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Prince Mangusuthu Gatcha Buthelezi
President of the Inkata Freedom Party, and my
dear Brother

Welcome to my humble home and to Zambia.

Prince Buthelezi we first met in 1974 here in Lusaka when I was leader of a young independent nation of Zambia and was honoured to be leader of the front line states which were all newly independent states. We hosted South African Political Exiles and Freedom fighters. Hosting Political exiles and freedom fighters was a huge risk to our own freedom as a Nation. Financially we could not afford this task since Ian Smith had closed the borders for us to transport goods through Rhodesia. The security risk was enormous on our people as the Apartheid regime in South Africa was becoming more and more vicious. But we had to do that historic duty for the freedom of

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black people. I am a very proud man we did this and all God's children in South Africa, Black, White, Yellow etc are free today as God's children. Your Visit to Zambia for N'cwala and to me to thank us for the role we played in that struggle is indeed very significant.

When you as a youthful Zulu Prince visited us in Zambia, I understood very well the risks you were taking on to your shoulders. As the 1970s progressed, it was becoming clearer to all of us in the front line states that the Apartheid regime was growing more vicious and oppressive to the black people. The outcome of their viciousness was more and more of the young people freeing the country to fight for freedom. The physical and social conditions for young people like you became unbearable and unacceptable.

Clearly the conditions in Apartheid South Africa made the struggle for liberation waged from outside the country necessary. But at the same

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time this was not completely ideal because it made the internal mobilization and organization of your oppressed masses difficult. We were facing a real difficult situation and ordinary people in that country were beginning to lose hope in the struggle. This is the challenge the African National Congress in which you were a prominent member was faced with. We therefore, decided to come up with other means of mobilizing the masses inside South Africa. It was then that we agreed to instruct you to form a mass based organization from within. Because a dangerous vacuum was developing in that country. I and other leaders of the front line states, together with comrade Oliver Tambo of the ANC were convinced that you should take up a new role in the organization. You were the most suited for this job because you came from the Zulu royal family. When you visited in 1974 you were encouraged to go back to Apartheid South Africa and form a membership based organization since the African National

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Congress was by this time a banned political organization and that most of its leaders including comrade Nelson Mandela had been put in prison. You shouldered that responsibility and advanced the struggle for liberation by cultural means during that critical period of our time. Let me thank you for taking up that historical instruction and task with such dedication and honour.

I know there were difficult days in the struggle especially in the 1980s when brother turned against brother resulting in unfortunate violence and death among black people. It is during that period that you showed your unwavering courage and commitment to the cause of liberation. I am today a very proud man that freedom came to South Africa in our life time. Thank you once again Prince Mangusuthu for the course you took with such dedication. I am gratified that you have continued to do so this day.

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Your role in the struggle is never in doubt. Even Madiba recognized and honoured you by making you his minister of Home affairs and asked you to act as president in his place.

My dear brother you honoured me last year by inviting me to come to Kwazulu Natal to Celebrate with you your 90th Birthday. I was excited and humbled to come myself but I sent my eldest son Panji Kaunda and Ambassador George Kanyamula Zulu one of your own tribe's men here in Zambia to represent me. Thank you for receiving them with much love. May you enjoy your visit to Zambia and enjoy the N'cwala Ceremony of the Ngoni people, a ceremony that links the Ngonies of Zambia to the Zulu Kingdom in South Africa. May God our Creator bless you with many more years ahead.

Thank you.