

LuM/035/0005/07

The National Mandela Reception Committee
of 3rd October, 1990, Lesotho,

C/O Basotho Mineworkers Labour Co-operatives
Cassalis House,
P.O. Box 2577,
MASERU. 102

3rd October, 1990

A.N.C. National Office,
54 Saucer Street,
JOHANNESBURG. 2000

Dear Sir,

This letter serves to formally introduce the Lesotho Chapter of the Mandela Reception Committee to the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress of South Africa.

BACKGROUND :

This Committee was formed after the 2nd February, 1990 following the ^{unbanning} ~~unbanning~~ of the liberation movement in South Africa and the then imminent release of Comrade Nelson Mandela.

The Committee is constituted by representatives of mass based solidarity organisations in Lesotho which represent the following organised groups, namely, students (both Basotho and South African); workers within the trade union and cooperative movement including the NUM supported Basotho Mine Workers Labour Cooperative; teachers organised in the Lesotho Teachers Trade Union involved in the recent historic teachers' strike; Academic Staff Union of the University and other democratic formations in Lesotho who supported the Mandela Reception Committee activities.

ACTIVITIES :

The Committee has been engaged in a series of activities in solidarity with the struggle of the South African people among which are the following :-

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1. Organising of popular demonstrations on the 12th of February, 1990 of the University in Roma and the 17th of February in Maseru celebrating the release of Comrade Nelson Mandela.
2. Sponsored a series of seminars and conferences on the implications of the changes in South Africa on Lesotho.
3. Organised the cleaning of the graves of the South African victims massacred by the SADF on the 9th December, 1982 and 20th December, 1985.
4. Advising returning ANC exiles on their needs like processing of passport applications and contacting their relatives in South Africa and other such activities.

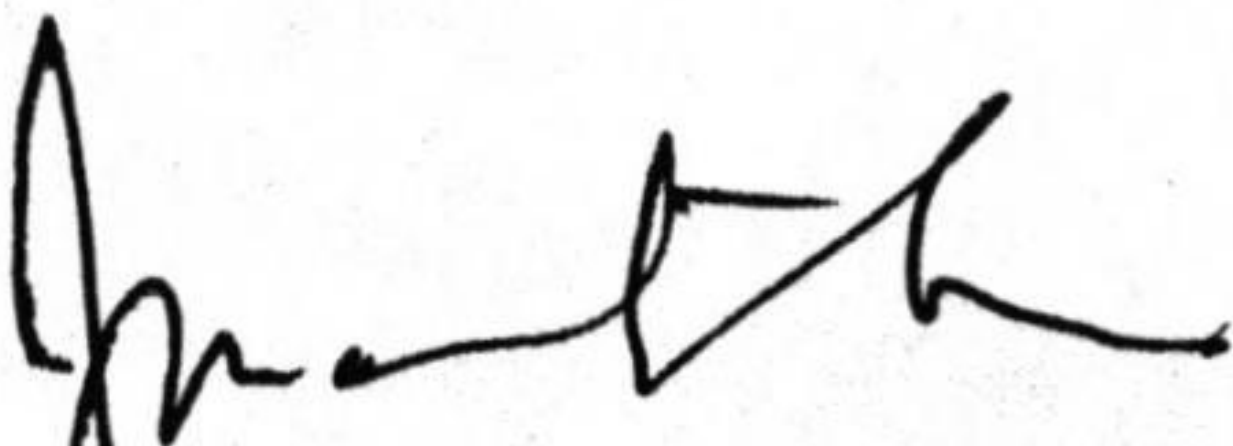
PROPOSAL :

As a solidarity movement representing popular democratic organisations in Lesotho, we would therefore like formal relations to be established between the Mandela Reception Committee and the African National Congress in order to achieve the following objectives.

- (i) to establish on-going consultations on significant issues of mutual interest in particular briefing the ANC on the political situation in Lesotho and its implications on the status and presence of ANC structures in Lesotho.
- (ii) to have joint consultations on any proposed visits to Lesotho by Deputy President Mandela and any other ANC delegations visiting Lesotho.
- (iii) planning jointly visits by relatives of the victims of SADF massacre who wish to visit the graves of their relatives buried in Lesotho.
- (iv) any other issues of common interest between the solidarity movement in Lesotho and the ANC.

The consultative channels proposed above will enable strong foundations of solidarity to be established between the peoples of Lesotho and South Africa as we move towards a post-Apartheid Southern Africa.

With Fraternal Greetings.



JOE MOTSOAHAE

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN M.R.C.