



## **TSHWANE METRO RALLY**

**DATE: 02 MAY 2011**

### **THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS**

Ladies and gentlemen, the fact that most of our municipalities are in the midst of crisis is well understood. We are still recovering from the economic recession, our economy is badly weakened by a consequence of greed and irresponsibility on the part of some, but also our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age. Homes have been lost, jobs shed and businesses shuttered. Our health care is too costly, our school fail too many and each day brings future evidence that indeed we need a 360<sup>o</sup> political turn.

Today I am here in my capacity as woman, a compassionate woman, a servant of the people, a mother and lastly as the President of UCDP. I'm here to say "Yes indeed, UCDP is ready to deliver where others have failed. Others have failed in an embarrassing way. Yes, UCDP pledges affordable and dependable service delivery. Yes UCDP has its feet sunk deep into ensuring that at all time we display a model of leadership that is accountable, accessible, responsible and morally correct. We are firm in our patriotism, South Africa is our home, we have no where else to go, we want the best for you, for South Africans, because when you live the best lives possible, our children live better lives and we all benefit.

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Amongst other things we have done as UCDP is to encourage women to stand for election on the local government elections, not only because of a need to balance gender disparity but because it is time to ensure that our people get the best service from the government that serves them. Research shows that organisations and companies that have at least 30 percent of women in their boards do much better, not only in terms of performance and results, but also in terms of transparency, accountability and even as far as their working environment is concerned. When women work, they bring their minds and hearts together and the plights of our people deserves attention of compassionate hearts that women are known to have.

The fact that 64 municipalities had made it to the financial distress list by 2009, shows how important these elections are. There are several causes of this inter alia, human resources, slowness in bringing to par gender equity, insufficient municipal capacity, poor financial management, corruption and service delivery delays are amongst the challenges faced in local governance. Uneven and unstable governance has been said to be the root cause.

We believe that under-spending as well as over spending must not be tolerated at all. Unnecessary political tension only perpetuate the slowness in service delivery and in no way does it empower the people. The funding models for local government need to be revisited as they obviously do not work.

Tshwane –Metro is faced with challenges such as nepotism, delays in service delivery, poor financial management. An example of this is a report found in “Times Live” news paper, that states that 15 municipal employees are implicated in an audit probe. The Mayor of Tshwane Mr. Kgosientsho Ramokgopa said : “ The city has been working on the issues that the SIU will be investigating. Most of these issues are those that have been raised by the Auditor-General in some of the reports and the interactions that we have had with them. To this end we view and welcome the SIU investigation as a timely intervention”

Another report stated in the Pretoria News is about the Tshwane Metro Police, it is alleged that there are 121 cases against the Tshwane Metro Police of corruption and fraud. Another shocking revelation stated in the same news paper is that 25% of the Metro Police officers are under investigations of corruption.

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Another challenge facing the municipality is unemployment. In ANC controlled wards the rate of unemployment is 40%. The distribution of jobs in Tshwane and the pattern of unemployment indicate that are sufficient jobs to sustain the disadvantaged residents, of the northern periphery. The mostly black workers on the periphery have to travel long distances to their work places in the center and south –east.

Temba is plagued by high levels of crime, drugs and substance abuse. What a shame, our children resort to these due to lack of recreational facilities, facilities that were there but are no longer in use due to the fact that they were not sustained by the ruling party. This was their attempt to erase all the good things that were done by us (UCDP).

Pretoria as a city is experiencing high influx of illegal immigrants, some are good and are only here to seek refuge and work, whilst some saw an opportunity to pursue their evil deeds and corrupt our government officials.

The level of education in our schools has enormously dropped due to late delivery or non delivery of text books. Is education not a priority, is it not a right anymore? State hospitals and clinics are not up to standard, clinics close over weekends, both clinics and hospitals are always in shortage of staff, medication and ambulances. This must come to an abrupt end.

Today I'm here to solicit your support, and to say we must display the confidence we have in our leaders, men and women, and go out and vote for change, vote for service delivery, vote for integrity, vote for empathy, vote for honesty. Vote for UCDP.

For Affordable, Dependable, Service Delivery Vote UCDP.

***GOLA UCDP GOLA ! GOLA UCDP GOLA! GOLA UCDP GOLA!***

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***LETSOGO, LETSOGO, LETSOGO.***

