

# MAHLABATHINI AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL SHOW

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## VOTE OF THANKS

by Mangosuthu Buthelezi  
Chief Minister of KwaZulu and  
President Inkatha Freedom Party

MAHLABATHINI. 6TH SEPTEMBER 1990

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Mr. Master of Ceremonies, we all have our own individual dreams and we all have our own desires about what we would like just for ourselves. We are all to some extent committed to work, to duty, to the nation, to South Africa, to children, family and friends and to a host of things that make us put aside our own desires.

I perhaps more than most am aware of the extent to which duty calls in these harsh times in which history is calling on us to give South Africa everything that we have got.

These are times of great demands on individuals, on families, on the nation and on South Africa. There is so much hope in the air that one wants to shout for joy and one wants to turn towards sceptics to say: you see, it can be done, South Africa can be made a democracy, there is hope. We want to do this but at the same time we know that hope can only be turned into real benefit for South Africa if we all do now what history demands of us.

I would like nothing more than to come home to rest awhile, to talk with friends, to listen to music, to meet the people and then to settle down to be here in Mahlabathini with the people, working with them for the betterment of the individuals, the families and the communities here. Alas, duty does call and I have to work long hours in Ulundi and I have frequently to travel across South Africa and far out into the outside world. I just do not have the luxury of what really amounts to being able to lead a normal life.

I, however, do whatever I can do within the time restraints that duty to the nation and to South Africa create for me. I do what I can to foster development in the Mahlabathini District. It is my home district and I want so much that this district leads in self-help and in community improvement schemes.



Nowhere in all the world is there as urgent a reason for people to respond to the calls to help themselves and to help each other than there is in South Africa. That call is obviously wherever there is poverty. In South Africa, however, it is so much more important that the people heed this call because we in this country stand under international spotlights as we grapple in the last phase of the struggle for liberation with the problems of organising politics so that economics is not detrimentally affected.

The whole of the world is watching South Africa because we really are the gateway to the whole of Africa as far as developmental forces are concerned.

When we in this country succeed in conquering apartheid as now surely we will do, we will inherit the South Africa that our struggle has produced. If we as a people cannot even feed ourselves, how will we begin to run a democracy? If communities in the poorest of the poor regions are not busy pulling themselves up by their own bootstraps, how will they have the kind of faith in the future which will allow them to work hard now for future gains?

The answer is, of course, that in times of mass spreading poverty in which people are not doing anything for themselves, and cannot do anything for themselves, democracy is threatened and worse it is often not only threatened but destroyed. Real poverty that spreads and spreads and spreads really is the mortal enemy of democracy.

Once the poorest of the poor do not even have democracy left, there is only the onward slide into total annihilation for the nation.

I have preached self-help. I have talked self-help. I have demanded that the people employ self-help principles and now, Mr. Master of Ceremonies, in these Mahlabathini Agricultural and Industrial Shows, we are beginning to see the fruits of all my work.

I am proud of the people in this district who are now actually bending their backs to the hard work of survival and of ensuring that they and their families can eat. If the heads of households fill the bellies of members of their households, then there is powerful family strength that can be employed for the betterment of the individuals in it, and for the betterment of the community at large.

Households which do not have enough to eat become demoralised and gravitate ever-increasingly to a position in which they just want something for nothing and in which if they do not get something for nothing, they will just take something and have it for nothing.



Families that do not feed themselves breed crime and you will always find that crime does increase amongst the poorest of the poor when people start grabbing and fighting amongst each other for the little that there is to be had.

Once a family can start feeding itself it will find the energy to produce the surpluses which it can market and which can be used for the development of the individuals in the family. Then when this starts happening, the family and its members start contributing towards a new community spirit, and a new community determination to make things work and to succeed. When this determination is born out of the production of surplus, and the generation of self-produced wealth, then there is hope.

Mr. Master of Ceremonies, I must turn to say to the people that we all know that elements are being infiltrated into the Mahlabathini District to try and disrupt orderly life and to try and create the ferment and the friction here that will lead to Black brother turning against Black brother and Black sister turning against Black sister, and Black child turning against Black parent. We know that some members of COSATU and the UDF will return home from urban areas where they are working to do so with destructive intention.

We say to them, Mr. Master of Ceremonies, that we will not tolerate the messengers of death in our midst. We are a Zulu people in this Zulu district and we will honour our Zulu history and traditions, and we will honour that great line of noble Zulu monarchs who marched the nation through the centuries and into being the success that the Zulu nation is as a nation.

We say we will honour our great Zulu sons like Dr. Pixley ka Isaka Seme, Dr. J.L. Dube, right through to that great son of Africa, Chief Albert Luthuli who led in the traditions of the people to produce a united South Africa in which brother assists brother. Mr. Master of Ceremonies, that is what we in this District want. We want brother to assist brother. We will not tolerate brother killing brother.

Once this rot of distrust and the undermining of community morale sets in, then awesomely ugly forces are unleashed. We have seen how ugly matters become when this happens in places like the Izingolweni District in Southern Natal. There bands of children actually necklace their elders. There people are burnt alive in their homes and there brother kills brother with wanton abandon.

Mr. Master of Ceremonies, when there is this kind of killing and this kind of discord, then the whole community stops doing what it can to feed itself, and stops doing what it can in all self-help projects. When communities stop doing these things because there is violence, the violence is only fueled and it can only spread and consume more and more lives and maim more and more people.



The people of Mahlabathini say no to this. We will, we say, honour our history. We will honour who we are as members of the Zulu community. We will honour His Majesty the King of the Zulus, and in honouring all these things, we will become honourable South Africans doing more for South Africa than we could ever otherwise do. The more we do for ourselves as Zulus in this Mahlabathini District, the more we will be capable of doing for South Africa.

When I look around me at a Show like this and I see how the people are responding to the call for self-help and how they are actually becoming diligent in the production of surpluses, I am greatly encouraged.

I really congratulate all those who have displayed their produce here and who have here given evidence of their industriousness.

Mr. Master of Ceremonies, I congratulate the organisers of this 1990 Mahlabathini Agricultural and Industrial Society Show. Well done, I say. Let us, I say, see the success around us and be encouraged to produce more of it because the success we see around us is, my brothers and sisters, only the success of the beginning first step towards the final salvation of the Mahlabathini community from the aftermaths of apartheid.

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Dept of Agriculture



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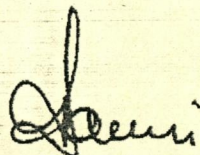
GREETINGS

THIS IS RE INKANYEZI YOUTH TALENT SHOW COVERAGE AT THE COMMUNITY HALL  
ON THE 18/08/90

WE ARE ADVISING YOU THAT THE PROGRAMME WILL BE SHOWN ON THE 18th  
OF SEPTEMBER 1990 IN THE PROGRAMME SIYAZUNGEZA/SIYATSHELEKA  
ON TUESDAY.

IT WAS A PLEASURE WORKING WITH YOU, PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH AND  
INFORM US IF SOMETHING RELEVANT TAKES PLACE AT ULUNDI.

YOURS IN THE SERVICE OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES.



THUTHU MSOMI (P/S TV 2)

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