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BRIEF HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF MASUPATSELA.

These notes are the result of interviews with comrades who worked with or were Masupatsela. They shall be augmented or modified as more information is gathered).

The founding of Masupatsela (meaning pathfinders) was inspired by the introduction of Bantu Education by the racists in the early 50s and the experience gained by the A.N.C comrades who had toured abroad, especially in the socialist countries.

The formation of Masupatsela was a response to the attempt to straight-jacket the minds of our children through inferior education whilst at the same time it constituted a recognition that any nation struggling for survival, progress and democracy had to consolidate its aspirations by ensuring their inculcation in the younger generation, who would continue its struggle and ensure its life line.

Current reports indicate that Masupatsela's founding was initiated by Walter Sisulu through the then ANC Youth League, with the close collaboration of the late Kate Molale and Duma Nokwe and the assistance of comrades such as Lillian Ngoyi, Tough Hutchinson, Henry Makgothi and Molea. Masupatsela operated under the auspices of the Federation of South African Women.

The organisation was founded in Johannesburg and later established in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and other mainly Transvaal towns. At the initiation of Bantu Education the organisation organised and provided alternative education at what were popularly dubbed "Mathombo Schools" by the children as, due to geographic location, they had to have their meals at school and "Mathumbo", (that is the insides of cattle), were the cheapest available meat that the schools could afford.

Besides normal school subjects great emphasis was laid on the teaching of a correct history of our people and the inculcation of the true culture of our entire people as a defence against the commercialised and distorting deculturalisation that our entire people are subject to. The visionary teaching of Masupatsela is illustrated by their performance of a play called "2005", written by Tough Hutchinson in which a person wakes up in the year 2005 and is in as free, democratic and prosperous South Africa.

Their favourite song was "We the Young of the World" a WFDY song portraying international solidarity and mutual respect and appreciation amongst peoples. Masupatsela participated in performances at the 1955 Kliptown People's Congress where the Freedom Charter was adopted. Under constant harassment from the apartheid authorities the Freedom Schools were forced out of existence as they were declared illegal and Masupatsela reorganised them as Children's Clubs.

This phase of Masupatsela work also declined, however, during the prolonged treason trial of our leaders, amongst whom were the organisers and mentors of our children. Banishment of the activists finally stopped this vital work. With the growth of the ANC and South African community abroad the need for organised children's work became imperative if our children were to grow with a national identity and perspective of a future, free South Africa.

Children's Clubs were again organised by the Women's Section of the ANC wherever numbers of our people with children were resident. Gradually the numbers became such that proper organisation and coordination at national level became vital if this work was to continue. The First Women's Conference of the A.N.C in the external mission therefore recommended to the N.E.C the reconstitution at national level of the Masupatsela.

The aims, principles and structures of the reconstituted movement can be found in the Masupatsela Policy Document. The programmes planned shall include political studies and discussion, thematical lectures and talks, sports and cultural activities, arts and crafts, production engagement, theatre, films, exhibitions, excursions and other similar activity.

MASUPATSELA LEADERSHIP CADRE.

- The National Committee shall ensure the continuous development of leadership cadre for Masupatsela.
- The Regional Women's Section are responsible for regional Masupatsela leadership and will assist the National Committee in preparing a training programme and selecting cadres for training.

ON CREATION OF THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORGANISATION (DRAFT).

PREAMBLE.

Any socio-political system that has concrete ideas about its own development and progress in its country and is determined to realise these ideas and ensure the success of the system pays particular attention to the young generation. They create the structures corresponding to the conditions of that country and direct the development of the youth in the interests of the system. This is the precondition for the success of the ideology in the future. The major religious denominations had and have children's organisations. They start with the Sunday school and continue through the Boys Scouts and Girl Guides stages. Numerous political parties of the West have affiliated children's organisations into membership. In the socialist countries, children's organisations are firmly placed within the political and educational structure.

In the case of South Africa the oppressor regime has ensured that the young generation of the minority race are groomed to continue and defend the existing system.

As for the oppressed majority, the black child is the first victim of the apartheid regime in economic, social, educational, cultural and any other field of life, you name it. There is no doubt, children and the youth are against the system and fight it with whatever is in their means - school boycotts, mass demonstrations with demands for equal rights, joining the national liberation struggle.

The African National Congress of South Africa being the vanguard liberation movement of this struggle has understood its responsibility for the future of South Africa and played the leading role in the fight for children's rights. The ANC organised campaigns against Bantu Education, set up some schools to combat Bantu Education.

It was at the period of a qualitative change in the A.N.C policy during the early 50's that the Youth League set up an embryo of the national children's organisation - the Masupatsela Movement. The Masupatsela participated in the preparations for during and after the Kliptown People's Congress. However, with increased repression, the ANC went underground and the work with children became difficult, though the organisation continued giving some kind of material assistance to those most in need.

Taking into consideration the present upsurge of revolutionary fever amongst South African children inside the country, and the ever-increasing flow of youth into the ranks of the ANC, the NEC has approved the recommendation of the Women's Conference held in 1981 to establish formally the South African National Children's Organisation within the ANC.

Our children and youth are the future of our nation. Masupatsela shall therefore aim:-

1. To bring together South African children and unite them against the existing oppressive system in our country, organising them into conscious participants in the process of national liberation and emancipation.
2. To inculcate in these children the values and traditions of struggle inherited from our forebears and to make them worthy heirs and repositories of these values and traditions as they are propounded in the Freedom Charter of the people of South Africa and various documents and programmes of the liberation movement led by the ANC.
3. To acquaint them with the cultural wealth of our people, according them a national identity and enabling them to become creative successors in the struggle for the rediscovery, preservation and creative continuation of our cultural heritage.
4. In conjunction with their family and formal educational upbringing to develop them into fully-fledge personalities capable of playing a full role as conscious patriots of a liberated, democratic, progressive and peaceful South Africa as envisaged in the Freedom Charter.
5. To inculcate in them respect and feeling of friendship towards other nations and their cultures and promote friendly contacts of mutual benefit and enrichment with various national and international children's organisations, that are genuinely and actively interested in the welfare and happiness of mankind, in a word of peace and justice, regardless of race, colour sex or creed.

METHODS OF WORK.

1. Structure.

The National Children's Organisation falls under the auspices of the Women's Secretariat.

The National Masupatsela Committee was created on the basis of the Lusaka Regional Children's Committee and is chaired by member of the Women's Secretariat as was recommended by the Women's Conference of 1981.

The task of this committee is to plan, direct and coordinate the development and activities of the national Masupatsela organisation. Representatives of the Youth Secretariat and the Education Secretariat form part of the committee, which in turn is responsible to the Women's Secretariat.

A high sense of responsibility and morality, positively exemplary and ethical behaviour, discipline and punctuality in carrying out tasks and a humane disposition must be the hallmark of the tutors and mentors of Masupatsela.

The National Committee of Masupatsela consists of:-

1. Comrade Edo. Mophosho - Chairperson
2. Comrade Rita Mfenyane - Deputy Chairperson
3. Comrade Betty Malatsi - Administrative Secretary (Youth Secretariat Liason Officer).
4. Comrade Mantombi Mpila - Treasurer
5. Comrade Makho Njobe - National Coordinator (Education Secretariat).
6. Comrade Victor Moche - International Coordinator
7. Comrade Max Mlonyeni - Publicity Secretary.

SYMBOLS.

Name of the Organisation - Masupatsela (meaning pathfinders)

Age from: 5 - 16, subdivided into age groups:- 5-8:, 9-12, 13-16.

Suggested uniform - Khaki shirts and trousers produced by the ANC factory, ANC T. Shirts and sports shoes for sports.

Scarves in ANC colours: green triangle with black and gold edges produced by ANC factory.

Footwear to be determined by weather conditions and supplies in the various areas. Must however be uniform on all ceremonial occasions at which Masupatsela official appear.

Headgear: Black Beret

Salute: The right clenched fist with elbow raised level with the shouldre and the call - Amandla!

ACTIVITIES.

- An annual national plan shall be prepared by the National Committee, based on the A.N.C Political Calender.

Proposals, suggestions and ideas may be advanced by all organs of the ANC via the Women's Secretariat to the National Committee.

- Each region shall develop its own regional plan and submit it to the National Committee via the Secretariat for the latter's information.

STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF CHILDREN'S AND ADOLESCENTS'
MOVEMENTS (CIMEA) ATTACHED TO WFDY .

SECTION I.

NAME: International Committee of Children's and Adolescents Movements
(attached to WFDY).

SECTION II.

Nature and Tasks of the Committee:

The Committee works for the education of children and adolescents in the spirit of the noble ideas for which WFDY struggles: in the spirit of peace, friendship, international solidarity and mutual understanding, of social progress, national independence, democracy.

- It establishes contacts with national and international organisations and institutions engaged in activity for children and adolescents.
- The Committee works for the defence and realization of the ten principles of the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child.
- The Committee initiates and organizes, according to an international plan, the struggle against any actions which could demoralize the child, particularly against harmful literature and films which could pervert the minds of children, etc.
- The Committee promotes cooperation and a regular exchange of experiences between different organisations.
- The Committee contributes to the training of children's monitors especially in developing countries.
- The Committee initiates the organization of solidarity actions in favour of children and adolescents.
- The Committee takes up the organization of meetings and seminars and exchanges of delegations for the study of problems of childhood and adolescence existing in different countries; it works for an exchange of documentation of the life of children, organizes different kinds of events for children and adolescents.

While following the principles and orientation of WFDY, the Committee, nevertheless, is autonomous in its work.

SECTION III.

FORMS OF MEMBERSHIP

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1. All organizations of children, adolescents and youth, as well as all organizations and institutions which concern themselves with the education of children, can be members of CIMEA.

There are three categories of membership:

1. Affiliated members: organizations which fully accept the Statutes, the principles and the tasks of CIMEA.
2. Observer-members: organizations, institutions, children's committees or sections which support the aims and general line of activity of CIMEA without accepting the full programme and Statutes of CIMEA.

Remarks:

- a) All children's organizations belonging to member organizations of WFDY automatically become members of CIMEA.
 - b) Member organizations of CIMEA which are not member organizations of WFDY automatically become associated members of WFDY.
3. Organizations prepared to maintain relations with CIMEA for a mutual exchange of information and for limited actions become corresponding members.

The sovereignty and autonomy of member organizations of CIMEA is fully guaranteed. Affiliation to CIMEA does not exclude affiliation to other associations.

II. The affiliation of new organizations is decided upon by the Presidium of CIMEA.

III. The Presidium may propose the suspension of a member organization; a decision to this effect requires a two-thirds majority vote by the organizations present at the Assembly.

SECTION IV.

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS.

Rights:

1. Affiliated member organizations of CIMEA enjoy the following rights:

SECTION V.

STRUCTURE

1. The organs of CIMEA are the following:

The Assembly of CIMEA which meets once every four years in the framework of the WFDY Assembly. The task of the Assembly is to elaborate the guidelines of the work of CIMEA for the coming four years as well as to elect the CIMEA Presidium.

2. The CIMEA Presidium is composed of a president, vice-presidents, a general secretary and the members of the Presidium. The CIMEA Presidium meets once or twice a year (as required); it discusses the activity of CIMEA, the work plan, as well as requests for affiliation.

The Presidium ensures the implementation of the decisions of the Assembly of CIMEA. It establishes the agenda, taking account of the proposals made by the affiliated organizations and current requirements.

SECTION VI.

FINANCES.

CIMEA's financial resources derive from

- annual membership fees and contributions by member organizations;
- subventions by WFDY;
- payments and donations from organizations and private persons.

SECTION VIII.

AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES

The present Statutes can be amended by a decision ^{of} the CIMEA Assembly by a majority of 2/3 of the votes; such decision has to be ratified by the WFDY Executive Committee.

- a) to participate in the Assembly of member organizations by sending at least one delegate, to participate in the discussion and in decisions on all questions concerning CIMEA (Programme, initiatives, elections, etc).
- b) to participate in all activities of CIMEA and to be represented in the leadership of CIMEA,
- c) to put forward proposals for the consideration of the Assembly and of the Presidium, to be present when bodies take decisions on matters concerning their organizations,
- d) to request the assistance of CIMEA in tackling their special problems,.

2. Observer-member organizations have the following rights:

- to participate in the Assembly of CIMEA in a consultative capacity (without the right to vote) and to send to the Assembly at least one delegate who can take part in the discussion and put forward proposals.

3. The Presidium is mandated to sign a bilateral protocol with each observer-member or corresponding-member organization laying down the conditions for its participation in the life of CIMEA.

Note: All member organizations may refrain from applying decisions of CIMEA to which they have not given their agreement.

Obligations:

1. Affiliated members of the CIMEA have the following obligations:

- a) to accept the Statutes of CIMEA,
- b) to work the implementation of the decisions taken by the governing bodies of CIMEA and of initiatives to which they have given their agreement,
- c) to strive to promote cooperation between different organizations in their countries for the satisfaction of the interests of children and adolescents,
- d) to pay their membership fees according to their possibilities.

2. Observer-member organizations of CIMEA have to fulfill the agreement concluded in the obser-member bilateral protocol and to contribute to the financial support of CIMEA activities according to the terms of the agreement.

3. Corresponding member organizations have the obligation to fulfill the agreement contained in the bilateral protocol.