

JUST WHO IS "DIVIDING"

In numerous statements COSATU and its President, Mr Elijah Barayi, accuse Chief Buthelezi and Inkatha — and now UWUSA — of "dividing" the workers. That workers have a democratic right to organise themselves as they see fit has been scorned by COSATU.

The facts of the matter are that Mr Barayi committed COSATU to being divisive right from the beginning when he began his attacks on Inkatha and its leadership.

Now COSATU would like people to believe that UWUSA is an Inkatha "sweetheart" union.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

UWUSA was formed by black workers who were totally disenchanted with Mr Barayi's utterances and the direction he has articulated he wishes trade unions to move towards.

In the 11 years since its formation, Inkatha has not involved itself in trade unions — while encouraging its 1.3 million members to join unions. Inkatha's stand on this matter has always been that trade unions have different responsibilities to political organisations.

There is evidence that Chief Buthelezi, throughout his entire political life, has fought for the establishment of trade unions for black workers and, as the Chief Minister of KwaZulu, has never interfered with their role in his region.

Inkatha policy is that trade unions and political organisations should co-exist in a broad front in which unity is based on a multi-strategy approach.

It would appear that workers reaction to Mr Barayi and COSATU (the 80 000 who gathered at the launch of UWUSA being a typical example) has shocked him. His

character assassination of Chief Buthelezi as reported in the media and his tirades against Inkatha and UWUSA seems to be a knee-jerk response to the rejection of COSATU by many workers.

Mr Barayi has now taken to saying that Chief Buthelezi is "on Pretoria's payroll ..." This, too, is not true and response to this vilification is required as these lies have caused considerable confusion both in South Africa and abroad.

The answer to this vile accusation is quite simple: Chief Buthelezi, a direct descendent of the founder of the Zulu nation, King Shaka, chose to fight apartheid where

elected to do so. This request was also made by leaders of the ANC including the late Chief Albert Luthuli. This is well documented and cannot be truthfully refuted by the ANC Mission in Exile.

Chief Buthelezi has stood by his people and has refused all attempts by the Government to force the Zulu nation to take "independence" for KwaZulu. In founding Inkatha — with a current membership of 1.3 million — he has forged the largest black political movement in the history of the country. It is a national organisation and does not distinguish between one black and another in terms of their



COSATU supporters at Curries Fountain on May 1. Traditionally Zulu men carry sticks, as shown here. Anti-Inkatha propagandists try to allege that only Chief Buthelezi's supporters carry them.

it is most divisive — in the Government's homelands policy.

KwaZulu is all that remains of the previously vast Zulu territory — it was not a creation of apartheid and Pretoria. There are seven million Zulus and they form the largest ethnic group in South Africa. As such they are a powerful and cohesive force against apartheid and the policies of the South African Government.

So intense is the desire of the Zulu nation to remain a part of South Africa and to resist so-called "independence" for the region that Chief Buthelezi was asked by the Zulu people to take up his traditional role as Prime Minister of the Zulus and he was subsequently

cultural and historical origins.

Chief Buthelezi has called for the release of Mr Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners as well as the unbanning of the ANC, PAC and other political organisations. He has refused to enter into any form of negotiations with the Government until these conditions have been met.

The Zulu people pay Chief Buthelezi's modest salary. They directly contribute R290 million to the KwaZulu budget. Whites alone do not produce the wealth of the country and South Africa is one country with one people who have one destiny. There is one economy and one central political process.

When Mr Barayi insults Chief Buthelezi as being on

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UWUSA supporters at the May 1 rally. Opposition to disinvestment and support for Chief Buthelezi was overwhelming.

"Pretoria's payroll" he insults all black people — as if they, too, do not have the right to drive on roads, enter hospitals, clinics, schools and universities.

Mr Barayi also asks about Chief Buthelezi: "Why is he a leader of KwaZulu and not the whole of South Africa? Why does he agree to ethnic divisions in our beloved land?"

Once again, Mr Barayi demonstrated his capacity to confuse and divide.

Chief Buthelezi is recognised as a national leader both in South Africa and abroad where he has, over many years, met numerous Heads of State. The very fact that he has kept KwaZulu intact as a part of South Africa and has opposed the Government at every turn is evidence of this.

The respected and influential international magazine, *Time*, said in a full-page article on Chief Buthelezi in late May this year: "Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi is perhaps the only man, white or black, who can bring about a peaceful end to apartheid ..."

Time went on to say that "... the Zulu Chief is likely to play a pivotal role in the future of the country ... even his bitterest critics acknowledge that Buthelezi's anti-apartheid credentials are solid and long-standing ..."

Mr Barayi is from the Ciskei. What did he do to stop Dr L Sebe from selling his birthright and accepting "independence" for the Ciskei a la Pretoria? Where are the Press reports of Mr Barayi's role in blocking "independence" for the place of his birth? Rhetoric is just not good enough.

Mr Barayi criticised Chief Buthelezi for agreeing to be the guest speaker at the launch of UWUSA. Mr Barayi was reported in the media as saying: "That puppet fool Gatsha has a rally in Durban while COSATU has another there ... he is confusing and dividing the worker class ..."

Chief Buthelezi agreed to address the UWUSA launch because he believes that UWUSA is a genuine workers' movement and that it will emerge as a tough union

fighting for worker rights and for the destruction of apartheid. It was for this same reason that he spoke at the launch of FOSATU in the Richard's Bay region some years ago and was also asked to the launch of CCAWUSA in Durban.

UWUSA is not an Inkatha trade union and it never will be. Inkatha has its own strength and it does not need a trade union to "front" for it. UWUSA supporters believe it will grow from strength to strength because it has genuine trade union commitments.

Mr Barayi and COSATU must understand that the bulk of Inkatha's members are workers and that an insult directed at Inkatha and its leaders is an insult to all. His continuous attacks on the movement harm the cause of black unity.

The huge attendance at UWUSA's launch must surely have given Mr Barayi a message.

The Editor