

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER, 2011

I S MFUNDISI

(UCDP)

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We in the United Christian Democratic Party are grateful that we have a premier who hit the road running when she assumed office in November last year.

In her acceptance speech, though I was exiled at the time, she stated that the capital of the province has to look like a capital and in no time graders moved in to start repairs.

She may have few words but her actions are very loud and we shall openly associate with a workaholic like her. She has moved quickly to sit down with royal families in her quest to find solutions to disgruntled members of the traditional communities and families.

We are aware that she has put all her energy in seeing to it that she overhauls all the glitches that hamper progress and is determined to tap all sources that can possibly bring revenue to the province. All being well the airport in Mmabatho will swing back to action.

We hope she will find it acceptable and palatable to take a leaf from the book of national government by inviting and sharing the stage with leaders of represented political parties when there are national-cum-provincial functions.

We are craning our necks and pricking our ears to see and hear if the Provincial chapter of the Youth Development Agency is up to it. We have yet to get their progress report.

There is some concern around the submission of returns on financial interests by senior managers in government. While they did better in the years 2007/08 and 2008/09 by having 91% and 90% submitting, in 2009/10 it dropped to a paltry 39% when only 108 out of 388 submitted. It is much better in the year 2010/2011 as 89% of them had submitted by 18 March.

Our grouse is that it should be 100% that submits otherwise they are liable to being charged with dereliction of duty. Why should they be scared to declare their interests?

There is also the issue of the provincial representative in the Public Service Commission. Our province has yet to appoint one since 2009 and the fear is that with the vacancies that have since occurred at the PSC with some members leaving because they have served their full terms, our failure to appoint may cause the commission not to form a quorum.

Some of the good things done by government go unsaid and unsung because the government has no communication medium. It is no good to depend on the commercial media as they print what they want.

It may be necessary to resuscitate the publication of Seipone/Mirror in whatever form to assist the people out there. One wonders to what extent the Government Communication and Information Service in Mafikeng town is helpful in making government programmes known. The Thusong Centres formerly known as Multipurpose centres could possibly *thusa* (help) with disseminating information as people are gaping in the dark regarding government programmes.

This matters need attention as of yesterday.

