

Whites evasive and defensive

There is great inconsistency and internal contradiction in the pattern of attitudes of White South Africans as regards the policy of separate development.

In surveys studying attitudes to the separation of races in the region and to separate development, the Buthelezi Commission reported a pattern which appeared to be that political separation of the races appealed very strongly to many Whites at an emotional level.

The report said it was essentially an "evasive, defensive reaction" which took little account of the practical implications.

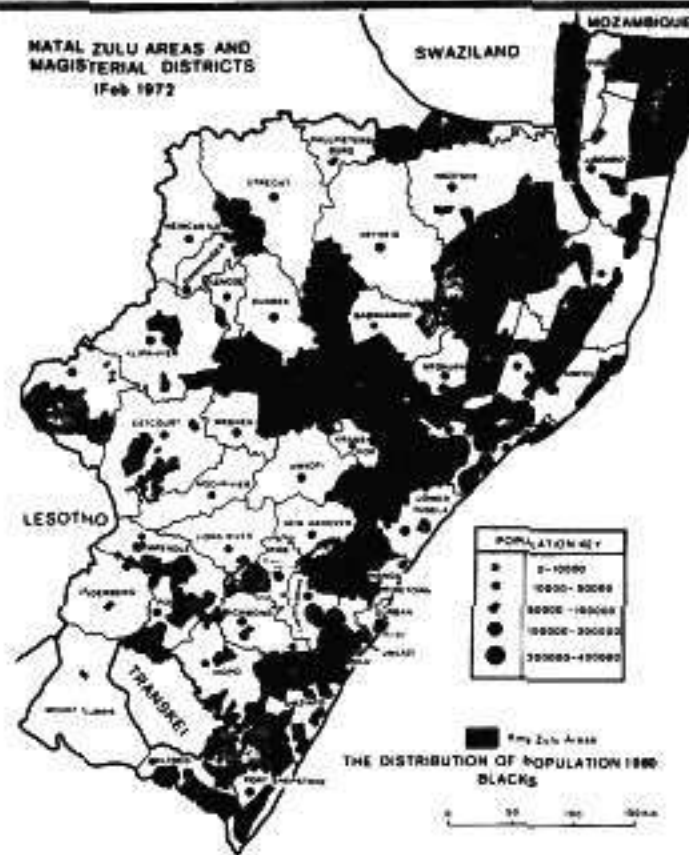
Thus when these Whites were faced with questions about the implications of separate development, there was very little consistent adherence to the policy as formulated and rationalised by political leaders.

While substantial proportions of Whites valued the racial segregation which separate development entailed, the same groupings of people were more often than not least likely to indicate a willingness to grant concessions to a homeland which would allow it to attain minimum viability as a state on its own.

The consolidation of KwaZulu as a geographical entity, involving territorial concessions, was rejected, very substantially, by White South Africans in the region.

Clear majorities in all the minority groups (Whites, Indians and Coloureds) considered it likely that independent homelands would become hostile areas within South Africa and that forces in an independent KwaZulu would destabilise the region.

The Commission reported that given the majority view that the races in the region are greatly interdependent and the fact that KwaZulu and Natal are in close juxtaposition, it was understandable that people could not see problems being sealed off in an independent KwaZulu



KwaZulu/Natal distribution of Black population — 1980 census.

Population distribution in the region

Census figures underestimate Black numbers

The population in the region KwaZulu/Natal, according to data obtained by the Buthelezi Commission, is approximately 20 percent of the total population of the Republic of South Africa.

The official figures from the 1980 census give a total population as 5 722 221, of which 3 187 987 are resident in KwaZulu. This latter population, with the exception of a few thousand Black South Africans, is predominantly Zulu.

In the area of Natal the 1980 census figures record 1 240 699 Black South Africans, 646 907 Indian South Africans, 557 044 White South Africans and 87 753 Coloured South Africans together with a further 1 841 persons classified as "other".

The Commission noted that it is highly probable that the 1980 census figures represent a considerable underestimate of the number of Black South Africans in the area.

It added that in 1978, population estimates for the region totalled six million and the Black South African population in Natal was estimated at two million.

For example, although the 1980 census figure for Umlazi was 150 670, the Port Natal Administration Board officials make an estimate of between 220 and 250 thousand and the KwaZulu Development Corporation works on an estimate of 300 000 for the same area.

The Commission anticipated that the underestimate was perhaps greatest for those population groups where involvement in the census was avoided through misunderstanding and where there were problems of legality of residence which involved concealment.

Despite the difficulties associated with such an estimate, it is thought that there are probably not less than an extra 400 000 people in the region.

The Natal population, according to the census, is 49,1 percent Black South Africans, 25,5 percent Indian South Africans, 22,0 percent White South Africans and 3,4 percent Coloured South Africans. It is probable that even in Natal the Black South African population is an absolute majority.

The growth rates of the population groups in the area differ significantly. In the ten years between the censuses of 1970 and 1980 the Black South African population increased by 1,182 million (35 percent), the Indian group by 128 000 (24 percent), the White group by 106 000 (24 percent) and the Coloured group by 15 000 (20 percent).