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"Democracy means freedom to choose"

INKATHA

Inkatha Freedom Party  
IQembu leNkatha Yenkululeko

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

3 NOVEMBER 2008 DURBAN

There is no doubt that we are right in the middle of the 2009 election canvassing. | again wish to congratulate our National Chairperson and her teams who have been canvassing so vigorously with her. | admire her enthusiasm and vision, which underscore the proposals that she made here concerning the programme. But it seems as if there is really some validity in the Chairpersonâ\200\231s suggestion that our oppcnents seem to have a copy of her itinerary. The way the ANC seems to be marking her steps wherever she decides to go, confirms that speculation.

The way the ANC leaders have decided to use the â\200\234Zumamaniaâ\200\235 that seems to have got some people, confirms the rumour to the effect that there is definitely no doubt that what we read in the print media, that the ANC is determined to use Mr Zuma in order to gain the 60 per cent win in KwaZulu Natal that they have constantly claimed they will achieve in the 2009 general election, is true. But the emergence of the Lekota-Shilowa initiative may not necessarily mean a threatening and serious split in the ANC. But, on the other hand, the dismissive attitude that Mr Zuma seems to adopt in speaking about it, may end with Mr Zuma being surprised by the extent to which it has affected the ANC. There is no doubt that Messrs Lekota and Shilowa and their colleagues were not at all disappointed by the remarkable response to their Convention last week-end.

As | see it now, | think that it was a good decision that | sent Dr Mtshali to attend the Convention with a message from me. The only disappointment | had was the extent to which there is such a wide self-censorship that one sees in the media. There was hardly a comprehensive report of the message in the media about the message which | sent with Dr Mtshali. | saw only a few sentences in the â\200\234The City Pressâ\200\235 from my message and it reads as follows:

BUTHELEZI'S ADDRESS WHICH MTSHALI READ TO THE CONVENTION  
PAINTED A GLOOMY PICTURE OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICS, SAYING  
THE CONSTITUTION HAD BEEN BETRAYED, THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE  
HIGHJACKED AND THAT A SMALL MINORITY IN THE ANC NATIONAL

DURBAN OFFICE: PRESIDENT ULUNDI OFFICE:  
2 Durban Club The Hon. Prince Mangosuthu G Buthelezi B 82 Princess Mkabayi  
Place, o NATIONAL CHAIR : Ms VZ Magwaza; SECRETARY-GENERAL : Rev. KM Zondi Street  
DURB

ULUNDI  
3838

EXECUTIVE WERE MAKING DECISIONS FOR THE REST OF THE COUNTRYâ\200\231S POPULATION WITHOUT ANY ACCOUNTABILITY.

FY THIS DECISION?â\200\235,  
TO FORMER PRESIDENT THABO MBEKI'S AXING  
SPAWN THE ANC SPLINTER GROUP.

Maybe | should be satisfied with this bit, but | feel dissatisfied as | feel that my message was quite important in trying to unpack some of the issues that led to the calling of a Convention. But one should now be satisfied that this kind of reporting in our South African media is good enough. Most of the media reports of Dr Mtshaliâ\200\231s address only centred around the fact that there was spontaneous singing of â\200\234Happy Birthdayâ\200\235 when the week-end dinner to celebrate my birthday was mentioned by Dr Mtshali and whilst this may be flattering, I, however, felt that it was not as important as the substance of the message that | sent.

| was fortunate to see part of the SABC interview of representatives of political parties that were represented at this Convention. | hope that there may be some of us here who saw that live interview on television on Sunday morning. | thought that Dr Mtshali acquitted himself very well where he was quizzed by an obviously jaundiced SABC journalist and the so-called analyst, Mr Steve Friedman. The leaders objected when while they were being interviewed, the

SABC decided to show them news clips of the Rally in Soweto that was being addressed by Mr Zuma. | heard Mr Holomisa state on television whether the IFP would be given the same coverage if it had a similar Rally at the same Jabulani

Stadium. It was reported later that General Holomisa eventually walked out of the interview.

I've recently had quite amazing approaches in the name of Mr Zuma and the leadership of the ANC. About tw

phoned me to let me know that ther

Monday hoping to see me.

end a diplomatic function on the  
st outside the Turkish Embassy  
notes. He did say that Mr Zuma  
He said that he had advised Mr  
a Zulu. He then spoke about  
eadership of the country, etc. |  
tion between the ANC and the

d to go back to Mr Zuma and Mr  
d, was quite persistent about the

way they have hurt me as ANC. He said that Mr Phosa said that he has no doubt that I will forgive them if they approach me. He regarded me as his father. He mentioned his friendship with my son.

The surprising thing is that Mr Cleopas Nsibande, who was a guest at my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in Durban, also sent a message to the effect that he wanted to see me in the capacity of an emissary of the leadership of the ANC. I was actually quite unhappy about it as I knew that the function on Saturday was bound to end up late, since he wanted to see me on Sunday morning. I ultimately had to contact Mr MZ Khumalo and requested him to pick up Mr Nsibande on Sunday morning and come with him to my hotel. This was done and Mr Nsibande said the same story as Mr Gumede. He claimed to be sent to me by Messrs Zuma and Motlanthe. They wanted me to return to my old party. Mr Nsibande told me something that I did not know, that I had said that I had merely suspended my membership of the ANC! I had to do the same thing as I did with Mr Gumede. I went back to the whole history of conflict between the ANC and the IFP. Mr Nsibande appeared surprised by what I had to tell him. After listening to me going through some of the things that happened, Mr Nsibande ultimately proposed that he now sees a necessity of a meeting between me and the Deputy President of the ANC, Mr Motlanthe. I stated that in principle I had no objection to such a meeting, if it were set up. Not that I am optimistic about it.

I am really quite amazed by this strategy of the ANC. On the one hand, they are doing their damndest to destroy me and the IFP and are canvassing vigorously in what the media describes as our "strongholds", as I have already indicated.

And on the other hand, there are these rather strange emissaries who are waving olive branches at us. My gut feeling is that this thing which the ANC is doing is evil and is meant to bury us as an entity in the South African body politic.

For some months in the past I have expressed my concern that we are too relaxed and office-bound. I do not know what to suggest now about some of our leaders, particularly representatives at all levels, such as Members of Parliament, Members of Legislatures and Members of Municipal Councils. If these people are not already in the forefront of our electoral campaign, I cannot see what reason we have even to dream of taking back the Province and increasing our support in other Provinces. I know that there is a view which some have expressed that maybe we should spend most of our energy and money trying to win back the Province and avoid spreading ourselves too thinly throughout the territory of South Africa. I see that there is some merit in this kind of argument. But I think that would be confirming a view of us that our enemies throw at us all the time, that we are a regional party. But what has been done by our National Chairperson, in particular, in leading some of our teams in the Eastern Cape, Gauteng and Free State, from my angle, has been quite admirable.

The year is almost over and if there is anything which I dread most, is if we are going to carry over to the year of elections too many cases of the squabbles that we are familiar with in the Party. We just cannot afford to have time for canvassing taken by trying to sort out all these squabbles at the level of our branches and Municipal Councils.

As we departed from the Birthday dinner during the early hours of Sunday, His Majesty was complimenting Dr Mkhize for his presence at my Birthday Party. Dr Mkhize then pointed out that there was also present Mr Cyril Xaba, the ANC's Chief Whip in the Legislature. The King made a positive comment about this, which he saw as a positive development. I told the King that we cannot hope that it is anything of the kind when even the case on the matter between the Executive Council and us as the House of Traditional Leaders has now been taken on appeal as Mr Mabuyakhulu recently appeared on television making the announcement. I further commented about Dr Blade Nzimande's statements in the media concerning the proposal to erect a statue of me by the Zululand Municipal Council, as a waste of taxpayers' money. I pointed out that recently a lot of funds were spent for Inkosi Luthuli and Inkosi Bhambatha without us complaining about it. At this point His majesty reminded us of the lateness of the night and we then parted.

It will be recalled that the Treasurer-General had predicted that if any municipal funds were used for such a project, that our enemies would then use it against me and the Party. I then suggested to the Treasurer-General that since he knows some people in business, it would be good if in order to avoid that kind of flak, he approaches some of them to finance such a project, since it is less even than a million Rand. I mentioned this matter last week in the NEC. I know that our National Chairperson, as Mayor of our municipal district, had already signed contracts with the Sculptors who are going to make the statue. I really do not know what can be done at this stage or if there is anything that can be done at all. My mind is open to anything that is possible to avoid us landing ourselves to our enemies to enable them to throw this at us, particularly during the year of the elections. I have heard that the National Chairperson has appeared on the electronic media putting her side of the story. But I feel that we should try and take this matter seriously and see how we can avoid being a butt of our enemies' opprobrium.