

New Youth Leader talks on: **OUR SEARCH FOR BLACK UNITY**



MR KEITH Musa Zondi has been appointed the new chairman of the Inkatha Youth Brigade.

Mr Zondi took over the role at the Inkatha Youth Brigade's annual conference in August which was attended by more than 15 000 delegates and members from Inkatha's 2 013 branches.

He is well equipped to handle his new role as he has been on the movement's executive for some time and works as head of the Youth Affairs Division of the KwaZulu Government's Bureau of Community Development.

In an interview with Clarion Call Mr Zondi spoke about his views on the challenges facing the Youth Brigade which now numbers more than 350 000 paid up members. Inkatha's total membership is nearing the million mark.

He said the striking thing about Inkatha's youth members was that they were realistic.

"They have joined us because they want an organisation that can stand the test of time," he said.

"They know what has happened to the well meaning organisations and leaders of the past... they are in oblivion.

*Mr Keith Musa Zondi,
new chairman of the
Inkatha Youth
Brigade.*

"Inkatha youth want sound leadership that does not thrive on political gimmickry."

Mr Zondi emphasised that he accepted the position realising that young people today were "generally impatient, easily provoked and had little or no respect for people or organisations advocating negotiation as a strategy to bring about change..."

The Youth Brigade of Inkatha was comprised of people equal to those in other organisations but they had joined Inkatha in particular because they hoped to play a part in peaceful change in the country.

Like all the youth of South Africa they got angry about certain situations, despondent about others and were impatient most of the time.

"With the advent of the new constitution, for example, we are angry," he said.

"We see it as an attempt by the South African Government to entrench classical apartheid.

"We view the Coloureds and Indians who have been lured into the

tri-cameral Parliament as holding hands with the oppressors...

"Our youth are so angry about this that they have asked the movement to consider calling for a boycott of the businesses of those who participated in the elections."

Mr Zondi said that because Inkatha did not believe in "failing strategies" research was being conducted before any boycott was advocated.

He added that there were many challenges facing Inkatha's youth and the most important was trying to do something about the "tragedy" of Black disunity.

"This division is a real enemy facing South Africa's Blacks..."

"The mud-slinging that goes on between Black organisations and between Black leaders constitutes a serious setback to our struggle for liberation."

Mr Zondi said it was time people and organisations realised that personal differences should be put aside.

"... it is the struggle for liberation itself that is important," he stressed.

He said Inkatha's youth rally totally supported the President's view that the struggle for liberation needed a multi-strategy approach whereby each organisation played its own vital role in an atmosphere of unity.

"There is no substitute for unity... we will get nowhere without it..."

Mr Zondi said he would use his term of office to "exhaust every possibility" to campaign for Black unity.

"This is the key to the attainment of our freedom."

The youth members would also become involved in our community problems.

"We will be engaged in social reconstruction programmes to alleviate suffering and to fight poverty, ignorance and disease..."

"Where there are no community vegetable gardens, Inkatha's youth will help establish them..."

"Malnutrition is as much of a problem to us as is our political oppression.

"We will clean up our areas of litter that abounds and we will drive home a point that come liberation, these areas will not miraculously be cleaned up if we don't start doing it ourselves now."

Among its many projects the youth would also clean up and protect spring water in an attempt to eradicate epidemics of cholera and typhoid.

"I say that the youth of Inkatha are as good as any organisation... in Inkatha they have found a home where young and old march together to achieve victory."