

Inkhosi Nhlanhlayamangwe

Ndiweni.



Lo Ongange Ndlovu , Wena Uyisilo , Umkhulu Umkhulu Wamangwe , Emkheswa , Emdladla ,

UMdadla Odlá Amandla Akhe , Enjola , Njola Ka Mkheswa , Madanga , Endinisane Ka Thambo , Esethukase , Othwalabesabe , Entazikusela Yase Mangweni , Elodunga Kandaba , Amalebe Omfula , Emadlolongwane , Ibhulasi benkosi , Ubuhlasi Bendlunkulu , Elingwe limqongo , Ilingwe lasemangweni , Amangwe , Amangwe-amqobo , Imputhi yamahlathi , Izezwe lezezwane

The Chiefs Residence

Ntabazinduna

P.Bag 5285 Q

Bulawayo

nfndiweni@gmail.com

PRESS STATEMENT

THE FIGHT FOR NTABAZINDUNA MOUNTAIN

THE CAMPIAGN BEGINS ON ALL FRONTS

LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

12th April 2019

The rule of law is fundamental to any functioning democracy. The slightest hint that this principle has been infringed or compromised in any way what's so ever should cause us all to be concerned. This principle is far far above politics, for it defines the rules of that society.

Any Law is mankind's attempt to tabulate or rather define the definition of what we know as " Justice ". Justice is a complex phenomena that is intangible yet we all instinctively feel it. Some thing happens and we can all feel from the base of our stomachs whether it is right or wrong. We do not need the services of a lawyer or court of law to feel that sense of " justice ". Justices is a gift from The Almighty. It is something spiritual that manifests into the physical realm.

The attempted eviction of the Parson / Davis family from Ntabazinduna mountain has touched our sense of justice in a most profound manner and every part of our being is screaming out, that this is unjust .

When something is unjust, no amount of politics, propaganda, public relations or silence will make it just. This assault upon the Parson / Davis family is unjust irrespective of what anyone may say.

Should it be effected upon the Parson / Davis family then our current Administration will pay a very heavy price indeed , from within the country, in the region and from the international world. Traditional leaders will be at the forefront of this campaign.

The College of Amakhosi is asking all of those who have that sense of justice within them, from where ever they are in the country and the world, to join hands with us in our campaign.

The College of Amakhosi's emissaries in the region, further afield in the international arena will require assistance. They will representation to every organisation and government this Administration has tried to engage and nullify that attempt, continuously, until justice for the Parson / Davis family is attained.

The College of Amakhosi rejects and deplores what this Administration is doing on Ntabazinduna Mountain. In order to change the mind-set of this Administration, strong and robust action must be taken against it.

The Parson / Davis family are a part of the Ntabazinduna family. An attack on this family is an attack upon the whole of the Ntabazinduna family. An attack upon the Ntabazinduna family is an attack upon the whole Ndebele Nation family.

The College of Amakhosi (Chiefs) has a memberships of Chiefs from All provinces in the country and they are fully behind Inkhosi Nhlamlayamangwe Ndiweni's position on this. For he is the custodian of Ntabazinduna Mountain on behalf of the people of Ntabazinduna and the whole Ndebele Nation. His legal and constitutional responsibilities are to maintain and protect the customs, traditions, practises , customs, norms and history of his people. Ntabazinduna Mountain embodies all of these legal and constitutional responsibilities.

The Amakhosi (chiefs) local people, Parson / Davis , white commercial farmers , black commercial farmers, workers on all commercial farms and Ndebele nation , are of one mind on this matter.

With regard to the Land Reform program, Mike Campbell's case was binding at the High Court. It advocated that the program was being rolled out in an illegal manner, with regard to commercial white farmers and that the whole program should be looked at again. The Administration chose not to abide by that

ruling. The farmers (78) and their workers then took this matter to the Sadac Tribunal Court in Nov 2008. This is our Highest Court in the Sadac Region. They won their case. This Administration chose to also ignore this courts ruling. In 2012 , this Administration was found to be in contempt of the Sadac Tribunal Court. This Administration then chose to nullify the court by designing and signing a new treaty that basically abolished the Sadac Tribunal Court. A treaty that basically denied all citizens of Sadac the recourse to appeal to the Highest Court in our Region. This Administration did not manage to obtain all of the Sadac signatories to make this happen. In 2018 December , the Farmers took the matter to the Constitutional Court of South Africa, stating that this Treaty was illegal and ill conceived. They won their case. The Constitutional Judge was very scathing indeed about the hand of this Administration in this whole affair. Words such as “ irrational, unlawful, unconstitutional, plotting, systematic “ were used. Basically stating that the Administration had conducted its self in a corrupt and underhand hand manner!

The South African Government will receive litigation against it to the tune of some R2 billion Rands for its part in this regrettable story. Our Administration will also incur significant costs, as a direct result of this program and its affront towards the law.

Our Regional Tribunal is currently frozen because of this incident, whilst other Regional Tribunals across the African continent are functioning well. The citizens of those regions can access a Higher Court outside of their country that they can appeal to them if they feel that their own courts , judiciary have been politically corrupted.

Hence when it comes to the Parsons / Davis farm which is on Ntabazinduna Mountain, The College of Amakhosi holds firm to the judgements that have emanated from the Sadac Tribunal Court. This is the Highest Court in our Region. Hence The College Of Amakhosi is adopting a wholly legal stance. Therefore all other court rulings regarding this matter , that do not follow the Sadc Tribunal rulings will not be followed since those rulings are clearly out of step with the Highest court in our Region.

The College of Amakhosi are therefore beginning a campaign that will return the Parsons / Davis family on the mountain and that the voice of Traditional Leaders (Amakhosi) must be taken note of in such matters. This campaign is also seeking that the District Land committee (Umguzu) be abolished because it has clearly failed in its duties. Likewise with the MAT. North Provincial Land committee. Likewise with those who have been dealing with this matter in the ministers office, with responsibilities for such matters to be removed. And if the said minister had a hand in this matter, then for him to be immediately removed from that portfolio

Hence The College of Amakhosi (Chiefs) are calling for the US Government and European Union to immediately increase and tighten all the sanctions and travel restricts they have applied to date against this Administration. For it is evident that this Administration is only playing lip service to the reforms identified by the international community. Indeed by the evidence of what is happening on Ntabazinduna mountain, this Administration is still engaged in evicting farmers in the most inhuman way. This eviction does not have any high moral ethos or political ideology attached to it at all, but has everything to do with corruption and basic thuggery. This eviction does not recognise the local people of Ntabazinduna or indeed the whole of Matabeleland. This eviction does not recognise the customs, practises, traditions, norms and history of the whole Ndebele Nation in this country. This eviction has impoverished the local people all for the sake of a corrupt few individuals. This eviction has already made local people unemployed with absolutely no prospects at all, of them gaining a lively hood elsewhere. This eviction is making families destitute. As a result families are not able to pay for medical treatment or medication because of this eviction. The children of families are now being turned away from local schools because the parents are unable to pay the school fees, because of this eviction. The stress on family lives is now unbearable, because of this eviction. The human suffering caused by this eviction nullifies any possible advantages one may seek to obtain by this eviction.

There is only one reason for this eviction and that is political corruption at the expense of a whole community and the lack of respect for the Ndebele Nation with its customs, traditions and history.

It is an eviction that The College of Amakhosi and the Ndebele Nation totally and emphatically rejects. It is an eviction that will never be accepted and will continuously be challenged on the ground, locally, regionally and internationally. Hence The College of Amakhosi's opening stance that the US Government and European Union must significantly increase the applied sanctions and travel restrictions placed upon this Administration. For by its conduct it is clearly taking them as fools. A most regrettable stance.

Relaxing or removing the sanctions upon this Administration will only serve to make life even harder for the local people. For if the Administration does not currently respect humanity, whilst it has conditions placed upon it, one only has to imagine what it will do when there are no conditions. Corruption, both financial and political, will rule even more, since the judiciary is still not effective and has also been corrupted. A good Administration would never in a million years proceed with such an eviction, which is a disaster for the family concerned and the local people.

Mountains are Holy places. They have been thus since the beginning of time and are made reference to in many holy scriptures across the world. And in keeping with this it is always the local indigenous peoples who are assigned the duty and responsibility to look after them.

Exodus 3;1 “ One day while Moses was taking care of the sheep and goats of his father – in – law Jethro, the priest of Midian, he led the flock across the desert and came to Sinai, the Holy Mountain. “ This is the beginning of the great conversation between The Almighty and Moses via the burning bush. The conversation where God says “ I AM WHO I AM . The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob “. Exodus 24; 12-18 “ The Lord said to Moses, Come up the mountain to me, and while you are here I will give you two stone tablets which contain all the laws Moses went up Mount Sinai and a cloud covered it “ . Indeed there are many scriptures both in the Old and New testament that are anchored on Holy Mountains e.g. The Mount Of Olives.

Hence mountains are not just mountains and especially those that have been identified and have a meaning or history behind them.

The Parson / Davis family have lived on the Ntabazinduna Mountain for many decades, by consent from the local Traditional leaders. The late Paramount Chief Kahyisa Ndiweni fought to keep the family there, even at the beginning of the farm evictions. The Late Paramount Chief was a chief in office for 71 years and during his rule insisted that the Parson / Davis family remain on Ntabazinduna Mountain. There were strong reasons for that and those reasons still remain till this day. Hence the new chief , Inkhosi Nhlanhlayamangwe Ndiweni of Ntabazinduna is also fighting to keep the Parson / Davis family on Ntabazinduna Mountain.

The Parson / Davis family are an integral part of the Ntabazinduna Community. They had one of the biggest piggeries in the country and as a result they employed a large local work force. The Ntabazinduna community sold their grains to the Parson / Davis piggery for feed. The Parson / Davis family were also very active in the local Ntabazinduna Community through local schools , the clinic, pig out growing scheme, gender issues, youth issues, training needs and sponsorship. The Ntabazinduna Community took them in as not just neighbours but as family. Hence in the Parson / Davis families hour of need , the Ntabazinduna Community is standing shoulder to shoulder with them.

The piggery has been demolished one Floyd Ambrose. Floyd Ambrose is not from Ntabazinduna but was taken on as a game keeper. Next to the piggery was a formidable wild game sanctuary. The wild game was extensive and records prove that indeed this was a professional operation. Hence Floyd Ambrose was trained within this field. However, the farm invasions destroyed

the whole wild game reserve. The species variety of wild game was large and so were their numbers, which was an indication of the families good ethical wild game practises. Floyd Ambrose then suddenly put in an application to get the whole of the Parson / Davis farm and Ntabazinduna Mountain.

Through corruption Floyd Ambrose got a part of the farm and immediately gutted the whole game lodge. A lodge was burnt and infrastructure was demolished and sold off. He then also proceeded to demolish the infrastructure for the piggery, selling off roofing, doors, window, piping e.t.c. Floyd Ambrose then engaged in deforestation of the Sacred Ntabazinduna Mountain. He also engaged in gold panning on the Sacred Ntabazinduna Mountain. There is evidence of fires all over the Sacred Ntabazinduna Mountain. There is also evidence of defecation all over the Sacred Ntabazinduna Mountain. Any people that regard a particular place as being sacred or of spiritual value , would be incensed .

This Administration still supports Floyd Ambrose taking the Sacred Ntabazinduna Mountain and its surrounding farm. This is besides the fact that Floyd Ambrose completely destroyed everything. Floyd Ambrose then vacated the mountain and farm. The Parson / Davis family returned supported by the locals of Ntabazinduna and rebuilt the lodge and are in the process of also rebuilding the piggery. Floyd Ambrose supported by this Administration now wants to return back to the mountain and farm.

They obtained a dubious magistrates eviction order against the Parson / Davis family. We say “ dubious “ because the judiciary under this Administration has been thoroughly corrupted. Corruption in the judiciary is the second oldest profession after prostitution. One finds this when looking at the very first job description for a judge, Exodus 18;21- 22 “ They must be God-fearing men who can be trusted and who cannot be bribed . Let them serve as judges for the people on a permanent basis “ . Exodus 23;6 “ Do not deny justice to a poor person when he appears in court “/ Exodus 23;8 “ Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe makes people blind to what is right and ruins the cause of those who are innocent “. Hence, there will be those from this Administration who will profess to be legal and law abiding in respecting the law. Alas our judiciary has been corrupted and we have seen it at close quarters. Hence we say the Administration obtained a dubious eviction order.

In the cold light of day Floyd Ambrose, can not, should not, must not be allowed to return to the Sacred Ntabazinduna Mountain, under any circumstances. The College of Amakhosi only accepts The Parson / Davis family living on the mountain, with good reasons.

Over the last four plus years Inkhosi Nhlanhlayamangwe Ndiweni of Ntabazinduna has engaged the various offices on this matter. He has directly

engaged The District Lands Committee on many occasions. From this office he was then directed to the Chief Lands Officer Mr. Nkiwane The District Lands Committee and the Chief Lands Officer Mr. Nkiwane all stated that there was no problem and that they understood that it was a flawed process and an error with regard to Floyd Ambrose. Of note how ever, with the benefit of hind sight they always said this nervously, as if they were aware of something else. Inkhosi also engaged The Provincial Lands Committee on many occasions and was directed to once again Mr. Nkiwane (0772861996) and also to Mr. Graham (0778185308). Once again they all continued to state that there was nothing wrong and that the Floyd Ambrose matter was an error and that it was easily correctable, nervously. Further to this Inkhosi also went to The Ministry of Lands and Agriculture in Harare on a number of times, in order to deal with this matter. A great deal of paper work was submitted to the department on all of these levels, hence no one can bleed innocent of the facts pertaining to this issue.

This matter is a very serious matter that is now beginning to open up a number of related issues that are very difficult. A conversation that will now unearth the depth of land corruption in Umguza District and MAT.North. We are aware that it may be the same in other areas.

We will only relent when our objective has been achieved, i.e. the Parson / Davis family back on the Mountain, with the Traditional leaders in full charge and control of that Sacred Mountain.