

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CONSULTATION  
Cartigny, Geneva; 22-23 October, 1987. ---

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1. Opening

Prayers were led by Bishop Manas Buthelezi, followed by self-introductions. Nora Chase welcomed Rev. Frank Chikane, SACC's newly appointed General Secretary, and expressed best wishes for the success of the meeting. Christian Balslev-Olesen was appointed Moderator. Janet Thomas took the Minutes.

2. Agenda

The tentative agenda (Appendix I) was adopted after inclusion of the Emergency appeal for South Africa and changes in the timetable.

3. Adoption of 1986 Minutes

The Minutes of the SACC October 1986 consultation were adopted without changes. It was noted that the 1986 meeting had not been only primarily a budget meeting but that there had been a broader cross-section of people responsible for information, education and advocacy which reflected the need for more organization in the North in discussions.

4. Update of the Situation

a) Bishop Manas Buthelezi shared information on the on-going low-key ministry of the church and the personal involvement/commitment of South Africans. He expressed gratitude for support and solidarity from within the ecumenical family and emphasized the need for strengthening local witness and black leadership within the church and schools.

b) Rev. Frank Chikane reported on the ministry of the SACC in relation to the Mission of the Church of Christ in its broader context where financial resources should not be considered foreign, but as resources within the one body of Christ which is struggling in partnership in a divided world. The people in South Africa would like assistance that would enable them to dialogue, share experiences and help one another.

In addition, Rev. Chikane reported on the deepening crisis, indicated by SACC's large budget, and the ministry to apartheid victims and underground congregations. SACC functions as a crisis council and operates as an alternative government in an abnormal situation where the government serves only the minority.

He reported that a number of new posts were approved by the SACC Executive Committee in 1986 (Council has approximately 80 staff with about 100 in Regional Councils). The General Secretariat is being restructured to alleviate pressures in administration, personnel and finance levied on the General Secretary.

The present situation is characterized by a state of emergency or "total onslaught of communism", which has become a part of life addressed by the government through its total strategy composed of:

i) a regional strategy, with the establishment of a political hegemony in the entire south african region (i.e. destabilization of states in the region), and

ii) an internal strategy with reforms, repression and war against people in South Africa (i.e. removal of leaders, for example, the detention of Rev. Zele for active involvement in the NECC. Contents of a letter from the South African Embassy in Bonn confirming his involvement in the consumer boycott as reason for his detention was shared); creation of political wastelands; and constitutional developments as a means of pacifying people.

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Partners felt that a third aspect of the Pretoria government's total strategy was worldwide propaganda and restrictions against the press in South Africa (eq. warning issued to New Nation).

The war now involves official and unofficial arms of the state in its attacks against trade unions and children, and the police and military protect only 15 per cent of the population. Options proposed to the present situation by Rev. Chikane included:

- aid to the Southern African region;
- aid to the people of Mozambique, Angola and Namibia; and
- forcing Mr. Botha to abandon the apartheid system which creates victims. (It was agreed that the apartheid system creates heresy and doubt in people vis-à-vis their belief. It was noted that a number of people have lost Christian faith and there is growing agony about expectations from the church and how it can move faster.)

Signs of hope include increasing awareness of the people borne out of their involvement in the struggle and manifested by boycotts and strikes (there have been 372 strikes in 1987). James Mutambirwa shared PCK's difficulty in communicating not only violence from within South Africa, but feelings of hope to "people in the pew" in Europe.

The Dakar meeting and its seemingly positive effects were also discussed.

The meeting discussed the development of parallel structures since 1985 which is part of a counter-revolutionary movement (eq. the formation of the western Cape Council of Churches as opposed to SACC's western Province Council. It was proposed that the WCC coordinate in-coming information to assist partners in developing a common strategy to counter-act propaganda information.

SACC feels the the role of the Church should include ministry to the victimizer, which is not very clear, and helping the powerful to share power.

SACC informed that independent churches are involved in the life of the Council as affiliate members and is represented on the SACC Executive. It was noted however, that these churches are usually the poorest and weakest in the community and are not taken seriously in political decision-making in the South African context.

Regional Councils were discussed and the meeting was informed of the SACC Executive Committee's decision to meet with the Executive Committee of Regional Councils (RCs) in February 1988. The SACC Executive has not yet made a decision about funding RCs, but it is advised that support be ~~maintained through the SACC for coordination.~~ SACC requires quarterly

There has been some misunderstanding with regard to support for administration, however, their administrative budgets have been included in the SACC 1988 budgets. Staffing is not considered a problem but all divisions feel there is need for thorough training. Presently there are 22 regional councils.

Rev. Chikane stated the need to review Project Funding as there is no adequate/existing structure. As a policy, the Council uses church networks for channeling funds to the rural areas and not the official apartheid structure (i.e. homelands).

#### 5. Communication

The position of Editor/Journalist is still vacant. An information officer will also be employed. Future plans include linking the library/documentation centre with EDICSA and work with the Catholic Bishops Conference. The division will produce new releases on particular themes and programmes of the council and develop appropriate strategies for counteracting propaganda information.

#### 6. Update on Emergency appeals

##### a) Natal flood

The meeting was informed that R.100,000 from relief funds (Asinani) have been used to aid victims of the recent floods in Natal who have fallen outside government criteria. Aid from government is currently being administered through the security system. The present appeal is for R 500,000. A report from Rev. Sol Jacob on the Natal flood disaster was distributed.

Nico Keulemans reported that an alert was sent out after receiving news of the flood in a telex from SACC, pending further details to be provided during the consultation. Pledges presently amount to US\$ 120,000. He said the Emergencies office still needs reports on implementation and additional needs. A request has also been received from the Christian Council of Lesotho for affected regions in Lesotho, which might or might not be included in the South African appeal. The request presented to EEC by Trocaire has been considered favourably, but the request does not cover the appeal budget. The EEC funds will go through the Catholic Bishops Conference.

##### b) Mine workers strike

The Justice and Reconciliation desk has indicated a crisis in the trade union and expenditure of a large amount of funds. There is uncertainty about whether the funds available will be adequate to respond to pressing needs. Legal costs have been taken from the Asinani Relief fund.

#### 7. Scholarships

SACC has problems associated with requests for scholarships to study outside South Africa. The Council gives emergency grants to get people out of the country for security reasons, but once they are out, they can no longer be supported by the Council and other means of support must be secured.

## 8. Dependents Conference

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Ms. Sophie Mazibuko reported on the work of the Conference in the "Apartheid Infectious Dependent Society (AIDS)" while appealing for more financial support. The Conference is established in 2 areas and has 46 field workers (2 presently in detention). The Conference has provided accommodation and transportation for the 18 persons involved in the Delmas treason trial presently taking place in Pretoria who have been moved from their families. The Gahiso trial will require R. 650,000 for legal costs between October and December 1987 (people have to live in Soweto even though released on bail; and the case of the Rwa N'debele chiefs.

Reports from the Dependant's Conference evaluation workshop will be shared with partners shortly. A national meeting is planned for formulating policy. When hopefully, four regional coordinators and one national coordinator will be appointed to ensure closer collaboration with rural structures. Mandy Chinasany said R 600,000 in the 1987 revised budget (P. 6) under DC Regional Office Expense should be deleted as it appears under the RCs budget.

## 9. Hlopat Farm

Rev. Chikane reported on the expropriation of the farm by the state in August when the Mahaba people were preparing to move. The Government claims that the farm will be used for education. In the meantime, permission has been granted for the community to live in a transit area for three months (until end of November) while trying to identify land to be purchased on their behalf.

## 10. Bilateral relationship

Partners expressed concern about requests received from member churches of the SACC and other groups within South Africa, especially if these groups felt that they were being discriminated against. The General Secretary said SACC does not have a criteria or particular ideological base, but ministers to all who are affected and/or in need. He said there is need, however, for staff to be more pastoral in giving information about obtaining SACC assistance, to the extent of publishing such information. He informed that the churches have been requested to take over certain cases in order to respond not only to financial needs, but also to minister in other helpful areas. He said there was a need for developing a control system regarding similar proposals (e.g. scholarships) and a screening system.

## 11. Joint Screening Committee

The meeting was informed of the termination or contract of the Joint Screening Committee (FELCISA/SACC) by the SACC Executive Committee. A new committee, composed of SACC members, has been appointed and a new constitution has been approved. It was agreed that funds available within South Africa for distribution should be replenished annually.

## 12. Women's Division (formerly Women's Dept)

Ms. Lolana Ximwana enquired the aims and objectives of the newly established division (in 1987) which gets its vision from Galatians 3:28

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## 12. Women's Division (formerly women's Desk)

Ms. Lulama Ximwana shared the aims and objectives of the newly established division (in 1987) which gets its vision from Galatians 3:28

(Appendix II). The programme includes development, assertiveness-raising, awareness-building, leadership training, coordination and networking. She reported on travels throughout the country to meet women and map out strategies for developing a wholistic/women's theology.

The Christian Development Education of the South African Catholic Bishops Conference (SACBC) has been requested to train 10 women from various Regional Councils who will eventually train other women at the local level. Regional committees have been set up under approximately ten regional councils and several women's groups have decided to embark upon a number of pilot projects. Future plans include inviting women theologians from other African countries, exposure visits to liberated countries with progressive women's cooperatives, and a conference on justice and peace in the South African context in 1988.

13. Ministry to Refugees administers the hunger and relief fund under Emergencies. This year, DC has referred grant requests to the Pietermaritzburg office.

14. Asemini Relief Fund

The fund provides for legal costs, bail money, relief of strike victims and assistance to families of exiles/refugees. Legal costs are coordinated by the Dependents Conference (reports of legal costs have been sent to partners and are available upon request). The SACC Executive Committee has decided to involve more persons (at least three) together with the General Secretary (who decides only in urgent cases) in decision-making for transparency. The General Secretary administers the discretionary fund which has a ceiling of R 10,000.

15. National Emergency Fund

Grants have a ceiling of R 10,000 and are administered by Regional Councils. SACC's Executive Committee has discussed the need for a clear demarcation between the Asemini and National Emergency Funds (NEF).

16. Finance

a) 1986 Audited Statement

Mandy Chinasamy presented the statement and made the following corrections:

Asimoni Relief Fund:

p. 19, Church of Sweden 1986 grant: R 172,249 (not R127,249)

Dependants' Conference:

p. 20, Church of the Province of S. Africa: R 3,535 (not R 2,625)

p. 21, Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society of Pecusa: R 265,993 (not R 257,506)

\* United Church of Canada: R 324,104 (not R 333,497)

p. 23, Presbyterian Church - USA: R 30,140 (not R 4,676)

p. 25, Generale Diakonale Raad, Netherlands: R 90,489 (not R 124,505)

National Emergency Fund:

- p. 26, Commission on Interchurch Aid, Germany - grant of R 10,474 should be added

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SACC auditors will issue and send correction letters to the agencies concerned, with copy to the WCC.

Note: Based on anticipated income, the 1987 revised budget is covered.

b) 1988 Budget

Mandy Chinasamy presented the SACC 1988 budgets totalling R. 30,455,949 (77% increase over 1987 budget). 16% inflation rate in South Africa was noted. Increase in administration is 27 percent. This represents 15 percent of the total budget. Two senior staff positions are provided for in the budget (total number of staff is expected to increase to 92). R 1.2 million have been built into programme budgets for administrative services. No budgeting has been done for capital expenditure which is written off during year of purchase. Interests gained over the past two years from investment of funds have been used to start a SACC staff housing/loan scheme.

The days deliberations ended with prayers said by Lulama Xinqwana.

Friday, October 23rd

Meditation was based on Phillipians 2:5 and conducted by Bishop Manas Buthelezi. Emphasis was on the meaning of self-emptying (kenosis) and on being Christ-like. He said what was demanded of us was far more than merely sharing our God-given resources.

17. Perspectives from the North

Partners exhaustively discussed the South African situation and agreed that the problem in Europe was the lack of appropriate strategies for using available information to counteract misinformation and was not the lack of information. Some suggestions/questions raised for addressing this problem were as follows:

- could PCR function as a center of strategizing? (Tveter)
- Partners must find ways of getting information compiled by EDICESA (fearful of it that taking on too much). (Balslev-Olesen)
- problem is lack of ability to have coordinated campaigns. It is necessary to work at congregational level to motivate congregations. (Minnaard)
- ways should be sought for collecting stories so that partners can have that information which is not in the professional media (Renshaw)

PCR is mandated to take initiatives. probably there is a need for more staff (Tveter)

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- what is lacking is strategy of the churches. If there is no official action by WCC Executive/Central Committee there will be no action. There is no forum for European and American churches on this issue. Annual meeting of agencies should be opened up (Hinz).
- CEC should be involved and could appoint a "working group on South Africa. Church leaders in Europe should be kept informed, possibly through CEC (Butselaar). Sommerfeldt will raise issue at CEC's January meeting.
- what is needed is involvement of church leaders who do not make decisions that influence government policy. Church leaders should be invited to a meeting and challenged to assume responsibility (Kugler).
- something similar to Namibian Communications Centre should be developed through multilateral structure in Europe; Also a confrontation of church leaders from progressive (eg. Scandinavian countries) and conservative (eg. Switzerland and Germany) countries on this issue. PCR is not the right instrument to do this. (Sommerfeldt)

Eva Militz stated that the role of PCR is to facilitate and help churches and partners to come together. Follow-up at the local level is the responsibility of the churches and agencies. She informed that the Lusaka Statement had been adopted by the WCC Executive Committee had adopted the Lusaka statement. She shared information on the visit of Eminent Persons, the Namibia Day of Prayer and "Namibia Year" (1988) which are being prepared by PCR.

Finally, the meeting adopted the following recommendation:

The annual meeting of the SACC and churches/agencies in the North discussed the need for coordination of awareness-building and initiatives for stronger actions amongst churches in the North.

The WCC is strongly requested to have a study done and report back to the next annual meeting, if not earlier. The study should describe and analyze the present situation and come up with a plan of action for greater mobilization and coordination of efforts.

The terms of reference should be worked out in consultation with the member church agency which is requested to implement the study. Alte Sommerfeldt of Church of Norway (CON) and Rudolf Hinz of EKD will work on strategies to further involve church leaders in Europe.

#### 18. Sanctions

The meeting heard the following reports on sanctions from the Northern partners:

a) Germany - is concerned about the Human Rights issue. The present government is not very sure about sanctions but is strongly favouring more active sanctions. Churches have stated that they are in favour of selected targeted sanctions. Catholic Bishops Conference have made it clear that



they are against apartheid even though they are not in a position to favor or disavour sanctions (R. Hinz).

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b) United Kingdom - 1988 is next Lambeth conference. Anglicans might be asked what they are doing about sanctions. Anglican church in Zululand is against sanctions (P. Kenshaw).

c) Denmark - few months ago there was seeming unclarity about sanctions. The Scandinavian countries seem to be the only ones who have applied full sanctions. How effective have they been so far? (C. Balslev-Olesen)

d) Netherlands - from last visit to South Africa, seems like sanctions have been very effective for Black South Africans. Blacks, in a creative way, are more hopeful about their future. Many of them are finding new identities through their Christian faith. The Netherlands churches have decided to sell pension shares in Shell and Phillips. Churches been have invited by these companies and only the Catholic Bishops responded to invitation. (van Butselaar)

Rev. Frank Chikane informed that the document of the Catholic Bishops' Conference on sanctions was not adopted as a policy document, nor was the COSATU document. The Catholic Bishops Conference, however, has made a clear statement on their position and the Catholic church is the only church which has published a statement on sanctions eventhough it is unclear. The Harare Declaration has been adopted by the SACC Executive and referred to member churches. The National Conference has endorsed the Lusaka statement and referred it to member churches.

Rev. Chikane said people are emphasizing financial sanctions. He said the major cause of unemployment in the last five years has been a result of disinvestment. Eva Miltz shared details of a study done by the "Community Agency on Social Inquiry on public opinion regarding sanctions, and asked whether the WCC criteria regarding relations with banks could be considered as a proposal. Partners felt that agencies and churches should reconsider their priorities which should be challenged with regard to money and personnel.

#### 19. Indication of Financial Support

Mandy Chinasamy reported the following pledges made by partners present (see Appendix III for details by agencies):

Block grants	3,198,390
<u>General Secretariat:</u>	
Administration Services + General Administration	1,023,000
Communications	
Regional Council Development	1,000,000
<u>Justice &amp; Society:</u>	
African Bursary Fund	2,178,000
Dependants Conference	2,555,000
Justice & Reconciliation	90,000
Ministry to Refugees	380,000

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Pledges contd.

<u>Church &amp; Mission:</u>	
Mission and Evangelism	112,200
Youth Division	58,000
women's Ministries	170,200
<u>Dev. &amp; Service:</u>	
Home and Family Life	119,200
Inter-Church Aid	95,000
Hunger Relief	∴
Asingeni Relief Fund	4,610,000
National Emergency Fund	<u>3,075,000</u>
Total pledges	10,664,390

- Notes: - An additional R. 2 million is expected from other sources.  
 - The 1987 revised budget of R. 21 million has been fully covered.

The meeting seriously discussed implications of the 1988 budget with regard to its size and possibilities for covering the deficit. Partners questioned whether the budget was a reflection of actual needs or the expectation of available funds through the EEC. The high increase in the Asingeni fund over the last two years was also noted. The moderator referred difficulties in covering the SACC budget two years ago when partners requested the SACC not to rapidly increase its budget. Rev. Chikane affirmed that the budget was an indication of basic needs and briefly commented on the process emanating in the approved budget.

EEC Funding was discussed in a separate meeting on the evening of October 22nd. There is a possibility that EEC funds could cover the deficit, however, Rudolf Hinz drew attention to the danger of depending on EEC funds for special programmes. SACC receives EEC funds through NGOs and is in a position to issue letters certifying receipt of such funds for agencies needed them. EEC funds inflated the income of the Asingeni relief fund in 1986.

It was suggested that the churches be informed about the present situation which creates special needs and that attempts be made to raise more funds through public campaigns and church sources. Reference was made to the decision in 1986 to raise funds among partner agencies to cover any deficits.

20. Closing formalities

a) Bishop Manas Buthelezi expressed thanks on behalf of the SACC Executive Committee first, to the WCC for facilitating the meeting which is an essential activity of the life of the Council, and to partners for their efforts and goodwill in helping to understand the problems and difficulties, and for subsequently translating that goodwill into pledges.

b) Next meeting - It was decided that the next meeting be held in September or October, 1988.

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c) Following expressions of thanks to the SACC staff by the Moderator, Rev. Frank Chikane spoke about the Mission of the church and the need for theological understanding and ecclesiological praxis. He closed the meeting with prayers for strength and the ability to carry out that Mission.

The meeting was adjourned at 15.20 hrs.

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## SACC' WOMEN'S MINISTRIES AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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### BACKGROUND:

The Women's Ministries is a new Division of the South African Council of Churches. As such it is still developing.

It was established after a resolution passed in the 1985 South African Council of Churches National Conference on Women, recommended that the Women's Desk be established as a separate division outside of Home and Family Life.

The executive placed it within the cluster of church and Mission because its task involves theological exploration, consciousness raising as well as co-ordinating church women's programmes.

### 2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- (a) To engage in theological exploration and preparation of Bible studies.
- (b) To re-read the bible from the woman's perspective for total liberation.
- (c) To articulate faith reflections on women's realities, struggles and spirituality.
- (d) To develop a wholistic theology rather than just a feminist theology.
- (e) To liberate church structures from traditional stereotypes in relation to men and women.

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- (f) To develop training and educational events aimed at raising awareness and self esteem in women so they can claim their rightful place in the church and in the community.
- (g) To clarify what we mean by feminism in the South African context.
- (h) To develop programmes that will involve the community as a whole, i.e. to develop programmes that are community programmes not just church programmes.
- (i) To work in a democratic and participatory style of governance.
- (j) To forge strong links with women's organisations both secular and religious throughout the country, the church in Africa and the Third World as we struggle for a better world.

3. STRUCTURE:

To facilitate the work of the division, and to enable us to reach out to the grassroots women, the division will work through the following structure:

3.1 AREA COMMITTEES:

The area committee will be composed of all the local Christian women's organisations. The area committee will choose one/two reps to represent them at regional level.

3.2 DIVISIONAL REGIONAL COMMITTEE:

The regional committee will be made up of one/two representatives from each Area Committee. Representatives from regional member churches will also be included.

The Regional Committee will facilitate the initiation of projects in the region. The Regional committee will elect one/two representatives to the National Divisional.

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3.3. NATIONAL DIVISIONAL COMMITTEE:

The National Divisional Committee will comprise one/two representatives from the Regional Committees, and representatives from SACC member churches.

The Divisional National Committee shall meet not less than once per annum.

The Divisional National Committee shall elect the Divisional Executive Committee.

3.3.1 Functions of the Divisional National Committee

- (a) To elect members of the Divisional Executive Committee if it considers such a committee necessary.
- (b) To make such decisions as to policy, action and administration as are consistent with the aims, objectives and powers of the SACC and the directions of the National Conference or the Executive Committee.
- (c) To elect a chairperson from time to time who shall report on behalf of the Division to the Executive Committee.

The Divisional National Committee may allow observers to attend its meetings with the right to speak . but such observers shall not vote.

A quorum shall be constituted by one-quarter for the representatives appointed members to the Divisional National Committee.

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STAFF STRUCTURE:

1. DIRECTOR:

- (i) Responsible for overall administration of the division.
- (ii) Planning of educational programmes for women, in consultation with the national executive committee, the regional women's committees and the fieldworkers.
- (iii) Shall also participate in the training programmes.
- (iv) Liase with Christian Women's Organisations in the Church in Africa, the Third World and the World Church as we struggle for a better world.

2. NATIONAL FIELDWORKER/ TRAINER:

- i) Responsible for the overall training of fieldworkers in the region.
- ii) Liase with Regional Councils, member churches and organisation.
- iii) Compile and produce material for training.
- iv) Do research on women issues and document this.
- v) Collect material for resource centre in library.
- vi) Co-ordinate and collect articles for newsletter on women's work in the regions and internationally.
- vii) Participate in training programmes.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:

- i) Responsible for arranging of seminars, conferences and meetings.
- ii) Act as a P.A.O. in the absence of the director
- iii) Also help in running and administration of the resource centre.

division, the fieldworker's reports and research work.

- v) Help the fieldworker in compiling material for training.
- vi) Arrange appointments for the director.
- vii) make travel arrangements for staff.
- viii) To organise staff meetings.

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#### WOMEN'S TRAINING PROGRAMME:

There is a need for an integrated development education in most regions. This came out clearly from the demands from workshops and seminars by women during various meetings called by the Women's Division in the regions.

The aim of this training must be:

- i) To create awareness of legal rights and of the women's potentials that can be used to develop their communities and their region.
- ii) To endeavour to stimulate critical minds that question conditions around them.
- iii) To enable them to confidently layout plans of action to improve their quality of life.

#### PROGRAMMES:

##### 1. THEOLOGICAL EXPLOATION:

The main objectives will be:

- (a) To learn how to conduct Bible Studies in various women's groups.
- (b) To be able to interpret Biblical text in Context, in the light of total liberation.
- (c) To endeavour to change predominantly male-dominated church structures, by theologically exploring and adjusting the roles of men and women in the church.



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2. LEADERSHIP TRAINING:

The main objectives of this programme will be:

- (a) To develop a deeper understanding of Christian perspective of a good leader.
- (b) To clearly define the role and duties of officers in committee meetings (e.g. secretary, chairperson etc.) and the general running of an organisation.
- (c) To enable participants to share organisational problems and experiences.

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3. DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

The programme's main objectives will be:

- (a) To eliminate the culture of passivity on women and to encourage participation.
- (b) To raise awareness of their roles versus their potentials, and to encourage meaningful utilisation of the latter.
- (c) To develop critical analysis in women which will enable them to identify the root causes of problems and how to overcome them.
- (d) To make women aware of resources available, both material and human, and how they can be used to develop their communities.

4. Socio-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS:

The objectives of this programme will be:

- (a) To create awareness of the root causes of hunger
- (b) To encourage training in agriculture and food production by women.
- (c) To create awareness of products that form the country's base.
- (d) To understand women's role in and benefit from such production.

5. LEGAL RIGHTS:

Objective will be:

- (a) To enable women to understand the country's laws, particularly those that affect them directly i.e. tax laws, matrimonial acts, etc.
- (b) To raise awareness of the implications of the ~~country's laws and regulations~~