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CSRC MAFIKENG CAMPUS 2011/12

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STUDENT COORDINATOR

CSRC-EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

CSRC-SUBSTRUCTURES

ALL POLITICAL MOVEMENTS IN CAMPUS

ALL RELIGIOUS FRATENITY MOVEMENTS

FELLOW STUDENTS IN GENERAL.

I am honoured to address our fellow Students and guests from this podium. On behalf of our CSRC2011/12, I convey the warmest greetings to all of you on this important day in our country's calendar... our Freedom Day.

President Jacob Zuma will on Friday, 27 April 2012 deliver a keynote address at the Freedom Day celebrations in Union Building in Pretoria. "***Working Together to Build Unity and Prosperity for All***"

As you may well know, tomorrow, the 27th April, we celebrate a very special and meaningful day in the history of South Africa, Freedom Day. It is a celebration of equality in South Africa. It is a celebration of unity, when our rainbow nation broke away from the cruelties of Apartheid, and we united as a country. It is a celebration of the 1994 elections which allowed everyone over the age of 18, regardless of their gender, race or social background, to vote and be counted as equals.

Freedom Day embodies and symbolizes democracy, where the people shall govern and be counted, where everyone shall have equal rights, will be equal before the law, and have access to education and job opportunities regardless of the colour of their skin. But Freedom Day also gives praise and recognition and thanks to all the veterans who fought against inequality and discrimination, and to all those who believed so much in their cause that they laid their lives on the line.

They were brave and had the strength and moral courage to say NO to the wrongs of Apartheid so that we may count and have the right to vote and have a say in what happens in our country today. On the 27th April 1994, South Africa came together as a nation and voted for their new and truly democratic parliament which was headed by President Nelson Mandela and his two Deputy Presidents, Mr. Thabo Mbeki and Mr. F W de Klerk."

The celebration of Freedom Day is no ordinary celebration. It is a day when all of us need to pause and reflect on the past, to remember the heroes and heroines who brought us our freedom - those whose sacrifices made it possible for all South Africans, black and white, to enjoy the benefits of democracy and for all of us to prosper in conditions of peace and stability.

As we celebrate this important day we need to ask ourselves whether we are today using all the opportunities brought by freedom and democracy to prepare for a better tomorrow. Tomorrow, we will be remembering Ellen Motlalepule Kuzwayo, one of the exceptional human beings produced by our person, who has left us a legacy of dedication to freedom and democracy and service to the people, especially the poor, which must continue to inspire us as we strive to achieve the goal of a better life for all.

Again, during this month of April our people are commemorating the brutal death of our leader, Inkosi Bambatha kaMancinza Zondi who led the Bambatha Rebellion against poll tax 100 years ago and through his actions inspired many patriots to sacrifice for the freedom that we are celebrating today. As we celebrate and enjoy this freedom, we must remember and honour the countless heroes and heroines who, like Bambatha and Ma-Kuzwayo made it possible for us to attain our liberty.

Compatriots,

In the past 18 years our country has experienced a stable democracy, entrenchment of freedom, a growing economy and steady progress in bringing a better life to all our people. However, like all of you, our government knows that we still have a lot of work to do before we can say that all our people enjoy a decent standard of living and quality of life. At the same time we are convinced that over the last 18 years we have laid a strong foundation for us to accelerate our advance towards the achievement of the goal of a better life for all.

It was for this reason that we said that we have entered our Age of Hope... hope that building from the foundations we have established, we will be able to accelerate our progress towards the achievement of the important goal of a better life for all our people. As we celebrate our freedom, we have a duty together to ensure that we do not disappoint the hopes of the nation that with regard to the reduction of poverty and improving the standard of living of all our people, we will indeed meet the target to make faster progress in the next eight years than we did during our first 18 years of our freedom.

We pay tribute to the people who fought for this Freedom. Our People waged a heroic struggle, and many paid the ultimate price;

Onkgopotse Tiro

Mapetla Mohapi

Bantu Steve Biko

Solomon Mahlangu

Sabelo Phama

Ahmed Timol and many others.

Fellow Students,

On behalf of the CSRC2011/12, our wish is to have a free campus, a campus that prides itself about its development and output. As we will be celebrating freedom day

tomorrow, we should also as students of this campus reflect on the history of our campus, this campus was built through hardship of community members. They contributed R100 000 for the establishment of this campus in the late 1960's and early 1970's because they saw a need to invest in education as a tool of freedom, in 1980 this very same campus was built and for that we are great full and we will forever honor their contribution to our education.

We also have the responsibility of making sure that we uphold the principles of our freedom as a site of struggle. Our contribution should pave a future for those generations to come after us, our role must also reflect the contributions we make in the success of our country. The country needs academia's like us, it needs new innovation.

We must also pay tribute to ruling party and celebrate with them as our mother body, the centenary of the ANC must be a direction and a site of dedication towards the development goals of our university in the context of the country.

Fellow Students, as we enjoy this magnificent day let us do so keeping in mind the many challenges facing our country. Let us commit ourselves to do whatever is possible, working together, to help bring prosperity to our country and further ensure that all Students share in that prosperity.

To all of you gathered in this student centre and all the people of our country wherever they may be, I would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Freedom Day tomorrow.

May God continue to bless our campus, through his grace may he ensure that Africa becomes the best and improving continent and above all South Africa as a sovereign state that many can aspire to live in with peace and harmony.

With this few words:

we thank you, rea leboga, siya bulela and baya dankie