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OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE GRANDE ROCHE HOTEL, PAARL  
BY MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI, CHIEF MINISTER OF KWAZULU  
AND PRESIDENT INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

PAARL. 24TH JANUARY 1992

Mr. Allgaier owner of Grande Roche and Mrs. Allgaier; Mr. Frehse

General Manager and Mrs. Frehse; Mr. van Vuuren, Director and Mrs.  
van Vuuren; the Mayor and Mayoress of Paarl Mr. and Mrs.  
Lichtenstein; Mr. Christian Zenke Deputy General Manager,

distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I was enormously pleased to have been asked to officially open this  
beautiful hotel. One almost does not want to call it a hotel. 5  
â\200\230 is a place of art and beauty, and everything you touch rings with  
the importance of what it is. This hotel is also placed in what  
must be one of the most beautiful restored wine farms in the  
country. One really must congratulate you, Mr. Allgaier, together  
with your team of architects, designers, decorators and builders,  
who produced this work of love.

I am not only enormously pleased to be here to perform the opening  
ceremony of this hotel because it is so beautiful but I am  
enormously pleased to be here for another reason altogether. This  
hotel was conceived by a German industrialist. The investment he  
made here is an act of faith which really inspires me to believe  
that we are turning the corner in this country and that I have been  
correct all these years in saying that South Africa is a place to  
invest in.

The cold calculated business investment would have been gratifying  
.enough. An investment, however, which involved such personal care  
and such feeling as must have gone into the creation of this hotel  
and all its facilities, shows more than a faith in some kind of  
business venture. Investment in this hotel for me reflects a

personal commitment to the best we have in this country by its  
owner, Mr. Allgaier.

I have always recognised that there is real decency in South  
Africans among every race group. Astonishing as it may seem to  
many foreigners, there is a warmth amongst South Africans which has  
always inspired me with faith that in the end, we in this country  
will put a democracy together which will stand the test of time. I  
might well yet be proved to be correct when I say that I really do  
anticipate establishing a democracy in South Africa which will be  
unparalleled in Africa for its depth of democratic care for its  
citizens.

Experience is showing that all the fears and all the prejudices which were produced by generations, centuries even, of racist conditioning will melt away when people get together with a common purpose of authoring the new South Africa in which everybody will have a stake because everyone can only share but one single destiny.

For me the fight against apartheid has always been a political fight against oppressive laws and the oppressors in government. I have never seen it as a racist fight against white South Africans. I fought against apartheid wrongs whoever it was who maintained apartheid as a system of oppression.

I have been repeatedly astonished at the extent to which those who oppose apartheid in the outside world, initiated and supported measures against apartheid which had the nett effect of producing enormous suffering for the victims of apartheid without producing a\200\230 many gains for the struggle against it.

I have always been bitterly opposed to economic sanctions because the bite of sanctions are felt by the poorest of the poor, who are

the people that sanctions are supposed to assist. The more affluent people in South Africa were, the more easily they could side-step the bite of sanctions. White South Africans made adjustments which Black South Africans could not do in their circumstances. The burden of paying the price for sanctions was always shifted from ruling National Party governments to

industrialists, who in turn shifted it to the helpless workers.

Sanctions resulted in the loss of thousands upon thousands of jobs for black people. The cost of the loss of these jobs in terms of human misery simply cannot be stated. In this country there are enormous unemployment problems. There is a desperate shortage of houses, schools, clinics, and welfare facilities. Anyone in Black

society who earns a wage ends up caring for a wide range of relatives beyond those in his or her immediate family.

It is estimated that there are eleven or more dependants for every one black wage earner. This means that the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs results in millions suffering. The tragedy even goes deeper; it is not simply the loss of income for these hundreds of thousands and those dependent upon them that we are talking about.

The loss of jobs meant a lot more in most cases. It meant a break in that hard climb that any black individual had to make to improve himself or herself. Tough life became impossible and hope turned to despair. Even more tragic the loss of income meant starvation diets and starvation diets in turn meant malnutrition diseases and for the young, malnutrition diseases meant stunted growth.

Only a minority of pupils in our black schools complete education

which is paid for by their parents. The majority of black pupils are helped through school by mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts, and even by grandparents. Loss of jobs

meant termination of assistance to school and in turn this meant pupils having to abandon going to school.

~For me it is tragic that by the time we were witnessing the height of the campaign to apply economic sanctions against South Africa, which had these nett effects on the victims of apartheid, it was already clear that apartheid was doomed and the struggle for liberation would be won here on the ground where the real struggle was taking place.

I do not believe that Mr. de Klerk's 1990 bombshell address to parliament and the watershed that it +turned out to be, was delivered because sanctions were plaguing South Africa. Long before 1990 institutionalised South Africa was moving our country away from apartheid towards a new democracy.

Every senior businessman in South Africa was aware of the fact that apartheid spelt doom to the free enterprise system. Every major employer in this country was aware that workers had to be prepared for a new South Africa in which colour of skin would be no

qualifying factor for selection or promotion. Sullivan Code signatories were not the only employers who were setting about preparing for the new South Africa. The market place was

generating force after force against apartheid.

We all ought +to have known that the country's religious institutions and educational institutions would continue mounting

pressure against apartheid and would join with business institutions to produce the enormous pressures on the ruling party's power Dbases which would in the end force changes of policy.

We already knew in the early eighties that apartheid was doomed and that it would be democratic forces in this country, operative amongst ordinary people in this country, that would be the downfall of apartheid. It is therefore with total astonishment that I now hear that Dr. Mandela and others are advising against investments in this country on the grounds that Mr. de Klerk could yet renege on his wundertakings to help establish a race free, multi-party democracy.

Change is already irreversible. There are no prospects whatsoever of any National Party government ever being able to revert to apartheid policies. Black South Africans have made South Africa safe for future generations. We have a mopping up job to do now. Apartheid lis doomed and all that remains is the last of its dismemberment and the burial of its parts. We desperately need the maximum possible rates of economic development; we need the jobs

that will be produced; we need the funding that humane care for citizens would require, and we need a developing economic base on which future governments can rest to tackle the huge backlogs which exist in education, health and social welfare.

Again I find it inexplicable that when the needs are so vast amongst my people, that the ANC still says that the financial sanctions must be kept in place. There is grinding poverty in our black communities which can only be countered through the rolling of huge bank loans to the Government.

This poverty will be a feature of our society for as far as one can see ahead – that is for the foreseeable future. The sooner it is countered the better are the chances of black people being recipients not only of political justice, but also of economic justice. But what do we see. Even those banks which are giving loans to the Government are being threatened by high-ranking officials of the ANC that they are risking not getting refunds of their loans from a future government of South Africa. Up to now, both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are not giving any loans to South Africa in compliance with financial sanctions.

Mr. Allgaier's investment of this size through this hotel has to be seen in this context. That is why I regard it as a privilege to be able to come here to applaud this boldness on the part of Mr. Allgaier.

We need massive investments to open up South Africa as a gateway for development for the whole of Southern Africa and Central and East and West Africa beyond. Nowhere across the length and breadth of Africa will you find a combination of factors in South Africa's infrastructure as promising as they are here for national as well as sub-continental development. We have magnificent ports; we have the basics of a phenomenally good rail and road transportation system and we have developed communication systems which are unparalleled in Africa.

The vastness of these benefits for the whole sub-continent must not be underestimated. Tragically though, the vastness of these benefits can only materialise if foreign investors see the extent to which they will be investing in ground floor developments which offer very exciting prospects of growth and development.

Mr. Allgaier it is indeed, Sir, a real pleasure for me now to formally declare this hotel open and to express the hope that its beautiful suites and its conference facilities will be used for many discussions leading to decisions by businessmen from abroad to invest in South Africa for the sake of the whole of Southern Africa and beyond.

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