

D I K W A N K W E T L A

THE BALANCE BETWEEN CENTRAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The cornerstone of any form of Government is the Constitution. It is therefore imperative that for a future workable system of government in South Africa, the new constitution should embody the relevant principles required.

A strong federal form of government consisting of three tiers is suggested : Central, regional and local government.

At the foundation of a federal system of government is territorial anchorage. Especially for regional and local authorities it is imperative that they have demarcated territories over, which they exercise jurisdiction.

Proportional representation is considered vital for the maintenance of the balance between the central and regional governments.

It is common cause that each tier of government should be democratically elected, and the powers of each level of government should be entrenched in the constitution.

The regional government should have access to central financial resources compatible with regional contribution to such central resources.

The regional government should be guided by a regional constitution which is not in conflict with the central constitution which should remain the supreme law.

Local governments should resort directly under the jurisdiction of the regional government and derive their powers from such regional government

It is unavoidable that the Central Government may delegate additional powers to regions.