

***"We will not***

# **A policy to preserve our heritage**

## **Where the IFP stands on the environment**

As we live out the twilight years of this century, the World's environmental heritage is under threat as never before. Without dedicated programmes to rescue and conserve our precious natural resources, we may not even have a long-term future to look forward to. The Inkatha Freedom Party, in setting out its environmental policy for South Africa, believes that natural resources belong to all the country's citizens. They should be conserved in a way that enables them to be used for the greatest good of today's citizens, without restricting their potential to benefit future generations...

**T**he IFP subscribes to three premises. These are:

- Mankind is an integral part of nature and is utterly dependent upon the Earth for his well-being as Nature is the source of life.
- The basic needs of all people for food, shelter and clothing should be met, all people should have an equal opportunity to improve their quality of life. These opportunities must be achieved in harmony with and not at the expense of our natural environment.
- We hold this world in trust for our children. We should give them a world that is no less diverse and productive than the one we have inherited.

It is against this background that we will plan the development of our country to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Development is necessary to improve the quality of life of our people. Development will cause change. By causing change we know that man has always had an impact upon his environment. But change is a natural condition of life on Earth. Our responsibility is to ensure that the changes we cause do not threaten the natural

ecological process that sustains the productivity, adaptability and capacity for renewal of our land, plants, animals and people.

We recognise that development is dependent upon adequate sources of energy. Energy is essential for commercial and industrial growth. More importantly, an adequate supply of energy to every household will improve the quality of life of all our people. In supplying this energy we will promote the use of renewable resources, reducing our dependence upon non-renewable resources; those which cause pollution; and those which are drawn from areas which are external to our economy.

## **Liability**

In pursuing our development programmes, we will endeavour to see that no person enriches himself at the cost of the health or well-being of others. We will hold liable those who deplete biological wealth or damage the health of people or ecosystems. Any person or body who pollutes our environment, whether through chemicals, noise or degradation of the visual environment should contribute to the costs of rehabilitation of that environment.

Air and water pollution must be held at levels which will not cause permanent injury to humans, plants or animals. In making this statement we recognise:

- The importance of adequate sources of fresh water. We will create greater awareness of how the water cycle works and of the importance of key aquatic ecosystems. We will manage the water demand to give an efficient and equitable allocation among competing users.

- The important role of the oceans. Our coastal scene is deteriorating and many marine resources have been depleted. We will pay more attention to controlling land-based sources of marine pollution, protection of major coastal wetlands, seagrass beds and coral reefs. We will also

# ***bequeath to our children a legacy of poison"***



*Nature at peace with itself... but for how long? Care of the environment will be a key plank in IFP policy.*

involve fishing communities and organisations in the management of fisheries.

●The threats to our atmosphere. We will undertake a balanced, long term, campaign to build public awareness of the implications of climate change, sea level rise, ozone deletion and acid rain and of the actions required to respond to them.

## **Strong Families**

In meeting the needs of our people, and creating equal opportunities to improve the quality of life, we believe that strong families give strength and meaning to our society. We believe that strong families are not possible without both healthy mothers and healthy children. Whilst parents should have the right to decide the size of family that best meets their needs, we believe that we can best achieve family health and strength by achieving a balance between family size and the resources that are available to us.

As we hold this world in trust for our children we must not, through our

carelessness or neglect, destroy the soil or deprive our children of access to any of the plants or animals who share the earth with us. We will not bequeath to our children a legacy of poison. Any toxic materials we use in our lifetime we will deal with in our lifetime. If we cannot neutralise these poisons, we should stop using them.

To implement this policy requires that as many people as possible understand our dependence on natural processes and the need to plan sustainable development. To this end, we will ensure that environmental awareness becomes an integral part of both formal and informal education programmes.

Finally, while there are practical reasons for adopting a sound environmental policy, living in harmony with our environment should also be an act of faith. The conservation of nature depends on the co-operation of all people and can only be achieved by a combination of practical measures and spiritual commitment.

It will be an attitude of faith that enables us to meet the challenge of creating a just and equitable, beautiful and humane, integrated and environmentally sound society.