

SPEECH BY Mangosuthu G. Buthelezi M.L.A.
CHIEF MINISTER OF KWAZULU AND PRESIDENT OF INKATHA
AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE HEROES ACRE AND THE
OFFICIAL OPENING OF A CENOTAPH HONOURING THE MEMORY OF

THE LATE BISHOP ALPHAEUS HAMILTON ZULU - FORMER SUFFRAGAN BISHOP
OF ST. JOHNS AND FORMER DIOCESAN BISHOP OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF
ZULULAND AND SWAZILAND AND LATER OF THE DIOCESE OF ZULULAND -
FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES - FORMER SPEAKER
OF THE KWAZULU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE KWAZULU
FINANCE AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION LTD., - FIRST NATIONAL CHAIRMAN
OF INKATHA AND MEMBER OF INKATHA CENTRAL COMMITTEE:

HEROES ACRE: THE KWAZULU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: ULUNDI:

SUNDAY 1 JULY 1990:

Mr. Master of Ceremonies, Mrs Zulu; Mr and Mrs Frank Marawa and
other members of Bishop zulu's family; the Bishop of Zululand The
Rt. Revd. Lawrence Zulu; Bishop Bill Burnett former Archbishop of
Cape Town and Metropolitan; other clergy present; The Deputy
Speaker of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly; members of the
Cabinet present; Dr. Spies the Executive Director of KFC; the
KwazZulu Legislative Assembly; other distinguished guests my
brothers and sisters in the Lord; distinguished guests, ladies and
gentlemen.

It is exactly two years ago and four months that that great
servant of God Dr. the Rt. Reverend Alphaeus Hamilton Zulu was
buried at KWAMAGWAZA MISSION STATION on the 5th of March, 1988.
The funeral service took place here in ULUNDI and his mortal
remains were buried at KwaMagwaza Mission in accordance with his
wishes as recorded in his last testament and will. There was a
feeling that in so far as he lived here and served his people so
well during the last days of his life from here that he should
have been buried here. This issue was finally resolved through
an understanding between all parties that his mortal remains
should be left alone where he himself decided they should be laid
to rest and particularly because of the controversy that arose
when the matter came up for discussion. It was finally agreed by
all concerned that this memorial in the Heroes Acre should be
constructed. This area was set aside by the Cabinet of KwaZulu as
piece of ground on which the mortal remains of the Heroes of the
zulu Nation would be interred, on the recommendation of Cabinet.

We as a Cabinet thought that nothing would be more appropriate
than the construction of this Cenotaph in honour of this great son
of the Zulu Nation, this great son of South Africa and this

great servant2/

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great servant of the Lord, than to do so within the bounds of this Heroes' acre. I cannot think of anyone more worthy to be the first to be honoured within this Heroes' acre than The Rt. Revd. Alphaeus Hamilton Zulu. This, we thought, is the least that we can do by way of a tribute to our beloved Father-in-God, former Speaker of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly and former Chairman of KFC.

He was a father to all of us here in more than one sense of the word 'Father'. Speaking for myself I want to say that when he passed away I lost a spiritual adviser and Adviser of about 40 years. There are many scores of people that he taught as a teacher, that he ministered to as priest and that he ministered to as Bishop and also as the Speaker of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly and as Chairman of the KwaZulu Finance and Investment Corporation. In doing everything he did in all these capacities he walked with Christ, His Lord and Master to whom he was faithful to the end of his days. Everything he did was measured always by his unending efforts to be faithful to his Lord to the very end. I often wonder if I had not been fortunate to meet him as a priest in Durban at the tender age of 22 years whether my life pattern would have been different. I am not saying that he succeeded to make me perfect. All I can say is that I would probably have been a worse sinner than I am. He and my late mother Princess Constance Magogo Sibilile Mantithi Ngangezinye ka Dinuzulu instilled in me the fear of the Lord and the understanding I have that in everything that I do, I must rely on God for we are all dependent on Him in every effort that we make on this earth.

His life was an inspiration to all who had the privilege to know him. As a hero and patriot that he was, his life will always be an inspiration to many generations to come. He would have been a success whatever he had chosen to do. He had a vocation to serve God and His people. He was not what one might call a political priest in the sense of being some kind of stormy petrel. From his early days he devoted his life to his people as a teacher in UMLAZI and also as a sugar cane farmer. And as if this was not sufficient he decided to go into Holy Orders when he was already married. This meant that he and his family chose to skimp when he abandoned what was a fairly lucrative job by African standards of those days to live on a pittance that was paid as a stipend to black priests. He often related to me how he had to support his family on £5. This he related always with a laugh and without any rancour of any sort. He often talked to me of those days when there were no African Rectors in Charge of Parishes and when the Status quo just did not allow one to be a Priest-in-Charge or Rector if one was born black. He and the late Reverend Canon Garland MDHLADHLA were the first African Priests in Charge in the Diocese of Natal, he at St. Faiths Durban and Reverend Mdhladhla

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at St. Augustines Umlazi. He often related to me how Bishop Fisher, the then Bishop of Natal warned him when he could see that he had strong political views, against being a political priest. He use to tell me how he later thanked the Bishop for this advice. This does not mean that he shied away from facing up to the political problems of his people. Not by any means. On the contrary he sympathised and was a supporter of the African National Congress at the time. He however considered his work as a priest a priority. He was to show this balanced approach to politics even when he became Bishop and up to the time when he became the President of the World Council of Churches. There were many people who misunderstood him at that time and yet there was nothing incomprehensible about his attitude. His first priority was his vocation as a servant of God and he wanted nothing to compromise that in any way. He had strong views about the oppression of his people in South Africa and this was often reflected even when he spoke at synod be it a Diocesan Synod, or the Provincial Synod or the Anglican Congress in Toronto in 1963, or as an observer at the vatican, I think that very same year if I am not mistaken.

He was respected in most political camps and this was the reason why when we went to London in 1979 as members of the Inkatha Central Committee to talk to Mr. oliver Tambo and members of the National Executive of the African National Congress, Mr. Tambo proposed his name as Chairman of that meeting. Mr. Tambo insisted that he be present even when he and I had man to man discussions in Mr. Tambo's home in London. Even his political enemies respected him., How I wish that his wisdom was available to us at this time of the dawn of a new South Africa. I often wonder even as I sleep on many a night just what he would be saying now that the politics of negotiation is triumphing at this time in South Africa.

We in Inkatha and the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly had a true father in him. As I stated earlier, he would have risen to the top whatever he had chosen to do during his lifetime. But there was no doubt that his decision to be a priest was a call. When he completed his Bachelor of Arts degree at Fort Hare University, he passed Social Anthropology as one of his majors with distinction a record that had not been broken even when I was a student nearly 20 years after his time as a student, when I was myself a student at Fort Hare University. He was offered a Scholarship to do the M.A. degree but he declined to take it because of the further hardships this would entail for his family. He instead, went to St. Peter's Theological College in Rosettenville in Johannesburg to do his Licentiate in Theology. He was later to be a pioneer as first black Anglican Suffragan Bishop in South

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Africa, and later to pbe the first black Diocesan Bishop in the Church of the Province of Southern Africa.

He with his closest friend the Reverend Canon philip Mbatha who grew up with him in Nquthu founded the Christian Guild - IVIYO LOFAKAZI. As we are congregated here today IVIYO members are holding the 40th Anniversary in NONGOMA. This is a wonderful coincidence that we should be unveiling this Cenotaph in his memory on the Anniversary of the Founding of IVIYO which has grown into a great evangelical Movement of our Church. The staid Anglicans frowned on this development and even after his death there are some who have not been ashamed of criticising him for being a Co-founder of IVIYO LOFAKAZI BAKA KRISTU (The Guild of Christ's witnesses). There are some whom maligned his name merely because he stood with me and my colleagues in Inkatha and the Kwazulu Legislative Assembly. It was in fact he and president Kenneth KAUNDA of ZAMBIA who advised me to found a political organisation and I founded Inkatha in 1975, after that advice from these two great sons of Africa. We miss the stern truths that always flowed out of him. His wisdom was an inestimable treasure to all of us who were privileged at any time in our lives to work with him or under him.

I can testify that when he became the first black Chairman of the KFC, he soon demonstrated that he was much more than just a black face. No one who worked with him could miss the fact that he was an intellectual giant.

Few people can do soO much after their retirement as the Bishop achieved as Speaker of the KwaZulu Legislative Assemble and as Chairman of KFC after his retirement. He was also the Chairman of the Board of KwaZulu Transport.

Whenever I became apologetic about the fact that we made him to carry so much at such a great age, he always responded with a smile re-assuring me each time that I do not need to feel guilty and his punchline always was: "GOD MUST HAVE GIVEN ME SUCH GOOD HEALTH FOR A PURPOSE". That line is an inspiration to me because however much I am assailed at this time and however much I often feel alone, as all leaders do, I always regain my spiritual strength when I think of how much he did at such a great age and particularly when I think of that line.

When I paid tribute to him at his Ffuneral, the pain of his departure from this world was still too much felt by me and all of us who had the privilege to rub shoulders at some point in our lives, with this great servant of God. This great son of South Africa. This great son of Africa. It was a blessing to have been ministered to by one soO great, and yet so humble.

I thank God5/

I thank God that two of His servants in the persons of our Diocesan Bishop, Bishop Lawrence Zulu and our former Metropolitan Bishop Burnett have officiated on this occasion. It is appropriate that it is these men of God who are doing so not only because they are Bishops like him or because Bishop Lawrence is his successor. But because in many ways they are of the same ilk with our father whom we are gathered here to honour and whose memorial we have come to unveil. Bishop Zulu was a Pastor in the true sense of the word and he was a Shepherd in the true sense of the word. Both Bishop Burnett and Bishop Zulu are equally these

things. It is a rare thing in our Church to have Shepherds who are both evangelical and Catholic. Bishop Burnett is our former Archbishop. Some people enquired even after Bishop Zulu had

retired whether he would agree to stand as a Candidate for the position of Archbishop, which was a compliment to him., Our own Bishop has often been tipped by some for the same position. All the three of them remind me of the wonderful words in Mathew Chapter 5:

11. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12. Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuteth they the prophets which were before you.

Bishop Alphaeus Hamilton Zulu was born in rural Nquthu on the 29th of June 1905. That is why we held this ceremony so close to his birthday. Were he still with us he would have been 85 years, last Friday. He rose from being herdboys to one of the highest offices in the Church. During his childhood the family had financial problems like all average African families. He served as Headmaster of Umlazi Primary School from 1924 to 1936. He studied privately and passed his matriculation and later went to Fort Hare University as I have already explained where he graduated before doing his theological studies at St. Peter's Theological Seminary. He was honoured with doctorates by three Universities: The University of Natal conferred a Ph. D. degree on him in 1974; The University of Rhodes conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Divinity in 1977, and the University of Zululand (on whose Council he served for many years) conferred an Honorary Ph. D. on him,

He founded a black company, KHUTHALA INDUSTRIES which operates from ULUNDI. I have not listed all the various ways in which he served because of the time constraints.

I wish to pay tribute to his wife - Mrs Mirriam Zulu, without whose support and sacrifices he probably would never have achieved so much,6/

so much. I also pay tribute to his widow Mrs Thoko Lillian Zulu, who gave him such love and care during the last days of his life. We will ever remain grateful to her for so many things that she was to the Bishop during his last days. We know how much he loved and appreciated the caring love she gave him.

We wish to thank Dr. Marius Spies, the Executive Director of KFC who was really like a son to the Bishop. The love and mutual respect which these men had for each other are reflected in all the wonderful things that Dr. Spies and KFC have done as a tribute to Bishop Zulu. The two men thought highly of each other and this was because they shared a dedication and a strong commitment to the advancement of the people of KWAZULU and used KFC optimally to achieve this objective. Dr. Spies did many things including helping to have the Bishops' estate wound up. Had it not been for his assistance there could have been many insurmountable problems. Dr. Spies has been the engine which has propelled us to reach today's function and he has contributed in various ways to its success. Thanks ever so much Dr. Spies.

We thank Mr. Frank MARAWA the Bishop's son-in-law for so much that he has contributed towards the success of today's function.

I thank my government for their support and contribution to the success of today's function. I thank our Department of Works and those who constructed this Cenotaph.

I thank the Architect - A. Rosendal - the Landscape Architect and the Architect for designing this wonderful Heroe's acre, and for the very imaginative Cenotaph in memory of our Father, priest, pastor, Counsellor and mentor. I could not think of a better tribute to a man who is without a doubt one of our greatest sons. We thank God - for he was certainly one of His blessings to our Nation.

I stated when we buried him that the only tribute we can pay to him is never to forget those things which he taught us while he ministered to us. I think it is the Poet - Long Fellow who says:

"Lives of Great men remind us that we can make our lives sublime,

And dying, leave behind us footprints on the sands of time" :