



AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

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Dear Comrade,

Enclosed please find a press statement on the
consultative workshop held in Harare from
29 April - 1 May 1990

WITH COMPLIMENTS

Dept. of Economics and Planning.

PRESS STATEMENT ON THE CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY THE ANC'S DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND PLANNING, THE CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS AND THE ECONOMIC TRENDS GROUP, ON THE THEME: SOUTH AFRICA: TOWARDS A POST-APARTHEID ECONOMY.

1. A consultative workshop on the Post-Apartheid economy for South Africa was held from the 29th of April to the 1st of May 1990 in Harare, Zimbabwe. This consultative workshop was attended by approximately 60 delegates drawn from the African National Congress, COSATU, Economic Trends group, Economic Research on South Africa, the Centre for Development Studies, the Industrial Strategy group and a few other organizations.
2. The major objective of this workshop was to begin the process of supporting the liberation movement in South Africa with policy options for a post-apartheid mixed economy. The workshop was not intended to produce any comprehensive manifesto or blueprint about a future economic order.
3. The workshop was addressed by Comrades Sindiso Mfenyane and Pallo Jordan from the National Executive Committee of the ANC, Jay Naidoo the General Secretary of COSATU and other prominent academics, trade union and political leaders.
4. A wide range of issues relating to the fundamental problems of our economy were seriously debated. Broadly, these issues revolved around the questions of economic growth through redistribution, and the appropriate paths to follow out of the present apartheid economic crisis. Discussions also focussed on certain immediate issues such as the building of a mixed economy, the financing of such an economic reconstruction and other current developments in the economy.
5. There was a special focus on the following critical areas:
 - (a) macro-economic policy; macro-economic balance, industrial restructuring and planning, agriculture, the land question and nationalization;
 - (b) international economic relations;
 - (c) the question of labour and labour relations, centralised bargaining and the relationship of working class organizations to the future democratic and non-racial government;
 - (d) social welfare, health and pensions and the provision of basic goods and services to the people;
 - (e) local government and finance;
 - (f) gender and the mixed economy;
 - (g) sound monetary and fiscal policy.

6. There was general consensus on a number of areas, particularly on the gross inequality that characterises the present South African apartheid economy. It was noted with serious concern that the present South African economy is dominated by a handful of conglomerates who wield tremendous power and influence on the political economy of South Africa. It was also noted with grave concern that the apartheid state is currently implementing a series of policies which will seriously inhibit the ability of a future non-racial government to achieve its objectives. These measures being undertaken now by the apartheid regime include privatisation, deregulation, the introduction of the Minerals Bill and others.

It was agreed that the above measures by the apartheid regime will have to be reviewed and if needs be reversed. This we must emphasise particularly as it applies to privatisation. It was felt that these measures are immoral and are unacceptable and that this present government must not be allowed to shape our future in this way.

7. Further, the following areas were agreed upon:

- (a) that there will be a crucial role for the democratic state to play both as an active economic agent and a creator of the broad environment within which economic life will take place;
- (b) that the private sector will also have a role to play in our economic life;
- (c) that the organised workers will play an important role in our economy and society;
- (d) that GROWTH SHOULD TAKE PLACE THROUGH REDISTRIBUTION;
- (e) that a number of immediate issues should be taken up as part of the process towards a post-apartheid South Africa. These include campaigns around the issue of privatisation, deregulation and the Minerals Bill;
- (f) that future policy-oriented research should be encouraged in order to further give substantive meaning to the broad political and economic objectives of the masses of the people;
- (g) that the final policy decisions will be taken by the organizations and their constituencies within their constitutional structures. The full report of this workshop will be submitted to both COSATU and the ANC.

8. The workshop expressed deep appreciation to the government of Zimbabwe for granting us a peaceful venue to meet.

9. The workshop sent a special word of thanks to all the sponsors of this workshop without whose support it could have been difficult to have met.

10. Finally, the participants agreed to send a message of support and solidarity to Comrade Michael Lapsley who was seriously injured by a

parcel bomb explosion at his house on Saturday, 28th April 1990.

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