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MEMORANDUM TO CODESA WORKING GROUP NO. 4

ASSIGNMENT: FUTURE OF TBVC STATES

In South Africa two libraries are recognized as national libraries in terms of the National Libraries Act, 1985. They are the South African Library, Cape Town, and the State Library, Pretoria. These two libraries hold valuable collections of materials relating to South and southern Africa as well as materials in other fields of knowledge. They are open to all and are used by researchers, scholars and citizens throughout South Africa and abroad. The national libraries provide support services in respect of the national bookstock, bibliographic (book finding) tools, resource sharing and the preservation of our national literary and scholarly heritage to all libraries in South Africa. In this way the national libraries enable them to fulfil their educational and informational tasks.

In terms of the Legal Deposit of Publications Act, 1982, the two national libraries, together with three other libraries, the Library of Parliament, the Bloemfontein Public Library, and the Natal Society Library, each receive a copy of each book, periodical, newspaper or other publication published in the Republic of South Africa. The materials collected in terms of legal deposit are used to constitute a comprehensive collection reflecting the literary and scholarly heritage of South Africa, for the compilation of the South African national bibliography, an authoritative record of South Africa's book production, for purposes of resource sharing, and for the delivery of information services.

When the TBVC states became independent, the existing South African legal deposit legislation ceased to apply to these states. These states also established their own national libraries. The governments of Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei entered into agreements with the RSA concerning the performance of certain national library functions and the delivery of legal deposit materials to the State Library. These agreements have proved difficult to implement. As a result, materials published in the TBVC states are not adequately represented in the collections of South Africa's national libraries. This leaves gaps in the national libraries' collections which impede current information and document delivery functions and will impede future research on South Africa.

We recommend that if the TBVC states are re-incorporated into South Africa

1. Measures be taken, when the existing intergovernmental agreements lapse, to ensure that legal deposit and certain related functions of the national libraries of these states are transferred without disruption to South Africa's national libraries.



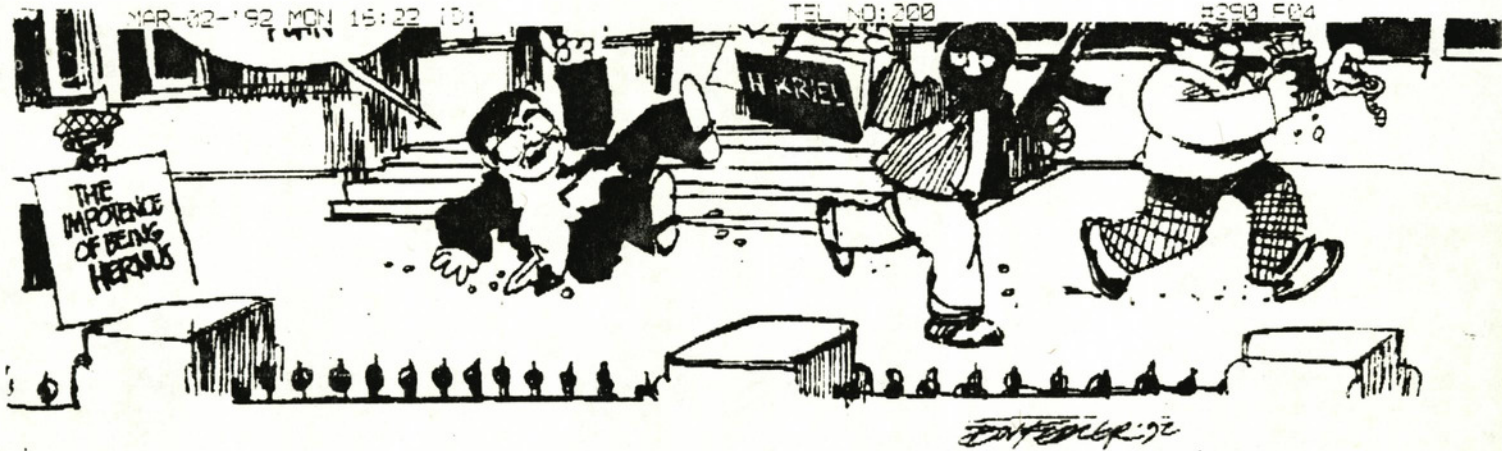
2. Measures be taken to ensure that gaps in the collections of South Africa's national libraries in respect of legal deposit materials emanating from these states during their period of independence, are filled.

3. "National library" functions presently carried out by the national libraries of the TBVC states, that can more efficiently be performed centrally, be transferred to South Africa's two national libraries.

4. The TBVC national libraries be incorporated into appropriate regional structures for the provision of public, community and school libraries. In certain cases where considerable library progress has been made, as in Bophuthatswana, the national library service could become the nucleus of a library service serving a region of South Africa.

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THE STAR (LEADER)  
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Eric Stillerman argues for the establishment of an economic convention

## Harness all sides to 'Ecodesa'

**T**HE emerging political consensus in Codesa has now put the emphasis on the need for a similar forum, of equal standing, to address socio-economic development in South Africa.

The success of Codesa depends on the maintenance of the balance of economic, military, international and people power between the participating and non-participating parties, in the new dispensation.

The concepts of sufficient consensus and a balance of power promise to create the requisite legitimacy for the new government and the enforceability of the new constitution.

While Codesa negotiates the balance of power in the new constitution, a forum equal to it is needed to address the vital issues and needs for socio-economic development. Such a forum may be appropriately called Ecodesa — Economic Convention for Development in South Africa.

The concept is being discussed by interested parties, including the Consultative Business Movement (CBM), Fedhassa, Sacob, the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut, the Chamber of Mines, Seifsa, Cosatu and Nactu (National Council of Trade Unions).

This week, more than 60 representatives from business and labour met under the chairmanship of Barlow's John Hall, and agreed on the need for an economic forum. The issue now centres on the composition, scope, mandate and substantive agenda of an economic policy-making body, going beyond informal consultation.

Economic policy is currently in a stalemate, caught between the

competing priorities of government, business and the black movements. Government, which normally has a sole mandate, is unable to devise or implement short or long-term economic policy with any degree of confidence or consistency.

The need for an economic policy-making forum has so far been advanced by the ANC, Cosatu and Nactu as well as Sacob and the CBM.

The urgency is highlighted by the prevailing economic recession and uncertainty towards the future. Ecodesa should thus not be delayed until the completion of political negotiations, but be convened as an early priority, running concurrently with Codesa.

While the ANC and its allies are excluded from economic policy-making, the threat of destabilisation and nationalisation bedevils local confidence and foreign investment. The formation of Ecodesa will allow a concrete policy framework to be developed now, based on a negotiated pragmatic consensus, stimulating confidence and investment.

Any efforts by the key participants individually are unlikely to succeed as ownership by all stakeholders is the overriding call and ethos today. Informal contacts between the parties also fall short of a legitimate common forum, with decision-making responsibility.

Government's Department of Economic Co-ordination has not yet succeeded in achieving co-ordination within government, let alone with other stakeholders. The recent appointment of Derek Keys to this ministry promises that at least Government, business and the Public Service may be more

effectively co-ordinated.

Development agencies, such as the Independent Development Trust and the Development Bank, lack the broad base of support and policy framework necessary for the effective application of their source of funds.

Business has convened various forums, for instance Sacob, Saccola and the Consultative Business Movement.

The Mass Democratic Movement has established the National Development Forum (NDF) to clarify and consolidate its own position, in preparation for a broader-based forum. The ANC has indicated that it favours a definite role in economic policy decision concurrently with Codesa.

It is rapidly emerging that the major players share a common goal and agenda for economic policy co-operation. The time is now ripe to harness these separate endeavours in a genuine forum, embodied in the concept of Ecodesa.

While Ecodesa might be set up under the auspices of Codesa, its mandate would be more immediate and proactive, with long-term policy implications. Codesa has not included economic issues in its primary mandate and agenda.

Ecodesa's initial objectives would focus on the co-ordination of a broadly based socio-economic development. Ecodesa would provide a constructive balance between Government and the key participants in the economy maintaining a sense of mutual confidence and long-term commitment to development.

The age of rigid political economic ideology has given way worldwide to a more pragmatic approach towards effective eco-

nom development.

The major parties are also converging towards a pragmatic framework for a mixed economy. The lack of a common framework underlies the prevailing sense of paralysis and uncertainty, with dire socio-economic consequences.

The fruitless debate continues over Government intervention versus free enterprise. Government and private enterprise should not be in conflict but consensus. The Pacific Rim countries are the most successful examples of government/private sector consensus and co-operation for development.

The political industrial alliance is also well established in substitutions of free enterprise as in West. Similarly, other economic participants, such as trade unions are an integral part of economic policy co-operation in many advanced economies.

South Africa needs a policy that both rapid growth and the equitable distribution of economic resources. A large degree of consensus exists as to these goals.

However, no clear progress is evident towards either growth or distribution. In the absence of a proactive strategic framework, growth is currently negative, with progressively less to distribute.

Lip service to either goal is substitute for a concrete action plan to achieve both amidst a climate of social unrest, uncertainty and the spectre of nationalisation.

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