps are self inflicted such as the misguided cadre deployment as in the case of the former Road Safety official who was parachuted to the position of Chief Director in the department. What came out of that are unauthorised contracts worth millions which have left the department and the province left with egg on the face.

The Moretele Park that was opened with fanfare by the Honourable Premier a month or so ago accompanied by the characteristic paranoia of the ANC when they removed the cornerstone laid by Kgosi Mangope when he opened that college to replace it with theirs as if it is a newly built structure. This wanton denial and hiding of history is an albatross that will hang around the neck of this government for a long time to come.

For the record that park is non-functional as there is no water but the college was functional with boarding facilities. It is clear that the department is wanting in skills and expertise.

Road reserves are hardly attended to and the result is the incessant number of accidents resulting from collision with animals from the bush encroachment along the roads.

The disfunctionality of the department can be seen in the yellow fleet at Moubana next to Mmatau. The equipment is lying there some without wheels. Employees go there every morning and twitch their fingers the whole day without anything specific to do.

The Expanded Public Works Programme is almost nonexistent in the driver department. One wonders why the tied and tested soil conservation exercise is

being avoided. The dungeons that have developed in our roads could easily be sealed with this cost effective method which also serves as a way to have people exercise and thus keep and remain healthy.

The department is sitting on a bomb with the failure to resolve applications of the taxi operators some of which have been filed nine years ago. This department has to learn that justice delayed is justice denied and similarly any delay in processing applications is as good as denying those people an opportunity to earn a living and thus add to the economy of the province. Our advice is: "Watch out, even a worm will turn" don't take the patience of the people as limitless.

The North West province has yet to come out of the hangover of destroying and discrediting whatever they found in place in this part of the country. To this end they vowed to push aside all they found and closed the Mmabatho Airport which they need desperately of late. The result is that the government is the most unproductive because they spend hours on end travelling between Johannesburg or Pretoria and their base. A trip of 40 to 45 minutes ends being done in three hours by road and when they reach their destination they are petered out and can't do anything productive.

The completion of the Moses Kotane Hospital is most welcome though the people at Ga-Molatedi have been deprived of a health facility, Sikwane Hospital, to which they could walk and the same can be said of the people at Bapong and surrounding villages as their Modimong Hospital was closed down too while those at Moruleng are waiting with bated breath when George Stegmann will be closed

Finally the confusion reigning at Lowe is of such proportions that it is turning into a security threat. There are no lights in the perimeter of some houses, the driveways have been removed and in most cases there is no sign of repairs and there is no one saying anything to the residents.

Steve Biko was right when he said: "Black man you are on your own", we have to swim or sink in this morass of ineptitude of the department of public works.

