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IFP FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATIONS
ADDRESS BY
PRINCE MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI MP
PRESIDENT OF INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY, D D\Mâ\200\231
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N Curries-Fountain, Bushan: 27 April 2010

On the 27â\204¢ of April 1984, South Africans of every race, culture, language and background convened on polling stations across the country. Rich and poor, young and old, we came to cast our voles. Some for the first time. Some with the hope of maintaining the course. Some with the dream of changing the future. But all with an equal right to make our cross on the baliot paper and to speak with a voice that carried no more and no less weight than anyone elseâ\200\231s. For the first time in South Africaâ\200\231s history we all stood on an equal footing and, through the elections, expressed that we had at last become one nation.

I am delighted to be in Durban today, as we remember our first democratic elections of 1894 through the celebration of Freedom Day. Amongst the various national holidays that we observe in South Africa, Freedom Day is perhaps the most inclusive. We often lament that festivals and events organized to celebrate national days are not attended by a representative mixture of South Africans. This has given us cause to quesï~\201oweï~\202'ner every i ipofourd L 3 RN o

South ncap e d are] meniip ot ourdemocrasy. B2 SN A
Right now our national unity stands on precarious ground, following the & murder of AWB leader Mr Eugene Terre'Blanche and the racially divisive behaviour of the ANC Youth League President. Although the hairline fracture of division clearly still exists even sixteen years into democracy, Freedom Day reminds us that we have taken the first stap towards unity. We took that first step as a nation in 1894. Now, we need to keep moving forward. 825 Asts ~AC

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Throughout the world, our transition from apartheid to democracy was heralded as a miracle. And surely God did play a fundamenta! role in bringing liberty to South Africa. But our transition was also birthed through the tfremendous sacrifices made by countless people over many years. Our struggle for freedom did not begin with my generation. We simply accepted to carry forward the legacy of what our parents and their parents had achieved.

For many South Africans, the history of South Africa is cast in the simplistic terms of apartheid and democracy. But the complex relationship between differert peoples on South African soil began long before apartheid was introduced, My matemal great great Grandfather, King Mpande, was approached by the MNorwegian Missionary Society which sought land to establish the first mission station. Bishop Schreuder and King Mpande became good friends. My Grandfather, King Dinuzuiu, was imprisoned by the British and exiled to the island of St Helena. My uncie, King Solomon ka Dinuzulu, was bem-during-his-fathors-axile, a~â\200\224ol hFws heeofdâ\200\224

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These bits of history show that South Africa's struggle reaches far further back than we tend to remember. 1994 has become our constant reference point when we speak of how far we have come as a country. 1994 was indeed a pivotal point in our history; a culmination of small victories and the destination on a long road of suffering. But South Africa was not born in 1994, Our country has inspired me in various forms for many

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When I was Chief Minister of the erstwhile KwaZulu Government, nationalist regime tried to honeytrap me into accepting nominal independence for KwaZulu to try to separate KwaZulu from South Africa. If I had fallen into this trap, millions of South Africans would have lost their citizenship and none of them would have had the right to vote on 27 April 1994,

The struggle to be recognized as South African citizens with equal franchise has been long and arduous. Our history contains battles fought on the rolling plains, and battles fought at the Union Buildings. Our struggle for reconciliation and national unity has cost blood during the internecine civil war waged between members of the ANC and members of Inkatha. It has cost sweat through the lengthy negotiations at the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park. It has cost tears as we lived through the TRC process, trying to come to terms with our tragic past.

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There is much more to our shared history than 27 April 1994, Nevertheless, it is important to celebrate this reference point. Freedom Day should be a celebration of our first true act of national unity, and it should inspire us to look ahead for more opportunities to express a common purpose and a shared goal. And I believe that the goal we should aspire to is the full liberation of South Africa,

Political liberation was not the final destination; it was the first step on a long journey towards freedom from all the social evils and burdens we face: including poverty, underdevelopment, crime, continuing gender inequality, poor service delivery, and the ongoing inaccessibility of a sound education, decent housing, necessary health care and the prospect of a better quality of life for our children.

There is still an enormous amount of work to be done to ensure that South Africa might achieve full liberation in the years to come. It would be devastating if we agreed to stand on the milestone of 1994, and stay there, accepting that this is how far we can go as a nation. The ruling Party would have us believe that political liberation is enough. We all remember their slogans in the run-up to the 1994 elections. They promised houses and jobs, as though these things would just materialize out of thin air the moment we marked the ballot.

We see in Zimbabwe the tragic example of a nation that stood still after

liberation. Zimbabwe is decades away from having achieved political freedom. But still its leader points to the past and blames every social ill on Western

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On the 27th of April 1954, South Africans of every race, culture, language and background convened on polling stations across the country, Rich and poor, young and old, we came to cast our votes, Some for the first time. Some with the hope of maintaining the course, Some with the dream of changing the future, But all with an equal right to make our cross on the ballot paper and to speak with a voice that carried no more and no less weight than anyone else's. For the first time in South Africa's history we all stood on an equal footing and, through the elections, expressed that we had at last become one nation.

I am delighted to be in Durban today, as we remember our first democratic elections from 1994 through the celebration of Freedom Day. Amongst the various national holidays that we observe in South Africa, Freedom Day is perhaps the most inclusive. We often lament that festivals and events organized to celebrate national days are not attended by a representative minority of ownership of our Bantustans. SRNEVE e e

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Right now our national unity stands on precarious ground, following the murder of AWB leader Mr Eugene Terre'Blanche and the ragged divide

behaviour of the ANC Youth League President. Although the haunting fracture of division clearly still exists even sixteen years into democracy, Freedom Day reminds us that we have taken that step towards a new South Africa.

in 1894. Now, we need 10 more years.

St. John's, Cape Town, 1994.

Throughout the world, our transition from apartheid to democracy was heralded as a miracle. And surely God did play a fundamental role in bringing liberty to South Africa. But our transition was also birthed through the tremendous sacrifices made by countless people over many years. Our

Imperialists who have long since had any influence on Zimbabwe's governance. The problems Zimbabwe faces are self-inflicted. While we hope and pray that our neighbour will emerge from its hardship, let us be sure that South Africa does not stumble on the same obstacle of forever looking backwards for someone to blame, instead of pressing forward to greater heights.

Just like Zimbabwe, South Africa faces some tough economic decisions. Every nation is just a few decisions away from disaster or success. For this reason, it is vitally important that the leaders we choose and the leaders we support are people with foresight, vision and integrity, who put the service of our nation before their own egos and bank balance. Unfortunately, in the past sixteen years, South Africa has witnessed one leader after the next being tainted by corruption and scandal. We have come to the point where even our country's President entered the highest office of the land under a cloud of suspicion.

I have spoken in Parliament saying that we must support our President, warts and all, for the sake of our country. Because the failure of the President is the failure of the nation. But the lesson of 1994 should teach us that we, the people, have control over who leads South Africa. I believe we are wasting our vote if we fall prey to the old African tradition of voting for the people already in power, just because they are in power.

In 1994, the ANC received an overwhelming number of votes, But it fell short of an outright two thirds majority. Regardless of the propaganda that vilified me for so many years prior to our first democratic elections, and despite the ANC working hard to project itself as the sole liberator of South Africa, more than two million South Africans voted for the IFP in 1994.

Those two million votes were not from people who simply eschewed voting for the ANC. They were a voting tide of people of goodwill who saw the IFP as the best hope for a democratic South Africa that would work. They trusted the IFP's experience in governance. They knew the IFP's track record of integrity, knowing that not once had an allegation of corruption ever been leveled against my administration in KwaZulu. They had walked a long road with the IFP and recognized us as the champions of development and bottom-up governance.

In the past sixteen years of democracy, much has changed in the political landscape. The ANC has continued its fight for political hegemony that began even in the eighties when it foisted its own leadership on our communities. We have seen the breakaway of COPE from the ANC, which split the votes and saw COPE becoming the third largest political party. The DA's ascendancy has grown rapidly on the back of disillusionment, as voters have seen that the empty promises of the ANC prior to each election fail to ever materialize.

In all of this, the IFP has found itself repositioned in the political arena, In 1984, South Africa entered a Government of National Unity and I became

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Minister of Home Affairs for the first decade of democracy. In KwaZulu Natal, the electorate gave the IFP a clear mandate to govern and, co Wi our commitment to inclusivity, we invited participation from of e . Clearly, however, this was not enough for the ANC, In 1998 the then President Thabo Mbeki offered me the Deputy Presidency, provided that | give the premiership of KwaZulu Natal to the ANGC. | could not betray the

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When the ANC took KwaZulu Natal in 2004, it feigned to continue cooperative governance, but took the first opportunity to oust the IFP with the Local Government Elections of 2006. The many good projects the IFP-led provincial government had planned were put on hold indefinitely and development in KwaZulu Natal took a backseat to the consolidation of power.

The IFP originally parted ways with the ANC in 1979, when we could not accept the ideology of an armed struggle that would cost the lives of ordinary South Africans. We could also not agree to the call for international sanctions and disinvestment which impoverished our country and inspired the formation of industrial monopolies that still have their claws in taxpayers's money. The IFP still thinks differently to the ANC. The IFP is less concerned with grasping power and more concerned about serving the interests of South Africa,

But being the consistent and trustworthy servant of the nation has not placed the IFP in the limelight. We have not grabbed the headlines, because we have not sold out to the popularity machine that says any publicity is good publicity. The publicity Mr Julius Malema attracts is not good publicity. It may keep the ANC in the spotlight, but it does nothing to benefit the image of our country or our leadership either nationally or throughout the world. The headlines the ANC makes do not inspire hope or security. They do not promote national unity. They do not encourage investment.

The day-to-day hard work of the IFP to uplift South Africans, promote development and lead a revolution of goodwill, does not make the headlines, but is desperately needed, I cannot help but think of the many tough decisions I have had to make throughout half a century in public life. I have rejected choosing the popular way and my choices have not found the support of everyone, all the time. In fact, I have been ridiculed and vilified for taking a stand for South Africa's long-term future, rather than pursuing my own short-term popularity.

People have criticized me and criticized the IFP for keeping our heads down and working for the benefit of our nation, rather than being loud-mouthed and playing the often dirty game of politics. Support for other parties may have grown in the past sixteen years, but I believe the hundreds of thousands of South Africans who continue to vote for the IFP represent a remnant of people of goodwill. These people see through the charade of false promises. They see past the propaganda of simply criticizing everything Government does without offering solutions.

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corruption and scandal. There is something better than poor service delivery and constant excuses. \J vt ol e

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The IFP is still standing. We are still working and still striving for a South Africa in which power plays take a back seat to service delivery, and development tops the agenda. The IFP is not an attention seeker. Instead we seek poverty alleviation and community upliftment. We seek a government that cares for its people. We seek an end to criminality and the beginning of economic stability.

These are things the IFP knows how to achieve. And we have the political will to achieve them, because our concern is not with how much money we can make for an elite few leaders, but how our country's resources can be channeled to the, e IFP cares about South Africa. As we celebrate Freedom Day in ge us all to make a commitment to ensuring that the vote we won in 1994 will never be wasted on a leadership that doesn't deserve our support.

Let's use the vote to usher in a leadership of integrity. Let's use the vote to speak to our leaders. Let's use it to strengthen the IFP; because a stronger IFP is a stronger South Africa. We took the first step in 1994, Now, let us keep moving forwards.

| thank you.

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