

Role of NGOs

Historically, indigenous NGOs have been involved in the struggle against oppression and underdevelopment. Their continued existence is based on the history and culture of our struggle against apartheid, generally, and specifically our development towards self reliance.

The existence of many indigenous NGOs is as a result of:

- The struggle against repression and apartheid capitalist exploitation;
- Exacerbation of social and economic conditions;
- Vulnerability of deprived communities, and
- Needs and services that have been accommodated by formal structures.

Foreign aid to NGOs can be manipulative and many donors may have their own agendas which are not demand driven.

Proposals

- We believe that local communities should have the final say about international NGOs which function within them.
- We believe that NGOs are well placed to facilitate the links between tertiary education institutions and communities in which they may work. We call on both tertiary institutions and NGOs to strengthen their relationship with one another.
- We call on the government to enact legislation promoting the funding of NGOs engaged in the process of authentic people centred development which enhances the sustainability of communities without exercising control over the content of the programmes.
- We strongly recommend that NPPHCN and SAHSSO should collectively guide all proposed foreign funding to any of their projects.