

Ushering in democracy

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tion, delegates drew up a series of resolutions and a draft a code of conduct.

The resolutions included:

- all members shall accept and practise the principle of political tolerance;
- all members have the right to constructive criticism;
- all people and organisations shall be afforded the right to assembly;
- the right to own property shall be guaranteed;
- the right to life shall be guaranteed;
- all organisations are to have free access to media and amenities without hindrance;
- discipline is to be exercised by the respective executive committees of the transgressors;
- the system of hereditary rules is to be observed and respected;
- agreements made at national level by both organisations need to filter down to the grassroots, and this should be the responsibility of both organisations;
- the IYP should not monopolise KwaNdebele state resources because state resources belong to all the people of KwaNdebele;
- the civil service must be separated from politics;
- there must be a clear distinction between IYP and the KwaNdebele government;
- since the IYP has influence in the government it should support other community organisations which have genuine problems with the government; and
- communication channels to be created at all levels through the secretary-general in order to resolve problems.

It was agreed unanimously that a joint report-back meeting to members in the region be organised, and the secretaries general of both organisations were mandated to form a regional liaison committee.

A liaison committee was appointed with the task of ensuring the implementation of the resolutions and code of conduct.

Elements of the code of conduct included the freedom to organise and canvass support; the right to free assembly and equal access to venues; freedom of expression (including access to the media and the right to positive criticism);

and a commitment to the protection of lives and property.

This new deal entrenching peace and tolerance in KwaNdebele has already begun to give rise to other events.

The IYP and ANC are now looking to a bright future where they will be organising joint political education programmes such as voter education, and the message will be filtered through to grassroots membership.

Ronnie Mamoepa, ANC regional publicity secretary, said the conference deserved praise since it had served as a 'pace setter' for promoting a culture of democracy in our country.

Paul Zondo is a regional co-ordinator in Idasa's Pretoria office.



UN observer Antonio Cubeiro with Idasa's Braam Viljoen at the workshop.

Have you seen them? What do they mean?

The SABC seeks a way of changing the world while changing itself.

By SUE VALENTINE

YES, what do they mean? Those brief adverts on television with South Africans of varying shades of pigment and political belief, airing their views on liberty, equality, the economy and a host of other 'popular' concerns.

Reaction to the 'People Say' campaign, produced by advertising giant Saatchi & Saatchi for the SABC, is varied. Some regard it as an SABC image-building effort, others see it as an attempt to encourage debate and build tolerance in a divided society.

Both perceptions are correct. In recent years the SABC has been at pains to polish its tarnished image - hiring consultants to advise it on how best to tell the world it is changing, at the same time as attempting to fulfil its role as public broadcaster.

Certainly the initiative to air a diversity of viewpoints and to promote public debate is encouraging. No matter how long it has been in coming, the use of the national airwaves to attempt to foster understanding and tolerance is a welcome development.

What exactly is being done *inside* the corporation to encourage a climate of tolerance, independent investigative and credible journalism remains shrouded in defensive secrecy. Besides the public relations exercises, there's been little attempt by the SABC to



Ruth Tomaselli: audience in the dark

What other

Gavin Stewart, professor of journalism, Rhodes University

'The ads do seem to raise people's awareness of each other, but I'm a bit bewildered at the people they're choosing... They seem to be taking fairly far-out views to the left and the right and I'm not sure what this actually achieves.

'It reminds me of the Archie Bunker series in the United States which was intended to ridicule bigotry, but had