

"Democracy means freedom to choose"

There can be no democracy without choice – that is why Inkatha has taken the decision to transform itself from South Africa's largest black liberation movement into a national political party that offers exciting new options to the country's voters. Here, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Chief Minister of KwaZulu and President of the Inkatha Freedom Party, spells out his vision for the new Party...

"At last, in the final decade of the twentieth century, those of us who live in South Africa can see glimmers of common sense and common decency returning to our

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land. It has been a long haul with some terrible moments in which we have experienced both horror and shame at the actions of our fellow men. Our experiences have been watched closely by the rest of the world, often with sympathy, and sometimes with understanding. But we know that no one can share with us the depth of feeling that comes from direct and often personal experience of the degrading impact of apartheid on peoples lives and minds.

This has been shared by all peoples in South Africa, but in more recent times has descended even further into the abyss of killing and intimidation suffered particularly by innocent and invariably poor Black people. The politicians whose slogans and irresponsible speeches have incited this latest and most unnecessary stage in the history of our country have much to answer for. And yet these are the very same people who make the noisiest pronouncements about claiming leadership in the new South Africa. Moreover they are the people who are least tolerant of other peoples views, particularly if they do not coincide closely enough with their own ambitions.

You do not hear these politicians talk much about the real problems of the people either. They seem more concerned about power and, dare we say it, international

adulation, than they do about the sufferings of the people whose support they will presumably be canvassing in a democratic electoral system. The voters will remember this callousness and this neglect of the real priorities. It is vital therefore that the voters are given the full opportunity to record their rejection of the political opportunists, and that should have the choice of voting for those that they feel will really get on with the job of using the great strengths of this great country to tackle the real problems. These include: poverty, hunger and deprivation, the soul and pride-destroying lack of jobs and of improvement opportunity, disease and lack of medical facilities, the condemnation to ignorance that comes from the lack of education facilities, the shortage of decent homes, the insecurity that comes from the lack of independent and effective law and order systems, and the moral decay that is the product of years of apartheid rule.

There is, of course, a real and significant choice available: the choice is to use the new opportunity that true democracy can give us to ensure that we do not replace an unrepresentative white oligarchy with an equally one-sided Black dictatorship.

The choice before us is not, as some people would seem to want to wish upon this country, between some form of continuation of what has been before in a new repackaged form on the one hand, and the ANC and its allies – the UDF, COSATU, and the Communist Party on the other. There is a new path and it is already becoming visible: furthermore some experience has already been obtained in validating these new methods through the exciting Natal/Inkatha Indaba.

If we ensure that our new democracy is built upon multi-party as well as multi-racial foundations, and if we provide for an economy that is enterprise-driven for growth, then there is a real chance that the wealth of our country will be allowed to continue to grow, and that the enormous scale of the real problems will in fact be met and ultimately overcome.

The real choice, that we must all work to ensure is before the people, is between those committed to the full structures of democracy, and those that have already shown that they are willing and able to sacrifice human beings to achieve their own private political ends, and on the way, to put in jeopardy the very means of solving our

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Inkatha is totally dedicated to building not destroying; Inkatha is totally dedicated to democracy in all respects, and in particular to the competing multi-party system; Inkatha is totally dedicated to an enterprise driven economic system that will create the wealth we need to solve the peoples' real problems; Inkatha is totally dedicated to achieving its political aims peacefully, because it has respect for the individual and respect for human life, believing that this is the only basis for building true democracy.

If this position stands in stark contrast to that of the ANC and its allies, this should not surprise us; at a time when many African leaders who are respected throughout the world, are discarding the one-party system for a multi-party system, and at a time when the whole East European Communist world is moving into democratic and alliance-based systems of democracy it is strange for us to see the ANC and its allies clinging on to policies and ideas that are already discredited. Could it be that they, like some of the still Communist-linked parties and governments in Eastern Europe, are fearful that the true democratisation of this country will leave them with a much smaller power base than their propaganda machine likes to claim?

It is said that the more that some people feel unsure of themselves, the more they resort to hitting out at their opponents rather than dealing in rational argument. The ANC and its allies have had a long time to produce the plans that will save this country, but it is significant that little of these have appeared in public, and what has come into the open – nationalisation, for example – has been a resounding flop! Perhaps this is why they are happy to continue to let their thugs do their politicising for them? They may temporarily beat good, ordinary people into submission, but they won't win their hearts. And silent acquiescence can burn into outright rejection when the secret ballot box is there for people to say what they really want.

That is why there has to be choice for there to be democracy. Inkatha gives choice a real chance in South Africa. That is why Inkatha is standing up to be counted now, and asks for your support, either directly or indirectly. Inkatha is as interested in allies as it is in members."

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12 Reasons to back Inkatha

1. It is the biggest black political movement in South Africa.
2. It is lead by the much-respected President Buthelezi.
3. It led the opposition to apartheid from inside South Africa.
4. It lead the fight against 'homelands'.
5. It fought successfully for the release of political prisoners.
6. It is against violence, and pro-peaceful negotiation.
7. It is liked and respected by moderates of all kinds in South Africa.
8. It believes in an enterprise-led growth economy.
9. It believes in establishing a multi-party democracy and it is actively building from its strength a fully effective, well organised, democratic political party to fight elections in the new South Africa.
10. It is dedicated to harnessing the great resources of the country to fight the real enemies of the people, namely: poverty, hunger, unemployment, disease, ignorance, insecurity, loneliness, and moral decay.
11. It has opened its membership to all South Africans.
12. It is seeking alliances and partnerships with like-minded moderates and democratic parties.