

Gmb/020/0134/1

Follow-Up

PROJECT

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THE GOVAN MBEKI FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAMME.

THE GOVAN MBEKI RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AS AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMME AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE WITH THE AIM OF CORRECTING THE IMBALANCES CREATED BY APARTHEID EDUCATION IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH.

Purpose of Proposal:

To motivate for the funding of a scheme to develop the research capability of students who have been disadvantaged by the education system and to provide research skills for Blacks who will be integrated into community based organisations.

Background:

The University of Fort Hare is one of the oldest established tertiary educational institutions in South Africa. From its very inception, it was intended to serve the African Community. It continues, as a legacy of that past to draw students from that community. Unlike many of its white counterparts, it has been denied many basic resources that are characteristic of a modern university. One of these is the presence of a strong research base.

A combination of factors has contributed to a systematic under-development of a culture of research, viz; a student community drawn mainly from a disadvantaged background, teaching staff overburdened by disproportionately large numbers of students, a repressive bantustan administration and lack of material resources.

The distortions above have significantly disarticulated the intellectual development of the potential black intelligentsia. Consequently, this strata of our society is under-represented in the research body and intellectual discourse. Within South Africa, research has become synonymous with White universities and academics. The perspectives are representative of the White ruling bloc, and serves to entrench power relations in this society. Black researchers, particularly women, form an alarmingly tiny minority of the research community of this country.

As we move into a new era and research is increasingly impacting on the formulation of future policy, black perspectives are missing. Unless Blacks are being empowered with the necessary research skills to articulate their aspirations, new policies are bound to be will be meaningless.

Realising that it is well placed to play an important role in contributing towards correcting and altering this distortion, the University of Fort Hare has established a research project - in the form of a Fellowship named after an eminent ex - Fort Harian and political leader - Dr. G.A. Mbeki.

Objectives

The immediate objectives of The Fellowship are:

- * To assist with the process of developing the research skills of people from disadvantaged backgrounds by undertaking training programmes and internships for junior fellows.
- * To develop new community based research methodology.
- * To empower Black communities to develop research capacity;
- * To contribute to the development of national policy by publishing and distributing in the best way possible the reports of the research conducted by the Fellows.
- * To promote a culture of research at historically Black Universities.
- * To expose the University community to debates on current national and international issues by conducting seminars to which prominent scholars will be invited to talk on areas of their specialty.

Target group

Black graduate students , particularly women, with a background in the social sciences.

Duration of project

It is estimated that at the initial stage of this pilot project will be two years. At the end of it the first year the project will have produced a book which aims to reconstruct the history of the 1980's in South Africa. The lead author will be Dr. Mbeki who will be assisted by a team of six research Fellows. At the end of the second year Fellows are expected to graduate with Masters degrees from the University of Fort Hare. Copyright will be exercised by the project.

OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Fellowship will take three specific forms designed with the needs and limitation of the University in mind.

1. Research

The University has very a poor history as a researching institution this is in glaring contrast to the research capability of many of its white counterparts. To encourage research, fellowships are offered to experienced researchers and other academics from disadvantaged backgrounds to conduct research on themes and topics of either their choice or those identified by the Fellowship programme or the community.

The purpose of this will be to provide resources to such people and encourage their development and to give them the necessary support to break through into an otherwise predominantly white domain. It is also hoped that through their work and interaction with the rest of the community, they will help promote a culture of research at the university and in Black communities.

The first fellowship has been offered to Dr. Mbeki himself to research into and produce a book on the history of the eighties.

2. Junior Fellowships.

This caters for that group of people who, through their degree training, may have displayed not only an interest but also the potential to engage in research.

These prospective researchers should be encouraged by being provided a supportive base with the necessary resources to engage in research. Such a supportive base would entail the provision of a research grant; a senior researcher to advise them and supervise their work; the opportunity to work with Dr. Mbeki.

During their time as fellows they will be registered for senior degrees at the University.

At the moment the programme employs five junior Fellows and two Senior Fellows. However, funds permitting, the programme hope to increase the number of Junior Fellows.

2. Visiting Lectureship.

Seminars and public lectures will be held on a regular basis.

This aspect of the fellowship will help solve the problem of the academic isolation of Fort Hare.

Accountability.

The Fellowship is accountable to a Board of Trustees and the Senate of the University of Fort Hare.

The Fellowship will be expected to render a quarterly report to the Board of Trustees and the Senate of the University of Fort Hare and shall render such interim reports as the above bodies may from time to time stipulate.

The Board of Trustees.

The Fellowship has a Board of Trustees accountable to the Senate of University of Fort Hare and is comprised of the following:

- * The Rector of the University of Fort Hare - Dr. S.M. Bhengu
- * The Registrar (Academic) - Dr. B. A. Khoapa
- * The Dean of Research of the University of Fort Hare - Prof.J.M. Brand
- * The Dean of the Faculty of Arts - Prof S.M.V. Maqashalala
- * Special Assistant to the Rector - Mr. S.M. Pityana

Five other academics drawn from the wider society :

- * Dr. Frene Ginwala - Head, ANC Research Department
- * Dr. C.L. Morrison -Sociologist, University of Fort Hare
- * Prof H. Wolpe - Director, Education Policy Unit, U.W.C.
- * Dr. J. Daniel - Political Scientist, Rhodes University
- * Adv. L. Zondo

Powers of the Board of Trustees.

Subject to the control of the Senate of the University of Fort Hare, the Board of Trustees of the Fellowship Programme shall have all the powers necessary to carry out the objectives of the Fellowship, including:

- the power to acquire and own or control movable and immovable property in the name of the Fellowship and/or in the name of the University of Fort Hare;
- the power to hire and release staff including the Director of the Fellowship Programme for which purpose the Board of Trustees shall have the power to appoint and receive advice from such select committees as may from time to time be necessary.
- the power to raise and/or receive funds on behalf of the Fellowship Programme;
- the power to enter into national and international agreements;
- the power to own copyright in the research publications of the Fellowship.

Commencement.

The date of commencement of the Fellowship Programme shall be **10 January, 1993** or as soon as possible thereafter saving that the preliminary work necessary for the creation of the Fellowship Programme shall be undertaken by a select committee as soon as possible in 1992.

ONE YEAR BUDGET FORECAST - ENDING 31 DECEMBER 1993*Govan Mbeki Fellowship*Junior Fellows

Registration	10 000 x 10	100 000	
Allowance	20 000 x 10	200 000	
Grant/Travel	5 500 x 10	55 000	<u>355 000</u>

Research Fellows

Fellowship	71 000 x 2	142 000	
Grant/Travel	19 000 x 2	38 000	<u>180 000</u>

Visiting Lecturers

Travel and Lodge		<u>30 000</u>	<u>30 000</u>
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Administration Cost

Office			
Secretarial			
Maintenance			
Related Services			<u>7 500</u>

TOTAL :

572 500

For more information kindly contact the following people:

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