



"Democracy means freedom to choose"

INKATHA

Inkatha Freedom Party
IQembu leNkatha Yenkululeko

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

MONDAY 05 NOVEMBER 2007

DURBAN

Last Tuesday I received a phone call from Mr Mnguni our Councillor of UThungulu. He told me that they were very unhappy about the issue of the Mayor in UThungulu. He further stated that there was also some unhappiness about the proposal that was made that Mr Stan Larkan be the next Mayor of UThungulu. To use his exact words he stated that the Amakhosi's proposal that Mr Larkan replaces Mr Mthethwa is criticised by people who say *with all their votes how can they now have a white Mayor and an Indian Deputy Mayor*. Needless for me to emphasize how I am depressed by such racist talk within what is a non-racial Party, which the IFP is. I am often shocked by these kind of reactions from some of our members. I get very disillusioned. However, Mr Mnguni assured me that the whole issue of the Mayorship of UThungulu was not beyond them to resolve it. He spoke as if they needed some space from the top leadership of the Party to try and resolve this issue at local level. He did not spell this out to me, but he kept on saying that I should sleep soundly at night as they as local leaders will soon come out with a solution for this problem. As I stated even last week this issue of the Mayoral position of UThungulu is a test case. How it is resolved will determine the issue of whether it is the Party which has the last word or alternatively whether anyone can do as he or she pleases in the Party helped by the Courts of the land and good Attorneys. I just do not see how there can ever be any discipline in this Party were this to be the case. But again, these problems are compounded by the fact that the listing of people for elections seems to be our *Achilles Heel*. The reason why this becomes difficult to resolve is that those who are tasked to select candidates for elections whether it is for Municipal Councils or for Parliament, choose a bunch of their Loyalists and put them on the lists. We were told some time back that some of the Councillors in UThungulu were virtually Mayor Mthethwa's acolytes. I think that beyond just the Mthethwa issue about this, that this is something that will always exacerbate our problems as long as the listing of people for electoral purposes is done by individual leaders in our various areas without there being any consultation with other leaders. In fact this loses us many By-elections when individual leaders foist a candidate who is not acceptable in the Communities. If as happens often, he or she is not accepted by the majority of our voters in a particular constituency, the result of it is that only a few of our voters vote for that particular candidate and our opposition end up

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winning the By-election. This will be a very dangerous thing if it happens to the same extent as in the past, during the forthcoming 2009 elections.

One of the issues dominating the media as we talked about it last Monday is the issue of my having announced at our annual General Conference that my term expires in 2009 as President of this Organisation. I was interviewed last week by an old journalist Royston Barnad. He quizzed me so much as to whether I may reconsider my decision to retire in 2009. I told him that 2009 is the year in which my term of 5 years as the leader of the IFP expires. I went on to state that I cannot predict what will then happen. I said this put in simple terms, I am mortal and therefore do not know whether I will still be alive in 2009, and even if I am alive I cannot predict the state of my health then and whether I shall be strong enough to lead or too frail to do so. I however see that there continues to be an on-going debate in the media. When I was in Soweto for the official launch of the Soweto Holiday Inn, I was quite surprised to see an in-depth article on this issue in '*Business Day*' of the 1st November under the headline: **"RUMOURS OF BUTHELEZI EXIT MAY AGAIN PROVE EXAGGERATED"** written by Wilson Johwa published as a *News Analysis*. I have never heard of him or her before. However it is interesting that something I stated in black and white can be described as a *Rumour*. I think that anyone who has read the article will see that apart from the views of the so-called Analysts such as Aubrey Matshiqi and Steven Friedman, we see the usual jaundiced crap on the IFP, of having dominated by myself and all the rubbish about the IFP being 'Zulu based' and all the familiar propaganda that our political enemies have churned out for most of the 32 years of our Party's existence. All the rubbish of my having 'outmanoeuvred' the so-called "most talented and capable leaders" who were potentially "my challengers" such as Dr Oscar Dhlomo and Dr Baldwin Ngubane. If it is just these people who have been "talented" leaders in the IFP, the IFP has not been worth much. And I wonder why they keep on repeating that Dr Dhlomo no longer has anything to do with the Party. But of course they could have concluded from some of his utterances reported in the same newspaper that his heroes are Inkosi Luthuli and Mr Mandela. Also Dr Jiyane who has been such a joke as someone projected as the *Saviour* of the IFP, seems able to make people to ignore his dismal failure as a political leader merely because they are determined to continue using him as a missile to throw at me concerning my so-called dictatorial tendencies. I do not even know whether these things do need to be countered. May be they should even though any rejoinders that the Party publishes are always ignored or not published at all. I saw the nasty letter in '*The Star*' of the same day which was quite vicious in its attack on me and the IFP by a certain Gcinani ka Mlindile Ndaba, who amongst other things accuses me of having run the IFP like a "Spaza Shop", whatever that is supposed to mean. I just feel strongly that it is strange that all these people take an organisation which they portray as already moribund, so seriously. I do not understand why they do not celebrate our imminent demise as a spent political force in this Country.

On the other hand I was quite fascinated by the number of people who addressed me in Gauteng *chiding me* about my so-called retirement. In one shop in Sandton a white businessman chided me for my so-called imminent

retirement saying that they know what role I played in this Country for everyone's benefit and describing me as a "Stabilising force". And an African Traffic Officer who escorted me in the two days I was in Gauteng commented very favourably about my remarks at the function and said that he did not know that I played such an important role. And a number of blue-collared workers that I met as I walked about, greeted me saying that that they wish me a long life because they are what they are because of me. I must confess that I was humbled by these kind of encounters in the streets of Johannesburg by people I did not even know, who recognised me as I was walking about.

There was also Mr Esterhuizen our Councillor, who was at the Airport when I arrived. He also complained about my imminent retirement. There were a few of the leaders who came to see me arrive and some who stayed on for the function at the Holiday Inn and they included Ms Sibongile Nkomo.

I have not heard how the launch of the SRC at the University of Zululand went. Some members of SADESMO approached Prince Muntukaphiwana still talking about possibilities of me being Guest Speaker at the University during the launch. I explained to the Prince that it was the view of this NEC that I should not agree to go to the University on Friday as the guest speaker and that I could not re-open the matter by myself when as the NEC we had already pronounced on it.

I forgot to mention that at the function I attended in Soweto I met a Mr Thloloe, Dr Mdlalose's son-in-law and who was capped by myself when he graduated from the University of Zululand. I should have mentioned his name amongst those people who interacted with me during my visit to Soweto. He said that this was my time as everything I said over the years is being fulfilled. He mentioned even my speech when UWUSA was launched and said all my economic politics were correct and that these predictions were now being fulfilled. I was again quite amazed by what he had to say.

I have been invited by the leaders of Mshayazafe for a commemorative function of those of our members who died in the low intensity civil war that took place between our members and the members of the UDF/ANC alliance. I think that it ought to be well-organised in order to be like a function that is worth the honouring those who died for our cause.

This is supposed to take place on the 8th of December. I noticed that recently the ANC had a similar big function in the Umgababa Area. I think that indirectly the other people in the opposite camp project the image of their having been victims of the IFP violence. And if we do not honour the lives of those who were victims of this violence on our side, the impression that is created is as if the violence came only from our side and that our members were not equally victims of that violence.

As I mentioned last week in our preparations for elections we need to face up to the possible violence against us by the ruling Party. We are all aware that it is just not true that such violence is a thing of the past. We heard of the

gathering of Umkhonto weSizwe members during the sitting of the Legislature in Vryheid. Our National Chairperson got it from reliable sources that the MK members were to be up and about for the duration of the sitting of Parliament. I am worried about the safety of Councillor Ngwenya in Ophongolo. I know we do not have resources but if anything happened to him it would be a blow that would scare any other ANC members who may have wished to follow his example and cross over to the IFP. Mr Mchunu's role in political violence is well known and we should not take lightly the fact that he has been reported to be having camped at Ophongolo recently. You may wonder why I bring up this issue since it was discussed last Monday. I feel that it is a very serious matter which should not be allowed to slip off our minds. We may not have the means for addressing it, but that does not change the fact that we are responsible for doing something about it. May be as we keep on talking about it, some brain-wave from someone amongst us may save the day for us.

I forgot to mention during the function in Soweto I noticed that some of our Councillors were present. I saw and spoke to Cllr Maseko, Cllr Ngobese and Cllr Richard Pillay who addressed us here last Monday. I do not know whether Mr Pillay was invited to share his perspectives with the CORE GROUP. If it did not happen last Friday I hope that the Core Group will give him such an opportunity and that he may be one of their Consultants on strategies we need to use for the forthcoming elections.

Our dinner with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China with the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General and Professor Eugenia Chang went off so well that all of us were really uplifted by the experience of how it went. We had the impression that we made some friendship with the Ambassador and the Consul-General of China in Durban.

When I arrived on Thursday night I found a letter from an official of Traditional Affairs inviting me to a meeting of the Zululand District Municipality Exco, on Tuesday next week together with other Amakhosi who are members of the Zululand District Local House of Traditional Leaders. Unfortunately tomorrow I have to attend the banquet in Tuynhuys that has been hosted by the President. I have appealed to our Zululand District Mayor to rather ask Mr Mabuyakhulu to propose another date which suits all of us. As this is the first meeting of this kind I cannot fail to attend. But after accepting the President's invitation to the dinner for a Head of State, I cannot now decide to withdraw from it.

The Minister of Education's office has written back giving me the 20th of November as the date on which we shall have a discussion with the Minister about the Zapiro Cartoon in Matric's next year History Book. I will appreciate any proposals on who attends such a meeting with me. It is just one or two Colleagues or should I ask someone like Dr Ambrosini or any other legal Advisor to attend with me. I need some guidance in this.

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