

CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY

ANNUAL REPORT

COMMUNITY LIAISON DEPARTMENT

MAY 1995

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME

The greatest strength of the Constitutional Assembly lies in its public participation programme. Considered against the background of the RDP, Masakhane and the local government registration campaigns and forthcoming elections, the Constitutional Assembly has thus far been successful in its stated objective of interaction with the public.

Of significance is the fact that the myth that ordinary citizens are not concerned with constitutional issues or able to make a contribution to the constitution-making process has finally been debunked and laid to rest.

There are several aspects to this programme, namely; Constitutional Public Meetings (CPM's), public hearings, workshops and inviting submissions from the public generally.

2. CONSTITUTIONAL PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Pilot Phase of the CPM Programme was launched in Paarl on the 11th February 1995 at a meeting of residents and farmworkers which was addressed by the Chairpersons. The pilot phase ended on the 11th March 1995. During that period a total of 8 CPM's were held in the following areas:

- Klerksdorp
- Nelspruit
- Graaf Reinet
- Namakgale
- Manguang
- Kuboes
- Saldanha
- Phalaborwa
- Ivory Park

Approximately 4600 people attended these events, submissions received from the public at these events were forwarded to the Theme Committees.

With respect to the remainder of the pre-draft phase of the CPM Programme, the Management Committee and the Constitutional Committee approved the following:

1. At each of the CPM's representatives of the various organisations of civil society and other formations should be properly represented and be invited to make submissions.

2. That the administration should arrange 18 CPM's between 27th April and 25th June 1995 in the following areas.

Dates

- Eastern Cape - Peddie
- North West - Taung

- Kwazulu-Natal - Ingwavuma
- Eastern Transvaal - Standerton

- Northern Cape - Upington
- Free State - Harrismith

- Western Cape - Beaufort West
- Kwazulu-Natal - Newcastle
- North West - Taung

- Northern Cape - Kimberley
- Northern Transvaal - Thohoyandou

- Eastern Cape - Lusikisiki
- North West - Mafikeng

- Northern Cape - Carnarvon
- Northern Transvaal - Ellisras
- Eastern Transvaal - Mhluzi

- Western Cape - George
- Free State - Maokeng
- Kwazulu-Natal - Hammersdale

3. That the administration should report to the Management Committee on the particulars of each event in good time.

4. That the approved schedule should be presented to members of the media timeously with an invitation and that arrangements be made to those who wish to attend.

The above-mentioned decisions of the Management Committee are being implemented.

5. The meeting in Ingwavuma that was scheduled for 13 May 1995 was cancelled.
6. A CPM was held on Saturday 6 May 1995 in Peddie in the Eastern Cape. The Chairperson, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa made an input on the constitution-making process and over 2500 people attended the event.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Public hearings and workshops that ended during the period 11 March 1995 have already been held or Constitutional Public Hearings will be held for the following sectors. *A large number of workshops and public hearings involving members of the public and organisations representing different interests were also held (see paragraph 3.3 of the Secretariat report).*

Public hearings and seminars *have been or arranged or are being arranged.* are being planned for the following sectors.

- Women
- Labour
- Business
- Youth (including a separate hearing on children's rights)
- Traditional leaders
- Religious groups

South Africa → On the 8th May 1995 a public hearing was held for representatives from Business S.A. and NAFCOC. This event was attended by the Chairpersons, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa and Mr Leon Wessells, Members of Theme Committee's and representatives from the above-mentioned organisations.

4. CONSTITUTIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The training of Provincial Co-ordinators and Provincial Education and Training Co-ordinators has been completed.

The CEP has launched it's first phase effective from the 15th May 1995.

The work in this phase is directly linked to the Constitutional Public Meetings and Sector hearings.