

# UNIONS... TRADE UNIONS... TRADE UNIONS

people who wish to improve their skills in the field of Industrial Labour Relations. Although we would naturally regard this as a service to our affiliated Trade Unions first and foremost, the ultimate objective is that a scheme of this nature should be available to any Black person regardless of his political affiliation.

**RT:** *Have any other unions made an approach to associate with Inkatha. If so, which ones?*

**DHLOMO:** *No other unions have made an approach to association with Inkatha in the sense of formally affiliating with Inkatha, but Inkatha has enjoyed cordial relations and has*

*emphasise that a Trade Union is a democratic medium whereby workers can negotiate with their employers on an equal basis with a view to achieving a healthy balance between the employers legitimate expectation to make a profit, and the workers equally legitimate expectation to earn a living wage.*

*Lastly, now that Black workers are equally allowed to participate in Trade Union activity, we in Inkatha feel very strongly that Black people need thorough training as labour organisers, administrators and negotiators. Consequently, Inkatha has used its labour contacts overseas to try and secure scholarships for aspiring Black*

*associated with some unions. for instance when the Zululand branch of Fosatu was inaugurated in 1983, members of that branch invited Chief Buthelezi to inaugurate it.*

**RT:** *Who will take control of the union section of Inkatha?*

**DHLOMO:** *For some time now the Central Committee of Inkatha has been toying with the idea of appointing a labour officer whose main function would be to liaise with labour unions. As yet no suitable person has been found for this post. Now that a labour union has formally affiliated with Inkatha, we will have to intensify the search for such a person.*

## SCRAP THIS MEANINGLESS CONSTITUTION

For me constitutions are not experimental things. They are not party political footballs. Constitutions for me enshrine the most valued things any society could possibly possess.

I see the new constitution simply as a party political experiment in a desperate attempt by Whites to perpetuate real White power over the control of 87 percent of the country of my birth.

The new constitution must and will eventually be scrapped and it must be replaced by a constitution of lasting merit capable of consolidating the country into a single purposeful whole.

I believe that there are various constitutional models among which we can choose. I believe that our choice, and the adaptation of the model of our choice to suit our circumstances, must be a product of real political process in this country, as Blacks seek to accommodate Whites in their future and as Whites seek to accommodate Blacks.

The constitution we finally end up with will be the final product of a long process of negotiation.

If I see an alternative and lasting constitution in this light, I must necessarily avoid being prescriptive in my thinking.

At this point in time, I would say that the constitution Black South Africa will eventually support will be a constitution which accepts one South Africa, with one Government and a single destiny for all its people.

Whether that constitution will be the constitution of a unitary state or a constitution of a federation of South African States is for me not that important.

I myself am inclined to believe that there may be a great deal of merit in exploring a federal future for this country.

One-man-one-vote in a unitary state with political institutions in which the winner-takes-all principle is operative, will I fear be more than the White electorate could swallow in the very foreseeable future.

Blacks would continue to reject any form of confederalism as far as and beyond any of us can now see.

If we are to reject a confederal formula as Blacks, and if whites are to reject a one-man-one-vote unitary state, then it would appear to me that the principles of federalism are invoked by reality as containing the kind of flexibility within which negotiations can take place, and within which compromises can be made.



Chief M G Buthelezi