

O&C/010/0459/1

02/04/92

WORKSHOP ON RE-INTEGRATION AND RESETTLEMENT OF
SOUTH AFRICAN RETURNEES HELD 2 - 3 APRIL 1992.

PRESENT :

(List attached)

CHAIRPERSON: Mr. A. Tsoku

Opening remarks

1.1 In his opening remarks, the chairperson welcomed all the delegates to the workshop. He urged the participants to endeavour to come up at the end of the workshop with solutions to all the problems affecting returnees. The chairperson appealed to the representatives of the different organisations to make available to the meeting, facts and figures, to enable the workshop an opportunity of making informed decisions based on relevant statistics.

The meeting observed a minute of silence for the victims of violence in South Africa.

1.2. The Regional Liaison Officer of the National Co-ordinating Committee for the Repatriation of South Africa Exiles (NCCR), Mr. Archie Abrahams, apologised on behalf of the National Co-ordinator of the NCCR, Mr. Moss Chikane for his absence at the meeting. Mr. Chikane had been called to attend to an urgent matter. Mr. Abrahams proceeded to give the address on behalf of Mr. Chikane.

1.3. Mr. Chikane's paper pointed out the timeliness of the workshop. He indicated that the period in which the repatriation process has now reached the crucial stage of reintegration is now with us. This stage finds South Africa at a very difficult period, a period characterised by immense poverty, unemployment and a generally declining economy. The crucial question at this stage is "where to from now"?

1.4. The majority of the returnees have now exhausted their grants, and it is now, more than ever before that all interested parties should be looking seriously at income generating projects, to afford to the returnees dignified sustenance.

1.5. The workshop was also called upon to address the problem of those returnees who have returned with valuable skills, but who have to date been unable to put them to use because of the legacy of apartheid where some fields are a monopoly of the selected few.

1.6. Of utmost importance, the paper pointed out, are the needs of the vulnerable groups, the unaccompanied minors, orphans, the aged and the sick.

1.7 In conclusion, the paper called upon all peoples of goodwill to join hands with the communities into which returnees are integrating, to face up to this historic challenge

The following regions then proceeded to give an overview of the returnee situation :-

1. Southern Natal
2. Natal Midlands
3. Northern Natal
4. Eastern Transvaal
5. PWV

The reports painted a similar picture in all the regions i.e. returnees were finding it difficult to adjust due to numerous factors but the most glaring are :-

- a) inability to find jobs (common to both skilled and unskilled returnees)
- b) lack of housing and reception centres (for those who cannot trace relatives or have been ostracised because of differing political views)
- c) lack of income generating projects (funding)
- d) lack of assistance for schooling (especially tertiary and vocational training)
- e) uncertainty about the future (after grants are exhausted)

DISCUSSIONS

The workshop noted that problems of reintegration were similar in all the regions. The different commissions were then mandated to deal with specific issues.

"COMMISSION 1"

COMMISSION ON REPATRIATION AND REINTEGRATION

1. The Commission discussed repatriation and reintegration within the context of prevailing the political situation. The Commission noted the unique nature of the processes, where returnees are coming back into a political situation not designed to meet their needs. Other problems identified by the Commission.
 - a. difficulty in administering resources, because of the scattered nature of the refugees.
 - b. uncertainty about the future (jobs, schools) - leading to reluctance to be repatriated.
 - c. imprisoned refugees in countries of asylum - UNHCR cannot secure their release.

On the UNHCR information systems in Europe

The UNHCR, where it does not have offices, have made arrangements with other UN agencies to register those willing to return.

On who qualifies for repatriation and reintegration

- internal exiles and displaced persons (displaced due to violence)
- ex-political prisoners

2. **REINTEGRATION**

The Commission noted that in view of the short-term nature of the grants policy (6 months) there is an urgent need to identify viable income generating projects. Funding should be channelled through the NCCR. Criteria should be:

1. ability to benefit the community;
2. targeted at those with limited access to jobs e.g. no skills;

Commission Recommendations

1. That a committee be assembled to approach the business community and encourage them to engage in socially responsible programmes
2. That the government must exercise responsibility for resettlement of the returnees.

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3. That counselling services be started in the host country

PLAN OF ACTION

1. Career guidance to enlighten returnees on existing opportunities (education and the job market)
2. Develop capacity in skills area (vocational and technical).
3. Encourage income generating ventures that are appropriate and for resources to be mobilized; both material and human to monitor these projects.
4. Training and educational assistance should encompass even those in pre and primary schools.

COMMISSION 2

WOMEN AND CHILDREN

While all returnees and their families as well as the general community need social assistance, it is more crucial that special attention be on one of the most vulnerable groups, viz. women and children.

The following were identified as needy groupings :

- Unaccompanied minors (orphans)
- The physically handicapped and mentally disabled children and women
- Female headed households

Problems identified

Law

- Legal rights of women and children need to be established and everyone informed of the law as it relates to these cases
- the legal status of foreign wives in cases of deaths, separation
- the status of the children in cases of parents having died in exile
- does the NCCR have the legal right (custodian) to the children

- what capacity does the above organisation have in cases of all of the above

Social

- cultural traditions : the right of women and children need to be accepted into the culture of every group in South Africa, as these will not be established through the passing of laws alone
- counselling : this is proving difficult as both foreign wives and children born in exile cannot speak any South African language
- language issue is very important because the right of the child include relevant and accessible reading and illustrative material (i.e. education)

Identified rights

- nationally and citizenship
- non - discrimination
- protection against abuse and exploitation
- freedom to voice problems
- secure family life
- health, shelter and education
- leisure and recreation

special treatment, care and education if disabled

- appropriate treatment or training for recovery and rehabilitation if mal-treated, neglected or detained

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. - that the workshop convenors look into raising the awareness of all South Africans about the :-
 - the plight of children
 - the rights of children as laid down by the United Nations Convention on the rights of Children
 - the rights of women as the mothers of the children

- rights of women as wives of South African men
- 2. - that the rights of women and children be entrenched in a non racial non sexist democratic South Africa through a Bill of Rights
- 3. - that foreign women and children be afforded the chance to learn South African languages and be given orientation into culture
- 4. - that legal experts on these issues be consulted as a matter of urgency

"COMMISSION 3"

COMMISSION ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING

a. **Identification of the problem**

The commission identified the following as problem areas: (amongst the returnees)

- i. low levels of literacy;
- ii. lack of vocational and technical skills;
- iii. language problems as it applies to foreign spouses and children;
- iv. inadequate comprehension of English (for purposes of instruction in schools) by some school-going children;
- v. no provision for tertiary education assistance (university);
- vi. the need for in-house training as most organisations/companies would accept to give the relevant experience if somebody pays the salaries;

2. **Remedial action that already exists on the ground:**

- a. The commission acknowledges the existence of remedial action but notes that it does not address specific needs of the returnees e.g. there is presently no accommodation made for those with no literacy skills.

- b. To use the existing structures (local and international) to the advantage of the disadvantaged groups.
- c. To continue putting pressure on the government to commit funds towards education and training.

3. PLAN OF ACTION

The Commission on Education and Training

In realisation of lack of skills and literacy amongst the majority of the returnees. The Commission on Education and Training recommends:

1. The setting up of a centre where different skills and literacy programmes can be taught. This centre would not only cater or serve the interest of returnees, but also other members of the community, who show interest in it.

On the Role of the Private Sector in Education and Training

1. We recommend that more pressure and a concerted effort be placed on the Private Sector to invest in training programmes.
2. The Private Sector be seen to be engaging in affirmative action programmes.
3. That the Private Sector engage in co-operate social responsibility, we demand that the private sector makes provisions through formal arrangements for the under studying of the expatriate staff by the local community of skilled personnel.
4. The commission also strongly recommends that discriminatory policies be exposed, e.g. through the media.

On the Role of the Local Communities in Education and Training

We recommend that a sense of responsibility be instilled in returnee professionals to assist local communities in education and training e.g. free services of extra lessons rendered by teachers over weekends. We also recommend that in turn the community must initiate such moves.

Local Fund Raising

1. As regards education and training we recommend that lines of communication be re-opened with local businesses to sponsor education and training programmes.
2. Business associations e.g. (FABCOS; NAFTO etc) should be encouraged to adopt and sponsor returnees in education and training programmes. (Not physical adoption but sponsoring educational needs of a returnee), business associations and professionals.

4. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

1. That the NCCR convenes a meeting of organisations concerned with education and training (e.g NECC; Sached Trust; ECT; Christian Service Organisations etc) to assess the training and education needs and look onto available resources.
2. In conjunction with the above, available education counselling services (e.g CIC; EIC etc.) be approached to provide counselling and other training needs to returnees.
3. That the NCCR, as a matter of urgency, engages in a programme designed to equip foreign spouses with English and local languages. This programme should as a matter of necessity include the children.
4. That projects be identified by the implementing and facilitating bodies, (viable projects) to reduce dependency. Such project should be assessed and evaluated regularly.

OTHER WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS :- THE WAY FORWARD

1. The following were elected as members of a committee :-

Pontso More	(NCCR)
Jabulani Dumane	(ANC)
Granny Seape	(NCCR)
Ondela Mahlangu	(NCRC)
Shaka Radebe	(ANC)

Terms of reference :-

1. To within a week from date, compile the workshop report and circulate to all participants
2. To table the report before the NCCR and NCRC committees, with the aim of ensuring implementation of workshop recommendations

FILE: ref/work.sho/pg1-9

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS	TEL/FAX NUMBER
16. Pontso More	NCCR (PWV Region)	62 Marshall Street Khotso House, 5th Floor	836-2031
17. Mapula Molefe	ANC	51 Plein Street	330-7033
18. Hamilton Tshehla		Cast Office 187 Bree Street Longbanks Building, JHB	838-2038/9 (Tel) 838-2024 (Fax)
19. Geffrey Marishane	I.C.T	Johannesburg	339-2513/21/68
20. Edgar Zondi		310 Mngeni Street P.O. Sobantu Pietermaritzburg 3201	0331-902099
21. Mamsie P. Shangase		2171 Mngomezulu Rd Stage 3, Imbali P.M Burg	
22. Mary Mbatha	NCCR	579 West Street Durban, 4001	(031) 307 5454 (w) 307-5452 (f) 810-862 (h)
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24. Mrs Makhudu			
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ATTENDANCE LIST OF DELEGATES
WORKSHOP ON THE REINTEGRATION AND RESETTLEMENT
OF SOUTH AFRICAN RETURNEES

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1. Sandy Nambale Mr	NCCR	P.O. Box 1516, Nelspruit, 1200	
2. Grey Malebo	ADM	90 Elston Avenue, Benoni	422-1650
3. Cynthia Binda	Kindernothilfe S.A	42 Biccard Street, Braamfontein	
4. Archie Tsoku	NCRC - PWV	Henri Cnr. Smit Street Braamfontein	
5. Lulama Mapule	Returnee	5859 Orlando East, P.O. Box Orlando, 1804	935-1512
6. Romano Del Mistro	ADM	90 Elston Avenue, Benoni	422-1650
7. Dot Mkwanazi	Batlagae Trust	51 Plein Street, JHB, 2000	29-3337/8/9
8. Fatima Kunene (N)	ANCWL Empangeni	37 Morris Str., Empangeni	0351-921503
9. John Mabuyakhulu	NCCR N/Natal	37 Morris Centre, Empangeni	0351-921503
10. Archie Abrahams	NCCR (Nat)	62 Marshall Str, Khotso House, 5th Floor, JHB	838-2471
11. Mamsie Shangase	ANC (Midlands)	2171 Mngomezulu Rd, Mbeli Pietermaritzburg	
12. Carol Jack	ANC	1524 Shongweni Section Katlehong, 1832	29-37714
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