

PLATFONTEIN PROJECT PROPOSAL CONCEPT DOCUMENT

1. Project background

The San community of Platfontein, based outside Kimberley, historically were based in Namibia and - while still under SA control - were relocated to their current local where they own 13000 hectares of land under a community trust, represented by Khwe and !Xun tribes.

Through their association with Swiss donors and South African counterpart NGOs they rapidly became a point of development focus and formed part of the 'Freedom & Responsibility Conference' held in Bloemfontein last year, out of which arose a commitment to assist with the development of these people - together with a special programme to build and develop African leadership across the continent

2. Platfontein issues for outlining of development objectives

From a cursory perspective based on various visits and discussions with the community there are a few elements that bear some consideration:

- 1 the community's isolation and disconnectedness
- 2 the confusion at municipal level in terms of develop and other plans for the community and needing some direction
- 3 tensions between elements of the municipality and the community leadership
- 4 recognition of community leadership
- 5 the lack of several services and basic businesses which normally should represent fundamental economic activity in a community of that size e.g. spaza shops, hair salons, postal services. Taxi service etc
- 6 lack of throughput after any form of education
- 7 poor education facilities and support
- 8 lack of opportunity for youth
- 9 need for the recognition and development of their cultural heritage
- 10 high levels of frustration in dealing with economic opportunities like alternative energy – frustrations with Eskom's politics and dynamics
- 11 Lack of skills to take advantage of business and other opportunities

3. Points for development focus that have emerged

- 1 infra-structural and institutional development -human and physical
- 2 upliftment and empowerment of the human resources with a strong focus on youth leadership and skills development
- 3 development of land potential and a focus on agri-industries and alternative energy with a viable link to the municipality and the mining industry
- 4 Social development that will transform the current apathy through active programmes and initiatives that will create hope and begin levels of integration with surrounding communities
- 5 Tourism and related developments – exploitation of natural skills in tracking, herbal remedies etc

4. Action programmes with planned outcomes for practical transformation of the community

4.1 Planned and currently implemented **youth development programme** including inter alia:-

an intensive skills development programme for 6 months

planned outcome of such a programme whereby potential youth leadership would be actualised in the form of:

- a. practical computer., admin., basic agri and other applied skills pursuant to what community needs
- b. Institutional development through registration of a development NGO for the area, businesses with focussed business plans related to applied skills and economic objectives
- c. the development and creation of a number of practical business plans for implementation after the training programme
- d. Creating viable links for financing of planned economic activities related to business plans – links to government funding opportunities, international communities, the formal sector etc
- e. Creating market links and off-take agreement including the energy sector which remains the largest potential job creation opportunity together with the agri-sector
- f. Development of tourism and solid cultural identity

4.2 Support of community leadership and their development plans

The community as a whole requires tremendous support that will enable them to undertake the following:-

- 4.2.1 Support the youth development programme after the first phase of empowerment currently underway and supported by the Swiss donor community
- 4.2.2 Create a more dynamic link with the local municipality that speak meaningfully to development plans and programmes
- 4.2.3 Development of a framework business plan for the entire community that integrates all the key elements for a viable community and includes all the important elements of business, social development, housing and sanitation, economic development etc
- 4.2.4 Building of their institutional framework for development where youth can immediately both participate and be dynamically involved
- 4.3.5 Build a strong communication network within the community using IT so that social and education links can be enhanced throughout including a positive security outcome
- 4.3.6 Development of viable partnerships with long term impact

5. Concept Plan

The concept plan is to harness these various concepts and initiatives in one comprehensive development design plan that is co-ordinated with planned action programmes falling into a logical order of creative outcomes.

The hope is to use a small community of this size and develop a creative action plan that can be used as a model for the development of other communities in an almost in incubator type.

In SA we have thousands of communities existing where all of the above needs and issues apply and can learn from the concentrated efforts of such a proposed development plan - the possible emergence of twinning of villages is by no means farfetched and would even include small communities in Switzerland.