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ADDRESS BY MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI, CHIEF MINISTER OF KWAZULU  
AND PRESIDENT INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY  
ON THE RETIREMENT OF MR EAM HOLMES - GENERAL MANAGER - TEBA

AND TO WELCOME MR ROGER ROWETT AS GENERAL MANAGER - TEBA

ULUNDI HOLIDAY INN : 12TH MARCH 1992

Mr Master of Ceremonies; Dr Horst Wagner, Snr. General Manager Operations for the Chamber of Mines; Mr Holmes, Retiring General Manager and Mrs. Holmes; Mr Rowett, Incoming General Manager; Members of the Royal household present; Cabinet Ministers present;

Mr Zondi Chairman of the Public Service Commission and Mrsf Zondi;

Mr Graham Gregory, TEBA Manager Ulundi; Teba repres<sup>nt</sup>atives;

ladies and gentlemen.

It really gives me such great pleasure to attend functions such as the one I am attending today. It is difficult for me to convey to you why this is so. I feel I have a need to share with you why I

do enjoy these occasions.

Firstly, I enjoy them because they are people-events. One man is retiring and that is something he should have been looking forward to for the whole of his life and now that it is happening it should be a momentous event - a once in a lifetime event. Mr. Holmes,

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will have a very long, happy and fulfilling retirement. I hope your life will never be the same again. and I really do hope. you that this also applies to you Mrs Holmes.

One must, of course, be a little bit more cautious in speaking to you Mr Rowett. You have taken up responsibilities as General Manager of TEBA. That is taking on a man-sized job and particularly in this juncture of South African history you will be dealing with human beings in a dynamic situation of flux and change

and having taken on what you are doing, your life will never be the same again.

Today's event is, as I say, a people's event. I like people. I get on with people and I believe that what I learnt from my mother's knee onwards - that people are important - has stood me in good

stead all my life. And

when I look back at history and I think of some of the greatest

figures that I admire the most, I find that I admire them because they are people's people. We all love Mother Theresa because she is a people's person. I will admire Martin Luther King my whole life. He was one of the people who was very influential in developing my

thinking and indeed in shaping part of my inner self. All his joy

and all his suffering was people related. He lived ~and - finally died for people.

I find that everything I do only has meaning for me if ~"itâ\200\224feeds back to the people and their well-being. This of course does not mean that I only have people~interests. I have a great love for nature, and as a conservationist in my own right, I feel my llove

for nature and all Godâ\200\231s creation stands to serve a-worthy cause.

Whether it is the love for-nature, or the love for music.and art,

or whether -it\_-is politics, wultimately it is a peopleâ\200\231s -.component that gives excitementï¬\201jand reason for my existence.

Some of you may be aware that on occasions I do sit in high places.

I have sat with Mr George Bush; I have sat with Mr Ronald Reagan; I have sat with Mr Jimmy Carter; I have sat with Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Mr John Major, Dr Helmut Kohl, and Dr Kenneth Kaunda, and I have sat with all manner of Heads of State and Members of their Cabinet. Some of you may not know it, but I have actually met His Holiness the Pope, Head of the Catholic Church and Head of State of the Vatican. Â»

My year lis normally filled with appointments whose people number amongst them millionaires and tycoons .â\200\224and \_\_politicians and entrepreneursâ\200\224)and scientists;fnd eminent theologians. I get on

well with these kind of people. They are my kind of people and I can relate to them and I can praise them\or cross swords with them as the need arises.

I would like to share with you, however, that they all pale\_\_into insignificance<(againstw/another class of veryi~\201gmportant.â\200\224people I meet - the ordinary people of South Africa. I love South Africans. I am born to serve them. It is my destiny to lead among them. I

am never as happy or contented as when I am sitting down ..with a simple peasant beneath the proverbial thorn treeâ\200\230>to tease out problems, and talk to people about their lives.

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Whatever else I do in life, I cannot see myself relinquishing the role of-â\200\224being.- a Zulu Inkosi sitting in Councils dealing with

Âç ordinary people and sharing their hopes 7and joys and sorrows.

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I once heard someone remark that the greatest blessing mankind has ever had is that pain is not accumulative. It is not as though

todayâ\200\231s pain is added to yesterdayâ\200\231s pain. Each time you are hurt you hurt\_afresh. I do not understand pain, and death and suffering as\_a Christian, \_but all I do know is that I am grateful that God created man not to have reservoirs of accumulating pain, such that each â\200\224~toothache -had previous toothaches added to it and such that

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each disappointment had previous disappointments added-to them.

People teach me most about this type of philosophy and the people among whom I see this kind of wisdom most demonstrated. are the

peasants in the wards of my tribal area.

/i-\201;â\200\231Holmes and Mr Rowett, that is going a long way around to simply

tell you that I am pleased to be here and to share with you on this



occasion. Everything I see around me in politics and everything that I understand about the current day South Africa, tells me that life~~is never going to be-the same again. Both ofâ\200\224you, through your positions, have served Black South Africa well and for this I

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thank you.

There could possibly be no better time for either â\200\224retirement or taking up major new responsibilities. Both are going to have great joys.-and great-challenges. I do not know which joy or challenge I would actually preferâ\200\224personally to pick up, were I given the choice.

I would really be torn between the two. I have never ever begrudged anybody their retirement. There comes a time in

everybody's life when you have actually done your bit, and others should pick up where you left off. There certainly comes a time when you grow young in your senior years and are ready to start a new life, and others should carry on with the old life you leave behind.

There certainly comes a time when you are entitled to live for yourself and your family and to have the leisure to do what you want to do. Retirement would not be sitting and loafing for me. It would be the pursuit of the many things I have never had time to

pursue because I have been too busy at work and in politics.

I even understand how it can be that some who retire to do what they have never done before, just sit down and rest because they

have never had the time to do that before. Mrs Holmes; when I think about you and Mr Holmes retiring, I do declare\_ that my thoughts are mostly about you.

Unfortunately, Mrs Holmes, the world has been so very dominately a manâ\200\231s world. In KwaZulu we have tried to accord our women the place which God meant for all of us in His world. In the IFP we reject discrimination based on gender and in CODESA there are more women in our delegation than there are in any other delegation. I

know we still need to do a lot more for the women of South Africa.

Yes, Mr Holmes, I could spend months just thinking about what I would do were I to retire. May I really wish you and Mrs Holmes a

. very blessed retirement after June this year, and may your days be many, and may they be filled with the things you put in them because you ;Lnt your days filled by them.

I want to say that it has been a privilege to know you over these years - serving such a noble cause, serving the poorest of the poor in areas like KwaZulu and other similar parts of South Africa and " Southern Africa. We have learnt over the years to respect both of

Â® 5 you and to love you as friends whom we can trust. We do feel a =

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P little sad that there will now be fewer opportunities for us toÂ» meet. However, we will always regard you as friends and I do hope

that there will be opportunities for us to meet again and that we will continue to enjoy your friendship.

â\200\235'Mr. Rowett, when I turn to think about you and the new South Africa that is coming and the increased importance of the mining industry

and TEBA, there is a great deal that rushes into my mind.

The mining industry has always been fundamentally important to the rural people of South Africa. The mines have provided - openings for people who have never worked before. The mining industry has

had the courage to go out into the bush and to recruit people with

the faith that they know how to deal with people)and areâ\200\224 able to

turn them into productive workers.

Few people understand just how important it has been for Black South Africa, that the mines of this country have been there to

help the people break away from the past and enter new ages. I

have always been full of priase for the mining industry in South Africa. They are one of the largest employers in the country and probably have spent rand for rand as much and more on training than any other industry. >

Whenever I think of the mining industry and job advancement, and the technical training thatâ\200\224miners requireâ\200\224on \_mines, I think of recruitment \_routes as.-life arteries between \_depressedâ\200\235 economic rural areas\_and the cash economy.

On an occasion such as today, I am quite often naughty - and â\200\224take advantage of my status]and broach subjects which should not be

jumped on people in surprise. I turn to you, Mr Rowett, and ask

whether if you have thought about it, you would feel as much excitement stirring in you as I feel when I think about -what it

would be like to gather together the skills that.-migrant workers

carry back to rural areas with theT>and to make.~thoseâ\200\224skills\_  
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employable for the people. , //1L?

Could TEBA not undertake serious research into what kind of skills and propensities are developed in the countryâ\200\231s mining industry as they take labourers in, and work to make it possible for each one of them to progress in life) and to get better and better jobs in order to have a catalogue of employable skills which one could find and

use in rural areas.

3 /i-\201f/:m very aware that the rural areas of South Africa are going to get poorer every year for at least the next-decade. The high birth rate of Black South Africansâ\200\230and the existingâ\200\231\population//Eulge which results from the fact tggf more than half of all Black South Africans are 15 years of age and younger, â\200\224will make itâ\200\224"impossible to provide jobs for all for.the foreseeable future.

While this is so, we are also aware of the extent to which mining, commerce and industry are moving towards greater mechanisation, and morefâ\200\231capitaifsi-\201ntensive means of production. Can we not really seriously consider llooking at what menial labour and what semi-skilled llabour does in industry and in the mines, and seek to

establish cottage industries in rural areas, which would be able to supply their needs.



It may just well be that now is the time to do this. Companies do not want to employ unskilled or semi-skilled labour any longer. Labour relations are much easier to manage if it is labour related with work forces of skilled people with career paths that matter to them. There are many repetitive jobs in the mining industry and in

many other industries, which could as easily be employed in cottage

industries in (rural areas) where the required goods could be

produced; the circumstances that prevail.

I am not being specific - all I am doing is indicating a direction of thought which may well reveal great rewards from the discovery that there are indeed ways of combatting poverty in rural areas

with increased productivity in mining and industry.

- //E;:ugh seriousness on a day such as today. To you Mr Rowett, all I

can say is that we have been lucky in that we have over the vyears developed deep friendships with your predecessors, and we llook forward to a possible development of the same relationship with you and Mrs. Rowett. We wish you the strength which God gave to your predecessors, to carry out this man-size job. You should not be overawed by Mr Holmesâ\200\231 presence - when I talk about a man-size job,

my expression does not refer to physique at all! Â¢

Mrs Holmes and Mr Holmes, may I wish you a happy and contented retirement and may the years of your retirement be llong and fulfilling. Mr Rowett, may your custodianship of TEBAâ\200\231s interests

be as rewarding for TEBA as it will be for yourself. I wish you

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well in this new phase of your career. I envy you - there are new and exciting things to come. Your job can only get more and more interesting and indeed more and more rewarding as the months= and

years go by. I wish you every success for the future.

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