

# CALL FOR NATIONAL CRUSADE TO END VIOLENCE

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A NATIONAL front to tackle head on the cancer of violence that has become endemic in South African society.

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**T**hat was the call from Chief Minister, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi in an important policy speech to the KwaZulu legislative assembly on March 29.

Dr Buthelezi's action plan was unveiled against the backdrop of spiralling violence both in urban and rural areas across the country which has reached levels even more intense than the ANC-inspired township insurrections of the mid-80's.

In the greater Pietermaritzburg area alone, the death toll had risen to more than 80 in Edenvale — dubbed by the media as the “valley of death” — in clashes said to be between UDF and Inkatha supporters. At least 11 people died



## A NATIONAL PRIORITY

QUOTE: “Let there now be a great South African response to the violence that is there in the air, there from our history and there in politics today. Let us make the elimination of violence in politics a national priority and let us as a people of South Africa respond to the challenge of removing apartheid and establishing a fair and just society.”

# **MEDIA URGED TO JOIN QUEST FOR PEACE**

and hundreds more were injured during demonstrations in the Vaal township of Sebokeng. And many more have died in violent incidents, accompanied by arson and looting, in the Bophuthatswana, Gazankulu and Venda homelands.

Dr Buthelezi's call for a frontal attack on violence transcends political and party barriers. And he urged South Africa's leading companies to fund a national convention of media workers to bring the media industry on board to define their role in reducing violence and in enhancing the prospects of a negotiated settlement in South Africa.

While re-affirming his belief in the freedom of the Press — "under any Government I run, newspapers will be free" — Dr Buthelezi said newspapers and television had a collective responsibility to put their own house in order and use their whole industry as a national front against violence.

He said: "Without this taking place, the media will not do what the media can do to create the circumstances in which the media will survive after change.

"It is in the vested interests of the newspaper men and women of South Africa and it is in the vested interests of the electronic media

men and women of South Africa, that they all now come together to ensure that sufficient peace prevails to make democracy possible.

"If they do not play their own role in the process of eliminating violence, violence will overtake all and we will have change through violence which can only lead to government by violence after change. There shall be no freedom of speech under violent government."

Dr Buthelezi said South Africans had to face up to the fact that they lived in a society founded on violence and challenged by violence.

"The basis for violent reactions to circumstances amongst the masses of black South Africans still exists and this is a fact we must face. There is first of all the violence in the air produced by apartheid and Black rejection of apartheid. Then there is the violence that violence breeds. We must face the fact that violence breeds violence and the violence that is bred by violence breeds more violence.

"South Africa does not face this fact sufficiently. There is a lot of talk by very nice people about peace missions, about peace initiatives, about peace-keeping

exercises and about the reconciliation of warring factions. They somehow do not understand the extent to which South African society is based on violence and that the violence in it has bred more violence.

"There is no national frontal attack on violence sufficient to curb violence. The state of emergency under which the Government has ruled now for so long quite patently will not defuse the situation. We must face the fact that states of emergency can only ever be transient, interim arrangements to allow re-grouping. When states of emergency become a way of life, states of emergency begin themselves to stimulate violence and become self-defeating."

Dr Buthelezi said he believed the vast majority of South Africans were now ready to back whatever had to be done to eradicate apartheid and to establish a fair and just society. But what they were not facing up to was that violence on the levels which were now at work in South Africa were already working beyond thresholds in which there could not be any democracy.

"If you cannot bring about change through democracy, you

## **EMERGENCY MEASURES ONLY TRANSIENT**

QUOTE: "There is no national frontal attack on violence sufficient to curb violence. The state of emergency under which the Government has ruled now for so long quite patently will not defuse the situation. We must face the fact that states of emergency can only ever be transient, interim arrangements to allow re-grouping. When states of emergency become a way of life, states of emergency begin themselves to stimulate violence and become self-defeating." — Policy speech by the Chief Minister, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, to the second session of the sixth KwaZulu Legislative Assembly, March 29, 1990.