

Land Commission

Formation of a Land Commission

In pursuance of our programme of work around the Land Question in the draft Constitutional Guidelines two workshops one in Harare (May, 1989, with ANC/MDM participation) and another in Lusaka (February 1990, ANC in-house), as well as a seminar in Amsterdam (November 1989 with ANC/MDM plus other participation) have taken place.

In March we took forward a recommendation that a ANC/MDM Land Commission should be set in place and subsequently named the ANC participants.

Preparatory Committee

Since then a small working committee has drawn up a proposed programme of activities. In June a three person ANC delegation will hold discussions in South Africa to review and finalise the Land Commission team, its terms of reference, and its programme.

We envisage a consultative process which draws upon, not only the knowledge and skills of professionals and activists whose work is related to the rural economy but also on, outside international expertise in specific areas. Furthermore it is essential to the consultative process that the rural constituency itself is able to directly present its views and consider the findings of the Land Commission.

The proposed programme of activity spans several months:

A. June 1990. 'Preparatory Consultation.'

Department of Legal Affairs will head a small delegation to visit South Africa to establish a working committee whose tasks are:

(i) deliberation on the major issues to be considered taking into account the results of the Harare SASPRO workshop, the ANC in-house workshop, the Amsterdam SAERT seminar, the Cape Town IDASA conference, the CDS land research discussions as well as the results of rural level workshops carried forward by service organisations.

(ii) establish priorities on the major issues, the background knowledge required on the issues and identify the profile of the Land Commission accordingly.

(iii) identify areas in which additional national or international expertise may be called for.

(iv) establish a coordinating committee.

(v) *prepare budget*

B. July to September: 'Work in Progress'

The coordinating committee approaches the nominated Land Commission members. Individual responsibilities to carry forward additional (research) work on selected areas are attributed.

The coordinating committee takes forward any requests for international expertise and works out in what manner the Commission will receive the information of the experts.

A process is set in place to collect and integrate the results of work on the land undertaken by the CDS research programme.

A similar process is set in place to channel the proceedings of any rural workshops taking place in which rural concerns are debated.

C September. Full Meeting of the Land Commission.

A full meeting of the Commission to be convened. It may be considered appropriate to organise the attendance of invited experts to parts of this meeting.

D. October. Consultative Workshop.

A workshop has been prepared for October to allow for an extended consideration of the Front Line States post independence agrarian experience as well as interactive deliberation on South Africa. Land Commission members would present work in progress and discussion on this will be informed and tempered by the comparative studies and the presence of rural community leaders. Ten Front Line States delegates would attend and five international invitees. There would be thirty South African participants which allows for extended participation involving not only members of the Land Commission.

E. November - December 1990. First Draft document.

A working group of the Land Commission will draft a document for the Negotiations Taskforce. This document should go forward for discussion at the ANC Conference. There should be a simultaneous preparation of a brochure on the work of the Commission, the debate of the consultative workshop and the recommendations should be prepared for wider distribution.

F. January - March 1991. Feedback process

The Land Commission undertakes responsibility to coordinate a series of workshops with different constituencies in the South African society: rural communities, trade unions, the civil service, and commercial farmers. The aim of these workshops would be to explain the work of the commission, respond to requests of clarification and receive feedback.

G. April 1991. Land Commission: 2nd Draft document.

The Land Commission will reconsider the first draft document in the light of feedback, make amendments and present the revised document to the Negotiating Taskforce.

BUDGET REQUIREMENTS.

A precise budget needs to be prepared on the seven outlined activities:

- A. Preparatory visit to South Africa
- B. Work in Progress
- C. Full Land Commission Meeting including Experts
- D. Consultative Workshop
- E. Preparation of First Draft document & Brochure
- F. Feedback process
- G. Final draft document

This budgetary work will be completed in June as a task of the preparatory committee.