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Interview with Terror Lekota : additions

The point that I think should have been made is that for as long as chiefs relied on their communities for survival, their loyalty and commitment was to their people. In the 1940's when the govt began to pay their chiefs, the confidence of in the chiefs began to diminish.

What is the potential for organising women in rural areas, if as you point out, men are mostly away from their homes in rural areas?

In attempting to organise our rural rally, our efforts were concentrated on organising rural women. However the traditional custom of men acting as heads of the families also comes in. However there is an increasing autonomy of women to decide for themselves in whether they want to join an organization or not. It is going to help a lot if say an organization which organises in the compounds and hostels is consciously going to follow men to the areas in which they stay and take advantage of the periods in which they are home ~~xxxxxxx~~ so that these men can give the seal of approval to the organization. It is going to make more smoother organization of women in rural areas.

Once the resources are available, the process can be followed consciously and it will break barriers that are very difficult to break.

To what extent has migrancy broken down those barriers to women organising themselves in rural areas?

Women are playing a more ~~xxxx~~ and more active role in organization. Migrants are now bringing women with them, into the urban areas. To maintain family ties on a daily basis is now a issue to fight for. We saw ^{how} that when people were taken and dropped in the Transkei, families combined and hired buses ^{to go back} and that type of initiative is taking place. In Kattlehong and the Free State we see a similar process. People are now challenging influx control.

If you go into Inanda, the stevedores are moving out of the compounds into areas like Inanda where they are building shacks and this is the reason for the assault on Inanda ^{by the state}

What is the relative importance of organising urban and rural people?

The South African scene is quite unique in some senses. The vast bulk of workers still come from rural areas - in terms of that there is a tremendous need for organization of rural areas.

However it is easier to organise workers at the point of employment. You reach them easily and you reach them consistently. But we must also be aware of where the workforce is located. Some form of organization is necessary in those rural areas which are reservoirs of labour.

Also, because workers in urban areas are relatively more comfortable, it seems that a high level of militancy will come from these areas. To ignore these areas is to ignore areas of high resistance.

However at the same time, urbanized workers remain very important because legalised trade unionism for African workers is only about 2 years old and there is still a tremendous amount to be covered.

When workers get retrenched, they have to stay in rural areas. This means that if you organise workers and they get retrenched, a new lot of workers are employed, so you must start right right from scratch. You can go on and on that way.

Therefore it is necessary to organise people where they stay as well.

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