

Ximoko

SUBJECT: THE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF POLITICAL MINORITIES

In making its submission in respect of this key issue the Ximoko Progressive Party distinguishes between Political Minorities, being those minorities defined by the Political views and policies which they propagate, and National minorities defined by cultural, language, ethnic or other bonds which are not in the first place political. It is accepted that matters pertaining to national minorities will be discussed in the specific context of Key Issues 4, 5 and 6 of the list identified by Working Group 2 at its meeting on 11 February 1992.

The position of the Ximoko Progressive Party as stated in its submission on Constitutional Principles and Tenets favours the principle of the proportional sharing of power rather than the winner-takes-all approach. In broad terms the approach being propagated consists of two major components:

- Firstly, representative democracy based generally upon the principle of proportional representation as accepted by all signatories to the Declaration of Intent,
- the institutionalisation of the concept of "Government of National Unity" which will ensure that not only in the Legislature, but also in the Executive, the principle of the accommodation of a representative cross section of political and ideological persuasions is applied.

The matter of proportional representation probably warrants no further principal debate at this juncture but will be further debated when the mechanics of its practical implementation are at issue.

The matter of the extension of the principle of proportionality in broad terms to the Executive on all levels of Government is a matter on which there appears

to be some difference.

The XPP is aware of the variety of arguments advanced against so-called enforced coalitions in Government. Nevertheless, it remains the conviction of the XPP that the divisions within South African Society which has been riven apart by Apartheid and years of injustice are so great, and the stated ideologies of many of the major political actors so divergent, that the process of Government of the country in the period of normalisation of our Society which might in fact take decades, cannot be left to a single governing party. The example of the domination of Government by the National Party since 1948 provides, in our view, ample testimony to the dangers in such a system. Whereas alliance politics and government by voluntary coalition is a feature of the political environments in many European countries, the Political culture of these countries differs markedly from that in South Africa.

We, the XPP, believe that on balance the principle of the proportional sharing of power, as an extension of the principle of proportional representation already accepted by the signatories to the Declaration of Intent, provides the best vehicle for achieving the objective of national unity in the long period of normalisation of South Africa upon which we have now embarked. We believe that enshrining this principle in the Constitution is a most important safeguard for the protection of the assertive rights of political minorities and an important instrument for the achievement of a state of truly representative government in South Africa.

Ramos: Should small groups which lose elections be able to control government?

Rajah: To what level of govt. should PR apply?

Blade: Does PR imply PR at Executive level.

Intambo: If policies are rejected by the people should the party be in govt.?

Moosa: If all parties ~~are~~^{were} in govt. would the Nats^{have} been prevented by CP from having CODESA?

If all parties are in govt, who is the opposition?

Venda: Must coalitions be enforced or should they be voluntary? :-

~~Ramos: Must~~

~~Rajah: Must~~

Holomisa: Must power-sharing be included as a constit. principle.