

**UMASIPALA WESIFUNDA SASE-ZULULAND
UMHLANGANO WENTSHA WEZINGXOXO**

**INKULUMO EYINGQIKITHI
NGUMNTWANA MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI ILUNGU LEPHALAMENDE
UMENGAMELI WEQEMBU LENKATHA YENKULULEKO**

ONDINI: 15 KUNHLANGULANA/JUNI 2010

**ZULULAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
YOUTH SUMMIT
KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY
PRINCE MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI MP
PRESIDENT OF THE INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY**

Zululand District Municipality: 15 June 2010

The Honourable Mayor of the Zululand District Municipality, Councilor Gwala; the Honourable Ms Lebenya-Ntanzi MP, Acting Chairperson of the IFP Youth Brigade; the leadership of SADESMO; Councilors and leaders of our IFP structures; honoured guests.

Revolutions are not started by the rich, the elite or the elderly. The great revolutions of history have been kindled among the youth, the workers and the ordinary man. Fundamental ideological shifts have begun from university campuses, where bright young minds have had the courage to question what we know and believe to be true.

When I was a youth at the University of Fort Hare, I was drawn into the activities of the ANC Youth League because we dared to question the moral basis for segregation and the authority of one group of people to subjugate another. We read widely and debated often. We studied history and

strategized. And we took action within the boundaries of integrity and moral rectitude.

We, for instance, organized a boycott of the Governor General's address to the student body in response to Dr Brand van Zyl's insulting language. For this, I and two other student political activists were expelled. It was difficult to accept what seemed like a failure. But my passion for justice and the liberation of our country was not diminished. I continued my education at the University of Natal, where I met Mr Oliver Tambo, Mr Nelson Mandela and Mr Walter Sisulu. I majored in history and completed my studies in law.

Even after my academic career, I maintained close ties to institutions of learning and enjoyed the friendship of intellectuals and academics. When the ANC was banned and began digressing from the high moral ground to engage an armed struggle, I chose to uphold the values of the founding fathers of our liberation movement and rejected bloodshed as a means to freedom.

In the seventies, I established Inkatha yeNkululeko yeSizwe and became the Chief Minister of the erstwhile KwaZulu Government. Although my days and nights were occupied

with mobilizing our struggle, seeking the genuine will of the people and delivering good governance under the injustices of *apartheid*, I continued to seek out the company of great minds. I knew that my own perspective needed to be tempered and tested against the ideas of others.

During that time, I was invited to join a study group of businessmen and intellectuals, called Synthesis, which met to discuss current affairs and worldviews. It was there that I met Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, a young lecturer at the University of Stellenbosch at the time, and one of the brightest minds our country has ever seen.

For years, as the Chancellor of the University of Zululand, I returned to attend the graduation ceremonies of each successive crop of graduates. It was my pleasure to speak to those budding young minds as they were launched into the marketplace. I encouraged them towards diligence and a path of lifelong learning. This is the same advice I have always given the leaders of SADESMO, and every student I have had the privilege to meet.

Looking back, I do not regret that my political activities got me expelled from the University

of Fort Hare. The system that forced my rustication was an unjust system and I knew the potential consequences of my participation as an activist. Rather, it would have been a cause for regret if my focus on political activities had caused me to skip classes, or miss deadlines for submitting assignments, or fail my exams.

It would have served no purpose if I had sacrificed my education on the altar of politics, because I would have been infinitely less competent to fulfill my destiny as a leader, a politician and a servant of the people. Knowing this, whenever we speak about youth development, in Parliament or in forums such as this, I am reminded that passion is not the only prerequisite in young people who want to change the world.

Passion must be coupled with knowledge.

There is no lack of passion among our youth. True, some have allowed the apathy of despair to seep in as they face a closed job market and a lack of opportunities. But it is not difficult to stir a young person to enthusiasm if one has a good and worthy cause to participate in. Even when it is not good and worthy, many young people will attach

themselves to a cause because it is interesting, exciting and sensationalist. We see that every day within the ANC Youth League, and among the "Friends of VZ".

But young people need to mature beyond sensationalism if we are to forge a future generation of competent leaders. Those of you in this room will join the next generation in running our country, taking up the cause of liberation and ushering in a better South Africa. In order to do that successfully, you will need to develop as individuals and teach other young people how to develop as well. You, in this room, are the cream of the crop in many ways. You are leaders in your own spheres; young people who have the inborn capacity to start a revolution.

If one looks at the cycle of human development, it is clear that as one grows from childhood to adulthood there is a phase of crudeness, which gave rise to the saying, "Small things amuse small minds". Little boys and little girls are fascinated by base humour. They appreciate the simplicity of revenge, showcasing, upstaging, deceit and profanity. Some causes rely on these things to gather support, which is why we see so many political meetings end in fistfights, swearing matches

and character assassination. But these causes attract immature people and keep them in a state of immaturity. Again, unfortunately, one could look at the ANC Youth League.

The IFP is something quite different. When we speak about youth development, we are not limited to demanding that Government institute programmes of skills training or that companies receive subsidies for employing young people – although we support initiatives of this type. The IFP goes further by challenging young people to grow to maturity of thought and action, to attain discipline in their lives, to expand their knowledge, to think, debate and reason.

We are intent on equipping young people to become contributing and productive members of society, because that is how one changes a nation. I am delighted to have this opportunity to speak to young leaders within our structures, to encourage you towards maturity in your thinking, your decisions and your actions. As champions of youth development, you must model maturity by adopting a sound work ethic, whether in your studies, in your workplace, in your community or your political activities.

Welcome challenges that will expand your horizons and stretch you beyond what you can already do. If you can speak well to a group of five people, seek opportunities to speak to a group of fifty. If you can draft a letter, why not try writing an article for publication? If you can mobilize students to attend a sports event, challenge yourself to organize a youth rally focusing on development and political involvement. If you can raise money for transport, try your hand at fundraising for an election campaign. Always go beyond what you are good at right now, and seek the company of people who are good at other things, so that you will learn a diversity of skills.

Our summit today is intended to focus on youth development within South Africa and the role of our youth in the current political situation. Much will be said today about skills training, employment and upliftment programmes, and I hope that we might develop a concrete agenda to take back to our youth, whether they are students, jobseekers, workers or the head of their home. I have limited my remarks to setting the tone for the discussions we are going to have, by challenging you to be leaders who know where

you are going and are focused on getting there.

Young people cannot allow anything to derail them from fulfilling their destiny. Circumstance, chance and accidents of birth pose obstacles that can be overcome when one has the courage to move beyond immaturity and the guts to work hard.

I congratulate the organizers of this Summit for choosing to celebrate Youth Day is a different way this year. Thank you for your foresight in gathering our young leaders at this critical juncture. The IFP stands at a crossroads right now. Our survival hangs in the balance. If we are to emerge from the current ructions as a unified party, we must rely on our youth to choose the right path. I hope that all of us will see the value in protecting the IFP's good legacy for the sake of our future, so that we may offer South Africa something other than sensationalism and divisions.

I encourage our youth to pursue the path of integrity and personal development, and to walk this path hand in hand with a Party that values the future.

I thank you.

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