

VOTE OF THANKS ON THE OCCASION OF AN ADDRESS BY HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE ZULUS DELIVERED TO THE PEOPLE AT A PRAYER MEETING AT ISANDLWANA

BY MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI, CHIEF MINISTER OF KWAZULU
AND PRESIDENT OF INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

ISANDLWANA : 16 DECEMBER 1993

Honourable colleagues and Masters of Ceremonies, the Hon. Rev Mtetwa and the Hon Mr Mtshali; Your Majesty and members of the Royal Family; the Rt Rev SP Zulu; other Ministers of Religion present; members of the Cabinet present and Deputy Ministers; Amakhosi present and their Indunas; Mayors and Councillors; my brothers and sisters, distinguished guests; members of the Zulu Nation present here today.

I rise to propose a vote of thanks to His Majesty. His Majesty has spoken. People have heard. And history will now be made. And what else is there to say? Before I continue with my remarks, I ask for permission to read some words from the Book of Joel, Chapter 2.

1. BLOW YE THE TRUMPET IN ZION, AND SOUND AN ALARM IN MY HOLY MOUNTAIN; LET ALL THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAND TREMBLE; FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD COMETH, FOR IT IS NIGH AT HAND;
2. A DAY OF DARKNESS AND OF GLOOMINESS, A DAY OF CLOUDS AND OF THICK DARKNESS, AS THE MORNING SPREAD UPON THE MOUNTAINS: A GREAT PEOPLE AND A STRONG; THERE HATH NOT BEEN EVER THE LIKE, NEITHER SHALL BE ANY MORE AFTER IT, EVEN TO THE YEARS OF MANY GENERATIONS.
3. A FIRE DEVoureth BEFORE THEM: AND BEHIND THEM A FLAME BURNETH: THE LAND IS AS THE GARDEN OF EDEN BEFORE THEM, AND BEHIND THEM A DESOLATE WILDERNESS: YEA, AND NOTHING SHALL ESCAPE THEM.
4. THE APPEARANCE OF THEM IS AS THE APPEARANCE OF HORSES; AND AS HORSEMEN, SO SHALL THEY RUN.
5. LIKE THE NOISE OF CHARIOTS ON THE TOPS OF MOUNTAINS SHALL THEY LEAP, LIKE THE NOISE OF A FLAME OF FIRE THAT DEVoureth THE STUBBLE, AS A STRONG PEOPLE SET IN BATTLE ARRAY.
6. BEFORE THEIR FACE THE PEOPLE SHALL BE MUCH PAINED: ALL FACES SHALL GATHER BLACKNESS.
7. THEY SHALL RUN LIKE MIGHTY MEN; THEY SHALL CLIMB THE WALL LIKE MEN OF WAR; AND THEY SHALL MARCH EVERY ONE ON HIS WAYS, AND THEY SHALL NOT BREAK THEIR RANKS:
8. NEITHER SHALL ONE THRUST ANOTHER; THEY SHALL WALK EVERY ONE IN HIS PATH: AND WHEN THEY FALL UPON THE SWORD, THEY SHALL NOT BE WOUNDED.
9. THEY SHALL RUN TO AND FRO IN THE CITY; THEY SHALL RUN UPON THE WALL, THEY SHALL CLIMB UP UPON THE HOUSES; THEY SHALL ENTER IN AT THE WINDOWS LIKE A THIEF.

10. THE EARTH SHALL SHAKE BEFORE THEM; THE HEAVENS SHALL TREMBLE: THE SUN AND THE MOON SHALL BE DARK, AND THE STARS SHALL WITHDRAW THEIR SHINING:
11. AND THE LORD SHALL UTTER HIS VOICE BEFORE HIS ARMY; FOR HIS CAMP IS VERY GREAT: FOR HE IS STRONG THAT EXECUTETH HIS WORD: FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD IS GREAT AND VERY TERRIBLE; AND WHO CAN ABIDE IT?
12. THEREFORE ALSO NOW, SAITH THE LORD, TURN YE EVEN TO ME WITH ALL YOUR HEARTS, AND WITH FASTING, AND WITH WEeping, AND WITH MOURNING:
13. AND REND YOUR HEART, AND NOT YOUR GARMENTS, AND TURN UNTO THE LORD YOUR GOD: FOR HE IS GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL, SLOW TO ANGER AND OF GREAT KINDNESS, AND REPENTETH HIM OF THE EVIL.
14. WHO KNOWETH IF HE WILL RETURN AND REPENT, AND LEAVE A BLESSING BEHIND HIM; EVEN A MEAT OFFERING AND A DRINK OFFERING UNTO THE LORD YOUR GOD?
15. BLOW THE TRUMPET IN ZION, SANCTIFY A FAST, CALL A SOLEMN ASSEMBLY:
16. GATHER THE PEOPLE, SANCTIFY THE CONGREGATION, ASSEMBLE THE ELDERS, GATHER THE CHILDREN, AND THOSE THAT SUCK THE BREASTS: LET THE BRIDEGROOM GO FORTH OF HIS CHAMBER, AND THE BRIDE OUT OF HER CLOSET.
17. LET THE PRIESTS, THE MINISTERS OF THE LORD, WEEP BETWEEN THE PORCH AND THE ALTAR, AND LET THEM SAY, SPARE THY PEOPLE, O LORD, AND GIVE NOT THINE HERITAGE TO REPROACH, THAT THE HEATHEN SHOULD RULE OVER THEM: WHEREFORE SHOULD THEY SAY AMONG THE PEOPLE, WHERE IS THEIR GOD?
18. THEN WILL THE LORD BE JEALOUS FOR HIS LAND, AND PITY HIS PEOPLE.

I thank His Majesty for thinking of holding this Prayer Meeting.

As I listened to His Majesty, I was struck by the fact that when the lion roars he is not hunting, but is steeled and ready to attack. It is a low sound that comes from the throat of a lion who is serious and means business. Whether it is in loud roars or low sound when the lion has roared, all we can say is that the lion has roared.

His Majesty has spoken with measured words. He has delivered his message in an eloquent way. The quietness of his tones for me underlines the power of what he said. The Zulu nation shall not be the same after today. His Majesty has called forth in us a Zulu response, and we shall not fail His Majesty. That response shall be there to serve him. His ancestors called for responses in times of national crisis from our own ancestors, and received that response. They never failed their Kings. We will also not fail our King.

All of us know the richness of the Zulu language and the depth of understanding that there are in a great many Zulu sayings. Everybody knows what we mean when we talk about a man having liver. That expression is one that comes to my mind as I review what His Majesty has been saying to us when he addressed us as his father's people and as his subjects. As His Majesty spoke I was deeply aware of the power that was locked up in the soul of the Zulu nation and in the individual soul of every man, woman and child in KwaZulu. As His Majesty spoke, I thought as a Christian of what the author of the hymn: "Stand up, Stand up for Jesus" meant, when he speaks of "courage that rises with danger."

As His Majesty spoke I was also aware of the great truth in the English saying that: "There is more betwixt heaven and earth than man ever dreamt of." We can have our science. We can have our rationality and our knowledge which enables us to be objective about the world around us. We can have a great understanding of cause and effect.

But no knowledge and no objective facts can explain life and why things happen when they happen, and how things happen between one and another person. Nor can they explain why some nations go through the history they go through. We have had many crisis situations in the life of our Nation. We had the battle of Blood River on the 16th of December 1838, which is commemorated today as our King has mentioned.

Then we had the battle of Isandlwana on the 22nd of January 1879 as part of the Anglo-Zulu war which ended in our conquest by the British on the 4th of July 1879. These are all the times of crisis in the life of the Zulu Nation. On all these occasions when our Nation was in crisis, the Nation waited for signals from whoever was the incumbent on the Zulu throne. Today we have had that signal from our reigning Monarch. We have clarity as a Nation on the wisdom of our Nation at this time of crisis. For this we thank your Majesty.

We all know that this is because while a man may propose, it is the Almighty God that disposes, and there is more betwixt heaven and earth than man ever dreamt of. We Zulus know this. Somehow His Majesty holds the whole nation together in his person. The health of the nation is in his person, and in a very strange sense, but in a sense which is common knowledge to us, His Majesty is the nation. He is the head of our Nation. He is the symbol of our unity as a people with a culture, a language and a history.

We know that the seasons will falter, and the lands will not yield crops, and the cattle will not multiply if there is something very wrong with the person of His Majesty. We also know that the whole of the balance of nature and Zulu society falls into disrepair when that which should be, is not. All our traditionalists will know what I mean when I say that unless we, as a people, are moral and live the lives that we as Zulus should live, it will be as though all our ancestors will turn their backs upon us and look the other way while evil befalls us. It is thus appropriate that on this occasion we are led by our King to thank the Almighty for the good rains we have had after the worst drought this century.

His Majesty has called on us to gird our loins and to gather our strength as our ancestors did once before. Every Zulu will now respond because that is the Zulu thing to do. Let there not be the devilry of divisiveness and internal conflict about the historic call of His Majesty. In Zulu folk-lore, the other name of the King is "the mouth that tells no lies" : UMLOMO ONGATHETHI' MANGA." The mouth that does not tell lies has now spoken. Bayete!

His Majesty, in his quiet and majestic way, called attention to the fact that what was threatening KwaZulu and all of us amounted to a second invasion of KwaZulu. As His Majesty's Prime Minister who fends off danger through politics, I can say His Majesty is absolutely correct. Today His Majesty, as we expect him at all times, has given to us the whole truth of our crisis. We have had nothing but the truth from the lips of the lion himself. Bayete!

Those who now aspire to form a new government, and are already there controlling the Transitional Executive Council, talk about the need to level the political playing fields before elections. For them that will, amongst other things, mean the complete annihilation of

KwaZulu as KwaZulu. They say that the very fact and existence of KwaZulu makes the playing field unlevel for them.

Your Majesty, the removal of the words which describe your Kingdom as "the place of the Zulus" - KwaZulu - from the draft Constitution now before the South African Parliament, is the ultimate insult not only to you as the head of the Kingdom of KwaZulu, but to us as your people. It is an insult not only to us, but to each and every Zulu who died in defence of that Kingdom. If we do not stand up to fight this struggle for what they died for, we are not worthy to be called their descendants. All their spirits will desert us, if we renege on the challenge that we now face.

It is these same people who talk thus who command uMkhonto weSizwe which is an instrument being used for the destruction of the Zulu Ubukhosi institution. They want to take away the powers of the Amakhosi by denying an Inkosi the right to determine who shall hold meetings in their areas, and who constitutes a threat to his community. This is the very basis of order and peace in Zulu society from the very inception of the Zulu Nation.

His Majesty has spoken out against this and more because he sees that it is the destruction of his people that is the real objective. There is something very special and dear to our hearts in the notion of the KwaZulu Kingdom being unique in South Africa. When I insisted on representation of your Majesty and the KwaZulu Government at CODESA, this - as your Majesty has stated - was rejected out of hand by the negotiators at Kempton Park. This was the first sign of the implacable opposition of the negotiators to any recognition of your Majesty's status and the status of your Kingdom.

I make no derogatory statements, and I imply no disrespect to any traditional leaders anywhere in South Africa, when I say His Majesty is without equal anywhere in the land. He has peers in Lesotho and in Swaziland. The Zulu Kingdom is unique because it came out of history long before there was even a promise of whites being able to live with each other in the Union of South Africa and long before there was any prospect of a national white government in Pretoria. The Zulu Kingdom was already formed and expanding, and well on the way to becoming a veritable empire. The power of the Zulu army, and the day of our great founding King Shaka and those who walked in his footsteps was legend across Africa, and indeed the world.

Now my brothers and sisters, the TEC wants to rub all this history out and wants to say that KwaZulu will be no more. However much the Zulus are also South Africans, and no matter how much we would even be prepared to die for a whole and healed South Africa, the Zulus are not just ordinary every day citizens who can be treated the same as everybody else in a socialist Republic of South Africa in which anybody and everybody has as much right to Zulu domains as Zulus themselves. We have been reminded of John Dunn as an example that Zulu allegiance knows no colour. The Buthelezi Commission and the KwaZulu/Natal Indaba said it all.

The levelling of the playing fields includes for some the annihilation of KwaZulu, because KwaZulu is, and will remain, a true bastion for liberty and life for people. KwaZulu is a threat to dictatorship. That is why KwaZulu's political enemies want it destroyed.

My brothers and sisters, I have heard His Majesty's call. You have heard His Majesty's call. Each of you must leave this place with a Zulu message in your hearts and in your

mouths which you shall spread wherever you go. We will not again be conquered and we will not again be subjugated. We are not prepared to exchange a white master for a black master. For us oppression will be the same from whomsoever it comes. There is no way we will accept a repeat performance of what was done to us in 1910. We have been told by both Mr Phosa and Mr Joe Slovo that army tanks will roll - let them roll!

We demand Zulu self-determination. There is no other way forward for democracy, either for us or anybody else in the country. The stand that we take for liberty, justice and democracy today in support of our King, is taken not only on behalf of the King and the Zulu Kingdom, but is taken on behalf of all the people of South Africa, who are being betrayed through this ongoing process.

Your Majesty, I salute you and hail you as my King, and I pledge my life to support you. I call upon all present here today to make that pledge with me.

-----0-----

- 5760