

the establishment of a confederal relationship between Lesotho and South Africa. However, antagonism towards the African National Congress (ANC) and the perception that it would in all likelihood form the first government of a democratic South Africa generates visible antipathy to integration within the rank and file of the party.

In recent years a growing number of political and civic organisations have been joining the chorus in support of integration. The leader of the United Democratic Party (UDP) was the first to make the call in 1989 arguing that the conditions which had informed Lesotho's opposition to incorporation into the Union of South Africa at the turn of the century had changed.⁵ The National Union of Mineworkers of South Africa (NUM) gave a boost to integration in a resolution motivated by Basotho miners urging for the unification of the two countries.⁶ The resolution mentioned the fact that Lesotho's economy was not viable, that Basotho have to look to South Africa for jobs, the impossibility of ever getting the lost territories back, historical and cultural ties between the people of South Africa and Lesotho, etc., as grounds justifying integration.

A conference hosted by the Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (LCN) on behalf of the NUM in 1991 to initiate debates illustrated the range of alignments on integration. Among the new formations which supported integration were the Popular Front for Democracy (PFD), Kopanang Basotho Party (KBP), the Lesotho Liberal Party (LLP) and at the time the biggest trade union federation in the country, the Congress of Democratic Trade Unions (CDU). The royalist Marematlou Freedom Party (MFP) indicated that its attitude would be one of wait-and-see and therefore at that stage it was non-committal. On the other hand the Lesotho Labour Party (LLP) was categorical in its rejection of integration stating that its priority would be to claim the Free State if it became the government of Lesotho after the elections.

Of the two major parties, the BCP and BNP, the latter took the sharpest about-turn from scoffing at the idea of integration as late as 1990 to embracing it unconditionally in 1992. The President of the BNP, Mr. E R Sekhonyana was reported by a South African newspaper as saying that 'If apartheid is dismantled, we see no reason why Lesotho could not be part of South Africa. After all our economy and our day-to-day activities depend

5 The Mirror, Vol 2, No. 11, 1 December, 1989

6 Resolution adopted by the NUM Congress in Johannesburg, April, 1991