OPENING ADDRESS OF THE IYP PRESIDENT, PRINCE S.J MAHLANGU AT THE CODESA

THE CHAIRPERSON, CHIEF JUSTICE, FOREIGN COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES, HONOURABLE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. WE ARE INDEED HERE TODAY WITNESSING ANOTHER IMPORTANT MILESTONE AND GREAT ACHIEVEMENT IN THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY THAT IS AN ENDEAVOUR BY CONCERNED POLITICAL PARTIES TO BRING ABOUT THE TRUE DEMOCRATISATION OF SOUTH AFRICA IN THIS CONVENTION. ALL PARTIES ARE INDEED PART OF HISTORY IN THE MAKING. MY PARTY ACCEPTS THIS CHALLENGE WITH OPTIMISM. WE IN THE IYP BELIEVE THAT WHERE THERE IS WILLINGNESS AND DETERMINATION TO DO A THING, DIFFICULTIES BECOME LESSER AND LESSER. DURING THE PEACE CONVENTION IN SEPTEMBER, I CATEGORICALLY STATED THAT BY COMING TOGETHER AS PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS AND ALSO SIGNING THE ACCORD WE WERE OPENING A DOOR TO PEACE AND DEMOCRACY AND PAVING A WAY FOR A NEW ORDER.

MR CHAIRPERSON, LET ME INDICATE THAT THIS IS A HISTORIC OCCASION THAT IS NOT MERELY SYMBOLIC NOR IS IT A PUBLIC RELATIONS EXERCISE OF VARIOUS POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS. THIS OCCASION IS SYMBOLIC OF AN EARNEST ENGAGEMENT OF ALL RELEVANT FORMATIONS IN A BID TO ACHIEVE A NEW ORDER THAT ALL PEACE-LOVING AND DEMOCRACY CONSCIOUS PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY HAVE BEEN TIRELESSLY WORKING FOR.

MR CHAIRPERSON, IT IS TRUE THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS ENTERED AN ERA IN THE POLITICAL HISTORY WHERE DISUNITY AND INTOLERANCE CAN NOT BE ALLOWED TO EXIST. YES, WE HAVE ENTERED AN ERA THAT DEMANDS OF ALL PARTICIPANTS HERE A MEANINGFUL AND POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE MAKING OF A NEW ORDER IN THIS COUNTRY.

MY PARTY REMAINS STEADFAST IN ITS COMMITMENT TO THE UNITY OF SOUTH AFRICANS, ACROSS ETHNIC AND RACIAL DIVIDES. WE ARE MORE CONFIDENT THAN EVER BEFORE THAT OUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY WILL SOON BREATHE THE SWEET FRAGRANCE OF FREEDOM, PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

I WANT TO ADD MR CHAIRMAN THAT WE HAVE REACHED A STAGE IN THE DEMOCRATISATION PROCESS OF OUR COUNTRY WHERE POLITICAL CONFUSION AND MISDIRECTION CANNOT BE ALLOWED. WE NEED TO COME OUT CLEAR ON THE TACTICS AND MECHANISMS OF TRANSFERRING POWER FROM MINORITY RULE TO THE DEMOCRATIC AND LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF THE MANY. OUR CALL IN THIS REGARD HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE ERADICATION OF APARTHEID AND USHERING OF A DEMOCRATIC ORDER THAT WILL BE ACCOMMODATIVE TO ALL SOUTH AFRICANS.

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LET THE STRUGGLE FOR CREATING PEACE AND A JUST SOCIETY CONTINUE.

LET THE EFFORTS OF ALL SOUTH AFRICANS WHO ARE DEDICATED AND

SERIOUSLY COMMITTED IN CREATING A NON-RACIAL, NON-SEXIST,

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FINALLY MR CHAIRPERSON, THE IYP WANT TO MAKE AN AUDIBLE CALL TO ALL DELEGATIONS TO CONVEY THE TRUE SENTIMENTS OF THEIR FOLLOWERSHIP. THIS WE MUST STRIVE TO DO INSPITE OF ANY STRONG NEED INSIDE US TO ENHANCE OUR OWN ESTEEM. LET US ALL AGREE AND ACCEPT WITH HONESTY THAT WE ARE HERE GOING TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE, AND THAT SHOULD BE A BASE OF ALL OUR UTTERANCES.

THANK YOU

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