

# Apartheid in a different guise?

## PLAN TOO VAGUE FOR BLACK SOUTH AFRICA

***Following the National Party's announcement of its five-year plan of action, the President of Inkatha and Chief Minister of KwaZulu, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, released this statement.***



*Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Chief Minister of KwaZulu and President of Inkatha.*

**I**n everything the National Party now says about the future of South Africa and about constitutional development it can be no more than saying something to stake a claim in the negotiating process which the National Party now knows must come.

We will see a great many different statements by different political parties and organisations in the coming pre-negotiating period. It is not whether parties are saying the right things about what they ought to be negotiating about that is important. What is important is that we now have negotiations.

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negotiation possible. Dr Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners will have to be released and there will have to be talks about negotiation so that venues and agendas can be set.

Quite clearly negotiations will have to bridge the vast differences which exist between parties and between race groups and also quite clearly the leap will not be achieved miraculously overnight. We will all have to start from where we are and agree to move towards each other along a path which we will predetermine.

My cherished ideal still remains a one-man-one-vote system of government in a unitary state. There is now at least a small ray of hope that the National Party can move towards one or another form of democracy which the Western industrial world will recognise as a democracy and which Africa will endorse as moving in the right direction.

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Negotiation will have to be about fundamental constitutional issues. Right now the National Party is talking too much about detail and thinking too little about fundamental principles. Mr F W de Klerk will have to get away from airy-fairy vague statements.

There is a black majority in the country which will find political expression as a majority. That is

totally inevitable.

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Quite clearly we need to separate where we are going from how we are going to get there. Mr de Klerk should be saying more about the National Party's preparedness to scrap the tricameral Parliamentary system and move towards a new democracy in which there is total equality before the law and the constitution.

Black South Africans see the Population Act and the Group Areas Act as totally redundant and worse. We want Mr de Klerk to say more definite things about the scrapping of these acts.

Once Mr de Klerk has so put his own political camp in order that he can make a joint declaration with black leaders about the ultimate purpose of negotiation, we can turn our attention to how we should negotiate. Until Mr de Klerk does make a declaration about where he intends going, and makes it in such a way that blacks can make it with him, he will have nobody worth negotiating with.

If I were in Mr de Klerk's shoes, I would concentrate on making sure that the people who ought to be negotiating are persuaded to negotiate.

The future will judge Mr de Klerk on whether he can do this. A great many blacks agree with Mr de Klerk that we must get on with the job of negotiating and stop all petty politicking. There is more readiness in black society to

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Negotiations are possible, however, only if black democracy is unshackled and if the South African Government does not think that it will be able to continue sitting in the negotiating driving seat.

In Mr de Klerk's approach to a five-year action plan, he says too little about action and talks too vaguely about the redefinition of groups. Until he talks more specifically, he must forgive us all for not knowing what he is actually talking about and for fearing that he is simply presenting apartheid in a different guise.

Mr de Klerk will perhaps turn out to be the last of white South Africa's hopes. Should he fail, who in the world will blame black South Africans for saying enough is enough?

He has perhaps bought a little time but he must not endanger the little time that he has bought by himself petty politicking too much in the present election campaign. If he is going to produce statesmanship in his leadership, now is the time to start doing it.

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