

COMMISSION ON REGIONS

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STREEKONTWIKKELINGSADVIESKOMITEE (SOAK)
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RDAC)

Voorsitter/Chairman: Attie Bester
Direkteur/Director: Fanie Schoeman
Verw./Ref.

3/2/1/3

Posbus/P.O. Box 2845
Pietersburg 0700
Tel.: (01521) 912402
(01521) 912403
Fax: (01521) 911722

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DEMARICATION OF SPR's

NORTHERN TRANSVAAL / CAPRICORN

After intensive consultation with various interest groups, the following recommendations are made in respect of the demarcation of boundaries for the Northern Transvaal Region:

1. THABAZIMBI MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT

In the light the lack of sufficient consensus amongst the local roleplayers regarding their future regional dispensation, it is recommended that this district remains part of the Northern Transvaal Region. This recommendation is also motivated by the economic impact of the district on the future economic growth of the Region. Should there remain a difference of opinion on the future of the district, it is recommended that an opinion poll be conducted.

2. KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Introduction

A document 'Demarcation of Regions' compiled on behalf of all the roleplayers in the Northern Transvaal Region by Messrs Bertus de Villiers and Richard Humphries, was presented to the Demarcation Commission which accepted it as the basis for the future demarcation of the

Northern Transvaal Region. In this joint proposal different options were put forward regarding either the inclusion or exclusion of the Kruger National Park in the Northern Transvaal Region being the following:

- the Park to be divided in two parts i.e. Northern and Southern parts above and below the Sabie River, respectively to be administered by the Northern and Eastern Transvaal Region;
- the Park as a whole to be administered by either the Northern or Eastern Transvaal Regions;
- the Park to be jointly administered as a whole by both Regions and the income generated to be shared on an equal basis;
- all Parks, the Kruger National Park included, to be administered by an administration appointed by, or in service of the Central Government.

Geography

From a geographical and economic point of view, it makes good sense that the Kruger National Park be part of the Northern Transvaal Region.

Tourism

Tourism is one of the best developed sectors in Region G and contributes in conjunction with the catering and accommodation services sector, approximately 10% to the GGP of the Region, whereas Region F is underdeveloped in this regard and tourism only contributes 5% to its GGP. The Northern Transvaal is endowed with numerous and excellent game reserves, especially in the Northern Lowveld areas adjacent to the Kruger National Park.

If it is taken into consideration that Region G with its much bigger population contributes only 3% of the total GGP of SA compared to 9,4% for Region F, but relies much heavier on its tourism for income (10% versus 5%), then it seems logical that the National Kruger Park should be included in the Northern Transvaal Region.

Recommendation

The recommendation regarding the Kruger National Park is therefore the following:

that it be governed by the Central Government under the trusteeship of a World Wild Life body and that all net income, tax and/or levies be transferred to the Northern

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Transvaal Region.**3. MAPULANENG/BUSHBUCKRIDGE**

From the draft report of the Demarcation Commission it is not clear whether the whole Mapulaneng area is included in the Northern Transvaal. However, it is necessary (based on economic criteria, traditions and population groupings) that both Mapulaneng 1 and 2 are in fact incorporated in the Northern Transvaal Region. This also applies to the Marite farms which form an integral economic part of Mapulaneng and were originally intended for inclusion. However, cognisance is also taken of the fact that these farms fall inside the Sand/Sable river catchment basin.

4. BURGERSFORT

It should be ensured that the Burgersfort and all the Steelpoort areas are to be part of the Northern Transvaal Region, based on their integrated mining activities as well as socio-economic interests.

5. NEBO/MARBLE HALL/GROBLERSDAL/MOTETEMA

The Nebo district of the existing Lebowa does have economic linkages with the Groblersdal and Marble Hall districts of the present Eastern Transvaal Region. However in view of historical boundaries as well as population and economic criteria, it is recommended that the Loskop Valley area (which includes Groblersdal, Marble Hall, Nebo district and Motetema) form an integral part of the Northern Transvaal. It is accepted however, that a local opinion poll of the relevant inhabitants in the effected districts have to be conducted.

6. LYDENBURG/PILGRIM' REST DISTRICTS

The Lydenburg/Pilgrims' Rest districts are according to the draft demarcation report to be included with the Eastern Transvaal Region. However, the Regional Political Discussion Forum (RPDF) of the Northern Transvaal recommended that these districts should form part of the new Northern Transvaal Region. This is in line with historical and traditional criteria. Consequently our RDAC is in favour of a local opinion poll for the relevant inhabitants to ascertain their willingness in this regard.

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It should be noted that the RDAC G has informed the Demarcation Commission that our representatives are willing to give verbal evidence to support the abovementioned proposals.

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FANIE SCHOEMAN
DIRECTOR

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