

NDI SOUTHERN AFRICA

Program Activities for 1995

National Democratic Institute For International Affairs

conducting nonpartisan international programs to help promote maintain and strengthen democratic institutions



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The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) was established in 1983. By working with political parties and other institutions, NDI seeks to promote, maintain and strengthen democratic institutions in new and emerging democracies. The Institute is headquartered in Washington, D C and has a staff of 120 with field offices in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin American and the former Soviet Union.

NDI has supported the development of democratic institutions in more than 60 countries. Programs focus on six major areas:

Political Party Training NDI conducts multipartisan training seminars in political development with a broad spectrum of democratic parties. NDI draws international experts to forums where members of fledgling parties learn first-hand the techniques of organization, communication and constituent contact.

Election Processes NDI provides technical assistance for political parties and nonpartisan associations to conduct voter and civic education campaigns and to organize election monitoring programs. The Institute has also organized more than 25 major international observer delegations.

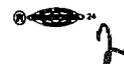
Strengthen Legislatures NDI organizes seminars focusing on legislative procedures, staffing, research information, constituent services, committee structures and the function and role of party caucuses. NDI programs also seek to promote access to the legislative process by citizen groups and the public at large.

Local Government NDI provides technical assistance on a range of topics related to the processes of local governance, including division of responsibility between mayors and municipal councils, and between local and national authorities. NDI program also promote enhanced communication between local officials and their constituents.

Civic Organization NDI supports and advises nonpartisan groups and political parties engaged in civic and voter education programs. NDI programs work with civic organizations to enhance their organizational capabilities.

Civil-Military Relations NDI brings together military and political leaders to promote dialogue and establish mechanisms for improving civil-military relations.

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PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Now that the euphoria surrounding the historic elections of April 1994 has subsided, South Africans are moving quickly to address the challenges of constructing the new government structures in a democratic society. Building on the strengths of NDI's three years of activities in electoral preparations, NDI has embarked on two major initiatives

***Voter Education** -- NDI will provide technical assistance to voter education initiatives with preparations for the next crucial phase of the political transition -- the democratic election of legitimate local governments, currently scheduled for October 1995. For the first time, South Africans will be required to register to vote, and NDI will support this massive undertaking by assisting with the organization of nationwide voter registration initiatives. NDI will continue to work with Project Vote, a newly created non-governmental organization (NGO) with Desmond Tutu as the Director of the Board. In addition, NDI will support other initiatives, such as Matla Trust, Lawyers for Human Rights and the Natal Forum for Education for Democracy. Using the successful "train-the-trainers" pyramid model, recruited trainers will train community activists on the registration procedure for each region. NDI will also help design, produce and distribute materials detailing the particulars of the electoral system. Materials will supplement the training workshops and be distributed to as wide an audience as possible. In addition to NGOs, the NDI network will include community based organizations and the Transitional Local Councils (TLCs) and the Transitional Metro Councils (TMCs), the interim local government structures.

***Political Party Development** -- NDI will implement its parliamentary political party assistance program under the auspices of the South African Democracy Support Project (SADSP), in coordination with the International Republican Institute and the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. NDI's program will provide technical assistance to political parties in the nine newly-elected provincial assemblies. While the transformation of political parties from protest movements and election vehicles into governing institutions is generally succeeding, party leaders in the National Assembly and in each of the provincial assemblies have made specific requests for assistance from NDI. Because each province faces challenges particular to its distinct political and demographic dynamics, technical assistance will involve workshops designed to suit the needs of each particular province and will focus on the parliamentary functions essential to political parties operating in a multiparty legislative body. NDI will assist with the development of collaborative conferences on the role of political parties in parliament, including consultation on the development of agendas, written material, facilitators and international experts. NDI also plans to organize workshops with particular focus on the role of a party whip and the role of women in parliament. SADSP will assist with the dissemination of relevant information materials by organizing a reference library and designing a legislative educational kit to be used by political parties and civic organization to inform parliamentarians and their constituents about the legislative process. NDI will also work with some of South Africa's historically black universities to develop a sustainable program of issue-specific seminars and general legislative training programs for newly elected legislators.

NDI currently has a field staff of eight in South Africa with offices in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN MALAWI

On May 17, 1994, Malawi held its first multiparty elections, electing Bakili Muzuli of the opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) over Africa's longest-serving leader, President Hastings Kamuzu Banda of the ruling Malawi Congress Party (MCP), and Chakufwa Chihana of the Alliance for Democracy (AFORD). Since supporting the election process, NDI has been active in promoting democracy at the grassroots level, as well as providing technical, organizational and constitutional assistance at the parliamentary level.

***Pre-Election Workshops** -- During the two weeks prior to the May 1994 elections, the Malawi field staff conducted a series of election monitoring workshops in Malawi's three regions. The workshops covered all aspects of organizing a nationwide monitoring effort, including recruitment and training, the voting process, counting procedures, record keeping, and the communication of election reports. In addition, NDI provided election materials, including election monitoring booklets and forms with instructions.

***Re-vote Observation** -- Based upon evidence of electoral fraud, Malawi's independent electoral commission nullified results in two constituencies. A re-vote was called, which was observed by NDI. During the election, an NDI observer had helped to provide evidence of the fraud.

***Radio Announcement** -- In August 1994, NDI produced a five-minute radio dialogue in which Malawians were encouraged to learn who their representative in Parliament is. Listeners were given their representative's office address in Parliament, and encouraged to contact the representative and invite them to visit their constituents' villages and learn about their concerns.

***Post-Election Focus Group Study** -- From September 9 through 17, 1994, NDI conducted a series of 14 focus groups to assess Malawians' perceptions of the democratic process, to determine how these perceptions had evolved, and to target what problems needed to be addressed. The focus group sessions, in which 163 Malawians were interviewed, were the second in a series of four sets that NDI will conduct throughout Malawi. The results of this research will be disseminated to representatives of political parties, civic organizations, and elected officials in order to assist them in focusing their post-election democratization efforts.

***Regional Election Studies** -- In order to further acquaint Malawians with the election process, NDI organized groups of prominent and elected Malawians to observe elections in the southern Africa region. A group of women political and NGO leaders, including a Member of Parliament, a judge on the High Court of Malawi, a leading human and legal rights activist, and the Vice President of the National Association of Business Women, participated in an NDI election study program in Botswana. Another team of Malawian Parliamentarians observed Mozambique's historic elections in October, 1994.

***Post-election Seminar** -- On December 2-3, 1994, NDI organized a post-election seminar in Blantyre. The seminar addressed the separation of powers as Malawi begins to debate its transitional constitution and to decide what form its new constitution should take. The seminar featured American, European and African experts on constitutional processes and balance of power relationships, particularly between the executive and legislative branches. The seminar was attended by members of the Malawi Parliament, Cabinet Ministers, high ranking civil

servants and individuals from other pertinent sectors of Malawian political life

Over the next year, NDI will initiate activities that will assist members of Parliament and NGOs in consulting the public in preparation for February's Constitutional Conference. Later in the year, NDI will work with Parliament on its relationship with the executive and judicial branches through the use of parliamentary committees

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN NAMIBIA

NDI initiated programs in Namibia in early 1989 to offer technical assistance in preparation for the country's first democratic elections in November 1989. Since that time NDI has maintained support to assist the National Assembly, the National Council, political parties and civic education organizations in consolidating the foundation of democracy. Such activities have included a seminar on public participation in government decision-making, monitoring of the media's coverage of the elections, and a symposium to provide information and technical assistance to the members of parliament. NDI activities in 1994 have been geared towards supporting preparations for the country's first post-independence elections in December 1994.

***Political Party Training** -- Since the Spring of 1994, NDI has been conducting political party training programs aimed at strengthening the parties' national and regional structure, responsiveness to the concerns of their members and the public at large. The programs seek to develop internal and external party communication structures to increase the party's capacity to promote the parties' activities and solicit ideas and concerns from its membership and coalition partners.

A centerpiece of the election-related program was an extensive three-week regional training program with political parties. Two Irish, two African, and two American trainers traveled to each of the 13 regions to conduct workshops focusing on developing grassroots participation, mobilizing voters, and increasing women's participation in the political process.

***Popular Political Education** -- In the fall of 1994, NDI instituted a civic education program with the Namibian Parliament. The program is designed to address limitations on public participation in government decision-making that exist in a largely illiterate society. The program will be comprised of a seminar on techniques of civic education and the production and distribution by the Namibian Legal Assistance Council of summaries of key legislation for parliamentarians and the general public.

***Media Training Program** -- NDI also organized a media training program focusing on increasing political parties' access to and effectiveness in using modern media techniques. In mid-October, NDI organized a workshop and interactive video teleconference which focused on the importance of media strategy in an election. Following the workshop, NDI instituted a series of individual intensive media consultations with political parties led by media experts from the United States and South Africa. A final series of training sessions was conducted in late November to train party members on their role and responsibilities as observers representing their party in the polling stations on election day.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY IN ZAMBIA

NDI has conducted programs in Zambia since 1991 when it organized project Z-Vote to assist in the preparation and monitoring of the country's first democratic elections on October 31, 1991. Since that time, NDI has continued to support democratic development with a series of programs aimed at improving the strength of political parties and civic organizations in order to expand their reach and increase citizen participation in the political process. In 1993, NDI placed a field representative in Zambia to work directly with political parties to develop effective methods of constituent outreach and responsiveness in policy making. NDI remains committed to furthering democratic development in Zambia and, in 1994, initiated a year-long program to prepare political parties to compete effectively and openly in the 1996 elections, by assisting in the strengthening of their organizational capacity and increasing their responsiveness to members and constituents. NDI also aims to assist in expanding the reach of the democratic process by providing materials and experts in political development to enable political parties to conduct training programs in rural regions often ignored by the political leadership.

***Political Party Training** -- This program responds to requests by major political parties in Zambia for assistance in strengthening their organizational capacities at the national level. NDI activities will focus on providing individual training programs to the three parties represented in the National Assembly. The workshops will also focus on developing materials for inclusion in a nonpartisan political organization manual to be published by NDI.

***Regional Workshops** -- A series of regional party-specific workshops will be conducted with the objective of training party staff to conduct their own workshops in the future. Topics for the workshops will focus on techniques to strengthen provincial party organization and outreach in preparation for the 1996 presidential and parliamentary elections. These workshops will train party staff, members, and volunteers in the use of information materials, grassroots outreach techniques, resource development, and internal communications standards and procedures.

In addition to these party-specific activities, NDI will sponsor a number of week-long conferences and workshops to address such topics as women's representations in the political process, the role of youth in strengthening the democratic process, and the relationship between political parties and the media.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY IN MOZAMBIQUE

NDI initiated program activities in Mozambique in 1992 on the eve of the signing of the peace accord, which ended the brutal 16-year civil war. In anticipation of the country's first democratic elections, NDI focused on an initiative to design and implement a voter education program, which substantially contributed to increasing the voter participation to include more than 90 percent of Mozambique's 6 million eligible voters. The results defied predictions of widespread apathy, with voters overcoming logistical impediments as well as a temporary boycott by the main opposition movement and casting their ballots in the country's historic elections.

***Focus Groups** -- NDI commissioned and facilitated a series of focus groups from May 1, 1993 through July 15, 1993 to identify concerns and clarify questions concerning democratization, the election, and related issues. The results were used as the basis of plans for Vote Mozambique, NDI's nationwide voter education program, and the development of voter education materials for broad public use.

***Constitutional Consultations** -- In response to a request by government officials and political party leaders, NDI sent an international team of law experts in July 1993 to work with all of the political parties on the legal framework for the country's first multi-party election. The team advised the parties on various electoral models and provided practical information about the choices and possible consequences of different approaches in the context of the current draft. It reviewed existing proposals and recommended consensus-building measures. NDI's role was not to actively arbitrate between the parties, but to assist in helping to advance the formation of the new election law.

***Voter Education** -- NDI conducted an extensive nationwide voter education campaign, "Vote Mozambique", in cooperation with the Mozambican National Election Commission (CNE). Program activities were designed to increase public understanding of voting procedures and encourage participation. NDI activities directly reached more than 200,000 potential voters directly through a nationwide network of Mozambican trainers, and indirectly reached millions more through radio broadcasts and voter education materials.

***Election Procedures Training** -- In an effort to reach potential voters in all 10 provinces, NDI initially selected and instructed a core group of trainers on the procedures of democratic elections and voting. They in turn worked in conjunction with the CNE, the UN and other organizations to identify and recruit trainers at the district and local levels throughout the country, whose number extended to 200 by election day. NDI trainers walked, bicycled, or otherwise traveled to reach even the most remote villages in their areas.

***Radio Programming** -- Using findings from focus group research conducted in April and August 1994, and working with local writers and artists, NDI developed comprehensive radio programming to inform a wide audience of Mozambicans. Productions included a 12-week radio drama in nine languages that depicted a family struggling with issues related to the elections, a weekly radio game show where audience members competed for prizes by answering questions about elections and democracy, and a weekly talk show on the role of women in democratic governance. In addition, NDI commissioned a theme song to precede all of its programs entitled "There's Room for Everybody." It subsequently became one of the more

popular radio tunes on the air

***Voter Education Materials** -- These materials, which included a video illustrating the steps involved in voting, a voter education newspaper entitled "Let's Vote", and election kits designed as backpacks containing materials to construct a mock polling station, were used to demonstrate election-day procedures to the voters

***Journalist Training** -- NDI also co-sponsored with the United States Information Service a series of training workshops for journalists from the state-run and newly created opposition radio stations. The workshops, which offered technical assistance on writing news stories and conducting interviews, emphasized nonpartisan election coverage