

Drought relief gets off the ground

A National Consultative Forum On Drought Relief was formed in June this year to coordinate drought relief work among non-government organisations, government departments and a range of other organisations. A Natal regional forum has also been set up, as a local offshoot of the national initiative.

The June meeting which decided to set up a national structure concluded that the whole issue of development was tied to the problem of drought. Attention is being given to enabling communities to develop the means to survive droughts and floods.

The Consultative Forum has put out a manual, detailing the types of drought relief for which people can apply. The manual also offers advice on how to fill in forms for drought relief. It is intended to be updated on a regular basis.

In addition to the drought relief manual, the Consultative Forum has set up an Employment Task Force. This aims to encourage programmes of emergency job creation to help poor people in areas badly affected by drought. Communities who want to apply for



assistance under this Task Force should identify projects which could benefit the whole community. The projects should be based on:

- community involvement
- providing jobs for the poorest
- involvement of lots of labour

- supporting local enterprise

Projects could involve help with household subsistence, such as setting up vegetable gardens; soil conservation; water supply and sanitation and income generating projects.

People who want to apply for assistance under the Employment task Force or who need more information may contact:

**The Employment Task Force
Emergency Jobs**

**National Consultative Forum On Drought
PO Box 23**

Auckland Park 2006

Tel: (011) 4822180

Or :

**Natal/KwaZulu Consultative Forum On Drought and
Development**

ICL House

480 Smith Street

Durban 4001

Tel: (031) 3062441/3062591/2
