

AFRONET

**ANNUAL REPORT
1997**

INTER-AFRICAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT

DATEX_{INC}

P O Box 601575 Gaborone West
131/2 Independence Ave , Gaborone, Botswana
Tel (267) 375-664 or 375-674

Management by Design

Fax (267) 352-620, E-Mail [datex@info bw]

SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL DEMOCRACY FUND (SARDF) (Project No 690-0284)

(Grant Management Activity funded by the Regional Center for Southern Africa (USAID/RCSA))

United States Agency for International Development
PPC/CDIE/DI,
ATTENTION ACQUISITIONS
Washington, D C 20523

June 23, 1998

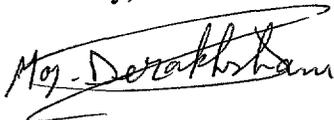
Dear Sir/Madam

RE CONTRACT NUMBER 690-0284-C-00-6268-00

Attached please find two copies of the Annual report (1997) of a grant awarded under our contract number above This was a grant awarded to Inter-African Network For Human Rights and Development (AFRONET)

We submit these reports according to the clause number AIDAR 752-7026, of the above contract

Sincerely,



Mojgan Derakhshani (Ms)
Grants Manager

1997 ANNUAL REPORT

This report is an account of Afronet's work in enhancing the observance of Human rights, accountable Governments and Development in Africa

Contents	Page No.
Foreword	1
1 0 Afronet Origins and Mandate	2
2 0 Programmes	2
2 1 Networking	4
2 1 1 Formation of SAHRINGON	4
2 1 2 NGO Lobbying Workshop	5
2 1 3 Pan-African Consultative Forum	5
2 1 4 Mission on Liberia	6
2 1 5 International Annual Forum	7
2 1 6 UN System Wide Initiative on Africa	7
2 2 Monitoring, Lobbying and Advocacy	8
2 2 1 Landmine Campaign	8
2 2 2 Press Releases	9
2 2 3 Interventions – ACHPR	10
2 2 4 Fact Finding	10
2 3 Information	12
2 3 1 Resource Centre	12
2 3 2 Publications	12
2 3 3 1997 Zambia Human Rights Report	12
2 3 4 Outreach	14

2 3 5	The Web site	14
2 3 6	Workshop on Human Rights	14
2 4	Litigation	15
2 4 1	Long Term Remandees	15
2 5	Peer Support Initiative	16
2 5 1	Consolidation of PSG	16
2 5 2	Inter-Schools Competitions	16
3 0	Finance and Administration	17
3 1	Pre-Award Audit	17
3 2	Recruitment	17
3 3	Procedures	17
3 4	Telecommunications	17
3 5	Finance	18
4 0	AFRONET Structure	19
5 0	Donors	19
6 0	Annexes	
	Balance sheet	
	Organisational chart	

FOREWORD

Never since its inception has Afronet been faced with as many challenges as it was in 1997. Looking back over the year's events, I cannot help but admire the commitment and enthusiasm with which the Board of Directors and members of Staff undertook their enormous tasks amid harassment from forces opposed or resistant to democratisation.

Confronted with a daunting task of striking a balance between an ever growing organisation and ensuring its stability, the Team worked tirelessly to ensure that the output was qualitative. Committed to its vision of creating a Pan African movement working for the enhancement of human rights observance, accountable Governments and development in Africa, the Organisation saw a major expansion in its activities during the year under review. Of these, the most visible were Information gathering, dissemination and networking. Fact finding missions which brought to light empirical evidence of human rights violations and the introduction of two publications, The Afronet File and The Monitor have had a far reaching impact in the country and region. On the other hand, the Communication system put in place in 1997, has facilitated the linking of all member countries through the Internet and E - mail thereby increasing the networking capacity tremendously.

The Secretariat is most grateful to the Board of Directors for their guidance that is critical to the continued success of AFRONET Programmes. The Board meetings held in April and December made strategic decisions that have since seen considerable efforts being directed at the promotion and protection of human rights in Zambia. The focus on Zambia has provided a firm foundation and reference mark for AFRONET's work in the region.

AFRONET is greatly indebted to its co-operating partners (NORAD, HIVOS, SIDA, NCA, CIDA, Open Society and USAID) whose immeasurable support has afforded the member countries in the region a forum for the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law. Work on the Southern African Human Rights NGO Network (SAHRINGON), has been this progressive in part as a result of the said support.

In times of gross human rights violations, when the rules of international human rights protection set forth in the International Conventions on Human Rights are flagrantly disregarded, AFRONET will continue with perseverance and humility to carry out the tasks of promoting human rights observance.

Ngande Mwanajiti
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AFRONET

1.0 AFRONET

Origins and Mandate

A profound belief in human rights and democracy by some African participants to the World Conference on human rights held in Vienna, in 1993, and the realisation of the complexity of challenges facing the Continent, prompted the formation of a Network of human rights organisations, 'The Inter-African Network on Human Rights and Development', (AFRONET)

The formation of this Network constitutes one of the most important post Vienna initiatives in Africa as it represents a step further in the pursuit of dialogue and co-operation which human rights organisations must persistently strive for

Registered as a Charity under the Laws of Zambia in November 1993 and represented in twenty-two (22) countries, the Network seeks to promote a human rights agenda for Africa through Networking, information sharing and Advocacy work. It endeavours to establish a multi-country on line communication system to expedite dissemination of human rights information

To accomplish its mission, AFRONET has set out the following specific objectives which were carefully designed to ensure an effective balance between regional strategy and national relevance -

- Facilitate networking, co-operation and organisation among non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Africa,
- Facilitate generation, dissemination and sharing of information on Activities in and outside Africa relevant to the enhancement of human rights, accountable Governments and development in Africa,
- Undertake programmes to facilitate the implementation by African States of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and other regional treaties and instruments adopted by African states for the enhancement of living standards in Africa,
- Promote awareness of other international human rights procedures, standards and obligations to which African states are party,
- Challenge corruption by facilitating programmes of empowerment and popular participation for the purpose of ensuring public accountability at all levels of the African Society,

- Ensure effective and representative participation of African NGOs before international bodies, institutions and gatherings devoted to human rights and development,
- Facilitate collaboration with inter-governmental and international NGOs working in Africa or running programmes relevant to Africa, and
- Undertake any other programmes, activities and initiatives which are necessarily incidental to/or enhance the capacity of the network to attain the aforesaid objectives

The observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) granted in November 1993 further gives Afronet a mandate to attend all its sessions and present reports on human rights violations in Africa for its action. The Network, in addition, has Special Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

2 0 PROGRAMMES

AFRONET has two core programmes -

- a **'The Governance and Democracy Programme'** which seeks to promote the tenets of democracy such as accountable and transparent Governments, popular participation and adherence to international human rights standards
- b The **'Monitoring and Networking Programme'** which aims at generating, disseminating and exchanging information on the human rights situation in Africa

In spite of some remarkably promising developments of human rights observance and democratisation in some African countries, 1997 will be remembered as one of anarchy, intolerance and gross human rights violations in Zambia, Zaire, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Burundi and Liberia. AFRONET's role in monitoring and documenting human rights violations, ensuring solidarity among regional and international human rights organisations and challenging Governments' undemocratic actions became even more critical.

Whilst pursuing a regional strategy in the implementation of its programmes, the year under review also saw a major focus on establishing, facilitating and co-ordinating a country based non-governmental action for the protection of human rights in Zambia.

2 1 NETWORKING

2 1 1 Formation of SAHRINGON

In Pursuance of its mandate '*to facilitate networking, co-operation and co-ordination among non-governmental organisations in Africa*', AFRONET in 1997 played a major role in the creation of a functional human rights movement in Southern Africa with the capacity to respond to human rights abuses in the sub-region

The Southern African Human Rights NGO Network (SAHRINGON) was launched at a historic meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 23 - 25 February 1997 and the objectives were defined as follows -

- To provide a forum for human rights related NGOs in Southern Africa to explore common issues for collective activism,
- Promote skills sharing and information exchange between and among NGOs,
- Assist network members in campaigning and lobbying on important human rights issues,
- encourage capacity building of human rights NGOs, and
- Use the Network structures to lobby SADC

In recognition of the conspicuous role played in networking and organisation, AFRONET was unanimously elected Interim Secretariat for a period of one year by this Assembly of over 72 NGO representatives drawn from eleven (11) Countries of SADC

In the months that followed, AFRONET worked tirelessly to make the Network known, functional and accessible to all its members Preliminary and substantive activities of SAHRINGON were undertaken with the support of the CIDA multi – country initiative that provided for regional travel and the establishment of early NGO contact Subsequent activities were supported by USAID

Advocacy related visits

Visits were undertaken to London, New York, Accra, Copenhagen, Pretoria, Harare and Gaborone to promote the ideals of SAHRINGON and explore possible areas of co-operation

As a result of the visits, a strong working relationship was forged with Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) Also significant in this area were the

meetings held with SADC aimed at achieving maximum participation of the regional body in the activities of SAHRINGON

2 1 2 NGO Lobbying Workshop

From 2 - 5 September, AFRONET organised SAHRINGON's first ever training workshop in Zomba, Malawi in collaboration with Amnesty International and the Amnesty Section of Holland. The funding for SAHRINGON workshop and travel expenses were provided by CIDA

The aim of the workshop was two fold -

- to develop the lobbying skills of participants so as to empower them to effectively and efficiently campaign against widespread systematic violations of human rights, and
- to bring the human rights agenda to the attention of the summit of Southern African Heads of States and Government which was taking place from 1 - 7 September

The workshop centred on building tactics, methods and capacities to lobby SADC on pertinent issues of policing and human rights. The workshop called for commitment to human rights, ratification of international human rights treaties, training of Police in human rights issues, reduction on military spending and promotion of reforms through the organ on politics and defence

Among the major issues identified for lobbying were -

- the establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples rights, and
- the incorporation of international human rights law into domestic legislation

The skills acquired at the workshop were immediately put to test when participants attended the Ministerial Pre-Summit meeting and seized the opportunity to lobby delegations leader (Foreign Affairs Ministers) and the Executive Secretary of SADC on the areas prioritised by the workshop

2 1 3 Pan-African Consultative Forum

From 16 -19 November 1997, AFRONET as initiator, in conjunction with the Human Rights Institute of Southern Africa (HURISA) and the Regional

Office of the British Council organised a Pan African Human Rights Consultative Forum in Johannesburg. Participation to the Forum was drawn from more than thirty African countries

The objective of the Forum was to promote the building of a Pan African Human Rights movement for greater impact, by providing an opportunity for contact, exchange of information and sharing of experiences among key human rights organisations in Africa. Presentations were made by regional bodies such as WILDAF on lessons learnt in their efforts to build networking alliances in Africa. Focus was further made on issues of relevant structures for a regional body, overcoming language differences and collaboration with the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and SADC.

The Forum agreed to the formation of an Assembly through which African human rights NGOs could take up issues of common concern.

The recommendations included -

- establishing an Assembly of African Human Rights Organisations,
- collection of more information on existing networks,
- AFRONET, UIDH, WILDAF and a North African NGO to take up the responsibility to hold consultations and produce a working paper on modalities for the inaugural meeting of the Assembly, and that
- AFRONET should facilitate the co-ordination Committee.

2 1 4 Mission to Liberia

In 1997, AFRONET was greatly honoured when its Executive Director was invited to be a member of an International Peace Mission comprising forty (40) eminent persons from around the world to observe elections in Liberia on 9th July.

The elections were an important event to the International Community as efforts towards ushering in a democratic Government were at last being realised after a 7 year bloody civil war that left over 200 000 persons dead.

The specific objectives of this mission, which was organised under the auspices of the Carter Centre, were -

- to demonstrate the International community's interest and support for the on-going peace process in Liberia, and
- to provide the International Community with an informed assessment of the Liberian electoral process.

The lessons learnt from this process regarding the necessary legislation procedures and structure to achieve free and fair elections were shared with members of AFRONET

2 1 5 International Annual Forum

In May, at the invitation of Interaction, the Executive Director was part of a delegation of fifteen (15) prominent African NGO Leaders and representatives who attended the International Annual Forum in Washington at which 50 American Private Volunteer Organisations participated. The delegation also visited the White House at the invitation of the First Lady and raised issues on Africa as part of the Lobbying and Advocacy to maintain Aid to Africa at the desired levels. The Lobbying was extended to members of the Congress, at Capitol Hill. During this visit, an important meeting was held with USAID at the State department.

2 1 6 UN System wide initiative on Africa

The month of May further saw the participation of AFRONET in an NGO Consultation held in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the UNDP and UNECA. The meeting addressed issues of Governance and explored ways and means through which the UN system would, with the assistance of African Governments collaborate with NGOs in strengthening governance for development. AFRONET's contribution was in the area of transparency, accountability and rule of law.

Partnerships

The Executive Director and other key members of staff had many opportunities during the year under review to meet with representatives of various organisations both at home and abroad. The major meetings held centred on -

reviewing the on-going project on the legal protection of human rights in Africa with INTERIGHTS, exploring possibilities of joint initiatives with Human Rights Watch/Africa and Amnesty International.

Other significant meetings were held with Human Rights Watch International, The Committee for the protection of journalists, Lawyers committee for Human Rights and the Fund for Peace.

2.2 Monitoring, Lobbying and Advocacy

'At an NGO Lobbying Workshop organised by AFRONET for SAHRINGON members in Malawi in 1997, Richard Calland of IDASA underlined the importance of Lobbying and Advocacy and defined it as "the effort that makes Governments accountable for its activities and compels makers of policies and laws to take into account views and opinions of Civil Society"'

As in previous years, Lobbying and Advocacy continued to be at the heart of AFRONET's work in bringing to the attention of Governments and the international community, the various human rights violations in member countries

Activities in this area took the form of campaigns, press releases, direct representations to Governments, Solidarity letters, Appeals, Interventions at the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, constant liaison with International Organisations and fact finding missions

2 2 1 Landmine Campaign

"Anti-personnel landmines kill or maim an estimated 26,000 civilians every year With the exception of Mauritius and Lesotho all countries in the region have a landmine problem Out of the estimated 50 million landmines in the whole of Africa, it is estimated that over 30 million are in Southern Africa Of these 30 million, 20 million are in Angola "

*First OAU Continental Experts Conference on Landmines
9 – 21 May, 1997, South Africa*

In 1997, the campaign for the total ban of Landmines gained ground the world over In Zambia, AFRONET was elected host NGO and member of the Steering Committee for the Zambia Campaign to Ban Landmines (ZCBL) which was formed as part of the global body, the ICBL

The task of the ZCBL whose inaugural meeting was held on 16th January 1997 was to collect and disseminate information to the public on the devastating and dehumanising effects of landmines, lobbying for the ban, eradication, landmine clearance and victim assistance AFRONET as host NGO, was charged with the responsibility of spearheading the campaign and co-ordinating the various activities

The National Campaign generated considerable public interest resulting in a series of debates on both electronic and print media. On 26th July, a National workshop was organised and participation was drawn from different member organisations, the church, Associations and concerned individuals. In spite of lack of co-operation from Government, the workshop successfully achieved its intended objectives by bringing to the attention of participants the atrocities suffered by landmine victims as well as giving an insight into the Zambian landmine problem. Discussions continued as a way of lobbying Government to reconsider its position.

In addition, fact finding missions were undertaken to Chiawa area in Zambia and the border districts between Zambia and Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique so as to ascertain the extent to which landmines planted during the liberation struggle of the Southern African Countries in the 1980's had ravaged these areas. The information collected formed basis for urging the Zambian Government to commence mine activities such as victim assistance and de-mining.

At regional and international levels, AFRONET represented ZCBL at several meetings which addressed issues of policy, creation of international awareness, dissemination of information, mine clearance, landmine survivors, lobbying strategies and international co-operation and finance.

Some of the major meetings attended during the year under review were -

- The Landmines Consultation, 8 - 11 March, Harare, Zimbabwe
- The 4th International NGO Conference February, Maputo, Mozambique
- The first OAU Continental Experts Conference on Landmines, 9 - 21 May, South Africa
- Brussels conference at Pailais de congress, 24 - 27 July, Brussels, and
- The NGO Forum, 10 - 14 September, Oslo (where 89 countries drawn from all over the world adopted the Ban Treaty Text leading the way for the historic signing of the Treaty in Ottawa in December 1997)

2 2 2 Press Releases

In the period under review, Press statements were issued on Governance and Human Rights issues. The statements issued covered concerns on Botswana (Media bill), Namibia (on the President's third term debate), Mozambique/South Africa (migrant workers), Swaziland (on lack of freedom of association), Zimbabwe (on the continued political crisis), and Zambia on the deteriorating political and human rights situation).

Other statements addressed issues of consensus building, state of emergency, harassment of opposition leaders and civil society, including a campaign for the liberation of airwaves and the attending concerns of press freedom

2 2 3 Interventions - ACHPR

In line with the observer status granted in November 1993 by the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, AFRONET made a statement on the deteriorating Human Rights situation in Zambia at the Commission's 22nd session held in October in Banjul, The Gambia

The intervention has since generated considerable interest in the human rights situation in Zambia resulting in the Commission's preparations for an investigative mission to be undertaken

2 2 4 Fact Finding

The year 1997 saw greater importance being attached to Fact Finding activities. The need to have factual information on human rights situations in lobbying for change and to form the basis for intervention became imperative

- **Visits to Police and Prison Cells**

In collaboration with the State Law Development Commission, visits were made to Police and Prison Cells on the Copperbelt, Central and North-Western Provinces of Zambia to assess compliance with both domestic and international law. The visits brought to light the appalling conditions prevailing in these institutions, and the problem of long term detainees and police brutality. The findings have since formed part of the 1997 Human Rights Report and a basis for lobbying Government to improve detention and Prison conditions

- **The 1995 Land Act Impact Assessment Study**

AFRONET, deeply concerned about 'forced evictions' of the peasantry in Southern Province following land allocations to foreign investors for commercial farming, instituted a study 'The 1995 Lands Act and its impact on land in Southern Province'

The purpose of the study was to ascertain how much land has been taken by Foreign investors in the Province as a result of the Act, assess the impact on the peasantry and determine the legitimacy of the Act in light of the storm it raised in the country before it was assented to by the Head of State

Some of the findings point to that foreign investors are given free reign to acquire huge tracks of land for commercial farming thereby displacing thousands of local and indigenous people,

The foreign investors on the other hand, are growing high value cash crops such as tobacco, rose flowers, and sugar cane and rear wild animals, which are not useful to an ordinary villager in times of food crises

The legitimacy of the Act is also questioned as the law was enacted without due consultation of traditional rulers and without the blessing of members of parliament from the opposition parties

- AFRONET in response to the findings made recommendations which among others call on Government to address the weaknesses in the said Act and organise a National conference on land so as to iron out the demerits of the current law, and to
- put in place and strictly adhere to a co-ordinated procedure between traditional leaders, District Councils and the Ministry of Lands before land is allocated to a foreign investor
- **Mission to Siachobe Area**

In March, AFRONET in conjunction with the Zambia Independent Monitoring Team (ZIMT) and the Zambia Civic Education Association, visited Siachobe Villagers on a fact finding mission This followed reports of razing of houses, rape of women, beatings and loss of property during the eviction of the villagers from an ancestral land, which has been sold to an investor as farmland No 2106

AFRONET made direct representation to Government and on 10th March 1997, wrote to the Vice President of Zambia requesting his office, which is in charge of disaster management in the country to allocate the villagers with alternative land An appeal was also sent to Programme Against Malnutrition (PAM) for relief food to the displaced villagers The matter was given attention by government and allocation of alternative land was promised

2 3 INFORMATION

During the year 1997, the Information Unit made significant steps towards documenting, producing publications enhancing the communication capacity of the network, promoting the principles of democracy and the role of AFRONET. In addition, the Unit was responsible for all press matters

2 3 1 Resource Centre

A resource centre was established for the purpose of creating and maintaining a depository of primary data and information on human rights, governance and development. The centre is open to bonafide researchers, students and non-governmental organisations.

2 3 2 Publications

The Monitor and Afronet File

To ensure a regular and effective flow of information on human rights and governance issues, AFRONET, during the first half of the year launched two (2) publications 'The Monitor' and 'AFRONET File' on 6th June.

The Monitor which is published fortnightly and has a circulation of 5000 copies focuses on issues of Democracy, Human Rights and Development as they affect the Zambian population. To make the publication more accessible to a wider audience, the Monitor is available on the Internet <http://www.Zamnet.zm/Zamnet/Afronet/Afrohome.htm> or on a UK based site <http://www.oneworld.org/afronet> (*Afronet has now acquired a domain name to be operational soon*)

The AFRONET File is a quarterly publication with a circulation of 500 copies. The publication focuses on regional human rights concerns. It endeavours to give an insight and stimulate debate over human rights issues in Africa.

2 3 3 1997 Zambia Human Rights Report

AFRONET, during the year became the first African Non-Governmental Organisation to produce a comprehensive human rights report on Zambia. The Report which will be annual, is aimed at keeping a record of the country's successes and shortcomings in the area of human rights. In addition, it is an attempt to constantly chart the evolution of a more enduring democratic culture in the country and to constantly remind the

nation that the observance of human rights is key to good governance and a stable Government

In Chapter 1 on 'The State of the Media' the report addresses issues of ownership and state control, the attacks by Government on private media and journalists, and public access to media

Chapter 2 on 'Freedom of Association and Assembly' looks at the Public Order act which grossly infringed on the rights of the people to assemble, police attacks and the state of emergency which greatly curtailed political activism during the year under review. The trend of co-optation that has contributed to the weakening of opposition political parties is also addressed

Chapter 3 reviews developments in Zambia's industrial relations, the turbulence faced by the labour movement as a result of the Structural Adjustment Programme which has greatly reduced its membership and financial power following privatisation of state owned enterprises, liquidations and the wage freeze. The Chapter further brings to light the serious confrontations that took place between Government and trade unions over Collective Agreements and the internal conflicts that further weakened the labour movement

Chapter 4 begins by identifying obstacles in the enjoyment of Economic and Social Rights and traces these constraints to the historical evolution of the rights movement. The Chapter also looks at the wide range of rights provided for by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights. The suppression of rights such as employment, food Security, health, children's rights, education and housing are addressed in detail

The state of prisons in Zambia is addressed in Chapter 5. The Chapter looks at the deplorable conditions in prisons around the country and the conditions of service of prison officers. Recommendations on Prison reforms are given in this chapter

Chapter 6 looks at issues that have a bearing on, and tend to reinforce police violations of human rights namely - illegal detentions and arbitrarily arrests, torture in police cells, and public harassment of citizens. The Chapter carries selected cases as evidence of violations of human rights by the police

2 3 4 Out-reach

Efforts to spread the knowledge on AFRONET's role and activities were stepped up considerably in 1997

In line with its objective "Facilitate generation, dissemination and sharing of information in and outside Africa relevant to the enhancement of human rights, accountable Governments and development in Africa" AFRONET co-funded with UNFPA the Zambian Book fair from 28th May to 1st June in Lusaka, Zambia. The theme of the Book fair was "Books and the

Development of the Girl Child" The event provided the Network with an immense opportunity to promote its role to the visiting public and to present its new publications 'The Monitor' and 'AFRONET File' to a wider audience

2 3 5 The Web site (WWW)

AFRONET became the first NGO in Zambia to have a home page as early as 1996. The first version was constructed by Zamnet. In 1997, the Regional Office of USAID through DATEX, provided funding to AFRONET to design and construct an electronic data base which is anchored at ZAMNET and mirrored to the UK on 'One World On Line'. The page is managed by an Information Technologist, who has rendered extremely valuable technical support to the management team. The AFRONET home page has a section for the SAHRINGON that maintains important human rights information from the SADC region.

A Client-Server local Area Network (LAN) was also set up to enhance information sharing and dissemination.

2 3 6 Workshop on Human Rights, Zambia

The Workshop on 'Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance' held in Mongu from 12 - 14 May 1997 was organised in the context of placing greater emphasis on the Zambian situation following irregularities during the 1996 elections and deterioration of the political and human rights situation in the Country.

The main aim of the workshop was -

- To begin a process of sensitising community based groups on their fundamental human rights as enshrined in the Zambian Constitution,
- To promote awareness of the ACHPR and other international human rights instruments that Zambia is party to, and

- To stimulate debate on issues of governance and democracy so as to achieve greater participation of citizens in the political affairs of their country

Among these, the major recommendations were -

- That AFRONET should work closely with Community based organisations to facilitate incorporation of human rights education in their programmes
- That AFRONET should formulate a comprehensive national human rights education plan

2.4 LITIGATION

In the area of litigation AFRONET aims at promoting judicial activism, the observance and respect for constitutional and human rights through use of litigation.

The Activities include petitioning of High Court over constitutionality of some statutes, identifying archaic laws with a view to petition the High Court

2.4.1 Long Term Remandees

The problem of long term detainees came to the attention of AFRONET during visits to the prisons around the Country

To address the problem, AFRONET contracted Messrs Central Chambers and Lukona Chambers to assist in bringing to the attention of the Courts the plight of these Remandees. During the period under review, a total of 52 cases mostly involving aggravated robbery were identified and brought to the attention of the High Court. Out of the Fifty-Two (52) cases, one (1) remandee had been in prison since 1992, nineteen (19) since 1994, twenty-two (22) since 1995, nine (9) since 1996 and one (1) in 1997. Some of these Remandees had never been committed to High Court whilst those that had been committed in the first or second year of being remanded had not received further trial.

The justification for taking up the cases was that the continued detention of these persons without trial is an infringement of their rights, a total abrogation of the rules of natural justice and is contrary to Article 13 of the Constitution of the Republic of Zambia. The conditions of the Prison were also found deplorable and dehumanising due to congestion, poor diet, lack of proper sanitation and ailments such as diarrhoea and Tuberculosis etc.

Though trial continues, the major aim of AFRONET, is to bring to the attention of the Courts the problem of these long term Remandees and make a case for the dire need to revamp the judicial system

2 5 PEER SUPPORT GROUP INITIATIVE

The Peer support Group Initiative (PSG) was started in November 1996, with the aim of enhancing the understanding of human rights among young people and empowering them to actively participate in the political life of their nation

Born out of the desire to have the future entrenched in capable hands, the project addresses issues of youth confidence, quality leadership, gender imbalances, basic rights and youth participation in politics. The target is the secondary schools around the Country

2 5 1 Consolidation of PSG

Activities under PSG became much more developed in 1997. Sixteen (16) PSG clubs were established in five (5) provinces of Zambia following workshops in twenty-three (23) schools aimed at introducing the concept

To support the awareness campaign, a brochure was produced as an information dissemination tool. In addition, T-shirts and badges carrying the AFRONET PSG motto were printed and distributed around the country

2 5 2 Inter-Schools Competitions

Essay Writing Competition

In an endeavour to motivate and win active participation from the target group, AFRONET under the PSG organised a nation wide essay writing competition in February on the theme 'My role in promoting Democracy in Zambia'

Youth Day Celebrations

In recognition of the Youth Day that falls on 12th March, AFRONET organised an Arts competition at Evelyn Hone College on the theme 'Give the Youth a Voice in Leadership'. Through Drama, poetry and public speaking, the Youths addressed issues of human rights abuses in schools, society's perception of the girl-child in terms of leadership capabilities and the plight of youths. Five (5) schools participated in this event

On 21st June, another Arts competition was organised for Copperbelt province based schools. Ten (10) schools participated in this competition.

Prizes for winners included school materials, literature on human rights, trophies and cash prizes.

Despite limitations in funding, the project has enjoyed enormous support from the Ministry of education, school authorities and pupils.

3 0 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

3 1 Pre-award Audit/Survey

In April 1997, Coopers and Lybrand finalised the Pre-Award Audit/Survey of AFRONET at the request of USAID following a grant application.

The Survey addressed the internal control structure, financial management system, personnel policies and procedures, travel policies, procurement policies, procedures and systems and property management standards and systems.

3 2 Recruitment

One of the major recommendations of the Pre-Award Audit was to the effect that AFRONET, with increased staffing would have the capacity to handle the required funds for its programmes and administration costs. In line with this recommendation and also in view of the increased volume of work in information dissemination and advocacy, a Programme officer, Information Officer and Research Assistant were recruited during the year under review. The recruitments have since proved invaluable to the organisation.

3 3 Procedures Manual

The outcome of the Survey was a manual on Personnel, Procurement and Financial procedures whose use commenced in June.

3 4 Telecommunications

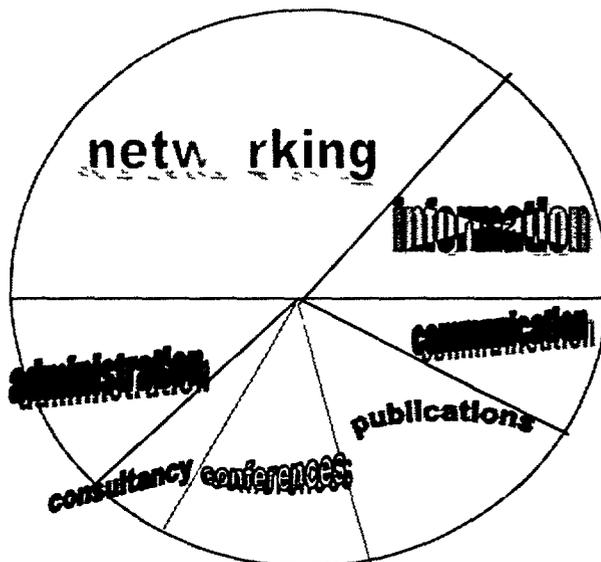
In an endeavour to increase efficiency in the exchange of information between the Secretariat and members in other countries, the organisation secured internet connectivity, and an adequate telephone/fax capacity. The existing facilities have increased the volume of incoming and outgoing mail/messages significantly.

3 5 Finance

Donor response to AFRONET's increasing needs was remarkable in 1997. Cash income during the year under review from grants, interest, subscriptions, exchange gains and capital grant amortisation amounted to K401 095 327 00. This represents an increase of K252 050 857 00 over the figure for 1996 and K384 848 077 00 over income for 1995.

However, though the situation in terms of funding for operations improved considerably, the problem of uneven distribution remained. Appeals for the landmine campaign and the Peer Support Group initiative had only limited success.

Expenditure by Activity in 1997



Total K421 3 million

In 1997, AFRONET activities taken as a whole cost K421 million exceeding the amount for 1996 by K297 7million.

As in 1996, Networking costs topped the list totalling K106 4 million (K17 3 million in 1996) followed by information gathering which amounted to K83 0 million.

1 Administration 83 3 = 19 7%	2 Networking 106 4 = 25 2%	3 Consultancy 7 4 = 1 8%
4 Conferences 26 3 = 6 2%	5 Publications 71 4 = 17 0%	6 Information Gathering 83 0 = 19 7%
7 Communication 43 6 = 10 4%		

Costs for publications/report production increased to K71 4 million in 1997 as compared to K36 4 million in 1996. Expenditure on Communication came to K43 6 against K16 5million in 1996. Conferences and Workshop costs came to K26 3 million compared to K8 8 million in 1996 and the use of consultants in specialised areas cost the organisation K7 4 million against K0 48 million in 1996. Administration costs, which include staff salaries, office rentals, security, insurance and audit fees amounted to K83 3 million compared to K44 1 million in 1996.

4 0 AFRONET STRUCTURE

AFRONET has a three layer structure -

The Advisory Council
The Board of Directors
The International Secretariat

The Advisory Council is composed of fifteen (15) eminent Africans who have distinguished themselves in their respective areas. The Council provides leadership and guidance to the Network. The Council further sets an agenda for the Board of Directors and meets once every two years.

The Board of Directors comprises ten (10) members with expertise in matters of human rights, community mobilisation and development and defines the general policy and the principles that guide the activities of the Network. The Board meets every 18 months whilst in between, a management committee composed of the President, Four Board Members and the Executive Director is responsible for the work of the Network.

The international secretariat based in Lusaka is the administrative and co-ordinating centre of the organisation. It is headed by the Executive Director who is mandated with the task of managing staff and ensuring that the laid down policies are translated into programmes that reflect the ideals of AFRONET.

AFRONET member organisations and individuals are found in the following countries -

North Africa	Tunisia, Egypt
West Africa	Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Benin, Mali
East Africa	Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania
Central Africa	Zaire, Rwanda, Sudan
Southern Africa	Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Members of the Advisory Council

Rahim Khan	-	Botswana
Josephine A Odera	-	Kenya
Vasa Gounden	-	South Africa
Prof Muna Ndulo	-	Zambian
Dr Reginald Hove	-	Zimbabwe
Prof Kofi Kumado	-	Ghana
Olisa Agbakoba	-	Nigeria
Prof A'naim Abdullah	-	Sudan
Dr Caleb Fundanga	-	Zambia

Membership of the Board of Directors

Alice Mogwe	-	Botswana
Joe Nana Ghartey	-	Ghana
Olisa Agbakoba	-	Nigeria
Ibrahim Kane	-	Senegal
Ngefa Atondoko	-	D R Congo
Amir Salem	-	Egypt
Ann Karuki	-	Kenya
Bibiane Mubaye	-	Rwanda
Lucrecia Seafeld	-	South Africa
Ngande Mwanajiti	-	Zambia

Secretariat Staff

Executive Director	-	Ngande Mwanajiti
Programme officer	-	Clarisa Kayosa
Information Officer	-	Muleya Mwananyanda
Development Worker	-	Mette Jacobson
Intern	-	Marje Dijkstra
Editor	-	Jowie Mwinga
Journalists	-	Paschalina Phiri
	-	Elias Chitenge
	-	Mervin Syafunko
	-	Anthony Mukwita
PSG Co-ordinator	-	Andrew Kazilimani
Finance/Adm Officer	-	John Siantanga
Secretaries	-	Dora Chisambi
	-	Jacqueline Chintu
Driver	-	Dudley Simbaya
Care-taker	-	Absolom Mwale

5 0 DONORS

AFRONET is most grateful to its donors whose enormous support has enabled the organisation meet the ever increasing challenges in the field of human rights

The following grants were received during the year 1997 -

NAME OF DONOR	AMOUNT (K)
NORAD	105 555 555 00
HIVOS Dfl 115 000 00	75 052 868 00
NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID	38 639 539 00
MS ZAMBIA	3 870 000 00
DATEX US \$ 125 273 00	165 548 360 00
CIDA	51 038 790 00
SWEDISH EMBASSY	22 925 000 00
OPEN SOCEITY	6 600 000 00

	469 230 111 00
LESS CAPITAL GRANTS FROM DATEX	(112 847 639 00)

	356 382 472 00

1996 DONORS

NAME	AMOUNT (K)
NORAD	50 000 000 00
DUTCH US \$ 6 400 00	5 155 555 00
HIVOS US \$ 28 962 00	35 333 640 00
NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID	37 529 640 00
USAID	16 100 000 00
MS ZAMBIA US \$ 600	768 000 00

	144 886 835 0
	=====

**REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
INTER-AFRICAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT**

We have audited the financial statements on pages 3 to 8

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 1 the directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit on these statements and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the organisation's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

The committee in common with other charitable organisations of a similar size, derives a proportion of its income from voluntary donations and other fund raising activities which cannot be fully controlled until they are entered in the accounting records and are not therefore susceptible to independent audit verification.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the organisation's affairs at 31 December 1997 and of its deficit and cash flows for the year then ended.

In our opinion proper accounting records have been kept and the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant acts.

Coopers & Lybrand
Certified Accountants

Lusaka

Date 31 MAR 1998

INTER-AFRICAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT

BALANCE SHEET - 31 DECEMBER 1997

	Note	1997 K	1996 K
Fixed assets	3	125 194 192	14 388 919
Current assets			
Debtors	4	1 962 000	17 453 410
Bank balances and cash		<u>21,844,174</u>	<u>40 293,719</u>
		<u>23,806,774</u>	<u>57,747,129</u>
Less			
Current liabilities			
Creditors	5	<u>21,395,181</u>	<u>28 574,380</u>
Net current assets		<u>2,411,590</u>	<u>29,172,719</u>
Represented by		<u>127,606,072</u>	<u>43,561,668</u>
Accumulated fund	6	23 318 488	43 561,668
Capital grants	7	<u>104,287,584</u>	<u>-----</u>
		<u>127,606,072</u>	<u>43,561,668</u>

The financial statements on pages 3 to 8
were approved by the board on **30 MAR 1998**
and were signed on its behalf by -



) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



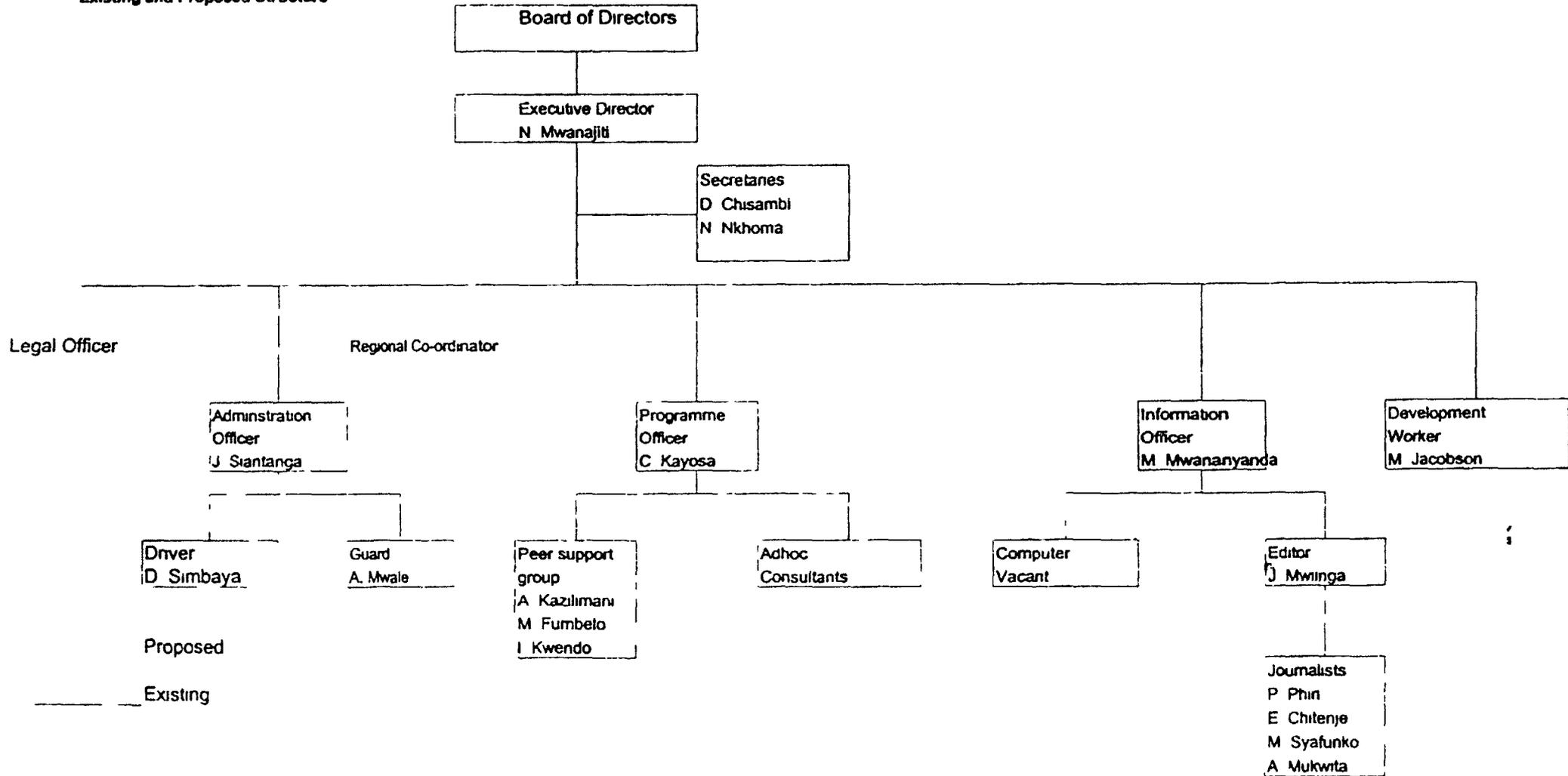
) DIRECTOR

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Organisation Chart

Table 1

Existing and Proposed Structure



Proposed
Existing

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

24