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THE RELEASE MANDELA CAMPAIGN

"THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN"

1st Floor. Portland Place

37 Jorissen Street

BRAAMFONTEIN

2017

March 25, 1990

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

OPERATION RESETTLEMENT

PRR - PROGRAMME FOR THE RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This proposal sets out to raise funds for resettling our sisters and brothers who are in exile, all over the world after having left South Africa due to police harassment in various forms, inter alia, banning, banishment, raids, detention, torture, surveillance and assassination attempts and, indeed, killing of their associates or comrades.

It is hard to establish the exact figure of the exiles. Some newspapers at home quote the World Council of Churches as putting the figure at a staggering 400,000 (Four hundred thousand!). Even if we work on the basis of a conservative estimate of 100,000 (One hundred thousand), that is still a lot. All these people expect to come back home to South Africa as soon as the political situation becomes normal.

#### 2. RATIONALE/BACKGROUND

The Release Mandela Campaign (RMC) set itself the following objectives in 1983 when it was established as an affiliate of the United Democratic Front: ,

2.1 To vigorously campaign and work for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela. We put him in that category because we know that he symbolized resistance against Apartheid and a quest for a democratic and non-racial South Africa. Mandela was released on February 11, 1990.

2.2 To vigorously campaign and work for the unconditional release of all other political prisoners. Walter Sisulu and other ANC leaders were released on October 12, 1989

2.3 To vigorously campaign and work for the unconditional unbanning of the African National Congress and other political organisations. This was realized on the 2nd of February 1990.

2.4 To vigorously campaign and work for the unconditional return of the exiles. Some aspects of this objective was achieved on the 2nd of February 1990. However, a blanket amnesty still has to follow in order to absolve all exiles.

2.5. To promote and propagate the Freedom Charter which was adopted by 3000 delegates on the 26th of June in 1955.

The thinking behind this proposal emanates from 2.4, i.e. to make reasonably adequate arrangements and preparations for the RETURNEES. This is a crucial phase in South Africa as our struggle unfolds and reaches what one may optimistically call the "mature stage", i.e. the stage of negotiations leading inexorably to the creation of a democratic, non-racial and free South Africa.

Needless to point out that the resettlement of refugees and exiles presented huge problems in other African countries such as Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Angola and recently Namibia. If we do not start as late as now, then we will be beset with chronic exile problems.

It must be pointed out that, whereas in the struggle of other communities, the question of exiles only becomes addressed at the later stage after a ceasefire or peace settlements, in our case the ANC has decided that the South African government demonstrates as part of its willingness to negotiate, that the exiles return before the negotiations process begins. The South African government has formally requested ??? and this has ?? the early return of exiles possible.

### 3. OBJECTIVE

The overall objective is to resettle the returnees. This programme has three aspects:

3.1. SHORT TERM OBJECTIVE: The immediate aim is to raise funds in order to set the ball rolling.

3.2. MEDIUM TERM OBJECTIVE: To select personnel to be used in the resettlement programme. These personnel shall be activists in South Africa who are predisposed to doing this type of work. These people shall be called Resettlement Assistant and shall be 8 in number. They shall be primarily drawn from the ranks of activists who could not complete their matric or degree studies as well as that of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) who are unemployed. This will provide employment for them.

3.3. LONG TERM OBJECTIVE: To all intents and purposes, this objective shall be treated as short term. It has merely been classified as long-term because prior to it must come other steps. This last and final objective is to receive and resettle our returnees.

#### 4. TARGET GROUPS

The programme shall encompass the following categories of the returnees who are scattered, as it were, all over the globe and in different spheres of life:

In military training camps

Those who are studying

. Those who are in refugee camps .

. Those who are living with friends or managed to get themselves

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#### 5. PROGRAMME OF ACTION

The steps to be taken include the following:

5.1. To raise funds (see 3.1)

5.2. To expand office space. The RMC already has primary offices and staff that should be increased.

5.3. To recruit and train resettlement assistants. (RA's)

5.4. The National Executive Committee (NEC) of the RMC shall appoint a Resettlement Co-ordinator to whom the 8 resettlement assistants shall report (see 3.2.)

5.5. An intensive 4 month on-the-job training course shall be arranged for the chosen RA's. Such a programme shall be run with the assistance of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Church groups that have relevant material or resources and the International Red Cross.

5.6. For the sake of exposure, and as part of their training, the RA's will visit Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, The United States of America and some European countries.

5.7. After the completion of their training, the RA's shall be deployed in their respective areas where they will operate Resource Centres.

5.8. The RA's shall be recruited from each of the following provinces:

5.8.1. Transvaal

5.8.2. Orange Free State

5.8.3. Natal

5.8.4. Cape

5.9. One of the 2 RA's in each province shall be a supervisor who shall be responsible for the Resource Center in that particular province.

5.10 The content of the training programme of the RA's shall include:

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5.10.1. General factors that motivate the refugees to go into exile.

5.10.2. General problems encountered by the refugees when they first settled into exile.

5.10.3. General overview of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that the exiles experienced when they arrived in exile.

5.10.4. General survival mechanisms that the exiles employed.

5.10.5. Review of life in exile for married exiles.

5.10.6. Review of life of non-married female exiles.

5.10.7. Review of life of non-married male exiles.

5.10.8. Social problems that the returnees expect to encounter back at home.

5.10.9. Financial problems that the returnees expect to encounter back at home.

5.10.10. Cultural problems that the returnees expect to encounter back at home.

5.10.11. Soco-cultural and linguistic problems that the children of the returnees are expected to encounter back at home.

JOB DESCRIPTION OF THE RA'S SHALL INCLUDE:

Helping in the raising of the awareness of the existence of the Programme for the Resettlement of Returnees (RPR) to the public. Compile a register of the returnees which will be made available to all interested organisations and individuals who would like to help.

Identify and systematize all the needs of the returnees and similarly make these available to all interested organisations and individuals who would like to help.

. Help the returnees to find accomodation

. Help the returnees to find jobs be establishing a computerized 'job placement bank'.

. Help to reintegrate returnees with their South African society.

. Help the returnees to adapt generally to the South African society.

. Help returnees and particularly their children to be accomodated at schools and also help to provide for their educational needs.

7. THE COST OF THE PROGRAMME (FOR 1 YEAR)

7.1.

7.2.

7.3.

N.B. NOTES

7.3.1.

CAPITAL COSTS

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. Office furniture

. Fax

. Typewriter (2)

. Photocopier

. Purchase of 1 pool car

. Computer

SUBTOTAL

RUNNING COSTS

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NEED RELATED EXPENSES

7.3.1.

7.3.2.

7.3.3.

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(four offices : 100m2

. Salary of 1 receptionist (R800 X 12)

. Salary of National Co ordinator (R2000 X12)

. Salary of 4 provincial supervisors (R1500X12) R 72,000

R 12,000

R 7,200

R 24,000

Salary of 4 resettlement assistants(R1,200X12)R 45,000

SUBTOTAL

. Car maintenance (R500X12)

. Stationery (R300X12)

. Miscellaneous

. Telephone (R500X12)

Travel allowances for exiles

Initial resettling allowances

Enabling allowance

UBTOTAL

GRAND TOTAL

10,000 exiles who really need ??? allowance.(travel)

7.3.2.

extremely destitute.

R 6,000

R 36,000

R 5,000

R 6,000

R169,400

250,000

500,000

1 000 000

1 750 000

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R 1,982,400

There will be an average allowance of R25 per claimant for

This figure provides R100 for each exile who will be

7.3.3. A start-off capital of R500 will be made available to 2,000 exiles who acquired vocational skills e.g. carpentry, sewing, knitting, shoemaking etc. in order that they can start small businesses on their own initiative. These will then grow and offer more job opportunities for members of the community. This will create goodwill, admiration and value instead of perceiving them as a "threat". The ultimate benefit is social reintegration in a harmonious manner.

#### 8. TIMING

The establishment of such a long programme is long overdue. However, it is never too late to mend. On account of the rapid political developments in our country, this programme has to commence forthwith. Talks about talks are underway and are expected to be positive and lead to real negotiations.

#### 9. CONCLUSION

The importance and urgency of establishing an infrastructure at home for receiving our exiles cannot be overemphasised. In fact some of the exiles are already beginning to trickle into South Africa. There will be problems like those experienced in Zimbabwe and presently in Namibia, if this matter is not given reasonable attention. We are, therefore, making an earnest appeal to organisations to help us now before it is too late. We suggest that, in the event of not enough funds being available to meet the entire budget, certain aspects of the budget may be financed to set the ball rolling.

Thanking you in anticipation,

AUBREY MOKOENA

National Co-ordinator