

UNIT 4

EDC RODNEY PAUL

MCH911-42-7-8

DRAFT.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE OUTGOING R.P.C.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - JUNE 1981.

Comrades,

The presentation of this report is no accident.

As a result of intense work over a period of eighteen months we have achieved the position in which we have proper structures in the Region and a membership organised in such a way that a Report setting out successes and failures becomes both opportune and necessary. The time has also arrived to fulfil our promise to hold democratic elections for the office-bearers of the region. This report therefore serves as a statement to the membership about the past and the basis of a discussion about the future.

The function of the RPC is to organise the ANC members living and working in this area into a coherent and dynamic community capable of furthering the objectives of the organisation in the concrete situation in which we find ourselves. We collaborate with and support the ANC Representation in the area, and act as the link between the membership and the NEC in Lusaka.

The first RPC in this area was composed of trusted comrades with considerable experience of work for the organisation in most diverse conditions. However, they were so heavily committed to other tasks that the RPC never really got off the ground. The other problem was that the specific functions of the RPC were not articulated in such a way as to establish what lay inside and what lay outside its sphere of action. Thus, the outlines of the the RPC were blurred, while persons responsible for giving a lead were so overburdened with other commitments that they could not do justice to their RPC work.

The breakthrough came about eighteen months ago when, in the course of a general re-structuring in the area, a clearer definition of functions was established and the RPC committee was re-constituted out of persons with sufficient time to make RPC work a primary responsibility of theirs.

This report is therefore essentially the report of the committee established at that stage. Looking back, we can take satisfaction in the following achievements:

In the first place, we established a strong sense of comradeship and collective working amongst ourselves. All members took part in the discussion of difficult matters, and wherever possible we arrived at a consensus; where this was not possible, we took a vote and passed on to the next question. Something important to the effective functioning of the committee was that once the vote was taken, the minority submitted to the majority view.

Secondly, we kept proper minutes, attributed both general and specific tasks to the members, and checked up that each had complied with responsibilities entrusted to him or her. Where we worked well, the basis was always the effective division of tasks within an overall collective. Where we failed, the reason was almost invariably that someone was acting alone, taking subjective decisions outside the context of planned and supervised work.

Next, we succeeded in blending a wide range of experiences and backgrounds into a coherent whole. On the committee we had veterans of decades of struggle working together with others only recently in the organisation; our cultural backgrounds and personalities differed greatly; yet this diversity proved to be a strength rather than a weakness, since, within a framework of political unity and comradeship, we were able to draw upon and make rich use of the varied experiences, interests and enthusiasms of the different comrades.

We also made considerable progress in establishing and organising different structures capable of organising the membership in terms of their special needs and capacities.

The first group of this kind was the Women's Section, that set a good example of how it is possible to have a strong internal life in a partially autonomous group, and yet work firmly within the overall context of a united organisation. The Women's Section has in fact been one of the main pillars of the RPC in this area, setting good standards of political discussion, internal discipline, and practical work; at the same time, it has worked well with its sister Mozambican organisation the O.M.M. Linked with the advances made by the Women's Section has been the development of well-organised and lively Pioneers group.

Credit must go to the cadres entrusted with their organisation, as well as to the Pioneers themselves, for the discipline, comradeship and vitality they have shown. Our Pioneers are not strugglers who have to be looked after somehow until they grow up, they are intelligent, spirited and disciplined participants in the struggle, preparing themselves to be future cadres of the liberation movement and builders of a free South Africa. Next, we have seen the sudden and impressive growth of a Youth Section, which has got itself well organised with its own internal structures, and played an especially notable part in lifting the level of cultural activity in our area. Culture, they have shown, is not just a pastime, it is an essential aspect of the liberation process, expressing a people's view of itself and of the world, it is a forge of unity and a valuable means of communicating with the world. Our songs, our dances, our movement and speech, express the revolutionary personality of our struggle and the Youth Section - apart from making its vigorous contribution to the general political life of the area - has shown how a collective and disciplined approach to culture can release

10

great creative capacity and bring honour to the struggle. In congratulating the Youth Section, we are confident that they will continue as always, to know how to harness their dynamism to the general objectives of the struggle, and reject all attempts by the enemy to create youth separatism, youth hegemony or even a youth 'ginger group'.

Finally, the RPC has re-structured itself so as to function more democratically and efficiently. Basically the RPC now consists of an executive of six members, which meets weekly, and a broad RPC of more than twenty members, which should meet monthly, though in fact meets a little less often. The broad RPC includes the members of the executive, plus two representatives from each unit, plus the persons responsible for or elected by special sections (Women, Youth). We have also created special new sections dealing with Information, Culture, Education, Finance and Welfare - each of which is represented. This attribution of special tasks to special groups working under the overall command of the RPC has proved useful, and needs to be developed further - not all the special sections are working equally well.

Although we feel this has been a period of considerable advance, there are still a number of areas where we have largely failed. The most notable of these has been in the establishment of Units, which should be the basic cells of political life of any organisation. In reality, only one Unit has functioned with regularity and with a proper internal life. Other units have operated irregularly, while the majority have virtually ceased to function at all, some never having really got off the ground. We feel that now that the RPC in this area is relatively well structured and stable, priority must be given to the reviving of units. The membership of Units should be carefully thought about, with special attention to the selection of a reliable Chairperson

Secretary for each Unit.

THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING UNIT ACTIVITY SHOULD BE:

Active leadership on the part of the Chair and Secretary,
effective links with the RPC;

Active participation and control by all members, frank and
free discussion in an atmosphere of comradeship and mutual support;

Specific tasks for each member, no passengers;

Proper record of decisions and proper follow up;

Meetings properly prepared, with an appropriate balance between
general political study and news evaluation, on the one hand, and
attending to specific tasks on the other.

Meetings should be interesting, with a proper agenda and order
of discussion, and at least one item of interesting debate each
session in which the members argue out positions;

Attendance should be compulsory, and appropriate explanation
given for non-attendance.

Members should acquire the habit of bringing their problems
and doubts to meetings and discussing them in an atmosphere of
comradeship.

Units should have a degree of permanency so that the members
get used to working with each other and establish habits of
comradeship and collective work.

Comrades, at the heart of all our work lies the building up
of unity. What do we mean by unity? We have many unifying factors
in our organisation, our anthem, our slogans, our flag, to mention
but a few. But unity goes far beyond singing the anthem and
shouting our slogans together, important though these are. Unity
refers essentially to how we think, how we work and how we behave
generally.

How we think: The ANC does not have first class and second class members. Every single member is important, every one is valued and must be treated with respect. No one is doing anyone a favour by joining or being allowed to join the ANC. It is the duty of every South African, young and old, male and female, learned and illiterate, of every type of Background, to fight for the liberation of our country. The ANC is not only the destroyer of apartheid, it is the builder of a new nation and a new state. It is in our ranks that we create the new nation in embryo, a cadre of men and women with the consciousness and day to day habits of a liberated people, examples to the whole nation and the world. It is through struggle, through comradeship, through shared activities and common hopes and sorrows, that we destroy tribalism and racism, that we build a new citizenship, that we realise in our own ranks the principles of the Freedom Charter. What good is it if we shout Amandla Ngawethu, but our power is not Ours, our power is dispersed into a hundred little fractions and groupings, each spawning its own quota of ambitious elements ready to assert some particularity against the interests of the organisation as a whole? The whole history of the ANC has been a history of a struggle for unity - first, unity of the African people against tribal divisions, then, unity of all oppressed people against ethnic group divisions, and now, in our age, the fulfilment of its historic destiny to build a new South Africa and liberate the whole land and all its people, unity of revolutionary, all democratic and patriotic forces against the total system of apartheid. In order to liberate our country we have to liberate ourselves, and destroy two fundamental myths: the myth of the inferiority of the black people, and the myth that people of different origins cannot live and work together in harmony and brotherhood.

The overcoming of complexes of inferiority and superiority is not the work of a day or even of a year. But we in the RPC can take some pride in the progress made in this respect in the past period in our region.

Every task is important. There are no first class and second class activities in the ANC. Every action, from the most dramatic operation to the most menial activity, is directed towards the single goal of liberation, and should be treated with attention to detail and appropriate quality. Of course, some tasks receive priority over others, and in this sense proper planning at all levels and in all spheres requires a determination of what is primary and what is secondary at any stage. But this does not lessen the importance of the secondary tasks. Every activity should be conducted with seriousness and pride as part and parcel of the total struggle.

~~Friendly~~ ^{Finally}, the way we conduct ourselves is important. Even when we sleep we are ANC members, as the enemy proves when it tries to murder us in our beds. We have at all times to show respect for our organisation, its structures and its leaders. This applies all the way up and down the organisation. We have to acknowledge that comrades, all of us, still indulge too much in gossip, we personalise questions that are essentially political, we undermine the authority of the structures of the organisation by issuing careless and subjective opinions outside of the proper channels. The position now is certainly far better than it was, and we can say that a strong sense of comradeship and mutual respect has been developed in the Region. But old habits die hard, and we have to be constantly on guard against their revival.

Comrades, the great task facing the incoming RPC is to further develop the unity achieved, to deepen the process whereby the encouragement of initiative and creativity on the part of specialised groups strengthens the power of the whole Region. We encourage a creative and active membership not with a view to dispersing and diluting the strength of the organisation, but with the aim of bringing new and rich currents into the same single stream. We have seen new cadres formed, new ideas come forward, new activities unfolded. We wish the incoming RPC an even richer and more rewarding period of activity than the one we have been honoured to take part in. We trust that they will continue to develop and deepen relations with our comrades from SACTU who have already begun to play an important role in the Region, and we are confident that they will benefit, as we have done, from the close collaboration of our comrade Representative, who has been a model of support for us in our work, regularly attending our meetings and always being available to offer his opinions on problems as they have arisen.

LONG LIVE THE R. P. C.!!!

LONG LIVE THE NEC OF THE A.N.C.

HEADED BY COMRADE PRESIDENT O.R. TAMBO!!!

AMANDLA NGAWETHU!!! MAATLA KE A RONA!!!

POWER TO THE PEOPLE!!!

DRAFT
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Executive Committee - June 1981.

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The breakthrough came about 18 months ago when, in the course of a general re-structuring in the area, ~~in terms of which~~ a clearer definition of functions was established and the RPC committee ^{was} re-constituted out of persons with sufficient time to make ^{RPC work} a primary responsibility of theirs.

This Report is therefore essentially the report of ~~the~~ committee established at that stage. Looking back, we can take satisfaction in the following achievements:

In the first place, we established a strong sense of comradeship and collective working amongst ourselves. All members took part in the discussion of difficult matters, and wherever possible we arrived at a consensus: where this was not possible, we took a vote and passed on to the next question. Something ~~that was~~ important to the effective functioning of the committee, was that once the vote was taken, the minority submitted to the majority view.

Secondly, we kept proper minutes, attributed both general and specific tasks to the members, and checked up that each had complied with responsibilities entrusted to him or her. Where we worked well, the basis was always the effective division of tasks within an overall collective. ~~style of work~~ where we failed, the reason was almost invariably ^{that} someone ^{was} acting alone, taking subjective decisions outside the context of planned and supervised work.

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a coherent whole. On the committee we had veterans of decades of struggle working together with others ~~who get bored~~ only recently in the organisation; our cultural backgrounds and personalities differed greatly; ~~and our sphere of political work in the area were~~ yet this diversity proved to be a strength rather than a weakness, since, within a framework of political unity and comradeship, we were able to draw upon and make ^{rich use} ~~and enthusiasms~~ of the varied experiences ~~and~~ interests of the different comrades.

We also made considerable progress in establishing and developing different structures capable of ~~representing~~ organising the membership in terms of their special needs and capacities. The ^{first} ~~pioneer~~ group of this ^{kind} ~~respect~~ was the Women's Section, that set a good example of how it is possible to have a strong internal life in a partially autonomous group, and yet work firmly within the overall context of a united organisation. The Women's Section has in fact been one of the main pillars of the RPC in this area, setting good standards of political discussion,

internal discipline and practical work; at the same time, it has worked ^{well} ~~excellently~~ with its sister Mozambican organisation the O.M.M. Linked with the advances made by the Women's Section has been the development of a well-organised and lively Pioneers group. Credit must go to the ^{cadres entrusted with} ~~persons responsible for~~ their organisation, as well as to the Pioneers themselves, for the discipline, ~~and~~ comradeship and vitality they have shown. Our Pioneers are not stragglers ^{until they grow up,} who have to be looked after somehow; they are intelligent, ~~and~~ spirited and disciplined participants in the struggle, preparing themselves to be future cadres ^{of} ~~the~~ the liberation ~~struggle~~ ^{movement} and builders of a free South Africa. Next, we have seen the sudden and impressive growth of a Youth Section, which has got itself well organised with its own internal structures, and played ^{an especially} ~~a~~ notable part ⁱⁿ ~~especially~~ lifting the level of cultural activity in our area. Culture, ^{they have shown,} is not just a ~~past-time~~ pastime, it is an essential aspect of the liberation process, expressing a people's view of

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~~enemy~~ ^{Finality} enemy to create youth separatism,
youth hegemony or even a youth 'ginger group'.
Finally, the RPC ~~has~~ ^{has} created a number of
specialised sections to make for a more efficient and
productive division of labour.
It has re-structured itself so as to function
more democratically and efficiently. Basically
the RPC now consists of an executive of six
members, which meets weekly, and a broad

RPC of ^{more than} ~~nearly~~ twenty members, which should ^{though in fact meets a little less often.} meet monthly. The broad RPC includes the members of the executive, plus two representative from each unit, plus the persons responsible for or elected by special sections (Women, Youth). We have also created special new sections, dealing with ~~Adult~~ Information, Culture, Education, Finance and Welfare, each of which is represented. This ^{attribution} ~~passing~~ of special tasks to special groups working under the overall command of the RPC has proved useful, and needs to be developed further - not all the special sections are working equally well.

Although we feel this has been a period of considerable advance, there are still a number of areas where we have largely failed. The most notable of these has been in the establishment of Units, ^{which should be} the basic cells of political life of any organisation. In reality, only one Unit has functioned with regularity and with a proper internal life. Other units have operated irregularly, while the majority have virtually

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ceased to function ^{at all,} some never having ^{really} got off the ground. We feel that now that the RPC in this area is ^{relatively} well structured and stable, priority ~~attention~~ must be given to the reviving of Units. ~~Units~~ The membership of Units should be carefully ^{thought about,} ~~studied~~ with special attention to the selection of a ^{reliable} Chairperson and Secretary for each Unit.

The principles governing Unit activity should be:

- Active leadership on the part of the Chair and Secretary, effective links with the RPC; ~~and proper preparation of meetings;~~
- Active participation ^{and control} by all members, frank and free discussion in an atmosphere of comradeship and mutual support;

- Specific tasks for each member, ~~so that none is a~~ ^{no} passengers;

- Proper record of decisions and ^{proper} follow up;
- Meetings properly prepared, with an appropriate balance ~~over time~~ between general political study and news evaluation, on the ~~one~~ hand, and attending to specific tasks on the other.

~~Meetings should be properly and fairly~~

Meetings should be interesting, with a proper agenda and order of discussion, and ~~Comrades should emerge~~ at least one item of interesting debate each session in which the members argue out positions.

Attendance should be compulsory, and

~~where good reason for non-attendance is given, as appropriate~~

appropriate explanation given for non-attendance.

Members should acquire the habit of bringing their problems and doubts to meeting and discussing them in an atmosphere of ~~frankness and mutual support~~ comradeship.

Units should have a degree of permanency so that the members get used to working with each other and establish habits of comradeship and collective work.

~~At~~ Comrades, at the heart of all our work lies the building up of unity. What do we mean by unity? We have many unifying factors in our organisation, our anthem, our slogans, our flag, to mention but a few. But

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unity goes far beyond singing the anthem and shouting our slogans together, important though these are. Unity refers essentially to how we think, how we work and how we behave generally.

How we think: The ANC does not have first class and second class members. Every single member is important, every one is valued and must be treated with respect. No one is doing anyone a favour by joining or being allowed to join the A.N.C. It is the duty of every South African, young and old, male and female, learned and illiterate, of every type of background, to fight for the liberation of our country. The ANC is not only the destroyer of apartheid, it is the builder of a new ^{nation and a new state.} ~~state.~~ It is in our ranks that we create the new nation in embryo, a cadre of men and women with the consciousness and ^{day to day} habits of a liberated people, ^(examples to the whole nation and the world.) It is through struggle, through comradeship, through shared activities and common hopes and sorrows, that we ~~create~~ ~~destroy the enemies of~~ ~~our citizenship.~~

tribalism and racism that we¹¹ build a new citizenship, ~~if freedom~~ that we realise in our own ranks the ~~principle~~ principles of the Freedom Charter. What good is it if we shout Amandla Ngawethu, but our power is not ours, our power is dispersed into a hundred little fractions and groupings, each spawning its own quota of ambitious elements ready to assert some particularity ~~of~~ against the ^{interests of the} organisation as a whole? The whole history of the ANC has been a history of a struggle for unity - ^{against tribal divisions,} first, unity of the African people, then, unity ^{against ethnic divisions,} of all oppressed people, and now, in our age, the fulfilment of its historic destiny to build a new South Africa and liberate the whole ^{and all its people, unity of revolutionary,} land, ~~unity of~~ all democratic and patriotic forces ^{against the total system of apartheid,} ~~in the process.~~ In order to liberate our country we have to liberate ourselves, and destroy ^{two} fundamental myths: ~~perpetuated by the enemy:~~ the myth of the inferiority of the black people, and the myth that people of different origins cannot live ^{and work} together in harmony and brotherhood. The overcoming of complexes of

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members, as the enemy proves when it tries to murder us in our beds. We have at all times to show respect for our organisation, its structures and its leaders. This applies all the way up and down the organisation. We have to acknowledge that comrades, all of us, still indulge too much in gossip, we personalise questions that are essentially political, we undermine the authority of the structures of the organisation by issuing careless and subjective opinions outside of the proper channels. The position now is certainly far better than it was, and we can say that a strong sense of comradeship and mutual respect has been developed in the Region. But old habits die hard, and we have to be constantly on guard against their revival.

Comrades, the great task facing the incoming RPC is to further develop the unity achieved, to deepen the process whereby the encouragement of initiative and creativity on the part of specialised groups strengthens the power of the whole Region. We encourage a

creative and active membership not with a view to dispersing ~~the~~ and diluting the strength of the organisation, but with the aim of bringing new ^{and rich} currents into the same ~~the~~ single stream. We have seen new cadres formed, new ideas come forward, new activities ^{unfold} ~~created~~. We wish the incoming RPC an even richer and more rewarding period of ~~office~~ ~~than~~ activity than the one we have been honoured to take part in. We ~~trust that they will continue to~~ ~~are~~ (trust that they will continue to develop and deepen relations with our comrades from SACTU who have already begun to play an important role in the Region, and we are confident that they will benefit, as we have done, from the close collaboration of our comrade Representative, who has been a model of support for us in our work, regularly attending our meetings and always being available to offer his opinions on problems that arise as they have arisen.

Long live the RPC!

Long live the NEC of the ANC headed by

Comrade President O.R.-Tambo!

Amandla, Ngawethu!
Maatla ke gona!
Pwe to people!

Treasurer's Report, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ as at 15.06.1981.

Comrades,

In submitting a treasurer's report we confirm that looking after our financial affairs is an essential part of our political existence at all levels, at all times.

General

Financial activity of the R.P.C. is by virtue of its being a sub-department although autonomous, of the regional treasury sluggish and limited. Areas of spending, however, are diverse and demanding in respect of the political activities of the area.

With the reconstitution of the R.P.C. and the clearer definition of the regional sub-committees and their respective activities, the past few months' financial demands on R.P.C. funds have demonstrated the obvious need for good reserves from which our needs must be met.

A very active Youth section which comprises an integral cultural group as well as a well-established Womens Unit, both groups requiring material for the promotion of the socio-politico-cultural life of the community, are making the need for stable resources one of the priority considerations of this area.

"Lifting the face" of the office and library and improving the general aspect of the residence "the Flat" has required a fair amount of expenditure since a Works and Operations Committee was set up to attend to the necessary improvements. More work yet has to be done in the direction of furniture and drapings.

Let us note that expenditure by sub-committees must be authorised by the R.P.C. executive so that money is correctly spent. At a moment when the R.P.C. is trying to consolidate funds for much needed purchase of a vehicle, a sum of 45.000MT, unauthorised beforehand, has just been spent on the office for burglar proofs- expenditure which might not have been considered either a priority or an R.P.C. spending area had the intended expense been previously referred to this or gan.

~~The Womens Section has been slightly successful in raising funds for its day-to-day needs. Anniversaries offer the readiest opportunities for raising such funds. Perhaps periodical cake sales could be of assistance arranged on a regular basis.~~

Sources of Funds

Subscriptions from members

The R.P.C. treasury is maintained by monthly subscriptions from earning members. This accounts for very little money viewed against our extensive needs and the fact that very few of the community are employed.

Units

Members' contributions are supposed to come in via the units. Responsible people in these unfortunately have been slack in encouraging and or collecting monthly dues. Once more we emphasize the need for the appointment of unit sub-treasurers to attend to this task. Where it is not convenient the Chairperson and the Secretary can see to its fulfilment. Receipt books have been issued to all units and these must be used to assure the subscribers that their offers are treated seriously.

~~It would help treasury if~~

It would help treasury for the compilation of resource estimates if the units each supplied a list of paying members and their respective expected monthly contributions.

Womens Section

To the extent that this unit is able to look after its day-to-day small needs through funds raised during womens anniversaries it has been of assistance to the R.P.C. ~~We hope that in the future fund-raising~~. We would like to see more of this sort of commitment in other sections in the near future.

Literature Sales

Regular sales of Sechaba and the African Communist should now be a permanent responsibility of the Units in liaison with the information section. The membership is reminded that ~~xxxx~~^{it} is the appointed task of a unit, designated officer to distribute literature for sale to members and by members to the public. Such sales also include the sale of posters when available. Funds from this source are recorded separately from the main body of R.P.C. funds so that they may be properly monitored and used for purchases of literary material when required.

Donations

Donations from support groups and individuals gave us a big boost and enabled us to cover expenditure which we would not have managed otherwise. The treasury has thanked these friends and comrades for their help.

FUND RAISING

The situation outlined above immediately makes clear the need for serious attention to be paid to ways and means of raising funds. Indeed, a call is being sounded to the Youth Section and its Cultural unit to make this one of its tasks.

The Womens Section could also put fund raising projects on a more regular footing than ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ confining it to anniversaries. Let us all understand that it would be reasonable to pool our resources into the R.P.C. treasury ~~xxxxx~~ both because units and sub-committees fall under the R.P.C. and because the R.P.C. pays when called upon to do so within reasonable limits.

One unit proposed the establishment of a coffee cart. Unfortunately this was found infeasible and risky as a commercial enterprise, after due consideration.

More suggestions are welcome. The principle is that as a liberation movement we should be seen to be making efforts to pay our way for our struggle and thus showing our willingness to raise money could in fact attract more donations.

Call Alby

Please pass to

Indris

↓

TOM

— BEFORE MONDAY