

Education: Winterveldt tackles Bop

An education forum held in Winterveldt recently heard that one of the problems facing education in Bophuthatswana is that government schools only provide schooling in Setswana while the majority of the people speak Zulu, Pedi and Tsonga.

Hosted by Idasa's Pretoria office and the Pretoria Council of Churches (PCC), the 120 participants included representatives from the Bophuthatswana education department, members of the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the Southern African Bishops Conference, the Foundation for Research Development, Learn and Teach, the Wits education department, the National Education Policy Investigation (NEPI) and teachers from Winterveldt. Prominent local community leaders and members of the ANC, Azapo and the Azanian Students Movement also attended.

Sister Immaculata, the principal of Mercy Centre, and representing the PCC, gave an overview of the education situation in Winterveldt. She said it was "officially recognised" in 1985 that the number of children out of school was greater than the number of children at school. "One of the reasons for this is that immunisation is required six to nine months before admission, and this

keeps many children out of school for an additional year."

She emphasised the need for facilities for the handicapped and mentally ill, for technical and vocational training, and for adult education centres that would encourage the pursuit of hobbies.

Mr Johnny Mokoena, speaking on behalf of the Winterveldt Education Crisis Committee, emphasised the need for government schools to teach pupils in Zulu, Tsonga and Pedi, on the same basis as currently happens with Setswana.

Rules which make it impossible for many children to enrol, like the requirement for birth and immunisation certificates, school fees and extra financial contributions, should be scrapped.

The WECC further recommended that government and private schools should be merged into one system.

They emphasised the need for the empowerment of teachers and the establishment of democratic working links between the government, parents, teachers and students. School committee elections should be held without ethnic discrimination.

Mr Nkitla Tladi, a Bophuthatswana government official, spoke of the ongoing programme of building and

upgrading. He said private schools had mushroomed because of the language problem. If the Bophuthatswana government changed this, the outflow of pupils to Soshanguve and Mamelodi would stop and dropout figures would decline.

Participants questioned the credibility of the Bophuthatswana government and alleged that it used education to further its aims. The forum was suspicious of "good faith" statements made by officials.

A government official, stating that the government was free and open and that it did not practise ethnic discrimination, invited interested parties to voice their grievances openly to the government.

A delegation, comprising the Sisters of Mercy, Idasa, the PCC, WECC and private school teachers, was elected to discuss resolutions formulated at the forum with the Bophuthatswana education department.

These revolve around the language problem, upgrading of teachers, free and compulsory education and community involvement and trust building.

The delegation will report back to the WECC after the meeting.

Paul Zondo
Regional Co-ordinator

Gqozo: local talks needed first

AT AN Idasa "Breakfast Forum" held in Durban in August, Brigadier Oupa Gqozo, head of the Military Council of Ciskei, expressed the view that for the negotiation process to continue, Codesa would need to be restructured. He called for negotiations to take place at local and regional level before talks proceed at the national level.

Brig Gqozo's said two schools of thought had emerged from past negotiations - those who believed in a federal system and those who supported a centralised socialist system. His support of a federal system was based on the fact that any future constitution should take into account realities about cultural diversity. He maintained that people were already distributed over regions according to their ethnic backgrounds. A federal system would need smaller regions to thrive.

Gqozo stated that federalism could be combined with a Bill of Rights, an independent judiciary and judicial review of unconstitutional laws. He also suggested a rotating or shared leadership as well as two houses in a central parliament - one to represent the majority and one with proportional representation of the regions - both having equal power.

As regards mass action, Gqozo said he would not compromise on his stand against this form of protest which he believed had no place in a civilised society. In response he called for "mass sanity".

Gqozo also came out against elections for a constituent assembly. He believed a new constitution should be drawn up by a multi-party forum.

Advisory board for Natal

IDASA executive director Dr Alex Boraine visited Durban in August to welcome the institute's first regional advisory board.

Members of the board were democratically elected by regional staff, using the criterion of individual involvement in promoting democracy.

Political events, both nationally and in the Natal region, are changing rapidly. Many members of the advisory board are

seasoned political observers and intellectuals and their function will be to provide regular briefings on the political and socio-economic trends in the region. Idasa can assess these and then deal with the cutting-edge issues. The board will also play an important part in evaluating Idasa's work in the region and will contribute towards drawing up future programmes.

The board members are: Prof

Ari Sitas (University of Natal); Lugisile Ntsebeza (University of Natal); Richard Lyster (Legal Resources Centre) Paddy Kearney (Diakonia); Pat Horn (ANC Women's League, Cosatu); Vish Supersad (civics); Thami Skenjane (unions, civic, ANC Women's League); Shireen Hassim (University of Natal) Margaret Winter (city councillor); Radley Keys (Democratic Party) and Mandla Mchunu (University of Natal).

Partye stel standpunt voor Vrystaat boere

PIETER MÖLLER

DIE VRYSTAATSE Landbouunie se 1992 jaarkongres op 18 en 19 Augustus het vir die eerste keer in die geskiedenis van sy bestaan politieke partye en organisasies van oor 'n wye spektrum heen saam op die verhoog gehad om hul onderskeie organisasies se landboubeleid uit the spel.

Hierdie stukkie geskiedenis het sy ontstaan gehad tydens streeksvergaderings wat in die Vrystaat gehou is en waartydens 'n eenparige besluit deur boere geneem is om politieke rolspelers die geleentheid te bied om hul party of organisasie se landboubeleid te stel.

Met die hulp van Henning Myburgh en sy bekwame span van die Vrystaatse Idasa-kantoor, is daar gereël vir verteenwoordigers van die onderskeie partye en organisasies by die kongres. Die genooies was die ANC, IVP, KP en NP.

Die spanning het alreeds gedurende die eerste dag hoog geloop toe 'n mosie ingedien is waarin versoek is dat die betrokke besprekingspunt uit die kongresprogram geskrap moes word. Nadat tot stemming oorgegaan is, is hierdie mosie met 'n meerderheid stemme verwerp.

In sy bydrae het mnr Paul Farrell van die NP gesê 'n landboubeleid kan slegs die omstandighede skep waarbinne boere genoeg bekostigbare voedsel vir die totale bevolking winsgewind kan

produseer. Die sukses van die landbou hang egter steeds af van die klimaatsomstandighede asook die doeltreffende insette van die ondernemer self.

Mnr Derek Hanekom van die ANC het gesê in 'n blanke Suid-Afrika het boere in die verlede verskeie voordele geniet, onder andere lae rentekoerse en subsidies. Die grootste verontagsaming van die vryemarkstelsel was egter die beperkinge op grondbesit wat op 'n kleurbasis berus het. Dit is dus belangrik om toegang tot grondbesit te herstel.

Mnr Dries Bruwer van die KP het gesê 'n regering wat vir die landbou sorg, sorg vir sy bevolking. Die beste resep vir vreedsame naasbestaan is volgens die KP gesetel in 'n beleid van partisipie waar elke bevolkingsgroep homself regeer in sy eie vaderland. Hy het bygevoeg dat die KP die engste politieke party in die parlement is wat uitsluitlik veg vir die belange van die blanke maar terselfdertyd elke ander bevolkingsgroep dit gun om te veg vir die belang van hul eie mense.

Die IVP se verteenwoordiger het nie opgedaag nie.

Die kongres het hierna eenparig besluit om na aanleiding van die besprekings die verskillende beleidrigtings te bestudeer en 'n standpunt in dié verband te formuleer.

Pieter Möller is die streeksekretaris van die Vrystaatse Landbou-unie.

Cape Town: history with a difference



Khayelitsha: stark reality of different worlds

TAXI RANKS, squatter shacks, Spaza shops and container schools are the elements which make up the "One City" tour currently being run by Idasa's Western Cape office.

Two or three times a week, Paula Gumede and Charles Erasmus pile a group of people into a taxi and take them on an alternative trip around the Cape Peninsula to rediscover the history of the city in a way no school textbook can offer.

The tour is part of the "Democratic City" campaign launched by the regional office earlier this year and gives people a chance to explore the diverse worlds of the city of Cape Town.

Still in its infancy, the tour will be launched officially in October.

Starting from the Parade, the tour moves out to District Six and from there travels to Langa, Bonteheuwel, Crossroads, KTC, Khayelitsha and finally Mitchell's Plain.

Charles and Paula provide interesting facts and statistics on the places and people and the tour group is encouraged to explore and speak to residents in the areas visited.

The duration of the tour is approximately three hours and rates vary. Anyone wishing to go on the tour may contact Charles or Paula at (021) 462-3635.

Chantél Edwards
Media Department

Population debate opens doors

A representative group of some 150 people attended a one-day conference on "people centred population development" hosted by Idasa's Port Elizabeth office in August.

Delegates concluded that the current population development programme lacked credibility, that there was a lack of

consultation and communication with communities and that the role and contribution of women was not being addressed. The aim of the conference was to increase awareness of the concept of population development and the urgency of problems South Africa faces in this area, and to

make a contribution towards the development of a programme that is more sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

The parameters of the debate were drawn by a range of academics and speakers from political parties and a considerable amount of consensus

emerged from the discussion.

Although no decisions were taken as to how this debate could be taken forward, the conference created a platform for people from different constituencies to be exposed to each other on neutral ground.

Sonia Schoeman
Regional Co-ordinator

Teenagers make 'Voices for Peace' heard in musical

WHILE political, church, business and labour leaders bargained, pleaded and haggled through June and July, a group of exuberant South African and American teenagers hijacked the peace train to Pretoria and caught the capital city's attention with their youthfully idealistic musical "Voices for Peace."

Drawn from schools in Mamelodi, Eersterus, Laudium and Menlo Park, the 18 South African teenagers teamed up with 15 Americans in a three-week bridge building programme run jointly by Idasa's Pretoria office and the Washington DC-based foundation, Creative Response, which promotes cross cultural understanding through the performing arts.

It was the first time that this ambitious programme was run in South Africa. Using dance, drama and music its aim was to expose the teenagers to the social, political and economic issues in one another's communities, to build relationships across community divisions and enhance leadership and team-building skills.

Along the way the white teenagers learnt to toyi-toyi, the black teenagers learnt to speak out, and all of them learnt that the best thing about show business was the applause.

It all started at the beginning of the year when Creative Response asked the Pretoria



Members of the group in action on stage.

office to facilitate the South African part of the programme.

The American contingent, headed by Creative Response's artistic director, Steve Riffkin and jazz musician Rickey Payton, arrived on July 1.

After two days of orientation, spanning the full spectrum from Mamelodi squatter camps through to Waterkloof shopping malls, the two groups met, eyed each other warily and then, as one, the South Africans united swiftly against the "overpowering" Americans.

It was the beginning of a long road towards understanding requiring open communication and often painful self examination as the teenagers

struggled to come to terms with the racial and cultural divisions in their communities.

Yet, solid friendships formed during the two weeks at a camp in the Magaliesberg where the group created a play based on their own experiences and on an analysis of the society around them.

The drama that emerged was drawn from the life story of Mamelodi participant, Raymond Hlope, whose father died on the mines and whose mother abandoned him and his younger brother when they were small. To put himself through school, Raymond works Saturdays as a gardener.

In "Voices for Peace" Raymond works for a Menlo

Park family and makes friends with the son, Deon Louw, one of the Hoërskool Menlo Park pupils. As Raymond introduces Deon to another world, scenes from the one-acter focus on prejudice, homeless children, squatters, workers struggling for fair wages, political aspirations and finally violence. High energy music and dance, from R&B through to lay-down-my-soul gospel screamers, counterpoint the drama.

The play ends with Deon being killed at a political rally.

The miracle was that "Voices for Peace" was created from nothing to a performance-ready play in 10 days. In the final week it was performed twice in Mamelodi community centres, at schools in Eersterus and Pretoria, the Transvaal College of Education in Laudium, the Wits Theatre and at a church hall in Waterkloof.

Satisfying was the way in which the communities, Mamelodi in particular, embraced the programme so that the impact was not limited to the children or their parents but had a wider ripple effect. So much so that many are calling for the process to continue.

Alice Coetzee is a regional co-ordinator in the Pretoria office

By Alice Coetzee

Farmers urged to negotiate their future

FARMERS can no longer expect privileged treatment. They, too, will have to roll up their sleeves and join the power game of negotiating their own future.

Stellenbosch academic and distinguished "prophet of doom" Sampie Terreblanche issued this warning to the executive structures of the Transvaal and Free State agricultural unions.

At an Idasa conference on the crisis in agriculture held recently in Pretoria, Prof Terreblanche outlined the ideologically motivated socio-economic policies of the Nationalist government over the past decade. He argued that these had inevitably led to a shift in priorities in government spending. The result had been a withdrawal of approximately R15 billion from agri-

culture in favour of defence, the civil service, black education and so on.

Dr Johan Willemsse (a private consultant), underscoring much of Terreblanche's argument, made the plea to farmers that they should form themselves into a coherent force capable of representing their own interests. He also called for the development of agricultural policies suitable for the

political transition currently under way in South Africa.

Interesting floor discussion followed, dealing mainly with the positioning of the agricultural sector in relation to the state and the rest of society.

Although much consensus was reached, nothing was seen as binding on any individual or organisation.

Kerry Harris
Regional Co-ordinator