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***SUBMISSION TO THE COMMISSION ON THE
DEMARCATIION/DELIMITATION OF REGIONS***

GOUK WESTE FORUM
GOLDEN WEST FORUM

COMMISSION ON REGIONS

REF: 1/11/ 11. /191

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6 July 1993

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ATTENTION OF: _____
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COMPANY: Fochville Stadsraad
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Sir

PROPOSALS FOR THE DELIMITATION OF BOUNDARIES

With reference to a special meeting of the Golden West Forum held on 30 June 1993 in connection with the above matter, whereby the organisations as shown in the attached attendance register were present, it was resolved:

1. That the Golden West Forum accepts that the sub-region is by no means interested in being incorporated in the FWV-region.
2. That, as a first priority, the sub-region consisting of the towns Carletonville, Khutsong, Fochville, Kokosi, Greenspark, Wedela, the surrounding rural areas and all areas of other organisations in the Golden West Forum Region, address representations to the relevant body to be classified within the SATSWA Option 1-region on the strength of the attached motivations (Annexure A and B).
3. That if the proposal as set out in 2 above be unacceptable, alternatively the townships within the existing Golden West Forum be extended to include Potchefstroom up to Roodepoort and that representations then be submitted that the above-mentioned larger sub-region be incorporated as part of the SATSWA Option 1-region, but that if the bigger sub-region be unacceptable, the existing Golden West Forum still be classified within the SATSWA Option 1-region.

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4. That it be clearly spelt out as a pre-requisite to incorporation of the sub-region in any region as a voluntary partner that the mentioned sub-region within the bigger region must function as a rural metropole and be administered as previously agreed by consensus among all participating parties within the Golden West Forum (Annexure C).

5. That every Local Government be allowed to make its own independent submission.

The request is therefore made that the submissions of the Forum and the West Rand Regional Services Council be forwarded independently for consideration to the Commission on Regions as appointed by the multi-party Negotiation Forum.

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ANNEXURE A

MOTIVATION FOR INCORPORATION WITH SATSWA OPTION 1-REGION

1. **Historical boundaries, including provincial, magisterial and district boundaries and infrastructures.**

- 1.1 **Historical and Provincial Boundaries**

No adaption of the boundaries of the sub-region of the Golden West Forum would be necessary to be included in the STASWA-option 1-proposal.

- 1.2 **Magisterial and District Boundaries**

Fochville, Greenspark, Kokosi and Wedela are already within the Potchefstroom magisterial district and require no additional adaption with accompanying costs. District boundaries join up in a natural way and Carletonville and Oberholzer can be added by making a small adjustment.

- 1.3 **Infrastructures**

The sub-region within the proposed SATSWA-region already blends in a supplementary and natural way by means of a common mining and agricultural industry. The present infrastructure already supplies the needs of the total community.

2. **Administrative considerations including the availability or not of the infrasturcture and nodal points for services**

Roads -	Present structures for overall control already exist in Potchefstroom.
Telecommunication -	Administration already seated in Potchefstroom.
Police -	Overall administration seated in Potchefstroom.
Defence Force -	Overall administration seated in Potchefstroom.
Traffic -	Road traffic inspectorate seated in Potchefstroom.

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Tertiary training - Potchefstroom is well known as an educational centre.

Agriculture - Head Office of the Agricultural co-operation serving this area is in Klerksdorp.

3. The need to rationalise present structures and the necessary restrictions of additional financial costs.

The Golden West Forum already has addressed community services such as training, development potential, etc, within the sub-region by making use of underutilised structures and facilities as well as the elimination of the duplication of activities, resulting in extensive cost savings.

The indications are that the development of gold mines in the future shows a tendency to the west of the sub-region pointing to the stimulation of economic growth for the SATSWA region.

4. The need to limit the inconvenience of people to a minimum.

The total infrastructure and services (health services, telecommunication, training, etc) are already of a high standard in the sub-region.

No inconvenience would result should the sub-region be incorporated in the SATSWA area.

5. The need to limit disruption to a minimum.

Should the sub-region be incorporated in a region other than the SATSWA region the result would be that present structures would have to be extended or moved at great expense to be able to serve the new area with accompanying disruption of communities.

6. Demographic consideration

There are three homogenic groups, namely Tswanas, Whites and mine migrant labourers.

Urbanisation of the sub-region takes place from the larger SATSWA region.

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Should the sub-region be incorporated in some other region a disruption of the homogeneity of the population could result.

Data in connection with population figures indicates that the region houses 10% of the total population on 20% of the total land area indicating that the rural character of the sub-region will be retained as a natural consequence by means of incorporation in the SATSWA region. In contrast to this, should the mentioned sub-region be incorporated in the PWV-area, conflicting characteristics would arise, which would have a detrimental effect on the sub-region.

7. **Economic viability and development potential**

The present economic viability of this sub-region is extremely healthy and provides for further development because the expertise, manpower and infrastructure are already available.

The application of expertise on a wide spectrum is already established and arranged within a forum and common values are established which can be applied to the benefit of the SATSWA region.

If this expertise is analysed, the conclusion can be made that mining is well established in the sub-region which could be usefully applied on a parallel basis with similar structures elsewhere within the SATSWA region and to the benefit of less developed areas within the region.

In addition it can be pointed out that the mining industry as such has the potential to develop the production of by-products locally which can lead to large industries.

The agricultural potential of the area lends itself to the diversification of products. Should the sub-region be classified as part of the PWV-area this potential would be greatly limited because the latter area is not primarily in an agricultural one.

The geographical location of the sub-region is such that the inter-independence of the region will benefit the sub-region and the SATSWA-region, with specific reference to markets and act as a gateway to the already established markets.

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If the sub-region is to be incorporated in the SATSWA Option 1, it would definitely better economic advantages for the mentioned region to function economically independently which would not be the should the sub-region be incorporated in the PWV-area which already has a strong economic base.

8. **Cultural and Language Realities**

In contrast with the PWV-area where the composition of the population is of a cosmopolitan nature, the SATSWA region including the sub-region, is relatively rural, primarily focused upon agriculture, mining and education functioning inter-independently.

There are mainly two ethnic and language groups, namely Tswana and Afrikaans speaking persons within the sub-region in common with the ethnic composition within the SATSWA Option 1-area.

9. **Summary and Conclusion**

The vast majority of the inhabitants of this sub-region, with a population of 320 000, are of the opinion that, by virtue of the communality of the various evaluation criteria, it will be a natural process if the Golden West Forum Region, whether in its present or extended form could be classified together with certain townships inter alia Fochville, Greenspark, Kokosi and Wedela. The latter townships are already within the larger Western Transvaal.

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THE SATSWA REGIONAL INITIATIVE :

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AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT STATUS

1. REGIONALISM AND THE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

One of the debates taking place in Southern Africa's constitutional reform process centres on the concept of regionalism. Various role players are currently researching the topic and formulating their positions.

Whilst the political dimensions of the regional debate are widely reported on, little attention is given to the fundamental challenge of how socio-economic development in a new regional dispensation is to be achieved? This status report on the SATSWA regional initiative has been compiled as a contribution to the search for answers to this important question. Whilst diverse interest groups have contributed to the SATSWA initiative, the status report's contents do not represent the official viewpoint of any of the participants.

2. THE SATSWA INITIATIVE

It is widely recognised that a new constitution, the delimitation of regions, the allocation of powers and functions to regions, and the initiation of regional development programmes will all be products of the negotiation process. It is only by focusing on the needs and aspirations of those living in regions that progress can be made towards resolving these issues. To this end various local forums have been established nationwide to explore the concept of regionalism and its local applicability.

In 1991 Bophuthatswana and neighbouring South African regions launched such an investigation into regional development possibilities. Various technical working groups were set up to assist the process which subsequently was termed the SATSWA (South African - Tswana) regional initiative.

The SATSWA initiative through its Council, committees and working groups, has made considerable progress over the past 2 years and recently issued a Status Report in which its findings to date were detailed. The SATSWA Status Report follows an innovative approach by focusing on the socio-economic development of residents in a possible SATSWA region. As such it provides an important contribution to the debate on regionalism.

All regional interest groups were invited at the outset to participate in the SATSWA initiative. It is the intention to use the SATSWA Status Report as a basis for broadening the SATSWA initiative to those who did not respond to the initial invitation. It is inevitable that as part of this process amendments and additions to the positions put forward in the Status Report will be made.

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3. SATSWA'S OBJECTIVES

The objectives set by those participating in the SATSWA initiative were as follows :

- i. To identify and promote common norms, values and principles applicable, given a new regional dispensation.
- ii. To consider appropriate regional functions.
- iii. To formulate socio-economic development guidelines for a possible SATSWA region.
- iv. To explore the geographic options of a possible SATSWA region.

In pursuit of these objectives the SATSWA initiative sought ways to promote socio-economic development on a regional basis, irrespective of the political positions and current policies of the participants. For example although the Bophuthatswana government has publicly stated its preference for freedom and self determination, they nonetheless have been pro-active in the search for an alternative regional dispensation that offers people an improvement on the status quo.

The progress made by the SATSWA initiative towards meeting its objectives is set out in the remainder of this submission.

4. NORMS, VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

Towards the aim of bringing together on a regional basis those who share common norms and values, the SATSWA participants reached broad consensus on the following :

- The maintenance of christian values yet respecting freedom of religion and worship;
- Full political participation and effective representation for all, without discrimination;
- The application of the democratic principle of freedom of equality, justice, the rule of law and access to the law;
- The independence of the judiciary and the maintenance of law and order;
- Equal opportunities for all in a free economic system;
- The protection of life, freedom and the rights of individuals and groups;
- The protection of mother-tongue education; and
- The protection of the unique bio-diversity and natural resources of the area.

The constitutional principles applied in SATSWA's investigations into a new regional dispensation centre on a democratic constitution incorporating a declaration of basic human rights, and, in terms of the subsidiary principle, devolution of authority to regional government.

Provision for the demarcation of federal / regional / state governments with jurisdiction over economically viable and functional regions was endorsed by SATSWA.

Economically SATSWA has committed itself to the market mechanism and principles of free enterprise. However, SATSWA recognises imperfections in the market mechanism and therefore favours a facilitative role by government to ensure equitable access for all to development opportunities.

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The SATSWA initiative recognises that economic growth and social justice are inseparably linked to, and limited by, the ability of the community to afford them. The cultural makeup of the entire community is also recognised and respected. A sustainable social adjustment programme is called for aimed at the immediate alleviation of poverty, and the promotion of self-help and community solidarity. The maintenance of stability, law and order are seen as prerequisites for this to take place, as is streamlined public administration.

5. REGIONAL FUNCTIONS

In its investigation into what functions should be regional, the SATSWA initiative has adopted a bottom-up approach in terms of which a function is vested on the lowest government level that can do it effectively. This bottom-up approach is referred to as the subsidiary principle. Bringing decision making power closer to the people and giving people power over their own living conditions is a central theme adopted by the SATSWA initiative.

The basic approach adopted by SATSWA in its division of government functions was to vest the primary responsibility regarding the performing of a function at the regional level and to assign only the establishment of national standards and the co-ordination or regional efforts to the national level. In its investigations SATSWA has considered possible sources of finance for national, regional and local functions.

6. DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

Arising from the sectoral investigations undertaken by the various SATSWA working groups, an integrated package of regional development guidelines was formulated, as detailed in SATSWA's Status Report. As a point of departure the guidelines were prepared for consideration by all on what is seen as an optimal approach to the socio-economic development of a possible SATSWA region irrespective of political ideologies, existing policies, the future boundaries of regions and the nature of a new constitution.

To structure the various inputs on development guidelines from wide ranging interest groups, a macro and micro development framework was formulated. In terms of the macro framework the urban and rural components of a possible region were differentiated and the economic, social and stability objectives applicable to these environments were explored. In addition the infrastructure required to support these objectives was identified, as were guidelines for the use of regional resources.

In terms of the micro development framework adopted, the SATSWA initiative recognised that regions gain a competitive edge by focusing their efforts on those sectors where they have a comparative advantage. The SATSWA initiative thus calls for a focused regional development strategy to be adopted as opposed to attempts at developing all sectors of the economy simultaneously.

The overall goal of regional development, as defined by SATSWA, is to enable people to improve the quality of their lives on a sustainable basis. A prosperous SATSWA region depends on improvement in the relative position of the region and all its inhabitants. There was agreement amongst the SATSWA participants that to achieve this vision requires a people orientated development approach. The vision should be achieved by:

- * opening up opportunities for people to improve their own living conditions; and
- * planning with the community and not for the community.

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From this macro and micro perspective an integrated package of development guidelines for a possible SATSWA region was formulated. Significant opportunities for strengthening the regional economy were identified in the following sectors :

- the further exploitation of mineral resources;
- the extension and strengthening of local agriculture;
- the beneficiation of local minerals and the development of agro-industries;
- the strengthening of tourism based on the natural resources and tourist facilities in place; and
- the promotion of small business activity in all sectors of the economy.

The SATSWA initiative recognised that these sectors cannot be developed in isolation, but that linkages between sectors must be strengthened. Only once regions have been defined will it be possible to devise context specific development strategies. Thus SATSWA, through its integrated package of regional development guidelines, has succeeded in building the foundations of a focused development strategy.

7. REGIONAL DEMARCATION OPTIONS

The fourth objective that the SATSWA initiative has pursued is to consider the geographic options of a possible region. The criteria adopted for regional demarcation were as follows :

- administrative boundaries;
- physical considerations;
- natural resources;
- population distribution and density;
- area;
- commonality;
- affinity;
- economic potential; and
- economic parity between regions.

The SATSWA initiative is ever mindful of the fact that at the end of the day the economic viability of regions should be the determining delimitation criteria. For this reason SATSWA has adopted the position that the current nine economic development regions are not feasible and that possibly six regions, at most seven, should come out of the negotiation process. In exploring options SATSWA set out to ensure regional viability and a better balance with other Southern African regions in terms of population density, resources and general welfare.

SATSWA advocates that ultimately the people in regions should have a say in the determination of regional boundaries.

The first option for a viable SATSWA region considered rests on the assumption that 7 economic development regions in South Africa are decided on. This option consists of the territories of Bophuthatswana (except Thaba Nchu), parts of Region B, Region J, the districts of Thabazimbi, Warmbaths and Nylstroom in Region G and the districts of Brits and Obenotzer in Region H. SATSWA's second regional option considered the largest possible area that could accommodate common norms and values within an economically viable entity. This option comprises approximately 40% of the area of South Africa. Measured in terms of all the regional criteria option 2 still represents a balanced region for further consideration, even though it is not an official proposal of SATSWA. To take this option further would require agreement by all those in the region. Any attempts to extend the boundaries of option 2 should be avoided.

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In addition to the territories considered in option 1, option 2 includes the entire Region B, the greater part of Region C and the district of Carletonville. The third option considered by SATSWA represents a basis for negotiation between the smaller option 1 and large option 2. should 6 economic development regions in South Africa be decided on.

In all its research into regional demarcation options, a final decision was not taken. SATSWA participants endorsed the principle of regional demarcation being the product of negotiations, with the ultimate decision based on the will of local residents.

8. CONCLUSION

It is evident from the above that the SATSWA initiative has made significant progress in terms of meeting its stated objectives. Results include : a better understanding amongst participants of regional development issues; broad consensus on basic norms, values and principles applicable to regional development; the identification of functions suitable for regional government; the formulation of an integrated package of socio-economic development guidelines; and the consideration of regional demarcation options.

Challenges that lie ahead include : ^① broadening the community base of the SATSWA initiative; negotiating regional boundaries; and formulating a focused development strategy relevant to local conditions. The SATSWA Status Report that has been prepared provides a basis for tackling these challenges and as such is a positive contribution to the debate on regionalism.

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ANNEXURE C

Norms and values

The Golden West Forum identifies itself in toto with the principles as set out in the SATSWA report and especially with the criteria as set out on page 6 of the mentioned report in which the following points are specifically singled out in support of a rural metropole system indicated in resolution number 4.

1. To present all people within the region with full political participation and effective representation, without discrimination.
2. The protection of life, freedom and the rights of individuals and/or groups.
3. To grant protection to instruction in the mother-tongue of people within the region, as well as the protection of the character and culture of education.
4. To make provision for structures of Local Government and traditional leaders in the regional constitution.

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