



"Democracy means freedom to choose"

INKATHA

Inkatha Freedom Party
IQembu leNkatha Yenkululeko

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

04 JUNE 2007

DURBAN

The Secretary-General chairing this National Executive, the Acting Chairperson of the Youth Brigade, the Honourable Mr Ben Skosana MP and Mrs Gertrude Mzizi MPL from Gauteng and I attended the Inkatha Freedom Party Forum on Emigration and the loss of skills in partnership with SOLIDARITY on the 31st of May in Pretoria, as was announced at one of the NEC meetings around this table. The meeting went off well. It was chaired by Dr van Zyl Slabbert and Mr Skosana, who however decided to stand down once Dr Slabbert had arrived. It was addressed by the Chief Whip Mr van der Merwe, Mr Combrinck, the Chief Whip of KwaZulu Natal Legislature, Mr Frans Cronje of the South African Institute of Race Relations who is their Researcher. And it was also addressed by Mr Vincent Williams and Dr Thomas Poque of the Tshwane University of Technology. It was also addressed by the Acting Chairperson of the Youth Brigade Ms Pat Lebenya-Ntanzu, Dr Dirk Herman, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of SOLIDARITY, Dr Johan Burger of the Institute for Strategic Studies, and by Ms Alana Bailey, the Director of 'COME HOME CAMPAIGN'. Professor Laurie Schlemmer did the wrap up of the Conference and our Honourable Secretary-General sketched for the meeting the way forward at the end of the Conference.

I think it was a very worthwhile exercise. The Reverend Zondi called for a well coordinated campaign to tackle this problem as a sustained and coordinated effort. He appealed for a look at the causative factors for this brain drain, such as crime, unemployment, Affirmative Action etc. He called for a coordination of efforts between the various agencies so that this problem can be put before South Africans. He proposed that SOLIDARITY and the IFP should remain engaged on this issue in order to sensitise the powers-that-be, that something urgent needs to be done about the problem. He further suggested a re-look at how Affirmative Action is implemented by suggesting a sort of Affirmative CODESA. He appeared to all those who attended to do something as individuals for a turn around of what is going on. His final proposal was that a Joint Committee of the IFP and SOLIDARITY be established.

I am certain that the Secretary-General and the Acting Chairperson of the Youth Brigade will also add some comments on their own impressions of these deliberations. I can just mention that we were guests of SOLIDARITY at a dinner held on the eve of the Conference. It was attended by the Acting Chairperson of the Youth Brigade, Ms Lebenya-Ntanzu, the Honourable Mr Ben Skosana, Ms Sibongile Nkomo and myself. Others were members of SOLIDARITY such as Mr Flip Buys, the Chief Executive Officer of SOLIDARITY and Dr Dirk Herman, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of SOLIDARITY and a few other guests. At this dinner both My Buys and I agreed that we should do something about strengthening the cooperation between SOLIDARITY and the IFP. The Secretary-General proposed it at the Conference. I know that his hands are more than full. But I wish to suggest that something should be done while the iron is still hot about setting up a Committee this month that must forge these cooperation links with SOLIDARITY. We cannot always have a once-off thing with SOLIDARITY each time we meet without any follow ups. That is why I feel that the proposals that the Secretary-General made should be implemented immediately before they gather dust on the shelves. I realise of course that this will not be a very easy thing to forge. If we look at how our election Coalition with the DA was described as a racist Coalition and so misfired in 2004, this is likely to be even more difficult because SOLIDARITY is taken by some to be part of the White Right Wing. But we should not be intimidated even by these thoughts in trying to establish some more meaningful cooperation between the IFP and SOLIDARITY.

It was interesting that as we were driving back to the Hotel on the eve of the Forum discussions I received a phone call from Professor Herbert Vilakazi from Washington DC. He was telling me that there was a white journalist who had phoned him in preparation for an article that this journalist was going to write on the lecture that he delivered on the 26th of April, 2007, on the Relations between the ANC and the IFP. He did not indicate which newspaper the journalist worked for. So it was only in the morning of the 31st May at the Conference that we saw this big article in *'The Sowetan'*. The genie is now out of the bottle and nothing can be done to put it back into the bottle. It is going to be interesting what the media in general and the ANC at national level will finally decide to do about this issue. I say so notwithstanding the fact that Ido Lekota, a journalist of *'The Sowetan'* did make comments which I could not understand. Professor Vilakazi merely states the History of what happened.

This issue as has been suggested is so serious that it is bound to have an impact on the forthcoming elections in one way or another. For good or bad. I kept on saying to Professor Vilakazi when he spoke to me, that many people admire the courage which prompted him to come out with these sensitive matters in the lecture that he delivered at the Democracy Development project Forum in Durban in April.

I also had an appointment with Dr Worner Bohler the Representative of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in South Africa after the Conference. He brought to

my attention quite a few matters. He confirmed that the six people that will be going to Germany will go. He further mentioned the communication that he has had with the Secretary-General about the Federal formula which we talked about around this table a few weeks back. He also mentioned that he is taking about 5 people from some of the SADC Countries to Germany sometime in future, and that from South Africa he proposed taking Dr Rama Naidu. He further proposed another Workshop for the CORE GROUP sometime in October and of course mentioned that some of the things he does with us he will not publicise, for the Foundation must be able to interact also with other parties, even if it has had that special relationship with the IFP such as the ANC has with the Frederick Neumann Foundation.

The Honourable Mr M B Gwala who has been leader of the Opposition in the KZN Legislature in the absence of the Leader of the Opposition Dr LPHM Mtshali told me of the problems that our members of the Legislature were experiencing because of the Speaker's bias in that Legislature. He informed me that they had agreed with the DA to walk out for an hour or so to register their strongest protest against the shabby treatment that was meted out to them by Mr Mchunu, the Speaker of the Legislature as it sat in MSINGA.

It is clear to me that if one wants to see an example of people that are power drunk that there are these people for all to see. I was quite taken aback to hear from Mr Gwala how Mr Mdladla one of our Councillors from Nqutu was threatened with arrest and how Mr Cele the MEC tried to set up an instant Kangaroo Court in order to have Councillor Mdladla arraigned on the spot. It sounds like *Alice in Wonderland*. It is clear that these people have no idea what governance and governing are about. It is just sad that while others are trying to create an atmosphere where our members might possibly smoke the pipe of peace with ANC members that these people are busy muddying the waters which make the whole process of reconciliation impossible. There is no doubt that each of these things creates more alienation between the IFP and the ANC particularly in the Legislature and in the Province in general. If we cannot reconcile as IFP and ANC in the Province, it is not possible to do so at national level.

If one can go by newspaper reports, it seems that the meeting of the ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY which was supposed to sort out differences between IFP Councillors and ANC Councillors was a failure if it is true that IFP Councillors found themselves having to walk out of the Council again. As this was the meeting which Minister Mufamadi had suggested be held, consonant with a Cabinet decision, one sort of despairs about the ANC leadership in this Province and in the ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY in particular, ever reaching consensus as far as this issue of street and place naming is concerned. They seem determined to have a clash between themselves and other parties. They are spoiling for a fight. No one wants a fight on these things, when we should be cooperating in delivering services to our impoverished people. It does seem to me that these people are determined to drag us into a fight even while we are doing our utmost

to avoid that fight. But I must confess that I was discouraged by an article that was syndicated to all Independent Newspapers by one Sandile Memela who was described as the spokesperson for Minister Pallo Jordan. The things that Mr Memela wrote in that article were arrogant and provocative. And I could not imagine that he could have written such a letter without an authorization by Minister Jordan. I further heard that in the National Assembly Dr Jordan had been quite provocative when he spoke about me in the context of this place-naming. I am still going to ask for the Hansard in order to know exactly what he said, when I go back to Cape Town. Dr Jordan is an arrogant man and his record of campaigns of vituperation against me is old and long as you may recall how he accused me of saying that I want the Apartheid era back again, when I spoke about the worsening poverty of our people in rural areas since 1994. The ANC does speak with many voices. It is difficult to know its real mind on issues when one encounters a *Tower of Babel* situation where one hears so many different reactions of its leaders on this place-naming issue. I was told by my Secretary that Brendan Boyle of 'The Sunday Times' phoned asking for a comment from me on a comment, that is supposed to have been made by President Mbeki on Thursday in Parliament about the proposed deletion of Princess Magogo's name as the name of the KwaMashu Stadium. I was told that the President said that he was against it and that he said that he didn't think there was any South African who wants that to be done.

I also hear that Premier Ndebele is still keen to have the Church that the King wants to have built at the Ceza Mountain. It does appear that the rumour they circulate is that when the Honourable Mr Gwala was Minister his Department set aside R2million for this project. It appears that this amount was supposed to be spent for a Church that can accommodate 200 people, instead of just a small chapel. It is incongruous to build a Church in the veld that has no congregation and that does not even have the blessing of the Anglican Bishop of the Zululand Diocese.

I did not get the opportunity to phone Dr Jiyane on Monday. I however did so as I was driving to Durban on my way to Pretoria on Wednesday. He happened to be in Durban. I tried to stress in our conversation that it was imperative that he sees our lawyers. And that it was not good enough to send proxies such as Councillor Shunugam however good they might be. He said that he was in Durban consulting lawyers about his business as his enemies clearly want to have his business sequestrated. He promised to phone Mr Falconer. I have no idea whether he in fact did so. This is critical as we discussed last Monday that he cooperates with our lawyers. He should realise that this is not just a favour to us as IFP but it is a favour to himself. As I have already stated I have no idea on whether he did contact Mr Falconer as he promised to do so.

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