

"And money is like muck, not good except
to be spread"

Francis Bacon 1561 - 1626

Comrades,

The subject of finances within any organisation is often viewed with a certain amount of weariness. I have, therefore, attempted to keep the report as concise as possible. However, there are a number of key areas in terms of finance that we, as the UDF, have to address, if we are at all serious about our political and organisational responsibilities.

This report outlines the tasks, the treasurer has performed to date. In detailing these tasks, the problems encountered are raised. Some points are also mentioned with reference to the financial statement (separate handout). A number of recommendations conclude the report.

a) Tasks and Problems

1. The first task of the UDF treasurer relates to the management of UDF funds i.e. running the banking account, signing cheques and paying debts. While this has been done, and a complete record of income and expenditure has been kept, the lack of formal accounting skills has meant that a professional system of accounting i.e. cash book, journal, wage records etc has never been established. It is generally felt by the executive that for a large front of organisations such as the UDF, this is unacceptable, as it means that regular income/expenditure reports, payment of debts and formal budgeting cannot be done properly. This position has not been helped by minimal direct contact (until very recently) with the national treasury and its system of accounting/auditing.
2. There are a number of other tasks that the UDF treasurer has had to perform. Firstly, it must be pointed out that there were originally two treasurers, as decided by the launching conference in July 1983. However, only one treasurer has been acting in this capacity since the beginning of 1984. Secondly, it has been very easy for all members of the UDF executive to become caught up in campaigns, sub-committees and political work so much so that official portfolios can, and very often are relegated to second place. This treasury is no exception and this is a danger that must be corrected in the future.

Having made these general points, the additional tasks of the treasury have been as follows.

- a) Transport Officer - assisting with the arrangement of executive transport to NEC, National Secretariat and rural meetings, as well as with local transport during various campaigns.
- b) T-shirts, badges, calenders and other promotional work - the main problem here has always been getting back money from organisations, regions and individuals!!!!
- c) Assisting the secretariat with work relating to office rental, telephone accounts, hiring of halls etc.
- d) Fundraising - this is obviously a key and time-consuming task. A number of specific problems can be raised here:
 - * To rely on organisations within the front to fundraise for the UDF has tended to place an enormous burden on these organisa-

- organisations, most of which find difficulty in raising enough funds to keep themselves alive.
- * On the other hand, most regions, which at one stage were meant to embark on a systematic programme of fundraising, have in most cases, with the exception of Cape Town region, been unable to do this.
 - * General UDF fundraising programmes often managed to raise quite an amount of money. However, these projects tend to undercut UDF organisations' ability to fundraise for themselves or for the front. In addition, there are many other progressive organisations outside of the UDF that periodically have to raise funds (eg for workers during time of strikes). Moreover, comrades assisting in the UDF fundraising programmes are also called on to help fundraise for other organisations/campaigns. This in effect, has meant that a small number of people have been trying to raise large amounts of money on behalf of many different organisations, usually from the same sources.
 - * this in turn has led to a situation where the UDF W.Cape has had to rely far too heavily on funds from Head Office.
 - * finally, vast sums of money have had to be periodically paid to the state coffers in the form of bail and fines for 'illegal gatherings' or 'intimidation' charges. the UDF hasn't yet decided on a final policy in this regard i.e. whether all activists arrested during UDF campaigns should automatically be financed by the UDF central account.
 - * Relief Work - raising money and/or collecting food in times of crisis (eg Crossroads resistance) creates the problem of who one gives money to in communities, and how we make sure that it gets to the people who need it most.

b) Income and Expenditure

There are just a few points to note here:

- * Much of the money raised is spent on media in general and pamphlets/newsletters in particular. This raised the question of whether we have developed an over-reliance on this form of political work.
- * Another huge slice of the UDF budget has gone for travel to national or rural gatherings. The cost today of petrol, car hire, servicing of borrowed cars and plane tickets is prohibitive. the UDF must decide whether the value that we obtain from national contact is equal to the value of our financial resources spent.

c) Existing Debts

We have been able to considerably reduce our debts over the last few months from over R20 000 to under R9 000. The bulk of the remaining debt should be able to be paid off within two weeks. This will mean, however, that the UDF will have to embark on a fundraising campaign before future political work can be done.

d) Recommendations

1. Separation of Treasurer and Fundraiser
2. Opening a full set of books as per the National Treasury and regular contact with the National Treasury.
3. Securing volunteer bookkeepers to assist with regular bookkeeping.
4. Preparation of quarterly income/expenditure statements to GC.
5. Re-establish a fundraising committee.
6. Priorities for financial resources defined i.e. whether salaries rent and phone bills come before expenditure on media & travel.
7. Proper budgeting for each quarter or campaign. Decisions taken on whether once budgeted for, enormous debts can be run up.
8. the establishment of a separate bail fund.

WORKING PRINCIPLES OF THE UDF WESTERN CAPE REGION

AS AMENDED

The UDF Western Cape shall function as a component of the UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT. The Working Principles set out below should be read in conjunction with the Working Principles of UDF National.

1. The area of operation shall be the Western Cape, as determined by the National General Council.
2. All meetings and activities in the name of the UDF will be conducted on the basis as outlined in the Declaration.
3. Affiliated organisations will have the autonomy to call their own meetings, publish their own publications and undertake their activities within their own constituencies. In these cases, the discipline of the UDF will not necessarily apply. Organisations may act on directive of their members and posit their own programme as an alternative to the government's proposals.
4. Initial membership of the UDF Western Cape will be those organisations present at the inaugural meeting at St Georges Cathedral Hall on 24 July 1983. These organisations will form the Regional General Council (RGC). Further affiliation will be determined by the RGC.
5. The RGC will be the decision-making body for the region. The RGC will meet at least once in three months. Representation at the RGC shall be determined by the RGC, the number of delegates will be either one, two or three, dependant upon the size of the organisation. Affiliates will be allowed an equal number of observers at the RGC. *binding on all UDF Aff. Orgs. note: not by whom they can act.*
6. Sub-regional Committees will be established to co-ordinate the activities of the UDF in parts of the region. Sub-regions will be composed of representatives of area committees, which in turn will be composed of the membership of all affiliates in an area. Sub-regions will be represented at the RGC by two delegates and shall participate fully in deliberations.
7. A Regional Executive Committee (REC) shall be elected annually. The REC shall consist of a) A President b) Two vice-Presidents c) A three-person secretariat d) A publicity Secretary f) Treasurer g) Seven additional members. Additional REC members shall convene sub-committees, both standing and ad hoc, as determined by the RGC from time to time. The REC shall have powers of co-option subject to approval or ratification of the RGC.
8. The treasurer shall open a banking account in the name of the UDF Western Cape into which all monies shall be deposited. (Withdrawals from the account shall be signed by the treasurer, a secretary and at least one other member of the REC.)
9. All matters not covered by these Working Principles shall be determined by resolution of the RGC.

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ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO WORKING PRINCIPLES

A Regional Executive Committee (REC) shall be elected annually. The REC shall protect the unity of the front at all times, and build comradely co-operation amongst the affiliates. The REC shall have the power to deal with affiliates where they are seen to be in conflict with the policy and working principles of the UDF. The REC shall administer the day to day work of the UDF and do the work as determined by the GC.

The REC shall consist of:

- a) chairperson
- b) two vice-chairpersons
- c) three secretaries
- d) publicity secretary
- e) media officer
- f) treasurer
- g) fundraiser
- h) education & training officer
- i) 6 additional members

The tasks of REC members shall be as follows :

- a) chairperson shall preside at all RGC's and REC's. He/she shall symbolise the unity of the UDF at all times, and maintain a neutral position in relation to affiliates.
- b) Vice-chairpersons shall deputise for the chairperson in his/her absence.
- c) The secretaries shall take the minutes and keep the records of the UDF. The following tasks shall be allocated amongst the secretaries:
 - i) Minutes, correspondence and administration
 - ii) contact with UDF affiliates
 - iii) co-ordination of organising work of UDF.
- d) the publicity secretary shall be responsible for relations with the press and the media, and have the power to issue statements in the name of the UDF.
- e) the Media Officer shall convene the media sub-committee and attend to the media needs of the UDF as determined by GC.
- f) the Treasurer shall keep the financial records of the UDF, open a bank account in the name of UDF into which all monies must be deposited. The treasurer shall be responsible for the administration of all funds.
- g) The Fundraising Officer shall convene the fundraising sub-committee and attend to UDF fundraising.
- h) The Education & training officer shall assist affiliates and regions with educational programmes.
- i) One of the additional members shall be responsible for ongoing & regular contact with the democratic trade union movement.

The REC shall have powers of co-option subject to ratification by GC.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1) That there be an organizer and five additional members.
- 2) That the secretariat functions be allocated as follows:
 - a) minutes, administration and correspondence
 - b) ongoing and regular contact with the democratic trade unions
 - c) regular contact with the executives of affiliates.

RESOLUTION: FORCED REMOVALS

Noting:

1. the heroic resistance and subsequent deaths and injuries suffered by the people of Crossroads and other squatter communities in their refusal to be moved to Khayelitsha;
2. the determination of our people to fight for their rights in the land of their birth;
3. that the government has met the united resistance of the people with police, brutality and divisive tactics such as:-
 - a) extending the 99 year leasehold to "qualifying" persons only;
 - b) proposals to upgrade only 3 000 sites at Crossroads.

Further, noting:

1. that none of these concessions deals with the legitimate demands of the people;
2. that the government has still not guaranteed that people shall not be forcibly moved;
3. that the government has not sent the removal squad of 600 back to the Transvaal;
4. that Khayelitsha is a form of influx control rather than a solution to the huge shortage of houses;
5. that the pass laws divide people into "legals" and "illegals" and deny them the right to citizenship in an undivided South Africa;
6. that the government continues to force its unrepresentative structures onto the people and hinder them in their attempts to organise against them;
7. that no amount of promises or concessions can improve a policy which denies people basic human rights, in particular the right to live and work where they choose;

Now therefore demand:

1. a stop to the harrassment of squatters and forced removals to Khayelitsha;
2. an end to pass laws, Group Areas Act and influx control regulations;
3. houses for all at rents they can afford;
4. common citizenship for all South Africans

And therefore resolve:

to educate and organise all our people against the evils of Apartheid, and in particular forced removals, pass laws, influx controls and the Group Areas Act.

FREEDOM CHARTER:

This conference notes:

1. the Freedom Charter is the most democratic statement of the people's demands ever drawn up in South Africa;
2. that the demands of the Freedom Charter are still the demands of the people;
3. that the Freedom Charter is also a guide to our unity and our methods of organising; calls on all affiliates of the United Democratic Front:
 1. to present the Freedom Charter to their membership for debate and adoption;
 2. to popularise the Freedom Charter in their work at all times;
 3. to honour the clause The People Shall Govern by reflecting the principle of people's democracy in their organisational work.

Proposed: UWO

Seconded:

FARMWORKERS:

This conference notes:

1. the low wages, bad working conditions and lack of legal protection of farmworkers
2. that farmworkers houses are tied to their jobs;
3. that farmers treat the farmworkers as slaves against whom they can use violence;
4. that the farmers benefit from the labour of entire families by exploiting women and children in the peak seasons;
5. that as a result of the drought, many farmers are leaving their farms, causing massive unemployment among farm workers;
6. that many farm workers are made more vulnerable by being migrant workers with a contract only for the farms;
7. that the Nationalist Party gets its political support from the farmers and gives concessions to the farmers;

rejects the Urban Foundations attempt to provide social welfare services to farm workers and demands that farm workers are recognised as workers and are included in all labour legislation that protects the rights of workers to UIF and maternity benefits, workmen's compensation, minimum wages and the right to organise into democratic organisations of their own choice.

RESOLUTION: TRICAMERAL PARLIAMENT AND BLACK FORUM

Noting:

1. that the mass anti-election campaigns of the U.D.F. have completely discredited the tricameral parliament and the Community Council system in the eyes of our people;
2. that the sellouts sitting in the coloured House of Representatives, the Indian House of Delegates and the Bantustans are seen by our people as junior partners in the Apartheid schemes of the Botha government;
3. that the mass resistance that followed the anti-election campaigns by the people all over the country has thrown the government into chaos;
4. that the attempt to create a Black Forum as a fourth chamber will not stem the tide of resistance;

We believe:

1. that only a government based on the will of all the people can claim legitimacy;
2. that only a government based on the will of all the people and the dismantling of Apartheid institutions can resolve the injustices, hardships and suffering inflicted on our people;

Therefore resolve:

1. to intensify the struggle for a non-racial democratic government based on the will of all our people;
 2. to call for the unconditional release of all political prisoners, return of exiles and the unbanning of all National Liberation Movements.
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WOMEN

This conference notes:

1. that the extent to which women are organised is a barometer of the level of the struggle as a whole;
2. that many of our finest and bravest women have been forced into exile by the apartheid system;
3. that this system thrives on division, one of which is the division between men and women, created by unequal wages and conditions of employment, inequality before the law, vicious applications of removals and pass laws against women, and the burden of responsibility for the home;
4. that there is an international conference of women to mark the end of the UN decade of women this year;
5. that despite the increases organisation of women, the oppression and hardship in the lives of South African women has intensified over the past ten years;

We believe:

1. that the goal of full recognition of all women; of freedom and happiness for our children cannot be achieved in the present political and economic situation;
2. that oppression in South Africa cannot be wholly removed without removing the oppression of women;
3. that while the resources of a country, the product of the exploitation of the majority are used for the benefit of the minority, the women of South Africa will continue to be oppressed and exploited;

We therefore call:

on all women to bring their organisations into the United Democratic Front, so that we can make real our commitment to fight shoulder to shoulder with our menfolk in the common struggle against race, class and sexual discrimination.

and further, with the Latin American and Caribbean women, calls on the UN Conference to extend the Decade of Women to the year 2000 in order to strengthen the organisation of women in the liberation struggle and to pressurise governments to use their resources to make equality, peace and development a reality in all aspects of women's lives

RESOLUTION: WORKERS

This conference notes:

1. that workers are the producers of the wealth of the country but they do not enjoy the benefits of the wealth they produce;
2. that workers face insecurity in their jobs through retrenchments and rising unemployment in the present economic crisis;
3. that workers continue to be harassed, intimidated and jailed in their attempts to organise against exploitative and oppressive conditions through the building of democratic trade unions and participation in the national liberation struggle;
4. that the state has tried to destroy the workers unity and to deny the workers basic political rights through its strategy of co-optation;
5. that the migrant labour system is the crux of apartheid and the basis of the super-exploitation of the workers of South Africa;
6. that the rising prices and present economic crisis hit the workers of South Africa hardest;

and believes that:

1. Workers must share fully in that benefits of the wealth they produce;
2. Workers are entitled to security in their jobs and freedom from unemployment;
3. Workers have a right to organise themselves into trade unions, and political organisations of their choice without state repression;
4. Workers must enjoy full democratic rights;
5. Migrant labour and influx control deny the fundamental rights of workers to work and live where they choose;
6. The leadership of the working class in the democratic struggle for freedom is essential if our goal of the end to exploitation and oppression is to be reached;

Therefore resolves:

1. To oppose the migrant labour system and influx control in whatever ways possible;
2. To demand that the basic needs of the working people are protected in this period of economic recession and hardship;

3. To encourage the building of democratic trade unions in all workplaces;
4. To strengthen the unity between democratic trade unions and other organisations fighting for the end to apartheid and exploitation in South Africa, and in particular with the United Democratic Front;
5. To work for a South Africa in which the oppression and exploitation of workers will cease to exist and the economic resources of the country will be used for the benefit of all people;

RESOLUTION: GENERAL (ACTIVISTS) FORUM

The REC shall convene general or activist forum when deemed necessary. Such forums shall be open to all members of affiliates and regions. The purpose of such forums shall be:

- (a) Educational
- (b) To discuss details of a decision already approved by REC
- (c) To debate matters

RESOLUTION: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE YOUTH

That the Western Cape UDF AGM:

Noting:

1. That 1985 has been declared International Youth Year by the United Nations General Assembly
2. That the broad aim of the IYY campaign as outlined by the U.N. is to harness the energy, enthusiasm and creative potential of the youth to the tasks of nation building and the struggle for national independence and self-determination
3. The role that our youth have played in the past in taking our struggle forward
4. That for the IYY campaign the UDF, and not the apartheid state is recognised by the U.N. as representing S.A. youth
5. The formation of regional and national IYY committees by democratic youth organisations
6. That our youth face many problems and burdens including unemployment, bad education and conscription
7. That many sectors of our youth especially young women remain unorganised

And Further Noting:

- The attempts by the apartheid state to involve itself in activities under the banner of the IYY

And Believing:

1. That the youth are the most dynamic and vibrant sector of the people and it is vital that we include them in our organisation
2. That the aims of the IYY campaign are our aims and should be supported
3. That throughout the IYY campaign our youth can play an important role in building opposition to apartheid, both in our country and abroad
4. That the aim of the state's IYY campaign is to build support for apartheid and to misguide our youth

Therefore resolves to:

1. Further strengthen our youth organisation through the IYY campaign

- 2. Build as strong as links as possible with the National and regional IYY committees and to assist them in the task of taking forward the IYY campaign
- 3. To actively oppose and expose the state's IYY campaign for its support for apartheid and to demand that the government withdraws immediately from all IYY activities

Rural Areas

It Notes

- 1. Growth in U.S.A. in R. Areas
- 2. The growing resistance
- 3. The brutal response from S.A. Govt

Transition Periods

RESOLUTION: UNEMPLOYMENT

This A.G.M. noting:

1. that our people are experiencing many economic problems because of the bad management of the economy and country; that the present government is ruining our country;
2. that at present over 2 million workers are unemployed, with this number increasing every day;
3. that the prices of the basic necessities of life are increasing rapidly;
4. that this bad state of affairs (high unemployment and rapidly increasing cost of living) is adding untold misery and hardships on our people, especially the workers;
5. that the average minimum wage for workers is far below that necessary to eat and live decently;

And believing:

1. that high unemployment and poverty wages are as a result of the policies of the Apartheid government and the protection and licence it gives to the bosses to inhumanly exploit workers;
2. that there can be no solution to poverty wages and unemployment until workers have control over every aspect of their lives;

Therefore resolves:

1. to call for an end to unemployment by demanding useful work for all;
2. to support the trade unions in their fight for a living wage for all workers;
3. to call for pensions, disability grants and unemployment benefits that keep up with the rapidly rising prices and that are administered fairly, justly and without racial discrimination;
4. to fight increases in rent, transport fares and the price of foodstuffs, fuel and other essentials;

And further resolves:

to initiate discussion with workers in trade unions and community organisations to discuss these demands and the possibilities of a national campaign for
JOBS FOR ALL AT A LIVING WAGE.

RESOLUTION: ON REGIONS AND AREA COMMITTEES

1. Often it has been said that the UDF operates both as a front of affiliate organisations and a political party with branches. The UDF however presents itself to the public as a front. This dual character creates tensions within the front.
 2. This conference therefore proposes the forming of a commission to investigate the status and composition of regions and area committees;
 3. The commission consisting of members of affiliates and regions shall also examine:-
 - a) the existence of volunteer groups to accommodate individuals not in UDF affiliates;
 - b) whether regions should be given observer status with speaking rights or full delegate status.
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RESOLUTION: THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH

Recognising:

1. The situation of endemic strife which has its roots in the unjust and and exploitative political and economic structures of the South African society;
2. The important role that the Church plays in the lives of the oppressed and exploited masses of South Africa;

Resolves:

1. To call upon all Christians to commit themselves to the democratic struggle for justice and peace in South Africa;
2. To work with political and community organisations in this struggle;
3. To give practical support to this struggle by opening its halls and facilities to these organisations.

Proposed by: TEAM

RESOLUTION: IMPERIALISM

We note with anger the support of the Thather and Reagan governments for the South African government.

We know that the U.S. government is, through its policy of constructive engagement, really furthering its own economic interests in that the profits that foreign companies invest their capital in South Africa because of the huge profits they make through the exploitation of our people and the natural wealth of our land.

This unashamed greed and support for the Nationalists government by the governments of the United States and Britain cannot stop us in our march towards freedom.

We further note the collaboration of the governments of Isreal, Chile, Taiwan and other anti-democratic regizes with the South African government and its fraudulent bantastans.

We believe that:

1. All foreign governments must recognize the right of other people to live in a non-racial and democratic country
2. That foreign investments do not benefit the oppressed and exploited people of S.A. but bolster the apartheid government
3. That the present disinvestment campaign in the U.S.A. shows that the American people are neither fooled by the sham reforms of the Botha government nor the policy of Constructive Engagement
4. That those who claim to believe in the noble ideals of democracy have an obligation to support the just struggle of the S.A. people

Now therefore resolves:

1. To demand the immediate end to the U.S. and British governments support for the apartheid government
2. To reject the policy of constructive engagement
3. To demand an end to the exploitation of the people and and the national wealth of our country by foreign investors
4. To reject the argument that foreign investments benefit the oppressed and exploited people of S.A.
5. To condemn the support of the governments of Israel, Chile and Taiwan for the apartheid government and its bantustand; and to support those struggling for democracy in those countries



RESOLUTION: MILITARISATION

Noting:

1. the increased militarization and massive defence budget of our country while our people are deprived of the basic necessities for living;
2. the continued acts of aggression perpetrated by the SADF against our neighbouring states;
3. the increasing use of the SADF to crush the legitimate resistance of our people in the townships;
4. the growing instances of young people resisting conscription in the S.A. army;
5. the SADF is involved in a campaign to win the hearts and minds of young children in communities through the organization of youth camps;

And believing:

1. that the SADF is being used by the S.A. regime to uphold white domination;
2. that the government still intends to conscript Indians and coloureds;
3. that there can be no peace in Southern Africa until the SADF is disarmed and apartheid is abolished;

Hereby resolves:

1. to resist all forms of militarization;
 2. to demand an end to compulsory conscription;
 3. to call for the withdrawal of all SADF troops;
 4. to demand that the SADF ceases its campaign to destabilise our neighbouring states;
 5. to support in whatever way possible, those who do not join the SADF;
 6. to call for the disarming of the SADF.
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