

# STATEMENT OF INTENT

**In 1985 Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi put forward an example of the kind of declaration of intent needed from the Government before meaningful talks about "power-sharing" and reconciliation could commence.**

**A**t that time he said that the "crucial question of black/white power-sharing" needed to be tabled and the State President had

avoided doing so.

Dr Buthelezi wrote a letter to 5 000 influential South Africans asking them to respond to his initiatives and thoughts regarding the role of KwaZulu and the need for the South African Government to make the kind of declaration of intent which would have the effect of joining blacks and whites together in a determined effort to "move purposefully into a new future . . ." He was inundated with thousands of positive replies.

At that time Dr Buthelezi noted that he was in a position in which he had to reject the State President's invitation to discuss matters of mutual concern in an

informal non-statutory forum — one of the bodies set up before the present National Council.

He added that the State President needed to go beyond a forum in which blacks had to undertake to talk about the future in terms which were totally unacceptable to the vast majority of ordinary Africans.

*Mr P W Botha later informed Dr Buthelezi that he was not prepared to issue such a declaration.*

THE FOLLOWING IS THE  
DECLARATION PUT  
FORWARD BY DR  
BUTHELEZI.

## Declaration of Intent

**' . . . I emphasise that I am only giving an example of the kind of Declaration of Intent about which I am talking . . . there are Whites who are misled about what Black South Africa demands. We do not demand to dominate as Blacks over Whites. We seek only to share in a way in which Whites can join in. If we cannot do this, then what is there to do?' — Dr M G Buthelezi, 1985.**

**We the undersigned hereby declare our commitment to serve God in obedience to His divine will for our country and together:**

**Recognise that:**

- The history of mankind shows the need for adaptive change among all peoples and all nations.
- Nations which have managed to avoid the use of violence in the achievement

**of national objectives are the nations which have grown in wisdom.**

- Both mistakes and lessons not yet learned led to errors of judgement in the mainstream politics in both the Black and White sections of our society
- The South African people are a family of mankind, seeking to live in harmony in the African community of nations and seeking to do so by expressing

civilised ideals in the practical social, economic and political affairs of our country.

- The South African constitution as it is now written is by force of history and reality a first step in constitutional reform which urgently needs the second step to be taken of enriching the constitution to make it as acceptable to the broad mass of African opinion as it has been made acceptable to the broad mass of White opinion.
- The Westminster model of government was not ordained by God to be the only form of good government.  
We therefore accept:
  - The need to make the preamble to the South African constitution of equal value to all the groups and peoples of the country by enriching the clause: "To respect, to further and to protect the self-determination of population groups and peoples" to include the notion that this can best be done by sharing power. We need to share power in such a way that no one can dictate to any other group how to express its own self-determination, and we also need to share power in a formula within which the hallowed values of good government are not compromised.
  - The need to preserve the constitutionality of the adaptive democratic process on which we will jointly rely in being subservient to the divine will for our country. We will therefore together seek:
    - To negotiate as leaders to amend the South African constitution to make it more acceptable to all groups.
    - To find an alternative political system to that which the world at large understands by the word 'apartheid' and also to seek an alternative political system in which universal adult suffrage is expressed in constitutional terms acceptable to all the peoples of South Africa.

- To give expression to the common citizenship of all South Africa's peoples without qualifying the meaning of citizenship for any group.
- To use the opportunities presented in practical politics at first, second and third tier levels of government to fashion national unity by deepening the democratic process, and to use the democratic process in exploration of what needs to be done to get the people to legitimise the instruments of government.

We therefore pledge ourselves:

- To express national pride and patriotism by insisting that South Africans will decide South Africa's future in the acceptance of each other as individuals and groups and the acceptance of each other's cultural rights to be who they are.
- To start where we find ourselves in history and to move from there to build on all that is positive and valuable and to change that which is negative and undesirable.
- Each to work in our own constituencies to develop a South African pride in managing our own South African affairs in harmony with internationally accepted standards of civilised decency without being dictated to from without.

Having thus declared we stand together to defend our right even with our lives to take the steps and the time needed to establish consensus between groups and to win support for our joint efforts in the South African family of nations.

And furthermore to stand together to defend South Africa from external onslaughts and to stand together to resist any use of violence which threatens the politics of negotiation aimed at national reconciliation.

I make only one thing totally non-negotiable. South Africa is one country, and there must be one citizenship for one nation.