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SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT, WALTER SISULU, TO THE 1992 ANNUAL
GRAND SESSION OF THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF TRUE TEMPLARS. 19
DECEMBER 1992.

BROTHER TENNYSON MSI, GRAND TRUE TEMPLAR;
BROTHERS AND SISTERS, MEMBERS OF THE GRAND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE I.O.T.T.;
BROTHERS AND SISTERS;
COMRADES AND FRIENDS:

PERMIT ME TO EXTEND TO YOU ALL WARM GREETINGS FROM THE AFRICAN
NATIONAL CONGRESS. OUR PRESIDENT, NELSON MANDELA, HAS ASKED ME
TO APOLOGISE ON HIS BEHALF FOR FAILING TO HONOUR YOUR INVITATION.
THE CALL OF NATIONAL DUTY HAS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO GRACE
YOUR ANNUAL GRAND SESSION. NONETHELESS, HE SENDS HIS BROTHERLY
GREETINGS TO YOU ALL AND WISHES YOU SUCCESS IN YOUR
DELIBERATIONS.

YOUR ORGANISATION, THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF TRUE TEMPLARS, HAS
A LONG-STANDING AND HONOURABLE HISTORY WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY.
FROM ITS BEGINNINGS OVER A CENTURY AGO, YOUR ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN
INVOLVED IN AN ON-GOING PROCESS OF SENSITISING AND EDUCATING OUR
PEOPLE ABOUT THE DANGERS OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE. THE PROMOTION
OF ABSTINENCE FROM ALCOHOL AND DRUGS CONSTITUTES A VITAL
COMPONENT OF OUR EFFORTS TO NURTURE A SPIRIT OF SELF- RESPECT,
DIGNITY AND BROTHERHOOD AMONGST OUR PEOPLE THAT TRANSCENDS
RACIAL, ETHNIC, CULTURAL, POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL BARRIERS.

YOU MAY ASK HOW YOUR ORGANISATION, THAT IS SO OFTEN CALLED " I ONLY TAKE TEA", RELATES TO THE STRUGGLES OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS. AS A NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT, THE ANC SEEKS TO LIBERATE OUR PEOPLE FROM NATIONAL AND OTHER FORMS OF OPPRESSION. COLONIALISM, RACIALISM, APARTHEID AND OTHER OPPRESSIVE SYSTEMS THRIVE ON THE DEHUMANISATION OF THE OPPRESSED THROUGH A VARIETY OF MECHANISMS AND PRACTICES, INCLUDING THE DELIBERATE ENCOURAGEMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE. THEREFORE, THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM IS THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN DIGNITY, FOR THE CREATION OF A HEALTHY AND SELF-RESPECTING NATION. TO THIS EXTENT, THEREFORE, OUR EFFORTS AND THOSE OF YOUR ORGANISATION CAN ONLY COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THE ANC AND THE I.O.T.T. SHARE A COMMON CONCERN OF THE DANGERS POSED BY ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE TO OUR PEOPLE AND OUR COUNTRY. ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE HAS GROWN INTO A CANCER THAT IS STEADILY DESTROYING THE SOCIAL ORGANISM OF OUR SOCIETY. IT IS THEREFORE INCUMBENT UPON US AND ALL CONCERNED SOUTH AFRICANS TO EVOLVE AND DEVELOP APPROPRIATE AND ADEQUATE STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMMES TO ARREST THE GROWTH OF THIS CANCER. HOWEVER, WE CAN ONLY SUCCEED IN OUR ENDEAVOUR PROVIDED WE TREAT THIS PROBLEM AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE STRUGGLE FOR POLITICAL EMANCIPATION.

SINCE COLONIAL DAYS, ALCOHOL ABUSE HAS BEEN DELIBERATELY PROMOTED BY THE OPPRESSORS TO REINFORCE OUR OPPRESSION AS A NATION AND PERPETUATE OUR SUPEREXPLOITATION AS WORKERS. THE NOTORIOUS "TOT SYSTEM", WIDELY USED IN THE FARMS OF THE CAPE AND ELSEWHERE PROMOTED ADDICTION TO ALCOHOL AMONGST OUR PEOPLE ENGAGED IN FARM LABOUR. THIS ADDICTION ENSURED THAT FARM LABOURERS WOULD WORK FOR PITIFULLY LOW WAGES AND UNDER THE MOST TERRIBLE WORKING CONDITIONS. INFLUX CONTROL AND MIGRANT LABOUR HAVE ALSO CONTRIBUTED IMMENSELY TO THE INSTITUTIONALISATION, PARTICULARLY, OF ALCOHOL ABUSE. WITH ABSOLUTELY NO RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WHATSOEVER, MIGRANT LABOURERS BOTH IN THE MINE COMPOUNDS AND THE TOWNSHIP HOSTELS FIND THAT BEERHALLS, STRATEGICALLY LOCATED NEXT TO HOSTELS, ARE THE ONLY PLACES WHERE THEY CAN SOCIALISE WITH FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES. CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL THUS BECOMES A DAILY ROUTINE AND AN ADDICTION FROM WHICH MANY OF OUR COMPATRIOTS HAVE DIED.

THE ACCUMULATIVE RESULT OF THIS DELIBERATE POLICY OF PROMOTING ALCOHOL ABUSE HAS BEEN THE CORROSION OF THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF AFRICAN SOCIETY. TODAY, MOST OF THE CRIME, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ABUSE OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN, PREMATURE DEATHS AND INJURIES ON OUR ROADS ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE. THE LOSSES INCURRED BY SOCIETY AS WHOLE ARE INCALCULABLE.

WE IN THE ANC HAVE A MANDATE TO REBUILD OUR COUNTRY AND RESTORE TO OUR PEOPLE SELF-RESPECT AND DIGNITY. WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER WITH YOU, THE I.O.T.T. AND OTHER FORMATIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY, TO

UPROOT FROM OUR LIVES THOSE HABITS AND PRACTICES THAT IMPEDE OUR PROGRESS. WE NEED TO EMPOWER EACH AND EVERY INDIVIDUAL IN OUR SOCIETY AND HELP OUR CHILDREN BECOME THE HUMAN BEINGS THAT APARTHEID DID NOT ALLOW US TO BECOME.

IN THIS REGARD, THE SPEEDIEST INSTALLATION OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY AND HOLDING OF ELECTIONS FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY CANNOT BE OVEREMPHASISED. A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE MUST DEVELOP PROGRAMMES TO ENABLE THE PEOPLE TO LIVE VALUABLE AND WORTHWHILE LIVES. WE NEED GOOD EDUCATION AND SKILLS FOR ALL. WE NEED TO CREATE JOBS AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES. AT THE SAME TIME, WE NEED TO ENCOURAGE RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT WHICH WILL BUILD HEALTHY BODIES AND MINDS. WE NEED SPORTS FIELDS, ART CENTRES, GALLERIES, THEATRES AND OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN OUR TOWNSHIPS AND OTHER PLACES OF DOMICILE. IN SHORT, WE NEED PLACES TO GO TO AFTER WORK BESIDES BEERHALLS AND SHEBEENS.

APARTHEID WAS BUILT BY DESTROYING PEOPLE. WE HAVE A DUTY AND AN OBLIGATION, IN A NON-RACIAL, NON-SEXIST AND DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA, TO GIVE OUR PEOPLE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP AND USE THEIR TALENTS, SKILLS, AND THEIR MINDS TO THE BEST OF THEIR CAPABILITIES.

AT A TIME WHEN MANY PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA FEEL THERE IS ONLY DESPAIR, THAT OUR COUNTRY IS TEETERING ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE, THE ANC WOULD LIKE SHARE WITH YOU OUR VISION: WE BELIEVE WE MUST

AND WILL BUILD A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY, A COMMUNITY OF HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE HUMAN BEINGS, WORKING AND LIVING TOGETHER IN HARMONY. PEOPLE WILL RESPECT AND CARE FOR THEMSELVES AND THE OTHERS AROUND THEM. PEOPLE WILL HAVE DIGNITY.

THIS IS THE FUTURE THAT WE IN THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, AND ALL OF OUR PEOPLE, HAVE STRUGGLED FOR DECADES TO BUILD AND ARE WORKING FOR TODAY. IT IS THE FUTURE THAT WE MUST BUILD TOGETHER.

WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL JOIN US IN MAKING THIS VISION A REALITY IN OUR LIFETIME.

THANK YOU!