



AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (South Africa)

SOLOMON MAHLANGU FREEDOM COLLEGE

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Africa Groups of Sweden Recruitment Organization - ARO
Barnangsgatan 23
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Dear friends,

Re: Assistance for the ANC Library at Mazimbu

The ANC is now developing its library services, starting with the Central Library at Mazimbu. We would be very grateful, if the ARO could assist us with strengthening the junior section of the Mazimbu Library.

The following is a brief outline of the present situation and future plans for our library services.

The Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College is an educational institution established at Mazimbu, Tanzania, by African National Congress in 1979. The school is designed to cater for the educational needs of a large number of young South Africans who have been forced to leave their home country.

SOMAFCO comprises 5 educational sectors - secondary, primary, adult education and orientation centre. A variety of support structures - hospital, farm, carpentry factory, garment factory, cobblery, garage, welding workshop, photo laboratory and technical department for building projects - have been established to serve the educational sector. The total number of students and adults at Mazimbu now stands at about 1500.

With the help of the youth sections of the Nordic Center Parties, a new library building was erected at Mazimbu in 1985. The library area is about 800 m² consisting of reference and lending sections, periodical and newspaper reading area,

working room, audiovisual section, culture hall and archives section. It is planned to in the future house about 25 000 volumes of books and 250 periodicals and newspapers. The bookstock is being built up with the assistance of UN agencies and solidarity groups.

The Library was opened for the public in July 1986. It is meant to serve both the students and teaching staff of all the schools at Mazimbu as well as the other members of the community. The purpose of the library is to provide material for studies, general interest and recreation in a form of books, pamphlets, periodicals, newspapers and audio-visual material. South African material and information about ANC will be placed in a special archives section.

Special emphasis is laid on developing services for the children. Creating a reading habit among the children at as early an age as possible is one of the most important tasks for the Mazimbu Library. It is trying to offer the children opportunities that they would be denied in South Africa: to widen their knowledge, feed their imagination, instill respect in their own culture, develop and maintain their reading skills through a well selected bookstock, periodicals and audio-visual material.

At the moment there are 350 primary school students (from grade I up to grade VII), and 120 nursery school children at Mazimbu.

We would like to acquire a bookstock of 2 000 volumes for the junior section. The stock should consist of a number of picture books, easy readers, junior fiction and non-fiction on various subjects. The books will be selected bearing in mind the cultural background of the children and their language abilities. The main stock will be in English, but efforts will be made to also acquire books in Zulu, Sotho and other South African languages.

At the moment there are no magazines subscribed specifically for the children's section. They would constitute an important part of the reading material, and the aim is, to start with, to subscribe for 20 children's magazines.

The refugees are physically rather cut off from the rest of the world, and, therefore, it is vital to offer them as much information as possible about the outer world and their home country. Also recreation of all types is of importance. Video films have proved to be an excellent tool in both teaching and offering recreation. There are about 200 video cassettes at the Library at the moment,

but the majority of them are quite unsuitable for children. Our aim is to acquire 100 video cassettes for the junior section.

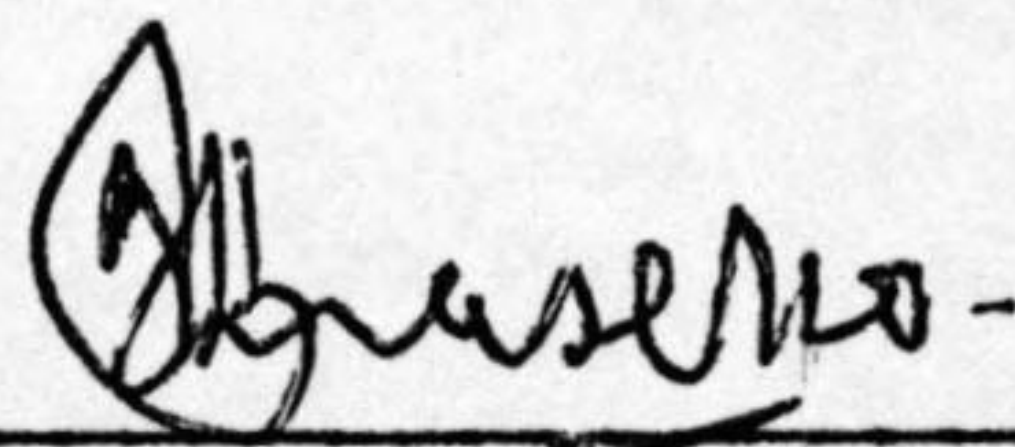
We would also like to offer music to the children as well as recorded stories. For that purpose 100 cassettes are needed.

The selection for the material will be made by the librarians of the Mazimbu Library. They will consult the primary school teachers and other members of the community as well as make use of various tools for selection: publishers' lists, magazines, reviews, etc.

We regard the Library as an essential part of our educational system and even an important tool in our struggle for the free, democratic and non-racial South Africa. We would highly appreciate your assistance in strengthening its junior section, which is forming a basis for all the other library services. We know that while raising funds for us you are also going to spread information to Swedish people about the struggle ANC is waging to liberate South Africa. This is an important aspect of the work and we would, therefore, like already in advance to extend you warm thanks for the work you are prepared to do for us.

We wish you all the best in your endeavours to raise funds for our library, and hope that you will be successful both in collecting money and spreading information about our struggle,

Yours in the year of united action for people's power,



Tim Maseko

Chief Administrator

cc. The Education Secretary
Lusaka

The Principal
Mazimbu Primary School

✓ The Library Committee
Mazimbu