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MKHONTO WE SIZWE MILITARY VETERANS
ASSOCIATION

SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE

18TH e919TH DECEMBER1999

HELD AT THE PROTEA GARDENS HOTEL; BEREA
JOHANNESBURG

PROJECT REPORT

AGRI INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS PARK;
DOORNKUIL; ORANGE FARM

PREPARED & PRESENTED BY

PROJECT DIRECTORS:

CONSULTIUM PROJECT PLANNING & MANAGEMENT
JOHANNESBURG

FINAL DRAFT

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The following report provides the current status of developments to date on the proposed Agri-Industrial business Park at Orange Farm

The Doornkuil Agri -Industrial Business Park is located at Orange Farm approximately 45 minutes to the south of the Johannesburg city centre in close proximity to the Grasmere area along the main route to Bloemfontein.

The farm is close to a number of commonly known residential areas like Ennerdale, Walkerville and Lenasia.

The complete Farm is a 25-hectare site that \200\231Is mainly composed of agricultural land and a number of dispersed residences that are in a dilapidated condition. The residences have been previously vandalised to varying degrees. There are a number of existing workshops in the form of a mechanical and the dairy- milking Shed The farm is fully serviced in terms of water and power supply

The Agri-Industrial Business Park Project itself is a pilot project aimed at both building incumbent entrepreneurs and encouraging emerging enterprise primarily amongst the community of MKMVA members. It will invariably also be a resource for the immediate community around the location and an example for similar projects that are envisaged for the rest of the country.

Its aim is to train skill & develop a base of veterans, who will be selected from various communities around the country. These members will then become active at the Centre or within their communities and thus begin to breed successful businesses that will be able to compete with others in and outside the area of the Park. Such competition shall be encouraged through the supply of products and services that are of a high standard. At the same time the objective of assisting members towards creating their own jobs will be a high priority.

One of the longer-term objectives of the project is to provide some social housing and welfare facilities for retired/ disabled veterans and also some families of deceased veterans.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Sponsors, British Aerospace, the Airborne Trust and MKMVA was signed in the first quarter of 1998.

This MoU set out to define for purposes of common understanding the aims and objectives of the project which in-part were to ensure

that the Project must be sustainable in the long terms and contribute directly to the meaningful re-training and re-integration into society of former non-statutory forces.

that the project demonstrates political integrity, credibility and transparency

That the project is subject to regular evaluation. This would happen through the submission of regular reports to the various structures mentioned later, including the sponsors.

FINAL DRAFT

At a meeting of the Steering Committee held on the 8th December , some concern was raised over the need to re-focus on the practical realisation of the Park as efforts from the time of the launch seemed to be geared very much towards the formation of business plans for the anchor projects. It was also agreed that a flow of other potential projects in the form of business plans should be encouraged from the membership of the organisation. The principle of marketing the Park to the organisation's membership was agreed upon.

The business project proposals received from members will be reviewed and assistance or advice given on the practicality and viability of the projects.

In order to facilitate the expedited erection of the Park, the Committee has also instructed the Project Director to commission the necessary Surveys and Master planning of the entire area, which proposed layout and elemental cost estimates will be put before the Committee by the second week of February 1999.

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A Technical Committee to assist with the processes of dealing with the detail work of the Steering Committee has also been re-established. This committee shall meet in between the now regular meetings of the Steering Committee.

The extent of the site, water and soil conditions at the project site are to be investigated and confirmed. The envisaged Master plan will also illustrate the phases in which the project is to be developed.

it is hoped that with the processes of the Master Planning and the development / review of business plans happening concurrently, more visible progress will become evident early into the coming year. This should allow the actual erection of the project buildings to commence within the second quarter of the next year.

Doornkuil Farm is now owned by the MKMVA and this is where the project will be implemented. Ownership of the farm should be passed on to a company owned by the MKMVA. Registration formalities should be completed by end of January 2000.

A General Manager will eventually reside on the farm. He/She will be on hand to manage and monitor the operations closely. Technical assistance will be sourced from a variety of organisations in the field of management training and support.

In summarising the above, the Project Director would like to make this call to all members of MKMVA with an interest in becoming part of either the implementation process or establishing viable business projects in the centre to come forward with their proposals through their respective local branch structures.

We would also like to encourage local structures to compile skills audits with the particulars of their members related to skills & qualifications. This information will become important for the future process of trainee selection. Such audits may be forwarded to the Office of the Project Officer Mr. Given Letsoalo.

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Finally it is hoped that in following these and other planned processes, the involvement of the broader membership through availing opportunities and the transparency of the entire process will be achievable.

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MKHONTO WE SIZWE MILITARY VETERANS ASSOCIATION -
CONFERENCE REPORT ON THE AGR1 INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS PAR

FINAL DRAFT

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The roles of the three signatories are clearly defined in the document with that of MKMVA being primarily the provision of the facility and basic infrastructure to commence erection of the buildings.

British Aerospace through the Airborne Trust is currently the sole funder to the project.

The Official launch of the Project on the 17h April 1999 was the culmination of a long period of negotiation that was earmarked at securing both the necessary initial funding from the sponsors and use of the existing farm at Doornkuil

The total funding of 500 000 pounds sterling to the Project is currently being held in Trust by the Airborne Trust.

The site was transferred from the mother body -" The African National Congress to MKMVA early this year and is currently secured by local members of MKMVA.

A Steering Committee comprising representation from all three signatories to the MOU and the Project Director was set up to manage the process of establishing the centre and to assist in mainly ratifying but also identifying where necessary, projects for implementation on the farm. Sipho Njobe from Consultium Project Planning & Management was appointed at the beginning of July 1999 as Project Director to manage, coordinate and plan on a daily basis the overall master planning and implementation of the project.

An initial project identification process was initiated through several consultative meetings with the National Committee of MKMVA, the Project Steering Committee and the Airborne Trust. Through this inclusive process several potential projects were identified as suitable for implementation.

A project analysis and prioritisation process was undertaken with all the stakeholders and it was agreed at a meeting on the 2nd of September 1999 that two projects be carried forward and a business plan on each of the two projects be drawn up. The two projects selected were the Flower Growing Projectâ\200\231and the Uniform Manufacturing Project. The proposals at this stage were to ensure that a detailed researched and viable anchor project(s) is introduced into the Park, and that the other projects and business initiatives would then form themselves around the anchor project(s).

The Project Director proceeded to collect information and data for the two projects and completed the business plan for the Flower Growing Project. The recommended flowers to be grown in the first stage of the project were roses.

Work towards producing a business plan on the Uniform making facility was also on-going and it was envisaged that a business plan would be completed by the middle of December 1999. The delay here was due to the difficulty of obtaining market information from British Aerospace AMSCOR on army uniforms and other uniform types from the subsidiaries.

Further formal and informal discussions took place within the Steering Committee with regard to the above mentioned projects over the months of October and November 1999.

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