

ADDRESS TO THE STAFF OF THE KWAZULU FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

CORPORATION BY MANGOSUTHU G. BUTHELEZI, CHIEF MINISTER KWAZULU,

PRESIDENT OF INKATHA AND CHAIRMAN, THE SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK ALLIANCE  
UMLAZI. 19TH APRIL 1985

The â\200\230Hoti. = Drs Zulu, Chairman of the Board, other members of the Board of Directors, ladies and gentlemen.

Today is a very important day for me as Chief Minister and for the KwaZulu Government. Pressure of work has prevented me from visiting the KFC in the past and today's visit is the first I have made to the headquarters of the KFC at Umlazi, since the take-over of this operation from KDC. I remember coming here once during the life-time of Dr. Marti Olivier.

It is, I believe, appropriate that this visit should coincide with the formal passing of control of the KFC to the KwaZulu Government. The KwaZulu Corporations Act, the legislation passed by the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly on the 13th November last year was only promulgated on March 29th and so this Corporation has only been functioning in terms of KwaZulu law for exactly three weeks.

Mr. Chairman, while it is true that this might be an appropriate time for me to visit you here at Umlazi, I must hasten to point out that we at Ulundi have had a good and warm association with the KFC and its predecessors for many years. I believe that I can say in all honesty and without fear of contradiction that the working relationship between this Corporation and the KwaZulu Government is unique and has no parallel anywhere else in South Africa. The trust between us has been carefully nurtured for many years and it is my earnest hope that we shall succeed in cementing these sound ties even further.

Mr. Chairman, I hasten to say that although it is true that we had good relations with this Corporation in the past, we nonetheless yearned for the day when this Corporation would become a fully fledged development body and when final control would be in Ulundi.

This wish was not motivated by a crude desire to take over for the sake of control, but rather by a genuine belief that we understand our own aspirations better than outsiders in Pretoria and Cape Town and we could thus hope for development strategies to be pursued that were more in line with our own thinking.

I would not like to be misunderstood on this point. nobody should gain the impression that the Zulu people are not grateful for that which has been done for them. All we are saying is that the help

that is available would be put to greater use if we were consulted about priorities relating to our needs.

Mr. Chairman, I should also not like to give the impression that the KwaZulu Government will be interfering in the affairs of the KFC. We will certainly not be doing this. We have full confidence in the Board we have appointed. We know that they will pursue policies that are appropriate to the needs of KwaZulu and we also have full confidence in the management and staff of the KFC who will be implementing these policies.

I believe that we demonstrated our faith in the KFC by inviting the Corporation to help draft the KwaZulu Corporations Bill before it was submitted to the Legislative Assembly for consideration last November.

But, Mr. Chairman, having made these remarks, I would still like to address a few words to KFC staff about the economy of the KwaZulu/Natal region in general.

Those of you who read my address to the Assembly when the KwaZulu Corporations Bill was being considered during the Second Reading on November 12th will know that I made it very clear that the KwaZulu Government is not trying to create a separate economy for the region called KwaZulu. We remain committed to the retention of a unified South Africa.

It is also important for KFC staff to remember that the Central Government has itself accepted that economic boundaries do not coincide with political boundaries. The regional development programme, which we have accepted with a number of qualifications gives practical effect to the recognition that the economy is indivisible.

I believe KFC staff should also take careful note of the agreements we have recently reached with the Central Government regarding joint planning in KwaZulu/Natal.

We have agreed to the establishment of a joint planning committee that will consist of representatives of the KwaZulu Government, the Natal Provincial Administration and three Central Government Departments under the chairmanship of the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning.

This Committee will give high priority to the identification of an industrial development point north of Durban in the Tongaat area and the allocation of industrial land to KwaZulu near Richards Bay. Development of these areas will naturally lie in the hands of the

KFC. I should like to say that the KwaZulu Government attaches great importance to the creation of bridges of development similar to those I have just referred to.

The building of such bridges implies the formulation of development policies with regional implications. I said earlier that we are not trying to create a separate economy and it thus follows that our policies should not be tailored to the blocks of disjointed land known as KwaZulu.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I should like the remarks I have just made to be seen in the context of an issue that is of great importance to me and the KwaZulu Government.

It is our earnest hope that members of the staff of the KFC should not have misgivings about falling under the control of a Black Government. The loyalty that has been displayed towards KwaZulu by KFC staff over the years has been inspiring to us and I thus hope that attitudes will not change now that the final step of full control by Ulundi has been taken.

We shall certainly do everything in our power to retain the trust of KFC staff and I hope that our trust will be reciprocated.

Black and White South Africans are going to have to learn to live together in this land of ours and I would be filled with sadness if we were not able to provide a good model and prove that here in KwaZulu/natal genuine partnership does work. The KwaZulu Government strives hard to engender good race relations from Ulundi and I know that we shall also be able to rely on all the staff of the KFC to work hard to promote inter-racial goodwill.

South Africa is going through very troubled times with violence

taking place in many parts of the country. The KwaZulu Government Inkatha abhor violence and have gone to great lengths to see that our Province remains peaceful. But pressures are building up

daily and many despairing people are easily tempted to opt for violence, particularly when their stomachs are empty and their families go hungry.

There is a critical need for job creation in South Africa. Much of the violence in other parts of our country has its roots in massive

unemployment. We must simply find ways and means of creating jobs on a big scale and this can only really be done in an urban environment. The new development point north of Durban to which I

have already referred offers great hope of success and we will be looking to the staff of the KFC to translate our hopes' into reality.

I should like to say to you all that an awesome responsibility rests on your shoulders and those of the KwaZulu Government to do everything humanly possible to improve the lot of ordinary people. I have great admiration for what the KFC has achieved to date, often under the most difficult circumstances when funds were

severely limited. We know too, that the KFC was in the past punished financially because the KwaZulu Government could not agree with Pretoria's policies. The fact that the staff of the EKEC

persevered and battled on did not go unnoticed.

The KwaZulu Finance Corporation is a bold experiment and faces very trying times ahead. The current economic depression will, according to predictions, last some time yet. Unemployment rates will rise and with it Black anger in the face of terrible deprivation will also rise. The KFC is the prime development arm of the KwaZulu Government. It is our instrument with which to do something meaningful about the upliftment of people. We have no safe blueprint which will help us chart a course across the troubled waters ahead, and I will from time to time rely heavily on the KFC in difficult circumstances.

It is not surprising that the institution of an organisation or a finance corporation. I will in fact be relying on the people who work in it, and ultimately it is the staff of KFC which will justify the boldness of our experiment or not. I call

on every member of the KFC staff to approach their work with a sense of vocation, knowing that this country has vast problems to solve.

I am delighted to meet many members of staff and to be able to thank them personally for holding the fort as loyally as they have done for so long. I want to reiterate my full confidence in the Managing Director, Dr. Spies, and I wish to reassure him once again of my full support in the arduous task which he is performing for the nation through this Corporation. I have never doubted his full loyalty to us, and I know that this has earned him many enemies. I admire the welding operation which he has done in ridding this Corporation of those who were not really with us, and those who saw themselves as being here to do the political job of others, rather than to serve the best interests of the people of KwaZulu.

I appeal to members of staff to give the Managing Director their

undivided loyalty. We expect no more from them than just loyalty, as people who are serving within the KFC - the economic arm of the KwaZulu Government. To be frank, I would prefer a less efficient

person who gives full loyalty to our aims and objectives, rather than an efficient technocrat who is disloyal to these ideals.

It is no use deluding ourselves that the future is a bed of roses. We face a tough future in which man-sized jobs will have to be done, and in which there is no place for those who shirk from

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challenges. I believe my confidence in the KFC and its staff will be justified and those members of staff who enjoy challenge will find their work in partnership with the KwaZulu Government rewarding indeed.

I should like to conclude by formally thanking each and every one of you for all that you have done in the interests of my people over the years. I invite you to stay with us and to help promote a genuine partnership that will guarantee a better future for all of us who live in this part of South Africa.

Striving to build a better tomorrow is surely the noblest of ideals

and I know that we can continue to rely on all of you to provide the building blocks for a brighter future.