

â\200\230 UMZIMKULU CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON THE
DEMARCATIION/DELIMITATION OF REGIONS

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General Secretary of the Umzimkulu Chamber of Commerce

COMMISSION ON REGIONS

ECONOMIC ASPECTS: | REF: 1/11/ â\200\235 /33

Umzimkulu Residents as consumers and individuals generally rely on Natal for shopping, while the Business sector is already having dealings towards Transkei, eg Kokstad, Umtata and Butterworth.

Transkei has formed an economic block in its unique situation based on common problems. In joining Natal, the small black Umzimkulu Businessmen who have just started taking over from the monopolised businesses by whites without any capital and rely solely on loans, will be swallowed by financially strong whites and Indians.

In towns surrounding Umzimkulu eg Harding, Kokstad, Ixopo, there are no indigenous black business people. This, therefore, means that Umzimkulu people will only depend on employment, and will never reach the standard of proper strong businesses of their own.

One of the Kokstad white businessmen, Mr Taylor confirms that Kokstad is supported by 90% Transkeians and this is in conjunction with what I have mentioned above. In his motivation he does not only support Transkei but even Kokstad should automatically fall under Border/Kei. He further clarifies that rural Transkei areas which are impoverished e.g

Brooks Nek would even be more disadvantaged if Kokstad does not fall within the Border/Kei Region.

Essential services will be extended in Transkei because improvement depends on legislation, a free flow of money (which Transkei does not always enjoy) and effective administration in towns and rural areas.

Chamber of Commerce

It will be born in mind that A TRANS?NATAL Chamber Forum ie Northern Transkei Chamber - Umzimkulu, Flagstaff, Bizana, Lusikisiki, Tabankulu, Mr Ayliff, Maluti and Southern Natal Chamber - Harding, Kokstad, Matatiele, Port Shepstone etc., has already been formulated and it is due to this forum that the Border Police at Umzimkulu, Mamber, Mtamvuma and other areas were withdrawn.

It should also be borne in mind that consumers and individuals will still continue shopping in Natal, there will be no change. But, administratively it is recommended that our people at Umzimkulu who are still working towards getting ownership of land and, therefore, would

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to know what will happen if they fall under natal. Will Natal take over the present situation or will Umzimkulu fall last in the list.

TDC (Transkei Development Corporation) has regionalised its offices and Umzimkulu falls under an office in Kokstad. This by itself helps us to have a close contact. Our worry is where will KFC or SBDC put us at this stage.

Some areas around us like Ixopo, Highflats are still underdeveloped and if we fall under natal where are we going to be placed, which places will get first preference.

Umzimkulu has been neglected in its development by Transkei whereas it has a good infrastructure for industries. This has made Umzimkulu remain underdeveloped and as such makes our economy insecure. At this stage the Chamber is working hard to try and push local government to hand over business sites which are already surveyed in order that Umzimkulu prospective business people should get ownership. Where will Natal place us for land ownership, is there security for first preference.

Education

Umzimkulu is on the verge of constructing a College through the DBSA which is due to start in September as a Transkei College. If, now, we fall under natal is there guarantee that this will continue as planned.

Politically

We feel very much insecure if we fall in Natal as among other things there is 60% unrest in that area. This, therefore, will affect our economy and has caused tourists to run away and this has crippled Transkei tremendously. Presently Natal people are running into Umzimkulu for shelter from the political unrest they are facing.

Conclusion

When all is said and done, our feeling is that it is better to remain with the devil we know ie, Border/Kei than the good we do not know in the Natal Region.

Our border recommendations are the Great Fish River, Umzimkulu River and the Orange River.

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TRACOC 'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROPOSED REGIONAL BOUNDARIES AND

REGIONAL POWERS : BORDER / KEI DEVELOPMENT REGION

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i{.1. BACKGROUND :

,development process must be involved and that the

According to views expressed in the January 1992 and March

â\200\230editions of the S.A.Communication Service, regional

planning development implies that all participants in the

specific / specialized needs of different communities should be acknowledged on a geographical basis. The approach entails organizing and directing all aspects of the human, economic and physical development in geographical areas, on the basis of development regions. In addition to the economic objectives of continued growth and job creation, the regional approach is aimed at the optimum distribution of the population of regions. Regional development, according to these views, is promoted within the context of an integrated South African economy in which the whole area is sub-divided

into nine (9) development regions, including the independent states.

CROSS-BORDER CO-ORDINATION

As the Transkei is one of the ECOSA States, it is represented on the multi-lateral committees. It should also be noted that the Regional Development Advisory Committees are members of the Regional Liaison Committees dealing with Cross-border issues. The main functions of these two committees are to co-ordinate the decisions of the Transkei and Southern African Governments. These are however, merely advisory and have no real powers.

The Border / Kei Development Forum on the other hand appears to be a more important forum in as much as it is

a neutral but broad-based body coordinating development efforte in the border and Transkei. It consists of the

ma jor political organizations, ,trade unions, the governments and development associations. It appears that the Nor thern Transkei is not directly included in this body yet, but is somehow related thereto, through the newly formed E.G. /KEI Development Forum based at Kokstad.

i) According to Mr Wessel Nel, the M.P. for the Mooi River Constituency in Natal s in drawing regional boundaries for a new administrative system for South-Africa;â\200\224itâ\200\224 - = should be remembered that the goal is not to end up with a confederation of states but rather, with logical developmental and administration regions. According to Mr Nel it does not make sense to have areas administered from one centre but trading overwhelmingly with another in the opposite direction. He concludes his comments by recommending that Northern Transkei and East-Griqualand should form part of Region "E" namely Natal. The relevant extract from Mr Nel speech as reported in the "Kokstad Advertiser" of the 9/10/92 is hereto attached and marked "A". This view appears to be supporting the "Proposed Regional Dispensationâ\200\235" for South Africa as presented by the Department of Constitutional Development Service at the Conference of federalism and regionalism held in Pretoria on the 7/9/92. The relevant press report which appeared in the "Kokstad Advertiser" of the 7/10/92 is hereto attached and marked "B". This argument unfortunately does not appear to have taken into account the fact that trade is not controlled or restricted by political boundaries hence countries like Lesotho and other former protectorates are economically dependant on South Africa despite the fact that they are administered from their respective capitals. Similarly the so called independent state of Transkei trades freely with South African towns like East London and Durban despite the fact that it is administered from Umtata. It appears that Mr Nel has conveniently forgotten the fact that the R.S.A. is being administered from Cape Town and Pretoria respectively irrespective of the towns in which the inhabitants conduct their trade etc.

ii) According to the view expressed by an Executive Committee Member of the ANC, Transkei Region, Mr John Taylor in a report which appeared in the "Kokstad Advertiser" of the 9/10/92 under the title "businessmanâ\200\231's view of East Griqualand should form part of the Border / Kei development region. A detailed discussion of Mr Taylor's views are set out in the attached extract from the "Kokstad Advertiser " aforesaid, marked "C".

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In amplification of Mr Taylor's views I also attach hereto marked "D" an extract from the "Griqua / Kei Newsletter" of October 1992 titled "Griqua / Kei Sub-Region The Future" in which Prof. David Tapson of the Development Bank of S.A. presented some relevant statistics obtaining in this region.

iii) According to views expressed by the ANC in 1992, the criteria to be used for the delimitation of regions

were indicated as follows:- "We envisage an organic, developmental approach towards the creation of national unity, not something from top down. The

idea is not to produce good-looking maps, but to establish regions that will function well, be acceptable to the people living in them and help solve the problems of our country." According to my reading of this argument the ANC was recommending that East Griqualand should form part of the proposed Xhosa Region known as the Border / Kei Development Region, stretching from the Great Fish River to the Umzimkulu River. The present view of the ANC appears to support the above-stated proposal on condition that the Border / Kei Development Region is extended to include Port Elizabeth.

iv) According to a press report which appeared in the Daily Dispatch of the 29th June 1993 a photocopy of which is hereto attached marked "E" some of the ANC representatives in East Griqualand would apparently prefer to be part of Region "E'", namely Natal and Zululand. At a meeting on Regional Boundaries held at Umtata on this same date, Mr Mdingi who purported to represent the Head of the Qaukeni Regional Authority, Paramount Chief J M Sigcau, expressed the view that Northern Transkei also wished to form part of Region "E". He stated that this was in fact the view of the Paramount Chief as well as some of his Chiefs. It appears, however, that these views are not fully representative as the affected people on the ground do not appear to have been consulted yet.

TRACOC 'S RECOMMENDATIONS

As was indicated by Mr A H Ggamane and the writer hereof at the meeting on regionalism held at Umtata on the 29th June 1993, Tracoc recommends that Transkei should form

part of the Xhosa State, whose boundaries should stretch from the Great Fish River Umzimkulu River. this region, which could be called the Border / Kei Development Region, would therefore include the Border Districts of East London, Bisho, Alice, Fort Beaufort, King William's town, Queenstown etc. It would also incorporate areas like Aliwal North, Zastron, Sterspruit and all other districts along the Lesotho Borders, Matatiele, the other

East Griqualand districts, down to Port Shepstone. In short this region should include all the districts between the Great Fish River, the Umzimkulu River and the Orange River.

By way of further motivation for the above ; recommendations, Tracoc wishes to highlight the following additional points, namely :-

i) As was stated by Mr Z Titus at the Tracoc Annual Congress held on the 15th May 1993 "Regions should be designed to promote and facilitate the economic, social and cultural development of the whole country. The boundaries should be drawn up in such a way as to reduce the potential of conflict. Such regions must be acceptable to the inhabitants of the country and should be so designed as to assist meaningfully towards the resolution of the problems faced by the country at present.'" This observation does not need any further explanation or amplification except to state that it is in line with stated guidelines which support the basis of the above recommendations.

ii) According to the recommendations of the South African Law Commission, regions for South Africa should be demarcated in terms of the boundaries of the present subject to the condition that such boundaries should not be so drawn as to meet the election or voting requirements of a particular political party. It also states that such boundaries should not be "artificially arranged to share up racial privilege or bolster personal power." As has been indicated already the Border-Kei Development Region. is indeed an opportunity demarcated economic development region.

The recommendation of the S.A.Law Commission should be read in conjunction with the "Border-Kei Development Plan" which was in June 1993 detailed as follows:-

ii) "The Border-Kei area is defined as the area between the Umzimkulu, the Great Fish and the Orange River. These are not borders and may change with the progression of

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this planning process. It is a region of enormous potential in terms of its economic, rural, urban and human resources. A co-ordinated development strategy could tap into these resources and further enhance this region. This plan will therefore involve a broad approach, enhancing the development of human resources infrastructure, housing, educational facilities, rural arrears, and employment opportunities." Tracoc is in full agreement with these observations.

There has been widespread concern from certain groups at the depressed and underdeveloped state of the said Border-Kei Development area. Most of these groups are in any event aware of the flight of capital from

this region, the dwindling confidence in the economy, irregularities in access to resources and infrastructure, the underutilization of resources, the massive urbanisation and lack of capacity of the community to direct development in their respective areas. As indicated in the "Border-Kei Development Plan" this administratively fragmented region has no coherent and co-ordinated regional development strategy which maximizes development potential and the use of resources."

Tracoc believe that the depressed state of this region as well its potential for development are, indeed, factors which support our aforesaid recommendations on the issue of boundaries. It is an accepted fact that depressed and poverty stricken regions should receive special consideration when funds are allocated to

various regions by the Central Government. Those regions which generate a lot of revenue would have to subsidize the poorer regions. It is therefore important that such poorer regions should be easily identifiable. Such identification may not be easy or possible if they are conveniently appended to more affluent regions.

According to history East Griqualand used to be an uninhabited area known as "no man's land" until the 19th century. It included the whole of the present Mount Currie district, Umzimkulu district and part of Matatiele. As a result of a dispute which took place in 1854 over the Griqua landholding in this area, Sir George Grey formally offered "no man's land" to the

Griquas in 1863 under the leadership of Adam Kok III. The Colonial Government thereafter gave official deeds of transfer to the Griqua owners of the farms and urban stands in Kokstad. In October 1874 "No man's land" was annexed by the Cape Colony.

In 1886 the Transkeian Territories Act was promulgated and it included East Griqualand in the so-called "Transkeian Territories" 235. This Act also indicated

that the Cape Colony was to administer the area as a separate Native Territory within the Colony. From 1874 white settlers moved into this area and took over the ownership of the land from the Griquas. In 1969 the Mount Currie and Matatiele districts were consolidated into the East Griqualand Divisional Council. The above observations should be read in conjunction with the claim 224 which was made by the Transkeian Government to East Griqualand sometime back, based on a treaty allegedly negotiated with Faku, the Pondo Chief in 1844 and the northern boundary of the frontier of the Cape Province as in 1910.

The homogeneous concept of regions is based on the view that geographical areas may be linked together as a single region when they share uniform characteristics. The said characteristics could be economic e.g. similar structures or homogeneous consumption patterns, geographical e.g. similar topography or climate, social or political e.g. regional identity and/or ethnic homogeneity or traditional party allegiance. It is however, more important that regions should be economically homogeneous rather than physically homogeneous. The effective application of economic policy in a specific region is rendered more manageable if the level of economic development is fairly equal as appears to be the case in the region proposed by Tracoc.

It should also be borne in mind that the Northern Transkei sub-region of Tracoc, which was formally launched on the 20th June 1993 is intended to include the East Griqualand districts of Matatiele, Franklin, Kokstad and Swartberg. It is proposed to incorporate the other Southern Natal districts of Harding, Port Edward and Port Shepstone of all which are on this side of the Umzimkulu River. The interdependence of these districts as well as the historical background makes Tracoc believe they should form part of the Border-Kei Region. The idea of splitting the Transkei into two by joining Region E is foreign to the Northern Transkei Sub-Region of Tracoc. A quarterly meeting which was held at Flagstaff on Wednesday the 30th June 1993 unanimously rejected the idea of the Northern Transkei districts moving to Region E in Natal and strongly supported Tracoc is seen on the Border-Kei Development Region.

The view of this meeting was based on the uplifting cultural, traditional and political beliefs which are prevailing at the present moment. A number of people to whom the writer hereof spoke between the 29th June and today at Bizana, Flagstaff and Mount Ayliff reject the idea of Transkei forming part of Region "E" and support the Border-Kei idea .

REGIONAL POWERS

It is assumed that regions will concentrate mainly on issues related to development and other related issues of regional importance. In order to function effectively regional governments should be run by people who possess the necessary experience, expertise and skills in their respective fields. It is furthermore assumed that much power or functions will be based on those of the Provincial Councils, subject to appropriate adjustments here and there. These would include the allocation of funds. The other alternative would be to look at the Regional Council's idea of Namibia and perhaps to follow that example, subject to appropriate modifications to suite our own situation.

SERVICE CENTRES

It is Tracoc's considered view that the issue of service centre should be resolved as follows :

East London - Bisho - King William's town.

Because of its well developed economic base and the relevant infrastructure for economic and industrial development, it is recommended that East London should be identified as the industrial capital for this region. This town has already developed to such an extent that it almost constitutes one metropolitan area with Bisho and King William's town. According to reliable economic projections the towns or districts of Bisho and King William's town will be part of the greater East London in less than (10) years from now. The fact that East London is the only town in this region with a well developed harbor, clearly indicates that all export and/or import trade for the Border-Kei Region would be channeled through this industrial port. The proposed establishment of an Export Processing Zone (E.P.Z.) will no doubt generate substantial revenue-and create a lot of jobs for the people of this region and especially those of the aforesaid greater East London metropolitan area.

In addition to the points mentioned above, most of the ' bigger commercial and industrial ventures in this region are based at East London, hence it has the greater potential for further development in this direction.

(1ii) UMTATA

Because of its well developed administrative and legislative infrastructure in the form of buildings and a fairly big civil service, Tracoc recommends that Umtata should be identified as an administrative capital of its region. This is also based on the fact that Umtata is in the centre of the Border Kei Region in as much as it is approximately 300 kilometres from Aliwal North, East London, Queenstown, Sterkspruit or Umzimkulu. It is therefore conveniently situated from all points within this region. As we are all aware, Umtata has a very suitable Parliament Building which is well equipped with modern sound systems, furnisher, fittings and other essentials. The building itself is still in a very good condition. It has various government buildings which include the Botha Sigcau building with eleven floors, the K.D. Matanzima building with six floors, the Commerce building, the newly built Inland Revenue Office, new Police Headquarters, new T.B.C. Building, T.D.C. Building Minister 's Residences and many other buildings and residences. TRACOC believes that Umtata can accommodate any size of civil service which would be needed for the administration of this region, without any difficulties. It is also important to record that Umtata has an airport which could be upgraded without any difficulties in order to accommodate larger planes. At present it operates a 82 seater plane which flies to Johannesburg and back every day. It also operates scheduled flights to Durban on specified dates.

Because Umtata also has a well developed infrastructure for the judiciary in the form of the newly built Supreme Court Building with a number of court rooms and the well built Magistrate's offices with a number of court rooms and offices, it should also be considered as a seat for the judiciary.

(iii) Queenstown and the other towns along the borders could be identified for agricultural, commercial and industrial development by virtue of the nature of their respective infrastructure. Most of these towns are in fact already engaged in these forms of economic activities which actually requires to be done in this regard is to upgrade the standards of production in order to increase economic development.

It should however be placed on record that the above recommendations are subject to the condition that the issue of regional boundaries should in fact be considered and approved by an elected Constituent Assembly. The recommendations are in fact based on the guidelines set out its pages 15 & 16 of the agenda for the UNITRA meting of the 11th June 1993.

COMPILED BY :

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% N.MADIKIZELA
VICE PRESIDENT - TRACOC

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for the mutnal benefit of all.

Proposed regional

dispensa

A PROPOSED model for a new regional dispensation for South Africa provides for seven regions and was presented at the conference of federalism and regionalism in Pretoria on September 7.

It was drawn up by the Department of Constitutional Development Service and should not be viewed as the Government's official proposal for a regional dispensation.

Regional functions: In order to achieve regional autonomy, functions should be allocated in terms of the national constitution. A sensible and practical vertical distribution of powers must be achieved.

The authority of regions to exercise their functions should be supported by financial, economic and fiscal capability. Regional functions should be performed at the lowest level at which it can be carried out effectively.

Functions of national -

government could include defence, national security, foreign affairs and constitutional planning. The regional government could be responsible for agriculture,

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cultural affairs, education, finance, taxation and commerce, health, mining, nature conservation, police, roads, water, welfare and local government.

Fiscal considerations:
Regional autonomy will be directly dependent on the financial ability of a region.

Arrangements will have to be made to channel funds to less affluent regions.

Fiscal policy co-ordination will be necessary, but regions should have control over the taxation of their own sources of income.

Constitutional considerations: Regions should be regarded as autonomous provinces. Each province should have its own constitution, drafted within an entrenched framework provided for in the national constitution.

The legislative power of a province should be entrusted

to a single chamber provincial

assembly which may be elected proportionally from multi-member electoral districts. The number of representatives elected in each district will be determined by the number of its voters.

Development may be promoted and administered by non-political councils constituted from community

leadership, traditional leaders.

Provincial cabinets should be established to exercise executive power in each province. The provincial assembly might elect a premier to chair the provincial cabinet which could be composed in proportion to party support in the legislatures. A two-thirds majority vote in the regional cabinets should be sufficient for decision making.

Delimitation of regions: the finalisation of a delimitation should be based on the following factors:

historic boundaries

constitutional and demographic realities, e.g. the reincorporation of the TBVC states, should be a political and intergovernmental decision

economic and

developmental viability

cultural realities should be
taken into account

administrative
considerations

the complexity of
administrative rationalisation
and redistribution

a realistic limitation of the
number of regions.

including

The following regions

were proposed:

Cape of Good Hope - from

tion

the mouth of the Orange River
in the north to the district of
Philipstown in the east and to
Port Elizabeth in the south.

Kei - an area which
encloses the whole of
Transkei, Ciskei and the
Border. The districts of
Colesberg, Middelburg,
Craddock and Somerset East
also form part of this province.

Natal - the current province
of Natal, KwaZulu, the
Kokstad district and a small
part of Transkei.

Free State - the current
province of the Orange Free
State with the addition of parts
of Quaqua and
Bophuthatswana.

North-West - the whole of
the Cape north of the Orange
River, Western Transvaal and
the greatest part of
Bophuthatswana. The districts
of Thabazimbi, Koster,
Ventersdorp and
Potchefstroom form the
eastern border of this region.

Witwatersrand - the
development area of the
Witwatersrand to the south of
Pretoria.

Transvaal - the rest of the
province of Transvaal,
including Venda,
KwaNdebele, Lebowa,
Gazankulu, KaNgwane, parts
of Bophuthatswana and

Pretoria.

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GRIQUA â\200\224 KEI
SUB - REGION

THE FUTURE?

What does the future hold
for the integrated subregion
of East Griqualand and
Northern Transkei? What
can we do about it? These
were the central questions

asked at a workshop /

convened by the Kokstad
Civic on Sunday 4th

October 1992 at Kokstad's/

Supper Room. Considering
that such a wide range of
important participants were
meeting for the first time it
was a most appropriate time
to get some concerted action
by all the actors in a
subregion that is going from
bad to worse economically.
Participants included ANC
Transkei region, JSB,
Municipality of Kokstad,
LAC Cedarville, Kokstad,
Natal Agricultural union, a
large no of ANC and
SANCO branches and
Transkei Government
representatives.

The meeting was addressed
by Professor David Tapson ,
Divisional Head Rural and

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Agriculture, Development formed overseeing four
Bank of South Africa and working groups - economics,
Andrew Hendriks, Director of human resources , urban and
the Border Kei Development rural.
Forum. In the discussion that
David Tapson presented followed important points
statistics that depicted this were raised. Great interest
subregion as an impoverished, Was expressed in the BKDF.
densely populated rural area, This was particularly because
with severe lack of resources - \ this subregion was one of the
human and material, high | Six subregions in the BKDF's
m]g!'ancy and unemploymen[plan It was genmuy fcn.m
and with a history of! support for this subregions
underdevelopment. development was needed from
Agriculture is potentially the gl.l. â\200\230quarters including
most important part of the initiatives in Natal.
local economy. Concern was expressed

A history and outline of the 7 about regional boundarics ie

Border Kei Development (whether this subregion should

f Natal of Greater

Porum (BKDF) present be part o
activities was presented by Transkei. It was concluded

Andrew Hendricks. The that whichever the region, this

BKDF started from within subregions development is

Peace Accord structures once integrated (ie Northern
consensus was reached that Transkei and East Griqualand)

Boundaries should be only
] needed now. :)

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accommodate all groups ?melunponamau;\/\â\200\230ofzverall
(including governments). A S&Ve opment.. Much was

i . mentioned about the state of
full time directorate has been agriculture. The conclusion

was that the subregions future
lay in agriculture E.G. farmer:
conceded that a total together
way forward was needed.

Another interesting issuc
{ raised was tourism. It was fel
that tourism need not be higt
investment but home/farm
based and high profile with
good remmns. The potentia
for industrialisation wa:
discussed. It was expressec
that the subregion and th
region of Transkei wa
underdeveloped because o
apartheid neglect but it wa
also felt that an
industrialisation that wa
artificial and-unsustainab
would not be long lasting.

The Kokstad Civic wa
mandated to continue it
facilitation until structure
were formed. Very heartenin:
10 all was the commitment b
the EGRDA" if this vehicl
canâ\200\231t accommodaty
everybody then our vehicl
would like to become part Â¢
the train.â\200\235

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DAILY DISPATCH, TUESDAY .â\200\231JUNE 29, 1993 â\200\224 3

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A businessman's view of

East Griqualand in the Kei region

WELL known businessman, John Taylor, was approached for his views on the future regional demarcation and the siting of East Griqualand. After reading the motivation put forward by the East Griqualand Regional Development Association why E.G. should remain a part of Region E (Natal), he replied as follows:

It is this document was compiled (at a cost of R20 000) to convince people that E.G. should remain part of the region E. Then it does, in my opinion, an equally good job of advancing a contradictory position,

It is, in the main, blatantly racist and repetitious, with many of the arguments forwarded being unsubstantial, unconnected and totally lacking credence.

The issues raised such as the long time standing of the Farmer's Association affiliated to the Natal Agricultural Union are insignificant. "Historical

administration links with Natal" also, remain negligible arguments. The "ethnic considerations volunteered, such as E.G. having had "no historical accord with black tribes" is equally absurd and incorrect.

Kokstad has derived 90% of its business, and subsequently income, from the Transkei and its peoples and continues to do so. The "rail link that only goes as far as Kokstad" used in the report, in an attempt to bolster its case, was laid specifically to ferry workers to the mines on the Rcef, from Transkei. Therefore, the argument used that because we have a

"railway" and Transkei "does

not", we should form part of Natal, is equally iniquitous and vacuous.

A starting point using the \ boundaries of 1910 being nnpplcmcnlcd is essential. To go, beyond this date would certainly open up a can of worms, with many "tribes" and "individuals" laying claim to long lost treaties and "word of mouth" agreements made in the dim mists of time. This

could go on ad infinitum. We have to start somewhere and 1910 is the only logical/fair place to do so.

However, what should be of prime importance in making a decision is that the basic wishes and community needs of all the people be taken into account. To what area do the "majority" of the people of E.G. feel a closer association to? This issue, being a deeply emotive one, should receive equal consideration to those of economic and geographical calculations.

If the people of Transkei continue to support Kokstad, as they have been doing for years, then what recompenses and benefits are they going to enjoy in return? The area over Brooks Nck is sadly impoverished. If we exclude Transkei dispensation then the area will become even more disadvantaged.

It is a scenario that we can not allow to develop. We will all suffer the dire consequences and sequels, as a result, if we do.

Anxieties appear to abound

from a future

in Kokstad, amongst the white community in particular, that if we do form part of the Transkei the town will then degenerate into a filthy third world mess that epitomizes other towns in the Transkei. This, I admit, is certainly a

valid consideration, but need not be the case. Anyone having visited Zimbabwe recently can see for themselves that the cities and towns are spotlessly clean. It all depends on legislation, a free flow of money (which the Transkei does not always enjoy) and an effectively administered town board. The "white" areas of Kokstad are constantly maintained in this pristine manner. Why then, when essential services are extended, should this status differ if we do eventually form part of Transkei?

Also, the concerns about an exodus of whites from the area, should it be incorporated

into Transkei, are also invalid. Like the rest of South Africa, the people who do stay to help build a new future for all, would eventually reap the immense benefits that should inevitably flow from such cooperation. The people that may choose to leave, do not form part of the requisite society who would contribute, effectively, anyway, so what's the loss?

When I started my Educational/Sport Trust in the Transkei during 1988 with 2 personal donations of R50 000,

I expected a few small contributions, or at least a modicum of support, from the people of Kokstad. This presumption was based on the "historical business links" with Transkei that Kokstad has enjoyed and which remains a fact to this day. However,

in spite of appeals through the newspaper, extensive advertising, and personal letters to local businesses, the total amount of contributions received to date has been, exactly and precisely, Nil!

The following is a

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