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Democratic Party, 17 Clyde Street, Port Elizabeth 6001 COMMISSION ON REGIONS

OOS-KAgJy STREEK REF: 1/11) â\200\234 /â\200\231,â\200\230},)-
EAST CAPE REGION

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Democratic Party
MEMORANDUM FOR PRESENTATION TO THE DELIMITATION COMMISSION

INTRODUCTION

We will not concern ourselves with Regions in other parts of the country and confine our submission to the Cape Province. The Party at national level has made submissions regarding the whole country.

We believe that it goes without saying that the two major problems facing South Africa are (a) Economic development and
(b) Political violence.

The solution to each depends on a solution to the other.

Our detailed presentation will follow as closely as possible the guidelines as set out by the Commission itself. We believe however, that broadly speaking, the following fundamental issues are of cardinal importance:

a) Economic viability

However hard we try it will be impossible to cut South Africa up into regions that are economically viable, and each state to a larger or lesser degree will be heavily dependent on cash transfers from the Central Government. We refer to the DP's fiscal policy.

b) Conflict potential

South Africa has an abysmal record in terms of conflict. Inter-racial and Inter-group conflict has been a major problem throughout the history of our country. We therefore submit that in drawing the new boundaries, the new regions should be so constructed that there is a minimum potential for conflict. We must look for common denominators and eliminate as much potential conflict as possible.

c) Accessible and Accountable Government

Historically South Africans have always felt far removed from Government, and real power has traditionally been vested in those areas of the country with the highest population concentrations and, relatively speaking, economic muscle. In order to solve this problem it is our belief that more rather than less regions will be appropriate.

d) Functionality

Government is fundamentally for the administration of certain line functions. Government must be there to serve the people. For this reason functionality is of vital importance.

One Nation. One Future. Een Nasie. Een Toekoms.

Various service nodes have developed through the ages on a natural basis. and we believe that these particular points should form the basis of regional government.

It is generally accepted that the Cape Province, when included with the Transkei and Ciskei, is far too large and should be divided into smaller regions. .

We submit that the metropolitan areas of Cape Town, Port Elizabeth / Uitenhage and East London / Berlin have developed as national service and administration nodes.

Each has the potential for economic growth and job creation. Each has a deep water harbour. Each has an excellent airport.

It is therefore our belief that each of these cities should be the capitals of three new regions.

a. STANTIVE PROPOSAL

The boundaries of this region should be demarcated as indicated on map - annexure 1.

. HISTORICAL BOUNDARIES

The boundaries reflected in A all have historical significance from an economic and political point of view.

For example:

I) The Fish River has been the Provincial boundary of the area loosely described as the Cape Colony for upwards of 200 years .

ITI) The Fish River, for more than 150 years, after the immigration drive which occurred in 1820, has been regarded as the boundary between the Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown based Eastern Cape region on the one hand and that area known loosely as the Border / Kei to the east.

NI ATIVE CONS RATIO INFRASTRUCTURE

Port Elizabeth serves as the headquarters of the Cape Midlands region which has three district operations covering the whole region and beyond. There is no direct link between either Port Elizabeth and the Southern Cape, or Port Elizabeth and East London.

1.2 Post Office

The Regional headquarters of Telkom and the South African Post Office Ltd are based in a newly erected building in Port Elizabeth tailor made for this purpose.

1.3 Government departments

All departments serving the region have their headquarters in Port Elizabeth, except Water Affairs which is in Cradock, which is also contained in this region. All government departments with their headquarters in Port Elizabeth serve the Eastern Cape region as proposed under A, to a greater or lesser extent. '

1.4 Primary and Secondary Education

Institutions governing education are all based in Port Elizabeth.

1.5 Universities

The Eastern Cape Region is adequately served by three universities - Rhodes, the University of Port Elizabeth and Vista University. By contrast, Keiland is also served by two universities. the University of Fort Hare and University of the Transkei. The University of Fort Hare has long cultural and historic links which are closely related to Keiland.

To join Keiland with the Eastern Cape region would involve the inclusion of five Universities within a relatively poor region leading to infrastructural and economic difficulties.

1.8 Courts

Grahamstown has traditionally been the seat of the Eastern Cape Provincial Division of the Supreme Court with jurisdiction stretching from Tsitsikamma in the West to the Fish River in the east and northwards to the Orange River.

The Supreme Court in Port Elizabeth currently operates as a local division of the Supreme Court (as do the Supreme Courts in Durban and Johannesburg) with jurisdiction to hear cases from the magisterial districts of Humansdorp, Hankey, Patensie, Uitenhage, Despatch, Port Elizabeth, Addo and Kirkwood.

The Port Elizabeth Supreme Court has recently been housed in a magnificent new building and could logically serve as the Judicial capital of the region. The only administrative considerations needed to facilitate this process would be that the staff of the offices of the Attorney General and the Master of the Supreme Court presently located in Grahamstown would need to be moved to Port Elizabeth.

1.7 Tourism

There is a natural community of interests particularly in relation to tourism, as Port Elizabeth stands at one end of the Garden Route and is itself a tourist hub with

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. communication facilitated eastwards along the N2 and coastal roads as far as Port Alfred and the Fish River: and westwards along the excellent N2 in the direction of

George .

Very adequate air links have added to the establishment of Port Elizabeth as a tourist hub and a link to the other areas in the region. The road link with East London is very poor by comparison.

The region contains some major conservation areas ie EBobbelaarskloof, Suurberg, 2ddo complex., the Alexandria dune field, the Sam Knott and Andries Vosloo Game Reserves and the Karoo nature reserve. There are enough conservation areas and tourist attractions to warrant a strong and effective Dept of Nature Conservation.

1.8 Environment

A major area of ecological interaction takes place near Port Elizabeth. Here a number of biomes meet. They include Karoo, Afro-montane forest and fynbos. This is a major vegetation junction in South Africa and is quite unique. Its' inclusion into one region is beneficial as it would allow uniform management.

A very long stretch of highly sensitive coastline exists. Many aspects of the coastline require specific

management . The expertise for this is already in place at both the University of Port Elizabeth and Rhodes who are co-operating with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry in finding management solutions to existing problems.

1.9 Development

It is noted that a significant portion of the GGP in question is produced by the Agricultural sector. It is however submitted that a regional demarcation as suggested brings about a certain degree of balance in the composition of the agricultural sector.

Reasons for stating this are that the demarcation allows for the Karoo region, with its' traditional emphasis on sheep farming, to be complemented by irrigation farming (mainly citrus farming) in the valleys of the Kat River, Sundays River and the Gamtoos River: and the fruit-growing area of the Langkloof helps to diversify the agricultural industry in the proposed region.

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Port Elizabeth / Uitenhage is heavily dependent on the motor industry, agriculture and tourism, but a new internationally accepted South Africa will allow the region to intensify an export driven economic recovery. Port Elizabeth is served by an outstanding deep water harbour and airport.

NODAL POINTS OF SERVICES

Port Elizabeth is centrally situated on the coast whilst Graaff-Reinet and Cradock to the north and Grahamstown in the east would serve as decentralised sub-regional administrative hubs. The region is more than adequately serviced for the following reasons:

.1 Water supply

Since the building of the Verwoerd dam and Tunnel, the Fish and Swundays Rivers have been provided with a reliable source of high quality water. This has revitalised the agricultural production of these two important river systems and secured Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown adequate water supplies.

The entire catchment area to the west of Port Elizabeth, together with all the storage dams, falls within the boundaries of the proposed region.

2.2 Electricity

The whole region receives an electricity supply which is very adequately reticulated through the Eskom grid.

2.3 Financial Institutions

All the major financial institutions have head offices in PE aimed at managing the functional region defined as the Eastern Cape whilst some of these extend their activities as far as the Transkei in the east and George in the west, generally the number of branches in the Eastern Cape exceed by far those

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situated in the Border / Kei and Southern CApe.

2.4 Commerce Indus

Chambers of Commerce in the Port Elizabeth Uitenhage Metropole are to a large extent rationalised under the South African Chamber of Business but have been unable to establish relationships with Chambers of Business to the East or West of Port Elizabeth whilst Graaff Reinet has formed part of the

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Eastern Cape for the purposes of regional meetings for the Port Elizabeth area. Chambers of Commerce in Aliwal North, Queenstown, Stutterheim and Kingwilliamstown have in contrast looked to East London as their major urban area and have held separate regional congresses.

2.5 Petrol

There is adequate bulk storage at Port Elizabeth harbour which is refilled by sea tankers and distributed east, west and northwards by road and rail.

D. RATIONALISATION OF EXISTING STRUCTURES

This

submission presupposes the total reincorporation of Transkei

and Ciskei into the RSA. These territories with the East London / Kingwilliamstown corridor form a natural cohesive historically homogeneous unit, having two already trained and adequately sized bureaucracies based in Umtata and Bisho, which together with the Municipality of East London will serve as the basis for administration in the region. (

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Port Elizabeth currently serves as the headquarters of Provincial government in the Eastern Cape. Regional government structures are all housed in existing office accommodation in Port Elizabeth.

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government based bureaucracies together with the Regional

Services Councils of Algoa, Kamdeboo, Midland and part of

Stormberg all serve as the basis for sub-regional administration in this area.

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LIMITATION OF FINANCIAL COSTS

It

is submitted that the establishment of this region will limit expenditure for the following reasons:

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The regional government infrastructure is already in place. There will not need to be large scale movement of bureaucracies.

There could even be a basis for rationalisation of people employed in the regional government emanating from both the

previous provincial and government departments.

Although the number and scope of entrenched original powers that will ultimately be vested in regional government Wwill clearly. impact upon the cost of administration we believe that if the intention, is to

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deliâ\200\231tate regions that have a relatively high degree of autonomy, then an lincrease in regional bureaucracies will be more than compensated by a reduction in central government bureaucracies. We further submit that regional bureaucracies will be far more efficient and cost effective than those at central government. Switzerland is a good example (see ARSC submission). If the final model is to be more administrative by nature, then an even stronger case can be made out for more rather than less regions.

F. MINIMISING INCONVENIENCE TO THE PEOPLE

Port Elizabeth is at the centre of the region and is therefore convenient for all inhabitants. The region currently looks to Port Elizabeth as its' business, commercial and cultural hub.

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In as much as this submission has already pointed to the fact that Port Elizabeth is +the administrative, Â«ommercial and industrial hub of the region. there will be minimal if any dislocation of services by the establishment of the region as proposed.

H. DEMOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS

Though the region could have the smallest absolute population of all the regions it is submitted that with the massive urbanisation surge during the past three years, the 1990 census. figures are by no means accurate. The population in the PE/Uitenhage metropolises has escalated tremendously during the last three years. Functionality rather than numbers should be the most important criteria.

I. ECONOMIC VIABILITY

As referred to in the introduction to our document it will be impossible to divide South Africa up into economically viable regions, with one or two exceptions.

This proposal assumes that a carefully constructed fiscal formula not unlike the one used when South Africa was still operating with four provincial governments will have to be used to redistribute the national wealth in the equitable manner.

The Democratic Party submits that this can be best done by an Independent fiscal commission operating within the constraints of predetermined criteria.

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â\200\230 therefore believe that economic cooperation becomes the most important criteria in this regard.

The fierce competition within the borders of Development region D between the metropole PE/Uitenhage on one hand and East London on the other, has resulted in an ongoing battle and minimal co-operation. Each is a powerhouse and both have similar problems. To include these two growth points within the boundaries of one region would, it is submitted, be nothing short of disaster.

There is overwhelming evidence to support this submission, for example, the private sector in Port Elizabeth and East London have each created their own Economic Development Forums . Both these forums refuse to co-operate with the RDAC in Region D. Historically each of the two metropolises have attempted to extract concessions from the central government at the expense of the other.

The region as constituted, based on its GGP. will be relatively self-sufficient and not in need of massive amounts of assistance. This is in direct contrast with the situation prevailing in Border / Kei. If this region is combined with Keiland the average per capita income drops from R2500 to R1500, the combined regions in need of central Government financial assistance.

This proposal submits that the most equitable manner of dividing wp the national budget in a federal constitution is by means of a fiscal commission operating, not unlike that used when South Africa still operated with four provincial governments.

J. DEVELOPME TEN

The Eastern Cape is 80% urbanised and apart from a well developed narrow coastal strip and the irrigation schemes in the Sundays and Gamtoos River valleys, Port Elizabeth serves a huge, arid, sparsely populated region with very low agricultural potential.

Industrial development and tourism remain the two key areas for â\200\230economic growth and Job creation, whilst Industrial development and tourism are also very important.

The Border / Kei area is by comparison far less urbanised (47%).

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!.Et London, by comparison, serves a hinterland with a relatively high and underdeveloped agricultural potential.

K. CULTURAL, SPORTING AND LANGUAGE REALITIES

gl Port Elizabeth is regarded as the cultural hub of the region, having as it does the following facilities:

1.1 St Georges Park

The historic home of Cricket in the region and headquarters of the Eastern Province Cricket Team of which the National team captain, Kepler Wessels is the captain. has done wonders to unite the people of the region.

1.2 The Boet Erasmus Stadium

The heme of Provincial Rugby lin the Eastern Province and a recognised Test venue.

1.3 All other sporting codes administer their affairs independently of the border kei region.

1.4 Port Elizabeth Opera House

This is the oldest functioning live theatre in South Africa and serves to enrich and unite our cultural diversity.

1.5 The East Cape Symphony Orchestra

Regularly performs before audiences in Port Elizabeth.

1.6 Port Elizabeth Oratorio Choir

This choir regularly performs Oratorios for audiences in Port Elizabeth which are generally broadcast nationally on the

SABC.

7 Feathermarket Hall

1.7 Feathermarket Hall

Recently refurbished performance and conference venue seating 1600 people.

1.8 Grahamstown Festiv

Nationally and Internationally recognised unique institution.
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1.9 Churches

Virtually all mainline churches serving the region have structures with administrative headquarters in Port Elizabeth and /or Grahamstown for eg. Church of the Province of South Africa, Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk, Bantu Church of Christ, Roman Catholic Church, Methodist Church.

Whilst the language map indicates that the area east of an axis between PE and Colesberg is predominantly Xhosa speaking, it is interesting to note that when a second language is taken into account the picture begins to change dramatically.

Most of the Xhosa speaking rural people in the areas of Steynsberg, Middelberg, Hofmeyer, Cradock, Scomerset East, Bedford and Adelaide are proficient in Afrikaans whilst those in the metropolitan areas of Port Elizabeth and the districts of Albany, Alexandria and Bathurst would tend to be more proficient in English as a second language. In terms of the suggested sub region either English or Afrikaans will be a functional language.

Whilst statistics are not available regarding this issue, practical experience and knowledge of the area indicates overwhelmingly that the above statement is true.

By contrast, once the Fish River is crossed, large numbers of Xhosa people are proficient in neither English nor Afrikaans.

The further east the line is moved the more relevant this issue becomes. (Obviously excluding the white corridor).

Whilst the Xhosa speaking people in Port Elizabeth and part of the region still have fairly strong cultural ties with the Ciskei and Transkei, the vast majority of these people are urbanised which has resulted in the cultural ties being less intense. For example, the role and acceptance of traditional leaders is far less important west of the Fish River.

ACCESS ND ACCOUNTA OVERNEN

Government must be accessible and accountable to the people, who must feel that their voices are being heard. For too long the Eastern Cape has been governed from Cape Town. The time has come for us to be governed from our own mother city - Port Elizabeth is

this Mother City.

â\200\230. INTER COMMUNITY CO-OPERATION

Calculations from figures sourced from the Unit for Statistical Analysis in Port Elizabeth indicate that in the current development region D the East Cape section contributes two thirds of the GGP whilst only one third of the total population live in this area. Surely this in itself must be a source of built in conflict. :

It is our fervent belief that in order to ensure stability and progress in any region the highest possible degree of individual and inter-community cooperation is fundamentally important.

Co-operation between the different non-government vrole players within the Eastern Cape region on the one hand and the Border / Kei region on the other is generally good, whilst the co-operation between these two regions has been abysmal to say the least.

We submit as evidence annexure C. a document compiled by the Urban Peoples Participation Unit of the Development Bank of South Africa. This document says it all.

Statistical data

The source of statistical data in Annexure B is "INFORMATION ACCORDING TO ALTERNATIVE REGIONAL DEMARCATIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA" by Janine Erasmus of the Development Information Group.

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Kempionpark Soshanguve 1

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Pretons Westoneris

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SKIEREILAND / CAPE PENINSULA

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