

# INKATHA WILL BE AT NEGOTIATING TABLE

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In his vote of thanks to the State President, Dr Buthelezi renewed his pledge to work for genuine multi-party negotiations leading to a multi-party democracy.

The KwaZulu Chief Minister praised President de Klerk for his courage and commitment to reform, and to the negotiation process.

But Dr Buthelezi warned that only real multi-party negotiations, in which all the relevant parties had a genuine stake in what was taking place, could prevent the negotiations from becoming a debacle.

The Inkatha President further warned President de Klerk, who is also leader of the ruling National Party: "If you attempted only to negotiate with the ANC alone, or to negotiate together with others in such a way that you were really negotiating with the ANC alone, you would be bartering away your political birthright."

For his part, said Dr Buthelezi, he would rather die than extend his political life by abandoning or compromising on principles.

"There will be negotiations. I will most certainly be there as the leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party. I place also on record that KwaZulu will be at the negotiating table in its own right as KwaZulu.

"By no manner of anybody's imagination should it be thought that the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly and the people of KwaZulu are going to stand back and say and do naught, while others write the future of South Africa in which Zulu realities are not taken in to account."

Referring to the question of devolution of power, Dr Buthelezi emphasised the importance of regionalising power structures. He said KwaZulu/Natal formed a natural regional second tier structure which should be put in place in the new South African democracy. He – along with the KwaZulu Government – would see to it that this was negotiated into existence.

The issue of Local Authority structures was also part of the debate. This was a peoples' matter, said Dr Buthelezi, and a matter for local communities. The people of KwaZulu would have a say in the matter.

Dr Buthelezi expressed his regret that KwaZulu had not had sight of the Thornhill report on local government structures, when it was first made available to others. KwaZulu was disappointed about the lack of consultation on the future of KwaZulu and the Local Authority structures.

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## Leadership claims "should be put to the test:" Government committed to joint decision-making

President de Klerk, the first Head of State to open the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly, said the scene was set for multi-party participation in the shaping of the new South Africa.

**T**he time had come for true leadership, and every individual who claimed a constituency and proven support had now to bear out that claim.

The State President, in what was a clear

endorsement of the IFP's long-held commitment to a multi-party democracy in South Africa, said what was now needed was the collective wisdom of all of the country's leaders, across a broad political spectrum, who would actively participate in the process leading up to the drafting of a new constitution.

And he warned: "Who so-ever may think that they can just sit back and wait for the Government of this country to fall into their hands, to the exclusion of all others, will have to think again."

The Government had invited all political



*President de Klerk and Dr Buthelezi... winner-takes-all politics firmly rejected.*

leaders to become part of a process of negotiation. This implied involvement and participation, joint planning and joint decision-making about the foundation on which the new South Africa had to be built.

President de Klerk said various "issue-alliances" would be possible in the negotiation process, on the basis of agreement on values and principles. The proposed agenda for a multi-party conference would include the composition, functioning and logistics of the negotiating forum, and seeking agreement, as far as possible, on the main principles on which a new constitution should be based.

It would also address the question of broadening the base of political involvement and participation in Government decisions during the transitional period of formal constitutional negotiations.

President de Klerk firmly rejected the winner-takes-all model in decision-making. "Minorities rebel if they feel they have not been accommodated properly", he said.

And he made it clear that the concept of an interim government (as demanded by the ANC/SA Communist Party alliance) was not acceptable. "The idea that the present lawfully-constituted Government should relinquish its duty and legitimate authority to govern, and simply hand over its responsibilities to some temporary regime, cannot be considered in any internationally-recognised, sovereign, independent State", President de Klerk said.

Continuous planning and effective government needed to take place within the existing constitutional dispensation until a new constitution had been negotiated and given the force of law by Parliament.

## Dr Buthelezi was "torchbearer for democracy"

**P**resident de Klerk praised the role played by the Zulu people, the KwaZulu

Legislative Assembly and Inkatha in normalising South African political life over