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BOARD PAPER NO. 1.5.2

NATIONAL REVIEW TEAM (NRT)

The National Review Team consisting of two well experienced
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nce educators was appointed by the planning committee
arch, 1994.

The Committee was formed under the following terms of reference.

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The team will be required to study the relevant SAEU documents and evaluate them with a view to making them more relevant to the situation obtaining in South Africa. The assessment to be furnished to the Director SAEU timeously. Carry out an overview of the Coordinator's activities through spot checks, interviews, etc on a monthly basis with a view to advising her on both academic and administrative matters. A report to be furnished to the DSAEU periodically.

In consultation with other South. African institutions, advise the DSAEU on how best and how soon to integrate the SAEU programme into the South African system of education through, for example, SASCHED'S Adult Secondary Education Curriculum for Adults (ASECA).

In collaboration with the SAEU and other South African organisation work out a diversification programme for SAEU students which will enable them to acquire vocational skills for self employment or employment by others.

Introduce the work of the SAEU to SAIDE and the proposed ANC National Open Learning Agency (NOLA) with a view to gaining accessibility to funds and services that might be available to Distance Education Institutions in South Africa.

Introduce the work of the SAEU to other Distance Education Institution with a view to exchanging and enriching experience for the betterment of its performance.

Members of the Review Team will be awarded an honorarium.

Where applicable, similar services extended to the programme by the persons concerned prior to the present arrangement, will be considered for honorarium.

In order to complete this task satisfactorily it is expected that the Review Team will take days in a year at the rate of per day.

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SAEU NATIONAL REVIEW TEAM

The SAEU Review team will consist of least at two experienced educationists well versed with Distance Education and the South African Education System and will be appointed by the Director, South African Extension Unit.

1. BACKGROUND OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN EXTENSION UNIT

The South African Extension Unit (SAEU) is a Distance Teaching institution established in 1984 by the Commonwealth Secretariat in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, to cater for the education and training needs of exiled South Africans, residing in Angola, Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The programme was funded solely by Commonwealth Secretariat until 1986 when other donors viz. the Commission of European Communities (EC) and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (UNETPSA) stepped in as co-funders.

As the political situation in South Africa began to improve dramatically from early 1990, SAEU students and other exiles started to return home early in 1991. In view of this development, the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC), commissioned the International Extension College (IEC), to evaluate the work of the Institution (SAEU) and advise on its future course including the rationale for following-up its returnee students in South Africa. In its Report on a Short-Term Planning Consultancy to South African Extension Unit (SAEU) on behalf of the Commonwealth Secretariat: 22 July - 13 August 1992, among other recommendations, the IEC noted that there was both a cause and a need for the SAEU to follow up its repatriated students in South Africa in order to assist them complete the studies they started while in exile.

During its 9th meeting in Dar-es-Salaam in October 1992, the SAEU Board of Trustees adopted the IEC Report and authorised the management to proceed with its implementation. With the approval and support of the Liberation Movements (ANC and the PAC), SACHED and the Batlagae Trust, Request Proposals for funding the SAEU Programme for 1993/94, were prepared and forwarded to Donor Agencies within and outside South Africa, early in 1993. The EC through Kagiso Trust and the Independent Development Trust (IDT) agreed to co-fund the Programme. As a result of this support, a total of about 500 former students in PWV and Durban areas, have been enrolled into the programme, while as many as 2000 others, await registration in other parts of South Africa.

HOW THE PROGRAMME OPERATES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Details on how the programme operates in South Africa, are outlined in the brochure titled The South African Extension Unit gSAEU1: Background information of the Distance Education Programme for Returnees in South Africa. It is, however, essential to emphasise here that the modus operandi of the SAEU Programme in South Africa is such that it is managed by the National Coordinator assisted by an Administrative Education Secretary, part-time Regional Coordinators and part-time tutors. The SAEU Headquarters in Tanzania, oversees the programme, monitors and evaluates it.

The Tripartite Agreement signed between the SAEU, SACHED Trust and Batlage Trustiin Johannesburg on 17 February 1993, outlined functions to be carried out by each party in order to effectively locate the Programme in South Africa. For this reason, Heads of the three parties or their representatives, constitute an Executive Committee of the Programme whose main task is to approve recommendations of the Planning Committee related to the programmes future plans. The Planning Committee is constituted by SAEUs and SACHEDE officials.

Although the whole arrangement of managing the programme has so far worked out satisfactorily, there is a need to establish a National Review Team which will constantly and consistently provide advice and act as a "T hink Tank" for the programme on matters related to its day to day conduct; expansion; integration into the South African education system and diversification.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE REVIEW TEAM (TORS)

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