

INTRODUCTION

The Batlagae Trust was set up in July 1991, in response to the educational needs and integration of children and students returning from exile. In May 1991, a committee, the Oversight Committee, had been set up to coordinate the repatriation of children from exile. This committee comprised of representatives from the National Co-ordinating Committee for the Repatriation of Political Exiles(NCCR), liberation movements and churches. The Oversight Committee then set up the Batlagae Trust, to raise the necessary funds and to co-ordinate on an ongoing basis, the integration of returning students and pupils. The Trust became operational in October 1991.

The Batlagae Trust is non-partisan, and supports all children and youth from exile irrespective of their political affiliation. The trustees represent the ANC, PAC and the churches, with the NCCR declining trusteeship on the basis of the relatively temporary nature of the NCCR. The NCCR however maintains close links with the Trust, through the steering function of the Oversight Committee and direct liaison between the Executive Director of the Trust and the National Co-ordinator of the NCCR.

The Trust is based and co-ordinated from the Johannesburg office. The Trust's functions include the orientation, assistance and support of students, families and educational institutions and personnel at a number of levels.

The Trust aims to:

t Identify and facilitate the necessary educational and welfare . arrangements for returnees. This includes; '

i) re-orientation, career guidance, support and assistance of students

ii) personal and academic counselling of returnee students

iii) arranging bursaries for children, students and adults

iv) making financial provision for these functions

v) ensuring that the necessary teaching and support personnel are in place and to provide the necessary orientation and support to these people, to optimise their effectiveness.

t Facilitate the return of educational archives from abroad, and arrange their safe custody to South Africa; at a later stage to create an information and research project on educational institutions set up by the liberation movements in exile.

An original aim of the Trust was to arrange reception and educational facilities for repatriated children and students who could not be dispersed to parents or families. Unfortunately this could not materialise due to unavoidable difficulties such as the lack of a suitable, vacant school.

The Trust also aims in the long term to establish an education centre to concentrate on the needs of youth and adults; in particular, to develop appropriate technical education for returning exiles and for marginalised youth in South Africa.

Why the need for the Batlagae Trust?

A number of agencies exist in this country, such as the Education Development Trust, which have provided and continue to provide, bursary and other support to students. None of these have however provided the kind of facilities envisaged by the Batlagae initiative.

As these other organisations have a wider focus it was felt that there was therefore a need to set up an agency which would attend to the particular needs of returning exiles and that the special needs of these students would not be given effective attention by these other agencies.

The specialised functions for the Batlagae Trust were identified as:

- t counselling of students and families

- a dealing with special curriculum matters:

- the language capacity of returnees may differ from local children eg returnees may not speak Afrikaans (compulsory in many sectors of the existing education system), students may be more competent in English than the language medium of a school they attend etc. Arrangements need to be made to ensure that this does not compromise the educational potential and progress of scholars and students.

- local curricula may differ and problems may be experienced with regard to foreign credits obtained by exiled students
- t making special placement arrangements where age disparity requires it

- t preparing parents and students for various testing possibilities when this is required eg entry or aptitude testing, examination procedures etc.

- t checking the credentials of schools chosen by students or parents

t The Trust is affiliated to the Bursary Council of South Africa and receives information which enables the Trust to monitor bursary allocations and avoid duplicate funding of students

t group placement of students and pupils need to be arranged where group enrolment is likely to facilitate student performance and to provide bridging programmes for students and pupils whose academic enrolment has been delayed

t education staff need to be supported for the optimal care of the needs of returnees, particularly where staff need to perform a certain function eg Liviha School in Venda, where a teacher counsellor will be funded by the Trust to give support to returnee pupils and to facilitate their integration into the system

i close co-ordination is necessary with the liberation movements and the NCCR

t liaison with government structures eg the Departments of National Education, Education and Training and National Health and Population Development, to negotiate on matters relating to the needs of returnee learners

The educational integration of returnees requires concerted and well co-ordinated national and regional planning, largely outside of the capacity of any structure existing prior to the establishment of the Batlagae Trust.

PROGRESS AND CURRENT CAPACITY

The staff complement is currently an Executive Director, Secretary, Bursary Administrator, two Assistants, an Accounts Clerk and part- -time Accountant. The Trust is also assisted by part- time staff from time to time and has agreed to appointing a person to head the bursary section.

This staff complement is able to fulfil the current needs of the programme, but may have to expand if the need arises. The Trust was requested to administer a small business development and skills training programmes. After careful deliberation, the Trust has agreed only to the administration of bursaries, wanting to consolidate its bursary programme before diversifying.

However if the NCCR and liberation movements require assistance with the administration of a limited number of skills trainees the Trust will consider such an application.

The Accountant prepares monthly audits and financial statements, ensuring effective and efficient control of the finances of the Trust.

With regards to the co-ordination of the Batlagae programme on a national level, the Trust is presently dependent on the infrastructure and resources of regional NCCR offices and to a lesser extent liberation movement facilities, to function outside of Johannesburg.

To date the Trust has effectively, through this network, processed work in a number of regions and has established a good working relationship particularly with the Western and Eastern Cape, the Orange Free State and Natal.

In addition, the Johannesburg office has executed a large number of applications for the PWV region.

At present all payments, irrespective of region, are made directly to schools and institutions, front the Johannesburg office. A copy of the Guidelines used for bursaries is attached. Ms Mkhwanazi, the Bursary Administrator, has already visited the Western Cape and made contact with all the other regions. She will be visiting other regions between now and the middle of February to assist with the processing of applications.

FUNDING

To date the Trust has received monies from SIDA, (Sweden), FINNIDA, the Norwegian Foreign Ministry and the Australian Government (AIDAB), as follows:-

SIDA R750,000.00

NORWEGIAN FOR. MIN. R400,000.00

AIDAB R542,472.00

FINNIDA R960,000.00

Project proposals have been submitted to the following donors for the amounts reflected:-

Nordic Operation Dayswork: R 600,000.00

Fund for a Free SA R 356,400.00

SIDA R1,000,000.00

Dutch Anti-Apartheid Movement(AABN) R 60,000.00

R2,016,400.00

EHDQEI_QHILIHE

The Trust has to date approved 463 applications for bursaries as follows:-

pre-school/primary: 230

secondary : 210

vocational/Technical: 15

tertiary : 8

Monies disbursed as at 24/01/92 amount to R346,616.87 while R156,332.10 are committed for applications approved. but not processed for payment. This total of R502,948.92, comprising disbursed and committed funds, reflects payment for 3 months, January to March, 1992.

If the committed funds for the remaining 9 months of 1992 are added to the amount disbursed for the period January to March 1992, then the funds committed so far for the whole of 1992 amount to R2,011,795.48.

It is estimated that a further 530 applications will be forthcoming, requiring an additional amount of approximately R3 million.

Thus during 1992, the Trust is likely to handle a budget of approximately R5 million.

M. Tikly

26/01/92.

The Batlagae Trust. 16th Floor, 51 Plein Street. PO Box 7748
Johannesburg 2001. Tel 293337/9. Fax 290050

GUIDELINES FOR BURSARIES

GENERAL

The Batlagae Trust provides educational assistance for students and children who have returned from exile.

The Trust provides assistance for pre-school education, primary and secondary schooling, vocational training, technical training and bridging courses. In exceptional cases, and depending on the availability of funds, tertiary scholarships will be provided.

A3. The bursary covers fully or partially expenditures for fees, books, uniform.

A4. The allocation per candidate will be dependent on financial need and family circumstances. In the case of enrolment at independent schools co-funding will be sought.

A5. Bursaries are tenable for one year only. If further funding is made available, Bursaries will be renewed on an annual basis and will depend on a student's academic progress, continuing need and availability of funds.

A6. Bursary will be tenable as from January 1992.

B CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

B1. Priority is given to those from institutions established in exile by liberation movements. In addition to these are those who are or were studying in various other institutions abroad.

If the demand for assistance exceeds the level of available funds, priority will be given to those in most need and affirmative action according to age, gender and urban/rural distribution.

C PROCEDURE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

C1. Applicants should have a letter of referral from NCCR or other repatriation organisation.

C2. Fees are payable directly to the institution concerned. Parents or guardians are expected to provide receipts for money received for books and uniforms. A maximum allowance for books, uniform and transport must be negotiated between institutions consent and receipts of bursary. No new payments will be forthcoming without the presentation of such receipts.

C3. Each parent or student is expected to complete an application form and to provide whatever additional documentation that is required - copies of certificates, cv's etc.

The Batlagae Trust - 16th Floor, 51 Plein Street - PO Box 7748 . Johannesburg 2001 - Tel 293337/9 - Fax 290050

Briefing: The Batlagae Trust

Introduction: The Batlagae Trust is an educational trust established in 1991 in South Africa, to assist with the educational integration of returning exiles. ("Batlagae" means "returnees" - literally "those that are coming home" - in Setswana). The Trust will address educational problems of returnees on all levels, from pre-school infants to those facing university students and those seeking adult education.

Motivation: Education often takes centre stage in the problems confronting returning exiles. After 80 years of apartheid, the South African educational system remains a shambles. Classrooms are inadequate and often in ruins. Facilities are de facto, if no longer de jure, segregated. Curricula still reflect their roots in apartheid education. There are not enough places, by far, for the number of school-aged children; many youths leave school after a few years, forever.

The children from exile have no choice but to enter into this national disaster. These children must already cope with the trauma of finding themselves uprooted from familiar homes and surroundings, to "return" to a country they may never have known. Previous schooling, where ever it may have taken place, hardly prepares them for the conditions they are likely to find in the township schools (far less in the rural areas). Parents or guardians too often cannot afford the few private "non-racial" schools to which better-off township residents turn in desperation.

The primary task of the Batlagae Trust is the educational integration of these children from exile. This task requires the clear and careful selection of appropriate institutions and programmes; and often the provision of funds. It requires counselling, both to the learner and to guardians or parents; and the development of personnel capable of providing this form of support. It requires reaching out to the wider community, to engage their interest and involvement in this process of integration. Ultimately, it demands not the "adjustment" of returning children to the South African educational system, but rather looking for ways and means to change that system, with an aim to providing a valid and effective education for all who must go through it.

Background: The Batlagae Trust was created by the "Oversight Committee" of the National Co-ordinating Committee for the Return of Exiles. As with the NCCR, the Oversight Committee comprises representatives of the churches and the liberation movements. It was charged with the task of coordinating the return of exiled children and students. However, the Oversight Committee has no powers to raise funds, nor is it likely to survive beyond the time where the NCCR completes its main tasks. The Batlagae Trust was formed to fill this gap.

The Trust is non-partisan, and will support all children and youth from exile, irrespective of which liberation movement holds their affiliation.

Objectives: The Trust's immediate objectives are:

- to arrange reception and school facilities for repatriated children and students who cannot be dispersed to parents or next of kin;
- to arrange a bursary/scholarship programme for children and students who are able to stay with their families;
- . to facilitate the return of educational archives from abroad, and arrange their safe custody inside South Africa; at a later stage to create an information and research project on SOMAFCO and other educational institutions set up by the liberation movements during the years of exile.

Long-term projects include the reestablishment of an education centre to concentrate on the needs of youth and adults; in particular, to develop appropriate technical education for returning exiles and for the educationally "lost generation" in our country.

Structure: The Batlagae Trust was established by the NCCR, to which it remains accountable. its Board of Trustees is composed of representatives of, and it liaises closely with, the ANC, the PAC, and the Churches.

The Trust was registered on 19 July, 1991 ; registration no. 1279/91, issued by the Department of Justice, Section 6 (1), Trust Property Control Act, 1988 (Republic of South Africa).

The Batlagae Trust is audited by Deloitte Pim Goldby.

Trustees:

Michael Corke, Chairman (Anglican Church representative; headmaster of St. Barnabas College, and Chairman of the Independent Examinations Board)

John Samuel (ANC representative; Head of ANC Department of Education)

William Seriti (PAC representative; practicing attorney).

Barbara Watson (Social Worker at Sacred Heart College)

and Neil McGurk (Catholic Church representative; headmaster of Sacred Heart College, and Director of the independent Examinations Board)

The Board of Trustees has recently appointed Mohammed Tikly as Executive Director.