

SEMINAR ON DAKAWA.

DAKAWA - Presented by Bunny McKay (Agriculturalist and Head of ANC Projects.)

Dakawa is characterised by an ever-growing community of young students who are leaving South Africa to join the ANC(S.A) from various parts of our country. Both female and male students come for the sole purpose of receiving higher education in various fields of science.

The highest organ in Dakawa is the Directorate headed by the Director with his staff : the Overall Commander, Political Commissar, Finance Officer, Logistics and the Medical Officer. Two brigades have been set up at Paul Peterson house and Raymond Mhlaba house. Both Paul Peterson and Raymond Mhlaba brigades have equal members in number and fall under one command. There are sub-commanders in both houses. Life in Dakawa is improving. There is close contact between the comrades and the administration.

The new life in Dakawa has brought us closer to the practical situation and demands of Dakawa. There is constant contact between Mazimbu and Dakawa in all forms of activity. But, similarly, we should admit that the means of communication are extremely poor. A radio communication system between Mazimbu and Dakawa has to be established preferably a short wavelength system which can be operated through an A/C generator. A radio receiver to help monitoring, a powerful Grundic 3400 receiver would serve the purpose. For internal communication a walkie-talkie system can be used at each brigade tuned to 3400 at one and the same frequency.

The second major problem of Dakawa is the water supply system. Although at each brigade there is a well water well, proofs have not been established whether it is good for human consumption. But from earlier tests at 17 to 20 meters depth the water is too salty. Previously there have been suggestions to build an accumulation tank connected to the Mabana pipeline passing 150 meters from Raymond Mhlaba house. The suggestion pending further information about the possibility of using the water.

The third major problem is transport. At present in Dakawa we are using a Toyota Land Cruiser catering transport between Mazimbu and Dakawa and as well as between the two houses. In a bush situation like Dakawa we feel that provision should be made for a second vehicle, preferably a Landrover. On bad weather conditions Dakawa roads are impassable. There have been serious occurrences which almost resulted to loss of life owing to transport shortages.

Renovations of old farm houses at Both Paul Peterson and Raymond Mhlaba are being carried out. A toilet and a bathroom have been built at Paul Peterson, and at Raymond Mhlaba foundations have been made already.

A more comprehensive document on Dakawa is being prepared by the department where all aspects are looked into in detail. But it will be noted well that the document will only give guidelines on Dakawa and in no way will it give the actual plans. This is owing to the fact that at present Dakawa is said to be basically a transit to Mazimbu to sort out students and educate them on the ANC policies. Therefore students in Dakawa cannot be a potential to the project. Since the school programmes and study facilities are being made to put an end to the old system whereby students had to be registered throughout the year causing imbalances; a situation whereby students arrive just a month or two before the end of a school term. So at present Dakawa is planned mainly for the school purposes, except a few dropouts who have been sent back from the respective countries of study for various reasons. They also do not form a potential personnel for the project. Since a lot depends on their conducts during their stay in Dakawa, i.e. the school considers them according to their merits and a few may still be given the second chance as the aim is not to destroy them but to build them a future in various ways.

This gives us the impression that for the Dakawa project no provisions have been made yet as yet. With reference to the Report on Agricultural Projects in Mazimbu and Dakawa 17th March-8th April 1982, it was stated that in view of the fact that we are faced with the problems of a labour force, owing to the fact that students both in Mazimbu and Dakawa cannot form a constant labour force. Therefore, three comrades from the Transkei group and the six agricultural students at the Lusaka farm should be sent to Dakawa to create a nucleus for the project and further facilitate clearance for some of the Transkeians in Botswana.