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Documents of the
National Fundraising Workshop

held on 14-20 March, 1986
at the Solomon Mahlangn Freedom College

Tanzania

African National Congress, PO Box 31791, Lusaka, Zambia

Address by Comrade T T Nkobi
Treasurer-General of the African National Congress

Dear Delegates,

At the historic Consultative Conference held last year in Zambia, the highest organ of our movement - Congress - resolved to intensify our political and armed struggle for freedom, peace and social justice.

To this end, Congress charged the Office of the Treasurer-General with the task of preparing an all-round, co-ordinated and comprehensive five-year fundraising plan to enable the movement as a whole to plan its activities in a more effective way.

In my address to you today, it is my task to set out the broad guidelines within which the Office of the Treasurer-General operates. It is also my task to ensure that we fully and frankly discuss our method of work, our shortcomings, how to strengthen our organisation, etc, for to meet the demands of the time we must be effectively and efficiently organised.

Our Conference took place against the background of rising militancy in our country. Events before and after Conference clearly show that our people are ready to do everything within their power to bring the hated racist regime to its knees.

They have readily and unwaveringly answered our call to make South Africa ungovernable and apartheid unworkable. By their concerted, resolute and fearless actions, our people have shown that they are ready to confront the enemy at all levels. It is our task, at this workshop, to draw up a programme of action that will ensure we have the material means to meet the demands being made upon us.

Ours is a struggle waged on many and varied fronts. We have to engage the enemy militarily, politically, diplomatically, culturally and, not least, on the economic front. We must give the enemy no quarter. Intensifying the struggle requires that we mobilise all our people in all their various formations the length and breadth of our country.

What does this mobilisation mean? Mobilising our people means that we need to increase the number of our full time organisers, as well as facilitate their mobility. They must be able to carry out their organisational and agitational work on a greatly extended scale.

To maintain one organiser and give him or her the necessary mobility to escape enemy dragnets while ensuring effective work, costs us not less than R4 000 per annum

- and this is a very conservative estimate. How many fulltime organisers do we need to organise our people in both urban and rural areas - and at what cost?

Mobilising the people also implies that we expand our information network inside the country, so as to counteract the disinformation campaign of the enemy, to educate our people as to the true aims of our revolution, to mobilise our people for decisive action, and to expose all enemy manoeuvres and machinations.

Translated into practical terms, this implies that we set up our own publicity and distribution units inside our country,

fully equipped with machinery, printing equipment and personnel. Our cadres can no longer solely rely on publicity material produced across the borders - the situation is too fluid, rapid response and initiative too important, and demand too great.

On the diplomatic and cultural fields, intensification of our struggle must entail stepping up the drive for comprehensive and mandatory economic sanctions. We must work towards galvanising the international community to move from mere verbal condemnation of the Pretoria regime to decisive action against it. Our people have repeatedly asserted that they are prepared to suffer the effects of economic sanctions knowing that such measures will weaken the regime and hasten its downfall.

Comrade Chairperson,

The following is important for us to take note of:

1. The Treasurer General's Office at Headquarters must be organised in such a way as to ensure that there are proper channels of communication with all functional committees and regions. Our starting point must be that we, as the Treasurer General's Office, are organised to ensure that the needs of the movement as a whole are met. It is our task to see that the best method of obtaining the necessary funds, equipment, skills and technical advice etc is used. It is the Office of the Treasurer General at HQ that must have an overall view of what is being obtained, from where and for who. This centralised planning, execution, control and co-ordination is essential for us to work effectively, to avoid duplication of tasks and eradicate waste and incorrect use of resources. But this can only be effective if the Treasury Office at HQ has a full complement of personnel, an effective channel of communication with each region, and that treasury committees, wherever they are located, work effectively and in harmony with the local region, RPC and Chief Representative. I wish to stress the need for a common approach to our work, a unity of purpose wherever we

may be located and whatever specific task we are fulfilling. This overview is imperative to ensure we do not duplicate our work, and waste valuable human and material resources.

2. We need to assess what our financial responsibilities entail. Firstly, we are responsible for the maintenance and well-being of thousands of people, based in many countries. Housing, food, transport, clothing, education etc must be provided. We need to provide the necessary finance for those comrades going home. We need to provide the financial and material needs that sustain our operatives at home - full time organisers and organisations functioning legally. We are responsible for the establishing and upkeep of the many missions of the ANC based worldwide. We also need to be aware that many more countries are requesting that ANC missions be established. This means premises, personnel, operating expenses, travel and greatly increased expenditure by the movement overall.

3. We need to discuss the source of our funds. Primarily,