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Land & Agriculture Policy Centre

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20 April 1993

Mr Govan Mbeki

c/o ANC Regional Office

P.O. Box 23120

Port Elizabeth 6000

Dear Comrade Govan

Enclosed please find the following documents:3

1. Minutes of the LAPC Board Meeting - 19 March 1993

2. Report to LAPC Directors - 18 March

3. Updated Draft LAPC Work Programme.

Please accept apologies for sending these so late.

Do let us know if you wish to have any other documentation.

. Yours sincerely

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Saeeda Vally

Administrative manager

MINUTES OF LAPC BOARD MEETING

19 MARCH 1993

Board members Eresent: Cheryl Carolus, David Cooper, 'Derek Hanekom, Sue Lund, Govan Mbeki, Mimie Sesoko

Also Eresent: John Sender (LAPC Working Group), Corin Didcott & Saeeda Vally (LAPC staff)

Apologies: Colin Bundy, Frene Ginwala, Enos Mabuza, Mavivi Manzini, Stan Sangweni, & Bob Tucker.

Matters arising:

Board members - The absence of half the board members gave rise to the questioning of these members' interest in the LAPC and whether there was any point in their being on the board of directors. It was suggested that a letter be written in particular to those who had never attended a board meeting asking whether they wished to remain on the board. The names of Arnold Stofile and Fusile Makathini were proposed as possible additional members. It was agreed that the number of board members should not exceed 12; however in the event of there being any withdrawals the names proposed would be considered, although it would be preferable if the board were not weighted with members from any particular region outside of PWV. It was noted that registration of the Centre is proceeding.

. Progress reEort:

David spoke to his written report, adding notes and explanations. Discussion took place as particular items and issues arose.

1. Administration

(a) Staffing: The prospective trainee researcher, Thebogo, had been employed by NLC.

2. Current research initiatives

(a) Land redistribution options workshop

The background to the involvement of World Bank in this workshop was explained. The World Bank which initially was not interested in land reform was now looking at land reform options and had been discussing ideas with government, DBSA and the ANC. They have have now come up with a proposal which will be included in the LAPC workshop which is being planned for June this year. Getting a Steering Committee to work out the programme and co-ordinate the Land redistribution workshop was an urgent matter. The following names were suggested: Aninka Claasens, Helena Dolny, Bongsi Njobe, Ma Lydia and Joanne Yawitch. The steering committee would report to the LAPC director.

(b) Short-term studies commissioned

There was approval of the commissioning of the various short term research studies reported on, however, it was agreed that there should be a standard form for outlining every proposal which is presented to the board for consideration, as for example, is done at MERG, though more simply.

(c) Natural Resources Management

It was agreed this was an important initiative which should be given full support. The involvement of the World Bank was supported, although careful management is needed. '

(d) Research proposals from other institutions

i. Land Tenure Centre

A proposal to involve Land Tenure Centre is still being formulated. This was encouraged.

ii. SEI

As the SEI seemed to be quite flexible, it was suggested that while considering their request to cooperate, LAPC should send them its proposal. Involving the SET in the LAPC was possibly a positive way of broadening the Centre's scope and output.

iii. IDS

It was pointed out as a note of caution that the IDS record on research for the democratic movement was mixed. It was noted that Michael Lipton has useful skills and the Western Cape researchers should not be discouraged from working with them.

iv. Work Programme drawn up by Alex Duncan

The Board should go through this carefully and send in their comments regarding wording, ideas, linking, etc., by 31 March. The Working Group should also go through this thoroughly. The updated version was still to be made available.

Some of the points made on the draft were:

i. The Target group: suggest 'disfranchised' rather than 'low income' group;

ii. Policy context: 'Agricultural restructuring' as a title didn't convey the content. 'Agricultural policy' was better.

iii. A question was raised about the lack of reference to urban land issues. It was pointed out that considering common rural and urban issues differently could "ghettoise" rural issues. It was suggested that the ANC department on Local government which links up with the National Housing Forum be contacted.

iv. Outputs from the Centre and links with the policy process: It should be clear that the Centre will own the papers it commissions for policy proposal.

On the question of policy-making, Cheryl gave a short briefing on the present stage of work of the ANC Policy division. Cheryl and Derek would prepare a paper for the next Board meeting as a guideline for the Centre on priority areas.

On Resources: A programme for the librarian had been laid out by Beverley Phillips from the Land Tenure Centre, Wisconsin. MERG has resources which should be used, so also the government's.

Data which the govt. claims is freely available should be obtained from them, e.g., state-owned land; how are govt. funds being allocated - with a view to restructuring.

As Corin, the librarian, would be on the UK study tour it was suggested that Beverley Phillips could possibly be sent to work with her during the week in Sussex, but this needed to be given more thought.

It was also agreed that concerted head-hunting be done for a Research Director for the Centre. Ford Foundation and FSG are to be approached to assist with this. MERG also has many contacts. It was recommended that a list of institutions in Southern.Africa be drawn up, and plans made to visit these institutions as part of recruitment.

Next meeting:

23 July 1993 at 14.00h. Parking arrangements to be made.