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IMNMTANDO YESIZWE PARTY

P.O. B0x 997
KwaMhlanga

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Tel.. QR/S-Â¥78223

Fax.. QL@lS~ 472998
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SURMISSION OF THE INTANDO YESIZWE PARTY TO THE THE COMMISSION
ON THE DELIMINATION\DERMACATION OF REGIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Intando Yesizwe Party is a political party with its head office at KwaMhlanga in KwaNdcbele, Although the party is bascd in KwaNdcbele, it has members and offices in especially the Northern Transvaal, the Eastern Transvaal and the PWV regions,

After the Commission on the Delimitation of regions had tabled its report, the negotiating delegation of made a copy of the said report available to the executive committec of the party. The rcport of the Commission, Jike all other documentation reccived at the MPNP, werc distributed to all the chairpersons of the diflcrent branches of the party and 10 all the offices of Intando Ycsizwe,

On the 14th of August 1993 a meeting was hclld at KwaMhlanga hall where our negotiating delegation gave a report on the progress of the ncgotiating process. These report -back meetings arc held regularly and attendance is open to all the organisations and association s operating within KwaNdebcle. On this particular day about 9 (nine) orgaanisations attended the meeting including members of the ANC, the PAC of AZania, Cosatu and Sadtu. In this meeting the Commission's report was discussed in detail and the peoplc asked (o make any inputs.

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After this meeting 4 series of meetings were held by the executive commiitee of Intando Yesizwe in the Eastern Transvaal and PWV areas wherc the Commission's report was discussed with members of the party. The report was also made available to our Traditional Authorities and Legislative asscmbly where it was also fully discussed.

The people of KwuNdebele as a whole, as well as the members of Intando Yesizwe resident in the regions sct out above are strongly opposed to the recommendations of the Commission as contained in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 on

pages 30-33 of the Commissionâ\200\231s report [or the reasons set out below;

APPLICATION OF CRITECRIA 3.1 AND 3.2

On page 14 of iis rcport, the Commission makes an overview of the criteria uscd in the demarcation of regions by various countries and rccommends 5 criteria as gencral guidclines for demarcation purposes. Criteria 3.1 and 3.2 read as follows.

3.1 Historical matters such as

- * historical regions and local governments
- * the spontaneous development of communities
- * traditional authoritics

3.2 Language and cultural such as

- * language, religion and cultural formations
- * intercultural conflict and /or co-operation
- * migration pattemns

Despite the tact that the Commission stresses that all of the 5 criteria mentioned in pages 14 and 15 should be treatcd equally and that non of them should be over-emphasised, the Commissjon seems lo have completely disregarded criteria 3.1 and 3.2 in iis recommendations for the demarcation of the PWV and Eastern Transvaal rcgions to the disadvantage of the Ndebelc people

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The Ndebele under their Traditional Leader King Mgodong sttled in the areas known as Middicburg, Witbank Bronkhortspruit, Pretoria, Bronkhorspruit, Witbank, Middleburg, Belfast, Dullstroom,Bethal, Leslie, and Delmas, and were used as slaves in the White Farms,

Despite all the hardships created by Whites, tthe Ndebcle people have never lost contact wi th

Roossenekal in Middleburg as the Head-Quarters of the Ndebeles. There has been continuous fight between the Ndebele people and the South African government about the utilization of Roossenckal as a Ndebele home and cultural ccutre. Restricted permission for yearly temporary occupation of Roossenekal by the Ndcbele nation has been granted since 1970,

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On the 19th of December of each year, the Ndebeles converge from Standerton, Middelburg, Groblersdal, Witbank, Bronkhorstspuit, Delmas, Bethal, PrÃ©torig - as well as KwaNdebele to Roossenckal where they hold a cultural feast and a historical commemoration of their ancestral leaders whose remains are buried there and whose spirits are still there. These cultural and commemoration feasts are of utmost importance to the Ndebeles as shown by the tens of thousands of Ndebeles who attend, and hold them in reference.

The insistence against all odds by the Ndebeles to have Roosenekal as a Ndebele home, the holding of the yearly cultural and commemoration feasts by the Ndebeles and importance attached to these feasts are a clear indication that the Ndebeles regard Roosenekal as the place where their roots are. By separating the Ndebeles in KwaNdebele from their roots in Roosenekal is greatly to be regretted as it may instill a sense of outrage in the Ndebele Nation.

The legacy of apartheid is well-known and still fresh in our minds, apartheid is well-known for its disruptive tendency which separated loved ones, turned brother against brother and disrupted all forms of family and communal life amongst blacks. In its quest to divide Blacks so as to be able to rule over them and in its quest to claim our ancestral land for themselves, the white apartheid regime created artificial boundaries which subdivided the land estranged peoples.

It is this disruptive apartheid system that endeavours to sub-divide and estrange the Ndebeles from one another by creating a pseudo-state known as KwaNdebele. The boundaries of KwaNdebele are not regarded as historical boundaries by the Ndebele people as they misrepresent the true state of affairs as far as Ndebele occupation of the land is concerned. It is a well known fact that the area as far as Standerton, Bethal and Belfast is densely populated by Ndebeles.

KING MAYISHA II and his PREDECESSORS are known for their steadfast resistance to apartheid manipulated control and apartheid artificial boundaries. Their resistance has yielded enormous support of vast majorities of their subjects in Middelburg, Bronkhorstspuit, Witbank, Bethal, Belfast, Standerton and Pretoria. It is a very sad thing for the commission to ignore this historic factor by walking in the foot steps of apartheid. The recommendation of the commission that a boundary be drawn right in the middle of Ndebeles has the same disruptive effect as apartheid and is therefore not acceptable, .

In its attempt to downplay the role of traditional rulers and declare itself supreme Chief over Blacks, the apartheid regime created fictitious boundaries which separated people from their traditional leaders. The Ndebeles are a very matriachial people and still hold their traditional leaders in high esteem. Despite the fact that they were subdivided and separated by artificial boundaries, they still pay homage to their Kings and Chiefs who were compelled to make their Headquarters in KwaNdebele.

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KING MAYISHA II and his PREDECESSOR KING MABHOKO I are regarded by the Ndebele people as KINGS for the whole Ndebele Nation and not only those Ndebeles living in KwaNdebele. It would have been a happy event for the Ndebeles to see the artificial boundaries dissolved and for them to be reunited with their King and traditional leaders in one region. However the commission saw it fit to continue apartheid's disruptive tendency by separating people from their traditional and historical leaders.

In this vein, the Intando Yezizwe Party wishes to object in the strongest possible terms to the commission's recommendation on the delimitation of the PWV and Eastern Transvaal regions. It is our submission that this will have the same, if not surpassing harmful and disruptive effect which apartheid has had in the lives of Blacks in general, and the Ndebele people in particular. The drawing of a boundary right in the middle of the Ndebeles not only disregards the criteria for the demarcation of regions, but also separates people who speak the same language practice the same culture and have the same traditional leaders. This will undoubtedly have an adverse effect on the culture of the Ndebeles as a people and disrupt and down-play the role of the Ndebele traditional leaders.

The Negotiating Council is charged with a duty of negotiating a fair and democratic dispensation for South Africa which will move away from apartheid. However the recommendation of the commission maintains the status quo as far as Ndebeles are concerned and therefore perpetuates, the repressive apartheid legacy. Any region which sub-divides the Ndebele people and estranges them from their leaders and kin cannot be acceptable to the Intando Yezizwe Party and the Ndebele people as a whole. It is for this reason that the present demarcation, which places KwaNdebele and Pretoria in one region, and towns which are known to be highly populated by Ndebeles such as Groblersdal, Witbank, Delmas, Bethal, Niddelburg and Belfast in another region is unacceptable to us.

We also note that we are the only people with hereditary kingdom placed in a highly urbanised Wits-Vaal region. We see this as an attempt, like South African Government of 1900 the apparent aim to devastate the Ndebele culture completely.

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APPLICATION OF CRITERIA 3.3,

We would like to indicate as to how the commission failed even to apply the remaining criteria in the case of people residing in KwaNdebele.

Criteria 3.3. economic considerations such as ;

Economic functions
Resources and viability

Economic dependencies

(See page 15 of the report)

& ,

ths criteria is almost totally disregarded in the case of the people of KwaNdebele in that other very important towns surrounding and having economic dependency and functionality with KwaNdebele have been cut off and placed in a different region than KwaNdebele people are placed. e.g.

GLOBLERSDAL

This town is only 30 km from KwaNdebele it is thus one of the local towns.

Many people in KwaNdebele operate their banking accounts and other business transactions in this town. KwaNdebele constitute a very high percentage of the buying power of Groblersdal. Yet taxes collected directly or indirectly from such buying power; is now to benefit another region to which KwaNdebele people do not form part of. There is a network of busses and taxis every minute between KwaNdebele and Groblersdal. This town is wrongly separated from the region to which KwaNdebele is made to fall within.

WITBANK

This town is 45 km from KwaNdebele. It is linked with KwaNdebele by fleets or routine busses and taxis. KwaNdebele constitutes a strong buying power for this town.

Fleets of taxis and busses carry commuters from KwaNdebele and Witbank on labour flows. Yet this town is made to fall in a different region than the one in which KwaNdebele falls.

BRONKHORSTSPRUIT

This town is 10 km from KwaNdebele. KwaNdebele supplies enormous labour force to this town. This town is the strongest buying place for the people of Ekangala (in particular) and the other parts of KwaNdebele. Again this town is linked with daily routine fleets of busses and taxis with KwaNdebele. There is a forty kilometers water pipe from Bronkhorstapruit to KwaNdebele. The latter is dependant on the water supplied through this pipe. There is also an existing contract for electricity supply between the city of Bronkhorstspuit and KwaNdebele. These are just examples of economic dependencies and functionality, the list of instances of co-operation is quite

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MIDDELBURG

Many commuters are carried by busses and taxis daily between KwaNdebele and Middelburg. This Middelburg is also dependant on KwaNdebele for supply of labour. Loskop dam which supplies KwaNdebele with water is also situated in this town's jurisdiction.

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KwaNdebele people also form an integral part of Pretoria socially and economically. At least five busses plus a number of taxis carry teachers and public servants to KwaNdebele from this city on daily basis.

About 300 busses plus taxis carry commuters from KwaNdebele to Pretoria daily for labour purposes. Quite a lot of people of KwaNdebele do their shoppings and other businesses in Pretoria even using their own transport. Besides commuter busses there are many routine busses moving almost hourly between KwaNdebele and Pretoria.

There are students of KwaNdebele attending school in Pretoria and vice versa.

In our view it is incorrect to say Pretoria cannot be separated from the rest of the PWV on grounds of national economic issue. Pretoria will

remain in South Africa even if it happens to fall into the Western Transvaal or Eastern Transvaal.

For the reasons of historical background and culture set out here above, and also for economic reasons outlined above, we now firmly move that Pretoria and KwaNdebele be included in the Eastern Transvaal because otherwise KwaNdebele people will remain without vote in the regions where they work and spend most of their money.

We further feel and suggest that this matter be referred back to the Commission or any other body with an instruction, inter alia, to hold an inspection in loco about these burning issues.

We will also be satisfied with any mechanism which might be established to address all the concerns we have raised.

In summary; we cannot be separated, historically, culturally from the following towns in terms of regions :

Pretoria, Witbank, Middelburg, Bronkhorstspuit, Delmas (work places) and similar places.

We hope our plea will be sympathetically considered.

In the light of the above background and information we submit that our presentation to the Commission regarding the Demarcation of Eastern Transvaal and PWV regions could be followed without any problem, namely : That KwaNdebele together with its working places, Pretoria, Bronkhorstspuit, Witbank, Middelburg, Standerton etc. be included in the Eastern Transvaal as it appears on the proposal by the Demarcation Commission.

APPLICATION OF CRITERIA NO. 3.4

CRITERION 3.4 reads as follows

â\200\2343.4 Institutional capacity such as

* technical, administrative and professional know-how

* political institutions and structures

* management capacity"

The second sentence of paragraph 3.2 in page 23 reads as follows;

"The institutional and administrative capacity of the region ultimately determines their effectiveness, efficiency and performance of tasks in an accountable manner"

Despite this, the PWV and Eastern Transvaal regions, which are neighbouring regions, are

demarcated in such a way that that the Eastern lacks certain institutional capacities when on the other hand the PWV region has more than adequate of these capacities that the Eastern Transvaal lacks.

The Intando Yezizwe Party submits that the most desirable way of curing the lack of institutional capacities in the Eastern Transvaal would be to put the Pretoria district in the Eastern Transvaal rather than to create soft boundaries.

It is therefore the submission of the Intando Yezizwe Party that the demarcating the Eastern Transvaal and PWV regions in such a way that the Pretoria district and KwaNdxbele falls within the Eastern Transvaal will satisfy all of the 5 criteria for the demarcation of regions.