

DEBATE ON VOTE NO 13: ARTS AND CULTURE

UCDP : MATLADI MN

THURSDAY, 6 MAY 2010

The working relationship and collaboration between the Departments of Arts and Culture and Trade and Industry in developing the draft paper on the Intellectual Property on Cultural goods and services; is appreciable. Such collaborations are desirable across the board if we are to ever be a government that offers integrated services to its people.

More often than not, disregard of policies on Supply and Chain Management is not due to lack of awareness but due to corrupt practices; hence it is our opinion that the ongoing workshops on Supply and Chain Management are not the desired resolution to the discrepancies that SCOPA had outlined in the previous financial year. We would like to see the department take a decisive stance in this regard and see an enforced discipline and compliance.

The slowness of pace at which the department is filling up its posts is a concern especially when they also maintain that there is over supply of graduates and therefore no need to link with universities in filling up posts. There seems to be a contradiction. As a collective and as decision makers in government departments, we need to tackle the outcry on the rate of unemployment and desist from displaying a reluctance in filling up vacant posts.

Lastly, we congratulate the department on an unqualified audit but the concerns raised on under-spending of allocated budget, fruitless, wasteful and irregular expenditure and absence of information systems and policies need to be attended to promptly.

The UCDP supports the budget vote.