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DIKWANKWETLA PARTY LEADER'S OPENING REMARKS
ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CODESA 1
HELD AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTRE, JOHANNESBURG,
ON DECEMBER 20, 1991 AT 10:00

This is indeed an historic occasion in which all political parties in South Africa, have for the first time, come together in search of a democratic constitution which will be fair and just to all her citizens.

The creation of a new South Africa is the responsibility of all South Africans. I wish to here and now avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate our leaders on having come together in a spirit of goodwill and harmony to find a mutually acceptable constitution for our country. We must, in the words of Shakespeare "take the tide when it serves or lose our ventures". The constructive spirit that is presently prevailing among our leaders to negotiate a viable constitutional future for our country should be strongly encouraged.

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The Dikwankwetla Party of South Africa has since its establishment in 1974 believed in, and upheld, the philosophy that a national constitution for our Country, the Republic of South Africa, was not just to be a documenting solemn form, but a living framework for the government of a people exhibiting sufficient degree of cohesion. As a corollary to this belief the Party's stand point is that a constitution, however carefully constructed, cannot function with efficacy among a people fundamentally at odds with one another.

To stand the test of time, we believe, a constitution should be a nationally endorsed scheme of rules which dictate, give direction to and constitute the character of the State. After being adopted by a convention of this stature the constitution should, we believe unshakably, constitute the supreme law of the country. Each and every country needs a constitution that fits its own circumstances. That is exactly why we are here.

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The Dikwankwetla Party of South Africa has maintained the principle and the objective of one economy, one passport, one citizenship and one non-racial democratic South Africa, this is the one solution to the present political impasse in South Africa. To this end we, the Dikwankwetla Party of South Africa, pledge ourselves to unrelentlessly labour for and to devote all our energy towards the realisation of a New South Africa, and we accordingly call upon all our compatriots to join hands with us in a common purpose of achieving this enormous and yet noble task. Here at lies the basic philosophy of our motto :-

"KOPANO KE MATLA"

"EX UNITATE VIRES"

"EENDRAG MAAK MAG"

The Party took up this burden after realising how our society was being plagued and torn asunder by tribal divisions, colour and class differentiations.

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It dawned upon us that the best law of any land is the law that resides in the hearts' of men. That tolerance and forgiveness cannot be legislated :- these are either to be in the hearts' of men or they do not exist at all! We believe that when each group within a society perceives its survival in terms of the domination or extermination of another, this premonitates the seeds of social disintegration and yet a society endowed with an abundance of tolerance is a society which must succeed in maximising human liberty.

As we enter the new era let us be reminded of the words of Martin Luther King Jr :-

"Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must, however, conduct our struggle on the high plain of dignity and discipline. We must not allow creative protest to develop into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force".

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In conclusion, I do not have the slightest doubt that if the deliberations are conducted in a constructive spirit, there may yet emerge from this Convention a free and democratic order. We need to create a society with equal opportunity for all. South Africans from all walks of life have never before in the history of their country been afforded such an historic opportunity to come together for an all-comprehensive purpose of negotiating a constitutional future for their country. The new order is now with us. There is now no turning back. We must do everything possible to see to it that this country become a country in which everyone has a free and equal chance to realise his / her own individual talent and possibilities. We have no option but to "take the tide when it serves or lose our ventures!"

Thank you

DR T K MOPELI

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(QQR001)
