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Youth Politics: The Political Role of AZANYU in the Struggle for Liberation: The Case of AZANYU Thembisa branch, 1980s to 1996.

Moloi, Tshepo Cyril

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Youth Politics: The Political Role of AZANYU in the Struggle for Liberation: The Case of AZANYU Tembisa branch, 1980s to 1996.

Tshepo Cyril Moloi

A research report submitted to the Graduate School for the Humanities and Social Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts.

Johannesburg, 2005

Abstract

The overriding theme of this research report is 'youth politics' in South Africa in the 1980s and early 1990s. The report explores the role played by the Africanist youth organization, the Azanian National Youth Unity (AZANYU), in the struggle for liberation. It further examines its response to the transition period which took place in the country in the early 1990s.

The report explores in particular the role played by the AZANYU Tembisa branch in the struggle. It contends that this branch adopted a militaristic approach in its fight for liberation. And this prohibited it from participating in the local politics mounted by the Tembisa residents. Instead it focused on national politics. The report further illustrates how youth politics were introduced and sustained in Tembisa over a period of time from the early 1970s.

Declaration

I declare that this research report is my unaided work. It is submitted for the degree of Master of Arts in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any other degree or examination in any other university.

Tshepo Cyril Moloi

---------- day of ----------, 2005

Dedication

This research report is dedicated to all the youth of South Africa who took a stand and said ‘No to Apartheid’.

Acknowledgments

The completion of this research report would not have been possible without the assistance, support, encouragement, criticism and intellectual guidance of numerous individuals. First, I would particularly like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor and mentor, Prof. Phil Bonner, who patiently and unselfishly provided me with intellectual guidance in the course of my field work, and later in the writing phase of the report. I am also thankful to him for forcing my hand to search for more information on my topic when I had lost hope that I would uncover any. Prof. thank you for teaching me never to loose hope!

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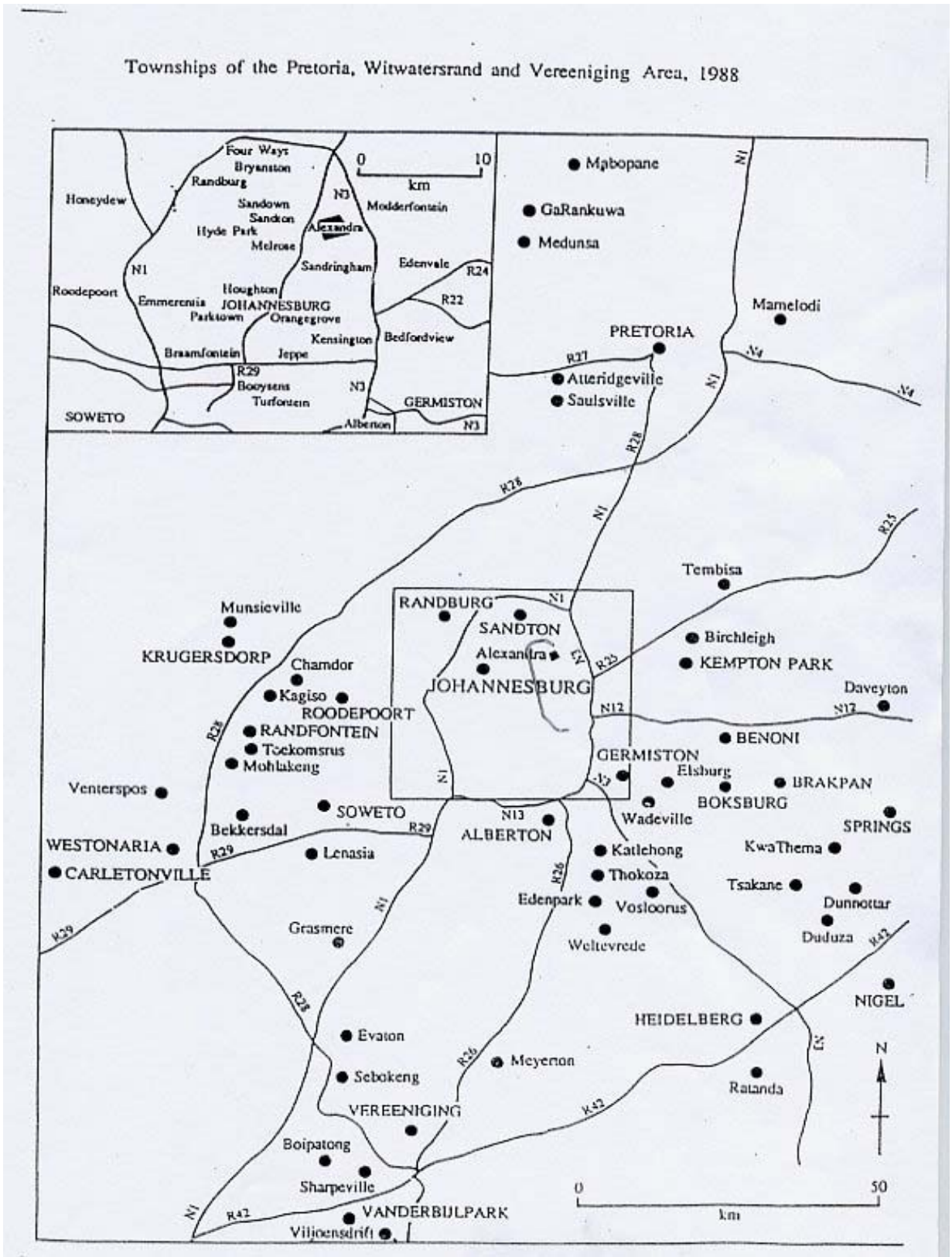

* Carter, C 'Comrades and Community'

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