

The Batlagae Trust was established in October 1991 by the NCCR to integrate returning exiles educationally. The Trust aims to provide assistance on a non-partisan basis and its trustees are drawn from the ANC, the PAC and the churches.

However, as the organisation with the largest returnee constituency the ANC is the major player in the NCCR and the Batlagae Trust's indispensable supporter particularly in relation to funds from traditional donors. The ANC's Department of Education, the Repatriation Committee and the Department for Human Resources work closely with the Batlagae Trust.

The Trust's major objective is to provide bursaries. In 1992 the Trust assisted 1885 scholars from nursery school to university level nationally. So far, in 1993 we are sponsoring 1965 scholars. The Trust is based in Johannesburg and utilises NCCR regional offices to process applications outside Johannesburg. To facilitate the integration of returnees' children and youth, the Trust provides:

- .counselling of students and their families
- .advice on curriculum matters such as language and curriculum differences
- .group placement of students and pupils
- .support for teachers in order to provide upgrading and care for returnees.

Another function of the Trust is to return educational archives (documents) from exile for placement at the University of Fort Hare and to establish a research programme on the educational experience of the liberation movements during the years of exile. Already the ANC's archives from SOMAFCO have been brought back and a research programme on SOMAFCO is being set up.

The Trust's attempts to open a reception school for returnee children were foiled in 1991, first at the Hillview School in Pretoria and then in Mayville, Durban, the former was bombed by right-wing extremists and anti-ANC forces opposed us in Mayville. However, the Trust has succeeded in opening a Community School in Yeovill, Johannesburg as from January this year. It has both returnee and local disadvantaged children.

An Educational Polyclinic has also been established in Yeoville. It provides remedial instruction, counselling, psychometric testing and support to teachers on adaptation to non-racial educational principles and practices.

Finally, the Trust has facilitated the establishment of the South African Extension Unit (SAEU), the distance education facility set up in 1984 by the Commonwealth Secretariat for exiled adult learners. Since the majority of learners are back in South Africa, the SAEU will continue to assist them with distance learning.

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