

XIMOKO PROGRESSIVE PARTY

R/03/9

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POSITION PAPER ON THE ROLE OF TRADITIONAL MONARCHS AND
OTHER TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD A NEW SOUTH
AFRICA.

In making its submission in the above regard the Ximoko Progressive Party wishes to concentrate essentially on the enunciation of certain principles which it considers could be useful in resolving the question as to the role of traditional monarchs and other traditional leaders in the negotiation process.

1. POINTS OF DEPARTURE

In making its submission to the relevant Working Group the Ximoko Progressive Party proceeds from the following points of departure:

- 1.1 That the objective is not to create in South Africa a feudal state or, in fact, to encourage feudal practices, but rather to establish a modern constitutional state founded on the principles of inclusive democracy;
- 1.2 That such state, while recognising the diversity of peoples and interests in South Africa, and extending to all citizens the freedoms of language, culture, religion, etc consistent with international practice and convention, will not institutionalise, or cause to be institutionalised, ethnic or racial divisions amongst its peoples;
- 1.3 That due political process involving voluntary associations of citizens for the purpose, into political groupings or parties to articulate particular policies and to test support for those policies through the democratic process, will be the operative mechanism for determining the direction of the State. In other words, South Africa will be a political state;
- 1.4 That traditional emotional and historical allegiances on the part of various groupings toward a variety of monarchs do exist in South Africa. These monarchs do not only include the traditional monarchs of the Black peoples of the country, but also those of such countries as Great Britain and other European countries from whose shores settlers colonised what is now South Africa in previous centuries;
- 1.5 That certain categories of traditional leaders, for example the tribal chiefs in the (traditional) rural areas, continue to exercise varying degrees of statutory and local traditional influence over the peoples resident in those areas;
- 1.6 That much of the power currently exercised by traditional

leaders emanates from the provisions of legislation dealing with Black administration and enacted by Parliament and by the Legislative Assemblies of the self-governing territories, etc and therefore has been derived from these legislatures in accordance with the provisions of the various constitutions. To this extent certain categories of traditional leadership have been reduced largely to creatures of statute.

2. THE XIMOKO PROGRESSIVE PARTY'S POSITION

The position of the Ximoko Progressive Party in the light of the above is as follows:

- 2.1 That in respect of traditional leadership generally the freedom exists either to align with existing political parties or groupings or to establish their own political parties or groupings. Such groupings should be fully entitled to participate in the negotiation process on the same basis as any other political grouping and subject to the same criteria relating to proven popular support and the like which may be a condition of such participation.
- 2.2 That, in respect specifically of the question of traditional monarchs within South Africa, the factors to be considered in determining their role in the negotiation process should be as follows:
 - 2.2.1 The extent of the present constitutional role of traditional monarchs and the extent of the real constitutional power which they exercise; and
 - 2.2.2 The pervasive present support for inclusive democracy in a new South Africa in which all matters, including the matter of the future constitutional or other roles of traditional monarchs, will be determined by the will of the people within the context of a constitutional state.

The Ximoko Progressive Party holds the view that royalist groups are free to constitute themselves to participate in the negotiation process on the same basis as other parties, and to advance their cause in relation to a new constitution. As regards traditional monarchs within South Africa, it is considered appropriate to accord them symbolic recognition in accordance with their status in their own communities. Such recognition could, for example include special V.I.P. status at plenary meetings of CODESA, etc. The Ximoko Progressive Party does not believe that the present role of such monarchs de facto or de jure, and the objects of a modern constitutional state being striven for in the present negotiation process, warrant the direct participation of such monarchs per se in that process.