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**COMPARATIVE CONCERNS
REGARDING THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS
IN NEW ZEALAND AND SOUTH
AFRICA**

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GOAL

to analyze from a comparative perspective two administrative systems, one from New Zealand and the other from South Africa, to identify the particularities in their organization and the way of functioning and to determine the similarities and differences between them.

Specific objectives:

- **O₁** : specifying the identification data for the two considered states
- **O₂** : describing the administrative divisions existing in the territory of the two states
- **O₃** : explaining the managing authorities organization which operates in the two states
- **O₄** : exposing, from a parallel perspective, some essential comparative variables of the administrative systems in the studied states.

IDENTIFICATION DATA OF THE STATES OF NEW ZEALAND AND SOUTH AFRICA

Geographical location

- ***New Zealand.*** Oceania, an island country located in the southwest of the Pacific Ocean, southeast of Australia. It is a state made up of two large islands (North Island and South Island), separated by the Cook Strait and also some other small islands (of which Stewart Island is the most important).
- ***South Africa.*** Located on the southern tip of the continent of Africa, it is adjacent to Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe. It opens to the Atlantic and Indian Ocean.



a)



b)

**Location of states New Zealand (a)
and South Africa (b)**



**The flags of New Zealand
and South Africa**

Flag

- *New Zealand.* The roots of the current New Zealand flag can be found in the "United Kingdom's Colonial Naval Defense Act, 1865 - The Victoria Gunboats", which ruled that all ships owned by a colonial government must carry the British flag with the emblem colony on it. New Zealand at that time did not have an official emblem and so it only flew the British flag without a distinctive emblem.
- In 1867, the colonial government established that the abbreviation "NZ" written in red letters and having a white border represented the colony's emblem, which was displayed on the flag established by the law of 1865. In 1869 this emblem was replaced with the symbol of the Southern Cross, consisting of four stars with white edges.

- ***South Africa.*** The flag raised on April 27, 1994 was a compromise in terms of design and colors, meant to represent and ensure all segments of the population. Designed by the herald of the state Frederick Brownell, it has as its main symbol the letter Y which symbolizes the "convergence of paths", merging the history and the present political realities in a common decision to create a united and prosperous future.
- The flag is unique by combining six colors. Traditional flags had two or three colors, and some modern flags contained four or five colors. The colors of the flag could be related to various groups. For example red-white-blue for English and Dutch, green for Muslims, black-green-yellow for African National Congress (ANC) supporters, red-white-black-green-yellow for Zulu tribes. Intentionally, however, and unlike most other modern national flags, the flag design for South Africa explicitly avoids any color symbolic association, as this was considered a way of creating conflict. The flag, originally intended to be temporary, was adopted by the 1996 constitution as permanent, decision that was made following the people's request.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION OF NEW ZEALAND AND SOUTH AFRICA STATES

Coat of Arms

- ***New Zealand.*** At the top left of the shield are four stars representing the Southern Cross followed by three ships symbolizing the importance of New Zealand sea trade. Immediately on the right the fleece is the symbol of the agricultural industry. The wheat on the bottom left represents the agricultural industry, and the cross hammers represent mining.
- The guards on both sides of the shield are represented by a Maori commander holding a taiaha (a Maori war weapon) and a European woman holding the New Zealand flag. The St Edward's Crown, located above the shield, was used at the coronation ceremony of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The crown symbolizes His Majesty as Queen of New Zealand under the 1953 New Zealand Royal Titles Act.



**The coat of arms of the states
New Zealand (a) and South Africa (b)**

- ***South Africa.*** The coat of arms is represented by a series of elements organized in distinct oval shapes, placed on top of each other:
- The lower part: the elements of Foundation; The first element is the Motto, in a green semicircle. To complete the semicircle, two pairs of elephant ivory are positioned symmetrically, facing up. Centrally located is a gold shield flanked by two ears of wheat. The shape of the shield refers to a drum and contains two human figures belonging to Khoisan stone art. They are facing each other greeting themselves, representing unity. Above the shield there are placed a spear and a traditional African weapon (knobkierie). These elements are arranged harmoniously to emphasize the shield and to complete the lower oval shape.
- The upper part: the elements of the Ascendancy; Immediately above the inferior oval shape, there is the central element of the coat of arms, a flower specific to the South African area (protea). The petals of the protea are rendered in a triangular pattern reminiscent of African crafts. Above the flower the secretary bird is rising. The bird stands with its wings raised in a regal and uplifting gesture. The distinctive feathers that crown its head give it a strong and watchful appearance. Located between the two wings, there is an image of a sun rising above the horizon, completing the oval shape of the ascendancy.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION OF NEW ZEALAND AND SOUTH AFRICA STATES

- ***New Zealand.*** Is divided in:
- **11 non-unitary regions:** Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, Manawatu-Wanganui, Wellington, West Coast, Canterbury, Otago, Southland
- **5 unitary regions:** Auckland, Gisborne, Tasman, Nelson, Marlborough
- **1 territory:** Chatham Islands
- The New Zealand realm also includes: Outlying Islands, Tokelau (territory with no-self administration according to ONU), Ross Dependency (Antarctic area dependent on New Zealand), Cook Islands (independent islands associated with New Zealand), Niue (independent islands associated with New Zealand).



The regions of New Zealand

- The eleven unitary regions are administered by regional councils (upper level of local administration). The other five are administered by unitary authorities, which are territorial (second level of local government) and also perform the functions of regional councils.
- The regional authorities are mainly responsible for the management of the environment, the coast, rivers and lakes, regional land management, regional transport (including public transport) and ports and biosecurity.
- The territorial authorities are responsible for the management of the local land (urban and rural); the network utility services such as water, sewerage, stormwater and solid trash management; local roads; libraries; parks and reserves; community development.
- Non-unitary regions are divided into cities and districts.

- ***South Africa.*** It is divided into **9 provinces:** Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, Kwazulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West, Northern Cape, Western Cape.
- The 9 provinces are divided into **52 districts: 8 metropolitan municipalities and 44 districts.** The districts are further subdivided into **local municipalities.**



The provinces of South Africa

- South Africa has three levels of government: national, provincial, local.
- At the national level there is the National Council of Provinces, one of the Houses of Parliament.
- Each of the nine provinces is governed by a unicameral legislature. It elects a prime minister as head of government, and the prime minister appoints an executive council as a provincial cabinet. The powers of the provincial governments are limited to the topics listed in the Constitution; these topics include areas such as health, education, public housing and transportation.

ORGANIZATION OF THE LEADING AUTHORITIES IN NEW ZEALAND AND SOUTH AFRICA

- *New Zealand* is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary democracy.
- Elizabeth II is the queen of New Zealand and thus the head of state. The queen is represented by the general governor, whom she appoints at the advice of the prime minister. The general governor can exercise the prerogative powers of the Crown, such as reviewing cases of injustice and appointing ministers, ambassadors and other key civil servants. In exceptional circumstances he can dissolve the Parliament or refuse a bill.
- The New Zealand Parliament holds the legislative power and is composed of the Queen and the House of Representatives.
- The supremacy of parliament over the Crown and other government institutions was established in England by the Bill of Rights in 1689 and was ratified as a law in New Zealand.

- The general governor appoints ministers on the advice of the prime minister.
- The cabinet, consisting of ministers and lead by the prime minister, is the highest organism responsible with the elaboration of government policies and also deciding significant government actions.
- The judicial system of New Zealand, led by the President of the Supreme Court, includes:
 - The Supreme Court
 - Court of Appeal
 - High Court and the subordinate courts
- Judges and judicial officers are appointed apolitically and in accordance with strict rules regarding the mandate to help maintain judicial independence.

- ***South Africa*** is a representative parliamentary democratic republic.
- The president of South Africa is both Head of State and Government.
- The President is elected by the National Assembly (the lower chamber of the South African Parliament) and he must maintain the confidence of the Assembly.
- South Africans elect provincial legislatures that govern each of the country's nine provinces.
- The legislative power is attributed to both the government and the two chambers of the Parliament, the Provincial Council and the National Assembly.
- The government has three levels with representatives being elected at national, provincial and local levels.

- National, provincial and local governments have all legislative and executive authorities within their own sphere of action and are defined in the South African Constitution as „distinctive, interdependent and interrelated”.
- Provincial governments in the provinces of South Africa have their own executive and legislative branches, but not separate judicial systems.
- South African local governments consist of different types of municipalities.
- Regarding the judicial system,. there are four major levels of courts:
 - The Magistrates’ court
 - High Court
 - Supreme Court of Appeal
 - Constitutional Court.

INSTEAD OF CONCLUSIONS. PARALLEL COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS IN THE STATES OF NEW ZEALAND AND SOUTH AFRICA

Based on those mentioned in the previous pages, we can formulate a summarize table which presents the administrative system of the two considerate states:

Criteria	New Zealand	South Africa
Surface	268.107 km ²	1.220.813 km ²
Population	4.889.000	57.142.000
Geographic position	Oceania, an island country located in the southwest of the Pacific Ocean, southeast of Australia. It is a state made up of two large islands (North Island and South Island), separated by the Cook Strait and also some other small islands (the most important being Stewart Island)	located on the southern tip of the continent of Africa, it is adjacent to Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe. It opens to the Atlantic and Indian Ocean.
Political system	constitutional monarchy	parliamentary republic
Administrative division	11 non-unitary regions; 5 unitary regions; 1 territory	9 provinces divided in 52 districts: 8 metropolitan municipalities and 44 districts; districts are also subdivided into local municipalities
Administrative authorities	The eleven non-unitary regions are administered by regional councils (upper level of local administration); the other five are administered by unitary authorities, which are territorial (second level of local government) and they also perform the functions of regional councils	The government has three levels: national, provincial and local; national, provincial and local governments have all legislative and executive authorities within their own sphere of action and are defined in the South African Constitution as „distinctive, interdependent and interrelated”

