

THE PARTY BEGINS...



Doves, balloons as new Inkatha is born

The new Inkatha was launched in scenes of jubilation and enthusiasm never before seen at an annual general conference.

Some 15 000 people began converging on the giant marquee, colourful venue for Dr Buthelezi's epoch-making speech, shortly after daybreak.

In a festive atmosphere, to the backdrop of balloons in the black, green, yellow, red and white colours of the new Inkatha, thousands

of Inkatha supporters arrived on foot, in buses and in taxis from all parts of the country. They waved their flags and banners, they sang lustily and broke into a deafening roar when KwaZulu Chief Minister and President of Inkatha, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, made his way to the podium.

As he did so, a flock of doves soared skywards, symbolising Inkatha's message of

Stirring speech to Conference

One of the most dynamic contributions to the annual conference came from Mr Morris MacKenzie (left), a senior Inkatha member and executive member of the Action Group for Democracy (AGD).

Mr MacKenzie, a Natal farmer, brought delegates to their feet in a stirring speech, delivered in the main in fluent Zulu.

Mr MacKenzie was also present at the Inkatha Media Forum, held in Johannesburg in the week leading up to the Conference. Explaining his decision to support Inkatha, Mr MacKenzie said there was "precious little other than Inkatha which offers me and my family long-term security."





Dr Buthelezi arrives at the start of Inkatha's historic day.

peace as the new Party prepared to take its place on the centre-stage of South African politics.

Outside the huge marquee, there was a brisk trade in beads, rosettes and scarves in the Inkatha colours.

The multi-racial character of the audience epitomised the new Inkatha. As well as diplomatic observers, an official National Party delegation and members of the Tricameral Parliament, there were many

hundreds of ordinary South Africans – of all ages, colours and creeds – who had come with an open mind to hear a message of hope from the new Inkatha.

They were not disappointed. Even before the main speeches, some of Inkatha's new White supporters came forward to sign their Party membership forms. More than 50 Whites signed up before 10.30 am – and about 6 000 Blacks signed up the previous day, the first day of the annual conference.



The Inkatha Freedom Party President and his wife, Princess Irene, admire a bouquet of flowers presented by (from left) Angeline King, Adam Griffin, Roberta and Philippa King.

The Party begins...

Some of the tens of thousands of people who packed the giant marquee to hear Dr MG Buthelezi launch the new Party.



These representatives of the Indian Community, who travelled to Ulundi from Cape Town, were among the large multi-racial crowd who heard Dr Buthelezi announce that Inkatha's membership was being opened to all races.



"We should have listened" – Nat MP

A senior National Party MP told the Conference that the Government should have listened to Dr Buthelezi's Inkatha movement years ago.

This admission came from the Natal National Party chairman and MP for Vryheid, Mr Jurie Mentz, to loud roars of approval from the packed audience.

Mr Mentz led the NP delegation, which included the Party's Chief Director of Information, Mr Renier Schoeman; the MP for Umfolozi, Mr James Schnetler and the new member of the President's Council, Mr Rudi Redinger. It was the first time the National Party had been officially represented at Inkatha's annual conference.

Opening his speech in fluent Zulu, Mr Mentz went on to say that no Party in South Africa could ignore Inkatha or the Zulu people. Dr Buthelezi had always preached peace, rather than war.

Mr Mentz said that before the Whites came to South Africa, Dr Buthelezi's ancestors were playing an important part in the country. "Are we to be told now that these people have no role to play in the future?," he asked.

"The Chief Minister has proved himself to be a champion of peace. We did not listen to him in the past, but we admit today he was right."

He said the three key players in the future negotiation process would be President FW de Klerk, Dr Buthelezi and ANC vice-president, Dr Nelson Mandela, who would have to renounce violence.

Mr Mentz added: "We agree that there were no equal opportunities in the past. Now we are not ashamed to say that you Black people in Inkatha are our brothers and sisters."

He called the new Inkatha a "Party of the future" and said the new South Africa would be shaped by leaders such as President de Klerk and Dr Buthelezi.



Mr Jurie Mentz addressing the Conference.