

VOTE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE 2011

I S MFUNDISI

UCDP

26 April 2011

This is one department that needs support from all and sundry as it is vested with the responsibility to minister to the sporting, artistic and cultural needs of the citizenry.

For this department to succeed it has to work hand in glove with the Chapter 9 institution in our constitution, namely the Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Cultural, Religious and Linguistic rights of communities.

We call therefore on all responsible for the provision of financial resources to look at ways and means to rid the department of its Cinderella status. It is striking that the funding model of this country across almost all nine provinces allocates the lowest budget to this department.

The department has to provide for libraries and museums for communities. A museum has been put up at Seolong and plans were announced that it would be dedicated and handed over to the community in August 2009 but such opening date keeps receding like a mirage in the desert.

One wonders whether the people in the village have to take to the streets before the facility can be opened and offer job opportunities to residents.

We argue that whatever the reason for not having it opened the community has to be kept informed; besides the building, like all unoccupied buildings, is depreciating and is vulnerable to vandalism.

It looks like the department agreed to something they are incapable of mounting.

We, however, have to applaud the Hon MEC for having breathed life into a department that was seemingly dying a slow death. The opening of the Provincial legislature in February was such a spectacular affair that paraded colour, pomp and splendor only attainable in the North West Province.

The province has over the years placed itself above all others by dominating the indigenous games to the extent that some sporting codes such as *iintoga* which are perceived to be the preserve and monopoly of some province have also been won by us.

Sports fields like the one at Ganyesa and Borakalalo have to be rid of the white elephant status by putting them to use. A lot of public funds have been invested in them and they should not be allowed to remain closed all the time while young people are twiddling their fingers having nothing to do.

If care is not taken such facilities end up vandalized like the one in Mabeskraal.

While we are supportive of the initiatives of the Hon MEC and his department, we maintain that he owes the North West public a profuse apology when we take into account the debacle that played itself out on the night of 20 March 2011 till the wee hours of 21 March 2011 at the Mmabatho Convention Centre when youngsters went to their homes in a drunken stupor after imbibing liquor at a government sponsored occasion.

We note and appreciate the support of the highest office in the province to the Mmabana Arts and Sports Foundation. We support

the feeling that this institution has to be put on top, where it belongs. It should be a flagship institution in the country.

The products of Mmabana are world renowned figures like Tseko Mogotsi of the Gymnastics fame, Tebogo Kgobokwe of the “Let’s go dancing” fame, HHP of the rap fame and Presley Chweneyagae the winner of the Oscar award.

This institution should be immortalized. It will stand as a unique institution south of the Mediterranean Sea.

There is no doubt that for the future and the time to come the budget of this department has to be increased if we are keen on solidifying social cohesion in the province

The United Christian Democratic Party supports the budget vote.