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12/03/92

MINUTES OF THE NCCR MEETING HELD ON THE 13TH MARCH 1992
AT KHOTSO HOUSE, JOHANNESBURG

1. PRESENT

Brother Jude Pieterse	-	SACBC
Rev F. Chikane	-	SACC
Mr M. Chikane	-	NCCR National Co-ordinator
Rev W. Lauer	-	NCCR Consultant
Mr W. Leslie	-	Durban Regional Co-ordinator
Rev S. Daba	-	Western Cape Regional Co-ordinator
Sister M. Kelly	-	SACBC
Mr M Mafole	-	PAC
Mr N Madzunyana	-	PAC
Mr B. Ntoele	-	PAC
Mr S Ngcobo	-	Transkei
Mr A. Metele	-	NCCR Border
Mr J Jongolo	-	Border Regional Co-ordinator
Imam H Solomon	-	WCRP
Mr Pule Pule	-	Azapo
Rev M Cooper	-	Natal Regional Chairperson
Mr M. Dangor	-	WCRP
Mr D M Soga	-	Eastern Cape Region
Mr Nape Khomo	-	OFS Regional Co-ordinator
Mr J Selebi	-	ANC
Dr F Auerbach	-	WCRP
Mr B. Hlongwa	-	PWV Regional Co-ordinator
Father Lafont	-	PWV Chairperson
Mr N Phaswana	-	Northern Transvaal Chairperson

2. APOLOGIES

Ms S. Duncan	-	SACC
Bishop Napier	-	SACC

The Chairperson noted the significance of the fact that for the first time regions were involved in the decisions making.

3. AMNESTY

It was noted that there was a need to make representation on the issue with President De Klerk. Thus far, a meeting with the Legal Task Force on the issue, was held. It was agreed that the matter needed to be pursued as there were still some returning exiles facing problems of Amnesty.

4. DEVELOPMENT

Mr Chikane reported that it was not covered in his report but will be discussed later.

5. THE NATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

5.1 The report was read by the National Co-ordinator;

5.2 The meeting was informed that the UNHCR has seconded 2 people to assist in boosting the financial administration of the NCCR;

5.3 The need to give urgent attention to projects was also highlighted in the report;

5.4 Mr Chikane stated that other details are given in the reports of the various departments;

5.5 Other matters raised :-

- clarification on the implications of the article published in the Sowetan
- Explanation of what the money from EEC and WCC was for;
- clarification of relationship between regional committees and regional co-ordinator's, as to who supervises;
- why was the Finance Committee not meeting frequently;

In response, Mr Chikane gave a brief history of NCCR prior to UNHCR involvement and subsequent changes. Pressure of arrivals of returnees amidst shortage of staff was highlighted.

Employment of new staff who had to be introduced to UN systems, all this and other factors led to the tensions highlighted in the Sowetan.

On allocations of funds from the EEC and WCC, Rev Lauer stated that the money was for short term utilisation, i.e 12 months and had been donated to the NCCR following a meeting held with the WCC last year.

Mr Chikane informed the meeting that the UN is insisting on the implementation of its new system of accountability, not only on financial matters, but also decision making.

Herein, the UN feels that the previous system had delays in the process, and there was a need for quick decision making and implementation. Yet, the Regional Committees are still used to the old system and not yet acquainted fully with the new system.

The Regional Committees feel that they are left out in this system, and there still is no proper co-ordination in some regions between Regional Co-ordinators and regional Committees.

6. FINANCES

Herein Mr Chikane clarified that following the resignation of Ms Ngcobo, he had to work as both acting National Co-ordinator and as Liaison Officer until January. In the process he had to sort out many problems which had accumulated.

6.1 **Cutting of the Budget** - It was clarified that the US\$6m possible budget cut by the UNHCR was suspended following intervention from the NCCR and the ANC President

6.2 **Batlagae** - clarity was sought on Batalage functions and its capacity. It was stated that Batlagae had an organised structure in the PWV, thus its services were sought in this region for now. Mechanism for servicing other regions through Batlagae are still being worked.

7. REPORT OF THE LIAISON OFFICER

7.1 Mr Chikane reported that the Liaison Officer had gone to Chamdor Training Centre to attend to a crisis and apologised on his behalf. He then proceeded to read this report on his behalf.

7.1 **Matters Arising from the Report**

Concerns were raised about the typographical errors. The need for proper teaching and training of staff was raised.

7.2 It was noted that, the reports of the National Co-ordinator and the Liaison Officer were beginning to clarify tasks in terms of the relationship of structures, particularly the regional co-ordinator and the regional committee. This issue had brought confusion in Durban. This had resulted in the alienation and disinterest of churches and other support groups.

- 7.3 It was further stated that in some regions, the Liberation Movements and the Churches were not attending NCCR meetings;
- 7.4 The recent visit of Mr Chikane and Rev Lauer to the regions, and subsequent attempts to clarify the organisational structure had assisted in giving clear directions in the Regions and that some Committees was now functioning well.
- 7.5 Issues like security for both staff and returnees were of serious concern and the matter needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency
- 7.6 In some regions the NCCR is still confused with the ANC
- 7.8 Mr Leslie read out his report. (refer to report)

8. BORDER REGION

The representative for this region apologised for not having a written report. But he reported that there was a reduction of staff in the border, following the introduction of the UN system;

- 8.1 There was a need to upgrade the Transkei office due to numerous problems caused by the merger of the Border and Transkei, like transport;
- 8.2 The UN system impairs the function of satellite offices, and a suggestion to revert back to the system of satellite offices was made
- 8.3 There is also lack of organisational support systems, which are necessary because of the rural nature of the Transkei and Border Regions;
- 8.4 There are scarce job opportunities in the regions;
- 8.5 Attempts have been made on the life of the Regional Co-ordinator, Mr. Jongolo;
- 8.6 There is a need to staff the Transkei office in order to improve services to returnees;
- 8.7 The current transport that is being used is not well suited for this terrain;
- 8.8 A large consignment of clothes from Johannesburg has been send to the Transkei Region for returnees to sell as an income generating venture;

- 8.9 There is a need for guidelines on the distribution of these clothes, however, it is the hope of the regions that the needs of all returnees in all the regions will be considered, when a decision has been made;
- 8.11 Concerning Projects and Development, not much has been done. It is the feeling of the region that the matter is not well handled by the National Office, and this is causing frustrations, as it is felt that the PWV is given priority on the issue;
- 8.12 The issue will be raised further in the seminar to be held soon;
- 8.13 Transkei has serious problems which will be raised in a joint meeting to be held soon with the Border region;
- 8.14 Clarity on grants policy should be made clear as there was no uniform approach in regions. The meeting agreed that August 1992 should be used as the cut-off date for eligibility.

9. PWV REGION

More than 3600 returnees are located in this region; Region affected by mergers of Vaal, Pretoria and Eastern Transvaal etc. This has overstretched the staff, thus the tensions experienced and the article in the Sowetan;

- 9.1 On Development Projects, feed-back is still awaited from National Office on policy guidelines;
- 9.2 There is growing resentment amongst the returnees on projects, as they feel there is no clear assistance in this regard;
- 9.3 An estimated 40% of returnees have exhausted their grants and this is bound to bring numerous problems if income generating projects are further delayed

10 NORTHERN TRANSVAAL

- 10.1 There is no clear definition of tasks between Regional Co-ordinator and the Regional Committee.
- 10.2 Thus far, the Regional Co-ordinator works single handedly;
- 10.3 The region is basically an agricultural region, however, at present drought is heavy. This has affected enthusiasm on agricultural projects negatively amongst returnees;

10.4 At present, other projects are being considered;

10.7 There is still apathy in the community, as propaganda of the regime continues to impact negatively on the returnees community.

11. WESTERN CAPE

No report to be given as most issues are contained in the two reports i.e (National Co-ordinator's and Liaison Officers). The only issues are:

- (i) at what phase is the NCCR in its programme?
- (ii) how is the second phase of the repatriation process going to affect or be affected by the duration of the operation and the structure;
- (iii) on Development, Training and Funding, these issues will be discussed with the National Co-ordinator.

12. DISCUSSIONS

The Chairman observed common issues that emerged in the various reports:

12.1 Impact of changes brought about by UN involvement in the process;

12.2 Problem highlights were that:

- (i) some personnel was rendered redundant;
- (ii) the filing system was a problem for computerisation.

12.3 It was emphasised that there is a need to increase staff, including utilisation of volunteers. In this regard, there was a need to appeal to other donors to support the venture.

12.4 The meeting agreed that there was a need to revert back to the satellite offices arrangement, to cope with the increasing number of returnees;

12.5 That the problem of lack of proper infra-structure in the Transkei is noted;

12.6 The above (satellite offices) was to be re-negotiated with the UNHCR

12.7 Other issues to be raised with UN was:

- (i) operations in the TBVC states and ensuring that the MOU operated fully there as well.

Address by Mr. K. Kalumiya - Chief of Mission - UNHCR (see report).

Discussion.

- a. The Chief of Mission indicated that it is true that the UNHCR information system in some countries (Europe, Canada and Australia) is still not yet developed as such and that there are still gaps in the registration exercise. The UNHCR is however working with NGO's to disseminate the information.
- b. To date the government has not shown an interest in transporting the returnees and the UNHCR does not therefore feel compelled to use South African Airways into neighbouring countries eg. Tanzania.
- c. On allegations that there are non-South Africans who have been brought over by the UNHCR as returnees the Chief of Mission indicated that the matter is still under investigation.
- d. The UNHCR is no position to reimburse people who came "on their own steam"
- e. The UNHCR is willing to enter into negotiations with the NCCR to assist (grants) post August 1992.

On the status of TBVC states.

Mr. Kalumiya indicated that those states, according to the agreement with the government, are treated the same way as local authorities

L U N C H

DISCUSSION OF NATIONAL CO-ORDINATORS REPORT AND REGIONAL REPORTS

The meeting agreed that the most pressing issues emanating from the reports are :-

- a. The merging of the regions
- b. Development programmes
- c. Future of the NCCR

1. Merging of the regions

This area brought about unfortunate circumstances where in some instances the local Committees felt that they were marginalised.

In some instances both the staff and the Committees were not properly briefed as to the reasons for the merger - i.e. was it for economic or administrative purposes. It transpired that the move was to keep in line with the UNHCR budget.

ACTION :

- a. The meeting resolved to appeal to traditional affiliates to provide facilities (as in the past) and additional staff (where required) to decrease the heavy workload and sometimes delay in grant payments being currently experienced by the regions.
- b. That the issue (merger) should be re-negotiated with the UNHCR
- c. That additional funding to service the satellite offices be sought out as a matter of urgency, whilst the issue is being discussed with the UNHCR.

Items on:

- b) Development Programmes
- c) Future of NCCR, were referred to the next NEC meeting.

2. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NCCR (NATIONAL), REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND REGIONAL CO-ORDINATORS

According to the NCCR structure circulated to the meeting, the following applies :-

- a. The regional committees are accountable to the National Co-ordinator
- b. The regional committees have no mandate over that extended by the National Co-ordinator
- c. The Regional Committee will work through the Regional Co-ordinator and only go through to the National Co-ordinator if there are unresolved issues
- d. The regional committee has powers to make sure that the policies of the NCCR are implemented

The meeting had to adjourn as there were delegates booked on the 16.00 hours flight back, and in view of that development, the meeting took a decision that :-

- a. In future no delegate to the NCCR meeting should make booking or travel arrangements for periods before 20.00 hours on the day of the meeting

- b. That if the meeting does not conclude its business on the day of the meeting, delegates should be prepared to spend the night over in Johannesburg or work through the night
- c. The NEC should take decisions on matters that cannot, because of their nature, wait for the next NEC meeting
- d. That reports to be discussed at the next NEC meeting should reach delegates at least three weeks before the meeting
- e. That the ANC representative to the NCCR write a letter to returnee members of his organisation informing them of the UNHCR cut off date (those entitled to a grant.)
- f. That the **NEXT MEETING OF THE NCCR WILL BE HELD ON THE 10 APRIL 1992, STARTING AT 10.30 AM, AT KHOTSO HOUSE**

3. GENERAL.

The article in the Sowetan (newspaper) alleging corruption in the NCCR was viewed in serious light. The National Co-ordinator indicated that the matter has been taken up with the editor of the newspaper - a response to effect has already been send.

Rev. Chikane appealed to all within the organisation to ensure that there exists no form of corruption in their formations.

Rev. Chikane closed the meeting with a prayer.

MINUTES COMPILED BY:



MRS G. SEAPE

APPROVED BY:



MR MOSS CHIKANE

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