

CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY
THEME COMMITTEE 1
CHARACTER OF DEMOCRATIC STATE
MINUTES OF CORE GROUP MEETING
HELD ON THE 14 MARCH 1995 AT 08H30

Present
NJ Mahlangu (Chairperson)

M M Dyani
N Majola-Pikoli
P G Marais
K R Meshoe
L P H M Mtshali
P W A Mulder

Leola Rammble was in attendance.

1. OPENING

The meeting was opened by the Chairperson at 08h30 and he emphasised the importance to have Core Group meetings regularly.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

After discussion on the process of handling the submissions and reports from the Public Participation events the meeting agreed that the matter be raised at the Management Committee with suggestions made by the members of the Core Group.

The following suggestions were made; namely:

- a) Members of the secretariat should attend the CPMs to take notes of submissions made relevant to the Theme Committees so that they could develop a report together with the Theme Committee members present at the CPMs, which would be tabled at the Theme Committee meetings.
- b) All the submissions which are received at the CPMs and which are relevant to the specific Blocks which Theme Committees are dealing with, should be produced in a report form so that the Theme Committees could deal with the issues immediately.

The meeting further agreed that the transport and logistical arrangements for the Members of the CA are worsening and that urgent attention needs to be given to

this problem.

3. PRESS BRIEFINGS

A member from the Media Department addressed the Core Group. It was pointed out to the meeting that the reason for a press briefing was based on a request from the members of the media since they were unable to cover all Theme Committee sittings.

The media department agreed that the press briefings should take place every Thursday afternoon and that Theme Committee's needed to inform the media department by 11h00 on Thursday's if they needed to report on any particular issue relevant to the work of the Theme Committee.

Members raised concern about the press briefings because all the parties will not be represented and that party positions could be misinterpreted.

The meeting agreed that this matter be carried over to the Theme Committee for further discussion and that a member from the media department be present at the meeting.

4. JOINT CORE GROUP MEETING

The Core Group agreed that the meeting should take place on the 16 March 1995, at 14h00 at M46.

It was further agreed that Mr. Mahlangu should chair the meeting and that the discussion would deal with areas of overlap but the meeting should not discuss Block 1 as this report had already been dealt with by the CC.

Mr Marais indicated that he was unable to attend the meeting and the members agreed that an alternate could attend.

5. SETTING UP OF COMMISSIONS

Members went through the proposed document on setting up of commissions by the Executive Director.

The Secretariat explained that point 1 in the draft proposal meant that three separate committees needed to be set up to deal with Language, Name and Symbols and Seats of Government. The meeting agreed that the document needed to be amended accordingly.

The meeting further agreed that the Law Advisors should give a brief explanation to the Theme Committee on the difference between a Commission and a Sub-committee. The issue should also be placed on the agenda of the Theme

Committee meeting for further discussion.

6. WORK PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Chairperson spoke through the memorandum which was received from the Executive Director dated the 8 March 1995.

The meeting agreed that a meeting should be held between the Technical Committee and the Core Group to discuss this issue. The Secretariat was requested to inform a member from the Technical Committee that a meeting would take place on the 16 March 1995.

7. DISCUSSION ON DEALING WITH PARTY SUBMISSIONS

Concern was raised by some members with regard to dealing with Party submissions and the process of fleshing out of issues which the Theme Committee is dealing with.

It was suggested that the first phase should be to allow parties to speak through their submissions. The next phase should allow for clarity and understanding of concepts. Party positions should not be attacked but members should be made to understand the reason for certain Party positions.

The third phase would be to get a draft detailed report outlining party positions from the Technical Advisors, which the Theme Committee would discuss in detail. This approach could also lead to possible suggested approaches by the Theme Committee on contentious issues.

8. GENERAL

A point of concern was raised by the IFP with regard to the procedure of tabling reports to the CC. It was agreed that all reports should first go through the Theme Committee before it is tabled at any other structure so that the Theme Committee could discuss the report.

The meeting rose at 10h40.