

COMMENTS ON ALLEGATIONS BY CHIEF MAPHUMULO BY MANGOSUTHU G. BUTHELEZI, CHIEF MINISTER, KWAZULU, PRESIDENT OF INKATHA AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK ALLIANCE. 20TH NOVEMBER 1983

I do not believe that Chief Maphumulo is important enough to claim much of my attention, and I believe no useful purpose will be served by me elevating his status through debating his irresponsible accusations at length in public. It is, however, necessary for me to put the record straight on one point. Chief Maphumulo is claiming that I referred the summons that was issued in his pursuit of R20,000 damages against Mr. S.Z. Conco, Chief C. Kaula and Mr. J.T. Zulu to the KwaZulu attorneys. He said this indicated that I was accepting responsibility and would spend the tax payers' money to defend the action. This is a distortion and a fabrication of a misguided mind and I do not know where Chief Maphumulo got this false information.

Chief Maphumulo has initiated legal proceedings and I therefore do not wish to comment at this stage on the allegations he is making. I do want, however, to tell the public that we in KwaZulu never have and never will sanction the spending of public money for anybody's private gain, no matter who they may be.

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I had hoped that Chief Maphumulo had learnt a political lesson when on a previous occasion he attempted to divide the people by establishing the Inala

Party on the ill-conceived foundations of allying himself to our oppressors and the enemy of the people.

Chief Maphumulo is entitled to seek redress whenever he feels wronged. However, in the vendetta he is now carrying out against me, he is ill-advised to drag the good name of the KwaZulu police through the mud, and the claim that we in Ulundi town people away from our clinics who really do need medical attention is nothing more than an attempt to smear my good name by yet another means. We know Chief Maphumulo; we know with whom he associates and he is certainly not increasing his credibility by indulging in yet another tirade of distortions because his ego has been hurt.

Now that apartheid is entrenched in the constitution, and that Africans in this country are denationalised and face the most stringent test of their

durability and resolve to bring about the changes this country so desperately needs, it is tragic that people like Chief Maphumulo leap into these new circumstances in an attempt to sow division. One wonders what his motives are and one wonders whether we are not entitled to regard those motives as suspect, given his past history. Chief Maphumulo will assist us all by seeking legal opinion, because he suspects the KwaZulu Police for not helping him, and he is free to go the Commissioner of the South African Police and to the Department of Co-operation and Development, where I believe he has many friends. Perhaps they are the only shoulders he can cry on.