



ESSENTIAL HEALTH RESEARCH GROUP

Francie van Zijl Drive, Parow, Cape • (021) ~~334 1211~~ • Fax (021) ~~334 1662~~
 10070 Tygerberg / 505, South Africa
 Private Bag X385 Pretoria 0001 • (012) 324-1680 • Fax (012) 324-1695

DATE: 21 July 1993 PAGE: 1
 DATUM: BLADSY:

COMMISSION ON REGIONS

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FOR ATTENTION: DR Renosi Mokate, Technical
 VIR AANDAG:

COMPANY: Secretary
 MAATSKAPPY: Multiparty Negotiating Council,

Commission on Regions

FAX NO:
 FAKS NO:

FROM: Dr O. Shisana
 VAN:

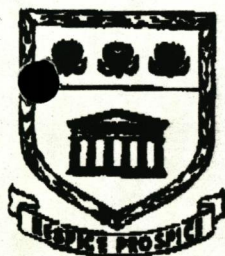
MESSAGE:
 BOODSKAP:

Attached please find

(1) Information on item 4 in your
 memo of July 19, 1993.

(2) Memo from Philip van Ryneveld
 Economic Policy Research Project
 UWC

More info on Pretoria & other regions is
 coming.



University of the Western Cape

Economic Policy Research Project

Private Bag X17
Bellville, 7535
Tel. Ad.: UNIBELL, S.A.
Tel. 969-3200
Fax: 969-3201

MEMORANDUM

to: Renosi Mokati, Technical Secretary, Commission on demarcation/delimitation of Regions

from: Philip van Ryneveld, Economic Policy Research Project, University of the Western Cape

date: 20th July 1993

There are arguments being put forward that the PWV region should be divided between two separate regions, usually with Pretoria forming part of an Eastern or North Eastern Transvaal region.

Dividing Pretoria from Johannesburg would be disastrous for sound governance.

Increasingly the PWV area is functioning as a single functional economic unit. The daily traffic within the whole area, and particularly between the two key centres of Pretoria and Johannesburg is massive and growing all the time. Some of the fastest growing new business, industrial and residential areas are situated along the Johannesburg-Pretoria axis at places such as Midrand, and Halfway House, with linkages to both Pretoria and Johannesburg, as well as other parts of the PWV as a whole. It will not be many years before the PWV forms a single unbroken urban agglomeration similar to Mexico City or Sao Paulo.

The result is that a large number of public infrastructures and institutions have to be

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planned and run taking into account the whole area. For example, it would be impossible to organise a coherent public transport system for daily commuting in the area if this cannot be done on a PWV wide basis. Sensible road planning and land use planning becomes very difficult to achieve, as does planning for economic development.

Daily movement patterns influence the manner in which a wide range of other public goods need to be organised. It would be extremely wasteful from the point of view of scale economies for two regional health authorities to be both operating within an area which is crossed daily by commuters on a massive scale. The same applies for many other public services, such as education and social welfare services.

Significant problems would arise as a result of companies or private individuals being able to benefit from public spending in an area, while being able to locate themselves outside of that area and so avoid taxes imposed to finance that spending. For example, if the region in which Pretoria was located were to allocate extensive resources to the education, housing and health of industrial workers, firms in Johannesburg could with relative ease draw on the human capital invested, without having to contribute to the financing of these programmes.

These arguments offer strong justification why even many of the functions to be performed by local government should probably be located at the level of the PWV as a whole. To attempt to split the area between two different regions would have chaotic results. Some of this type of disorganisation has already been witnessed where bantustan borders have cut cities off from their townships, such as in the case of East London and Mdantsane. To cut the PWV in half would, however, have far more serious implications, particularly in view of the fact that this region is the driving force of the whole South African economy. The most likely outcome is that decisions would eventually end up having to be taken at a higher level of government - the national level. The very purpose of regional government would then be defeated.

There are arguments to the effect that Pretoria needs to be connected to the poorer Northern Transvaal so as to strengthen the tax base of this area. While this argument has some logic to it, it is not nearly as compelling as the need to maintain the PWV as a single regional unit for functional reasons. Most of the major taxes, such as VAT, company tax, and customs duties cannot be levied or collected at sub-national levels; they will anyway therefore have to be pooled and distributed by means of transfers. It

is through this process that the tax bases of poorer areas can be strengthened.

The areas to the north of Pretoria, such as Garankuwa, KwaNdebele, Odi and Moretele are the sources of substantial commuter movement each day into the PWV. These areas should obviously also be included within the PWV region. To the extent that including Pretoria in the PWV expands the economic strength of an already powerful region, so including the surrounding poor commuters expands the needs in that region too.

If it is felt that Pretoria should be connected to areas even further afield, the arguments become increasingly strong not to divide up the Transvaal at all, but rather to retain it as a single region.

From an economic point of view, dividing the Pretoria area from the Witwatersrand is probably the most serious mistake that could be made in drawing up new regional boundaries for South Africa.

ARGUMENT FOR EITHER ONE WESTERN CAPE REGION OR TWO SEPARATE REGIONS

Submission to the Technical Committee of the Commission on Regions of the Multiparty Negotiating Council

By Olive Shisana

20 July 1993

Northern Cape and Bophutatswana (Region B)

The TST has concluded that there is agreement that the Bophutatswana and the Vryburg area of Northern Cape should become one region (enlarged Region J). However, there are differences of opinion among various interest groups. Below is information useful to make a final recommendation.

A separate Northern Cape Region

Demographic Factors

The Northern Cape region (as in development region B) has a small population of 1 122 000 and a very low population density of 4 people per square kilometre. The Northern Cape region has a high infant mortality rate of 52 per 1000 live births compared with the low rate of 27 in the Western Cape (Development Bank of Southern Africa).

Socio-cultural Factors

Although there are those who, on the basis of homogeneity of culture, argue that there should be one region (NRDAC #265), language should not be used as a sole measure of culture. Below are arguments for a separate Northern Cape region based on socio-cultural factors.

1. The Association of Management Committees (representing more than 200 management committees in the Cape Province) argue that there be a North Western Cape region (Region B) because of:
 - 1.1. people lived for centuries in harmony,
 - 1.2. they have homogeneous values,
 - 1.3. they have one dominant language, which is Afrikaans,
 - 1.4. they share the same religion,
 - 1.5. they have adopted a homogeneous culture,
 - 1.6. they are largely farmers,
 - 1.7. there is no urbanization, and
 - 1.8. the strong feeling of cohesiveness, and thus there is a sense of identity.

2. Socio-economic factors

● This region is very poor, given the socio-economic indicators of basic subsistence. Based on data from the Department of National Health and Population Development, only 33% of Northern Cape rural dwellers occupy houses that provide health protection, 40% have access to adequate water, 37% have latrines that are structurally and functionally fit to use, and 36% have effective refuse removal.

The region, although not economically viable has the potential to develop an urban balance. This assessment is based on the observation that:

- 2.1. The region has a fishing industry,
- 2.2. Mining can be developed with the injection of capital,
- 2.3. Roads are good, and
- 2.4. Tourism is flourishing because of a variety of species of flowers that people come to see

3. Geographic coherence

If this region is not included with the Western Cape and is kept as Development Region B, it is geographically coherent, with uniform climatic conditions. It is largely an agricultural land. Two important rivers, the Orange River and Olifants River are found in this region.

4. Institutional Infrastructure

The region has 86 primary health care clinics, a ratio of 0.38 clinics per 5 000 people, similar to Western Cape. However, with a population density of 4 people per square kilometre, the region presents a problem in making health care accessible to all.

The region has a very low doctor to population ratio of 0.3 and a nurse to population ratio of 4.1, lower than the rates of the Western Cape.

The Kimberley Afrikaanse Sakekamer (#214) argues that Kimberley should be considered as the capital of Northern Cape (Region B) because it is closest to all other centres in the region. Furthermore, Kimberley has been functioning as a regional centre for the area for a number of years and therefore has the necessary infrastructure to become a capital.

5. Voice of the community and interest groups

- 5.1. The South African Civic Association of the Northern Cape Region (Rietvale Civic Association) #270, proposes that a Northern Cape region be established with Kimberley as the capital city. The Bophutatswana towns falling in the Northern Cape jurisdiction should be incorporated.

- 5.2. They also maintain that towns falling under other regions, but are near Kimberley can be incorporated in Northern Cape because residents

staying in those towns use Kimberley as their capital city. ~~Three towns~~ are Jacobsdal, Bushoff in the Orange Free State, De Aar, Phillipstown in the Western Cape and Christiana in the Western Transvaal. Consultation will be needed from residents in those areas before it is done.

- 5.3. The National Regional Development Advisory Council (NRDAC) (#265) argue for a Western Cape region that includes Northern Cape and Western Cape because they believe the economic base will be strengthened by such consolidation. *They would have preferred a separate Northern Cape region should such a merger be in the economic interest of the country.*

- 5.4 The Northern Cape Chamber of Business (Kimberley Afrikaanse Sakekamer) made a strong appeal for a separate Northern Cape Region which is not included in Western Cape or Orange Free State (Oral hearing). They argued that in Kimberley there is racial harmony and this peace will be disturbed if they were combined with another area. *However, if Northern Cape were to disappear, they would prefer to be included in Western Cape.*

Western Cape (Region A)

A separate Western Cape Region

Demographics

The Western Cape has a large population (3 633 000) when compared to the Northern Cape and has an infant mortality rate 27 per 1000 livebirths. The Region has an extremely high tuberculosis incidence rate of 679 per 100 000 population (based on notifications).

Socio-economic factors

The rural areas of this region, although very poor are significantly well-off than those in the Northern Cape. Fifty two percent (52%) of Western Cape rural dwellers occupy houses that provide health protection, 68% have access to adequate water, 37% have latrines that are structurally sound and functionally fit to use, and 68% have effective refuse removal.

Infrastructure and administrative capacity

This region has a good infrastructure within subregions e.g., Cape metropolitan, Boland, Southern Cape, Karoo and the West Coast. Representatives from each region could serve on regional government.

The region has 277 primary health care clinics or 0.38 clinics per 5 000 people. This region has two major academic hospitals, three universities and two technikons.

The region has a high doctor to population ratio of 1.3 and a nurse to population ratio of 6.9 per 1 000 population better than any other region in South Africa.

Should there be a single Western Cape region?

Given the profile of these two regions, should they be combined? Based on the information presented above, the two areas have distinct demographic composition, save for the preponderance of Afrikaans in both areas. Northern Cape is more rural, while Western Cape is more urban and has a huge metropolitan area.

In terms of socio-economic conditions, the Northern Cape has a higher proportion of poor people than the Western Cape, based on basic subsistence indicators.

The Western Cape has a better infrastructure and administrative capabilities than the Northern Cape. The latter has more higher educational institutions and health personnel than the former.

Given these major differences, combining the two regions to form one region is likely to present difficulties in the provision of services, for there are different demands in the two areas. Furthermore, the mere size of the region would make it difficult to bring

● government closer to people. Even if sub-regional governments are established, to come to the capital will be very costly for the average people travelling more than 900 kilometres to meet their elected representatives.

If two regions are established, it would be wise to use the demarcation as in the development regions because the people in Namaqualand, the Municipality of Beaufort West (#207) and in the Central Karoo (#204) have very close business, health services and education ties with the Western Cape and would like to maintain them.