



"Democracy means freedom to choose"

INKATHA

Inkatha Freedom Party
IQembu leNkatha Yenkululeko

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IFP NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

ADDRESS BY
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PRESIDENT OF THE INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

Ulundi: 2 October 2010

On the 18th of July, this National Council resolved to postpone the IFP's Annual General Conference until the National Chairperson had been afforded the opportunity to clear her name; certain Party structures had been reconstituted in order to participate in Conference; the current divisions had been resolved and the atmosphere in the Party is conducive to holding a successful elective Conference that expresses the true will of its members. We further agreed to convene a National Council meeting in October to assess our progress.

This is the time for us to determine where we are. We have been accused of delaying the Conference for any number of reasons that have nothing to do with our resolution of 18 July. These accusations are aimed at portraying the IFP's leadership as dictatorial and clinging to power. Every new delay played into the hands of those who want to defame us. But now, the very people who accuse us of delaying Conference have caused an insurmountable obstacle to the holding of Conference.

Mr Wiseman Mcoyi, Mr Nhlanhla Khawula and other "Friends of VZ" have questioned our authority as the leadership of this Party. They have brought into question the very legality of this National Council, and the matter is now before the High Court for a decision. The case will be heard on 12 November 2010. Our hands have been tied. It is very difficult for us to plan a date for Conference before the High Court's decision on whether we have the constitutional right to do everything that needs to be done in preparation. Even declaring a date is impossible until the High Court decision is finalized.

While our hands are tied in this manner regarding Conference, they are freed to work faster and smarter towards preparations for the 2011 Local Government Elections. In this interim period, we have the time to focus our attention on implementing the Vukuzithathe strategy, and this is where we need to occupy ourselves. Vukuzithathe is more important now than any other Party matter. We go to elections in just a few months time, and we have said before that these elections will either wipe the IFP off the map, or place us back on an upward path. The choice is ours.

Added
Responsibility
N.C. Member
MPC
MPL

Unemployment
Underemployment
Illiteracy
Ill health

The first electioneering shots have already been fired by no less a personality than the President of the ANC himself Mr Jacob Zuma. As you may all be aware Mr Zuma was here in Ulundi and also in Mondlo where he expressed the intention of his Party, the ANC to snatch away from us these municipalities which fall under the IFP's administration. There was a broadcast of his statement on national television for two consecutive days. So let us deal swiftly with every issue that clouds our agenda so that we may run unencumbered towards the goal of a successful election. Let us look at our progress in dealing with the matters we placed on the agenda on 18 July, so that we may assess our readiness to move forward immediately once the High Court decision is made. The issue foremost on our minds, is that of our National Chairperson.

On 10 July 2010, the National Council resolved to launch an investigation into the behaviour of our National Chairperson and to determine whether there is a link between the faction which calls itself the "Friends of VZ" and Mrs VZ kaMagwaza-Msibi. The National Chairperson sought instruction as to whether she could absent herself from meetings of the Party pending the outcome of the internal investigation. The National Council instructed her in no uncertain terms that she must attend all meetings, and we later memorialized this instruction in a letter.

Nevertheless, the Emergency Extended National Council of 21 August noted that she continued to absent herself from meetings of the National Council. We have also consistently sent her reminders of meetings of the National Executive Committee, but she has failed to attend. This belies her attitude towards the structures and authority of the Party.

On one occasion no less a person than the Secretary-General wrote a letter to the National Chairperson on my instruction to invite her to attend a meeting of the NEC. This was because she was absent from our Sunday evening session of the NEC. Instead of the National Chairperson responding we received a letter from one of the National Chairperson's Lawyers telling us that she cannot attend since we are conducting the investigation about her. We still asked our Lawyer to tell her through her Lawyers that we expected her to attend. Our Lawyer misunderstood the brief of the National Executive Council and wrote to say that we accepted that she cannot attend. When we saw a copy of the letter written by our Lawyer we corrected our Lawyer and requested him to again write to the National Chairperson's Lawyers to inform her that we expect her to attend meetings of National Council and meetings of the NEC. This was done by our Lawyer who sent us a copy of his letter to the Lawyers of the National Chairperson.

But, apart from her attitude, we have a substantial report to table before National Council that details the internal investigation and its observations. As we stated on 10 July when we launched the investigation, the goal was to enable the National Chairperson to clear her name, and we intend to afford her the opportunity to do this as we consider the report.

However, there are additional developments that have taken place between now and our last National Council meeting that must be placed on record. This past weekend, I attended the King Shaka celebrations at KwaDukuza, organised by the Minister of Arts and Culture, and I introduced the King as his traditional Prime Minister. I must note that following the various celebrations of King Shaka Day, mine was the only speech quoted by the media. But this happy fact is marred by what happened the following day.

Our National Chairperson attended the KwaDukuza celebrations and, even though we were there for hours and hours, she never once made an effort to approach or greet me, as one would expect. This alone indicates that the relationship of trust and respect has irretrievably broken down.

When I said goodbye to the King and the Premier, no mention was made of the plans for the following day. As we are accustomed to doing, amaKhosi had arranged a celebration of our Nation's Founder for Sunday at Opongolo and I was again to introduce the King. This event was paid for out of our traditional leaders' own pockets. Both the King and the Premier were on the programme.

This was following a widely publicized event in Durban. 'Isolezwe' had an advertisement of a function in Durban which was scheduled to take place at Curries Fountain Stadium. The advertisement as you can see, it stated that this was a cultural event and the public at large was invited. It was stated in the advertisement that the National Chairperson as a member of the Provincial Parliament was going to be the Speaker at this event. The strange thing about the advertisement is that all around it on the advertisement was written ...Rally, Rally, Rally, etc.

The National Chairperson did speak at that rally-cum-cultural event. Her speech as reported in the media was about the IFP. A clipping from 'The Mercury' as can be seen does state that the National Chairperson stated that those who think that the IFP is dead must go and sleep. It also contained a response to Mr Julius Malema who after visiting the South Coast stated that the IFP is dead in this Province.

We have as a Party never operated in such a way that any function or rally is addressed by anyone of our prominent leaders without it being cleared either by the National Council, the NEC or myself if there is no meeting of the two decision-making bodies of the Party. Instead, arrangements for this rally were made by amongst others by Mr Mzonjani Zulu who was already expelled from the Party. His expulsion was widely publicized because he (Mzonjani Zulu himself) declared that his particular region in the Durban Metro was breaking away from the IFP. One Pietermaritzburg newspaper described his action as a declaration of independence from the IFP. It was headlined as "DURBAN DISTRICT OF IFP DECLARES UDI" echoing Mr Smith's declaration of independence in the former Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). Most of those who attended were "the friends of VZ".

Before the 25th of September there were rumours doing the rounds that the King was going to attend a cultural event in Johannesburg instead. This event had been advertised in the newspapers as a celebration of our heritage, but the word "rally" was repeatedly used. When Izinduna heard this rumour, they began calling me to enquire why I had not informed them that the King was not coming to our King Shaka celebration. Surely, as the King's Prime Minister, I should have known. But I did not know and I was not informed. I did not know anything about the function scheduled to take place in George Goch in Johannesburg on Sunday the 26th of September. But there were already rumours that our National Chairperson was also one of the Guest Speakers who were due to speak at the function in George Goch.

The King attended the "rally" in George Goch Stadium in Johannesburg, together with a significant number of "Friends of VZ", like Mr Thokozani Zulu. The Director of Programmes was Mr Innocent Gumbi

I then had a frantic phone call from our colleague, Councillor Esterhuizen, saying that he had been asked to make a donation for food for those attending the Johannesburg function and had committed to do so. However, when it became apparent that this was a "Friends" event, he was hesitant to make the donation. He sought my advice. I told him that it was moral for him to keep his word, and suggested that he do what he had promised to do. Nevertheless, I sought from him black and white evidence of the request made by Mr Gumbi, I now have.

The King spoke at the Johannesburg event, as did the Premier and Leader of the ANC in KwaZulu Natal Dr Zweli Mkhize. But to my surprise, splashed across the front page of the *Sowetan* on Monday morning was a photograph of Mrs VZ KaMagwaza-Msibi dancing with Queen Thandi Zulu and Gauteng Premier Nomvula Mokonyane. Our National Chairperson was introduced as "a Member of the KwaZulu Natal Legislature" and was given a speaking slot, which she used to speak about the ANC Youth League, among other things.

There is not one single occasion that the NEC or the National Council of this Party has sent a member to address a rally. The National Chairperson was not representing the IFP and was not even introduced in her capacity as an office bearer of this Party. To my mind, one can draw no other conclusion than that she has openly aligned herself with the ANC. If there is another way of seeing it, I hope someone can enlighten us.

Just last month, on 21 August, we convened a meeting of the National Council after an Emergency Extended National Council meeting in which I tabled my deep concerns over what appears to be the ANC's involvement in fomenting ructions within our Party. I spoke about the ANC Women's League calling our National Chairperson their own, and exposed some of the underhanded tactics that are being used by ANC members to agitate the IFP's problems.

It will be recalled that in my address at the meeting of the Extended National Council that I reported to that meeting about the role that the ANC played on

the 7th of August at KwaMsane during the KZN Women's Parliament sitting of the Legislature. If you may recall I reported that on that occasion even our National Secretary of the Women's Brigade Ms KaMadlopha-Mthethwa had been taunted by ANC members of the Women's League about her not supporting the National Chairperson. That on that occasion songs disparaging me were sung; "INDODA ENJANI UGATSHA EYESABA UMFAZI". That Lwazi Ngcobo the grandchild of the Rev CJ Mletwa was involved in quite a fracas with members of the ANC Women's League when they sang these songs. Reports of people went on to call me by my late Mother's private parts by members of the ANC's Women's League draped in their colours and urged are by some ANC members of the Legislature such as Mr Vilane. All this took place in the presence of our National Chairperson who did not say one word. The fact that I was abused in all these ways in her name did not move her to distance herself from the activities of the ANC members on her behalf. We need to be ready for anything that may happen. This whole rally that was organized by the "Friends of VZ" under the guise of a cultural event is reminiscent of the so-called prayer meetings that they have arranged in the past. In fact some prominent members of "the friends of VZ" such as Mr Mhlongo were overheard requesting the Premier Dr Zweli Mkhize for transport to Johannesburg saying that they are accompanying the King to Johannesburg. He is one of the prominent figures of "the friends of VZ" and he also organized the so-called farewell function for our National Chairperson.

It is remarkable that we now have documentary evidence of what transpired during the first prayer meeting they held on 31 January. A public statement has been made by a member of the IFP's youth, Mr Patrick Ngubane, who owns taxis in Johannesburg. Mr Ngubane is originally from Msinga. In his statement he admits that on 31 January, when the first so called prayer meeting took place, "the friends of VZ" were ferried in his taxis to the funeral of Sikhumbuzo Buthelezi, who was one of the original troublemakers expelled from the Party. The following day was the prayer meeting. He also revealed who was carrying "VZ" T-shirts, which was damning evidence of treachery against certain people.

I was shocked when, shortly after he made this statement, Mr Pat Ngubane was shot in Msinga. He was taken to hospital in a critical condition. I am not new on the block; I know from the dreadful experiences we have had in the past that assassins will go to hospital and finish off what they started. I therefore took it upon myself to ask the Mayor of Umvoti to arrange for Mr Ngubane to be moved to an undisclosed hospital for his protection. He seems to be on his way to recovery.

Thanks God he survived. But this attack shows once again just how ugly the "Friends" issue has become. Others were not so lucky and several people have died since this all began, as we discussed in depth in our last meeting. These dastardly deeds are meant to intimidate us. They are intended to wipe away our courage and leave us feeling hopeless and without strength. But, on the other hand, there are indications that the tide may be turning in favour of the Party.

On 13 September, I was visited in my office in Durban by Mr Senzo Mfayela, a former MP and a dedicated member of our Party. He brought with him sixteen members of our youth, including some young people at the forefront of the so-called "Transformation Team", such as Mr Muzi Simelane and Mbokodo Mbatha. They came to me contrite and seeking forgiveness for all that has happened. We agreed that there is nothing wrong with a debate on transformation, but they decried the fact that their activities were hijacked by people with ulterior motives. They had made a mistake.

They stated strongly that they are prepared to volunteer to work for the Party as they realise that too much time has been wasted in view of the imminence of the Local Government Elections which are now only a few months away. They want to be pardoned, in order to work for this. I am inclined to pardon Mr Muzi Simelane and Mbokodo Mbatha and ask for their readmission to the Party, and I seek this National Council's endorsement of my decision. These young people have given the example that our focus now should be on the 2011 elections.

Right now we face a problem with one of our leaders who is setting a terrible example. The National Chairperson of the Women's Brigade, Mrs Thembi Nzuza, has given us much reason for concern. She has repeatedly failed to attend meetings of the NEC, at times absenting herself without apology and at times sending a doctor's letter or citing domestic responsibilities. The NEC has thus been hamstrung to deal with the concerns we have about her behaviour, and asked our Deputy Secretary-General to compile a report, which will be tabled before this National Council for deliberation.

For me, the final straw came when the National Chairperson of the Women's Brigade failed to attend a march that was organised by the Women's Brigade itself on 4 September. Let me take a moment to say that this march was wholly successful. I must congratulate our Women's Brigade for promoting the unity of our Party in this way. Our spirits were lifted as we saw with our own eyes the enormity of support this Party still enjoys. I give due recognition to the Secretary of the Women's Brigade, Mrs Thembi Madlopha-Mthethwa, whose leadership saved the day. Again we were given evidence that the IFP Women's Brigade is the backbone of our Party.

I have been advancing this fact for 35 years. The majority of our members are women. The majority of our supporters are women. And the majority of our active campaigners are among the women of the IFP. Yet never before has the Women's Brigade been in such a state of disarray. The Women's Brigade lacks leadership at a time we can least afford it. If the person at the helm of our Women's Brigade is behaving like this, what kind of example is she setting for our women? We as members of the NEC have been quite magnanimous to our sister Mrs Nzuza as you will see from the report that I requested the Deputy Secretary-General to compile. We now feel that this matter is beyond us as NEC and that it should be tabled before this National Council for your collective wisdom on how to deal with it. It worries us that while we are seized with these ructions revolving around our National

Chairperson that we should now find ourselves facing problems of this magnitude created by the National Chairperson of the Women's Brigade.

We face an election in just a few months time. The Women's Brigade and the Youth Brigade are the vanguards of our Party. If these two horns cannot lead us into battle, we are doomed. This is perhaps the most urgent and important matter before our National Council. A decision must be made about what to do in this dilemma.

The problem of bad examples being set has already poisoned the waters. There are a number of Councillors who are not attending meetings. Some failed to attend the Extended National Council in July, and some ignored the invitation to attend the Women's Brigade march of 4 September. They have given us a clear indication of their low level of commitment to the Party. At this point, it would make no sense to put them forward as our candidates in the Local Government Elections. I think we should make it clear that those who disdain to fulfill their responsibilities will not be on our lists next year.

There is also a new culture in the Party where Councillors think that they can defy decisions of the decision-making bodies of the Party, whose powers are enshrined in our Constitution. I have been reflecting on where this culture comes from. The majority of IFP Councillors right now are people I did not know at all in the IFP before they became Councillors. It is clear that we have been flooded with people who see being a Councillor as merely an opportunity to get money and status. We are now compelled to deal with IFP Councillors who were really never members of the IFP before they became Councillors. We are in real trouble as a result of this.

Some of our senior leaders are also embarrassing us by becoming "tenderpreneurs". I am not saying our members should not go into business, but some of our office bearers are putting pressure on Mayors and municipalities to secure tenders. And in this National Council there are some members who leak things to Mayors because they have tenders. This is an untenable situation. Some of the Mayors that have been redeployed by the Party recently are organising other Councillors to help them to resist complying with the decisions of the Party's decision-making structures. Some Councillors seem to think that they can do as they please. And yet every day we see whole EXCO's such as at uMsunduzi in Pietermaritzburg dismantled by the leadership of the ANC and there is not as much a murmur that the media make or any comments about it. And yet "the friends of VZ" through the media have denigrated the leadership of the Party when the Party takes legitimate actions against those who infringe the provisions of the Party's Constitution. Again we see the ugly head of brown-envelope journalism.

We often try to pretend that we are better than the ANC when it comes to corruption related to tenders. But if we are not careful, this whole debacle is going to explode on us. Whenever there are problems, mayors tend to unload themselves in the media, and our Party's image is being tarnished beyond repair. Our tenderpreneurs need to come clean right now and put their houses

in order, before the IFP is labeled together with the ANC in the public eye as corrupt beyond measure.

I have been struck by some of the discussions and statements that have emerged from the ANC's General Council. The culture of the ANC is clearly being imported into the IFP through the "Friends of VZ". The Secretary-General of the ANC, Mr Gwede Mantashe, was quoted in *Business Day* this week in an article titled "Mantashe decries poor discipline and organizational chaos". The article reads –

"Mr Mantashe... said the ANC was 'dead on the ground' with Party branches becoming active only during conferences. The ANC is regarded as an 'employment agency' and people joined it to amass wealth. Leaders were feared instead of respected and political engagement had become personal he said. The Party's National Executive Committee, the crucial decision-making body was 'timid' in dealing with disciplinary issues. Public rows had dented the image of the ANC, and created an impression of 'an incoherent leadership voice'. He said the Party's Youth League was intolerant of different views and antagonized and alienated those who contributed to public debate."

If the ANC was not mentioned by name, I would say that the Secretary-General of the ANC was speaking not about the ANC, but about the IFP. This culture, brought in by the "Friends of VZ" is just more evidence that the "Friends" are being handled by some elements in the ANC who are intent on destroying our Party.

Whether or not they succeed depends largely on our own efforts. If we fail to focus on implementing Vukuzithathe right now, our saboteurs will succeed. If we keep rolling over a decision on corrupt Councilors and on leaders who are setting a terrible example, we are likely to see the IFP enter the election race crippled and ailing. We cannot afford to be anything but united, strong and ready for 2011. Anything less, and we will fail.

This National Council is tasked with dealing with everything on our agenda that prevents us from focusing on Vukuzithathe, so that we can clear the way for a strong election campaign. Let us consider what is being done, what is not being done, and how we can do it. Let us free up our attention and energy by finalizing issues that are dragging on and hindering our progress. Let us get our focus back where it belongs; on strengthening the IFP for 2011.

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- * Vision → Unity of the Party.
- * Broad Statement of Purpose.
- * Fore Well in the local Gov. Elections
- * Change the Material Conditions of the Members & the People Young In General.

Inviting the President of The Party

Preparatory phase.

Consultation with Youth Exec. N
PEC

Vukuzithathe - S.G.

Youth Campaign.

Plan. - Comprehensive.

To be approved

Political
E-conomic
S-ocial
T-Tech.
E-nviron
L-egal

The Cost of discipliship. D. Bonhoffer.
"We have been washed by too many waters of deceit. Experience has taught us to be distrustful of man"