

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND TRANSPORT

I S MFUNDISI

This is one department that has undergone reconfigurations on different occasions and each of them has left a mark of ineptitude in the department.

There is history behind all the failures. It is in this department particularly transport where all hell broke loose when the government of the day was catapulted from its petard.

Every single soul of those who could jump high and could lay their hands on the keys of vehicles dashed to the nearest government vehicle without restraint from those who were looking forward to govern the province thus setting an unfortunate precedence of undeserved entitlement.

That type of behaviour led to the disappearance of other machinery such as your graders, front end loaders and even buses. When all the dust settled there were no equipments and purchases had to be made hence the perpetual backlog in accounting for fruitless and unauthorized expenditure.

The authorities have to learn that this is one department that can cause the fall of the government like it is the case already as they have exhausted their budget already at this stage.

We in the UCDP look forward to the day when executing authorities will be called to account for all they did during their tenure at the expense of the public purse.

Insofar as the predicament in which the department finds itself regarding finances the UCDP points a finger to the past administration. There was no oversight. The past MEC overcommitted the department and government to thus render this administration ineffective. It will be a sad day if this matter can be left without taking steps.

That it is the same individual during whose tenure as MEC for Local Government and Housing that the flats were sold points to a situation that his intention was to leave the province bankrupt, naked and down in the drain. One wonders to what extent duties were performed conscientiously as stated under oath of office.

The delay in the completion of the hospital being built at Ledig in the Bojanala district is cause for concern if one takes into account that two hospitals have been closed down in the area. The delay obviously impacts negatively on delivery of health services through no fault of the health authorities.

We commend the department for having taken the National Youth Service seriously by creating 887 job opportunities for the youth. We hope these young people who trained in skills such as bricklaying, plastering, tiling, carpentry etc will be able to create jobs for themselves and to earn a living for themselves and their next of kin.

The department could of course have done better in the Extended Public Works Programme where only half of the set budget was utilized. The big question is what happened to the other money?

It is unfortunate that most projects that were completed in 2006 /2007 were paid for in the 2008/09 financial year. This indicates that there will always be a shortage of funds in the department.

The concern raised by the Auditor General concerning ownership of property on tribal land has to be attended to. One wonders what the government had in mind when they decided to put up those structures. In the past schools were built by the communities as owners of the land. It is therefore uncalled for to worry about land that the tribe has title to.

The department should do all in their might to approach the Provincial Treasury to resolve the unauthorized expenditure amounting to R72 517 00, 00 from prior periods for condonement.

We note and congratulate the Accounting Officer because notwithstanding the backlog of the past years the department has been able to live up to expectations as out of the 22 key governance responsibilities of the accounting officer 21 were passed as correctly done by the Auditor General. There is hope that once The Provincial treasury can clear them on the past issues the department may do well although the question is to this end is that they have run out of funds hence the roping of all accounts under the Provincial Treasury.

The UCDP congratulates the department for keeping their website alive. This morning when I zoomed into it I noticed that the latest entry is that of 19 November 2009. Compared with other departments and even the province this department is showing signs of life and desire to be transparent.