

# ALL QUIET ON THE RADICAL FRONT AS INKATHA MEMBERS HACKED TO DEATH

WHERE were the outraged messages and telegrams to the Press from certain well-known organisations following the murder of two Inkatha supporters at the unveiling of Mr Harrison Dube's tombstone in Lamontville?

These organisations are usually the first to send messages and telegrams to the Press and others blaming Inkatha for many and various unsubstantiated acts.

This time, Clarion Call reports, they were quiet.

Immediately after the tragedy Inkatha officials were adamant that the men had gone to the unveiling of Mr Harrison Dube's tombstone of their own accord. They were not sent by Inkatha in any capacity whatsoever.

They added that Inkatha was aware that "vicious" circulars attacking Chief Buthelezi had been circulated in the township before and during the service and that abusive placards were also in evidence. They knew many people had taken exception to this.

A White-owned newspaper which caters for Blacks, City Press, said many of the Inkatha men at the cemetery were "unarmed youth who appeared to have been led like lambs to the slaughter..."

It alleged that Inkatha sent the men on a "suicide mission..."

The President of Inkatha replied that the allegation was "absolutely absurd" and that he was appalled that the paper had used the death of two men to sensationalise an untruth and slander Inkatha.

Inkatha had chosen the path of non-violence and desperately wanted an end to Black/Black confrontations.

He added that the growing practice of many organisations to use functions to honour the dead as political platforms was a sad reflection on the leadership capabilities of some Black politicians in Southern Africa.

A cemetery was no place for a political rally. A funeral no occasion for the vilification of opponents.

Chief Buthelezi said in a statement



Is this a crowd in mourning or are they attending a political rally? Clarion Call poses this question after obtaining this photograph from the Daily News in Durban. The picture shows part of the crowd who attended the Lamontville ceremony to unveil the tombstone of murdered community leader Mr Harrison Dube. Soon after this picture was taken two Inkatha supporters were stoned and hacked to death by a group of people in the crowd. No arrests have been made. There were no official statements of condemnation from the UDF, Black Sash or bodies who support these organisations. The service was conducted by the Rev Mcebisi Xundu, who promotes the UDF.

after the Lamontville deaths that according to African tradition ceremonies such as burials and functions held in honour of the dead (such as the unveiling of tombstones) were regarded with reverence.

"Lack of political base and failure to organise properly to produce structured organisations has made certain Black organisations and certain Black spokesmen use these occasions to establish a political presence..." he said.

Chief Buthelezi said he feared more tragedies would follow "... so long as there are clergymen who actively and tacitly endorse this vilification of me and Inkatha.

"I thought that we as Blacks had a common enemy — those who keep us politically emasculated.

"It now appears that the UDF thinks differently and they are resorting all their energies to these sordid acts which are aimed at me.

"These acts will set back the struggle for Black liberation... there can only be violence and counter-violence. Any retaliation can only lead to further acts of vengeance.

"I have offered my hand of reconciliation to the President of the UDF, Mr Archie Gumede, and it has been spurned..."