

LHM/016/0009/19 file ANC SOMAFCO

Presentation of the African National Congress  
of South Africa to the Inter-Agency Consultancy  
Meeting on the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College.

Dar es Salaam 5-7 November, 1979.

0.0 INTRODUCTION

- 0.1 In a letter addressed to Mr Michael Doo Kingue, Assistant Administrator and Africa Regional Director of the United Nations Development Programme, dated 30th August, 1979 the Treasurer General of the African National Congress of South Africa, Mr Thomas Nkobi gave an overall picture of the work which had already been done on the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College (SOMAFCO) Building Project.
- 0.2 He further appealed for assistance in developing the project, pointing out that it had advanced well beyond the planning stage.
- 0.3 In order to expedite the release of available funds and also help assess our overall requirements, the Treasurer General affirmed that the A.N.C. "would be happy to liase with UNESCO as the Main Executing Agency for the purpose of coordinating with ...(UNDP) and all other interested U.N. Agencies as regards providing ...(UNDP) with a detailed picture of progress of the project" thus far.
- 0.4 The A.N.C. then requested UNDP to invite all the major U.N. Agencies who were already involved in the ANC School-Building Project or those who had expressed willingness to contribute towards its development, to an Inter-Agency Consultancy Meeting to be held between the U.N. Agencies and the A.N.C.
- 0.5 In preparation for the Inter-Agency Meeting, UNESCO sent its expert, Mr Francis Bartels to Dar es Salaam and SOMAFCO. The results of this mission are reflected in a document entitled "Consultancy Mission of Mr Francis Bartels Financed Under UNESCO Regular Programme to Prepare the Ground for an Inter-Agency Mission Planned to Consider The Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College(SOMAFCO)

- ANC/79/001

This document was signed on the 15/9/79 and we were made



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to understand that it would be dispatched to all the Agencies invited to this Consultancy Meeting.

- 0.6 We do not here propose to reiterate our position with regard to our concept of SOMAFPCO. This has been clearly reflected in the findings and conclusions drawn by Mr Francis Bartels after his Consultancy Mission which took place from the 8th to 15th September, 1979.
- 0.7 We at this stage would like to thank the distinguished representatives of the various U.N. Agencies who have accepted to be present here, to fully acquaint themselves with our work and aspirations as well as our needs and requirements. We have no doubt of their support, but we would like to point out that the unfolding situation in South Africa in particular and Southern Africa in general demands more than token support for our struggle.
- 0.8 It is for this reason that we have painstakingly prepared this report, so that you can get a clear insight of the gigantic task facing us.
- 0.9 We take pride in the selfless efforts made by our own people to make this project a living reality. But we also do count a lot on whatever inputs the international community will advance in order to speed up the realisation of the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College.

Mr Chairman,

- I.0 As we have already said, our project is basically an education institution with Education as the essence of its activity. This is reflected in the approved Curriculum document attached as Appendix I.
- I.1 Our concept of the College is an integrated complex with concomitant Servicing Units. We have therefore prepared our report with the following major components:-
- A. EDUCATION subdivided into
1. Academic Requirements.
  2. Administration.
  3. Culture and Sports.



B. CONSTRUCTION

1. School (classrooms, dormitories, library).
2. Health Centre.
3. Creche and Pre-School (kindergarten).
4. Primary School.
5. Vocational Training Centre.
6. Staff Housing for the School and Servicing Units - including Production Units.
7. Transport and Equipment.
8. Fencing.

C. Equipment and Furnishing for all the Servicing Units (c.f. B - 2,3,4,5 and 6).

D. PRODUCTION UNITS

1. Equipment for Poultry; Piggery; Beef & Dairy Farming; Crop Production; Horticulture.
2. Animal Housing; Storage Facilities.
3. Transport.

E. GENERAL STORES AND TRANSPORT.

F. MISCELLANEOUS

Bakery; Butchery; Laundry; Cold Storage.

A breakdown and approximate costing of these major components is attached as Appendix II.

Mr Chairman,

2.0 Having then given you this overall picture of our projections, we would like to inform you exactly how much work we have been able to do to date.

2.1 TEACHING Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College started operating in May, 1979 with the establishment of classes divided according to clearly defined Forms ranging from Form I to Form V. At present we have 120 students who include about 40 post-Matriculants.



## 2.2 STAFFING

At present we have 6 professionally qualified teachers assisted by undergraduate students. These have managed to distribute work to cover the Primary Subjects as reflected in the Curriculum. Our target is to have 15 teachers by the beginning of 1980.

## 2.3 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Outlines of the syllabi on the Primary Subjects have already been adopted (attached as appendix III) At present we are engaged in a Curriculum Development Project along the lines of clearly defined Education Policy.(attached as appendix IV).

## 2.4 HEALTH CARE

We are running a clinic which not only serves our students and staff but also our labourers and the local population. The average attendance is 25 per day. We also rely on the services of the local Hospital for more serious cases.

## 2.5 PRODUCTION.

### 2.5.1 Crop Production In July 1979 we harvested

- + a 70-acre crop of maize;
- + a 10-acre crop of sorghum;
- + a 5-acre crop of beans.

### 2.5.2 Vegetable Production

Since July, our vegetable garden has been able to keep the College population supplied with fresh vegetables. As part of the education process, each student is allocated a small vegetable plot to tend. Produce from these has also supplemented our vegetable supply.

### 2.5.3 Fruit Orchards

Fruit orchards have been planted to cultivate such fruits as paw-paws, oranges and bananas.

### 2.5.4 Poultry

At present we have 300 layers and a fresh consignment of 500 pullets.



### 2.5.5 PIGGERY

Despite serious losses caused by disease and bad management, management has since improved and we have now rebuilt our stock to 200.

### 2.6 CONSTRUCTION

We have finished one dormitory unit, part of which is already occupied. Work has started on the first 2 classroom blocks and the foundation for a dining hall and kitchen has been laid. Meanwhile we converted a shed to serve as dining hall and utility hall (meetings, concerts etc).

Mr Chairman,

3.0 All the material enumerated above we hope to demonstrate to you during our visit to the College site.

3.2 We have nevertheless decided that we have to take what we have been offered so far and see how best this can be utilised under the given circumstances to keep the project viable. At present the distribution we propose will tend to blur our central preoccupation - viz Education. But, unless we can be assured otherwise, it appears that at this stage we have no option but to use the bulk of the offered assistance for construction.

3.3 Such a draft distribution of available funds from UNDP is attached as appendix V.

Mr Chairman,

4.1 This in brief covers most of what we would like to bring to your attention at this meeting. We shall be attentive to any comments, advice or criticism from those present, knowing fully well that this is done in the spirit of solidarity and support for the just cause which has forced us to be thousands of miles from our beloved motherland South Africa.

4.2 With your help and that of the freedom-loving international community, we are assured of success in our struggle.

Thank you for your attention.