

LUM/021/0007/08
PROGRESS REPORT - INFORMATION, PUBLICITY AND RESEARCH DESK

PERIOD - 18 JULY TO 18 OCTOBER 1988

STATE OF AFFAIRS ON ARRIVAL

1. The Women and Children Under Apartheid newsletter, the last issue of last year was still waiting to be dispatched.
2. Women and Children Under Apartheid 1&2 (1988) were being typed out and were to be stencilled, printed and dispatched.
3. VOW 1 (1988) had been produced and all the copies were awaiting dispatch.
4. VOW 2 (1988) was in the making, the contributions were not yet complete. It was intended to produce a double issue because of time.
5. Personnel - Comrades Mavivi, Lucy and Doris. The only full-time functionary was Cde Mavivi. Cde Lucy was having an accommodation problem that she had to attend to, besides, she soon left for leave. Cde Doris is also a member of the Children subcommittee. At that time she was away helping out with the Pioneer camp.

PROGRESS MADE

1. VOW 1 (1988) has been dispatched in toto together with last year's last issue of the Women and Children Under Apartheid newsletter. The total cost was four thousand seven hundred and seventeen kwacha five ngwee (K4 717-05)
2. VOW 2 (1988) has been dispatched to the following zones:

Zambia	-	a total of 122 copies at	90 ngwee each
Zone A	-	" " " 181	" " K1-95 " "
Zone B	-	" " " 341	" " K2-50 " "
Zone C	-	" " " 370	" " K2-20 " "

Because of the insufficient number of copies produced by the sickly machine, it was decided to do the bundles last so that they can be reduced to the number agreeable with the available copies rather than settle for the alternatives of going to Luanda to print, or continue using a faulty machine. Franking machines borrowed from the Makeni DIP and the Youth Section were used. All the bundles are therefore still awaiting dispatch.

3. Women and Children Under Apartheid 1&2 (1988) have been packed and are ready for franking and dispatch. They are at Makeni where it was initially hoped they would be franked. A few copies have, however, been dispatched.
4. One "Airmail" and one "Printed Matter" stamps have been purchased from Speedprint (down Cha Cha Cha road) as those from the Youth Section were used formerly. The total cost of these stamps was one hundred and sixty kwacha fifty ngwee (K160-50)
5. A scale which will make dispatch work more efficient has been searched for.

...going...

Going to and from the post office to get the various weights for the different batches that are posted is proving to be time consuming. A "Thermoscale" one that has a maximum of 2kg and is thus sensitive has not yet been found. However a guide for the cost was found from Scale Services on Cha Cha Cha road where a K 7 560-00 quotation was obtained for one that has a maximum of 25kg.

6. A proforma invoice to the tune of K34 000-00 (round figure) for a franking machine obtained from town but the treasury wishes to get a motivation for such a huge requisition. Mme Makho will be seeing the comrades at treasury for such a motivation.

7. Filing has been somewhat updated and new files opened. A lot more still has to be done.

8. Stocktaking of the VOW equipment was done on Cde Mavivi's departure and the records kept.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

1. The franking machine broke down as it was overusing units and therefore was taken to Olivetti for repair. This brought about a 3 weeks delay in dispatch.

2. When it was eventually repaired the Youth Section took it to their new offices and this meant that dispatching was going to be even slower.

3. The printing machine at our Emmarsdale printshop broke down. It remained out of order for so long that a decision was taken that printing be done at Luanda. Just at the point action was to be taken, it started working again but so inadequately that some of the copies it produces had to be thrown away.

4. What was supposed to have been VOW 2&3 ended up just as VOW 2 because time had run out and not enough contributions had been put together to produce a double copy. VOW 2 has the usual 8 pages.

5. Box files are not available from our stationery providers. They have been unavailable for a very long time. Some of our material cannot be filed in the ordinary files.

6. Personnel - Cde Mavivi left for studies in the first week of September.

Cde Lucy left for leave in August

Cde Doris returned from the Pioneer camp at the end of August, she is also a member of the Childrens desk.

Cde Georgina rejoined from studies in but soon had to work from the Emmarsdale printshop where she is undergoing some training in the use of the newly acquired computer for typesetting and layout. She is now in her 4th week.

Cde Salome - full time functionary

WHAT IS TO BE DONE ?

1. VOW 3&4 must be started from scratch, a double issue with a ~~maximum~~ of minimum of 12 pages must be published as time is seriously against us.

2. VOW 2 bundles must be dispatched.
3. The Women and Children Under Apartheid newsletter 3 must be completed ie. fully written, stencilled and printed. Only a few pages of rough work have been done.
4. The Women and Children Under Apartheid newsletter 1&2 must be dispatched.
5. The UNIP Women's League paper on the history of August 9 is long overdue. It has to be written as they had requested.
6. Material on rural women in South Africa has to be sought, put together and posted to Cde Zinto in the GDR. Already some has been put together but more work still has to be done because she needs very current information which means, going through material from home like Sash, WIP, Grassroots, Weekly Mail, New Nation. The EDA newsletter is the only one we receive which deals specifically with rural women.
7. A paper on "Young women in the liberation struggle" has to be written for the GDR magazine REVUE as per Cde Zinto's request.

CONCLUSION

1. As the report reveals, most of the work that is outstanding is work that requires a lot of thorough preparation viz. studying, research, writing and editing. No member of this desk has had such time!
2. The nature of the desk demands that comrades be resourceful, they should always have information on their fingertips, they should be banks of ideas. They must fully understand politics in general, our liberation struggle in particular and the women's question in a very special sense. This implies that they must read a lot and be exposed to political and social life in general and journalism in particular. Examples of such exposure are the recent 2 weeks festival in Mosco and the Southern Africa Journalists Conference held in Harare in September where the ANC was represented but NOT VOW. It is obvious, we are not meeting the demands of the situation. Can we?
3. Dispatch is lagging far behind. This glaring example of VOW 1 which was ready long ago but was only dispatched in July creates complications like those of claims which are not only an embarrassment but a drawback on our propaganda work which is extremely vital for the liberation struggle. Dispatch would cease to be a problem if we had the required equipment right in the office and did not have to run around in circles begging and borrowing.
4. An office like this one must have a proper library. Our filing is lagging behind. For our research work to be more productive more attention should be accorded to constituting a proper library with a proper card catalogue. This point can never be overemphasised!! Some of our library material is at Makeni but how do we move it to this tiny office?
5. The desk needs a collective that will work on a full time basis, at the very very least 3 is suggested. The head of the desk very often does administrative and editorial work whilst at the office. She has to do a lot more co-ordination with other structures

