

FAREWELL TO MR. H.M. CHIRWA MAGISTRATE, MR. NYANDENI INSPECTOR
AND MR. SITHETHO AGRICULTURAL OFFICER

ADDRESS BY MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI CHIEF MINISTER KWAZULU
AND PRESIDENT INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

MAHLABATHINI. 12TH SEPTEMBER 1990

Mr. Master of Ceremonies; Mr. Chirwa, Mr. Nyandeni, Mr. Sithetho, we have gathered to say farewell to you. You are all leaving your posts and you will all be leaving something of yourselves behind. It is as though you are giving us a bitter-sweet fruit as a parting gift. It tastes bitter because you are going. You are part of that which you leave behind and it is a wrench for us as you pull away and go elsewhere.

The KwaZulu Civil Service is many things to many different people. Like all organisations and all bodies of people, the KwaZulu Civil Service houses a proportion of those employed in it who have just come to do a job to earn a wage to eat and live. For them there is no excitement for the great struggle that has been waged in Ulundi to make the paltry little that we receive from Pretoria stretch as much as possible to give the greatest possible benefit to the greatest possible number.

It is Civil Servants like you gentlemen who have so better understood what the real KwaZulu struggle has been all about. You have been part of that struggle and your going from this place will make those who are left here weaker until your replacements have grown into your jobs and become part of that which you left behind.

I am always astounded by the cheap political propaganda that some have attempted to level at us in order to destroy us. I always say that no cent, no ten cent piece, no two rand, no ten rand or no fifty rand note has any conscience. Money is neutral. The evil or the good in what is done in spending money does not come from the money itself.

When Blacks pay taxes either as income tax or as general sales tax, or even as stamp duty or the levies which government attaches to petrol and other commodities, it is South African money that goes into the State coffers. We as Blacks say we have a right to that money because it is South African money. We say we have an equal right to that money because God has made all South Africans equal.

When, however, some turn to regard the money itself as tainted because it comes from Blacks to Blacks via Pretoria and to batter us with the propaganda that we are the products of apartheid, they reflect a terrible lack of understanding of the South African situation.

It is always strange to me that the most holiest-than-thou batterers of KwaZulu who live in Soweto or in other black townships and who commute on segregated black trains to work in jobs reserved for Blacks are so blind to the fact that apartheid is all pervasive and it is crippling to every Black wherever he or she is as it is crippling to us in KwaZulu.

KwaZulu has a common fight with every other Black in this country to claim its rightful share to the wealth of the land and to give us a say in the affairs of the land that will give us the equality that God created for us. We in KwaZulu have struggled against apartheid as the unfair and unjust system it is now universally recognised to be. We have been in KwaZulu to cripple the homeland policy and we have succeeded.

The only difference between us and our fight against apartheid and injustice and many others, is that we do not lose sight of the fact that people have to live while they struggle. We do not regard the money that we receive as KwaZulu as tainted and we do not use the agony of the poorest of the poor as a political weapon.

I have always been vehemently opposed to the hideous tendency there has been in some black organisations to use ordinary peasants and workers as cannon fodder in the frontlines of their ideological fights for self-importance. We have never stooped so miserably low to use children as cannon fodder. Wherever we have seen suffering we have stepped in to do what little we can do with the meagre resources that we have been able to claim as a portion of our legitimate rights.

I am always very mindful that I would not be leading as I do lead if I did not have the education that I have received. I am mindful that it was doctors and lawyers and professionals who dominated in so many of the leadership circles in the struggle. I have never advocated the destruction of the schooling system that has given we Black leaders the education we have received and do use for the good of the nation.

We do struggle for better education. In fact we struggle for the best possible education in a situation of total equality for all races. But we educate ourselves into more effective opposition to bad education.

It is the same with housing, with health and with everything else. We do what we can to help those we can so that justice may in the end come sooner. Behind the rank and file clerks, messengers, drivers and behind the numerous professionals in the KwaZulu Civil Service, this battle to make KwaZulu relevant to the suffering of the people while keeping it central in the struggle for liberation, has been an exciting excursion into the unknown.

Mr. Chirwa, Mr. Nyandeni and Mr. Sithetho, I have been able to do what I have done because I know that I am doing it with people like yourselves. Now that you have left Mahlabathini, I already feel bereft, and as I say your going is a bitter-sweet fruit and the bitterness is what we feel with your going, and hurt in your absence.

The sweetness in the fruit is, however, that in your going you are going to find advancement and we are interested in you as persons, not just as people of a class. We are interested in you as individuals. Your progress through life is important to me. Promotion and advancement have always been very important to me when I have thought about the people in the KwaZulu Civil Service.

We not only struggle to make the little we get go further, and we not only struggle to bring health, education and care to the people of KwaZulu, but we also struggle in the KwaZulu Government - and certainly in the KwaZulu Cabinet - to make the struggle as rewarding as we can for the individuals involved in it.

If you lined a hundred people up whom you chose at random and gave them all intelligence tests, you would find a big bulk in the middle of the line who were all clustered around average intelligence. Then on the one side you would find an extremity in which there were few really dumb people and on the other side you would find an extremity in which there were a few really brilliant people.

If you took another group of a hundred people and lined them up and you measured their height instead of their intelligence, you would find a big group in the centre all clustered around the average height of people. Then you would find that on the one side there would be a few exceptionally tall people and on the other side there would be a few exceptionally short people.

Thus it is with all characteristics in man. There are the average and on the one side there are the exceptionally poor and weak and on the other side there are the exceptionally strong and good.

It has always jarred me that apartheid has reached out to make every possible use of every bit of intelligence that could be found amongst Whites. In the end you had dumb Whites being posted as supervisors and bosses of brilliant Blacks, simply because of the colour bar. This has resulted in low ceilings of possible development for Blacks. Part of the hideousness of apartheid is that it impairs the natural growth in the stature of a person who is struggling to realise his or her every potential.

Being aware of these things I am very conscious of the need that there is to reward industry and ingenuity in work with promotion in the KwaZulu Civil Service. Therefore the sweet part of the fruit that you are making us eat in your leaving means at least in some measure there is some progress in your personal and professional lives. For this we are glad and for this we rejoice.

Sometimes I despair at how I can actually reach out and touch Civil Servants in KwaZulu who are just showing no fight to better themselves. I am deeply saddened by Civil Servants who coast along with an 8 to 4 mentality doing as little as they need to do to retain their jobs. That is so un-African in our struggle for liberation. And yet it is becoming so much more prevalent than I would ever have dreamt possible when I was a young man.

There cannot be personal development unless it is the development of the whole man or the whole woman. There cannot be the development of a person if it is only mental development or if it is only physical development. The whole person - mind, body and soul - must be developed. True promotion carries with it rising human stature which is added to the technical development on which promotion so very much hangs.

My message to the rank and file KwaZulu Civil Servant is - join the struggle with us; identify with the broader and deeper things we are trying to achieve in KwaZulu. Stand shoulder to shoulder with us in using our KwaZulu base to achieve a better South Africa. Stand with us in everything we do and support my demand that the development of the whole Civil Servant will be hampered unless that essential ingredient of loyalty adds the conviction and the determination to succeed that can come from nowhere else.

Every job in this place should be worth so much more to everybody holding the job. If they worked with colleagues who are totally dedicated to produce real human advancement for the nation and for South Africa by the way they do their jobs, they would find great reward. Every job in the KwaZulu Civil Service could and should be turned into a back-stop for the advances that we can make in our way to bring a fair and just South Africa into existence. Every job in KwaZulu would be a lot more rewarding than it is if incumbents added the fire of determination to make KwaZulu succeed in its struggle for the benefit of people.

It is my hope Mr. Chirwa, Mr. Nyandeni and Mr. Sithetho that your going will result in the best that there is in Ulundi and Mahlabathini spinning off to the places where you are now stationed. May you start the fires of ambition and the fires of hope among those amongst whom you work with in your new jobs.

I thank you all for that which you have given us while you were with us and it is my dearest wish that you go and that you continue on your upward climb and continue to grow as professionals and grow in stature.

I also sincerely hope that your going will add perspective and opportunity and happiness not only to yourselves but to your families as well.

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