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ANC WORKSHOP
ON RESEARCH PRIORITIES
FOR FUTURE SOUTH AFRICA
17-24/08/1987

Programme Proposal

Introduction:

The intensification of the struggle for freedom and democracy and the changing objective situation has heralded a period of increasingly thinking on the nature of a post-apartheid society in South Africa.

Such thinking demands that we also begin to consider a comprehensive programme within the context of contemporary struggles, which will be carefully looked into. The agenda for the transition to a non-racial democratic South Africa will commence with an analysis of the present socio-economic situation including the newly formed models on organs of peoples power.

The main aim of the programme is to assist the ANC in the present stage of the struggle, to strengthen its capacity to formulate policy options in relation to a post-apartheid South Africa. It will also ensure the unity of the oppressed people as a powerful and effective instrument to secure their own complete liberation from all forms of discrimination and national oppression; the promotion and protection of the interests of the oppressed people in all matters affecting them; the attainment of universal adult suffrage and the creation of a united democratic South Africa on the principles outlined in the Freedom Charter; and the support for the cause of national liberation and the right to independence of nations in Africa and the rest of the world.

Background Information and Justification

The concept of post-apartheid socio-economy has been discussed at various levels within the national liberation movement and it has been always felt that the transformation of the politics and economics of South Africa will have implications for the organisation of most aspects of everyday life. Thus, the provision of housing, education, health care, transport, liveable environments, defence, and so on will be fundamentally affected by the form that the political economy takes. However, the current and projected

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realities related to the above-mentioned sectors place constraints on the one hand and provide opportunities on the other for the achievement of a progressive political economy. Thus, the relationship between appropriate sectoral policies must be a dialectical one.

The subject of post-apartheid South Africa is now being discussed the world-over by governments, non-governmental organisations, friendly organisations, individuals and so on. However, there is yet no comprehensive study of the type being suggested from the point of view of the national liberation movement in South Africa.

This prevailing situation underscores the necessity and urgency of setting up a coordinating centre. This centre will be the first of its kind to coordinate research efforts, and involving direct participation of our people, both inside and outside South Africa and other progressive researchers the world over.

The ANC strongly feels that a Coordinating Centre has to be established. It will provide a data base as well as theoretical and practical guidelines to help the National Liberation Movement in restructuring the socio-economic system in its transition from a racial colonial political economy to a democratic economy.

The creation of such a centre would provide a unifying ideological concern that links the various sectors, (separate parts) into a coherent whole serving not only the short-term goals in socio-economic development but also the long-term aspirations of the South African people.

In carrying out its research coordinating activities, the centre will be accountable to the national liberation movement. It will be a source of guidance to all democratic forces inside and outside South Africa in the struggle to destroy racial models which can disguise apartheid. Such models are local authorities, regional councils, the so-called National Statutory Councils and Constitutional Democracy based on the calvinist theory.

The centre will coordinate research whose character will be a policy-oriented, problem-solving search for knowledge and information, whose content will seek to further the cause of liberation and help in the formulation of economic policies and programme for an independent Free Democratic South Africa.

OBJECTIVES

The short-term objectives will be creation of Coordinating Committees both inside and outside the country; in order to facilitate coordination, administration and funding of research activities. This phase will demand recruitment/release of candidates from other demanding duties, for full-time work. They will be persons adequate to the task of the centre involving the following aspects:

- i) Liaise with the internal Coordinating Committee;
- ii) Establishment of documentation and data gathering facility;
- iii) Clarifying and defining key areas for priority research;
- iv) Initiating the legal diplomatic, and other formal ways required for the formation of such a centre;
- v) Making of necessary arrangements for holding discussions with relevant policy making bodies in the sub-region, as well as with anti-apartheid forces in South Africa and elsewhere.

Optional budgets have been worked out for such persons.

THE MEDIUM TERM OBJECTIVE is linked with the establishment of a Coordinating Centre outside South Africa, which will be operational and financially sound to provide opportunities for participation of progressive South Africans and other researchers in the following identified areas of research:

1. Constitutional Affairs
2. Local Government and Planning
3. Economy
4. Education
5. Health
6. Social Services
7. Agriculture
8. Mass Media and Culture
9. Women

This will also strengthen our research capacity through the exchange of experiences and views expressed. On the other hand, the establishment of such cooperation, through the centre, with friendly researchers will enable us to avoid multiplicity of on-going research efforts on socio-economic aspects of the South African system, being conducted in other universities or Research Institutions around the world.

THE INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH CENTRE

1. To coordinate, administer and endorse the budget estimates of the research project proposals.
2. To liaise with research and training institutions elsewhere in the country as well as in other countries of the world where such research is being undertaken.
3. Receive and consider the annual and research reports and the audited accounts.
4. To identify policy options for the formulation of strategic long-term, as well as the tactical short-term problems that may arise in the process of restructuring both the South African economy and society.
5. To provide further training courses in development studies for the oppressed black majority already involved with the public service and parastatals, thus, counteracting training programmes sponsored by the regime in various countries of the world.
6. To provide South Africans with training in specific education and manpower development areas, thus strengthen their efforts in the struggle for national independence and equip them for future planning, organisation and administration of various government departments and public service.
7. To create a data bank of research materials for the purpose of preservation and use by policy-makers of the liberation movement.
8. To provide information to the general public and emphasize the role of research in society.
9. To mobilize adequate resources for the research activities.
10. To organise workshops, seminars and conferences with a view to train South Africans in and expose them to specific skills.

PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

The envisaged programme proposal has separate, areas of research and training components. In this respect, there will be a need to compile a data base of research experts in and outside South Africa (using their CV's), research activities in such institutions. The idea is to link up researchers and institutions to undertake collaborative work on post-apartheid aspects. It is also planned to organise in-house seminars, workshops/conferences and

consultations on specific issues of importance.

The intention is that the centre should not duplicate existing research efforts but should rather draw up and build on these, including those which it may gain access to inside South Africa. Most importantly the centre is expected to serve as a focal point for all progressive South Africans who have already received the requisite socio-economic training and who seek to work alongside their fellow South Africans in a common programme of work on a variety of issues pertinent to post-apartheid policy options formulation. It needs emphasising in this respect that the significance of this centre as a focal point will have to understand the development and contributions made by incipient forms of peoples planning processes. Any research programme must be seen as a reinforcement of these incipient forms. In working out the desired models the centre will focus on the identified areas of research.