

## IDASA *IN ACTION*



### DIARY

Highlights of forthcoming events organised by Idasa offices

### Port Elizabeth

LOCAL government workshops will be held in all the sub-regions of the Eastern Cape on Saturdays during September.

The workshops will be addressed by the minister for local government and are aimed at non-statutory organisations involved in the local government debate.

- An education for democracy workshop aimed at

understanding the transition will be held in September. For further details contact Sandy Wren at (041) 553-301.

### Training Centre for Democracy

A TRAINING workshop for democracy educators will be held from 10 to 14 October. The

workshop is designed to equip community educators with training skills and materials to run one-day courses on democracy, citizenship and local government.

The workshop is open to trainers from non-governmental organisations, as well as interested individuals. Participation is limited to 30 people, but five similar workshops will be conducted next year. For further information contact Yvette Geyer at (011) 484-3694.

### Pretoria

THE Pretoria office will be co-hosting a police-community tour to Holland from 3 to 24 September. The delegation of 25 community and police representatives has been invited by the Dutch Foundation for Society and Police.

- Small sub-regional meetings on the proposed truth commission will be held throughout the Transvaal. The meetings aim to

inform relevant role players on the developments in the debate.

For further information contact the Pretoria office at (012) 342-1479.

### Western Cape

A SERIES of local government workshops will be held in the rural areas throughout September and October. The theme of the workshops is understanding the transition and preparing for local government elections.

Workshops will be held in Wellington, Lambert's Bay, Heidelberg and Riversdale.

- The Civic Dialogue continues this month with a training of trainers workshop. This is a follow-up to the workshop held on 7 June. The workshop aims to help empower organisations to communicate information about local government to their constituencies.

For further information contact Somaya at (021) 471-280.

VITAL to plans for reconstructing education in South Africa is the principle of democratic governance. This was the message to an Idasa workshop for managers in education from Priscilla Fihla, head of the education department at the University of Fort Hare.

Delivering the keynote address to the workshop, Fihla said: "Experience has already taught us abundantly that education is not a special territory for a few, who claim to be in practice, but rather that the participation of all concerned - administrators, teachers, students, parents, the community, organisations, the private sector - is necessary."

The proposed new structure for a unitary system of education in South Africa involves four levels of governance: national, provincial, local and institutional. A new culture of democracy needs to pervade all of these levels.

In response to the challenge of democratising educational governance at district and school level, Idasa's Training Centre for Democracy recently piloted two

## Education 'not a special territory for a few'

workshop programmes. A workshop for education managers was held in East London from 27 to 29 July, and a workshop on aspects of school governance took place in Johannesburg from 5 to 7 August.

Idasa's workshop for education managers aimed to review the management skills required to facilitate a democratic process of restructuring education at local level. The workshop was designed for inspectors, subject advisers and other administrators who are responsible for managing resources both human and physical - as well as for assessing quality and providing support.

In the past, a particularly authoritarian "top-down" approach to governance at this level severely alienated education managers from the schools and communities which they were assigned to serve. This kind of management system was a logical expression of the "funda-

mental pedagogics" paradigm that provided the philosophical foundation for apartheid education.

Effective schooling does not, of course, depend on democratic managers alone. The growth of a strong culture of learning and teaching will also be greatly assisted by a democratic approach to governance at school level. At the invitation of the National Education Conference (NEC), Idasa has developed a workshop focusing on the idea of a code of conduct for schools.

Two years ago, the NEC devised a model code of conduct for adaptation in schools. The idea did not gain widespread acceptance as, once again, it was perceived as coming from the top down. Efforts to revive the code of conduct campaign have recognised the importance of a process permitting all stakeholders in a particular school to identify problems together and set new goals. Then students,

teachers and parents can jointly draft a code of conduct that will help to create the kind of environment in which the school's goals can be achieved.

All stakeholders need to agree together on who will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the code and on the action to be taken in cases of violation. It is at this point that the link between a code of conduct, a democratic system of school governance and a strong culture of learning and teaching becomes clear.

When all interest groups are properly consulted and can adequately express their views on matters affecting the life of a school, they are most likely to comply with decisions and feel a sense of commitment and belonging.

What is more, participation, transparency and accountability at school and district level can provide a model for students and adult citizens alike.

*Marie-Louise Strom  
Curriculum research and development programme, Training Centre for Democracy.*

## IDASA IN ACTION

# Duarte boosts policing

THE project of establishing community policing in the PWV is making dramatic progress under the energetic leadership of Jessie Duarte, provincial Minister for Safety and Security. Establishing community-police forums (CPFs) in all areas, to enable communities to actively engage in local security issues, is one of the priorities of her ministry.

This is where Idasa comes in. After putting forward a proposal to Duarte, Idasa, in partnership with the Policing Research Project (PRP), was given the task of drawing up a process for establishing CPFs throughout the PWV province - at 183 police stations.

Of course a number of CPFs have already been established and many organisations and individuals, including police, have put in a great deal of hard work to this end.

It was therefore decided that the first stage of the process should be an audit of all police stations to determine whether a forum exists, how it was established, by whom, and whether it was fully representative of the community it services.

Under the direction of the PRP a research team was convened consisting of members of a range of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the Human Sciences Research Council and the police. This team will play an ongoing research role in the project.

*Idasa, with the Policing Research Project, was given the task of drawing up a process for establishing community-police forums throughout the PWV.*

Secondly, a facilitation team was assembled to plan a workshop process for all areas, even where forums already exist. The aim would be to ensure a systematic approach to the establishment of CPFs. Members of this team have extensive experience in facilitation, conflict management, monitoring and community policing and are drawn from organisations like Lawyers for Human Rights, Peace Action, the Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre, the Independent Mediation Services of South Africa (Imssa) and the Wits-Vaal Peace Secretariat.

The two teams provide extensive support for Idasa and the PRP, setting an excellent example of NGO co-operation. Idasa and the PRP also meet with the police on a regular basis to discuss issues related to the implementation of the process.

The workshops will soon begin in earnest. Some 60 people have been trained in facilitation, chairing, dispute resolution and problem-solving in a course designed by Imssa.

To ensure that the process reaches all local communities, the PWV has been divided into six areas: the Vaal, East Rand, Soweto, West Rand, Johannesburg/North Rand/Midrand and Pretoria/Verwoerdburg. An area co-ordinator has been appointed for each area for a term of six months and will work closely with the facilitators deployed in that area.

Vital to the success of this process is to ensure that it is fully inclusive. To this end meetings have been held with a variety of provincial role players to ensure their active involvement and to request that they discuss issues raised with their constituencies. In the final instance the strength of the process will be measured by its ability to involve local structures.

A workshop, held on 13 August, gave a wide range of organisations opportunity to discuss and assess the process. In particular they looked at the issue of what happens beyond Idasa, PRP and other NGO involvement; in other words, how the forums, once established, will sustain themselves.

Although the process is at an early stage, consultation and planning is well under way and support and contributions from all those involved has been magnificent.

*Bea Roberts  
Senior co-ordinator, Pretoria*

## Southern Africa at the crossroads

THE demise of the apartheid state may have ended South African destabilisation of the sub-continent but it has not brought peace to the region. Instead, southern Africa faces new sources of insecurity and a resurgence of old unresolved conflicts.

Not least of these are region-wide fears about a strong, hegemonic South Africa with the capacity to drain neighbouring states of resources, from skills to foreign funding. The changes in South Africa have serious implications for political and economic relations throughout the region.

With these considerations in mind, academics from all over the region gathered at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) recently for a conference on "Sources of Domestic Insecurity in Southern African States".

Co-hosted by UWC's Centre for Southern African Studies (CSAS) and the Africa Programme based at Idasa's Natal office, the conference examined the causes of regional insecurity.

Underlying all the discussions was the knowledge that threats to any single country's security have the capacity to spill over borders: drugs and weapons smuggling; fraud and money-laundering; diseases such as TB and Aids; refugees and competition over scarce resources such as water.

Keynote speaker Stephen Stedman from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University warned that post-apartheid South Africa remained the economic and military giant of the region, creating an "asymmetry" that could become a new source of conflict.

Stedman's caution was echoed by senior CSAS research fellow Dot Keet, who said balanced regional development was the key to stability.

"There is a danger that power elites in southern Africa will opt for whatever pragmatic deals they can get with South Africa. This will reinforce imbalances and feed into all sources of instability in the region."

*Janet Levy*

## Youth show way to unity

SOUTH AFRICA'S youth, in coming together to address the issues that specifically affect them, have arrived at the realisation that beyond their political, social and cultural differences there exists commonality.

This understanding is reflected in a process of bringing together youth formations from around the country, that reached a high point on 23 July with the National Youth Summit, held in Johannesburg. Almost all South Africa's youth organisations were invited: political, cultural, religious and social; black, white, Indian and "coloured". Those who could not attend sent their support.

Heavy negotiations and heated exchange took place at the meeting, but the mood was exceptionally encouraging. At the end of the day it was agreed that future meetings should be held and a working committee formed to look into establishing a constitution for a National Youth Council (NYC).

Another National Youth Summit is planned for October to report on progress and to prepare to launch the NYC, hopefully next year. Also planned is a possible study tour to Denmark to visit the Danish Youth Council and examine its constitutional framework.

At this stage the aim is to draw in as many youth formations as

possible, which should not prove too difficult as all the known organisations are already part of the process.

The time has come for us to stop emphasising the past and its wrongs, and to make a new start. The tasks and challenges facing our youth are immense, but a combined effort from all will help start the ball rolling.

The responsibility of facilitating this unity is a very important task. It means creating an environment conducive to dialogue.

*Pat Mlambo  
National Youth Project co-ordinator,  
Durban*

IDASA *IN ACTION*

## Aiming for 'where the people are'

**H**E knowledge that the success or failure of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) will be felt most acutely at local government level is putting pressure on local government negotiations and those who may be nominated to transitional local councils.

This became apparent at a conference on "The Development of Local Government and its Impact on the RDP", organised jointly by Idasa's Pretoria office and First National Bank (FNB), and held in Rustenburg at the beginning of July.

"Local government is where the people are and where they feel the lack of houses, jobs, roads, electricity. If we can't deliver, we are not going to get votes in next year's elections," was how one delegate put it.

Attended by 56 representatives from the ANC alliance and civic structures in the Greater Pretoria area, the conference followed agreement by the Greater Pretoria Negotiating Forum on the size, area of jurisdiction and structure of the area's Transitional Metropolitan Council (TMC). It aimed to empower potential TMC nominees and to help them participate effectively in the restructuring of local government.

What concerned conference participants most was the shedding of assets by existing white councils and local authorities, including the sale of property and land. One alleged that in one area council vehicles were being sold privately and then reported as hijacked. "We'll have to collect refuse on bicycles," a delegate lamented.

Keynote speaker Mathole Motshekga, advocate and head of the PWV local government standing committee, warned that councils were entering into long-term contracts and negotiating long-term loans for capital projects in white areas which could "tie up the new local governments for the next 40 years".

He urged the non-statutory members of negotiating forums to use the Local Government Transition Act to stop unilateral restructuring.

Many delegates expressed concern about "grey areas" in the Local Government Transitional Act. For example, "unclear" criteria relating to qualification for non-statutory bodies' membership of transitional councils resulted in differences of opinion over the inclusion or exclusion of ratepayers' associations, tensions between political parties and power struggles between civics and political players.

Another area of contention was the option allowed by the Act - in an attempt to accommodate the right wing - of co-ordinating committees in the place of transitional councils, which meant that separate racially based local authorities remained in place.

As Motshekga pointed out, "by implication, the abolition of apartheid in the pre-interim phase is a matter of choice. In essence the legal situation is that they are free to keep apartheid.

"This could mean that the capacity to deliver on the ground will be hampered. The result will be that when non-statutory players go for local elections they will be so dis-



**AMENITIES: Desperate need at local level.**

credited that their chances of winning will be low."

A less controversial part of the conference agenda was the issue of delivery of services once transitional councils are in place. Presentations by Paul Slot of FNB, Steve Barber of the Benoni Fire Service and consultant town planner Andre Kotze gave delegates a critical overview of how

services were presently delivered and offered options which could be more cost-effective and create more jobs. These included contracting out essential services, with the local authority fulfilling a management and quality control role.

*Alice Coetzee  
Regional co-ordinator, Pretoria*

## Creating 'an alternative global order'?

**M**ANY non-governmental organisations (NGOs), whose work in the apartheid years was broadly in line with the agenda of the liberation movement, are having to redefine their role under a democratic government in the ongoing transition.

A workshop held in KwaZulu/Natal to assist this process focused on the role of civil society in the promotion and maintenance of democracy, and in development and reconstruction in the province. Among those who addressed the workshop was Idasa's regional director Simon Ntombela.

"NGOs have to tackle the tasks facing the nation, which include nation building, reconciliation, the promotion and defence of human rights and the development of democracy," he said.

Eric Apelgren of the Institute for Multi-Party Democracy defined civil society as "all society outside

the government, public and state spheres which are not driven by a profit motive".

"Civil society cherishes its independence from the state although it maintains a sense of accountability equal to the state's," he said, adding that the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) could not be implemented without the active participation of NGOs.

The origins of the concept of civil society were explored by Peter Waterman, a foreign academic visiting the University of Durban-Westville. He said that civil society should play a role in the creation of an "alternative global order". Civil society needed to be understood "not simply as a structure but as a process".

ANC member of parliament Mike Sutcliffe said that a working document was being put together by the ANC Alliance focusing on the basic needs of KwaZulu/Natal. These

included creation of jobs through public works, upgrading of hostels, and establishing housing programmes.

Sutcliffe explained a dual approach in this area: a "slow track" approach, which aimed to deliver up to 28 000 houses in the first year, and a "fast track" programme which would help people in distress.

Sutcliffe emphasised the importance of civil society in ensuring delivery on all aspects of the RDP. "The role of civil society in promoting the transition to local government is particularly pertinent, as the RDP will not work in the absence of democratically elected local governments," he said. "Organs of civil society are not only the watchdogs of government, but also the guide dogs."

*Jane Argall  
Co-ordinator, Natal Forum for  
Education for Democracy*

IDASA *IN ACTION*

# Offices join forces on local govt

*Rural areas, voter education form part of new Idasa project*



**EN MASSE:** Idasa staff at a recent national gathering.

A LOCAL government project, aimed at facilitating the establishment of democratic structures and educating citizens to participate fully in newly integrated local authorities, has been launched in all Idasa offices.

The programme will have both a training and a facilitation component. Training will cover workshops on citizenship and democracy, rural local government and building democracy through local government.

The facilitation aspect will include crisis intervention, capacity building, community dialogue and liaison between urban and rural areas to develop their understanding of their inter-dependence. In time the programme will also cover voter education in preparation for local government elections.

Idasa has employed several people to manage the project. Yvette Geyer, based in the Pretoria office, is the project secretary. She has been with Idasa for over a year and was active in training party agents before the April general election. Geyer is a political science graduate from the University of Pretoria.

In the Western Cape office, Simphiwe Ngxambuzi has been employed as a local government trainer.

Ngxambuzi graduated from the University of Cape Town last year

and joined Idasa at the beginning of 1994 as a voter education trainer. He has been active in street committees and civic organisations in Guguletu.

Somaya Abdullah administers the local government project from the Western Cape office. A social work graduate from the University of the Western Cape (UWC), Abdullah spent four months at the Foundation for Contemporary Research as a project co-ordinator

before joining Idasa. She will also act as a co-facilitator for local government workshops in the Western Cape.

Another UWC social work graduate is Zwelinzima Jacobs, who joins the Bloemfontein office as a co-ordinator of both the local government and the community-policing projects. Jacobs was previously employed at the South African Council for the Aged as a community developer for the Orange

Free State.

Before that he worked for the Mangaung Civic Association and ran the local advice office from 1990. He was also chairperson of the ANC Bloemfontein zonal committee until 1992.

Nobuntu Makapela, training co-ordinator in the Port Elizabeth office, is a sociology and political science graduate from UWC. Makapela was a social development officer at the National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nicro) and was involved in many projects throughout the Eastern Cape region.

These included a self-help project aimed at training residents of the Chris Hani squatter camp, near Port Elizabeth, to start food gardens. She also trained people to start their own businesses by providing skills training in management, business skills, book-keeping and planning.

Working with Makapela is Mlungisi Gongqa, who graduated from Fort Hare University with a BA in administration. He was involved in a para-legal project of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers in the Eastern Cape and also acted as a consultant on labour matters.

Shireen Badat

## Staff bid

### Kevin Jenkins hamba kahle

THE staff of Idasa share the grieving of Pretoria director Ivor Jenkins, his wife Karen and children Jana and Kate, at the tragic loss of their son and brother, Kevin.

Kevin, aged 9, died after he was knocked down by a car on Friday 22 July.

For those who knew him, Kevin epitomised youthful vigour, exuberance and the potential of life.

Our love and support go out to his family now and in the difficult times ahead.

## Comings and goings at Idasa

IDASA said farewell recently to Paddy Clark, one of the Idasa team from the very start. Personal assistant to outgoing executive director Alex Boraine for the past 19 years, Clark has moved with him to the Justice in Transition project. She will be sorely missed, not only in the national office, but in Idasa as a whole.

Taking over the job of assistant to the executive director is Beverley Haubrich – also a member of Idasa, in various capacities, since its inception in 1987. We wish her well in her new post.

Two new faces in the Training Centre for Democracy are Nokuzola Moiloa and Yunus Dhoda. Moiloa, who will serve as a trainer in the Training Centre's schools programme, worked for 18 years at the

South African Committee for Higher Education (Sached), where she developed a special interest in distance education.

Dhoda comes on board as project account book-keeper.

Shauna Westcott and Gail Jennings leave Idasa's Media Department when their contracts expire at the end of August. We thank them for their contribution to the work of the department and wish them well.

Ronel Scheffer returns to the Media Department in September after a six-month sabbatical.

Congratulations to Erika Coetzee of the Western Cape office on the arrival of her baby boy, Ynze. Similar congratulations from Idasa await the imminent delivery of a child to Louella Tifflin of Natal.



**AU REVOIR:** Paddy Clark at her farewell dinner.