

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (S.A.)  
SOLOMON MAHLANGU FREEDOM COLLEGE

Re: Report on Adult Education for 1982/83

1. Introduction: The importance of Adult Education for our Mazimbu community in particular and future intensive programme when political power would be vested in the hands of the A.N.C. is unquestionable. The need to implement this programme here in Mazimbu has been beset by problems for the past four(4) years. The A.N.C. Workers Seminar highlighted the urgency to have the programme started for the secondary level and specific immediate tasks were outlined. I shall try to give a brief account of the problems encountered.

2. Planning and Administration of the Adult Education Programme.

At the beginning of 1982/83 school year, comrade Tunga was seconded by the Ministry of National Education, Tanzania to the ANC to initiate the Adult Education Programme and he arrived in Mazimbu in July 1982. His first task was to conduct a survey on prospective adult learners. And a report was submitted (ref. SMFC 25, 4(7)82).

3. The Formation of the Adult Education Committee and its responsibilities

To ensure that the programme got underway, it was strongly felt that the Adult Education Committee should be representative of all related sectors and its composition was as follows:-

- Chairman Principal
- Secretary, Adult Education Co-ordinator
- Political Commissar
- Director, ex-officio member
- Works' Committee Representative *Mikegong ✓*
- Health Representative *ESA ✓*
- Agricultural Sector Representative *PLIN ✓*
- Community Representative *Atlashe*
- Headteacher Primary *Babu*
- Youth Representative *Sam Jarky*
- Womens' Section *Molly*

The final report on planning of functional literacy programmes and learning activities (SMFC 1/25) is available.

4. The Enrolment of Learners.

Comrades Tunga and Mabooe started the basic literacy and intermediate classes in October 1982. The enrolment was as follows:-

- Basic literacy level	-----	28
- Intermediate level	-----	18
	Total=	<u>46</u>

The enrolment of 1983 was:-

- Basic literacy level	-----	33
- Intermediate level	-----	34
	Total=	<u>67</u>

5. Attendance

The daily attendance for 1982 was 66% and for 1983 was 76%. This was encouraging. However, the pressing transport problem for Kionda learners was and is still not solved.



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6. The Teaching Staff for Basic and Intermediate Classes.

There were three teachers:-

- Comrade Tunga
- Comrade Tweed Mathe
- Comrade Mabooe

There were six classes and seven main learning groups. Thus there is a most pressing priority for three more qualified Adult Educators for Basic and Intermediate levels.

7. The Curriculum, The Syllabus and the Programme.

The curriculum, and the syllabus for the Basic and Intermediate levels were developed. However the programmes should be reviewed from the point of view of functional literacy.

8. The A.N.C. Adult Education Teaching Materials

There is no any relevant book or follow-up materials written for the Adults of our community, and in line with the ANC Education policy. Thus an approach was made to the Ministry of National Education, Dar-es-salaam, to prepare the texts. These are nearing the final preparatory stage and before publication the ANC will have to approve of the content presentation and it's validity.

Comrades Mabooe and Twees were participants in the Workshop, August, 1983.

9. The Evaluation of Basic and Intermediate Classes.

There are three intermediate groups taught in English as the medium of instruction and are now progressing well.

The beginners are taught initially in Sesotho, Zulu and KiSwahili. The continuous assessment is being carried out.

The end of the year examinations was conducted and the records are kept.

10. Recommendations.

(i) In identifying development opportunities in order to draw relevant learning needs for our community in all spheres - political, economic, socio-cultural etc. the first priority for 1984/85 Adult Education plan should involve the following sectors in planning:-

- Agriculture section
- Political section
- Womens' Section
- Youth section
- Education - nursery, primary and secondary sectors
- Workers section

(ii) The immediate objective for 1984/85 is to prepare and produce functional literacy teaching and reading materials i.e. primers teachers guides, visual aids and follow-up of materials in line with the principles of the ANC Education Policy.

(iii) To prepare and elaborate curricula and programmes in functional literacy in order to bring changes and innovations in social and community living patterns.

(iv) To organise in-service training of Adult Education teachers by means of "Operational Seminars".



(v) To motivate, conscientize and sustain the enrolment and participation in daily attendance of learners by a two-way communication of channel - between the teachers and the Adult learners and the Adult Education Committees.

# 11. Secondary Adult Education Programme.

Regarding the secondary level, a meeting was held on the (27.9.82) between the Adult Education members and Youth Representatives from SOMAFCO staff and the subjects to be taught were identified; namely Maths, English, Histpry, Physical Science and Biology and subject teachers were allocated. The time-table was drawn-up and teaching days were Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. There were to be four(4) forms (1,2,3 and 4). Each day was for two lessons of one(1) hour each. Because of the class-room shortage and the SOMAFCO evening studies, the teaching times were:-

- (a) first lesson : 4.30 - 5.30 p.m.
- (b) second lesson : 5.30 - 6.30 p.m.

The SOMAFCO academic year and syllabus were to be followed.

## Problems encountered

- (a) The basic and intermediate levels had a few initial problems such as irregular attendance and these were rectified later.
- (b) The secondary prgogramme. Only started at the beginning of the second term, January 1983.

To mobilise the learners, meetings were held in Tabora and Ilala on the 14/1/83, and the importance of attending both primary and secondary school classes was emphasised. This meeting was followed by a series of meetings with the secondary Adult learners during the week of 17-21 January, 1983 before the classes started. The students registration was as follows:-

Form	2	:	7	The classes continued until the end of the term in April. Attendance was rather slacky!
"	3	:	6	
"	4	:	7	
"	5	:	4	
<u>TOTAL</u>			<u>24</u>	

## (c) Attendance of Adult Education Committee Meetings

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Members attended the meetings irregularly and at times meetings were postponed. A special meeting, 14/2/83, was held at which member attendance from August '82 to February '83 was reflected. The general attendance was most disappointing (see minutes of 14/2/83). It gives one the impression that the attendance was "It is the secondary school affair," let them see the programme through" such an attitude is not conducive to encouraging our adults to see the programme as a must. As seen from the composition of the committee, the purpose was to see this programme was a COLLECTIVE undertaking, a nonchalant attitude can be self-defeating!

## (d) Meeting with the Secondary School Programme Teachers'

This was held on the 6th of May '83 to review the work/problems encountered during the Jan/April period and the following observations were made:-



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- that it was not possible to cover the secondary school syllabus the Adult Education learners because of the few periods allocated per-week
- There should be less subjects than the four(4) presently taught so that students gain in the subjects chosen and two subjects would do in the mean time
- irregular attendance by both learners and some teachers and hence the need of a registrar
- there is a need for a full time coOrdinator of the secondary Adult Education learners
- that the programme be temporarily suspended until a meeting with the learners was held
- the question of promotion was looked into

(e) Meeting with learners.

The suggestions and views under (d) were explained to the learners and the proposed programme May-December, 1983 consisted of

- (A) English (compulsory)
- (B) Any one : Maths, Biology, History, Typing/Office Practice according to the interest of the individual.

TIME-TABLE

DAY	4.30-5.30	5.30-6.30
MONDAY	B	A
TUESDAY	A	B
WEDNESDAY	B	A
THURSDAY	A	B

This caused a lot of discontent among the learners and most discontinued with the programme.

The Womens' Section having approached the Youth Section and presented them with their proposals and suggested immediate implementation. A joint meeting of the Adult Education Committee and Womens' Executive was held on the 22nd June 1983 the views of the Womens' Section were thoroughly discussed.

The meeting held on the 16/9/83, it was recommended that comrades Tweed Mathe be the secondary Adult Education Programme Co-ordinator. The discussion on the recommendations of the ANC Workers Seminar on Adult Education Programme was deferred because the commission was not out yet.

(f) A.N.C Workers Seminar Recommendations.

It was stressed that Education must be compulsory for all A.N.C. members; the Works' Committee and R.P.C. must ensure this. For the secondary level there would be two streams

- (a) for higher education training
- (b) on the Job Training (Upgraders)



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For the first group subjects recommended:-

English, Maths and ANY TWO, one Natural Science and one Social Science.

For the second group:- Those need not necessarily follow SOMAFCO programme, but upgrade their skills on the job. Three subjects would be offered: English, Maths, Physical Science or Biology, Office Practice and Typing. Since learners in these two categories would be workers the departments should be approached to release them on Saturday mornings. Because of the short time these two programmes would take much longer.

(g) Observations.

The problems encountered by the secondary school level stemmed largely from insufficient planning. Consequently the programme had to be changed during the course of the year; the proposal to take two subjects caused a lot of discontent among the learners and most discontinued with the programme. From the past mistakes the co-ordinator must consult with both the learners and teachers in the course of the programme to identify weaknesses, and he must be full-time.

The question of teachers has also to be carefully evaluated. An Adult learner is very much different from a pupil; he has ingrained attitudes and the approach has to be different. In our situation with the lack of teachers, the exigency of pushing any one with higher qualification has also to be looked into very seriously.

(4.30 - 6.30) p.m.

The programme times were precipitated by existing conditions at the school then. These were not convenient to some working youth and yet for the Charlotte inmates this was okay. The new Adult Education Committee must explain this element thoroughly.

(h) Adult Education Resources

Up to now the Resource Section, SOMAFCO, has been in a position to provide basic needs. SOMAFCO will continue providing help where possible.

Recommendations

Experience has shown that two(2) hours a day is insufficient. Future programmes should look into longer time per day. The question of resources such as classroom facilities and qualified personnel also needs attention.

The recommendations of the Adult Education Committee meeting (16/9/83) that the secondary education programme must have a full-time co-ordinator, comrade Tweed Mathe, should be implemented.

The programme should initiate the on-the-job training (technical skills).

- LEARNING IS A KEY TO HUMAN KNOWLEDGE
- KNOWLEDGE IS A MEANS TO BETTER LIFE
- OUR ASSIGNMENT IS TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF OUR PEOPLE