

TUESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2010

***PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
LEGISLATURE OF THE PROVINCE OF THE  
EASTERN CAPE***

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The House met at 14:15.

Mr Speaker took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

**DISCUSSION OF PREMIER'S STATE OF  
THE PROVINCE ADDRESS**

Ms B TUNYISWA-GQOBOKA: Hon Speaker, allow me, on behalf of the ANC, to welcome the State of the Province Address as presented by the Premier on Friday 19 February 2010.

It was presented at a time that coincides with the release of Mr Nelson Mandela owayephume ngenxa yento yokokuba abantu baseMzantsi Afrika bathi bathabatha inxaxheba ekulweni ukwenzela into yokuba sikhululeke. Balwa ke Somlomo ngeendlela ezininzi. Abanye babephethe izigalo, abanye babesithi mawubekwe bucala uMzantsi Afrika xa kufikwa kwezemidlalo nezenkcubeko nezinye iindlela zokulwa. (*...who was released because people of South Africa participated in the struggle so that we could be liberated. They fought using various means. Some used the armed struggle while others were campaigning for the use of sanctions against South Africa in sports and culture and also utilizing other means of the struggle.*)

However, everybody inside and outside the country agreed that he was and still is a symbol of our struggle. That struggle is incomplete.

Our country, Mr. Speaker, has seen a series of activities, marking the twentieth anniversary of both the unbanning of political organizations like the ANC, SACP, PAC etc, as well as the release of Nelson Mandela from prison. Comrade Ahmed Kathrada has this to say when he warns us:

These milestones are always understood to be representing one of the important achievements. It came as a result of sacrifice and struggles waged by our people for decades. We have not achieved these as a result of generosity from our former oppressors. We struggled so that we are where we are today.

Nelson Mandela's values of solidarity, selflessness, sacrifice, hard work, comradeship - being a progressive nationalist who at some stage during his youth days was at loggerheads with the communists - realized and

clearly understood that the future of our country is tied together with the unity of our broad liberation movement, with communists and non-communists.

Zange awushiye lo mbutho okanye abedikidiki, okanye abe ntakampuku. (*He never abandoned the organization or suppressed his feelings nor became indecisive*) He stood firm and never minced words. In fact hon Speaker, in its tribute to Mr. Mandela the FACB highlighted the fact that Madiba was not only a leader of the ANC and its alliance partners, but that he at all times genuinely remained a loyal friend of the communists.

Uyakumbona ke utata uMandela ukuba wayenomqolo xa esandlala intetho kwinkongolo yabasebenzi emile esithi “Gear is non-negotiable” ngoku abasebenzi besithi bona akukho ndlela kodwa wema utata uMadiba ngoba ekugqibeleni wayeyiqonda into yokokuba ukuba ngaba akayithethi le nto icacileyo kuzokwenzeka ingxubakaxaka. Abazange abasebenzi bamthathe ngokuba lutshaba lwabo xa wayethetha ngolo hlobo.

Zange uMnu Mandela abashiye abasebenzi usashiyeke nabo nanamhlanje. Sifundile kwiimpazamo zethu. Singazange siphathe nje safumanisa into yokokuba uqoqosho lona lukhulile kwaye abambalwa abakhanyiselweyo bebexhamla kule minyaka iyi-15 idlulileyo. Savumelana okokuba kule minyaka ilishumi ingqwalasela mayinikwe abahluphekileyo kunye nabangenamisebenzi kwakunye namaqela asemngciphekweni afana nolutsha, amakhosikazi kunye nababambezeleke ngokwamalungu omzimba ukuze ibe ngawo axhamlayo.

Njengokuba sikhumbula ke Somolomo utata uMadiba ngela xesha wayeaza kukhululwa entolongweni ngomhla we- 5 kweyeKhala kowe-1989, uP.W. Botha weza nelinye iqhinga. Elokuqala wathi :

1. Yohlukana naba bantu kuthiwa ngamakomanisi.
2. Kuthethwathethwano uze ungezi naye uJoe Slovo apha.

Kodwa utata uMandela wema wathi akasokuze azilahle izihlobo zakhe zasemzabalazweni Yiloo nto ke ndisithi Somlomo kubalulekile into yokokuba le mbali intle kangaka yale nkokheli sifunde kuyo ngoba abanye bethu sele basishiya abasekho kulo mbutho ngenxa yento yokokuba bengakwazi ukumelana nale nto ithi abona bantu bafanele ukujongwa ngabo bazimpula zikalujaca nangona siyintlanganisela yemibutho kwiAfrican National Congress. (*Translation of IsiXhosa paragraphs follows*)

[You will notice that he had a backbone when he addressed the workers’ conference firmly stating that “Gear is non-negotiable”. Workers on the other side stated that there were no other ways but Madiba did not budge

because he realized that if he was not upfront with that clear position definitely a crisis should have erupted. The workers did not regard him as an enemy when he pushed that position.

Mr Mandela never abandoned the workers, he is supporting them even today. We have learnt from our mistakes. Much as we were not in government, we realized that the economy has grown and the few elite have been benefiting during the last 15 years. We agreed that in this decade focus must be on the poor, the unemployed and the vulnerable group like the youth, women and the disabled so that they are beneficiaries.

As we will remember Speaker, by the time Mr. Mandela was about to be released from prison on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 1989, P.W. Botha came with another tactic. In the first one he said:

1. You must do away with the communists.
2. During the negotiations you must not bring Joe Slovo.

In spite of that Mr Mandela stood firm saying “I will not abandon my friends of the struggle”. That is why Speaker I say it is important to keep this valuable history of this leader. We must learn from it because some of us have moved on and are no longer in this organization because they were unable to accept the fact that people who need to be assisted are the poorest of the poor although the ANC is a multi-class organization.]

Our struggle is incomplete as long as there is this gap between the rich and the poor, as long as there are still communities without water, electricity, food, proper health services, schools, police stations, etc. However, as the ANC, we vowed not only to ensure that we provide a better life for some, but we said we vow to provide a better life for all.

When you look at the funding model, Madam Premier, as ANC, we welcome the fact that there needs to be a request for special funding that is to deal with the province’s backlog. We also wish to highlight the fact that we believe in what is regarded as “a people’s budget for people’s needs”.

Siyawuqiniseka ke into yokokuba siyiANC njengokuba kule minyaka iyi-15 senze izinto ezazingenziwanga yimibutho eyayikhocele ngowe-1948. Sizenze ngeminyaka eyi-15, sinolu hlahlo-lwabiwo mali kunye nale nto kuthiwa sisiqinisekiso sokuba sizakukwazi ukulawula iimali zethu loo nto izakwenzeka. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[We will ensure that, as ANC, as we accomplished projects that were not completed by previous governments from 1948. We had delivered within 15 years, given the budget and given the assurance that we will deliver in managing our finances that will be fulfilled.]

With regard to the Planning Commission Madam Premier, the Freedom Charter represents the vision on what kind of South Africa we need and therefore the vision of the Planning Commission must be anchored in the Charter, the planning process must be driven politically, not by technocrats and technocrats be brought in as a support function.

Another thing Premier is that we want to ensure that what is happening at national level is cascaded to the provinces. That means it has to have transversal functions, like championing the integrated planning for the immediate and long-term. It must be able to monitor and evaluate across government departments.

If we come to the issue of women's emancipation, hon Speaker, in March 2010, from 1 – 12 March, governments will assemble in New York to review progress made in implementing the Beijing platform of action, after 15 years. In this context, Africa supported by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, is reviewing its performance in delivering the outcomes agreed upon in 2004 in Addis Ababa at the seventh Africa Regional Conference on Women – that is Beijing Plus 10.

On the 1 to 12 March we said that, hon Premier; we will be presenting our plan of action for the next five years as South Africa. We believe that, as the new ministry has been established nationally and is also placed in the Presidency, this is the Ministry for the Socially Vulnerable and located in the highest political office. As this movement, we still believe that the highest office – that is the Premiership – is critical for the transformation agenda. I would like address the issue of human settlements hon Speaker.

One of the important clauses in the Freedom Charter says “there shall be houses, security and comfort”. Comfort also means that schools, clinics and police stations should be close to houses.

La nto yenzeka phaya eBooyesen Park masibesinesicwangciso Nkulumbuso sive into yokokuba siza kuyisombulula njani. Izindlu zona mhlonipheki uMabandla zakhiwe zininzi kodwa abantwana basafuna indawo yokufunda sithetha nje ngoku. Kufuneka sive kuNkulumbuso ukuba uza kuthini. *(With regard to what is happening in Booyesen Park we must have a plan to devise means of solving it. Hon Mabandla, many houses have been built but children are still looking for educational centers as we speak now. We need to hear from the Premier as to how she will deal with that.)*

On Health, hon Speaker, we need to develop a strategy to encourage nurses to come back to their province so that they can contribute to the rebuilding of the Eastern Cape health system. We are witnessing it and commend the National Health Insurance because we believe that as South Africans it must be made to pay – it must not be made to pay upfront for health services, whether in the public or private healthcare

sector. Those who have resources must subsidize those who do not have and we should build an equitable healthcare system, we should move away from the current unequal and unjust regime where more than 60% of resources poured into health services benefit only 14% of the population, which happen to be on private medical aid schemes.

Hon Speaker, let us commend the attempt of job opportunities crafted by the province as the Premier has reported, but we believe that that is not enough because we still need to encourage and ensure that decent jobs are there for our people.

Masiphinde sincome inkqubo eyaziswe ngokusemthethweni eMhlontlo. Uthi uZulu, iinkunzi ziyaqobeqa, kangangandlela ekusentyenzwa ngayo phaya.

Siyayivuyela le nto yokokuba ingqwalasela inikwe kwisigaba esisisiseko esithathelwa ingqalelo kodwa kufuneka siqiniseke ngale nto yokuthunyelwa kweemali ngexesha. Ngelinye ixesha ke Nkosazana Nkulumbuso, ndide ndibenomrhano wokuba yenziwa ngamabom le nto yokuthunyelwa kweemali ngexesha elingelilo ezikolweni. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows*)

[Let us commend the progress that has been made by the launch in Mhlontlo. Zulu said that the bulls get tired when you look at the manner in which they are busy.]

We are happy to hear that focus will be on the foundation phase but we must ensure that funds are transferred on time. At times, Madam Premier, I have suspicions that the late transfer of funds to schools is done deliberately.]

We need to ensure that leave management is managed very well. We need to ensure that those displaced teachers are taken back to schools. The tensions at schools - the role of the EDOs; we must ensure that issues like conflict management, project management, problem analysis, people management – all these issues are attended to.

Premier, the President has promised to sign a performance contract with his Ministers. I think it will be proper for us to copy the good practice to ensure that as the movement we deliver and we evaluate according to the terms we agree about in our contract.

In conclusion, as the ANC we do not mince our words. We know exactly that our challenges are poverty, inequality and unemployment. The masses of this province have mandated us in 2009 that we half poverty and unemployment by 2014. We ensure a more equitable distribution of the benefits of economic growth and reduce inequality. We improve the national health profile, improve the safety of citizens by reducing the incidents of crime more especially to women and children of this province.

Uyabona ke thina bantu bamnyama Nkulumbuso xa ungathi uyaguga uzakubizwa ngela gama babizwa ngalo phaya kuthiwe “uyathakatha”. Masibakhusele ngoku ukwenzela into yokokuba sithi siguga babe beyazi into yokuba sakubaqhawula ukuba ngaba badlala ngabantwana namakhosikazi ngolwa hlobo. *(Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.)*

[As you understand black people Premier, when you start ageing we will refer to you as “practicing witchcraft”. Let us protect them now so that when we age they will be aware about how do we will deal with them if they humiliate women and children in that manner.]

We also want, Premier, to quote from Bleshna, who had this to say:

Ruling parties are not only shaping political agendas, institutional and economic development but also monitor the bureaucracy control, the distribution of public resources and supervise the activities of public co-operations. Parties in Government play an important role in shaping the relationship between the state and society and between the wealthy and interest and power.

As the ANC within a short space of time we managed to build clinics. We managed to provide electricity.

Okokugqibela Somlomo, ndicinga into yokokuba ibalulekile le nto yokuba sigxininise kumalungelo wabantwana. Omnye umhlathi obalulekileyo kuMalungelo aBantwana uthi masibanike inkxaso sibagcine. Ukuba ngaba singeza apha esiguqweni mhlonipheki uSomlomo, sibuze kula malungu alapha ukuba bangaphi apha abakhe babaxhasa abantwana babo? Bangaphi abaqinisekileyo ukuba bayabazi ukuba bangaphi abantwana babo?

Ngaloo mazwi ke Somlomo, siyayamkela ingxelo yeNkulumbuso. *(Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.)*

[Lastly, I think it is important to put emphasis on Children’s Rights. One of the important clauses in the Children’s Rights is that we must support and maintain them. If we can come to the front Speaker, to ask as to how many of us are supporting their own children? How many of us know the exact number of their children?

With those words, Mr Speaker, we support the report of the Premier.]

Mr S N KWELITA: Hon Speaker, ngowona nyaka ndingeza ngawo esiguqweni lo. Ndimhle noko ndingeza esiguqweni xa sizokubekwa apha isitulo. [Kuhlekwe.] ( ...*this is the year in which I can gladly come to the front. At least my record is clean I can come to the front if you can bring the chair.* [Laughter.]

As Cope we welcome the State of the Province Address made by the hon Premier, including the eight priorities that were presented in this House in June 2009. Nine months down the line Cope and the people of this province would have appreciated if the Premier had taken advantage of the opportunity to report to the province on the progress towards the realisation of these priorities.

Among other issues that the people of this province would have appreciated, is an outline of the state of the economy in the province, on the basis of which the Premier would have taken the opportunity to present the future ideal situation with clear plans and targets. The Premier missed the opportunity, thus leaving the province in the dark. In the light of the provincial economic realities, Premier, where unemployment between 2008 and 2009 has increased by 16.4%, it represents not less than 74,000 jobs that have been lost. Economic active people have increased by 3% which adds to the 74,000 that I have alluded to earlier on.

The economic outlook of the province in terms of the reports that have been represented between 2006 and 2009 show a decline in the economy from 5.2% to -2.4% in 2009. Of course, this can be attributed to the financial crisis that has affected the world. However, the lesson for us as the province is that this experience has taught us that we cannot rely on the existence of multi-nationals. Hon Speaker, the time has come that we establish strong local economies.

I welcome the Department of Economic Development & Environment Affairs for its initiatives of establishing co-operatives and finance that assist co-operatives because to me they will talk with the development of the local economy. However, let me hasten to say that the co-operatives referred to must be bankable, hon MEC. It cannot be typical of those co-operatives that we know historically, which starts today and die tomorrow. The proposal we are making in this regard is that we should focus on building existing co-operatives because there we are confident that people have taken the risks and they have the experience, therefore we are proposing that area as the first area that we should target.

The second area we are proposing to target is the area where we have started with the Rural Development Strategy. I will come back to this point to illustrate what the co-operative fund can do in that particular area, hon Premier, but we are proposing for a start that the fund should focus amongst other things on those two important areas.

Whilst appreciating efforts made in the Mhlontlo Municipality in terms of the head count, Premier – you have told us the goals and everything there -, but in terms of how it relates to the socio-economic situation of that particular area we still want to get answers. For example Premier, an ordinary resident of Mhlontlo will ask the following questions:

- How do figures presented make an impact on the socio economic situation of the area in which we live?
- How does it chain the revenue base of the municipality?
- How does it relate to the broader economic activity in the region and the province in general?

Remember again Premier, when we are talking about the poverty the OR Tambo Municipality is facing, it is one of the poorest municipalities in terms of the indicators where 73% of the population in that area is affected by poverty.

Cope believes that the following approach should have been followed in order to make sure that we deliver what we want in the area. We are referring here, Premier, to what we call the agri-park situation where you tend a nursery. For example Premier, we are talking here about people working and ploughing their gardens, where we can produce in that area and where there are nurseries for producing seedlings for our people. We are also talking about ensuring that we also have a feeder plot where people can be able to go and learn and also develop experience and practice that at their homes.

We believe that there should be processing in the same area where you are not only inviting the participants, but you are also involving the broader community in terms of what they are producing, where they can come and also sell in the processing.

We are saying that the market situation should also have been addressed. In this regard Premier, we would like to know to what extent the three hospitals in that municipality are assisting in buying some of the products that we find in that community.

To what extent is the question of the hot menu mainly provided in school assisting in that programme? To what extent is the correctional facility also assisting in that?

We are also, Premier, very happy about what you have raised in relation to the state of the raise in the province, but we would like to raise the following in relation to that, Premier.

You have indicated that we intend to upgrade 182kms – that was on page 10 of your speech – and you have also indicated the 42,000km. Working on simple arithmetic Premier, we have the following to raise. Firstly, if we are to meet the target of 80% it means that we should be upgrading 3,385km per year. If we are to do that it means that we need to have in the budget of Roads, R1.1 billion – that is the concerted figure work at 300,000, which we know that it is even more in some cases than that, upgrading roles.

We are saying that it will take the entire budget that we see in the MTEF period 2011/2012, which is 1.8. We are therefore saying Premier, help us to understand how this target of 80% is going to be achieved.

Lastly Premier, we want to raise the issue around housing. Premier, we are saying here that you have indicated to us that we have been able to complete 10,455 houses and that in the remaining three months we will be completing 11,721. We are saying that it is a huge target, given the fact that in nine months we have completed 10,000; how are we going to complete 11,000 in three months?

We are also saying, Premier, that we must address the challenges that housing is faced with. [Time expired.] {Applause.}

Mr R S STEVENSON: Thank you Speaker.

Hon Premier, hon MECs, hon Members and the honored guests. In the State of the Province Address the Premier failed to spell out in equivocal terms how accountability of her Cabinet and civil servants is going to be rigidly enforced. Without accountability we do not get value for money. This means money has been wasted on maladministration, corruption and general inefficiencies. The burning anger that people feel at the lack of service delivery in this province is going to erupt into flames unless drastic action is taken.

There must be consequences for non-performance. The DA believes that it is time, using the hon Premier's words, "to rise up, roll up your sleeves and lead the province into a new era of accountability". Service delivery will never be improved unless we are all inspired by a vision of loyal accountability. This is one of the foundations upon which an open opportunity society is based. This takes leadership, courage and a political will to make it a reality. Poor accountability keeps people poorer.

As a party of Government, the DA would like to offer the following practical solutions which have been entitled "Agenda for Accountability". MECs should sign a contract with the community, spelling out clear deliveries which they will be able to be held accountable to. The hon Tunyiswa has also just now mentioned those points.

There needs to be compliance with the Public Finance Management Act and the Municipal Finance Management Act. They need to be rigidly enforced.

Last year in the region of R400 million was paid out in back-pay to the employees of the health department. This money was need for the budget for, nor properly costed. Will anyone be charged for this financial mismanagement?

Tender prices need to be reformed in this province. The DA in the Western Cape is introducing the business interest of an Employees Bill, which is prohibiting employees of the provincial government doing business with the province, except in strictly defined and transparent circumstances. The tender process also needs to be opened out to the public more.

An ombudsman should be appointed to assist and investigating tender irregularities and the essential supplier data base which tracks all tenders and beneficiaries not only needs to come to fruition in this province, but also needs to be extended to Local Government as well. In this way we will be able to identify all those tenderpreneurs.

In the number of months according to the report in Sunday's *City Press*, R2 billion has been lost through fraud and corruption involving tenders in the country and in the report it is said that the Minister of Finance has written to various provincial premiers in this regard. Can the hon Premier tell us if the minister of finance is investigating any tenders in this province?

Declarations by members of the senior management service need to be rigidly enforced. According to a Public Service Commission report published in September last year, only 57% of senior management services submitted their financial disclosure forms in time and two of the departments with the big offenders were the Health Department and the Education Department. Those two departments account for 75% of our provincial budget and regularly get adverse opinions.

The commitment by the Premier in her Address that the financial disclosure framework is to be extended through all categories of employers to be involved in the supply chain process is welcomed, but has any senior management official been disciplined for not complying with the financial disclosures?

Performance agreements of the public officials in the departments need to be made available to members of portfolio committees. These performance agreements then need to be subject to oversight by the portfolios committees to ensure that they are rigidly complied with. The results of the forensic audit that are conducted in this province need to be publicized and given to members of this House in terms of the Public Audit Act. I would like to know from the Premier whether the recent forensic audit that was commissioned by the Department of Local Government into the affairs of the Nelson Mandela Metropole will be made public. There are lots of speculations about what is in that report.

Cadre redeployments need to be abolished. This is the root of all evil in our government structures today. People obtain jobs and contracts based on not what they know, but who they know. They then mess up. In the Statement of President Zuma on 8 January, he noted this was a problem

and stated “we are of the firm view that municipal employees should not hold leadership positions in political parties”.

The same principle should be extended to Provincial Government, where senior civil servant should not be allowed to hold top positions in political parties, as this leads to total conflict of interest. How can MPLs oversight the party bosses without fear or favor? This hon Premier is in a nut shell how the DA believes that accountability in the province can be improved. Our MPLs will be driving our agenda for accountability with all the parliamentary work at our disposal. Will you, hon Premier, commit yourself to rise up, roll up your sleeves and lead this province into a new era of accountability? [Interjections.] Will others in this House do the same or are you silently saying to yourself “thula bhuti, thula bhuti.” (*keep quiet brother keep quiet*) Yes, yes. [Laughter.]

The Premier raised a number of positive points in her speech, which the DA welcomes. These include the commitment to adopting a package of measures to drive industrialisation and diversification of the economy.

What was also extremely positive is the adoption of the Rural Developments Strategy, the proposed establishment of a Provincial Mathematics and Science Academy, as well as the introduction of the Driver Demerit System. All of these are welcomed.

Unfortunately we would have also expected the Premier to touch on the catastrophic draught which is impacting on this province and particularly its rural economy. We would also have liked her to say a bit more about how Education and Health is going to be turned around in this province and how we are going to deal with the backlog in roads maintenance in more innovative ways. [Applause.]

Mr M M MHLATI: Hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon MECs and hon Members. The Provincial Address of the Premier has been silent on some vital issues affecting the provincial administration. The financial crisis facing this Government should have been touched on, especially when the people who have rendered services to the State are now not being paid what is due to them. They cannot pay their creditors and their employees go hungry. The lives of the contractors are at risk, as the employees do not accept that the Government can fail to pay. Their credit worthiness is now being destroyed.

We expected the Premier to show leadership and own up to the predicament facing the people of this province. We expected the Premier to have apologized for the predicament they find themselves in as a result of the financial bundling by her administration and give them some hope that a situation of this nature would not recur.

The question we must ask ourselves is how do we support and promote SMEs if we fail to pay them what is due to them. This matter is a

crisis because it affects the two major consumers of our budget; the Department of Education and the Department of Health, with their 75% of the provincial budget.

Added to the issues above is the lockout of students and teachers in the Ngqeleni district at Magozweni Junior Secondary by a contractor who has not been paid millions by the Department of Education since September last year.

The Premier should have shown some empathy with the 580 school children and the community of Ngqeleni who have been subjected to being taught in the open fields, enduring the scorching heat wave of January and February 2010.

The UDM expects people in leadership positions to show great concern with the plight of the innocent children who cannot understand why they are being buried alive by the Government.

The UDM expects the Premier to put this Legislature in the picture as to the action being taken against the managers who failed to perform their duties, consequently putting the image of the Government in this precarious situation.

The Premier has made mention of some improvement in Grade 12 examination results. The UDM disagrees with this. The culture of learning and teaching has collapsed in the ordinary public schools because of lack of discipline.

Quality education only occurs in the former Model C schools and some private schools, where the culture of teaching and discipline is still being maintained. Any person who is in doubt must take the previous year's results and analyze them.

The UDM fully appreciated the support offered by America in building the capacity of teachers in mathematics and science. It is hoped that this assistance will be closely monitored to ensure that this province gets the maximum benefit. We want timeframes, hon Premier, for the eradication of mud schools in this province. It would be appreciated if you could come out clearly, just to set out the timeframe and then allowing the Minister of Education to come with the final details as to when and how many schools will be cleared.

The UDM appreciates the financial relief to our community through the Public Works programme. The UDM would like to emphasize that this programme is not about the financial handouts; these people must be visible on the roads. The Government must receive value for money. This is not an expanded social grant scheme.

Although the UDM is not against the establishment of co-operatives as proposed by the Premier, a word of question is being put forward as

former schemes of this nature failed because of financial mismanagement and lack of accountability. The Premier must ensure that internal controls are put in place to ensure sustainability and accountability of these co-operatives. We do not want to experience the wastage of the millions of rands in LED projects which exist on paper but are not visible on the ground.

The endeavors of being made to feel the vacancies of HODs are appreciated, but the UDM is concerned about the total absence in the speech of the Premier about attempts to reduce the vacancy rates in the civil service as a whole, as it militates against quality service delivery.

The tools of trade for the HODs are the support staff without which no service delivery will take place.

On corruption: we do not want any rhetoric, hon Premier, we want action and results in this plight against this cancer which is destroying the fabric of our society.

The UDM expects a feedback from the Premier on the glossier of the civil servants caught by the Auditor-General tendering within their departments, especially in the Department of Education and Health.

It is imperative that the Premier should become hands-on by addressing the political in-fighting happening in municipalities, otherwise the audit turn-around strategies will not be achieved. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

Mr M P GALO: Thank you, hon Speaker, hon Madam Premier, hon Members of the Executive Council, hon Members of the Provincial Legislature, our distinguished members of the public.

Hon Speaker, allow me to present the AIC response to the State of the Province Address by the Premier, hon Noxolo Kiviet.

First and foremost, I must indicate that the AIC is partly covered by the SOPA. However, we are very much concerned that the State of the Province Address failed to reflect on the efficiency and more importantly on the effectiveness of the provincial strategic framework because in the last SOPA the Premier elaborated on the areas the Provincial Legislature will focus on.

In this year's SOPA, hon Speaker, we thought that the Premier will be specific in terms of saying for instance that the more than 78 800 jobs that were created are permanent and at least indicate as to how many permanent jobs are created per district municipality. Let us hope the MEC responsible for that kind of department will elaborate on that.

In the last SOPA we were told that the service providers in the province will be paid within 30 days. It is clear, hon Speaker, that this commitment cannot be realized, because one of the schools in the

province was locked by a contractor claiming non-payment of the service rendered.

Perhaps, hon Speaker, let us applaud the promising outputs of the Provincial Rural Development Pilot Programme at Mhlontlo, but having said that, hon Speaker, the Premier must give at least the direction in terms of telling us, or this House, as to which district councils or local municipalities will follow suit. We have heard enough about Mhlontlo, but we want to hear a lot about other municipalities as well because this kind of a programme needs to be rolled out. I hope that in the next financial year we are not again going to be told about what we were told in the last term.

There must be progress Chairperson, otherwise people will be tired of promises. [Interjections.] That is why in other provinces ... [Interjections.] Maybe we are lucky in the Eastern Cape! [Interjections.] We are lucky in the Eastern Cape because people of this province are in the rural areas, therefore they do not have the muscle and the energy to go to the streets and protest, otherwise the situation they are facing in those rural areas would demand them to go in the streets and protest.

Otherwise hon Speaker, I would say SOPA is promising again, but let us hope that the MECs will provide clear outputs and outcomes as to what is going to happen this financial year, otherwise the people are tired of promises.

Hon Premier, let us do away with promises. [Applause.]

Mr M W NTENJWA: Thank you Speaker. Premier, Members of the Executive and all MPLs.

Hon Premier, Cope is pleased to learn that you still regard Local Government as closest and the most important sphere to deliver services to our people.

The Department of Local Government under former MEC under Thoko Xasa launched a turnaround plan – “Operation Simanyene”, to assist municipalities mainly to achieve an effective Local Government in our province.

The national Minister currently and the MEC here in the province are now talking about the same turnaround strategy that you have alluded to. The interest, hon Premier, is whether this turnaround effort does make any change. Are we really turning anything?

Last year the Municipal Demarcation Board announced that Buffalo City Municipality, the seat of Mangawong in the Free State, as well as Msunduzi Municipality KwaZulu-Natal are to be elevated to metro status in the next coming elections. Hon Premier, one wonders if Buffalo City is ready to take up that challenge under the current

conditions. As you might know, Msunduzi Municipality has since lost that opportunity due to inability to handle funds meant for service delivery, as is the case in the Buffalo City Municipality.

In Buffalo City Municipality, hon Premier, the capital budget was unspent of an amount of R318 million, due to lack of capacity to spend while there is a huge service delivery backlog. So the question is whether, hon Premier, that municipality would take the challenge of being a metro. The turmoil in the Ingquza Hill Municipality cannot be over-emphasized, as you know even councilors have been in and out of hospitals stabbing and shooting one another [Interjections.] in the midst of the ANC's factional fight, which has got nothing to do with the importance of conditions, changing the lives of the people.

Hon Premier, why is Ingquza Hill Municipality using taxpayers' money to pay salaries for two Chief Financial Officers, namely Zameka Goya and Loyiso Pepeta, instead of one as it should be in the terms of the municipality organogram? [Interjections.]

Mr C MARTIN: Hon Speaker, on a point of order: I do not think it is parliamentary to mention people's names because they cannot defend themselves, especially if they are not here, so the member must actually withdraw without any cost.

Mr SPEAKER: Hon member, we are discussing the State of the Province Address. The two names you mentioned; are you withdrawing?

Ms M W NTENJWA: No, no, no. [Interjections.]

Mr SPEAKER: Why?

Ms M W NTENJWA: Hon Premier and Members of the House, the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the United Nations and interpreted in our South African context, sets clear targets for the provision of basic services to our people. [Interjections.]

Hon Premier, it was good that in the State of the Province Address you have observed the question of shortage of water. The seventh Millennium Goal talks about this thing. And in his 2007 State of the Nation Address, President Thabo Mbeki made mention that in 2008 people of South Africa would have access to potable water. I am glad you mentioned that your observation Premier. In these areas water is still a serious concern. Most communities are without this basic need, like Emjayezi, in Ngcengcetelo villages in Ngqamakwe, to name but a few, who are sharing water with animals from the rivers.

In Mhlontlo Qumbu consolidated municipal infrastructure grant with the then Department of Water Affairs & Forestry jointly funded Ichulunca Water Scheme, but to date Premier, those communities are not getting water.

In 2001, the ANC Government piloted a sanitation programme which includes, among others, eradication of bucket system and provision of toilet to households.

Those villages received toilets Premier, others were promised that they will get those toilets at the right time but the programme has since been abandoned.

Hon Premier, it will be good to know if there is any possibility of reviving that sanitation programme in order to assist our people.

We are proposing, Premier, that it will be good if the Provincial Government, working with other spheres of government, can drive this programme of water harvesting, at least the stock dams, at least the protection of springs, to assist our people and the boreholes. There is a problem currently in the Nelson Mandela Metro with shortage of water.

Hon Premier, as Congress of the people, we believe that whilst we are talking about the Mhlontlo project of rural development, it would be good if, as you have mentioned in the State of the Province last year that Siyazondla is the major project of the department. We are saying that it would be good if the project of Mhlontlo did not give rise the Siyazondla project of Mbashe which is left as a project you did commended last year hon Premier.

Cope believes that we must respect the provisions in our Bill of Rights, which states clear that our people have such constitutional rights as access to adequate housing, healthcare, food, water, education health environment and social security. [Applause.]

Mr P E VAN VUUREN: Hon Speaker, hon Premier, Members of the Executive, hon Members of the House, it is indeed an honour to respond on behalf of the DA to the Premier's State of the Province Address delivered on Friday, 19 February 2010.

It was very encouraging to hear from the Premier that the Eastern Cape remains firmly committed to improving access to education and strengthening thereof. The DA concurs with the Premier and affirms that all of those involved in education of our children should pull up their sleeves in order to support learner participation.

An environment should be created where officials who are caring, knowledgeable and organized will have the opportunity to support schools, teachers and learners. Sadly, hon Premier, this environment is amiss, resulting in the core business of the Department of Education not being adequately executed. The timeous payment of school subsidies are not adhered to. Late delivery of learner and teacher support material is still the norm, and the lack of urgency to eradicate mud structures and

fixing of dilapidated school structures are examples of misplaced priorities.

Mr C MARTIN: Hon Speaker, on a point of order: The member is preempting a report on Education, which is still coming to the House. The content of the member's speech is preempting the school visits report coming to the House.

Mr P E VAN VUUREN: Just read the Premier's State of the Province Address. You will find it in the booklet, hon member.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The hon member may proceed.

Mr P E VAN VUUREN: The Provincial Government must, through acceptable measures and interventions improve the life chances of all its children through the provision of quality education, which is unfortunately glaringly lacking. To this end, all children must remain in school for as long as possible and achieve optimal results. Premier, there are still too many learners of school-going age at home, which is discernable and who are at home for all the wrong reasons, namely report cards being withheld, or failed and denied access to schooling and because of unacceptable behavioral issues.

The Premier has also indicated that mechanisms will be put in place to deal with corruption in procurement processes and general fraudulent activities within the departments. Unfortunately a large number of officials - as alluded to by the senior management of the Department of Education - are refusing to declare their interest, resulting in a conflict situation. These officials are beneficiaries of contracts with the Department of Education. Hon Premier, they should be hunted down and fired. [Interjections.]

Mr SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr P E VAN VUUREN: Sadly, educators at Selborne Primary in East London are bearing the brunt of fraudulent activities within the offices of the Department of Education, as no official related to these fraudulent activities has been apprehended, charged or dismissed to date. It will be interesting to know what measures are going to be put in place to curtail corruption and other fraudulent activities and how these perpetrators are going to be brought to book.

The Premier has also indicated that procurement processes will be improved to ensure timely payment of suppliers and service providers within the regulatory 30-day period. The DA is waiting with bated breath to see how this is going to be achieved. Currently, service providers doing business with the Department of Education are not paid and have been told to wait for the new financial year. Through this uncaring and selfish behavior the Department of Education is

contributing to the destruction of small businesses which are entirely dependent on these funds to secure a quality livelihood.

On a recent visit to Alfred Nzo District, we were reliably informed that mud schools are flourishing and learners are still taught under trees and in the open. [Interjections.] I have experienced this myself and sadly the pronouncements made by the Premier did not...

Mr C H MAXEGWANA: Mr Speaker, on a point of order: It is very clear that the member is giving us a report on the school visits. We understand this is the State of the Province Address, but members must not go far in giving us a report.

Mr SPEAKER: Accepted.

Continue, hon member.

Mr P E VAN VUUREN: Thank you, hon Speaker.

In conclusion, the dismal 2009 Grade 12 results - albeit with a slight improvement - are testimony to weak leadership within our schooling system. [Interjections.] The DA is of the opinion that the substance of the government should be right. Officials should get down to discipline and deadline-driven work. Officials should be appointed on the basis of their fitness for the intended purpose, not their political connections. A cadre employment destroys the ability of Government to deliver. It is the root cause of the failed state.

The DA wishes to alert the Eastern Cape Government to refrain from embarking on this route. [Applause.]

Mr SPEAKER: Hon members, I suspect that the interjections might be taking away time from the members as well.

Mr J BICI: Hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon MECs, hon members, the UDM is pleased that our hon Premier is placing agriculture and rural development as one of the priorities of the province. The UDM is happy with the idea of land audit to identify available land for agricultural produce. To create 78 000 out of 60 000 decent jobs is commendable, but the question is how many permanent, how many temporal jobs. A temporal job can never be regarded as decent. The UDM supports the task of building social and economic infrastructure.

Your voice, hon Premier, was very inaudible about the 2010 FIFA World Cup, direct and indirect benefits to the starving masses in the rural areas. Those are your people. They want to know if anything is coming their way and how.

Local Government and Traditional Affairs Department is closer to the people. All involved in that department should be trained thoroughly for effective and efficient delivery of services.

A parliament which is 1 500 km away from Buffalo City Municipality - manages to visit BCM. A legislature, which is 65 km away from BCM has not managed to visit the trouble-torn BCM. [Interjections.]

Amanzi, hon Tunyiswa, awakho kwiindawo ezinzi. INcorha siyayiquka kulo ndawo. *(Water hon Tunyiswa is not readily available in most areas. We include Ncorha among these areas.)*

The Housing programme has been a disaster up in shore, hence Minister Sexwale put down some of the houses. Some people in rural areas do need houses as well. The UDM has advocated this for some time now and we are happy that the government has eventually understood the idea behind the UDM's thinking. [Interjections.]

While the UDM has commended the Premier for what has been done, there are some grey areas which we must address, for instance you were not clear about the crime, corruption and fraud; for instance, if you talk of the BCM Mayor who misused municipal credit cards and nothing has been done; the same Mayor took friends to Orange Free State to a party at municipality's expenses and nothing was done. [Interjections.]

Akukho maorange apha. Asifuni maorange apha. [Kuhlekwe] *(There are no oranges here. We do not need oranges here.)* [Laughter.]

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr J BICI: The Mayor in OR Tambo District Municipality bought farms for R45 million. [Interjections.]

Mr SPEAKER: There is a point of order.

Mnu J BICI: Oh, mabeze nayo. Yiza kwedini. Ubamba ixesha lam, Somlomo. [Kuhlekwe. ] *(Translation of IsiXhosa paragraphs follows)*

[Mr J BICI: Oh, they must bring them. Bring it young man. Keep my time Speaker. [Laughter.]

Mr M QOBOSHIYANE: Hon Speaker, on a point of order: Can the hon member retract the issue about a trip to Bloemfontein because that is untrue? Can we allow a member to inform this sitting, this House for something that we know it is relatively untrue and misleading?

Mr SPEAKER: Hon member, hon Qoboshiyane, we may not enter into that discussion now. I think let us allow him to finish.

Mr. J BICI: Go and take care of Qhumanco. [Applause.]

OR Tambo District Municipality Mayor bought farms for R45 million without the Council's resolution and nothing has been done about that and the hon Premier was quiet. That is taxpayers' monies and those farms have collapsed now.

The hon Premier in her Address was very quiet about the R3.2 billion Government fleet contract. There is a collective decision in that tender. The hon Premier, the Executive, are collectively responsible and it is not going to – it should not be one MEC who is seen as being responsible for that.

The people of the Eastern Cape are keen to know what is happening behind the curtain. Tell us what is happening. Don't hide behind one MEC. [Applause.]

Mr. C H MAXEGWANA: Hon Speaker, hon members, members of the public, officials present, it is an honour for me to represent the ANC in the State of the Province debate today, the first day of our Premier's speech debate.

The year 2010 holds a particular significance in the history of our country because this year we celebrate 20 years of freedom since the release of our father, a tried and tested leader of our movement, Mr. Nelson Mandela from prisons and un-banning of the ANC and other political parties. It will be the ANC, the Pan Africanist Congress, South African Communist Party, the Black Consciousness Movement; full stop.

We continue to be greatly inspired by the contribution made by Mr. Nelson Mandela, both individually and as a collective, as part of leadership collective of the ANC to the liberation of our country. In particular, we were humbled, hon members, by personal accounts as hon Tunyiswa said earlier, of the great stature of Mr. Mandela given by our leader and stalwart of our movement, Comrade Kathrada on the occasion of this State of the Province Address on 19 February 2010. It is these accounts that continue to inspire the ANC as it renews its values, cultures and traditions to stay through as a people's liberation movement. These accounts made by Comrade Kathrada indeed inspire all South Africans, the people of the continent and people of the globe.

We must, however, hasten to say, hon Speaker, that members must read and listen carefully to what the Premier's Address said on Friday, 19 October 2010. If you recall hon Speaker... February 2010. No, I am thinking of the October revolution. [Laughter.] The Premier, just to mention a few, tabulated, hon Kwelita, she spoke about process that is going well in terms of speeding up growth and transformation of the economy and that will for sure be tabulated in detail when the MEC for Economic Development is dealing with his speech.

You have mentioned or the Premier have mentioned the jobs created through the EPWP. I mean, if you are serious hon members, we are serious; that yes the jobs, some of them are temporal jobs, but we must never under-estimate the difference that that makes to the people who have nothing to put on the table every day. It makes a difference!

I must emphasise that the Mhlontlo Pilot Project, forget about extreme man contact with woman, but I think if he points to that pilot programme, it is what the government – is what we call building blocks on the issue of rural development in the province. There is a difference among those people experiencing better life for the first time.

The Premier also mentioned what have we done or what the ANC government has done in terms of eradicating mud schools, the no-fee schools – 5,134 schools benefiting, as well as over 1.6 million learners that will benefit from that. It is not a child splay; it is children who go to school don't pay and everything else.

In our 2009 general election manifesto we committed ourselves to addressing during this current term central questions and challenges to national-building and prosperity, improvement in the provision of quality jobs and sustainable livelihoods, education, healthcare, safety and security and promoting rural development, land agrarian reform. The account that was made by the Premier around those issues is very clear for all of us to see.

These policy priorities of the ANC were correctly captured and detailed into implementable programme of government on the occasion of the SOPA. We are confident that if the specific measures announced by the Premier are implemented, this will go a long way in winning the battle against poverty and under-development in the province and the country as a whole.

What is required of us as members of this House is to play our constitutional role in ensuring a vigorous oversight and accountability, by holding Executive to account – because that is what we do – holding the Executive to account without fear or favour. We will closely monitor the departments' implementation of the priorities of Government, aimed at improving the lives of our people and ensure that we act decisively where necessary. Central to holding the Executive and provincial departments to account are the portfolio committees of the Provincial Legislature. That is why we are here as these members.

To this extent, portfolio committees of the Legislature will be strengthened and supported to play their role meaningfully. Legislature oversight as the backbone of the Legislature's work must be re-inoculated in this current term of government. Committees must meet at scheduled, on time, all members present and perform oversight work.

They will also be assisted by the re-organisation of committees in terms of clusters and that will be done for effective oversight.

Effective implementation of government priorities as announced by the Premier in her State of the Province Address will require a review and enactment of legislation, which is necessary for the realisation of these government priorities. To this extent capacity of the Legislature must be built to repeal, redraft laws, which are consistent with the Constitution and development needs of the province.

With regard to public participation, our constituency programme must serve as a catalyst through which we are able to reach out to our people in all corners of our province, particularly the far-flung and remote rural areas of our province. We will ensure that measures will be taken to ensure that MPLs are provided with strategic support in the course of conducting their work within the communities they represent.

Transformation of constituency offices in the province into one-stop-centers will ensure that public representatives from all the three spheres of Government are accessible under one roof. This will go a long way in strengthening the integrated approach of Government. Its transformation of constituency offices will also ensure closer partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, including faith-based formations, NGOs, civil society, private sector, traditional leaders, traditional healers and ordinary members of our communities. Constituency offices must serve everyone in the constituency.

To an extent, hon members, our constituency offices must reflect, it must include the South African flag in terms of branding so that everybody must go to those offices and be served. The ANC will ensure that its deployees, who are members of the House, perform their duties with greatest revolutionary drive, to make the realizable objectives of a better life for all as contained in our Election Manifesto. The Chief Whip of the Legislature must ensure that this is done in the Whips Committee.

Through a rigorous performance assessment system we will ensure that in the words of the President in his State of the Nation Address, “as public representatives we know where our people live, understand their needs and are in a better position to respond faster”. The ANC is ready and well poised to meet the challenges of our revolution and to ensure effective, speedy implementation of government priorities towards a better life - not for some, but for all. [Applause.]

Mr SPEAKER: Hon members, that concludes the discussion on this matter. However, before we adjourn allow me to take this opportunity to introduce to the House the new Secretary to the Legislature, Mr Ndamase. Mr Ndamase is sitting to my right. There is Mr Ndamase. [Applause.]

The House adjourned at 15:45.