

**CLOSING REMARKS BY JUSTICE SCHABORT
TO CODESA**

Vandag sal 'n kort dag wees. Ons gaan hierdie verigtinge sluit met enkele opmerkings. Ons het baie gepraat, hopelik is daar ook veel gesê.

Our mission and contribution as co-Chairmen here today has been purely a facilitatory one. One that we have assumed with considerable trepidation lest our participation should be perceived as affecting our independence and impartiality as judges, which we treasure above all things. The processes initiated under the banner of CODESA have been conceived by you, ladies and gentlemen, as politicians. They have been pursued by you to this point and it is over to you to determine the fate of CODESA. What is at stake is the future of us all, and more importantly of our children and theirs. May the good Lord guide all the politicians of South Africa, those gathered here and those who are not here.

**CLOSING REMARKS BY JUSTICE MAHOMED
TO CODESA**

At 10.00 am yesterday we began an uncertain, but politically exciting, leap into the future; by consciously agreeing to explore, to identify - to debate and to articulate our dreams for a new and free South Africa - liberated from the shame and the pain of its racial past.

Twenty-seven hours later we have reached the end of the beginning of this journey. And this first journey has indeed been in its intensity and passion, the kind of experience of which history is made in celestial leaps.

For nearly two full days some of the most troubled, and some of the most traumatised, of our sons and daughters have given public expression in varying degrees to their deepest feelings - sometimes to the nobility of their aspirations, sometimes to the sweetness of their dreams, sometimes to the horror of their fears, sometimes to the depth of their anxieties, sometimes still to the intensity of their anger, sometimes to the pathos of their sufferings, and at still other times to an abiding faith in our future.

The experience has matured us all - an emotional and intellectual catharsis which has sometimes opened painful wounds, and sometimes lifted us to states bordering on spiritual intoxication. And even the pain acquires a strange kind of sweetness under the balming influence of a renewed faith and determination never again to repeat the tragedy of our past.

We have argued, we have confronted, and we have loved all at the same time, and we have emerged stronger because some experiences have to be lived intensely, both in the dimensions of pain and pleasure to mutate a new catharsis and regenerate our souls.

This first meeting of CODESA has yielded mighty results in at least three crucial areas:

In the first place we have intellectually, if not yet practically, made a giant leap forward from the immoral premises of Apartheid and racism, towards the spiritualising and liberating dimensions of structures based on love and sharing between all the citizens of our beloved land. This is written in the bold and vigorous strokes of those parts of the Declaration of Intent to which every party at this Convention, including those who have not yet signed, have expressed their unanimous commitment.

In the second place, we have, after the years of isolation, experienced the enthusiastic support of the International Community of observers, who have given momentum to our commitment by an unprecedented and public declaration of empathy and solidarity.

And thirdly, we have given to what would otherwise have been in danger of becoming an aborted romance - without any internal stability - the potential teeth, the discipline, the support structure, and the nuts and bolts to sustain it into an achievable and sustainable future in the form of mechanisms and working groups and commissions with detailed programmes.

Make no mistake about it, these are mighty achievements. Perhaps we are much too close to it to appreciate their enormity.

If we pursue what we have resolved with urgency, the speed, and the integrity which our country is entitled to demand of us, subsequent generations might well identify this day and this moment as the day when South Africa was reborn, not only to bring glory to its own citizens, but to rekindle hope and regeneration for the Africa of which it is a part, and for a world in search of a new idealism to regenerate many of its recently frustrated dreams.

I thank you.