



**MEETING WITH HIS EXCELLENCY MR EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**AIDE MEMOIRE OF  
PRINCE MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI MP  
TRADITIONAL PRIME MINISTER TO THE ZULU MONARCH AND NATION  
FORMER MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA  
AND PRESIDENT OF THE INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY**

**State House, Lusaka: 21 February 2019**

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Your Excellency;

Thank you for the warm welcome you have extended to me as I visit your beautiful country once again. I am honoured to have been invited by His Royal Highness Paramount Chief Mpezeni IV to participate in the Nc'wala Traditional Ceremony on Saturday.

As Your Excellency is aware, the Ngoni people of Zambia and the Zulus of South Africa share ancestral origins. I am therefore honoured, as the traditional Prime Minister to the Zulu Monarch and Nation, to express our support.

It is of course not only ancestry that we share, Your Excellency. Zambia and South Africa are forever joined through the struggle we shared for the liberation of the African continent. Zambia provided invaluable support to our own liberation struggle, giving sanctuary to all our exiles. Indeed, I travelled to Lusaka in 1974 to personally thank His Excellency President Kenneth Kaunda.

That visit proved to be a defining moment in our struggle, for President Kaunda gave me some wise advice. At the time, there was a political hiatus in South Africa, as our liberation organisations had been banned. We needed to create a renewed centre of political mobilisation to reignite our struggle. President Kaunda advised me to form a membership-based organization to achieve this.

When I returned from Lusaka, I raised this with the ANC's leader in exile, Mr Oliver Tambo, with whom I was working closely. And he agreed. Thus, in March 1975, I founded *Inkatha yeNkululeko yeSizwe*, the national cultural liberation movement that would eventually become the IFP, the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Forty-four years later, the IFP serves in a democratic South Africa in our national Parliament, our provincial legislatures and a number of district and local



municipalities. We are an opposition party to the ruling African National Congress, despite having roots in the ANC. The ANC, Africa's oldest liberation movement, was in fact founded by my own uncle, Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme.

The ANC and Inkatha developed some ideological differences during our liberation struggle. In particular, Inkatha could not embrace an armed struggle, for we were founded on the principle of non-violence that Dr Seme laid at the foundation of the ANC in 1912. So by the time South Africa entered democracy in 1994, the IFP and the ANC were two distinct political parties.

Initially we governed together in a Government of National Unity forged at the negotiating table and enshrined in our interim Constitution. But with the adoption of South Africa's final Constitution, the Government of National Unity fell away and the IFP became what we coined a "constructive opposition".

Accordingly, we support Government in its work of serving our people for as long as it performs its responsibilities with integrity, respect and accountability. We are not an opposition for opposition sake, but to create the best for our country.

I am proud of South Africa's Constitution, which the IFP co-created. But I am aware that my country is still struggling to live up to the principles enshrined in our democratic Constitution.

We have been sorely disappointed recently by evidence of corruption in leadership, which is emerging from the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture, and other commissions. Corruption seems to be the bane of Africa. We are not proud of our ranking at number 73 on Transparency International's Corruption Index. But there are signs that we are moving in the right direction.

His Excellency President Ramaphosa's recent State of the Nation Address was a statement of intent that has given us some hope. If it is implemented, it will undoubtedly take South Africa forward into the renewed economic growth we so urgently need to address unemployment and create social justice.

Of course, we are in an election year, so there is much politicking and mud-slinging from all sides. The IFP does not engage in this. It might prevent us from grabbing the spotlight, but the IFP strives to be a voice of reason, reconciliation and hope. We are tough on corruption, and we demand absolute integrity. But our first priority is not gaining power; it is putting power into the hands of our people.

Your Excellency, I suspect that you and I will understand each other, for we share similar backgrounds. We both studied law before entering politics and we have both served our countries as Minister of Home Affairs. I served in this position for the first ten years of our democracy, both under President Mandela and President Mbeki. I am honoured to have been part of establishing the good relations between our newly democratic South Africa and the Republic of Zambia, in recognition of Zambia's support for our political freedom.

As you did during your time as Minister, I served repeatedly as Acting President of the Republic. I have felt the burden that rests on your shoulders, Your Excellency.



You have my deepest admiration, for I know what it is to serve a nation. I imagine you and I would not have a single night's rest, were it not for our faith.

I was impressed by your decision to institute a National Day of Prayer for Zambia. Indeed, here too we share a similarity, for I understand that Your Excellency has been a guest at The Vatican and enjoyed an audience with His Holiness Pope Francis. Over my lifetime, I have met with Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict VII. I am an Anglican by denomination, but I am simply a believer in Christ. So it is always wonderful to meet with fellow Believers.

Indeed, when I led the administration of the former KwaZulu Government, I instituted Prayer Breakfasts. I also made a point of placing women in key leadership positions in my administration, for I understand the critical role of women in leading a nation. I therefore applaud you, Your Excellency, for appointing Zambia's first female Vice President.

Likewise I am pleased that His Royal Highness Paramount Chief Mpezeni IV has indicated his faith in female leadership, by appointing Ms M'kwanda Sakala as the Chairperson of the National Organising Committee for this year's N'cwala Traditional Ceremony.

I must say that I appreciate the respect you show, Your Excellency, for the institution of traditional leadership. The traditional social structures of our people were designed to ensure good governance and social justice. It is only logical then that Government work hand in hand with traditional leaders, supporting the vital role they play.

My colleagues, Mayor Arthur Thamsanqa Ntuli and Mayor Petros Ngubane, can attest to the tremendous benefit that accrues to the people when municipalities work with traditional leaders in a relationship of mutual respect and cooperation. For this reason, it has been one of the ongoing campaigns of the IFP to secure the recognition and protection of the role, powers and functions of traditional leaders.

Unfortunately, after 25 years of democracy, there is still no single piece of legislation that enshrines such role, powers and functions. I will continue to raise this with our country's leaders for as long as I live, for I believe in honouring our traditional systems for the value they still bring to good governance.

Of course when it comes to the work I champion, there is much more behind me than there is ahead. Reaching such a great age as I have is a mixed blessing. It is wonderful to have witnessed the march of democracy and freedom across our continent. But it is painful to see the length of the road that still stretches before us, towards the destination of social justice, equality and economic prosperity.

Africa **must** achieve that destination. Accordingly, those who are walking this journey **must** walk together.

I thank you.

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