

ADDRESS TO THE FIRST FEDERAL COUNCIL OF 2015
LEGAE
14 FEBRUARY 2015

Salutation

Esteemed members of the UCDP, it gives me great pleasure to see and meet you face to face in this year of Our Lord 2015. This occasion reminds me of the old hymn African Methodists sing when they meet after a long time:

“ Are we yet alive,
And see each other's faces?
Glory and thanks to Jesus give
For His almighty grace”

While we may be chatting nicely for having met, we remember with sadness those of us who have lost loved ones in their families, branches regions and councils. Let us pray incessantly for the loss of a man decorated in UCDP colours, the late Cllr Modiboa Isaac Lentswe and place Cllr Matlhomola Letlhoo in our prayers for the departed soul of his better half, Mrs Letlhoo.

We meet when much water has flown below the bridge in matters educational. The Grade 12 results in general are not worth the paper they are written on when one takes into account that not a single province has been exonerated from crippling and copying during the examinations though the Eastern Cape and Kwa Zulu Natal seem to carry the can of dishonesty in the examinations.

My contempt of the futility of learners going to school from Monday to Sunday (at some schools) has been greatly enhanced. After all, all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. The practice lives learners no chance for sport or even going to worship services.

The North West Provincial Legislature has broken the record in continuing to pay a salary to a convicted criminal since November 2014. One wonders where are the legal advisors who should have had an interest in the case and followed it step by step and as soon as judgement was delivered and bail denied by the High Court, the salary should have been stopped in concurrence with the dictates of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996. The so-called Setsokokotsane effect should have come into play like the whirl wind itself!

We continue to see a fumbling government in so far as the provision and supply of power and energy are concerned. No day goes by without electricity outages. It has become such a regular feature of our lives that if it does not occur we become surprised.

The obsession in changing names that is shown by the North West Provincial Government is astounding. There is lack of consultation in this front. At some stage the North West Province was set to be called Moses Kotane Province and we baulked, not against the esteemed son of this province but against the trivialisation of the province and reducing it to a personal instance. We see read and hear of late the continued use Bokone

Bophirima as the name of the province yet, there has been no public consultation on the matter. The people in the province must smell the coffee

This state of affairs can be attributed to recalcitrance on the part of the ANC government. They have exposed their lack of foresight and planning. Any school boy will know that if you have three mangwinya for three boys and three other boys join the group, you need another three magwinya.

I am using this simplistic picture to indicate that much as electricity was reserved and provided to a few by the Apartheid nationalist Government, the ANC should have, on assuming power, increased the number of power stations as they undertook to provide electricity to all and sundry. Their pride and stupidity made the ridicule the foresight of the then Bophuthatswana government when they wanted to build a power station in Mmamatsuwe in the Moretele District.

It is ironic now that they are clutching at all straws trying to revitalise the plan at Mmamatsuwe! They are even considering to buy electricity from the neighbouring Botswana! That is typical of people who want to enjoy the fruits of what they do not know how to produce.

The scarcity and shortage of water in the country is a matter that has to be spit on as it all comes from lack of planning too. Imagine areas that had water from natural resources like Lehurutshe going for 20 years without a reliable and constant supply of water! This played itself out with very costly expenses at Majakaneng and Malamulele in the past weeks.

One wonders whether it had to go to such lengths as the destruction of property and inconvenience of travellers before the situation could be temporarily stemmed? I use “temporarily” deliberately because there are still murmurings under ground.

We are all gearing up for the Local Government Elections next year, 2016. Any parties with self respect will have to prepare for the elections and focus on winning the elections and not on breaking the backs of their party members.

The elections will continue to be run along the accepted boundaries in the new South Africa. It will not help the UCDP to cling and stick to the obsolete regional boundaries. For argument's sake we should strive to realign our districts/regions according to the Municipal District Councils and base our branches on Municipal Wards and NOT village by village or township by township or residential area by residential area.

We should equally acquaint ourselves with Electoral laws and practices. I bet my last penny, there is no way the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) can give a walk over to the ANC or any party for that matter in a Municipal By-election as it has been claimed by some in our midst.

As soon as a ward councillor dies, there will be an election within 90 days. UCDP councillors should on their own inform leadership that there is a vacancy occasioned by

the death of some ward councillor so that even before the vacancy is gazetted the party should be getting themselves ready to identify a candidate and source the necessary materials financial and otherwise.

The UCDP is very docile politically. I challenge all people who consider themselves as members of the party to speak out on issues political be it municipally, provincial, national or world wide.

I have noticed with regret that the Facebook pages of both the party and the Youth League are not utilised. Ke ipotsa gore a batho botlhe ba UCDP ga ba na cellphones go tlotla le go tsibosana ka facebook?

I have always said inward-looking politics is not helpful. Our thrust should not be on how to topple or remove one of our own but rather on how we can galvanise ourselves and remove our other party opponents from the pedestal.

I must commend the National Organiser for the sterling work she does to revive and revitalise the party. It is work that she does against strong opposition from members of the party yet she does her utmost under the circumstances.

We saw the infighting in the ruling party that resulted in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality being dissolved and new councillors being elected and out of that the UCDP was able to secure a seat. It is a real feat taking into account that some people even some of our own councillors in the district did not co-operate as we would have expected.

We all know the party has no financial muscle. The national organiser has devised a way to source funding and simultaneously register new members. Our call word has been and is: “Come all ye who are heavy laden”, “kenang lona bohle ba imetsweng”. This party should be the political home of all who feel marginalised.

UCDP members I am on record as saying let us invite and recall all those who once were with us as long as they are prepared to submit to and subject themselves to the way the party is run.

I wish to again emphasise that so far no single person and I mean no one is a member for life if they do not pay their annual membership fee. One may have been born in the UCDP but if they do not pay their paltry R10, 00 they are not members in good and regular standing. Finish and Klaar!

Let us remind the Federal Council members that we are still pursuing the evaluation of councillors. Forms have been sent to municipalities to indicate how each councillor performs and perhaps behaves in the council. We have called meetings with them and some have persistently stayed away. We have, through the National organiser, issued books to them to help recruit as they are always in the field. Some have recruited while others are not keen to recruit. It is from such performances and conduct that we shall

appeal to the Federal Council to determine whether a person has to continue to serve up to the end of the term in 2016 or should we have such undeserving councillors removed before Easter this year.

We saw on Thursday night the circus that the Parliament of the Republic has turned to be. It is up to us to regroup, put all petty, personal, tribalistic or even regional tendencies and whims aside and go on to take our role as level headed players on the national political stage. To this end next weekend, on 21 February 2015 a delegation from the UCDP will meet other Christian political parties not represented in parliament to among other things find out the relevance of Christian political parties in the South African context.

I conclude by juxtaposing Charles Dickens famous words to depict the spirit of his times as I depict the spirit of our time in the Republic:

We have to admit that we live in the worst of times as against the best of times, we live in the age of foolishness as against the age of wisdom, we live in the epoch of incredulity as against the epoch of belief, it is a season of darkness and not a season of light, we live in the winter of despair and not the spring of hope; we have nothing before us instead of having everything before us; there is no doubt that we shall all be bound to go direct the other way instead of going direct to heaven.

UCDP member you are left on your own!

I thank you