

Zim/022/0040/39

Rec: 26/4/89

31st March 1989

TO ALL REGIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEES

Dear Comrades,

Re: MALIBONGWE CONFERENCE

Further to our correspondence of 5th January, 1989, we are hereby pleased to inform you on the progress which has been made in the preparations for this great event.

We had informed you of the theme of the conference, and we have since decided on the title. The title is **MALIBONGWE** - a term of great historical significance, and an interpretation of the struggle of South African women by the Dutch women.

The dates of the conference will be from the 19th to the 30th November, 1989. In this time, it is envisaged to have closed discussions among South African women, and open sessions in solidarity with the Dutch women and our International visitors. **MALIBONGWE** will take place in Amsterdam as earlier confirmed.

The Prep-Committee has started receiving papers prepared by various nominated comrades. If your region had someone with the responsibility of preparing a paper, we hope it is already on its way.

The National Prep-Committee has since formed various sub-committees responsible for the following:-

1. Research papers;
2. Conference programme;
3. Publicity and media;
4. Travel;
5. Cultural activities;
6. Fundraising;
7. Technical staff;

We have attached a list of the Issues to be discussed at **MALIBONGWE** and at the same time the list of the background papers which are being prepared. The papers have just started coming in and we shall be sending them to your regions shortly. Your task as RWC is to prepare your Regional membership for **MALIBONGWE** through discussion on these issues and papers as they come, in units, and more preferably in Regional Seminars.

The Issues to be dealt with are quite broad, but are issues which are of great significance to us, as women actively participating in the struggle for National Liberation. We would like Regions to take initiatives as pertains to discussions and to maintain a constant feed-back to the National Prep-e in Lusaka, on the outcome of, or points raised, from the Regional discussions. These can be further discussed at Conference level.

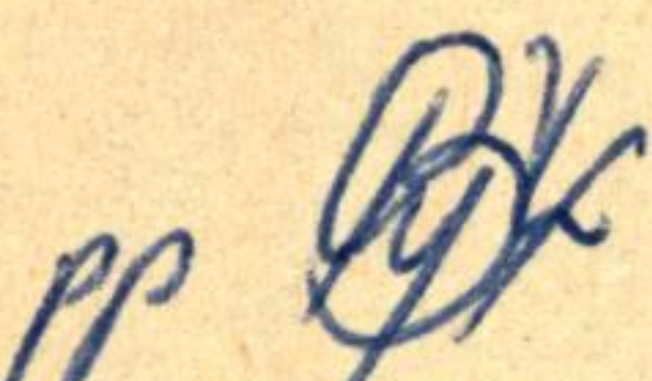
The National Prep-Committee will further inform you on the number of delegates to come from each region. Currently we are aspiring to raise fund together with the Dutch women, for the transportation of the bulk of the delegates to the conference. However, we would like the regions to look into the possibilities of raising funds from their regions to assist. This way we can push for greater representation of our membership.

Once again we ask that the Regional Women's Committees actively take up the tasks outlined to them and report back on any progress, problems or queries which may arise.

The conference is ours - lets make it a success !

MALIBONGWE !

Yours sincerely,



M. Seperepere

CONVENOR NATIONAL PREP-COMMITTEE

**MALIBONGWE CONFERENCE
AMSTERDAM, NOVEMBER ,1989**

ISSUES FOR THE FORUM, RESEARCH AND DISCUSSIONS

The following issues will be discussed as topics in the course of the conference:-

- *The Nature of Women's Oppression in South Africa;*
- *Cultural and Traditional practices and how they retard or enhance women's development in South Africa;*
- *What emancipation means for South African women;*
- *The plight of children in South Africa;*
- *Women for a unitary, non-racial democratic South Africa;*

- *Destabilization of the Frontline states; a threat to peace in the region and in the world;*

Background papers are being prepared on the following topics:-

Women and the law;
Women in detention;
Women and labour and labour organisations;
Women and health (population policy; right to family life; family planning);
Women's participation in the struggle for liberation with particular attention to the armed struggle;
Women and education;
Women and the media;
Women in rural and urban areas;
Women and religious organisations;
Sexual abuse and violence against women;
Women and culture;
The plight of children;



AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

NATIONAL WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT

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Rec: 26/4/89

Dear Comrades,

The Women's Committee of the Dutch Anti-Apartheid Movement, is organising in conjunction with the Women's Section of the African National Congress, a Conference for South African women. The conference is planned to take place in November, 1989, in Amsterdam (Holland).

The planned conference is a follow up of the 1980 International Conference organised by the same organisation and is also stimulated by the resounding success of the CASA (Culture in Another South Africa) Conference held in 1987. It is, in addition, a further consolidation of the existing solidarity between the Dutch people and the ANC.

The Amsterdam conference will be named MALIBONGWE - a term of historic significance and an interpretation of the struggle of the South African women by the Dutch women.

MALIBONGWE has been conceived in the context of the debates currently taking place within the ranks of the democratic movement in South Africa with regard to the position of women in Society and their participation in the national liberation struggle. Our feeling is that the nature and depth of the current repression in our country demands greater efforts by women to stand up in unity in the pitched battles for the total elimination of apartheid. Therefore, MALIBONGWE will afford the women of South Africa an opportunity to discuss extensively, issues that affect them in the struggle for liberation.

We therefore request you office/region to kindly help raise funds with which the ANC Women's Section can purchase tickets to send delegates to Amsterdam in November.

Thanking you in anticipation.

In the Year of Mass Action for People's Power!

A. Am. nyobe.

pp. Gertrude Shope
(Head - ANC Women's Section)