

K W A Z U L U A M A K H O S I P E T I T I O N

PETITION TO CODESA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DRAWN UP BY A
DELEGATION OF AMAKHOSI OF KWAZULU IN SOLEMN PROTEST AT
THE EXCLUSION OF A KWAZULU DELEGATION TO CODESA IN WHICH
HIS MAJESTY WOULD BE PROPERLY REPRESENTED

PRESENTED BY INKOSI NJ NGUBANE M.L.A.
ON BEHALF OF AMAKHOSI OF KWAZULU

'KWAZULU'S STAKE IN THE FUTURE'

We the Amakhosi of KwaZulu, duly mandated by a meeting of Amakhosi held on 14 May 1992 in Ulundi, wish to protest most vigorously at the exclusion of KwaZulu representation at CODESA.

We declare that the Zulu people have the right to be represented at CODESA, and this right we consider, is more rooted in history than the right of representation already granted to the Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei. We have no objection to their representation at CODESA, and our mentioning the facts of the matter should not be misconstrued as any slight at those who represent these self-governing 'independent' territories at CODESA.

We claim the historic right to representation in the negotiating forums of the nation where the future of South Africa will be decided. We the Amakhosi of KwaZulu directly represent millions of people for whom we are their first line of defence against anarchy and destruction. Our people must be represented in national negotiations at which decisions will be made affecting the boundaries of their region, their land and their future.

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It cost Africa dearly to learn the lesson that actions of independent governments, which did not give Kings, and Amakhosi under them, proper roles to play in the governments of their country, taught them. We do not want to see a new South Africa break down because independence from racist rule was followed by a breakdown in administration and orderly life.

It is our solemn conviction that no democracy will work unless traditional rulers are given a function in the governance of their country commensurate with their traditional authority and their importance in the daily lives of millions of rural and urban people.

We, the Amakhosi of KWaZulu, have committed ourselves to the liberalisation of the realms in which we rule, and wish to be part of in the new emerging South Africa. We are committed to democracy and wish to place on record that our exclusion from the democratic process, which will be established in the new South Africa, will have adverse results with repercussions reverberating down through the decades.

Even more compelling is the argument that the exclusion of KWaZulu and His Majesty, is a slight to royalty of such magnitude for Zulu-speaking people, that the offensiveness of the exclusion can only grow beyond all curbing to give no rest to the country until the historic injustice of it is remedied.

We wish to state that our right of representation at CODESA rests on no ethnic considerations whatsoever. The KwaZulu Government

established the Buthelezi Commission which made wide-ranging recommendations which cut across all ethnic lines. The KwaZulu/Natal Indaba after it, made constitutional recommendations which were also race free.

We, the Amakhosi of KwaZulu, were party to the KwaZulu Government's endorsement of the Buthelezi Commission recommendations and the Natal/KwaZulu Indaba recommendations in principle. We, the Amakhosi, claim the right of self-determination which is rooted in the sovereign independence of the Zulu kingdom before the Act of Union and the recognition that KwaZulu thus originated. The position of His Majesty, the King of the Zulus, is unique in South African history in that he is the only recognised constitutional monarch in the country. This constitutional status and our history that gave rise to it, is the basis of our claim for representation at CODESA today.

There is no traditional ruler in any of the self-governing territories in South Africa who occupies the place in their constitutions which our King occupies in the Constitution of KwaZulu. In all the former British colonies in Africa, during negotiations for independence, all Traditional rulers and Kings with a similar status to our King, including King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho, on our doorstep, were present during these negotiations. We find nothing special about South Africa that the position should be different.

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AMAKHOSI CONFERENCE

14TH MAY 1992

RESOLUTION 1

We the Amakhosi of KwaZulu have gathered here today to hear what progress has been made in CODESA to admit a delegation from His Majesty, the King of the Zulu's, and from KwaZulu, to CODESA.

We are appalled to hear that no progress has been made. We are appalled that despite the repeated representations to the Honourable State President, Mr FW de Klerk, and despite expert evidence having been lead to the CODESA Management Committee's sub-committee appointed to investigate the matter, no progress has been made.

We the Amakhosi of KwaZulu resolve:

1. To inform the State President, Mr FW de Klerk, that we will not be party to the implementation of any CODESA decision to which we were not party, in the same way that the South African Government has reserved its right not to be party to the implementation of any CODESA decisions to which it was not party.
2. To inform the Management Committee of CODESA that we will not be party to the implementation of its decisions while we are not represented at CODESA.
3. To inform the Organisation of African Unity, the Commonwealth and the United Nations that unless His Majesty the King of the Zulus is made a participant in negotiations for the constitutional future of South Africa as were the kings of Lesotho, Ghana, Uganda and other states in Africa, KwaZulu will resist all attempts by outsiders to rewrite its constitution, redraw its boundaries and re-determine the structure of its authority.

AMAKHOSI CONFERENCE

14TH MAY 1992

RESOLUTION 2

We the Amakhosi of KwaZulu gathered here today applaud the action of our Chief Minister in tirelessly pursuing the good of KwaZulu by seeking its inclusion in the proceedings of CODESA.

We resolve:

1. To take the unprecedented step of gathering the Amakhosi of KwaZulu and their Izinduna together in a meeting to praise the Prince of KwaPhindangene for his gallant efforts to gain representation at CODESA.
2. To take the unprecedented step to humbly call upon His Majesty to arrange an event, at His Majesty's pleasure, at which he could publicly thank his uncle, the Prince of Kwaphindangene, for making the enormous personal sacrifice at enormous political cost to himself, of being loyal to his King, by refusing to participate in the proceedings of CODESA unless His Majesty was an honoured participant in its proceedings.

AMAKHOSI CONFERENCE

14TH MAY 1992

RESOLUTION 3

We the Amakhosi of KwaZulu gathered here today to declare to the whole world that:

1. We are descendants of a long line of heroes, heroines and martyrs. We will honour our ancestors by defending all the realms of KwaZulu against historically unjustified rejection in it not being made party to the decisions which affect its existence and its historic role in shaping the destiny of this country.
2. We are proud Amakhosi serving His Majesty the King of the Zulus who reigns over his fathers people. We serve him in memory of the long line of illustrious Zulu kings who, one after the other, opposed colonialism and racism and political bigotry.
3. That we will honour the memory of great Zulu kings such as the illustrious King Cetshwayo ka Mpande and his scion King Dinuzulu, who suffered imprisonment and exile, by declaring ourselves ready to serve His Majesty and the Prince of KwaPhindangene in any way in which we are called upon to do so. We will do whatever is required of us to gain His Majesty's historic right, the historic right of the Prince of KwaPhindangene and the historic right of KwaZulu to be the final determiners of KwaZulu's destiny.

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