

CISKEI'S VIEWS ON RE-INCORPORATION

WORKING GROUP NO. 4 TO CODESA ON 06 FEBRUARY 1992

THE CISKEI GOVERNMENT HAS FROM TIME TO TIME ARTICULATED ITS POSITION PUBLICLY ON THE FUTURE OF CISKEI AS A HOMELAND. THE POSITION CRISPPLY STATED IS THAT THE CISKEI IS WILLING TO BE RE-INCORPORATED INTO A UNITED MULTI-RACIAL DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA. THE CISKEI'S INDEPENDENCE WAS NEVER RECOGNISED INTERNATIONALLY.

ITS INDEPENDENCE WAS ONLY RECOGNISED BY SOUTH AFRICA, BUT THE BITTER TRUTH IS THAT CISKEI WAS NEVER VIABLE AS AN ECONOMIC ENTITY FROM SOUTH AFRICA. FURTHERMORE NO RIGID BOUNDERIES WERE EVER ENFORCED BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND CISKEI AND WE HAD WHAT WE CALLED SOFT BORDERS, AND THIS IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE BROUGHT ABOUT SOME UNDESIRABLE CONSEQUENCES LIKE THE CRIMINAL ELEMENTS CROSSING THESE BORDERS EASILY, AND CITIZENS OF CISKEI HOMELAND PRACTICALLY SPENDING THEIR EARNINGS IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND SOME SOUTH AFRICAN TOWNS SITUATED IN THE HEART OF CISKEI HOMELAND EG. KING WILLIAM'S TOWN.

IT IS THE BELIEF OF CISKEI GOVERNMENT THAT WE BELONG TO THE BROADER BORDER/EASTERN CAPE REGION. IN THE PAST WE ~~WERE~~ CALLED THE CAPE PROVINCE LATER OUR REGION DESIGNATED ECONOMIC REGION D. OUR PROPOSED BOUNDERIES ARE STRETCHING FROM BUTTERWORTH IN TRANSKEI TO HUMANSDORP - ORANGE RIVER IN ORDER TO ACCOMODATE WHAT CAN BE TERMED ECONOMICALLY, POLITICALLY, CULTURALLY AND SOCIALLY VIABLE REGION.

WE ARE IN FAVOUR OF A SYSTEM WHICH PROVIDES FOR A DEVOLUTION OF POWER TO THE REGIONS WHICH ARE PROPORTIONALLY REPRESENTED IN A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED CENTRAL AUTHORITY.

IN SPITE OF ALL SHORTCOMINGS THAT THE INDEPENDENCE OF OUR HOMELAND HAS BROUGHT ABOUT, THERE ARE CERTAIN DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE WHICH CANNOT BE IGNORED AND INVARIABLY HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN WE THINK OF RE-INCORPORATION. FOR EXAMPLE OUR ECONOMIC POLICY, THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE PLETHORA OF VARIOUS LAWS THAT HAVE EITHER DEVELOPED ALONGSIDE THE SOUTH AFRICAN LAWS OR DIATRIMETICALLY IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN LAWS. TO CITE BUT ONE EXAMPLE, CISKEI ABOLISHED THE DEATH PENALTY IN 1990.

THE FUTURE OF CIVIL SERVANTS, THEIR BENEFITS AND NUMEROUS OTHER ISSUES NEED TO BE ANALYSED VERY CLOSELY- AND IN ANY EVENT MOST OF THESE ITEMS FORM PART OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WORKING GROUP NO.4 IN CODESA.

IT IS THE STRONG VIEW OF CISKEI GOVERNMENT THAT WHEN RE-INCORPORATION TAKES PLACE A NEW ORDERLY GOVERNMENT MUST HAVE BEEN IN PLACE IN SOUTH AFRICA, IN WHICH THE CITIZENS OF PRESENT CISKEI WILL NOT FIND THEMSELVES WORSE OFF THAN THEIR PRESENT SITUATION. IN OTHER WORDS WE WOULD NOT LIKE TO BE RE-INCORPORATED INTO A VACUUM AND CHAOS.

THE PRESENT LEGAL STATUS OF CISKEI IS THAT IT IS A DE JURE AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY. THE CISKEI FAVOURS AN OPTION WHERE THE SO CALLED INDEPENDENT STATES WOULD DECIDE ON THEIR OWN WHETHER THEY WISH TO RETAIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE OR WHETHER THEY WISH TO LINK UP WITH SOUTH AFRICA IN ORDER TO BECOME A FULL PART OF IT.



OUR POSITION IS WELL KNOWN, WE ARE FOR RE-INCORPORATION BUT THE MECHANISMS ARE TO BE WORKED OUT THROUGH URGENT BI-LATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA - PARLIAMENT.

THE QUESTION OF HOW THE VIEWS OF CITIZENS OF CISKEI ON RE-INCORPORATION ARE TO BE TESTED IS OUTDATED AND IRRELEVANT IN THE CISKEI. THE POPULAR COUP WHICH INSTALLED THE PRESENT MILITARY GOVERNMENT WAS AS A RESULT OF A LONG - BURNING DESIRE OF THE CISKEI PEOPLE TO RECLAIM THEIR SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENSHIP. EFFORTS AND PLEAS OF THE CISKEIANS TO THEIR INEFFECTIVE AND NOW DEFUNCT PARLIAMENT IN BISHO FELL ON DEAF EARS.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS RIFE AND THIS BROUGHT ABOUT BLOATED BUREAUCRACY AS THE STATE WAS AND STILL IS THE MAIN EMPLOYER. UNEMPLOYMENT WAS FURTHER EXARCEBATED BY THE CISKEI'S INABILITY TO APPROACH FOREIGN INVESTORS WITHOUT EXPERIENCING UNTOLD RED-TAPE AND CONSTRAINTS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA CONTROLLING AUTHORITIES AND THIS HAS NATURED DISSATISFACTION UNHAPPINESS DESPAIR AND EVERY SINGLE CITIZEN OF THE CISKEI KNOWS THAT THE SO-CALLED INDEPENDENCE HAS FAILED THEM DISMALLY.

LASTLY, MR CHAIRMAN THE SILENT MAJORITY OF OUR PEOPLE IS HOPING THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN POWER WILL ADDRESS THIS AS URGENTLY AS POSSIBLE TO THEIR BENEFIT AND THIS NEEDS NO REFERENDUM. ON THE OTHER HAND THE TOYI-TOYI RADICAL AND REVOLUTIONARY ELEMENT HAS BEEN SCREAMING RE-INCORPORATION SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL - I MEAN SINCE THE WORD RE-INCORPORATION BECAME KNOWN TO TOWNSHIP POLITICIANS.

THANK YOU : MR CHAIRMAN