

POLICY STATEMENT ON ANC PROJECTS 1'

1. The unbanning of the African National Congress has ushered in a fundamental new era in the struggle against apartheid. The Movement 5 immediate challenge is to reconstitute itself in South Africa as a legal organisation after 30 years of proscription. W

2. During those 30 years the ANC conducted an all round struggle against white minority rule through mass mobilisation, underground political organisation and the mobilisation of international support.

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3. Another vital aspect of the ANC's struggle has been the creation of alternative institutions in preparation for liberation. During its years of exile the ANC diaspora has been democratically organised for the formulation of policy guidelines on constitutional matters, education, culture, etc.

Huge settlements were established with comprehensive facilities for its exiled membership. A large range of projects providing educational, training, health, agricultural and cultural facilities were set up for purposes of self-reliance and in preparation for a liberated South Africa.

4. The SOLOMON MAHLANGU FREEDOM COLLEGE (SOMAFCO) encompassed in the Mazimbu Complex near Morogoro began in 1977 and the ANC DAKAWA DEVELOPMENT CENTRE began its existence in 1982. Both settlements provide varied facilities and cater for those from infancy to (Dh) age and produce food, furniture, clothing, leather goods and various services.

5. The ANC established other projects, such as the Chongela and Makeni farms in Zambia, a furniture factory and motor repair workshop, 3180 in Zambia. the Moses Kotane Self-Reliance Centre in Angola provides vocational training in motor mechanics and sewing. There is a farm in Angola and one in Zimbabwe.

6. With the unbanning of the ANC and the decision of the National Executive Committee to transfer the ANC's Headquarters to Johannesburg, the future of all these projects and activities had naturally to be reviewed.

7. In attempting to determine the future of ANC projects it was necessary to take into account the declared intentions in the De Klerk government and its ability to ensure the practical implementation of a new reconciliatory and humane policy by all government agencies, including the police and security forces. If the process of negotiations were to be protracted, or, even worse, there were to be a dramatic reversal in the white power structure in South Africa, legal oppositional work could again be jeopardised, necessitating again facilities externally for further struggle.

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The crux of the matter is that there needs to be a clear indication that the political changes taking place in South Africa are irreversible. Until such a point has been reached, the Movement will continue to bear responsibility for its membership and it is necessary that our plans for the future contain contingency arrangements to enable us to be flexible and to adjust if advances are more rapid than anticipated.

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It is the view of the ANC that there are compelling reasons for the continued existence of external projects, especially in relation to human resources development. Therefore, SOMAFCO will remain in operation in the foreseeable future to cater for over 1,000 students. Due to the system of Bantu Education, thousands of young people are denied educational opportunities and it will take years for a democratic government in South Africa to introduce universal, compulsory and free education. To enable a further 500 out-of-school youth in South Africa to benefit from education and training, the ANC has decided to continue providing secondary education and vocational training at the Dakawa Development Centre and to restructure these institutions to meet the needs of the new situation. In contrast to the Mazimbu Complex, the Dakawa Development Centre is less well developed infrastructurally. The ANC is proceeding with ongoing development at Dakawa and is presently revising the 1984 Dakawa Development Plan in the light of the unfolding situation. The revised Dakawa Development Plan will be available by July 1990.

At present, all other projects at Mazimbu and Dakawa (the farms and small scale production units) will continue. As regards projects in Zambia, Angola and Zimbabwe, they will remain in operation for the present and a thorough review has commenced on their future.

The ANC is planning a series of consultations with donors during May 1990 in order to examine further the issues raised in this Statement.

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As regards the Conference for Donors scheduled for the third quarter of 1990, it will proceed as planned. By then a concerted strategy and coherent plan of project development in South Africa and externally will be available for presentation to donors. Efforts are underway to plan and coordinate with internal ANC and MDM structures on projects. The African National Congress has had the good fortune of receiving considerable assistance from donors, especially over the last twenty years of its exile. It has enabled the

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Movement to establish viable settlements and projects through which human resources development for self-reliance and for a liberated South Africa has been the major achievement. Through our settlements and projects the reconstruction process for a new, democratic and non-racial South Africa was set into motion.

16. The oppressed people of South Africa are indeed deeply grateful for the generous assistance and the moral and political support that accompanied it. It is the hope of the Movement that in the unfolding situation, more, rather than less, assistance and support will be forthcoming for continued reconstruction.

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20 April 1990

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