

ANC talks to shape policy on economy

SIXTY economists representing or associated with the ANC and Cosatu will meet in Harare for four days from April 28 at a workshop whose deliberations are likely to form the basis of detailed economic policy for the ANC and its allies.

ANC economics department head Max Sisulu said yesterday the last two years had seen a growing emphasis on economics and the new political situation had focused attention closely on the organisation's economic policy.

He said the workshop aimed to increase the ability of ANC/MDM leadership to formulate economic policy.

A memorandum on the workshop states that the ANC "feels very strongly the need to urgently fill the policy vacuum in relation to their position on the economy".

In addition to Sisulu, ANC participants are likely to include Tito Mboweni, Vella Pillay and Rob Davies. Executive members Thabo Mbeki and Pallo Jordan will also be there as will the SACP's Joe Slovo.

Among the Cosatu delegates will be Numsa education officer Alec Erwin and NUM education officer Kgalema Motlanthe.

A number of prominent university-based economists who have served on Cosatu's Economic Trends project are also scheduled to attend. They include Fuad Cassim, Doug Hindson, Stephen Gelb and Mike Morris.

ALAN FINE

SA specialists at UK universities including Ben Fine, Raphie Kaplinsky and Laurence Harris have also been invited.

It is envisaged working groups at the seminar would examine in detail such areas as international trade and finance, monetary and fiscal policy including investment policy, control over monopolies and employment creation, industrial restructuring, mining, agriculture, production and the land question, industrial relations, and education and training.

Sisulu has stressed the ANC wanted the gathering to be policy-oriented, and academic treatises would be inappropriate.

The memorandum says written proposals — policy guidelines — emerging from the workshop should form a basis for debate within participating organisations.

The emphasis would be "very heavily on substantive discussion of the economic issues facing SA, and even more on the elaboration of policies to address these problems".

The content "would have to be broad enough to encompass the concerns and interests of the various groups and social forces which the ANC alliance aims to embrace".

Sisulu said the workshop was in line with the ANC's view that policy should be formulated only after broad consultation.

At a meeting in Harare last weekend,

To Page 2