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LUTHULI MEMORIAL TRUST  
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SUBJECT: ONE MONTH'S REPORT (SEPTEMBER, 1991)  
EBQHL MR. WILLIE IBEABUCHI (COUNSELLOR)  
AS TION OF DUTY:

. I assumed duty as a Counsellor with Luthuli Memorial Trust,  
(miseria Chapter) on 2nd September 1991. On assumption, I was  
introduced to the older members of staff by the Co-ordinator Dr.  
Margaret Skomolo. The Office of Luthuli Memorial Trust, Nigeria  
Chapter, is located at 211 Herbert Macaulay Street, Yaba, Lagos.  
My duties as a Counsellor as specified by the administration were  
handed to me. The Kernel of my job hinges on the Socio-Psychological  
adjustment problems of the students which include namely:- Health,  
Social, Cultural, Financial and Educational problems.

#### THE STUDENTS

The students, no doubt, are in a strange land, thus feeling like  
"fish out of water". This is normal whenever new situational  
variables arise and are severely confronting. The students left  
their home to sojourn in a foreign land and as such, it is true  
that every thing would appear strange to them. It is this strange  
. appearance of things and their effect on the socio-psychological  
balance of the students that Counsellors were employed to help  
them develop insight into their adjustment problems and adjust to  
life realities and develop to their maximum capacity.

My short period of interaction with the students strengthened my  
perception of the problems of the displaced.

These problems include the following:-

4" ADJUSTMENT PROBLEM: This group of students were liberation struggle  
'flgntrs for many years and suddenly they found themselves in a  
situation and land that are totally strange, demanding their inter-  
gration 'nto an academic discipline and regulation plus the high  
expectation of taking courses and passing them.

This will in no small measure pose problem of adjustment, hence  
the intergration will not be rapid. Time is really needed and  
extra work on the part of the Counsellors and school authorities.  
They are, therefore, not expected to perform wonderfully well, now.

Health Problem: Some of the Comrades had come into Nigeria with  
ailments that either were not properly'diagnosedi and treated or  
were not attended to at all. Gouppld with strangeness in a new  
country)they had added health problems to cope with.

This situation had caused the office toincure alot of medical  
bills and emergencies to tackle. The climatic condition of the  
country, like excruciating heat and very cold rain periods may have  
been posing some health problems. This resulted in constantIBQPeStS  
for changes in schools from one part of the country to the other.

Because the students  
 Viofhsounlmg, hetefosexualwrelation-  
 ship wi;l e roblems, since there could Bewthgntenaehiy Tor  
 indegEheE#%gsa;gianhemhortheir own approach - avoidEEEEETttitude  
 in relating with indegenes. The result is that the majority of  
 ' are youths and adults willeind it easiETTEEKing  
 . / "Mn i a ' Invafiahly, thiswhhhohtro-  
 vTIEEFEBsafeWEexual,rela-tionship'exposes the comrades to the gcources '\_  
 AIDS " e, , oresojin the face of the incurable  
 . rms be obeyed by all  
 . and sundry including foreigners. These students are placed in  
 the country; each locality with  
 lts peculiar socio-cultural super-structure. The students are  
 They therefore need cross-cultural re-orientation  
 and adjustment  
 in order to function effectively andeificiently; t  
 00.  
 ginance: Another serious problem facing the students is that of  
 inance and Finance Management. Thei  
 promptly paid the students becaus  
 This has created a lot of problems during the beginning of the  
 present 1991/92 academic session. '  
 about what to tell the students who are suspicious that the staff  
 had refused to pay the money.  
 In the moneyless situation and  
 loss of regards to genuine explanations,  
 the students became more errati  
 c, hostile and uncontrollable.  
 Observation revealed that because of their lifestyle from the  
 on set back home, there is a carried-over Thabit' of drinking  
 a lot at the bars, butteries and hotels.  
 This situation needs a gradual re-orientation and no one should  
 demand an ALL \_ or - NONE result.  
 ' chools: The initial arrangement and situation  
 necessitated the Southern African Relief Fund (SARF) of the Nigerian  
 Gove nment to hel in,the lacement ca Tuthuli Students in '  
 institUtiODS in setrla. his situatio; eirennlas an added 5333833331  
 bility to the organisation and resulted in delayed or noneplacement  
 of some Luthuli students. It is suggested that since the circum-  
 stance that necessitated the arrangement no more exists, Luthuli  
 Office in Nigeria should liaise directly with Educationhal authorities  
 -'3bint Admissiionand Matriculation Board, and the Ministry of  
 Education, for placement and transfers of its students.

Another felt problem is that due to the circumstance surrounding the students coming to Nigeria, most relevant educational credentials were not available. This resulted in improper school placements.

Age differentials were markedly posing Adjustment problems. Our students (ANC) are usually older and bigger than their Nigerian class-mates from whom disciplinary orders were also given as schools prefects or captains. Even though they look smaller and younger. One could imagine what this scenario portrays. Counselling services are very necessary in this respect.

#### LUTHULI OFFICE

Release of Funds: Delayed release of funds from the Headquarters has affected the smooth operations of the Nigeria office. The situation of lack of funds to pay students allowances/stipends is better observed than imagined. When the payment of the allowances was due for the current session, the staff faced a situation of hopelessness, with many of the students travelling from parts of the country to get nothing. Some students felt that the staff deliberately refused to pay them while all the staff were so worried about their early return to school.

Staff conditions: Staffers of Luthuli, Nigeria, up till now don't know what the conditions of service under which they work are. My one month in office is enough to require me to be aware of such conditions of service like basic salary, housing allowance or rent subsidy, transport allowance, leave and leave bonus and others. Most of us have worked in establishments, like Government, Institutions, Companies, where these things are spelled out in clear terms.

The nature of the work is however interesting because of its human involvement. But it is pregnant with occupational hazards. It is not a permanent job, not pensionable the students are not like the conventional ones. Some of the students are so erratic and there had been cases where staff had been manhandled by students. The job requires Counsellors to travel through the length and breadth of Nigeria where our students are placed, it means a lot of risk on the road and air transport.

All these made it imperative that good conditions of service must be spelled out for the staff.

Staff Relations: I must express my profound appreciation of the leadership qualities of the Co-ordinator Dr. Margaret Skomolo. She solicits and appreciates contributions of members of staff. She delegates responsibilities to staff, thereby, running an all-involved administration.

Let me also use this opportunity to extend my gratitude to the older members of staff who promptly integrated the new ones into the system-

Staff relationship on a general note is fine, cordial and progressive towards achieving the objectives of the organisation.

#### PROSPECTS.

The Luthuli Education Programme of the ANC is a wonderful rehabilitation programme. It is left for the beneficiaries of this laudable programme to maximise the opportunity. In my first letter to our students/Comrades entitled "AFTER THE STRUGGLE, WHERE ARE YOU, WHAT ARE YOU" highlighting the need for all the struggle to find a way to qualify oneself in areas where positions

and work alongside the whites in the true Democratic South African State. It is through education that the Liberation.Fi hters will reap the fruits of their struggle, and this programme as offered them W 011%! Mg.

The Educational Programme of ANC (Luthuli) could be extended to embrace more female members of the movement and those who.could not cope with normal academic system in the bid to rehabilitate them. Such people could learn trades like Hair-Dressing, Dress-making, Home Econome/Management, Hotel and Catering Management Typing/Shorthand, Craft making, Motor Mechanic, Watch Repairing etc. Such trades can be learned in institutions like Government Training Centres, Fashion Centres, Women Training Centres, and private workshops.

Luthuli office in Nigeria with adequate funding and the dedicated calibre of staff, could contribute immensely to the rehabilitation programmes of the ANC for a more pupposeful re-intergration.

Holidaz Camgigg: During holidays, activities need be planned for the stu ents. Such activities would help the counsellors more in helping them adjust. Stress and fatigue could be reduced considerably through such activities, like Excusions, Concerts, Quiz, Cultural Outings, Dances, Health Education Programmes, Seminars, symposia, orientation, counselling etc.

I hope the Headquarters will see such activities as purposeful and make funds available when they are planned.

Igansit Guest House: I have observed the non-availability of Transit uest ouse as a serious problem. These students have no homes in Nigeria. Whenever they come to Lagos for any transac-tion, where to stay poses great problems to the office.

Let me therefore.make a cgse for the approval Of a Transit Guest House to be acquired or hired in Lagos.

Ali

WILLIE IBEA UCHI COUNSELLOR)

LUTHULI MEMORIAL TRUST (NIGERIA).

Thank you.

FROM: Mr Willie (Counsellor)LMT

Dear Comrades,

AFTER THE STRUGGLE;

WHAT ARE YOU?

WHERE ARE YOU?

are those who make maximum use of opportunities  
given them to

develop themselves;

like Education Programme of the African National

. C ongre as (A .N .C .) through Luthuli Memorial Foundation ,

Southern African Re relief Fund(SARF) aha all other Educa

Those would be the people that will hold power and top

alongside the whites in the True Democratic South Afric

What of you?

the Nigerian

tional Agencies.

of individuals.

As you go back to your institutions look up to paper and pencil 88

.The only tool to become a leader in the cherishdand

promised -

south Afrcia. And this is True.

A M A N D L A " '