

# HISTORIC DECLARATION

The Chief Minister of Lebowa, Dr C M Phatudi, recently paid a visit to Ulundi and he and the Chief Minister of KwaZulu, Chief M G Buthelezi, presented an historic joint declaration to South Africa.

In it Dr Phatudi and Chief Buthelezi both declared they would never accept "independence" for KwaZulu and Lebowa and that they both totally rejected the South African Government's new constitution.

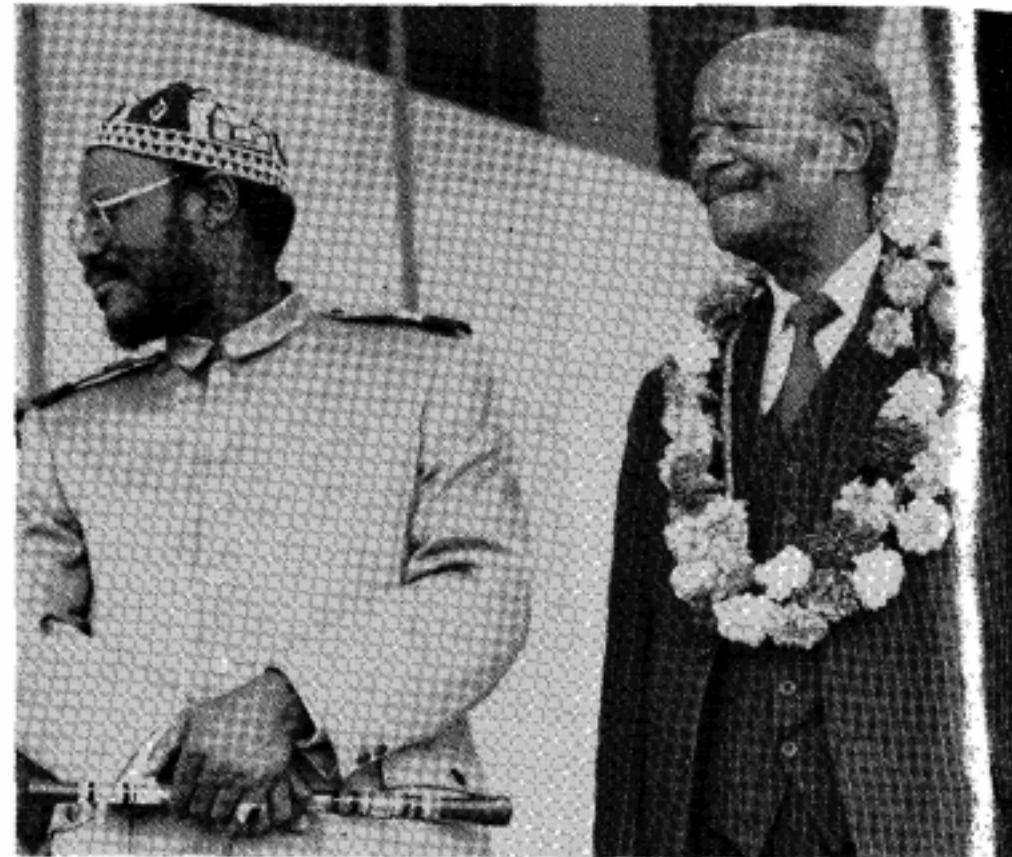
## THE JOINT DECLARATION READ:

Cognizant of our responsibility to the people of South Africa, we the Chief Ministers of KwaZulu and Lebowa together declare:

1. Our commitment to bring about a just and open society in South Africa where all shall be free before the law and where all shall enjoy equality of opportunity, and where all South Africans, regardless of race, colour or creed, will be joined together in a common patriotism to work together for one destiny for all the peoples of this country.
2. Our commitment to lead our people to bring about the fundamental changes South Africa requires by the employment of non-violent tactics and strategies.
3. Our commitment to democratic procedures in the pursuit of the noble objectives which must be served if this country is to be diverted from the path of racial conflict and destruction which surely follows in the wake of apartheid.
4. Our commitment to work with each other and with all who strive after the same goals and objectives that we strive after and who employ tactics and strategies which do not violate the democratic freedom of the people to work for the future of their choice.

Together we state our abhorrence of apartheid and our refusal to be drawn into co-operating with the South African Government in so far as it seeks to make us participate in its divide and rule policies. We therefore solemnly state:

1. That we will never accept the kind of so-called independence which the South African Government is offering our people.
2. That we reject the new constitution which disenfranchises 22 million Black South Africans and envisages a future confederation of Southern African States in which Whites will retain a monopoly of social, political and economic power.



Together we recognise that as Black leaders in South Africa, we bear the responsibility of arranging our priorities so that we serve not only the people of KwaZulu and Lebowa respectively, but that we also serve them in a way in which our respective peoples are joined in the common pursuits which all freedom-loving people in South Africa can endorse.

Together we express the sincere hope that we can contribute towards the politics of reconciliation in which all Black political groups can work together in a united front. And we both express the hope that in due course those Black leaders who have opted for the kind of independence which Pretoria is offering black South Africa will return to the Black political fold.

As leaders who are supported in our positions by millions of Black South Africans, we feel it incumbent on us not only to reject apartheid and all forms of racism, but we also feel obligated to our own people and to the Black masses of South Africa to lead the way for exploring an alternative political dispensation which will both banish racism from the country's social, economic and political life, and which will at the same time seek compromise solutions which all race groups could endorse.

Believing as we do in the democratic right of any people to order the future of their country as they see fit, we undertake, together with the people, to explore all possibilities open to us. We have decided to explore federalism, amongst other options, as a possible compromise solution if it is accepted by the majority of South Africans. We do not prescribe this to the people of South Africa. But we consider it to be a viable option based on the knowledge that the great democracies have successfully employed principles of federalism to achieve a free and united society. And we do this in the fervent hope that White racial fears will be allayed and that Black and White together will ever increasingly be brought to work with each other to create a society in which no race group fears any other race group, and in which no race group will seek to dominate any other race group.



Chief M G Buthelezi and Dr C M Phatudi.