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THE MAZIMBU LIBRARY

Introduction

The present Mazimbu Library building was completed in 1985, and the Library was opened for the use of people in June 1986.

The Library is now being developed into a Central Library of the ANC.

The Library is a department which is guided by the Library Committee. The Committee consists of the Chief Administrator, The Principals of the Secondary and Primary Schools and a representative of the ZPC. The Committee meets every second month, and the minutes of the Committee meetings are sent to the Secretary of Education in Lusaka.

Funding

The Library has been funded from various sources. The building and the bulk of furniture was provided by the Youth Sections of the Scandinavian Center Parties. Australian Trade Unions granted 5 scholarships for training Library Assistants. CIES (Italy) has provided equipment for the audio-visual section, but they are still to be cleared from the docks. The Finnish Library Association sent a volunteer librarian to work at Mazimbu and provided ^{the stationery} with some stationery. Unesco, Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee (USSR) and NOVIB have provided new books and periodicals. Second-hand books have been received from numerous sources.

As from 1 July 1988 FINNIDA started assisting the ANC libraries. It is giving funds for volunteer personnel, training ANC personnel, acquisition of books, periodicals, AV material, furniture and stationery. There is a provision of funds for both Mazimbu, Dakawa and Viana libraries.

Staffing situation

The Finnish volunteer librarian is acting as the Head of the Library, but an ANC librarian with a Master's degree in Library Science has returned from her studies, and is preparing to take over the Library administration. Five students completed a Certificate Course in Library Studies in December 1987. Four of them are now working at Mazimbu and one at Dakawa. One comrade started his studies in Finland in 1986 for a Master's degree, while one started in 1988 in UK for a Bachelor's degree. Two comrades started Certificate level studies in Tanzania in 1988.

There are also temporary assistants working at the Library (four at the moment), but more trained personnel is still required.

Book collection and periodicals

About 14 000 books have been classified, catalogued and processed for the use of the comrades. A few thousand books are still waiting for processing in the working room, and several are on order. The collection consists of books for both adults and children, both non-fiction and fiction. An attempt has been made to cover as many subjects as possible, and special emphasis has been laid to acquire South African material.

South African newspapers and periodicals have been provided by SALS. Local papers and a few magazines have been bought in the local bookshops. Various solidarity organizations have sent their papers as donations. A subscription for several newspapers and periodicals has been placed starting January 1989.

Use of the Library

The Library is now open 46,5 hours a week, including twice a week opening up to 9 p.m. It is, therefore, possible for both students and community members to make use of the Library. Instruction in how to use the library and the material has been given to the school classes. During 1987, 6688 loans were given out the Library, and during the period of 1 January - 31 October 1988, 7783 books were borrowed.

Audio-visual Section

The Audio-visual Section of the Library houses now 350 video cassettes, which are lent to the organizers of video shows. There is one 24" video screen and a recorder, which are used in the Library for video shows. After receiving the equipment sent by CIES the section can be developed into a proper AV section.

Culture Hall

The Culture Hall has been used for various activities. There has been a weekly programme of political video shows and classical music club. In addition, a poetry workshop, a textile exhibition, music and theatre performances and rehearsals as well as various meetings have taken place in the hall.

Archives Section

Before being able to make use of the section downstairs meant for the archives, airconditioners had to be installed and some repairs made to prevent the water from pouring in. The repairs are under way, but not yet completed. A room upstairs has, therefore, been used as a temporary archives. There have been some difficulties in obtaining material for the section, but a number of relevant structures have been informed about the needs.

There is an urgent need to train personnel for the Archives Section, but so far attempts in identifying a comrade with at least a first degree in Social or related sciences to be sent for further training in Archives Management, have proved futile.

Co-operation with Dakawa libraries

The Mazimbu Library is also assisting the Dakawa libraries. The Librarian pays a biweekly visit to Dakawa to help the VTC and SOC libraries. The Library Assistant of VTC comes biweekly to Mazimbu to have consultations and fetch material for the Library.

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