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## SUID-TRANSVAALSE STREEK SOUTHERN TRANSVAAL REGION

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1 September 1993

Democratic Party Submission to the Technical Committees on Constitutional Issues and the Independent Electoral Commission.

- The DP has recorded and motivated its strong objection to a single ballot for national and regional lists for the National Assembly and SPR legislative lists.
- The DP accepts the need to minimise the number of unintended spoilt ballots by unsophisticated or illiterate voters.
- 3. The following procedural proposals are made in this regard :
  - 3.1 (a) A voter enters the voting station and goes through the normal routine eg. check no ink on hands, put ink on hands, check and stamp I.D. book.
    - (b) The voter is then handed one ballot paper containing a single list of parties who have lodged candidate lists for the national assembly. The voter marks a cross in secret and puts the ballot paper in a sealed ballot box.
    - (c) The voter then moves on to another part of the hall (partitioned off if possible) or to another room. The voter now receives a ballot paper for the SPR legislature and votes again in the normal manner.
  - 3.2 All possible assistance should be given to voters in the voting station by neutral officials.



- 3.3 The heading of the ballot paper could include graphics to facilitate differentation between ballot papers.
- 3.4 In addition, consideration could be given to allowing voters to take a standardised form (issued by political parties and indicating "where to put your cross) to the voting station to assist them in casting a valid ballot.
- 4. It should be borne in mind that tens if not hundreds of millions of rands are going to be spent on voter education; that even illiterate people are able to distinguish between Surf and Omo, Coke and Fanta etc; and that there are limits as to how far one can go in claiming to have a free and fair election to obtain a valid expression of the will of the people if one bases one's planning on the assumption that large parts of the electorate won't know what's going on, won't know what they are voting for, or won't know how to vote.

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