

AM14

Rev' AM 146

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

UDF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!



NORTHERN CAPE
P.O. BOX 289
VRYBURG
8600

THE NORTHERN CAPE REGIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL QUESTION

1. COMMITTEES *CAPE*

The Northern/Regional Steering Committee was formed in the regional workshop in October 84, attended by nine organisations throughout the region. The following organisations were represented:

1.1. VRYBURG

- 1.1.1. Huhudi Civic Association (Huca)
- 1.1.2. Huhudi Youth Organisation (Huyo)
- 1.1.3. Detainees Parents Support Committee (D.P.S.C/Huhudi)
- 1.1.4. General & Allied Workers Union (Gawu)
- 1.1.5. Vryburg Sports Union
- 1.1.6. Colridge Ratepayers & Tenants Association

1.2. KIMBERLEY

- 1.2.1. Committee of Concern
- 1.2.2. Galeshewe Youth Planning Committee

1.3. SCHWEIZER RENEKE

- 1.3.1. Mamusa Youth Planning Committee

1.4. KURUMAN

Due to late arrangements for transport the representation from:

- 1.4.1. General & Allied Workers Union (Gawu)
- 1.4.2. Kudumane Youth Unity (Kuyuni), *did not turn up for the workshop.*

1.5. RITCHIE : Ritchie is a small area next to Kimberley and initiatives by the youth there to form a youth organisation have been started. Individuals from this area had also attended (for further details refer on report head office has copy of the report). *→ the above referred workshop.*

2. STATE OF ORGANISATION, PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS IN EACH AREA.

2.1. VRYBURG

2.1.1. Huhudi Civic Association (Huca).

- 2.1.1.1. Huca commands tremendous support in the African township of Huhudi.
- 2.1.1.2. It is an undoubted staunch supporter of the front and most of the executive members serve in the R.S.C.
- 2.1.1.3. Huca champions UDFs position in the township and its grassroots membership identifies unequivocally with the front.
- 2.1.1.4. No problems in drawing the association into the general council.

2/...

Presidents: Oscar Mpepha, Albertina Suku, Archie Gumede
Eastern Cape President: Edgar Ngoyi
Border President: Steve Tshwete

National Treasurers: Cassim Saloojee, Mewa Ramgobin
National Publicity Secretary: Mosiuoa 'Terror' Lekota
National Secretary: Popo Molefe

2.1.2. Huhudi Youth Organisation (Huyo)

- 2.1.2.1. Huyo has the same level of support as Huca.
- 2.1.2.2. Its position as regard the front is clear and undoubted.
- 2.1.2.3. To draw Huyo into the general council will not meet with any resistance.

2.1.3. Detainees Parents Support Committee (D.P.S.C./Huhudi)

- 2.1.3.1. This structure is attached to the other similar structures throughout the country.
- 2.1.3.2. Its position regarding the front is clearly a positive one.
- 2.1.3.3. All members of D.P.S.C. are in turn members of one or the other structure referred to above.
- 2.1.3.4. No problem will be encountered in drawing the structure into the general council.

2.1.4. General & Allied Workers Union

- 2.1.4.1. Given the short period and other material conditions pertaining to Vryburg, Gawu has made tremendous gains and commands commendable support in the area.
- 2.1.4.2. The relationship desired between Gawu and the front amongst the workers has been explained and accepted.
- 2.1.4.3. There is no problem in drawing Gawu into the general council.

2.1.5. VRYBURG SPORTS UNION

- 2.1.5.1. This union has membership in both the Coloured and African townships.
- 2.1.5.2. Although the leadership is clear and accepts the position of the UDF, the general membership has not been effectively reached.
- 2.1.5.3. During the anti election campaign a meeting between the delegation of the UDF committee and the general membership took place.
- 2.1.5.4. Though the majority membership agrees in principle, the few still behind are controversial.
- 2.1.5.5. A follow up meeting has not been set yet.

2.1.6. COLRIDGE RATEPAYERS & TENANTS ASSOCIATION

- 2.1.6.1. The support of the association is not clearly discernible within the grassroots although the leadership is actively supportive to the front.
- 2.1.6.2. During the Million Signature Campaign (MSC), quite a number of signatures were collected from the general meetings.
- 2.1.6.3. But participation from the general membership could not be achieved.
- 2.1.6.4. Follow ups on the part of the front has been informal and not assertive and concerted as it should have been.

2.1.7. Commercial Catering & Allied Workers Union (Ccawusa)

- 2.1.7.1. The level of membership of Ccawusa is not clear to the front, but on the surface ~~is~~ is a force to reckon with.
- 2.1.7.2. The branch in Vryburg is accountable to the Klerksdorp (W.Tv1) office and is at the moment not independent to take decisions on its own.
- 2.1.7.3. Leading members, in Vryburg, attend open gatherings of the front and generally have no problem with associating with the front.
- 2.1.7.4. A systematic approach has not been attempted yet to lure the union to the position of the front.

2.2. KIMBERLEY

2.2.1. Committee of Concern

2.2.1.1. This committee came into being on the eve of the Coloured and Indian elections.

2.2.1.2. It is composed of Coloured, Indian and African membership.

2.2.1.3. The committee is presently undergoing serious problems of coherence and direction now that elections are over.

2.2.1.4. The committee has a clear UDF orientation and no problem of being drawn into the general council if it finally regains its livelihood.

2.2.1.5. A systematic approach to revitalise the committee still has to be drawn and implemented concertedly and conscientiously.

2.2.2. Galeshewe Youth Planning Committee

2.2.2.1. From the planning stages this structure is UDF orientated.

2.2.2.2. The crippling problem facing these noble attempts is the question of venues for meetings.

2.2.2.3. Formal application to the N.C. Council of Churches for long term use has been made and response is pending.

2.2.2.4. Besides the venue an approach still has to be drawn jointly with the front and executed immediately.

2.2.3. Black-Pensioners Committee

2.2.3.1. Informally expressed its support for the UDF and that has been

2.2.3.2. Recently invited the UDF to address their meeting and report back has not been furnished yet.

2.2.3.3. Indications are positive that attempts at inviting them into the general council would be successful.

2.2.4. Detainees Parents Support Committee

2.2.4.1. Informal approach and not an exciting response has been received.

2.2.4.2. The area committee and the regional/rural organiser to formulate an approach on the matter.

2.3. SCHWEIZER RENEKE

2.3.1. Mamusa Youth Planning Committee

2.3.1.1. These are direct UDF attempts.

2.3.1.2. Lack of venues and intensive repression in the small township are the main stumbling blocks to progress.

2.3.1.3. Here again a definite approach still has to be worked out.

2.3.2. Attempts at civic representation

2.3.2.1. A group of adults after showing eagerness to come up with an alternative to the community council were met in December and the idea was brainstormed. No clear program came out of the meeting and no follow up has been made as yet.

2.4. KURUMAN

2.4.1. Kudumane Youth Unity

- 2.4.1.1. The support for Kuyuni has been drastically undercut.
- 2.4.1.2. The repression by the Bophutatswana govt is wholly to blame.
- 2.4.1.3. Lack of venues to hold meetings is a serious set-back and a lasting alternatives is not likely within a short period.
- 2.4.1.4. Kuyuni is the initiatives of the front and there is no problem in drawing them into the general council.

2.4.2. General & Allied Workers Union (Gawu)

- 2.4.2.1. Gawu is making progress in spite of the repression from the Bophutatswana govt.
- 2.4.2.2. Note must be taken of the fact that trade unions are banned in Bophutatswana and Kuruman is a small conservative boerdorp (i.e. African townships- Batlharos and Mothibistadt, and Kuruman is a white area in S.A.).
- 2.4.2.3. Gawu organisers operate from private homes in Batlharos and venue for meeting in town are equally problematic, i.e. offices or venues in either of the two is a serious problem.
- 2.4.2.4. Anyhow drawing Gawu into a general council will not meet with serious problems.

2.5. MAFIKENG

2.5.1. Student Unit

- 2.5.1.1. Contact was established during the MSC and nothing beyond that has been achieved in terms of practical work. There is encouraging eagerness amongst the students met to entrench UDF's influence through student organisations especially Azaso.

2.6. RITCHIE

2.6.1. Ritchie Youth Organisation

- 2.6.1.1. Letters expressing support and willingness to be identified with the front were received from this organisation.
- 2.6.1.2. Attempts to meet and thrash out a clear working program have not succeeded.
- 2.6.1.3. One meeting was held with some members and invitation to attend workshop in Kimberley was not honoured by this organisation.
- 2.6.1.4. Attempts at follow-up were not systematic and no development has been reported as yet.
- 2.6.1.5. There is no certainty as to whether ultimately this organisation can be drawn into the general council until report back on developments have been received.

2.7. TAUNG

2.7.1. Youth Attempts

- 2.7.1.1. This area is in Bophutatswana, but attempts at forming a youth organisation were initiated and individuals concerned had attended regional workshop held in October in Huhudi.

2.8. WARRE

2.8. WARRENTON

2.8.1. Youth Attempts

2.8.1.1. One youth person had attended the above referred workshop but no follow-up has been made.

3. GENERAL PROBLEMS BESETTING THE REGION INTERTWINED WITH REGIONAL/RURAL ORGANISER'S INEFFECTIVENESS AT CERTAIN POINTS .

3.1. General lack of seasoned political leadership.

3.2. Weak communication network.

3.3. Low and uneven development of organisation, especially Kimberley which is a major area in the region.

3.4. Low level of organisational experience of the region.

3.5. Lack of efficient transport network.

3.6. Lack of resources available to the region, (Recent attempts by Cde Trevor to acquire printing units for the region are coming to fruition). Pamphlets used to be produced in Jo'burg, +300kms from the central place.

4. EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR SETTING UP REGIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL

4.1. Due to problems outlined in both in the analysis of organisation in each area and the general problems the deadline for setting up the general council has been extended just before the N.G.C.

4.2. Hopefully the attempts to weld together the little that will be existing will be completed before the N.G.C., (refer program region, copy submitted to head office)

4.3. The success of the above set goal depends largely on the schedule of the regional rural organiser.

4.4. This schedule in turn depends on the co-operation and the unwavering sympathy and advice of both the head office and the regional steering committee.

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