

Buthelezi refuses to

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is nigh

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Zulu leader iŕ\201ghts on as South Africa

accept

blames his followers for Natal violence

THE SUN will set for the last time  
over South Africaâ\200\231s banana re-  
publics after the April elections but  
the leader of one of them continues  
to behave as if his reign will last  
forever.

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, chief of  
the banana republic christened â\200\234the  
KwaZulu homelandâ\200\235 by the old en-  
gmcers of apartheid, bought him-  
self a jet for Christmas. Not a toy  
one but a brand new, high-luxury,  
eight-seater, twin-engined, British-  
built Hawker 800 worth Â£6m. Pay-  
ment for the jet, according to

KwaZulu government sources, was in cash.

The other nine black homelands have all been characterised over the years by the excesses of their governments. Fleets of Mercedes Benz cars, lavish shopping expeditions in London for the wives of â\200\234chief ministersâ\200\235; these, and other indulgences, have been considered just rewards by people whose enjoyment of the trappings of patronage has always been spoilt by the abuse they have had to withstand from the African National Congress and their upstart activists.

No homeland leader has been more abused than Chief Buthelezi. None has sacrificed more in the service of the state. None was more deserving of a gift so grand from the South African taxpayer.

Chief Butheleziâ\200\231s desire to hold on to power should, if anything, provide him with more incentive now than ever not to lose it after South Africa holds its first democratic elections on 27 April. Because the danger exists that he might, he has so far insisted that his party, Inkatha, will not take part.

He has been demanding cash from the impoverished KwaZulu peasantry to raise an Inkatha army; he has re,ected the new constitution passed into law last month; and he has refused to recognise the authority of the Transitional Executive Council (TEC), the new multi-party forum established within government to pave the way for free and fair elections.

The first clash between the TEC and Inkatha (synonymous with KwaZulu, over which it exercises one-party rule) occurred a month ago, within days of the TECâ\200\231s first sitting. The single instrument of government which gives Chief Buthelezi the most power is the KwaZulu police, an institution denounced for its political bias and brutality by human rights organisations the world over.

The reason for the clash was that the TEC called for the South African police, viewed even by the ANC

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as being less undesirable than the KwaZulu police, to provide protection for the inhabitants of those parts of KwaZulu which are an archipelago of 50 geographically demarcated territories which fall within Northern Natal's boundaries. The TEC believes that this part of the country, which is the Inkatha heartland, is where the violence is likely to be bloodiest in the run-up to the elections. 5

Responding, the commissioner of the KwaZulu police, General Roy Doring, gave the TEC short shrift. Which was not surprising, since his minister of police is none other than Chief Buthelezi himself. What was more surprising was the refusal of the minister in charge of the South African police, Hennie Kriel, to abide by the TEC's instructions. For the TEC consists partly of members of his own government.

More surprising still, a confidential report presented before the TEC and obtained this week by the Independent reveals that the South African police in Natal agree with the ANC assessment that Inkatha is instigating the violence currently afflicting that part of the world. Last weekend, 63 people were murdered in Natal. Over the Christmas weekend 50 died.

The report, compiled by the regional police commissioner in Natal, listed half a dozen trouble spots in Northern Natal and in each case identified Inkatha supporters as the aggressors.

It is clear, the report says, that Inkatha has embarked on a campaign to drive ANC members ... from the above-mentioned Inkatha areas and it can be expected that an increase in unrest-related incidents

will occur, in view of the forthcoming election.

It is also clear from the report that the South African police themselves are not averse to the idea of taking over the functions of the KwaZulu police in Northern Natal.

The reluctance is political and takes the form of Mr Kriel, a known hawk in government, who rejects his government's new anti-Inkatha orthodoxy and clings to the idea that Inkatha can win the Natal provincial elections.

Chief Buthelezi appears to be less sure. A KwaZulu official, explaining the purchase of the new jet, said ! it would be used for trips around South Africa and possibly into Africa.