

UNITED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

CONDOLENCE SPEECH FOR THE LATE MR PHK DITSHETELO

BY HON MN MATLADI: UCDP PRESIDENT

22 OCTOBER 2011

I have not come to praise Mr PHK Ditshetelo, but to talk about him as a man I have worked with in the Leadership of UCDP.

As it has already been said Mr Ditshetelo started with UCDP in 1972. In 1991 when the party changed to the Christian Democratic Party he was still there until 1994 when CDP was changed to the United Christian Democratic Party. He became the secretary General of the party in 1995 and was finally elected the first UCDP Deputy Leader in 1998. O ne a bua juana morago ga go tlhophiwa “ ke solofela go re ga lwa ntlhopela go ntshotla”.

He led the party to its recent democratic Congress on 29 January 2011 where he relinquished his position. He led UCDP to the National Assembly of South Africa since June 1999 to April 2009.

Ke gakologelwa ka ngwaga wa 1999 fa ane a goroga kwa palamenteng ya bosetshaba ya Aferika borwa, mo gare ga ditshabatshaba tse di neng di le teng one a bontsha bogatlamela masisi, a bontsha boganka, a bontsha fa a sa tlhajwe ke ditlhong tsa se a leng sona. A bua ka loleme la Setswana la ntlha mo palamenteng are ngwana sejo wa tlhakanelwa. Mafoko a, a ne a gapa megopolo le dikakanyo tsa borradikgang mme ba simolola go a neela ma Aferika Borwa mo bosigong joo. Ba bantsi ba rona ba ka bo ba sa dira jalo, ka gore ba tlhabisiwa ditlhong ke puo le setso sa bona. Jaaka e le modumedi wa boammaruri one a dira kwa palamenteng mo komiting e e simolotseng mokgatlo wa thapelo. Ntlha e nngwe e a neng a sa dumelane le yone ke go tlhaola batho ka mekgatlo ya sepolotiki le go thapa batho go ya ka gore ke ba lekoko lele busang.

In him we found a God fearing Leader- who taught us not to use the name of God in vain. He would not have a Bible in one hand to invite people and a knife in another to cut ones throat. When times were difficult, bad words being used, he would say “Be still and know that I am God.” He believed that God will always conquer all battles for us”.

When the Party faced times of financial challenges he would say “ Morena o rile nteke”. He would give us an example of 7 years of famine and 7 years of prosperity. He didn’t only end up there; he would come with all sponsorship strategies that enabled UCDP to gather funds. The dinner parties that were so successfully launched by the UCDP Women’s league were through his initiatives. It was

due to his contribution that in 1999 when the party had no funds to register for Elections the Women's League rescued and registered UCDP that won seven seats of parliament.

I know of two autocratic leaders who ill-treated people, who ended up hiding in holes like rats. Leaders like Saddam Hussein and Muammar Gaddafi (yo o bolayang ka tshaka o tla swa ka tshaka.)

Mr Ditshetelo was peaceful and would not tolerate to see people's rights being trampled upon. He used to say "mmita ntswa ga a tshole thobane, le gore motho-ntsi o okwa ke boladu". He was very soft spoken and rarely raised his voice, but when He did you would regret it for the rest of your life. He truly showed his true colours during the beginning of 2010 when the party had its challenges that we all know about. When the National Chairperson, Secretary General and President of UCDP women's league were to be expelled from the party and be replaced in Parliaments and some Councillors also had to be replaced in Councils and be expelled from the party. He put his head on the block on the 12th of March 2010 during the Management Committee meeting and said "I do not agree with the decision to expel and replace any of the people. I have represented this party in many court cases that UCDP lost, because of failure to follow the procedure. I shall not go back to court to lose again". He asked about the procedure to be followed when a Christian has wronged another. He quoted Matt 18:15, "a brother sins against you", which agreed with the South African and UCDP Constitution on disciplinary procedures. When it was finalised that the expulsion goes on, he said "expel them, and see what shall happen". Ba kobeng lo tle lo bone." Well the rest is history.

But He continued to monitor and guide the party throughout its difficult times, until the 28 January when the party was in court until very late in the night; and we won the interdict to continue with the congress on 29 January 2011. During which day he couldn't present his speech due to ill health, but just managed to greet us and it was the last day he ever appeared in public. In preparation for the congress he called the candidates for presidency to ask them of their intentions. His main message was to discourage us against fighting for positions.- that would be our enemy's expectations. We promised him, to work together and accept things as they come. We still promise to keep to the things we agreed upon and never to act against his advice.

Phitlhelelo e nngwe e a nnileng le yona jaaka motlatsa moeteledipele wa lekoko jaaka motlhokomedi wa mokgatlo wa basha, basha ba ne ba nna le molaotheo mme ba kgona go ikemela go fitlha ga jaana. Re sa tswa mo kongresseng ya basha ka di 03 september 2011, e le komiti ya boraro e tlhopelwa ka fa tlase ga tsamaiso ya gagwe

Hon Programme director, I believe as I am talking to you, Mr Ditshetelo is looking at us with his peaceful, loving smile. He might have said the words of Simone, "Ee Morena ke gona lesa motlhanka wa gago a ye ka kagiso, gonne matlho a gagwe a bone poloko ya **UCDP**".

May his soul rest in peace.....