

File COSATU Lum / 255 / 003 / 02

National Reception Committee (NRC)

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NOTES/COMMENTS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

For your information
(Minutes of NRC meeting prior to
Release)

1. ATTENDANCE

All regions and sectors represented in the NRC were present.

2. READING OF MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Consultations with Lusaka

It was reported to the meeting that the released leaders did go to Lusaka to consult with the ANC. This consultation in Lusaka included an address to the general membership of the ANC, visits to various embassies, meeting the Frontline Heads of States and then attending the extended NEC meeting. The NRC and MDM delegates were unable to sit throughout the NEC meeting. However, the MDM delegation was only able to sit and participate in the discussion around the Natal violence. The extended NEC endorsed the view that the released leaders must play an active role in an attempt to end the violence. This could include the released leaders holding a meeting with King Zwelithini which must be preceded by the released leaders meeting the UDF/COSATU joint working committee. The meeting was then informed that the released leaders will be arriving the next day at 09h00.

4. REGIONAL REPORTS

The meeting felt that it was not necessary to go through all the regional reports as these tend to be a repetition of what was reported previously. However, our focus should only be on new developments and/or issues needing our immediate attention.

4.1 Eastern Cape

The region is still concerned about the fact that the released leaders in the region still do not have their own transport. The NRC is urged to look into this matter very seriously. The region also indicated that they are unsettled about the date of their rally as this date is clashing with the Namibia Independence day. On this day most MDM leaders and the released leaders may be expected to go to Namibia. The region requested that this date be changed. The NRC had no difficulty in agreeing to this proposal and it was agreed that the new date should be the 1st April which will be confirmed later by the region.

4.2 Western Cape

The region expressed its worry that comrade Oscar Mphetha's hospital costs may be very high. The exact amount was not

available as yet. There was also the question of the costs for the nurse who is taking care of cde Oscar. This matter and the general warfare of cde Oscar still needs to be looked into by the NRC. There was also the concern that the dates for the rallies may be too far and the issue is beginning to lose its momentum. The added complicating factor is the possible release of cde Nelson Mandela. These rallies must be seen as a matter of urgency.

The region also raised the question of delegation after delegation coming to see Nelson Mandela. These delegations often needed transport and accomodation. There are more delegations which will be going there and the region was inquiring whether there is any possibility of the NRC covering such costs? The problem is that up to now, it is the UDF REC that has been covering these costs. The NRC took a firm decision on this matter that it cannot cover such costs and that delegations themselves will have to pay for such costs. Even if the NRC was willing to cover such costs, it would be unable to do so due to the unavailability of resources. The NRC will only cover costs for NRC delegations and related tasks.

4.3 Southern Transvaal

The RRC will only be finalised in the coming weekend. An activist forum has been initiated in the JHB area which has since agreed to form task forces to address various issues pertaining to the releases and the unbanning of the ANC.

The Soweto reception committee reported that the priests in the areal are planning a thanksgiving ceremony for the released leaders on the 18th February. The leaders are requested to attend this ceremony. The NRC endorsed the view that the leaders should attend the ceremony.

4.4 Eastern Transvaal

This region reported that an RRC was formed three months ago. This was the initiative of the COSATU local in Secunda. This RRC covers both the Lowveld and the Highveld. This region indicated its unhappiness about the fact that it had not been informed of previous NRC meetings. Hence this committee had not had much or any contact with the NRC. As a result the region was unaware of the posts which were available for the NRC office staff. This information was given to the region during the meeting and an apology was duly conveyed by the Chairperson of the NRC. The region further expressed its dissatisfaction with the fact that there seemed to be contact between the NRC or UDF and Inyandza in connection with a rally for the Eastern Transvaal. This matter was clarified by the NRC with reference to a previous NRC discussion on the issue.