

DEBATE ON THE 2008/2009 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NORTH WEST

PROVINCIAL TREASURY

10 NOVEMBER 2009

I S MFUNDISI

(UCDP)

The Provincial Treasury is a trendsetter in so far as the management of public funds is concerned. They practice what they preach. When they speak of belt tightening they mean it and do it. The nearest example is that of the MEC who, despite being new to the position, resisted all temptation to throw a party on the occasion of her budget but instead preferred to use her allocation to make a field day for the disadvantaged in the Lehurutshe area.

It is no mean feat that for 8 years in succession this department a received a clean bill of health from the Auditor General. Congratulations Team Finance.

Finance gurus a rare breed and are hard to come by. Where and when they are found they tend to use provinces like the North West as spring boards for the first opportunity to a more lucrative post elsewhere.

The report indicates that they have a high turnover in the Internal Audit branch; but this does not cause them to raise their hands. They have instead gone out of their way to find the root cause for such resignations. They hope find a solution to that.

To obviate the shortage of staff in the Information Technology field they use the services of State Information Technology Agency (SITA). *Boer maak 'n plan.*

It is worth writing home because the clean audit for 2008/09 was achieved with a 29% vacancy rate mainly in the Internal Audit branch.

Another good point in this department is that over and above the R78 237 million allocated by the legislature they raised R80 279 million which is 3% more than what the legislature gave them. No doubt St Luke would have looked them in the face and said: "Come on in you good and faithful servants"

It is a pleasure that the compensation of members of the internal Audit Committee has been accounted for in the report. The amounts paid to each member in respect of the number of sittings and travelling allowances are there for all to see unlike in some departments where they give only the number of sittings and no indication for compensation.

The department has scored 100% in accounting for the 18 responsibilities each accounting officer is tasked with as a check list to ensure that the audit is in order. In all 18 paragraphs and their sub paragraphs the Provincial treasury got a nod from the Auditor General. They deserve a shine for that!

We congratulate the department and wish them well in the year ahead and in the same breath call on other departments to emulate what the Provincial Treasury has done. It is possible; it is achievable; it can be done if people are determined; after all where there is a will there is a way.