

Lively debate on the issues

The Inkatha Business Forum produced an enthusiastic response from members of the audience – which included some of the most influential leaders and opinion formers in the South African industrial and business community.

Lively discussion and questioning continued for one-and-a-half hours under the direction of a panel chaired by Times Media MD and Chief Executive, Mr Stephen Mulholland. He was joined by Mr Bobby Godsell, Anglo American's Director of Industrial Relations and Public Affairs; and Mr Don Caldwell, author of "South Africa: The New Revolution."

Representing Inkatha – in addition to Dr Buthelezi – were Inkatha's National chairman, Dr FT Mdlalose; Mr Alpheus Mkhwanazi, Secretary for Economic Affairs in the KwaZulu Government; Mr SJ Mhulungu, Chief Executive Officer of the Khulani Group of Companies and Inkatha Central Committee member; Dr Gavin Woods, Executive Director of the Inkatha Institute; and Mr Musa Myeni, member of the Inkatha Central Committee.

Amongst the issues raised were:

• **Widening political options:** The point was made that the debate is now widening with the realisation that organisations such as Inkatha intend to play a major role in the politics of the country. The "economic debate" could also now widen – away from the narrow doctrinaire ideas of the ANC.

• **"The land question can now be brought out into the open":** Dr Buthelezi raised this issue. He indicated that new legislation in KwaZulu was designed to open up freehold opportunities and asked for contributions to the effective and progressive opening up of opportunities for land tenure and ownership to be freely available to the Black as well as the White population.

• **"State ownership":** A number of contributions were made on the need to ensure that present "state ownership" should be decreased, and many more sectors of the economy "privatised"; it was pointed out that so far as the ANC were concerned they would be very happy if they were able to

take over the State ownership structure as it existed, since it would give them instant nationalisation!"

• **"What is the membership of Inkatha now?":** It was stated that an audit of paid up membership was nearing completion and it appeared that the figure would be at least 1,8 million. It was also pointed out that there was an increasing "silent" membership and that because of intimidation in certain areas, some found it difficult to come out publicly with their membership.

• **"How do we change the attitudes of the pro-sanctions lobby in the U.S.?:** Some contributors pointed out that Dr Mandela was doing some of the job for us by his statements that antagonised business people in the U.S. Dr Buthelezi pointed out that if Inkatha had funds, it could change opinion there; another speaker said he knew that investors were already getting ready to come back into South Africa if the conditions are right.

• **"How do we persuade Black youth to vote for a free market economy – since it had not done them much good so far?":** Give them education, training and job opportunities and they will believe, was the answer.

• **"Don't use the term "mixed economy" in South Africa":** The view was expressed that we needed to break "State monopolism" in South Africa as well as encourage an enterprise-led economy.

• **"Please can we start to use post-apartheid forms of statistics now":** Urban v rural, poor v rich, *not* Black v White.

• **"Please can we change peoples' perceptions of the causes of violence in Natal":** Dr Buthelezi said he was in favour of a government judicial enquiry as long as it was clearly independent.

• **"Isn't ANC "urban" and Inkatha "rural"?:** Dr Mdlalose said that the time had come to explode the myth that if you were Zulu you were a "country bumpkin"! He thought this was another piece of ANC-encouraged propaganda! It was pointed out that Inkatha was as strong in urban areas, including SOWETO, as it was in rural areas.

• Many other subjects were also discussed.