

TRIBUTE AT ELIZABETH MODISELLE'S FUNERAL

SATURDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2009

SIPHO MFUNDISI

(NATIONAL CHAIRMAN – UCDP)

We are grateful as the United Christian Democratic Party, that the family even as we mourn the loss of one of our staunch members, has afforded us the opportunity to pay tribute to this fallen heroine, Elizabeth.

Our gratitude emanates from the fact that she never denounced or forsook the UCDP even in the face of criticism and scorn. Nowadays it has become fashionable that people pretend that a party like the UCDP is non-existent; some children even go on to ensure that when their parents, who were members of the party are called to higher service, they spell it out clearly that the party should not be represented at the funeral. The Modiselle family has risen above all such puerility; we thank them for that.

Elizabeth was tenacious in all she did. She stuck to what she knew was true. She never changed allegiances without cause. That she stuck to her roots; by the way even as she was terminally ill she decided to go home to Ga-Mmakau. She never exchanged her religion and denomination for anything. Similarly we in the UCDP feel elated that she stuck with us all the way.

It is people like Elizabeth that remind us of Henry W Longfellow when he said:

“Lives of great men remind us,  
We can make our lives sublime  
And departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time.”

There is much we can learn from her. She was consistent and not as changeable as the weather. She maintained her course like the northern star.

I was taken aback when on Friday 23 October Rre Masilo informed me that she was no more because I had seen her on 16 October at the funeral of one of the stalwarts of the party, Mme Salome Nthathe. She appeared to be of sound health though I knew she was fighting against cancer.

We pride ourselves that she upheld the values of the UCDP by loving, respecting, serving, consulting and being tolerant of others.

That she volunteered her services at a hospice speaks volumes of her. That she was a darling of all people even beyond her family and living along side others without problems fills our hearts as a party that she attracted many to her side.

Plump and short as she was we saw her as dynamite that comes in small boxes. We shall miss Elizabeth's company and warmth but we believe that the celestial multitudes will be the blessed ones with our loss.

The Setswana adage *Mmamotho o amuwa le a sule* is apt in this instance. Literally translated it means that a mother breastfeeds even in death; simply meaning that the value of a mother never ends. We shall always refer to the good she did to us; her participation in activities like singing in the choir, attending our rallies and meetings, standing as a candidate during elections and most of all her modesty. She never imposed herself on people.

Our condolences go the Modiselle family, her spiritual home the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Akasia, all friends and the UCDP.

May her soul rest in peace