

MEETING WITH EXECUTIVES FROM RICHARDS
BAY MINERALS, QUEBEC IRON & TITANIUM
AND STANDARD OIL CO.

ULUNDI. 18 NOVEMBER 1985

A FEW REMARKS BY MANGOSUTHU G. BUTHELEZI, CHIEF MINISTER KWAZULU, PRESIDENT OF INKATHA AND CHAIRMAN, THE SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK ALLIANCE ON THE OCCASION OF A MEETING ULUNDI ON 18 NOVEMBER 1985 WITH:

Mr. R.D. MacPherson	-	General Manager, Richards Bay Minerals
Mr. F. Uys	-	Personnel Manager, Richards Bay Minerals
Dr. G.G. Charette	-	President, Quebec Iron and Titanium
Mr. B.T. Grierson	-	President, Standard Oil Co.,
Mr. M.H. Flint	-	Vice-President, Environmental and Government Affairs, Standard Oil Co.
Dr. C.E. Taylor	-	Director, Contributions and Community Affairs, Standard Oil

Foreign investors and big business in South Africa have now committed themselves to playing a political role in the process of bringing about meaningful reform which has greatly heartened me as a Black leader. Black South Africans are the victims of apartheid and unless they can take the initiatives which are necessary and develop the power which is necessary to employ those initiatives successfully in bringing about fundamental changes, we will inevitably find ourselves living in a prescribed future which will not work. It is the responsibility of the people of the country to direct its affairs and it is their responsibility to choose the direction in which a country should go. The struggle against apartheid has many facets, and there are many forces at work, but in the final analysis, the more than three quarters of the population who are Black have to author change.

In South Africa today we have reached an historical point where there are now only one or two directions open to us in the framework of all reality. We either bring about change through war and violence in which Government, big business, the free enterprise system are regarded as the enemies of the people, or in which big business and the institutionalised forces working for change are regarded as the allies of Black South Africa to bring pressure to bear on the South African Government to abolish apartheid and enter into joint decision-making with Blacks.

Inkatha, with its million-strong membership, opposes violence as the primary means of bringing about change. Inkatha works inside the country, on the ground in harmony with institutionalised forces driving for fundamental change. It is the Inkatha success which so angers those committed to the politics of violence. We are proving that they are wrong. We are proving that non-violent, democratic means of bringing about change are more potent and constructive in a situation where there is a total economic interdependence between

Black and White. We strive to translate that interdependence into political interdependence. Every success we make in moving towards the negotiating table, and every power advantage we gain in doing so, is a threat to those who employ violence as the primary means of bringing about change.

Big business must take cognisance of this clash of interests and decide where and with whom they will throw their weight behind the forces of their choice. It would be fatal for big business to be all things to all men in a situation in which starkly differentiated alternatives to the way in which our country should be liberated have very poignant implications for business.

For many, many decades big business has absolved itself from the responsibility of being political. The situation has now been reached in South Africa where it is patently clear that the Government is incapable of bringing about desired changes on its own. The National Party cannot author the future of South Africa. It can play a positive or negative role, and big business has now recognised that the future of the country will be the outcome of the interplay of many forces and not the outcome of Cabinet decision-making.

It is in this context that I want to say today very clearly that foreign investors and big business in South Africa have got a great responsibility to discharge. Having committed themselves to being a positive force working for the normalisation of South Africa as a democratic industrialised democracy in harmony with the Western world, they have now to do the things which their commitment promises. Formal pressure on Government; representations where they are needed, and lobbying for change with regard to specific issues, are broad fields of activity to which big business must now commit itself. Beyond this field there is a very much more important field which is as yet relatively unexplored by big business.

This is the field of active on the ground partnership with Black South Africans. Big business has moved in the direction of this partnership in establishing the Urban Foundation and supporting it as strongly as they do. They have also moved in this direction by employing Employment Practice Codes. These steps are admirable but I do fear that there is as yet insufficient evidence of big business really facing up to responsibilities which are entailed in promising partnerships with Black South Africans who are working for change positively and purposefully in the direction big business supports.

Richards Bay Minerals is, I believe, placed in the position where it could do just this. Black South Africa needs Richards Bay Minerals to do what it is doing and to expand what it is doing. We in KwaZulu and Inkatha specifically need Richards Bay Minerals to

do what it is doing where it is doing it. I could gather a mass of Black South Africans who in their tens of thousands would give me a standing ovation for saying this. We need Richards Bay Minerals; we need the jobs it creates; we need the training that Richards Bay Minerals is providing its Black workers with. Richards Bay Minerals has a lot going for it as a constructive partner with Blacks in normalising South Africa.

Richards Bay Minerals, however, is located in an area where that partnership now needs to be expressed concretely and on the ground. You are aware, Sir, that Richards Bay itself was developed on land grabbed from Blacks. As a developing city and port, in an area where there is vast poverty and unemployment, the whole development should have been a development in partnership with Blacks, instead of which the land was grabbed from them. Big business was happy to settle on this land and to develop it industrially. If big business is now happy to do that again in Reserve 4, which the Consolidation proposals now being discussed regard as land to be expropriated from KwaZulu for White benefit, then it will find itself in the forefront of very considerable turmoil. I hope, Sir, that today you can give me the assurance that Richards Bay Minerals will fight this particular proposal in the Government's consolidation plans with everything in its power it can employ.

If the South African Government persists in its madness to expropriate Reserve 4 and to expel Black residents there, the conflict which will ensue will not be not leave your labour force unaffected. You need us in Richards Bay; we need you in Richards Bay and Richards Bay Minerals ought on its side to make its presence meaningful to the people in Reserve 4 and we on our side ought to make Richards Bay Minerals' presence in Reserve 4 beneficial to its shareholders.

It is often said that Natal is relatively quiet and that the waves of violence which sweep so many parts of the country are kept at bay here by my leadership and by Inkatha. The assumption that this is true is valid, but the assumption that Black anger in this part of the country is more docile than Black anger elsewhere, and the assumption that the relative quiet will continue whatever Government does, is a very dangerous assumption. I cannot keep KwaZulu and Natal quiet for the sake of others. I can keep it quiet for the sake of the people, if the people themselves agree not only that I am doing the right thing, but that what I am doing is producing tangible results for them. Black South Africa now demands results. Inkatha now demands results. The KwaZulu Government now demands results. We can no longer live on fine statements and vague promises. Change must be made a reality and Black anger will explode wherever people lose faith in impending changes becoming real.

I believe there is a great deal of scope for consultation and joint action and shared thinking between Richards Bay Minerals, Inkatha

and the KwaZulu Government. I appeal for this consultation. I appeal that every endeavour be made, and that we in Richards Bay share with you the responsibility of working to normalise South Africa as a Western industrialised society where the free enterprise system flourishes because the people perceive it to benefit them.

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