

6. ALTERNATIVE NATIONAL SERVICE

A limited survey conducted in 1986 revealed that a number of bodies involved with rural and urban development, social welfare and conservation would be willing to accommodate people doing alternative service for extended or short-term periods. These bodies included the Urban Foundation, the Rural Foundation and Operation Hunger.

South Africa is a country with many development needs. There is a desperate shortage of housing, rural medical personnel, trained farmers in rural areas ... the list of needs is daunting. Alternative servers could go a long way towards addressing these needs.

The ECC has put forward interim proposals with regard to alternative national service. These are :

1. That all objectors be recognised, and allowed to do community service.
2. That the community service be the same length as military service.
3. That the community service be allowed in non-state organisations as well.

These demands along with argument were submitted as evidence to the Geldenhuys Committee investigating the Defence Act in Cape Town on the 13th of August 1985.

On the 15th of June this year the ECC and the SADF met to discuss the proposals, which were forwarded to General Malan for consideration.