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REPORT

SOMAFCO RESEARCH PROJECT

First Advisory Committee meeting, 14th November 1993

Present : Mohammed Tikly (Convener)

Henry Makgoti

Sindiso Mfenyane

Pethu Serote

John Pampallis

Mojake Thulo

Barney Mogane

_Mohammed Jhatham

Thami Mali

Pule Tsatsi

Barbara Watson

Norman Levy

. Alpheus Mangezi

Douglas Ramaphosa

Apologies : Don Ngakane

Lindelwa Mabandla

Linda Chisholm

Harold Wolpe

Introduction

1.1. Participants were welcomed by Henry Makgoti who stressed the importance of preserving the history of Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College (SOMAFCO) and its role in the history of the struggle against apartheid.

1.2. Mohammed Tikly informed that Batlagae -Trust has been entrusted by ANC's Education Department to co-ordinate the . Archives Project which comprises of two components '

a) Return to S.A. of the

Archives

b) The Somafo research and documentation project aimed at evaluating the ANC's external efforts in the field of ducation, specifically the institutions set up in Tanzania at Mazimbu & Dakawa (hereafter simply referred to as Somafo).

external ANC Educational

1.3. The Archives from Tanzania were brought to S.A. last September and an archivist is in the process of setting these up at the University of Fort Hare. Unfortunately the educational archives at the ANC's external headquarters in Lusaka were destroyed before an attempt at retrieval could be made.

1.4. Mohammed Tikly a

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Batlagae f

ppealed to Advisory Committee members to

y relevant material they may possess--- to

or onward transmission to the University of

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Fort Hare.

The Advisory Committee was set up by Batlagae ,after consultation with the ANC's Department of Education. Its task is to deliberate on the setting up of the Somafo Research Project, its scope and objectives, its structure and resource requirements, the nature of its output and the monitoring of its progress.

A discussion paper "SOMAFCO RESEARCH PROJECT: Framework for discussion" was presented by Norman Levy and John Pampallis to guide the Advisory Committee in its discussions. A copy of this document is attached herewith.

After due deliberation, the Advisory Committee makes the following proposals to the ANC's Department of Education. Overall objectives 9; the Erojeg;

Record, evaluate and document the history of Somafo and, its role in the struggle against apartheid.

Feed into and inform the on-going debate in South Africa for a post-apartheid policy in education.

Inform wider South African public of Somafo.

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Record and assess the context of Somafo as well as its educational, social, political and work experience; the development of its structures, educational philosophy and ethos.

Assess the significance and role of Somafo within the ANC's external mission.

Assess the contribution of Somafo to the ANC's international mobilising efforts.

Assess the influence and impact of Somafo on Tanzania at different levels .: political, educational and relations fostered with the people of Tanzania.

Evaluate the impact of Somafo on its students, teachers, administrators and other workers.

Evaluate the progress of teachers and students in the process of re-integration into South Africa after the unbanning of the ANC.

Evaluate gender, class and racial attitudes and practices at Somafo.

3.9. Examine the role of the expatriate community' in the development of Somafo.

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Scope of the Research

The research must cover the following educational sectors at Mazimbu and Dakawa:

- 4.1. The secondary, primary and nursery schools at Mazimbu.
- 4.2. Day care and adult education sectors at Mazimbu and Dakawa.
- 4.3. The Kate Molale Centre at Mazimbu
- 4.5. The National Scholarships Committee and its international operations.
- 4.6. The ANC Education Department; the National Education Council and regional ANC Education Committees.
- 4.7. The production and service sectors, including construction, . agriculture, manufacturing, health, food, stores and . supplies at Mazimbu and Dakawa.

5. Research Output

- 5.1. A research study, geared at the educational establishment, analyzing the Somafo experience and its relevance.
- 5.2. An illustrated history which has an accessible narrative with interviews aimed at the wider public.
- 5.3. A spread of articles in both analytical and popular journals as the research unfolds.
- 5.4. A photographic exhibition for country-wide viewing.
- 5.5. A video which could possibly be aired on public television..
- . 6. Personnel requirements and duration .

6.1. It is envisaged that the entire project should take 18 months with a contingency built in for a further 3 to 6 months_if deemed necessary.

6.2. The following personnel would be required:

- a Research Director to head the project
- two Researchers
- an administrator
- approximately 8 resource persons around the country on a 2-3 month contract basis to collect material and conduct interviews.

7. Research Methods

- 7.1. Oral histories of participants and other significant actors.
- 7.2. Structured (questionnaires) and unstructured interviews.

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Documentary research

Examination and collection of archival material.

Workshops. A workshop in Europe gathering together volunteers who worked at Mazimbu and Dakawa is desirable to tap their insights and perspective.

Examination of primary and secondary material: journals, papers, reports and Audio Visual material.

Research Propgsal

It is envisaged that once pointed, the Research team will produce a detailed research proposal to be discussed by the Advisory Committee and, taking into account its recommendations, approved by the ANC's Department of Education. 1

Monitoring and evaluation

A sub-committee of the Advisory committee should be set up to meet regularly with the research team to assess problems and progress with a View to making recommendations to the ANC's Department of Education.

The final research needs to be evaluated by an independent body set up by the ANC's Department of Education.

Location of the Project

The Advisory Committee is of the View that the University of Fort Hare, where the archives are housed, is a possible venue but leaves it to the Education Department to examine this question further.

Structure and Accountability

No finality was reached on this question and the three proposals discussed are submitted to assist the Department of Education in finalising this matter.

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Committee t x

Monitoring 11

Sub-commi ttee

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Research Directo

Research Team

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March 1994 - Launch project with appropriate senior ANC participation and widespread publicity.

May 1994 - All appointments made
- Research proposal drawn up by team
- Proposal discussed by Advisory Committee and approved by Department of Education

" Research commences

Budgetary Considerations

Given the above proposals, the following points need to be borne in mind when finalising a budget:

Contingency should provide for the research extending for 3-6 months after the suggested 18 month duration.

Staff requirements: Research Director, administrator and two researchers (full-time)

plus the part-time resource

persons (approximately 8)

Training of resource people to ensure uniformity of approach.

Official launch of the project.

Transcription costs.

Production of a broadcast-quality Video

Costs for producing the photo - exhibit and its

. distribution around the country

Travelling and accommodation expenses for interviewers.

Workshops, local and foreign. (The workshop for volunteers could possibly be funded by a NGO or former Somafo donor) .

Office equipment and furniture

Launching, publicising and promoting the output from the research.

Administration costs : both within the project and on the part of D.O.E. / Batlagae.

Meetings of the advisory committee, selection panel and monitoring sub-committee.

recommendations/advice

authority

implementation/administrative

This proposal makes the Research Director directly responsible to D.O.E.

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11.2. I D.O.E.

Advisory u-plBATLAGAE F. - Monitoring committee I Sub-committee

Research

Director

Research

Team

This proposal sees Batlagae not merely acting as an implementation agency (as is 11.1) but also delegated the authority to exercise control over all aspects of the project. However, Ultimate authority will rest with D.O.E.

11.3.

Advisory

Committee

Monitoring

Subcommittee

Research

Director

The idea of this proposal is that the various elements of the overall project should be flexibly linked with fairly non-rigid and non-hierarchical lines of authority and communication. "

12. Implementation Prgggame

12.1. November 1993 - Advertise for the various full-time posts.

12.2. January 1994 - A special selection panel set up by the Education Department to

scrutinize applicants and select

Research Director who then

participates with the panel

subsequently to select the wotherm'

personnel.

13.10. Office equipment and furniture

13.11. Launching, publicising and promoting the output from the research.

13.12. Administration costs : both within the project and on the part of D.O.E. / Batlagae.

13.13. Meetings of the advisory committee, selection panel and monitoring sub-committee. h