

African National Congress Of South Africa

Observer Mission to the United Nations and Representation to the U.S.

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STATEMENT OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

TO THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING,

DELIVERED BY MR. THOMAS T. NKOBI

19TH - 22ND FEBRUARY, 1985

Mr. President:

The delegation of the African National Congress feels highly privileged to join with many distinguished speakers before it in congratulating you for the honour and confidence reposed in you by the members of the Governing Council to preside and guide over the proceedings of this very important Session.

Furthermore, the African National Congress would like to express its deep sense of gratitude to the Administrator who so graciously invited us to participate in the deliberations of this Session. It is our humble wish that this expression on our part should, Mr. President, be extended through you to the honourable members of your Governing Council. We are indeed grateful.

Mr. President:

The UNDP Governing Council meets pretty early in the course of a year that has been designated by the UN General Assembly as the International Year of the Youth. To us, this year derives its importance

from its motto which is participation, development and peace. In its New Year message, the NEC of the ANC embraced this declaration and called upon the oppressed and fighting youth of South Africa "to take this year as their own and to use it as a means to advance our own perspective of youth participation in society, in development and in the struggle for peace."

It is therefore incumbent upon us to relate to you, Mr. President, the efforts that the ANC has been making and will be making through the duration of this year in pursuit of these three very apt concepts around which the year 1985 is marked. In a way, this narrative is in essence a report on how our Organisation has and continues to utilise the generous financial contributions it receives from the United Nations Development Programme.

It will be recalled that the uprisings of 1976 in South Africa were the result of the abhorrent system of Bantu Education, which has as its policy the creation of a nation of slaves, of a people doomed forever to be hewers of wood and drawers of water. No fewer than 1200 lives of young school pupils were unashamedly murdered, brutalised and thousands others injured and maimed.

In honour of those martyrs and in keeping with its historic task which, among other things, is to defend and promote the genuine interests of its youth, the ANC established an educational institution in 1978, at Morogoro, Tanzania.

The institution, known as the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College, caters for Pre-School, Primary, Secondary, and Adult Education. Its

general objective is an all-round development of the student with emphasis on social growth; the inculcation of certain values and attitudes, such as a sense of responsibility, cooperation, helpfulness, cleanliness of both person and surroundings, respect for self, for others and for property.

In order to achieve those objectives, the curriculum sets out to offer a secondary school certificate in at least seven subject areas chosen from the following components:

1. The Academic Component

All Compulsory: Mathematics, Integrated Science and Development Studies.

2. The Vocational Component

-one compulsory design skill: technical drawing, home economics, woodwork, dress-making, art and craft, general technology, etc.

-one compulsory production skill: typing, bookkeeping, crop husbandry/animal husbandry, motor mechanics, etc.

3. The Cultural Component:

-Compulsory: English with literature

One or two choices from: one African language, French or Portuguese, religious education, music-and-dance.

4. The Recreational Component:

-Compulsory: Physical and health education

-One or two choices from: indoor games, youth clubs, etc.

This brief examination of our curriculum and the levels of education that are provided at our school point to the understanding on our part that education is a permanent process of learning and development. That education is a human right that should be available to every individual at every stage of his or her life. That we all have a duty to learn. So that learning becomes part of our very being, that learning should actually and fully become a constituent element of our social life and well-being.

The whole process does suggest an early and continuous involvement of the youth in the development of our society. It is part of the strategy to prepare our youth so that they can, in the fullness of time, be ready to take over the management of our political, economic and social life in an ordered, efficient and effective manner.

Mr. President:

The Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College has, despite very limiting factors such as acute shortages of building materials and lack of suitable transport and machinery, today achieved what may correctly be described as phenomenal growth. The College complex now comprises the following:

1. Day Care Centre:

4 completed blocks with a capacity of 64 infants.

2. Nursery School:

4 blocks duly completed and in full use.

3. Primary School:

Construction work is well under way. When completed this year, 350 pupils will be accommodated.

4. Secondary School:

- 8 classrooms nearing completion to accommodate 500 pupils
- 3 laboratories nearing completion
- library buildings expected to be ready by the middle of 1985
- History and Geography blocks nearing completion.

5. Dormitories:

- Of the planned six dormitory units, four units each with a capacity for 144 students are now complete. Each unit is divided up into smaller family units of eight, comprising a bedroom, living/study room and kitchen, communal hall, recreation hall, ablution block and facilities for washing clothes.
- The fifth and sixth dormitory units are at an advanced stage of construction.

6. Teachers Block:
with offices for Principal, school office, staff room, preparation and meeting rooms will be in full use in April 1985.
7. Staff Housing:
76 housing units detached, duplex, hostels and flats are now fully equipped and occupied. Several more are still to be erected.
8. The ANC-Holland Solidarity Hospital:
is designed to provide preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative and educational health care services. It is already operational and has a capacity of twenty-two beds and is serviced by a medical and pharmaceutical laboratories, a theatre, X-Ray unit, sterilization room and kitchen facilities.
9. Other Structures:
These consist of carpentry, mechanical, cobblery, furniture and joinery, garage and electrical workshops, including a garment factory, a photographic laboratory and stores.
10. Infrastructure:
The provision of water supply, sewerage, electricity and roads was given priority. Work still continues in an effort to expand and improve according to ever-growing demands.

Mr. President:

The African National Congress subscribes to the view that agriculture is a vital component in any development process. The ANC endeavours therefore always to give priority to this aspect of human activity. It always seeks to prevent its membership from developing a dependency on food aid and packages by growing enough for themselves. To that end, very concerted efforts are being made at the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College to quickly develop agriculture to the extent that there are now several

basic branches established. These are the piggery with 400 pigs; a poultry house with eight pens each housing 300 birds, broilers and layers; some 45 head of cattle and 300 goats. Staple crop production this year is expected to rise to a total of 800 hectares from a mere 100 hectares in 1981. This growth will give us the possibility to provide the community with about 35 percent or so of the fruit and vegetable intake.

Mr. President:

Over the past year, the international community has bore witness to a series of machinations and treacherous attempts by the South African racist regime to delude the world into believing that it was embarking upon serious measures to bring about peaceful change in South Africa and stability to the Southern Africa region. The truth is that the Nkomathi Accord was one more lethal instrument to hit disastrously at the base of our Movement. Today, the Nkomathi Accord is blatantly flouted by the racist regime's support for the Mozambican bandits. The efforts to enlist the Coloured and Indian sections of the black population into acceptance of the apartheid constitution eminently failed. They were resoundingly defeated by the almost total boycott of the sham elections.

Recently, the racist regime has tried to raise the expectations of the community of nations by proposing a conditional release for Nelson Mandela and other prominent political prisoners. Botha has also cunningly gone on record to suggest negotiations but on his own terms.

Our people, the struggling and fighting force of our country, have rejected all these ploys out of hand. As a result, the racist regime has begun to panic. Political activists are being severely harassed

and peaceful demonstrations brutally suppressed. Meetings of militant political organisations are banned. Just last Monday, the racist regime has taken into custody more members of the leadership of the United Democratic Front, allegedly on charges of High Treason. The youth and workers are increasingly being shot to death as they courageously press on with their just demands for freedom and human dignity. The racist regime has once again violated the territorial integrity of a free and independent African State by bombing South African refugees in Botswana.

There is no doubt whatsoever in our minds that as the tempo of the struggle intensifies, the racist regime will resort to more and more acts of savagery in a vain effort to bludgeon our people into silence and meek submission. But our people will never be cowed. At worst, many will just be forced to leave South Africa to seek relief elsewhere.

That possibility cannot be wished away. We have had it in 1960, and we experienced it again in 1976. That experience has taught us great many lessons.

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has graciously allocated the ANC some farm land about 55 kilometres north of Morogoro. It is envisaged that this farm land to be known as the ANC Development Centre will be developed over a period of five to ten years as a complete community of about 800 houses accommodating a population of 5,000 people.

The main features of the ANC Development Centre may be described as follows:

1. The Population and Villages:

The villages will accommodate approximately 5,000 people engaged primarily in agriculture, small industries, handicrafts, education, maintenance and other supporting activities.

Because of the need for great flexibility in the growth rate of the centre and other factors, the population will be decentralised in villages of about 300 people, who, once settled, will be able to consolidate themselves as a close-knit, well-organized community. Apart from housing, each village will contain a central hall, administration offices, common rooms, a tuckshop and supplies distribution, sport fields and equipment storage for communal work.

2. Vocational Training Centre

A vocational training centre is being established to train 220 students and is capable of expansion to 330 students. This project, funded with the support of the ILO, is seen as a priority towards promoting the construction and other skills needed to develop Dakawa. The VTC will contain classrooms and workshops for construction, carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, mechanics, auto mechanics, leather work, tailoring, etc.

3. Education Orientation Centre

Because of the crippling system of Bantu Education, young students arriving from South Africa need a period of assessment (6-12 months) before they can be placed at secondary school or at the VTC. During this period, they receive upgrading classes to insure that when they start school at the beginning of a new academic year, or in the second term, they are fully equipped to cope. The students are assisted to overcome the traumatic

effects of sudden uprooting, in particular by receiving introductory classes in the history of the liberation struggle.

The ANC Education Orientation Centre is already operational and is supported through UNESCO Project No. ANC/84/003.

4. Rehabilitation Centre

The Centre is intended for the social rehabilitation of people suffering from the effects of torture, alcohol and drug related problems. It should accommodate 60-100 people and includes workshops for occupational therapy. It should be situated in a quiet area.

5. The Agricultural Centre

This project will contain a farm machinery yard, crop storage and feed mixing station, administration and research centre and will guide all agricultural activities at Dakawa. These activities will include crop production (maize, beans, sorghum, sunflower, rice, soyabeans, etc.), livestock (cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, chickens, ducks, rabbits, bees, and possibly fish), horticulture (fruit and vegetables).

6. Small Industries

Small industries are envisaged and may in some cases be attached to the villages. Research is needed to determine the size and feasibility of industries such as leatherwork, cabinet making, garment making, glass blowing, weaving and handicrafts, etc.

7. Children and Schooling

Creche, Nursery, Primary (and later) secondary schools will be centralised or partially centralised. It will be necessary to accommodate

and care for children without parents - possibly as many as 700-1,000.

8. Central Administration Centre

This complex will be placed centrally and will provide the administration and back-up facilities for the entire complex. It will include:

- offices
- stores
- supplies centre which will store, process and distribute foodstuffs to the villages
- motor vehicle maintenance workshop
- transport administration and car park
- clinic capable of expansion to a health centre
- administration/management training centre

9. Cultural and handicraft centre

The ANC is firmly committed to the promotion of all forms of cultural expression. Music and dance, the performing and graphic arts, writing, etc. serve to enhance the quality of life of all our people and today culture is a weapon in our liberation struggle, expressing the aspirations of the people. In the near future, culture will be a tool in the reconstruction of a liberated, democratic South Africa. At Dakawa it has an important role to play and the centre will include:

- library
- small theatre, with stage, lighting facilities and change rooms
- studio for graphic artists and sculptors
- silk screen workshop

- photographic dark room
- facilities for film editing
- handicraft workshops

Mr. President:

The ANC would like to place on record its deep appreciation for the assistance we have and continue to receive through the United Nations Development Programme. We are grateful.

However, Mr. President, the report and outline of our current and future commitment serve to underline the enormous task we are faced with. It is a growing responsibility to which we invite Member States of your Governing Council to address themselves to when consideration to the preparations for the fourth programming cycle for 1987-1991 is given.

The issue of IPF for national liberation movements is of special interest to us. It is quite surprising to us that the Administrator should firmly propose a per capita GNP for the national liberation movement despite the difficulty "to estimate (NLM) needs into the fourth cycle". Surely, Mr. President, a better formula could have been devised as for instance to request the Resident Representatives in the Frontline States to sit down with us.

It should always be borne in mind Mr. President, that there is still a mammoth task yet to be accomplished by the ANC in the field of education and training. Our development projects are relatively new to enable us

reach a measure of self-sufficiency in the near future. Our populations in exile are increasing in ever larger numbers.

To help us sustain and improve the present level of development, Mr. President, the ANC expects your Governing Council to substantially increase the level of the IPF for this cycle. In this way, and in this way only can we be assured of reaching the best form of organisation that will allow our people to fully enjoy conditions and services to which they have a basic right.

THANK YOU!!!