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COMMISSION ON REGIONS

REF: 1/11/ 2.0 /2.0/

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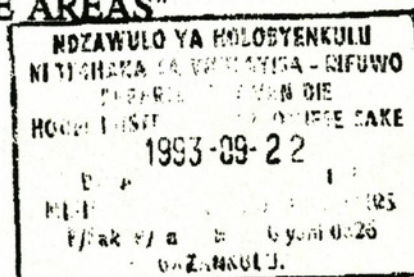
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XIMOKO PROGRESSIVE PARTY

RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION BY THE COMMISSION ON THE DEMARCATIION/DELIMITATION OF SPR's IN RESPECT OF "SENSITIVE AREAS"

22 September 1993



1. General Position

The Ximoko Progressive Party wishes to reiterate the stand which it took in its original submission to the Commission on 6 July 1993. In so doing it associates itself with the consensus position of the Northern Transvaal Regional Political Discussion Forum confirmed by its Steering Committee on 7 September 1993 and to be submitted separately to the Commission.

2. Summary Position in respect of "Sensitive Areas"

- 2.1 Inclusion of Pretoria in the Northern Transvaal Region (Refer para 3.2.1.2.1 of the original Ximoko Progressive Party Submission).

Since Pretoria is an integral part of the PWV complex it is felt that no benefit could be derived from excising it and including it in the Northern Transvaal, where its inclusion would have the negative effect of "skewing" the morphology of the region to the south.

RECOMMENDATION: The Pretoria remain part of the PWV region.

- 2.2 Inclusion of Groblersdal in the Northern Transvaal Region (Refer para 3.2.1.2.4 of the original Ximoko Progressive Party Submission).

The Nebo district of Lebowa does have strong economic linkages with the Groblersdal and Marble Hall districts of the present Eastern Transvaal. From a functional point of view it is appropriate that the Loskop Valley area (comprising Nebo and Motetema as well as Groblersdal and Marble Hall) as a functional unit be incorporated into the Northern Transvaal Region.

RECOMMENDATION: The Ximoko Progressive Party would support the incorporation of the Loskop Valley (comprising Nebo and Motetema as well as Groblersdal and Marble Hall) into the Northern Transvaal Region.

- 2.3 Inclusion of Lydenburg, Pilgrim's Rest, et al (Refer para 3.2.1.2.3 of the original Ximoko Progressive Party Submission).

Specifically as regards the matter of the inclusion of Lydenburg and Pilgrim's Rest 1 and 2 the Ximoko Progressive Party reiterates its previous position, namely that the strong functional linkages existing between Mhala Mapuleng, which are clearly culturally part of the Northern Transvaal Region, and Lydenburg/Pilgrim's Rest would indicate the functional desirability of their inclusion in the Northern Transvaal Region. In fact their inclusion could go far toward providing the south-eastern portion of the Northern Transvaal Region with the necessary nodal integrity which it presently lacks.

RECOMMENDATION: The Ximoko Progressive Party would continue to support the inclusion of Lydenburg and Pilgrim's Rest 1 and 2 in the Northern Transvaal Region.

- 2.4 The Kruger National Park (Refer para 3.2.1.2.2 of the original Ximoko Progressive Party Submission).

Irrespective of whether the present Kruger National Park is managed in a new dispensation as a National Park or not the area comprising the Kruger National Park must come under governmental jurisdiction. In the case in prospect of representative second-tier government in South Africa, where will the (human) inhabitants of the Kruger Park exercise their democratic second-tier rights? With strong regional government having extensive exclusive powers, is it feasible to divide the existing Park which would need to be managed as an integrated whole, between two second-tier jurisdictions? The area could hardly be considered for separate regional status in its own right. Cogent arguments have been made in the earlier submission by the Ximoko Progressive Party regarding the need to manage the Park to the benefit of the Northern Transvaal Region, whose resource base is considerably smaller than that of the Eastern Transvaal. For the reasons it is also recommended that the Park in its entirety should fall under the jurisdiction of the Northern Transvaal Region.

This is also implied by the recommendation contained in paragraph 2.3 above namely, that Pilgrim's Rest 1 be included into the Northern Transvaal Region. In addition it was, in the Ximoko Progressive Party's first submission, motivated that the area of White River to the East of the Nsikasi area also be included in the Northern Transvaal Region.

3. Summary Comments on Testing the Will of the People

As a party to the Multi-Party Negotiating Process, the Ximoko Progressive Party is committed to democracy as the basis for decision making in a new South Africa. Its application to matters such as demarcation where functional/technical considerations are at issue must, however be handled with some circumspection. It is highly

desirable, therefore, to conduct whatever polling takes place to test the popular will in a focused and scientific manner directed at establishing functional realities in support of delimitation criteria rather than eliciting simplistic responses to the question "In which region do you belong?".

The Ximoko Progressive Party would generally support the principle of such scientific testing of the functional perceptions of people affected by delimitation proposals as an input into the matrix of factors which need to be taken into account in the process of delimitation. Ultimately, the will of the people of South Africa as a whole, in regard to the total package proposal for the country as a whole must determine its acceptability or otherwise.

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