

Zany/028/0057/4 24/05/90
DPE/RPC WORKSHOP
MULUNGUSHI CONFERENCE CENTRE, LUSAKA.
21st - 22nd May 1990.

THEME: "The Current Situation and the Road to Victory".
'Building the ANC'.

Report.

1.0 Introduction.

The Department of Political Education and the Regional Political Committee (RPC) jointly held a successful two-day workshop at *Mulungushi International Conference Centre, Lusaka* on 21 -22 May 1990.

The workshop went under the theme: "*The Current Situation and the Road to Victory*" with main emphasis on building the African National Congress as a mass organisation under conditions of legality.

1.1 Objectives.

The central question addressed by the workshop was how to ensure that the process of building the ANC focuses on leading and organising the masses of our people for political power.

Convened to respond to the rapidly unfolding situation in South Africa, the workshop sought to involve the general membership in Lusaka in discussions aimed at making an input into shaping the Movement's policies to meet the ever-growing demands of the struggle.

The workshop aimed at:

- deepening participation by our members in this region in the debate and the creative activity of building and strengthening the ANC for the victory of the national democratic revolution in our country;
- creating a forum for comrades in this region to air their views on the current situation, and for the leadership to elaborate on the ANC's strategy and tactics in the present phase. This done with the purpose of arriving at a common approach to, and understanding of, the dynamics of the situation that obtains in our struggle at the present moment in history.

This fitted in well with the ANC's position that the lifeblood of the Movement must be the grassroots' democratic participation and accountability by the leadership to the membership and vice-versa. It was consonant with the call by our Movement to constantly win popular support for our positions through healthy, democratic debate, and never to arrogantly seek to impose our line because we are the vanguard.

It also sought to reaffirm the ANC's democratic approach to the negotiation process - that the masses, in political motion, hold the key to success in every phase of the process, and that we must guard against falling into the trap of the regime which seeks to exclude the masses and to leave 'negotiations' in the hands of 'experts'. The people must be central to the negotiations process at all times.

1.2 Participants.

Participating at this workshop were elected representatives of branches, units and combatants of our People's Army - Umkhonto Wesizwe. Also present and participating were representatives of departments, other structures of the Movement as well as our revolutionary allies. Some members of the NEC of the African National Congress also attended and enriched the deliberations of the workshop with their contributions.

Comrades Reg. September, a member of the NEC, and Thabo Mbeki (member of the NEC and Director of International Affairs) briefed the workshop participants on the current situation and on the May 2-4 exploratory talks at Groote Schuur (Cape Town) between the ANC delegation and the South African regime.

2.0 The Current Situation.

The major success scored by the African National Congress inside the country has been through its participation in the building of the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) and the Trade Union Movement, which have been able to survive the state of emergency.