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ADDRESS TO THE ANC COMMUNITY IN TANZANIA  
BY COMRADE PRESIDENT OLIVER TAMBO: FEBRUARY 1985

Comrades,

I greet you all in the name of the leadership of our organisation, and wish you new successes in this Year of the Cadre. I extend to you especially the good wishes of the participants at an Extended National Executive Committee meeting that recently concluded its deliberations.

We met as an Enlarged Executive Committee to review our situation in Mazimbu and SOMAFCO in particular, as well as in Dakawa and Dar-es-Salaam, in relation to our overall effort in the Mazimbu complex. We are happy that many comrades from our leadership in Tanzania were able to attend this important meeting.

Their presence contributed enormously to focus the attention of the meeting on the practical issues that face us in our hard but creative work both in Mazimbu and in Dakawa. Regrettably not all the leading cadres in these areas could attend, some because of ill-health and others because of the need for them to man their posts.

We wish those of you who are unwell speedy recovery. We are also convinced that the responsible comrades who remained behind continued to oversee our activities at Mazimbu, Dakawa and Dar es Salaam with the sense of dedication and enthusiasm to which we have become accustomed.

At Mazimbu and Dakawa we are involved in development efforts of central and historic importance to the future of our revolution, our people and our country. You, Comrades, who live and work among the hospitable brother people of Tanzania occupy the forward trenches in the process of struggle which is bringing us ever closer to the day when we too shall be free.

Our mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters at home are displaying great heroism, ingenuity and creativity in carrying out the task of destroying the apartheid regime. In struggle, they are sweeping out the accumulated refuse of three centuries of colonialism and racism. They



are preparing the conditions when, as a people, we shall build the glorious society that is visualised in the Freedom Charter.

Until a few years ago, our vision of that society was in our minds only. Today, thanks to the great ventures in SOMAFCO, Mazimbu and Dakawa, that new society is in fact being born. As a movement, and as a people, we are therefore destroying what is outdated and anti-human, and building something new and humane. We, too, at Mazimbu and Dakawa, must behave with the same heroism, ingenuity and creativity that our people at home display everyday. We, too, must show the same unity of purposes, the spirit of sacrifice, and the ability to act as one, under a united leadership.

The Mazimbu of yesterday was not untypical of a community with many features of a rural African setting. The same area today is a picture of modern Africa, of which we, our Tanzanian brothers and sisters, as well as our supporters and allies throughout the world are justly proud. From here we have sent out young people who are now returning as highly trained specialists committed to advancing the interests of our people, now and in future. We have scored other successes, the most significant being the progress we have made towards a genuine alliance between learning and production, between mind and labour, which is the essence of our future liberated society.

We salute you all for these excellent achievement and advances. No member of the ANC and no true South African patriot can feel anything but pride in the great progress we have made. Accordingly, the Extended NEC meeting took specific cognisance of the contribution you, Comrades, have made and are making to give concrete form to the future South Africa we are fighting for. This important meeting assessed your performance as highly commendable.

Recognising the priceless significance of the institutions we are constructing in Mazimbu and Dakawa, and their pioneering role, the National Executive Committee suspended its normal business for a week, to assess



the progress we have achieved and to set the guidelines for our advance to new victories. We are determined to create in Tanzania the elements of the new South Africa that we shall surely bring into being through our revolution.

As you know, 1985 is for us the Year of the Cadre. The NEC has decided to ensure the strengthening, expansion and consolidation of our organisation, the ANC, as a movement of disciplined, revolutionary cadres to whom no task is too daunting, no obstacle insurmountable, and no sacrifice too great in the noble struggle for national liberation.

What does this mean for us in Mazimbu and Dakawa in the context of our tasks on this decisive front of our struggle? It means that we must see ourselves, prepare and behave, each and everyone of us, as builders of a new society. In the process of construction, we must recreate ourselves as new men and women. The Year of the Cadre gives us a great opportunity to renew and continue at a higher level the process of producing men and women with the capacity, the commitment and dedication to build the new system of human relations that is emerging in Mazimbu and Dakawa.

Unfortunately, a minority among our ranks is bent on tarnishing the shining example that the majority in Mazimbu and Dakawa have set. This minority are captive to forms of social conduct which are the product of the oppressive and exploitative social system that we are fighting to destroy.

Comrades, I am talking about the thieves in our midst. They steal because they are so attached to the ideas and practices of apartheid that they feel free to turn public, collectively-owned property into their personal and private possession by illegal and corrupt means. Such ideas occur also among persons who handle people's property which is in their custody, or which they use, in a reckless manner. The property may be a car, a building, the fridge or stove in our house or chairs in the classrooms. All these and other items around us are the wealth of the people. To destroy or impair them by improper use constitutes a direct attack on the community. It is a wilful attempt to drive us into the state of poverty and want from which we are fighting to escape; it is an attempt to deny us the possibility of achieving our revolutionary programmes and objectives.



I also speak of those who abuse alcohol and drugs - the drunkards and the dagga smokers. These are people who succumb to the strategies of our enemy, which seeks to turn us into demoralised and purposeless drifters, with no aim in life except to satisfy a self-destructive craving. There are yet others who refuse to work, parasites who are content to live off what others produce. This is another form of theft - the appropriation of what one has not produced. This represents the conduct of a petty criminal who is contemptuous of the community and yet expects it to feed, house and clothe him.

We also have young men and women who take it into their heads to have unplanned children. This practice must stop. Women students are not at the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College for the purposes of receiving or collecting pregnancies. Each one of them is there on an important mission to study and develop into a proud product of our School, our movement and our people.

A young woman who has no self-respect diminishes the dignity and beauty of womanhood and injures the pride we have in our young women as future mothers and leaders of our people. Any man, young or old, who sees in women nothing but objects of self-indulgence is a threat to the new society we are building in Mazimbu and Dakawa.

There are other forms of unacceptable social behaviour within our community in Tanzania. These include assaults, lack of seriousness by some students towards their studies, defiance of the authority of the movement as represented by its duly appointed officials and properly constituted organs, the corruption of the students by older non-student members of our community, and other symptoms of an incipient drop in standards of social conduct.

All the anti-social activities and attitudes that we have spoken about must come to an end. All elements of our structures in Tanzania have to take up these issues. We direct that our entire community, the political leadership, the administration, teachers, students, the youth, women and the rest of our working people join hands to combat vigorously all these



social evils. Let us all, during the Year of the Cadre, do everything in our power to ensure that each one of us becomes a worthy cadre of our movement - a cadre capable of contributing effectively to the accomplishment of the heavy tasks that face us in Tanzania and beyond. As a movement we are embarking on a serious, internationally recognised manpower development programme to train and produce personnel that is politically, academically and culturally equipped to meet the demands of our struggle and our future as a people.

Dar-es-Salaam, Mazimbu and Dakawa are not wanting in committed and dedicated comrades who have demonstrated and are daily demonstrating their calibre as being among the best cadres of our Movement with determination to participate in this development programme. Let us all emulate their example, and uplift the quality of our political, social, cultural and productive performance in each of the 3 zones that constitute the all-important region of East Africa. As the Works Committee states in its monthly report, contained in the January issue of "Hlanganani", we must all make a serious effort "to ensure that structures are not undermined, responsible cadres are not discouraged and wrong-doers are not encouraged."

The leadership of our movement has also taken decisions designed to improve the situation in Mazimbu and Dakawa. We shall meet again to consider other elements in this situation, to correct what is wrong and to encourage and strengthen what is good and beneficial to our community.

The Extended NEC Meeting has decided that the problem of insufficient food and an unbalanced diet must be solved once and for all. The NEC has therefore directed the relevant organs to leave no stone unturned in making certain that all of us are properly and adequately fed. The supplies and catering sections in our structures must ensure that this directive is carried out.

More transport will be made available so that programmes and the tasks we have to carry out are not hampered by inability to move from place to place. We are acutely aware that more needs to be done with regard to the provision of health services. The NEC is taking urgent steps in this regard, acting together with our Department of Health. We are also attending to other issues such as the provision of sport facilities and equipment, uniforms, holiday excursions and the promotion of cultural activities.



Decisions have also been taken to improve our administration structures in Tanzania, so that they can carry out their tasks efficiently, effectively and expeditiously. This is also true of our political structures which must, more than ever before, act as the dynamising factor in our common endeavours.

To help ensure a better and faster execution of these tasks, the NEC has redeployed some of its members to your area. They will live among you, working in close collaboration with the Chief Representative's Office, the RPC, the Directorate and all other organs, as well as with you all. They will assist in the solution of the problems that confront us in Tanzania. These comrades, together with the Chief Representative and the rest of our leadership in this region have our fullest confidence and carry the full authority of the NEC and our movement as a whole. They will act firmly but also fairly. They will interest themselves in everybody's point of view but will also ensure that the authority of the movement is respected. We commend them to you as true defenders of the people's cause.

We would like to inform those who up to now have refused to contribute positively to our total effort in Mazimbu and Dakawa that the days of the parasite are over. We are faced with the normous and exciting challenge of developing Dakawa into a model settlement that will stand as a shining rebuke to the harsh and notorious ghettos that bedevil our country.

Those who have no tasks in Mazimbu and Dar-es-Salaam must move to Dakawa. Just as ANC cadres developed Mazimbu to its present level, so must they transform Dakawa into a thriving centre of agricultural and industrial production, a centre for the formation of the new man and woman that the process of liberation demands.

Anyone who is unwilling to contribute to the development of Mazimbu and Dakawa demonstrates an unwillingness to contribute to the process of the emancipation of our country. Such people have no right to expect that we should continue to consider them as members of our organisation or treat them as people who deserve to continue residing in our midst. The time to choose has come. Those who choose the life of the parasite will have to lead that kind of life outside of and far away from our institutions and establishments.



Let me also make it patently clear that from now henceforth, we shall stamp out all crime and hooliganism most mercilessly. As a community we have an obligation to ensure that neither ourselves nor our Tanzanian hosts are subjected to terrorism by anti-social elements.

The NEC is determined to carry out all the measures we have spoken about. We are confident that in carrying out these tasks we shall enjoy the active support and involvement of all our people, here and at home, including students, teachers, administrators and workers. All of us in this historic Year of the Cadre and of our National Consultative Conference have to pull together, collectively, further to build ourselves into cadres on whom the masses of our people can rely. We must make the ANC the disciplined revolutionary force which our struggle demands.

With effect from today, let us begin the new offensive to transform Mazimbu and Dakawa into the kind of centres that we have planned them to be. Nobody will be allowed to obstruct this process or stand aloof. No true patriot or revolutionary can stand aside from the struggle for liberation.

We wish you great successes in our common endeavours. We assure you that the NEC will continue to pay close attention to your work, assist in the solution of all problems and act vigorously against anybody who sabotages our efforts, whether consciously or unconsciously. Through struggle and hard work, we shall ensure that we emerge victorious.

Forward to a free South Africa.

Amandla Ngawethu! Maatla ke a rona!