

SOUTH AFRICA IN TRANSITION

A CONFERENCE CONCERNING YOU AT THE
EASTCAPE TRAINING CENTRE PORT ELIZABETH
JUNE 21-23

While government and its political opponents are locked in "talks about talks", Idasa in Port Elizabeth will host a conference that will offer you the chance to examine specific issues about South Africa in the process of transition.

Whether it be education, economic justice, civil liberties, local government, the judicial system or the media which interests you — come along and participate in the debates which affect all South Africans.

International speakers will talk about lessons of transition from Eastern and Southern Europe and Latin America, while speakers from the frontline states will articulate the experiences of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Newspaper editor Ken Owen will debate with "Terror" Lekota of the ANC on civil liberties and Roland Hunter will cross swords with Brian Kantor over the realisation of economic justice in our society. An ANC national executive member will offer, for the first time in South Africa, the organisation's perspective of future political development. A conference not to be missed? We would agree! To secure your place, register before June 14. Air fares and hotel accommodation are being subsidised, so attendance at this historic conference might cost you less than you anticipate.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT MAX MAMASE OR KEITH WATTRUS AT (041) 55-3301.

THURSDAY JUNE 21

- 18h45** Welcoming Address
19h00 Prof Philippe Schmitter (Stanford, USA)
"Lessons from transition in Eastern and Southern Europe and Latin America"
19h45 ANC executive member

Ken Owen (editor, Business Day)
Workshop 3:
Transition and Economic Justice
Prof Brian Kantor (UCT)
Roland Hunter (Planact)

- 16h00** Tea
16h30 Panel discussion (in plenary session)
Transition and Education
17h00 Panel discussion (in plenary session)
Transition and Civil Liberties
17h30 Panel discussion (in plenary session)
Transition and Economic Justice
18h00 Closure
Evening free

FRIDAY JUNE 22

- 08h30** Prof Andre du Toit (UCT)
"The mechanisms of transition and those applicable to the South African situation"
09h15 Lessons of Transition — Mozambique (speaker to be announced)
10h00 Tea
10h30 Lessons of Transition — Zimbabwe
11h15 Lessons of Transition — Namibia
12h00 Panel Discussion:
"Transition in neighbouring states — what can South Africa learn?"
Panelists: —
Prof Peter Vale (UWC)
SA government foreign affairs spokesperson (to be announced)
Internal MDM spokesperson (to be announced)
13h00 Lunch
14h00 Workshop Session
Three concurrent workshops will take place; two speakers will deliver 30 minute papers each to serve as foundations for the workshopping that follows.
Workshop 1:
Transition and Education
Ihron Rensburg (National Education Crisis Committee)
(Other speaker to be announced)
Workshop 2:
Transition and Civil Liberties
Patrick "Terror" Lekota (ANC)

SATURDAY JUNE 23

- 09h00** The Causes of the Transitional situation in South Africa
Dr Van Zyl Slabbert
09h45 A government response
(Speaker to be announced)
10h30 Tea
11h00 Workshop Session
Workshop 4:
Transition and the Judicial System
Advocate Zac Yacoob (Natal Indian Congress, executive member)
(Other speaker to be announced)
Workshop 5:
Transition and the Media
Zwelakhe Sisulu (editor, New Nation)
(Other speaker to be announced)
13h00 Lunch
14h00 Panel discussion (in plenary session)
Transition and the Judicial System
14h30 Panel discussion (in plenary session)
Transition and Local Government
15h00 Panel discussion (in plenary session)
Transition and the Media
15h30 Closing address
Dr Alex Boraine (executive director, Idasa)

REGIONS

Education fails both black, white

A CALL for more contact between black and white students to discuss education problems in the country was made at a students' conference hosted by Idasa and the Johannesburg Youth Congress (Joyco) in the city in May.

It came from Themba Goba, a leader of the recently unbanned Congress of South African Students (Cosas) who deplored the fact that little or nothing had been done in this regard.

At the end of the conference, attended by some 70 students from 19 black and white private and government schools in the Johannesburg area, an informal interim co-ordinating structure was formed to maintain contact between participants.

A trust-building exercise — "River of Life" — was used during the conference to enable students to freely participate and share their experiences. In fact, the exercise seemed to reveal that, at least among the delegates present, most white students led comfortable lives with relatively few problems while their black counterparts experienced problems with detention, poverty and also suffered the effects of the crisis in black education.

Remarkably, however, these differences did not seem to deter the delegates from seeing themselves as one united group.

A TALK on the link between apartheid and education was presented by a speaker from Joyco who argued that formal education is part of the education process but more broadly, education means understanding the world around you. It also means having control over yourself and your environment. Knowledge is power and our whole life is an educational experience. "Is this what our schools are equipping us for?" asked the speaker.

The conference's answer to this question was "No". Delegates found the education system in the country inadequate. Black education was bad in that it was designed to keep a particular racial group inferior. White education was teaching a particular racial group that it was superior to the other.

The conference included a cultural evening which featured plays staged and composed by the students themselves. Perhaps one of the most exciting plays was that of a South African bus in a "liberal" white suburb driven by a racist driver. Although the bus service is open to all races, the driver discriminates against black passengers. The driver greets every white commuter embarking while he will not say a word to black commuters. When there are no white commuters, he gives the passengers a rough, uncomfortable ride.

Patrick Banda
Regional Co-ordinator