

TIME FOR A NEW MANDATE

"Go back to the electorate," Buthelezi tells National Party

"We invite you, Mr Minister, to wade into the problems we face with us. Let us now begin to deal with them. Let us stop pussy-footing around. Let us stop posturing. Let us set ourselves real agendas. Black democracy must be unshackled and South Africa must move towards real negotiation between black and white about the constitutional future of this country . . ."

— Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, addressing Mr Chris Heunis at the opening of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly.

In his reply to Minister Chris Heunis at the opening of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly in March, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi said he believed it was "vitally important" that the National party approached the white electorate for a "new and far-reaching mandate" which shed past ambiguities.

He hoped that when the time came for Mr P W Botha to retire, Afrikanerdom would produce leaders who would carry Afrikanerdom across new horizons of dynamic politics.

At this juncture of South African history the South African Government should be re-examining itself very critically.

"I am one of those who agree that Government action is pivotal for success in the politics of negotiation," the Chief Minister said.

"We cannot negotiate a new South Africa into existence without the South African Government and the National Party being party to the negotiations."

Dr Buthelezi added that South Africa's future must be "governed" into existence.

"All or nothing demands of total capitulation and the handing over of power by the South African Government is a declaration of devastating war in which there will be no winners.

"The South African Government is a de facto and de jure government. It is childish to jump up and down and call it an illegitimate government. I have not heard one person describe military juntas, which we have in such abundance in Africa, as "illegitimate" once they become de facto and de jure governments of their particular



The opening — KwaZulu Legislative Assembly.

countries.

"The government is wrong; it is not representative; it is not democratic, but it is the government of the day and it is a government of the day which must be salvaged from the consequences of its own actions."

Democracy alone could ensure the survival of democratic ideals.

"Democratic ideals cannot be preserved by dictators or fascist governments," he said.

"They cannot be preserved if they are kept in some kind of political suspension while the South African Government rules by power vested in it in states of national emergencies.

"Political ideals can only ultimately be preserved in exercising them."

At the start of his annual Policy Speech Dr Buthelezi said the National Party was being "driven by history" and that economic imperatives had "taken it by the neck and shaken it."

Apartheid as Dr Verwoerd dreamed of was quite out of reach.

"Perhaps the National Party does

not yet know how to deal with these new realities which are now unavoidable for it. Perhaps the National Party will even continue blundering in attempting to buy time as it tries to re-examine its position.

"Whatever it does in harmony with the forces of history or in opposition to the forces of history, apartheid is doomed and the National Party knows that this is the case."

Dr Buthelezi said the country was entering a "dangerous phase" in the politics of transition. Nothing could stop the onward march of events and the final eradication of apartheid.

"But there is ample room to make very costly blunders even if the victory of apartheid is now inevitable."

The only way to achieve a multi-racial democracy in South Africa was through the politics of negotiation.

Some revolutionaries claimed that democratic opposition to apartheid had failed.

"Democracy cannot fail," stressed Dr Buthelezi. "Only those who abandon democracy fail."