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IFP 80<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATORY RALLY

RESPONSE BY

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PRESIDENT – INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

KING ZWELITHINI STADIUM: EMLAZI : 30 NOVEMBER 2008

On a day like this what does one rise up to say to you dear friends, colleagues and comrades. What immediately comes to my mind is a big "THANK YOU" that I should direct to each and every one of you. I thank you for having conceived of the idea of holding today's function, to enable me to express those thanks to all of you. It is a

"thank you" to all of you, who are living and to thousands others who are no more with us. All sorts of compliments have been showered on me on reaching the

milestone of 80 years. I am embarrassed by it all, for I know that whatever is seen as achievements is something I could never have achieved without your assistance and support in difficult and trying times, through which we as members of this organisation have gone through over the last three decades. This is a day of Thanksgiving to the Lord for we could not have survived without Him as our Tower of Strength. We in this organisation are all Believers, we all believe in the power of the Almighty, whether we call Him God, Allah, Qamatha or uMvelingangi or any other name. We have tried to do whatever we do, guided as much as possible by the teachings of the Bible, the Koran or the Baghavad Gita. I do believe that if we did not accept that whatever we did, was on the foundations of those teachings, we

could never have survived up to this time.

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We come from a background of wars in our country whether it was the so-called KAFFIR Wars in the Eastern Cape, Blood River and the Anglo-Zulu War and the 1906 Zulu Rebellion in this Province. These wars were led by some of our Heroes in the Limpopo Province such as King Sekhukhuni of the Pedi people.

It was against that background of conflict that our founding fathers led by Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme, my uncle, decided to found what was then called the South African Native Congress, later changed to the African National Congress. Some of us have lived long enough to see the Sharpeville Massacres of our people. We lived to see the banning of some of our liberation movements such as the ANC, PAC, AZAPO

and others.

As you are aware | myself grew up as a member of the African National Congress Youth League founded by a lawyer that was articulated by my uncle Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme - Mr Anton Muziwakhe Lembede. It was as a member of the Fort Hare University Branch of that youth organisation, that | was rusticated from Fort Hare with a couple of my comrades Mr Rosette Ndziba and Mr Lengolo.

In Durban where | decided to stop after my rustication | was to interact with leaders of the ANC such as Inkosi Albert Lutuli and others. | was with my fellow civil servants who later became lawyers, Advocate Hyacinth (Bilf) Bhengu' and Advocate Simon Mthimkhulu, were to find ourselves in an invidious position when the then leader of the ANC in this Province, Mr Allison Wessels George Champidn (uMahlathamnyama) decided on the day of the election of a leader of the ANC in this Province that everyone in the YMCA Beatrice Street Hall that day should participate in the election of the leader. We were not even card-carrying members of the ANC as

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civil servants. We found ourselves moving to the Lutuli side of the hall, so we willy nilly found ourselves participating in the election of Inkosi Albert Lutuli as leader of the ANC first in this Province. He was later to be elected the President-General of the ANC in South Africa. It was him and other leaders of the ANC such as Dr Walter Sisulu who when | was faced with a dilemma of whether to do my legal articles under a Durban Lawyer, Rowley Arenstein or to heed my late mother Princess Magogo ka Dinuzulu's order and return to Mahlabathini to take over my hereditary position as Inkosi of the Buthelezi Clan who advised me to do so. The ANC leaders stated that it was more in the interests of the liberation struggle for me to take over my hereditary position as Inkosi, than to do my legal articles.

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My contact with leaders of the ANC at the AN offices Y Lakhanj Chambers in Durban was on a daily basis. | was heavily shadowed by the Security Police from the moment | was rusticated from Fort Hare University in September 1950.

For five years the Apartheid Regime would not recognise me as Inkosi of the Buthelezi Clan, but recognised me as an Acting [nkosi because of my political background.

| continued to go to Groutville to meet Inkosi Lutuli when he was banned. This was something which led to the then Commissioner-General Mr Corrie Nel, telling my first Cousin, His Majesty King Cyprian Bhekuzulu Nyangayezizwe ka Solomon that | am often observed going to Groutville to meet with Inkosi Albert Lutuli. My reaction was â\200\234Your Majesty, if it is illegal or wrong for me to see Inkosi Lutuli why &ges the Magistrate in Mahlabathini not instructed to tell me not to do soâ\200\235. | could not be intimidated into stopping my visits to Groutville to see Inkosi Lutuli. | was each time

accompanied by my late uncle Prince Gideon Layukfona ka Mnyayiza. But not only

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that, but when Inkosi Lutuli's banning order expired, before another was imposed, Inkosi Lutuli and Mrs Nokukhanya Lutuli would visit me at KwaPhindangene. On one occasion they were brought by Ms Louise Hooper, an American lady who was a great friend of the ANC. On other occasions the Lutulis were brought to our home at KwaPhindangene by Dr Wilson Zamindlela Conco. He was the Deputy-Leader of the ANC in the Province and he was the man who had chaired the Kliptown Congress of the People in 1955, in Kliptown.

A message reached me just before the Pretoria government was about to impose their Homelands System of government on the Zulu people and the message was from Inkosi Lutuli and Mr Oliver Tambo. It was to the effect that if Amakhosi elected me to any position | must not turn it down because of my opposition to the Apartheid System.

When Inkosi Lutuli decided to send Mr Oliver Tambo abroad to launch the ANC mission-in-exile, I continued to communicate with Mr Oliver Tambo through emissaries such as Mr Gibson Thula, Rev Celani Mtetwa and Mr Walter Felgate. In 1963 | passed through London on my way to Canada as a delegate to the Anglican Congress which was to take place in Toronto in Canada. In London | visited Mrs Adelaide Tambo at their Muswell Road Residence. She had to phone her

husband in Lusaka and Mr Tambo flew over to London to see me. Mr Tambo was

quite concerned about me having been to see them in their home. This was the time when the leaders of Kenya attended the Lancaster House talks prior to the granting of independence to Kenya. Mrs Adelaide Tambo invited me to accompany her, when she went to greet the Kenyan delegation led by â\200\234Burning Spearâ\200\235 himself Jomo Kenyatha at the Cumberland Hotel in London. In the delegation were two former

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University contemporaries of mine, Dr Munyua Waiyaki and Dr Njoroge Mungai. Both later served Kenya as Foreign Ministers at one time or another. -

The fears that Mr Tambo had seemed to have been justified because on my return to South African from that trip, the South African government took away my passport for 9 years. Efforts by Parliamentarians such as Helen Suzman and Mr Douglas Ol

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Mitchell the leader of the United Party in this Province came to nought.

After I was elected the chairman of what Pretoria called the Zulu Territorial Authority in June 1970, the United States again offered me an exchange grant to visit the United States. They had offered it before, but my application for a passport had been turned down. Now was the testing time for them, since they gave the impression that these bodies which they created such as the Zulu Territorial Authority enjoyed a certain amount of autonomy. They had to give me a temporary passport valid for only 12 months. So I visited the United States in 1971, it was my second visit since on our way back home from the Agglicongress in Toronto we had stopped in Chicago with Archdeacon Philip Matha and our Bishop, Thomas Savage.

On my return the media interviewed me at Jan Smuts Airport. Among other things I stated that the people in America had asked me whether as Head of the Territorial Authority I had meetings with the then Prime Minister Mr John Vorster. I stated that I had never met him. It was not surprising that shortly after that visit, arrangements were made for me and other leaders in the self-governing states to meet Mr Vorster. It was at this meeting that I raised the issue of Mr Mandela's release with Mr Vorster. It was on the occasion when Mr Vorster responded to my plea for Mr Nelson

Mandela's release as follows: Mr Mandela boasted that he was a Communist and if

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there is one thing which my father taught me, is never to put an adder under my bosom.â\200\235 He went on to say; â\200\234And as long as | am Prime Minister | will never release

him.

During this time in 1973 we had a meeting together with all other leaders of the so-called self-governing territories. It was at this meeting that all the leaders of these areas made an oath in Umtata in September 1973 not to accept â\200\234independenceâ\200\235 a'la Pretoria. But as you know about 4 of them were later to accept the so-called â\200\234independenceâ\200\231.

As far as Mr Mandela is concemed | continued to communicate with him in writing. We exchanged correspondence. And during this period | met with Mr Oliver Tambo in Mingoche in Malawi. Then at this time | consulted with Mr Qliver Tambo after my visit to Zambia. Mr Tambo and | had been invited to Addis Ababa â\200\224 Ethiopia to attend what was designated as â\200\234The African American Dialogue Seriesâ\200\235. The burning issue at the time was the issue of the campaign to impose Sanctions on South Africa and Disinvestment from South Africa. At that time the ANC mission-in-exile was in the forefront of this campaign and | was not in favour of it. Not based just on a personal opinion, but | held rallies in this city, in Soweto, in Langa, in Cape Town and other places. Each time | put the issue to the audiences that | addressed, they all rejected sanctions and disinvestment with one voice. We then met with Mr Oliver Tambo and Johny Makhathini in Nairobi in Kenya on my way fo Addis Ababa. Mr Tambo told me that he would not attend the conference in Addis Ababa as it would look bad if he and | disagreed on the issue at such a conference. As you may recall | was accompanied by one of my mmlstzswa}i~\201 the ggnl?(,Mr Bamney Diadla. | was surprised when the following day Mr Dladla was-suggesting to me that | should change my stance. Mr Diadia said that | must â\200\234wriggle like a snakeâ\200\235, when | speak at

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