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UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE
CENTRE FOR CULTURAL STUDIES
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ECT 3 ARCHIVES OF RESISTANCE PROJECT (ARP)
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1.1

Preliminary Section

Introduction

The University of Fort Hare, located in Alice, South Africa, is the oldest. historically' black University in Southern and Eastern Africa. Founded in 1916, the University of Fort Hare has continued to Champion black advancement. It has, indeed, been the cradle of both the African liberation movement and African intelligentsia. One cannot talk about the history of the African National Congress, the All-African Convention, the Unity Movement of South Africa, the Black Consciousness Movement, and the Pan Africanist Congress without a substantive reference to the University of Fort Hare, which nurtured such African liberation movement stalwarts as Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela, Z K Matthews, Robert Sobukwe, I.B Tabata, A C Jordan, Robert Mugabe, Jerry Modisane, and Twiggs Xiphu. In March 1990 the University of Fort Hare was liberated from its thirty years' captivity and apartheid administration. The conservative management, comprising six officers, left the University and the Council disbanded. It was replaced by a new Council led by Professor Francis Wilson, the Chairman. During 1991 the new Chancellor, Dr O.R Tambo, and Vice-Chancellor, Professor S M E Bengu, were installed.

The new Fort Hare has initiated development programmes which seek to transform the University and contribute to the national transformation and nation-building. The Centre for Cultural Studies, established during 1991, is one of such development projects. The centre is now emerging with a National Museum of Resistance and a National Archives of Resistance. Such initiatives have the blessing of the liberation movement. In this respect, the African National Congress, the Unity Movement of South Africa, the Azanian People's Organisation, and the Pan Africanist Congress have formally undertaken txn deposit their archives and museum collections with the Centre for Cultural Studies. The affirmation, reconstruction, and empowerment of the marginalised cultural heritage

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constitute the premise upon which the Centre was established.

The Centre seeks to achieve several objectives. First, is the creation of the National Archives of Resistance to be drawn on the records being lodged with the Centre by the various liberation Movements. Second, is the establishment of Museum of Resistance to be derived from the artifacts pertaining to the liberation movement and related organisations. Third, is the affirmation and empowerment of black performing arts which the apartheid regime has continued to marginalise and condemn into extinction. The Centre hopes to achieve this through the use of indoor theatres suitable for performing arts of African and Western nature, out- door theatre ideal for indigenous performing arts and mobile theatres that will benefit remote communities. ,

Fifthly is the promotion of culture of research especially in African and Area Studies. Lastly, is the improvement of educational opportunities and curricular transformation. In this regard, the Centre proposes to establish a School of Cultural and Media Studies which will offer non-academic, academic and professional training. The areas envisaged include media (journalism, photography, radio and television); cinema (production, photography, sound, art direction, management etc); performing arts; environment and development. The School is established in co- operation with Leeds Metropolitan University and CILECT (Centre International des Ecoles de Film et de Television), which will provide consultancy, Programme Development and Quality review facilities, and together with Fort Hare set up a Curriculum Development Team.

Archives of Resistance Project (ARP)

On 26 October 1992 the African National Congress, the Pan Africanist Congress, the Azanian People's Organisation and the Unity Movement of South Africa took part in an historic signing ceremony organised by the University of Fort Hare. It was at this ceremony where the four liberation movements signed agreements of deposit, which signified the legal transfer of their records to the University of Fort Hare. Specifically, the Centre for Cultural Studies has been tasked with a responsibility of being a repository for and a custodian of the records of resistance or struggle. The four organisations mentioned above are not the only patrons of the Centre. The Lawyers For Human Rights in Pretoria have started lodging their records with the Centre. The anti-apartheid movements.in Europe are also considering depositing their records with the Centre. The Lovedale Press has undertaken to lodge its records with the

Centre for Cultural Studies.

It must be pointed out that the records of the various liberation movements are not confined to one place. There are records that have been accumulated over the years by the international missions of the liberation movement. The bulk of other records is traceable to the various centres in Africa. Many American and European universities, centres and institutes have, for years, served as custodians of the records of the liberation movement. Internally the liberation movement has set various offices and structures at national, regional and local level since its unbanning in 1990. These structures continue to accumulate records.

It behoves the Centre for Cultural Studies to set up an infrastructure that will facilitate the assemblage and retrieval of the records of the liberation movement and related organisations from the various national, transnational and international centres mentioned immediately above. Hence, the ARP is being proposed.

AIM

The principal aim of the ARP is to provide infrastructure that will service the various projects the liberation movements seek to launch in an attempt to facilitate the transfer of their records and artifacts to the University of Fort Hare. It seeks to coordinate various research projects and academic programmes pertaining to the history and records of the liberation movement. It will be the responsibility of the ARP to launch projects which will benefit the University of Fort Hare, the liberation movement and the community at large.

OBJECTIVES

3.1 Establishment of National Archives of Resistance and National Museum of Resistance

The principal objective of the ARP is the creation of National Archives of Resistance and the establishment of a National Museum of Resistance. The University has developed elaborate plans for the establishment of these two heritage facilities. Funds are being sought for this purpose. In the interim temporary accommodation is being provided by the University.

3.2 Rediscovery and Reconstruction of History

The ARP seeks to rediscover and reconstruct the South African history, which the ruling white minority has continued to marginalise. In other words the ARP will spearhead the rewriting of the South African history.

3.3 Creation of Database

It is the intention of the ARP to create a database that will facilitate research and the history of the struggle.

ENVIBAGED ACTIVITIES

4.1- Communicatibn networks

The first step will be the establishment of national and international communication networks that will facilitate the tracking down of records of resistance and their transfer to the University.

4.2 Locating of Records

The second step is a survey that will locate the records, nationally and internationally. The ARP seeks to recover even those resistance records that have been confiscated by the State/Police, and are threatened with destruction.

AnalysisI SortingI and Listing

Once located, the records will be analysed, sorted, and listed.

Handling and shipment

The sorted and listed records will be processed for shipment.

AccessioningI CataloguingI IndexingI and Classification

On arrival at Fort Hare the records will be accessioned, catalogued, indexed, and classified.

Comgilation of Finding Aids

Finding aids, such as inventories and bibliographies, will be compiled. v

Research

4.7.1 Archives Records

The IARP 'will conduct. research on the various collections documented. The findings will be made accessible through newsletters, journals, and books.

4.7.2 Oral History Research

A comprehensive oral history research will be

undertaken. Various actors in the struggle for liberation will be identified and interviewed. Use will be made of audio and video facilities.

4.7.3 Policy Research

The ARP has to undertake research on the international practice applicable to the identification and transfer of records from abroad to South Africa (University of Fort Hare). Secondly, research has to be undertaken with respect to the international practice that is invoked in case of destruction of anti-apartheid records by the State/Police and their reclamation. Thirdly, the ARP seeks to conduct research on a policy that will be suitable for the management of archives by the Centre for Cultural Studies and by the owners i.e before the owners of the records transfer them to the Centre for Cultural Studies.

COORDINATION OF POST-GRADUATE STUDIES/RESEARCH

The Centre for Cultural Studies regards the entire archives project not only as means of affirmation of the marginalised heritage resources, but also as a means of empowerment of the disadvantaged lot. In this connection, the ARP seeks to utilise not only advanced scholars, but also needy postgraduate students who will be registered with the Centre or the envisaged School of Cultural and Media Studies. Such students who will be provided with studentships will work under the auspices of the ARP and be required to pursue specific projects relevant to the ARP. Such projects will lead to the accumulation of archives by the Centre and attainment of advanced qualifications by the students. Initially, the ARP will make provision for three students.

SCOPE

The ARP encompasses the following :

- a) Audio and video material
- b) Photographs
- c) Museum artifacts
- d) Script documents
- e) Books
- f) Office records - agendas, minutes, notices, etc.

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STAFFING

7.1

7.2

Archivist

The ARP will need a qualified and experienced archivist. The incumbent must at least have a Masters degree in archival science and five years' experience. Such an incumbent will be responsible for items 4.1 to 4.7.3.

Senior Researcher

The Senior Researcher will be the chief coordinator of the ARP. The management of the ARP projects, the initiation and launching of the projects, the supervision and training of junior researchers including post-graduate students will be the task of the incumbent. We require that the incumbent should have a doctoral degree or equivalent qualifications in African Studies and at least five years' relevant experience.

Researcher

The researcher will be responsible for items 4.7 above and will facilitate research programs initiated by the senior' researcher. While the researcher will often work hand in hand with the archivist, senior researcher and post graduate students, oral history project will be his special responsibility. The incumbent must have at least a Masters degree in African Studies and relevant research experience.

1 Technician (Cameraman)

Oral history project is inconceivable without the involvement of a cameraman. The cameraman will work hand in hand with the research team comprising the archivist, the researcher and post-graduate students. The audio and video recordings ,during fieldwork pertaining to the oral history project will be his/her special duty. The incumbent will also be responsible for editing audio and video productions. Our aim_is to achieve high quality productions. We, therefore, require an incumbent to have advanced qualifications in video production and relevant experience.

BUDGET

8.1

Com ensation

1 Archivist R 68 877 i 10% (escalation)

1 Senior Researcher - 74 373 i 10% (escalation)

1 Researcher 63 435 i 10% (escalation)

1 Technician (Cameraman) 63 435 l 10% (escalation)

3 Studentship 45 000 i 10% (escalation)

Sub-Total R348 477
8.2 Capital and running expenses
Audio and Video equipment R150 248
Consumable 10 000
Computer . 20 000
Transport/travelling 80 000
Conferences and Workshops 25 000
Records Management (handling,
sorting and shipment) 50 000
Sub- Total 335 248
TOTAL 683 725 4 10% (admin Fee)
: 752 098

NOTES

- all costs are recurrent except 'video and computer costs
- The proposed project is a national venture intended to serve the entire South African nation. It is crucial that the audio and 'video productions ensure the achievement of high quality productions. The video equipment that is being proposed will definitely serve the purpose. The equipment will function as a unit comprising audio and video equipment, editing machines, screens and facilities for indoor and outdoor productions.
- Consumables include audio and video tapes
- Computer system will be used for documentation, retrieval and accessibility of data.
- transport costs include charges for use of University transport, local, transnational and international air fares. It might be advisable to buy a special vehicle for the ARP.
- conference and workshop costs pertain to conferences and workshops to be held on the history of the struggle, archives and policy issues. Such conferences and workshops will facilitate public participation in the project.
- records management costs pertain to handling, sorting and shipment which have to precede the actual transfer of records to the University.
- the administrative fee covers the costs to be incurred by the University in administrative matters pertaining to the project.

MANAGEMENT

9.1 Centre for Cultural Studies Committee

The ARP is an initiative of the Centre for Cultural Studies in conjunction with the liberation movement.

It will therefore operate under the aegis of the Centre for Cultural Studies Committee, which is a Senate committee responsible for the activities of the Centre. It comprises the following members :

. Professor S M E Bengu, PhD (Geneva) : Rector and Vice-Chancellor.

. Professor E Ngara, PhD (London) : Deputy Rector

. Professor T N V Maqashalala, PhD (Alabama) : Head of Department of Social Work and Dean of Faculty of Arts: Chairperson

Professor P M Fihla, PhD (OSU) : Dean of Faculty of Education

. Professor B B Mkonto, PhD (UNISA): Professor : Department of African Languages

. Professor M V Mzamane, PhD (Wales) : Head: Department of English.

. Professor A M Mdebuka, DSc (UFH): Associate Professor: Department of Physics.

. Mr S Mayatula, MCom (UFH): Head: Department of Economics

. Rev P D F Strydom, DTh (Stell): Senior Lecturer: Dept of Old Testament and Hebrew

. Professor G T Sirayi, PhD (UNISA): Director : Centre for Cultural studies

9.2 Personnel

. Director :

G T Sirayi, PhD (University of South Africa)

. Senior Research Officer :

G V Mona, BA Hons (University of Fort Hare)

. Archivist :

M I Maamoe, M.A (Loughborough University)

. Assistant Librarian .

Mrs G N Danster, BBibL (University of Fort Hare)

. Secretary :

Miss N D Nyawombi (Diploma in typing and Receptionist Course)

10. DURATION OF PROJECT

The funding being requested is for the initial period of three years, after which the project will be reviewed and, if further funding is required, additional requests will be made. The project is scheduled to commence in June 1993 and end in June 1996.