



Chamber of Business

P O Box 255 St Michaels-on-Sea 4265 ☎ (03931) 51102 Fax: (03931) 51118

Dr Renosi Mokate
Technical Secretary
Commission on Demarcation/Delimitation of Regions
P O Box 307
ISANDO 1600

7 September 1993

COMMISSION ON REGIONS

REF: 1/11/20/56

Dear Dr Mokate

EXISTING REGION E

Having received a copy of Durban Regional Chamber's motivation (copy attached) that Region E remain as is, our Chamber would like to endorse these sentiments as we feel that any alterations would be detrimental to the economic growth and development in Region E.

We also attach a copy of our motivation as to why Southern Natal and East Griqualand remain part of Region E as it exists.

Yours faithfully

J. Tudor.

for

A HOFMANN
PRESIDENT

A MEMBER OF



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BOUNDARY DELIMITATIONS

In their report, the Commission on Demarkation/Delimitation of Regions, was of the opinion that East Griqualand should be excluded from Natal/KwaZulu.

The Chamber still stands by its submission to the Commission, as the economy of the East Griqualand region is so interwoven with that of the rest of the present Region E, that any attempt to link its future with any other region will heavily penalise the economic development of the area and the future wellbeing of its people. We also reaffirm our belief that the "Mount Currie" portion of development Region E should remain linked to Natal.

Once again, we reiterate that the major concern of this Chamber is with the health of business, and that given political freedom, economic development is the primary determinant of individual wellbeing and fulfilment. We also reiterate that all the above arguments are based on the fact that Durban and Pietermaritzburg are the dominant economic nodes with all established infrastructure gravitating towards these two centres. It therefore is only logical that the areas in question remain part of the Natal region.



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Chamber of Business

P O Box 255 St Michaels-on-Sea 4265 T (03931) 51102 Fax: (03931) 51118

The Commission
Regional Boundaries
P O Box 307
ISANDO 1600

28 June 1993

Dear Sir

MOTIVATION WHY SOUTHERN NATAL SHOULD REMAIN PART OF REGION E (NATAL)

We would like to express our opposition to the proposal that the area South of the Umzimkulu River be incorporated into a Border Kei region for the following reasons:

1. The area South of the Umzimkulu River incorporates the coastal strip of tourism-dependent towns Port Shepstone, Shelly Beach, Uvongo, Margate, Ramsgate, Marina Beach, Southbroom, Munster, Port Edward and inland to Harding.

600,000 visitors per year are received by this area, contributing R200-million to the local economy.

The South Coast is the most popular destination in Natal and the second most popular in South Africa.

There are 50,000 holiday beds available and the coast has the largest presentation of tourist facilities in the country catering for a largely selective and wealthy tourist from the Transvaal and Orange Free State.

There is enormous national investment in the South Coast where Reef owners of second homes, time share, flats etc feature largely in the region.

THERE WILL BE NATION-WIDE REPERCUSSIONS IF SUCH AN AREA WITH ENORMOUS NATIONAL INVESTMENT IN PROPERTY AND DWELLINGS BECOMES PART OF AN UNECONOMIC REGION SUCH AS THE TRANSKEI.

Total rateable land value of these towns:	R313,555,525
Total rateable building values where applicable:	R532,343,760

A MEMBER OF



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2. It concerns us that the proposed region will not conform to the Magisterial District of Port Shepstone, which will be split resulting in legal chaos requiring costly restructuring and unavoidable delays in legal processing.
3. A major concern is the proposed division of the existing Southern Natal Joint Services Board which operates from south of the Umkomaas River to Port Edward and inland including Harding.
4. The current budgetted income of the Southern Natal JSB is R8-million, for the provision of services to a population of 1,260,000. The incorporation of a totally undeveloped Transkei region will have a detrimental effect on an already critically short-funded region where unemployment is already at an unacceptable high.
5. The current GDP of the existing Region 36 is R900 million (R200 million of which will be lost through the drought). Tourism and agriculture form the economic base of Southern Natal/KwaZulu. The regions annual economic growth rate from 1985 to 1990 was 0,6%, the lowest in Region E. The gross Geographic Product of the region is 52% of the figure for Region E and 30% of that for the rest of the RSA. A salient feature of the region, now proposed for division, is the high level of poverty. DILUTING THE SOUTHERN NATAL ECONOMY FURTHER BY LINKING IT TO AN IMPOVERISHED TRANSKEI SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED.
6. A further concern is the acceptability by KwaZulu of incorporation into a Transkeien area. If unacceptable, this could lead to civil strife and unrest between these two groups which will spell economic disaster for an economy based mainly on tourism.

It is our recommendation that Southern Natal/KwaZulu, south of the Umzinkulu River, remain part of the existing Region E where Durban and Pietermaritzburg are our dominant economic nodes. Southern Natal/KwaZulu and East Griqualand, through close economic activity and dependancy on Durban and Pietermaritzburg, and each other, must through economic necessity remain in Region E.

We urge the Commission to take cognizance of our present economic need to remain in Region E and not to consider coupling Southern Natal/KwaZulu and East Griqualand with an impoverished economy where it will be wellnigh impossible to obtain economic growth in the foreseeable future or address job creation and the provision of infrastructures.

Yours faithfully

J. J. Tuma

for A HOFMANN
PRESIDENT

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24 June 1993

The Chairman
Commission on Demarcation/Delimitation of
Regions
P O Box 307
ISANDO
1600

FAX NO: 011 3972105

Dear Sir

**RE: SUBMISSIONS TO COMMISSION ON DEMARCATION/
DELIMITATION OF REGIONS**

The Submissions put forward by this Chamber are based purely on business and economic reasons, and have no political connotations of any kind whatsoever. It is our belief that economic freedom will be the cornerstone of the success of any future political dispensation that will result from the multi-party negotiation process. If economic freedom is not attained, then the other basic fundamental human rights, as important as they may be, will become absolutely meaningless and the present instability and uncertainty will prevail. It is on this basis that our thoughts on boundary delimitations are presented.

It is not our intention to repeat what other Chambers of Business in Natal have presented, other than to lend our total support to their Submissions. Here, reference is made to the document submitted by the Matatiele Chamber of Business and the Kokstad Chamber of Business, prepared by the East Griqualand Regional Development Association, and entitled "Motivation - Why East Griqualand Should Remain Part of Region E (Natal)". The arguments presented in this document are fully supported by this Chamber. Essentially, this entails that the "Mount Currie" portion of development Region 38 must remain in Natal. Once again, support for this is based on economic and business considerations only. We are supportive of Region 38 remaining in Natal as the business prospects in that region are at present extremely positive. Casting our eyes towards the Transkei, a state of poverty and decay has attacked the little towns along the road through that region and from a business perspective this is unacceptable, as we would not want a similar fate to follow in the Kokstad/Matatiele area. Also in this regard, is that the "island" of Umzimkulu should also be included in Natal as economic and business reasons, necessitate this.

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All the above arguments are based on the fact that Durban and Pietermaritzburg are the dominant economics nodes with a gravitational force of attraction so strong, that economically it is only logical that they remain in the Natal region.

We further support the maintaining of the Port Shepstone to Port Edward portion of the Southern Development region 36 in Natal. Here, even stronger arguments exist for inclusion, these being; historically, economically and administratively this portion is inextricably linked to Natal. A major plus factor for this region to remain in Natal is the fact that the tourist trade is a major component of economic activity in the area. In fact, the Port Shepstone to Port Edward area relies almost exclusively on tourism as a generator of economic activity. Removing this region from Natal will result in the same pattern that has unfortunately enveloped Transkei, where the tourist industry has faded to something worthless and avoided by tourists. This is a sad state of affairs for a region which once boasted a phenomenal tourist trade with an envied potential. One has only to look at the current state of Port St John to emphasise this point.

A cause for concern is the present state of Transkei. The present government in that region is technically a foreign player which, at this point in time, has not committed itself to being a part of the ultimate State of South Africa and by so doing, leaves the door open to remain an independent country should the political outcome not be favoured by that government. This, once again, reiterates the requirement that the necessary steps be initiated for the reincorporation of Transkei, Boputswana, Venda and Ciskei into the Republic of South Africa. As things exist at the moment, one must question the participation of the Transkei government as even being party to the discussions.

This Chamber is also of the opinion that if a dispute arises about border delimitations, that the region in question should, as a last resort, seek a democratic poll to resolve the issue. This written submission's approach has been very brief and deliberately devoid of specific detail. It is essentially based on a "heads of argument" approach, with the intention of expanding upon the arguments when oral evidence is submitted. Once again, this Chamber reiterates that its viewpoints are directed by economic and business considerations alone. Business has a vested interest in the outcome of the delimitations as it is essential for the survival of business that the resultant regions are as business friendly as possible, and in order to achieve this, and so benefit the entire country, the proposed regions must facilitate an environment that is conducive to the success of business.

Yours faithfully

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