

NEW CONSTITUTION WILL STIR MORE BLACK ANGER, SAYS CHIEF

THE new constitutional dispensation will stir even more uncontrollable Black anger, according to KwaZulu's Chief Minister.

There was no prospect whatsoever of the new constitution providing a regulating framework for political driving forces operative among the country's 22 million African citizens.

He told staff and students at a seminar at Stellenbosch University that the new constitution had brought about a heightening of Black political awareness reminiscent of the period between 1976 and 1978.

Political restrictions on Blacks had become life and death issues.

The Chief was discussing Black politics "in and around and outside" the new dispensation.

"Black thought has always sought inclusion in the State, and Black political traditions have always supported the notion of transforming the State into a multiracial one," he said.

"I reject the new constitution not only because I am excluded from it, but because I do not want to be included in it as it stands now."

Chief Buthelezi said the new dispensation had "pulled the rug out from under my and many others feet... I and others have had to re-position our political feet.

"Some see Black South Africa's need to adjust to the new circumstances as an opportunity in which to work for a resurgence of 1976-1978 protest politics.

"The United Democratic Front is attempting to mobilise Black opinion into its 1976 mood..."

Political anger and rhetoric which abounded then and now had not worked then and would not work now.

He said Prime Ministers Malan, Strijdom, Verwoerd and Vorster had all come to grief on the rocks of Black political reality.

He regretted that President P W Botha had "missed the opportunity" of going down in South Africa's history as its most significant leader.



Escalating unrest is predicted.

He said President Botha had committed himself and the National Party to further attempts to "breach the tide of history".

The new constitution was a desperate attempt to escape from reality.

He said it was beleaguered by Black politics, which had a dynamism of its own, the weight of history behind it and the assured promise of a multiracial future to sustain it.

"S.A. is heading into a Lebanon-type situation"

"The bulk of Indian and Coloured people will realise sooner or later the new tricameral Parliament is heading this country into a Lebanon-type situation in which there can be no winners," he added.

History was "step by step" moving South Africa towards power sharing between Blacks and Whites.

"I understand both Black and White lunatic fringes and I understand the dominating nature of White fear. I understand how racial prejudice works."

"I am therefore prepared to look at the merits of a Federal solution for this country's problems and I support all forms of devolution of power.

"Inkatha and I, just like most other Black organisations and other Black leaders, although committed to one-man-one-vote within a unitary State, are quite prepared to look at other solutions.

"This is why I mentioned a Federal solution as a solution which from my point of view is possible.

"I have been severely criticised by some people for daring to look for solutions outside the four corners of a unitary state democracy a la Westminster.

"However, I have learnt through the hard road of political realities that it is not possible for one section of the community of South Africa to foist its formula on other sections of the community.

"There has to be consensus. The country's various leaders would have to sit down to work out what sort of formula would be commendable for our peculiar South African circumstances."