Merafong City local municipality was established by amalgamating the then Carletonville Transitional Local Council as well as parts of Gatsrand rural council which is situated within the boundaries of Gauteng province with the then Forshville Transitional Local Council, Wedela Transitional Local Council, as well as the surrounding farm portions which is situated within the North-West province.

The establishement of this municipality as part of the West Rand District Municipality is contained in paragraphs 40 to 45 of Provincial Notice 6769 of 2000, dated 1 October 2000, published in Provincial Gazette Extraodinary No 141, which was co-signed by the MECs responsible for local government in both the Gauteng and North West Provinces.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 90 of the Local Government Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act 117 of 1998), which provides that the MECs responsible for local government in the affected provinces in the case of a cross-boundary municipality, should reach an agreement on the provincial management of the municipality, this never materialized in Merafong City Municipality’s case.

This situation proved to be not to be in the best interest of the affected communities since effective and efficient coordination could not be achieved between the two provinces. This also led to various problems including different levels of services delivery in different areas within the municipal boundaries.

The following services are rendered in accordance with directives from the two provinces which is the main reason for different levels of services rendered to different parts of the community of Merafong City Local Municipality

Health Services

Provincial housing

Public works

Regional planning and development

Road Traffic Regulations

Vehicle Licenses

Welfare Services

Annexure “**7**” - Motivation by Merafong City Local Municipality to be included in Gauteng Province

Reasons advanced by residents for wanting to stay in Gauteng…

* service delivery reasons ( social welfare, health services, education, documentation(home affairs),
* distance argument to headquarter
* development prospects ( Gauteng has more resources to develop us…)
* We have contributed to Gauteng economy… we must stay in Gauteng to benefit from our contribution
* Emotional and sentimental attachments to Gauteng
* municipal demarcation act based arguments ( why on the basis of the act, Merafong should be placed in Gauteng)
* Community opinion ( the views of the majority are that we belong in Gauteng)

-Economic reasons (service delivery, development and getting back from GP)

-Functional reasons

-Municipal demarcation act based arguments

-Community opinion

-An independent and technical body found we must stay in Gauteng… why is government deciding against that

Quotes:

1. Reasons why they don’t want NW

* “ the community believes it will receive better services from the wealthier Gauteng – to which they have financially contributed ” K100 K99
* Gauteng which is perceived to be better in service delivery than North West…
* Gauteng perceived to be the richer province with a better service delivery track record…
* “ In the memorandum the forum said it was dissatisfied by the manner in which the ANC national executive committee of 2004 decided unilaterally on the incorporation of Merafong into the North West province from Gauteng “ K 139
* Andries Magodiele, a community organizer said : “ people are unhappy about being part of North West because they believed the province had “no capacity” K 150
* “residents believed that in North West medical services were inferior, education was worse and social development was not happening”
* “ residents of Merafong, which includes Khutsong township, have in the past taken to the streets in sometimes violent protest, complaining their standard of living would plummet as the North West government was less efficient in service delivery than the Gauteng government” K 209

Service delivery arguments:

55 ( 130)

Reasons advanced by government for wanting to demarcate Merafong in North West

Residents’ rejection of government policy was largely motivated by fears and experiences of poorer service delivery in the North West province. They argued that they “will receive better services from the wealthier Gauteng – to which they have financially contributed”[[1]](#footnote-1); that the North West has “no capacity”, that its “medical services were inferior, education was worse and social development was not happening”[[2]](#footnote-2) . Far from being satisfied with the quality of services received from Gauteng, residents thought the situation would be even worse if they were to be administered by the mostly rural and under-resourced North West.

“ we, the community of Merafong of which 71% reside in Gauteng province, hereby submit our will an intention to remain incorporated in Gauteng province . Once again – after we have submitted numerous submissions to the demarcation board and to our sentimentally and emotionally attached province Gauteng, we will once again submit our motivations to indicate overwhelming so our preferred will and intention peacefully so to remain in province, Gauteng” ( A pro gauteng lobby group, 25 November 2005)

“ this situation proved not to be in the best interest of the affected communities since effective and efficient coordination could not be achieved between the two provinces. This also led to various problems including different levels of services delivery in different areas within the municipal boundaries” ( Merafong city local municipality)

“ Merafong City could be considered as the mining hub of the country” ( Merafong city local municipality)

**The need for cohesive, integrated and unfragmented areas dictates that Merafong should be in Gauteng…**

“The West Rand area is also characterised by mining activities in the area with a certain amoung of movement towards industrial activities. If the Merafong City area is separated from the West Rand, it will have a negative effect on both areas since the combined effect on development of the total area will be weakened.

This will also impact on the economic base of the area, which is dependant on mining, if the mines are in one province and the mining head offices are in another province, namely Gauteng”

**Merafong is a significant contributor to the finances of the District: 28 to 30% of West Rand income. So look at the criteria: the financial viability and administrative capacity of the municipality to perfume municipal functions efficiently and effectively. This criteria will dictate demarcating Merafong in Gauteng.**

“Should this area be separated from the West Rand, it will impact negatively on the financial viability of the District Municipality and its ability to assist the local municipalities in the area”

**Merafong is a big contributor to the income of the District. The district offers these services: fire brigade, and emergency services…**

Using the criteria: the need to share and redistribute financial and administrative resources… will dictate demarcating Merafong in Gauteng…

**The distance argument. Both geographical distance and psychological distance.**

“due to its location, Merafong City’s interaction and cooperation with provincial structures in Gauteng are effective and efficient since Johannesburg is only 80 km away. The North West provincial structures are seated in Mafiken which is 250 km from Carletonville. The Gauteng provincial structures are also aware of the problems and challenges which Merafong City faces”

“ CCMA region in NW is Klerksdorp (160 km). employees who refer their cases to CCMA will have it harder to go to Klerksdorp. Distance and taxi are few and far between.” **Khutsong/Carletonville community**

**Why Foshville and Wedela did not fall under GP in 1994? Magisterial districts were used as criteria?**

“As stated above, 75% of the population resides within the provincial boundaries of Gauteng Province. The problem with Foshville and Wedela is that it forms part of the Potchefstroom magisterial district although there is a magistrates court in Foshville. If these areas had its own magisterial district, it would have formed part of the Gauteng Province with the 1994 demarcation process”

**Of the 26 wards in Merafong City, 20 are within the Gauteng Province whilst 6 are within the North West Province.**

**“Due to time constraints in this regard, the community participation process has been initiated and inputs will be submitted once the process has been finalised”**

“taking all the above into account, it is submitted that it is evident that Merafong City Local Municipality forms an integral and integrated part of the West Rand and therefore Gauteng province and a separation of this area will have a substantial negative impact on the economic, social and institutional stability and development of the area as a whole. Should steps be taken to do away with cross-boundary municipalities, the opinion is held that it should be done taking the abovementioned issues into account”… ( Merafong city local municipality)

“ the Merafong City Local Municipality, taking all relevant factors into account, and after consultation with the community, herewith submit a fully motivated request that, should action be taken to do away with cross-boundary municipalities, the total areas of jurisdiction be included in the Gauteng Province”

“some submissions from areas such as Moutse, Denilton, Roossenekal, Steelpoort, Bengwenyama, Eerstegeluk, Saaiplaas, Sehlakwane, Groblersdal and Marble Hall also objected to the inclusion of their areas into Limpopo province. In this regard, the board wishes to stress that it has no jurisdiction to dial with provincial boundaries.” (MDB)

“submissions and motivation in terms of section 24 and 25 of the Demarcation Act, indicate overwhelming resistance to the inclusion of Westonaria and the City of Merafong into the Southern District Municipality.The Board agreed with some motivations provided, and decided, in terms of section 21(5) of the Demarcation Act, to withdraw its redetermination in notice No 3359 gazetted in the Gauteng Provincial Gazette No 375 of 2 Septembre 2005, and notice No 458 gazetted in North West Provincial Gazette No 6208 of 2 September 2005. The Westonaria Local Municipality and the City of Merafong Local municipality thus remain within the West Rand District municipality, and the boundaries of the Southern District municipality also remain unchanged”

(MDB)

“ As was the case during the investigations conducted and public hearing held by the Trengove Commission in 1995/1996, many diverse views on how these municipalities should be configured still exist. Some submissions suggested that services in KZN are much better than in Eastern Cape. The board received a number of well motivated submissions to include the Maluti area into Matatiele, and supports the persons and institutions that made submissions in this regard. The inclusion of Matatiele into Alfred Nzo, however, was rejected by some in many well motivated submissions. The board also received submissions requesting changes to other municipal boundaries in that area, and a review of the boundaries of areas such as Mt Ayliff, Mt Fletcher, Mbizane, Ntabankulu, Elundini, Mount Frere, Umhlontlo may be desirable. For the same reasons as mentioned under the Limpopo/ Mpumalanga municipalities, the board will not be able to finalise these before the elections, but will give further attention to them after the elections” (MDB)

Poorer services in North West, Better services in GP

History of the area

“ The Khutsong/Carletonville area was once part of Western Transvaal (now known as North West which this was changed during the democratic elections of 1994 and the arguments for this change were valid and are still valid even today)”

**Source: Merafong City submission: view of the community of Wedela, Annexures**

“ Merafong largely owes its growth to the mining industry sicne the 1930s whereas Foshville was initially a predominantly farming village which would later also enjoy the developmental effects of the mining activities in the Carletonville area. Wedela previously a Mining Township and more linked to Carletonville both economically and socially. Today in 2005 the movement of people and goods between Wedela and Carletonville is such that Wedela could by right be viewed as a suburb of Greater Carletonville and hence the integration of the two municipalities into Merafong City in 2000”

**Source: Merafong City submission: view of the community of Wedela, Annexures**

“ residents of Merafong City regard themselves as being inseparably part of the West Rand and this social factor will not change by Man merely demarcating such societies to the North West Province. There is arguably no social fibre linkage between these areas and Ventersdorp, Lichtenburg, Mafikeng, Klerksdorp, or Rustenburg. A limited number of residents in Foshville could, however, argue that there is a linkage between themselves and Potchefstroom related to tertiary education, agriculture and medical care. The majority of Merafong residents in areas such as Wedela, Mining area, Carletonville town and Khutsong have close social ties with Soweto”

**Source: Merafong City submission: view of the community of Wedela, Annexures**

“ the vast majority of residents in Merafong City benefit from secondary and tertiary medical care provided in the Gauteng Province. This situation would not change by merely demarcating these areas to the North West Province –it would however entail the Gauteng Province having to further care for the residents of a neighbouring Province without any significant financial reward or support. (North West Province owes West Rand District Municipality an amount of R7 million for provision of Ambulance services in Wedela and Foshville, the question is can North West afford providing Ambulance services in Merafong if they are unable to fund this service only in Wedela and Foshville”

“ Emergency services on the busy main linkage routes such as the R28, N12 and N14 are predominantly provided by the WRDM and its is doubtful if such comprehensive services could be provided by the North West Province. It is unthinkable that accident victims on the N12, R28 and N14 where it currently runs through the West Rand District in the Westonaria and Merafong City areas, would be taken to secondary and tertiary medical facilities in the North West province in Potchefstroom”

**Source: Merafong City submission: view of the community of Wedela, Annexures**

“ a minority of Afrikaans speaking residents in the Merafong City areas make use of the tertiary education facilities of the North West University in Potchefstroom whilst the majority of non-Afrikaans speaking communities have to access the tertiary facilities of the universities of Johannesburg and the Witwatersrand . It is unlikely of such non-Afrikaans speaking sectors of society to make use of the Mafikeng campus of the North West University, accessibility and transport facilities become key”

**Source: Merafong City submission: view of the community of Wedela, Annexures**

**From Annexures, community of Kokosi**

Residents’ preferences for Gauteng are largely shaped by service delivery and social development experiences. The overarching perception is that service delivery and prospects for social development are better in Gauteng province compared to North West Province. Gauteng’s provision of education is perceived to be richer in content, more advanced in terms of use of technology and adequate infrastructure, more resourceful, and more effective. Khutsong and Carletonville schools have been provided with computers and benefit from Gauteng online program whereas in North West run schools in Kokosi are “without computers because they are poor” and “all schools in North West are lagging behind with information technology”. It is reported that “the MEC for education has introduced a nutritional programme for all schools in Gauteng and it is doubtful whether North West will have a similar programme on a sustainable basis”. The Carletonville branch of South African democratic teachers’ union (SADTU), for instance, saw the Gauteng department of education as way ahead of its North West counterpart when it comes to curriculum issues, human resources management, and infrastructure development. “We cannot afford to leave Gauteng Department, which is in forefront in curriculum issues i.e. currently the process of RNCS; implementation in 2006 is at an advance stage. What about the North West? Moving to NW would cause a serious confusion”, states SADTU’s submission to government. It also adds: “in Gauteng difficulties around provision of teachers and administration staff is a thing of the past. It depends on the effectiveness of the manager of the school in terms of submission. But in the NW schools have applied for such services from Department and no supply hence very poor management and administration of schools which resulted in misadministration of schools”. Regular supervisory visits in schools, special attention to child headed families, orphans and needy learners, provision of temporary teachers, quicker filling of vacant positions and better financial aid opportunities for learners are some of the Gauteng benefits which residents argue are not or scarcely provided in North West.

Health and emergency services are also better in Gauteng as compared to North West. There are enough clinics in Carletonville and Khutsong whereas in Kokosi, only two clinics exist without “medicine and staff to provide services after hours”. No hospital exists in Kokosi resulting in pregnant women being always referred to Carletonville Hospital or Potchesftroom hospital. The majority of Merafon residents access secondary and tertiary health care in Gauteng and will continue to do so even if the municipality was to fall under North West for functional reasons. This would constitute an additional burden on Gauteng province if the municipality does not fall under its jurisdiction. Emergency services such as fire brigade and ambulances are run by the Gauteng West Rand district municipality which services even areas of Merafong that fell in the North West under the cross municipality dispensation. Residents believe that it is unlikely that North West will provide them with similar services and that “it is unthinkable that accident victims on the N12, R28 and N14 where it currently runs through the West Rand District in the Westonaria and Merafong City areas, would be taken to secondary and tertiary medical facilities in the North West province in Potchefstroom” (view from Wedela community). North West’s under-resourced stature put aside, efficiency demands that emergency services be provided by Gauteng given the short distance and functional link to its major cities such as Johannesburg.

When it comes to home affairs services, Merafong residents are happy that Gauteng has offices in Khutsong and Carletonville where registration for identity documents is done daily on an effective and efficient manner. The same benefit is not available to Kokosi residents who are said to be “suffering because their government in North West cannot afford to bring services closer to them”. Access to home affairs services in the North West part of Merafong municipality is perceived to be difficult as attested by this testimony: “officials from Potchefstroom are sent every Tuesday to register people without ID. Registration is done manually. People are expected to walk to town to register for ids. If a person does not get an opportunity to register on that day, he must wait for the next Tuesday”. A similar scenario applies to government social services for which there are offices in Khutsong and Carletonville whereas in Kokosi, there is no dedicated office for these services. “They use municipal offices in Kokosi. They cannot afford to hire offices because they are poor”, complain Gauteng proponents. “In Gauteng, pensioners are paid for three days, whereas in Kokosi, pay for pensioners is provided once per month. If you fail to avail yourself on the pay day, you must wait for next month”, they add. Besides, Merafong-Gauteng is said to have enough staff for social services whereas in Merafong-North West communities are services by only one social worker and volunteers. As Merafong was integrated in North West in 2006, residents noticed that certain community structures including the Mothusampilo, the home based care, Tshepo Themba Development centre and all the crèches suffered from absent or inadequate funding. Existence of a multipurpose community centre and eradication of the bucket system in Gauteng-Merafong are also celebrated as benefits one would not leave to go to North West where such multipurpose centre does not exist and the bucket system is still prevalent.

**1. Service delivery, social development argument**

**Social services:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **GP** | **NW** |
| In Gauteng, pensioners are paid for three days | Pay for pensioners is provided once per month. If you fail to avail yourself on the pay day, you must wait for next month |
| Pensioners, disabled and sick are getting proper service from Gauteng | One social worker is provided to serve pensioners with their queries. The very social worker is also responsible for social grants |
|  | Social worker using manual system to capture information. No computers are used |
|  | Should pensioners or any other person have queries, they are expected to phone Potchfestroom office |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **GP** | **NW** |
| Staff for social services | Gauteng has enough staff to service our people   * As a result of the forceful integration inNW of 2006, “the following community structures have been adversely affected: the Mothusampilo, the home based care, Tshepo Themba Development centre and all the crèches in the community. The contradiction is that the GP transferred the funding of these structures to the NW government and interestingly and disgustingly so, the NW has cut those budgets with an exception of Tshepo Themba Development Centre. Now the clarity must be provided is where is balance???” YCLSA in 2009 | One social worker to service the entire KOKOSI. The volunteers from kokosi have been helping for the past five years |
| Staff for social services | Gauteng has offices in Khutsong and Carletonville | NW does not have offices to render their social services . They use municipal offices in Kokosi. They cannot afford to hire offices because they are poor |
| Home affairs offices | Gauteng has offices in Khutsong and Town, and registration for ID is done on daily basis and the service is effective and efficient. | People from Kokosi are suffering because their government in NW can not afford to bring services closer to them. Officials from Potchefstroom are sent every Tuesday to register people without ID. Registration is done manually. People are expected to walk to town to register for ids. If a person does not get an opportunity to register on that day, he must wait for the next Tuesday |
| Emergency services | Gauteng through West Rand District municipality is providing better services in this regard | * NW is not providing emergency services in Kokosi because they are poor * “ Emergency services on the busy main linkage routes such as the R28, N12 and N14 are predominantly provided by the WRDM and its is doubtful if such comprehensive services could be provided by the North West Province. It is unthinkable that accident victims on the N12, R28 and N14 where it currently runs through the West Rand District in the Westonaria and Merafong City areas, would be taken to secondary and tertiary medical facilities in the North West province in Potchefstroom”   **Source: Merafong City submission: view of the community of Wedela, Annexures**   * Emergency services employees at both Fochville and Carletonville are currently remunerated at Grade 5 municipal salary level whist Merafong employees are remunerated at grade 4 municipal salary level, resulting in salary disparities between municipal employees of the same municipality * The current salaries paid to EMS employees on provincial scales lower than the municipal salaries scales   e.g  WRDM –BLS-R140667  NW -BLD- R77889  Difference: R62 778  WRDM –ILS- R171280  NW – ILS- R92148  Difference : 79 132  Source : Khutsong/Carletonville community |
| Health services | Gauteng has enough clinics in Khutsong and Carletonville | Only two clinics are provided for in Kokosi to cater for the entire community. The clinics are always without medicine and staff to provide services after hours. Pregnant women are always refered to Carletonville Hospital or Potchesftroom Hospital. One ambulance is used to carry more than one patient. There is no hospital in Kokosi   * “the vast majority of residents in Merafong City benefit from secondary and tertiary medical care provided in the Gauteng Province. This situation would not change by merely demarcating these areas to the North West Province –it would however entail the Gauteng Province having to further care for the residents of a neighbouring Province without any significant financial reward or support. (North West Province owes West Rand District Municipality an amount of R7 million for provision of Ambulance services in Wedela and Foshville, the question is can North West afford providing Ambulance services in Merafong if they are unable to fund this service only in Wedela and Foshville” |
| Education | In Gauteng, Khutsong and Carletonville all schools are provided with computers   * “we cannot afford to leave Gauteng Department, which is in forefront in curriculum issues i.e. currently the process of RNCS; implementation in 2006 is at an advance stage. What about the North West? Moving to NW would cause a serious confusion” SADTU, Carletonville branch, 2009 * “in Gauteng difficulties around provision of teachers and administration staff is a thing of the past. It depends on the effectiveness of the manager of the school in terms of submission. But in the NW schools have applied for such services from Department and no supply hence very poor management and administration of schools which resulted in misadministration of schools” SADTU, Carletonville branch, 2009 * “ it is publicly known and we have seen that on TV’s that school buildings are inadequately supplied. When in Gauteng, the process of renovating schools is running. Therefore it will not be a good idea to opt for NW at this time”   SADTU, Carletonville branch, 2009   * institutional and human development unit in Gauteng is very effective , proof thereof is: -effective teaching and learning observed, -less class boycotts and disruption of school, -conducive environment in schools i.e. well looked after gardens, -supply of computer centre/technology centres in many schools in Gauteng,-regular visit by education officials to school compared to North West, -regular visit by education officials to school compared to NW province, which is full of far apart school informed/caused by farmer rural school. SADTU, Carletonville branch, 2009 * “if statistics research can be conducted, surely it will prove that learners in GP access opportunities with regard to bursaries and or education funding compared to any other Province, which cannot be compared to NW education department. Recently, learners in our schools received uniform parcels/packages from social Welfare department in Gauteng west district, what about in the NW, Nothing is happening” SADTU, Carletonville branch (in 2009) * The salary advices for the permanent educators are forever late, +- two months delay , YCLSA in 2009 * The temporary educators are currently not being paid for a period of +- 5 months consecutively. YCLSA in 2009 * The NW government does not have a provision for temporary educators as opposed to the norm of Gauteng gov. YCLSA in 2009 * The support staff (admin, care takers) are not receiving salary advice for a period of +- 8 months let alone the actual salary. YCLSA in 2009 * The NW government does not have a plan in filing vacancies of educators, their turn around time for ling positions is +- 5 months * The NW government does not recognise the acting positions of educators, meaning that, whoever is acting does not get paid for the role he/she is occupying as opposed to the norm of Gauten. E.g. acting principals. YCLSA in 2009 * Working under threats. YCLSA in 2009 * APO- not having personal documents of educators, whereby it becomes a thumbs suck to determine the salary range in terms of the qualifications. YCLSA in 2009 * IQMS ( Integrated Quality Management Systems)– the NW government does not measure and reward the performance of the educators properly –because it still owes the educators the 3% performance bonuses and it still owes the educators 1% extra that was not paid due to the transition from GP to NW. YCLSA in 2009 * GP on line became discontinued as opposed to the agreement. YCLSA in 2009 * “the GP Government has had the programme to address the problems of child headed families, orphans and the needy learners, but with the NW government it is still in the inception and analysis phase” YCLSA in 2009 * Forceful integration has made our learners and youth very negative to learning, learning to these negative outcomes( high rate of pregnancy, abuse of drugs and substance, gangsterism, high rate of crime and violence, increasing rate of HIV/AIDS, gambling. YCLSA in 2009 * Forceful integration has led to security guards deployed in schools without informing the relevant school officials and this has resulted in direct conflicts with these securities and the learners, increased vandalism in schools, | * All schools in North west are lagging behind with information technology. Kokosi schools are without computers because they are poor. They cannot afford * “ a minority of Afrikaans speaking residents in the Merafong City areas make use of the tertiary education facilities of the North West University in Potchefstroom whilst the majority of non-Afrikaans speaking communities have to access the tertiary facilities of the universities of Johannesburg and the Witwatersrand . It is unlikely of such non-Afrikaans speaking sectors of society to make use of the Mafikeng campus of the North West University, accessibility and transport facilities become key”   **Source: Merafong City submission: view of the community of Wedela, Annexures**   * The MEC for education has introduced a nutritional programme for all schools in Gauteng and it is doubtful whether North West will have a similar programme on a sustainable basis * The distance between Merafong and Mafikeng, the administration centre, is a nightmare, whereas Gauteng provincial offices of education are accessible to us on daily basis   Submission by cosas 25 Nov 2005   * No North West online –no repairs on dead monitors (Phororong primary school) * Late arrival of salary advices(Phororong primary school) * Educator welfare not of priority (post traumatic stress) (Phororong primary school) |
| MPCC centre | Gauteng has an MPCC Center in Khutsong to provide services closer to the people | The NW government cannot afford to provide this centre to provide one stop government services of all the departments to the community |
| Bucket system | No bucket system in Khutsong. The premier of Gauteng committed himself to assist NW gov in this regard because he can afford to provide a service to the community | This system is still available in Kokosi because the NW cannot afford to eradicate it.  People from Foshville are not treated with dignity. |

1. **Social ties with Gauteng rather than North West**

“ residents of Merafong City regard themselves as being inseparably part of the West Rand and this social factor will not change by Man merely demarcating such societies to the North West Province. There is arguably no social fibre linkage between these areas and Ventersdorp, Lichtenburg, Mafikeng, Klerksdorp, or Rustenburg. A limited number of residents in Foshville could, however, argue that there is a linkage between themselves and Potchefstroom related to tertiary education, agriculture and medical care. The majority of Merafong residents in areas such as Wedela, Mining area, Carletonville town and Khutsong have close social ties with Soweto”

**Source: Merafong City submission: view of the community of Wedela, Annexures**

1. **Economic argument** 
   1. **long term socio-economic sustainability of the Merafong City**

NW will not be able to effectively deal with job losses and increasing levels of poverty in Merafong as a result of down scaling in the mining industry.

In the context of job losses, associated increasing levels of poverty, dolomitic challenge making it extremely difficult to establish industrial activity on a grand scale in order to curb job losses in the mining sector, the necessity to re-direct local economic development towards activities that will not be impeded by the risks of dolomite land such as intensive farming, “the question is to what extent the North West Province would be able to absorb such job losses into its provincial economic dynamics and to what extent the North West Province would provide the economic base or impetus for the survival of the communities of Merafong City?

**Source: Merafong City submission: view of the community of Wedela, Annexures**

“the material probability that the North West Province would not be able to provide a dynamic and empowering economic environment to counter the down-scaling of the mining sector and to absorb its impact in the long term is cause for grave concern.”

**Source: Merafong City submission: view of the community of Wedela, Annexures**

“ It must at this point in time be accepted that the City Region of Gauteng provides a far more feasible empowering economic environment to counter the steadily declining mining activities of the West Rand. It could be argued that the longer term socio-economic wellbeing of Merafong City in particular, could be seriously compromised by demarcating it to the North West Province. Both Merafong City could see a significant increase in poverty levels as well as resultant crime over the medium to longer term, should it be demarcated to the North West Province. Municipal service delivery in the Merafong City municipal areas could grind to a virtual halt”

**Source: Merafong City submission: view of the community of Wedela, Annexures**

1. **The dolomitic crisis can be better handled by Gauteng:**

“ it is known fact that approximately 27 000 households in Khutsong must urgently be relocated to safe land as a result of deteriorating geo-physical factors. This massive project which could cost in the region of R2bn must be undertaken in order to secure the safety of the Khutsong society but it is doubtful if the North West province has the resources to facilitate such an enormous project –giving rise to the possibility that the matter will not be addressed until disaster occurs”

**Source: Merafong City submission: view of the community of Wedela, Annexures**

1. **The Municipal demarcation board decided to leave Merafong in Gauteng, on which basis, parliament can decide the contrary?**

“the question to be answere is what different methodology would parliament use to determine whether the communities of Merafong prefers NW or Gauteng as the province in which parliament must demarcate them (Merafong communities) other than the same process that Demarcation Board except a technical argument that the board only demarcates Municipal boundaries and parliament demarcates provincial borders”

**Source: Merafong City submission: view of the community of Wedela, Annexures**

“ we would also want to draw your attention to the conclusions of the municipal demarcation board on 18 October 2005 that showed that the people of Merafong have spoken overwhelmingly against the incorporation into the North West province”

**Submission by cosas**

“The decision of the municipal demarcation board to withdraw its proposal and re-demarcate Merafong and Westonaria back to Gauteng on municipal boundary should be accepted by parliament”

**Khutsong/Carletonville Community submission**

1. **Historical argument**

“the town of Carletonville is historically part of the West Rand. Although, in particular Carletonville has historically been referred to as the Far West Rand, it was never referred to as being part of the “Western Transvaal” ( today largely comprising the North West Province). No demarcation argument would be able to nullify this historic fact. Since 1994/5 the West Rand forms an integral part of the Gauteng Province and the West Rand did not disappear after the demarcation of the Gauteng Province”

**Submissions by South African communist party district**

1. **Democracy based arguments**

* We are also told of non existence of democratic culture in North West schools and this will make life miserable for learners.

**Submission by cosas**

* We are further opposed to the process because it does not give us any substantive and compelling reasons as to why Merafong should go to North West as opposed to Gauteng province.

**Submission by cosas**

the fact that there are no reasons forwarded for the proposed move to North West is a clear indication of arrogance on the side of government and we strongly believe that the views of the people must be taken into account.

**Submission by cosas**

\* “Parliament should clearly define the role of the community on the matter that affects the community, particularly when the affected community has raised its views in a structural manner; it is not our interest on who demarcates what between Parliament and Demarcation board”

**Source: Merafong City submission: view of the community of Wedela, Annexures**

“If indeed democracy works on the basis of the majority view, the Merafong communities in their majority do not want to be incorporated into North West”

**Source: Merafong City submission: view of the community of Wedela, Annexures**

“The YCLSA Khutsong branch is not in any way prepared to accept any deviations from the WILL of the masses of Merafong. Our guiding revolutionary documents are very clear that “ THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN” not that the masses shall be guided to govern. According to the Greek Philosopher, “Democracy can’t be guided”” Young Communist League of South Africa submission, in 2009

1. **Numbers based argument (the majority lived in GP )**

“ It is unfair for the majority of the population to be compromised because of the few that makes Merafong a cross boundary municipality ”

Khutsong/Carletonville community submission

**Provincial boundaries have to be reconsidered…**

The idea that the problem goes beyond municipal boundaries… that provinces or provincial boundaries have to be reconsidered:

“ in order to ensure the viability of municipalities, it is not necessarily the boundaries of municipalities which are in need of being amended but provincial boundaries. Question could be asked why the Gauteng provincial boundaries could not be amended to include Foshville and Wedela in order to ensure an effective municipality and a developing district? Arguably the demarcation process should best commence with the reconsideration of provincial boundaries rather than cutting and pasting municipalities to fit into pre-determined politically dominated preferences”

**Source: Merafong City submission: view of the community of Wedela, Annexures**

“arguably government should rather seriously consider the number of provinces created, its socio-economic viability and the financial ability of South African Society to afford nine provincial structures. Such an assessment process could then be followed by the demarcation of municipalities”

**Source: Merafong City submission: view of the community of Wedela, Annexures**

“We also note that, leading up to where we are, many events have unfolded and in those processes the people and their voices were ignored. We are approaching this process positively, although cautious, and believing that this will be a fair, just, transparent, and genuine process of engagement with the people of Merafong”

**Submissions by South African communist party district**

“we are raising these questions guided by the recent history where the municipal Demarcation board (MDB) and Department of Provincial and Local government (DPLG) in August this year invited people’s comments around the process of demarcation. What shocked everybody was the reversal of such decision in less than 14 days. With those reasons the people have got every right to be suspicious of the processes because of such experiences”

**Submissions by South African communist party district**

“government has got a responsibility to ensure that the learning is continuing without interruption. The recent developments around the demarcation processes shows that our government has not been sensitive to the above reality and that people are taken for granted” **Congress of South African students (cosas), 25 Nov 2005**

During the amalgamation process, Foshville and Wedela submitted that they should be attached to Carletonville TLC. The processes of Municipal Facilitation Committee: delimitation of municipal boundaries before 2000 elections… “ if we are serious with our communities, Wedela and Fochville can’t demand to be part of Carletonville TLC (which is in Gauteng) in 2000 and in 2005 want to be part of North West, then it becomes clear that they do not know what they want”

**Submissions by Khutsong/Carletonville community**

“It should be emphasised that the legislation should not be about population compensation nor political will of individual politicians, but the key elements should be: socio-economic realities, economic considerations, geo-physical considerations, symbiotic considerations.”

**Submissions by Khutsong/Carletonville community**

“ Both the ANC and ANCYL locally has differed with the community of Khutsong by supporting and gearing the progress of incorporating Merafong into the North West province which led to a loss of confidence towards the structure. The ANC Gauteng branch manual under conduct of BEC members clearly states “when the leaders are faced with a difficult decision, they always put the interests of the community first, then the interests of their organisation and only then the interests of individual leaders or members” YCLSA in 2009

1. Khutsong 'a forced removal', http://www.news24.com/News24/South\_Africa/Politics/0,,2-7-12\_1850222,00.html [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Jeremy Gordon, Khutsong: “we are not going to go away”, Sunday Independent, May 20, 2007 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)