

Historic resolution passed at conference

All-race effort the key to negotiations

The opening up of Inkatha's membership to all races was endorsed in a landmark resolution passed unanimously at the 15th Annual General Conference.

The resolution read: "We the members of Inkatha have always striven to establish a race-free South Africa in which there will be an open, multi-party democracy. We have hitherto pursued our great commitments as a Black liberation movement led by Blacks to achieve Black objectives. We have done so because there was a Black job of work to be done which only Blacks could do.

We now see the fruits of Black political labour and know that to make them the fruits of the whole of South Africa, we will have to make the final eradication of apartheid and the establishment of a true non-racial, multi-party democracy the responsibility of all South Africans in an all-race effort.

It was resolved:

- To transform Inkatha from a liberation movement into a political party.
- To open up Inkatha's membership to all race groups with immediate effect and if necessary to amend Inkatha's present constitution to give effect to this resolve.
- To announce a six months adjustment period and to call for a General Meeting of Inkatha (from December 7 to 9) where a new Inkatha constitution will be adopted.
- To delay the election of office bearers in Inkatha, which should in terms of its constitution be elected this year, because it is the end of a five-year period of office for existing office bearers.
- To request the President of Inkatha to

appoint to Inkatha's Central Committee such new members from South Africa's White, Indian and Coloured communities as he deems fit.

Consensus the priority

The Conference declared its total commitment to non-violent tactics and strategies to bring about a multi-party democracy in a new South Africa. It called on South Africans to put the need for consensus on what is best for South Africa as their highest priority – "and to be prepared to act within the kind of consensus that reasonable men and women can now achieve."

It gave its endorsement for the negotiation process to begin without delay – and called on every political grouping in the country to work for the ideal of a multi-party democracy "and show the kind of tolerance now for other parties that would be expected of them once a multi-party democracy was established."

The Conference delegates particularly called on the ANC to lay down the armed struggle, to abandon its call for sanctions, to abandon confrontation politics "and to seek to be reconciled to other political Parties for the sake of South Africa." They called on ANC vice-president, Dr Nelson Mandela, to accept Dr Buthelezi's repeated invitation to talk peace.

The delegates endorsed Dr Buthelezi's standpoint that there will be no multi-party democracy unless there is a multiplicity of choices for South Africans who mandate those going to the negotiation table – and unless they have multiple choices in an election following negotiations.



It was announced at the Conference that long-standing Inkatha supporters, Walter and Sue Felgate had become the first White members of the new Inkatha Freedom Party.