

INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY
29TH JANUARY 1991
STATEMENT

BY MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI, PRESIDENT INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

The IFP wishes to express its disquiet at the way in which the composition of the IFP and the ANC delegations, which met at the Royal Hotel in Durban today, 29th January 1991, was handled by the ANC.

The invitation from the ANC to meet was extended to IFP <clearly inviting the IFP to agree to a meeting between the Central Committee of the IFP and the National Executive of the ANC.

After the IFP had accepted the invitation and times and venues had been agreed to, Dr. F.T. Mdlalose from the IFP and Mr. Jacob Zuma from the ANC jointly undertook the more detailed planning.

Throughout the discussions about the details of the meeting the ANC accepted the fact that the Central Committee from Inkatha would attend. In fact, the President of IFP in the end recommended to the Central Committee that for economic and logistic reasons the IFP 'should limit the number of delegates to the meeting. The IFP Central Committee members are in excess of 100, and this was reduced to 67.

The names of the IFP delegation were faxed to Mr. Zuma on Thursday the 24th of January 1991, At no stage did the ANC ask how many delegates would come to the meeting from the IFP and at no stage did they ascertain how many members the IFP Central Committee included.

After the 67 IFP members of the Central Committee selected to represent it had been notified and after the majority of them had already left home to travel to Durban, via Ulundi, the ANC lodged objections saying the IFP delegation was too large.

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The Deputy President of the ANC, Dr. Mandela, first raised the question of the number of delegates with the President of Inkatha close to midnight on Sunday the 27th January 1991.

The IFP records its disappointment that what was intended to be a first diplomatic getting together of the IFP/ANC was associated with ANC concerns with how many people would be there. Both parties knew that there would be no voting, and no head counting and the number of delegates would be irrelevant to the success of the meeting.

The IFP's commitment to do what can be done to reduce political tensions and reduce political violence led it to reluctantly agree to the reduced IFP delegation after Dr. Mandela had suggested that the full delegation could come but that only 20 members would

officially represent the IFP and the rest would be in the meeting venue as observers.

The IFP appeals to the ANC to put first things first and not to raise unnecessary complications whenever it meets with the IFP. The question of the number of delegates intruded on pre-meeting thinking and feeling and was disruptive of the development of attitudes so necessary for bridging difficult gaps.

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