



SUNDAY SUN Sunday 4 April 2010

NOW HEAR THIS! WITH **KENNETH MESHOE**

Unity makes us strong but disunity zaps us!

THE TWO MAJOR things that disappointed me this past week were the reports that the ANC has decided to appeal against the South Gauteng High Court ruling that the words dubul' ibhunu were unlawful and unconstitutional and should therefore not be used; and the allegations by two Sunday newspapers that the Orlando Pirates chairman was planning an attempted "coup" at Safa House.

While the accused has denied the allegations, the question is whether such allegations are doing any harm to our credibility and our international image or not.

It is reported that the Safa executive has decided to investigate this matter and then take appropriate action.

My question is whether the timing of the investigation and subsequent action is correct or not, and whether the said executive will not be sidetracked from finalising the preparations for the Fifa Soccer Cup.

What will be in the best interest of soccer in our country, and how can all those involved in this saga put the Fifa World Cup first?

I'm just asking.

Is the ruling party's decision to take the banning of the words "dubul' ibhunu" by the high court to the Constitutional Court a wise decision?

Is it possible to be a nation builder while calling on people to "shoot the boer" at the same time?

Is it wise to sing about "shoot the boer" while farmers are being shot at and killed, a matter that even the police say they are concerned about?"

Is singing the song about "shoot the boer" perpetuating reconciliation or hatred? Is it not inciting violence?

I'm just asking.

I fully agree that the struggle for our freedom was declared as just by the entire world, but I don't believe the same people of the world will agree with a call to "shoot the boers" in our 16-year-old democracy.

One of the greatest musicians, who happened to be King David, once said, "behold how beautiful and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

In echoing his sentiments, we can also say "behold how beautiful and how pleasant it is for citizens, team members, and workers to dwell together in unity.

As the eyes of the world are now fixed on the first African country to host the Fifa Soccer World Cup, many are hoping it will be a major success while others don't wish us any success.

Divisive songs about shooting to kill others and allegations of attempted coups at Safa are undermining the greatest opportunity we have to prove to the World that South Africans can successfully host the cup in great style and much fanfare.

This is the best time to sing and talk about unity, and the ideal time to promote unity among leaders, particularly in politics and in sports.

We should not allow our narrow selfish interests to blow away this excellent opportunity we have.

UNITY IS STRENGTH. It is beautiful, pleasing and refreshing. While unity renews our strength, disunity zaps our strength.

May I appeal to all those who truly love this nation and want to see it prosper, to please do a little more to challenge all South Africans to contribute to unity at home, at school, at work, at Safa House, and in all sporting fraternities in our country?

We now have less than 70 days before hundreds of thousands of tourists and soccer fans descend on us. May they find a peaceful and united nation that will cause them to say, "Yes, their unity is pleasant to see, it is refreshing and fulfilling".

■ **The Rev Kenneth Meshoe MP is the president of the African Christian Democratic Party**