

SPEECH DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF CELEBRATING THE 18<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY OF FREEDOM IN SOUTH AFRICA: UNION BUILDINGS

**“WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE UNITY IN DIVERSITY”**

27 APRIL 2012

SIPHO MFUNDISI

PRESIDENT: United Christian Democratic Party

When late, in 1993, word went round that the date 27 April 1994 is sacrosanct for the first democratic elections, it sounded like madness because of the tension that covered the country at the time. But looking back, 18 years later one realises that it was a worthwhile decision.

Out of that date we are settled with a teenage country bearing all characteristics of a teenager. Like a teenager the country is boosting its self-esteem to increase interactions with other nations. Teenagers are argumentative, aggressive, temperamental, uncertain and self-conscious. Our country is in that mould. We argue and debate over issues in the interest of our country.

We come from diverse backgrounds. Some are rich, others are an embodiment of poverty. Some are religious; others agnostic. Some have gone to school others have no idea of how a classroom looks like. Some are conservative while others are liberal; some are inclined to the right and others to the centre or even the left. We all speak in our different languages to promote the course of South Africa, the land of sunshine.

With all these concomitant differences South Africans speak in one voice in respect of their love for their country. We are all prepared to strain our last sinews to serve this country and promote its well being.

We do all these being cautious that we are involved with a teenager country whose interests have to be nursed with the greatest care by all who live in it regardless of their political background.

We in the UCDP believe that our path into the future was well chosen: its strength is calculated to endure but its cement and the fuel that will propel success along this path has to, and must come from us members of the different parties. It is simply not enough to vote for your representative or party provincially or nationally and perhaps your councillor. You have to actively take up your destiny with the full realisation that each one is ultimately responsible for his own success or otherwise.

One product born of us that we can pride ourselves in is the Constitution of the country which is rated as second to none in the world. After all we are not second class people in the world. Each and every one who lives in this country has a duty to himself or herself and to the country to be absolutely familiar with the Constitution. Each one of us has to know and apply the checks and balances contained in the Constitution because not to know your legal rights and remedies is to hamper the progress of the entire country.

In conclusion Programme Director let me on behalf of my party the United Christian Democratic Party state it in unambiguous terms that we reaffirm our determination to act responsibly in everything we do. We affirm irrevocable commitment to the Constitution of the Republic, especially in the fields of human rights, the rule of law, respect for human dignity and the free enterprise system.

Programme Director, with these views and statement of intent, that I have been privileged to share with you, I wish you well in the deliberations.

I thank you

Ke a leboga

Ndiyabulela