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CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Management Committee
From: Hassen Ebrahim
Date: 5 December 1995

RE: DRAFT SCHEDULE OF WORK

1. Programme of Work

- 1.1 The proposed schedule was drafted after having regard to the parliamentary programme for the new session. It will be noted from this that the parliamentary programme begins on 9 February 1996 with the President's speech.
- 1.2 We have also attempted to include adequate opportunity and time for political parties to hold party caucuses and to conduct their research work between meetings. In this regard, it is proposed that the Constitutional Committee's Sub-Committee should carry out the initial discussions on the different aspects of the programme.
- 1.3 A third edition of the working draft has been produced which incorporates all outstanding issues which were deferred for discussion in 1996. In this regard, we have attempted to identify various agenda items for discussion in the various scheduled meetings. The organisation of the agenda items seeks to defer discussion on issues such as the Senate, National Executive and Competencies towards the latter part of the programme. Work will therefore be with issues that are less controversial.
- 1.4 It is proposed that a sitting of the Constitutional Assembly should take place during February as shortly after the parliamentary programme begins as is possible. We have however, not provided a specific date for this sitting as it would have to be determined by the programme of work.

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THE NEW CONSTITUTION

1.5 It has already been agreed that the Management Committee and Constitutional Committee should carry out a review of the process during February so as to determine how best to secure the adoption of the constitution in terms of Chapter 5. It is therefore recommended that the sitting of the Constitutional Assembly should take place after the sub-committee has had the opportunity of debating all the outstanding controversial aspects and after the Management Committee has had an opportunity to carry out a review of the process.

2. **Programme for the adoption of the Constitution**

This is a matter which is raised for consideration by the Management Committee and its further instructions in due course. It is recommended that the Management Committee considers as part of the programme of its work the adoption of the constitution. It is submitted that this event be planned in advance so as to accord it with the necessary importance that it deserves. In this regard, it is recommended that representatives of Civil Society, who have participated in the drafting of the constitution, be also incorporated in the programme of adoption.

3. **Administration**

The Administration has re-organised its structures and department to coincide with the political demands which this phase of constitution-making would make. The necessary arrangements for the processing of public submissions are being made so as to ensure that these are tabled for discussion at the relevant sittings of the sub-committee and the Constitutional Committee.