

BUDGET VOTE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS 2010/11

01 JUNE 2010

SIPHO MFUNDISI

UCDP

One would have expected that the ecstasy with which the Honourable premier announced that all 24 municipalities were to be placed under curatorship courtesy of herself, she would be bold enough to tell the residents of the North West what is going on.

There is no doubt that this department is a poisoned chalice that no one wants to handle. It is a real hot potato.

The unfortunate situation of lack of service delivery has compromised and paralyzed the operations of the department and our livelihood as residents of the province. Even today there was no water as the municipality flexed their muscle. Two wrongs don't make a right.

The stench and filth that engulfed our towns and parks calls for government to wake up to the old saying by Karl Marx that: "Taxation without representation is tyranny". Similarly taxation, where residents pay for the services religiously without services is an indictment on the government of the day. It is ineptitude of the first order to expect people to pay for services yet they are not being serviced.

The replacement of some mayors and in some cases even councilors has proved to be no panacea at all. Rot continues to spread; one wonders how many other mayors will be shown the door and how many other municipalities will be put in the ICU.

It is an unparalleled record that all 24 municipalities in the province are paralysed. Those in council are only warm bodies warming benches.

Much as there may be doubting Thomases from those in power fact is that municipalities such as Tswaing, Tlokwe and Madibeng have had problems with providing potable water to residents. This is an indictment on the ability of the ANC to provide basic rights services to people.

The unfortunate situation in which the Honourable Premier and members of the Executive, in utter despair, resolved to clean the streets of Mmabatho themselves, calls for further inspection of the need to have the so-called local councils.

Some traditional administrations are wont to fail because of meddling by some members of the ruling party in matters tribal. There are a number of villages that are on the point of breaking apart because some honchos of the ANC have deemed it fit to meddle in their affairs in so far as mining rights are concerned.

This should not be allowed to continue. The strife at Bakubung-ba-Ratheo in Ledig and those at Mantserre and the Bakwena ba Mogopa in Bethanie have a common resemblance of interference by

some people in the ruling party and some in government who pursue their own selfish interests in their quest to enrich themselves.

The powers that be have decided not to act decisively on these issues. They fail to act decisively lest they tread on the toes of some people with influence in the province or even the country. They should do the right thing and not nurse their positions.

The UCDP notes that in the main legislation on traditional affairs is passed nationally but we have the following points to make:

- i. Service delivery in rural areas has to be accelerated
- ii. Traditional leaders who sit in municipal councils should have the right to vote. They should not be caused to sit in council and become spectators when voting takes place
- iii. There is need that traditional councils be represented in ward committees
- iv. Seeing that ward committee members are given stipends a similar arrangement has to be made for members of traditional councils – so far it is only dikgosi and some dikgosana who receive stipends.

Time has come that municipalities should respect the status and the roles of traditional councils. They should contrive all possible means to live up to expectations.

The UCDP will object to this budget vote.