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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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1st December, 1988

The Secretary-General
African National Congress
P. O. Box 31791
LUSAKA

Dear Comrade Secretary-General

NATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION (NBE)

After consulting comrade Antony Mongalo, Secretary for Presidential Affairs, the proposed National Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for **TUESDAY** 6th December, 1988 from 09.00 to 11.00 hours at the office of the Secretary-General.

Herewith please find a copy of my Report on the 3-week working visit I undertook to Mazimbu, Dakawa and Dar Es Salaam. This report will constitute the basis for the deliberations of the National Board of Education meeting. A second report on the Social Order Crisis is also enclosed for your information.

In the Year of United Action for People's Power!

S. Choabi
Secretary for Education.

Received By: S.G.O.
8/12/88

REPORT TO THE ANC SECURITY DEPARTMENT ON THE SOCIAL ORDER CRISIS AT MAZIMBU AND DAKAWA, EAST AFRICA, PREPARED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION (M.S.CHOABI)

INTRODUCTION

The Secretary for Education undertook a visit to Mazimbu and Dakawa lasting three weeks from 24th October to the 12th November 1988. The visit to East Africa was undertaken for three principal reasons, namely,

- (1) To introduce Comrade M. Seretse Choabi to the Mazimbu and Dakawa complexes as the new Secretary for Education of the African National Congress.
- (2) To enable comrade Seretse Choabi to familiarise himself with the development of the Mazimbu and Dakawa complexes as Educational Institutions of the African National Congress.
- (3) To enable comrade Seretse Choabi to identify problems experienced at the Mazimbu and Dakawa complexes so that realistic and practical steps can be taken to resolve these in the interest of the revolutionary objectives of our movement.

During this trip serious problems were identified requiring the urgent attention of the Security Department of our organisation. These include the following:

1. Endemic Thieving

There is a very serious problem of thieving at both the complexes of Dakawa and SOMAFCO. This problem has assumed proportions suggesting that some of this thieving is organised and amounts to deliberate sabotage of the work of the movement. During my visit, to give one disturbing example, I was summoned together with the Principal of the secondary school (Comrade Masondo), the Chief Administrator (Comrade Maseko), the Vice Principal of the secondary school (Comrade Zindela), Teacher John Pampallis to witness the discovery of stolen property belonging to the secondary school. This property included vast quantities of the following items.

- (1) Calculators
- (2) Projectors
- (3) Photo-Copying Machines
- (4) Duplicators
- (5) Type-Writers
- (6) Other Electrical Equipment

The discovered stolen property had been concealed in the ceiling of one of the rooms in the secondary school. It appeared to us that this property had been removed with the objective of disorganising the efficient functioning of the school. The property itself had been discovered by the Social Order Unit under the leadership of a conscientious and hard working comrade known as "Past Four".

It is recommended that urgent action be taken by the Security Department of our movement to investigate the thieving problem in Mazimbu and Dakawa. This investigation is especially necessary in the light of the current crisis involving a conflict amounting to a power struggle between the school administration and the RPC in the East Africa Region concerning the management, control and supervision of the Social Order Unit. Pursuant to the need to resolve the problem relating to the Social Order Unit, the Security Department is urged to send as a matter of urgency, a delegation to East Africa to address the issue of the Social Order Unit and to determine its supervision and control. It may be necessary for the Security Department to assume direct responsibility for the Social Order Unit. This could have the advantage of ensuring that this policing

organ attains complete independence from the local community which includes structures such as the school administration, the RPC and the ZPC. This independence from the local structures would guarantee the Social Order Unit complete freedom in the investigation of criminal activities within the different ANC communities in Mazimbu, Dakawa and Dar es Salaam, and enable this police unit to curb and eventually eliminate thieving, criminal activities and corruption.

2. Problems of Discipline

Discussions with the teaching staff of all the school divisions in SOMAFCO, namely, the Primary school, the Secondary school, the Nursery school and the Day Care Centre all confirm the complete collapse of discipline throughout the Mazimbu and Dakawa communities. This deterioration in discipline is endemic involving students, pupils some teachers and the general ANC community. Indeed, there is common agreement between the teaching staff and the school administration that the influence of the adult ANC community on the school population is most negative and detrimental. It is suggested to the Security Department that an intensive and extensive investigation be conducted on the influence of the general ANC community on the discipline of students and pupils. It is most unacceptable that the following practices be allowed to continue uncurbed in ANC Educational Institutions.

- (1) Introduction of alcoholic drinks by the adult community among students
- (2) Teachers having sexual liaison with students and especially the practice of collecting students at night from their dormitories to their residences for sexual purposes
- (3) Sexual promiscuity among students resulting in a high rate of pregnancies and a growing problem of prostitution

3. The Problem of Management at the Motor Maintenance and Repairs Work-Shop

Consultations with the school administration by the Secretary for Education confirm that the management and control at the Motor Maintenance and repairs Work-Shop has completely broken down resulting in the following abuses;

- (1) Serious delays in the repair and servicing of vehicles
- (2) Excessive stealing of spare parts which are sometimes removed from vehicles left at the work-shop for repair
- (3) Irregular work attendance and failure to observe official working hours by the staff

It is strongly urged that the Security Department address the problems at the Mazimbu motor repair work-shop with the view to the re-organisation of its management and the elimination of criminal activities occurring there. Pursuant of these objectives it is imperative that clearly formulated work guidelines be introduced and implemented at the work-shop. This task should be seen and accepted as needing urgent attention.

Conclusion

This report addressed to the Security Department has been prepared with the sole purpose of informing the Security Department of the serious security problems existing at the ANC education complexes at Mazimbu and Dakawa to enable them to focus attention on these problems with the view to finding solutions to these problems consistent with rendering ANC Educational Institutions respectable within the context of the revolutionary objectives of our movement. Our Educational Institutions must be developed into centres of Educational

excellence and not contemptable centres of moral bankruptcy and corruption. Our movement cannot afford to fail in its objectives of creating model educational institutions in preparation for the complete transformation of the educational system in South Africa after the overthrow of the apartheid regime.

Signed: _____

M. Seretse Choabi

Secretary for Education

REPORT ON THE VISIT TO EAST AFRICA UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION
PRESENTED TO THE NATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

INTRODUCTION

The trip to East Africa was undertaken for two principal reasons.

- (1) To familiarise the Secretary for Education with the Educational programmes implemented by the Department of Education of the African National Congress in East Africa.
- (2) To identify existing problems in the implementation of the Education programme of the African National Congress with the view to realistically find ways of improving the provision of Educational services within our movement.

The programme of the Secretary for Education lasted for three weeks and involved the following activities.

1. Address by the Secretary for Education to:-

- (a) ANC community in Mazimbu and Dakawa - on the Education Programme of the ANC and its relation to the National Liberation Struggle of the Oppressed People of South Africa
- (b) Address by the Secretary for Education to the Education Staff of SOMAFCO.
(SOMAFCO Secondary School)
(SOMAFCO Primary School)
(SOMAFCO Nursery School and the SOMAFCO Day Care Centre)
- (c) Address by the Secretary for Education to the Senior M.K. Comrades (Umgwenya) on the need to utilise the Adult Education Programme available to them within the African National Congress
- (d) Address by the Secretary for Education to the ANC Graduates returning from study Abroad
- (e) Address by the Secretary for Education to the Volunteer Staff at SOMAFCO. Stressing the appreciation of the Leadership of the African National Congress for their invaluable contribution in the provision of educational services to our people
- (f) Address by the Secretary for Education to the ANC Teaching Staff of the four divisions of SOMAFCO. (Secondary School, Primary School Nursery School and the Day Care Centre) - Stress was made on the revolutionary and exemplary leadership responsibility expected of them in the struggle for the Educational Emancipation of the oppressed people of South Africa
- (g) Consultations with the National Scholarship Committee
- (h) Consultations with the Chief Administrator of SOMAFCO (Comrade Tim Maseko)
- (i) Consultations with the Principals of the Four Divisions of SOMAFCO - (Primary School, Secondary School, Nursery School and the Day Care Centre)
- (j) Private consultations with individual members of the African National Congress - including Teachers, Administration Staff, Boarding Staff and Students
- (k) Consultations with the SOMAFCO Bursar and the ANC Regional Treasurer regarding the responsibilities pertaining to the effective servicing of the Education programme of the African National Congress

- (l) Consultations with the RPC regarding their responsibility in providing political education to the ANC community in Mazimbu, Dakawa and Dar es Salaam
- (m) Consultations with the ANC Medical staff at the ANC hospital in Mazimbu
- (n) Consultations with the Student Executive Committee of the Secondary School
- (o) Consultations with the UNESCO Representative in East Africa (Mr Mbengo)
- (p) Consultations with the ANC Social Order Unit (Security Department)
- (q) Consultations with the Chief Construction Engineer (Comrade Dennis) on the construction programme at SOMAFCO and Dakawa
- (r) Consultations with the Technical Staff (Architects) on Development plans at SOMAFCO and Dakawa

Arising out of these consultations the following problems have been identified

1. Shortage of qualified teaching staff:

There is a serious and cronic problem in all school divisions and other areas of work throughout the SOMAFCO and dakawa complexes.

It is most urgent that the leadership of the African National Congress address realistically the professional staffing of our educational institutions at SOMAFCO and Dakawa. Since the establishment of these insitutions in SOMAFCO and Dakawa we have failed to attract in sufficient numbers qualified staff to teach our people and to promote a high standard of educational excellence. SOMAFCO as an educational institution has become very unpopoular within the membership of our organisation. Indeed, already we are confronted with students refusing to return to SOMAFCO and Dakawa after scholarship placement abroad. It has to be appreciated that SOMAFCO if professionally well organised, can become a powerful mobilising centre attracting students both inside and outside South Africa. We have a duty to ensure that ^{our} people develop pride in the educational institutions we create for them. Pursuant of the objective of ensuring the effective provision of educational services for our people, the following proposals are presented to the National Board of Education for consideration and decision.

- (i) Qualified teaching staff at SOMAFCO and Dakawa should be employed and remunerated at professional salary rates acceptable within the region
- (2) Employment contract conditions be worked out and formalised within the ANC
- (3) The Department of education be mandated and authorised to produce employment contract conditions for presentation to the National Board of Education for consideration and approval
- (4) The department of Education be authorised to workout Administration procedures for both the SOMAFCO and Dakawa complexes. In this regard it is recommended that the Educational Insitutions at SOMAFCO and Dakawa should be provided with annual budgets under the control of the school administration. It is professionally unacceptable that the Regional Treasurer should have final authority in the provision of Educational facilities. In this regard, for example, it is unacceptable practice that the Regional Treasurers Office should exercise veto powers on transport facilities for Educational excursions professionally.

Judged by teachers as necessary for the education of students and pupils. It is most frustrating to the Education staff to be continually told that there are no funds for the provision of Educational services. It is recommended that productive services in SOMAFCO and Dakawa should be seen to be essentially existing for the promotion of education for our people.

2. Transport Problems

It is most urgent that the four school divisions be provided with transport vehicles attached to each division.

It is also most vital that transport maintenance facilities be reorganised and effectively controlled and managed.

3. Administration Guidelines

It is most urgent that administration guidelines be formulated by the Department of Education for the effective management and responsible accountable leadership at our educational institutions at SOMAFCO and Dakawa. It is unacceptable, for example, that the Primary school Principal should exercise sole responsibility for the employment and dismissal of teachers.

4. Health Care Services

It is most urgent that the provision of health services at both SOMAFCO and Dakawa be reviewed and administration guidelines be formulated for the hospital. In this regard it is proposed that the Education Department be authorised to initiate discussions with the Health Department aimed at improving health care at SOMAFCO and Dakawa. It is, for example unacceptable that students and pupils be not provided with annual Health Check-Ups at the beginning of each academic year. It was most tragic to discover a pupil aged seven at the primary school thought to be mentally backward when, infact, this child was deaf. We need to reorganise the boarding facilities at all the school divisions, aimed at ensuring that professional child care is provided.

5. Sports and Recreational Facilities

It is most urgent that sporting and recreational facilities be provided for the young people at both SOMAFCO and Dakawa. The absence of these facilities has largely contributed to the collapse of discipline at both SOMAFCO and Dakawa. It is recommended that the Education Department be authorised to mobilise funding for the establishment of sporting and recreation facilities in SOMAFCO and Dakawa

6. Thieving Problem

There is a serious thieving problem in SOMAFCO. Indeed this problem has become totally endemic. It is recommended that the Security Department at Lusaka adopt direct responsibility for the Social Order Unit in SOMAFCO. It is proposed that the Education Department initiate discussions with the Security Department aimed at the reduction and elimination of thieving at both SOMAFCO and Dakawa.

7. Primary School Problem

The primary School is failing to produce students of sufficient academic merit for the secondary school. Indeed the secondary school is at present operating an upgrading programme for pupils from the primary school in an effort to raise their educational standard. It is recommended that the appointment of the primary school Principal be terminated as inquiries show that his appointment is most unsuitable. Indeed the high turnover of teachers in the

primary school is most unacceptable. Qualified ANC Teachers, some of them from The ANC Army have been dismissed by the Primary School Principal. The following Highly qualified teachers have been dismissed and others resigned from teaching in the Primary school.

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|--------------------|-------------|
| 1. Ben Mohlathe | (Resigned) |
| 2. Tebogo Mokoena | (Resigned) |
| 3. Maele Mokoena | (Resigned) |
| 4. Virginia Modise | (Dismissed) |
| 5. Mali Ndyebo | (Resigned) |

It is urgent that some of these teachers be re-instated as teachers in the primary school. These are committed teachers who are prepared to return to teaching but are not willing to work under the present Principal who exercises unlimited authority of employment and dismissal. The failure of the primary school to produce students for the secondary school alone is sufficient reason to re-organise the staffing of the primary school.

8. GDR Education Offer

The GDR has offered the ANC facility for the training of a minimum number of Fifty pupils to be drawn from the primary school. These pupils are to be accompanied by 4 teachers to the GDR who will assume responsibility for their cultural life. In the light of heavy over-crowding in the primary school it is proposed by the school administration that the ANC accept the GDR offer. The National Education Board is requested to consider the GDR offer and pronounce their view on it.

9. Discussion with the UNESCO Representative (Mr. Mbengo)

UNESCO have offered the ANC funding for the salaries of qualified staff at both SOMAFCO and Dakawa. These teachers are to be recruited with ANC participation. It is recommended that the ANC accept this UNESCO offer. The discussions between the Secretary for Education and the UNESCO Representative have resulted in the following agreement.

- (1) The funding of salaries for qualified teachers by UNESCO will be carried out without prejudice to the ownership of the SOMAFCO and Dakawa complexes by the ANC.
- (2) The ANC will retain complete control of the teaching programme in both SOMAFCO and Dakawa.
- (3) Salaries will be paid at Regional scales and partly in Foreign Currency.

It is recommended that the UNESCO offer be accepted to ensure the attainment of professional excellence at SOMAFCO. The National Education Board is requested to pronounce their view on this recommendation.

10. 10th Anniversary Celebrations

The Education Department Secretariat have decided to hold 10th Anniversary celebrations during 1989 to commemorate the establishment of SOMAFCO. It is recommended that these celebrations be organised as follows:-

- (1) The celebrations be an international event organised under the auspices of the Education Department of the ANC.
- (2) The celebrations be arranged to take place at a suitable time during the later part of 1989.
- (3) The President of the ANC be requested to address the Assembly during the celebrations.

- (4) The Chairman of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi comrade Julius Nyerere be invited to address the Assembly during the celebrations.
- (5) The Secretary for Education of the ANC be invited to address the Assembly during the celebrations.
- (6) The Minister of Education of the Government of Tanzania be invited to address the Assembly.
- (7) Representatives of Governments and Non-Governmental Organisation who have given funding and support for the Development of SOMAFCO and Dakawa be invited to the celebrations.
- (8) Representatives of Embassies located in Dar es Salaam be invited to the celebrations.
- (9) Representatives of Democratic Organisations in South Africa such as the United Democratic Front (UDF), the National Education Crisis Committee and others be invited to the celebrations.
- (10) A seminar on Peoples Education be held during the celebrations to which Educationists from South Africa and from the International Education Community should be invited.
- (11) Cultural performances and activities be organised during the celebrations.

11. National Scholarship Committee

It is recommended that the National Scholarship Committee be provided with administration guidelines to be formulated by the Department of Education for presentation for approval to the National Board of Education. The formulation of administration guidelines for the National Scholarship Committee is recommended as it would contribute greatly to the efficient functioning of the National Scholarship Committee.

12. NEDUC VII

The Education Department Secretariat has decided that the format for conducting the proceedings of the National Education Council be modified. In the past discussions at NEDUC conferences have been based on reports submitted by the Heads of All Education Divisions, namely, The Principal's of the Secondary School, Primary School, Nursery School, and Day Care Centre. Reports presented by the Chief Administrator, The Project Manager, The Health Section and other production divisions were also formally tabled and discussed by the NEDUC Conference. It has been decided by the Education Department Secretariat that all reports prepared by all sections at SOMAFCO and Dakawa be treated as background papers by conference to be available for commission discussions. Plenary sessions of the conference should be structured to receive and discuss formal papers on topics of current ongoing debates relating to the Education crisis in our country.

It is the view of the Education Secretariat that the ANC Education Department must begin to participate directly in Education discussions within South Africa aimed at the entire transformation of the Education system in our country. Towards this end it has been decided by the Education Secretariat that conference discuss the important issues of:-

- (1) Peoples Education in the context of the struggle for peoples power and the democratisation of education in South Africa.
- (2) The continuing Education crisis in South Africa.

It has further been decided by the Education Secretariat that Educationists from within South Africa, especially representatives and leaders in the struggle for democratic education be invited to the conference. In this regard leading individuals in the National Education Crisis Committee and other progressive Educationists should also be invited to present formal papers for discussion.

Naturally the Education Department will have also to present a formal position paper on the Political perspectives of our movement on Education. In this way the ANC could begin to play a prominent role in the development of democratic education thought in South Africa.

A further consideration of the Education Secretariat is that the NEDUC conference be divided into two parts. The First to be an Open Public Session to be held in Lusaka to which International Dignitaries can be invited. At the close of this Public Assembly the conference would adjourn to Kabwe for close business sessions where specific issues will be addressed including such burning issues as:-

- (1) Curriculum Development for ANC Educational Institutions at SOMAFCO and Dakawa.
- (2) The staffing crisis at both SOMAFCO and Dakawa covering:
 - (a) The Teaching Staff
 - (b) The Boarding Staff
 - (c) The National Scholarship Committee and the need for administration guidelines for its efficient operation including its reorganisation
 - (d) Scholarships and Manpower Development (Africa Educational Trust, World University Services and Luthuli services)
 - (e) SIDA/ANC ⁱⁿ Sweden Education co-operation - assessment and projections for future co-operation
 - (f) Possible re-structuring of the administration of both SOMAFCO and Dakawa Educational Institutions
 - (g) Integration of training in vocational skills into the education programme at SOMAFCO as a necessity arising from ANC policy to bridge the gap between Academic and Vocational skills.
 - (h) Adult Education and its importance to the Educational Up-Grading of senior comrades within the ANC
 - (i) Concerns of our Socialist Friends regarding decline in ANC students sent for study to Socialist countries.
 - (j) Setting up of SOMAFCO Staff Association
 - (k) Determination of policy regarding students refusing to return to SOMAFCO after study abroad
 - (l) Determination of policy on withdrawal of students from SOMAFCO by parents within the ANC
 - (m) Determination of policy on expulsions of students from SOMAFCO
 - (n) Determination of the administration structure for Dakawa separately from SOMAFCO
 - (o) Determination of the administration structure for the student Orientation Centre and the role of the security department in the screening of students at the orientation centre
 - (p) Review, consideration and discussion of development plans for both the Dakawa and SOMAFCO complexes.
 - (q) Review, consideration and discussion of the establishment and development of sporting and recreational facilities at both the Dakawa and SOMAFCO complexes.
 - (r) Examination of the need to establish budgets for the Educational Administration of SOMAFCO and Dakawa to be managed by the Educational Administrations at both these institutions

- (s) Consideration of the inclusion of a programme for teaching Art (Fine Arts) as an optional subject at 'O' Level in the Secondary School. This was approved at the 1984 and 1985 NEDUC Conferences and needs to be implemented
- (t) Considerations of problems pertaining to financial needs of ANC students studying in Socialist countries.
 - (1) Problem of insufficient financial sponsorship
 - (2) Problem of 20 Kilograms limitation allowance upon completion of studies for the transportation of essential books required for use during deployment
 - (3) Problem of students studying in Socialist countries not being allowed to travel to Western countries

It is recommended that the Education Department be authorised to initiate discussions with the Governments of the Socialist countries where our students are studying to explore ways of improving conditions of ANC students studying in these countries.

13. Conclusion

The trip undertaken to East Africa by the Secretary for Education has proven to be most valuable and instructive both in respect of familiarising the Secretary for education with developments at the ANC Educational complexes at both Dakawa and SOMAFCO. And also in identifying problems needing urgent action for the enhancement of educational teaching and instruction in the schools of our movement. The National Board of Education is urged to give considerations to the proposal/recommendations made in this report and to help the Education Department in carrying out the task of promoting and providing Educational Services for our people at a High Level of Educational Excellence, consonant with our commitment to the Educational emancipation of our suffering, educationally deprived and oppressed people.
