

EMBARGOED UNTIL 8 PM - 19th FEBRUARY 1985

EXTRACT OF SPEECH BY DR. F. VAN ZYL SLABBERT MP
DELIVERED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PFP
BRANCH AT ELGIN

19 FEBRUARY 1985

The most difficult time for any Government to introduce fundamental reform is in a time of economic recession. South Africa is at present going through such a phase whilst there is also a very urgent need for reform.

In order to find the money for such reform, two things are necessary on this economic level :-

- (a) Fiscal and monetary measures to introduce a LONGTERM recovery which will broaden the base of overall productivity in South Africa.
- (b) On the SHORTTERM money will have to be found by cutting back on non-essential ideological expenditure to finance immediate priorities for reform. For example, it is far more necessary to stabilize the urban Black population such as Crossroads than it is to waste money in a futile attempt to implement influx control.

The other level of equally important reform is on the constitutional level. The State President gave new guidelines which could serve as a beginning for such reform. But then it is necessary to :-

- (a) Clarify all remaining ambiguities concerning citizenship, discriminatory laws and influx control.

- (b) Establish a climate conducive to negotiation by demonstrating its bona fides through systematic action on the above.

The recent tragedy of the unrest at Crossroads is symptomatic of what happens when uncertainty, distrust and suspicion is rife.

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