



ADDRESS BY MR M C ZITHA, PRESIDENT OF THE INYANDZA NATIONAL
MOVEMENT : CONVENTION FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA:
THE WORLD TRADE CENTRE, JAN SMUTS:
20 AND 21 DECEMBER 1991.

The Chief Justice, Co-Chairpersons, distinguished members of the international community, ministers of religion present here, leaders of political organisations and administrations, delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Inyandza National Movement and the accredited delegates of the Movement, I am profoundly privileged to address you on this historical and epoch-making occasion. Never in the history of the South African political spectrum have so many leaders representing such a number of political organisations, parties and persuasions, assembled with the sole purpose of determining constitutional principles and the modalities of constitution-making, that will consequently result in a new constitution for our country.

I do believe Sir, that CODESA is set to pilot us along a unique historical path, poised not only to cross the Rubicon, but it also marks the formal point of no return in the negotiation process.

I must concede though, that change in any society is a difficult process. Change is either supported or resisted for various reasons. Ideal change occurs when the majority of parties and political organisations gain without the fear of losing. Though this ideal may sound difficult to attain, it is certainly within our reach, depending largely on how serious we are in our desire to give CODESA our best.

In a book entitled "The Agony and the Ecstasy", the teacher of the great artist, Michael Angelo states:

"Sculpture is hard, brutal labour; talent is cheap; but dedication is expensive".

What else is life for in a nation if it is not for dedication by the people to freedom and to greatness. But a dedication to freedom and to greatness carries with it responsibilities and strict disciplines. It carries with it the responsibility of hard work so that the political and economic well-being and freedom of all our people will be attained.

To paraphrase John Adams, freedom requires that each individual conducts himself in a manner that his life demonstrates the dignity of man.

Of course, Sir, whilst CODESA will be dealing with a lot of procedural matters in the next two days, constitution making entails far more than formal procedures. Constitution-making means the shaping of the minds, the sharing of ideals, the sharing of values, the forging of political co-operation and the projection of political leadership.

In fact, Sir, active constitution-making demands the construction of a set of values that can permeate society and which will guide and inspire socio-economic change and reform.

In the past thirteen years, the Inyandza National Movement succeeded in transforming KaNgwane and the Eastern Transvaal Lowveld region into a relevant political constituency with a very clear political vision. A vision of a united South Africa. A South Africa of equal rights and equal opportunities where the dignity of man is respected.

That all its people shall always enjoy common citizenship and nationality regardless of race, colour, sex or creed.

That all shall enjoy internationally recognised human rights and civil liberties, protected under an entrenched Bill of Rights.

That we also support a multi-party democracy with free and fair elections held regularly.

This vision that I have presented to you is very well summed up in the words of the late Winston Churchill, who stated that vision includes "a safety net beneath which none need fall, and a ladder upon which all might climb."

The former British Prime Minister, Mr Harold Macmillan spoke about the winds of change blowing in the continent of Africa. We must, however, be guarded that the winds of change do not turn into hurricanes of chaos and confusion.

As leader of the Inyandza National Movement and the accredited delegates of the Movement, I have pleasure in informing you, Mr Chairman, that we have a very clear mandate from our constituency to participate in the deliberations of CODESA.

The Inyandza National Movement is ready and fully prepared to seize this golden opportunity CODESA affords us, to mould the future of our nation. Our values and principles are firmly entrenched in good old fashioned democratic processes. Our experience lends us credibility and usefulness in the synchronization of the political process that will follow in the near future.

I, on behalf of the Inyandza National Movement, hereby commit myself and the accredited delegates to bring about, through serious negotiations in this forum, a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

We further commit ourselves to the decisions of CODESA as binding and to take the necessary steps in the implementation of the decisions.

I must, however, appeal to all parties and political organisations to accept CODESA decisions as binding to all, including the government of the day. We must all try to ensure that CODESA succeeds; but it has the potential of being derailed and undermined if the government of the day does not give legal force to CODESA.

Sir, I therefore make a very passionate plea to all the leaders present here, including the government of the day, to adopt a give-and-take approach in a spirit of consensus. In this very difficult test, we will have to ensure that the hope of today is not transformed into the disillusionment of tomorrow. The hope of today must not be defeated by the doubts of tomorrow.

The choice we face, Sir, is simple. We either make history or be made by history. I hope Sir, for the sake of posterity, for the sake of peace and prosperity that we, as leaders and compatriots, are prepared for the great hour dawning in our political history. By the Grace of God and the wisdom of the leadership here, may our country become a monument, not of oppression, not of hate, not of bitterness, but of love, understanding and unity.

I thank you.

---o0o---