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AUSTRALIAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE  
ANC DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, TANZANIA  
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Project Proposal Submitted by:  
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## PROJECT SETTING

### Proposal History

In April 1989, the Overseas Service Bureau (OSB) was requested by the African National Congress (ANC) to place Australian volunteer development workers at the ANC Development Centre at Dakawa, in Central Tanzania. This Centre is being built on 2,800 hectares of land donated to the ANC by the Tanzanian Government in 1982 and was created as a reception centre for newly arrived South African refugees.

The settlement has developed not only as a place of refuge, but as an integrated community, incorporating agricultural and technical production activities where residents can learn technical and vocational skills. This emphasis on skills training has become even more relevant due to the recent political changes which have been taking place in South Africa. The Centre is currently in a stage of transition, moving further away from social welfare provision, towards equipping its exiled black South African population with appropriate skills to assist them in re-establishing their lives back in their homeland.

Originally it was expected that Dakawa would comprise ten villages, accommodating a total of 5,000 people. However, due to the changes taking place within South Africa, the building program has been revised. It is now anticipated that only five villages will be built and that the population will be around 2,500.

To date, there are approximately 1,000 people in the settlement living in two villages. The population is very transitory due to the disarming of the ANC army and the fact that many young people are coming to Dakawa in search of scholarships in preparation for their return to South Africa.

Financial and technical assistance is currently being provided by a range of other foreign organisations including Norad, Norwegian People's Aid, the Danish Volunteer Service and VSO (UK).

In February 1991 a conference of Donors to the African National Congress was held which endorsed the necessity to maintain the education and training of South Africans outside their own country, because the situation is so unpredictable.

#### Community Priorities and Local Perspective

The priority focus for Dakawa is education. Long years of exile have seriously disrupted the formal schooling programs of those now living in the settlement, and left them unqualified to secure adequate employment to provide for their families. The plan is for Dakawa to ultimately cater for the educational needs of 500 primary school students, 200 secondary students and 200 vocational students.

The second major area of focus is agriculture. The ANC considers that it is essential that those living at Dakawa grow adequate crops and raise sufficient livestock to make the Centre self-sufficient. In so doing it is hoped that residents will also acquire appropriate skills which will have a long-term benefit. A third area of focus is in construction and skills transfer in building activities. There is considerable work still to be done in developing the infrastructure of the Centre to adequately accommodate the growing population and provide the necessary facilities for education and training.

Due to the severe shortage of skilled professional and technical personnel within the existing settlement, the ANC has requested OSB to provide long-term Australian expertise particularly in the areas of education and construction to assist in the development of the Centre.\_

#### Analysis of Constraints

The major constraint currently facing the ANC in developing the Dakawa Centre is lack of skilled personnel. By providing Australian technical assistance in the areas of education and construction, OSB will be contributing towards overcoming this problem.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project fits well with the guidelines for the SAPSA program:

- a) the activity has a clear Australian identity and is a practical way of expressing Australia's solidarity with the victims of apartheid
- b) it aims to help prepare disadvantaged black South African exiles for return to their homeland

C1)

it meets the current humanitarian needs caused by apartheid ie. lack of adequate and appropriate education and training  
by providing Australian personnel who will live and work alongside South African exiles for two year terms it will increase Australia's awareness of the problems facing those who are in a transition stage, from being refugees to now being in the process of preparing to return to their homeland

#### Project Objectives

The overall purpose of this project is to provide technical assistance to the ANC in developing the Dakawa Centre and training the resident population. Specific Objectives include:

- a)
- b)
- d)

to provide Australian technical assistance in the area of education, by placing a curriculum development advisor at the Dakawa Centre for a two year period to assist the Vocational Training Centre in upgrading and standardising their current curriculum

to provide Australian technical assistance in construction activities and training at the Dakawa Centre for a two year period

to provide an opportunity for two Australians to live and work alongside black South Africans in exile learning from them something of their current situation as they prepare to return to their homeland

to provide an opportunity for Australians to work alongside one of the emerging political forces in a new South Africa

#### Proposed Activities, Outputs and Inputs

Proposed activities of this project are:

- a)

OSB will provide:

- i) a person experienced in curriculum development to work at the Vocational Training Centre in the period January 1991 - December 1992
- ii) a person skilled in construction to work at the Dakawa Centre in the period October 1991 - September 1993

b) OSB will closely monitor the above two placements and assess the ongoing situation within the settlement giving reference to the effect of changes taking place within South Africa on the resident community.

It is difficult to quantify the specific outputs which will result from this activity, however it is expected that there will be:

a) increased potential for employment of young South Africans completing the Vocational Training Centre Course

b) increased level of skills in the construction and trade areas by providing experienced and qualified technical assistance to specific units at Dakawa

c) increased awareness of the two Australians concerning the problems facing the Dakawa population during this transitional stage

d) feedback to the wider Australian community concerning the situation of black South Africans currently in exile

Budget

See Appendix A

Implementation Arrangements and Institutional Capacity

The agency responsible for implementing the project in Tanzania will be the African National Congress via the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College (SOMAFCO) in Tanzania. The Overseas Service Bureau will recruit, brief, place and support two Australian technical assistance personnel for this project. OSB will also be responsible for acquitting AIDAB funds for this activity and providing narrative reports to AIDAB on a six monthly basis.

The Overseas Service Bureau has conducted a voluntary technical assistance program since 1964. The first Australian technical assistance personnel were sent to Tanzania during that same year under the Australian Volunteers Abroad program.

Currently there are some 250 OSB technical assistance personnel on assignment in over 30 countries throughout Asia, Africa and the Pacific. During 1989-90, OSB supported a program of more than 270 Australians working in some 29 countries. Between April 1987 and December 1990 OSB managed the Namibian Refugee School Project at Loudima in Congo.

## BENEFITS AND JUSTIFICATION

### Identification of Beneficiaries

The people who will benefit most directly from this project will be the black South Africans currently in exile at the Dakawa Development Centre.

It is expected that the people who will benefit most will be the youth (12-30 years) whose education and skills training has been severely disrupted due to the apartheid system and the need for them to fight in the liberation forces. The ANC is conscious of the need to encourage young people, both male and female, who have been living for many years on handouts from the welfare system, to learn practical skills and trades which will be of long term benefit when they return to South Africa.

Australian personnel placed via this project will benefit greatly from the opportunity of working alongside black South Africans in transition to returning to their own country. The knowledge acquired will be shared back with the wider Australian community on their return.

This project provides an opportunity for black and white people to work together. For many of the residents at Dakawa, this may be the first time they will have lived and worked alongside a white person and will therefore be an important step in their transition back into a liberated South Africa.

### Impact and Sustainability

The major impact of this activity will be that Australia will be supporting black South Africans in their transition to a free and democratic South Africa. The assistance provided by OSB via the two Australians working in the areas of education and construction will assist the ANC in achieving its goal of developing the Dakawa Centre and providing training opportunities for the community particularly the youth.

Two villages and a Vocational Training Centre have already been built at the Development Centre and some agricultural activities and small industries have commenced. It is expected that the ANC will continue to work towards the establishment of the Centre and its buildings and that the current population at Dakawa will increase.

It is expected that Dakawa will continue to operate as a training centre following the return of all exiled black South Africans to their homeland. It is being built, not only to house a transient population, but also as a sustainable settlement which will be of long-term benefit to the people of Tanzania.

### Project Viability and Risks

The OSB has assessed this project as viable. There is no shortage of skilled professional and trades people applying to the OSB program of voluntary technical assistance and applicants are eager to be assigned to projects where skills transfer is a focus. The Government of Tanzania is particularly supportive of the ANC and its objectives and will continue to provide appropriate assistance in maintaining the Dakawa Centre.

The overall project is well funded, receiving assistance from many countries, including Norway, UK, Sweden and Finland. Future financial support is assured as indicated in 1.1.

While Dakawa is a highly sustainable settlement, there are political implications for both the short and long term which may be destabilising. Although there is less military risk to the exiled population in Tanzania today than in recent years, there are personal security issues which need to be addressed. The OSB will closely monitor these risks both during field visits and via regular communication with the Australian personnel and other organisations working in this area.