

XIMOKO PROGRESSIVE PARTY

WORKING GROUP 1

SUB-GROUP

02 MARCH 1992

POSITION PAPER ON THE ATTITUDES OF TRIBAL CHIEFS IN RESPECT OF FREE
POLITICAL ACTIVITY

1. The Ximoko Progressive Party reaffirms its commitment to free political activity and concedes that from time to time there may be tensions arising ostensibly from the attitudes of tribal chiefs in the rural areas which might be construed as prejudicial to certain political parties.
2. The Ximoko Progressive Party wishes to place on record that it deplores such behaviours or attitudes wherever they might occur, but at the same time it also deplores the behaviour of certain political parties which have over a period demeaned and antagonised tribal chiefs to the extent where their behaviours is fully understandable if not justifiable in terms of purely reasonable human reaction. Examples of such intimidatory material are in our possession.
3. In Gazankulu certain political parties have encouraged the non-payment of tribal dues and levies, open defiance of the chiefs and their office-bearers and generally a total breakdown of the de jure tribal (local) government in their area. In addition they have encouraged illegal squatting in areas under the control of the chiefs and without recourse to the established mechanisms for approved settlement. They have also encouraged the contravention of the Nature Conservation legislation by encouraging the felling of indigenous trees and the consequent destruction of the life-giving environment of communities in direct defiance of the law.

4. Community schools and other facilities have also been damaged and defaced during political meetings of certain groups and this has contributed to the reservation of community leaders against making such facilities available for political activity.

5. The Ximoko Progressive Party holds the view that guid pro quo is required from all political role-players by way of disciplining their grassroots structures if the attitudes of local leaders are to be favourably impacted. We must accept that democratic processes are new to many people in our country and that real efforts must be made to establish codes of behaviour at grassroots level which are conducive to free political activity.