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VENDA GOVERNMENT

SUBMISSION TO WORKING GROUP 4 SUBGROUP 3

VENDA'S VIEW ON REINCORPORATION.

WORKING GROUP 4 OF CODESA.

1. INTRODUCTION.

Before the 13 September 1979 the area called Venda formed part of South Africa. In terms of STATUS OF VENDA ACT NO. 107 of 1979, Venda was declared an independent territory on the 13 September 1979. It should be noted that many people, including the most popular opposition political party of the time in Venda resisted against Venda opting for independence. The ruling party consisted of Ex-officio chiefs who were easily convinced to support what their masters dictated. It is obvious that many people who opposed independence were placed into prisons.

The independent existence of Venda is a direct result of the South African policies of separate Development. Venda came about as a creation of the overall broad policy to decolonise the peoples of South Africa.

The people of Venda's will was not tested whether they preferred to be cut away from their South African territory. They were also not consulted in this regard, in other words they have not been permitted to freely determine their political status.

Although during the independence of Venda there were visible developments, these were soon shadowed by several shortcomings such as undemocratic ruling of the country, nepotism, poor leadership and financial constraints. Right from the beginning it was evident that Venda was not and could not be viable.

It depended economically wholly on South Africa. Apart from South Africa, Transkei, Bophuthatswana and Ciskei, Venda was not recognized by any other state. The international community has all along rejected South Africa's homeland policy and the ultimate fruits of that policy, "the Venda's independence."

In the view of the international community, there is only one way forward for the TBVC states, and that is the road back to South Africa. During 1989, the then Venda Government realised that the Venda people were uncomfortable within their independence, started researching other alternative system of government with a view of discussing with the South African Government. After 2 February 1990 there was instability and the country became ungovernable until the military took over with a promise to yield to the will of the people. The people of Venda demanded for the reincorporation of Venda back into South Africa. Thus then, that the Venda government accepted the sentiments expressed by the Venda citizens for reincorporation. It should be recorded that to-date the Venda citizens have not asked for any form of the testing of the will for reincorporation. The citizens of Venda were instrumental towards discouraging the present military authority from celebrating the independence day of Venda. This in itself indicates the trend of the will of the people of Venda.

The Government established the "Reincorporation Forum to address the process of reincorporation. Venda regards CODESA as the forum to facilitate the process of reincorporation in a faster tempo.

2. THE PROCESS OF REINCORPORATION.

This process calls for careful consideration and care must be taken that it is embarked upon accordingly. Key issues and problems must be addressed accordingly.

3. GOOD ADMINISTRATION DURING TRANSITION.

Venda accepts the fact that during the transition, administration of Venda should remain on a sound footing without any disruption. Departments should render services to the citizens as usual. The civil service should remain until the process of reincorporation has been effected.

In future some civil servants will be absorbed by the central government, while others will serve the local authorities which will have been established. The older folk may opt for retirement. Nobody should be forced into retirement but some incentives may be introduced for an individual to choose.

#### 4. LIST OF LAND TRANSFERS.

During the period towards the granting of the Independence of Venda discussions about the boundaries and land issues were discussed between the Governments of South Africa and that of Venda, and it was agreed that land issue would still be negotiated. Hence Land commissions of the two Governments were established to deal with claims towards the consolidation of Venda. The two Land commissions did not make any significant achievements. The RSA ignored all land claims from Venda. The Northern bufferstrip between Venda and Zimbabwe was taken away from Venda to form part of South Africa in the manner which left the government except the then State President, puzzled. Ongedacht was gazetted on the 12 September 1979 to be transferred to Venda. It has never been transferred. There was a promise that two farms namely David and Amonda would substitute but nothing happened. Eight portions of the Farm La Rochelle consisting of 10 portions were transferred to Venda in 1982 but the remaining two have not been transferred. David and Amonda extend the boundary of Venda into South Africa, La Rochelle is within Venda, Ongedacht.

#### SUMMARY.

List of Lands which were supposed to be transferred to Venda are:

- (a) Lukein
- (b) Salaaaita
- (c) David
- (d) Amonda
- (e) Nooitgedacht
- (f) Delvils Gully
- (g) Studholme
- (h) Ongedacht

In view of reincorporation except for development purpose, Venda does not see the necessity of extending its boundaries.

VENDA GOVERNMENT  
GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

<i>DEPARTMENT</i>	<i>PERSONNEL NUMBER</i> <i>TOTAL APPROVED POSTS: 5.3.92</i>
<i>1. Agriculture and Forestry</i>	<i>1 661</i>
<i>2. Auditor General</i>	<i>58</i>
<i>3. Commission for Administration</i>	<i>87</i>
<i>4. Chairman: Council for National Unity</i>	<i>308</i>
<i>5. Venda Defence Force</i>	<i>1 829</i>
<i>6. Education and Culture</i>	<i>629 (8 957 Teachers &amp; Educators)</i>
<i>7. Finance and Economic Affairs</i>	<i>291</i>
<i>8. Foreign Affairs and Information</i>	<i>111</i>
<i>9. Health and Welfare</i>	<i>362 (3019 Hospitals)</i>
<i>10. Internal Affairs and Manpower</i>	<i>276</i>
<i>11. Justice</i>	<i>144</i>
<i>12. Land Tenure and Local Governments</i>	<i>830</i>
<i>13. Law and Order</i>	<i>1 640</i>
<i>14. National Intelligence</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>15. Posts and Communications</i>	<i>674</i>
<i>16. Prisons</i>	<i>226</i>
<i>17. Works</i>	<i>3 513</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>24 675</i>

*Number of casual labourers as at 31.01.1992 per computer print out - 6 035*

