

AROUND THE TABLE

The Inkatha Freedom Party's position

**"We will pursue these objectives with a clear perception of how the whole of Southern Africa depends upon South Africans succeeding in achieving these kind of objectives. South Africa is not an island unto itself; it is part of Africa and it has a Southern African responsibility in particular." –
Dr Mangosuthu G Buthelezi, President, Inkatha Freedom Party**

The Inkatha Freedom Party, led by its President Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, will be at the negotiating table, along with the SA Government, the National Party, the African National Congress and others when South Africa's future will, to a large extent, be decided.

The Inkatha Freedom Party will be there to negotiate the following:

- * One South Africa with one sovereign Parliament resting on universal adult franchise;
- * The rule of law and an independent judiciary capable of preserving it and of preserving individual and group rights;
- * The protection of minority rights in ways and means which are not offensive to

The Inkatha Freedom Party has dedicated itself to four great tasks:

1. To establish an open, free, non-racial, equal opportunity, reconciled society with democratic safeguards for all people.
2. To harness the great resources of the country to fight the real enemies of the people, namely: poverty, hunger, unemployment, disease, ignorance, insecurity, homelessness and

moral decay.

3. To establish political and economic structures that encourage enterprise and create more wealth, and make it possible to redistribute the wealth of the country to the benefit of all people.
4. To ensure the maintenance of a stable, peaceful society in which all people can pursue their happiness, and realise their potential, without fear or favour.

any of the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

- * The freedoms of movement and association and expression which are normative in all modern Western industrial democracies;

- * The acceptance of the need for an enterprise-driven economy limited only in a way that European and Northern American countries limit their economies.

Dr Buthelezi and the IFP have stated that the whole question of minority group rights will have to be brought out into the open and *not* swept under the negotiating table.

"Revolutionaries, or ex-revolutionaries as they would have us look at them, are arguing that all we need is the rule of law, and at most a Bill of Rights, and groups will automatically receive the protection they need," says Dr Buthelezi.

"That may be true for the South Africa which will follow a successful transition to a democracy. I raise the question of minority group protection as a question which is highly relevant to whether or not we are ever going to reach the democracy we are aiming for.

"Revolutionaries – or ex-revolutionaries however you think of them – are demanding all or nothing politics in winner-takes-all battles. The ANC in the Harare Declaration it authored for OAU adoption, calls for the establishment of a Constituent Assembly and the handing over of power to it by the SA Government. They do so in the same breath as rejecting all calls for minority group rights.

"Many white South Africans are afraid of the future and that fear is as real as it is unjustified. You cannot just ignore it. If we do so, we will be inviting a white backlash which would make the worst that UNITA could do to the MPLA government in Angola and the worst that Renamo could do to the Frelimo government in Mocambique look like child's play.

"It is a political fact of life that whites will have to be woeed into a non-racial democracy, or there will be no democracy of any kind. They are so strategically placed in society, and they are so militarily trained and they are so entrenched wherever they are, that they could combine to bring any government to its knees in a relatively short space of time."

Aims and objectives

In line with its request for all involved in negotiations to set out precisely their baseline positions, the INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY has formulated the following basic aims and objectives.

1. To promote and encourage the development of the people spiritually, economically, educationally and politically;
2. To eradicate all forms of corruption, exploitation of man by man and intimidation;
3. To ensure acceptance of the principles of equal opportunity and treatment for all people in all walks of life;
4. To co-operate with any movement or organisation for the improvement of the conditions of the people;
5. To secure the most efficient production and equitable distribution of the wealth of the Nation in the best interests of the people;
6. To abolish all forms of discrimination and segregation based on tribe, clan, sex, colour or creed;
7. To protect, encourage and promote trade, commerce, industry, agriculture and conservation of natural resources by all means in the interests of the people and encourage all citizens to participate in all sectors of the economy;
8. To work for the establishment and entrenchment of a Bill of Rights;
9. To inculcate and foster a vigorous consciousness of patriotism and a strong sense of national unity based on a common and individual loyalty and devotion to our Land;
10. To instil among our people the spirit of self-help and self-reliance;
11. To co-operate locally and internationally with all Nations which work for the complete eradication of all forms of colonialism, racialism,

neocolonialism, imperialism and discrimination and to strive for the attainment of African unity;

12. To promote and support worthy customs and cultures of all South Africans.

It proposes to carry on any other activities which in the opinion of the Party are conducive to the attainment of the aims and objectives of the Party.

The IFP believes that there can be no going back to apartheid or any other form of dictatorial minority political control.

At the same time, although political parties in South Africa are providing powerful forces for change, no one party is capable of taking total control to determine what happens and when it happens.

The IFP has never aspired to be a monolithic political force in South Africa and from the beginning of its political existence it has sought national unity based on the general acceptance of a "multi-strategy" approach.

It has therefore always adopted a centre-stage position where political alliances would be formed if ever they were going to be formed and has adopted tactics and strategies which sought to establish a multi-party democracy to escape from hideous apartheid control and to avoid the dictatorial politics inherent in one-party States.

The Inkatha Freedom Party is working for a situation in which there will be devolution of power from the top downwards and from the centre outwards to provide the kind of checks and balances which would curb any excesses in the role of a future central government.

The need for reconciliation

"No one political party can dictate the future of South Africa... This places a premium on normalising political relationships and defining common interests and developing common cause in the pursuit of objectives which can be pursued together by alliance partners... The great racial divide will have to be broken. This is clearly seen by the fact that the Inkatha Freedom Party, the National Party and the ANC are all multi-racial. Of course the

National Party will remain dominantly white and the IFP and the ANC will remain dominantly black. But all political parties will now have to seek support across colour lines if they are going to remain contenders for the right to participate in the formation of governments with others..."

— Dr Mangosuthu G Buthelezi, address to the Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Commons, London, November 1990.