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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (NSC)
SUBMITTED TO THE 7TH NATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL
MEETING, LUSAKA, ZAMBIA, 1988

1. INTRODUCTION

Needless to say, perhaps, the volume of work by the National Scholarship Committee (hereinafter referred to as the NSC) of the African National Congress ANC (SA), has tremendously increased over the past two years. The NSC not only considers applications for scholarships throughout the ANC, but also procures funds and other essential study material, monitors students at their various places of study and attends to those on holiday in the East Africa Region. As an organ of the Dept. of Education, the NSC strives to facilitate all-round training of ANC members and other South Africans for the struggle and the future non-racial, democratic South Africa. Indeed, this is the overriding objective of the whole ANC education Policy.

It must be stressed and urgently brought to the immediate attention of the National Education Council that the NSC in the period under review has been not only extremely under-staffed, but also extremely short of qualified and experienced staff on a permanent basis. To make matters worse, HQ moved both Cdes Quintin Magula and Martin Maphisa to other duties without replacing them.

It should also be noted that individual Depts. at HQ and in some regions, missions and other Structures persist with the practice of allocating scholarships to some students without the knowledge and/or approval of the NSC. And yet the above-mentioned Structures expect and actually require the NSC to monitor and assist the students they placed in the manner described above. When serious problems of co-ordination in placements ensue, the NSC is instantly blamed.

Unfortunately, it is not the first time that such problems and others have raised in the meeting of the National Education Council. The time has, therefore, come finally to resolve these outstanding matters so that we move forward and address other issues.

2. THE COMPOSITION OF THE NSC

- a) Chairman - Andrew Masondo (Somafo Secondary Division Principal)
- b) Education Officer and former Secretary - Martin Maphisa
- c) Acting Assistant Secretary - Allen Budeli
- d) Mazimbu Chief Administrator - Tim Maseko
- e) NYS Rep. - Jimmy Mokgosi
- f) Women Section Rep. - Lulu Mabena
- g) Somafo Warden - Jimmy Phambo
- h) Somafo Commissar - Aubrey Matlole
- i) Project Manager - Spencer Hodgson
- j) Somafo Vice-Principal - Slim Zindela
- k) DMD Rep. - Bizzah Mokoena

3. CONDUCTING NSC BUSINESS

The NSC holds meetings once per month (unless otherwise decided) to consider applications, correspondence, reports by the Secretariat and other relevant matters that come within its competence. Attendance at NSC meetings is good, yet it could, of course, be improved. Minutes of its meetings are circulated amongst such Depts. at HQ as Women Section, NYS, DMD, Education Dept. and the Dept. of Arts and Culture. Quarterly Reports are likewise distributed. This is done as soon as the documents in question are ready. It is with regret to note that all Depts. at HQ to which Minutes and Quarterly Reports are sent (except the Education Dept.), never acknowledge anything, let alone provide the NSC with necessary feedback. Unless these Depts. regularly respond to the Minutes and other Reports they receive from the NSC, there is no point at all continuing to send to them documents.

We raise once again the problem of transport in the NSC. This problem has been on the National Education Agenda since 1983, but absolutely nothing has been done to solve it. As a direct result thereof, members of the NSC Secretariat are unable to travel to Dar es Salaam, Dakawa, Morogoro, in and around Mazimbu. It is all the more so when a Rep. of the NSC is required to travel at a short notice. NSC Secretaries have failed to honour far too many appointments with Diplomatic Officials of Foreign Govts. Our people are the ones that suffer both in the short and long term. Also suffers the the credibility of the Movement as a worthy and reliable party to serious diplomatic Protocol. The Council is requested to ponder all this very seriously. Also to be considered in all seriousness is the necessity of sending abroad a Rep. of the NSC to monitor problems of our students on a regular basis. We cannot rely on RYC's for regular reports on and monitoring of our students. After all, we cannot expect students to do their academic work and still monitor themselves. We, therefore, urge the National Education Council to take action so that old problems do not recur now and then.

There have been occasions when the NSC was extremely inconvenienced and/or embarrassed by some Structures (eeg. Women Section in Lusaka, Zambia) that obtain scholarship offers and keep them until the last moment when they start making frantic efforts to get suitable candidates from the NSC. This irregular and highly disorganising practice must be brought to an end. The point is that the NSC needs time to consider and process any application for a scholarship. We want to take our time to consider fully every aspect of any application and therefore dislike to be rushed into decisions on scholarship allocations. If we are hustled, we are afraid we may end up allocating scholarships to candidates who may not be very well physically or suitable academically. The NSC has a duty to ensure that a given candidate for a given scholarship is **also** politically suitable. So it is better for the NSC to process one scholarship offer thoroughly and in good time than many in a hurry. For we of the NSC would bear heavy responsibility in case these arrangements lead to problems.

The NSC Secretariat (consisting of Chairman A. Masondo, Ed. Officer and former Secretary M. Maphisa and the Acting Assistant Secretary A. Budeli) meets almost on a daily basis to deal with any matters arising from the day to day work schedule. Communication problems badly affect our ability to remain in touch with HQ and sponsor-organisations in the outside world. At times the

telex at Mazimbu does not work for days and even weeks. This, obviously, hampers NSC work. Even if communication facilities are available in Dar es Salaam, we cannot use them on account of the well-documented transport problem.

3. SELECTION CRITERIA

Frankly, the basic criterion for selecting prospective candidates is the acquired academic qualification and also the political recommendation by Heads of Depts. It is extremely difficult for people without certificates to be awarded scholarship even if they are politically very clear and active. So, academic credentials are decisive, whether we like it or not. The Quarterly NSC Report sent to HQ addressed this issue in greater detail.

There are other factors that the NSC considers when making scholarship allocations such as age, physical and mental health, marital status and reasonable individual/personal wishes-e.g. in which country one prefers to study. Unfortunately, not always are married couples able to be placed together in one country. Boy-and-girlfriends are even more unlikely to be placed on scholarship together. Usually, when a married person is offered a scholarship without his or her partner, he or she refuses to go. Hence, many scholarship offers have been wasted. There is no way the NSC can guarantee that a husband and a wife will be accepted together as a married couple.

At times qualified NSC members conduct assessment tests for those who want to go abroad to take access courses or pre-university. This is done when comrades claim to have passed Form V in South Africa, but could not bring along their certificates. It is worth noting that those who have been to universities in the bantustans perform particularly badly. IDM Mzumbe in Tanzania and Institutes in Cyprus demand that they themselves conduct entrance exams amongst our candidates and select the best. The NSC sees no academic grounds for objecting to such an arrangement.

4. SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS

Since the last Council Meeting in 1986, the NSC has received many offers-in fact, far more than we in the NSC can find suitable candidates for. These scholarship offers come from all over the world. We note with satisfaction that the NSC handles far more scholarship offers from more diverse sources than ever before. There are countries which actually press for more students from us, e.g. the Soviet Union (USSR) and India. We want to make it categorically clear that while it is true that fewer and fewer students over the past two years have been going to study in the USSR (mainly due to age limit and lack of A-level on the part of our candidate), there has been no Policy change or shift in the NSC favouring scholarships offered in the Western Countries. Suggestions contradicting the afore-said are completely baseless and therefore should be rejected.

When students who made successful applications leave for school abroad, they sometimes encounter difficulties in receiving their travel allowance (30 US Dollars for those going to Capitalist Countries or 20 US Dollars for those going to Socialist Countries). We call upon the Education Dept. to liaise with T.G.'s Office and thereby ensure that those candidates leaving for school get their allowance without fail. Since the travel allowance is said to be

laid down for everybody, students (indeed, everybody else) cannot understand why it is sometimes not available. The NSC strongly recommends that all students leaving for school abroad be granted the same amount of money, say 30 (thirty) US Dollars, irrespective of whether they are bound for Capitalist or Socialist Countries. The point is that things are very expensive all over. When sponsor-organisations (e.g. the Commonwealth that grant each of its own travelling students 100/hundred pounds) give their students travel allowance, the ANC should withhold its own 20-30 Dollar grant.

5. MONITORING STUDENT PROGRESS

When students finally settle down to their various studies, it is the task of the NSC to follow-up on all matters relating to their academic life. The NSC has to find out about academic progress or lack of same. We have been sending out Progress Report Forms to RYC's (ANC Students' Unions abroad). But, unfortunately, many RYC's do not return to the NSC filled in Progress Report Forms. The NSC, therefore, suggests the appointment of an Education Officer who will shuttle from one country to another like a roving ambassador monitoring our students. In case a sponsor-organisation offers the ANC air-tickets (as do the Soviet Solidarity Committee and Norwegian People's Aid) so that officials should visit our students, those air-tickets should be handed over to the Ed. Dept. for responsible NSC members to be able to travel and help solve problems on the spot. It is unacceptable for comrades who have nothing to do with education to travel with air-tickets issued by sponsor-organisations to the Education Dept. specifically to facilitate working relations between the Dept. and the students abroad. The Council should also consider attaching to ANC offices abroad officials dealing specifically with educational problems, especially in countries where we have a large concentration of students. This can also help the NSC and the DMD find out in good time who is to graduate when and specialising in what.

The period under review has shown that co-ordination between the NSC and the NYS is very poor. Though there are many female students placed by the NSC, co-ordination with the Women Section leaves much to be desired. The same applies to Health Dept. Although this Dept. also send students to school, the NSC has placed many medical students and therefore co-ordination is vitally important. Indeed, co-ordination with all other ANC Depts. is imperative.

6. GRADUATES

Due to lack of regular Reports from RYC's, the NSC has not always been able to ascertain who is graduating when. We draw the attention of the Council to specific problems encountered by all our graduates everywhere: 1) graduates cannot on their own raise enough money to cover all expenses incurred when drafting their theses. Those preparing to defend Ph.D. theses need substantial financial support since they are made to wait up to a year from the moment they defend until the confirmation/rejection of their theses. Sponsor-organisations in Socialist Countries should be approached officially so that further assistance can be obtained. 2) When graduates prepare finally to return to East Africa, they should be assisted financially to process their extra luggage of books and other essential equipment. As we are preparing this report, only Cuba is known to allow our students ten more kg. of

luggage than usual 20kg. Other Socialist Countries should be persuaded to do likewise. Most of the graduates return to East Africa where they await deployment or possible deployment. Unfortunately, not every graduate is offered appropriate, let alone attractive, options by way of deployment. It would seem we are failing to give our graduates proper things to do or practise in their various fields of study. Some of our graduates use this problem as an excuse to desert the Organisation or defect. Most of those who have left the ANC did so not on political grounds, but rather in order to make money as medical doctors or other valued university specialists. In short, a lot more still has to be done in the crucial area of manpower utilisation, planning and development-which is mainly the domain of the DMD. At the present moment DMD is doing its best to alleviate this problem.

7. EXTENSION OF SCHOLARSHIPS

When graduates with brilliant academic records, strong backing by their Institutions of learning and sponsors apply for permission to further studies at M.A., Ph.D. or at any other level, favourable consideration should be given. We, therefore, call upon the Council and especially the new Education Secretary to review on a constant basis all such regulations. Furthermore, any application for extending a scholarship should be considered on its merits. Individual exceptions can and should be made, for instance, there are comrades who extend their scholarships in order to make room for sorting out family problems, apart from really wanting to advance academic studies. In deciding on such matters, the need for sensitivity, kind-heartedness and open-mindedness cannot be over-emphasised.

8. EXPULSION AND/OR WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENTS

During the period under review, we have had a number of students discontinued on the grounds of poor academic performance. Expulsions due to acts of indiscipline were also made by some schools where our students were attending. One student Jerry Moagi was withdrawn from Teacher Training in Sweden on the instructions of the then Secretary of Education Cde H.G. Makgothi owing to highly disturbing reports from the Chief Rep. in Stockholm about the student's drunkenness and arrogant aggressive behavior. We cannot, but cite one most serious act of indiscipline by another student at the Tanzania School of Journalism, Percy Page Makgatho who made many unauthorised phone calls and incurred in the process a mountain of a bill: 3314.00 US Dollars (336 460 Tanzania Shillings. When the School (TSJ) asked the NSC to pay, we rejected this out of hand. The NSC rightly argued that it cannot be made or expected to pay for phone calls it did not itself authorise. We must tell the Council that this is an extremely serious case the consequences of which are unpredictable that is, there are suggestions from the school (NSC Secretariat members visited it) that Percy might not be given his Diploma on graduation or might be sent to jail or both. We make a special appeal to all Heads of Depts. to take more care before recommending to the NSC Students who quickly turn out to be drunkards, rapist and such like.

9. NSC MOVING TO HQ

In September 1988, members of the NSC were officially told by Cde Sipho Majombozi-Assistant Administrative Secretary (scholarships)

in the Education Dept. that a decision was taken as far back as July 1988 to move the NSC to HQ. It is up to the Council whether or not to discuss this matter. In any case, arrangements must be made in East Africa to cater for the educational needs of the very large community. We in the current (now outgoing) NSC sincerely wish incoming NSC at HQ greater efficiency, better co-ordination with other AND Depts. and indeed every success.

In conclusion, we must ask and answer ourselves as to whether or not in the past two years since the last Council Meeting we have made more progress in Education Policy, Planning and Training. What is our yardstick for progress? Do we measure progress in terms of numbers of successful candidates we sent to school or problems we identified and solved? As we ponder these by no means easy questions and their implications, our mind's eye should be firmly on the future.

In the spirit of self-criticism, it should be stated that whilst we have succeeded over the past two years to send to school ever-growing numbers of our students, we have not been equally successful in tackling well-known problems bedevilling NSC work, like transport for the NSC (-to mention only one of them). Do we think it is desirable to raise one and the same old problems at each and every Council Meeting? It is high time we face squarely and solve problems timely. That in itself would be a step forward and in the right direction.

The NSC Report of its own cannot and should not be expected to cover every detail of events since the last Council Meeting. What the Report does, however, is to highlight in brief some of the important developments. Delegates should themselves make serious efforts to meet with and talk to students, teacher, educanists and individual members of the Current NSC, of course.

10. STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY PLACED BY THE NSC IN 1988.

TANZANIA

NAME	SPECIALITY
1. Themba Mlotshwa	Business Administration
2. Themba Mike	"
3. Boy Masuku	Public Administration
4. Sacky Madi	"
5 Lawrence Mohlale	Law
6. Sipho Mbuli	Business Administration
7. Sibisi Busi	"
8. Nikelwa Tengimfene	Sosial Welfare
9. Ncedo Xotyeni	"
10. Granny Galawe	"
11. Fezeka Tetsane	"
12. Eva Obisi	Teaching
13. Sexton Dlomo	"
14. Percy Kgopane	"
15. Terror Dlomo	"
16. Passage Moloyi	"
17. Velapi	"
18. Sporo	"
19. Ndukuzempi Mahleka	"
20. Robert Ndlovu	"
21. Tozzy	"
22. Joseph Mboniswa	"

GDR

NAME	SPECIALITY
1. Vido Mabizela	Music
2. Lizwi Nene	"
3. Lawrence Ndlangamandla	Radiography
4. Rocky Mbatha	Engineering
5. Sonwabile Poswa	M.Sc.
6. Lebogang Mosoetsa	"
7. Saul Mongezi	"
8. Bongsi Khumalo	Pre-school teacher
9. Rose Shandu	"
10. Pauline Mhlongo	"
11. Nunu Ngalo	"
12. Victoria Ditsebe	"
13. Mauwa Dlamini	"
14. Johny Monare	Agriculture

NB: Windy Sithole and Nosisi Tanda DECLINED

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. Lungile Mankazana	Physical Education
2. Gideon Ranyao	Computer Science
3. Khaya Dlula	"

USSR

1. Issac Makgotso	History (Ph.D.)
2. Reginald Ramaboae	Computer Engineering
3. Khotso Katane	Political Education
4. Joe Thabethe	"
5. Brian Gochane	Computer Science

INDIA

1. Chris Gololo	Leather work/shoe-making
2. Silas Kwadi	Electrical engineering
3. Amos Tshabalala	Arts
4. Joseph Mlambo	Carpentry

JAMAICA

1. Sipho Ntuli	B.A. (history)
2. Glory Sekete	Education (B.Ed.)

U.K.

1. Dan Xaba	Access Course/public Admin.
2. Vusi Banda	Mining Engineering
3. Lulu Mabena	Sociology
4. Bizzah Mokoena	Public Admin.
5. Constance Tsimane	Public Admin.

USA

1. Wantu Zenzile	Public Admin.
2. Jeffrey Kume	"
3. Mongezi Zihle	Electronics
4. Hazel Gitywa	Medicine

KENYA

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SPECIALITY</u>
1. Veronica Pharasi	Secretarial Course
2. Beauty Ngubane	"
3. Jabulani Khumalo	"
4. Donald Sethuba	Motor Mechanics
5. Shrapnel Totetsi	"
6. <u>Danlee Mackie</u>	"

NB: Graduates who reported in East Africa should be accounted for in DMD Report.