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15/12/93

NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

3rd Floor
76 Juta Street
BRAAMFONTEIN
2001

P.O.Box 31892
BRAAMFONTEIN
2017

Telephone: 011 403 6131

Fax: 011 403 1130

**** MEMORANDUM ****

TO Working Committee members
FROM Mike Seloane
DATE 93/12/15

SUBJECT Curriculum Workshop

You are requested to send between 3 and 5 delegates to a national workshop to support the work of the NEC in the NETF Curriculum Technical Sub-Committee (CTSC), and to ensure that our representatives go with an NEC mandate. The workshop will be on:

Saturday 15th January
from 9:00 to 17:00

at BU 240, Johannesburg College of education, 27 St Andrew's Rd, Parktown

The objectives of the workshops are:

1. to deepen understanding of policy proposals for curriculum that are emerging from the government, and from the democratic movement
2. to develop an approach to curriculum in the transition
3. to strategise NEC participation in the Curriculum Technical Sub-Committee

Documents that are essential preparatory reading are being sent to you by post. These were circulated at a meeting of the NEC on 13th December which was called to receive a report back from the (CTSC).

It is urgent that all organisations send representatives, and that these representatives come with an understanding that their task is to take the ideas back to membership for discussion and development.

Organisations: ANC, AZAPO, WOSA, SACP, SANCO, COSATU, NACTU, NECC, UDUSA, SASCO, AZASCO, SADTU, NAFTOSA, UTASA, AZASM, COSAS

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FAX COVER SHEET

TO:

ORGANISATION	CONTACT	TELEPHONE	TELEFAX
ANC	JOHN SAMUEL	330-7241	333-9090
AZAPO	JERRY WAJA	854-1428	854-1429
SACP	BLADE NZIMANDE	(0331)95-5740	(0331)95-5599
WOSA	PAT VAN VOORE	(021)47-6839	(021)47-2774
COSATU	MAPETE LEEUW	339-4910	339-5080
NACTU	TUMI MODISE	29-8031	333-7625
SANCO	BRUNO VILANE	333-2106	333-1407
NECC	JAMES MASEKO	836-4726	836-6771
AZASCO	TSIETSI LEPOTA	339-4931	834-5746
SASCO	WALTER RAMATSUI	716-5340	339-6786
UDUSA	NICO CLOETE	403-2870	339-5278
NAPTOSA	JOHN STONIER	(021)686-8521	(021)689-2998
SADTU	RANDALL VAN DEN HEEVER	331-9586	331-5910
UTASA	HENRY HENDRICKS	(031)87-1418	(031)23-9162
AZASM	KHOMOTSO MODISELLE	(01461)3-9107	834-5746
COSAS	MOSES MASEKO	836-4726	836-6971

FROM

MIKE SELDANE

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MESSAGE

DATE

93/12/15

Workshop to discuss an ANC perspective on the goals a conference on the establishment of a pan-South African language board

Summary of points emerging from the workshop:

1 The conference as a consultative process

Comrades strongly expressed the need to avoid running a conference at which mainly expert and NGO interests were represented. As language issues affect many sectors of South African life (e.g. land, education, the law courts, public health, access to public services, publishing, etc) it was agreed that organisations from a range of sectors should be asked to send a delegate to the conference.

2 On the creation of a committee to advise the senate

Comrades felt that if such an advisory body were required, then it should certainly not be self-selected by those who happen to attend a particular conference. The terms of reference and the composition of such an advisory group should be determined through a open and mandated process, preferably in the national assembly.

3 On the scope of the conference

It was felt that scope the conference should not be limited to deciding on a new programme of work for the existing structures. The conference should become the beginning of a process in which we critically review all those existing structures that deal with language. There was a need to examine the nature and functions of these structures in the light of the ANC's goals in language policy (affirmative action for African languages, choice of the languages of education, provision of translation and interpreting to ensure unimpeded access to all spheres of the nation's life - ANC Policy Guidelines May 1992). On the basis of ANC policy goals in this area, we should develop a programme for the transformation of existing institutions. Transforming the existing language boards into a single pan South African language board was an example of such transformation, and should be planned in such a way as to further the implementation of ANC policy.

ANC conference report.

4 The expansion of language services

The gains achieved by the ANC in the interim constitution depend on an expansion of public language services (provision of translation and interpreting in African languages). The conference should include discussion of the priorities for this expansion (where the needs for translation were most acutely felt), and of how this expansion could best be achieved.

5 Guidelines on language standards

One of the functions of the existing language boards has been to define standard varieties and vocabularies for the African languages. The ethnic approach of these boards has lead to the imposition of an artificial "purism" in DET textbooks and SABC broadcasts. This purism has made texts less intelligible to ordinary South Africans, and needs to be re-visited. One of the functions of the new board should be to serve as a forum for the negotiation of a broadly acceptable new approach to language standards, to be used in education, broadcasting, publishing, translation work, etc. Work towards this goal should begin at the conference.