



AL3052 - The SANCO Collection

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Abstract: The collection includes records of the SANCO Civic Organisation itself which varies from Correspondence to Operational files and includes educational programmes and its co-operative organisations. Political Party collaborations are also represented in this collection together with case specific issues such as Electricity and Water provision and so are governmental correspondence and related records. Because of the focus of regional divisions, the regions have been separated accordingly.

Introduction

Civic associations in South Africa has been central to citizen's participation since civics have been central player in establishing a tradition of activism in civil society.

The government created Advisory Boards in 1950 as structures in these townships to represent residents.

Due to internal problems these Advisory Boards were replaced by the Urban Bantu Councils in 1967. This form of representation was also opposed by the black urban residents. As a result in 1977 the Urban Bantu Councils were replaced through the promulgation of the Community Councils Act, which provided for fully elected councils which were again opposed by the black urban residents and councilors

Following the recommendations of the Riekert and Cillie Commissions of Inquiry into the causes of the 1976 uprising and the need to improve the living conditions in the black urban townships, the Community Councils were replaced by the Black Local Authorities in terms of the Black Local Authorities Act of 1982.

This new form of representation also aroused dissatisfaction among residents because it was unable to deal with the problems of housing and municipal services. Civics organised boycotts of elections of Black Local Authorities and Community Councils, more than a half a million households heeded civics call to refuse to pay rent to townships authorities.

Civic associations were formed as a response to these forms of representation that the government had established for black township residents. There was dissatisfaction among the residents about these structures (Cloete et al, 1991: 168).

The residents complained that their grievances were not being attended to and the conditions in the townships had not improved. The civic associations were then formed by the residents with the intention of unilaterally replacing the structures created by the government.

Civics in South Africa

Civics date back to the late 1970s and early 1980s as a result of issues in townships around daily living and working conditions. From the early 1980s many radical township-based local associations were formed. Some 200 civics were active in the townships of many cities and towns as well as in the rural villages, including the former TBVC states. According to Heymans (1993:4) these civics were affiliated to one of the following 13 regional civic associations, which



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are: Transkei, Border, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Western Cape, Southern OFS, Northern OFS, Southern Natal, Northern Natal and the Midlands, Natal Coast regions, Southern Transvaal, Northern Transvaal and Eastern Transvaal. Civics and the United Democratic Front

The formation of the United Democratic Front (UDF) in 1983 was both reinforced and stimulated by the growth of community organisations. Upon its formation the UDF took upon itself the task of campaigning against the tri-cameral constitution and the problems in African townships. Civics played a leading role in the UDF campaigns.

Civics became the central players in the Vaal uprisings of September 1984 in the West Rand townships, the Eastern Cape struggle that began February and March 1985, the consumer boycott that spread from the Western Cape and the long term rent boycotts that crippled local government in Transvaal, Orange Free State and Northern Cape (Swilling, 1993:18).

Upon its formation, the UDF did not have any discernible ideology of its own because it wanted to attract as many organisations as possible. Since a few individuals serving on the executive of the UDF were identifiable with the ANC, the UDF moved closer to the ANC than other liberation movements. Its attempts to be ideologically neutral were compromised by the pressure of these individuals in its midst.

Although civic associations did not produce documents identifying them with the African National Congress (ANC), through their pronouncements and links with the UDF they were associated with the congress ideology.

It would not have been easy for the civics to try and renounce the Freedom Charter while being an integral part of the UDF and none of the civic associations raised an objection when the Charter was accepted by the UDF.

However, since their inception civic associations have been at pains to distance themselves from the ANC because members of other organizations argued that the civic movement was sectarian by aligning itself with one political liberation movement. It can be argued that while in theory the civic movement might have been ideologically non-aligned, in practice it was aligned to the ideology of the congress.

The civic associations made common cause with political organisations, hence Botha (1992:10) points out that the history of the civic association is inextricably bound to the struggle for the dismantling of apartheid institutions.

The Formation, Organisational structure and objectives of the South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO)

After the unbanning of the ANC and the disbanding of the UDF, hundreds of ANC-sympathetic civics came together in 1991 and were co-ordinated in South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO) based on 13 regions.

Moses Mayekiso became the first president. The establishment of SANCO implied that civic associations had to disband and be replaced by SANCO branches; for example the Tembisa Civic Association gave way to the SANCO-Tembisa branch.

The organisational structure of SANCO is subdivided into provinces, regions and branches.

Among the aims and objectives of SANCO were:

To effect empowerment and capacity-building through projects, programs, campaigns, education and training?

To represent its members and negotiate on behalf of its members in dealings with other parties, organisations or authorities on any matter affecting their interest

To comment on, advance or propose any law, action or policy of any authority affecting the interest of members?

To institute legal proceedings and any other action on behalf of its members, and to defend residents? legal interest, either individually or collectively

To co-operate with other progressive and civic organisations both locally and internationally who have similar aims and objectives?

To conduct, co-ordinate and publish research on socio-economic and political democratic development and any other matter affecting members and residents

To establish and promote community projects and co-operatives which are in the interest of the community

To enter into any contracts on behalf of its members with third parties in order to provide benefits for its members

The constitution adopted by SANCO at the conference on 14 February 1993 required that all local branches should dissolve their own constitution and refrain from any local negotiations with municipal authorities, cease all local



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fund-raising because funds would be collected nationally and subsequently allocated to branches. The official ideology of SANCO depicts civics as independent, non-party political formations that will remain rooted in 'civil society?', rather than becoming contenders for local, regional or national governmental power (Swilling, 1993:1).

Upon its formation, the leadership of the newly-formed community organisation insisted that the movement should refrain from pledging loyalty to any political party. However, at its November 1993 conference, SANCO resolved to support the ANC in the 1994 election campaign (i.e. contrary to the sentiments raised during its formation).

A SANCO / ANC summit was convened in February 1997 to address the deteriorating relations between the two organisations.

SANCO has become an organisation at crossroads and in a bid to save the movement, the leadership has recalled its former president Mayekiso from parliament to head its business arm SANCO Investments Holdings (SIH) which was formed in 1996 and generally to beef up the organisation.

In October 1997, the Transkei SANCO's regional leadership announced its secession from the national organisation, citing its dissatisfaction with the organisation's ANC ties, promising to support independent candidates in the 1999 elections and complaining about the dropping of the RDP in favor of GEAR (Gumede, 1997:5).

After 1994, SANCO found itself with the difficulty coming to grips with post-apartheid politics. The space for protest activities became more constrained. As a result SANCO, became a civic body marginalized by government. SANCO was particularly criticized for continuing rent and bond boycotts.

According to Hlogwane, the organisation's decision to align itself with the ANC was necessitated by the demise of apartheid, where the ANC, and SANCO in particular pledged to improve social service delivery in townships. However, in the new dispensation, civics spent most of the last five years fighting for survival. The post-apartheid era conjured up problems they found difficult to cope with. Lack of income for civics in the post-apartheid era has pushed them into a state of near paralysis.

Without a specific role, civic leaders found it difficult to convince donors to fund the organisation.

Despite all the problems suffered by SANCO in post-apartheid South Africa, it has once again endorsed the ANC in the coming local government elections.

The sentiments raised by Hlogwane at the SANCO / ANC summit in 1997 and reports that suggests SANCO might transform into political organization because of the inability to play a meaningful role in post-apartheid South Africa, and their support to the ANC in 1999 local government elections

It is evident that SANCO is facing a serious challenge which is threatening the organisation's survival. SANCO has once again put itself in an unfortunate position by endorsing its support to the ANC in the 1999 local government elections. SANCO, which was expected to play a watchdog role, seems to have failed in its endeavor to find a meaningful role in post-apartheid South Africa.

Classification

- A: Organisational records
- B: Collaborations and Case specific records
- C: Regional Records

Inventory

- A: RECORDS
 - A1: ORGANISATIONAL RECORDS
 - A1.1: Civic Information 1990-1992
[1990-1992]
 - A1.2: Organisational records 1992
[1992]



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- A1.3: Administration and Co-ordination 1992-1993
[1992-1993]
- A1.4: SANCO Discussion Documents 1992
[1992]
- A1.5: Admin Skills Workshop 1992
[1992]
- A1.6: Launch Conference Documents 1992
[1992]
- A1.7: Conferences 1987-1990
[1987-1990]
- A1.8: South-North International Linking development Conference: Bulawayo, Zimbabwe: 28-30 November 1990
[28-30 November 1990]
- A1.9: Correspondence to the President: 1993
[1993]
- A1.10: Constitutional Working Group documents 1991
[1991]
- A1.11: Legal and Constitutional Affairs 1992-1993
[1992-1993]
- A1.12: Personal file: Thobile Gidigidi 1991-1992
[1991-1992]
- A1.13: Personal file: Dan Sandi 1991-1994
[1991-1994]
- A1.14: Correspondence re: D Sandi 1993
[1993]
- A1.15: Policy documents
- A1.16: Project proposals
- A1.17: Agreements
- A1.18: Reports
- A1.19: Papers and Discussion Documents
- A1.20: Minutes, Notices and Programmes
- A1.21: Correspondence
 - A1.21.1: Correspondence 1990
[1990]
 - A1.21.2: Correspondence 1991
[1991]
 - A1.21.3: Correspondence 1992
[1992]
 - A1.21.4: Correspondence 1993
[1993]
 - A1.21.5: Correspondence 1994
[1994]
- A2: MEDIA
 - A2.1: Press statements
 - A2.2: Press clippings
 - A2.3: Information booklets



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A3: COMMITTEE RECORDS

- A3.1: National Working Committee (NWC) Minutes and Reports 1992-1993
[1992-1993]
- A3.2: National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting 15-17 May 1992
[15-17 May 1992]
- A3.3: National Executive Committee (NEC) Meeting 5-8 November 1992
[5-8 November 1992]
- A3.4: National Peace Committee: 1991-1993
[1991-1993]
- A3.5: National Interim Civics Committee (NICC) Correspondence 1991-1992
[1991-1992]
- A3.6: National Interim Civics Committee (NICC) Finances 1990-1993
[1990-1993]

A4: ORGANISATIONAL FINANCE

- A4.1: Financial Planning Documents (a) 1990-1992
[1990-1992]
- A4.2: Financial Planning Documents (b) 1992-1994
[1992-1994]
- A4.3: Financial Correspondence 1991
[1991]
- A4.4: VAT 1991
[1991]
- A4.5: Financial Reports, statements, assistance 1991-1992
[1991-1992]
- A4.6: Budgets

A5: EDUCATION

- A5.1: Reports 1992-1993
[1992-1993]
- A5.2: Training records 1992-1993
[1992-1993]
- A5.3: Correspondence 1993
[1993]
- A5.4: Policy documents 1990-1993
[1990-1993]
- A5.5: Funding 1991-1993
[1991-1993]
- A5.6: Community Education 1993-1994
[1993-1994]
- A5.7: Need Programme 1992-1993
[1992-1993]
- A5.8: National Education Crisis 1992-1993
[1992-1993]
- A5.9: Voter Education information 1993
[1993]
- A5.10: Voter Education Elections Strategy Workshop 7-9 May 1993
[7-9 May 1993]



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- A5.11: Independent Forum for Electoral Education records (IFEE) 1993
[1993]
- A5.12: Trust for Christian Education and Outreach records 1990-1992
[1990-1992]
- A5.13: Masifunde Education Project records 1991-1992
[1991-1992]
- A6: FUNDING CORRESPONDENCE
 - A6.1: ISAK funding correspondence 1992-1994
[1992-1994]
 - A6.2: Africa Fund correspondence 1993
[1993]
 - A6.3: SALDEF correspondence 1992
[1992]
 - A6.4: Interfund correspondence 1992
[1992]
 - A6.5: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung 1992-1993
[1992-1993]
 - A6.6: Adult Literacy centre correspondence 1993
[1993]
 - A6.7: SACHED Educational Trust correspondence 1992-1994
[1992-1994]
 - A6.8: Sunflower Literacy and Adult Education correspondence
 - A6.9: Malta Trust OFS correspondence 1992-1993
[1992-1993]
 - A6.10: Olof Palme International Centre Sweden 1993
[1993]
 - A6.11: General Funding Proposals
- B: COLLABORATIONS AND CASE SPECIFIC RECORDS
 - B1: POLITICAL PARTIES
 - B1.1: United Democratic Front (UDF) records 1990-1991
[1990-1991]
 - B1.2: African National Congress (ANC) Programmes 1992-1993
[1992-1993]
 - B1.3: ANC Joza Branch 1991
[1991]
 - B1.4: ANC Election Commission 1992-1993
[1992-1993]
 - B1.5: ANC African National Congress Correspondence 1993-1994
[1993-1994]
 - B1.6: ANC Local Government Department Correspondence 1992-1994
[1992-1994]
 - B2: ORGANISATIONS
 - B2.1: Institute for Independent Research on Peace and Human Rights in South Africa 1993-1994
[1993-1994]
 - B2.2: Forum Europe 1994
[1994]



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- B2.3: US-SA Sister Community Project Surveys, correspondence 1993
[1993]
- B2.4: South African Council of Churches (SACC) Correspondence 1993
[1993]
- B2.5: World Council of Churches 1992-1993
[1992-1993]
- B2.6: Palmer development group correspondence 1993-1994
[1993-1994]
- B2.7: Corplan 1991-1993
[1991-1993]
- B2.8: CS Appleton Consultancy records 1993
[1993]
- B2.9: Idasa 1991-1993
[1991-1993]
- B2.10: Consultative Business Movement (CBM) 1990-1991
[1990-1991]
- B2.11: Lota: Lagere Over heden tegen Apartheid 1991
[1991]
- B2.12: Tucker Inc 1992-1994
[1992-1994]
- B2.13: PLANACT 1992-1994
[1992-1994]
- B2.14: Foundation for Contemporary Research (FCR) 1993
[1993]
- B2.15: National Institute for Local Government and Urban Development (NICC)
- B2.16: National Telecommunications Forum 1993
[1993]
- B2.17: People?s pamphlets
- B2.18: Children?s Rights 1992
[1992]
- B2.19: National Housing Forum (NHF) 1993
[1993]
- B2.20: South African Housing Trust records 1993
[1993]
- B3: CASE SPECIFIC RECORDS
 - B3.1: Land and Housing 1991-1992
[1991-1992]
 - B3.2: National Land Committee: Farm workers and Labour Tenants 1993
[1993]
 - B3.3: Housing General records 1993-1994
[1993-1994]
 - B3.4: Rural Development 1993
[1993]
 - B3.5: Water and Sanitation 1993
[1993]
 - B3.6: Electricity Reports 1993



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- [1993]
- B3.7: Electricity General records 1993-1994
[1993-1994]
- B3.8: Environmental and Health Department meetings and correspondence 1991-1993
[1991-1993]
- B3.9: Environmental and Health Department reports 1992-1994
[1992-1994]
- B3.10: Urban Foundation records 1990-1991
[1990-1991]
- B3.11: Urban Upgrading reports 1992-1993
[1992-1993]
- B3.12: Surveys and Reports 1991-1993
[1991-1993]
- B3.13: Research Reports and Newsletter 1990-1993
[1990-1993]
- B3.14: Campaigns department files 1993
[1993]
- C: REGIONAL RECORDS
 - C1: FINANCE
 - C1.1: Finance 1991-1994
[1991-1994]
 - C2: REPORTS
 - C2.1: Reports 1990-1992
[1990-1992]
 - C3: CORRESPONDENCE
 - C3.1: Correspondence - 1992-1993
[1992-1993]
 - C3.2: Correspondence -1993-1994
[1993-1994]
 - C4: REGIONAL BRANCH RECORDS
 - C4.1: Civic Association of Southern Transvaal (CAST) 1991
[1991]
 - C4.2: Eastern Cape Civics Organisation (ECCO) 1990-1993
[1990-1993]
 - C5: REGIONAL SPECIFIC CORRESPONDENCE:
 - C5.1: Transkei Correspondence 1993
[1993]
 - C5.2: Border Correspondence 1993
[1993]
 - C5.3: Border Civics Congress 1991-1992
[1991-1992]
 - C5.4: Natal North Coast Correspondence 1993
[1993]
 - C5.5: Northern Natal Correspondence 1993
[1993]
 - C5.6: Southern Natal Correspondence 1993-1994



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- [1993-1994]
C5.7: Northern Transvaal Correspondence 1993
[1993]
- C5.8: Southern Transvaal Correspondence 1993-1994
[1993-1994]
- C5.9: Eastern Transvaal 1992-1994
[1992-1994]
- C5.10: Northern Orange Free State 1993
[1993]
- C5.11: Mqheleng Ficksburg 1991-1993
[1991-1993]
- C5.12: Western Cape Correspondence 1993
[1993]
- C5.13: Northern Cape 1992-1993
[1992-1993]
- C5.14: Eastern Cape Correspondence 1993-1994
[1993-1994]
- C5.15: Grahamstown Correspondence 1992-1994
[1992-1994]
- C5.16: Miscellaneous