

LMT 205/209/6

LUTHULI MEMORIAL TRUST

(An educational, cultural and welfare trust)

Chairman:
The Rt. Rev. Tom Butler
Director:
Nathaniel M. Masemola

AGENDA ITEM 3: DIRECTOR'S REPORT - THE LMT AND
THE CHANGING SOUTH AFRICAN SCENE, 1994 AND BEYOND

INTRODUCTION:

1.1: The LMT was established in 1982 as a successor body to the LMF which had been established in the 1970s but had to be suspended and re-structured.

1.2: The LMT had a checkered history from 1982-1987.

1.3: Changes made in the work of the LMT from 1987-1994 have improved its performance in some ways but not in others.

1.3.1: On the positive side LMT has educated students at various Universities in the U.K., U.S.A., Canada, Australia, Switzerland, Sweden, Nigeria and more latterly in South Africa. Many of these students are back in South Africa working in the private and public sectors of the economy.

1.3.2: On the negative side, the financial problems that have bugged the LMT (and previously the LMF) remain with us to this day. The root cause of this problem is that the LMT has had to live from hand to mouth, without any capital to fall back on. If the LMT had been endowed with a substantial capital at its inception the whole situation would have been different because the interest earned would have been sufficient to cushion the LMT over bad times. Unhappily this is not our situation. However, on the whole, it is a creditable performance to have educated over 1000 students (all of them wholly dependent on the Trust for all their requirements) in the short space of say six (6) years.

1.3.3: The historic developments now taking place in South Africa require the LMT to review its position if it is to continue to be relevant and useful in the new South Africa. The notes that follow seek to provide background material for such review.

2. OFFICES:

2.1: In addition to the London office, the LMT now has two offices in Nigeria (one in Lagos and the other in Kano); and two offices in South Africa (one in Johannesburg and other in Kroonstad). Only the Lagos office is well staffed, with eight (8) professional staff and ten (10) general staff. The other offices run on skeleton staffs and are no real burden on administrative funds.

TRUSTEES: The Rt. Rev. Tom Butler; Dr. Sibusiso Bengu; Mr. B. M. Bimberg; Mr. John Matthew OBE; Mr. Thabo Mbeki; The Rt. Rev. Hugh Montefiore; Mr. Thomas T. Nkobi; Mr. Alfred Nzo; Prof. Terence Ranger; Dr. Richard Rathbone; Prof. G. M. Seiloleane.

Company registered in England No. 1621684. Registered office: 103 Borough High Street, London SE1 1NN.

2.2: The London office is funded from SIDA, Finida, EEC and Austcare sources only. UNESCO does not contribute in any way to administrative costs.

2.3: The office in Kroonstad is funded by Anglo-American Ltd and the Canadian Embassy in Pretoria.

2.4: Liberty Life Foundation has provided subsidised offices for the office in Johannesburg. The Canadian Embassy donated £5000 for 1993.

3. NUMBER OF STUDENTS:

Attached hereto as an Annex is a list of students LMT sponsors at various educational institutions. The last of them should have completed their studies by the end of the 1994/95 academic year. This will be the right time to wind up the work of the LMT in the U.K. As it happens this will coincide with the winding up of the LMT/Austcare Project in Nigeria. The latter project ends on the 31 December, 1994. Austcare has said so, and there is no intention to ask for an extension of the Project beyond that date.

4. FUNDING:

4.1: This subject has been dealt with adequately in several previous reports. It is also dealt with in Agenda item 4 of this meeting.

4.2: ANC priorities are intensely national/international and focus on the General Election scheduled for the 27/04/94. Everything else, however important, is subordinated to this imperative. Every penny they raise is directed to that end. If Trustees fail to raise funds themselves, there is little prospect of funds coming from the ANC.

5. NIGERIAN PROGRAMME:

5.1: Comprehensive reports have been submitted to Trustees and to Austcare on this programme. It started with 500 students in January, 1991. Since then several students have completed their studies and returned to South Africa to serve; others have fallen by the way - side; a few have died. A balance of 150 remain on various courses of study. They must finish by the 31/12/94 when Austcare funding ceases. UNESCO so is rigidly bureaucratic that in the abnormal Nigerian situation LMT can no longer look to them for funding.

5.2: The future of this Project was discussed at meetings held in Johannesburg on the 10th and 13th January, 1994. Participants were Messrs N.M. Masemola, Mohamed Tikly, Director, (ANC Batlagae Trust), George Nene (ANC Chief Representative, Nigeria), George Shawa (ANC Education Department) and Ms Xoliswa M. Skomolo (Co-ordinator, LMT/Austcare Project, Nigeria).

All aspects of the Project were discussed in the context of the decay of the Nigerian economic, social, educational, political, security etc situation. Although no decisions could be taken by a meeting of this kind, general consensus was reached on the following ideas:

5.2.1: It was accepted that Austcare would not extend the Project beyond the 31/12/94.

5.2.2: It was accepted that UNESCO could not be relied upon to fund the programme beyond that date (31/12/94) and that even if UNESCO agreed to do so its rigid rules/procedures which the staff apply rigidly would make such undertakings useless; so UNESCO promises/undertakings may be ignored.

5.2.3: It was noted that many of the students who returned from Nigeria either before or after completing their courses of study have approached the Batlagae Trust (B.T.) for further sponsorship at various South African educational institutions and that the B.T. had accepted many of them.

5.2.4: It was further noted that the B.T. had budgetary provision for about 100 of these returnees for the 1994/95 academic year and that further provision would be made for them in future, depending on needs.

5.2.5: It was agreed that as and when students return to South Africa, the B.T. would look after their future educational and related requirements.

5.2.6: Although Austcare funding expires on the 31/12/94, the leases of the office premises in Lagos and Kano only expire on the 31 March, 1995. There will, therefore, be three (3) months overlap which will be used by the staff to wind up the work efficiently and effectively.

5.2.7: The incumbent of the Kano office will have to be replaced by a staff member from Lagos since she has to return to S.A. to join the ANC Department of Foreign Affairs.

5.2.8: It was noted that proper financial arrangements would have to be made for the staff at the end of their tenure of office in order to avoid them suffering hardship during the months following immediately after their services end.

5.2.9: It was further noted that Miss Skomolo, Mr Tikly and George Shawa would join the UNESCO mission to Nigeria at the end of January, 1994; also N.M. Masemola.

5.2.10: Mr George Nene informed the meeting that the ANC office in Lagos will be closed down in March/April, 1994, and that thereafter the LMT staff and students would have to operate without such political assistance as the office was able to afford them; also that some arrangements would have to be made (by the ANC) for the 50 ANC students that his office cared for outside the framework of the Austcare Project.

6. THE FUTURE:

6.1: It has been stated earlier in this report that the Nigerian Programme will end on the 31/12/94 when Austcare ceases funding it, that the last batch of LMT students in the U.K. complete their courses in 1994/95; and that there are two LMT offices in S.A. - one in Johannesburg and the other in Kroonstad, Orange Free State.

6.2: There are in fact, large numbers of scholarship organisations in South Africa, all focusing on African education. The EEC-funded Kagiso Trust for example, has a scholarship budget of R80 million for 1994 alone.

6.3: This is not, therefore, an environment in which the LMT will prosper if it concentrates on scholarships only; if the LMT is to prosper it must revise its Mission Statement to take account of the felt needs of the people. International donor agencies now have offices in the country and they too are shifting their interest from scholarships per se to wider social, cultural and economic developmental issues. It is not easy for an organisation such as the LMT, which was established for the specific purpose of granting scholarships to exiles, to change direction; yet this is the challenge it must meet if it is to survive in the rapidly - changing S.A. Trustees are earnestly invited to make proposals to meet this challenge. It may well be that the situation calls for an institution like the great American or Continental Foundations. If a good proposal was prepared on the creation of such an Institution (call it the Luthuli Memorial Foundation if you will), it might, with the moral or political support of an ANC - controlled Government of National Unity, receive active support from those governments that have hitherto supported our efforts. But this is speculation intended to generate a serious debate on what the LMT can or ought to do (which is not already being done by other bodies) in the New South Africa.

6.3: In considering the future, Trustees may wish to take account of other activities being undertaken or considered by other bodies in South Africa in Memory of Chief Albert J, Luthuli. These include the following:

6.3.1: Luthuli Memorial Trust Centre, Groutville, Natal. This is a complex of buildings housing a Clinic, Pre-School, small-scale industries, social welfare/cultured centre. The local business community contributed R30 million towards the construction of the project.

6.3.2: Luthuli Memorial Hall of Residence, University of Natal. The Hall bears Luthuli's name and an impressive bronze bust of his head commands the entrance to the Hall. There is a quotation from his speeches on the bust, dealing with Peace, Racial Harmony, Freedom and Justice.

6.3.3: The University of the Witwatersrand is considering establishing a Luthuli Chair of African Studies.

6.3.4: Professor Reddy, Rector, University of Durban - Westville, Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, CIR. and other interested parties, are considering establishing a Gandhi/Luthuli Memorial Centre in Natal. We are in touch.

6.3.5: There is a Martin Luther King/Albert Luthuli Centre in Johannesburg, with headquarters in Atlanta, GA, U.S.A. We have an on-going dialogue with them.

6.3.6: Mr Reddy, formerly chairman of the United Nations Committee Against Apartheid, recently re-issued Luthuli's speeches, including the Nobel Peace Prize lecture.

6.3.7: Nadine Gordimer has included an essay on Luthuli in a recent collection of essays on South African public life.

6.3.8: At the end of 1993 Peter Rule Published "Nokukhanya, Mother of Light", being Mrs Luthuli's biography.

7. CONCLUSION

It is clear from the foregoing that there are still many people (and groups/organisations/institutions) in South Africa, including the ANC, who desire Luthuli's name to be kept alive - and many who find his message of Peace, Justice, Democracy, Racial harmony relevant during the current period of transition from Apartheid to Freedom. Trustees may wish to keep in step with this national mood. In the current financial climate this will need great efforts to sustain.