

Inkatha President meets the media

"Let us put the good of the State before the good of the Party"

Some of South Africa's leading journalists, including editors and political correspondents, were given a briefing by Inkatha President, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, on the aims of the new Inkatha at a special media forum in Johannesburg. Here is an extract from Dr Buthelezi's address:

"Inkatha does not attempt to be too-clever-by-half. It knows we have enormous problems. It knows that there are no instant solutions and it knows that there is no political magic which will wave the problems away. We have problems and we have to grapple with them. We will have to have the flexibility to do so. I am looking forward to this new political era politics. It is going to be full of challenge, full of excitement and full of gains but they will be gains which will be made to outweigh the losses which will be sustained as we traverse very difficult transitional terrain.

It was very South African of Inkatha to reject apartheid. It was very South African of Inkatha to reject the Tricameral Parliamentary system in part and in whole. It was very South African of Inkatha to do these things and at the same time reject the armed struggle. It was also very South African of Inkatha to reject economic sanctions as something that is good for South Africa.

If the ANC, the PAC and the South African Communist Party are going to end up sitting around a negotiating table, they too will have to become more and more South African. They too will have to join in scrapping apartheid and ending up providing South Africa with what the people want.

There is a Texan expression about hunting dogs which I would like to borrow. Inkatha is a dog that will hunt.

It is now too late in the day for our country to generate new political Parties. New co-operation between Parties, yes; new alliances of existing Parties, maybe. But no to the notion that we can now in this eleventh hour raise up new leaders and new Parties. It is the existing leaders of existing Parties into whose hands history has thrust the need to make rigid and effective changes.

Inkatha is opening up its membership to

all race groups. We can do so now because while in the past there was a Black job of work to be done in politics which only Blacks could do, there is now a multi-racial job of work to be done which only multi-racial groups can do. Inkatha will offer partnerships to White, Indian and Coloured South Africans which any other political organisation will find difficult to match. We are in the market place as a South African political Party and I know I am right in saying that unless Black and White become reconciled in the process of eradicating the last of apartheid and in establishing a new, just society, there will be insufficient national will after apartheid to make a new democracy work.

The problems we will have to face to establish peace and stability in sufficient degree to make democracy work will test us very severely. We are not going to have an easy and smooth ride to a new South African democracy. It is going to be a rough ride and we will have to travel a road along which hi-jackers will be lurking.

We will have to face the dangers of dealing with such things as the Harare Declaration. This Declaration calls for the handing over of power by the Government to some kind of interim government which it is hoped will play midwife to a new constitution. There will be a hard political drive to make this happen. It is not going to happen because Inkatha opposes it and all thinking South Africans oppose it.

We all know that White fear will have to be dealt with and you most certainly cannot deal with it by threatening to chop the white head off the white body that is filled with fear. Orderly progress towards the new democracy requires a very effective and intact National Party, just as it requires a very effective and intact Inkatha, and a very effective intact African National Congress.

Remove any major Party from the formula and there will be problems. I have never followed appeasement policies and I have never pandered to any weakness in anybody, but I say that unless the attempt to force the South African Government to abdicate and to force the National Party to admit to White South Africa that they just could not keep the show going, is abandoned, we can forget about successful negotiations.

Inkatha is aware that there will have to be give and take in negotiation which will go

"Inkatha is another of those South African leopards which will change its spots.

There is a resilient something in Inkatha which will gather the best that there always has been in Inkatha, to make it a pro-active force moving out into the new political market place."

— *Dr MG Buthelezi*
addressing the Inkatha
Media Forum in
Johannesburg.

beyond tokenism. We will really have to give and take what others also really have to give. We will have to avoid confrontation. Those who are committed to establish politics in which there are all-or-nothing fights for control, are a threat to man and beast. Their approach is directing our country to the awesome consequences of scorched earth policy meeting scorched earth policy.

It is now time for political reconciliation and it is now time for all Parties to come together to work side by side to establish a new future. I do not want to thrash the ANC in the process of producing a new South Africa and the ANC should not want to thrash the National Party in that process. Let us, I say, put Party politics aside when it comes to negotiations about the constitutional future of South Africa. Let us put the good of the State before the good of the Party in doing so.

Inkatha has a decided advantage which

makes it a very useful partner in the politics of negotiation. Inkatha is practised at negotiation.

We know that negotiation can work because we have seen it at work. We are specifically going to mobilise to negotiate. We are specifically going to mobilise to develop the liaison and the co-operation between the country's major groupings that sound negotiations demand.

Inkatha believes that its approach is saleable to Black South Africa and once the hideous killing stops, and once the politics of intimidation is shamed out of existence, we can through Inkatha's approach realise the ambitions and fulfill the needs of the poverty-ridden Black population in South Africa. They want the politics of reason. They want the politics of negotiation. They want a multi-party democracy. They want the normalisation of South Africa and they want economic development and the jobs that go with it.

Plea for Zulu unity to support democracy

Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi has made a strong plea for Zulu unity to support the emergence of a multi-party democracy in South Africa.

The Chief Minister of KwaZulu and President of the Inkatha Freedom Party was speaking at Kwakhupunyawo, in KwaZulu, at the unveiling ceremony of the tombstones of Inkosi Bekayiphi Sibiyi and Inkosi Mtshekula Sibiyi.

Dr Buthelezi said the negotiations for a new South Africa were not going to be a Party-political event. They would be a coming together of the forces needed to make a strong, united and stable South Africa. Negotiations were not going to be like a blank piece of paper in which the strong could push others aside.

The Zulu people had opted to choose peace, a multi-party democracy, and a political system which made people richer by developing the country's economy.

The Zulus had both the tradition of being powerful warriors and the prime movers in

putting violence behind them towards the establishment of a new South Africa. Peace had more power than the barrel of a gun could give any leader.

But never before had Zulus been so attacked politically as they were now. Dr Buthelezi said: "My call is a call for unity. Stand together for the sake of South Africa and as South Africans, to give South Africa the power and advantage of your Zuluness."

Referring to the recent speech by the ANC's Mr Chris Hani in Umtata, Dr Buthelezi said there were some who wanted to claim the present doom of apartheid as their doing. Mr Hani had said that the release of Dr Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners – and the unbanning of organisations – was an ANC victory.

"Such talk is bravado and will lead to him and his associates standing up in the politics of negotiation to dictate to others at the negotiating table. In doing so, he and others will dictate to the people."

It was not the ANC which had destroyed apartheid – it was done through the efforts of ordinary people who had challenged apartheid laws. This was the miracle of South Africa.

"Negotiations were not going to be like a blank piece of paper in which the strong could push others aside."