



"Democracy means freedom to choose"

INKATHA

Inkatha Freedom Party
IQembu leNkatha Yenkululeko

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MONDAY, 19 JANUARY 2006

DURBAN

I am very sorry that owing to the fact that I am performing the official opening of an important Anglo-Zulu War 130 Anniversary Conference in Dundee, I am unable to be present at today's meeting.

As we can see on our television screens, our opponents in all other political parties appear to be doing much more by way of canvassing than we are doing. Let me not be misunderstood to be unappreciative of the good work that some of our leaders are doing in canvassing for the Party in view of the imminent general election. I certainly do, but I can't help wondering why there are people who are cool about it and seem so unmotivated concerning the conducting of the election campaign.

I have heard good reports from members of the NEC including Chairperson, Inkosi N J Ngubane, Mr M B Gwela and the Secretary-General about responses they had where they have been doing some canvassing. While I am still so dissatisfied, I must confess that what these leaders have told me has been encouraging for me in spite of my unhappiness about how the whole operation is going on.

The visit to the Baptist Church of Nazareth by members of this National Executive and leaders from UTHUKELA on Saturday was quite a successful outing. Whilst it cannot be regarded as part of the election campaign, there is no doubt that it had its spin-offs as far as the campaign is concerned. I appreciate the donation which the Administrative-Secretary made available for us for we were able to join thousands of devotees when the time for offerings was announced. Our leaders that were present also joined the queue when these offerings were made.

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PRESIDENT
The Hon. Prince Mangosuthu G Buthelezi
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On my return to the Hotel in the early evening Mr Peter Smith and Ms Nicky Lucas asked for a slot in my schedule to show me the final samples of our election T-shirt and of our posters. I thought that these are quite impressive. I do not know how members will feel about them.

I am concerned that our leaders leave important leaders such as the National Chairperson, the Secretary-General to go just by themselves on that campaign. I am now suggesting that letters to be drafted for me to sign and send it to leaders whose names can be suggested to me. I think it is clear that merely announcing that the Chairperson or the Secretary-General is going to such and such a place without actually using my Presidential prerogative to command them to do so, does not work. I think this worries me when people do not support our senior leaders in that fashion because it makes me think that although for example the Premier candidate was endorsed by a large majority of our NC members, our leaders cannot be expected to canvass support for her. There are such conflicts amongst our leaders that I am getting extremely concerned about this.

I think that many of us also saw a first page story in ILANGA of last Thursday where SADTU members were pledging their support for Mr Zuma. And the statement went further to rubbish IFP objections to the use of SADTU members in elections because of allegations of fraud which they are alleged to be carrying out during elections in order to ensure that the ANC wins.

The extent to which the ruling Party is using cheque politics to bribe our Councillors is very worrying. This is more than just surmise as there are some of them who actually state this. What worries me is that rumours of this kind are emanating from many directions whether it is from Sisonke in the case of Councillor Dlamini, or some in the Umvoti Municipality. They seem to be doing this on a large scale. It is something that worries me as I have no solution. I can't propose a solution for it as it depends on the extent to which any particular person is committed to the Party. And it also depends on whether any particular person that is approached by the ANC is someone honest or a person of integrity. I was perturbed to hear that after resigning Ex-Councillor Msibi still calls meetings. And it appears that MEC Meshack Radebe is giving food vouchers to Mr Msibi who is now using them to recruit members of our Party for our opposition. I do not know what can be done about this. From what I hear the National Chairperson has called meetings in Ulundi on Monday. I do not know if the NEC can actually instruct some of our senior leaders in the National Council and those who are representatives either at the municipal, provincial and national level of government to attend these meetings on Monday. Psychologically nothing will be more damaging for the IFP if the ANC can penetrate Ulundi at this

stage before the general election. I really plead with the NEC to make these arrangements and to ensure that these meetings are well advertised in Ulundi so that as many of our members as possible can attend these meetings today, this evening.

As the election campaign heats up I think that we need to be available to each other on a 24 hour a day basis. Let me say upfront that I myself am available everyday up to 1 AM the following morning. I then take my cellular phone to the bathroom in order to ensure that I have a few hours of sleep in the morning. I am normally up by 6 AM but my cellular will still be in the bathroom. I wish to give permission to all other leaders to have my wife's cellular as she keeps hers next to her, throughout the whole night. I can be reached through it if I am home. Otherwise, I can be contacted on those of my Aides; Inspectors Justice Mthembu and Senzo Sithole. I can be reached through their cellular phone. I plead with colleagues not to give my cellular number to the media. Lately, I am pestered by the media including the SABC phoning me through my cellular number. I am even thinking of changing my number. My wife's cellular number can be available through my Personal Assistant Mr Duma. I restrict that concession only to NEC members.

I think from now onwards each one of us must be available to each other and others 24 hours a day if we are serious about being successful in the forthcoming election. I think even for the ordinary transaction of other Party's business we need to be available on a 24 hour basis.

I go back to the topic of the ruling Party's tactic of bribing Councillors I wish to state that my only consolation about this is that most of our Councillors ride very high. In other words they are too arrogant to be in touch with people on the ground and even with our leaders in our branches. But in view of this development we need to be more in touch with our branches as we draw closer to the election. This should be the case all the time not just now merely because we are close to the election. We must all remember how painful the whole process of renewing and reviving branches has been. Just look that even now there are branches that have not been inaugurated.

The issue of our Councillors and untrustworthy Councillors is very serious. The issue of the Constituency Chairperson of Msinga is one such serious case. There is more and more information that this man is flirting with Dr Mkhize and some of the ANC leaders. This I find to be a very worrying affair. I do not know what we need to do to monitor this man. I received a phone call from someone I do not know at all, Mr Skhumbuzo Mpungose who introduced himself as the leader of the singing group

called "AMAGEZAMAHLE". He expressed his great concern about the penetration of our opponents in Msinga District. He talked about the use of government resources and the language that some people in Msinga now speak. I have no idea what should be done, but it is clear to me that something needs to be done, and needs to be done as quickly as possible.

Then, the final issue I wish to raise is that of the use of violence in the campaigning and during the forthcoming election. The leader of our youth who was killed in Hluhluwe last week was killed by people who were too scared by his success in mobilising membership of the Party in the Mkhanyakude District. We must take this issue very seriously because intimidation works. We are going to lose members and people will be too frightened to vote for our Party. We need to think about a strategy to counter this or to deal with it. It will not be sufficient for us to merely moan about it. We need to devise a strategy to deal with it.

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