

Dear Comrades

NOT SUMM

The Network has for some time now been investigating disinformation in SA economic statistics. The trail begins with the March 1991 edition of the journal *Finances and Tegnick* which the state tasks for "off balance-sheet" (OBS) expenditure.

The Network took up the issue again in the lead-up to the UAT stay-away, in the UAT briefings, which are appended.

Subsequently, the Reserve Bank has released figures which start to lift the covers on OBS, for the financial years 1972-3 to 1989-90. These figures are reported and analyzed in the *Finances & Tegnick* of 22 November, p19.

F & I conclude that for the last year reported, some 15% of state expenditure was OBS.

Note that social insurance funds, like the state pension fund and unemployment insurance fund, are OBS, along with unclassified OBS expenditures. I don't need to remind you that the latter funds are under-provided, if not mysteriously depleted.

Comrades, an air of urgency is added to the issue by the fact that the Human Awareness Programme has walked straight into a disinformation trap. The HAP Info '92 package, aimed at community organisations and service agencies, quotes the S.A. Information Digest (sic!) figures in dollars (sic!), setting the SA GDP at R228.89bn for 1991. The amount calculated from the F&T report is some R249bn. Note that this amount excludes the "independent" homelands.

The strategy is no doubt clear. SA is made up as a basket case to lure us into the IMF/WB debt net, while the burgeoning economy continues to export billions in capital yearly! Meanwhile ignorant trendy economists fall into the traps all over the place.

Comrades, please consult within the alliance and prepare to break the story. I am preparing a statistical report. However, the income of the "homelands" remains obscure, as does the slushy edge of OBS. Time for us to play detective...

Yours in the struggle for freedom of information.

S.A. O'Dowd  
for  
DIALECTIX