

RESPONSE TO STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

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UNITED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The United Christian Democratic Party joins the nation in celebrating the commemoration of the release of President Nelson Madiba Mandela on the 11th February 1990. He remains the national and international hero, who sacrificed his freedom to bring change to our lives. The UCDP leader, Kgosi L M Mangope also appealed for the release of ex President Mandela, and he was thanked by the ex President for his contribution when he visited Mmabatho after his release.

As we debate the State of the Nation Address for 2010, we are reminded of what president Zuma said last year, on 3rd June that between then and December 2009, they planned to create about **500 000** job opportunities through the Expanded Public Works Program. On Thursday last week, the Hon President announced that by the end of December 2009, **480 000 public works job opportunities**, which is 97% of the target set, were created.

According to the Bureau of Labour Department, payroll dropped sharply in December.

Payroll employment fell by another **542 000** in comparison to **533 000** in November. The number of unemployed persons increased by **632 000** to **11, 1 million**. Furthermore, the number of long-term unemployed (27 weeks or more) to **2, 6 million** in December.

Statistics South Africa said unemployment fell in the third quarter, with the economy creating 89 000 new jobs during the final three months of last year.

Most of the jobs created were in the informal sector and unskilled work, pointing to still tough conditions on formal industries.

Poor service delivery has led to protests in some municipalities. Many reasons for these protests include dissatisfaction with delivery of basic services such as running water, electricity, toilets, especially in informal settlements,

unemployment, high levels of poverty, poor infrastructure and lack of houses, corruption and nepotism. The ousting of six mayors and some Speakers, some MMC's in Rustenburg, Mafikeng, Mamusa, Taung and Klerksdorp could exacerbate poor service delivery in the North West Province. What could the newly appointed do in 12 months that the ousted couldn't do in the past four years? These service delivery protests are symptoms of socio-political instability which could develop into fully-fledged revolt if allowed to continue over a prolonged period. Speedy solutions to the socio-economic conditions in many communities are needed.

The official pass rate for 2009 matric results was 60, 7% down from 62, 5% in 2008 and 65, 2% in 2007. Of all provinces, Mpumalanga performed the poorest with only 45, 95% of matrics passing. According to the department, 18 schools, half of them in Limpopo and four in Kwa Zulu-Natal, got a zero percent matric pass rate. Major factors influencing the poor matric pass rate are: the low morale of teachers, poor quality teaching, ill discipline, inequitable distribution of resources, poor parental support, and rapid changes in school curriculum, mismanagement and lack of guidance in schools.

Your Excellency, you are reiterating the words of the National Commissioner of Police when he boasted that comparatively, South Africa has the largest police force in the world and that in the next three years you will be increasing the number by **10%**. Mr President, what change will the large police force bring? Is it only for the visibility of the police in the streets? If the present large police force cannot perform because they are rather not well equipped with resources or are they not properly trained to respond to the call of duty or they are irresponsible making excuses for lack of infrastructure and resources to do their work.

Police stations are poorly managed, the performance audit on **10111** and other lines of communications reveal that the police are never available for emergencies and they sometimes turn up **2-3** hours later. I want to be personal here; on Thursday, when you were addressing the nation, my house was attacked and the police came four hours later when the robbers had already fled the scene. The phones, especially **10111**, were ringing without answer. The ordinary lines were always engaged, excuse being a technical fault, ultimately the Zeerust station which is **15 km** away, came to our rescue. Police

cars are normally found at places they are not supposed to be at instead of helping people.

In your address not much was said about how you are going to assist farmers who are the main employer in primary production. More help must be given to farmers especially emerging in the form of subsidies and the process of getting these must be speeded up.

Land is an issue when it comes to farming and the emerging farmers are not getting necessary help to acquire land. I believe these must be among the prominent issues the government ought to be dealt with quicker.

Finally the main objectives of all public accountability initiative are to ensure that public money is spent most economically, that the public actually benefits from public finance. Recently the Auditor general reported on 2319 government employees who own businesses and do business with government departments contrary to the dictates of the Public Finance Management Act and treasury regulations. An amount of R615 million was spent in this regard. The United Christian Democratic Party supports the call by the Hon President to eradicate corruption and fraud