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KING S HAKA DAY COMMEMDBDRANYT VN
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SPEECH BY MANGOSUTHU G. BUTHELEZI MLA
CHIEF MINISTER, PRESIDENT OF INKATHA AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE BLACK ALLIANCE

The Honourable Masters of Ceremony, His Majesty the King and his immediate Royal family; the Honourable Ministers of KwaZulu, and Deputy Ministers; the Senior Prince and members of the Zulu Royal House, Amakhosi, the Commissioner General and Mrs Hansmeyer, His Worship the Mayor of Stanger and other Councillors, the Honourable the American Consul General Mr Harris and Mrs Harris, the Honourable Her Britannic Majesty's Consul in Durban Mr Simon Davey; the Honourable Italian Consul Dr Sembianti; the Honourable German Consul Mr Sasse and Mrs Sasse; the Honourable the Portuguese Consul Dr Joao Caetano da Silva and Mrs da Silva; the Honourable American Consul Mr McCauley, other Honourable members of the Consular Corps present; members of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly; members: of the KwaZulu Heritage, Senior Officials of the KwaZulu Government; Mayors of KwaZulu Townships and Councillors; all distinguished guests present today; sons and daughters of KwaZulu and sons and daughters of Africa ladies and gentlemen.

I welcome all the guests that have come to join with us in - worship and praise at this great shrine of the Zulu Nation - the tomb of our Founder and our first King. - Forsus it is

always a great..../2

always a great moment to be here on this day to express our thanks to our Founder who welded the Nguni clans of this Region into the powerful Zulu Nation, which existed as the most powerful Nation in Southern Africa, Central and Eastern Africa from the time it was founded up to the 4th of July 1897, when the Zulu Nation succumbed to superior weapons at Ulundi, when the Zulus faced the might of the most powerful army of that time the British Army. It is a common misunderstanding to be boasting when I speak as I do. I give that historical background because we cannot appreciate today's event in its context and in its correct perspective unless I invite you to look back with me.

Every Nation in the world has its National shrines. For the Zulu people King Shaka's tomb is perhaps the main National Shrine or perhaps the most revered of all of them. Any people in travail such as we have been in, for so long need to visit their shrines to get: inspiration: It is here that we are reminded of who we are, and of our past achievements. It is here that we have come to gather more moral strength for the battles that still lie ahead. It is here, that we remember that throughout the history of man some battles are won..and some: battles are lost. It is here that we remind ourselves that what matters is the final battles in the struggle for liberation the final battle still lies ahead of

us.

I believe that we have however, now reached the beginnings of the final battle. It is here that the whole world is watching the drama of it all. . All the eyes of the world

are turned on us as combatants in that final battle.

Our hero about whom..../3

Our hero about whom we are gathered here today was a military strategist. He developed the now famous Horns of the army during his reign. He won all the battles he fought because he was largely a strategist. I have in the past recalled, and now wish to recall again today, that when I visited Nigeria as the guest of the Nigerian Government in October 1976, I spoke from the same platform on which the previous speaker a West African academic had spoken about "KING SHAKA THE MILITARY STRATEGIST".

If in the battles which we face today in our struggle for liberation we do not use that heritage which our Founder bequeathed to us by being as good strategists as he was, we can forget about achieving our freedom in the foreseeable future. Black anger is our national asset, which we desperately need in waging our struggle for liberation. But Black anger can by itself become a lethal weapon, if we fail to give it the content and form which will make it an

effective weapon of victory, in our hands.

I think that we as Black South Africans have floundered in our struggle for liberation because we have often allowed our anger to be 'dissipated in 'futile' black-on-black self-lacerating strifes. Anger like all good things cannot achieve much if we allow it to degenerate into blinding anger. Just like liquor, if drunk in moderation liquor can have very good effects to the entire system. But if taken to excesses liquor becomes a curse. So is blinding anger. Anger which is let loose like a vagrant force regardless of who it destroys has the same effect as on a man who drinks to

excesses and then...../4

excesses and then finds that he has lost his sense of direction. People who stir up the pot of Black anger for the sake of it do not deserve to be called leaders. Black people in South Africa are angry because of the manner in which they have, since their conquest, been brutalised and dehumanised. That is why I have always stated that Black South Africans do not need to be conscientised vis-a-vis their oppression because - colonialism, segregation, apartheid, Separate Development call it what you will, Black exclusion from Parliament, Black exclusion from the President's Council and from the Tricameral Parliament has more than conscientised us about our plight as the oppressed: so this land! These things have sufficiently emasculated Black South Africans for them to need any conscientisation as if they are unaware that they are largely still a bonded people.

There is no reason why we should develop Black anger into a cult as it is sufficiently effective without being turned into a cult. I fear that there have been too many futile attempts by some of our sons and daughters since the early seventies to make Black anger some kind of cult. That is why Black anger has not achieved as much as it should have achieved for us in the past decades. Our Black anger has helped us to resist oppression and even the few changes that have been implemented have been implemented as a result of concerted Black anger. It is the stirring of Black anger up to boiling point which I deprecate.

There has been...../5

There has been no worse development in this use of Black anger than that which some of our brothers have nurtured in order to turn on Black anger not against oppressive laws and the apartheid system, but against other Black people.

King Shaka could not have achieved all the great things which he achieved in a few years if his anger was not channelled in such a way that it became a weapon of victory in his hands. We can be as angry as those who want to stir up the spirit of our anger. Up to boiling point, but if we have no plan which is acceptable to the people we may find that we will mark time for another decade without being able to achieve our freedoms. As a young boxer I learnt some lessons I can never forget. In boxing and one of these lessons was that if you want your opponent to make mince-meat of you, allow your anger to boil to blinding anger; If that happens to you in the ring you are ja, dead duck even before you begin. So is the case even in the cockpit in which we are facing those who oppress us, if we stir up anger of the masses without any plan or strategy we can forget about achieving our freedom in our life-time. All we will achieve

is self-laceration and a set back in our entire struggle.

King Shaka never destroyed those he had conquered, he used them to increase the might of his formidable army. They were incorporated until the amalgam of all the clans became

what became the mighty Zulu Nation.

When we think of King Shaka on this day we do so with joy in the knowledge of who we are and where we came from. Nations throughout the world...../6

throughout the world have their own heroes. LEE s Lane exaggeration that in all the annals of history we know that there are so few who did so much of such lasting wvalue as our great warrior King and Founder. It is unbelievable that he was born about a century ago and that what he did in the space â\200\230of 12Â« years of hig. miraculoussiireign as:King. ofisthe Zulus, has lasted more than a century and will last for many centuries to come.

In other countries there were other heroes who were heroic in history but they were heroic in an on-going history which they themselves did not produce. They â\200\234were â\200\230actors iin'a history that others produced. King Shaka was heroic in the history which he himself produced. In this sense he is the architect: not: only â\200\230ofitouri history ibut iofisour iNation:, & the Zulus as they are known throughout the world today.

I think that we owe it to his vision 'in this Region that we are not insular in outlook and that we see our country as the whole of â\200\234FSouth Â¢ Africai in<= the context of the Sub-continent of Southern Africa. It is he who shook the whole of Southern Africa to its very foundations. It was King Â©Shaka who first raised the llevel of the people's awareness that there were tracts of their country beyond their immediate horizons. He had a vision of one united

South and Southern Africa.

Some people have always stressed that it was by brutality

alone that he accomplished the miracle of 12 years. It was

not the might of the sword alone which made him great. His

prowess deservesS...../7

prowess deserves our praise but it was not only because of the prowess which he demonstrated by his remarkable agility in wielding the spear, . but we revere his memory also for his genius. We who are products of his life and know our inner thoughts and the inner thoughts of our brothers and sisters, know that no power of the spear alone could ever have created such loyalty and such love as our Founder created. You cannot batter people into loyalty. You cannot make people proud citizens by killing them.

Whenever King Shaka conquered the people he conquered ended up knowing fully well that they would be better off than they were before conquest. In other words their conquest had a dividend for them. Everywhere the code of Zulu law was applied 'in his domain. SO wherever people were conquered the people found that the greatest things of llife and the deeper values of life were enhanced. They learnt

the meaning of allegiance.

They learnt what national pride meant. They learnt what patriotism meant. That Ise Pwhy the people he had incorporated after conquest were prepared to die for all these values which they' had acquired through him. Lhis singularity of purpose of a great Nation can only be built around things of great value which have a meaning for ordinary people. It is this vision of the importance of the State which bound the Zulu people together with what became the most powerful Nation in Southern, East and Central

Africa. We who are South Africans of today are extremely

proud to be the...../8

proud: -to .be â\200\230the â\200\230direct product: of the â\200\234hisFory: which King Shaka started. That is why we need that kind of awareness of the value of the State.

Party politics today is tending ever-increasingly to make the State is some kind â\200\230of prize for Party political victories. We as Zulu people know that when the Party is put above the State, or even equated with the Party, it is the State which suffers. Before King Shaka there was only a piece of land between the Indian Ocean in the East and the Atlantic Ocean in the West. It â\200\230was: â\200\230not: one. country with one â\200\230sovereign right to: â\200\230exist. History has made that piece of land South Africa and the history that has created the Sovereign State of South Africa was a history which "indeed could be said to have been set in motion by King Shaka. His vast influence extended Southwards right down to the Caledon River, Northwards right into Mocambique across Swaziland into Eastern Transvaal and to the West. King Shaka's influence reached deep into what is now Transvaal. He was a presence in the â\200\234and that all had to take note of, and all had to deal with. He swayed the very movement of history and, distinguished guests, my brothers and sisters, it is The history that followed King Shaka that has left us in its

wake to act as a catalyst for our entirely new South Africa.

King Shaka, in the deepest sense of the words was one of the very first South Africans even â\200\230â\200\234to have remerged: on this Sub-Continent. He began putting people together. He began conquering to incorporate. He began conquering to add to

the meaning of life of the people. He conquered to improve

and having provided...../9

and having provided vision and purpose for all those he drew together, he was removed by history. It was King Shaka who excelled more than any other indigenous King to establish coherency amongst scattered people. Distinguished guests, my brothers and sisters as we face the great South African realities which cannot be gainsaid, and which cannot be ignored, we have to realise what is at stake for everybody in South Africa. As a multi-racial people thrust together, we have only one destiny which we all share alike despite our diversity. We must now move towards the destiny of our choice. We must move forward to triumph; over racialism and fear or we must allow the dreams of the future authored by history itself, to perish. We have a particular responsibility as a Nation to this KwaZulu/Natal region of South Africa. History has thrust us into being prime actors in South Africa at large, and history itself has authored our relevance at the National level. But this does not

absolve us from our regional responsibilities.

It is in this region that we have now got the opportunity to do something and do it we must. When history makes the next move and affords us the opportunity of doing something at the National level, we will consolidate there what we have been doing there. The immediate move which is now possible

for us as South Africans is a move at this Regional level of

KwaZulu/Natal. While we want to see what White responses

are to the urgency of the times and while we wait for the State President to put really meaningful content into his reform programme, there is something we can do here in this region. We are not waiting for National developments in

some kind of resigned way. We are working there. We are

forcing the pace...../10

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forcing the pace there but the pace we are forcing at the national level has given us opportunities right now at the regional levels: et Israsiat i this regional level of KwaZulu/Natal that the KwaZulu/Natal Indaba proposals have been formulated. We must discharge our responsibilities as actors+ in â\200\230South â\200\230Africaâ\200\230created by history:to: do. something effective at the regional level where it all began. We must

put our house in order here in this region.

We are proud that we have the descendant of King Shaka in our midst, who today sits on the throne of King Shaka. 1L mean â\200\234Hi's' Majesty the King of the Zulus. He is the main speaker at . this. ceremony<today. It is appropriate that it should be he :who â\200\230pays . tribute to: the 'man ito: whom, â\200\234His Majesty owes his very throne. We love our King and we are fortunate to have him as our:King at this time. He stands as not only as the symbol of our unity but as the father of our Nation. In more than ten yeÃ©rs as King of the.Zulus he has worked himself into the hearts of his people. He has set examples of industriousness and his concern for the welfare of not only the Zulus but of all population groups in Southern Africa stand out, as outstanding features of his reign. I now pray silence for His Majesty the King of the Zulus.

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