

**PAGE - 2 LONG WALK TO FREEDOM**

To the assembled guests and the watching world, I said: “Today, all of us do, by our presence here... confer glory and hope to newborn liberty. Out of the experience of an extraordinary human disaster that lasted too long, must be born a society of which all humanity will be proud. We, who were outlaws, not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on our own soil. We thank all of our distinguished international guests for having come to take possession with the people of our country of what is, after all, a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity.”

Assembled- (of people) gather together in one place for a common purpose   
Confer- grant    
Glory- honour   
Outlaws- because of its policy of apartheid, many countries had earlier broken off diplomatic relations with South Africa     
On our own soil- in our own country   
Possession- ownership   
Dignity- the state or quality of being worthy of respect.

The author also mentions some parts of his speech where he said that everyone, by his presence was giving rise to hope for a new beginning. Previous rulers were discriminatory and lasted for long but the ones, who are given the opportunity to rule now (ANC), would stand up against discrimination. He is glad to host a ceremony with the presence of global leaders. It is an achievement in itself. There was a time when South Africa, for practicing apartheid, lost all its international political relationships. Now, when there is no segregation on the basis of race and gender, other nations are happy to have healthy democratic relationships. Finally, they have come to power and they pledge to make everyone proud. He thanked everyone, especially the international leaders for joining them in celebrating their achievement which is a step towards an equal society where every human will be treated fairly.

"We have, at last, achieved our political emancipation. We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discrimination. Never, never, and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another. The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement. Let freedom reign. God bless Africa!"

Emancipation- the fact or process of being set free from legal, social, or political restrictions   
Liberate- free; release   
Bondage- the state of being a slave   
Discrimination- being treated differently or unfavourably   
Deprivation- the damaging lack of material benefits considered to be basic necessities in a society   
Oppression- prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or exercise of authority.   
Glorious- having, worthy of, or bringing fame or admiration.   
Reign- rule; govern

He mentions that after great struggle, they have finally achieved political freedom. His government promised to free every one of the still existing poverty, hardship and inequalities of all kind along with assuring everyone of a country where no community will be considered inferior. He then exclaims that freedom should rule and may god shower his blessings on their land.