

A.N.C. DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, DAKAWA
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL
DECEMBER 4TH, 1983

1. **OBJECTIVE OF THE CENTRE**

With the intensification of the South African liberation struggle in the late 1970's and the desperate reaction of the white minority regime, the African National Congress recognised the growing need to provide for those forced to flee police brutality. In August 1982 the concept for a development centre on land provided by the Tanzanian Government at Dakawa was formulated. Investigations into infrastructural resources, particularly water, and land use were set in motion.

Today in our country the escalating struggle has reached new heights. Our people have answered our call to unite in action and act in unity. In an unprecedented and massive show of support for our efforts, they have come out in their millions to form the United Democratic Front and to openly endorse the Freedom Charter - the fundamental programme of a free and democratic South Africa. They have done so with complete disdain for the repressive machinery of the fascist regime.

Already the regime has begun to panic. It has harassed UDF activists, banned UDF meetings and confiscated its newsletter in a vain attempt to silence the voice of the people. It needs no perspicuity of mind to foresee that the enemy will resort to increased acts of savagery as the tempo of the struggle intensifies such barbarous acts are invariably followed by an exodus of people forced to flee the country.

At Dakawa the ANC is establishing a centre where these people forced into exile can achieve self reliance through agriculture and small industry projects, and particularly where they can develop the skills needed for the tasks which lie ahead in a free South Africa. In the establishing and developing all projects at Dakawa the ANC attaches great importance to the principle of self help.

2. **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT**

The Norwegian consulting engineers, NORPLAN are currently assisting in the preparation of a preliminary development plan which will be completed by February 1984.

This plan will document in detail the intentions and feasibility of the broad proposals set out below.

2.1. **Population and villages**

The centre is planned to accommodate appr. 5,000 people

engaged primarily in agriculture, small industries, handicrafts, education, maintenance and other supporting activities.

Because of the need for great flexibility in the growth rate of the centre and other factors, the population will be decentralised in villages of about 300 people, who, once settled, will be able to consolidate themselves as a close-knit, well organised community. Apart from housing, each village will contain a central hall, administration offices, common rooms, a tuckshop and supplies distribution, sport fields and equipment storage for communal work.

2.2. Vocational Training Centre

A vocational training centre is being established to train 220 students and is capable of expansion to 330 students. This project, funded with the support of the ILO, is seen as a priority towards promoting the construction and other skills needed to develop Dakawa. The VTC will contain classrooms and workshops for construction, carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, mechanics, auto mechanics, leather work, tailoring, etc.

2.3. Student Orientation Centre

Because of the crippling system of Bantu Education, young students arriving from South Africa need a period of assessment (6-12 months) before they can be placed at secondary school or at the VTC. During this period they receive upgrading classes to insure that when they start school at the beginning of a new academic year, or in the second term, they are fully equipped to cope. The students are assisted to overcome the traumatic effects of sudden uprooting, in particular by receiving introductory classes in the history of the liberation struggle.

The orientation centre will need to accommodate an initial student population of 150 and must be capable of future expansion.

2.4. Rehabilitation Centre

The centre is intended for the social rehabilitation of people suffering from the effects of torture, alcohol and drug related problems. It should accommodate 60-100 people and include workshops for occupational therapy. It should be situated in a quiet area.

2.5. The Agricultural Centre

This project will contain a farm machinery yard, crop storage and feed mixing station, administration and research centre and will guide all agricultural activities at Dakawa. These activities will include crop production (maize, beans, sorghum, sunflower, rice, soyabeans etc.), livestock (cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, chickens, ducks, rabbits, bees and possibly fish), horticulture (fruit and vegetables).

2.6.

2.6. Small industries

Small industries are envisaged and may in some cases be attached to the villages. Research is needed to determine the size and feasibility of industries such as leatherwork, cabinet making, garment making, glass blowing, weaving and handicrafts, etc.

2.7. Children and Schooling

Creche, Nursery, Primary (and later) secondary schools will be centralised or partially centralised. It will be necessary to accomodate and care for children without parents - possibly as many as 700-1,000.

2.8. Central Administration Centre

This complex will be placed centrally and will provide the administration and back-up facilities for the entire complex. It will include:

- offices
- stores
- supplies centre which will store, process and distribute foodstuffs to the villages
- motor vehicle maintenance workshop
- transport administration and car park
- clinic capable of expansion to a health Centre
- administration/management training centre

2.9. Cultural and handicraft centre

The ANC is firmly committed to the promotion of all forms of cultural expression. Music and dance, the performing and graphic arts, writing etc serve to enhance the quality of life of all our people and today culture is a weapon in our liberation struggle, expressing the aspirations of the people. In the near future culture will be a tool in the reconstruction of a liberated, democratic South Africa. At Dakawa it has an important role to play and the centre will include:

- library
- small theatre, with stage, lighting facilities and change rooms
- studio for graphic artists and sculptors
- silk screen workshop
- photographic dark room
- facilities for film editing
- handicraft workshops

3. GENERAL PROGRESS

Since it was first settled in 1982, the population at Dakawa has grown to about 120 people. The majority consist of students at the Student Orientation Centre, (about 80). There are 4 other small settlements including a reception centre for new arrivals. To facilitate the work programme towards self reliance, a common daily programme has been drawn up for all and whilst agriculture has started in a small way, the entire population has been engaged in digging the 5 km trench needed for the temporary water supply. The work has been carried out, under the slogan: "Dakawa needs

water!"

The majority of people are housed in tents and a few in existing structures. Pit latrines have been erected, water is transported and cooking at the 5 residential areas is done on wood fires. All efforts are being made by the people to improve the quality of life. For example a small library has been set up in one of the tents. Classes under the trees are being held both at the Orientation Centre and at the Residence for returned students.

4. CONSTRUCTION, PLANNING AND PROGRESS

4.1. Temporary water supply

The temporary water supply to the Vocational Training Centre supported by the ILO has been planned to supply additionally plots 18, 21 and 22. Materials have been funded by UNICEF. 5 km of trench has been dug by the community from the well at plot 18, pipes are on site and construction of the storage tank at plot 16 is about to commence. The supply will be operational early next year.

4.2. Renovations at plot 18

Two large houses and some small stores have been renovated as a base for the student orientation centre. A temporary dining hall has been constructed, pit toilets and washing facilities have been provided and electricity has been connected up to a generator.

4.3. Temporary farm machine yard

The digging of foundations had to be suspended, pending the selection of a new temporary site, possibly near plot 22 where the main source of manpower will be based in the short term.

4.4. Permanent Infrastructure

Priority is being given to the provision of electricity, roads and water supply.

4.4.1. Permanent water supply

Two preliminary investigations have been carried out, both of which indicate promising possibilities. The report by the Austrian Engineer, who spent two weeks at Dakawa refers to the existence of a large underground basin (20 km x 3 km x 200 m) situated some 12 km to the NW and some 40 m. above our land at Dakawa. This basin could be tapped at the source by pumping to a storage tank and feeding by gravity to Dakawa. The report by the Swedish Engineers who spent several weeks here confirms the above but points out that it would be more economic to sink boreholes along the dry river near the well at plot 18. However, they point out the danger, that considerable and sustained draining of sweet water from this area could lead to the infiltration of salt water lying further away. We also feel that tapping of this water by others further upstream (this water has its origin in the basin to NW) might lead to the drying up of our water

supply. From preliminary tests and calculations made the Swedish Engineers are also of the opinion that there is a large underground basin at plot 23. On the basis of these preliminary investigations, Norplan has been asked to do more detailed tests and a cost and capacity analysis of the 3 possible alternatives with a view to identifying the optimal solution.

4.4.2. Roads

Our early decision to use the central road bisecting the land as the main access road, has made it possible to arrange for Norplan to survey the road so that Noremco construction company can undertake its immediate all-weathering prior to the rainy season.

4.4.3. Electricity

As a matter of priority Norplan has been requested to prepare a proposal and cost estimate for the permanent main electricity supply to Dakawa.

4.4.4. Sewage

Because of the flat terrain, it will not be possible to have a single sewage system. Depending on the quality of the soil at the various project sites, it may be possible to employ septic tanks and soak pits. However, this will require detailed on the spot tests and where it is not possible we will have to consider other alternatives including biological and pit toilets.

4.5. Mapping

Two Norwegian engineers from Norplan have recently completed a topographical survey of the entire area and maps scale 1: 5,000 will be available within about 3 weeks. This will enable finalising of the development plan, and it will then be possible to call for maps of the individual project sites in scale 1 : 1,000.

4.6. The Vocational Training Centre

We have prepared a sketch scheme for the ILO including a site plan and detailed sketches for the buildings in phase 1. These include the administration block, a classroom block, a dormitory block and an ablution block. Overall standards are generally reduced in comparison with Mazimbu with no provision for covered connecting verandahs; 6 students sharing a bedroom with one common room for each 54 students. Total dormitory floor area is 3.5 m² per student compared to 7 m² per student in Mazimbu. It is our intention to adopt this standard for all dormitory accommodation at Dakawa. These drawings have been used by the ILO as a basis for seeking tenders from prefab suppliers and final plans will be modified according to the system chosen. Construction will commence in April 1984 and should be complete in July or August.

4.7. Land use plan and village types

On the basis of our brief and the identification of

agricultural land by the Agricultural Department, Ardhi Institute has prepared sketches for a land use plan and alternatives for a basic village. A modified plan has been prepared by the ANC Technical Department (see drw.)

4.8. Proposed house type (see drw.)

Whilst much of the housing is likely to be prefabricated, we have prepared a sketch proposal for a conventionally constructed 3-bedroom house, which could be adapted to prefabs depending on the supplier. This plan is basically similar to the Mazimbu duplex house, but the total area has been reduced from 95 m² to 61 m² in order to reduce the costs. This house type can be used for single or married quarters.

4.9. Student Orientation Centre (see drw.)

A sketch plan for the student orientation centre has been prepared as the development and expansion of this project is an obvious priority. The proposal envisages a total of 168 students and expansion to 252 students is possible.

5. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

5.1. Priorities

Apart from the infrastructure and the vocational training centre which is already proceeding, a number of other priority projects are emerging. These include the student orientation centre, the healthpost, a village and primary school facilities and agricultural buildings.

5.2. Construction Base

It is our intention in 1984 to start setting up a construction base including planning and administration offices, stores, workshops, etc.

5.3. Construction methods

It will be necessary at Dakawa to employ a combination of prefab construction and conventional building methods. As our capacity increases with the winding up of construction work at Mazimbu and with the graduation of skilled workers from the vocational training centre, it will be possible to increase our potential for conventional construction at Dakawa. Certain building types e.g. farm buildings, workshops etc., require large spans, greater fire precautions etc., and are more readily constructed with conventional or semi-conventional methods. On the other hand, particularly in the early stages it will be necessary on some projects to use prefab structures which offer advantages of low cost and swift delivery, quick erection with minimum skill, possible "turn key" delivery. Their use will free our workforce for those objects requiring a more conventional input.

A.N.C. MOROGORO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE