
NEGOTIATIONS:

KwaZulu stakes its claim

The KwaZulu Government has issued a series of five manifestos outlining its stance on negotiations and the role KwaZulu will expect to play in a post-apartheid South Africa. KwaZulu Chief Minister, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, has emphasised that KwaZulu will seek a place at the negotiating table in its own right, as distinct from the place also claimed by the Inkatha Freedom Party. In the manifesto documents, KwaZulu says it will have to be consulted – and be a party to – any decisions concerning its existence and status in a proposed reconstituted South Africa...

Negotiating forum

Dealing with the composition of the negotiating forum and KwaZulu's presence in it – the KwaZulu Government endorses the view that all shades of political opinion, large and small, should be represented on a negotiation forum, which should be brought into being as a matter of urgency.

It urges that the South African government and self-governing regions consider formally endorsing agreed-to compositions and structures of negotiating teams. It would also like to see the door left open for participation by the TBVC regions, should they wish to do so.

In any event, the document states, KwaZulu insists that it will be at the negotiating forum because it has never lost its sense of identity as an independent sovereign Kingdom; and Zulus have never regarded KwaZulu as a construct of apartheid.

KwaZulu says it has pride in its historic role in shaping the pre-1910 Southern Africa and in the backing it gave to the establishment of the original African National Congress in 1912 – as well as to the Black liberation struggle ever since.

It declares it will be "a building block in the new South Africa", either on its own – or in association with the Province of Natal (as now constituted or reconstituted in negotiations).

Second Tier Government

KwaZulu sees a need for stripping the State of its "draconian powers" – as well as removing the "frightening powers" at present given to the Executive State President.

It proposes that central government power be reduced by a devolution of power both downwards and outwards, to give greater decision-making autonomy to the second tier level of government.

KwaZulu also calls for group rights protection to be negotiated "in the context of redistributed power that devolution will make possible". This could result in cultural groups and communities having a direct say in their own protection and securing their vested interests – provided group rights protection did not conflict with the Bill of Rights, or individual rights.

Continuity in reform process

KwaZulu says a new Constitution would best meet South Africa's requirements if it provided for a Parliamentary democracy and government structures reminiscent of government before the Tricameral Parliament – but effectively stripped of racist restrictions.

In support of its call for devolution of power, KwaZulu says there is a need for a second tier amalgam of KwaZulu and Natal to form a single rationalised second tier level of government. It says it will commence negotiations on such a second tier, using the Buthelezi Commission reports and the KwaZulu/Natal Indaba constitutional proposals as starting points.

The fear factor

KwaZulu says it is committed to achieving national reconciliation as a condition for successful negotiations. To this end, it is vital that the fear factor – on the left and the right of the political spectrum – be dealt with.

It says it will seek to get the ANC/SACP alliance's acceptance that winner-takes-all politics will provoke extreme forms of

opposition and lay the foundation for post-negotiation subversion, which would make the Renamo-Frelimo and Unita/MPLA conflicts child's play by comparison.

KwaZulu will also prevail on the National Party to urgently spell out what it means by minority group protection, to dispel understandable Black fears that Whites will be given political advantages as a privileged race group.

KwaZulu also gives the assurance that it will negotiate minority group protection without seeking to establish cultural or ethnic advantages.

Elimination of violence

Against the background of the recent Inkatha Freedom Party/ANC peace accord in Durban – which it applauds – the KwaZulu Government undertakes to spread the peace message in grass root society and to consult the people on how best to restructure communities torn apart by violence.

It appeals to the South African Government to treat strife-torn Natal and KwaZulu as a disaster area and calls for educational and motivational programmes by the IFP and the ANC aimed at cultivating a "culture of democracy" to replace cultures of revolution and violence.

KwaZulu also calls for joint IFP/ANC programmes on the one hand – and the private sector on the other – to establish Peace Planning Councils to undertake social reconstruction and rehabilitation work, and to identify community problems which stand in the way of wealth creation needed to eliminate the backlogs in Black society.

It has also called for a four-way partnership between the IFP, the ANC, free enterprise and the KwaZulu Government, in areas of KwaZulu jurisdiction where major reconstruction developments cannot go ahead without KwaZulu participation. KwaZulu also envisages a National Peace Conference which would charter a three-year peace action programme and establish the function of an Ombudsman for peace.

Dealing with White and Black fears on the way to a multi-party democracy

The Inkatha Freedom Party believes that White fears must be recognised and addressed in the coming constitutional negotiations. There are negative fears based on prejudices and racist myths; and there are genuinely-held fears that South Africa could repeat the follies of some of the corrupt and inefficient states to the north of us. But many genuine fears are common to all who cherish democratic values, regardless of colour. In this extract from a speech delivered at a recent Idasa seminar in Port Elizabeth, IFP National Chairman, DR FRANK MDLALOSE examines White fears in the context of a multi-party democracy in a future South Africa...



When people talk of "White fears" and the need to appease Whites, we must be very careful not to ascribe to them only negative fears, lest we be accused of racism ourselves. Nor must we pretend that Black fears are of lesser importance.

We in the IFP believe that those Whites

holding negative fears to be a small minority of Whites.

We believe that their attitudes were formed by what apartheid did to us all, by their apartheid-fed perceptions of Blacks and the liberation struggle, and by genuinely bad government elsewhere on our troubled continent.

This we can change – by education and by