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STUDENT RETURNEES : LIIVHA SCHOOL . OCTOBER 1992 - 1993

There are seven children of Returnees at the school this year. Six of them belongs to one family. The youngest one has just started at the pre-school while the others are found in the different classes in both the primary and the high school. There are three student returnees who were at the school lastgfwwho did not come back.

What follows is a brief report on each of the pupils. Although the students generally have adaptwell to the school and feel confident with school work, there are still some problems. Those at high school level are still experiencing difficulties with learning Tshivenda and some other subjects. Some of the older pupils are still finding it difficult to adapt themselves to the social environment outside the school as they do not speak the local language.

ESNART NELWAMONDO

Standard 5

Esnart was promoted to Std 55 at the end of last year. She attended the extra classes regularly in the last term and she was also given separate tuition during formal lessons. She made improvement in her reading of English and Tshivenda. She feels she has been coping better with her school work this year. She still regarded her major problem as writing English. She is also having difficulties in History.

Esnart appears to be happy at the school this year. This is also the opinion of her father who thinks that she is coping better "with both social and educational" pressures.

Esnart's father has indicated that their main difficulties is in paying her travelling expenses as they stay far from the school. The father is a full-time student at the local university and his wife, who is a dress-maker, is the only one who is generating the family's income.

THEMBA DENNIS NDLOVU

Dennis did not come back to the school this year. During the last term of last year he made some good progress with his school work and was promoted to Std 10. We managed to get him a tutor in Xitsonga and made he good progress and passed the subject well in the exam. He also made some improvement in the other subjects and even passed his English well.

When I stayed with him during the third and fourth term I gave him regular support and helped him develop disciplined ways of

studying.

Dennis indicated that he was not happy at the school as well as staying in the area. He wanted to go to a school offering subjects he is interested in. He also wanted to stay at home with his family in Tzaneen.

Dennis applied for a place at the Interchurch Education Programme in Johannesburg but did not attend the interview. We learned that he decided to go to another school in Johannesburg.

Dennis only contacted the school near the end of March this year to say that he has left the school in Johannesburg, and that he wanted to rejoin the school. He also wanted to know whether Batlagae Trust will still support him if he comes back to the school. He was informed that he will still receive his bursary if he comes back to the school but we never heard from him again.

MPHILE AND NONKULULEKO NWENDAMUTSWU

The two sisters were both promoted at the end of 1992 but they did not return to the school this year.

Their parents have been living separately as from last year. We learned that when their mother moved to live in Johannesburg she took the two girls with her.

SAM SIBIYA

Pre-school

Sam started attending the pre-school this year. He is still very young and is taking time to get used to the other children. He likes his teacher very much and appear to be happy at the school. His father's absence is the main thing which upsets him.

According to his mother he regularly mentions his father. He regularly complaints that everyone in the house is doing things wrongly because "daddy is not around".

LILLIAN SIBIYA

Grade 2

According to her mother Lillian is very happy at the school. She is said to like the school so much that she has been complaining whenever the school is closed for holidays. Her teacher also indicated that she is coping well with her school work.

Lillian has many friends at school and in the vicinity of her home. However, she still talks of going back to Mazimbu in Tanzania. Her main worry is her father's absence, who is studying in England.

GILLIAN SIBIYA

Standard 1

Gillian is not happy being in Standard 1. She feels that she is too old for her class. She continue to tell her mother that she knows most of the things they do in class, and she would like to be promoted to the next standard. She said the same thing last year.

She also thinks that there are not enough sporting activities at the school. She would like to take part in many games organised at the school.

She also would like to return to Tanzania.

AARON SIBIYA

Standard 7

Aaron was conditionally promoted to Std 7 largely because of his age. He is having difficulties in almost all his subjects.

Although he has been getting separate tuition in Tshivenda from last year he has made very slow progress. He has also been failing to attend the extra classes in English regularly.

The family reported that he has started showing some interest in his studies recently. This was after he received a letter from the school stating that he will not be given another conditional promotion this year. The family also reported that his conduct at home is improving.

Aaron seems to be adapting very well to the social environment outside the school. He is making good progress in learning to speak the local language.

MILDRED SIBIYA

Std 8

Mildred did not want to come back to the school this year. She only decided to come back when her elder sister persuaded her to do so. She is very unhappy that she was not promoted to Std 9 last year.

Mildred is not happy with some of the subjects she is doing at the school. Last year she tried to apply to a local school offering some of the subjects of her choice but she was not accepted. She also prefers to go to a boarding school like the one she has been attending in Tanzania.

At the beginning of this year she wrote that, last year when I started attending school at Liivha, my mind got mixed up. I really could not imagine myself that one day I would get used to walking from home to school everyday.....At SOMAFCO we used to go to the dormitories during break and be given something to eat. Here we have to carry everything from home It was my habit even when studying at home, I could not hold my feeling (stop thinking) about SOMAFCO."

Mildred has expressed greater confidence in her school work this year. She appears very determined to work hard and pass at the end of the year. She has stated that her "studies this year are going very smooth and well planned". The family has also reported that she is very serious with her studies this year.

DOREEN S IBIYA

Standard 9

Doreen has shown very good progress in her studies compared to the other students. Her main problem is to fulfil the language requirements for Matric examinations she will be writing next year.

The language requirements for Matric examinations are that candidates should write two languages, and one of them should be taken on a 1st language level. Although she has mastered the basic rules of writing Tshivenda her knowledge of the language is still on an elementary level. She has to write either English or Tshivenda on a 1st language level. She has shown an improvement in her' writing and reading of English, but her English teacher does not think that she will manage to pass English 1st language in Matric. She has been advised to continue with learning Tshivenda until another option could be found.

Maano Tuuoani/(qq3