

DEBATE ON BUDGET VOTE NO 35: TRADE AND INDUSTRY

UCDP : DITSHETELO NC

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Department of Trade and Industry Annual report records job losses at 208 000 when other sources have previously put the figure at 900 000 and more due to recession. Is DTI playing down the figures and which statistics must we rely upon?

National Treasury reports that the economy is slowly recovering and that we have even seen growth at 4.5 percent, but my question is why has such positive developments not translated into creation of jobs? Instead we read that there's been a reduction in the number of employees absorbed in the labour from 44.8 percent in 2008 to 44 percent in 2009, which is supposedly the year that evidenced recovery from the recession.

We applaud the Department of Trade and Industry for having an unqualified audit for five consecutive years; they probably should share their secret with many of other government departments whose audits leave far less to be desired. We also commend the 100 percent on time compliance of Senior Managers with regards to financial interest disclosures, many other high ranking officials in our government can take a lesson or two from this.

Reading about the Black Business Supplier Development Programme is excellent and give hope that the future of small black entrepreneurs is not that bleak, however, I would like to know how far is such information disseminated?

It is not enough to say that it is in the public domain when we mean you must have internet access to be able to access such information.

A problem that cuts across the board is the slowness of pace at which government departments take to fill up positions. We acknowledge the progress reported by the Department of Trade and Industry in this regard, but it always sounds ironic that we have statistics of unemployed graduates, and are aiming at reduction of unemployment but still take forever to fill up posts. It is time that this is addressed.

UCDP supports the budget vote.