

COLENSO

- provincial capital -
an alternative to both
Pietermaritzburg and Ulundi

Proposal towards siting of the capital
of the province of `KwaZulu-Natal`

made through

the Premier of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal
Ulundi/Pietermaritzburg
Republic of South Africa

on the 21st of April, 1998
by
Dr. Ben K h u m a l o.

economic and geo-political reasons

- ° a meeting- and focal-point for a multi-party effort
- ° a potential growth-point for investments and employment
- ° a half-way refreshment- and filling-station for rail- and road-traffic in all directions

historical and ideological reasons

- ° Colenso as point of departure towards peaceful co-existence based on mutual regard (Bishop Colenso)
- ° Colenso as reminder and challenge to keep alive the quest for a nut roomy and homely enough for all its in-mates (Harriet Colenso)

legacy of a truly ecumenical tradition of resistance and involvement

other reasons

The town presently known as "Colenso" meets the minimum requirements for

- a meeting- and focal-point for a multi-party pursuit to bring together areas and communities of a region still torn apart and to open eyes for horizons still lying out of sight.
- a potential growth-point for investments and employment in agriculture, tourism, commerce and manufacturing industry with a viable infrastructure within the economy-triangle of Bergville-Estcourt-Ladysmith (including the corridor between Elandslaagte and Weenen).
- a half-way refreshment- and filling-station - a "Cape of Good Hope" - for rail- and road-traffic of goods, passengers and travellers to all destinations between the coast and the interior in north/south and in east/west direction.

Economic and geo-political reasons not being the only guidelines for decision-making on such an important issue as the site of a provincial capital, consideration of some factors of **historical** nature and **ideological** significance could help widen the scope:

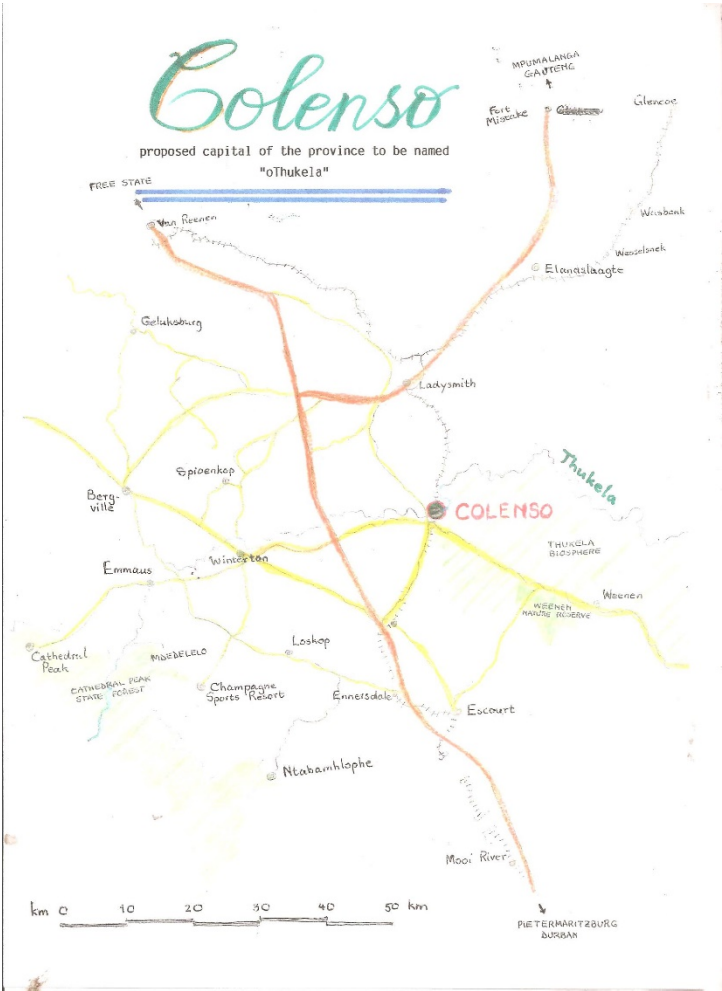
- The person in whose honour this town has been named will always be remembered for his concern for righteousness. His stand for the truth and his engagement against colonial greed and brutality have accorded him respect far beyond the boundaries of the former Kingdom of Zululand and the then Colony of Natal for generations to come. Taking the tradition connected with the person and the commitment of "Sobantu" as point of departure in an effort of reconciling the various communities of this province within the new democratic frame-work since 1994, responsible government would certainly fare well if she kept on being as concerned for peaceful co-existence based on mutual regard as men and women of the calibre of Colenso have always envisaged for this region in Africa. (Literature: "Bishop Colenso" in Edgar H. Brookes and Colin de B. Webb: "A History of Natal", University of Natal Press, 1965, pp. 105-112; "The Langalibalele Affair and its Results" pp. 113-123).
- Kindling and reviving a good old tradition of uncompromising involvement in favour of the disadvantaged could also occur by recalling yet a period in the history of colonial subjugation and resistance and thereby focusing by way of example on one woman who, by clearly and persistently taking sides with the native population of this part of Africa that had then fallen prey to land-claims and tax-demands of both the Briton and the Boer colonial powers, contributed towards rescuing the very remnants of that social fibre that had still to persevere and ultimately survive even the more systematized atrocities of the apartheid era and which now at least bears the potential of being a reliable pillar for erecting and holding together a hut roomy and homely enough for all its in-mates: Harriette, one of the daughters of Bishop Colenso. (Literature: "Colenso, Harriette (Musihelu, uDhledhlwe)" in Nicholas Cope: "To bind the Nation", University of Natal Press, 1993, pp. 7, 10-11, 81; 9,10; 37 n.49, 39-40, 45-6, 50-1, 54, 58 n. 5, 268, 15 n. 23)

The **religious tradition of resistance** against inhumanity that has brought forward men and women of outstanding reputation among Jewish, Christian, Hindu and Islamic communities of the south-eastern region of Africa presently known as

KwaZulu-Natal could be seen to have gained momentum and produced seeds through the commitment of Bishop Colenso and many who toiled and laboured as he did. Far beyond the scope of a particular tradition of faith he set an example of monumental and prophetic nature in recent history of this part of Africa. By insisting on justice having to be done even at the expense of him losing esteem in the eyes of the powers that be in Church and State, he contributed towards the development of a theological tradition that sees God at work in all spheres of life through the undivided oneness of His creation as opposed to an apartheid-theology. Also on theological reasons it would be worthwhile to have our decision on siting the capital of our province being associated with this line of tradition valuable to believers of different origin.

On these and many other reasons still to be put on paper I propose “Colenso” as sit of the provincial capital.

Dr. Ben K h u m a l o
21st of April, 1998.



>> "oThukela"

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20 July 1998

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Sir,

JOINT PROPOSAL

Your letter dated 6 May 1998, refers.

I would like to apologise for the late reply however, your letter only arrived at my office on 14 July, 1998.

I am impressed with the idea of looking at Colenso as the focal point in KwaZulu-Natal.

Colenso is centrally situated in KwaZulu-Natal and has been earmarked as the growth point about 15 years ago but did not materialise. Colenso as an Industrial powerhouse in KwaZulu-Natal could be very economical owing vision of Colenso being the capital of KwaZulu-Natal is my opinion the right route because of it being centrally situated. Please try persuading the South African Government in that direction as the matter regarding KwaZulu-Natal's new Capital is being deliberated over.

Your comment regarding the change of the name of the Province. The change to oThukela could be seen as a positive change for the Province of KwaZulu-Natal i.e. KwaZulu could have a political connotation which could have hindered progress in the Province.

Attached please find a copy of the Integrated Development Framework for Colenso which is self-explanatory. It has not been finalised.

Council is considering extending its boundaries should positive engagements could be entered into with foreign countries/businessmen.

Should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully

(signed)

J. KHAN

ACTING TOWN CLERK