

LuM/009/0001/31

file ANC Culture Committee

MEDU ART ENSEMBLE

CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS WE, a group of South African exiles resident in Botswana, recognising:

1. the lack of relevant and consistent cultural body in which exiles from South Africa can participate;
2. the need of such a body to channel and co-ordinate cultural activities of exiles from South Africa resident in Botswana, and whosoever can participate according to the tenets laid down by the Constitution;
3. that the problems facing exile artists and exile cultural bodies are peculiar to exile artists and exile cultural bodies;

AND FURTHER REALISING

that such a cultural body should attempt to obviate the problems facing exile cultural bodies and exile artists;

DO HEREBY

adopt this document as our Constitution.

SECTION ONE: NAME:

This organisation shall be called "MEDU ART ENSEMBLE", "MEDU" for short.

SECTION TWO: AIMS AND FUNCTIONS:

- a) to institute relevant theatre facilities and co-ordinate efforts of theatre from South Africa, South African exiles resident in Botswana and whoever can participate after abiding by the rules laid down by the Constitution;
- b) to guide and assist members and associate members in photographic skills;
- c) to foster an interchange of ideas by providing a common-ground through such agencies as symposia, lectures, socials, newsletters, writers' clinics, festivals, exhibitions, etc.;
- d) to train personnel in filming and to keep documentation and records in film form of activities and projects of MEDU, other cultural groups or individuals from South Africa, Southern Africa, Africa and other progressive groups;
- e) because of the dynamic and fluid political situation in South Africa, Southern Africa, and in the international arena; and because of the irreducible intertwining of cultural and political pursuits, to institute a Research Bureau that will look into political structures extant for guidelines;
- f) to launch a cultural offensive that will counter the corrosive cultural onslaught that is unleashed by imperialist, capitalist and racist sectors;
- g) to acquire property and stock and to employ staff to run the affairs of MEDU.



SECTION THREE: MEMBERSHIP:

## Membership:-

- a) should be predominantly South African.
- b) the decision-making and running of the group shall be by South Africans.
- c) should pay affiliation-fee of P5,00 annually (starting June 16 of each year).

SECTION FOUR: OFFICIALS:

1. The following shall be elected at the Conference of the arts on June 16 of each year to form the Executive of MEDU:

- a) Project Co-ordinator
- b) Theatre Director
- c) Publications, Productions and Research Director
- d) **Filming Unit Director**
- e) **Photography Unit Director**
- f) Graphic Arts and Design Unit Director

2. The Project Co-ordinator shall be appointed at the Conference of the Arts to serve in a full-time capacity.

SECTION FIVE: DUTIES OF THE OFFICIALS:

1. The PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR SHALL:

- a) be the chief officer of MEDU;
- b) preside at all meetings of MEDU;
- c) issue press-statements in conjunction with a member of the Executive;
- d) be in charge of fundraising nationally and internationally;
- e) act as TREASURER of the body; that is:
  - (i) keep proper books of accounts, and income and expenditures of MEDU;
  - (ii) present an annual audited financial statement, and balance sheet of income and expenditure to the Conference of the ARTS.

2. The PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH DIRECTOR SHALL.

- a) direct the affairs of the Research and Publications units;
- b) bear the sole responsibility of issuing the NEWSLETTER;
- c) serve as advisor to the Project Co-ordinator with regard to identifying other progressive political and cultural groups in South Africa, Southern Africa, Africa and internationally.
- d) help with correspondence.

3. THE DIRECTOR OF THEATRE shall:

- a) conduct theatre workshops and clinics;
- b) identify on behalf of MEDU other progressive theatre groups and individuals in South Africa, Southern Africa, Africa, and internationally.

4. THE FILMING UNIT DIRECTOR shall;

- a) train personnel in Filming techniques and skills;
- b) keep documentation in film form of activities and projects of MEDU, cultural groups and individuals from South Africa, Southern Africa, Africa, and other progressive groups;



- c) exhibit finished works in Festivals and Art Exhibitions;
- d) identify, on behalf of MEDU, other progressive Filming groups and units in South Africa, Southern Africa, Africa, and from the international arena.

5. THE PHOTOGRAPHY UNIT DIRECTOR shall:

- a) train personnel in Photography technique and skills;
- b) keep documentation in photography form of activities and projects of MEDU, cultural groups and individuals from South Africa, Southern Africa, Africa, and other progressive Photography groups;
- c) exhibit finished works in Festivals and Arts Exhibitions;
- d) identify, on behalf of MEDU other progressive Photography groups in South Africa, Southern Africa, Africa, and other progressive groups internationally.

The EXECUTIVE, which consists of heads of units and the Project Co-ordinator, should submit fortnightly written financial and progress reports.

SECTION SIX: POWERS, DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE:

- a) The Executive shall be responsible for planning and running the affairs of MEDU, and, in discharging its functions, it shall give consideration to any instructions, recommendations and/or suggestions which may be made from time to time by the Council.
- b) The Executive shall arrange for meetings of MEDU to the extent necessary in its opinion, to ensure that the aims of MEDU are fostered.
- c) The Executive shall make all the necessary provision for the appointment of assistants, and have authority ancillary in respect thereof, and shall give early and adequate notice to all concerned, to ensure the efficient organisation of all engagements of MEDU.
- d) The Executive shall meet at least once in two weeks (14 days)
- e) The Executive retains the right to allow or disallow membership.

SECTION SEVEN: THE COUNCIL:

- a) The Council, in quarterly session, is the supreme and highest policy-making body of MEDU.
- b) The COUNCIL shall consist of the officials mentioned in Section Four and their Assistants. The COUNCIL may decide from time to time affiliation fees for members, associate members and cultural groups.

SECTION EIGHT: MEETINGS:

1. a) Quorum for meetings of the Council shall be two-thirds of the Total number of MEDU Executive and Assistants.
- b) Quorum for meetings of the Executive shall be three members of the Executive.
- c) Should there be no quorum at meetings, Council or Executive, the meeting shall be re-convened within a period not exceeding forty-eight hours when those present and voting shall constitute a Quorum.
2. Notice of meetings, together with the agenda, shall be in writing and shall be given seven days before the meeting.
3. a) All members are entitled to one vote each, with the exception of the presiding officer, who shall have a casting vote and deliberative vote.
- b) Voting by proxy is not acceptable.



SECTION NINE: BANKING ACCOUNT:

All financial transactions carried out in the name of MEDU shall bear the signatures of the Project Co-ordinator and the Publications and Research Unit Director.

SECTION TEN: DISSOLUTION:

In the event of MEDU being dissolved, the assets to the credit of MEDU shall be distributed equitably among other progressive cultural bodies of similar puruit. The decision to dissolve shall be by a two-thirds majority of the Council.

SECTION ELEVEN: CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION:

No amendment to the Constitution shall be valid unless such amendment is approved by a two-thirds majority present and voting at a Council meeting. The notice of meeting should include the full text of such proposed amendment.

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