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STATEMENT BY DR GERRIT VILJOEN, MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

The State President, Mr F W de Klerk, has taken a number of major steps towards creating a climate for negotiations in South Africa - steps that have gone beyond the expectations of virtually all political observers and commentators. These steps call for a thoroughgoing re-evaluation of the whole situation by all potential participants to the negotiations. It has become incumbent on all of them to reconsider and adjust their own positions, and not just reiterate further pre-conditions.

The extent of the State President's measures and the seriousness of purpose as well as the sincerity behind them would surely make it a puny and small-minded response to persist in comparing them with the items on a shopping list that has been overtaken by events.

These large strides towards bridging the gulf of mistrust now call for a proper response in the form of meaningful steps from the opposite side, for example regarding the question of sanctions. The argument behind sanctions has been that they were necessitated in order to persuade the Government through pressure to embark on serious reform. No doubt can any longer exist that the Government is indeed serious in its commitment to real reform. Therefore the appropriateness of sanctions has to be seen in an entirely new light and sanctions should be expeditiously withdrawn.

Another meaningful step would be a clear willingness to enter into discussions with the Government about remaining obstacles toward negotiation - instead of continuing the process of harping on pre-conditions.

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Unbanning an organisation is not equal to approval of the policy of that organisation. It only means that the fight against such a policy has shifted to the political arena. The Government has moved the focus from violent conflict to public debate. That debate has now started and must take its course.

This debate is on issues vitally affecting all South Africans. It calls therefore for the participation not only of politicians. Especially as far as the economy of the new South Africa is concerned, all interested sectors such as economists, academics and business leaders must come forward and give account of themselves.

The ideologies as well as the political and economic systems of Communism and the Socialism and nationalisation of big industries propounded by the ANC have been discredited world-wide, in Eastern Europe, in Russia and in Africa. The naiveté and irresponsibility of advocating such utter failures for the new South Africa should be clearly exposed.

The need for socio-economic advancement and improved quality of life for all our people is generally accepted. But the new South Africa needs a viable and proven economic system to produce the growth and wealth needed for such advancement and improvement.

CAPE TOWN

13 FEBRUARY 1990

LON222

Y ABX 02-13 0119

PPA666 AXW

MANDELA-RESPONSE

CAPE TOWN FEB 13 SAPA

THE GOVERNMENT DISAGREED WITH CERTAIN VIEWS ENUNCIATED BY ANC LEADER MR NELSON MANDELA SINCE HIS RELEASE ON SUNDAY BUT FELT, OVERALL, THAT THEY SHOULD BE SEEN AS HAVING BEEN MADE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF CURRENT LONG-STANDING ANC POLICY WHICH NEEDED TO BE REVISED; THE MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DR GERRIT VILJOEN, SAID ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

IN THE FIRST TOP-LEVEL GOVERNMENT REACTION TO MR MANDELA'S RELEASE SPEECH AND OTHER UTTERANCES, DR VILJOEN TOLD AN INTERNATIONAL NEWS CONFERENCE MR MANDELA HAS ALSO MADE STATEMENTS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMED.

IT WAS, HOWEVER, AWAITING AN AUTHORITATIVE RESPONSE FROM THE ANC'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

MORE /DUZ/ /GAD

LON224

U AP 02-13 0124

PPA667 FLA

MANDELA-RESPONSE 2 CT

THE GOVERNMENT SPECIFICALLY DISAGREED WITH WITH MR MANDELA'S VIEWS ON SANCTIONS, THE ARMED STRUGGLE AND ECONOMIC NATIONALISATION,

IT HAD BECOME INCUMBENT ON ALL WITHIN THE ANC TO READJUST THEIR POSITIONS.

DR VILJOEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMED MR MANDELA'S DESCRIPTION OF PRESIDENT F W DE KLERK AS MAN OF INTEGRITY; THAT A CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED SO THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO MORE NEED FOR THE ARMED STRUGGLE; AND HIS REJECTION OF BLACK AND WHITE DOMINATION.

DR VILJOEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT FELT THE APTNESS OF SANCTIONS SHOULD BE SEEN IN A NEW LIGHT FOLLOWING THE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT ACTIONS AND SHOULD BE SYSTEMATICALLY WITHDRAWN.

MORE /DUZ/ /GAD

LON226

U ABX 02-13 0084

PPA668 FLA

MANDELA-RESPONSE 3 CT

THE UNBANNING OF AN ORGANISATION WAS NOT EQUAL TO SUPPORTING THE POLICIES OF THAT ORGANISATION.

PRESIDENT DE KLERK'S STEPS REQUIRED A COUNTER-REACTION FROM A GROUP LIKE THE ANC.

THE DEBATE ON SOUTH AFRICA'S FUTURE CALLED FOR PARTICIPATION BY ALL POLITICIANS, AND OTHERS SUCH AS BUSINESS LEDERS.

DR VILJOEN SAID THE ANC ALSO NEEDED TO READJUST ITS ECONOMIC POLICY, AS SOCIALISM HAD BEEN DISCREDITED ALL OVER THE WORLD.

MORE /DUZ/ /GAD

LON231

U AB 02-13 0103

PPA671 FLA

MANDELA-RESPONSE 4 CT

THERE SEEMED TO BE MEASURE OF CONFUSION AMONG SOME ANC LEADERS ON SOME ISSUES, AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWAITING THE CONSIDERED RESPONSE OF THE ORGANISATION'S EXECUTIVE.

DR VILJOEN SAID THERE WAS STILL ENOUGH COMMON GROUND BETWEEN THE ANC AND THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE ON THE PATH TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

HE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY MR MANDELA'S VIEWS ON THE CONCERNS OF WHITES AND BY THE "CLEAR WAY IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED HIS ASSESSMENT OF MR DE KLERK AS A FUTURE LIKELY PARTNER WITH HIM IN NEGOTIATION."

MORE /DUZ/ /GAD

LON236

U ABX 02-13 0118

PPA675 FLA

MANDELA-RESPONSE 5 CT

MR MANDELA'S REMARKS ON THE ARMED STRUGGLE HAD "NOT BEEN HELPFUL", BUT THEY HAD TO BE SEEN WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF HIS COMMITMENT TO PRESENT ANC STRATEGIES.

MR MANDELA HAD ALSO CLEARLY EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL PREFERENCE FOR A PEACEFUL PROCESS.

DR VILJOEN SAID THERE WAS NO RATIONALE LEFT WITHIN THE ANC'S REASONING FOR CONTINUING THE ARMED STRUGGLE.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE ANC, BUT WAS NOT PREPARED, ON THE OTHER HAND, "SIMPLY TO GIVE OVER POWER."

IF THAT WAS WHAT THE ANC MEANT BY CONTINUING THE ARMED STRUGGLE, IT COULD BE AN IMPEDIMENT TO FURTHER NEGOTIATION.

MORE /DUZ/ /GAD

LON241

U ABX 02-13 0101

PPA678 FLA

MANDELA-RESPONSE 6 CT

THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT FEEL IT HAD UNLEASHED A FORCE IT MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CONTROL, AND IT HAD TO BE REMEMBERED THAT IT STILL HAD FORMIDABLE SECURITY FORCES AT ITS DISPOSAL.

THE ANC HAD ALSO ADMITTED THAT ITS ARMED STRUGGLE HAD NOT MADE REAL PROGRESS.

DR VILJOEN SAID THAT WHAT MR MANDELA HAD SAID ABOUT PRESIDENT DE KLERK SHOWED A GENEROSITY AND WARMTH -- AS HAD SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY MR DE KLERK ABOUT MR MANDELA.

"I THINK THERE IS A MUTUAL RESPECT."

MORE /DUZ/ /GAD

LON243

U ABX 02-13 0109

PPA679 FLA

MANDELA-RESPONSE 7 CT

THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM WAS TO SHIFT THE FIELD OF THE FIGHT FROM VIOLENCE TO THE POLITICAL ARENA.

THE NEW SOUTH AFRICA DEMANDED CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL MEANS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF ALL, ESPECIALLY THE POOR, AND THIS DID NOT INCLUDE NATIONALISATION.

DR VILJOEN SAID AN ESSENTIAL ASPECT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY WAS TO ELIMINATE RACE AS A FACTOR DEFINING GROUPS WHERE DISCRIMINATION WAS CONCERNED.

BUT RACE WAS A REALITY IN SOUTH AFRICA AND SHOULD BE ACCOMMODATED WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION.

THE NP HAD CLEARLY COMMITTED ITSELF TO ABANDONING ANY RELIC OF WHITE DOMINATION.

MORE /DUZ/ /GAD

LON249

U ABX 02-13 0151

PPA683 FLA

MANDELA-RESPONSE 8 LAST CT

DR VILJOEN REITERATED THAT THE NATIONAL PARTY WAS UNLIKELY TO BE IN CONTROL IN 10 YEARS' TIME, BUT THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY STILL HAVE A MEANINGFUL ROLE.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD REMAIN THE GOVERNMENT UNTIL A NEW CONSTITUTION WAS PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT.

HE CONSIDERED THE RECENT GENERAL ELECTION AS THE LAST ONE IN WHICH BLACKS WOULD NOT TAKE PART.

AT THE LATEST BY THE END OF ITS PRESENT FIVE-YEAR TERM, THE CURRENT PARLIAMENT SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO LEGISLATE A NEW CONSTITUTION.

WHITE ATTITUDES HAD CHANGED DRAMATICALLY OVER THE PAST 27 YEARS ABOUT THE EMANCIPATION OF ALL SOUTH AFRICANS TO TAKE PART IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS.

HE FAILED TO SEE HOW THE US COULD PERSIST WITH SANCTIONS IN THE LIGHT OF THE SINCERITY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ACTIONS FOR CHANGE.

SAPA /DVZ/ /GAD

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