

RESPONSE TO THE PREMIER'S STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS 2010

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We are aware that the Polokwane resolutions are cast in stone as far as the ANC is concerned but we as the UCDP will not cease to speak on issues that need attention. (Response to what a member of the ANC said)

The Premier missed a golden opportunity to set the record straight and ensure that the citizens in the province can look forward to better things. There is a writing on the wall inscribed in glowing colours. The province remains in a moribund state of flux. In Hebrew they would say the North West is in "*Tohu wa bohu*" meaning that it has neither shape nor form; uncertainty reigns supreme.

Contrary to the premier's undertaking in her maiden state of the province address, in 2009, in which she promised that she as Political Head of the province she would assume the Chairpersonship of the Provincial Council on Aids to give it leadership she was too quiet for comfort on this pandemic.

According to the latest available statistics on HIV and AIDS the North West is placed 4th as the most affected province in South Africa. That 17, 7% of citizens suffer from advanced state of the disease is nothing to be quiet about as the premier does.

One would have expected her to report on the number of sites rolling out antiretrovirals. Not a word was mentioned in her speech on the matter. In the mean time the people are ravaged by the disease.

No progress either was reported on the extent to which all our District and Local Mayors have been involved in the PCA local chapters as promised in 2009.

It is incumbent upon the premier to inform the province what prompted her to invoke whatever section of the constitution in relation to all municipalities in the province. It is not acceptable to act unilaterally and mention such a serious matter in passing during her address.

The issue of the shortage of human settlements in the province is so acute that the premier should have stated categorically what the position of her government is on the sale or otherwise of the flats in Mmabatho and elsewhere is concerned. No mention was made of the dissolution of the North West Housing Corporation was made in her speech, let alone the legislation to repeal the corporation as she promised in 2009. In the Ga-Rankuwa - Mabopane areas people continue to be threatened with eviction from North West Housing Corporation property

It is not sufficient to mention that three hostels will benefit from the family upgrading programme without stating where the said hostels are.

While the North West government is obsessed with invoking sections of the constitution to grab power from the municipalities, people in most municipalities have genuine problems. It is not surprising that while the premier was at her best stating that all municipalities in the province are under section 106, residents in Madibeng at Oukasie were up at arms because they are made to drink defiled water. This has spread to other parts of the municipality such as Maboloka, Jericho and Letlhabile.

The address came as if it was a wish list in some manifesto where she kept on saying they would do this and that without indicating what the state of the province is in relation to all issues of governance.

In 2009 the premier, unsolicited, stated that all FIFA related roads in the province would be completed by January 2010 but that is not the case. She has to account to the general public why her government has not delivered as she promised. The dismissive manner in which she handled the matter during her address last week is cause for concern.

The appointment of Community Development Officers in whatever capacity is cause for concern as they tend to be foot soldiers of the African National Congress instead of serving the public in an impartial manner. If they will continue to be paid out of the public purse they will have to be enthused with public spiritedness and desist from going to the public in dressed in the ruling party's T-shirts as that inhibits those not aligned to the party in question.

Two issues that hang around the neck of the North West government like the albatross are the issue of the accreditation of the Mmabatho airport to be an international airport and the Mafikeng Industrial Development Zone.

Successive ANC governments and annual state of the provinces addresses as well as budget statements by the concerned MEC's have endlessly referred to these as if they are just round the corner.

It is very clear that the wish lists will never come to an end; as for delivery on those issues will keep receding like a mirage.