

## PROJECTS - OVERVIEW AND OUTLOOK

### INTRODUCTION

South Africa is entering a new era in the last decade of the 20th Century - a decade where historic changes are occurring on the international scene.

In this new climate there is greater acceptance that at the root of all socio-political conflicts lies the lop-sided distribution of our world's resources and the imbalances in economic and human resource development. Possibilities are opening up to advance the struggle for a new international economic order as progressives seek a lasting solution to the North-South divide.

In the Southern Africa region, the preference to solve conflicts by peaceful means is finally gaining ground after years of heroic and bitter struggle against Pretoria's colonialism of Namibia and its destabilisation of the Front-line states, especially Angola and Mozambique. The recent independence of Namibia is a glowing testimony of the victory of progress over the forces of darkness.

Inside South Africa itself, political organisations that were previously proscribed are now unbanned. The de Klerk government has been compelled to introduce a series of reforms in an attempt to address both the socio-political and economic crisis engulfing our country, as well as to seize the initiative by purporting to meet our people's demands for national liberation and freedom from want.

Alongside attempts by the reforming apartheid state to address our people's developmental needs are attempts to ensure it controls the development process.

It thus becomes imperative that the democratic movement take effective control over the process of development and reconstruction in order that South Africa's economic and social transformation is carried out in the interests of the majority.

The objective of this paper is firstly to give a brief and very general outline of the background to, rationale for, and present situation of AN C projects outside South Africa. '

It then proposes to advance project development strategies within the evolving situation in South Africa whose aim would be the provision of institutions, infrastructure and human resource development to overcome the effects of years of apartheid rule and actively promote the empowerment of our people.

### 1 PROJECTS OUTSIDE SOUTHAFRICA.

Over the years in exile the AN C embarked on a series of strategies to engage its exile community in development work.

This work expanded in proportion to the number of our people fleeing the increasing brutality of the apartheid regime. By shouldering the responsibility of providing food, clothing, shelter, education and health facilities to this huge number of people in exile, the AN C established a number of projects in various countries where our people sought refuge.

The scope of this responsibility was widened by the need to engage our people in production activities and create a core of skilled personnel with a view to opening up possibilities for greater participation in developmental activities leading to self-reliance both during, and after, the liberation struggle.

It was with these objectives in mind that a range of projects were developed over  
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the years in exile. With the assistance of progressive forces in the International Community, huge and complex settlements have been established at Mazimbu and Dakawa in Tanzania, Vianna in Angola and in Zambia - each with a multiplicity of project activities.

These projects can be grouped into four categories:-

- Education and training
- Community health services
- Agriculture and food production
- Small scale industries.

#### 1.1 Education and training

The purpose of the education and training projects was perceived to provide academic and professional training to all exiled South Africans to enable them to actively participate in the development and management of their communities.

As such, the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College (SOMAFCO) was established in Mazimbu, Tanzania. It has a Day-Care Centre, and provides pre-school, primary, secondary and adult education.

In addition, SOMAFCO boasts an Electronics and Computer Department and the Eli Weinberg Photo Laboratories. It is supported in these endeavours by other educational programmes carried out at the ANC Student Orientation Centre and the Vocational Training Centre situated in Dakawa, Tanzania.

In Zambia, the Dora Tamana Creche is functional.

At the Viana settlement in Angola training is provided by the Clinic Health Training Programme and the Motor Mechanic Workshop. There are also evening education classes.

At the tertiary level, education is provided through fellowships and scholarships obtained from government and NGOs bilaterally, and from the UNDP and UNESCO and other inter-governmental agencies.

#### 1.2 Community health services

For our communities in exile the planning and development of health care services had to take into account a variety of factors affecting the health status of our people, viz:

- displacement into exile, sometimes having to move from the first and second countries of asylum. -
- feelings of loneliness and dejection in the settlements, separation from families, uncertainty of the future, threats of racist military raids.
- exposure to new types of diseases that are peculiar to the environmental conditions of the countries of asylum.
- for many the experience of torture and imprisonment.

The primary health care strategy of health for all, adopted by the ANC, focuses on the prevention of ill-health, the promotion of good health and rehabilitation - paying attention to the mothers and children, the youth, the workers and the aged.

In an attempt to achieve these objectives the ANC-Holland Solidarity Hospital was built in Mazimbu - complete with wards, dental unit and sophisticated laboratory facilities.

In addition, clinics exist in Angola and Zambia.

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### 1.3 Agriculture and food production

The need to materially provide for a large exile community made this one of the priority areas for the ANC.

The aims of the agricultural projects are:

- to attain self reliance in food production
- to prepare those interested in agriculture, and to provide deployment and practical experience for those with academic training in agriculture.
- to generate funds from the surplus.

Four main sections exists on all our farms:-

- a) Livestock development
- b) Crop production
- c) Horticulture
- d) Mechanical workshops.

Over the years agriculture and food production projects were developed at farms at Mazimbu and Dakawa in Tanzania, at Lillies Farm in Angola, at the Chongela and Makeni Farms in Zambia and at the Vukani Co-operative Farm in Zimbabwe.

### 1.4 Small scale industries

The small scale industries which were developed in exile not only had the function of providing essential materials needed for construction activities, servicing the communities and exposing students to productive skills, but also attempted to generate surplus to obtain revenue to meet the increasing demands made on the ANC.

The network of small industries at Mazimbu plays fundamentally a supportive role. They include a carpentry workshop, a garment factory, a leather workshop and a textile printing workshop. Most of these ventures are in the process of being transferred to Dakawa.

In Angola there exists the Viana Motor Mechanics Workshop which, in addition to providing vocational training, also repairs vehicles. A printshop is situated in Luanda and premises have been established in Viana for a tailoring workshop.

The Alpha Garage and Star Furnitures are functional in Zambia.

### 1.5 Achievements and constraints :

In exile the ANC has been successfully involved in the planning and implementation of several major development projects such as Mazimbu, Dakawa and the agricultural projects in Zambia.

There is general agreement that all projects, in varying degrees, provide the psychological motivation for escaping the exile syndrome of endless waiting, occupied with meaningless activities. They play an important role in providing the cohesion needed for keeping the bulk of our people united outside the country of their birth. In addition, they provide the institution and infrastructure to overcome the effects of apartheid in exile and to a certain degree succeeded in promoting the empowerment of our people.

The educational and training institutions in SOMAFSCO need to be singled out for impacting in a more profound way on our liberation struggle.

Mention must also be made of the ANC Planning and Construction Department for the phenomenal structural development of the Mazimbu and Dakawa settlements.

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ments. The farms and small scale industries there have provided a substantial measure of self-reliance and are important bases for training.

Nevertheless, the major constraint of every project in exile is the shortage of skilled personnel at all levels, a matter that has proved difficult to overcome. The unbanning of the ANC and other political organisations imply that these projects would assume a different perspective and role in the overall development strategy of the ANC. ,

The Community health Service would continue to provide this essential service for as long as there are South Africans in exile. However, a more direct linkage can now be made with organisations operating in this sector inside South Africa both in regard to alleviating the development imperatives and the exchange of personnel and experience.

Educational institutions such as SOMAFCO and those at Dakawa would remain , functional for a limited period in the future. Staff and students would have to be recruited in a systematic way and organised methods of remuneration worked out.

! These, institutions are to be integrated into a democratic education system we are working towards inside our country.

## 2. ADDRESSING DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS INSIDE SA

When addressing development needs inside South Africa in a more direct way we are taking into consideration that a host of projects are already in existence there, and that rich experiences had been accumulated in project development and management.

There thus exists the fundamental need to integrate experiences in development work gained both inside South Africa externally with a view to enhancing its quality in the interests of all our people.

An important step in this process was the Harare Consultative Workshop on Funding held 25-27 May 1990, attended by 70 delegates involved in development work both in South Africa and in exile. The Workshop accepted three broad categories of funding needs:

"1) Resources for the ANC and the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) to rebuild their structures;

2) Resources for repatriation and resettling our compatriots from exile;

resettling our compatriots from jails and assisting internally displaced people; and

3) Resources to begin the process of building effective institutions and infrastructure which support our organisations and the masses of our people. This we called development work or the process of reconstruction. It has two dimensions:

a) 'providing infrastructure to overcome the effects of apartheid, and

b) promoting actively the empowerment of all our people."

A further step in this process was the ANC Consultative Seminar on Project Development held 5 - 7th November, 1990, in Johannesburg.

Ninety-five delegates representing a cross-section of South African NGO's, service organisations, independent project holders and ANC members involved in development work in exile debated the state of project development inside South Africa and various scenarios for a viable development strategy within the context of the South African macro-economic reality.

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## 2.1 Articulating an approach to development projects

Much of the development projects in South Africa has its roots in responses to the crisis facing our communities under apartheid - to a great extent reactive approaches.

The crisis in education, lack of health services, landlessness and the forceful uprooting of people in the interests of white supremacy, cultural oppression and many other deprivations of the apartheid era generated resistance and organised attempts to fight for the developmental needs of communities.

During the current phase we will still have to fight many struggles against the state, which is largely unsympathetic to development initiatives for the urban and rural poor. However, we are moving beyond short-term reactive approaches to adopt a more transformational process.

We are working on development needs at national, regional and local levels and prioritising within this. Our goal is to ensure that our approach to development shifts from one in which isolated development projects are seen as constituting development, to one in which we develop a programme based on an assessment of the overall needs for a particular community, district, region etc. This would mean that priorities would have to be set within the context of an overall development plan and projects would be part of a coherent development programme.

Whereas development projects on their own are often largely incapable of progressing beyond short-term responses to particular crisis, development programmes are based on a combination of projects in a variety of different sectors, i.e. urban, rural, housing, health, education, training, culture etc.

This means engaging in a process of networking within and between sectors.

Above all, a development programme would mean that the community involved would have to define for itself all the different aspects of development necessary and on the basis of this, plan how to achieve each one. So for example, an integrated development programme in a rural village might involve improving the quality and quantity of the water supply, start a vegetable garden and improve the health of the population. This would mean that engineers, primary health care workers and agriculturalists would all have to co-operate with the community in order to make the programme viable.

To ensure democracy, development programmes would have to be built around community participation and control. For this to be effective, resources, time, information, education and training are required so that communities can take informed decisions and participate from a position of strength. Training and human resource development thus need to become part of all stages of the development cycle.

## 2.2 Defining priorities

In any development programme there is a need to define priorities, and work out mechanisms and process through which these development priorities can be constantly defined and updated. These include co-ordinating meetings within each sector where mass-based organisations, service groups, and development agencies come together to determine priorities through an on-going process.

Similarly, regional development forums, consisting of all actors in the development field in a particular region are beginning to meet to determine their priorities. Some examples of priority determination can be assessed from the following:

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In the W there has been a proliferation of projects because of the education crisis, leading to strong pressure on the de Klerk government to introduce not only a single education system, but one in which the content would be people-centred.

In the W numerous projects are concentrating on the need to develop progressive primary health care services to be able to address the issues of preventable health care and on making health services accessible, affordable and appropriate for all people.

Similarly, a sizeable number of NGO's are working in the field of WED.-mgnt. In the past year strategies have changed from resisting forced removals to seizing of land rightfully belonging to communities and development oriented approaches. Local government has now become important because the Land Act is about to go - yet a series of rural developmental needs would still have to be addressed.

In addressing r mm i v l m n the AN C and a range of civic organisations and service organisations dealing with urban development have over the years initiated a range of development projects in the field of services, community facilities such as pre-school centres, creches and community halls, local government and urban policy. Efforts are being made to establish a range of community-based institutions that can carry out development work. These include:

Community ownership systems, such as Land Trusts.

-Electricity co-operatives and housing co-operatives.

-Non-profit financial institutions such as community credit unions and banks etc.

### 3. ANC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The AN C supports all these projects which benefit our communities by addressing their developmental needs. Members of the ANC, being part and parcel of the broader communities in which they live, actively participate in these projects to ensure its success.

The future democratic state, towards which the AN C is leading the struggle, will play a central role in launching development programmes, aimed at redressing historical inequalities. In addition, the AN C would ensure that a range of development-friendly legislation would be on the Bt statute Book.

The current situation in South Africa places great demands on the AN C to ensure that we arrive at this type of South Africa one that is democratic, non-racial and non-sexist.

Enormous resources would be required to embark on a range of projects that can both develop the AN C infrastructurally and situate it to embark on specific projects that would address our different communities' needs. t

The relocation of all the AN C Departments legally inside South Africa (in all 7 the fourteen regions) with administrative infrastructure and capacity to organise for a 5 just South Africa where our people's developmental needs would be seen to, is a daunting task.

Alongside this process - and indeed profoundly impacting on it - would be the need for the AN C and all its Departments to embark on programmes and projects to K orient progressive organisations and the community at large towards the understanding that development and fostering a development consciousness is both a

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part, and a logical continuation of, our struggle for the national liberation of the oppressed. .

ANC Departments also have the obligation to expand the capacity of different progressive sectoral organisations with a view to making the necessary adjustments that would enable them to convert into genuine mass based structures accountable to the communities they are assisting.

In addition, major projects would also have to be undertaken to reintegrate returning exiles, released political prisoners, and people displaced inside South Africa due to the continuing violence.

All these activities require substantial support from the progressive world.

#### CONCLUSION

Recent and on-going political developments in South Africa would in the future have significant implications for the ANC. Early and careful project planning is essential and close co-operation between the ANC, governments, non-governmental organisations, international donor and development agencies is absolutely essential.

We hold the international community in high esteem for the unflinching solidarity it has shown to the struggle of the people of South Africa. Let this solidarity multiply in the current phase to ensure that we build a bright future in South Africa free from want, illiteracy, disease and oppression.

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