

NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL TREASURY BUDGET 2010/2011

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The North West Province finds itself in the most unfortunate situation where the needs exceed the available resources.

This is occasioned by the lopsided and faulty manner in which whatever resources are dispensed. Those in power, as a matter of their party policy, tend to look for and after their kith and kin in providing whatever has to be allocated.

The recent experience of the Hon MEC for Finance at Madibeng municipality where she found out that, not ill qualified but unqualified, people are appointed to positions of responsibility in finances yet they have no inkling of what is going on in those positions. All that matters to them is getting money not earning it. This is a waste of money.

This type of scenario plays itself out even in government because of the cadre deployment policy.

It is not surprising that even Quarterly Labour Force Survey published by Statistics South Africa concurs that the North West is a failed province. The ANC leadership vacuum in this province has resulted in 12,2% decrease in employment opportunities which is the highest of all provinces in South Africa.

Where people have no earning power, their standard of life declines because they cannot buy necessities for life.

In her budget speech last year the Hon MEC undertook to establish a Private Public Partnership Unit to assist departments to access services through investment in public infrastructure. We would like to know what came out of that.

While we commend the MEC for having seen to it that the provincial Treasury migrates from Walker System to BAS, we note that there are still teething problems as at times service providers still go unpaid. We hope it is something that will be got rid of sooner than later.

We hope that the provincial Forensic Unit has since been capacitated and left the premier's office to establish itself at treasury where it belongs.

It has to be established how much revenue is collected from own resources such as your casinos, the mines, rentals on government property such as houses and farms.

Like we indicated in a question to the MEC recently, we in the UCDP believe that time has come that non-essential items like entertainment, catering and gifts at post budget functions should be things of the past. The need for belt tightening is greater than it ever was.

We note that the department of Finance has to be a player and referee in looking after the provincial purse and have to be supported in their efforts.

One great way to ensure that the money's worth is achieved is to ensure that corruption, nepotism and poor service delivery are avoided. People should be appointed to positions on merit.

The UCDP will support the budget vote of the Provincial Treasury 2010/2011