

WORKING GROUP 4

BOPHUTHATSWANA POSITION PAPER

PARTICIPATION IN AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT

1. PERSPECTIVE

Participation in interim arrangements is only possible once finality is reached regarding the ultimate outcome of the negotiations, and specific details regarding interim arrangements, are known. From the attached figure it is evident that this stage has not been reached. In fact, it transpires that Working Group 4 is awaiting more details from Working Group 2, ...who in turn, awaits progress on interim arrangements at Working Group 3, ...who in turn is now expecting Working Group 4 to state their position on participation in an interim government. This completes a picture of one group waiting on the other for progress and is creating an unfortunate trap, while unfair demands are levelled at the TBVC states to state their position without knowledge of the details of other proposals.

In addition it was also reported that the discussions and decisions of Working Group 3 were wrongly conveyed to Working Group 4 and that there is appreciation for the fact that a position statement by the TBVC states at this stage is not realistic.

This position statement by Bophuthatswana should be viewed within this context.

2. POSITION STATEMENT

Clarity regarding basic principles and values in a future constitution for South Africa, is considered a pre-condition for any final decision on incorporation or non-incorporation into South Africa. Our preferred options are well known, as well as our undertaking to consider any proposal that offers a future as good or better than the present situation. Bophuthatswana will not give up its sovereign and independent status until sufficient information about a future constitution and the will of its people has been thoroughly tested. Any suggestion that we should decide on joining an interim government without knowledge of the details of such an interim arrangement or future principles and values, is not acceptable.

It should furthermore be obvious that any constitution that is negotiated without Bophuthatswanas' involvement and participation, stand the danger of not meeting basic requirements that we consider important. The Bophuthatswana government should therefore be allowed the opportunity to actively participate and negotiate understandings and undertakings for a new dispensation, if it is the intention that it should ultimately become part and parcel of it. It is therefore equally important that negotiations on a future constitution continue at Codesa and not elsewhere until basic principles and values have been agreed upon. This stage has not yet been reached.

If it is the intention that further constitutional details are going to be discussed by structures resulting from interim arrangements, this cannot be supported. Any suggestion that Bophuthatswana should degrade its status as an independent state for the sake of being able to participate in interim arrangements and future constitution making, is therefore also not acceptable.

Whether Bophuthatswana participates in an interim government or not, the principle remains that all existing bi-lateral and multi-lateral arrangements should continue, unless with a specific, explicit agreement of all participants to these agreements and understandings.

The specific understanding that all decisions that affect Bophuthatswana must be taken with the full consent of the Bophuthatswana government therefore remain. The people of Bophuthatswana should in the end be allowed to take their own decisions as to their preferred choice for the future.

CODESA WORKING GROUPS

W.G 1 CREATING A FREE POLITICAL CLIMATE

