

INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY SPECIAL GENERAL CONFERENCE

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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It has been Inkatha Freedom Party's point of view that the process of normalising South African politics and normalising the relationship between political Parties and political organisations actually started quite some time ago. What one can perhaps call the "good we" and the "ogre they" politics is actually a thing of yesteryear. There was once a time when anybody who criticised the National Party was shown a trembling and shaking finger pointing at them with accusations of being a Communist.

Those years of political intolerance have now passed and political Parties which cannot talk to other political Parties are becoming fewer. It will I hope not be too long before political Parties which refuse to talk to other political Parties become a rarity.

Of course I am not talking about formal talking on public platforms. I am thinking about ordinary contact, freedom to pick up a telephone and speak, or the freedom to write a note to somebody in another Party.

We all share a common destiny, whatever our political persuasions are and we should be able to talk to each other about that common destiny and how we are going to proceed from here to it.

I am greatly pleased that this year's Special General Conference of Inkatha Freedom Party is graced by representation from such a wide spectrum of South African politics as it is. We have here with us the Honourable Mr. Katuu Karura, the Vice-President of DTA in Namibia. He is a member of the Parliament in Namibia and I think we would all agree in welcoming the representatives of other political Parties to this Conference we should as South Africans mention him first as a visiting dignitary from across our borders.

I welcome the National Party Youth Chairman from Natal Mr. J. Maree. His Provincial Secretary Mr. J. Waugh and a member of his Council Mr. H. Barnard.

I also welcome Mr. M. Schoentech, the Natal Youth Chairman of the Conservative Party and his colleagues Mr. J. Pienaar and Mr. M. Slabbert.

I also welcome the Chairperson of the Democratic Party Youth Ms. D. Cainduff and her colleagues.

That already is - together with Inkatha Freedom Party - a very substantial cross-section of political representation in South Africa. I must also welcome Mr. Fouche the Chairman of Youth for South Africa and Mr. P. Boshoff a member of his National Council. They and Mr. Kobus Roussouw the Chairman of Junior Rapportryers add significantly to the representation of new young South Africans who are with us today.

Ladies and gentlemen, we also have with us the Dr. W.Z. Conco who has returned from exile after many years of being away as a member of the ANC. In fact he still is a member of the ANC and I welcome him here. Perhaps by the next General Conference that Inkatha Freedom Party holds, he will not be the only representative of the ANC to come and wish us well.

Very importantly, we have with us four members of the Sofasonke Party. You are most welcome. Feel at home amongst us and share our thinking and feel our friendship.

I always have difficulty in this kind of situation. Everybody's name is tumbling over everybody else's name to be mentioned first so that in the end you just do not rank people in terms of the importance with which they are weighted in any list.

I am immensely proud that Inkatha Freedom Party has drawn 12 Councillors from Diepmeadow Council, 12 Councillors from Soweto Town Council and four Councillors from Mamelodi Town Council, as guests of this Special General Conference. Ladies and gentlemen, these are the people who need our moral support and let us give them applause for being here.

Our Indian brothers and sisters with whom we are increasingly in dialogue about the future of South Africa are here representing a veritable cross-section of Indian political opinion.

My hopes rise when Inkatha Freedom Party draws this kind of representation from such a wide political spectrum as guests to one of our Conferences. This is the very stuff that history is made out of. It is this kind of coming together that is wanted everywhere.

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