

THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE JOINT  
KWAZULU GOVERNMENT/KWAZULU FINANCE AND INVESTMENT  
CORPORATION EXHIBIT AT THE DURBAN EXPO 85 EXHIBITION

DURBAN. 26TH SEPTEMBER 1985

A FEW REMARKS ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE JOINT  
KWAZULU GOVERNMENT/KWAZULU FINANCE AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION  
EXHIBIT AT THE DURBAN EXPO 85 EXHIBITION  
BY MANGOSUTHU G. BUTHELEZI, CHIEF MINISTER KWAZULU, PRESIDENT OF  
INKATHA AND CHAIRMAN, THE SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK ALLIANCE  
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Mr. Mayor, the Chairman of EXPO 85, members of the KwaZulu Cabinet, Directors of the Board of the KFC, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure for me, members of the Cabinet and senior officials of the KwaZulu Government, to be present here today. In fact, it is more than that. I am sure that all my colleagues will join me in saying that our exhibit fills us with pride.

There may be those who might wonder what an exhibit like this is doing at Durban EXPO 85, surrounded as it is by high technology and much dazzling gloss. Let me say quite honestly that I believe our Indlu has great relevance right here in the heart of Durban.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my view that once you have had the opportunity of studying our exhibit more closely, you will agree that technology is not necessarily linked to glittering glass and aluminium. The aeroid structural system employed by the building team in the construction of the building is as cost effective and exciting as the 20th century structure you might see on the skyline around you.

Pause for a moment and study the intricacy of the weaving, the miles and miles of grass rope used in the thatching and think of the skill and care that has gone into the Indlu you see before you. Who can deny that it is beautiful and failed to be moved by the site?

Has something gone out of us as people now that we have moved so far from nature and the simply things in life? I believe it is worth pondering over this when you are in the Indlu. But, Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, although we are proud of our exhibit, there are also sound reasons why we chose to build this particular exhibit at EXPO.

Firstly, there was a need to consider costs. We have spent just over R60 000 on this exhibit which I believe is entirely appropriate for a Government like that of KwaZulu and the KwaZulu Finance and Investment Corporation. But even more important is the fact that the vast bulk of this expenditure went into the pockets of people who desperately need jobs now and who are battling to keep their heads above water. More than 60 people, the majority of whom were brought in from really depressed rural areas like Nqutu and Nondweni, have had a job for three months while this Indlu was being built. In addition, all the natural materials used in the

construction were bought from people who are suffering grinding poverty at present. The thatch alone, which came from Nondweni, put around R4 000 into the hands of unemployed people.

Members of the public will be able to buy craftwork at this exhibit and literally hundreds of families from the rural areas will benefit from these sales. The Zamokuhle Handwork Club, for example, has more than 400 beadworkers who will be making goods for sale at our Indlu.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would also like to ask that you take special note of the themes of our exhibit. You will note that although this is essentially a KwaZulu exhibit, we have gone to great pains to emphasise that KwaZulu/Natal is totally interdependent and that the future of all the people of this region is inextricably intertwined.

We have highlighted that vast informal settlement areas have mushroomed around this city. These people have flocked here in search of a better life and have made this city economically strong, but you will not fail to see that while Durban may be the mecca to which people have flocked, my people live under the most appalling conditions on the periphery of the city. Why is this so? It is so because the KwaZulu Government has refused to apply any form of influx control and the South African Government has been powerless to stop the natural migration from the land to the cities which is the result of normal industrialisation.

But while the Government has been unable to stop the people coming to the cities, it has certainly harrassed them when they come in search of jobs and has generally behaved as if the hundreds of thousands of people on the edge of this city did not exist. Nothing was done to provide even the most basic of services and people were simply left to their own devices.

This state of affairs cannot continue and the KwaZulu Government certainly does not have the resources to effect a meaningful improvement in the lives of these vast numbers of people.

Our exhibit also strives to depict the major development needs of KwaZulu and highlights the enormous differences in development between Natal and KwaZulu, despite the fact that the two areas are inextricably linked together. Our major needs are in the field of education and health and KwaZulu spends the bulk of its resources in striving to satisfy these basic human needs. I trust that you will find the exhibits on health and education worthwhile.

Ladies and gentlemen, time does not allow me to expand on all the exhibits, but I should like to make one last comment on the exhibit of the KwaZulu Finance and Investment Corporation. The KFC has done much to make the free enterprise system meaningful to Black people and this work is of particular relevance on a day like today. I believe that in an environment such as we have at this exhibition, the private sector would do well to ponder how it too can foster the free enterprise system for Black people.

I believe the time has come for the private sector to mobilise its resources behind efforts to build a brighter future for all South Africans. It does not need a soothsayer to predict that unless this happens, pressures for the introduction of alternative economic systems will mount and ultimately become irresistible. Both the KwaZulu Government and the KFC believe that the free enterprise system is the best tool for development, and I thus invite the private sector to join forces with the KFC to make use of the opportunities the KFC has already provided for private participation in development.

I should like to conclude by thanking the KFC for co-ordinating the building of this exhibit and our own building team from Ulundi, ably lead by Induna Mr. N.A. Ncube. It has been good to see Black and White people working together for long hours and beyond the call of normal duty to make this exhibit a success. Their achievements do in a very real sense symbolise the contribution which Black people have made to this city over the decades. I should also like to thank Mr. Paul Mikula and Mr. Gert Swart who have laboured hard with our team because it represents something they believe in. Lastly, I thank Mr. Konigkramer in particular for his sacrifices and ingenuity in co-ordinating these efforts. The public comes to an exhibition like this often blissfully unaware of the kind of effort that is required to open an exhibition of this magnitude. Invariably some willing horse has pulled so much harder than any other and in our case, that willing horse has been Mr. Konigkramer. It was his concern for success; his attention to detail and the long hours of dedicated drive and initiative that made our own contribution to the success of EXPO 85. We are very grateful to him.

It now gives me great pleasure to declare this joint exhibit of the KwaZulu Government and the KFC officially open.

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