

XIMOKO PROGRESSIVE PARTY

STATEMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES AND TENETS

The Ximoko Progressive Party stands for a multi-party, non-racial, non-sexist, constitutional democracy in South Africa based upon universal adult suffrage and displaying the following essential features:

- There will be separation of powers between the Legislature, the Executive (including all organs of Government) and the Judiciary with the necessary constitutional safeguards;
- there will be representative government at the First-, Second- and Third tier levels with clearly-defined and separate powers and functions;
- jurisdictions of Second- and Third tier governments, both geographic and functional, must be such as to promote economic growth and development;
- there will be maximum devolution of power to lower tiers of government in order to bring government closer to the people with the necessary checks and balances to preclude the centralisation of power, these checks and balances to be clearly circumscribed in the Constitution;
- an entrenched Constitution will be the supreme law and will be protected and impartially applied by the independent judiciary;
- fundamental rights will be constitutionally protected by a Justiciable Bill of Rights;
- the principle of the proportional sharing of power rather than the winner-takes-all approach will be fundamental;
- ethnicity will not be institutionalised but the principle of free association will apply provided that public funding of any organisation propagating racial exclusion will not be allowed;
- there will be minimal governmental intervention in the non-governmental sector of Society;
- there will be a recognition of the necessity, through affirmative action, to address the large economic, social and educational backlogs existing in the present Society.

It is the conviction of the Ximoko Progressive Party that the optimal constitutional form for South Africa will reflect strong regional- and local government performing the maximum of functions appropriate to those levels and with corresponding

autonomy. The jurisdictions of such regional- and local governments will comprise functional geographic entities delimited according to such criteria as cohesion, economic functionality, nodality and administrability. The 9 Development Regions which currently form the underpinnings of decentralisation policy have been delimited on the basis of such criteria and therefore provide a useful and credible point of departure.

On the matter of group autonomy it is the view of the Ximoko Progressive Party that the pursuit of group autonomy as an option within the context of a nation state is divisive and also impractical where groups are not geographically concentrated in regions which constitute functional economic and administrable entities. The Ximoko Progressive Party accepts the international convention that self determination of groups within a nation state is not an unqualified right but rather a matter for negotiation, provided that the basis for such negotiation will be that self-determination of any group will accord with and advance the cause of democracy and will not adversely affect the interests of the people of South Africa in general.

In accordance with its views on regionalism the Ximoko Progressive Party supports a bicameral legislature at the national level with a meaningful balance of power between the Upper- and the Lower Houses.

On the role of traditional leaders in Government the Ximoko Progressive Party has an open mind save to observe that in general traditional leaders play a more significant role at Second- and particularly the Third tier of government and that therefore their role in the future South Africa would more logically form part of the debate on future governmental forms at those levels.