

DEBATE ON THE BUDGET OF THE SPEAKER 2010/2011

03 JUNE 2010

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It is sixteen years since the legislature came into being and in that period some work has been done. Legislation has been passed, oversight has been conducted, study tours have been mounted but one function which even the website of the legislature in agreement with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa lists as the main function of the legislature is the passing of the constitution of the North West Province.

It looks like time has come that this exercise be mounted. There is much that can be said for and against this but we maintain that the advantages exceed the negatives. As much as we have rules that govern this legislature there has a constitution that governs the province while not contrary to the national one.

It is notable that FIFA had to negotiate with the premier of the Western Cape to allow them to use blue lights in the motorcades of VIP during matches in the City of Cape Town because they have their constitution and have made their views known on the use of blue lights by the police.

There are areas that need jerking up in the legislature. Copies of Hansard are hard to come by even an unedited version of a speech made a day before cannot be easily accessed.

The North West is the only province that has yet to appoint a representative to the Public Service Commission. This should have been done 12 months ago but because of the on-going political power play in the province it has not happened.

One wonders what derailed the appointment as advertisements were made and a short list compiled, panelists nominated and a date set for interviews for applicants to the post. Could it be that as said at the time someone in the PTT is eyeing the position and has ordered that interviews be held back until they

are out of the PTT so he can be eligible to be interviewed and then saunter into the position in cold feet? What is holding this appointment back? The legislature has to run with this exercise and ensure that we are not the laughing stock of the country.

Progress is being made to turn the legislature from a society of mutual appreciation where members come to talk to each other and go away.

The Hon Speaker has put in place a committee to track and trace all resolutions passed in the house and act on them; progress is being made in this regard as in some cases members of the executive are wont to say they would do this or that and it is never done.

As legislators we are the first to admit that there is an acute shortage of funds. This does not, however, mean that the legislature should not be allocated sufficient funds to ensure that constituency offices are run in a manner befitting a modern democratic state. We appeal that sufficient funds be made available to enable elected representatives to serve their constituencies.

The website of the legislature is said to have been revamped but it is not as alive as it should be in the modern day politics. There is nothing on the business of the 4th legislature. All that appears in the Hansard section is stuff up to 2008. There sure has to be improvement in keeping pace with what is going on in the legislature, after all speeches made in the chamber are far in between and the sittings are confined to Tuesdays under normal circumstances.

The UCDP will support the budget vote of the legislature.