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OCRP

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Report

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We have thus far been able to return into the country 750 exiles, however, groups of tenutrickle into the country weekly on their own accord. This is due to the structural fragmentation taking place externally. It must be noted that :this factor is having serious consequences on organised repatriation. Many exiles have returned via the Transkei where there is not much insistence of indemnity. Presently there would be approximately 1,800 returnees inside the country. This would be to the exclusion of the Dukwe Group, whose political affiliation has in most cases not yet been properly clarified.

8.200 indemnitiee have been granted, and approximately 56 being reconsidered after initial rejection. It must be noted that many exiles have as yet not filled in indemnity forms. whilst others'e forms have been returned because they have been incorrectly.proceeed.

OCRPE has in addition assumed the function of responsibility for the lot of ex-political prisoners, the majority of whom are former exiles. Due to the limitations of resources we have thus far been unable to provide them with any monetary aesiatance.'

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Each

returning exile adult as upon arrival receives a settling allowance of R2,225 fro OCRPE. Provision 13 also made for the following by OCRPE:-

ah allowance for medical aid for the chronically ill.

Of the 750 who have been repatriated. there are 30 returnees who need regular medical attention. This number will

rise up to 1000 by the time the programme is completed.

We have not been able to secure funds for the pre-school. primary and secondary level schooling.

Rental provision is already being provided since there are already 50 persons anon; returnees with no prospect for immediate or poaeible alternative accommodation.

OCRPE

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'iroides transport from point of entry to ctive destination of each returnee.

njunction to the Legal Department we -assist with_3he ning oi.-paesgorts, birth certificates and draftihz fidavits for re-registration of essential documents.

CHARACIEBISIIE_BBQBLEMS

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Although only 750 egiles have reuturned as part of our organised repatriation proceee, notable features characterising returnees are:-

they are both urban (90%) and rural (10%) and represent a cross section of our community. skilled (40%) and unskilled (60%)

a significant section will be totally destitute
(10%)

i.e. homeless with only the ANC as a source of support.

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Returnees have often been arrested at the Airport (Jan Smuts) by security branch members. Although this has subsided. -

Returnees are harassed by both Security Police and Inkatha. 2 have been killed since returning.

Returnees have to undergo long process of interrogation and interviews in order to obtain documents with which they cannot undertake any employment or enter any contract necessary for ordinary citizens.

Besides R2,225 that they receive as a settlement allowance and R300 for NCCR (National Coordinating Committee for the Returnees) there is nothing else that we can provide. Those especially affected are the unskilled.

South African Companies have demonstrated a clear prejudice towards returnees with East European qualifications, even though these have received re-orientation in Western European Countries.

Children of the returnees have been the most seriously affected. We are unable to provide guaranteed schooling for a significant period. Debarring the problems of adjustment being that most (especially primary school children) need to be

tutored in Afrikaans.

The VState' of Public Education offers very little prospect for the ,children who- otherwise .have limitless potential.

Many of the_ older generation return to dispersed family unit with no prospect (economically) of accepting additional burdens. They thus, in the absence of a viabae alternative, have to be passed. from 099 temporary accommodation to another.

Whilst there is a limited financial provision for health care for some of our chronic cases this is presently very ineufficient.

We have overall more than 600 psychiatric cases. Institutionalising them in Government Hospitals will only aggravate the situation. There are also characteristic exiles cases of hypertension, ulcers and sugar diabetics commonly found amongst the old and dependent returnees.

When, in particular, the rural returnees reintegrates into the local environment,- he/she loses contact with the main centers of activity (urban areas) and thus lacks resourcee for contact/communication maintenance.

Housing, the main springboard for all activity essential to effective reintegration is singularly the moat plague ridden necessity unavailable to up to 90% of returnees. We in the QCRPE place accommodation as a priority in ensuring stability for returning exiles. The most affected individuals are amongst the elderly.

UNHCRLELJNXQLYEMENI

The South African Government is in the throes of making a decision on the future involvement of the UNHCR in the repatriation process. which ever way the decision goes. it has obvious implications of the continuation of the programme. UNHCR stated clearly that it would require a three months preparatory period before it is ready to commence repatriation. Having begun repatriating. we obviously cannot halt the process in-between since this could have consequences for our institutions outside the country. Demand by UNHCR for General Amnesty would have to be contextualised within the present movements agreement with the Government. since some of the details are not in keeping with UNHCR policy positions. UNHCR's participations will generate funds from sympathetic countries which will provide impetus to our present sluggish exercise. This is the additional reason for the limited ability of the NCCR to provide material assistance. NCCR is the adopted internal implementing

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organ of the UNHCR.

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We placed a lot of emphasis on the role the NCCR would play in development and reintegration. However, already with the trickle (750) that has arrived it is certain that to a large degree NCCR is unable to fulfil that function:' Some of the reasons for its failure are the following:-

1. Lack of clarity on the future role of the UNHCR, and the resultant financial constraints.
2. NCCR structural domination by volunteers which leads to ineffectiveness and lack of accountability.
3. The nature of the NCCR's composition is such that special attention cannot be focused on ANC returnees and this results in our cadres looking upon an all and above ANC solution for their problems.
4. Beyond the R300 provided to each returnee NCCR has effectively not been able to provide any other service.
5. Its (NCCR) short life expectancy 12 months as the UNHCR internal implementing body does not make

provision for it to be able to oversee the long term development assistance so crucial for potential solutions to teturnees' problems. Hence our (ANCie) insistence that there be a transparency clause in donor policy. We will be thus able to canvas for funds directly geared towards long-terwr-proaecter-NCCR will act as conduit to channel funds for this purpose.

6. At the Chief Admmministrative Level of the NCCR there have emerged chronic problems which may.grind the entire repatriation program to a halt. We have addressed a memorandum to the NCCR executive to arrest these problems since they presently militate against the very sound principles on which it was established; see Annexure 1. Then at the level of the NCCR transparency clause we have been unable to envoke it due to the latter related problems.

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In as much as the movement has been to a large able to provide for the material and social well being of its cadres in exiles, the have been negative results which are today militating against our endeavour to reintegrate our people into the community. The dependency tendency has embedded itself and created formidable opsticles in our path. Coupled with the low skill level and

uncertainty. additional pressure is being pieced on the movement and the department (OCRPE) to provide tangible solution for the transitory exile. -

When in addition consideration is given to the extent-of economic and political polarisation. in the country the frightening prospect for a returned exile. unemployed. without housing. with dependent: unassisted, yet skilled only in weapons this, is an additional ingredient to an already highly charged situation. Most "cadres (60%) have no previous history of employment. Development programmes must not ensue after the exiles have returned but must take place simultaneous or in conjunction with his homecoming. This would involve career guidance and skill census preparation at the pre-repatriation points (i.e. Zambia and Tanzania). If development programmes are to succeed then, they must provide the following:

(3) Whilst providing employment they should ensure developmental training especially in intermediary skills.

(b) Be community based.

(c) Guarantee high standard of management.

(d) Utilize as much local resources as possible (experience already pooled by community and civic projects undertaken in both urban and rural areas).

Various appeals have been made either through the NCCR or independently for the material and technical assistance. These have received varying support. But on the whole it can be said that big business response is favourable. However, and because of different interests by several sections for one or other reasons a uniform approach to business houses is still an illusion. It would be important that in the first instance various departments of the ANC strategise overall singular approach to development assistance for returnees. We have not been able to as yet sufficiently involve the community in repatriation. '

EMELQXMENTI

The employment office have # - 400 people who have registered for Jobs. About 340 are in administrative personal profile forms while the other 60 has already been compiled into CV's. The employment consultant has already visited Cape Town with the aim of assessing employment opportunities in the region and consultation on co-ordination of efforts. Meetings were conducted with community organisations on potential job opportunities as well as with NUS on its returnees programme.

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Similar visits will have to be conducted to other regions. The office has been conducting a series of meetings with companies to concretise agreements already made at leadership levels. The prospects so far are good. A lot of ground has been prepared for the work to be made in enhancing the administrative capacity of the office, especially as more people come when repatriation is resumed. The report will give a picture of the work done. then r,t

A number of offers have come as a result of negotiations between the ANC and business companies. We have received offers from the following companies:-

TRANSNET: We have received a very positive response from this company. Out of 40 CV's handed to the company, about 12 people have been placed. Consultations and deliberations are ongoing. Both skilled and non skilled people are being considered.

PERM: Perm has offered to take University dropouts, Community Accounting graduates, or people with financial and banking experience. Three people have been placed on this programme. A recent offer made is for 13 people from around the country to be trained as branch managers. We have responded with 15 CV's.

1820 SETTLERS: This is a new offer and no follow out has been made yet. - ,

SOUTHERN LIFE: The company need marketing agents with own transport.

MERCEDES BENZ? this offer is for qualified people in mechanics, mechanical and electrical engineering. NTC or NT diploma certificates. Awaiting response: Training will also be given. '

CBM: CBM preffers to deal with non political groups like the NCCR. We have decided to target individual companies subscribing to CBM. with promising response.

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Agreements for training have been concluded with CECS, Zakheni and Wits Business -School. The project aim to train -people-'in marketable skills to increase their employment opportunities and placement with companies. In other'cases there are upgrading courses. Sixty percent of returnees would need to be provided with basic' skilled training since the level of formal education is very'low. Their educational needs could be categorised as follows:-

7 i). Pre-Schooling ' .. T W i ,
 (11). Primary and Secondary Schooling ' . 1. 7 .
 (iii) Tertiary : The movement is today in the grips of evolving a housing
 - - e policy. Exiles are of course immediately implicated by
 (iv) Vocational Training ' . 1 v T ' therefore. Until such time that this immediate primary
 (V) Adult Education ' heedn is satisfied. returned face overwhelming
 ' constraints characterising this problem:-
 It has become abundantly clear to all and sundry that the
 process of returnees reintegration has not received the (a) availability of serviced land
 and access to
 serious attention that it deserves. One of the main financial assistance
 factors influencing the whole process of reintegration is . - -
 finance which we are still seriously lacking. ' the housing backlog of 850,000 units in
 the urban
 ' ' areas. 1 When considering the above-mentioned
 . - operational basis of the UNHCR as a repatriation
 SIBHCIDRE agency it is clear that we face tremendous obstacles
 ' .. - in terms of developing effective long-term projects
 To address the issue of education for returnees. The to house all returnees.
 following structures has been set up.
 National Education Task force. it comprises of members of 9. EBQJEQIS
 the regional NCCR structures. OCRPE, and Educationist in - v V
 the PWV region. This above structure is however stillborn Various projects options in relation
 to community based
 hence the repatriation education desk is faced with this organisations are being examined
 . Some are already taking
 gigantic task of educational reintegration. off. donor financial and practical assistance
 e will be
 - 1 vital for their progression.
 We have successfully negotiated school premises for the " transfer of SOMAFCO STUDENTS since our institution there
 has been forced to close down due to financial CQHQLQSIQH constraints. The school will be ready by the 15 July 4 ' 1991;
 See Annexure-z meeting with Government on School. - We. appeal to the conference to
 ensure support for this very
 difficult undertaking and wish to emphasise the need for
 common approach at all levels of the movement.
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 An access-course has been negotiated for with Peninsula 1
 Tech and is due to start in July. It can accommodate 400 JS/em
 students in the following faculties i.e. Commerce. 27 JUNE 1991
 Computing Science and Art and Design.
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 The industrial board through South African Development
 Bank provides training at a regional level. Short courses
 are available in the various fields ranging from 1 day to
 9 months. .
 To meet our informational requirements as well as to
 facilitate through planning and correct orientation of
 returnees a career tour will be planned. Funding will be
 provided through Inter Fund. see proposal Annexure Career
 Guidance Tour.
 The career guidance tour will take place in Tanzania and
 Lusaka. The methodology of accomplishing this task will
 be through workshops presentation and counselling: see
 Annexure 9n Career Guidance Tour.
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