



Annual Report 2014 Ecumenical Service on Southern Africa

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Cover picture:
Students in Windhoek/Namibia catch up on KASA

Imprint

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1. Introduction

In 2014 South Africa celebrated 20 years of democratisation – a good reason for KASA itself to intensify its activities in relation to the political, social and economic developments in this country, not least because the death of Nelson Mandela a year previously had once again highlighted the question of his legacy for people outside South Africa itself. KASA's South Africa activities were funded partly by an Engagement Global (BMZ) application, whose approval was delayed due to Germany's parliamentary (*Bundestag*) elections the year before. This meant that many of KASA's activities took place during the second half of the year. In addition to KASA's focus on South Africa, activities have been conducted on all its priority issues, as the list of dates and publications show. These reflect the process-based orientation of KASA's work: KASA observes both the constants and the new dynamics occurring in its priority countries South Africa, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and on this basis it decides what kind of activities make sense in the German or European context. The results of these observations and analyses serve as a basis for the publications, the public events in which KASA participates and the advocacy and lobbying campaigns initiated by KASA. From time to time developments in South Africa prompt KASA to devise and implement activities not included in its annual plan. One example of this in 2014 was the coordination of a speaking tour, organised at short notice, involving two trade unionists from South Africa who made a stop in Germany on their way around Europe.

At the start of the year KASA was evaluated by a team commissioned by Bread for the World and Misereor. This report briefly addresses the results of this evaluation. At this point we would like to thank all those who made time to assist with this evaluation.

2. Programmes and activities

2.1. South Africa: 20 years of democratisation

2.1.1 Mandela film

In January 2014 KASA published a collection of all the speeches made at the memorial celebrations held for Nelson Mandela on 20 December 2013 in Frankfurt. KASA co-organised this event in cooperation with many other organisations. During the same month, the film "Long walk to freedom – Nelson Mandela" started playing in German cinemas, and KASA was invited by the Atlantis cinema in Mannheim to take part in two film debates and discussions. The first took place at a preview of the film on 29 January and the second at a special showing run in cooperation with the St. Clara ecumenical centre. Both events gave KASA an opportunity to reflect on Nelson Mandela's legacy for South Africa and for the region, which had been a key concern of KASA's publication "Farewell, Mandela, rest in peace!"

2.1.2 October conference and speaking tour

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the "new" South Africa, KASA along with KOSA and Bread for the World organised a conference on social and economic justice. Liepollo Lebohlang Pheko opened the conference and drew attention in her talk to the economic dimension of apartheid and the consequences of neoliberal policies of structural adjustment in post-apartheid South Africa. Pheko has been working for more than 15 years as a social activist and entrepreneur, political analyst, commentator and freelance author. In her second presentation she discussed the 2014 elections and the future of democracy in South Africa. In addition to analysing the results of the elections, she spoke of the need for South Africa to breathe new life into the country's civil society structures, including the churches and the students' movements (which have gradually come to be depoliticised since 1994), in order to help shape democracy from the ground up.

The second part of the conference was devoted to the concrete realities of everyday life and to social movements working in South Africa to establish economic and social justice. Thomas Mnguni lives in the Highveld region of South Africa, which is especially hard hit by pollution from coal mining activities. He is a member of the Greater Middleburg Residents Association. In his talk, Mnguni vividly described the living conditions of the communities that live near a coal-fired power station.

2. Programmes and activities

As a child, Nomarussia Bonase was herself a victim of severe human rights violations during the apartheid era and became involved in resistance early on before becoming a member of the Khulumani Support Group. Khulumani organised the surviving dependents of those killed in the Marikana massacre in 2012 and enabled them to participate in a commission of inquiry convened by the government (so-called Farlam Commission). It also organised trauma healing workshops to ensure they were not alone as they came to terms with what had happened.

The opportunities created by the new South Africa are open to only a small, privileged section of society. There are no platforms where people can formulate their needs and where potential solutions can be discussed. International solidarity is all the more important, according to Bonase, in order to get the healing process going: being able to articulate one's experiences and to be heard is only the beginning, but it is an indispensable prerequisite to living a life based on self-determination.

All in all, the conference was praised for the high quality of its speakers. The mix of analytical contributions on the one hand and practical experience combined with a high degree of factual knowledge on the other was lauded. The 40-odd people who took part (and had not been deterred by the train strikes) also welcomed the fact that there was sufficient time for networking and discussion between the programme items, which were especially useful for their ongoing work.

In addition to two conversations with members of the German parliament (*Bundestag*) and a visit to the South African ambassador, a speaking tour organised for the conference speakers encompassed eleven events held in Freiburg, Berlin, Bochum, Hanover, Darmstadt, Heidelberg, Marburg, Cologne and Bielefeld. More than half the events were attended by 20 to 25 participants, and most of the organisers felt this was satisfactory. Three events were very well attended (more than 40 participants), and one event with roughly 70 participants was a positive surprise even for the organiser.

2.1.3 "We shall make our voices heard"

The massacre of mine workers in Marikana near Rustenburg on 16 August 2012 is regarded by many observers as a turning point in the recent history of South Africa, as were the Sharpeville massacre in 1960 and the Soweto massacre of 1976. For KASA it was important to provide information about the significance of this event from the very start. Once KASA's

partner organisation Khulumani Support Group had decided to share their experiences of dealing with the cruelties of the apartheid system with the surviving relatives of those killed in Marikana, it was clear to KASA that all its activities in response to the Marikana massacre would involve more than just providing information about what had happened. While the Farlam Commission was being held, Khulumani organised a therapeutic workshop for several of the relatives of those killed. Here, they had an opportunity to work through their own personal experience of the painful loss of a family member. Khulumani summarised the outcomes of this workshop in a brochure entitled "Justice, Redress and Redistribution". KASA published this brochure along with additional articles under the title "We shall make our voices heard", the brochure has already had to be reprinted. Although it was distributed free of charge, during a visit in April 2014 KASA was able to give the money collected as donations to the widows of Marikana whose stories are contained in the brochure as a symbolic "fee" and also to give a token of support toward the work of Khulumani.

An exhibition of the same name that KASA wants to work with in 2015 consists of the images contained in this brochure as well as images that portray the widows' everyday lives. Due to the delayed funding application, the exhibition could only be displayed in the WeltHaus (WorldHouse) in Heidelberg in 2014, but it has already attracted considerable interest.

2.1.4 Natural Resources

"Time for a rethink: natural resources in Southern Africa. It is high time the natural wealth of the region benefits the people" is the title of a study on the issue of natural resources in Southern Africa, published by KASA at the end of 2014. In this study, KASA seeks to draw attention to the problems in the region associated with the exploitation of natural resources, to the inadequate national, regional and international mechanisms for regulating the commodities sector and to address the need to develop fundamental alternatives to the prevailing "extractivism". This study is part of the project "20 Years of Democracy in South Africa" funded by Engagement Global.

2. Programmes and activities

2.2 Trade issues: EPA (Economic Partnership Agreement)

2014 proved to be a decisive year for the EPA negotiations. In 2012 the EU Commission had set a deadline: all those countries that had not taken any steps towards signing and ratifying the EPA by 1 October 2014 would lose their preferential access to EU markets. All efforts, including those of civil society movements, aimed at urging the EU Commission to extend this deadline, have been to no avail. This market access reform has hit some export-led sectors in countries such as Namibia, Botswana, Kenya, Cameroon, the Ivory Coast and Ghana hard, greatly increasing the pressure on their governments; in the case of West Africa (ECOWAS), East Africa (EAC) and Southern Africa (SADC) this pressure has affected entire regions. During the second half of the year, ECOWAS, SADC and EAC have all initialled EPA which are to be signed in the course of 2015 and ratified in 2016 at the latest. In addition to this there is an interim agreement signed and ratified by Cameroon in a go-it-alone initiative, which is being portrayed by the EU Commission as a regional agreement.

During the course of the year KASA has made the most of various opportunities to engage in lobbying activities on the issue of EPA. This included two hearings on the issue organised by the development committee of the EU parliament, which provided an opportunity to meet with negotiators from African EPA regions and to have an exchange of opinions about the negotiations. In this context it is worth mentioning the various activities that took place before and during the EU-Africa summit in Brussels in April. KASA's work with the EPA, however, focused consistently on awareness raising and mobilisation. KASA has benefited from the mobilisation against TTIP that has taken place in various locations across Germany. It seems as if many groups and individuals have "re-discovered" the EPA through TTIP. As a result of this renewed interest in the EPA a number of inquiries came from activist groups that wanted to find out about how the negotiations were going and to draw potential lessons from the EPA negotiations for their resistance to TTIP. KASA's aim in participating in such events was to bring perspectives from Southern Africa into the debates being conducted here about the future of free trade agreements. KASA is one of the few organisations that does ongoing work on the EPA and is now competent to provide reliable information about the issue.



Thomas Mnguni, Nomarussia Bonase und Liepollo Pheko after meeting Parliamentarians in Berlin



Boniface Mabanza participating in a demonstration against EPA in Brussels

2. Programmes and activities



Simone Knapp discussing food security at the Future Food conference of K+S in Berlin



BIG payday in Otjivero/Namibia. The Waldensian Church secured funding for another year

2.3 Reparations in Southern Africa

In August Judge Scheindlin of the US District Court abandoned court proceedings in the case of the Khulumani Support Group against the Ford Motor Company and IBM. These corporations are accused of having aided and abetted gross human rights violations through their close cooperation with the security services of the apartheid regime. The proceedings, which have been running for twelve years, have now been halted with the argument that the latest tightening of the Alien Tort Statute, on which the lawsuit taken out by the Khulumani Support Group is based, leaves no space for acts committed abroad by subsidiary companies of US corporations. The Khulumani lawsuit refers to crimes committed by subsidiary companies of US parent companies. This decision is a setback not only for the victims of human rights violations during the apartheid era in South Africa but also for current efforts being made worldwide to hold transnational corporations accountable for their participation in human rights violations. With the action against German companies Daimler and Rheinmetall likewise having been dismissed in December 2012, this initially means the end of a long-term campaign both for KASA and for all the other organisations involved. For this reason, it was probably the last time KASA spoke on the lawsuit during a shareholders' meeting of Daimler AG.

2.4 Land issue

On the basis of a study of farm workers' strikes in 2013, this year the land issue was addressed in connection with the farm workers' struggle, especially in the Western Cape of South Africa. First, KASA organised an event as part of the anti-racism weeks in Karlsruhe, which were first held in response to the Sharpeville massacre. At an evening church service, the team presented the situation of farm workers in South African vineyards, accompanied by pictures and by songs from the Moko choirs from Heidelberg.

Contacts made during the visit to South Africa brought two representatives from the farm workers union CSAAWU to Heidelberg in September. KASA organised a small regional tour for them, including meetings with FIAN, the regional union federation DGB and the WeltHaus. The two unionists were also able to report on their situation and to discuss working conditions in South Africa with compatriots from Durban and their partners in Darmstadt in the context of a partnership visit being held there. Here, it became clear that it is high time the issue

of farm workers and their living conditions is tackled as part of the debate in Germany about imports from South Africa, not least in relation to the issue of Fair Trade.

The "Land is Life" study still attracts interest and an interested readership. As a result of this publication, for example, KASA was invited to participate in a panel discussion on the occasion of an anniversary celebration event held by K+S in Berlin. KASA's role was to focus attention on the importance of small-scale (peasant) farming for the future of food security.

2.5 Basic Income Grant BIG

KASA continues to support the idea and introduction of an unconditional basic income. One of the main reasons for this lies in the positive impacts emerging from the pilot project in Namibia, to which KASA has contributed political support from the beginning. The coordinators are frequently invited as experts to make presentations in Germany about the project. Unfortunately the coalition in Namibia that was meant to pursue the project politically and to lobby the country's government is currently very weak and indeed almost non-existent as a partner. This is despite the fact that the Waldensian church was able to help secure BIG payments for a further year (May 2014 to April 2015).

KASA is part of the working group on Social Security set up by VENRO (umbrella organisation of development NGOs in Germany) and seeks to push for a universal basic income in the German context too. At the study day held to introduce the position paper, KASA was able to use the Namibian example to discuss the idea of a universal basic income with experts. In December a Round Table on the topic was held at the invitation of the BMZ in Berlin, where the position paper was presented in a broader context.

KASA also ran joint events with the Basic Income Network at the Degrowth Conference in Leipzig, presenting its results from Namibia and introducing the concept of financing it through taxation of natural resources, which is currently under discussion in the SADC region.

The SADC People's Summit 2014 took place on 15 and 16 August in Bulawayo/Zimbabwe. This SADC event for social movements and civil society organisations was organised, as it is every year, parallel to the summit of heads of state and government, although for financial reasons the People's Summit took place in Bulawayo and not, like the official summit, in Victoria Falls. More than 3000 representatives of social move-

ments from the region met there. Gathering beneath the motto "Reclaiming the SADC for People's Development – SADC Resources for SADC People" the participants talked about the plundering of resources belonging to the SADC countries by transnational corporations with the complicity of national elites and about the need to find new ways of redistributing wealth in order to counter the scandalous inequalities in the region. KASA's participation at the People's Summit included running a workshop aimed at encouraging the participants to regard the building of social security systems as a priority and to connect this task with the many natural resources in the region. In this regard, KASA appeals for the introduction of a SADC-wide BIG, the funding for which should be secured by implementing fair taxation of the mining sector. In addition, KASA called upon the event's organisers to desist from making demands of the ruling powers at future summits and instead to invest more in strategic plans for mobilising grassroots groups.

2.6 Migration

KASA is frequently invited to play an active role in events held on the topic of "Migration and Development". One prominent example of such an event in 2014 was the founding of the "African Union – African Diaspora 6th Region". This idea emerged from an initiative of the African Union, intended to encourage the African diaspora around the world to organise itself in order to represent more effectively the interests of its members in their various countries of residence and to contribute to the development of Africa. KASA was invited, among other things, to share its experiences of the EPA with representatives of the African diaspora who are seeking to influence the processes occurring on the continent. In addition, KASA participated in the dialogue process of the African diaspora in Germany, the aim of which is to coordinate politically oriented diaspora initiatives to the greatest possible effect in order to create synergies.

2.7 Work with partnership groups

In 2014 KASA continued to support many partnership groups in their work by providing structural advice and factual information aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of their activities. As it does each year, the KASA team together with the team in KASA's sponsoring organisation EMS (Evangelical Mission in Solidarity) co-organised the South African partnership confer-

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ence and was also involved in running it. At the request of the ELM in Hermannsburg, KASA helped to run a very well attended partnership seminar there on the topic of Marikana. KASA also prepared a group of schoolchildren from the Käthe Kollwitz School in Bruchsal for their visit to South Africa. The church deanery of Darmstadt invited KASA to give a talk on labour rights at a meeting with its South African partners.

An exciting project is in the pipeline in Heidelberg in connection with the city's Moko choir which, together with a newly formed organisation in Ratanda and Heidelberg/South Africa, want to build a centre to advance sustainable development in the township. KASA will provide advice during the project planning and will support the choir in its work with the project. KASA also participated in the series of events on the future of partnership work organised by Office for Partnership, Ecumenism and Political Education of the Protestant-Lutheran Church District Hamburg. KASA's inputs addressed the role and status of partnership work in the face of new challenges as well as the intercultural and development-related learning that occurs as part of this kind of work.

An additional contact has been made, namely, with the Leipzig based "Travel Mission", which will incorporate a tour of South Africa including meetings with local people in its 2015 programme, to be jointly organised with KASA. This tour is aimed especially at partnership groups in Germany which do not want to organise a tour themselves but whose members wish to actively include the encounter with and discussion of political issues during their travels to the country.

2.8 Alternatives to neoliberal globalisation

One important aspect of all the activities KASA engages in with its priority themes is to address the cross-cutting issue of "Alternatives to neoliberal globalisation". Conferences and expert seminars on current issues are – alongside publications – opportunities KASA has made use of in 2014 in order to introduce alternative approaches from Southern Africa to debates taking place in Germany, even if the issues concerned are not directly connected to its own priority themes but are significant in the Southern African context. The sustainability conference in Munich and two events in Berlin on the theme of "SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and African Perspectives", which were planned and run by the Afrikahaus and by AfricAvenir respectively, were two of the large conferences KASA to which contributed inputs, highlighting the fact that the SDGs

would only lead to fundamental change if the structural reasons for the failure of the MDGs were acknowledged and all the relevant actors were to work on overcoming these structural hurdles. If this does not occur, it would merely be a matter of continuing to get over the symptoms, and the "environmental bias" associated with the SDGs would do nothing to change the trends of the last few years. The issues associated with the notion of a "good life" and a "post-growth economy" were also a part of KASA's work in this regard: here, too, KASA has sought to convey perspectives from Southern Africa. One example of where this occurred was the Lindau Conference (held once every three years) which convened beneath the motto "A good life for everyone: What kind of exchange do we need between North and South for the future?"

2.9 Thinking Africa anew

For the second time KASA acted as coordinator in the planning and running of the "Thinking Africa anew" conference, once again organised jointly with many organisations based in and around Frankfurt. This year's conference dealt with the theme "Images, power, interests". Essentially it was about analysing the common images of Africa portrayed in the media and by development organisations, illuminating the interests behind these images and presenting alternative images and stories about Africa. More than 120 people took part in the conference.

2.10 Official visit in Southern Africa

KASA's official visit to the region took the team to Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Highlights of the trip were the visit to Otjivero in Namibia on the day the BIG payments were resumed, a visit to farm workers in the Western Cape in South Africa as well as the participation in the hearings of the Farlam Commission in Pretoria, and a trip to the diamond mining region in Zimbabwe with the coordinator of the Chiadzwa Community Development Trust. As in previous years, this trip also showed how important it is for KASA's work to maintain direct contacts to partner organisations. Through these contacts, which arise from KASA's visits to Southern Africa, KASA gains an impression of the current situation in its priority countries at first hand – not just from media reports – and usually from grassroots groups and social movements themselves. At the same time discussions with representatives of NGOs and

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The widows of Marikana receive the German edition of their stories at a meeting with Khulumani Support Group



A community close to diamond fields in Zimbabwe in discussion with the KASA team

political analysts on the ground are crucial for understanding what we have observed and for translating the issues and processes into the German context. It is from these close relationships that KASA derives its mandate for the priority themes on which it works and the analyses it advocates. The fact that these themes have largely remained the same indicates that there is much that is still *unfinished business*.

2.11. Zimbabwe

2.11.1 Zimbabwe Europe Network ZEN

KASA continues to be a member of ZEN (Zimbabwe Europe Network). ZEN organised an experts meeting in Brussels on the fringes of the EU-Africa summit, at which representatives of the European Commission, members of the European parliament, members of ZEN and representatives of Zimbabwean civil society came together to discuss the potential resumption of structural cooperation between the EU and Zimbabwe. The same issue was taken up at the ZEN conference in December in Brussels. By coincidence this conference took place at a time when all the “moderate” ministers who up to then had tried to make contact with the EU had to leave the government due to disputes within the party, so that there was considerable consternation on the EU side about how to proceed with efforts to normalise relations with Zimbabwe.

2.11.2 Zimbabwe conference “Political and economic prospects in Zimbabwe under the ZANU/PF autocratic government”

In collaboration with the Zimbabwe Network and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, KASA organised a two-day international conference in April in Bonn, which was very well attended by some 50 participants. The conference theme was the altered political and economic situation in Zimbabwe after the elections of 2013 and the resulting medium-term options for action. Speakers included Prof. Brian Raftopoulos, research director at Solidarity Peace Trust/South Africa and Timothy Kondo, programme coordinator of ANSA (Alternatives to Neoliberalism in Southern Africa), a longstanding partner of KASA. The conference was especially exciting due to the participation of several members of ZEN both from Zimbabwe and from London, who brought a very broad perspective to the debate.

3. Evaluation

3. Evaluation

After an interval of eight years KASA has once again been evaluated by Misereor and Bread for the World.

The evaluation examined KASA's objectives and the work associated with them as well as the organisation's sponsorship structure. Additionally, it was intended to provide an opportunity for dialogue between the sponsors and partners of KASA and to enable a formation of views about future priority work areas.

The evaluation stated that KASA enjoys considerable recognition from its diverse partners and target groups for the work it does. The two team members are invited as speakers by many very different organisations. They have succeeded in strengthening perceptions of KASA as an organisation both in Germany and in Southern Africa and establishing it as an important actor in matters related to Southern Africa. In its development awareness work, KASA has managed to convey current issues as well as the voices of its partners and their concerns to a broader public. Many who work for development and mission agencies use the information provided by KASA, indicating that KASA is highly effective among those who either make or prepare the way for decisions regarding cooperation with Southern Africa or who do educational work on the topic and disseminate the information. In its work in Southern Africa, one important effect of KASA's work is to put organisations in contact with one another which would otherwise not meet or know about one another. KASA's partners in Southern Africa expressed clearly that they greatly appreciate their communication with KASA as an organisation that does not fund them but which works with them on particular issues, as well as the opportunity to network and the opportunity to convey their view of various issues to people in Europe.

Of the three pillars of advocacy – lobbying, campaigning and development awareness raising – KASA has, in terms of its overall orientation, chosen to concentrate on educational work. This orientation appears justified because Southern Africa is not particularly suited at present to be the subject of campaigning and because there are no major overarching themes and issues on which to focus lobby work in Germany that might be able to achieve fundamental change.

4. Outlook

4. Outlook

In 2015 KASA seeks to place the focus of its work on the farm workers in Southern Africa. After the land reform in Zimbabwe, 20 years of democracy in South Africa and 25 years of independence in Namibia, their situation is worthy of greater attention because they belong to the "forgotten" of the transformation processes in Southern Africa to date. For KASA addressing their situation is a way of being reminded of its roots – one year before the 20th anniversary of its founding.

The Marikana exhibition and the exhibition of photographs which KASA is bringing to Germany from PACSA in Pietermaritzburg with the help of Bread for the World will serve to place South Africa again at the centre of KASA's work in 2015.

KASA will continue its successful cooperation with the Zimbabwe Network and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in 2015 by co-staging another conference, this time on the issue of land.



Wisdom is like a baobab tree,
no one individual can embrace it.

Proverb from West Africa