

SAE/016/0065/14

25/04/88

CLOSING REMARKS TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN ADULT EDUCATION  
WORKSHOP HELD IN DAR ES SALAAM 25 - 29 April 1988.

On behalf of my colleagues in the ANC Education Secretariate, which is charged with responsibility for education on behalf of the National Executive of the African National Congress, we are grateful for the opportunity of being able to say some closing remarks on this occasion. We thank the Commonwealth for the valuable contribution to our struggle of funding the SAEU program. We thank the people of the Republic of Tanzania, their party Chama Cha Mapinduzi and its government for having provided us with a place in which we have been able to take refuge, organise and develop, among other projects, an Adult Education program for our people. We thank the organisers of this workshop for having made it possible to convene, and we thank all those who found the time to come and participate in the workshop.

The Adult Education program you are laboriously building here is of great importance to the struggling people of South Africa. The ANC will take this program home and develop it further when we reach there in the not so distant future. Our people have been deprived of education for almost  $3\frac{1}{2}$  centuries since. Through a viable Adult Education program, in a post apartheid South Africa, all our people should be able to gain a capacity to know, exercise and enjoy the freedoms for which many patriots shall have laid their lives. Otherwise, without education, full participation in the exercise of the freedoms for which our struggle is being waged might well never be realised. So vitally important therefore is the task which this workshop has placed before you as tutors and group leaders in the SAEU program. The challenge given you is to go and mobilise the mass of our people into SAEU study groups so they could make up for the valuable educational opportunity denied them by Apartheid.

The first modern kind of formal school for non-whites in South Africa was established in 1658. It was founded as a school for slaves where the present



Cape Town now stands. African education in South Africa has ever since been seen as education for menial forms of manual labour. Thereafter, the missionary effort which championed African education from the establishment of the Genedendal Institution in 1737 to the birth of Bantu education schools in 1955, was not re-inforced by any meaningful government participation. The missionaries on their own could not provide adequate educational opportunity for the black people. These events and others had the effect of accumulating the number of uneducated people in our country.

The situation worsened under Apartheid Education. Under Bantu Education, even the limited number of black children who found school places were now given an inferior education which was weak in content. The bulk of these children were also squeezed out of the school system after only the first two years of primary education. In consequence, most of these school leavers soon reverted back into illiteracy. The effect has also been a continuous swelling of the population of black people without any meaningful education. A very large proportion of our people living as:exploited labourers on the white farms, in the mines, road rail and building industries ; peasants in the barren Bantustans;and many others need viable Adult Education programs. The SAEU program will have to develop towards meeting that need. The SAEU programs will need to be geared to give an adequate orientation of our people to the politics of our struggle. The program will need to liberate our people from ignorance and all its off-shoots such as disease and hunger. The SAEU program must take up this as one of its long term challenges.

The SAEU program therefore is very significant in the overall strategy of our people to liberate themselves. When the struggle for transfer of political power to the majority matures in our country, millions of our people deprived of good education will still be unable to read, understand and inteprete what the sacrifices made in our struggle will in effect have



won for them. This majority of our people, deprived of education, will therefore lack the capacity to know and participate in the enjoyment of the freedoms that will be enshrined in a constitution of a future liberated non-racial democratic South Africa. Your task as SAEU educators, tutors and group leaders and others is to enable this large proportion of our people gain this capacity. This workshop must have equipped you for this task. If you then play your role well when you return to your stations, you will enable this majority of our people, deprived of education, participate more meaningfully in the national life of our country when apartheid goes.

Now in declaring this SAEU workshop closed, oncemore let me thank the Republic of Tanzania for the opportunity to operate this programme here and for all forms of assistance and facilities made available to us for the work. I thank the organisers and participants for their part in the success of the workshop. May I lastly wish everybody a safe return back to our places of work.

Thank You.

M. W. Njobe

MEMBER OF THE ANC EDUCATION SECRETARIATE

29. 04. 1988

Dakawa