

Staff News

RECENT staff appointments have been made and IDASA wishes the following all the very best in their new appointments:

- Prof. Abraham Viljoen
— Regional Director, N. Tvl.
- Mr. George Peffer
— Regional Director, S. Tvl.
- Mr. Thaabit Albertus
— Regional Director, W. Cape
- Mr. "Pro" Jack
— Regional Co-Ordinator, W. Cape
- Mr. James Polley
— Media and Publications Consultant, National Office

Mr. Peffer and Prof. Viljoen will be involved in groundwork and the setting up of their offices in Johannesburg and Pretoria respectively. Thereafter further staffing requirements will be met.



Mr. Keith Watrus, recently appointed co-regional director in the Eastern Cape Region.

In the interim we take pleasure in introducing some of our staff to you pictorially. Further such "introductions" will appear in subsequent issues as well as news regarding staff activities in the various regions. Given



Eastern Cape Staff. Front (left to right): Mr. Wayne Mitchell (national co-ordinator, now based in Cape Town); Mrs. Sylvia Mitchell (regional bookkeeper). Back (left to right): Mrs. Vivian Sontsonga; Mrs. Elizabeth Mtsatse (regional secretary); Mr. Monde Mtanga (regional co-ordinator); Mr. Kevin Wakeford (regional co-ordinator); Mr. Gavin Bradshaw (research) and editorial consultant; Mr. Max Mamase (regional director).

the importance of the Dakar Conference we have given space to pertinent documents related to that event. Consequently we have had to delay our regional news column for another month.

IDASA grown beyond initial intentions

by WAYNE MITCHELL
(NATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR)

WHEN IDASA began with its plans and budgets for 1987 it was never envisaged that the organisation would grow at the rate at which it has done.

The initial idea was to open three regional offices in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Border as well as a National Headquarters in Cape Town. Staffing for the regional offices was to consist of two directors and a secretary per region.

The first priority before setting up regional offices was to consult with the local civic organisations as to whether IDASA did in fact have a role to play in the regions concerned. Lengthy consultation also occurred at the national level as the political problem facing South Africa is one of a national nature.

The first official IDASA office was opened in Port Elizabeth during December 1986 and due to the headstart which this office has had over the other regional offices, it is to date the most advanced with regards to project identification and implementation. The office has grown in

proportion to its workload and now has a staff of seven. As a result of its success and achievements as well as its sound relationship between the Eastern Cape Office and the local community organisations, this office serves as an example of how, with time, IDASA would like to see all of its regional offices operate.

The second office to be opened, was in East London. An incredible amount of groundwork was initially needed so that sound relationships were built up between IDASA and the community in the Border Region. This Regional office is still comparatively new and has only been fully operational since May 1987.

With the Border and Eastern Cape offices fully established, it was decided to consolidate and tie the organisation together at the national level and hence the headquarters were established in Cape Town under the directorship of Dr's Slabbert and Boraine. The headquarters are occupied by the National Co-ordinator and administrative staff, together

with a full-time media and publications consultant.

During May, appointments were made in the Southern Transvaal and Northern Transvaal. Initially, the appointees will do the usual groundwork and make the necessary staff appointments before setting up offices in Johannesburg and Pretoria respectively. IDASA foresees that the two regional offices in these regions should be fully operational by mid-August 1987.

As from the 1st June, IDASA recruited staff to perform the regional work in the Western Cape and hopefully by mid-August we shall also find the Western Cape region fully functional.

Requests have been made for IDASA to establish regional offices in Natal and the Orange Free State. After careful consideration, the national office has decided that during its first year IDASA has expanded beyond its original intentions and therefore it is felt that only during the first half of 1988 will careful consideration be given to the expansion into Natal and the Orange Free State.