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SOMAFCO RESEARCH PROJECT

GENERAL FUNDING PROPOSAL

1. BACKGROUND: SOMAFCO, DAKAWA AND THE BATLAGAE TRUST:

The Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College (SOMAFCO) was founded by the African National Congress (ANC) in 1978, at Mazimbu in Tanzania. The College was established to cater specifically for the educational needs of young South Africans fleeing their country in the wake of the Soweto Uprising of 1976. From the time of its inception, SOMAFCO geared itself not only to the provision of education and training for exiled students, but also to the process of shaping a superior education system to that of the inferior and inadequate Bantu Education System that almost all of the South African exiles had been subjected to.

Over the course of time, spanning a period of almost fifteen years, SOMAFCO developed into a complex and multi-faceted facility that included a secondary school, primary school, as well as a combined nursery school and day-care centre. An orientation centre was also established at the nearby Dakawa Community Development Centre (another ANC project in Tanzania) to prepare newly arrived exiled students for entry into SOMAFCO. In addition to these educational departments, various supportive administration, construction, production, and agricultural units were situated at both SOMAFCO and Dakawa. At the time of the unbanning of the ANC in early 1990, the total population of the two complexes numbered in the region of 5 000 people.

Political changes in South Africa subsequent to the unbanning of the liberation movements, made the repatriation of the exiled community possible. SOMAFCO was gradually phased out during 1991-1992 and was formally handed over to the Tanzanian Government in July 1992.

The Batlagae Trust was established in October 1991 by the Oversight Committee of the National Co-ordinating Committee for the Repatriation of South African Exiles (NCCR -- dissolved in April 1993) to address the educational problems facing returnee learners and their families. In particular, the Batlagae Trust was mandated to co-ordinate the educational re-integration of returning exiled youth on a national levels at all levels of study (from pre-school through to adults in need of vocational and skills training). This mandate not only demanded that the Batlagae Trust raise substantial amounts of funding from various sources in order to provide returnees with bursary and welfare support. The Trust also had to implement several other projects to assist students with the inevitable social, economic and academic problems that form part of the repatriation process of political exiles back into South African society.

2. THE SOMAFCO RESEARCH PROJECT

As part of its brief to co-ordinate all those activities related to the continued education and training of repatriated students, the Batlagae Trust was also assigned the tasks of overseeing the safe return of the educational archives of the ANC back into South Africa, and co-ordinating a comprehensive research effort aimed at analysing the ANC's educational experience outside the country. The purpose of conducting such a research project was not only to document and therefore preserve, this aspect of the organisation's struggle against apartheid, but also to determine its relevance to present-day educational developments and decision-making in South Africa.

The educational archives of the ANC were safely returned to South Africa in 1992 and are presently housed at the University of Fort Hare in the eastern Cape.

In June 1992, the Batlagae Trust convened a workshop to begin the process of conducting research on SOMAFCO in particular, and the ANC's experiences in exile as they pertain to education in general. Attended by formerly exiled teachers, students, administrators and workers, as well as by representatives of internal organisations, the workshop strongly identified the need for a professionally staffed and managed research project to be established. The project would not only research SOMAFCO and the ANC's general exile experience, but would also contribute to the ongoing debate and discussions on future educational policies for a democratic South Africa.

It is envisaged that a research unit, comprising of a Research Director, two researchers, an administrator as well approximately eight resource personnel stationed around the country to collect material and conduct interviews, will be based at an appropriate tertiary institution from which to conduct this project, preferably the University of Fort Hare where the archives are located. The research project is expected to last for at least eighteen months and its findings will be distributed as widely as possible.

An Advisory Committee has been established to assist the Batlagae Trust in the clear formulation of the aims and objectives of the research project, as well as with its implementation and the monitoring of its progress.

The Advisory Committee is comprised of: Mohommed Tikly (Convener), Henry Makgoti, Sindiso Mfenyane, Pethu Serote, John Pampallis, Mojake Thulo, Barney Mogane, Mohammed Jhatham, Thami Mali, Pule Tsatsi, Barbara Watson, Norman Levy, Alpheus Mangezi, Douglas Ramaphosa, Don Ngakane, Lindelwe Mabandla, Linda Chisholm, Harold Wolpe.

The Advisory Committee held its first meeting on 15 November 1993. What follows is the result of its deliberations and discussions, including a proposed budget:

3. OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT:

- 3.1 Record, evaluate and document the history of SOMAFCO and its role in the struggle against apartheid.
- 3.2 Contribute to and inform the ongoing debate in South Africa for a post-apartheid policy on education.
- 3.3 Inform the wider South African public about SOMAFCO and its significance.

4. SPECIFIC AIMS AND AREAS OF RESEARCH:

- 4.1 Record and assess the context of SOMAFCO as well as its educational, social, political and work experience; the development of its structures, educational philosophy and ethos.
- 4.2 Assess the significance and role of SOMAFCO within the ANC's external mission.
- 4.3 Assess the contribution of SOMAFCO to the ANC's international mobilising efforts.
- 4.4 Assess the influence and impact of SOMAFCO on Tanzania at different levels: political, educational as well as in terms of relations fostered with the people of Tanzania.
- 4.5 Evaluate the impact of SOMAFCO on its students, teachers, administrators and other workers.
- 4.6 Evaluate the progress of teachers and students in the process of re-integration onto South Africa after the unbanning of the ANC.
- 4.7 Evaluate gender, class and racial attitudes and practices at SOMAFCO.
- 4.8 Examine the role of the expatriate community in the development of SOMAFCO.

5. SCOPE OF THE RESEARCH:

The research must cover the following educational sectors at both Mazimbu and Dakawa:

- 5.1 The secondary, primary and nursery schools at Mazimbu.

- 5.2 The day-care and adult education centres at Mazimbu and Dakawa.
- 5.3 The Kate Molale Centre at Mazimbu.
- 5.4 The National Scholarships Committee and its international operations.
- 5.5 The ANC Education Department, The National Education Council and regional ANC educational committees.
- 5.6 The production and service sectors including construction, agriculture, manufacturing, health, food, stores and supplies at both Mazimbu and Dakawa.

6. RESEARCH OUTPUT:

- 6.1 A comprehensive and detailed research study, geared towards the educational establishment analysing the SOMAFCO experience and its relevance.
- 6.2 An illustrated history which has an accessible narrative with interviews, aimed at the wider public.
- 6.3 A spread of articles in both analytical and popular journals as the research develops.
- 6.4 A photographic exhibition for national viewing.
- 6.5 A video which could possibly be aired on public television.

7. PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS AND DURATION OF RESEARCH:

- 7.1 It is envisaged that the entire project should take approximately eighteen months to complete. The Committee decided to factor in a contingency period of a further three to six months if this became necessary.
- 7.2 Personnel:
 - a Research Director to head the project
 - two researchers
 - an administrator
 - approximately eight resource persons to be stationed across the country on two to three month contracts to collect material and conduct interviews.

8. RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES:

- 8.1 Oral histories of participants and other significant actors.
- 8.2 Structured questionnaires and unstructured interviews.
- 8.3 Documentary research.
- 8.4 Workshops. At least one workshop in Europe to gather together volunteers who worked at Mazimbu and Dakawa would be desirable to collect insights and perspectives.
- 8.5 Examination of primary and secondary material: journals, papers, reports and Audio Visual material.

9. RESEARCH PROPOSAL:

Once appointed, the research team will produce a detailed research proposal which will be discussed by the Advisory Committee and ANC's Department of Education. Once all recommendations have been incorporated into the proposal, it will be approved by the ANC's Department of Education.

10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

A sub-committee of the Advisory Committee will be established to meet regularly with the research team to assess problems and progress with a view to making recommendations to the ANC's Department of Education. The final research documents will be evaluated by an independent body that will be set up by the ANC's Department of Education.

11. BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:

The Advisory Committee discussed the following points before arriving at the proposed budget outlined under section twelve:

- 11.1 A contingency amount should be built into the budget to allow the research to continue for an additional three to six months after the suggested eighteen month duration if this became necessary.
- 11.2 The full staffing requirement should be budgeted for.
- 11.3 Training of resource people to ensure uniformity of approach.
- 11.4 Official launch of the project.
- 11.5 Transcription costs.
- 11.6 Production of a broadcast-quality video

- 11.7 Costs for producing the photo-exhibition and its distribution around the country.
- 11.8 Travelling and accommodation expenses for interviewers.
- 11.9 Workshops, local and foreign. (The workshop for volunteers could possibly be funded by an NGO of former SOMAFCO donor.)
- 11.10 Office equipment and furniture.
- 11.11 Launching, publicising and promoting the output from the research.
- 11.12 Administration costs (within the project, as well as the Batlagae Trust and ANC's Department of Education).
- 11.13 Meetings of the Advisory Committee, selection panel and monitoring sub-committee.

12. PROPOSED BUDGET (18 months):

A. STAFF (full-time):

--	Research Director (18 x R8 000 + R12 000 bonus)	R 156 000
--	2 Researchers (18 x R4 000 + R6 000 bonus <x2>)	R 156 000
--	Administrator (18 x R2 000 + R3 000 bonus)	R 39 000

(part-time/contractual):

--	8 Resource Personnel (18 x R1000 <x8>)	R 144 000
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B. RELOCATION COSTS:

--	Research Director	
--	2 Researchers	R 15 000

C. TRAINING COURSE:

	(for resource personnel to ensure uniformity of approach)	R 5 500
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D. OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE:

	(2 PCs, printer, fax, tape recorder, furniture)	R 23 000
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E. OFFICIAL LAUNCH:

		R 12 000
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F. PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION:

	(production and tour)	R 7 500
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G. VIDEO PRODUCTION:

		R 15 000
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H. TRAVEL/ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES:

	(for director and research personnel)	R 18 000
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I. WORKSHOPS:

--	local (8 x R450)	R 3 600
--	abroad	R 12 500

J. ADMINISTRATION COSTS:

-- research project	R 31 500
-- Batlagae Trust	R 6 000
-- Department of Education, ANC	R 800

K. PROMOTION OF RESEARCH OUTPUT:

-- printing	R 12 000
-- advertising	R 450

L. MEETINGS:

-- Advisory Committee (3 x R4 500)	R 13 500
-- Selection Panel	R 2 500
-- Monitoring sub-committee (3 x R3 500)	R 10 500

M. CONTINGENCY:

R 68 435

R 752 785

(*) Phase 1 - 450 500
Phase 2 300 500

750 500
