

PRESS STATEMENT

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BY MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI, CHIEF MINISTER KWAZULU AND
PRESIDENT OF INKATHA

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I am forced to react to what the Senior Prince, Prince Mcwayizeni, is reported to have been doing and saying in both British and South African newspapers. He is the Senior Prince in the Royal Household and acted as Regent before His Majesty King Zwelithini came to the throne. As such, the Senior Prince should stand next to his King in being above Party politics. He has, however, now been drawn into politics and my reaction is not so much a reaction to the Senior Prince himself, as it is a reaction to continued exercises in futility which damages Black unity by those who want to get at me, Inkatha and the KwaZulu Government through His Majesty and the Royal Household.

The Senior Prince has joined CONTRALESA which has been conceived as a tool with which to divide Black from Black and to sow discord between the AmaKhosi of KwaZulu and Inkatha, myself and His Majesty the King. He is appearing on ANC platforms to give his abuse of me and everything he was associated with for so long greater publicity. Overseas he is keeping company with Dr. Sibusiso Bhengu who specialises in the kind of gross distortions of Inkatha that make Inkatha's enemies drool with envy. In London he is associating with people like Mr. Nobleman Nxumalo alias Mzala who has spread such malicious and vicious untruths in his book "Gatsha Buthelezi: Chief with a Double Agenda."

My reaction is not really a reaction to the Senior Prince ' because he has never been politically important. Important, yes, to the Royal Household; important, yes, to the Zulu nation in that capacity, but altogether a lightweight in the cut and thrust of politics which should be there preserving His Majesty as Inkatha does.

The article which appeared in The Guardian on the 27th November 1989 and headed: "Zulu Prince Challenges Buthelezi" is an article which astounded me in its audacious misrepresentation of black politics and the Senior Prince's role in it.

What for me personally was so astounding is that the article is based on an interview with the Senior Prince, Prince Mcwayizeni in which he attacks me personally. This astounds me because my conscience really is clear and as far as I was concerned, there was no animosity from either one of us to the other.

I have never had a quarrel with the Senior Prince and politically it never occurred to me that he would want to challenge me. The Senior Prince has never been a political heavyweight and has never been a threat to anybody, politically speaking. I have never had to deal with him as a political enemy.

I am thus astounded when the Guardian writes that he, the Senior Prince, "has shaken the illegitimacy of the long established bantustan authority by turning his back on the KwaZulu legislature, a move that poses a direct challenge to his controversial, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi."

This statement is based on a total distortion. For years the Senior Prince took his seat in the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly and never objected to anything taking place in it, nor to his

involvement with it. He did not leave the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly as a result of any confrontation between himself, myself or anybody else. He did not leave the Assembly in protest about

its legitimacy.

I am quite amazed at the picture the Senior Prince is presenting as

being opposed to me. In fact I have always befriended him. I have always interceded on behalf of the Senior Prince whenever there was a difficulty between himself and His Majesty. I

interceded, reasoned and did whatever I could do to get the Royal family together to meet the Senior Prince so that difficulties could be talked about. He did not leave the Assembly because of any quarrel with me. He walked out because he fell out with the King whom he represented in the Assembly.

I know of no reason why the Senior Prince should be attacking me. I really can only think of one issue which seems to mark the commencement of estrangement between us. It will be remembered that a widow's fund had been established and King Sobhuza sent some money specifically for the King's widows so that widows of the Royal household were to be the beneficiaries. The Senior Prince - attempted to persuade me to direct this money with him into a General Purpose Fund and of course I had to refuse. It may well be that this is the base cause of the estrangement which he now evidences towards me. But we were reconciled after that. These widows of His Majesty King Cyprian BhekuZulu were also reconciled with him, so I cannot see this as being a factor.

Tragically it is not uncommon for guilt to surface as aggression and nor is it uncommon for shame to parade as a knight in shining armour. It might well be that the surprise vendetta against me by the Senior Prince originates in either my refusal to channel money where it does not belong, or it might be because the Senior Prince knows that he should not be opposing his King.

The kind of vendetta which the Senior Prince is now engaged in is carefully shaped as part and parcel of political tactics against Inkatha. He was there being applauded on the platform in the Soccer City stadium meeting and the Guardian says about the Senior Prince that: "He was given an enthusiastic welcome from the crowd when he launched a bitter attack on Chief Buthelezi, warning that the Zulu Royal family will defy laws imposed upon it by the KwaZulu Government."

The Guardian notes the fact that earlier this year the Senior

Prince joined CONTRALESA. The Guardian describes him "as the most senior member of CONTRALESA in terms of traditional African royal heirarchies." The Guardian says that "The Prince's membership

gives the two-year-old organisation renewed legitimacy within urban and traditional - often conservative rural circles."

I am really, really hurt by what the Senior Prince is saying. He talks so that the Guardian can say: "The conflict between the Prince and Chief Buthelezi goes beyond the long running hostility that began when the Government first introduced laws that gave the bantustan chief authority over the traditional legislative power of the King." I cannot believe what I read when I read these words. There were years of amiable relationships when the Senior Prince took his seat in the Legislative Assembly and worked with the rest of us to fight apartheid in this arena. On many an occasion he got up in the Assembly, pledging his loyalty to the Assembly and the KwaZulu Government. This is well documented.

For the Senior Prince now to present the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly as some kind of ogre thing that usurps the power of the King is altogether mind-boggling. The Senior Prince quite obviously does not understand history and how history has moved the Royal Household with the times. The role of His Majesty the King is a role that evolved as his grandfather King Solomon adjusted to

new history earlier this century. It is also a role which his own father King Cyprian also helped adjust. Neither His Majesty's father, nor his grandfather, nor his great-grandfather King

Dinuzulu, had legislative power and His Majesty, like his father and his father's father and great-grandfather before him, reigns within the broader context of a Black struggle for liberation taking place.

In this struggle, Black . politics has attempted to legitimise South Africa's parliamentary democracy by gaining Black entry into it as free and equal citizens. His Majesty supports that struggle and like his father before him, has not sought to gain personal legislative authority.

Beyond the hurt which I feel that this Guardian article gives rise to, there is also the hurt of the Senior Prince's eldest son joining in with UDF and COSATU and demanding the annihilation of me and Inkatha. There is a claim that I Mangosuthu Buthelezi, I the President of Inkatha and I the Chief Minister of KwaZulu was responsible for the mean act of setting the Prince's property alight. I am totally astounded. No one could have fought more for keeping violence out of politics than me. Nobody has been more attacked than I have been attacked because I refused to join in violent confrontation. Nobody has been more condemned because I reject violence and reject the politics to support it which includes disinvestment as a strategy.

If I am so opposed to violence that I am bitterly attacked by the most violent and if I am so opposed to violence out there amongst strangers even, how much more so am I opposed to violence between kith and kin and my own kith and kin at that?

The record must be put straight. I have no quarrel with the Senior Prince. He has never had a quarrel with me. He does not challenge the legitimacy of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly and has never done so. He was in the Assembly as a personal representative of His Majesty and I left the Assembly when he quarrelled with His Majesty. The people must know the facts. They must know that the Senior Prince quarrelled with his King and is now seeking to justify himself by parading as larger than life among KwaZulu's enemies. He seeks to be a big frog in a small pond, and he hardly has even that small pond!

The same basic message with a few additional elaborations was published by The Weekly Mail ten days after The Guardian article appeared. In The Weekly Mail article under the heading "Zulu Prince gives MDM support" published on the 7th December this year the Weekly Mail adds to what the Guardian said by saying that the Senior Prince said: "He realised that the Legislative Assembly was a 'vehicle' only for its driver" and then the Weekly Mail also makes the absurd statement that "The Prince's stand points to a split within the KwaZulu ruling circles and a challenge to the legitimacy of Mangosuthu Buthelezi's rule."

The problem which reporters like Moira Levy have in writing about black politics is they do not understand black politics generally and most certainly do not understand KwaZulu politics. Any understanding of KwaZulu, its past and present, its Royal family and its day-to-day politics, would scream out against the absurdity of making the point that the Senior Prince can actually challenge me. It is like ridiculing him for he does not have even a snowball's chance in hell to challenge me, politically-speaking. This is a non-starter.

The Weekly Mail does not understand that I have long defended the Senior Prince, that I have no quarrel with him and that he is now unfortunately a pawn in the hands of those who are now trying to deal in subterfuge because their full might could not challenge my legitimacy. The Weekly Mail refers to the Prince as saying that there "are leaders who "pretend to do one thing publicly, while in fact they do another thing secretly" and accuses them of "double talk."

The ANC and its surrogate, the UDF/COSATU, are really shaming themselves in stooping to use a person like the Senior Prince to mouth their messages. It is their divisiveness which the Senior Prince is now mouthing. The double talk that is taking place is the talk of the Senior Prince who now says one thing and in fact is another thing, and has always said another thing.

My prediction is that the Royal Household will rise to the occasion and show that they have the old true Zulu genius of putting together that which KwaZulu's enemies try to tear asunder. The Royal Household did this after even the full might of Great Britain backed everything that could be done to divide and destroy the Royal Household. The British Government and subsequently the first South African Government kept Zulu Kings in detention and in exile but even without the Zulu Kings there to hold the hands of his relatives, the Royal Household proved sufficient to the occasion and was never destroyed.

The Senior Prince's chair in the Royal Household is empty. There is not a taking of sides, there is not a split in the Royal Household and His Majesty the King laughs with me when there is talk of a split between himself and myself.

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