

TO: CUSOBOT PROGRAMME

1st October, 1976.

FROM: CUSOBOT COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR FUNDING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

As you all know, a large part of the CUSOBOT Committee's responsibilities lies in disbursing the moneys in the CUSOBOT Projects Fund for locally initiated and applied development projects. It has gradually become apparent, however, that previous guidelines and criteria for funding (Country Meeting, April, 1975) have fallen short of providing the committee with an adequate frame of reference.

The result has been a desultory approach to project evaluation: lacking not only in consistency, but also in thoroughness.

In April, 1976, the office undertook to compile a list of seven questions to which the committee could address itself when evaluating project submissions. They were applied at the subsequent committee meeting in Tutume, and while it was beneficial to hear the project initiators address themselves to the questions, the committee still felt it lacked the necessary tools for satisfactory appraisals.

Consequently, it was suggested that direct statements, rather than questions, might be more appropriate, and the office prepared new guidelines for submission to the August committee meeting in Molepolole.

They were discussed at length by members of the committee, implemented experimentally, and then modified accordingly. They were then put to the vote and accepted unanimously.

Attached are the Guidelines in their accepted form as they will be presented to the Country at the October meeting. The intention is to secure a Country endorsement of them so that they can supersede all previously-endorsed project-funding criteria. Your questions, comments and recommendations will be welcomed.

The current guidelines (approved in April 1975) are also attached for your information.

GUIDELINES FOR FUNDING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The CUSOBOT Projects Fund will support groups in their efforts to increase their self-reliance by concentrating on three areas of involvement:

1. Analysis by Disadvantaged groups - Support in this area would be consistent with the view of Batswana as agents rather than as the objects in the development process. Projects would support activities which would initiate analysis by disadvantaged groups of their environment leading to an action-oriented understanding of the constraints which inhibit their development.

2. Action by disadvantaged Groups - Support in this area would aid group actions which are seen to represent effective responses to the constraints innovative initiatives which confront the constraints identified by the group. Projects would support activities devised and implemented by the group concerned. Local funds, local expertise, and locally devised technology, directed towards increasing the self-reliance of the group, would be viewed as essential components.
  
3. Service Activities - Projects in this area would attempt to facilitate the process in (1) and (2) -- i.e., group analysis leading to group action-- by supporting certain key service activities and those which help to improve the standard of living in Botswana. They would support efforts which maximize the utility of this process without subverting it.

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(Please bring this along to the Country Meeting)