

# NDUNDULU FIRE DISASTER PROGRAMME



*Tents that were given to the people*

The Bureau for Community Development and Youth Affairs runs the Amabutho Follow-up programme. This programme entails the placement of Amabutho who are through their training at various Government Departments' offices and projects and also the organization of localized workshops to strengthen Amabutho participation in projects in their communities. The Amabutho are naturally grouped into three, namely:

- i) The Dlangezwa, Nseleni, Mtunzini, Ngoye Group
- ii) The Hlanganani Group and
- iii) The Transvaal Group.

On 26 July 1983 the Bureau conducted the first project oriented workshop for the Dlangezwa, Nseleni, Mtunzini Ngoye Group at Esikhawini Magistrate's offices. This Group has thirty Amabutho. The workshop was on "Setting up a Community Project".

Through the course of this workshop participants were all engaged in a "Community Project" identification exercise. We were so fortunate that in that workshop Mrs A. Mchunu — Womens Brigade Chairperson arrived and introduced the Ndundulu Fire Disaster. Here was a real practical situation! The need to do something about this predicament was realized and the Ndundulu Fire Disaster Relief Programme was born. This project

was analysed and steps to follow were set. On assessment this project was seen as worthwhile. It was realized that step number one would be to contact Inkatha/Government leaders for their support for this programme.

A delegation comprising of two of the Amabutho, Cde Mrs A. Mchuni, (Chairperson Women's Brigade), Cde Musa Zondi (Bureau's Youth Affairs Division Head), Cde Nkosinathi Ndelu (Bureau's Field Services Division Head) was sent to present the proposal to His Excellency the President and Chief Minister and also to the Hon. Secretary-General and to seek advice of the Inkatha Administrative Secretary. This delegation left for Ulundi and the workshop continued and was led by the Director for Community Development and Youth Affairs, Mr Nqubizizwe Nkehli.

Amabutho were taught in practical exercises (Role plays) such aspects as Community Approaching; Role local Inkatha Branch plays in community Development; Community Entry Exercise; Helping a Community without causing perpetual Dependency and the Four Rules of a Community Worker i.e. Broker, Advisor, Leader and Catalyst. The Final exercise was preparation for the realistic project that was identified and that is

Ndundulu Fire Disaster Relief Programme.

The delegation to Ulundi returned and announced good news that His Excellency The President; the Hon. Secretary-General and Cde Administrative Secretary were giving the Ndundulu Project their support and work started. It was agreed that our role is to help the victims to help themselves and to encourage Community spirit in the entire society i.e. involving those members of the community who were not direct victims but are in the vicinity.

## IMMEDIATE NEEDS

It was realized that matters of shelter and food were the highest priority as there were destitute victims. Tents which were brought in by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry were not sufficient. Emandleni-Matleng Camp brought in more tents and interim shelter problem was solved. Food also came from the Department of Health and Welfare through Mrs Boltina (social worker) and also from the Melmoth Magistrate Mr Bester. The food was equitably distributed and Amabutho were of great help in this component of the project.

## ASSISTANCE OF DAMAGE TO PICTURE THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM

"I had meeting with the Camp Commander Cde M.S. Gcumisa in which we agreed that we needed information regarding the magnitude of the problem in order to be able to decide how to solve it. We realized that we had very limited resources to maintain Amabutho for long at the Base Camp at Ndundulu and we shared the importance to stick on the principles of Community Development".

I asked Mr B.E.C. Ndlovu — Bureau staff member in the field Services Division and qualified in doing empirical community survey to go with someone whom the Camp Commander would delegate



from the Camp to conduct the fact finding survey. Cde Gcumisa himself went with Cde B.E.C. Ndlovu at first as he wanted to have personal impression but later delegated Cde B.T. Xesibe, Mr Nkehli said.

### MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

After holding meeting with the community it was realized that the fire victims saw rebuilding of their homes as the top priority. It was clear from this point that our involvement will be towards Home Reconstruction as the main thrust, hence cutting of reed, felling of trees (donated by Z.C.C.), seeking of doors and windows as donations. Amabutho were grouped into five and each group had a leader. Cde Themba Mthethwa was Amabutho convenor and therefore co-ordinated all five groups. The amabutho Matters Committee looked after this and maintenance of Amabutho. Members of the community joined these five groups every morning to wherever the Works Management Committee directed that day. In other words five big groups used to go out to work. It was the Works Committee that assessed that reeds or poles etc were sufficient to change to the next building need.

As the groups were working the Resources Committee found tools and trucks they needed like chainsaws, sickles etc.

The Community Mobilization and Co-ordination Committee looked after the involvement of the community as a whole and also building strong community organization. There are five emerging Inkatha Branches who were incorporated into this programme and also this committee got together all outside wellmeaning parties vis.

Melmoth Magistrate  
 Department of Health and Welfare  
 Department of Agriculture  
 Department of Education and Culture  
 Melwel  
 Idamasa



*Part of fire disaster at Ndundulu near Melmoth*

and they all formed the Ndundulu Co-ordinating Committee which received and availed donations towards the affected families. In the Co-ordinating Committee Emandleni-Matleng Camp is represented by Cde B.T. Nesibe and the Bureau for Community Development and Youth Affairs by Cde N.T. Ndelu who was elected Chairman.

1. At this stage it is commendable that the Community spirit which was deteriorating at the beginning of the project has been greatly enhanced. There was a conflicting attitude in this society whereby those who lost their homes and property were developing hatred towards the others to an extent of attempting to burn their homes. This community is moving towards

unity and harmony such that an Inkatha organising committee was formed and interesting too a development Committee was formed and in the terms of reference of this committee it is also stated that it must act as the resources custodian towards community Reconstruction Programme in Fire affected areas and to mobilize Fire victim communities around self-help (See Annexure 3)

2. Thirty truck-loads of wartle logs have been delivered and piled near homes sites. These were from Z.C.C. forest and also from Mr H. Percival's forest. These are enough to rebuild all homes.

3. Reed has been distributed to homes' sites for use as the roofing material.



*Damages at Ndundulu*



4. Doors and windows have been bought from the Fund controlled by the Magistrate Mr Bester who is Co-ordinating Committee's treasurer. A minimum uniform distribution of a door and window a family has been made and further distribution according to number of houses burnt down is being done.

5. Food and clothes donated have all been passed on to the victims.

With all these resources now collected there is no need to cut more reed, to fell more trees and basic building material like doors and windows are there and more could still be delivered from the Fund controlled by the Co-ordinating Committee communicating through both the Community Development Committee and local Inkatha branches. Moreover the active participation of Amabutho was initially planned to be eight

weeks and now nine weeks have elapsed i.e. from 28 July to 28 September.

Contact with this community is not cut and assistance they will require, will still be given through the communities' own leaders in the committee and our Field Services Division will continue to visit these communities and run leadership courses for the committees.

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## MANY TASKS AWAIT KWAZULU



*Mr. Hansmeyer, Commissioner General*

Opening the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly on 26 October 1983, Honourable P.N. Hansmeyer, the Commissioner-General for the Zulu National Unit, among other things, he said "on the home front the KwaZulu Government is to be congratulated on the step taken when it decided on the 1st March 1983 to establish a Department of Economic Affairs. The KwaZulu plan "towards a plan for KwaZulu

— A preliminary development plan" recommended the creation of administrative machinery to ensure concerted action and the co-ordination of effort which will be essential to the successful implementation of the plan. This new Department will be the Committee (PCAC) as well as the link between the Development Bank and the KwaZulu Government.

The positive attitude which your Government adopted in dealing with the issue of the siting of the Inanda Dam is consequently laudable and it is hoped that others who may be placed in the same position as KwaZulu will seek to emulate it" he said.

The Commissioner-General speaking on behalf of the Republic of South Africa said "The KwaZulu

Cabinet also appointed a committee called the Distress Relief Committee which has been charged with the task of monitoring the drought-relief programme as well as reporting on the results being achieved. The Government of the R.S.A., on its part, has contributed an amount of R5,4 million to KwaZulu for drought-relief. As a result for example, the position at the present time is that 110 tankers are supplying water to people in KwaZulu on a fulltime basis. The Distress Relief Committee, therefore, deserves our thanks and appreciation for the work that has been done so far".

"The tasks that await you are demanding and the problems are many, but I am sure that you will succeed. I pray for God's blessing upon you and that He in His wisdom will guide you," he said.

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## ANC A MYTH, INKATHA A REALITY

**By The Staff**

In October this year, we have witnessed the Annual Women's Brigade Conference of Inkatha. Delegates from the four provinces of the Republic of South Africa converged at Ulundi in KwaZulu to re-affirm their commitment to the struggle for liberation. Amongst other things, the conference resolved that "the serious political implication of a "yes" vote on Black-White relations in this country, gives His Excellency, the President of Inkatha, a strategy and policy of Inkatha after the referendum if the White voters voted "yes" on the 2nd November 1983."

This conference was characterized by the presence of Mr Bayard Rustin from the United States of

America who is the President of both the A. Philip Randolph Institute and New York Friends

Group, both dedicated to non-violent social change. Mr Rustin has long been on public record for