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CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE PERIOD:
ENDING 31 JANUARY 1990

In order to ensure that over the next six to eight months the Centre for Development Studies becomes operationalised throughout the country, a recent meeting of the Interim National Consultative Committee made the following recommendations for implementation by all regions.

In brief, it was recognised that three areas needed to be addressed:

1. The need to ensure that Study Commissions emerged in each of the regions and that these Study Commissions began to co-ordinate their work at a national level;
2. The need to ensure that CDS began a process of reaching out: (i) to those areas (rural, women, less formally skilled, etc.) often not represented on its structures at present; and (ii) to those communities who have traditionally not been drawn into research and policy work;
3. The need to ensure that research projects recognised as being of national importance (to the MDM) be begun as soon as possible and should not have to wait until all Study Commissions are set up in all regions.

It was felt that through setting a date for a 'first-round' of funding projects, regions could begin to address these concerns.

RECOMMENDATION 1: THAT STUDY COMMISSIONS BE SET UP IN ALL REGIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

A. STUDY COMMISSIONS IN THE REGIONS

Within each region workshops would be convened to set up study commissions in any or all of the following areas:

1. Constitution, law and government
2. Local government and planning
3. Media and culture
4. The land question
5. Religion

6. Economy
7. Labour and employment
8. Children
9. Women
10. Health
11. Social services and welfare
12. Education
13. Environment

Please note two things. Firstly, in some regions, different areas might be combined. For example, the economy and labour and employment might be treated as one. Or the study commission on land might be combined with that of local government and planning. And health could merge with social services and welfare. Secondly, not all regions will be able initially to develop Study Commissions in all sectors.

These study commissions would need to::

1. meet and develop a basic constitution (modus operandi) guiding their operation;
2. While it would be preferable if organizations of the MDM led the formation and operations of the study commissions, if this is not possible the study commissions should ensure: (i) that there is representation from the MDM within their study commission, or, (ii) if this is not possible that the study commission develop a structured relationship with the relevant parts of the MDM.
3. Elect convenor(s) who could ensure proper minutes are kept and who would provide a link to study commissions in other regions.
4. Begin to (i) identify priority areas for mass-based education on the area of interest in the study commission, (ii) discuss how policy work within the sector may be undertaken, and (iii) identify research needs and requirements. Here, the Freedom Charter, Constitutional Guidelines, etc. become an important means of evaluating the importance of training, policy and research.

The names of these convenors and study commissions must be circulated to the National Secretary of CDS as soon as possible so that a schedule of national workshops within

each study commission area may be worked out. The first round of national workshops must be held before 15 January 1990.

B. NATIONAL STUDY COMMISSION WORKSHOPS

These National Workshops will be convened as follows:

1. **Representation** In regions where study commissions are operational, two representatives from each study commission will attend the national workshop. The remaining regions will be allowed to send one observer to those workshops.

2. **Aim** The workshops will be convened to consider the recommendations for training, policy and research made by each of the regional study commissions. In terms of the research projects there are broadly three kinds of research that may be considered: pure research, applied research and pilot projects which aim to plan a research agenda.

In addition, the national workshops will prioritise the research proposals made by that study commission.

A national convening committee of two people will be elected (preferably from different regions). These persons will then present the prioritised proposals at a Joint meeting between the interim National Consultative Committee and the representatives from each of the national study commissions.

3. **Process in convening workshops** Each region must submit the names of the convenors of Study Commissions to the National Secretary (Mr. Randy Erensen, UWC) as soon as possible. One of the regions will then be asked to convene the National Workshop. A detailed breakdown on costs for the delegates (2 per region where there is a Study Commission and 1 per region where there is no Study Commission) must be forwarded to the National Secretary. The Finance Committee will then prepare a recommendation for payment

(presuming that the motivation is within acceptable limits).

Regions are urged to try and travel on off-peak times and to use hotels which offer special rates.

C. JOINT MEETING TO DECIDE ON PROJECT PROPOSALS

This will be held before the end of January 1990 and will consist of the National Sectoral representatives and the National Consultative Committee. This must be seen as a first round of funding project proposals, because it may be that study commissions in some regions will not be ready with proposals by January. Further rounds of considering project proposals will be held every four or five months until the study commissions are operating properly on a national basis.

RECOMMENDATION 2: THAT REGIONS MAY EXPEND UP TO R25 000.00 ON OPERATIONAL COSTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 1989.

The NCC has decided to release funds for operational costs. Basically, each region will be allowed to spend up to R25000.00 before December 31 1989 on:

1. Administration costs
2. Workshops to set up Study Commissions within the regions
3. Other projects requiring emergency funding and which the region approves.

The process to be followed here is that a detailed breakdown of expenses is to be forwarded to the National Secretary (Mr. Randy Erensen, UWC) by the regions. He and the interim convenor of the Finance Committee will consider the proposal and pass it for payment presuming everything is in order.

Cheques should be drawn and sent to regions within a week of requests being made.

Regions are strongly urged to ensure that they do not incur expenses which will not be able to be met. Only R25000.00 will be provided for administration, workshops, etc.

Please ensure that all sectors are aware of these decisions. Thanks in anticipation.