

**Embargo:13h00**  
**31 August 1995**

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

The Constitutional Assembly (CA) is delighted to launch yet another campaign aimed at maximising the channels of communication between the constitution-making body and the public.

**Constitutional Talk-Line** is yet another effort to give real meaning to the CA's commitment to a transparent and inclusive process of writing the new constitution.

The CA recognises that in order for meaningful public participation in the process of writing the new constitution to take place, informing and educating the public about the process as well as the issues that are being debated is crucial.

It is thus that a number of campaigns have been instituted. These include an advertising campaign, the Constitutional Education Programme, the **Constitutional Talk** television programme, among others.

In yet another effort to inform and educate the public about the constitution-making process, the CA is involved in discussions with the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) with a view to instituting constitutional education programmes on radio.

**Constitutional Talk-Line** was conceptualised to enable every person who can access a telephone to communicate with the CA and get an up-date about the discussions taking place in the constitution-making process.

Callers will also be able to leave messages requesting more information or comment about any matter related to the constitution-making process.

Information will be up-dated at least every week with five new topics being entered.

The topics that were selected for the first week of the line are: The constitution-making process; Rights and duties of citizens; Public Administration; The Human Rights Commission and the Judiciary and the Court System.

The information is based on reports from Theme Committees and includes some of the most important draft formulations.

Callers will be able to select listen to this information in any of the 11 official languages. Due to time constraints, however, only five languages are available for the first week, namely Afrikaans, English, Tswana, Xhosa and Zulu.

To listen to one topic, it will take approximately three minutes.

The line takes 120 calls at a time - making it almost impossible for any caller to find it engaged.

We wish to thank Telkom for having agreed to avail R370 000 for this project over the next nine months.

The telephone number to access **Constitutional Talk-Line** is (011) 329 8000

Released by: Mr Cyril Ramaphosa  
Chairperson  
31 August 1995

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