

Gm P Fssxam OW

AN ADDRESS BY GOVAN MBEKI TO THE NAMDA HEALTH
PROFESSIONAL AND HEALTH WORKERS ON THE CURRENT
STATE OF THE NATION AND THE POLITICAL ECONOMY
OF HEALTH IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE LIVINGSTONE
HOSPITAL LIBRARY ON JULY 1, 1990

I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR INVITING US TO SHARE
. IDEAS ON THE QUESTION OF THE PROBLEMS CURRENTLY
FACING OUR COUNTRY. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE
HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY WE ARE FACED WITH A
SITUATION THAT CAUSES ALL OF US TO GIVE SERIOUS
ATTENTION TO WHAT THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY IS
GOING TO BE. EVER SINCE THE END OF THE WARS OF
DISPOSSESSION THE OPPRESSED PEOPLES WHO CONSTI-
TUTE BY FAR THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION OF
. OUR COUNTRY HAVE ALWAYS SOUGHT TO SIT DOWN AND
TALK WITH THE RULING WHITE MINORITY ABOUT
RESOLVING OUR PROBLEMS IN-A PEACEFUL MANNER.
NOW. FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY GOVERNMENT AFTER
GOVERNMENT, BEFORE AND AFTER THE FORMATION OF
UNION IN 1910 THUS TURNED A DEAF EAR TO THESE
CALLS.

PAEE TNQ

THE QUESTION WAS : WHY DID THEY REFUSE TO
ACCEPT SUCH A REASONABLE APPROACH ?
OBVIOUSLY THE WHITE MINORITY IN THIS COUNTRY
HAD CONVINCED THEMSELVES THAT PEOPLE OF
COLOUR WERE HELPLESS TO CHANGE THE SITUATION.
ON THE OTHER HAND THE OPPRESSED AND EXPLOITED
PEOPLES OF THIS COUNTRY NEVER CEASED TO
STRUGGLE TO BRING ABOUT THE CHANGE THAT WOULD
ENSURE THAT THEY WERE PART AND PARCEL OF THE
SOCIETY. FOR ALMOST HALF A CENTURY THE
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS PURSUED NON-VIOLENT
MEANS TO BRING ABOUT A SITUATION IN WHICH THEY
WOULD ENJOY EQUAL RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
ON THE SAME BASIS AS THE WHITES IN THIS COUNTRY.
WHEN THE GOVERNMENT SLAMMED THE DOOR IN THEIR
FACE THUS DENYING THEM ALL AVENUES TO EXPRESS
THEIR ASPIRATIONS THE ANC EMBARKED ON THE ARMED
STRUGGLE TO END APARTHEID. IN ADDITION TO THAT
IT EMPLOYED A MULTI PRONGED ATTACK AGAINST THE
APARTHEID REGIME.

PA E T REE

PRESSURE WAS THEREFORE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THE NATIONALIST PARTY GOVERNMENT BOTH FROM INSIDE AND INTERNATIONALLY.

THE ANC SELECTED PRESSURE POINTS WHICH WOULD HAVE AN IMPACT POLITICALLY, SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY. IT IS AS A RESULT OF THESE PRESSURES THAT THE GOVERNMENT FINALLY DECIDED TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS TO SEEK A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS THAT FACE THIS COUNTRY._ IN PREPARATION FOR SUCH TALKS THE ANC DREW UP THE HARARE DECLARATION WHICH SETS OUT WHAT REQUIRES TO BE DONE IF SUCH TALKS ARE TO BE MEANINGFUL. IN DRAWING UP THIS NOW FAMOUS DOCUMENT THE ANC MADE SURE THAT IT GAINED MAXIMUM SUPPORT NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. THE HARARE DECLARATION WAS FIRST ACCEPTED BY THE FRONT LINE STATES. THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU), BY COMMON WEALTH STATES EXCEPT THE 4/-....

PAEE FQUR
BRITISH GOVERNMENT UNDER MARGARET THATCHER.
BY NON ALLIGNED STATES AND FINALLY BY THE
UNITED NATIONS.
THE MAIN FEATURES OF THIS DOCUMENT ARE :
(A) IT MUST LIFT THE BANS ON RESTRICTED
POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS. THAT THE
SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT MUST CREATE
A CLIMATE IN WHICH NEGOTIATIONS CAN
TAKE PLACE; IT MUST RELEASE ALL
POLITICAL PRISONERS. IT MUST LIFT
THE STATE OF EMERGENCY. IT MUST ALLOW
EXILES TO RETURN HOME WITHOUT FEAR OF
INCARCERATION, IT MUST PULL OUT ALL
ITS ARMED FORCES FROM THE AFRICAN
RESIDENTIAL AREAS. IN SHORT FREE
POLITICAL ACTIVITY ON AN EQUAL BASIS
WITH THE NATIONALIST PARTY SHOULD BE
ALLOWED.
5/-.....

...._/9
'N011V8V333G
3UVHVH 3H1 NI 1n0 138 SNOIiIGN03 H3H1O 3H1
30 NOILS3HO 3H1 SSHDSIG 01 1N3NNH3A09 AlHVd
lSIWVNOilVN 3H1 HlIM 9N1133N V lHBHOS DNV 3H1
A31N3003SN03 '31VN133 338VlInS V 30 NOilV383
3H1 303 aauiinnau SNOilIGNOD U3H1O 3H1
133w 01 BNIHLON GIG GNV 3Vd 3H1 GNV dDVS
'DNV 3H1 N0 NV8 3H1 031313 AWNO AHVHHH33
GNZ 3H1 30 iN3N31VlS 3.1N3GIS38d 3iVlS 3H1
'AHLNHOD 3H1 803 NOilHlilSNOD
V dn MVHG GWHOHS S3AilVlN
-3S3Ud38 0313333 30 SNILSISNOD
A38N3SSV 1N3nlilSN03 V lVHi (3)
'lHO G3IHHV3
383M A38N3SSV 1N3nlilSN03 V
9N10333Hd Sd3lS lVHl aunsua Oi
1N3HNNH3A03 NIH31NI NV 38 GWHOHS
3H3Hi lVHl SGNVN3G 1N3NH3OG 3H1 (8)
3A13 33Vd

PAGE SIX

IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS UP TO NOW HAVE NOT YET STARTED. WE ARE STILL ENGAGED IN TALKS TO GET THE GOVERNMENT TO CLEAR THE DECKS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ARGUING THAT THERE ARE MANY LEADERS WHO MUST ALSO BE DRAWN INTO THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS. OUR VIEW IS THAT THE ONLY WAY OF DETERMINING HOW MUCH SUPORT SUCH LEADERS HAVE SHOULD BE BY ELECTIONS ON A NON-RACIAL BASIS. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO DRAW ON TO ITS SIDE OF THE NEGOTIATING TABLE ALL TYPES OF ELEMENTS THAT ACCEPT APARTHEID EVEN THOUGH THESE HAVE NO BASE. SUCH ARE THE BISHOPS MOKOENA AND MZILIKAZI.

IT MUST BE CLEAR THAT IN SUCH A SITUATION WHERE THE TWO MAJOR CONTENDING FORCES. NAMELY. THE ANC AND THE NATIONALIST PARTY GOVERNMENT ARE
_7/-....

RAGE SEVEN

SEEKING THE SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC FOR THEIR
POINTS OF VIEW A CONSIDERABLE ALIGNMENT OF
FORCES IS GOING TO TAKE PLACE. EVEN THOUGH
THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO PERSUADE THE
PEOPLE TO BELIEVE THAT IT HAS ABANDONED ITS
APARTHEID POLICIES, IN PRACTICE IT IS SEEKING
TO PULL TOGETHER TO ITS SIDE OF THE NEGOTIATING
TABLE ALL THE ELEMENTS WHICH SUPPORT GROUP
RIGHTS, IN OTHER WORDS, ELEMENTS WHICH FAVOUR
THE MAINTENANCE OF ETHNICITY AND MINORITY RIGHTS.
THE ANC ON THE OTHER HAND IS COMMITTED TO ESTABLISH
A UNITED, NON RACIAL, DEMOCRATIC SOUTH
AFRICA. IT CALLS UPON ALL THOSE WHO ARE COMMITTED
TO FREEDOM FOR ALL THE PEOPLES OF SOUTH AFRICA TO
COME OUT IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE ANC. WHICH AS THE
PREMIER LIBERATORY ORGANISATION SPEARHEADS THE
STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION. IN THESE CRITICAL
TIMES NONE IS PERMITTED TO SIT ON THE FENCE. WE
HAVE TO THROW OUR WHOLE WEIGHT ON THE SIDE OF THE
8/-....

FORCES THAT SUBSCRIBE TO THE PRINCIPLES SET
OUT IN THE FREEDOM CHARTER.
NAMDA AND NEHWUSA HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO
FIGHT FOR SPECIFIC DEMANDS THAT AFFECT THE
MEMBERSHIP OF THESE TWO ORGANISATIONS. BUT IF
WE EXAMINE CAREFULLY THESE DEMANDS IT WILL BE
SEEN THAT THE TWO ORGANISATIONS ARE NOT ONLY
SEEKING TO CREATE WAGE AND WORKING CONDITIONS
FOR THEIR MEMBERS) BUT ARE DOING SO IN ORDER
TO SERVE THE GENERAL INTEREST OF THE ENTIRE
POPULATION. HERE THEN AT THIS POINT THE
INTERESTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL COINCIDE WITH
THOSE OF THE ENTIRE POPULATION. BASED AS IT
IS ON THE IDEA OR PHILOSOPHY OF RACISM THE
APARTHEID REGIME CAN NEVER DO JUSTICE TO ALL
THE SECTIONS OF THE PEOPLE. WE KNOW FROM
EXPERIENCE THAT THE HEALTH SERVICES IN OUR
COUNTRY ARE PROVIDED ON A DIFFERENTIAL SCALE.
9/-....

MORE RESOURCES ARE SET ASIDE FOR THE SUPERIOR
RACE GROUP? NAMELY THE WHITES. THAN IS THE
POSITION FOR THE NATIONALLY OPPRESSED. ONE
NEED NOT CATALOGUE THE SHORT COMINGS IN THE
PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THIS
COUNTRY - THE SHORTAGE OF BEDS AT HOSPITAL.
THE POOR AND NON EXISTENT SERVICES IN THE
RURAL AREAS. ETC.
THE PROBLEMS THAT FACE YOU ARE A MATTER OF
GRAVE CONCERN TO ALL THE OPPRESSED AND EXPLOITED
PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY. IT IS IMPORTANT TO
REALISE THIS FACT. TO SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS YOU
REQUIRE A STRONG ORGANISATION. BUT IN THE FINAL
ANALYSIS IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE REALISE THAT
OUR PROBLEMS ARE RELATED TO THE PROBLEMS ARISING
OUT OF A NATIONALIST PARTY POLICY THAT HAS ITS
ROOTS IN RACE DISCRIMINATION.
10/-....

WHAT IS REQUIRED IS THE ELIMINATION OF APART-
HEID AND THIS CAN ONLY BE DONE IF ALL THE
FORCES THAT ARE OPPOSED TO IT ARE UNITED IN
ACTION AGAINST IT. THE ONE ORGANISATION THAT
SETS OUT CLEARLY THE PATH TO POWER IS THE ANC.
THE ANC AIMS AT ACHIEVING POWER SO THAT IT CAN
WIPE OUT APARTHEID. AND IT IS YOU WHO WILL
EMPOWER IT TO DO THAT.

____-000000000-____