

## WINTERVELD COMMUNITY PROJECT

### INTRODUCTION.

This is an area  $\pm$  20 miles north of Pretoria in the Transvaal Province. It is under the administration of the Tswana Territorial Authority. It is a semi-desert area with very little agricultural tilling being done.

It has a population of  $\pm$  9 000 people. Most of "working" population is imigrating because there are no industrial and business undertakings. They have to travel to and from Pretoria everyday.

This area is supposed to be a Tswana homeland in terms of the government policy.

### ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF THE ORDER

As mentioned above, there is very little economic and industrial development taking place in this area. There is also very little agricultural and agrarian development taking place.

This economic-agricultural inertia seems to be the result of the lack of any opportunities open to the Black population of this area. Moreover, the government does not seem to be keen on developing this area because it contains different black tribal groups and it is the government policy that such a state of affairs must never be encouraged.

The main hindrance towards an agrarian revolution in this area seems to emanate from the fact<sup>rain</sup> that rain is irregular, and when it does fall, it falls in the form of violent storms that tend to destroy everything that has been cultivated. But this area appears to be good for cattle and sheep rearing and vegetable gardening if an irrigation system could be established.

There are also very few if any work opportunities in this area. There is not<sup>a</sup> single industry primary or secondary. This means that all those men and women who work have to go to Pretoria or other South African cities and towns under a migratory labour system - a system under which blacks are employed on a 12 month contract basis which is not necessarily renewable. Those who work in Pretoria are supposed to travel in and to their places of employment everyday. Starvation and hunger are high in this area.

LITERACY and HEALTH CONDITIONS.

Illiteracy is very high in this area.

This is aggravated by the fact that there is, only one primary school. The structure of this is built by cardboard papers.

This school is supposed to cater for this area, and its immediate precincts.

Health conditions are very poor. This is mainly due to the fact that the people is a collection of old shanty houses built by old leaking zinc and straps of corrugated iron. There's only one clinic which is privately owned by a nurse. The building was an old beerhall converted into a clinic - mainly for maternity cases. But it also serves as a general clinic because of the necessity and lack of other health services.

The doctor privately paid, comes once a week.

WHAT SASO INTENDS DOING.(a) BUILDING A SCHOOL and ASSISTING AT CLINIC.

We realise that the mere recognition of a problem is not enough.

Thus we have decided to start building a school with the local inhabitants.

Such a project we feel is necessary in terms of our aim and objectives. This project will start during the coming December - January vacation. We have students volunteers who are prepared to go and stay there for three or four weeks. Some of these students Black Medical Students will be attached to the clinic to assist the who runs this clinic. This, we hope, will help ease the oppressiveness of the situation.

We also intend sending trained student volunteers to initiate literacy classes, for the local people.

LOW-INCOME BUDGETING.

We also intend teaching local inhabitants the basic principles of low-income budgeting and its resultant benefits.

We realise that most of the diseases that are found here here are connected with the poverty of the people and poor budgeting.

We will also teach the people simple agricultural techniques. They must be encouraged to cultivate and grow vegetables etc. And since the staple food of the Blacks is mealie-meal, we will also encourage them to plough their fields and practice intensive agriculture.

This is necessary in terms of our desire to effect change in all spheres of our lives in South Africa. But the main aim of all these projects in this area will be to politicized and sensitize the people so that they would be able to aspire for a total change in South Africa.

In reflecting and implementing these programmes here, we will always involve the local population because our aim is not to do something for our people but to do something with them.

We do not want to induce a sense of total dependence in the people because that might nullify our aims and objectives.