

UNITED PEOPLE'S PROPOSALS ON THE BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN THE CENTRAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT: SUBMITTED TO CODESA WORKING GROUP 2 ON 24-02-92. see back

PREAMBLE:

WHEREAS the UPF believes that in the spirit of negotiations and reconciliation, South Africa should be a united democracy with three tiers of government;

WHEREAS the UPF is acutely aware that the white minority regime has ruled South Africa as a fragmented and divided country, which rule has brought about untold tragic miseries, and

WHEREAS there is the perception that there is consensus on a united and unfragmented South Africa, the UPF is unfortunately acutely aware of the tendencies towards attempts at fragmentation of South Africa along federalist lines under the cloak of "strong" regional and local governments, the effects of which are intended to emasculate the central authority and to cause it to inherit a government bankrupt of power, contrary to a search for lasting peace, stability and national reconstruction from the devastating ravages of apartheid policies of divide and rule along racial, tribal and ethnic lines;

NOW THEREFORE, the UPF strongly believes in and is committed to the following balance of power between the three tiers of government:

1. That generally, government should be brought closer to the people in order to have effective government;
2. That strong and effective central government is necessary to be able to effectively direct national policy;

3. That any democratic system of government should provide for effective regional and local governments to encourage participatory democracy, but that, however, such regional and local governments should be vested with such powers as would be compatible with the regulation of matters of regional and local nature only;

4. That the oft-talked about maximum devolution of powers to the lower tiers of government is nothing less than a hidden ploy for federalism which is a total negation and antithesis of the cherished principle of a united and unfragmented South Africa;

5. The UPF strongly believes that having set out the above general constitutional principles in conformity with the brief in terms of assignment no.1, the actual and detailed definition of and allocation of the necessary powers to the lower tiers of government resides with the appropriate constitution making body.

Ramrose: We have always had
one govt - now that power is
about to change you want
to take all power away from
the top and make several
countries out of one country.
We respect the lower tiers, but
to start a new govt. without
power at the top would be
wrong. "Maximum devolution"
"Maximum autonomy."

[Zorrid questions.]