



President de Klerk and Dr Buthelezi... winner-takes-all politics firmly rejected.

leaders to become part of a process of negotiation. This implied involvement and participation, joint planning and joint decision-making about the foundation on which the new South Africa had to be built.

President de Klerk said various "issue-alliances" would be possible in the negotiation process, on the basis of agreement on values and principles. The proposed agenda for a multi-party conference would include the composition, functioning and logistics of the negotiating forum, and seeking agreement, as far as possible, on the main principles on which a new constitution should be based.

It would also address the question of broadening the base of political involvement and participation in Government decisions during the transitional period of formal constitutional negotiations.

President de Klerk firmly rejected the winner-takes-all model in decision-making. "Minorities rebel if they feel they have not been accommodated properly", he said.

And he made it clear that the concept of an interim government (as demanded by the ANC/SA Communist Party alliance) was not acceptable. "The idea that the present lawfully-constituted Government should relinquish its duty and legitimate authority to govern, and simply hand over its responsibilities to some temporary regime, cannot be considered in any internationally-recognised, sovereign, independent State", President de Klerk said.

Continuous planning and effective government needed to take place within the existing constitutional dispensation until a new constitution had been negotiated and given the force of law by Parliament.

Dr Buthelezi was "torchbearer for democracy"

President de Klerk praised the role played by the Zulu people, the KwaZulu

Legislative Assembly and Inkatha in normalising South African political life over

the years.

And in a glowing tribute to the IFP President, Mr de Klerk said "The political torchbearer over the years was Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi. It is to your credit that you campaigned continuously for the introduction of a true, democratic system in the broader South African context, as well as in the KwaZulu/Natal area.

"The initiation of the Buthelezi Commission, your participation in the deliberations of the KwaZulu/Natal Indaba,

your initiatives in respect of the Joint Executive Authority, and the quality of the documents and arguments presented to the Working Group on Negotiations, which was appointed by our two Governments, stand as monuments to your consistent endeavours to promote reform politics in South Africa.

"The building of the new South Africa, and particularly of a new South African nation, has to be tackled with the same enthusiasm that characterised your endeavours in the past."



Members of the KwaZulu Cabinet at the official opening of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly.

Backing for strong regional identity

In a direct reference to Dr Buthelezi's assertion that KwaZulu was "going to be at the negotiating table as KwaZulu", President de Klerk hinted strongly that KwaZulu's right to its own identity during the talks on *South Africa's future* would be recognised.

President de Klerk said: "The Chief

Minister's strong insistence on the individual and particular character of KwaZulu underlines an important characteristic of the South African political scene."

The diversity of peoples, cultural groups and communities were "the building blocks of our nation, said President de Klerk, within the concept of a single nation in an undivided South Africa.