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THE MASTER OF CEREMONY

LEADERS OF THE ANC YOUTH LEAGUE

COHRADES AND FRIENDS

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IT GIVES ME THE GREATEST PLEASURE AND A SENSE OF HONOUR TO ADDRESS THE LAUNCHING RALLY OF THE ANC YOUTH LEAGUE IN THE NORTHERN TRANSVAAL. NOT SO LONG AGO, WHEN HE VISITED YOUR REGION, HE TOOK THAT OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS THE IMPORTANT ROLE THE PEOPLE OF THIS REGION HAVE PLAYED IN THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR STRUGGLES. DURING THE HARS OF RESISTANCE, GREAT LEADERS SUCH AS THULARE, NGUNGUNYANE, SEKHUKHUNI AND OTHERS HALKED THESE REALHS. HEROINES SUCH AS HADINOGE AND OUR OWN CHARLOTTE HAXEKE HERE NURTURED IN THESE PARTS. TODAY IT IS IN THEIR MEMORY THAT HE SALUTE YOU, THAT HE PAY HOHAGE TO ALL THOSE FROM THIS REGION WHO HAVE LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES OVER MANY LONG YEARS SO THAT OUR COUNTRY AND PEOPLE COULD BE DELIVERED FROM BONDAGE.

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WHEN HE LAUNCHED THE ANC YOUTH LEAGUE IN THE EARLY 40's, WE HERE ALL DRIVEN BY A DESIRE TO HARNESS THE INEXHAUSTIBLE POOL OF YOUTHFUL ENERGY - THE BLESSING OF EVERY NATION, FOR PURPOSES OF REINFORCING AND REVITALISING THE RANKS OF OUR GREAT ORGANISATION THE ARC. HE DID SO FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT THE ANC HAS THE TRUE STANDARD BEARER OF THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE. AS WE HAD HOPED, THE YOUTH LEAGUE ADDED THE NECESSARY IHPETUS TO THE BUILDING OF A MASS POPULAR OFFENSIVE THAT HERALDED THE ERA OF MORE PROHINENT INVOLVEMENT OF YOUTH ACROSS THE IDEOLOGICAL DIVIDE IN THE

STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION. OUR YOUTH LEAGUE, MORE THAN ANY OTHER, PRODUCED ABLE AND ASTUTE POLITICAL FIGURES IN THE LINES OF NELSON MANDELA, ANTON LUKHBEDE, H. SISULU, R. SOBUKHE, AND MANY OTHERS.

TODAY WE LOOK BACK WITH PRIDE AT THE INCALCULABLE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY YOUTH LEAGUERS OVER THE DECADES. IT WAS THE YOUTH LEAGUE WHICH HAS AT THE CENTRE OF INCESSANT DEBATE THAT HELPED TO TRANSFORM THE ANC INTO A SOLID MASS-BASED MOVEMENT OF NATIONAL LIBERATION. DURING THE DEFIANCE CAMPAIGN AND OTHER HOSTILE CAMPAIGNS LEADING TO THE ADOPTION OF OUR PROGRAMME THE FREEDOM CHARTER, AND BEYOND, IT HAS MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH LEAGUE WHO WERE ALWAYS IN THE FOREFRONT. AND WHEN THE TIME CAME TO REVIEW OUR STRATEGIES IN THE WAKE OF HEIGHTENED REPRESSION AT THE CLOSE OF THE 50'S ONCE AGAIN IT HAS MEMBERS OF OUR YOUTH LEAGUE WHO HEARTENED TO THE CALL TO FORM AND EXPAND THE RANKS OF OUR PEOPLE'S ARMY, UMKHONTO WE SIZHE. THE GLORIOUS HISTORY OF UMKHONTO WE SIZHE IS IN MORE DAYS THAN ONE, THE HISTORY OF OUR GALLANT YOUTH. LET US ALSO POINT OUT THE FACT THAT MANY IN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ANC WERE NURTURED AND HOULDED IN THE RANKS OF THE YOUTH LEAGUE.

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WHAT THEN IS THE YOUTH LEAGUE AND WHAT SHOULD ITS ROLE BE? THE ANC YOUTH LEAGUE IS THAT FORMATION WITHIN THE BROAD ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE ANC WHICH REINFORCES AND REPLENISHES OUR MOVEMENT. WITHIN ITS RANKS IS FOUND THE CREAM OF OUR YOUNG CADRESHIP AS WELL AS THOSE WHO BY VIRTUE OF AGE CANNOT AS YET QUALIFY FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP OF THE ANC. ALL OF THESE CONSTITUTE THE BEDROCKS OF OUR NATIONAL LIBERATION

MOVEMENT, THEY ARE DEDICATED SHOCK-TROOPS OF OUR STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE. THIS FACT MORE THAN ANY OTHER EXPLAINS WHY THE ANC YOUTH LEAGUE, NOW AS IN THE PAST, SHOULD LEAD BY FORCE OF EXAMPLE- IT SHOULD ASSUME CENTRE-STAGE IN THE EFFORT TO FORM A BROAD YOUTH FRONT OF SOUTH AFRICA. OUR OWN HISTORY COMPELS US TO BELIEVE THAT NO ONE IS BETTER QUALIFIED THAN THE YOUTH TO TAKE ON THE MAMMOTH YET NOBLE RESPONSIBILITY. THE YOUTH MUST, THEREFORE BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE STRUGGLE. WITHOUT THIS, OUR ENDEAVOUR TO BUILD A GENUINE NATIONAL UNITY REMAIN FURTHER FROM US.

DEAR COHRADES, IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS THAT ONLY WITH A STRONG AND WELL-ORGANISED YOUTH LEAGUE CAN OUR OBJECTIVES BE ATTAINED. YOUR MOVEMENT AND YOUR PEOPLE EXPECT YOU TO HAVE EMERGED FROM THIS REGIONAL CONGRESS BETTER EQUIPPED TO MOBILISE AND ORGANISE FOR A STRONGER YOUTH ORGANISATION OF THE ANC. WE HOPE THAT YOUR LODESTAR WILL REMAIN THE LIBERATION OF OUR COUNTRY, AS THIS IS THE OVERRIDING VISION OF ALL MEN AND WOMEN OF CONSCIENCE BOTH IN OUR COUNTRY AND ABROAD.

IN THIS CONNECTION, YOU SHOULD CONSCIOUSLY PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES THAT MUST LEAD US TO OUR GOAL. AS IS WELL KNOWN THE ANC IS AT THIS POINT IN TIME SEIZED WITH THE PROBLEM OF KEEPING THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS ON TRACK. SEVERAL DIFFICULTIES STILL CONFRONT US IN THIS REGARD. THE PRINCIPAL ONES EMANATE FROM THE REGIME'S PREVARICATION AND RELUCTANCE TO HONOUR AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN ITSELF AND THE ANC. THEY DO SO IN COMPLETE DEFIANCE OF BOTH THE HARARE DECLARATION AND THE UN CONSENSUS DOCUMENTS. ALL THIS POINT IN ONE DIRECTION AND THAT IS, THE GOVERNMENT

IS PLAYING WITH TIME Hoping to tire out the liberation movement in the process consolidating its side by drawing in vacillators and collaborationists. In this way the regime falsely hopes to one day emerge as the majority party at the negotiating table.

Viewed against this background, the acute urgency of the Patriotic Front cannot be over-emphasised. He must go to the Patriotic Front conference driven by a desire to proceed from there, solidly united around the common aspirations of the majority of South Africans. It is this Patriotic Front that should lay the foundation of fruitful debate at the envisaged all-party congress. The ARC youth no less than any other organisation is expected to put its mark on the character and direction of both forums.

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We have to place before the all party congress a comprehensive argument for a transitional governing mechanism that will enjoy the support of all our people irrespective of colour or ideological persuasion. He must seek to convince the all party congress to agree that that mechanism can only be the interim government as envisaged in the Harare declaration. He believes, as he does, that the interim government should constitute the principal governing authority to oversee the process of constitutional negotiations towards an elected constituent assembly. In other words in the intervening period between the all party congress and the time when the constituent assembly shall conclude its business there can be

NO OTHER SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY OUTSIDE THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. IT IS IMPERATIVE, THEREFORE, THAT EVERY HONEST AND SINCERE SOUTH AFRICAN SHOULD WORK DOUBLY HARD TO ENSURE THAT THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT BECOMES THE TOOL OF ELIMINATING FEAR AND CONQUERING MISTRUST. WE HAVE TO USE THE PERIOD OF TRANSITION TO SOW THE SEEDS OF TRUE DEMOCRATISATION AND LAY AN UNSHAKABLE FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE.

3H; PATH HE ARE PROJECTING WILL NOT BE WITHOUT PROBLEMS. ALREADY THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE CASTING ASPERSIONS FROM THE SIDELINES. THERE ARE ALSO THOSE WHO NEVER LEAVE THE BOARDROOMS WHERE THEY PLOT THE DEFEAT OF THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY. THEY MUST BE THWARTED BY THE UNITED STRENGTH OF THE PEOPLE, BLACK AND WHITE.

MORE THAN EVER BEFORE OUR COUNTRY NEEDS ALL ROUND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN OURSELVES AND EVERY ADHERENT OF DEMOCRACY AND NON-RACIALISM - BE THEY IN BUSINESS, THE CIVIL SERVICE, RELIGION, LABOUR, EDUCATION, SPORTS AND CULTURE, RURAL COLLECTIVES AND TRADITIONAL STRUCTURES OF HEREDITY AND OTHERWISE. WE NEED STRONGER BONDS OF SOLIDARITY AMONGST OURSELVES IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED. I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO POINT OUT THE FACT THAT THERE ARE STILL DISTURBING INADEQUACIES IN THIS REGARD. WE ALSO SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CHARGE THE YOUTH IN THIS REGION WITH THE DUTY OF ENSURING THE PROTECTION OF THE POSITIVE VALUES OF OUR TRADITIONAL HERITAGE. WE HAVE TO ASSURE OUR COMMUNITIES AND OUR TRADITIONAL LEADERS THAT THE BANNER OF THE ANC FLIES, AS IT HAS DONE SINCE 1912, ALSO IN THEIR NAME AND INTEREST. THIS WE CAN DO BY FORCE OF EXAMPLE. IN THIS REGARD MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH LEAGUE CANNOT

AFFORD TO BE DISRESPECTFUL OR EVEN TO BE SEEN TO BE
PATRONISING THE ELDERS IN OUR COMMUNITIES.
IT IS TRUE THAT WE HAVE TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP ON MANY KEY
ISSUES CONFRONTING OUR NATION TODAY. BUT THIS LEADERSHIP
SHOULD HANIFEST IN THE FORM OF PERSUASION RATHER THAN THROUGH
COHPULSION. WE HAVE TO EXPLAIN THAT THE BUILDING OF
ORGANISATION IN VILLAGES AND HOMESTEADS IS IN THE FINAL
ANALYSIS AIHED AT SECURING THE BIRTHRIGHTS OF
THE PEOPLE. HE MUST BE PREPPARED TO DO THIS TIME AND AGAIN AND
NEVER TIRE.
THIS IS THE MESSAGE THAT MUST PERHEATE THE MOBILISATION
CAMPAIGN OF THE ANC YOUTH LEAGUE THROUGHOUT THE AREAS OF THE
THE GREAT NORTH. HE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY FREEDOM FIGHTER
HORTHY OF THAT NAME, SHOULD PARTAKE OR EVEN ENCOURAGE THE
KILLING OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE ON SUSPICION THAT THEY MAY BE
INVOLVED IN HHITCHCRAFT. IF THERE ARE ANY CONRADES WHO ARE
INVOLVED IN THE 30 CALLED HITCH HURTS THEY MUST DESIST FROM
THIS FORTHHITH. OUR WAR IS AGAINST THE SYSTEM OF APARTHEID
AND NOT AGAINST OUR PEOPLE.
LET US MOVE FORWARD TO FREEDOM AS ONE.
VICTORY IS IN SIGHT !
HAATLA I
HATLIMBA !
END