

LABOUR PARTY TEL No.0214451933 2 Sep 95 il:iiur.ul

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Ai~\202mmnsmnu VAN SUID-AFRIKA /\ LABOUR PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA

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voer alle korrespondensie met dle 3 Alt correspondence to be directed to the

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â\200\230Dr Renosi Mokate
Commission on the Demarcation/ COMMISSION ON RE IONS

Delimitation of Regions % %
P 0 Box 307 rerF: 1/11/ 717

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1600 .

'Dear Sir

The Labour Party of South Africa hereby wishes to lod?e
our strongest possible objection to your Commissionâ\200\231s
proposal for a NORTH CAPE REGION. ,

:Judging from the report that was tabled at the Negotiating
.Council it is obvious that there were serious differences
arpon?st your Commissioners on the desirability and
viability of this proposed region.

_ECONOMIC ASPECTS

We wish to strongly refute the claim in your report that
the region can function as an entity despite the fact that
it is relativeli poor in terms of a economicÂ¢ resource base
and quality of life indicators.,

Nothing in your report substantiates Â¢Your claim that this
-xeglon can function as an economic entity. The people in
CLANWILLIAM, YVREDENDAL, VAN RHYNSDORP, and NAMAQUALAND
have absolutely nothing in common with the people of
KIMBERLEY and BARKLEY WEST. Namagualand and the West
Coast have always been historically, economically and
aadministratively part of the Western Cape. Springbok is
â\200\230900km from Kimberley, and only 600km from Cape Town.
Institutional infrastructure is virtually non existent in
Upington, whereas Kimberley inaccessible by road or rail
to a large part of the proposed region, to serve as a
regional capieal,

The proposed Northern Cape region is an extremely poor region. The so-called coloured and black communities are amongst the poorest in the RSA. Unemployment is amongst the highest in the country.

(see attached graph).

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The proposed NORTH CAPE region is geographically the largest region, and yet it comprises only 2% of the country's population.

One of the primary objects of regional government, namely bringing government closer to the people is therefore not obtained by your proposed demarcation.

Section 101 (3) of the draft interim Constitution states that no region shall have less than 30 seats per SPR legislature. The Northern Cape with 2% or less of the RSA voters will therefore from a constitutional point of view be totally over represented at SPR level, which will further add to its economic inviability.

GEOGRAPHIC COHERENCE

It is true that the proposed region is sparsely populated and that it is geographically coherent. The arid conditions in the NORTH CAPE region in our view hardly adds to its viability as a region.

SOCIO CULTURAL

We also agree with your commission's finding that there is considerable homogeneity in respect of language in this region. We however wish to know why this aspect has been

overlooked in this region, whereas in other regions it has been virtually ignored.

! We sincerely hope that the indigenous communities in the Northern Cape has not been sacrificed to appease a very small percentage of the white right wing.

Finally we strongly refute your claim that there is a developed sense of regional identity in this proposed region.

' AMENDMENT TO YOUR COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS

In view of the aforementioned objections, the Labour Party

of South Africa wishes to propose the following amendment;
to your proposals:

That the following magisterial districts be incorporated into the proposed NORTH WEST REGION -
GORDONIA, KENHARDT, PRIESKA, HAY, HOPETOWN, HERBERT, KIMBERLEY, BARKLEY WEST AND WARRENTON.

The remainder of the proposed NORTH CAPE REGION must be incorporated into the WESTERN CAPE.

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We sincerely hope and trust that your committee will give serious consideration to our proposals., Should you require further oral evidence to substantiate our proposals we will gladly assist you.

Finally we are of the view that an in loco inspection of the region by your committee, will serve to enlighten them on most of the aspects in this submission.

Kind regards.

DESMOND LOCKEY, NP
; CHAIRPERSON OF THE LPSBA
; NORTH CAPE REGION

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