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read

THE A.N.C. ECONOMIC UNIT
(FOR N.E.C. CONSIDERATION)

1. The idea of an Economic Unit was first promulgated by our President and later endorsed by our Secretary-General in the light of a glaring need for an organised form of dealing with economic issues and organisations.
2. When the organisation decided to approach the Regional E.C.A. (Economic Commission for Africa) Office for assistance in carrying out a Socio-Economic Survey of South Africa in 1980, it became clear that such a project would need manpower input on the part of the A.N.C. Otherwise we ran the risk of losing control over the project.
3. The Economic Unit came into being in February, 1982 by the simple process of bringing together all the known A.N.C. economists in Lusaka. It took some time and several meetings to arrive at the exact role and method of organisation of the Unit.
4. It should be pointed out that, with most of the comrades, they had not been involved in full-time work in their respective fields of study since completion. A practical lesson from our experience is that provision has to be made to involve comrades in their fields of specialisation within a short time after completion. Otherwise their qualifications may be invalidated and lost.
5. The Unit would like to lay stress on the importance of a proper machinery like a Manpower Unit, to process and make the necessary arrangements for relevant placement of qualified personnel within or without the organisational machinery.
6. At the moment there are requests from our allies and supporters in Southern Africa for qualified personnel in a wide range of fields. Responding to such requests would be of double advantage to us. We would be seen to be helping our friends in their hour of need -- thereby strengthening their commitment to our struggle and at the same time afford our cadres the valuable field experience they require to consolidate their knowledge. A balanced programme to cater for the immediate manpower needs of the organisation as well as the interests of the trainees could be worked out through such an organ as the Manpower Unit.

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7. At the moment we would like to present the following thoughts for the urgent and serious consideration of the N.E.C.

Working Committee:-

8. The Economic Unit

That the Economic Unit should be correctly seen as a resource bank of politicised economists of the movement, whose members, while they may be serving in specific departments and sections of the organisation, need to carry out collective, specialised and analytical discussions and exchange of views in order to make them better able to carry out their assignments.

For Example: Female nurses and doctors who hold responsible positions in the Women's Section still remain members of the Health Department without any serious contradictions. On the contrary, they are able to make valuable inputs in such women projects as Creches and Child Care. At the same time they discharge their professional responsibilities of planning and servicing the health needs of our people.

9. The Economic Department.

With the growth of personnel, it will be possible to have an Economics Department manned by full-time political-economists who would be able to interpret economic issues for the movement. At the same time they would appreciate the needs of Engineer-Economists (Applied Econ,) who will need to be placed in appropriate employment, perhaps outside the movement. However, through their membership of the Economic Department, they would still be able to make direct contributions to the work of the organisation.

(We hope that soon, either through the Economic Unit or Manpower Unit, it will be possible to present a generalised policy on the question of professionals who have to be allowed to take up employment if only to complete their training, as is the understood case of doctors doing housemanship. Something along the lines of percentage salary contribution to the organisation.)

10. Relations With Other Departments:

Seen in this light, the Economic Unit (later Dept.) can only be of assistance to such sectors as:-

a) The Treasury and its departments both in administration and concrete productive and servicing projects under the charge of the Treasury;

b) The D.I.P. in carrying out specialised research in the field of economy;

c) The International Dept. by making meaningful representation of the movement in national, regional and international economic organisations;

d) Other Sectors that may require and request the services of the Economic Unit.

COORDINATION: With proper implementation of our administrative structures, including the Permanent Consultative Secretariat, the work being done and still to be done can be smoothly coordinated and improved.

11. Functional Structure Of The Unit:

At present, the members of the Economic Unit have been assigned areas of responsibility, subject to adjustments, as follows:-

<u>FIELD OF RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>NAMES</u>
i. Agricultural Policies & Practices	1. Barney Pitso 2. Jacob Chiloane
ii. Mining Industry	1. S. Matlape
iii. Light & Heavy Industry (minus mining and including military industry)	1. Conny Dlingea 2. Tony Seedat
iv. Transport & Communications	1. S. Mfenyana
v. Legal Framework of S.A. Economy	Legal Unit
vi. The Financial & Monetary System	1. S. Sigxashe 2. M. Medupe
vii. South African Trade Relations	1. P. Magapatona 2. M. Sisulu
viii. Labour Laws & Practices	1. S. Makana
ix. The S.A. Political System and Social Relations	1. M. Mbongwa 2. Mavivi Manzini
x. Public Admin. & Management	1. Manala Manzini
xi. Development Strategy	1. Thabo Mbeki

12. Correspondingly, the members have been assigned to follow developments in related international and regional economic bodies e.g. E.C.A., ECOWAS, SADCC, UNCTAD, FAO, ILO, ITC, CODESRIA, PTA etc.

Such a division of labour will serve the following purposes:-

- a) To ensure that we fully participate and retain control of the projected SOCIO-ECONOMIC Survey of South Africa and any other similar projects.
- b) To stimulate our economists into making efforts to improve and upgrade their knowledge in a given guided direction.
- c) To give guidance to the Manpower Unit on the Manpower needs of the A.N.C. (and future South Africa) in the vast field of economy.
- d) To enhance the prestige and effective participation of the ANC at the level of international and regional economic organisations.

13. Programme Of Activities:

Our immediate programme concerns the following areas:-

- a) Research
- b) A.N.C. Economic Workshop
- c) In-Service Training (upgrading and specialisation)

14. IMMEDIATE ACTION

We therefore request the Working Committee to act immediately on the following issues:-

- a) To formalise the existence of the ANC Economic Unit under the Department of Professional Bodies until such time as it becomes a fully-fledged independent department directly under the Office of the S.G.
- b) To approve autonomy for the Unit in pursuit of its agreed objectives, with the necessary coordination with interested or related organs of the ANC through such channels as the Permanent Consultative Secretariat, Interdepartmental Meetings, The Manpower Unit, Bilateral Consultations etc.
- c) To ratify the draft Socio-Economic Survey project to be carried out in coordination with the ECA for immediate implementation.

- d) To expedite the creation and operation of the Mnapower Unit for proper guidance of trainees and relevant placement of qualified cadres.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE !!

presented by Sindiso Mfenyana,
Secretary for Professional Bodies.

On Behalf Of The Operational Economic Unit.

February, 1983.

Year Of United Action.

Lusaka.