

FORMAL AND INFORMAL COMMUNITY STRUCTURES  
IN THE COMUNA OF NGOLA KILUANJE

A Preliminary Study

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND DICTIONARY

ACTIVISTA SOCIAL DE SAUDE	health volunteer
ASSEMBLEIA DE TRABALHADORES	Workers' Assembly
ASSOCIACAO DOS PROFESSORS ANGOLANOS	Angolan Teachers' Association (APA)
ASSUNTOS SANITARIOS	sanitary affairs
BRIGADISTA	local BPV member
BPV	Brigadas Populares de Vigilancia (Popular Vigilance Brigades)
CICLO DE INTERESSE	Interest Circle
COLABORADOR	volunteer teacher
COMISSAO DE MORADORES	Residents' Committee
COMISSAO DE PAIS	Parents' Committee
COMISSAO SINDICAL	Workers' Committee
COMISSARIADO	commissioner's office
COMISSARIO COMUNAL	Commune Commissioner
COMITE	committee
COORDENADOR	coordinator
COORDENADOR ADJUNTO	deputy coordinator
DIRECCAO	management
ESCOLA	school
GABINETE	office or cabinet

GARM	Gabinete de Renovacao e Reabilitacao dos Musseques (Office for the Renovation and Rehabilitation of Musseques; now absorbed into the comissariado provincial de Luanda)
GRUPO DESPORTIVO	Sporting Group
INTERMEDIO	intermediate
JMPLA	Juventude de MPLA (Youth of MPLA)
KZ	Angolan monetary unit (60 kwanzas = USD 1.00)
M	meter (unit of measure)
MUSSEQUE	peri-urban area usually without basic urban services, and other without legal tenure
ODP	Organizacao da Defesa Popular
OMA	Organizacao de Mulher Angolana (Angolan Women's Organization)
OPA	Organizacao dos Pioneiros de Agostinho Neto
PROFESSOR EFECTIVO	fully qualified teacher
QUARTEIRAO	block (administrative area)
RESPONSAVEL	responsible
SAUDE	health
UNTA	Uniao Nacional dos Trabalhadores Angolanos (National Union of Angolan Workers)
VIGILANTE	vigilante
ZONA	zone

## 1.0 COMUNA OF NGOLA KILUANJE

### 1.1 Administrative Divisions

#### 1.1.1 Municipalities and Comunas

The municipality of Sambizanga is divided administratively into comunas, one of which is Ngola Kiluanje, also referred to as Zona 16.

#### 1.1.2 Sectors

Each comuna is divided into sectors. According to the comissario comunal of Ngola Kiluanje, as of September 1990 there were ten sectors in this comuna:

1. San Jose
2. Farrol das Lagostos
3. Mulemba
4. Madame
5. Central
6. Markone
7. Ossos
8. Vale Saroca
9. San Pedro da Barra
10. Porto Pesqueiro

Normally the number of houses in a sector varies between 150 and 900.

#### 1.1.3 Quarteiroes (Blocks)

Each sector is divided into quarteiroes (blocks), each of which may have about 100-300 households (families). Normally a sector has between 10-15 quarteiroes, although the number can also vary greatly. For example, Ossos, which is located mainly on top of the escarpment, has only one quarteirao with just over 200 houses. Vale Saroca is divided into over 18 quarteiroes, some of which are relatively recently formed. Quarteirao 38, which is part of Vale Saroco, had 450 houses, already constructed, as of November 1989.

### 1.2 Leadership Positions

#### 1.2.1 Comissario Comunal

Each comuna has a comissario comunal, which is an appointed position.

### 1.2.2 Coordenadores de Sectors

Each sector has a coordenador, which is an elected position. The coordenadores of the sectors work under the jurisdiction of the gabinete (cabinet) of the comissario comunal of Ngola Kiluanje.

### 1.2.3 Coordenadores de Quarteiroes

The coordenador of the quarteirao is an elected position. It is the responsibility of this person to know each house in his / her quarteirao, to know visitors in the area, and to work jointly with other local structures.

There are usually regular meetings held in each quarteirao. For example, quarteirao 38 in the sector of Vale Saroca holds monthly meetings. When there are many people wanting to attend, meetings are held in the large secondary school on top of the escarpment.

Sometimes at these meetings, residents present their priorities for improving their community. For example, in 1989 (?), about 140 residents of quarteiroes 181 and 181A (sector of Vale Saroco and/or Ossos) asked for electricity to be provided to the community. They made this request to the relevant Angolan structures; it is not yet known what the response has been to this request.

The coordenador of each sector meets regularly with the coordenadores of the quarteiroes. In Vale Saroco, for example, these meetings happen every 15 days.

## 1.3 Comissao de Moradores

Generally one sector is equivalent to one Comissao de Moradores (Residents' Committee; also called Assembleia de Moradores).

### 1.3.1 Structure

The Comissao de Moradores consists of six elected positions, who meet monthly with the coordenador of the sector. To work with the Comissao de Moradores is voluntary; there are no paid salaries. The six positions and their respective responsibilities are as follows:

- coordenador: makes monthly reports to the comissario comunal and also helps residents with such things as getting guias de marche (internal travelling documents) to visit other regions (e.g., a resident may pay kz 50 -

- required for a guia - to the coordenador de comissao, who turns these funds over to the comissario comunal).
- coordenador adjunto
  - vigilante: knows what the situation is which exists in the area, e.g., who has died, who has been born, who has entered the bairro but does not live there, etc.
  - propaganda: mobilizes the community for clean-up days, festivals, and meetings
  - saude (health)
  - information: works with the vigilante to solve problems, e.g., deaths, etc. Tries to resolve problems through meetings between the residents and the coordenador.

The positions of vigilante, propaganda, health, and information make biweekly reports to the coordenador.

### 1.3.2 Comissao de Moradores de Vale Saroca: An Example

Members of the Comissao de Moradores are the coordenadores of the quarteiroes in the sector of Vale Saroca. Other community members can also participate, if they want.

#### 1.3.2.1 Local Clean-up Campaigns

The Comissao de Moradores works mainly with the BPV (Brigadas Populares de Vigilancia) and OMA (Organizacao de Mulher Angolana), and somewhat with ODP (Organizacao da Defesa Popular), to mobilize residents to participate in public clean-up campaigns. Mobilization is done by going from house to house.

In a July 1989 discussion with a member of the GARM building brigade, it was mentioned that there are local clean-up campaigns held in the sector of Vale Saroca about every two weeks, usually on Sundays or holidays, although often they occur only on the first Sunday of each month.

No cleaning materials are provided for local clean-up campaigns; each person uses his / her own materials (e.g., brooms, sacks, large containers, and so forth). Garbage is usually burned (with oil), as there is no where else to put it.

If someone does not participate in the local clean-up campaign, people may go to talk with him / her. The building brigade member said that there are many residents who do not participate in clean-up campaigns, and who instead do such things as putting garbage in areas which have just been cleaned up. When these kinds of problems appear, representatives of the Comissao de Moradores (or others) go to speak with the person who has done this.

### 1.3.2.2 General Clean-up Campaigns

There are also general clean-up campaigns on days such as the 1st May (May Day) or 14th April (Hoji ya Henda Day), during which people paint, cut trees, make gardens, etc. All local members of the BPV, OMA, and ODP have an obligation and responsibility to participate in general clean-up campaigns. Materials for such campaigns are often provided by the comissario comunal.

### 1.3.2.3 Problems and Potential Solutions

There are many residents who do not participate in clean-up campaigns, in spite of efforts made through local structures to mobilize the population. In addition, no cleaning materials are provided for local clean-up campaigns, which also demobilizes people who do not themselves have many cleaning supplies on hand.

The building brigade member said that to improve local clean-up campaigns, the following is needed:

- to carry out educational programs, especially for women, on hygiene and sanitation
- cleaning materials
- transport
- garbage containers located nearby, and which are regularly emptied

It was also noted that for controlling garbage, it might be a good idea to make a large hole, 1.5 m deep, into which garbage could be put, and then covered with dirt. These holes could perhaps be made and maintained on a family basis.

## 2.0 BRIGADAS POPULARES DE VIGILANCIA (BPV)

### 2.1 Structure

Each administrative division - provincial, municipal, comuna, sector, and quarteirao - has a corresponding BPV structure - Comitê Municipal de BPV, Comitê Comunal de BPV, Comitê Intermedio de BPV (sector level), and Comitê de BPV de Base (quarteirao level).

At both the sector and quarteirao levels, the Comitê Intermedio de BPV and the Comitê de BPV de Base consist of the following six elected positions:

- primeiro secretario (coordenador)
- segundo secretario (organizador)
- terceiro secretario (vigilante)
- ideologico
- patriotico militar
- saude

Each quarteirao may have between 10 to 30 brigadistas (local BPV members). When individuals want to join the local BPV groups, the local quarteirao leadership gives the names, photos, etc. of BPV members to the Direccao de Comitê Intermedio de BPV of the sector, to get membership cards.

Meetings at both sector and quarteirao level are generally held on a monthly basis. The line of communication from the bottom up - for matters relating to or involving the BPV - is: Comissao de Moradores to the quarteirao Comitê de BPV de Base, to the Direccao of the sector Comitê Intermedio de BPV, and then to the Comites Comunal and Municipal de BPV.

### 2.2 Tasks

The two main tasks of the BPV are:

1. To mobilize and organize the population for participation in activities such as vaccination campaigns, voluntary work efforts, public meetings, etc. An example of a voluntary work effort is that on some Sundays, there are clean-up campaigns coordinated by the sector responsavel para Assuntos Sanitarios.
2. To protect the population.

### 2.3 Comitê Intermedio de BPV of Central Sector: An Example

Although Central sector has only ten quarteiraoes, as of September 1990 there were twelve BPVs de Base with 125 brigadistas. The ages of these brigadistas range between

16 and 50 years old, and only one-quarter are women.

The office building of the Comit  Intermedio de BPV of Central Sector was inaugurated on 18 March 1988.

### 2.3.1 Vaccination Campaigns

On 5 May 1989, a vaccination campaign began in Ngola Kiluanje in which the BPV helped to mobilize the population. Each Comit  Intermedio de Base at the sector level divided up their area among those BPVs de Base (and those brigadistas) who wanted to participate.

Using vaccination forms provided by the Health Centre, brigadistas visited households and explained the campaign. Generally each brigadista was responsible for 25 households. The brigadista explained to the family how the form was to be used, and each week provided a list to the health centre of who had received the forms. If at the end of a week the health centre still had no record that the child had been vaccinated, the brigadista returned to the household urging that parents comply with the campaign. In some instances, brigadistas returned for a second or third time to the same household.

### 2.3.2 Clean-up Campaigns

An example of voluntary work is a clean-up campaign. Generally the community is informed of such campaigns through public notices displaced through the sector by the sector BPV member responsible for health. There is also cooperation between the BPVs and the Comissoes de Moradores to mobilize residents for clean-up campaigns. And on the day of the campaign itself, brigadistas go house-to-house asking people to participate.

Members of the Comit  Intermedio de BPV of Central sector say that generally more women than men participate in voluntary campaigns. The main reason is that men usually go out from the household for both work and social events, and the women are more often at home. Thus they are more accessible for mobilizing. There are also many children and youth - between the ages of 11 and 16 years old - who participate in voluntary work efforts.

For clean-up campaigns, residents use their own materials and supplies, e.g., brooms, shovels, machetes, hoes, etc. During a September 1990 meeting with representatives of the Comit  Intermedio de BPV of Central Sector, it was noted that if the BPV structures themselves had a supply of cleaning materials on hand, it would facilitate their mobilization efforts.

### 2.3.3 Educational and Sports Activities

The Comité Intermedio de BPV of Central sector has also helped mobilize some educational programmes for primary schoolchildren (see Section 4.2.3.2 for details). There is also a Grupo Desportivo (Sporting Group) which began in 1989 for football; the BPV has plans to form other such groups in the sector.

### 2.4 Problems

BPV representatives say that there is often little community participation in such initiatives as clean-up campaigns. A number of reasons are cited: some residents are simply not interested in collective work efforts and / or have a low level of consciousness about such work; others have not been informed; and still others are treating their own personal problems and do not have the time for voluntary work campaigns. The consequence of this is that those who want to work, as well as those who want to help stimulate others to work, are themselves demobilized and demoralized.

### 3.0 PETRANGOL HEALTH CENTRE

#### 3.1 State and Private Health Facilities in Ngola Kiluanje

The Petrangol Health Centre is the only state health centre in the comuna of Ngola Kiluanje. As such, it serves a population of roughly 60,000 people. The comuna also has one state health post which is located in the sector of Sao Pedro da Barra. There are also a number of private health facilities located throughout the comuna - e.g., as of June 1988, there were two private health posts located on top of the escarpment - although specific information was not obtained on any of these.

#### 3.2 Use of the Petrangol Health Centre

Public use of the Petrangol Health Centre is high. For the month of March 1990, for instance, 423 people were provided basic treatment and remedies at the Centre, 447 needed pediatric care, and 476 needed obstetrical care, among others. This is outside those who come to the centre for vaccinations and other health campaigns. Concerning these latter activities, the director of the Health Centre estimates that between 15 and 20 newborns come daily to start their childhood vaccinations. Since April 1989, when a major childhood vaccination programme began in the comuna, the Health Centre reports that many of the younger children who come to the Centre to be treated for other diseases, come with their respective vaccination cards completely filled out. That this programme has been successful is shown by the fact that the Health Centre now reports fewer cases of measles in the area than previously existed.

#### 3.3 Activistas Sociais de Saude (Health Volunteers)

Personnel from the Health Centre itself do not enter the community. This work of community outreach is instead carried out by volunteer activistas sociais de saude, who come from the local community. The work of these health volunteers is to mobilize the community for such activities as vaccination campaigns, or to go for health consultations at the Centre when needed, etc.

##### 3.3.1 Recruitment

Health volunteers are recruited from the different local structures at the community level: the BPVs of the quarteiroes, the Comissoes de Moradores, OMA at the comuna level, or from the different religious groups in the community (most of the churches in Ngola Kiluanje are evangelical).

When the Health Centre decides to organize a group of health volunteers at the sector level, it first speaks with the comissario comunal of Ngola Kiluanje. The comissario comunal then writes a letter to sector responsaveis of the BPV, OMA, the Comissao de Moradores, and whatever churches are active in the area, asking them to attend a meeting with Health Centre personnel. Staff from the Health Centre hold the meeting at a convenient location in the sector itself; the comissario comunal also attends this meeting. The Health Centre explains its programme of health volunteers, and asks the different local structures to identify and mobilize volunteers from within their respective organizations.

### 3.3.2 Training and Follow-up

Before beginning their work in the community, health volunteers receive some preliminary training provided by the Health Centre itself. This consists of a short seminar including two days of practical demonstrations within the community itself. Health volunteers also receive some basic documentation and working materials.

Once health volunteers begin working in the community, two times per month they continue to meet with staff at the Health Centre, to discuss problems they may have encountered in their work and to think through solutions. These meetings usually occur in the large primary school (Escola 156) located up the street from the Health Centre.

### 3.3.3 Tasks and Methodology

When health volunteers first begin their work in the community, they make individual house visits, introducing themselves and explaining their work. For example, they may provide an orientation to mothers as to why and how often their children must be vaccinated.

Health volunteers have filing cards they give to households they visit, explaining how it is to be filled out, and that when the mother or father goes to the Health Centre - for instance, to get their child vaccinated - they must present the card at the Centre. This facilitates control by the Centre, and also ensures that the health volunteer knows if the house he/she has visited has indeed gone to the Health Centre. If the particular child, for instance, has not been vaccinated within a reasonable period of time, the health volunteer returns a second, third, or even a fourth time to the household to ensure there is follow-up.

Health volunteers are not expected to explain more complex health issues to the community; instead, lectures and talks are held at the Centre itself where either the director or

nurses treat subjects such as cholera, diarrhea, details of vaccinations, pregnancies, and the more common diseases.

Health volunteers are also not involved in helping mobilize the community for activities such as clean-up campaigns, even though there is an obvious relationship of such a campaign to health concerns.

At the sector level, each health volunteer is responsible for one or more quarteiroes, depending on how many health volunteers are active in each sector. Overseeing the health volunteers in each sector is a sector coordinator.

### 3.3.4 Distribution of Health Volunteers

Formerly there were 63 health volunteers connected with the Petrangol Health Centre; as of September 1990, there were only 25, of whom 23 are men and two are women. Initially there were more women working as health volunteers, but many were unable to do the work as they could not write; the work of the volunteers requires reading and writing, and for women in Angola, illiteracy rates are still higher than for men. Of the two women health volunteers, one is the coordenadora of OMA at the comunal level, and the other is a regular OMA member)

Each health volunteer works in the area from where he / she comes. As of September 1990, there were health volunteers working in four sectors in Ngola Kiluanje:

- Central: 8 health volunteers, of whom one is a woman
- San Jose: 5 health volunteers
- Vale Saroca: because this Sector is very large, the Health Centre has divided it into two sub-Sectors, one called Vale Saroca £1 and the other Vale Saroca £2; the latter area is actually that part of the Sector known locally as Ossos. Vale Saroca £1 has three health volunteers and Vale Saroca £2 has five.
- Sao Pedro da Barra: 4 health volunteers, of whom one is a woman
- Farrol das Lagostoa: the first health volunteers were identified in early September 1990; they will probably begin working at the end of the month.

For Farrol das Lagostos, on 30 September 1990, the Health Centre met for the first time with the comissario comunal to discuss calling a meeting in the sector. On 7 September 1990, the Health Centre held a short training seminar for health volunteers identified in the sector.

### 3.3.5 Problems

One of problems faced by the health volunteers is that their time for health work is limited and unpredictable. Many of these volunteers have other work commitments which must take precedence in terms of allocation of time.

Another problem has been the general lack of materials with which the health volunteers, and the Health Centre itself, can carry out their community education / mobilization programmes. For instance, the Health Centre Director has said that flannelgraphs could provide an ideal tool for educational demonstrations, but the Health Centre does not have this resource.

A third problem is that there is now less work for the health volunteers to do than existed previously. This problem, however, has an important positive side, as one reason there is less work is because the Ngola Kiluanje community as a whole has become more sensibilized and aware - partly as a result of the work of the health volunteers - to programmes such as vaccination campaigns.

The Health Centre Director emphasized the importance of maintaining high morale among the health volunteers, and the feeling that their work is a positive contribution to the betterment of the community. The Director mentioned that an important stimulant received by the health volunteers was the monthly allotment of food (maize, wheat, beans, oil, and sugar) provided by the Food for Work programme of the Canadian Food Grains Bank. But the last time health volunteers received food was on 2 May 1990. The Director would like to see this programme recontinued.

In conclusion, the Petrangol Health Centre Director said that the methodology they use to recruit, train, and use health volunteers is one that is giving good results, and that they plan to continue with the same methodology. They are concerned, however, that the Food for Work programme be reinstated, as this has helped animate the health volunteers.

## 4.0 EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND STRUCTURES

### 4.1 Schools in Ngola Kiluanje

#### 4.1.1 State Primary and Secondary Schools

There are six state primary schools and one state secondary school in the comuna of Ngola Kiluanje. These schools are located in the following sectors:

- Mulemba: Primary School No. 1
- Sao Pedro da Barra: Primary School No. 125
- Central: Primary School No. 151, Primary School No. 156 and its three satellites (156A, 156B and 156C); and Primary School 157. This latter school will soon be passing to Kazanga Municipality.
- Ngwanya (an area in the sector of Vale Saroca): Primary School No. 293
- Ossos: the comuna's only secondary school, built between 1985-86, is located here

#### 4.1.2 Private Schools

There are also private primary schools located in the comuna, although information on how many such schools exist and where they are located was not obtained during the present study.

In June 1988, however, an informal walkaround carried out by Development Workshop in part of the Vale Saroca - Ossos area showed that this area alone has three private primary schools. Fees for these schools range between kz 500-1,000 per child per month. Some private schools give the same exams as the state schools, but some give only classes. Some are held in the open air, without furniture, electricity, water, or latrines.

Of the three private schools visited, one is located in a church, with classes - including classes in French and English - held outside. A second private school is held in a private house, in a room measuring 5 m x 5 m, without roof, window, door, or equipment. Two teaching shifts are held - with 40 children in the morning shift and 25 in the afternoon - with two teachers. The third private school is held in the courtyard of a private house, in the open air, and again without equipment. The teacher of this school also teaches in the first private school mentioned above.

#### 4.1.3 School Administration

At the municipal level, the administrations of each (state) school meet together once each month. These

meetings provide an opportunity to talk about common problems, such as the best pedagogical methods, or how to better mobilize the parents of schoolchildren to participate in various activities.

#### 4.2 Escola No. 156

Although it was not possible to visit all schools in Ngola Kiluanje, Escola No. 156 provides an insight into how the schools function, what kinds of community outreach programmes they are trying to implement, and some of the problems encountered in realizing these programmes.

As of September 1990, Primary School No. 156 and its three satellites had 3,000 primary school students at the first level, i.e., class I - IV. There were also 60 staff, including teachers and support staff. All teachers are fully qualified (professores efetivos), and there are no volunteer teachers (colaboradores, i.e., those who have not received, or completed, their training to be fully qualified teachers). According to the Director of Escola No. 156, most of the teachers at the school are from the comuna of Ngola Kiluanje. Escola 156 has three sessions each day, to accommodate the many schoolchildren who attend classes. In the first class, students begin learning Portuguese, math, sciences, and physical education. In the fourth class, they begin history and geography. This programme is typical of all primary schools in Luanda.

##### 4.2.1 Comissao de Pais

Escola No. 156 has a Comissao de Pais (Parent's Committee), which in theory is intended to provide a vehicle through which the parents of schoolchildren can be involved in school activities. Such activities include clean-up campaigns inside the school and around the school building.

Each year, the school authorities at Escola No. 156 send written invitations - handcarried by the schoolchildren - to the parents inviting them to become involved in the Parent's Committee. At Escola 156, however, there has been little response from the parents. In spite of the efforts made by the school to mobilize them, parents rarely come to meetings; they say they are too busy, and that they have no time outside of their normal working hours to attend meetings. Escola 156 has even tried calling Parent's Committee meetings on Saturday afternoons, to avoid any conflict with normal working hours, but still there is a reluctance of parent's to participate.

Escola No. 156 has also considered trying to mobilize parental participation by initially making house-to-house visits - as there is simply not enough staff to cover all the households of the students. There has also been little success in trying

to mobilize parents through the Comissoes de Moradores, as the latter does not link with the schools.

In addition, both the Director and Deputy Director of Escola No. 156 say that outside of wanting to know final exam results at the end of the year, it is rare to find parents who are interested in accompanying their children's studies. For instance, there are some days during the school year when the parents can come to speak with the teachers about the progress of the children's studies. Even on these days, however, few come.

Responsaveis at Escola 156 say that the problems encountered at Escola 156, of trying to encourage parent's interest in their children's education, are problems encountered at other schools as well.

#### 4.2.2 Workers' Organizations

There are a number of organizations representing staff and teachers at the primary and secondary school levels. Although these organizations do not directly link with the community at large, it is still useful to have a brief overview of what structures exist.

##### 4.2.2.1 Assembleia de Trabalhadores

Once a month all the teachers at the school meet with the school administration. This meeting is called the Assembleia de Trabalhadores (Workers' Assembly).

##### 4.2.2.2 Comissao Sindical

The Comissao Sindical (Worker's Committee) represents all workers at the school regardless of job. This structure is linked with the Uniao Nacional dos Trabalhadores Angolanos (UNTA, the National Union of Angolan Workers). At Escola No. 156, the Comissao Sindical meets monthly, and deals with working conditions and workers' problems. The five members of the Comissao Sindical - consisting of first and second secretary, organizer, financier, and a substitute - are elected by the workers at the school.

##### 4.2.2.3 Associacao dos Professores Angolanos

All teachers are members of the Associacao dos Professores Angolanos (APA, the Angolan Teachers' Association). APA has some similarities to the Comissao Sindical, in that it is mainly concerned with defending the

interests of teachers. At Escola No. 156, APA meets once each month. As of September 1990, however, APA was reported to be inactive at Escola No. 156, although there are plans to reconstitute the group in the near future.

#### 4.2.3 Youth and Children's Organizations

##### 4.2.3.1 JMPLA (Youth of the Party)

At Escola No. 156, there is a nucleus of youth of the party. This group meets once a month. Members of JMPLA are between 15 and 34 years old.

##### 4.2.3.2 Organizacao dos Pioneiros de Agostinho Neto (OPA)

All the younger students at Escola No. 156 are members of OPA, the Pioneers Organization, which is open to children between 6 and 14 years of age.

There is an OPA Secretariat at the school, which has a variety of activities for the schoolchildren. These activities include visits to different enterprises, or participation in cleaning campaigns in the neighbourhood, or cleaning up the school grounds, dance groups, recreational activities, football games, and so forth.

The OPA Secretariat at Escola No. 156 has one unusual programme which has been coordinated with the Cuban military unit located in the same sector (i.e., Central) as Escola No. 156. Three days each week, those children who know how to read and write - i.e., generally the third and fourth class, which includes children between the ages of 10 and 16 years old - go to the military unit where the Cubans provide practical "hands-on" programmes in mechanics, electricity, basic health care, driving, logistics, and so forth.

The children's programmes at the Cuban unit - locally known as Ciclos de Interesse (Interest Circles) - began in early 1989 when the Comite Intermedio de BPV of Central sector asked the Cubans for help with educating the schoolchildren. At the end of the school year, those students who have participated in these programmes hold competitions with other groups at the provincial level.

### 4.3 Community School Initiatives: Some Examples

#### 4.3.1 Secondary School (Sector of Ossos)

In 1985-86, when the comuna's only secondary school was built in the sector of Ossos, some of the necessary funds for construction were raised within the community itself. The sector coordenador, the coordenador of quarteirao 38, and a third person carried out the collection. The first time they went around the community, many residents were not at home, and thus there were few contributions. The second time they returned to ask, many contributed. Generally, each gave kz 1,000. (The sector coordenador has a list of all the residents who contributed to this undertaking.)

During the June 1988 informal walkaround carried out by Development Workshop in part of the Vale Saroca - Ossos area, one of the teachers at the secondary school teachers said that the parents of students wanted to provide two roofless classrooms at the school with roofs. Towards this end, the parents provided kwanzas, blocks, and cement. As of June 1988, the roofing sheets and wood were in hand. This study did not find out what became of this initiative, but for more information, the deputy director of the school should be contacted.

#### 4.3.2 Primary School (Sector of Vale Saroca)

During discussions held in July and November 1989 with the coordenador and BPV members of quarteirao 38 - which is located partly in the sector of Vale Saroca and partly in Ngwanya - the main problems identified for this community, in order of priority, were: (1) the lack of a health post; (2) the lack of water; and (3) a serious shortage of primary schools.

##### 4.3.2.1 The Proposed Site

In October / November 1988, residents of quarteirao 38 - and of the sector in general - decided they wanted to build a primary school which would serve the entire sector of Vale Saroca. Initially, the community presented this idea to the Direccao of the Comite Intermedio de BPV of the sector.

The site selected by the community for a school is a large open space (about 80 m x 100 m), on the north edge of quarteirao 38, which can accommodate not only a new school, but also a health post. In December 1988, the community received a provisorio, which is a temporary order reserving the proposed site for the school for a period of 90 days. (After this period, the community must apply for a new provisorio.) The coordenador of the quarteirao also says that the comis-

sario comunal knows about this initiative, and is also helping ensure that the space is reserved.

#### 4.3.2.2 What the Community can Contribute

The community says they can construct the school themselves; they have enough workers locally available. (For example, eight workers can make 4,000 blocks in eight days.)

The coordenador of quarteirao 38 explained that it would be the responsibility of the coordenador of the sector of Vale Saroca to organize the work, including forming a local construction group once building materials arrived. The coordenador is said to have a list of all residents who are willing to help.

Another thing the community can contribute is to raise the necessary funds to purchase building materials (at official prices).

#### 4.3.2.3 What the Community Lacks

The coordenador and BPV members of quarteirao 38 explained that what the community lacks to carry out this initiative are the necessary building materials, in particular cement (for blocks), zinc roofing sheets, and sand. These must be provided from outside the community, although there are apparently areas within the community where these building materials can be stored. (The coordenador of Vale Saroca has a list of all necessary building materials for the school.)

When the primary school initiative began, some of the residents in quarteirao 38 said they were ready to contribute five blocks each towards construction of the school.

Water is a problem locally - both for daily household use as well as for construction. The quarteirao coordenador said residents could probably be organized to contribute some kwanzas for the purchase of water, or maybe each household could even contribute a little water towards construction.

The community also needs technical assistance to make a school plan.

#### 4.3.2.4 Current Status of this Initiative

As of November 1989, there had not yet been an official go-ahead from the comissariado to begin implementing the primary school initiative.

The coordenador of the quarteirao also said that, to date, no community collection of funds had yet been carried out to build a new primary school for the sector of Vale Saroco. The coordenador is confident, however, that residents would contribute if asked.

#### 4.3.2.5 What is To Be Done

To take this initiative further, the coordenador of quarteirao 38 said it is important to speak with all the quarteiroes coordenadores of Vale Saroco. He says these individuals can be called to a meeting by the coordenador of the sector. This would provide an opportunity to assess exactly what has been done, what energies are available at the community level to re-dynamize the primary school initiative, and what external assistance would be necessary to carry out the project.

#### 4.4 Problems

As mentioned above in Section 4.2.1, one serious problem faced by the schools is the difficulty of mobilizing participation by the parents of schoolchildren. According to the Director of the school, it is hard to mobilize the parents even through the children themselves, for instance, by presenting school dramas - in which the children act - on such themes as sanitary or basic community health education. Instead, the students must themselves be educated in the classroom.

The Director of Escola No. 156 suggested that perhaps the school should use more drastic methods of getting the parents involved. For instance, the children of parents who do not participate in school activities should perhaps be kept out of the school, until the parents realize they must be involved in their child's education.

Another problem, as indicated in Section 4.3, is that when there is an interest at the community level to participate in improving educational facilities, there is often a lack of adequate response from state structures to provide the necessary support for realizing stated community objectives. This also contributes to a climate of general demobilization and demoralization of the community at large.

## 5.0 PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

### 5.1 Summary of General Problems

With few exceptions, both formal and informal structures within the comuna of Ngola Kiluanje have problems mobilizing the local population for participation in community initiatives. These problems are briefly summarized below:

1. In spite of the efforts made by local structures such as the Comissoes de Moradores, BPV, the schools, etc., to mobilize the population, many residents do not participate in such activities as neighbourhood clean-up campaigns, or in Parents' Committees at the schools, etc. Reasons given include:

- people are too busy with other activities and do not have time outside of their normal working hours to attend meetings;
- residents are not interested in collective work efforts and / or have a low level of consciousness about such work;
- residents have not been informed about the work to be done;
- people are treating their own personal problems and do not have the time for voluntary work campaigns;
- there is not enough staff to make house-to-house visits to try to mobilize parental participation in school activities;
- there has been little success in trying to mobilize parents through the Comissoes de Moradores, as the latter does not link with the schools.

The consequence of the above is that those who want to work, as well as those who want to help stimulate others to work, are themselves demobilized and demoralized.

2. There is a general lack of materials with which to carry out different community-based programmes. For example, cleaning materials are not provided by local structures for local clean-up campaigns, which also demobilizes people who do not themselves have many cleaning supplies on hand. As well, there is a general lack of educational materials with which the health volunteers, and the Petrangol Health Centre itself, can carry out their community education / mobilization programmes.

3. One of the more successful initiatives in mobilizing community participation in programmes such as vaccination campaigns has been the sector-based health volunteers connected with the Petrangol Health Centre. One problem, however, is that due to other work commitments, health volunteers have only limited and unpredictable time to work with the health centre.

4. Initially more women wanted to work as health volunteers with the Petrangol Health Centre community outreach programme, but many found they were unable to do the work as they could not write; the work of the volunteers requires reading and writing, and for women in Angola, illiteracy rates are still higher than for men.

5. When there is an interest at the community level to try to improve their situation - such as the efforts made by Vale Saroca residents to construct another primary school - there is often a lack of support from state structures to help the community carry out its initiative. This leads to a further demoralization and demobilization of the community at large.

## 5.2 Preliminary Observations

In spite of the problems faced by formal and informal structures in mobilizing community participation, it is important to work with these structures, as they are most immediately and directly involved with the local population. It is also important to understand the informal linkages and cooperation that exist between such groups as the BPVs de Base, the Comissoes de Moradores, etc., in carrying out certain community-based activities.

The main observation which comes out of this preliminary study is the following: to help enhance the capacity of formal and informal structures to mobilize the population, locally identified community initiatives must be supported. Although identifying such community initiatives has not been one of the objectives of this study, it is worth briefly describing the several which have been mentioned by different representatives in Ngola Kiluanjex