

UNITED PEOPLE'S FRONT:

SUBMISSION TO CODESA WORKING GROUP TWO MARCH 09-1992.
THE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF POLITICAL MINORITIES.

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We, in the UPF acknowledge and appreciate that there are minorities in South Africa. These minority groups have, within the South African Context, been allowed to freely engage in various activities promoting their linguistic, religious and cultural pursuits.

We believe that such activities have to be encouraged and protected as they reflect South Africa's rich cultural mosaic. We further believe therefore that minority participation in the new South Africa is a sine qua non for a viable, democratic and just government. While in the past the diversity of the South African Society has been used negatively to the detriment of the country through divisions and racial schisms, this horrendous mistake should not be repeated. The diversity and dynamism of the people of South Africa should rather be used positively for the benefit of the country.

However, the UPF, whilst acknowledging the existence of minorities, is of the belief that such minorities should not be given special treatment in the political sphere so as to thwart all the wishes of the majority. Neither should the minority be clothed with a veto right under the guise of meaningful participation. We believe that the governmental power in the three tiers of government will ensure a representation of the various minorities in the legislative, executive and judiciary.

The UPF also believes that a non-racial, democratic and non-sexist society in which political affiliation is not based on one's race, colour, or creed shall have addressed the question of minorities. Moreover, the proportional system of voting is geared towards giving the minority the opportunity of participating in any of the three tiers of government.

The UPF is of the view that for democracy to thrive, political parties shall have to be encouraged and those who feel that they are the vanguards of political minorities should be allowed to form such parties.

It is the UPF's belief that in the new constitutional dispensation, some parties' participation shall be more active at the regional and local levels than in the national level government.

The UPF believes that to encourage political minorities to remain as minorities forever is inconsistent with the spirit and effort of nation building and reconciliation and a sure recipe for conflict and political instability as one minority group may feel being more left out than the others.

Whereas the UPF is also of the opinion that measures necessary for nation-building should be adopted, it is also of the belief that all South Africans should develop a common loyalty and common patriotism.