

SUNDAY TIMES, March 16 1986

Sunday Times

THE PAPER FOR THE PEOPLE

A break in the  
storm clouds 7

NATALâ\200\231S Indaba early next  
- month is the tiny ray of hope  
in steadily darkening skies. Here,  
emerging from between the vio-  
lence of the revolutionaries and  
the ineptness of Government, is an  
attempt by black and white South  
Africans to secure their future  
through discussions without pre-  
. conditions.  
Chief Mangosuthy Buthelezi,  
ef Minister of KwaZulu, is with  
consummate skill thus calling the  
bluff of both Pretoria and the rev-  
olutionaries.

For President Botha has urged  
the country to negotiate a future  
based on power-sharing. And Chief  
Buthelezi is intending -to do pre-  
cisely that in a pilot form. It is an  
offer the Government cannot logi-  
cally, and should not politically,  
refuse.

But the Natal Indaba also con-  
fronts the politics of protest with a  
dilemma. The philosophy that ar-  
gues blac\_ksâ\200\231 only real political

head; a black South African leader  
is heading a process to which the  
Government will eventually  
have to answer in either the affir-  
mative or the negative.

Chief Buthelezi and Mr Frank  
Martin, senior Nata] MEC, have to  
all intents and p created a  
mini-convention in the Natal  
greenlands. The implications of  
the discussions wi inevitably  
ls;:!retch well beyond the Drakens.  
berg.

Those still undecided about par-  
ticipatinf should accept that from  
ble could well emerge a

poli ical and economic mod. of

would do well to reconsider; they

run the risk of missing an historic  
opg::tunjty.

' toriaâ\200\231s more accommodat-  
ing line is hopeful. A Government  
whose political style has been hall-  
marked by reactive crisis-man-  
agement now has an ogportunity  
for part-paternity in a brave new  
initiative, The added advantage,  
put more cynically, is that it is not  
obliged to commit Jess receptive  
parts of the country to a plan engi-  
?Jeered originally by Natalians for  
atal.

The province is no stranger to  
innovation. It was, after all, the  
Natal Executive which drew up  
plans for a local government  
model that the Government took  
eight years to adopt and now seeks  
to implement at a time when it has  
the least chance of success.

Chief Buthelezi was also respon-  
sible for initiating the Buthelezi  
Commission, whose findings were  
first peremptorily turned down by  
Pretoria and are now being sur-  
reptitiously dusted off, And the  
Lombard economie proposals for  
the province of five years a:iglgcare  
still at centre-stage in any discus-  
sions about regional development  
strategies.

Alwa something new out of  
Natal-lg:aZulu.

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THE Chief Minister of Ka-  
Ngwane, Mr Enos Mabuza,  
has the right to consult with  
â\200\224 or even affiliate his In-  
yandza to the ANC mission in  
exile. :

But it is wrong, unaccept-  
able and dangerous for Mr  
Mabuza to use the name of  
our leader, Chief Mangosuthu  
Buthelezi, to make himself  
more attractive to the ANC  
mission in exile,

Chief Buthelezi led a dele-  
gation to the ANC in 1979  
But, unlike Mr Mabuza, Chief  
Buthelezi did so as a leader of  
Inkatha and as a leader of the  
Zulus. .

He met with the ANC be-  
cause of his concern for unity  
among blacks.

Chief Buthelezi has never  
spoken or issued statements  
on behalf of KaNgwane or  
Inyandza.

Therefore, it is not correct  
for Mr Mabuza to imply, as  
he did recently, that the Chief  
Minister of KwaZulu had  
spoken on behalf of other  
leaders. â\200\224 MKHUMBOLENTI  
JOSEPH BUTHELEZI,  
Emondlo, Natal

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