

CODESA - CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS

IN DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT A GOOD CONSTITUTION SHOULD AIM AT "GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE." THIS IMPLIES THAT THOSE WHO GOVERN AND THEIR OFFICIALS SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY PRIVILEGES WHICH ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO ARE GOVERNED. WHICH HAS CERTAINLY NOT BEEN THE CASE IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA IN THE PAST.

IN THE FORMULATION OF A NEW CONSTITUTION WAYS SHOULD BE FOUND TO ESTABLISH THE FOLLOWING POINTS AND ENSURE THAT THEY MAY ONLY BE CHANGED BY A $\frac{2}{3}$ MAJORITY IN A REFERENDUM AND NOT AT THE WHIM OF A POLITICIAN.

(1) PUBLIC OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND THE STATE PRESIDENT SHOULD PAY TAXES IN EXACTLY THE SAME WAY AS OTHER CITIZENS. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO EXCUSE FOR THEIR BEING IN A POSITION TO IMPOSE TAXES ON CITIZENS AND THEN AVOID PAYING THESE TAXES THEMSELVES. THIS APPLIES ALSO TO TAXES ON FRINGE BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES.

(2) THE SALARIES OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT SHOULD BE LINKED TO THOSE OF OTHER CIVIL SERVANTS SUCH AS THE POLICE AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORKERS AS THEY WERE IN THE NOT VERY REMOTE PAST. THIS HELPED TO KEEP THE INCOME OF BOTH AT REASONABLE LEVELS. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT SHOULD NOT HAVE THE FINAL DECISION IN VOTING THEMSELVES INCREASED INCOMES.

(3) THE MEMBERS OF THE POLICE FORCE AND ANY OTHER CIVIL SERVANTS WHO ARE IN A POSITION TO HARASS THE PUBLIC SHOULD WEAR CLEAR IDENTITY MARKS (NAMES OR NUMBERS)

ON THEIR CLOTHING AS THEY ONCE DID AND AS THE ARMY STILL DO. THE RESULTING EASE OF IDENTIFICATION MIGHT REDUCE THE TEMPTATION SOME MIGHT FEEL TO ACT IN AN UNACCEPTABLE MANNER IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH THE PUBLIC.

(4) WHEN NOT IN FULL UNIFORM POLICEMEN SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY GREATER AUTHORITY THAN ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC UNTIL THEY HAVE PRODUCED CLEAR IDENTIFICATION OF THEIR STATUS. AT THE MOMENT IF A MOTORIST IS SIGNALLED TO STOP BY A PERSON WEARING A GREY COVERALL HE HAS TO DECIDE WHETHER TO STOP AND RISK BEING SHOT BY A GANGSTER OR TO DRIVE ON AND RISK BEING SHOT BY A POLICEMAN. THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS IS A DISGRACE IN A NOMINALLY CIVILISED COUNTRY.

THIS COMMUNICATION COMES FROM
"THE SOCIETY OF RETIRED ENGINEERS."

PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY. THE CONTENTS ARE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY.