

AN INTERVIEW BETWEEN THE HON. THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND THE EDITOR OF INHLABAMKHOSI



Chief S.H. Gumede is the new Minister for Works Department. Works Department is one of the difficult ones to administer. Chief Gumede was interviewed by INHLABAMKHOSI as follows:-

Editor:

Hon. Minister, as a new Minister of Works Department, how did you view this appointment?

Hon. Min. of Works:

As a person who is committed to the liberation struggle of a black man in this country, and an ardent believer of peaceful negotiations as being a noble course, I viewed the appointment as a challenging one to me. My elevation to the seats might enable me to have the direct input to the solution of problems that surround a black man in this country. I was however, aware of the fact that, it would definitely be a hard nut to crack for me to continue where my predecessor had ended; as both of us could not view things in the same way.

Such fears were soon allayed by the trust I have in the leadership of His Excellency the Hon. Chief Minister, who had deemed it expedient that I should be elevated to such a position not because of being the best candidate for the post, but because of his knowledge of my willingness to serve my black brothers and sisters, and

also because of my flexibility to his directions and instructions. It was clear to me, that the assignment I was given was quite tough, but on the other hand I thought this was a break-through to me, as it was high time I used all the talents that God has endowed me with, to direct and to guide my department to the level desired by all the citizens of KwaZulu.

Editor:

The Department of Works is being taken as a very difficult one to administer, are there no problems the Minister has encountered so far, or, are there any changes that have been effected?

Hon. Min. of Works:

Of course, Works Department is a very difficult one to administer, but that does not mean that the Department is unmanageable. That depends entirely upon one's determination to manage the department. I have so far encountered so many problems e.g. the non-promotability of our black staff, both in our regions and in the head office at Ulundi; the irresponsibilities of some of our Regional Directors in our regions,

the lack of stringent control of our stores, and staff in the regions, and the bad attitude adopted by both our white and black staff in our regions, and sometimes right in the head office in the performance of their duties.

CHANGES:

1. I have introduced the committees both in the regions, and in the head office, that would advise me, and the department, of what is taking place in the regions and locally, in order to effect some necessary precautions.
2. I have discharged some of our officials both black and white in the regions who have proved to be a disgrace to the department by not wanting to carry their duties as instructed by the head office.
3. I have introduced the system of regular cross-transfers because I believe in the fact that when one has stayed in one and the same place for more than five (5) years, then one is likely to fall in a temptation of stealing government property, and be

subjected to over familiarization of himself or herself to a particular region, the kind of situation which might later result in public ignominy and contempt.

4. I have recommended the promotions of all those who were supposed to have been promoted about two to three years ago, and who deserve such promotions ranging from the lowest or bottom rank of our department to the highest one.

5. I have introduced the direct involvement of the members of the L.A. (Legislative Assembly) in their various respective regions by the formation of committees that would advise

the department of iniquities that might be taking place in their respective places.

6. I have encouraged the free access to me (through an appointment, of course) to those who like to come with their problems that might need my personal attention, to be free in doing so, because I am directly responsible to the people as they have voted me to the Legislative Assembly. I therefore, feel I should be available to them at any minute that would suit them. My changes of this nature are still in the pipeline.

Editor:

Since the Hon. Minister is so determined to direct the depart-

ment of Works properly what could have been the problem with other Ministers?

Hon. Min. of Works:

One's determination to do and to master a particular problem, could never ever be compared with the other one's endeavours to tackle the very same problem as they might both be having different approach to the same target.

Consequently to the explanation given above, I would find it very hard, and unrealistic of me to prognosticate the reasons that might have culminated in the failure of my predecessors in obtaining possible solutions to such departmental problems.

INKATHA COMMITTED TO BLOEMFONTEIN IDEAL OF NATIONHOOD

"Shaka set out to build a society in which no person would ever again be punished for being the child of his or her parents. Inkatha seeks to create a nation in which the person shall realise the promise of Ukuba ngumuntu regardless of races, colour or sex".



Mr J.K. Ngubane . . . explains UBUNTU-BOTHO ideal.

The history of the Zulu-speaking people in the last two hundred years has been the continuing translation into experience of a unifying ideal of nationhood whose roots lie in a philosophy

which defines the person in universally valid terms.

The ideal has been passed on to us by, among others, the Court Poet (Imbongi) to Senzangakhona the father of Shaka the Great. In the

Court Poem (Izibongo) he composed in honour of Senzangakhona, who ruled over the tiny nome which knew itself as the Zulu people, the Court Poet exhorted Senzangakhona's followers to rise from their situation of weakness and poverty and traverse universes in the search for more satisfying dimensions of being human. This is how he stated his ideal of nationhood:

Raise me from the depths (of deprivation)

To heights (of achievement) lift me,
So that with grain I may return;
The grain to winnow;
The grain to cook.