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## PRESS STATEMENT

### THE BOYCOTT OF WHITE BREAD CONTINUES

Recent reports that the boycott of white bread has failed or to use a phrase used in one report that: "any calls for a white bread boycott have gone largely unheeded", need to be corrected.

These statements or judgements of the failure or otherwise of the white bread boycott are no more than snide political comment aimed at denigrating what I am doing by members of political cliques in Natal, who have persistently refused to support my leadership at any level.

Quite clearly it is far too early to judge whether the boycott will fail or succeed. After all it is hardly three months ago that the call for the boycott of white bread was made. So

far indications are very positive. Apart from SABA and Inkatha Womens Brigade my call for a boycott was supported by the Federation

of South African Women, Azapo, CUSA, NAFCOC, Bishop Tutu, The Black Sash and the Housewives League. In Johannesburg Mr. Gibson Thula and

Mr. Sam Motsuenyane with SABA, Inkatha and NAFCOC have set up

a joint Committee, not only to monitor the boycott, but to propose other lines of action in connection with the high price of white bread. I approached both Inyanda Chamber of Commerce in the

KwaZulu-Natal Region and NAFCOC to give us this back in 1981. I have received reports that the boycott is a growing success. I am

informed that the Indian Community in Lenasia is also supporting the boycott. All these things show that the boycott is spreading far more rapidly in the Transvaal. But it is equally

supported in many parts of this Province by thousands of African consumers. I get reports to that effect.

Whether or not the boycott meets positive assessments, it has already been a flexing of our Consumer muscles. The last resort strategies which Blacks in South Africa will have to adopt

before even thinking about violent options will include boycotts as an economic weapon,

I regard this ... 2/

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I regard this matter as extremely serious because this country faces real prospects of violence and those in the struggle who belittle attempts to use non-violent means of bringing about change, may yet feel the painful alternative, which Mr. Vorster once

described as "too ghastly to contemplate".

I appreciate the appeals that have been made by Mr. Y.S. Chinsamy to Indian Traders and the Indian Community to support the boycott. In contrast the Natal Indian Congress in a politically ostentatious move claims that they will seek consultation at Ministerial level because my campaign has failed in their view. This kind of

cheap politics is lamentable. Quite clearly the majority of Blacks are in sympathy with this particular boycott and those who talk against it need to think carefully about what they are doing.

In spite of Mr. Chinsamy's call for support of the white bread boycott, I have received a number of reports indicating that

some Indian businessmen in Durban are attempting to bully black Consumers into buying white bread. When hungry Africans particularly those housed in Hostels, who have no alternative other than

buying white bread because it is the only bread they can buy,

they are no doubt cited as evidence of the failure of the campaign.

I appeal to these businessmen to count their blessings and realise that the African consumer has immense political power which

is growing every day, and that they will use it to the detriment

of whoever stand in their way. This is not far from realisation.

Those who support the bread boycott are not doing me, Inkatha or SABA a favour, but they are in point of fact doing themselves

a favour in the long run.

Reports in 'The Soweton', 'The Star' and 'The Echo' (Pietermaritzburg) have all been testimony to the fact that the boycott has been felt. The Bakers agreed that there was a drop in the consumption of white bread after the price increase and the announced boycott. They also state that the influx of the white Holiday crowds in Natal have ... 3/

Natal have created abnormal demands which makes an assessment of the effectiveness of the white bread boycott impossible in the circumstances.,

I think it is extremely tragic that the Natal Indian Congress-led project to collect signatures in protest of the increase in white bread price, is being presented as not a reinforcement of my call for a boycott. Among 80 000 signatures sent to the Minister of Finance the majority no doubt supported my call for the boycott of white bread.

The move to collect signatures as an alternative to the boycott call is now no more than an act of political spite. This is clearly shown by the negative statements made by the organisers, which are aimed not at serving the interests of our poor people but at playing a political one-upmanship game. To me this comes as no surprise from those quarters where galleries played up

to are not confined just to Constituencies within this country alone.

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MANGOSUTHU G. BUTHELEZI  
PRESIDENT: INKATHA  
CHAIRMAN: THE SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK ALLIANCE

and  
CHIEF MINISTER: XWAZULU.

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29 NOVEMBER 1982.