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EASTERN TRANSVAAL ANC, DEPARTMENT OF ART AND CULTURE CDNFERECE 20 JULY 1991 AT VALENCIA PARK

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF ART AND CULTURE 1. Introduction

Cde Chairperson cde representative of the National DAG, Cde Ben Mokoena, Cdes delegates, I greet you as the Interim Satretary uf the E.T%15 Department nf hrt and Culture on this fourth (4) meeting of the DAC in our region.

The E.Tv1 DAC is reponsible fer co-ordination, planning and financing Of ANC projects and programmes in the areas Of sport, Art and Culture in this regidn. We work in Close conjunction with ether ANC structures to ensure proper implementation of the above projects and programmes in accordance with our goal for liberation and the construction of a democratic, non - racial, non-sexist and unitary South Africa.

Inspite of low priority given to the cultural arena in terms of support and assistance there has been the emergence of dynamic cultural and sporting activity, giving vision and hope of a new democratic, non-racial and nonusexist South Africa. But much remains to be dune, especially in the areas Of training, and development, resources and cultural administration in our area. This department sees itself as playing a pivotal role in building branch and zonal structures; not in terms of narrow political partisanship but in the broadest possible sense of reaching out to all cultural workers Sports persons and artists committeed to a democratic South erica.

- 2. National meetings
- 2.1 DRE Meeting on 9th December 1T90

Two weeks after the Regional Executive Cummittee was elected at Elijah Mango College, Cde Craig Padayachee, attended a National meeting 70f the DAC in Johannesburg. This meeting was attend by a delegates from the eleven (11) launched regions of the ANC except Transkei. The discussion that took place were involvement with existing cultural organisations and the relationship between them and DAB.

Feasible CD-ordinating mechanisms or structures within the  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{AND}}\xspace.$ 

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Suggestion for the interim and future structuring and location of the DAC H.G. Administration. (see Circular ND. DAC 1 of 1991 issued on the lb February 1991). When he returned, I was asked to assist in the work of this department until an interim committee ceuld be formed. My immediate task was to send out letters, to each, branch inviting them to a meeting on the 22nd December 1991. Page 1/ .....

Consultative conference 19 - 21 Agril 1991 The head of our regional department of Art and Culture attended a consultative conference held in Johannesburg from 19 to let April 1991. This conference was convened by the AND DAC and attended by representatives (delegated) from ANC Regional Department of Art and Culture, ANC Youth League, AZAPO (Observers). Congress of South African Writers (CDSAW), Skrywers Gilda, Federation of South Africa Cultural Organisations (FOSACO), South Africa Musicians Alliance (SANA), film and allied workers union (FAWU), Thupelo Arts Project, Cape Cultural workers Congress (CNC), Culture and Working life project and Afrapix (Observers). The Consultative conference discussed the following :

Cultural Boycott

Engagement of state structures

Information of a nDn-secretarian cultural organisation. hand-out for report on this consultative conference.) Regional Meeting

First Meeting

Immediately after the National meeting on 9th December 1990, letters dated 12 December 1990 we handed to branch secretaries/chairpersons before the buses departed for the National Consultative Conference on 14 December 199q inviting two (2) delegates per branch to a meeting on the 22 December 1990 at the Regional Office in Nelspruit. However, the attendance at this meeting was very poor. Only three (3) branches attended. The meeting was then postponed to the 20 January 1991.

Second Meeting

Letters dated the 9th January 1991 were sent to each branch inviting two delegates per branch to a regional meeting on 20th January 1991 at 11h30 at the Regional Office. Although the meeting was only attended by seven branches, it continued. At the meeting the chairperson reported on the December 9, meeting. The meeting also discussed working relationship with other structures and the formation of Regional DAB (see Circular NO. DAC one (1) Of 1991).

Third Meeting

Letters dated 11 February 1991 were sent to branches inviting them to a meeting on 15th February 1991. A document consisting of the following :

The Agenda

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 1991. Objectives of Regional DAC

Report on December 9 meeting Page 2/....

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. Cultural boycott
Discussion documents from National Office.
. Agenda of Los Angeles meeting
DQC's work plan
03 VET (n
was complied and handed to each branch at the meeting
branches who did not attend the meeting received it
later. The meeting discussed the formation of the
Regional DAC and came up with an Interim Committee.
This meeting was also poorly attended.
Regional Conference
tters Dated 20th June 1991 were handed to the branches
5 the Regional Conference on 23rd June 1991 inviting one
delegate from each branch to attend this conference.'
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._ x.
Znnal Meeting
Since many branches were not attending meetings and the
three meetings were poorly attending, the committee felt
that we should visit zones so as to establish zonal
committees and thus form a Regional committee.
Letters were faxed to Ermelo, Bethal and Secunda On the
14th February 1991 to co-ordinate zonal meetings on the
2nd of March 1991, unfortunately this meetings did not
take place due to National Sporting Events.
Nitbank: Letter faxed on the 18th April 1991 to Witbank
co-ordinate a meeting for the 11 of May 1991.
The Head of the DAC acompany by a Youth Leader
went to Witbank but no one attended the
meeting. However they met with the Head of the
COSATU Cultural Desk.
Ermelo: A meeting sheduled for 18th of May 1991 was
called of due to it not being properly co-
ordinated.
Secunda: A meeting scheduled for b May 1991 was
cancelled due to CDSATU having a conference.
hazzview: A meeting at Hazyview on 14th March 1991 was
succesful and an Interim Zonal Committee was
formed.
Inkemazi: On the 25 May 1991 the DAC visited the Inkomazi
zone and a person from the zonal committee was
given the task of co-ordinating the zone.
A second meeting in Hazyview for the 26 May
1991 did not take place because it was poorly
attended.
Textile Industrz: Cde Malin Sellman and Bernard Thalo
visited the area in February 1991 to
discuss the relocation of the ANC
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textile, printing, graphic and wearing workshop in the
country. They looked at certain suitable areas. Ede
Padayachee tried contacting them on a number of
hocasiohs after their visit but was unsuccesful. A
etter was fax to DAC on 12th April 1991 and later he
poke to Cde Wally Serote on this issue. Thereafter a
4ax was received from the DAC stating that this workshop
will be relocated in Grahamstown.
hulr-d
Difficulties Encounted
Many branches did not attend meeting called by the
Due to our region being mostly rural and many branches do
not have telephones or fax machines, communication
becomes a problem.
Since the department has no full time personal co-
ordination of the region becomes a serious problem and
therefore zones were visited during weekends.
Due to our Region being vast and that excess to certain
areas is difficult. Transport becomes a problem. A
vehicle is very necessary for co-ordination. In the past
Cde Craig Padayachee used his vehicle.
Finance is onother difficulty. Our region has many
problems and projects and therefore, the REC is not in a
position to help very much with finance.
Conclusion
Cdes, Delegates I urge you to focus attention on some of
the difficulties cur encountered and to see how some can
be overcomes so that co-ordination and administration is
effective. We feel strongly that co-ordination and
administration are crucial for succeeding in realising
the aims of a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist South
African Culture. If we do not reach out to and include
all those who want to be part of a democratic South
africa then we shall have failed to lay the foundation
for a peaceful transformationoway from the evils of an
apartheid society.
AMANDLA 1!! MATLA !! POWER!! TO THE PEOPLE
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COMPILED BY

(HEAD OF D.A.C)

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