



*T*he season of giving and sharing is upon us. On behalf of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), I want to wish you a joyful Christmas and a new year full of prosperity. As we share food and gifts, we dare not forget that we are the most unequal society on earth. Let's not confine the value of sharing to a few days at the end of December and early January. Let us give giving and sharing a humanist meaning by sharing meaningful things like the land and the results of labour. Let us not limit sharing to humanitarian practice of doling out food parcels and toys to the needy. The season of giving and sharing must be lived every day in the life of a caring nation.

Let us extend hospitality to our brothers and sisters who sought refuge in our country because of the unbearable social, economic and political conditions in their countries of origin. We have to share with them the festivities of the season and embrace them long after the festivities have passed. The recent shameful attacks on the Zimbabweans in Polokwane, and many violent flare-ups of Afrophobia countrywide, must never be allowed to spill over into 2010. A nation that advertises itself globally on the billboard of ubuntu-humanism, can't afford to have its citizens run amok killing abantu-humans.

As we stride into the New Year, important events await us. Our country will host FIFA World Cup. Now is the time to prove ourselves worthy hosts by desisting from actions that will annoy our guests. Each one of us must think and behave like a host they are. A host, deserving of the calling, never steals from their guests. Good hosts never take advantage of their guests by over pricing goods and services. Shining on the field is left to Bafana Bafana to take care of. Yet the whole nation can shine, and must shine off the field.

In the undying spirit of Pan Africanism, we'll have to go out to the stadia in great numbers to cheer the national teams of Algeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, and of course, our own beloved Bafana Bafana. Since Africa is hosting the event, it'll be unforgettable if one of our six representatives lifts the trophy.

The PAC sends its deepest condolences to the families that are mourning the untimely deaths of their beloved ones: those who will be burying their relations instead of celebrating together with them. While some deaths could not have been prevented, but the ever increasing rate of road fatalities and deaths resulting from botched circumcisions, could have been prevented and must be prevented. We call on the government to act decisively to preserve life on our roads and initiation sites.

Congratulations to all those who passed their exams this year, at all levels, including matric. To those who didn't do well, shall you take this as a test of strength and perseverance which you must pass next time? Greatness comes with the stubbornness to persevere against all odds in order to achieve what you initially set your sights on. And failing exams never makes one a failure in the great classroom of life. Some of our guiding lights today failed exams not once, but many times. They had the courage to repeat until they got it right. Good luck next time.

Drive safely.

Walk soberly.

Arrive alive.