

**PRAISEGIVING SERVICE
REMARKS BY
PRINCE MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI MP
INKOSI OF THE BUTHELEZI CLAN
CHAIRPERSON: ZULULAND DISTRICT LOCAL HOUSE OF
TRADITIONAL LEADERS
AND
UNDUNANKULU KAZULU**

Catholic Church Cathedral: Eshowe: 18 December 2009

I must say thank you to my brothers in Christ and Fathers - Fr BMH Mhlongo and Fr SN Ntshangase, for extending an invitation to me to join this praise-giving service and to add my voice to the many who are worshipping our Lord today in honour of all He has done for His Church.

It is a privilege for me to stand before you today and give thanks. I myself am no more than a servant of Christ, knitted in to a body that serves and honours our Lord. It is right that we meet as a body to remember and celebrate the ordination of our priests ten years ago. Ten years ago, I was delighted to attend the ordination ceremony. Today, I am humbled to give thanks for a decade in which these men who were ordained have given of themselves in the service of God's people. It is a blessing to us as God's people that they made the decision to respond to the Lord when He said to them: "FEED MY SHEEP." The church across all denominations is struggling because fewer and fewer people respond to that call to feed the Lord's sheep.

In fact, on this occasion I am reminded of the words of St Paul who wrote the following to the Church in Ephesus: "Ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." (Ephesians 1 verses 15 and 16)

I have seen the faithfulness with which these priests have worked and served and worshipped. To me, there is no greater evidence of a godly man than that he works and serves and worships. These three elements of life are essential and entirely inter-dependent.

The man who works, but does not worship, works in vain. For the Word tells us that we must commit our ways to the Lord and pray about everything, without ceasing, while in all things giving thanks. I have worked very hard in my eighty one years on this earth. But I know that my work would have yielded no fruit if I had not also had the privilege of communing with God.

Likewise, a man who works but does not serve is missing one of the greatest callings we have as members of Christ's body. Jesus Christ reminded the teachers of the law that the most important commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. Yet He also reminded them of the second commandment, to

love your neighbour as yourself, and He referred to *both* these instructions when He said "There is no greater commandment than *these*".

As these men of God before us know, service in the Lord's house is not about accolades. It is about ministering to the needs of His sheep. And the very nature of us, His sheep, makes this a difficult task. I know that congregations often try the patience and ~~the~~ test the character of their shepherds. For this reason, service in the Lord's house requires hard work. And for the same reason, such work and service calls for people who know the value of worship and will not forgo the time and effort it takes to be in the Lord's presence daily.

We are as empty vessels before the Lord and we require constant filling. Christ said that a branch must remain part of the vine in order to bear fruit. At times, I think, we forget that the vine is not the Church, but Christ Himself. We can be active in the Church, giving of our time and talents freely. We can meet together and sing and be in fellowship. We can teach and admonish and encourage one another. But in the end it is only the moments we spend alone with our Lord that will supply us with the life-giving power to truly make a difference for His Kingdom.

I thank God that this Diocese of Eshowe is blessed with leaders who know the value of worship. I thank God that we have been called together today to give praise as one body. I also thank the men who were ordained ten years ago for the way they have served the Church in the past decade. Our prayers are particularly for you today.

In writing to the Church in Ephesus, as I quoted earlier, St Paul goes on to say: "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe." (Ephesians 1 verses 17 to 19)

St Paul's words remain my prayer for the priests who serve this Church. May God reveal Himself to you in ways that demonstrate His power and His love. May He continue to equip you for the work of the ministry. May He continue to bless His Church through His servants. And may He always be honoured in our midst.

I thank you.

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INKONZO YOKUDUMISA
AMAZWI ABEKWA NGU
MNTWANA MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI MP
INKOSI YESIZWE SAKWABUTHELEZI
USIHLALO WENDLU YOMKHANDLU WABAHOLI BOMBABU, ESIFUNDENI
SASE ZULULAND
NONGUNDUNANKULU KAZULU

CATHOLIC CHURCH CATHEDRAL: ESHOWE: 18 KUZIBANDLELA 2009

fanele ngengeze
 Kumele ngisho ngithi ngiyabonga kubafowethu kuKristu nakuBaba - uFr BMH Mhlongo no Fr SN Ntshangase, abangimemile ukuba ngize lapha kulenkonziso yo kudumisa nokuba nami ngengezelele ngelami izwi kulana amaningi azokhonza iNkosi namuhla ngenhloso yokumdumisa ngalokho Akwenzele iBandla Lakhe.

namuhla ngengeze
 Kuyisibusiso kimina ukuma phambi kwenu namuhla ngethule ukubonga. Nami uqobo lwami angilutho ngaphandle kokuba yinceku kaKristu ethungelwe emzimbeni osebenzela ubuye udumise iNkosi. Kuyinto enhle ukuba sihlalane sibe munye ukuzokhumbula sigubhe usuku lokugcotshwa kwabeFundisi kuleminyaka eyishumi egedule. Eminyakeni eyishumi egedule ngakuthokozela ukuba khona kulomcimbi womgcobo. Namuhla, ngizizwa ngithobekile ukuzobonga ukuhlalane iminyaka elishumi lamadoda ayegcotshwa azinikela ukuzosebenzela abantu bakaNkulunkulu. Kuyisibusiso kithina njengabantu bakaNkulunkulu ukuba bathatha isinqumo ukuphendula iNkosi nxa ithi kubo: "YONDLANI IZIMVU ZAMI". Kuwo wonke amahlelo, iBandla lithwele kanzima ngenxa yokuthi baya ngokuncipha abantu abemukela ubizo ukuba bazokondla izimvu zeNkosi.

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 Empeleni, ngalesi sikhathi ngikhunjuzwa amazwi kaMphostoli uPawuli owabhala lamazwi ewabhalela iBandla lase Efesu: "Ngalokho nami, sengizwile ngokukholwa okukini eNkosini uJesu nothando kubo bonke abangcwele, angiyeki ukubonga ngenxa yenu, nginikhumbula emikhulekweni yami." (Abase Efesu 1, ivesi 15 no16)

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 Ngiyobonile indlela yokwethambeka laba beFundisi abasebenze ngayo, bazinikela ngayo bakhonza ngayo. Kimina abukho obunye ubufakazi obukhulu obedlula lobu lokuba ngumuntu onobunkulunkulu osebenzayo, akhonze abuye adumise. Lezizinto ezintathu ezingumsuka wempilo ziyisidingo kanti futhi zinciphane.

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 Lowo muntu osebenzayo kepha engakhonzi, usebenzela ize. Ngoba izwi lisitshela ukuthi kufanele izindlela zethu sizinikele eNkosini sikhulekele konke, ngaphandle kokukhawula, sibe sibonga konke. Sengisebenze kanzima empilweni yami kuleminyaka engamashumi ayisishyagalobili nanye esengiyiphile emhlabeni. Kepha ngiyazi ukuthi umsebenzi wami ubungenakuthela zithelo ukuba bengingazange futhi ngixhumane noNkulunkulu.

Kanjalo, umuntu osebenzayo kepha ebe engakhonzi uswele okunye okuyubizo olukhulu kakhulu esinalo njengamalungu omzimba kaKristu. U Jesu Kristu wakhumbuzwa abafundisi bomthetho ukuthi umthetho omkhulu kunayo yonke yikuthanda iNkosi uNkulunkulu wakho ngenhliziyo yakho yonke, nangomphefumulo wakho wonke, nganangeqondo yakho yonke nan Wabakhumbuzwa ngomthetho wesibili, ukuba uthande umakhelwane wakho njengoba uzithanda. Wayebhekise kuyo yomibili lemiyalezo uma Ethel: "Awukho umthetho ongaphezu kwalena".

Njengoba lababantu bakaNkulunkulu abangaphambi kwethu bazi, ukuzinikela endlini yeNkosi awukwenzeli ukuzuza imiqhele. Ukwenzela ukuhlenga izimvu Zakhe ngezidingo zabo. Kanti thina luqobo lwethu ngendlela esiyiyo, thina zimvu zakhe, kwenza lomsebenzi ube lukhuni. Ngiyazi ukuthi amabandla avame ukuba aqede isineke abuye alinge nezimilo zabelusi. Ngalesi sizathu, umsebenzi nenkozo efana nalezi ifuna abantu abakwaziyo ubumqoka bokholo abangeke bayeke ukuqiniseka isikhathi nemizamo edingekayo ukuba ubephambi kweNkosi ngazo zonke izinsuku.

Sifana namagobongo angenalutho ngaphambi kweNkosi. Sidinga ukuba sikhale njalo sigowaliswa. UKristu wathi ihlamvu kumele libe yingxenye yomvini ukuze likwazi ukuthela. Kwesinye isikhathi ngicabanga ukuthi siyaye sikhohlwe ukuthi umvini awulona iBandla, kepha lingu Kristu uqobo lwakhe. Singakhuthala eBandleni sinikele ngesikhathi sethu nangamakhono ethu. Singahlangana ndawonye sicule, sibuye sibonobudlelwano. Singafundisa sikhuzane sikhuthazane. Kodwa ekugcineni kuba yileso sikhathi esisichitha sihlezi neNkosi yethu esiyosinikeza amandla anikeza impilo, lokho okuyokwenza ukuba kubenomehluko eMbusweni Wakhe.

Ngiyambonga uNkulunkulu ngokuthi leDayosisi yaEshowe ibe nokubusiseka ngabholi abaziyo ubumqoka bokukhonza. Ngiyambonga uNkulunkulu ngokuba sibizwe sizohlangana namuhla sizodumisa njengomzimba owodwa. Ngiyabonga futhi nakulaba bantu ababegcotshwa lapha kuleminyaka eyishumi ayedlule, ngibonga indlela abasebenze ngayo besebenzela iBandla kuleminyaka eyishumi ayedlule. Imithandazo yethu iqondiswe kini kakhulukazi namuhla.

Ebhalela iBandla lase Efesu, njengoba ngishilo ekuqaleni, UMphostoli uPawuli uqhubeke athi: "Angiyeki ukubonga ngenxa yenu, nginikhumbula emikhulekweni yami, ukuze uNkulunkulu weNkosi yethu uJesu Kristu, uYise wenkazimulo, aniphe umoya wokuhlakanipha nokwambulelwa ekumazini yena. ekhanyisiwe amehlo enhliziyo yenu nize okuyithemba lobizo lwakhe nokuyingcebo yenkazimulo yefa lakhe kubo abangcwele, nokungubukhulu obumangalisayo bamandla akhe kithina esikholwayo, ngokokusebenza kwamandla akhe amakhulu." (Abase Efesu 1 ivesi 17 no 19)

Amazwi oMphostoli uPawuli ahlala engumthandazo wami ngithandazela abeFundisi abaphethe kuleliBandla. Sengathi uNkulunkulu aNgazibonakalisa kini ngezindlela ezikhombisa amandla nothando lwaKhe. Sengathi angaqhubeka anihlomise ukuba nenze

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umsebenzi weBandla. Sengathi angaqhubeka abusise iBandla lakhe ngazo izinceku
Zakhe. Sengathi angadunyiswa njalo phakathi kwethu.

Ngiyabonga.



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**MESSAGE AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR THE AGED
OF THE MKHANYAKUDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

**BY PRINCE MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI, MP
INKOSI OF THE BUTHELEZI CLAN
CHAIRPERSON OF THE ZULULAND DISTRICT LOCAL HOUSE OF
TRADITIONAL LEADERS
AND
UNDUNANKULU KAZULU**

SUNDAY, 20TH DECEMBER 2009

JOZINI STADIUM

I thank the District Municipal Mayor Cllr L M Mthombeni and all the Mayors and Councillors of this district for inviting me to share with the elderly members of this district in the Christmas Party that they have decided to hold here.

I must first of all express my commendation to the Mayor and the Mayors and Councillors of eMkhanyakude for holding such a function for the aged in this district. I think that any society in the world is judged to be a caring society to the extent that it can prioritise caring for their young and their elderly. That is why in the country's budget there are funds set aside for social grants for the old-age pensioners and for children. I applaud against that background what the District Municipality has decided to do in holding functions of this kind.

In Biblical times it was clear that to reach an advanced age was special even to God Himself. If we look at the Ten Commandments which we Believers accept as God's commandments we read in EXODUS 20 Verse 12: HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER; THAT THY DAYS MAY BE LONG UPON THE LAND WHICH THE LORD THY GOD GIVETH THEE.

Our Maker took the trouble when He prescribed the 10 Commandments for us, to make it clear that to honour one's father and mother is something important to Him, to the extent that those who do so will get a special reward from God. God promises here that whoever does honour his or her father and mother shall be rewarded with a long life.

In our African society, we regard all the people of the same age as our parents, as our mothers and our fathers. It is in this context that I congratulate the District Mayor, the Municipal Mayors and Councillors for setting aside funding to ensure that a function like this is held for our fathers and mothers. In this way we indicate what they mean to us for they brought us into this world. They then brought us up and most of them did so under very difficult circumstances since we have been under oppression in one form or another since our conquest in Ulundi on the 4th of July 1879 when the Anglo-Zulu war ended.

From that time we were under British Colonial rule and suffered racial discrimination in all those decades. This was finally replaced by Apartheid rule.

We struggled together to get us off the yoke of oppression. For the people of Ingwavuma district that included a very vile effort by the Apartheid Regime to excise the district of Ingwavuma and give it to the Kingdom of Swaziland. I know that human beings have very short memories. But I think that the people of Ingwavuma, apart from suffering all forms of oppression to which black South Africans were subjected to, had

this bitter experience where the Apartheid Regime decided without any consultation to parcel them off and to make them Swaziland citizens overnight. Most of the people with whom I waged that titanic struggle against this treachery of the Apartheid Regime are amongst the elderly citizens of Ingwavuma. Many of them including Mr Eric Ngubane whom I used in staging the legal fight that I waged in the Courts of this land to prevent this district from being sold out to Swaziland, are already dead.

Younger people in this very district do not have any idea of what the older generation went through for their sake. I will not go into detail about our experiences under the Apartheid Regime. We fought against government when we were in political terms powerless. We were able to prevent the Regime from going through with their plans.

For this and other stands which the older generation took for our sakes, we must seize the opportunity we now have to take care of them. In this way we are not only fulfilling the law of God but because it is payback time for us who were brought up by these elderly people who sacrificed so much to ensure that conditions under which we are living are better than conditions under which they grew up.

We realise also that owing to the poverty of our people, that the older people are these days carrying heavy burdens. Owing to the fact that we have such high unemployment in the country which has been exacerbated by the present economic recession, most families now depend on the social grants of their fathers and mothers.

The other problem which elderly people are carrying is that which has been imposed on them by the present pandemic of HIV/Aids. This scourge has left many children without parents. I know this from my own personal experience because my wife and I look after some of the orphans which were left parentless when our two children who succumbed to Aids, passed on.

We are only too aware that there are worse orphans who have now to look after each other because there is no grandmother or grandfather to look after them. I know that if we were to ask people amongst you who are burdened with orphans of their children who have died that many people would stand up.

In these dire circumstances there are greater expectations people have about service delivery from their leaders in the Municipal Councils. I think that it is important for us to be realistic in our expectations. The budgets that municipalities are given are far short of the needs of our people. I think as a leader I need to give this warning to our people. You have seen that in some municipalities there have been conflicts, some of which have broken into violence. We need to be vigilant especially with the local government elections which are only a few months away not to allow conflicts to arise between ourselves because service delivery has not taken place in the manner in which we expected it.

There may well be cases where there have been revelations in some municipalities of funds that were mispent or embezzled. But I have this message for you as far as this is concerned. Service delivery is not something that can happen overnight because the poverty of our people far exceeds the sums of money that are made available to municipalities from the national fiscus. And most of our Councils are handling these issues from the very first time and they are still passing through a learning curve. Most families have able-bodied young people who are unable to earn incomes to support their families because there is so much unemployment in the country. There is no prospect that we are going to see any increase of opportunities for employment in the near future.

Against this background, it is worthy of our praise that just for this one day we are gathered here so that our elderly citizens who are carrying so much, are entertained and

reminded that we are getting close to the day on which we remember the greatest gift which God gave us when He sent us His son Jesus Christ to save us from sin.

I do sympathise with our elderly citizens as we are fast losing the culture of respect as a Nation. People of my generation were brought up to respect those who are older than ourselves. I am speaking here of other young people who happened to be older than ourselves. As for parents and people of their generation, it was inculcated into our minds to respect them. I see today's function as also symbolising that relationship between generations which existed when we grew up. This was not something which we only learnt after we were proselytised into Christians. In our Zulu society it was something we were brought up to observe, to defer to those who were older than ourselves. I do hope that by holding today's function for the elderly that the District Mayor, our Municipal Mayors, our Councillors are reminding us of that important aspect of our culture and of the Lord's commandment that we should Honour our parents in order for our days on this earth to be longer.

I thank the District Mayor, other Mayors and Councillors for having invited me to come here to enjoy this day with you. I often wish that I could clone myself in order to visit all the people that I have served for so many decades. It is wonderful to be here amongst you today just to see you and just to say what I have had to say in wishing you well for this Christmas and in the next year. It is God's will that we are still around. As we look back we can think of so many of our loved ones who were not as lucky as we are to be still alive and well at the end of this year. I can think of a few members of my family who include one of my father's daughters and my sister-in-law who passed on just last month. And I know that there are others who have also lost their loved ones during this year which is now coming to the end. We should just thank God that we are still living.

I wish all the aged who are gathered here at this Jozini Stadium and those who were unable to come, a Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

I wish that the Almighty blesses the District Mayor, all our Municipal Mayors and Councillors of eMkhanyakude. I wish the same to all the workers who work under our municipalities and I wish a Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year to all the people of Ingwavuma . May God give us strength to enable us to face the challenges of the New Year.

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