



INKATHA

Inkatha Freedom Party

I Qembu leNkatha yeNkululeko

PRIVATE BAG 9
ULUNDI 1998
TEL: 791011/2400/9
FAX: 791309
TELEX: 6-11104

INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

OPENING REMARKS BY DR F. T. MDLALOSE
CHAIRMAN OF THE IFP DELEGATION

JOHANNESBURG: DECEMBER 20, 1991

Honourable Chairpersons, Mr. Justice Mahomed and Mr. Justice Schabert; Mr. President, distinguished members of the Organisation of African Unity, the United Nations, the Commonwealth and non-aligned countries; distinguished Ambassadors present; distinguished representatives from other countries, Cabinet Ministers present; distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is with a sense of deep pride that I rise to present a message from the Inkatha Freedom Party. I am proud to be a South African today. I am proud to serve my Party and my Country today. I am proud before mankind because South Africa is demonstrating the capacity which so many of us for so long knew was there, to grasp thorny nettles and face the difficulties inherent in dismembering apartheid, throwing its pieces away and establishing a just South Africa, sharing a common citizenship, patriotism and loyalty, pursuing amidst our diversity freedom, dignity, equality and

security for all, irrespective of race, colour, sex or creed; a country free from apartheid or any other form of discrimination or domination.

There has been conviction in the minds of millions of South Africans that we are capable as a society of coming together across all racial and political barriers to put South Africa first by joining together to work for a new South Africa.

I am proud to be a working member of my Party's delegation to CODESA and I commit my Party to achieve these goals.

I declare that there are in South Africa reserves of strength and honour sufficient to make CODESA a resounding success. Inkatha Freedom Party has come to CODESA deeply committed to turn South Africa into a show piece of racial co-operation leading to a united people with a national will to make democracy work.

There will be long and hard hours of discussion and negotiation in the months to come, as we grapple with the problem of preserving our unity of purpose, when we are faced with very divergent views and aspirations about the principles and the details of the parliamentary democracy that we each think we need in this country.

Thus South Africa will be able to avoid the evils of centralisation which led to great suffering and the erosion of personal liberty that characterised the now defunct Communist societies of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

We shall be making recommendations for entrenched constitutional clauses establishing a federal government with an independent judiciary in which Executive acts and legislative enactments are justiciable.

We have demonstrated the capacity to put aside past differences as we came together to sign the National Peace Accord on the 14th of September this year.

We wish we could say that we again demonstrated this ability to cover terrain which will have been regarded as totally hostile to all who dared to do so and to make astonishing progress in developing a unity of purpose to establish a fair and just race-free democracy in this country when we came together in a Preparatory Committee which played midwife to CODESA.

Despite our disappointments with the pre-CODESA processes we remain convinced that the only politics in this country now worthy of the name is the politics of peace and negotiation.

It is because we are so positive and my President, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leads us all with such hope and confidence, that the rejection of His Majesty the King of the Zulus by CODESA was so painful.

His Majesty is no by-stander to the great events that must now be shaped in this country.

He is a man of today, born out of the trials and the tribulations and the great suffering that illustrious Zulu Kings before him suffered, as they helped shape modern South Africa.

The Zulu Kings to whom he is successor fought ferocious wars against colonial domination. The last recorded organised resistance against foreign domination was the Bambatha rebellion under King Dinuzulu, his great grandfather, in 1906. He therefore has a vital, non-partisan, interest in the abolition of apartheid.

Now CODESA is meeting to negotiate a new South Africa. And yet the Zulu nation is being excluded.

My understanding is that the Zulu people of South Africa want to make their own contribution to the emergence of a new and just land. They have a commitment to offer which runs as deep as South African history itself.

They have a thirst for democracy and justice which will shape the words of politicians and those who will be drawing up our constitution and design the new South Africa to the benefit of all mankind in this country.

Their exclusion is tragic and we should all support the President of the IFP, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who in his other role as traditional Prime Minister to His Majesty the King of the Zulus had no alternative but to stand by his King and campaign for the acceptance of the rightful role of the Zulu people in reshaping South Africa.

There are difficult discussions ahead. We in the IFP who have observed the African experience will fight to avoid the disasters that attended faulty nation building and misconceived constitution making elsewhere on this continent.

There can be no centrist political solutions to South Africa's problems just as there can be no racist solutions.

We see CODESA as a forum for discussion and negotiations. We are committed to apply our minds to everything any party has to say and examine each proposal in a search for any merit it may contain.

It is only the common discovery of the best that each of us can produce which will help us succeed in shaping the new South Africa for the benefit of everybody in it and for generations to come.

=====