

DEBATE ON THE BUDGET VOTE OF THE PREMIER 2010/2011

03 JUNE 2010

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When we responded the Premier's address on 17 June 2009 little did we know that twelve months later the situation would have taken three steps backward.

At the time we bewailed the piles of rubbish lining Mmabatho street corners and school gates but even as we speak the situation is still the same, this even after the executive tried to show how it has to be done.

The problem is not far to find. There is no democratically elected political leadership in this province. Those in charge, the Provincial Task Team, have been appointed and do not necessarily have a responsibility to people in this province except to Luthuli House.

This imposed leadership, the PTT, has eroded the legitimacy of the North West provincial government to govern as they hold a dominant role in all facets of the government.

This is contrary to democratic principles in a young democracy like ours. It is not surprising that even elected representatives in municipalities, instead of training them, have been stripped of their powers and replaced by administrators. It is equally not surprising that even a Member of the Executive Council can be prevented from presenting a budget vote over a department he is supposedly responsible for.

The Quarterly Labour Force Survey, to which Stats SA concurs, summed up the unfortunate mess in which the province is wallowing as follows:

“The functional collapse of governance structures (in the North West Province) is a result of the decay that has set in during the last decade aggravated by the deployment of incompetent and under-capacitated cadres at the expense of sacrificing expertise”.

I must hasten to say that we are not averse to the deployment of cadres but they must be good in what they are supposed to do. Deputy President

Motlanthe put it succinctly in parliament yesterday that that it is normal practice even in advanced democracies such as the USA but such deployees must be adept in their fields.

There is a saying that unfortunate is the man or woman down whose back misfortune gets into a community. This can be said of Premier Modiselle's tenure as Premier. She has to wriggle with crises that are not of her making.

The recent discontinuation of flights between the provincial capital and Johannesburg is the last straw. That it is on the basis of lack of funds still talks to the lack of financial discipline for which the province will pay a huge price.

The long three hour journey between the two places will put a heavy toll on production in the government and at meetings because people are exhausted after driving so long a distance and cannot contribute fruitfully to the business of the day.

We have yet to hear, let alone see what the provincial chapter of the National Youth Development Agency has to say and do.

We hope the provincial government will take a leave from the book of the national government when celebrating national days. Leaders of opposition parties should share the stage with premier and participate in the programmed of the day as was the case on Human Rights day and Freedom day celebrations.

The UCDP will support the Budget vote