

the years.

And in a glowing tribute to the IFP President, Mr de Klerk said "The political torchbearer over the years was Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi. It is to your credit that you campaigned continuously for the introduction of a true, democratic system in the broader South African context, as well as in the KwaZulu/Natal area.

"The initiation of the Buthelezi Commission, your participation in the deliberations of the KwaZulu/Natal Indaba,

your initiatives in respect of the Joint Executive Authority, and the quality of the documents and arguments presented to the Working Group on Negotiations, which was appointed by our two Governments, stand as monuments to your consistent endeavours to promote reform politics in South Africa.

"The building of the new South Africa, and particularly of a new South African nation, has to be tackled with the same enthusiasm that characterised your endeavours in the past."



Members of the KwaZulu Cabinet at the official opening of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly.

Backing for strong regional identity

In a direct reference to Dr Buthelezi's assertion that KwaZulu was "going to be at the negotiating table as KwaZulu", President de Klerk hinted strongly that KwaZulu's right to its own identity during the talks on *South Africa's future* would be recognised.

President de Klerk said: "The Chief

Minister's strong insistence on the individual and particular character of KwaZulu underlines an important characteristic of the South African political scene."

The diversity of peoples, cultural groups and communities were "the building blocks of our nation, said President de Klerk, within the concept of a single nation in an undivided South Africa.

This reality underlined the potential of regional government to which Dr Buthelezi had made a "decisive and important" contribution.

But President de Klerk emphasised that regional government structures should not be seen as a substitute for full participation

in central government structures.

Referring to the traditional leadership, President de Klerk said he did not believe it would be possible to govern the new South Africa without the help of traditional leaders "as heads of natural socio-political entities in their communities."



His Majesty, King Goodwill Zwelithini and Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi at the opening of the Legislative Assembly.

Afrikaners "at end of Great Trek"

President FW de Klerk and his wife, Marike, were the guests at a luncheon at the Emandleni-Matleng training camp, following the official opening of the Legislative Assembly.

In a brief speech at the luncheon, His Majesty, King Goodwill Zwelithini, said the Afrikaner people were coming to the end of the Great Trek, where they were discovering that a democracy for themselves could only be achieved in a South Africa where there was a shared democracy for everybody.

President de Klerk was beginning to finish what the first South African Prime Minister, Louis Botha, had started in the Afrikaner's search for a democratic society.

The King also dwelt on the theme of

forgiveness and reconciliation, as typified in the Zulu spirit of Ubuntu-Botho, and its importance in the current political debate in South Africa.

King Goodwill added: "We must move to the point where Zulus and Afrikaners together commemorate the things in the past that have moved the Zulus and the Afrikaners to become the actors that they are in the South African situation.

"It is entirely idle to say that Afrikaners are not playing a role as Afrikaners in the shaping of the new South Africa. They are playing a role. There is no escaping that either. There is also no escaping the need for Zulus and Afrikaners to play a joint role in creating the new South Africa. That joining of forces will and must come."