

**UNITED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY
FEDERAL COUNCIL AND THANKSGIVING**

DATE : 26 FEBRUARY 2011

VENUE : LEGAE

TIME : 10H00

SPEECH : PRESIDENT : MN MATLADI

We have come thus far; one can echo the sentiments of the singer TD Jakes who said: "The storm is over". Now is the time to face the challenges of UCDP, and deliver on the mandate given by UCDP members on the 29th January 2011. As I said during my acceptance speech, each one of us needs to be a champion of change in our party and I commit myself to pioneering that change. We need to model change in leadership values; work hard to earn people's trust especially for the upcoming Local Government Elections.

Since we parted in the early hours of January 30th the Executive you elected never rested. We held our first Executive meeting on 4 February 2011, which was followed by the Executive Strategic Planning meeting from the 18-19th February 2011. The following were our concerns:

- (i) Review and amendment of the UCDP constitution.
- (ii) Establishment of party structures, starting with branches, regions, and provinces. Party structures have to hold their overdue congresses.
- (iii) Local Government Elections and strategies to win.
- (iv) Party financial support and budget for 2011/2012.
- (v) Recruitment strategies of professional and ordinary members.
- (vi) Relationships of the party with other structures.
- (vii) Party Election material.
- (viii) The future of the Legae.
- (ix) Visits to Regions in the form of rallies, already, Ganyesa booked a rally on 09/042011 and Madiwe rally on the 5th March.
- (x) UCDP website.

- (xi) Communication protocol, internal and external.
- (xii) Party debts which will be outlined by the Treasurer.

The party's SWOT analysis was done, and the following were suggested by the Executive:

UCDP strengths:

- (i) UCDP has a rich history.
- (ii) It is a brand.
- (iii) It is a well-disciplined party and has a culture of self discipline.
- (iv) UCDP members are loyal.
- (v) It is progressive.
- (vi) It has a clean track record.

Weaknesses:

- UCDP background, its political origin;
- Submissiveness;
- The party has no financial muscle;
- UCDP is perceived to be confined in the North West;
- Members tend to be 'tribalistic' and not welcoming of other cultures.
- There is a problem of power-mongering in the party.

Opportunities:

- The party has potential for growth.
- UCDP has a website.

Threats:

- UCDP has no financial muscle.
- Presently there is instability within the party.
- There is proliferation of parties.(egg 154 parties for Local Government Elections 2011).
- UCDP members tend to be insecure and sometimes too traditional.

The Executive is suggesting the following National Party structures:

- (i) Executive Committee of only the Elected Members(9).
- (ii) Daily Management Committee (that would include Executive, 3 members of the Women's League Executive and 3 members of the Youth League Executive) (15).
- (iii) Working Committee (which includes Daily Management Committee members, Chairpersons of subcommittees, and reps for minority groups.
- (iv) Federal Council.
- (v) Federal Congress.

It was also suggested that the chairpersons of the following subcommittees be elected today in this Federal Council. Each subcommittee will have not more than 5 members who will be appointed by the Executive.

- (i) Finance Committee.
- (ii) Fundraising Committee.
- (iii) Elections Committee.
- (iv) Audit Committee.
- (v) Remuneration Committee.
- (vi) Physical-work Arrangement Committee.
- (vii) Catering Committee, and
- (viii) Transport Committee.

The Discussion document for Local Government Elections was discussed and amended by the Executive. The Deputy President will later present it to the Council. It will be only after its adoption that Regional Executives would be mandated to go and elect candidates.

The suggested registration fee for each candidate is R200.00, and we believe the amount will cater for party posters as well as ward candidate posters.

The communication protocol should be from branches to regions, from region to province and finally to the National Executive. Branch matters that have not been reported and discussed at regional level should never be entertained at either provincial or national offices, so shall be the case with regional issues.

The Treasurer and Secretary General should champion monitoring and evaluation of regional and provincial structures. Regions should be followed up with affiliation and registration fees by treasury while the Secretariat should open a file on party membership statistics. A suggestion of a new card for party membership was suggested, that would be a size of a licence card. The Secretariat would in future bring the sample of this card.

In an endeavour to deliver on the growth of the party, the Executive suggested that a road map be drawn to engage lawyers, economists, doctors, nurses, teachers, police, students, mineworkers and other minority groups (Indians, Whites and Coloureds) and public servants. Letters have to be written to all traditional leaders in South Africa to introduce UCDP new leadership and request to address traditional councils, as well as National House of Chiefs/Leaders and the North West and Northern Cape Houses of Leaders.

The Executive seeks the mandate of the Federal Council to engage the party lawyers to recover the R4.5 million Mmutle Kgomongwe fund from Kgosi Mangope. The party is in debts and is in dire need of financial jerk up.

UCDP shall never tolerate members who earn salaries in the name of UCDP but continue to sabotage and ignore instructions of the party. We refer people who attend party meetings and other meetings of the so called party-parallel structures. We have to be firm. Such people have to come clear and state where they belong.

In conclusion dear beloved UCDP members, now is the time for UCDP to win three to four municipalities in preparation for General Elections 2014. "Mosele wa pula o baakanngwa go sale gale."