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African National Congress

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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Our Ref.:

The Director
Mazimbu.

Your Ref.:

31 August 1983



Dear Comrade Mohammed,

Correspondence Courses

I thank you for your letter of the 9 August 1983 in connection with the above.

I am also of the view that Distance Learning should be initiated as a launching pad for our post-Matric or "A Levels" sector and that we could work it into our Adult Education Programme.

As you are aware, one of the difficulties that has been pointed out in regard to the Adult Education programme is that there is insufficient time available (2 hours a day) for those who wish to follow a school programme leading to higher education. It seems to me that an adult Education programme which incorporates a correspondence component could complement such a shortcoming with the added advantage that it would enable students participating to proceed more or less at a pace which they would themselves set, and which would in any case be in accordance with the requirements of the examination which they would have to sit for.

I agree also that our project with the Commonwealth Secretariat for a Distance Learning programme should be so designed as to provide for the adult Education aspect of our work and I think that a Distance Learning Unit based in East Africa would assist us to evolve a realistic programme.

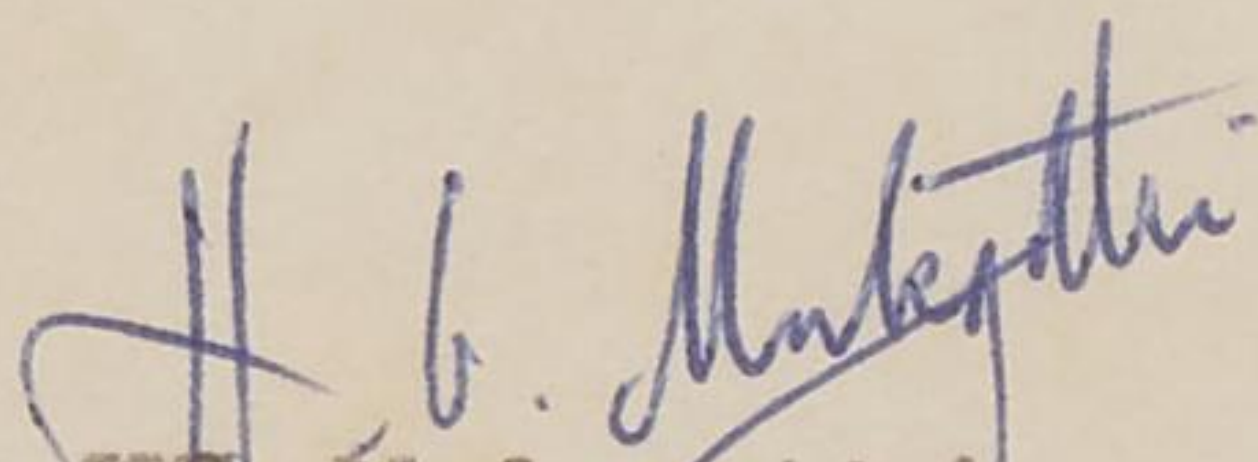
I say East Africa deliberately because our negotiations with the Commonwealth Secretariat so far have been based on the assumption that they would seek the assistance of the Tanzanian Government in finding a base in Dar es Salaam, since we could not have access to the unit in Lusaka which serves SWAPO through the Namibia Institute. I do not know what the reaction of the Education Secretariat would be if we were to suggest that the facilities could be granted at Mazimbu as you would appear to suggest. Off-hand, I would say that the reaction would not be favourable.

X You will recall that I have asked you to let me have a summary of the discussion you had with Mr Dormer of the Commonwealth Secretariat last September so that I could amplify our views on the Distance Learning programme and reply to some of the queries that they have since raised. Please do give this matter your attention.

I might mention also that early this year I met Dr Solomon Inquai of the International Extension College who are our consultants in the Distance Learning project that had been originally conceived. I did try to assist in making arrangements for him to visit Mazimbu hoping that he would meet you and probably give expert advice on the possibilities of a distance learning programme which would also incorporate adult Education. Unfortunately our attempts were not successful and Dr Inquai had to return to Britain without passing through East Africa.

I am sure we should not experience much difficulty in finding financial support for correspondence courses. What I would like to be assured of is that we find persons who are sufficiently determined and serious to make a success of it. We must expect that some of the enthusiasm which currently exists for adult education and distance Education may not be able to stand the test of practice. But that is no argument for not initiating these programmes, we only have to be circumspect in the selection of candidates so that we make a strong beginning.

United Action!


H. B. Makgothi.

Education Secretary

cc. Education Officer, Dsm.,
Sretse Choabi, London
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Project Manager, Mazimbu
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