

DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS AND CULTURE VOTE 2010

01 JUNE 2010

SIPHO MFUNDISI

UCDP

We are at a time in the history of the country where we await guests from all over the globe as we have nine days only to the FIFA world cup. Our province is part of the exercise as we shall play host to some games courtesy of the Rustenburg Municipality and the Royal Bafokeng Nation, the only tribal village to achieve this in the whole world.

It is unfortunate that the people in the province are mere spectators as this is a FIFA event. There is a minimal role that our people have to play in this matter but we have to urge that they attend the games in their numbers and support the national team, Bafana Bafana.

There are other issues which the department tends to overlook when we expect them to be heard. This department is supposed to be the reservoir of the culture and arts in the province.

It is surprising that there has been so much quiet from the department when the Barolong Boo Ratshidi resolved to change the name of Mafikeng to Mahikeng arguing that it was spelt like that way back.

One wonders whether people should not be enlightened to accept that there is what is called orthography indicating how we should write. Imagine what would happen if the people of Swartruggens were to come forward and say their town was spelt with the a Z as Zwartruggens and some people go on to say that even South Africa should then be called Zuid Afrika as was the case at the beginning.

We should not hurry to change names at the drop of a hat as this will result in a whole lot confusion.

The other mandate of the department is to promote multilingualism and not much, if any, has been done in this regard in the past. It looks like it has come

to be accepted that English is the *lingua franca* of the province. We hope that the promotion and the use of other languages will be encouraged.

A ba ngasaziyo isiXhosa mabasifunde; bangathi nqa nxa sitheta kodwa bengamangali nxa sithetha isibhulu okanye isNgesi nabo.

That time has come that this department should interlock with the Education department to ensure that at least when children leave school they know some African language as much as African children leave school with a working knowledge of either Afrikaans or English or both.

It should however be guarded that our children should not be seen as intelligent if when speak English and yet cannot speak or write their own languages. If they do they do so with some obvious Anglicized accent. This department should strive to alert people that development or civilization is not abandoning one's roots.

The slow progress being registered in ensuring that Mmabana Cultural Centre resumes its rightful place in performing the arts is another issue which has to be remedied. We take note that funds are hard to come by but argue that the effects of the centre should be felt across the length and breadth of the province.

It should be noted that the orchestral part of the centre has been lost to other arts centres and that in itself means that with the little budget at their disposal the Cultural Centre should be heard and seen.

One wonders if we can still boast of the successes of the Mmabana Cultural Centre as in the past when we had the likes of Tseko Mogotsi, Tebogo Kgobokoe and Presley Chweneyagae as authorities in gymnastics, dance and drama respectively.

We should not despair; better days may be on the horizon.

Finally let us commend the department on the completion of the five museums and hope that they will be put to good use by the communities and the public at large.

The UCDP will support the budget vote