

PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND TRANSPORT DEBATE, 2011

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The provision of infrastructural services to the citizenry of the Republic and the North West Province in particular is course for concern.

By and large the situation is not necessarily the failures of the current incumbent of the portfolio in the province. The drawback was caused by over commitment caused to the department by the previous Member of the Executive but the issue is that in succession principles one assumes and accepts office with assets and liabilities.

Much as the department has tried to rid itself of the chaos, much still remains to be done.

We are aware that contractors that were engaged by under hand methods have been shown the way. We also pad the MEC on the shoulder for having bitten the bullet and rid the department of officials that were bent on sinking the department and by extension the province by amassing public funds to themselves. We hope the citizenry will be kept posted on their cases and fate.

There are of course some issues that need to be mounted in the present day. After the copious rains the road reserves are overgrown with bushes and tall grass. Roads such as the one between Tigerkloof High School to Taung, the one between Rietfontein and Lindleyspoort in the Moses Kotane Municipality are examples that need attention. There are many more in the same situation.

One unforgivable mistake the department continues to make even after being alerted thereto is that of lack of signage and poor or no communication about the road works going on in Mmabatho.

Accessing the Lowe compound is a real ordeal; one does not know when and where to turn

The nearest example is the repairs going on around the government buildings. There has been no communication on this matter as much as there are no signs to indicate detours. This by all standards is amateurish to say the least.

The other mandate of the department is to provide public transport to the residents. In this regard this regard it is failing. All is left on the lap of the private sector but even then all is not well as the allocation of such licenses is fraught with corruption.

People living in the far flung areas are left at the mercy of some unscrupulous taxi operators who charge them exorbitantly but do not provide the best of services.

The recent spate of arrests of such taxi operators for conveying young school kids in unregistered and unroadworthy mobile coffins is clear proof that this is one side that needs the greatest attention. The department is called upon to accept the responsibility allocated to it with responsibility.

Of course taking into account that the department is doing its utmost to get its act together by completing projects such as the mini Ga-Rona in Vryburg and the Brits Hospital except for the never ending refurbishment of the Lowe complex the UCDP will support the budget vote.