

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND TOURISM 2011

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This is one department that is well placed to serve as the goose that lays the golden eggs for the province as it has to provide opportunities for jobs, recreation, relaxation and the economic muscle.

In its efforts to re-invent the wheel the government is spending lots in reviving the Madikwe sisal project but so far little progress is noted in this regard. This project and the one on silk in Ganyesa have long been on the menu of the department without any visible progress. In the 2010/11 financial year over a million rand was splurged on the Madikwe sisal project as a kick start allocation to clear the sisal fields of weeds and bushes but as of now nothing on the matter is clearly visible.

We take note that the department during the briefing session indicated that they have done much already to bring the situation under control at Ganyesa. We shall watch the space with the hawk's eye and we know the sun will rise when the public will turn like the proverbial worm.

The UCDP supports all efforts to be mounted in ensuring that asserts such as the industrial parks at Ga-Rankuwa and Babelegi in Hammanskraal, the license of the Morula Sun Hotel and the Hotel School in Ga-Rankuwa are returned to benefit the province. In the

first place their loss to the province was first class ineptitude on the part of government. We hope the negotiations will be mounted with great vigour. The notion that we all belong to South Africa and it does not matter where a province finds itself is very ill informed as at the end of the day the province is termed one of the poorest of the poor.

We have to commend the Free State provincial government for the manner in which they handled the acceptance of similar asserts. But I need to blow my trumpet at this stage, I was part of the team that negotiated the division of asserts among the North West, Gauteng, Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces that fell under the erstwhile Transvaal Provincial Administration. The handing over of the Free State asserts was started at this stage.

Failure to negotiate and dictate terms for the assets lost to Gauteng in 2006 when the cross-boundary municipalities were done away with is a blot that will hang like an albatross around the neck of the ANC government in this province for a long time to come. Some people tend to take the saying that "South Africa belongs to all who live in it" in a very narrow interpretation.

The North West Development Corporation in its earlier life provided advice to SMME's and family stores but of late the latter have gone to ground and in their place spaza shops are holding sway. Deregulation as policy will have to be reviewed if we hope to have a better life for all.

We shall reiterate what we stated in the past in so far as the merging of the NWDC and Invest North West is concerned. This is a *sine qua non*. It is an open secret that Invest North West was put in place to replace NWDC as it was perceived as something born of the economic policies of the then Bop.

It is an open secret that it was eventually dumped in the cesspit of judicial administration like it was the case with the BTH that provided transport to the public. But as the saying goes you cannot not keep a good man down, the entities rose above the well and continue to give a good account of themselves.

The UCDP appreciates the efforts of the current provincial government in not being blinded by opportunistic politics that can leave people starving and jobless. We shall support all efforts of the government that are calculated to right the wrongs of the past made by the former provincial governments.

The UCDP will support the budget vote