

POLICY STATEMENT No. 1

**PRIME MINISTER
ADDRESSES STATE
BANQUET IN
NORTH KOREA**

OCTOBER 9, 1980

ZIMBABWE

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The following is the text of a speech by the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, Mr. Robert Mugabe, at a state banquet given by Kim Il Sung at Pyongyang, North Korea, on October 9, 1980.

When one man meets another and establishes friendship, the event is no doubt significant and memorable. But when the meeting is that of two men of the same political and ideological persuasion, and the ensuing friendship becomes a binding alliance between them in the advancement of set identical revolutionary goals, the occasion is not merely significant but truly historic and honourable.

It was in 1978 that I first came to Pyongyang in quest of military aid for a national struggle whose objectives were the freedom of my people from settler-colonialist oppression, the achievement of sovereign independence and democracy. I had before then only heard and read about the great Korean leader, Kim Il Sung. My memory of our first meeting is still extremely vivid. He had heard, he said, all about me and the national struggle I was leading. My request for aid would thus be granted substantially as submitted because our just cause was also the just cause of the Korean people and the Workers' Party of Korea. And aid truly was given us in accordance with that undertaking.

What a great close friend and indispensable ally Kim Il Sung became. What a great event the meeting became as the first joint physical step in the forging of an alliance between the Workers' Party of Korea and the Zimbabwe African National Union. Indeed, as we on that occasion met and planned the means of lending effectiveness to the Zimbabwean revolution, we were also meeting to unite the valiant people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with the gallant people of the would-be Republic of Zimbabwe. We had in reality defied our geographical apartness; and as we merged our principles and objectives and pooled together our resources towards their achievement we had also successfully blended our revolutions into one. Two years later we scored a joint brilliant victory over the forces of imperialism, colonialism and racism which had for decades resisted our democratic-revolutionary struggle.

Kim Il Sung, may I say no greater honour could have been conferred on me, my party, government and people than to be invited, only five-and-half months after my party's election victory

and the attainment of our independence, to visit this great country and renew acquaintances with its great leader, its great party and its great people. Accordingly, I come to you with messages of warm congratulations upon the holding of the Sixth Congress and 35th Anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea. I also bring you cordial greetings, profound gratitude and great admiration from our Zimbabwean workers and peasants.

We hail and salute you for two reasons. The first is that you fought heroically and defeated a common enemy — imperialism and colonialism — on your territory. The second is that you used your political victory to achieve yet another victory in the socio-economic sphere of your country.

We also express our profound gratitude to you as we begin the first phase of our independence for using your own political and military victory to achieve our victory, as indeed you had used your victory to achieve the victory of Mozambique.

We admire you for your persistent quest for the just cause of the reunification of your country and for the consistent emphasis you lay on the principle that the people of Korea are entitled to be masters of their own destiny on the basis of the *Juche* Idea. Our admiration grows greater when we notice that in spite of the greatest amount of provocation from the undemocratic and counter-revolutionary regime in South Korea you have continued to advocate the path of peaceful settlement of the Korean problem.

We lend you maximum support in your just endeavours and trust that the United States will accede to the wishes of the Korean people, recognise their right of self-determination and gracefully withdraw from the region so the Korean people can become masters in their own home without any interference from foreign quarters.

I believe the unity of our forces in the context of the victory and independence we have achieved in Zimbabwe is both the means and base for consolidating our relations in new dimensions. True, the anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist struggle must continue until both our regions are rid of the remaining imperialist forces in their southern parts. Yet we have, in our case, now to use our independence as an instrument for achieving the economic goals of our revolution. We have to deliver economic benefits on our

golden independence plate. It is in pursuance of this objective that we would wish to see our friendship and alliance being consolidated. We welcome in this regard the visit to our country, recently paid by a high-powered Korean delegation, to discuss areas of common action.

When, soon after our independence, I sent to Pyongyang a delegation headed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, I had in mind this same exercise of extending our relations to the economic, scientific and cultural sectors. I trust the visits we have paid to each other have furnished us with enough knowledge of the most important and most urgent areas of co-operation. My delegation will, in addition to participating in the great historical event of the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party and the Thirty-fifth Anniversary of its founding, be interested in discussions between our two sides leading to the establishment of mutually beneficial relations in the areas I have mentioned above, namely the economic, scientific and cultural areas.

As we visualise the revolutionary process in Zimbabwe, the phase of national armed struggle now over, the immediate post-independence phase becomes inevitably one to repair the damage inflicted upon both the human and physical structures of the economy.

As we analyse the situation, the programmes we must fulfil is that aimed at *Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction*. The resettlement and rehabilitation of our population involves nearly 2,5 million persons displaced by the war, only 200,000 to 250,000 of whom were refugees in Mozambique, Zambia and Botswana.

Land is the basis of such resettlement programme and land can only result from acquisition by the state from the white commercial sector. The state is constitutionally unable to acquire this land unless it financially can compensate the white farmer for the land acquired from him.

Our lack of funds is naturally rendering the process of resettlement rather slow. But where resettlement has begun as a result of land having become available, the view of my party and government is that such resettlement must be on a viable economic basis recognising a system of co-operative or collective units. We would gladly appreciate your placing at our disposal your expertise

and experience in this field so we can benefit by them in our new endeavours to organise and socialise our peasant agriculture so it can become more economic and lift itself from a merely subsistence level.

The task of reconstruction is one which encompasses various areas of the socio-economic field as they straddle across it. The essential social services like education and health were, not only originally inadequate among the peasants and the working masses, but also impaired either by disruption or destruction from the war. The road and rail systems suffered similarly during the war and so did the rural businesses. Reconstruction thus is a comprehensive process of repair and extension of the services most essential to the lives of the rural population.

It is our hope that our resettlement, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes will operate to alleviate the population pressures upon the cities and industrialised areas and result in the eventual decentralisation of industries. Your experience here will be rewarding to us to the extent that we find them to have a bearing on our own situation.

We reckon that the crucial resettlement period will last some two years. Indeed, we are already working on a development plan extending over a period of three to four years aimed at bringing about real expansion in the economic and social fields.

I have given you a brief background to our problems and the solutions we envisage for them. We reckon, however, that the success of the plans we have depends, among other things, upon the consolidation of our peace and independence. This is why I have time and time again appealed for greater understanding and reconciliation among our people, either across the political party line or across the colour line.

Our policy of reconciliation is based on the principle that the change which we have achieved, namely the democratic system which has replaced the racial settler-dominated political order, must be accepted without qualification by all. Secondly, if those who have been overthrown as the overlords of an undemocratic racial system fully accept the new system and the government democratically elected under it, then those who have become the dominant political element must be prepared to forgive the past

sins of the former and join hands with them in a new spirit emanating from a single loyalty to the country and commitment to our independence. In the circumstances in which my party found itself after elections as the victor, it became imperative to unite in government ZANU and ZAPU so as to lay a basis for national unity.

I am glad that in gradual stages peace is getting consolidated as our people adjust to each other and reorientate their attitudes in the establishment of new positive relations. In the process of achieving the desirable equilibrium in human relations a few acts of violence are unavoidable as the negative but insignificant features of an otherwise successful process.

Great success awaits our efforts, despite the acts of sabotage by South Africa and other internal reactionary forces. The people of Zimbabwe remain as determined to safeguard their hard-won independence as they were to achieve it.

During the liberation war the people of Zimbabwe fought a relentless struggle against a combination of imperialist and settler-puppet reactionary forces. The enemy combination included the forces of the South African regime right up to the time of our first democratic elections in February this year. When imperialist reactionary favourites were dismally rejected and dislodged by the people at the election polls and the verdict favoured the revolutionary forces that we represent, South Africa panicked.

She panicked because she dreaded the thought of a revolutionary neighbour to her north whose influence might engender an irreversible revolutionary trend on her soil as well as strengthen SWAPO in Namibia. Accordingly, she began recruiting disloyal and reactionary elements who had served as a quasi-military and quasi-political arm of puppet Muzorewa's auxiliary force. To this day over five thousand of them have been based in the Transvaal in South Africa ready to be deployed in Zimbabwe, Namibia, Mozambique, Angola, or Zambia, to destabilise the situation and prevent the smooth process of economic development in our independent states.

South Africa has set herself up in our region as not only a detester of democracy but as also a manipulator and destabiliser of our hard-won democratic systems. We have refused to accord

her this status as a professional aggressor and hence we have, of necessity, to maintain our military vigilance so we can effectively repel her insidious disruptive military antics as soon as we detect the slightest signs of them.

My country has, in spite of South Africa's aggressive activities, committed itself to a policy of peaceful co-existence with all its neighbours including South Africa herself. Acting, however, on the basis of principle and in accordance with the OAU Charter and Resolutions, our young republic has refused to maintain any political and diplomatic relations with South Africa, though recognising as all our other neighbours have done the reality of existing economic ties with and dependence upon South Africa.

To lessen our economic dependence upon South Africa the nine countries of our southern African region have resolved to establish a regional system of economic co-operation between themselves. In April, this year, an agreement to this effect was signed in Lusaka by Zambia, Angola, Tanzania, Mozambique, Swaziland, Lesotho, Malawi, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. Another summit conference will take place in Maputo next November to conclude the programmes and projects that have been planned as well as to appeal to international agencies to supply funds for their implementation.

It is our belief that our political independence cannot have any real meaning and significance to our people unless it were accompanied and reinforced by economic independence as well. Our political liberation having placed into the hands of our broad masses the instrument of political power, that political power must now transform itself into economic power.

Political independence must beget economic independence. One notes with a deep sense of admiration that the victorious people of Korea, guided by your wise leadership and the *Juche* idea, have in addition to being their own political masters also become their own economic masters. We who have just attained our political independence have thus your own example and experience to learn from.

It cannot be denied that the achievement of political and economic independence by the unwavering people of Korea was also made possible by the adherence to the policy of non-align-

ment. Our young Republic of Zimbabwe has declared itself as a non-aligned state. We believe that the adoption of this posture places us in a sphere where we cannot be the international puppets of either world bloc, at the same time as we are not restricted in our ability to make friends with members of either bloc who are prepared to become our friends on a mutual and reciprocal basis. It is also our belief that we should reinforce the voice of the Third World in demanding disarmament by the two contesting powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, so as to reduce world tension and contribute to the creation of a more peaceful world.

Your Excellency, Comrade Kim Il Sung, the achievements of the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under your leadership have been spectacular in both the political and economic fields. It cannot be doubted that the basic political instrument for the formulation of your politico-socio-economic goals and the identification of the correct means of achieving them has been the Workers' Party of Korea. The thirty-five years of existence which the party has had is a record replete with numerous experiences and outstanding victories.

Here again one admires how the party has become not only the basic instrument for galvanising the broad masses through the proletarian vanguard, but one also of formulating and presenting plans and programmes to government based on approved people-oriented policies. For, if the people are truly to be masters of their destiny in the exercise of their sovereignty, then the party which is the expression of the mind of the people as well as their collective voice must also comprise a dominant instrument of governmental policies.

Once again, I wish to congratulate the Workers' Party on its long and brilliant record of performance. The record becomes even more illustrious when it is considered that the sovereignty of the people of Korea has been put to test by a vicious and completely unjustified war waged against them in 1950 and that this challenge continues to this day as the United States unreasonably persists in upholding an out-moded posture on the question of the unification of Korea.

We admire the Workers' Party and treasure the close association between it and ZANU. May I wish the party another 35 years

of successive victories, the most important of which must inevitably be the successful reunification of Korea.

Finally, may I wish you, the great leader of the Korean people, many more years of good health so your people may continue to be illuminated by your wise advice.

Pamberi ne Chimurenga!

A luta continua!

May I invite you to drink:

- to the joint victory achieved by the joint revolutionary forces of Zimbabwe and Korea
- to the continued friendship and solidarity between the victorious people of the Republic of Zimbabwe and the valiant people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- to the continued alliance and solidarity between the Workers' Party of Korea and the Zimbabwe African National Union
- to the continued good health, guidance and leadership of the great leader, Comrade Kim Il Sung and Madam Kim Song Ao.

