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P O Box 2438 Houghton 2041

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Each Member of the Negotiating Council, and the Technical Committee on Constitutional Affairs  
Multi-Party Forum  
W T C  
Kempton Park

**EIGHTEENTH REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES: 3 NOVEMBER 1993; TECHNICAL ANALYSIS OF CHAPTER 9 SECTION 101 (4) REGARDING THE QUOTA FOR SPR ELECTIONS AND THE NUMBER OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr Rajbansi rightly raised the issue of the allocation of seats and Mr Eglin, that of the number of elected representatives. Mr Gordhan rightly recommended that all relevant facts be made known before a rapid decision was taken on such an important matter.

If 20 million voters vote (89 % of all likely voters) and the quota is 50 000 votes per seat, then only 400 regional representatives in the entire country would be elected. These would be spread around the country with only 4 in the N. Cape and about 100 in the PWV. The introduction of a minimum of 30 would affect 3 Regions and the upper limit of 100 would affect none. Arbitrary limits are to be avoided if possible and 'natural' boundaries on these matters encouraged.

Table 1 is the spread of voters on this 100 % possible turnout (22.3 million) and with no limits based on the latest available statistics.

Name of Region	No. of Representatives
Eastern Cape	63
Eastern Transvaal	26
KwaZulu/Natal	94
Northern Cape	9
Northern Transvaal	56
North West	26
OFS	30
PWV	98
Western Cape	44

The total number of representatives in the Regions is a reasonable 446.

This is in my professional opinion the kind of number that would produce adequate representation of the Regions. 50 000 is a much higher number of voters per M.P. than has ever been used in South Africa and compares with other countries in the world.

In the smallest Region the N. Cape, I suggest that the number of representatives be 15. Otherwise the number for each region could be left as it is or made a minimum of 29. Odd numbers should be used to make a majority more easy to construct from the electoral system if arbitrary numbers are chosen. No maximum appears necessary. With the many small but significant parties in this country, the quota should be no more than 50 000 and it could be based on the minimum number of representatives per SPR

A minimum number of representatives per SPR should be chosen. This would immediately discourage 'travelling' to vote to 'capture' other SPRs by parties. This minimum should definitely be elected on election day and made well known.

On a 20 million voters turnout (89%), the quota at 50 000 would produce about 400 elected SPR representatives. The election would produce only 335 SPR representatives on a 75 % turnout with a quota of 50 000 and would stretch the proportionality system to its limits in representing the small parties adequately.

These clauses which affect the actual mechanism for the election of representatives are very vital and great care should be taken over them. The whole Constitution should also be looked at as very important and a mistake here will produce very unpleasant consequences and defeat the object of the whole intricate process.

Yours Sincerely,

Donald Simpson  
Independent Election Analyst