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(HEETIN TO DISCUSS SAEU RETURNING STUDENTS

' AT SHELL HOUSE ON 29TH SEPTEMBER 1992

PRESENT:

Mahomed Tickly (Batlagae Trust), Didi Nkosi (SAEU - Freelance),
Thandi Ngengebule .(SACHED Trust), Evie Nonyongo (Transformed
DUSSPRO/TCC), Thakane Mbatha (Transformed DUSSPRO/TCC)

PREAMBLE:

This was an exploratory meeting to find out how both SACRED and the
Batlagae Trust could cooperate in servicing the returning SAEU
students. For this reason, there was no pre-drawn agenda. A
background of the relationship between SACHED, SAEU and.wthe
Batlagae Trust was given. Following this, issues were discussed as
they arose, and tentative agreements were made.

BACKGROUND OF RELATIONSHIP

Thandi outlined that SACHED had had discussions with SAEU as early
as February 1990, when three members of staff (Thandi, Evie and
Nokuzola) visited Tanzania (SAEU, Dar-Es-Salaam) and discussed with
SAEU the possible assistance tk.at SACHED could give to assist
returning students who had been studying with SAEU at secondary
level.

Continuing the background, Mahomed then told the meeting, that the
Director of SAEU, Mrs Ligate had subsequently (in 1992) asked the
Batlagae Trust to advertise in several newspapers, informing
returning SAEU students about the intention to relocate the
programme in South Africa. Students were provided with forms that
they could fill to facilitate this. Batlagae was also asked to
receive the forms, process them and forward them to Mrs Ligate.
This was done and Mrs Ligate (SAEU) paid for this service3

Following this, discussions took place between Mrs Ligate and
SACHED. The outcome was that SACHED would explore ways of taking
the survey of locating the SAEU students (Secondary level).
Returned forms were given to SACRED, but there was still a need to
discuss funding. Mrs Ligate had further discussions with SACHED on
Thursday 10th September.

BATLAGAE'S INTEREST IN SAEU STUDENTS

Mahomed explained that the Batlagae Trust was set up by the NCCR and given the responsibility of re-integrating returnees educationally. At present, Batlagae has 2,200 learners in their programmes. These programmes use NCCR national structures. Mahomed also explained that information had been put through the ANC Newsletter (next issue) to alert the returning exiles about the possibility of the programme in 1993.

They support t/- 100 ex-political prisoners and their dependants. They also look after dependants of returned exiles. They have been funding t/- 80 returnees studying by correspondence. Batlagae's interest in the SAEU returnees stems from this responsibility. Batlagae is interested in placing returning students. The ANC will ,help with funds through the Batlagae Trust.

SACHED'S INVOLVEMENT

In a meeting with SACHED's representatives, Mrs Ligate intimategi that the Commonwealth Secretariat had forwarded a proposal to the EC (European Community). The EC responded to this by saying that a South African Agency should be involved in this initiative. This response was referred to the SACHED Executive. Amongst others, the EC wanted to know how this programme differed from what Batlagae was doing for SAEU returnees. It was explained that SACHED and Batlagae could cooperate in setting up this programme. For this reason it was important for SACHED and Batlagae to discuss this possible collaboration.

It was agreed that students who had not completed their studies could be assisted to do so through SAEU/SACHED with funds from the Commonwealth) Batlagae expressed a willingness to discuss c0e funding with SACHED and SAEU.

SACHED explained that it was important for somebody from SAEU to come to South Africa to initiate the programme. There was therefore a need to write up a proposal regarding this. Such a person could work on a contract basis. This would be done to obviate problems that beset the initiation of such programmes. SACHED could house the programme, and provide the learning environment for the students through its centres nationally. SACHED representatives explained that this discussion was being taken through the SACHED structures.

where problems arose regarding transport of students to centres, Batlagae agreed that these would be sorted through Batlagae approaching the funding agencies responsible.

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SACHED inquired about the responsibility for other problems that could face the returning learners, eg. financial and broader welfare issues. Mahomed explained that issues such as need for counselling and welfare is normally catered for through Batlagae.

OTHER ISSUES

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- Where an agency handles Batlagae Trust students, the Trust will need reports about the students from the agency.
- tudents who need short courses should be referred to the Trust if they are exiles.
- O-Level and A-Level students need to be helped to move towards South African qualifications.
- Batlagae Trust explained that a number of the learners were being attracted towards Vocational skills counses. Some of these skills-based course adverts were given to SACHED representatives for information.
- Some'of the student forms (those who indicated an interest in vocational skills) were left with Batlagae Trust.

WAY FORWARD

- From the meeting it is clear that Batlagae Trust aims at catering for the broad needs of returning students. If necessary, this Trust would consider assisting SAEU in a collaborative funding drive for SAEU learners, but would also recommend the broadening of the access to other returning exiles.

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- SACRED will communicate with Mrs Ligate and also keep in touch with Batlagae.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN EXTENSION UNIT

The South African Extension Unit (SAEU) was set up in Tanzania
' in 1984 to provide adult

by the

exiled South Africans regardless of political affiliation.

its members used the facility

Commonwealth Secretariat

education through distance education/correspondence methods for
in the case of

As far as the ANC is concerned,

' Zambia, Angola, and,

extensively in Tanzania,

Uganda, many MK cadres are still utilising the courses offered
by the SAEU. Approximately 3000 learners have benefitted or are
benefitting educationally through the SAEU.

The courses offered by the SAEU are essentially of two kinds'

t Basic adult education in English, mathematics and

agricultural science

t O-Level and A-Level courses.

Now that most exiles have repatriated to South Africa the SAEU
has extended its programme inside the country. An arrangement has
been made with the SACHED TRUST to facilitate the setting up of
the programme in South Africa.

In May this year advertisements were placed in several newspapers
requesting returnees who were SAEU students in exile to re-
register with the SAEU/SACHED if they wish to continue with
distance education courses, either to complete courses they began
in exile or to commence new courses.

ANC Branches are requested to inform all returnees in their areas
about the availability of the SAEU programme. Interested members

236 Bree Street, Johannesburg 2001;

should contact SACHED,

Telephone 011-333-9746; Fax 011-333-2297.

TRAINING IN BUILDING SKILLS

1 YEAR COURSE WHICH PROVIDES SKILLS TRAINING IN
BRICKLAYING, CARPENTRY, PLUMBING & PLASTERING.

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TRAINING IN BUILDING SKILLS, TO ENABLE THE TRAINEE TO
BECOME A SELF-EMPLOYED BUILDER. THE COURSES IN BRICKLAYING,
CARPENTRY, ETC ARE NOT OFFERED INDIVIDUALLY.

. NEXT COURSE STARTS IN JANUARY 1993.

' TRAINING PROVIDED AT NICRO, SOWETO

APPLICATION FORMS AVAILABLE FROM BATLAGAE TRUST.