

# Power-sharing

## — when and how?

**I**n South Africa today the crucial issue of power-sharing is at the core of the political struggle — both black and white.

No amount of obfuscation on the part of the Government and its policy-makers can conceal this fact. The State President and his Minister of Constitutional Development can cloak any number of alleged initiatives under various power-sharing guises, but their utility is meaningless if their stated intention to actually share power is not unequivocally stated.

The question of black/white power-sharing needs to be tabled and the State President has avoided doing so.

*It is for this reason that Chief Buthelezi and Inkatha have spelled out that they will not be a part of any so-called negotiations which fall within the four corners of apartheid ideology.*

Chief Buthelezi will not participate in the State President's National Statutory Council — just as he did not become involved in the numerous forerunners to this body.

Chief Buthelezi says: "I have said simply and very clearly that power-sharing within the framework of the present constitution is not possible. I have again and again raised the kernal issue that black South Africa will never accept an apartheid rendition of power-sharing . . ."

He adds: "I have also again and again reiterated that we urgently and desperately need to take the necessary steps to



State President F. W. de Klerk

avoid violent confrontations between black and white which flow from social, economic, political and constitutional discrimination.

*"I have said very clearly that if we want to avoid violent confrontations, we must recognise that we will fail to do so if we insist on one-man, one-vote in a unitary state. This is my cherished ideal for which a great many black South Africans are prepared to die . . ."*

*"No matter how deeply I cherish this ideal, I know that at this point in the history of our country, whites will be driven*

## Constitutional development

***Inkatha's position on the question of power-sharing is quite clear: there can be no negotiation about negotiation with the white minority regime until all leaders and all political parties are free to contribute, as they see fit, to the democratic process which will then build up its own momentum. Black South Africa will not abandon the struggle until the country is a united, non-racial, democracy. In the meantime, there is an urgent need for all democrats representing all groups to participate in open initiatives, such as the Natal KwaZulu Indaba, to show South Africa that power-sharing is possible and that it is, indeed, what the majority of citizens desire. Debate is a vital component to the ongoing process of change and, as a part of its strategy, Inkatha endeavours to reach out and involve as many individuals and groups as possible in constructive dialogue.***