

**U11-e**

WEST RAND UDF AREA COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

Rev'd 11-e"

1. WORKSHOP RUN BY : UDF
2. THEME : REVIVAL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF ORGANISATIONS
3. VENUE : ST MARYS HIGHER PRIMARY SCHOOL, KAGISO
4. DATE : SATURDAY, THE 22nd DECEMBER 1984
5. TIME : 2pm TO 7pm
6. PROGRAMME : CF ATTACHED COPY
7. ATTENDANCE : CF ATTACHED COPY
8. ORGANISATIONS PRESENT: KRO (KAGISO RESIDENTS ORGANISATION); GAWU (GENERAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION); TIC (TRANSVAAL INDIAN CONGRESS); NETO (NEGRO ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS TRAINING ORGANISATION); and Individuals from organisations such as IYCC and YCW.
9. AIMS OF THE WORKSHOP: cf attached copy - (i.e. NOTES IT 2).
10. SESSION ONE: STRENGTH OF ORGNISATION

Participation was fair. The following pattern was used:- Name of organisation; Number of active members; Number of activists; Number of members present at this workshop; Structures in the organisation; Past activity and campaigns; Present activity and two most serious organisational problems.

SUMMARY:

(a) STRUCTURES

- KRO was still being revived. An adhoc committee had been established to do preparations for the re-launching of KRO in MARCH 1985;
- GAWU was busy with the formation of a REGIONAL SHOP-STEWARD COMMITTEE;
- TIC was busy with a process of decentralising its administrative work from FORDSBURG to AZADVILLE. Attempts are also being made to launch a youth organisation and a CIVIC watchdog structure;
- NETO has a structure of volunteers who collects papers and dirt littered in the township (NETO is a youth organisation);

(b) PAST CAMPAIGNS

- KRO had conducted a rent campaign. This led a reduction of rent increase from TWENTY ONE RANDS (21.00) to THIRTEEN RANDS (R13.00). KRO members had also responded positively to the ANTI-ELECTION campaign. Although in the latter case KRO members responded as individuals, they managed to regroup and identified themselves/.....

themselves as KRO. Re-establishing KRO, however, demanded "More than a mere regrouping".

- TIC was involved in the anti tri-cameral parliament elections.
- GAWU was involved in the ANTI-COMMUNITY COUNCIL election campaign.
- NETO has been involved in a campaign aimed at promoting "environmental awareness" in the Community.

(c) TWO MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS CONFRONTING EACH ORGANISATION

- KRO said "members of the committee neglected their duties and responsibilities", and "membership drive".
- GAWU said "difficulties in establishing shop-stewards REGIONAL COUNCIL" and "RETRENCHMENT of our MEMBERS by the BOSSES".
- TIC said "level of commitment of our activist not impressive".
- NETO said "conditions of our people in the township eg. hunger and lack of self respect".

NB: The organisations and people present were not in a position to provide all the relevant information. At the end of the session, a summary of the strength of our organisations was given. It became clear that we were weak and there was an urgent need to organise and build strength inside our organisations and ensure, in the final analysis unity of all the oppressed.

11. SESSION 2: ORGANISATION

METHOD: GROUP DISCUSSION.

Participants were divided into 4 groups for group discussions. The following questions were handed to each group:-

- (a) Why do we organise?
- (b) How do we organise?
- (c) What are the common weaknesses of organisers; and
- (d) How can these weaknesses be corrected?

REPORT BACK:

The following overall answers were given on "WHY DO WE ORGANISE?":-

- "Because we are faced with common problems";
- "To bring awareness or education to the people";
- "To help solve problems that are facing the people";
- "To build power and become a stronger force";
- "To shape our own life and destiny";
- "To strengthen/.....

- "To strengthen local organisations";
- "To ensure UNITED and EFFECTIVE ACTION"; and
- "To ensure POLITICAL HEGEMONY".

The following overall answers were given on "HOW DO WE ORGANISE?":-

- Calling and organising mass meetings so as to
  - (a) IDENTIFY SUPPORTERS
  - (b) IDENTIFY SYMPATHISERS
  - (c) IDENTIFY POTENTIAL ACTIVISTS
- "Doing door to door work"
- "Consulting with the masses through pamphlets, questionnaires and surveys"
- "Organising the masses through SOCIAL GATHERINGS"
- "Educating the masses through pamphlets, posters and seminars"
- "Striving to and involving people to solve their own problems".

"Common WEAKNESSES of ORGANISERS" were identified as:-

- "Personality clashes and power struggle";
- "Lack of determination and devotion";
- "Lack of commitment";
- "Lack of clarity on political, economic and social issues";
- "Lack of proper communication between organisers and the masses";
- 'Leading' instead of being with the masses (i.e. doing away with the ELITIST APPROACH)
- "Fear of Repression";
- "Fear of CRITICISM"

Participants saw solutions (to "WEAKNESSES" needing "CORRECTION") to enable "ORGANISERS" to operate successfully as:

- "Continuous EVALUATION of work done"
- "Developing ability to accept criticism and doing SELF-INTROSPECTION"
- "Attending seminars and reading progressive literature"
- "Consciously avoiding being a talk shop and concentrating on practical work. This lessens the possibility of conflicts arising from some abstract realm of ideas"
- "Continuous encouragement to all those who are fighting together with us for change"

12. SESSION3 : PAPER ON ROLE OF A CIVIC ORGANISATION cf attached paper

A. METHOD : SHORT TALK ON PAPER and a GROUP DISCUSSION

B. Questions for the group discussion were;

- (a) What is a civic organisation
- (b) How does a civic organisation differ from a political organisation
- (c) What is it/.....

- (c) What is it that causes residents to join organisations
- (d) What are the lessons that we have learnt after the June 1976 ERA.

C. REPORT BACK AND DISCUSSIONS

\*cf attached copy

13. SESSION 4: ROLE OF YOUTH ORGANISATION

This session could not be done due to many participants who felt it was too dark. Candles could not solve the latter problem. Seminar was suggested for the 13th of January 1985. Amos and UDF people were invited to run another seminar.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT WEST RAND UDF AREA COMMITTEE.

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