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TO: Mr John Samuel

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FROM: Sue Peiser

DATE: 30 June 1993

SUBJECT: THE KHANYISA SCHOOLS, GIYANI, GAZANKULU

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Dear Mr Samuel

I would like to invite you on behalf of the Khanyisa Schools to visit us at your convenience, so that we might exchange ideas, I do realise that your schedule is probably very full and that we are far away.

The Khanyisa Schools have managed to achieve a great deal since they opened in 1989.

I would be happy to make the necessary arrangements for your visit.

My very best wishes

S D Peiser

Sue D Peiser

BACKGROUND TO THE KHANYISA SCHOOLS PROJECT

The Khanyisa Schools were founded in 1989 as a result of a movement in the community of Givani and surrounding districts to establish an independent centre of education which would have as its most important goal the setting of an excellent standard of education at both primary and secondary level. It was felt that only a school which was independent of the restrictions and political interference encountered in the state system would succeed in this ideal. The concept was further developed into the idea of a community resource centre so that the benefits of the school's presence accrued not only to those pupils who attended the schools, but also to the wider community, through outreach and community development programmes.

THE IMPACT OF KHANYISA

In the four years since its founding, Khanyisa has moved a significant distance towards fulfilling its goals and has become a respected organisation within the broader community. (440 pupils and 40 staff members).

This has been achieved not only through the excellent academic standards upheld at the schools, but also through its involvement with, and initiation of, various community programmes.

Examples of the areas of Khanyisa's wider involvement include:

Teacher Upgrading. Contact has been established with teachers in numerous local schools at both primary and higher levels. Workshops are held on a regular basis to share ideas and assist underqualified and often demoralised teachers to improve their skills and performance. This has also been extended to education management where school principals have met formally and informally with Khanyisa staff to discuss the improvement of their management skills. (Approximately three hundred educationalists have been participants in these activities).

Educare Training. An Educare Training centre is being built on the Khanyisa campus to assist with early learning programmes in rural villages. This training is in association with Small Beginnings. An important cornerstone of Khanyisa's philosophy is to network wherever possible in order to ensure the most efficient distribution of resources.

Educare Cells. Under Khanyisa's guidance it is hoped to start a number of early learning centres in rural villages. The first multi-purpose centre has been built in Tlangelani village about 50 km from Khanyisa using local labour and skills.

Adult Literacy. A pilot adult literacy project has been started with Khanyisa's gardening staff. It is hoped to expand the adult literacy into a training project in association with the Giyani College of Education, with which Khanyisa has strong links.

Science, Maths and Computers. With the imminent completion of Khanyisa's first laboratories and computer facility, it is hoped to improve the standard of education in these crucial subjects among local teachers and pupils.

Technology and Skills. Technology is a relatively new subject in South African education. (Craft, design and technology). The first part of the Anglo American Skills Centre to teach technology and to facilitate the learning of job related skills has recently been completed.

Craft design and technology

THE KHANYISA SCHOOLS

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SINCE MAY 1989

Phase 1

The Khanyisa Schools project received a R2 million grant from the Gazankulu Government in 1990 which effectively completed the building of the pre-primary and primary school with a shortfall of R 500,000.00.

The present sewerage system was planned to tie in with this development in terms of need and affordability, it was however realised that with the second phase funds would have to be raised to improve on the system.

Phase 2

The Independent Development Trust in 1991 and 1992 gave the Khanyisa Schools a donation of R 1 million to complete the Junior School (shortfall of R 500,000 00) and to start construction on the secondary school ie 8 classrooms and a toilet block.

An additional amount of R 1 236,351 has been pledged to complete the building of the

secondary school. The amount will be paid out in stages in 93 on the provision of building certificates. An amount of R 183, 673.17 has been paid out this year as the building is still in progress.

The Khanyisa Schools qualified for funding from the Independent Development Trust as it is operating as a centre of excellence with community outreach programmes in a rural area. As such the Khanyisa Schools were linked to the IDT building initiative, which has specific rules as to what could be funded. The IDT at that stage came under pressure from different parties across the political spectrum and could not be seen to favour one party. The Khanyisa Schools consequently had to pare down building costs and go for the bare minimum.

The following buildings are currently being built within IDT building criteria and will amount to R 1 236,351.

Eight classrooms (400 M2)

2 specialist classrooms for science teaching and a store (180 M2)

Administrative offices (400M2)

Community Resource Centre (400M2)

This will be the focal point of Khanyisa, allowing convenient access for both the community and the schools. The building is divided into two parts:

a) Resource Centre

b) Computer and audio-visual section

On the understanding that the IDT would not fund the internal furnishing, the equipping of specialist facilities, and an updated sewerage system, funding from other sources has been sought.

An Educare Teachers Training Centre sponsored by the Nedcor Chairman's Fund has been built. (R 300,000.00). The Khanyisa Schools in association with Small Beginnings will be training teachers in the Northern Transvaal. Funding to equip the Educare Centre has been secured through the British Embassy. (R40,000.00)

Further funding to build a Skills Centre has been obtained from the Anglo American Chairman's Fund and the building is nearing completion.

Future Plans as regards outstanding facilities

1) Boarding facilities.

A decision has been taken by the Council to review this option at a later date given the economic climate and political uncertainty.

2) 4 classrooms

A decision to erect 4 simple classrooms which will be multi-purpose and cater for art and music as well, has been undertaken, given the realities of the overwhelming needs and diminishing resources. The total cost of the classroom block which consists of 4 classrooms will be R 172,000 00. (R42,000 00 per classroom).

3) Staff housing

A decision taken at a recent fundraising meeting was made to approach the Development Bank or a building society for a loan.

4) Sports fields, sports canteen and road on the campus.

A suggestion has been proposed to approach the National Economic Forum for funds to start a labour intensive job creation project using unemployed local community members. An approach is to be made to Sunflower Projects (Murray and Roberts Construction) to oversee the process and to impart the necessary skills which will remain with the community.

5) Further development and support of educare satellite cells in the surrounding rural areas. (As above)

6) Equipment, science, design and technology centre