

NYM/22/227/26

5.11.92

November 5, 1992

Ms. Lindiwe Mabuza
Chief Representative
African National Congress
707 8 Street, S.E., Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Ms. Mabuza:

I am writing in response to your fax transmitted to me yesterday with a statement not endorsing the Concert For Southern Africa which appears to have been issued by the Department of Information and Publicity of the ANC.

There seems to be a misunderstanding as to the ANC's participation in this concert event and I hope that this letter clarifies this misunderstanding.

1. You state in the fax cover sheet, "Kindly note the position of the ANC regarding your project". Please understand that this is not "my project". The Concert for Southern Africa was initiated by SADC in Geneva in June of this year. It is my understanding that the idea for a concert event was discussed and approved as a way to bring world attention and assistance to a catastrophic drought and famine situation.

This is a SADC planned and sponsored event, with all of the proceeds to benefit the Southern Africa Recovery Fund whose board of advisors consist of SADC appointed representatives including His Excellency Tebogo Mafale, Chief Representative to the United Nations, Observer Mission of the African National Congress of South Africa to the United Nations. This is one reason why it was so surprising to see that the statement issued by the ANC indicating it was not endorsing the concert was on Observer Mission to the United Nations letterhead, although the statement apparently was issued from South Africa.

The package of information which you received yesterday makes all of this quite clear. This is a concert for Southern Africa, not only to provide immediate relief and assistance but also to provide long-term solutions in the form of technical support for teaching modern agricultural techniques and economic development.

2. The statement you included with your cover fax relates that "[n]either the ANC Department of Arts and Culture nor the ANC Mission to the United States were consulted by the organizers before the release of their press statement". Again, let me emphasize, the "organizer" of this event is SADC, in which the ANC participates. In addition, His Excellency Tebogo Mafale, who has met personally with Michael Fisher, is on the Board of Advisors of the Southern Africa Recovery Fund, is prominently mentioned in the information package and has received a copy of this package. Thus, the statement "... that at no point has any endorsement been given by the ANC to the organizers of this event" is contrary to the history of the organization and structure of the Concert for Southern Africa.



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Also, this event is not a South African event. It is to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe. The host office for the Concert for Southern Africa is the office of His Excellency Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations representing His Excellency Sir Ketumile Masire, President of Botswana, Chairman of SADC.

SADC retained the services of DaJoint Productions, Inc. to serve as the Executive Producer. It is DaJoint, headed by Michael Fisher, which has the mandate to produce the concert to benefit the Southern Africa Recovery Fund. As the Executive Producer, DaJoint has the sole responsibility, within its mandate, to exercise its discretion as to the manner in which the concert will be produced.

3. The Southern Africa Recovery Fund is in control of the disbursement of all of the funds raised by the concert event. This benefits the people of Southern Africa who are in need of this united effort by the countries of Southern Africa, the PAC and, we hope, the ANC. Importantly, this concert puts Southern Africa on the world stage and a united effort will best represent the people of Southern Africa to the world community.

Please understand that we forwarded the information to Mr. Madoda Hlatshwayo at your office as a courtesy. He was originally contacted by our African spokesperson Georges Collinet and was very helpful. This was approximately 30 days ago. We forwarded to Mr. Madoda, a copy of the minutes from the SADC meeting, in addition to the letter from SADC to Mr. Michael Fisher.

Nothing in the statement issued from South Africa indicates any specific reason why the ANC will not support SADC's efforts to bring world attention to the dire situation in Southern Africa other than "misinformation and apparent confusion". I trust this letter clarifies the "misinformation and apparent confusion that surrounds this event". I stand ready to speak with you to further clarify any further confusion. Please be aware that our sole purpose is to focus world attention on the disaster in Southern Africa and to bring relief to the people of the region.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Wells

Elizabeth Wells

Project Coordinator

Concert For Southern Africa

cc: Patricia DeLillo, SADC Representative
Michael Fisher, Executive Producer
Thabo Mbeki, Head of International Relations,
African National Congress