

CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY

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REF No:

T.C. - PPP - Reports

MEMORANDUM

TO: HEAD OF COMMUNITY LIAISON DEPARTMENT

FROM: Secretariat, Theme Committee 2

DATE: 28 FEBRUARY 1995

MEMO REF: TC2/28 Feb 95/3

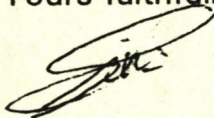
SUBJECT: TC2 REPORT ON COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION MEETINGS (CPM'S) OF 25 FEBRUARY 1995

Attached please find a copy of the report of TC2 on the abovementioned CPM's.

TC2 resolved on 27 February 1995 to submit this report to the Constitutional Committee. Please note from the report that it is aimed at assisting the CA Administration in addressing some of the issues mentioned, and the reports tabled at the TC2 meeting was done so in a constructive spirit.

We hope the report may be of assistance.

Yours faithfully



Secretariat TC2
per Thomas Smit

cc Head and Deputy Head of Secretariat
Directorate

CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**THURSDAY
2 MARCH 1995
08H00-10H00**

TC2 REPORT

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION MEETINGS
25 FEBRUARY 1995**

INTRODUCTION

The TC2 arranged for members from TC2 to attend 4 of the 5 scheduled CPM'S on Saturday 25 February 1995. The reports from those members at the TC2 meeting on Monday 27 February form the basis of this report.

REPORTS BY MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION MEETINGS: 25 FEBRUARY 1995		
DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED	SUCCESSES NOTED	SUGGESTIONS
1. EASTERN CAPE: GRAAFF REINETTE TOWN HALL <i>- D. Olyphant</i>		
(i) no placards on lampposts (ii) only small advertisement of meeting in paper (iii) attendance: 210 people; areas surrounding Graaff Reinette not informed (iv) 2 people thought they were attending to receive government hand-outs the TC2 members who attended had been briefed that they may only clarify issues, but at the meeting it transpired that they had to give a briefing about the constitution (v) the TC2 members were also briefed that a mayor will give input, but it transpired that she had not been briefed (vi) the IMSSA expert had no understanding or knowledge of the issues involved; CA admin staff could have been used as they have a better understanding (vii) from all the TC's only two TC members attended (viii) the Deputy Speaker of provincial parliament announced that henceforth they their Province will be drafting its own Public Participation Programme (ix) briefing of TC members in attendance inadequate (x) a military aircraft was used to transport only 6 people (xi) translation services/arrangements not available (xii)	(i) broad cross section of people who attended (ii) questions and inputs from public of high quality (iii) generally members of the public who attended had clarity about the nature of the meeting they were attending (iv) the meeting was recorded	(i) member of Admin staff in touch with issues could have been sent instead of IMSSA expert (ii) wherever possible, TC members should attend who are comfortable in the languages that are spoken predominantly at a particular venue (iii) members from all TC's should be in attendance (iv) the role and briefing of the provincial parliamentary members in attendance should be examined

2. NORTH WEST: KLERKSDORP		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the meeting was not well advertised (ii) attendance: 6 buses were used, but only 70-75 people were bused in (iii) the members of the public were not representative; only from one township (iv) parliamentary members were briefed that they should not participate in meeting, but it transpired that at the meeting the public wanted them to participate in proceedings: wanted overview of what has happened in TC's (v) felt the exercise was not worth the money that was spent on it (vi) although the facilitator was a good one, as far as the issues dealt with, she was uninformed, therefore the money for a facilitator was misspent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the level of debate was high (ii) the meeting was recorded 	
3. FREE STATE: BLOEMFONTEIN		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) inadequate advertising of meeting (ii) there had been no clarity on availability of free transport (iii) attendance: 6/7 buses were used, but only one bus transported only 2/3 members of public: representation from outlying/neighbouring areas was poor (iv) although all TC's were present, those parliamentarians in attendance throughout were only from one party (v) the facilitator for the meeting had not arrive, so the parliamentary members facilitated the meeting (vi) a translator was also not available, therefore one of the parliamentary members translated (vii) there had been no advertising in Sotho/Tswana (viii) press conference scheduled afterwards: local press did not bother to attend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) during the course of the meeting more people trickled in; towards the end the attendance was fair (ii) questions and inputs from the public were very constructive, they dealt with constitutional issues (iii) the meeting was recorded 	

4. EASTERN TRANSVAAL: WHITE RIVER	
<p>(i) much resources were used, with poor results</p> <p>(ii) attendance: 67 people; meetings not well publicised, adverts appeared only in local Afrikaans paper, no mention of transport; some members of the public received pamphlets only informing about the meeting only at the hall</p> <p>(iii) the public had been told that only "neutral" people could assist, and this had in effect "neutralised" the meeting</p> <p>(iv) it was felt that the organising of the meeting should not have been left to SACS only, and that SACS needs to be monitored on a daily basis by the Administration of the CA</p>	<p>(i) the meeting was recorded</p>

GENERAL SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were noted in general:

- (i) expenditure on the CPM's should result in dividends, people should not have to be flown in at great cost, only to find a few people in attendance;
- (ii) the briefing of the TC members should be more thorough, and the transportation arrangements more timeous and cost effective;
- (iii) generally at the meetings, an appointed uninformed person from IMSSA arrived and informed those present that he/she is chairing, and TC members who were informed of the issues had been briefed not to participate in the meeting; it may be better for the TC members to present an overview of the work of the TC's, or alternatively, if an independent person presides over the meeting then he/she needs to be well briefed;
- (iv) the CPM's should be organised and the TC's notified of arrangements timeously;
- (v) the role of the provincial parliaments needs to be clarified, and this may require further discussion;
- (vi) the participation of all the parties (and from all the TC's) should be secured, in order to prevent the impression that the CA consists of only one or a few parties;
- (vii) translators who understand the language and constitutional process need to be available;
- (viii) the selection of venues should ensure that not only one sector of society participates, and the attendance of the public at these venues should be more representative;
- (ix) a special attempt should be made to ensure that the local press attends; and,
- (x) mere reliance on media advertisement and structures of the SACS will not be enough to ensure that the public attends; political parties also have a

role to ensure that people are informed, even though they should be careful not to create the impression that the CA and its work consists of any particular party.

CONCLUSION

The TC2 noted that the abovementioned issues should be raised at the CC level. It was also noted that the CA is involved in a learning process, and that the matters noted in this report may assist in addressing some of the teething problems.