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**VISIT OF THE DISTRICT MAYOR
HIS WORSHIP COUNCILLOR MB GWALA
TO ABAQULUSI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN VRYHEID**

**GREETINGS BY
PRINCE MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI MP
CHAIRPERSON OF THE LOCAL HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS
OF THE ZULULAND DISTRICT**

Tuesday, 22 March 2011: Vryheid

It is a pleasure to join the Honourable Mayor as he visits Abaqulusi Local Municipality to fulfil his responsibilities in terms of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP). Last week, I travelled to eDumbe with our Mayor and was pleased to witness the participation of that community. The community of Abaqulusi is, of course, larger, and it is wonderful to see so many community members attend this meeting.

I visit today in my capacity as the Chairperson of the Zululand District Local House of Traditional leaders. However, you also know me as the President of the Inkatha Freedom Party. Based on your electoral mandate, this municipality falls under the governance of the IFP. It is therefore a double pleasure for me to visit and speak to you.

I firmly believe in participative governance and partnerships between citizens and their elected representatives. Act No. 5 of 2005 states that we, as traditional leaders, should work closely with municipalities. But it is not only traditional leaders who must have a say in how governance is performed. Every community member has a right to be heard.

As we approach the May 18th Local Government Elections, much is being said about your right to voice your opinion through the vote. But I challenge you to consider your vote as more than a right; consider it a responsibility. A great deal of confusion has been sown in our municipalities, particularly in this district of Zululand. Many people seem to have forgotten that the majority of the people of the Zululand Municipal District voted for the IFP as the governing party of the district.

Your vote is being pursued by a new party called the National Freedom Party. They are not the IFP. They are a different version of the IFP. They in fact have nothing to do with us, for they rejected the IFP's philosophy of empowering people towards self-help and self-reliance. They rejected our track record of service delivery. And they rejected the notion of servant leadership, preferring to pursue power and money. I ask you to be vigilant against them and not to buy into the confusion.

I am not here to promote our Mayor. I am here to see whether he carries out the responsibilities which the IFP has entrusted to him. But I will praise him, because I and the leadership of the IFP believe he is the right person for the job in Zululand.

Mayor Gwala is an old war horse. He is an experienced leader of the IFP who has stood the test of time. He was previously a Member of the Legislature in the erstwhile KwaZulu Government and also in the KwaZulu Natal Government after the first democratic elections. He discharged his responsibilities as Minister with dedication and commitment.

I was surprised, when we appointed him to succeed our previous Mayor, that some among you started grumbling; not because of any shortcoming on the part of Mayor Gwala, but because such lies had been told around our previous Mayor that some actually believed she should not have been promoted out of Zululand.

Ms kaMagwaza-Msibi was deployed by the Party to the KwaZulu Natal Legislature, which is a higher sphere of government. She was promoted. But some trouble-makers, who called themselves "The Friends of VZ", tried to make out that she was demoted. I can't understand how they figured that one. But they carried the lie into the media and even into our communities.

They were of course being copy-cats, because during the Polokwane conflict in the ANC a group of people appeared who called themselves "The Friends of JZ", which is an abbreviation of Jacob Zuma. The surprising thing was that, in the case of Mr Zuma, he was in trouble and perhaps needed friends, as he had criminal charges of corruption hanging over his head like the sword of Damocles.

In the case of our previous Mayor, there was nothing that the Party ever did to her. The lies that were peddled that she was being persecuted were manufactured in order to create sympathy as a prelude to her coming out and saying that she wanted to be the President of the Party. Not that there is anything wrong with her wanting to be the President of the Party. The thing she did wrong was to base her intentions on the lie that she was being persecuted.

Nevertheless, her sympathisers, even here in Abaqulusi, could not spell out what form this alleged persecution actually took. No one, even amongst you, can tell us, even now, in what way our previous Mayor was persecuted by the leadership of the Party.

She was Mayor because I and the IFP placed her there. She carried out the policies of the IFP as a deployee of the Party. We placed her in that position

because we trusted her to be capable of doing what the Party wanted her to do for our communities in the district. This was merely a continuation of the service which I and the IFP performed for the people of this district, and the whole of South Africa, even prior to 1994.

There was nothing new about me and the IFP sending representatives to perform service delivery amongst our people. I do not need to remind you of the various things that we did for the people of Abaqulusi, particularly during the previous era. These things stand out and speak for themselves.

We knew that our previous Mayor could carry out our directives to serve the people of Zululand. We did not ask you when we appointed her whether you liked her or not. That is why I was surprised that, when we appointed Councillor Gwala to be your Mayor, some people started all these ructions.

I am surprised that people whom I have served with all my heart for so long can suddenly not trust my judgment or the orders of the leadership which they themselves democratically elected. I wonder what difference you have seen in service delivery now that Mayor Gwala has been installed as the Mayor of the Zululand Municipal District?

We are on the eve of the Local Government election. I hope that you will look at my record of service, spanning more than half a century, and decide honestly whether I have served you well or not.

Most of the schools in this Province were built by myself and the erstwhile IFP Government of KwaZulu. Many clinics and even some hospitals were built by me and the KwaZulu Government. Most of the district's roads, which today are neglected, were constructed by me and the KwaZulu Government. Old age pensions were paid for the first time under the KwaZulu Government many decades ago. There were many colleges of education which I and the KwaZulu Government built, which were closed down by the present ANC Government.

As Minister of Economic Affairs, I started Ithala Bank as a facility for poor people to whom commercial banks would not give loans, because they did not have security. Today the Bank has been pillaged by people who should be its trustees, to purchase farms and hotels for themselves and their families. I am surprised that with this track record that stands as a monument there is anyone who could now doubt my judgment when it comes to service delivery.

The Pretoria Apartheid Regime gave us very little money as the Government of KwaZulu, because we rejected independence *a la* Pretoria, which was dangled before us by the Regime. We did all the things we did with the little we had, because we are a party of integrity. We respect the taxpayers' money which is entrusted to us, and use it to deliver services to our poor and suffering people.

It really boggles my mind that all of a sudden people suffer from some kind of amnesia, which makes them forget all these things. Let us not forget how hard the IFP fought to get the vote.

We have Local Government elections on the 18th of May and I appeal to you to come out in your numbers to cast your vote. Do it for yourselves and do it for posterity. It is vital that all of us come out to vote, particularly because the mischief-makers have now created diversions in an effort to lead you down a primrose path. Make no mistake, the battle for Abaqulusi is raging.

There are precautions that you need to take to ensure you are not cheated during the forthcoming elections. You should have Party Agents who will be watching that the election is free and fair.

Ever since 1994, during every election that has taken place, there has been a lot of fraud. In this campaign, for example, fraud is alleged to have taken place in Umhlanga, which is a white suburb in Durban. Some busses were hired to ferry people who live in Umlazi and KwaMashu, to Umhlanga, to

register them as voters for the ANC. We need to ensure that this does not happen here at all.

We must also be vigilant over the Special Vote, which was previously only used in national and provincial elections. Due to the agitation of POPCRU, the law has been amended to allow more people to use the Special Vote even in Local Government elections.

The Special Vote is supposed to be used only by ailing people, the elderly, pregnant women and others who – for a good reason – are unable to go to their polling station on the day of the election. I urge you to look for these people now; list them in your notebooks, so that you can apply for them to use the Special Vote. Applications for the Special Vote will open on the 15th of April and close again on the 3rd of May.

I fear that, in this election, we are likely to see more acts of fraud than ever before. We therefore need people who can volunteer as Party Agents.

We have provided training for our Party Agents through our Leadership Institute run by a Member of Parliament, Mr Alfred Mpontshane. Some 80 or so people have already been trained. But this is a drop in the ocean. When I visited some of the polling stations during the voter registration weekends, I came across many at which there were no IFP Party Agents.

If you fail to volunteer to be Party Agents, you leave yourselves open to a lot of fraud. It is useless for us to cry foul afterwards. Crying over spilt milk will not help us. Let us make sure that Abaqulusi is not taken over by crooks. Use your vote, so that we can get people we can trust to give service delivery, instead of people who indulge in corruption, channelling taxpayers' money into their pockets.

Ever since Mayor Gwala arrived, he has faithfully carried out his responsibilities. Just as I did with the previous Mayor, I am visiting you today because my Party is committed to serving you with excellence. To do so, we

need leaders of integrity like Mayor Gwala; people who have never been accused of embezzling taxpayers' money. All this is in the hands of each one of you. It is you, through casting your vote, who will make sure that you get a Local Government you can trust in Abaqulusi.

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