

CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY
COMMUNITY LIAISON

CIVIL SOCIETY PROJECT OF CONSTITUTIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Introduction

The Constitutional Education Programme (CEP) has formed an integral part of the Public Participation Programme run by the Community Liaison Department. Its main focus has been on rural and disadvantaged communities, and its brief has been to conduct an education programme aimed at enabling and facilitating disadvantaged communities to input into the constitution-making process. This has perforce included an element of education on the concept of constitutionality.

The process which was conceptualised during 1994 was to involve organisations already involved in education and training, particularly those organisations with a legal bias and an outreach programme. The way in which this will be done will be to train trainers in law-based NGOs and CBOs in order to enable them to train facilitators to run community workshops. The CA will provide resources and materials for workshops run by NGOs. Workshops will be held both nationally and regionally.

Delivery Mechanism

The basis of the relationship between the CA and NGOs will be a training one. The key to the proposal is that the CA train trainers from NGOs to train facilitators. These NGOs will work within their own networks and will be responsible for taking constitutional education to other civil society structures and the public.

The content of the workshops to be conducted by NGOs will be constitutional education. Resources will focus on the concept of constitutionality. The Working Draft itself will be used as a resource. The existing summary of the Working Draft will be revised and utilised.

Process

The initial work will comprise informing law-based NGOs of the programme, ascertaining whether they are interested in being part of the programme and then setting up training workshops. The number of trainers from each NGO needs to be ascertained, as well as specific skills and training needs. This will vary depending on the NGOs concerned.

The CA will pay for training workshops and resources run by the CA. These costs will include transport and accommodation.

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Time Frame

The proposal is that trainers from NGOs and CBOs are trained from February 1996. They will then train the facilitators in their own organisations, and other structures they have access to, so that community workshops can be held as soon as possible.

The period of delivery of workshops is from March onwards.

Content of Community Workshop Programme

The content of the workshop will lay the basis for education on the new Constitution. The underlying premise is the need to ensure the acceptance and entrenchment of democratic principles by all sectors of the population. In order for this to occur, all citizens need to understand the significance of living in a constitutional democracy.

Thus the community workshop will deal with issues such as the nature of a constitution, the structure of government (national, provincial and local), the separation of powers, the specialised structures of government (the Human Rights Commission, Gender Commission, the Public Protector, Land Commission) and the general provisions of a Bill of Rights.

After the adoption of the new Constitution, education on the specific content of the Constitution will begin. This will be a vital component of the post adoption popularisation process.

Criteria for selection of NGOs and CBOs

There are specific criteria which have been established in order to select organisations which will be able to assist in the programme. These are as follows:

- Orientation

Organisations need to have an interest and experience in constitutional education and an outreach programme dealing with constitutional education.

e Capacity

The organisations need to have the infrastructure to run constitutional education workshops and to release their trainers/facilitators for training.

it Experience

The organisations need to be involved in running community workshops in the normal course of their work.

, Provincial Distribution

Organisations may be selected for this programme on the basis of their

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provincial base and their outreach.

Human Resources

The staff available to work on this programme are the Constitutional Education Manager and the Deputy Resource and Training Manager. The intern should return to work in February/March 1996.

The CEP coordinators will become available in March. They, together with the National Communication Coordinators (NCC) team, formerly the Ops team, will then assist with the programme.

The community workshop programme run by the CEP coordinators will be very intensive during January and February, when training of civil society trainers will also be taking place. For this reason, it is likely that consultants, members of the panel of experts and technical advisors will need to be brought into the process to assist in training.

Production and delivery of resources

The CA will develop resources necessary for the workshop programme. These will be distributed either from the national office or by the coordinators. Distribution mechanisms have been developed for the distribution of the Working Draft, and these may be utilised for the delivery of resources where appropriate.

Commencement of Training

This process should begin in late February.

1 Training workshops to be held nationally and regionally. The proposal is that trainers from national NGOs are brought to a central venue and trained together.

= Trainers from regional NGOs would be trained in the provinces with the assistance of the coordinators.

Training of Trainers Programme

This programme is limited by:

- budget
- number of training workshops that can be held from February to May 1996

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- human resources.

This programme would begin in late February/early March with a 3 day training workshop for trainers from the human rights, legal and paralegal organisations already consulted by the CA.

Thereafter training workshops will be held for additional NGOs from these sectors. Two national workshops and 4 regional workshops are planned for the months of March and April each.

In addition, certain sectors may require training, both at national and regional levels.

At the end of this process, approximately 360 trainers will be able to provide training on constitutional education.

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