

EWS

Black unity ¹³⁰ strains under *Daily Mail June 3, 1981* new attacks

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THE Chief Minister of Qwa Qwa, Mr Kenneth Mopeli, has threatened to pull out of the South African Black Alliance (Saba) after an attack on him yesterday by its chairman, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi.

Chief Buthelezi — who is also Chief Minister of KwaZulu — slammed Mr Mopeli and his Dikwankwetla Party for their temporary withdrawal from Saba.

Mr Mopeli emphasised strongly yesterday that the move should not be seen as the first step towards accepting independence for Qwa Qwa. He said his total opposition to Pretoria-style homeland independence remained unchanged.

The decision to step down temporarily from the alliance was taken at a national executive council meeting of Mr Mopeli's party in Bloemfontein last month, to allow for internal reorganisation.

In a statement from Ulundi yesterday, Chief Buthelezi said

he was not surprised by the move.

"From the very beginning, the leader of Dikwankwetla, Mr Mopeli, showed no enthusiasm for Saba, to the extent that he has not attended a single meeting or rally of Saba.

"We tolerated the fact that the Dikwankwetla Party failed totally to pay its annual R1 000 membership fee, paid by all constituent member organisations. But it is now clear that this was the extent to which the party and its leader were uncommitted to the ideals of Saba," he said.

Chief Buthelezi claimed that he had been reliably informed that Mr Mopeli was not committed to SABA and never had been.

In his letter to Chief Buthelezi, informing him of the decision to withdraw "for the time being" from Saba, Mr Mopeli accused the KwaZulu leader of "making unfriendly remarks" about the failure of Dikwankwetla to attend meetings and to meet financial obligations.

"We are busy reorganising

ourselves and you may hear from us soon. (The national executive council) can assure you that they are still fully committed to all the ideals for which Saba stands," Mr Mopeli wrote.

Yesterday Chief Buthelezi denied making any "unfriendly remarks" about Mr Mopeli.

He hoped the decision to withdraw was not as a result of Mr Mopeli's party being "embarrassed" by Saba's opposition to the Republic Festival.

Mr Mopeli supported the festival. He said yesterday that he saw it as a day of reconciliation between the races.

Following Chief Buthelezi's statement, Mr Mopeli said the national executive council of Dikwankwetla would have to reconsider seriously its position with regard to Saba.

In a statement yesterday, Dikwankwetla's secretary-general, Mr S K Marumo, said the party was "dismayed and disgusted" by Chief Buthelezi's "unfriendly utterances".

SABA was formed in 1978. The Dikwankwetla Party joined the following year.