

U9-a

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REPORT OF UDF EVALUATION WORKSHOP

HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 1984

The workshop took place at the end of a momentous year in which the UDF engaged in a number of mass campaigns which established its significance as the major political force in the oppressed community.

The points made arose both from an enlightening input delivered by Curnick and group discussions around questions.

The discussion focussed on an initial assessment of work done during 1984 and some indications of the challenges facing the UDF for 1985.

The questions and a summary of the responses are presented.

1. WAS IT CORRECT TO FORM THE UDF IN AUGUST 1983, WHY?

There was a unanimous view that it was necessary to launch the UDF.

- * Although we had organisations developing in the 30's which were both both political but mainly (community, student and youth) mass based, there was a need for co-ordination and greater cohesion at all levels.
- * The state's reform initiatives required of the progressive movement a highly organised and unified response.
- * Historically, the way organisations had developed there were many limitations. To effectively challenge the state, we need to transcend local and regional boundaries to build a national anti-apartheid force to promote a progressive ideology both nationally and internationally.

2. HAVE THE AFFILIATED GROWN STRONGER OVER THE LAST YEAR?
HAS THE UDF STRENGTHENED ITS AFFILIATES?

Although the views was yes, because most affiliates attracted more activists

- * being affiliated to the popular front meant in many cases more public support for affiliates
- * UDF method of carrying out campaigns contributed to improving quality of activists and raising political awareness within organisations.

Some criticisms

- * communication between UDF and affiliates was not adequate

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- * limited affiliate participation in determining direction and campaigns of UDF;
- * affiliate work in some instances suffered because of UDF emphasis;
- * UDF input of resources and skills into affiliates inadequate.

3. ASSESS THE MSC IN TERMS OF THE OBJECTIVES WE SET.

- * made a major contribution towards educating people about constitution and the Koornhof Bills;

• significant organisational gains in organised areas as well as moving into unorganised areas;

- * popularised UDF throughout the region.

Criticisms :-

- * overestimated organising ability in aiming for 1 million;
- * did not end the campaign on a high note;
- * did not reach out to trade unions, workers and rural areas.

4. WEAKNESSES AND STRENGTHS OF THE ANTI-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Weaknesses :-

- * focussed mainly on Coloured and Indian communities eg. housevisits and pamphlets;
- * anti-election campaign not effectively linked to other broad issues eg. conscription;

• some areas UDF not projected strongly enough eg. NIC areas where NIC more popular.

Strengths :-

- * successful - low poll;
- * won support of people for UDF etc.;
- * help to strengthen non-racial approach to struggle;
- * new structures formed;
- * exposed Western governments support for apartheid;
- * exposed reactionary groups eg. Inkatha;
- * activists well informed and briefed;
- * internal organisation - peak election day organisation provides prototype for strong mass based structure.

5. RURAL AREAS

This was noted - of the UDF. In of Inkatha. Add structure which consciousness. lack of an indep that working in

A sub-committee medium term stra

TOWARDS THE FUTU

Problems and Wea

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- * forced removal
- * conscription
- * cost of living
- * IYY
- * Local authorit

5. RURAL AREAS

This was noted with much concern to be one of the major weaknesses of the UDF. In Natal, this problem was compounded by the presence of Inkatha. Adding to these objective problems is the tribal infrastructure which is prevalent together with a low level of political consciousness. At the subjective level a serious problem is our lack of an indepth understanding of the rural reality and the fact that working in these areas is outside the experience of our activists.

A sub-committee to look into this area and develop a low profile medium term strategy was suggested.

TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Problems and Weaknesses

- * effective communication between UDF and affiliates;
- * attention needs to be given to ensuring of greater affiliate participation and input in determining the direction and programme of the UDF;
- * inadequate participation of worker organisations in the UDF;
- * UDF presence in rural areas - Inkatha;
- * more active and representative structures need to be operated eg. REC and special functioning sub-committees;
- * intensify process of skills training and political education - with the aim of improving quality of activists and organisations;
- * broadening of Front - not enough new organisations brought into of UDF

Issues and Campaigns

- * forced removals, rural areas
- * conscription
- * cost of living - GST, food prices, bus fares
- * IYY
- * Local authority developments - continue campaign against constitution

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