

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AT THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF THE UCDP AT LEGAE

SATURDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2014

DONT QUIT

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,

When the road you are trudging seems uphill

When funds are low, and debts are high

And you want to smile but you have to sigh

When care is pressing you down a bit

Rest if you must, but don't quit

It is 128 days since we held elections in which we, the UCDP, fared very badly. We need to ask ourselves what have we learnt from that dismal performance?

There is the hackneyed saying that we fall to rise, but one may ask whether we have shown any signs of rising since then?

Can we say with clear faces that we have held so many branch meetings, so many meetings of the region and so many meetings of the provincial executive committee? The same goes for the Youth League and the Women's League.

Are we able to say since that unfortunate day we have registered so many new members in respect of all levels and structures of the party?

While we in the UCDP seem to be reeling under the spell of disagreement, life is going on unabated around us.

We have people in the Northern Cape around the Kudumane area who, in order to show how the ANC government is failing to deliver services, have decided to stop education processes and schooling in that area. The UCDP has to stand up and step in to attempt to stem the self immolation of the people out there.

We have noticed some pretence by some who Nicodemously visited Kgosi Mangope to try to impress the ambivalent North West people. This is the same man who leading up to the May election was seen on national television

debating with the President of the UCDP denying and denouncing any good that Mangope did. The big question is, should the visit be the subject of radio and local newspapers while lambasting all that Mangope did is material for television? Who is fooling whom here? Yet there are some UCDP members who are so gullible as to believe that the province is in good hands.

The Development-Account (D-Account) that Mangope set up to help the tribal areas to develop communities and improve their quality of life has been looted by the North West provincial government since 1994 without any auditing. The chairman of the provincial Scopa who was diligently pursuing this account has been removed and was lucky to be in the legislature thanks to the intervention of Luthuli house. There is doubt if we shall ever hear any squeak on this matter from the provincial legislature. The UCDP with extra parliamentary zeal should stand up and pursue this matter.

I challenge anyone in the ANC locally, provincially and nationally who claims to have the interests of all that was set up by this party under the Kgosi Mangope to follow this matter until all money is returned to the rightful tribes. Anything else is just talk for what it is!

It is self seeking for the provincial government to try to dissolve the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality purportedly because of inefficiency while in reality it is because of other issues. The provincial government owed municipalities R410 million as at June. It is obviously higher as we speak. If most, if not all, municipalities are owed by the provincial government what can one expect?

We call on all who call themselves UCDP members to respect the founding document of this party, the Constitution.

The Federal Council is meant for elected members from regions not anyone who wishes to attend. By resolution we have agreed that Councillors should also attend, not any other people!

All structures, without exception, should do the honourable thing and hold branch, regional, provincial elections as we, at the national level we have had elections. There is no democracy if there are no elections.

We continue to receive invitations from parties in parliament and those outside like ourselves to meet and chart the way forward. The national Executive Committee will keep members informed.

The UCDP is one fortunate party that has inheritance and property. If we do not rise to the occasion the property we have may go to waste and end up in the hands of individuals. Vultures are waiting on the wings to grasp your property for self aggrandisement.

The National Chair and her colleagues in the committee(s) concerned will update and enlighten the Federal Council on some of these issues. We have to guard our inheritance jealously.

We have councillors when expected to do work in their municipalities saying: “Go kgakala” , in other instances some are on record as saying: “ke tsamaya koo ke le mosadi ke le nosi” and you wonder that the lady earns the salary a le nosi. When we say re lebogla boswa jo batlhami ba lekoko le ba bo re tlogeletseng, we should mean it and not only say the words for the sake of saying them.

The party has to be run like a political party. Not a family society; not a come together of personal admiration. In a political party we are equals as members. No one should of gender, lineage of birth, family status or family ties. There is uproar already in Zimbabwe because it would seem the wife of the ailing President is being prepared to take over. A political party should be a field of contest for all.

We have yet to get responses from municipalities regarding the performance of our councillors there. We urge the councillors themselves to give Municipal managers no rest. Follow them to send results like a student who sat for examinations and expects results!

Our people should learn to report back when sent or requested to represent the party. It is fruitless to ask a person to represent the party be it at a meeting, funeral or wherever and they do not report back. This is simple decency unless there is a feeling that whoever was sent or asked to stand in for the party does not owe anyone any explanation. This is where lack of accountability starts. Let us be warned.

As for me and the NEC, we are in your hands and are willing to come to address rallies as from now henceforth. It should be accepted there is no President of any organisation who can be expected to address individual branch meetings individually.

We have to be serious with what we do. We should stop voting for new comer parties and get left behind.

Chairperson, I have the singular honour to dedicate this address to the Federal Council for consideration, discussion and even internalisation.

I thank you! Ke a leboga! Ndiya bulela! Ngiya bonga! Baie dankie!