

National Association of Democratic Lawyers

[Western Cape Region]

MC 491-37-2-19



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11 November 1992

Dear Comrade

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS - AGM REPORT

The Western Cape Branch Annual General Meeting was held on Friday 23 October 1992 at the De Waal Sun Hotel in Gardens. The AGM was held in two sessions, a closed session from 14H30 for Nadel members only, and the open session from 18H00 at which invited guests and the media were present for Cde Dullah Omar's address and Cde Joe Slovo's speech, followed by a dinner at the Hotel. The open session yielded much interest in Nadel and several new membership applications have resulted.

The newly elected 1992/3 Branch Executive Committee is:

President	Dullah M Omar
Vice President	Vincent C Saldanha
Finance Committee Convenor	Dawood I Adam
General Secretary	Steven Zintl
Assistant Secretary	Johann F Mettler
Candidate Attorneys' Committee	Lloyd M Padayachi
Education Committee Convenor	Siraj Desai
Gender Committee Convenor	Sandra Liebenberg
Media Committee Convenor	Essa Moosa
Additional Member	Ebi Mohamed
Additional Member	Nico C Steytler

As a progressive lawyers' organisation concerning ourselves with the structure of the South African legal system, and, in particular, critically analysing the existing legal order with a view to determining proposals for restructuring so as to realise the transformed legal system we aspire towards, we are concerned with issues such as transformation of the judiciary, non-discriminatory entry into the profession, restructuring legal education, the empowerment of civil society by the demystification of the law and developing techniques for the pursuance and protection of rights, developing a human rights culture, and the extension of democracy and the achievement of equality through the rule of law.

Nadel has formal representation on the Human Rights Commission, the National Women's Charter Campaign, and Civil Rights Education Action Project. Nadel is represented on the ANC Regional Campaigns Co-Ordinating Committee, which structure facilitates contribution to regional ANC activities and requests for Nadel's assistance, in particular with mass actions and for legal opinion. Our members hold influential portfolios in other organisations and continue to actively participate in the ongoing struggles for the achievement of democracy at many levels. Our membership is particularly well represented on ANC and

SACP structures, are active in the Constitutional Committee, and the Interim Regional Department of Legal & Constitutional Affairs is predominantly composed of our members.

The following Committees and Commissions have been established for the coming year:

- 1 Education Committee - Which has responsibility for overall implementation and control of the Legal Education Project and the carrying out of the regional activities undertaken as a result of the implementation of the project, and for tasks associated with related areas of activity.

The Education Committee incorporate the following Commissions within the structure of the Education Committee to facilitate focusing on the relevant areas of interest:

- 1.1 Judicial Restructuring - To investigate alternatives to the existing judiciary, participate in fora dealing with the issue, and guide Nadel policy on the issue.
 - 1.2 Constitutional Issues - To contribute to and popularise the Constitutional debate, and guide Nadel policy on Constitutional issues.
 - 1.3 Electoral - To investigate various electoral options and mechanisms, provide practical guidance on electoral issues and serve to monitor elections.
- 2 Candidate Attorneys Committee - Which will implement and contribute to the planned National Office programme on addressing the difficulties of Candidate Attorneys and investigate alternatives o the present training and admission requirements for practitioners, participate in fora dealing with the issues, and guide Nadel policy on the issues.
 - 3 Gender - To begin to systematically and consistently address the various areas in which women have been disempowered and engage in debates and fora seeking solutions.
 - 4 Media - To operate as a combined liaison / media committee to produce effective media advertising Branch activities, institute a newsletter, co-ordinate the drafting of press statements, attend to the invitation and hosting of international visitors and to improving social interaction amongst members.
 - 5 Finance - Which is dedicated to raising funds by various means on a continuous basis for Branch activities and infastructure to enable the effective functioning of the above committees and portfolios.

We shall transmit telefax notices confirming the following meetings planned for the near

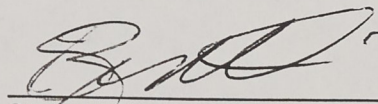
future, and we look forward to your attendance:

- 1 The Education Committee is meeting to determine its structure, assess its programme and to allocate responsibilities for portfolios at 17H30 on Tuesday 17 November 1992 at 502 Huguenot Chambers [40 Queen Victoria Street in Cape Town]. Please bring along your ideas and proposals.
- 2 We are hosting visiting Canadian Judge McMurthy. A public lunchtime meeting will be arranged on Wednesday 18 November 1992 and an evening meeting on Thursday 19 November 1992 at a restaurant.
- 3 Two Palestinian lawyers from El Hac, whose struggle has many similarities to our conditions, are visiting Cape Town and we will be hosting them on Saturday 21 November 1992 at the offices of Wilkinson Joshua Gihwala & Abercrombie in Athlone.
- 4 The Branch meets monthly, on Tuesdays. To encourage attendance, items of a bureaucratic nature have been simplified and relegated to the end of the agenda. Guest speakers are invited to present a topical input to stimulate discussion and consideration of issues requiring clarity.

Members are reminded that the International Development Law Institute [IDLI] and UCT Department of Commercial Law are presenting a workshop on "**Negotiating International Contracts and Development Finance Agreements**" at UCT from 07 to 11 December 1992. The registration fee is R1 200-00, but funding is available to selected delegates proposed by their organisations. Please contact the General Secretary for further information and application forms.

We are greatly concerned to note that despite repeated requests for payment of your due membership subscriptions, yours have not yet been paid. We are presently updating our membership records and would appreciate your completing the enclosed postcard questionnaire and returning it to us. Upon receipt, and should you wish to remain a member, we will mail you a membership renewal form for completion and return with your membership subscription payment.

Yours in Struggle



Steven Zintl
Secretary General
National Association of Democratic Lawyers
[Western Cape Branch]