

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PEACE (I4P) RE-LEARNING THE LESSONS OF THE PAST

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Aim of Contribution

The presenter suggests that South Africa did not adequately follow through on its peace-building initiatives post 1994 and is thus not adequately equipped for the rising political tension in the country. I4P could be part of the answer in this regard and it will serve South Africa well to look into its own past for good practice in this regard – no need to reinvent the wheel.

South African Status Quo

- **Build-up of political tension – higher conflict potential**
 - Upcoming local government elections
 - Ongoing local government service delivery protests
 - President's ethical dilemma's
 - Economic downturn (massive drought)
 - Restive civil society (student protests)
 - Racial tension
- **Current Reactions**
 - Political populism
 - Vote-catching
 - Calls for dialogue
 - Conferences, committees, legislation

SA Conflict Transformation(i)

- 1990's negotiated settlement
- Constitution and institutions
- DDR, TRC and affirmative legislation
- **Unfinished business?**
- **Infrastructure for Peace (I4P)?**
- - the creation of peace- and nation-building initiatives rooted in local dynamics (cultural, historical, structural) and described as the “local turn” by Richmond (2013).
- Van Tongeren (2011) states that the idea of peace infrastructure is to develop mechanisms for cooperation among stakeholders, including the government, by promoting co-operative problem-solving and institutionalising response mechanisms to (violent) conflict.

SA Conflict Transformation (ii)

I4P's seem to share the following key characteristics:

- a domestic foundation (Illiberal approach) ;
 - establishment at any stage of peace or processes;
 - presence at all levels and peace-building tracks;
 - varying terms of inclusion; and
 - various objectives/functions to be attained and performed through/by those participating. (Nishanka, 2014).
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- Importance of government/donors/empowerment agencies
 - Accra declaration - I4P for ECOWAS (liberal approach)
 - Building peace to build a state not reversed (Verzat, 2014)
 - Institutionalisation? Role of government?

National Peace Accord/Secretariat

- National Peace Accord (NPA) formed in 1991
- 26 Political parties and organizations participating
- Active roles of private sector, civil society and FBOs
- Capacitating civil society to “absorb energy” of transition
- Results:
 - National Peace Secretariat
 - 11 Regional peace committees
 - 200 local peace committees
 - 15 000 peace monitors
 - Training in conflict management
 - Assisting IEC and foreign observer missions

Free State Centre for Citizenship Education and Conflict Resolution (CCECR)

- Unique provincial initiative for conflict transformation
- Political compromise among political parties
- Facilitated and driven by academics and civil society
- Act 11/1996 of the Free State Provincial Legislature
- Objectives of the Centre:
 - Promote tolerance/respect for language, culture and religious diversity;
 - Develop/provide education/training, information/advice on democracy and human rights;
 - Address issues of discrimination/minority protection;
 - Provide conflict resolution/mediation dealing with conflict arising from discrimination, minority protection and political transformation; and
 - Contribute to formation of policies/legislation enhancing democracy and human rights.

Free State Centre for Citizenship Education and Conflict Resolution (CCECR)

- Funding provided by FSPL and Flemish Government
- Reporting to Free State Provincial Legislature
- Administered by the Office of the Premier FSPG
- Operational from 1998 – 2003
- Act 11/1996 repealed in 2005
- Track record of the Centre:
 - Training of government officials (IDRS)
 - Training of local government officials/academic staff
 - Mediation at local government level
 - Development of human rights/citizenship curriculum
 - Investigation of complaints
- Demise due to funding issues , political control, government priorities

Way Forward

- Investigate existing initiatives
- National Development Plan (NDP) – Chapter 9
- Human Rights Commission
 - Act 54/1994 in terms of Sec 184(1) of Act 108/1996
 - Promotion, protection, development and attainment of human rights/culture of human rights in South Africa
 - Sec 8 – resolve disputes or rectify acts/commissions resulting in violation of fundamental rights thorough mediation, conciliation or negotiation.
- Court Annexed mediation – ADR in the legal system
- Academic institutions, think tanks (CCR; ACCORD: CMA: ISS)
- Civil society and private service providers.
- (West) African initiatives.



Thank You
Dankie

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