

JOHANNESBURGSE AFRIKAANSE SAKEKAMER

Geregistreer kragtens Artikel 21 van die Maatskappywet Nr. 46 van 1926 (soos gewysig). Geaffilieer met die Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut
(Ingelyfde Vereniging Sonder Winsoogmerk)

Posbus 61021,
Marshalltown,
2107

Kine Sentrum
14de Verdieping
H/v. Commissioner- en Kruisstraat
Johannesburg
Telefoonnommer: 331-7521
Faksnommer: 331-2778



21 September 1993

The Technical Secretary
Commission on the Demarcation/
Delimitation of Regions
P O Box 307
ISANDO
1600

COMMISSION ON REGIONS

REF: 1/11/ 20 / 36.P

ATTENTION : DR RENOSI MOKATE

Dear Sir

PRETORIA-WITWATERSRAND-VEREENIGING

Our Sakekamer, as a body representing one of the constituencies which will be greatly affected by the boundaries of the region within which Johannesburg will ultimately fall, made oral representations to your Commission on 5 July 1993. Since we feel very deeply about the issue, we have resolved also to submit a written report in this second phase.

The Johannesburg Afrikaanse Sakekamer is a voluntary association of businesses and business people. Its membership is open to all, irrespective of race, gender, religion or political persuasion. The Sakekamer strives for an environment in which business can prosper, for the benefit of all South Africans.

The views of the membership of the Sakekamer with respect to the issue at hand were sought by discussion in open meeting, and this submission represents the feelings of our members.

It is the opinion of the Sakekamer that the Witwatersrand, from Randfontein in the west to Springs in the east, from Ennerdale in the south to Midrand in the north, should form one of the regions of South Africa. Pretoria, the Vaal Triangle and all the rural area and towns which currently form part of Region H should be stripped away and incorporated into other regions. Our views and reasoning are elaborated on in the enclosed report.

Should the Commission not see its way clear to support the compact region proposed by the Sakekamer, we believe that the next best step would be to incorporate Verwoerdburg and Pretoria. It is our sincere contention that the inclusion of further areas, especially the rural areas, would not be to the advantage of the region or of those areas.

Yours faithfully

DR H DE CLERCQ
CHAIRMAN

lm/1.20

DEMARCATIION OF REGIONS

PRETORIA-WITWATERSRAND-VEREENIGING

1. PROPOSAL

The Johannesburgse Afrikaanse Sakekamer proposes that the boundaries of the region within which Johannesburg is to fall be drawn so as to render this a compact, uniform, urban region, of a strength not vastly overshadowing that of the other regions.

We consider the ideal region as encompassing the following towns and cities:

- Randfontein
- Krugersdorp
- Roodepoort
- Dobsonville
- Randburg
- Sandton
- Midrand
- Tembisa
- Kempton Park
- Modderfontein
- Alexandra
- Edenvale
- Bedfordview
- Germiston
- Johannesburg
- Soweto
- Diepmeadow
- Eldorado Park
- Lenasia
- Ennerdale
- Alberton
- Katlehong
- Thokoza
- Vosloorus
- Boksburg
- Benoni
- Daveyton
- Brakpan
- Tsakane
- Kwa-Thema
- Springs
- and smaller towns and areas inbetween

Excluded from this suggested region are the following areas which currently form part of the PWV:

- The more rural areas and towns to the west, south and east of the Witwatersrand proper, including such towns as Westonarea, Nigel and Heidelberg.
- The Vaal Triangle and the rural areas surrounding it.
- Pretoria, Verwoerdburg and the rural areas and towns to the East, West and North of Pretoria.

It will be noted that the proposed region constitutes the core of the Witwatersrand, and that it encompasses the towns and cities which, together, form a continuous conurbation.

2. MOTIVATION

1 Objective

The fundamental objective of the Sakekamer in proposing the compact Witwatersrand region as defined above it to establish a truly functional region with civic and governmental structures which can focus effectively on the myriad problems facing South Africa's major urban area, while also ensuring that the people of the region and of the country as a whole benefit fully from the opportunities the region offers.

It should be stated emphatically that the Sakekamer has no hidden agenda in making this proposal. We do not wish the inhabitants of any part of our country anything but prosperity and harmony, we don't plot any strategies against any group or organisation, and we harbour no political ambitions or hopes for preferential treatment for ourselves or for any party or group.

2.2 Basic criteria

The criteria spelled out by the Commission on the Demarcation/Delimitation of SPR's are all valid and accepted. In our view, however, a number of other criteria are of significance in deciding whether a region is likely to function effectively, and whether the regions of the country will interact and cooperate effectively.

We consider it as being of great importance that a region should have a sense of cohesion, born out of a theme running through its business and management. Such a theme could arise where there is an acknowledged capital city, surrounded by a substantial hinterland, with an obvious interdependence between the two. Another theme would be evident where the region is very uniform and all areas are faced with similar problems and opportunities. The most difficult region would be one having vying centres of dominance, with different views on how to proceed.

It is also important that no single region should see itself as dominating all others. A likely outcome of such a state of affairs would be that the lesser regions would form a block to outmanoeuvre the bigger one.

2.3 Evaluation in terms of criteria

The proposed Witwatersrand region will satisfy the criteria of uniformity while having, in Johannesburg, a strong centre. It is relatively easy to see how the leadership of such a region could come to grips with the uniquely urban problems facing the region, and devise strategies for its economic growth and the upliftment of its rapidly-swelling community. Success will not come easily to the Witwatersrand, as the obstacles it faces are huge, but a focused approach, without detractors, can show results.

A focus on urban problems requires the rural aspect to be removed from the region. It is the view of the Sakekamer that the region will function much better if the rural areas and towns of the present PWV are stripped away from it. Equally, the rural areas stand little to gain from being appendages to a region where issues of little interest to them are paramount.

It could be argued that the Vaal Triangle is an essentially urban area. While this may be true, the area is not part of the continuous Witwatersrand, and has developed its own identity and approach to life. It will tend to be a distraction to the region, and we believe that it can do much better as a strong node in the Free State.

Pretoria/Verwoerdburg does, of course, constitute an urban area, with significant interaction with the Witwatersrand. The reason for excluding Pretoria from the proposed Witwatersrand region is primarily that a dipolar region stands less chance of reaching unanimity about its strategies. Adversarial feelings have characterised the relationship between Pretoria and Johannesburg for a long time, and we can gain little from bringing dichotomy into the new region. Pretoria could, rather, play a very useful role as the capital city of a large, mainly rural region, ie a role similar to that of Durban or Cape Town. An interesting other option, should it be decided to make Pretoria the capital of the new South Africa, would be to accord it a status similar to that of Washington DC.

It would be wrong to overestimate the degree of interaction between Pretoria and Johannesburg, however. The diagram appended to this report shows that the projected number of morning peak hour trips from Pretoria and Midrand into the Witwatersrand for the year 2005 will be in the order of 12 000, whereas the total number of trips between centres in the Witwatersrand will make this number pale into insignificance. It should further be considered that Pretoria is completely independent of the Witwatersrand in terms of infrastructure, engineering services or natural features, except for the connecting roads and the sharing of airports. The two cities are actually quite independent of each other.

The proposed Witwatersrand region would be responsible for about 30% of South Africa's GNP. This would still leave it the strongest region in the country, but less dominant than the entire PWV. It would thus be more acceptable in the lineup of regions in SA.

Regarding the criteria set by the Commission, it can be said that all of these would be satisfied by the proposed region. A number of aspects would bear brief discussion.

The PWV's boundaries have never had any real significance for the people of the region. In fact, perhaps the strongest argument which can be raised in favour of more compact regional boundaries is that the PWV has never functioned successfully as a region, whereas other regions have developed cohesion and a common sense of destiny.

Regarding the rationalisation of structures, it is not intended that the reduced size of the region would increase the number of regions, as the areas cut away from the PWV would be integrated into other regions. We do, in fact, foresee a real rationalisation, as the compact region would make sub-regional or metropolitan government unnecessary.

The proposed region forms a comprehensive entity in terms of engineering services, transport and other infrastructural considerations.

The culture and attitudes of the people of the Witwatersrand should make it relatively easy to gain consensus on such issues as language.

CONCLUSION

From the discussion above it can be concluded that the Witwatersrand will be afforded the best chance of enjoying sound regional government and a clearly-defined strategy for addressing its problems and benefiting from its opportunities if the region is not encumbered with extraneous issues. We should not repeat the errors of the past when the so-called PWV was thrown together in the hope that it would form an entity. The result was that most of the region, with the notable exception of the Vaal Triangle, never developed a sense of direction and a strategy for economic growth and development.

The proposed Witwatersrand Region can get its act together and serve as an engine for growth for our country.

14. A look at how patterns could change by the year 2005. These statistics are based on projections emanating from the JOMET LUTSPLAN exercise.

