

AS1996-1-6-2

# Statement by Mangosuthu Buthelezi, MP President - Inkatha Freedom Party

PIETERMARITZBURG

MONDAY, 10 JUNE 1996

On the 29th of January 1991, at the IFP/ANC Summit meeting in Durban, President Mandela and I undertook to share platforms in order to bring about an end to political violence. At that meeting we agreed to implement codes of conduct. A few days after the summit President Mandela and I agreed to share the platform when violence flared up in the Pietermaritzburg Region.

We agreed to go to Taylor's Halt together to speak to members of the IFP and members of the ANC at a joint Peace Rally. Some leaders of the ANC in Pietermaritzburg led by the late Harry Gwala went to Johannesburg to stop President Mandela from going to address a joint Peace Rally in Taylor's Halt with me. It was openly stated by many ANC leaders at that time that if President Mandela were to go to address any joint peace rally with me he would be elevating me to his level. This was before he became President of South Africa. I can enumerate many other peace initiatives that have been mounted over the years and I mention in particular a meeting which took place in Johannesburg between me and President Mandela which was arranged jointly by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Bishop Stanley Mogoba, the Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church. Our joint commitments to peace unfortunately did not filter down to our followers on the ground.

On the 30th of May 1996, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki acting on behalf of President Mandela and myself warmly welcomed and urged the Provincial leadership of both organisations to work on a detailed programme for peace in the Province. This commitment was made after we had met the delegation from the Province of KwaZulu Natal in Cape Town, composed by Messrs Jacob Zuma and Sbu Ndebele of the ANC and the Rev Celani Mthethwa and Inkosi Nyanga Ngubane of the IFP.

"I do believe that joint action by President Mandela and myself will back the KwaZulu Natal Cabinet's endeavours to end violence. I believe that the time has come for me and the President of the ANC to go out there to stop people killing each other. I believe that this should follow detailed preparations for such an Agenda. We will join in action with Church leaders and business leaders to re-establish a culture of tolerance. We must establish conflict solving mechanisms

-2-

in all black areas. Let us now once and for all get rid of the social pathology which was produced by violence and recognise that there is no problem to which violence is a legitimate solution."

"I believe that today we need action for peace more than planning for peace. Any symbolic actions are only worthy if they are combined with real actions for peace. Let us act for peace now, and then we can plan for social reconstruction and the development that will follow the reduction of violence."

"The time has come to draw a line under the past, and so I make this plea to all the good people of KwaZulu Natal - GIVE PEACE A CHANCE."

I myself will once the preparations that we referred to in the joint statement that we issued with Deputy President Mbeki on the 30 of May, join up in action hand in hand with anyone, of any party who wishes us to take action for peace. It goes without saying that this time for action should now be preceded by serious talks at all levels as happened at the level of the KwaZulu Natal Legislature between leaders of the IFP and leaders of the ANC. Our people do not take our initiatives seriously anymore because of the failure of so many gestures of the past. We cannot afford any failures such as so many that we have had in the past, we need very careful and serious planning to take bold steps for PEACE.

Our Actions should this time speak louder than words.

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JOINT STATEMENT OF THE IFP AND THE ANC

Yesterday, on May 29, 1996, the Presidents of the ANC and the IFP, were informed by a delegation of leaders of the IFP and the ANC of a new initiative taken by the two organisations urgently and jointly to address the issue of the continuing political violence in the Province of Kwazulu-Natal.

Both Presidents warmly welcomed this and urged the provincial leadership of both organisations to work on a detailed programme for peace in the Province.

The delegation from the Province was composed by Messrs Jacob Zuma and Sbu Ndebele of the ANC and Rev CJ Mthetwa and Inkosi Ngubane of the IFP.

Issued by: Dr MG Buthelezi, President of the IFP  
Mr Thabo Mbeki, Deputy President of the ANC

Cape Town: May 30, 1996