

6/9/07

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The Secretary to Parliament of the RSA
PO Box 15, Cape Town 8000, for attention Mr L Brown

Subject: Comment: Cross-Boundary Municipalities Laws
Repeal and Related Matters Amendment Bill [B25-2007]

Introduction: I am the first paternal uncle of Aloys Sechaba Setsubi (alias Comrade/MK Charles Motunng) who now works in the Department of Finance, Arcadia, Pretoria. He can explain why, after graduating from London after the South African hostilities Bhishe Administration would not employ him but Natal University (Durban) gladly employed him and later Mr Jacob Zuma had him redeployed in Pretoria. I am now eking out a miserable existence as a pensioner-teacher (1945-1988) with little or no say in public affairs as public representatives in this part of the world are a rare breed. I am submitting the third memorandum/comment on this so-called KwaZulu-Natal versus Eastern Cape boundary/border dispute. The first Commission recommended the secession of East Griqualand (Kokstad/Mt Currie-Matatiele/Sedarville) to the Eastern Cape, which was rejected out of hand as it was an extension of revival of the old application of Transkei Bantustan to annex East Griqualand which had been part of the original Cape Province. Then, in the new regime, what about the Northern Cape Province? East Griqualand had never been part of the Transkeian Territories while Umzimkhulu was quietly and conveniently left as an island and a sore thumb.

I then submitted the second memorandum/comment when the dispute was forwarded to the Constitutional Court whose ruling is well known. In 2005 when the dispute was beginning to hot up, a local respectable African National Congress member and a staunch Eastern Cape, after his routine visit to Mthatha where he had worked, emphatically informed me that the transfer of Matatiele to the Eastern Cape had long been decided by "Higher Authority or From Above" which was common knowledge in Mthatha while the Matatiele-Maluti inhabitants were still shellshocked and that no amount of protest would prevail. So far this sinister decision - if true - seems to be about to be accomplished to our detriment and damnation. A member of the Matatiele-Maluti Mass Action Committee (alias Crisis Committee) informed me recently that a prominent ANC member and ex-MK now in a cushy post corroborated the decision of the "Higher Authority".

Are we still following the ruling of the Constitutional Court and are we still obeying the dictum/rule:

"Audi alteram partem" - there are three sides to a story: Yours, mine and the truth"? Or, is it the exclusive preserve of clenched-fisted men and women in T-shirts, calling each other comrade who have the right/monopoly of deciding where everybody else in this area should belong? Then, what or where is consultation in our so-called democracy or new dispensation?

Closer to the Point: When the Eastern Cape seceded Umzimkhulu to KwaZulu-Natal - which was linguistically, economically and geographically correct

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and long overdue, was Matatiele ~~was~~ regarded as a fair barter or compensation without any consultation? Matatiele was/is part of East Griqualand, but why were the Cedarville commercial farmers unceremoniously weaned and isolated from the rest of the KwaZulu-Natal Agricultural Union Mt Currie (Kokstad) next door. Again, as one local female ANC member asserted haughtily: "Kokstad is our next target to fall into line!!" Apparently some people own other people's lives in this area. Further, despite the ruling of the Constitutional Court the Matatiele Municipality, Tayler Bequest Hospital and the Schools have been repossessed by the Bhisho Administration — or is it part of compensation? An Anomaly: the question of the South African Police Service (SAPS) still being ^{to} controlled fully in Port Shepstone (KwaZulu-Natal) has been answered with a thundering silence.

EDUCATION: The Eastern Cape has its unenviable distinction of being South Africa's poorest Province. It would be expecting too much from this merger of old Transkei and Ciskei Bantustans. Already in Matatiele the Independent Schools have been warned of a substantially reduced subsidy for the financial year (01 April 2007 - 31 March 2008) by Bhisho, which has necessitated the raising of school fees in 2008. The parents have to bear the burden for the schools to continue providing quality education — talk of free education, my foot! Political ambitions of the Eastern Cape are far overriding its educational ambitions and capacity. Annex Matatiele and everything else will look after itself.

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One of these Independent Schools was specifically founded by a Christian philanthropist to cater for poor children and it is now in this predicament.

Can the Eastern Cape ever solve the perennial problem of feeding our children when loads and loads of money almost regularly go down the drain?

"Scorpions to probe school food scandal - Report shows corruption and maladministration behind collapse of R230 million scheme"

(Daily Dispatch: 27 August 2007).

For some time the Eastern Cape propped the Matriculation Pass Log and in 2006 came only second best from the bottom. Will 2007 become any better after countless non-teaching hours and little or no checking of schoolwork by the Education Officers.

Perhaps miracles still happen - we hope and pray!

I hope I am still relevant and reasonable and objective: After Maluti College was closed before deciding what to do with empty buildings, there is somewhere an advertisement: NGWE FET COLLEGE - who decided on this new College and its name and is NGWE Xhosa, Hlubi or Sotho? Although I retired from Maluti College as Vice-Rector, I have only received resounding silence about this new development in our area.

AGRICULTURE: The old Ongeluksnek Valley farms seceded to Transkei Bantustan and now owned by the Eastern Cape are a fiasco and disgrace run by farm amateurs who can hardly feed the people. There are no public sale kraals, so the people only sell their animals amongst themselves for tribal/ritual ceremonies and occasionally to the Matatiele butcheries.

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Inbreeding is a great drawback as the people only think of number. Milk is obtainable from October to April only.

The Maluti Military Base very fertile farm from which a white farmer was removed for Transkei Bantustan is now lying idle and only graced by the decent houses. Next to it and across the river are lying fallow mealie lands whose owners now buy mealies or mealie meal in Matatiele (Town).

The home gardens hardly provide vegetables, the people hardly know the use/value of manure or compost and fruit trees are hardly pruned but our schools still teach Agriculture and even hardly with a garden.

Poultry for meat or eggs - who cares when Matatiele Supermarkets provide? Agricultural Officers are a rare breed in our Reserves but they still expect our children to choose Agriculture as a career!

MISCELLANEOUS: (1) When is the king-size case of the two ex-MEC's of the Eastern Cape going to court in East London as once reported? (2) Lesotho/Swaziland has one king, therefore one kingdom/nation, but the Eastern Cape though not a country has SIX KINGS, therefore how many kingdoms/nations when the Republic of South Africa has only ONE NATION? How this poorest Province subsidises these six kings is one of the seven mysteries of the new South Africa.

There is an attempt to appoint a seventh king, which may further legitimise an eighth one.

(3) The number of taxis and bakkie-taxis in our small town indicates that jobs in the Eastern Cape are very, very scarce. (4) Our area is inextricably bound with KwaZulu-Natal: food, material supplies,

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Telkom
jobs telephone (Code 039 ex Port Shepstone),
Eskom
electricity ex Margate - Head Office, Westville, Durban,
our town schools which provide quality education.

(5) The Informer (Newspaper - 17/08/2007) on its front page reported: "Mount Fletcher Still Struggles for Water after 13 Years of Freedom". This report is fairly long and depressing, and after reading it, you would never want to live there. A Matatiele resident formerly of Mount Fletcher ^{once} ~~was~~ remarked: "Mount ^{Fletcher} is a gold mine but it is in the bundus!"

This rural town has not built RDP houses, has no bank and a miserable old-fashioned hotel. What has the Eastern Cape been doing when it seems to be hellbent on annexing all Matatiele which has developed because of its association with Kokstad, Pietermaritzburg, Port Shepstone and Durban (all KZN)?

(6) The old Romans used to talk of the enemy within the walls or fifth columnists. There are a few Eastern Cape protagonists - two are permanently employed by Bhishe one of whom resides in Kokstad with vehicles bearing KZN registration numbers; another is an ex-Mayor from EC and is aspiring to be Mayor in Matatiele; another a resident of Matatiele with all vehicles KZN (NCX), children educated in KZN schools and partly employed by EC, partly educated in KZN, married to a KZN girl and used to favour KZN as expected but is now an EC protagonist; the other EC heavyweight plies his trade between Bhishe and Matatiele. He was once booed by a group of women in the presence of his EC Premier in Matatiele.

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⑦ If anybody loves his Province, he should offer some financial support in the registration of his vehicle(s), but EC registration numbers are only a handful around here. ⑧ The road between Denkwane (just outside Matatiele and Mariazell Mission Institution) at the foot of the Western Drakensberg Mountain Chain should have been tarred through the benevolence of some Roman Catholic philanthropists in Germany all for free but something went amiss and the Roman Catholic of Mthatha who had piloted the project was duly frustrated and had to use the proposed funds for his Diocesan churches instead. Something had gone wrong in the "State of Denmark" and the road still remains a problem. ⑧ The poorest Province is charitable; an EC Education Officer who resides in Matatiele is in a cushy post with a princely salary and is also a Matatiele Municipal councillor with a meaty salary - is this still a fair distribution of wealth or solving poverty or helping the rich to get richer. ⑨ Has it been fair to the Matatiele residents (ratepayers) to see an imported person superimposed as their Mayor when nobody voted for him and had not paid any rates? Relations are bound to be sour, strained and grudging. ⑩ Someone (Outsider) has glibly asserted: "Provinces are alike, the only difference is the delivery of services." But ask why Alfred Nzo from Mount Fletcher, Chris Hani from Cofimvaba and Oliver Tambo from Bizana - all Eastern Cape - finally settled in Gauteng ???

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My nephew Sechaba Setsubi has deserted Maluti and I do not imagine my son in Rondebosch, ^{East} ever returning home like a prodigal son - back to Egypt! We are looking to the EAST (KNAZULU-NATAL) for a better life for us all otherwise voting in future elections will be an exercise in futility. May Kokstad, Pietermaritzburg, Port Shepstone and Durban all be accessible for all services in a few hours and return and may our ancestors and the Lord Above reward us for our sincerity, hopes, desires and efforts. P.S. A referendum would have long solved this so-called problem.

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04 SEPTEMBER 2007