

**AM20**

Bas' AM 20"

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL AT THE OPENING OF THE YEAR (1984)  
AT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF HUHUDI CIVIC ASSOCIATION (HUCA)  
ON THE 10TH FEBRUARY 1984.

I. INTRODUCTION:

Today nine months after the formation of Huhudi Civic Association (Huca), we meet to assess our strength, count our achievements, review our methods and adopt new strategies to advance our cause, i.e. a struggle for a peaceful and stable Huhudi community. To make this more real we need to broaden our knowledge on issues facing us. We need to understand strategies used by forces against whom we are contending. Our programme should be more action-orientated than reactionary. More action and less reaction should be our guiding principle. We must be pace-setters in our cause. The opposing forces should not dictate programme for us, as this will result in them shifting our focus from our envisaged goal. We agree that we must take advantage of methods available to us, but we must also on the other hand weigh the long term effects of the methods given at a point in time.

2. ASSESSING OUR STRENGTH

2.1. WORKFORCE

From the onset our workforce has never been in pace with the work-amount. We have been relatively weak both in terms of numbers and organisational skills. To ignore the latter will display a subjective assessment of ourselves. It will mean a stubborn reluctance to accept self-criticism. It will spell a sign of immaturity and will even show lack of constructive analysis of our cause. Our cause calls for strategic and tactical approach borne of honesty with ourselves.

2.2. FINANCIAL STRENGTH

Our financial position has been remarkably disturbing. Our programme had been disastrously (though not entirely-) hampered by lack of finance-injecting initiatives. However this cannot be employed to explain away other inherent weaknesses.

2.3. COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Our support from the community cannot be doubted (i.e. especially with regard to the conditions and period our attempts ~~is~~-quite have been undergoing). We believe sadly that the nature of our attempts is ~~unique~~ and quite unique and of a high profile: bearing in mind the lengthy period within which our people have been subjected to high-handed intimidation. There has never been this level of opposition to the undemocratic institutions leading our community in Huhudi.

3. COUNTING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

The founding of Huca per se is an achievement, the successful embarkment on its programme modification and its survival a development. The receptive attitude in the community cannot be overlooked. A graphic improvement in the attendance of our meetings has always given ~~an~~ incentive to concretise the reality of Huca.

3.1. PUBLICITY- The publicity we enjoy in the commercial press (though insufficient) is quite commendable. The community-based newsletters e.g. SASPU, SPEAK, etc. have shown an unwavering support to the plight of the residents Huhudi. Their Their literally insistent attitude to know more about the struggles of our community. And all these and many others have made our work more easier and enjoyable.

3.2 LAUNCH OF HUYO)-

Amongst our aims and objects a remarkable end has been realised with the formation of HUHUDI YOUTH ORGANISATION (HUYO). Our youth programme

aimed at involving the youth in community struggles) has successfully got off the ground. Huca may not be a picture we had envisaged at the moment, but it is also not different from that envisaged picture.

### 3.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKERS' MOVEMENT

Huca although a first level organisation has always identified other fields of our struggle. The successful introduction of trade unions in our community is one example. This was based on the conviction of workers at the factories determine their lifestyle in the community. That our workers' "virtual ignorance" and lack of contact with trade unions deny them a chance to realise their that our "virtual ignorance" and lack of contact with representative trade unions in our community is one example. This was based on the conviction that the conditions of workers at the factories determine their of contact with trade unions deny them a chance to realise their strength both in terms of short and long term demands. With the ~~introduction~~ introduction of Commercial Catering & Allied Workers Union of South Africa (Ccawusa) our people were undoubtedly convinced of our struggle for a genuine and authentic representation. With the establishment of the General & Allied Workers Union (Gawu) side with Ccawusa this conviction was further enhanced. The trade union movement (with our limited knowledge and experience in the field nevertheless grows, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

### 3.4. PARENTS' SUPPORT COMMITTEE

The inevitable but unfortunate school-borne boycotts at our local high school saw Huca emerging again with a solution that would have long term educative impact on our community. Huca brought together parents whose children were detained to fight the detention problem and processes flowing out of that. The subject committee with its indefinitely identified with.

### 3.5 DEFIANCE CAMPAIGN

A ~~subtle~~ subtle, informal but remarkable defiance campaign was embarked upon by Huca since its inception last year. More than five houses were built and some renovated in defiance to authoritative restrictions. In each and every meeting of Huca an emphatic note was always made to residents to violate such restrictions. Some were threatened with fines and court summonses, amongst which Huca directly intervened. Quote examples. As this campaign was not properly structured from the onset our programme of action for the current year will amongst other issues improve on the campaign.

### 3.6 AFFILIATION TO THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF) (UDF)

The birth of the UDF drew a responsive attention of Huca. With the formation of UDF (Tvl), Huca was amongst the first organisations to join. I (Huca) representative outlook (as reflected in its constitution) was never doubted even at national level. This affiliation serves as a measure of guarantee that our struggle is also a struggle of other communities and that we are not a lone in it.

### 3.7. IDENTIFYING THE ENEMY STRATEGIES

Side by side with the physical issues in our programme, with the formation we had indulged in an educational programme of teaching our people the origin of our set-backs. Institutions such as community councils were taught and accepted as undemocratic and unrepresentative. They were identified as strategies of the forces of opposition. Their serious limitations were revealed. This was a great success.

### 4. REVIEW OF METHODS

4.1 ON PUBLICITY In a very few situations our reaction to certain issues has been a bit disturbing. As we have pointed out in the introduction our reactionary attitude may lead to us losing track of our ultimate objective. In the subject situations we started as pace-setters but ended giving the authorities (against whom we are contending), the latitude to set pace for us. Quote examples. Besides this few unfortunate incidents strategic and tactical approach.

### 4.2. INTERNAL WEALNESSES

There has been a gross negligence on the question of declaration of duties. Our approach on the matter has been assumed as being right on the initial. With instant results on few issues, the question of specific field of work to specific people as a matter of procedure was virtually ignored in the process. Quote examples. We need strategy when drawing our programme of action.

### 4.3. GRASSROOT SUPPORT

This has largely been gauged in the form of mass meeting attendance. The house to house meeting has proven difficult to execute due to irregular and sometimes improptuous outgoings. The most distinctive support is undoubtedly youth-bases. This support (a necessary development anyway), obscures contact. With the grassroot. We strive to quench the expectations of the youth, and this results in our tempo being fast for the grassroot. Our formal membership barometer is however inconsistent with the support we enjoy from the cross-section of the community. The card-carrying membership is lesser compared to the real support as reflected by the improving numbers of meeting attendants.

### 5. CONCLUSION

The flaws within our organisations and methods of organisation with definitely have to be minimised. Our area of strength should be enhanced and more work should be done. In broadening our knowledge on organisations and management thereof we need to constantly read, organise workshops, discuss analyse and constructively criticise ourselves and our colleagues. We need to read situations beyond our boundaries. We need to selflessly discuss what we have learnt in order to build up the image of our organisations. We need to bear in mind that ours is a long hard struggle. On which our methods must have positive long-term effects. In conclusion I'd suggest we form more sub-structures because I believe them to be the most viable strategy than can make easier the delegation of duties, the execution of tasks and finally the true assessment of our strength in the community.

✕

**Collection Number: AK2117**

**DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:* **Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand**

*Location:* **Johannesburg**

**©2012**

***LEGAL NOTICES:***

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of the collection records and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a private collection deposited with Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.