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Assessment of U.D.F. in Grahamstown

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To:

Attached is the question-sheet to be used by organisations as a guide to the local assessment of the UDF in Grahamstown. It should be stressed that the aims of the sheet are to assist individual organisations in their own assessment of UDF locally, as well as to provide a standardised framework in terms of which organisations can come together and formulate a joint understanding of the UDF's(brief) history and its future direction in Grahamstown. Thus, though the questions posed need to be rigorously and thoroughly answered this sheet need not be over-rigidly followed in the assessment, nor is it a problem if some of the questions overlap in places.

Lastly, a couple of bureaucratic details:

(a) Process and Dates: The overall assessment process will take the form of assessments at the following levels-

- (i) individual organisations
 - (ii) local areas workshop
 - (iii) regional(E. Cape, Natal, etc.) workshop
 - (iv) national workshop
- } (the question-sheet is relevant mainly to these two levels)

At this stage- and there is a certain pressure on us as we have to fit in with the process nationally- the dates for the national assessment workshop seems as if it will take place on the weekend of either the 7th or 14th of October. The regional assessment workshop must therefore occur, at the latest, on the weekend of the 30th of September, which leaves us the weekend of the 23rd of September for our local assessment workshop and the week of the 17th-22nd of September (immediately after the university vacation) for assessments by individual organisations (which must obviously take place before any workshop is held). These dates are subject to final confirmation at this stage, but organisations are requested to please comply with the final programme: we are all working to a very tight schedule it seems!!

(b) Local Workshop: This will be a full-day affair probably to be held-according to the above- on Sunday the 23rd of September. Discussion will take place along the outline provided on the question-sheet, with the morning being devoted to the assessment of the UDF campaigns, structures, etc.(at the local level), and the afternoon devoted to defining and formulating our future direction and strategy. The workshop will rely almost entirely on inputs from the attending organisations on the various questions raised rather than on papers given by individuals. Rigorous assessment within each organisation before the workshop are obviously therefore of primary importance.

Each organisation is requested to ensure that at least 10 of its members attend, though more(up to 15 per organisation) would be welcome. Final details as to the actual agenda, structure and place/time of the workshop will be circulated to organisations immediately after the university vacation(around September 18th).

Yours in struggle,

Ad Hoc Committee

Assessment and Planning: U.D.F. Eastern Cape, September 1984

(Questions for discussion by Grahamstown Ad Hoc Committee)

1. UDF Campaigns: Assessment of Structures and Effects

(a) Overall questions

- * how have the major UDF campaigns, particularly the Million Signatures Campaign and the Anti-Election Campaign, and campaign-related activities(eg. fundraising, functions) been conducted in your area?
- * what role has your particular organisation(and activists from this organisation) played in these campaigns or activities and how has it played this role?
- * what has been the major successes and the major problems in these campaigns/activities?

(b) UDF structures

- (i) how have the area committees worked historically?
what is their role, and have they been successful in playing this role?
what role have the different(your own and the other) organisations which comprise the area committee played in this committee, and what have been the major problems here?
- (ii) what have the REC subcommittees(media and finance) done and how have they operated?
have they been efficient?
do they allow for sufficient representation from all areas/organisations?
is there any overlap between the REC subcommittees and the area committees and is this a problem?
what is the role of these subcommittees and do they need to be restructured to play this role properly?
how can any problems here be avoided in future?
- (iii) has there been enough contact between the REC and the affiliate-organisations/area-committees?
what is the role of the REC and has it played this role properly?
how can any problems with the role/working of the REC be rectified in future?
- (iv) why do so few organisations come to the monthly RQC meetings?
what should the role and purpose of the RQC be, and is it playing this role or fulfilling this purpose at the moment?
what can be done to ensure that, firstly, the RQC plays its true role, and, secondly, more organisations attend the RQC?

(c) Effects

- * what have been the major effects(in terms both of gains made and problems that have arisen) of the recent campaigns?, on
 - (i) our communities and constituencies?
 - (ii) UDF structures?
 - (iii) our organisations?
- * what must we do to ensure that the gains we have made are consolidated, and that the problems that have arisen are resolved or avoided in the near future?

2. The Way Forward

- (a) what are the major objectives of your own organisation for the immediate future?
- (b) are there any particularly important areas at a national or regional level that the UDF should confront the state on or campaign around? (in other words, what are the UDF's present national and regional objectives in its direct opposition to the state?)
- (c) what kinds of things should the UDF do or focus on in order to ensure that these objectives (both at the level of building our own organisations and at the level of the UDF confronting the state) are fulfilled? (in other words, given on the one hand- the anti-election and signature campaigns and the effects of these on our communities, organisations and UDF itself, and- on the other hand, the present position of the state, what kinds of things should the UDF do to advance our struggle?)
- (i) what kinds of campaigns at local, regional and national levels? (eg. housing, anti-conscription)
 - (ii) what sorts of activities within these campaigns should be emphasised? (eg. education, high-profile mobilisation)
 - (iii) are our structures- both locally and regionally- adequate or should we alter them, build new ones, etc.?
 - * particularly important here are the-
 - * area committees (this is a particularly important issue for Grahamstown given the history of the Ad Hoc Committee, and we must also consider the issue of other organisations which have not played formal UDF roles so far but which could possibly become available to do so in the near future eg. COSAS)
 - * co-ordinating structures for specific campaigns
 - * forums other than the sub-committees for political discussion, etc.

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