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MDTIVQTIUN AND BUDGET FOR THE EASTERN CAPE LQND COMMITTEE :
#PRIL 1991 - APRIL 1992

Introduction and historx

The Port Elizabeth nnti-Removals Committee (PARC) was set up at the end of 1986, in reaction to the absence of a local service organisation to support communities during the Langa removal and the attempts to remove Red Location. The State of Emergency had already been declared, but the Black Sash and the National Committee Against Removals (NEAR) consulted as broadly as possible in Port Elizabeth about setting up this structure; .

Work was strictly confined to opposing Torced removals in the Telling communities: Red Location, Kleinskeol, Soweto-by-the-Sea, Hotherwell, Langa and some small isolated groups 0% "squatters". This work took the form 0% reacting to crises, #ieldwork, campaigning and lobbying, supporting community organisation, monitoring and some documentation. There was little research and "pro-active" work done, due to both time and resource constraints. PARC fed inte and received information through its aFTiliation to the National Committee Against Removals. In January and February 1990, PARC began a process of evaluation with a view to adapting its work and priorities to fit in with the rapidly changing national context. The general perceptien among community-based organisations was that PARC was the "Port Elizabeth" Anti-Removals Committee, and the majority 04 its work was with Port Elizabeth communities, se that it would be appropriate to be absorbed into the Port Elizabeth civic organisation. The PARC committee however felt that this would be inappropriate and set about broader regional consultation about needs and how community-based organisations and service organisations should relate to each other. The work of the organisation was suspended in May 1990, while this very slow process took place.

These pages attempt to deal with the issues which emerged as needing clarity : (1) THE NEED, (ii) AIMS AND OBJECTIVES, (iii) STRUCTURE, (iv) RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS, (v) JOB DESCRIPTIONS, and (vi) BUDGET.

(i) The need

Forced removals are no longer as central to the land and housing questions as they were to the late 1980s. The Tocus is now on interrelated issues of: lack of suiTicient appropriate land, the need For affordable housing and apprapropriate services, acceptable forms of local government and ways to redress the injustices oi the past, particularly the question of land as an economic base and a source of political power. The majority OF South Africans are squatters or rural dwellers. The emphasis in land and removals-related work has shifted from "human rights" pretest to "development" and planning. Emphasis is also changing Tram specific community struggles to more general emphasis on the underlying issues.

The African National Congress is taking up the political centre stage previously occupied internally by civic and other organisations. Civics are now in the process of developing the capacity to become true "organs of people's power", representing "civil society". Transfer of skills and access to relevant information is crucial to changing the balance of power in this process. Civics need to be able to put viable alternatives to the authorities during the process of negotiating the future at local level, as well as in formulating national policy positions on the various issues. This requires a large measure of specialisation. The land question is fundamental to power relations in South Africa, and as such has come increasingly into political agendas. The need for support on the land question has frequently been expressed at regional meetings of civic organisations in the Eastern Cape. It is therefore proposed that the resources of PARC be put into starting the Eastern Cape Land Committee which will deal with issues set out in the aims and objectives below.

There is presently an initiative in the Eastern Cape to form an urban service Organisation dealing with technical aspects of town planning, infrastructure and upgrading (similar to Planact) which will consist of architects, town planners, engineers etc. It is envisaged that these two organisations will provide complementary services to civics in the Eastern Cape, and co-operate when required.

(ii) Aims and objectives of the organisation

1. To gather information related to land issues in the Eastern Cape and to create a database on conditions.

eg Who owns the land now, and on what terms.

What are the Owners legal and political rights?

What is the land presently used for?

Who controls the access of non-Owners to the land?

Social relations in rural areas, the position of farmworkers

Who used to own the land and on what terms? How were they dispossessed?

Implications of scrapping of Land and Buffer Areas Acts

2. To gather and disseminate information with a view to informing local and regional debates on issues pertaining to land. To facilitate such debate and discussion among communities in the region on the following:

-State strategy/ policy

-land Ownership and alternative systems of land tenure

-land use options

-resource allocation and the development of infrastructure

-historical land claims

-what do communities want for the future?

-how can we get there?

-environmental issues

-identifying available skills and resources in the region re: land issues

-identifying and/or facilitating training and resources to fill the gaps re: skills and resources which are lacking

3. Generally to respond to specific requests, offering support to communities on land-related issues, and to liaise with technical and professional people eg. lawyers, planners, agricultural experts etc.

(iii) Structure

1. A regional land forum consisting of two representatives from each civic organisation in the region which shall meet twice per annum and discuss progress and policy direction of the organisation.

2. A regional management committee to manage the day to day affairs of the organisation and which shall meet at least once a month. It shall appoint and control the finances of the organisation.

Three representatives shall come from the regional management forum to serve on the working committee. It is suggested that they be volunteers who are interested and committed to the issues, and have the time to participate effectively. The suggested number for this working committee is six. The other three members shall initially be drawn from the present PARC committee.

When sub-committees (see point 3.) are formed, a representative of each sub-committee will join the working committee.

After the first year, the formation/structure of the working committee will be reviewed.

3. Sub-committees to deal with specific aspects of the organisation's work. eg: research and education - general programme of action
legal - ownership/tenure/claims

land use - eg agriculture/economics/planning

Each sub-committee to be co-ordinated by a staff member, and consist of appropriately skilled or interested and committed individuals who are not mandated by any organisations to which they may belong, but serve in their individual capacity.

(iv) Relationships with communities and other organisations

Service Organisations' Forum - relate to other service organisations, and network around relevant issues

Regional Development and Funding Forum - regional co-ordination of development and identification of needs and available resources

National Land Committee - need to re-apply for affiliation, will fit into national programme, feeding information in and receiving information

Communities - through the Development and Funding Forum, and the Regional Civic Structure, and the representatives from each town on the Regional Land Forum, and when responding to specific requests

(v) Staff and job descriptions

Co-ordinator 1 Media and Resource worker

The co-ordinator will be responsible for the overall implementation of the regional programme of the Eastern Cape Land Committee and co-ordinate the work of the office.

Duties will include assisting the management committee with report writing and drafting of budgets, as well as monitoring and evaluating the progress of the organisation.

The co-ordinator will also be responsible for developing and maintaining a database and managing the resource material of the organisation as well as promoting the use of such resources. This function will include some media work: writing and layout.

Fieldworkers

Liaising with communities, identifying needs, gathering and disseminating information between the service organisation and communities.

Planning and running workshops with communities.

Generally supporting communities on land related issues and networking with relevant service and professional organisations.

Writing reports and assisting Co-ordinator with publication of information.

Administrator

Secretarial and administrative duties.

Minute taking and report writing.

Book-keeping and paying of accounts.

Researcher for the NLC Land Action Research Programme

We will need a very skilled researcher to take the Eastern Cape Region into this national programme. Although the infrastructure of the Eastern Cape Land Committee will be used, the Land Action Research Programme will be planned and co-ordinated nationally, and budgeted for separately.

Proposed programme of the Eastern Cape Land Committee

As set out in the aims and objectives we will concentrate on setting up a database on land-related issues in the region, and gather resources which will enable us to facilitate debates within communities on the issues.

The Eastern Cape Region consists of 38 towns, divided into six zones, each consisting of between six and eight towns. Only four of these areas can really be considered urban i.e. Port Elizabeth, Uitenhage, Grahamstown and Cradock, the rest being small rural towns. There are no bantustans in the Eastern Cape Region, the closest being the Ciskei which falls into the Border Region. Droughts and economic conditions in the Eastern Cape are causing evictions and voluntary departures from farms in the region. This means that small rural towns, already under a heavy unemployment burden, are acquiring new inhabitants daily as ex-farmworkers arrive in search of any means of survival. The townships they come to live in are usually dry and dusty, with inadequate services - usually water taps in the street, which are shared among a number of families, no electricity, mobile and infrequent health services, very expensive transport to the larger centres, and schools which only go up to primary level. This all in stark contrast to the well serviced white residential areas in the same towns, with their half-empty senior schools.

How these communities respond to the scrapping of the Group Areas and Land Acts will be crucial to the shaping of a post-apartheid South Africa. Education and debates on the issues and options involved are long overdue. This is where the Eastern Cape Land Committee sees its role as vital, and urgent. To assist communities to come to informed policy and negotiating positions on these issues. We envisage approaching this in a structured way, trying to cast our net as widely as possible. It will be impossible to focus on the 38 towns individually, so we would like to target at least one town per zone as case studies, while involving the whole zone (i.e. 6 surrounding towns) in the process of information sharing and debate.

We would not wish to be drawn into the struggles of individual communities initially, until we have established a solid structure and are sure of our capacity. We feel getting information out, and gathering opinions of communities broadly is more important at this stage. We would be focusing on the rural towns, as the large centres do have access to some resources from institutions such as the Urban Foundation, Rhodes University, and even in Cradock the University of the Western Cape has a project. This means that travelling costs for fieldworkers will be quite high, but this is unavoidable.