

FROM THE BATLAGAE TRUST
REQUESTING FUNDING ASSISTANCE TO 31 JUNE 1994
17 DECEMBER 1993

1. INTRODUCTION:

Following a comprehensive consultation with SIDA representatives on Wednesday 15 December 1993, the Batlagae Trust was invited to submit to SIDA a proposal outlining its funding needs for a six month period to 31 June 1994. The Batlagae Trust values its association with SIDA, and is sincerely grateful for this invitation.

development of our emerging nation. This potential must be harnessed and nurtured now, however, if it is ever to be realised. The work and mission of the Batlagae Trust remain more relevant than ever, and we hope that our appeal will meet with SIDA's favourable consideration.

2. BURSARY PROGRAMME:

To date the Batlagae Trust has made a significant impact on the lives of a number of young people through its successful co-ordination of the educational re-integration of returnees on a fairly extensive, national level. Dedicated adherence to this objective has entailed the re-orientation, career guidance, financial support as well as personal and academic counselling of returnee students.

Despite the fact that the activities and programmes of the Batlagae Trust have expanded greatly over the past two years, the bursary programme remains fundamental to the successful implementation of its mission. Our greatest need, therefore, is to secure financial aid for the returnee students who approach us for assistance. To this end, we are totally dependent on the philanthropy, empathy and vision of independent agencies to provide us with funds to cover our operating costs. -

In 1992, the Batlagae Trust supported a total of 1 885 bursars. In

1993, this figure has expanded to 2 500. In 1994, the Batlagae Trust will continue to support its present case load of beneficiaries in education institutions at all levels. We expect the arrival of an additional 600 returnees in the coming months, which will place additional demands on our bursary programme.

2.1 ONGOING BURSARY PROGRAMME:

The Batlagae Trust requests SIDA to consider contributing an amount of R891 000 towards the funding needs of the ongoing bursary programme in the first six months of 1994.

As per the Batlagae Trust's agreement with SIDA, the funding needs of the ongoing bursary programme for the next six months, to 31 June 1994, have been calculated by working with SIDA's 1993 beneficiary lists and subtracting students who we expect will graduate at the end of the year. It must be noted that the Batlagae Trust will only have an official figure of the number of students who have graduated some time in early January when final results are released to students. We anticipate, however, the SIDA budget for the ongoing bursary programme in 1994 will have reduced in the region of R45 000 in comparison with the 1993 budget, once graduated students (approximately thirty five) have been deducted from the beneficiary list.

2.2 NEW BURSARY PROGRAMME:

The Batlagae Trust is expecting that approximately 180 new students will be added to the SIDA beneficiary list in 1994. Some of these students have recently arrived in South Africa from various countries of exile, and some have been in the country for a while, but will not have sponsorship after 1993 because their donors are discontinuing their support to the Batlagae Trust. The 180 new students will require funding in the amount of R288 000 over the first six months of 1994. As per our agreement with SIDA, this component is listed as a separate item in the budget which appears at the end of the proposal.

2.3 EXTERNAL BURSARY PROGRAMME OF THE BATLAQAE TRUST:

A comprehensive proposal outlining the salient details and funding requirements of the external bursary programme of the ANC for students who remain in exile while they complete their studies. The Batlagae Trust has been asked to administer this programme and requests SIDA to consider contributing an amount of R498 000 (this figure does not include the Swaziland component of the budget, as per SIDA's request). There is some degree of urgency with regard to securing funds for this programme. A number of students have been let down by their sponsors who have not honoured their commitment to seeing them through to the end of their respective courses. They are presently having to cope with very difficult social circumstances and face the potential crisis of not being allowed to write their final examinations because their

tuition fees have not been paid. The Batlagae Trust Would therefore appreciate a response as early as possible with regard to SIDA's decision on the funding of this programme.

Because the R498 000 is required for expenditure outside of South Africa, the administration of these funds will be through NGOs and/or the ANC Finance departments in each country. The Batlagae Trust will liaise with SIDA with regard to the precise reporting arrangements with regard to the administration of these funds, once SIDA have indicated their willingness to support the programme.

In summary, the Batlagae Trust requires R1 677 000 for its bursary programme over the first six months of 1994 as follows:

- a. Ongoing programme R 891 000
- b. New programme R 288 000
- 0. External programme R 498 000

TOTAL gl-g;;-SBS

3. SUPPORT TEACHERS PROGRAMME AI LIIVAH AND PHAMBILI SCHOOLS:

Both Liivah School and Phambili High School accepted a large number of returnees into their respective student bodies in 1992. It soon became evident, however, that both groups of returnee students were in desperate need of remedial and counselling support, if they were going to cope successfully with the schools' curricula. Because of the large number of students involved, the Batlagae Trust agreed to fund the salaries of a teacher/counsellor at each school, who would be employed to provide remedial and counselling support to those returnees and local children in need of such assistance.

This programme remains an invaluable initiative of the Batlagae Trust. Politically-related violence in Venda and more particularly in Natal over the past year, has placed both returnee and local school children under considerable psychological strain. Harassment and intimidation of individuals is rife, and many students live in a state of perpetual fear. These factors, coupled with impoverished social circumstances, as well as the trauma and instability associated with the repatriation process itself, inevitably mean that most returnees require the psychological counselling services of a trained professional to help them to cope. The vast majority of young students returned from exile also bring with them a legacy of interrupted schooling. More often than not they are behind in the curriculum and have not acquired the necessary cognitive and conceptual skills to do well in many subjects at school. Many have also had their schooling interrupted over the past months by teacher stayaways and student boycotts, so that most returnees, and most local children as well, also require the assistance of a remedial education teacher to help them make up their educational deficits. u. rim,

The Batlagae Trust requests SIDA to consider contributing an amount of R20 000 towards the support teachers programme which will be expended on the salaries of the two teachers.

4. YEOVILLE EDUCATIONAL POLYCLINIC:

A project of the Batlagae Trust that has proved to be of particular and increasing value, is the Yeoville Educational Polyclinic. Established in order to provide much-needed academic, psychological and social support to returnee students enrolled at the Yeoville Community School, as well as local children, the Educational Polyclinic forms part of a unique programme of outreach to the broader community. Very often returnee students and local, marginalised black students are perceived to have limited academic ability, when in fact, their poor academic performance is a manifestation of a range of underlying problems like severe emotional trauma, poverty, as well as a history of interrupted and inferior schooling. It is vital that these students have access to educational specialists who are trained to help them cope with their problems, which if undiagnosed and untreated, are severe barriers to any kind of academic or social progress. The services offered by the Educational Polyclinic include psychological assessments and counselling, remedial assistance, psychometric testing, social and health programmes, speech and hearing therapy, as well as any related services that are required by different students.

Returnee children are in need of psychological counselling as well as remedial assistance. Many have grown up in unstable home environments which have offered little security because of the unique circumstances of their parents. The trauma of relocating permanently to a country that many have never seen, and of having to integrate into a fragmented society with a prejudiced history, has placed many returnees under exceptional strain as they also attempt to cope with the demands of a new language, a violent and often ruthless society, and in most instances, very impoverished physical conditions.

The local community is also very much in need of the services and expertise being provided by the educational polyclinic, because traditionally these have not been made accessible to people, and where they have been, only at great expense. Local children also experience learning difficulties and require assistance to overcome the inevitable learning deficits that are the result of their prior exposure to inferior state schooling, to which most had no alternative. They also therefore require remedial support to acquire the conceptual skills they lack to cope with the school curricula, as well as psychological counselling to address the fact that many come from unstable and impoverished homes that are not conducive to their general development.

A non-governmental organisation under the auspices of the Batlagae Trust, the Yeoville Educational Polyclinic is staffed by a: social worker, who is also the Director, two remedial therapists, one psychologist, one part-time occupational therapist and one secretary. The Batlagae Trust requests SIDA to consider an amount of R100 000 towards the operating costs of the educational polyclinic-over the first six months of 1994.

5. SOMAFCO RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION PROJECT:

The Department of Education has given priority to the establishment and implementation of the SOMAFCO Archives Project and its extension, the SOMAFCO Research and Documentation Project, ever since the commencement of the repatriation programme in 1990.

As part of its brief to co-ordinate all those activities relating to the continued education and training of repatriated students, the Batlagae Trust was also assigned the task of overseeing the safe return of the educational archives of the ANC from the countries of exile back into South Africa. This task has been accomplished in the form of the Archives Project, and all relevant archival material has been placed at Fort Hare University in the eastern Cape.

The Department of Education is now poised to launch a comprehensive research effort - the SOMAFCO Research and Documentation Project - aimed at analysing' the ANC's educational experiences outside the country. The Department feels that it is vitally important to document and therefore preserve this aspect of the organisation's struggle against apartheid. In addition, it is anticipated that the Research Project will evaluate its findings in terms of how the educational experiences of the ANC in exile can contribute to the ongoing debate about education in post-apartheid South Africa and how they can inform the development of a relevant macro-level educational policy for the country.

A proposal outlining the aims and objectives of the SOMAFCO Research and Documentation Project has already been submitted to SIDA. We require a total budget of R360 000 for 1994 for this project, and the Batlagae Trust requests SIDA to contribute an amount of R194 000 towards its six months of operation (we are anticipating the establishment costs of the project to be relatively high because of the promotional material that has to be produced).

6. ADMINISTRATION COSTS:

The Batlagae Trust requests SIDA to consider an amount of R110 000 towards its administrative costs (this figure represents approximately half of our anticipated administrative costs for 1994).

7. BUDGET BREAKDOWN:

A detailed budget summarising this proposal over each item can be found on the next page. '

BUDGET:

A. BURSARY PROGRAMME:

1. Ongoing programme R891 000
 2. New programme R288 000
 3. External programme R498 000
- R1 677 000

B. SUPPORT TEACHERS PROGRAMME R 20 000

C. YEOVILLE EDUCATIONAL POLYCLINIC R 100 000

D. SOMAFCO RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION PROJECT R 194 000

E. ADMINISTRATION COSTS . R 110 000

TOTAL R2 101 000

JOHANNESBURG

17 DECEMBER 1993

MT/JD

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