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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT

ANNUAL REPORT(JULY 1991-DECEMBER 1992)

1. Structure of the Office of the Beauty President

Walter Sisulu: Deputy President 1

Lucky C. Mabasa: Personal Assistant to the Deputy

President (since March 1991)

Rica Hodgson: Secretary(since August 1991)

2. Areas of work

The Office of the Deputy President has been involved in the following areas of work: 1) internal mobilisation: ii) NEC-delegated work in specified regions; iii) international mobilisation; iv) media; v) liaison with political prisoners; vi) welfare .

2.1 Internal mobilisation.

In conjunction with the Organising Department, Public Relations Section, ANC regions and branches, the Office of the Deputy President has been engaged in internal mobilisation With a view to attaining the following objectives: a) transfer of power from

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The People Shall Govern!

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the white minority regime to the people as a whole;

b) building and strengthening of the ANC into a powerful mass-based legal political organisation of the oppressed;

c) strengthening the Tri-partite Alliance and" building the broadest possible unity of democratic and patriotic forces;

d) creation of the most conducive conditions for national reconciliation and reconstruction.

It should be mentioned that the demand upon the Deputy President's time has been quite enormous, as a result of Which not all the invitations to address regional, branch and other meetings could be honoured. In the intervening period the Deputy President Visited all the regions of the ANC, some of them twice or thrice.

In all engagements in the regions and .branches the Deputy President sought to impress on our grassroots structures the fact that the ability of the ANC to give effective leadership to the people of South Africa depends, to a large extent, on the work of primary and secondary organisational structures of the Movement. It is the duty of our regions and branches to take the ANC to the people and bring the people closer to the ANC.

As a result of discussions with REC's, BEC's and rank and file members of the Organisation certain important observations were made.

The activities of the Deputy President also included Visits to public institutions like hospitals, schools, universities, etc. Amongst the most important and memorable visits were:

- a) guided tour of Baragwanath Hospital on November 29 1991;
- b) visit to the Othandweni Orphanage in Soweto, during which a donation was presented to the Director of this institution;
- c) visit to the Boikhuco Home for the Aged in Mangaung on October 2 1992;
- d) official opening of the Dakawa Arts Centre in Grahamstown on 17 October 1992.

In May 1992 the Deputy President was appointed the Chancellor of the University of Venda. This development added a new dimension to the work of the Office of the Deputy President. Besides officiating at graduation ceremonies the Chancellor has to attend, on behalf of the University of Venda, top level functions held at other tertiary institutions. To assist the Deputy President in executing the added responsibilities of Chancellor of Univen, Comrade Lucky Mabasa has been given the additional task of liaising with the University Council, management and the students.

Since his appointment as Chancellor of Univen the Deputy President has been to the far northern Transvaal three times. On each of those occasions he held discussions with the Chairman of the Council for National Unity, Brigadier G. Ramushwana and other senior members of his administration. Briefing sessions

on the current situation were also held with members of the Venda sub-region of the ANC, Univen.branch of SASCO, Contralesa(N.Tvl.) and Venda traditional rulers.

## 2.2 NEC-delegated work in the regions.

In addition to these tasks, the Deputy.President was assigned the duty of co-ordinating the work of seven NEC members deployed to the regions. The following NEC members report to the Deputy President on their work in the regions:

R. Malebane-Metsing(s. OFS); W. Mkwai(Transkei); M. Maharaj(E. Cape); T. Botha( E. Cape); R. Mhlaba(E. Cape); A. Pahad(E. Tvl); G. Shope(E. Tvl); R. Kasrils(E. Tvl). Several group and individual meetings have taken place between these comrades and the Deputy.Rresident. A separate report on this work has already been submitted to the SGO.

The Deputy President has also been responsible for liaising with the three Natal regions. In 1992, for example, almost half the trips undertaken by the Deputy President were to Natal. This demonstrates in part the importance that the leadership of the ANC has attached to that province, where an undeclared war on the ANC and the democratic movement has been raging for more than five years. While campaigning for peace in these areas the ANC has also been involved in relief efforts for the benefit of the victims of violence in Natal.

2.3 International mobilisation constitutes an integral part of the work of the Office of the Deputy President. a In practical terms, this work has in the period under focus taken the following forms :

2 .3 .1 Receiving foreign dignitaries, academics, businessmen, and delegations of Anti-Apartheid organisations.

During the period July 1991- December 1992 the Deputy President received in his office and elsewhere more than 50 foreign dignitaries, government and parliamentary delegations and representatives of international and national NGO's. Amongst the dignitaries received were: Dr. K .D. Kaunda (former President of Zambia) ; General Olusegun Obasanjo (former Head of State of Nigeria) ; Ling Liong Sik (Malaysian Minister of Transport) ; Desmond O'Malley (Minister of Trade and Commerce of the Republic of Ireland) ; Laurent Fabius (Former French Prime Minister) ; Mr. Makarczk (Polish Minister of State for Foreign Affairs) ; Foreign Affairs Minister of the People's Republic of China) and others. Delegations of M.P's from Switzerland, Greece, Germany, Spain, Sweden and France also called on the Deputy President. Representatives of such international organisations as U.N.D.P., UNESCO, World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation as well as academics and businessmen (from the Friederich Eber Stifting, Caltex Oil etc.) were received by the Deputy President .

A number of locally based Heads of Diplomatic Mission, including ambassadors of Australia, Canada, United States, Netherlands, Taiwan and others paid courtesy calls on the Deputy President. These calls accorded the Deputy President the opportunity to present the ANC's position on the current political situation and our perspectives on the way forward as well as to solicit and consolidate support for our struggle for a non-racial democracy in South Africa. Other important issues addressed in these discussions and contacts were sanctions and ANC economic policy projections for a post-apartheid South Africa; violence and the role of the international community in the unfolding process of change in our country.

2.3.2 Visits to foreign countries have also helped much to attain the objective of international mobilisation. During the period under review the Deputy President, accompanied by his Personal Assistant undertook working trips to more than a dozen foreign countries, including Singapore, Australia, Canada, United States, United Kingdom and others. In most instances we were hosted by organisations with which we have been working very closely for decades. These include the Africa Fund(USA); Southern Africa Education Trust Fund(Canada) and others. The Deputy President also led ANC delegations to several international and regional conferences like the 10th VSummit of the Non-Aligned Countries(Indonesia, September 1992); Annual Conference of SADCC(Mozambique, January 1992) and numerous summits of the Front Line States.

## 2.4 Media work.

2.4.1 Internally, the Office of the Deputy President maintained a high media profile by engaging the local print and electronic media. In this regard, the Department of Information and Publicity has been more than helpful. During the past 18 months the Deputy President gave interviews to a wide variety of local newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations. These include, amongst others, Business Day, Sowetan, Leadership magazine, Radio 702, SABC TV etc.

2.4.2 There has also been a large body of interviews to correspondents representing the foreign press. In the intervening period the Deputy President had interviews with different agencies, radio and television stations, newspapers, magazine and journals, including Reuters, BBC Radio, WDR television of Germany, Belgian TV, Spanish TV, Newsday(USA), Independent (UK), Der Spiegel (Germany) and many others. Many local and overseas students interviewed the Deputy President and picked his brains for theses or books on apartheid and our Liberation struggle .

2.5 Contact and Liaison with political prisoners featured prominently in the itinerary of the Deputy President for the period under review. Such contact was maintained through visits and letters. During this period the Deputy President visited Pretoria Central, where he saw Dieter Gerhardt and others

comrades; Pretoria Local where he had discussions with Mthetheleli Mncube and others; Durban and Leeuwkop Prisons. At present the Office of the Deputy President, together with the Legal Department, is looking into the cases of comrades at Leeuwkop who have repeatedly demanded to know why they are still kept in jail while common law offenders are being released by their thousands. Amongst these comrades is a group from Natal, whose relatives have found it financially prohibitive to visit them in prison. These comrades have asked the Deputy President to assist in this connection. The matter is currently being discussed with the Legal and Welfare Departments.

2.6 Sadly, the Office of the Deputy President has had to deal with welfare matters as well. Many comrades from prison and exile have approached the Deputy President for assistance, since neither the NCCR, Repatriation Committee nor our Welfare Department have responded positively to their requests for help over and above the grunts given out to them. Veterans, the disabled and those who cannot trace their families find themselves in a particularly difficult and pathetic position. The number of cases the Office has handled in the past year- and-a-half call for a comprehensive and urgent intervention from the movement. Serious consideration should be given to the idea of establishing self-help projects with a view to eliminating this problem which is sure to worsen if a solution is not found soon.



## 2.7 Co-ordination with other departments.

Interaction with such departments as DIA; DIP, Human Resources, Organising, Legal, Finance and others facilitated the smooth running of the Office of the Deputy President. Nonetheless, there are still a number of areas demanding attention. In particular, our co-ordination with DIA needs to be improved. Most of the requests for foreign visitors to meet with the Deputy President come through the BIA. Disappointingly, on numerous occasions the BIA did not organise the ANC delegation or, even more seriously, did not ensure that they were represented in the discussions between the Deputy President and the guests. As a result, we have found ourselves having to make last minute frantic efforts to get people to sit in on meetings. Furthermore, the number of people from abroad wishing to pay courtesy calls on senior officials of the ANC is overwhelming. In the interests of preparing the Deputy President for each discussion with foreign visitors it would be helpful if resumes and any other information were provided him by DIA.

## 3.0 Conclusion

During the period under review the Office of the Deputy President was able to gain insight into some of the problems that the Movement is experiencing on the ground. Of paramount importance

is the utmost necessity to change perceptions, especially among Coloureds and Indians, of the ANC being an organisation for Africans. Our election strategy will therefore have to be tailored in such a way as to win the hearts and minds of the ordinary Coloured and Indian. This we can achieve by, inter alia, invoking the experience of the United Democratic Front. Secondly, it will bode well for us to temper people's expectations: we should not promise the people what we obviously will not be able to deliver. We should make people appreciate the extent of the damage caused by more than 300 years of colonialism and apartheid misrule. It will therefore take more than slogans - however well intentioned - to repair this damage. Consequently, we must lay emphasis on hard work and sacrifice. The Office of the Deputy President is bracing itself for the hard work that lies ahead in the run-up to elections. In the coming months we shall focus our attention on those regions and areas which, in our view, still lag behind in organisation.