

DEBATE ON BUDGET VOTE NO 21: DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS

UCDP : DITSHETELO NC

TUESDAY, 4 MAY 2010

Congratulations to the Department for their United Nations nomination as one of the countries to pilot implementation of UN Resolution 1325 focusing on representation of women in decision making levels. We are confident in Honourable Minister Sisulu's leadership that South Africa shall not disappoint in this regard, instead we shall set an example and show a commitment in addressing gender inequities at decision making levels.

The Departments needs to seriously address its short comings in financial managements. The Deputy Director General must not brag about the reduction of audit qualifications from sixteen to seven because the number seven still reflects a failure. Further, the financial shortfalls on various operations means something is seriously wrong and should be addressed promptly.

To be addressed as a matter of urgency are the allegations that Mr Zondi, the Head of Supply Chain Management is linked to Classic One Consortium and that the company was awarded contracts in spite of it not having complied with necessary requirements, must be investigated and answered to.

The organogram of the Castle Control Board reflects an intolerable racial imbalance and it is not enough to say that the members have been recommended by the department, if that is the case, then the Ministry needs to look at why the department's recommendations are racially biased.

The Department must look into the reasons why almost half of the number of members recruited to the Military Skills Development Services had opted out before the expiry of their contracts; the department must endeavour and commit to addressing the issues that make these young people leave. On a broader scale, the staff turnover in the Department is high and must be addressed.

Nonetheless, UCDP supports the budget vote.