

M CR/016/2008/6

Memorandum submitted by the Education Committee to the
Diplomatic Mission

The Education Committee of the African National Congress of Swaziland, noting the incoherence of our functioning at the moment, has decided to present a memorandum which seeks to illuminate our current crisis.

Our membership at present is as follows:

Mandla Sithole	joint acting chairmen on a rotational basis
Richard Levin	
Linda Sibande	Secretary
Dolly	Treasurer
Joyce Sikhakhana	Bus Driver

There is no doubt that the current crisis in essence can be traced to a fr- which erupted between Comrades Linda and Joyce in January this year. Numerous attempts on the part of the remaining three members to reconcile the two comrades have failed dismally. We have been totally unable to ascertain the root cause of this quarrel which initially resulted in Comrade Joyce keeping away from meetings through fear of Comrade Linda. This prompted our recommendation that disciplinary action be taken against Joyce, and in a joint meeting with the Diplomatic Mission convened by the latter in which all five members of the Education Committee were present, it was decided that the matter be resolved during an impending visit by the leadership to the region. This meeting took place on the 29th May.

Subsequent to this meeting, Comrade Linda who is one of the only two signatories of our cheques (since Comrade Gerald Mohlathe's departure), did not sign cheques for diesel, Joyce's stipend and other educational concerns, as was expected of her. This was suprising to us since in an earlier meeting held on the 16th May, the members of the committee (excluding Comrade Joyce who was not present), unanimously decided to work towards reconciliation and progress in our committee. The matter was reported to the Diplomatic Mission who took it upon themselves to visit Comrade Linda.

On their return, they reported to us that the situation had been normalised. On the 9th June, Comrade Richard went to Linda personally with the cheque book, and was told by Comrade Linda that she would not be signing cheques until the leadership had arrived and solved the problems of the Education Committee. In the interim, Comrade Joyce was forced to raise loans in order to continue running the bus. On the 14th June, Comrades Mandla and Richard visited Linda. This time

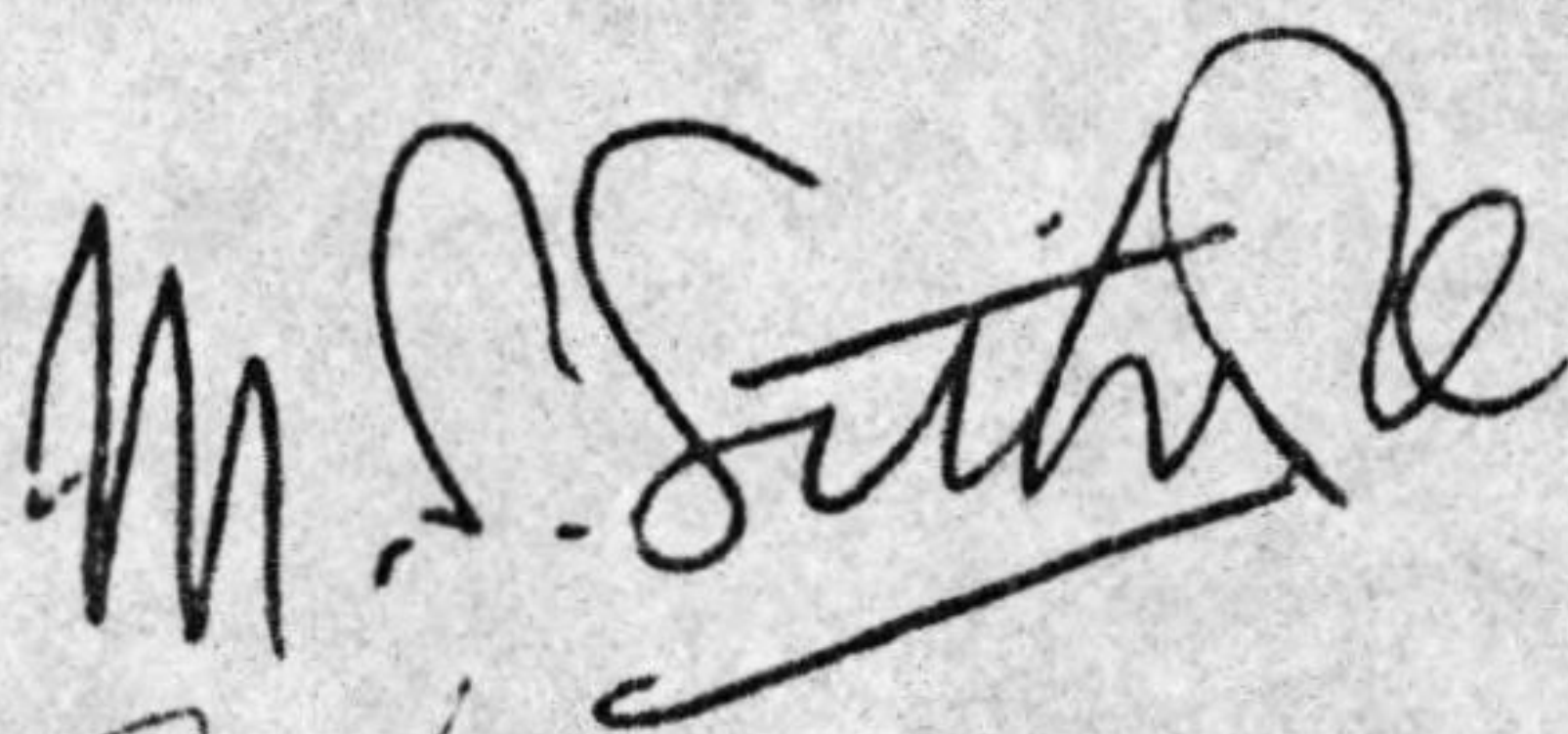
she said that in order to avoid arguments and to save time, she would sign the cheque. She further mentioned that the committee was "weak". We felt that a meeting should be held in order for her to substantiate her feelings, and she suggested that we hold it on the 26th June. A letter was sent to her the following week to confirm this meeting, but she failed to appear on the scheduled date. Comrades Mandla, Richard and Dolly then decided to go to Linda personally on Wednesday the 29th June to find out exactly where she stood. A letter to this effect was sent to her on Monday the 27th and on Wednesday the 29th a reply (which is enclosed) was received.

The implications of this reply and her preceeding actions are that Comrade Linda is no longer prepared to perform the duties expected of her as secretary of this committee. In spite of all this, however, the committee is very willing to allow her to elucidate quite clearly the reasons for her present attitude.

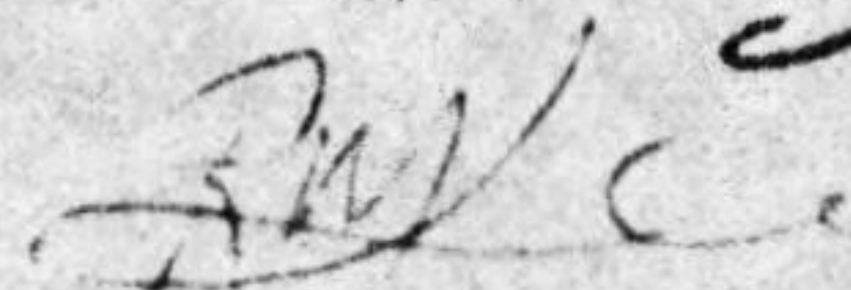
While it has been possible to continue meeting without Comrade Joyce, it is extremely difficult at this stage for the committee to function cohesively without the active interest of our secretary. She holds the minutes of all our meetings, crucial lists of students and perhaps above all, she has been delegated by the committee to maintain contact with Ms Thandi Gama of the United Nations as well as with our other donor agencies.

It is in this light that we have decided to bring the matter before the Diplomatic Mission.

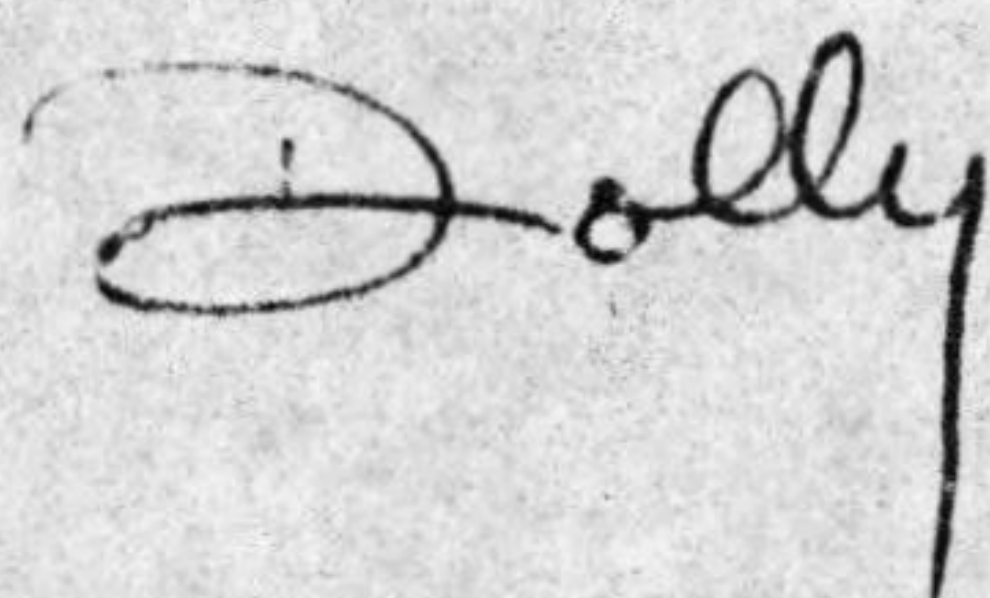
Mandla Sithole



Richard Levin



Dolly



(cc. Linda Sibande)