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UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT - TRANSVAAL

UDF MILLION SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN

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A. INTRODUCTION

THE CONTENT OF THE SIGNATURE FORM CAN BE SUMMARISED AS FOLLOWS:

1. REJECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION ACT.
2. REJECTION OF THE KOORNHOF LAWS.
3. SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT.
4. COMMITMENTS TO THE CREATION OF A NON - RACIAL DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA.

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE BASIC WORDING AN ORGANIZATION OR AREA MAY ADD ONE ADDITIONAL DEMAND. THIS ADDITIONAL DEMAND MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR THE CAMPAIGN TO BE LINKED TO LOCAL STRUGGLES.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT A PETITION BUT RATHER A SIGNATURES CAMPAIGN. THIS IS BECAUSE IT IS NOT INTENDED THAT THESE SIGNATURES WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OR ANY OTHER AUTHORITY.

B. AIM

THE AIM OF THE CAMPAIGN IS TO COLLECT AT LEAST ONE MILLION SIGNATURES CONTRYWIDE. IN THIS REGARD, A MINIMUM OF 300,000 SIGNATURES WOULD HAVE TO BE COLLECTED IN THE TRANSVAAL REGION.

C. OBJECTIVES

THESE CAN BE CAREGORISED INTO EDUCATIVE, IDEOLOGICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL OBJECTIVES.

1. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

ALTHOUGH THE CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION ACT, KOORNHOF LAWS AND THE UDF HAS STARTED IN 1983. THE SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN WOULD ENSURE THAT PEOPLE'S AWARENESS IS FURTHER ENRICHED. THIS IS BECAUSE THERE WOULD BE DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN THE ACTIVIST AND THE PERSON SIGNING. THUS THE CAMPAIGN WOULD ENSURE THAT AT LEAST ONE MILLION PEOPLE WOULD BE SPOKEN TO DIRECTLY ABOUT THE ISSUES.

2. IDEOLOGICAL

THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES THAT ARE COLLECTED WOULD INDICATE CONCRETELY THE WIDESPREAD REJECTION OF BOTHA'S PLANS. IT WOULD ALSO SHOW THAT THE UDF'S SUPPORT IS ACTIVE AND WIDESPREAD.

IDEOLOGICAL GAINS COULD ALSO BE MADE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. FOR EXAMPLE, UDF AFFILIATES IN SOWETO COULD COLLECT MORE SIGNATURES THAN THE NUMBER PEOPLE THAT VOTED IN THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES ELECTIONS AND THEREBY CLAIM GREATER LEGITIMACY THAN THE SOWETO COUNCIL.

3. ORGANIZATIONAL

THE MILLION SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN SHOULD ALSO BE AIMED AT CONSOLIDATING AND EXPANDING ORGANIZATION. THE MOMENTUM THAT HAD BEEN GENERATED BY THE ANTI - CC. CAMPAIGN CAN BE MAINTAINED AND CONSOLIDATED BY A VIGOROUS SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR STRUGGLES CAN BE STRENGTHENED BY INCORPORATING A LOCAL DEMAND ON THE SIGNATURE FORM.

THIS CAMPAIGN ALSO MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO ENLIST THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF THE WIDE RANGE OF SUPPORTATIVE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS.

D. SUGGESTED APPROACHES

THE APPROACH USED BY DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS AND AREAS WOULD HAVE TO BE TAILORED TO THEIR DIFFERING CONDITIONS. HERE WE MERELY PROVIDE BROAD GUIDELINES AND SUGGESTIONS.

1. TRAINING

THERE IS A NEED TO TRAIN VOLUNTEERS WHO WOULD BE ASSISTING IN THE COLLECTION OF SIGNATURES. THE TRAINING SHOULD COVER THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS:

- (a) ANALYSIS OF THE CONSTITUTION ACT.
- (b) ANALYSIS OF THE KOORNHOF LAWS.
- (c) THE NATURE, AIMS AND HISTORY OF THE UDF.
- (d) - THE MEANING OF THE MILLION SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN.
- (e) PERSONNEL CONDUCT WHEN COLLECTING SIGNATURES.

2. HOUSE TO HOUSE VISITS

THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES IS TO SPEAK TO PEOPLE DIRECTLY. THERE ARE NUMEROUS WAYS IN WHICH PEOPLE CAN BE SPOKEN TO, HOWEVER, SPEAKING TO PEOPLE IN THEIR HOUSES IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY AND WOULD YIELD THE BEST RESULTS.

THIS DOES NOT PRECLUDE COLLECTING SIGNATURES IN CHURCHES, AT SOCCER STADIA, SHOPPING CENTRES, PUBLIC MEETINGS, ETC.

THE OBJECTIVES OF EDUCATION, HEIGHTENING AWARENESS AND ORGANIZING SHOULD BE UPPERMOST IN OUR MINDS WHENEVER SPEAKING TO PEOPLE.

3. PHASES AND PUBLICITY

THE MILLION SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED AT A RALLY IN SOSHANGUVE ON THE 22ND JANUARY 1984. ALREADY A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PUBLICITY IS BUILT INTO THE CAMPAIGN, IT WILL BE VITAL TO MAINTAIN A CERTAIN MOMENTUM DURING THE CAMPAIGN. THIS WILL REQUIRE AREA COMMITTEES TO WORK OUT PHASES THROUGH WHICH THE CAMPAIGN SHOULD GO, EG. INTENSIVE HOUSE TO HOUSE CAMPAIGN, CHURCH VISITS, CALLING PUBLIC MEETINGS, ETC.

4. AREA COMMITTEES

IT IS CLEAR THAT ALL THIS WILL REQUIRE DISCIPLINED ORGANIZATION. TO THIS END THE TVL HAS SET UP A REGIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, MANNED BY VOLUNTEERS FROM VARIOUS AREAS. VARIOUS AREAS WILL HAVE TO SET UP THEIR OWN AREA COMMITTEES WHICH WILL LIASE CLOSELY WITH THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE. A HOST OF TASKS WILL HAVE TO BE PERFORMED BY THE AREA COMMITTEE E.G. ISSUING, KEEPING AND FORWARDING COMPLETED FORMS TO THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE.

5. ORGANIZATIONS NOT AFFILIATED TO THE UDF

NUMEROUS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE INDICATED THEIR PREPAREDNESS TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE UDF IN ITS CAMPAIGNS ALTHOUGH FOR ONE REASON OR THE OTHER THEY CAN NOT AFFILIATE TO THE UDF. THIS IS ONE CAMPAIGN DURING WHICH THESE ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE APPROACHED AND ROPED INTO OUR CAMPAIGN.

IN THIS REGARD VERY CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN AREA COMMITTEES AND THE REGIONAL OFFICE WILL HAVE TO BE MAINTAINED. AREA COMMITTEES SHOULD CREATIVELY THINK OF HOW TO INVOLVE ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN THOSE MENTIONED ABOVE. THE SECRETARIES SHOULD BE CONSULTED IN THIS REGARD.

6. CONDUCT OF ACTIVISTS

ACTIVISTS INVOLVED IN THE MILLION SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN, SHOULD AT ALL TIMES CARRY THE IMAGE OF THE UDF. THIS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE ON EACH ACTIVISTS COLLECTING SIGNATURES IS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UDF.

PLEASE NOTE

THE LOCAL DEMAND THAT IS ADDED TO THE SIGNATURE FORM, MUST BE APPROVED BY THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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