

**ABORIGINAL FIRST  
INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES OF SOUTH  
AFRICA –  
QUO VADIS ?**

18 October 2020

## **!Gâi tses Aboriginal First Indigenous Peoples of South Africa, Leaders, Brothers & Sisters**

Our struggle is currently divided, fragmented and in a cul-de-sac. At the same time the marginalization, discrimination, social and economic isolation of our People in South Africa continue unabated.

We have a number of Organizations, Groups, Houses, Formations that represent our people, but none with a significant popular national mandate, support or footprint. The lack of strong decisive leadership, unity, coordination and cooperation amongst these various parties resulted in a Policy and Legislative Framework that not only deny our status as the Aboriginal First Nation of South Africa but rather entrench our division, politicize our identity, culture and co-option into the political system.

We also notice with concern the emergence of multitudes of people popping up at an alarming rate claiming false titles like "Kings, Queens, Prince's, Princesses, etc. ostensibly with no other interest but themselves. They only do damage to our reputation, identity, history, heritage and soil the heroic efforts of many stalwarts, with some of our leading lights whom unfortunately already passed on. Fortunately, we have a number of bloodline-, cultural-, other authentic leaders and organizations that for years kept our true identity and real history alive. We must appreciate, salute and honour them for the true heroes that they are. The latter carried on the struggle literally with blood, sweat and tears without the necessary resources to achieve success.

The status quo is therefor perplexing for many that are part of various initiatives that try to bring about Unity or Self Determination but even more confusing for other Stakeholders and our people on the periphery. It also created an ominous situation where it is very difficult if not impossible for the parties that have distinguished themselves with integrity over the years and decades to lead effectively. This resulted in an **impasse** where no one can claim a mandate to act, with no rules and no referee. No holistic or integrated coordination of activities or any collective strategic intent, **just utter chaos**.

**The only way out of this foul stalemate** situation is to bring all the various parties together to agree on a **framework or mechanism of cooperation** for all to **work together** on matters that is in the **common interest** to all of them and the people they claim to represent. Also, to agree on how to **develop a common overarching identity amongst our people but at the same time seek to respect and give due recognition to the unique traditions, culture of each group of sub-groups**. Likewise, to agree on all the other incidental concepts, principles, actions that will result in a clear vision and practical steps to achieve same within agreed timelines like the following as set out below in more detail, ie.

- Review of the Traditional and Khoisan Leadership Act & Rooibos Royalties Transaction
- Framing a New Paradigm that will redefine our Struggle
- Formation of a Legitimate Representative Voice

- Identification and Agreement on Common / Mutual / Shared, Short, Medium- and Long-Term Objectives
- Urgent initiation of Short-Term Interventions
- Comprehensive Funding
- Leadership Framework
- Organizational Framework
- Legal Defense Fund & Aboriginal Justice Centre
- Full Time Activists Training and deployment on Grassroots Level
- Strategic Partnerships
- Media and Comprehensive Communication Strategy
- Cultural Renaissance
- Innovative Technology
- The Castle of “Good Hope”
- Southern Africa Khoe & San Groups
- Process to Unity & Next Steps
- Summit Secretariat – Possible Interim Representative Structure
- The Fierce Urgency of Now

## **Purpose of Memorandum**

This is not an attempt to say anything new but merely trying to **crystallize the most essential actions , elements and fundamentals** that is required to **formulate a Road Map to Unity and Plan of Action** to achieve recognition of who we truly are and reclaim our Sacred Heritage.

Accordingly, it remains a work in progress waiting for the input, experience and insights of many more to become the foundation and framework that can coordinate the current disjointed efforts on the part of many different groups and factions into an integrated, holistic symphony, directing our actions and energies in one harmonious direction with urgency towards success. We cannot unravel the past but we can certainly initiate the process of being the architects of our own future.

This memorandum must be therefore be considered as a mere discussion document which aim to facilitate consensus on the way forward. As such it is obviously open for rigorous critique, amendment or supplementation.

The author(s) of this memorandum do not represent any particular group or faction and have no interest nor desire whatsoever to promote any one in particular. We are aware of various initiatives that tried to bring about unity in the past without any success. Such initiatives we nevertheless view as important milestones that we can learn from. We can also fully understand that we are all weary of new initiatives and do not claim to know any better nor guarantee any success. What we do know is that we cannot continue in the same fashion and with the same attitudes displayed to date. What we believe should happen, pressing on our conscience is set out below.

## **Our Story is the Most Remarkable in the World, but Sadly probably also the Most Tragic**

**It is the story of the Most Ancient, First, Aboriginal People that lived and cared for one of the most beautiful places on earth, without any want.** Recent DNA research shows that, for tens of thousands of years our ancestors were the largest human population on the planet. It is also a remarkable story about the resilience displayed by the descendants to endure after four centuries of extreme hardship and suffering. Their spirit remaining steadfast, irrepressible throughout, their yearning for deliverance now burning stronger than ever. **Sadly, it is a story unknown to most and begs to be chronicled and broadcasted to the world at large.** Albert Einstein aptly stated that *“If the majority knew of the root of this evil, then the road to its cure would not be long “.*

Our story must however be told with the requisite authenticity, decorum, dignity, respect, reverence and gravitas required as it has the capacity to redefine our understanding of humanity and indeed the world as we know it.

### **Colonialism**

More than 400 years ago we lost almost everything through colonialization, our land with all its resources, without which we could not continue our traditions and way of life that existed for thousands of years. More than 180 Thousand years of living sacredly in harmony with nature as God intended it to be have been ruptured, destroyed with greed, self-interest without any respect, reverence or appreciation of our uniqueness. The devastation and damage to our once pristine environment, culture, wealth is now evident and manifest in the inequality and marginalization of our people in the present.

Our ancestors were forced to learn, speak new languages and adapt to a very strange, new, brutal and oppressive reality. Our oppressors also tried to make us forget who we once were, tried to force a new identity upon us. Like lions and elephants, we were told and legislated to accept that we are Zebras, with some of us totally acquiesced and now prefer to be called such.

A quotation attributed to George Orwell (although disputed) state that *“The **most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history** “.* Our painful colonial past is a perfect case study of such a violent and destructive process. Your culture and history are considered to be the “glue “that holds a people or society together. No wonder that many of our people are adrift in the present without positive and meaningful reference points, deprived of our unique heritage, our lands, traditions from our past that can give them a sense of purpose and meaning.

## **Apartheid & Mzansi**

Apartheid entrenched our oppression and alienation from our heritage, culture, lands and resources. Further exacerbating the distortion of our history and the economic hardship and socio-economic suffering of our people. The New Democratic dispensation ushered in during 1994 created hope amongst us that at last we will be delivered. Twenty-Six years later we are still under siege socially, economically and politically.

Having fought alongside our “Black African” Brothers and Sisters for our common freedom – some of them now spectacularly betrayed us for the past 26 years - continuing the discriminatory practices and the derogatory racist “Zebra” and other bastard classifications our Oppressors foisted upon us. Denying in the process our true heritage probably with the sole aim of fraudulently laying claim to it themselves. One is left aghast with what is unfolding in front of our eyes, being discriminated against and marginalized by our former fellow comrades that suffered the same under Apartheid with us. They have the sheer audacity to violate us again.

On the other hand, our Brothers and Sisters that control the economy who never collectively apologized for the atrocities of their forefathers, continue to enjoy the fruits of the land and other resources they got from us for free, while some abusing it in the present to further enslave us and satisfy their greed.

## **The Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act**

The Khoisan Act which was intended to give recognition to us instead was introduced without any proper consultation and continue to marginalize and distort our true identity. It will continue to divide us, while providing income for the few at a very significant cost to us all - an excellent example of limited understanding, failed leadership and pursuit of self-interest. Instead of being an instrument of affirmation and liberation it rather becomes an instrument to politicise our culture which not only cause but entrench as well further division and conflict. The ones that partake in this charade reminds one of the Biblical story of Esau that traded his inheritance for a bowl of lentil soup.

## **The Rooibos Royalties Transaction**

The percentages, terms and conditions reflected in the agreement is a clear reflection of the dire lack of economic, commercial, professional and legal experience on the part of the so-called Leaders that negotiated this transaction without a mandate from the people that they claim to represent. It also reflects the greed on the part of the industry players

which totally ignore and disrespect the knowledge and rights of our people in respect of our bio economy. This agreement clearly demonstrates the significant financial damages that can result from failed leadership and lack of proper understanding of the full factual matrix in any given situation. Likewise, it illustrates the peril of participating in these types of transactions without the benefit of assistance or counsel by relevant specialized expertise to any particular subject. The recklessness, negligence and lack of a proper mandate on the part of the parties that claimed to act on our behalf however will fortunately also form the basis for declaring this agreement null and void, alternatively the substantial revision thereof.

## The Struggle Continue

One sense a new level of frustration and loss of any hope that any of the avenues pursued since 1994 will deliver what is rightfully ours. Reality is finally settling in. The Struggle is far from over for us. In fact, it has just begun.

## A New Paradigm

**A New Paradigm is Required if We ever Hope to Achieve our Objectives as a Collective.**

- We appear **unable to stand together, have no common vision and labor under grand disillusion**s about certain legal doctrines that can assist us.
- Any assertion on the part of any current Organization that claim to represent the Aboriginal First Indigenous Peoples of South Africa as a whole (at least as far as we aware of) is not correct, as **currently no one is representative of us as a people as an entire collective from both a cultural and geographical point of view.**
- We must acknowledge though that **we are not a homogenous group, we never were.** We were only labeled as such. Not all so-called Coloured or Zebra labelled People are also Aboriginal or Indigenous. Some have a distinct slave and / or preferred European history and went to lengths to keep their particular culture and traditions alive. Those that do not have any Indigenous or Aboriginal lineage and do not identify as such should accordingly be allowed to identify as they may wish or feel comfortable with. We must nevertheless guard against an exclusionary identity but rather celebrate and unite in our diversity.
- We must **also acknowledge that all Aboriginal Indigenous People in South Africa likewise are also not homogeneous,** we do have various different cultures, traditions. At the same time, we must acknowledge we have been falsely labeled, treated, marginalized, discriminated against as one group for decades. We still are and will be for the foreseeable

future. It would be futile for each different subgroup to fight challenges that is common to all of us on its own.

- Although we are different in so many ways we do have many very real and substantial issues, difficulties or challenges that will still define and confront us on a daily basis for decades to come. The **only option we have is to act and defeat such issues as a collective**. Issues such as Land, Implementation of UNDRIP, Recognition and Support to develop own culture and traditions, discriminatory employment and business practices and to reverse the atrocities perpetrated on us as a collective during colonization, Apartheid and Post 1994 to name a few.

- The reality however is that as long as there is **no unified, coordinated and sustained approach on various levels and spheres we will not achieve anything meaningful** and will continue to languish and remain a forgotten people with only a sad story to tell.

- We also need to **acknowledge our own culpability** in how we first lost everything, endured oppression for so long and still remain unable to liberate ourselves. Currently for example we allow ignorant, corrupt people with only their own self-interest at heart to lead or claim to lead us.

- Like our forebears we too are with our meagre and rudimentary resources **vastly outnumbered and outclassed** with financial, institutional, political might and so many other ways by our enemies. It **requires us to be much smarter and more strategic** in our approach and execution if we want to realize our goals and objectives.

- The **absence of a National, Provincial, Regional and Local Organizational framework** as well as a communication system that can rally our people together leave us unable to elect people with the requisite leadership skills, insight, knowledge, integrity and expertise that can understand and overcome the complexity of what confront us. Instead we have no shortage of leaders with zero mandate and minimal support of the people that they claim to lead.

- Another major problem and concern are **that individuals initiate legal action** on behalf of the Aboriginal First Indigenous Peoples without **a proper mandate or consultation** and in many instances with **limited information and legal resources** at their disposal which have or may result in judgements with **severe unintended and detrimental consequences** to our cause. At the same time, we realize and understand that given the lack of Unity and Legitimate Structures some of our Brothers and Sisters out of frustration have no choice and with good intentions take matters into their own hands. Unfortunately, it also exposes them and their families to the risks of litigation of which they may not be aware. However, if we want to have any reasonable chance of success we need not just any legal person but require multiple teams of the best lawyers available

locally and internationally to fight our many legal battles, most of which must be initiated in Fora outside the borders of South Africa.

- Various parties, organizations and even individuals to date apparently received funds on behalf of the “ Khoi-San “ People without any transparency or accountability to the people or constituency that they claim to represent. A proper audit should be requested and carried out in each and every instance of such expenditure.
- Lacking in our conversation with one another to date also is a **set of Guiding Principles / Values and concomitant Sanctions** that will engender consensus and a new (our traditional) culture of engagement with one another like respect, fairness, humility, gender / age sensitivity, integrity, transparency, etc.
- **Imperative is also the removal from our conversation and interaction with one another, the pettiness, vitriol, egos, racism, sexism and all other -isms** . Instead we must move forward with the **required maturity, discipline and respect** that such a foundational and historic endeavor deserves.
- Likewise, utterances that are extremist, wild, emotional, unrealistic, war mongering and mostly ill-informed rhetoric do not serve any purpose and should be restrained or removed from our engagement with one another.

### **Legitimate Representative Voice of all Aboriginal First Indigenous Peoples or Groups in South Africa / Southern Africa.**

In order to Progress Out of the Rut we find Ourselves in **We First and Foremost need a Structure that can be Recognized and Respected as the Legitimate Representative Voice of all Aboriginal First Indigenous Peoples** or Groups in South Africa / Southern Africa.

According to the UN Special Rapporteur the Indigenous Groups in South Africa include the three main Xam peoples (!Xun, Khwe and Khomani), the various Nama communities (Khoekhoen), the major Griqua associations and representatives of the Koranna descendants, as well as several constituencies of so-called “revivalist Khoisan”, people reclaiming their historical heritage.

**Critical to this process** would accordingly be to develop a **Common Understanding** of a Positive and **Common Overarching Identity** which will seek to be **inclusive** and not exclusive of all the above-mentioned groups. Each group and subgroups will still be able to express themselves according to their own unique traditions and culture. The Special Rapporteur must also be called to revise his incorrect assessment and classification of the



various Indigenous Groups. Recognition for example must be given to the various Cape Historical tribes or formations.

- The nature, scope and details of such a structure can be agreed upon and formally incorporated at a “CODESA-Like” Summit of all the various parties and organizations that are representative of the above-mentioned groups. At Codesa Arch Enemies with diametrically opposing philosophical and political positions managed to create consensus as well as a mechanism to govern a much more fragmented, divided and conflict ridden society . We with less challenging obstacles can certainly do the same or even better if we try .
- The BRICS Structure is also an excellent example to consider. It represents various countries, nations, cultures, languages, but with an agreed common objective, while each still pursue their own agenda in the world at large. The old now defunct UDF structure is another example that come to mind.
- Like at Codesa the Summit should be open to all leadership formations and organizations of note, even those that some consider as arch enemies or traitors. Anyone that can add value or play a meaningful role must be afforded to state his / her case from which will emerge full understanding of all the options and strategies available to us.
- The Summit must for a start **focus only on the Common / Mutual / Shared, Short, Medium- and Long-Term Objectives** of all these groups that will advance the interest of all as **a Collective**.
- All actions they do not agree upon will not form part of the jurisdiction of the Summit and the Structure that will flow from that. **Each group or sub-group would still be able to pursue it’s own agenda / objectives** that they do not agree upon with others but hopefully not in contradiction with the Collective.
- We should trust that if people start working together, get to know one another, breaking down the mistrust and see the results of teamwork, unity - it will lead to a longer term, broader framework / structure to advance our common cause.
- The principles of engagement must also seek to eliminate and lock out any perceived conflict that may arise. We must upfront agree on the mechanisms to defuse any differences that will definitely arise.
- We would need to agree on the principles / values that must apply to achieve that common objectives and protect the collective.
- Also agree on a **Plan of Action** with clear delineation of duties to capable cadres with realistic achievable timeframes.

- Crystallize and **Tabularize** such common objectives into a **Charter** that will become the **Credo of our Struggle** that all of us can identify, take ownership of and strive towards as One.

## Common Objectives

Common Objectives may include the following, ie.

- Formation of a Legal Entity / Constitutional body that will obtain sovereignty for our people to represent us at the United Nations and conduct all our International / Continental and National Affairs as a collective.
- Legal action to Stop Use of Word “Coloured “- declare it unconstitutional, racist and as hate speech. Such action must also seek to reverse the discrimination and marginalization of us post 1994 and ensure appropriate redress. Although we are aware of such initiatives that already exist it is ostensibly carried out without proper mandate, consultation and support of all relevant role-players, stakeholders and limited in the scope and extent of what should be achieved with such an action.
- Application for a Declaratory Court Order that acknowledge us as Descendants of the most Ancient First Aboriginal People not only of Southern Africa but indeed the entire world in accordance with credible Scientific Evidence. Furthermore, an order that confirm that when Europeans arrived here our Forefathers occupied the land, did not recognize individual property ownership and that no one had the authority to alienate land to anybody.
- Application for a Declaratory order that all relevant stakeholders, local and international give proper statutory recognition of all the various Indigenous groups, tribes or formations which will ensure direct and proper protection to all but also access to various local, continental and international agencies, societies, or institutions.
- Interdict and place a moratorium on all parties that fraudulently claim to act on behalf of all the above groups as a collective.
- Interdict the immediate implementation of the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur.
- Initiate various Class Actions on behalf of our most marginalized groups or communities unable to act for themselves that have been abused for centuries, like Farmworkers and their Families. The same would apply after we have conducted a comprehensive inventory of all actions in respect of all our claims to Land, Bio -,

Oceans Economy, Mineral Resources and Renewable Energy, Compensation for Genocide, to name a few, etc.

- Interdict use of word African to our Exclusion.
- Interdict the implementation of the Khoisan Act and seek a court declaration to declare it unconstitutional, discriminatory and insulting to the Aboriginal People of South Africa. Alternatively, to engage with all relevant parties to redress the defects of the legislation in its current form by way of an Amendment.
- Moratorium on Land Explorations / Allocations until our own land issues been resolved.
- Moratorium on Evictions of Farmworkers
- Interdict a property tax on all land that we did not receive proper and fair compensation to date as an interim measure till full restoration or full compensation.
- Interdict the immediate enforcement of Employment Practices that is fair and reverse past discriminatory practices vis-à-vis Aboriginal People.
- Investigate and initiate all legal actions and applications, locally, continentally and internationally that the Group as a collective may agree upon.
- Consolidate all existing, intended and future legal actions under one banner as these matters cannot be allowed to proceed in a haphazard and uncoordinated fashion.
- Agreement on the Resources, Funds that must be procured and released to the Structure to be agreed upon that will capacitate all its various functions, substructures and groups to execute its mandate and look after the interest of members.
- Removal of the Foundation Stone of the so-called Castle of Good Hope laid by Zacharias Wagenaer in 1666. Destruction of some of the walls, especially the Pentagon Shape, renaming it and claiming ownership in order to turn it into a premier Tourist Site and Administrative Centre for our Revolution.
- Any other Common Objectives that the Summit or future Collective Leadership Structure as mandated may agree upon.

## Short Term Interventions

Whilst our focus must remain the overall long-term objective of full Liberation or Self Determination we must take our destiny into our own hands and initiate **Short Term Interventions** that will galvanize our people. We should accordingly identify and agree on short term interventions that will create hope, awareness and build much needed momentum for our cause, with some outlined above and inter alia the following –

- Interdict immediately the discriminatory, unconstitutional and unlawful Labour, Housing, Procurement, Finance Policies and other Assistance to so-called “Africans In Particular ‘to the detriment of ourselves.
- Interdict a minimum Special Allocation of National Budget to ensure immediate commencement of restoration of our communities in all spheres and facets of our lives, cultural, spiritual, socio - economic, etc.
- Interdict a minimum percentage of Governmental, Parastatal and Private Sector Procurement to be allocated to us to recompensate past / present discrimination and to ensure economic revitalization.
- Removal of all Monuments, Statues etc. that celebrate Colonial and Apartheid figures that oppressed and perpetrated violence against us.
- Insistence on the renaming of beacons, streets, buildings that celebrate our heroes, culture and history.
- Public accounting of all the wealth that we lost and the atrocities suffered by our forebears.
- Institute immediate Legal Action to claim ownership of all Government, Parastatal and National Parks land.
- Call and mobilize the Biggest Ever March in South Africa and claim back our Public Spaces.
- Initiate processes that will ensure that Our Real History will be compulsory or mandatory part of the school curriculum to put an end to the fabricated lies.
- Like the Black Lives Matter movement in America paint our slogans and motto’s on prominent streets, boulevards, buildings and other prominent structures.
- Any other short-term interventions that the Summit or future Collective Leadership Structure as mandated may identify.

## **Comprehensive Funding**

**One of the key aspects in realizing these objectives is funding.** We need to raise substantial funding in order to drive and sustain our revolution in all its' facets. The finalization of a Funding Proposal to kickstart this process is therefore essential and paramount. Corporate Donors, International Agencies, contributions by First Nation Aboriginal Business Owners, ordinary People, Crowd Funding, Membership fees, etc. can turn this process into the powerhouse that it must and will become.

### **Funding for the Summit will be guaranteed if we can achieve the following –**

- All or most of the parties that are representative of the Aboriginal First Indigenous People outlined above agree to attend the Summit
- All Parties that will attend agree to the Roadmap beforehand in writing
- All Parties Sign a Communication, Ethical, Conduct and Confidentiality Protocol for the Summit
- All Parties Agree to the Facilitators / Mediators of the Summit
- All Parties Agree on Interim Planning Committee
- All Parties sign a Declaration of Intent

### **In the event that we meet the above conditions funding should be available for the following, ie.**

- All the transport, accommodation and culinary costs of delegates (subject to agreement on the number of delegates) that will attend the summit in order to ensure that no one cannot attend due to financial inability.
- Venue and all Conference Facilities for Summit that is fitting and conducive for such an historic gathering.
- Professional Facilitators with the requisite expertise and experience
- Assistance from Experts on Constitutional Law, Restorative Justice, International Law & Instruments, The Rights of Indigenous People within the Africa Context, Self - determination, Intellectual Property Law, etc. in the process leading up to the Summit and during the Summit itself.
- Comprehensive Funding Proposal that will enable funding of the following

- All the short, medium- and long-term objectives agreed upon by the Summit
- Full Time Secretariat that can implement, facilitate and administer all the short-term local Interventions that will be agreed upon.
- Fully Functional Office & Resource Centre
- An advanced and innovated communication network involving all channels of communication, private, public, social, print, electronic, media, etc.
- Comprehensive Legal Defense Fund and Aboriginal Justice Centre
- Training and Education of our Leaders and Activists
- Research, Liaison and building of Strategic Relationships with every institution that can assist us locally and internationally
- Rebirth of our Arts, Culture & Literature
- Acquisition of State-of-the-Art Technology and Equipment to leapfrog, coordinate and strengthen all our activities.
- Other Priorities that the Summit and Collective Leadership may agree upon

In the event of a successful Summit we will have no problem to secure the required funding that will be set out in the Funding Proposal from the multiple available sources that is sympathetic to our Struggle. However, without a successful Summit we will unfortunately be unable or it be very difficult to garner the necessary trust, respect of these institutions to differentiate and allocate funding to a multitude of parties or entities claiming to legitimately act on behalf of the Aboriginal Indigenous People of South Africa.

## **A Leadership Framework**

A Leadership Framework must obviously be agreed upon to drive the process forward that would be accountable to all and hopefully become the **authentic and legitimate guardian of our Struggle**. Such a framework will replace and prevent the current mayhem that exists of charlatans and false leaders that create confusion as well as damage to public perceptions and profile of all the groups concerned.

**This framework will also be critical to ensure that we have locus standi and a proper mandate to initiate all the various legal proceedings that will be decided upon.** It will

also result in us being able to concentrate our resources and prevent the uncoordinated duplication of proceedings.

The very notion of Leadership itself will require serious consideration and consensus. How it functioned historically, the relevance thereof today and what is required to take our Struggle forward successfully. Those that aspire and assume a position of leadership must have the ability to appreciate and assume the complexity of what we are confronted with. They need to be aware of all the relevant facts (both negative and positive) and all the (local & international) remedies available, legal, political and otherwise to bring Justice, Dignity and Socio- Economic restoration to the Aboriginal Indigenous People.

This presents us actually with a unique opportunity to create a new Rule Book for Leadership, Nationhood, that can protect us against the worst instincts of the nature of future leaders that may only have their own self-interest at heart. Vetting and ethical checks should ideally be performed on all office bearers and potential leadership candidates, whilst the appropriate caliber cadres must be deployed to the appropriate positions.

## **Organizational Framework**

**An Organizational Framework** must be agreed upon that will facilitate the local, regional, provincial, national and even cross-border geographic representation and mobilization of people on the ground. Provision must obviously be made to cater for important stakeholders or constituencies like our Youth, Women etc. to ensure that each receive proper representation and emphasis. Many examples exist that can be duplicated and refined to suit our purposes.

## **Legal Defense Fund & Aboriginal Justice Centre**

A substantial **Legal Defense Fund** must be established as a matter of urgency to provide the necessary funding to initiate and sustain all the various legal actions locally and internationally. At the same time a Non-Profit **Aboriginal First Nation Justice Centre** must be established with teams of Legal Professionals with specialized training and experience on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples within the Africa Context and Restorative Justice. Such a Centre must also be capacitated to be responsive to the ongoing human rights violations, needs and plight of Aboriginal individuals and communities in South Africa or Southern Africa.

## **Activism**

Full time and volunteer activists must be properly schooled and trained on the various types of activism and given the necessary resources to build a grass roots movement under the auspices of the Leadership & Organizational Framework mentioned above. It is only through the consistent efforts to promote, impede, direct and coordinate all our activities in unison that we would be able to achieve the desired results in the shortest space of time.

## **Strategic Partnerships**

Numerous and extensive **Strategic Partnerships** must be put in place and secured with organizations and institutions that is sympathetic to our cause like **Churches, NGO's, Universities, International Institutions** ... to ensure mass mobilization on the ground and a sustained, radical and aggressive campaign on all fronts.

## **Media & Comprehensive Communication Strategy**

A Comprehensive Communication Strategy that will drastically improve Communication, Planning & Coordination of Activities. At the same time all forms of media with content that specifically focus on content relative to ourselves must be initiated and should include digital and print Newspapers, Magazines, Television Channel (s) etc.

## **Cultural Renaissance**

Like The Renaissance of the Middle Ages in Europe all our activities must coincide with a rebirth and massive implosion of all forms of art and culture in all our communities , locally, continentally and internationally. The tremendous talents of our artists, musicians, writers, poets, our stories must be assisted and supported to find global resonance. Our Youth must be actively encouraged to take ownership of their heritage, to reinterpret our history and culture, modernize it to become hip, cool and trendy.

## **Innovative Technology**

We also need to embrace **Innovative Technology** which can enable us to leapfrog and overcome some of our challenges in sustaining our strategies.



## The Castle of “Good Hope “

One of the symbolic events that must be scheduled to coincide with the Summit would be to rename and reshape one of the biggest misnomers and incongruities in the world, the so-called “Castle of Good Hope“. We left untouched this symbol and cornerstone of a long narrative of our conquest, repression, pain but also dispossession – of land, livestock and, ultimately our dignity.

Zacharias Wagenaer told a small gathering in January 1666 at the laying of the foundation stone of what would become the “Castle of Good Hope“ that *“Our conquests, are extending further and further and all the black and yellow people are being suppressed. We are building a stone wall out of the earth that thundering cannon cannot destroy.”*

Built by the Dutch East India Company between 1666 and 1679, the Castle is the oldest colonial existing building in South Africa. It’s dungeons served as a prison for our former leaders. Some sections like “ Die Donkergat” served as a torture chamber and Gallows where our people were executed. For two centuries it served as the seat of government and military operations, the nerve centre from which the atrocities against our people were carried out. During Apartheid prior to being replaced in 2003, the distinctive shape of the Pentagonal Castle was used on South African Defense Force flags, formed the basis of some rank insignia of major and above, and was used on South African Air Force aircraft.

This eyesore can be considered as the manifestation of a psychological wall or barrier between our present and how we use to be. It reminds one of another symbol of division, The Berlin Wall. A guarded concrete barrier, it symbolized the lack of freedom, repression of the Cold War and the ideologically divided West – and Communist East Germany. The demolition of the Wall officially began on 13 June 1990 and was completed in November 1991. Its physical destruction is one of the most famous scenes of recent history, paved the way for German Reunification which helped to define and reshape a new world order.

Likewise, the removal of the Foundation Stone laid by Zacharias Wagenaer and perhaps the destruction of some of the walls, the Pentagon shape, like the summit will signify the symbolic beginning of our restoration as a People(s), reconciling us with our past. It has the potential to redefine or reshape Cape Town, South Africa, and ourselves.

At the same time, we must claim full ownership of the site, turn it into one of the Premier Tourist Sites in Cape Town, which will create much needed employment, generate income and also become the administrative Headquarters of our Revolution.

## Process to Unity

If our leaders are sensible, really care about the plight of our people the Summit might be a once off event. Like Codesa, the Irish Peace Accord, the CNS in Zaire it will most probably be a process. It can be multiple events that enhance consensus or understanding and may be characterized by various milestones leading up to the Summit, ie. Minutes, Accords, Channels of Communications, Record of Understandings, Working Committees, Bosberaads, etc. The important thing would be to push forward with a sense of urgency till we reach the final outcome. **Like all these other seminal events mentioned above it will mark the foundation for us of a new beginning. The passage of a traumatic and multi-generational nightmare that commenced in 1652, to a new dawn where we will begin to write and rewrite our own history.** History will show that we are actually in the midst of the process, bearing witness to the painful transition. **The culmination of a successful summit will however be conditional on all to look beyond their own self-interest, learn to compromise and reach a shared understanding of the phenomenal progress that we can achieve together and little if apart.**

During the Pre-Negotiation Process (as working groups) we can build on the Record of Deliberations of the National Consultative Conferences of Bloemfontein, Kimberley and Melkbos and outline the Principles which can result in a Declaration of Intent that can be signed by all the parties.

The Summit or Convention itself will establish the mechanism for co-operation of all the parties / stakeholders / groups / subgroups which can commence as an interim Transitional Executive Council to manage an interim transition period whilst the permanent structures are established. **It would be prudent to invite a United Nations Monitoring Committee and other important International Bodies to entrench the integrity of the process and guarantee the legitimacy and due recognition of the end result by all concerned.**

Progress will manifest immediately once we address and confront the elephants in the room. The parties that we criticize also feel that they are doing their best part for the Aboriginal First Nation collective. We will accordingly only find common ground if we talk directly to one another perhaps with the right guidance or assistance to see, understand, appreciate and acknowledge the error as well as wisdom on both sides.

## Southern Africa Khoe & San Groups

The Summit also presents an opportune moment to bring together for the first time representatives of Khoe & San groups in Southern Africa locked into various States by colonial borders. Some of our continental and international common objectives may and will overlap with theirs. Cooperation will therefor as in our case prevent duplication and ensure the judicious utilization of meagre collective capacity and resources. This will also broaden the scope ,extent and impact of our activities and collective effort far beyond the

borders of South Africa. It would accordingly be ideal to set aside time and incorporate in the Summit Program sufficient time to bring about this necessary part of our healing and unification .

## **Next Steps**

The immediate next steps required and set out below is not an exhaustive list but merely an indication of some of the most critical steps and actions we need to take to ensure a successful Summit. First of all, we need to elect a capable Summit Secretariat (and perhaps various working groups) that in no particular order of priority put in place the following groundwork for the proposed Summit, ie.

- Incorporation of Summit Non-Profit Company with Board of Directors that will act as Custodians of the Summit and ensure proper Corporate Governance, Transparency & Accountability
- Identification of all the organizations, groups, individuals that must attend
- Identification of Professional Consultants that can assist Participants
- Agree on Ideal Location, Format and Number of Delegates Allowed
- Putting in Place Communication Medium to facilitate Discussion and Consensus between various groups / participants prior to Summit
- Agree on all relevant Timelines applicable
- Define and agree the general criteria for Summit Participants
- Crystallize Protocols that must be observed by Summit Participants
- Appointment of External Audit, Vetting and Accreditation Entity
- Selection of Professional Conference Planners
- Appointment of Accredited Service Providers like Security, IT Providers,etc.
- Prepare Draft Programme for Summit
- Finalization of Summit Logo or Emblem, Website, Application,Info Booklet and any other marketing or promotional material

- Prepare or Facilitate preparation of Draft Policy Documents for Discussion and Approval
- Identification of Professional External Summit Facilitators
- Keynote Speakers
- International and Strategic Stakeholders / Observers
- Other International Indigenous Groups to Attend.

### **Summit Secretariat – Possible Interim Representative Structure**

In the event that the Route Map and Modus Operandi set out herein as well as the response to the Invitation that accompany this memorandum is well received, the envisaged Secretariat may well serve as an Interim Unity Structure that can address the myriad of challenges that we currently face as a collective. This will be dependent on the parties that RSVP form an overwhelming majority of all the major existing parties that represent and /or claim to represent our people currently , sign a Declaration of Intent and reach consensus on the strategy and approach of the immediate and most challenging Urgent issues that we must address as a collective.

### **The Fierce Urgency of Now!**

Isabel Wilkerson in her latest book (Caste The Origins of Our Discontents) remarked that *“Perhaps it is the unthinking acquiescence, the blindness to one’s imprisonment, that is the most effective way for human beings to remain captive. People who do not know that they are captive will not resist their bondage “.*

We must ask ourselves if it is worth to live a life that you are not. The very core of who you are being twisted, denied, abused and usurped by others. It seems that we approach a Nader but at the same time an inflection point. We are at a confluence of many events that preceded our shared history where we can bring forth many years of planning, trying, pushing, fighting and sacrifice to fruition. Doing it however better, smarter with the benefit of hindsight of past failures and the weight of the daily, years, decades, centuries of pain and suffering on the part of our people bearing on us, calling for mature, responsible collective, visionary leadership.

For too long we accommodated others to the detriment of ourselves. It is time that we take the wheel of destiny into our own hands and turn the Arch of our own History to our best interest, nobody else will do it. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr said, *“This is no time ...*

*to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism". We owe it to our Children that they and their Children not endure what we and prior generations have endured.*

**We must Stop Dithering, Wasting Time. Stop being "Thumb Revolutionaries" on Social Media.**

**We Need ACTION! We Must Produce RESULTS!!!**

**We Must Do So NOW, IMMEDIATELY, WITHOUT ANY FURTHER DELAY!!**

### **Unique & Historic Opportunity**

If approached correctly and if we are successful with the proposed Summit it will provide us with a unique and historic opportunity to address the inequities generated by centuries of our shared history of marginalization and discrimination. It however requires that we acknowledge the falsehoods and ignorance that imprisoned us to date and to change the persistence of patterns of privilege and poverty which are its legacy in the present.

**Gangans!**

*Sida Toa Tama*

*!Kxams Ge*

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