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BATLAGAE TRUST 'JDlm Sakai  
Minutes of a meeting of the Trustees of the Batlagae Trust held at St  
Barnabas College on Tuesday, 22 October 1991  
PRESENT: M A S Corke (Chairman), N McGurk, M Tikly, B Watson, C  
Young (Assistant to the Chairman)  
APOLOGIES: J Samuel  
ABSENT: W Seriti  
MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:  
The minutes from the previous meeting were taken as read and  
approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

(A) Reception Centres

Before M Tikly explained the major points of the written Executive  
Director's Report, he thanked the Trustees for their time and advice  
in helping him to progress with the work of the trust since 9  
September when he began his duties on a full-time basis.

It appears that a former primary school in Mayville, Durban will be  
made available to the trust for use as a reception centre and  
school. However this will not be finalized until the BET approves of  
the plan and writes a letter transferring the property over to the  
trust. The Chairman asked whether or not Mr Mandela had been asked  
by J Samuel to contact President de Klerk about this issue so that  
any difficulties with the government could be quickly eliminated. M  
Tikly responded that attempts to do so had been unsuccessful because  
of Mr Mandela's hectic schedule but that further attempts would be  
n.e over the next few days.

Two questions about the Mayville school must be answered, whether it  
will be a primary or secondary school, and the composition of the  
governing board of the school. N McGurk began the discussion by  
saying that he believed the school should be a primary one because it  
would be easier to disperse the older students to relatives and/or  
other schools. B Watson concurred, adding that in terms of boarding  
the students, it would be easier to manage younger students because  
older students might expect more freedom than is possible in the  
situation. It was then decided that Mayville would become a primary  
school up to Standard 5.

On the question of the composition of the governing board, M Tikly  
came to the conclusion after a consultation with Professor Fatima

Meet that the board should consist of one member each from the business community, the church, the House of Delegates, the regional structure of the ANC, and one to two members from the education community. This board would be appointed as a sub-committee and held accountable to the trust. N McGurk supported having a member from the House of Delegates because he felt it was a progressive body whose resources would be of great use at Mayville. He suggested that someone from the Education Foundation, possibly Johan van Zyl, and a member of the Catholic church group Diakonia, Paddy Kearney, would be good additions to the governing board. N McGurk offered to liaise with the Natal Provincial Education Department and other contacts in Durban on the matter. It was also felt by the Trustees that it was important that a chairperson for the governing board be found immediately. M Tikly had approached F Meer about the position but her various commitments did not leave her the time to take on this responsibility. He agreed to contact her about possible candidates for the chairperson position and suggested that N McGurk also inquire of his contacts in Durban.

M Tikly has had no luck finding reception centre sites in the PWV region. Although he has investigated a few buildings, the large expense of purchasing a facility is prohibitive, making the use of government buildings for reception centres almost a necessity.

#### (B) Bursary Program

M Tikly reported that he had held many consultations with the Social Welfare Committee, Repatriation Committee, and Education Desk of the ANC, B Watson, and the NCCR about the bursary program.

Unfortunately, he has not been able to contact Klaas Mashishi or any other representative from the PAC so the current bursary programme only takes into account the needs of the 460 Somafo students. M Tikly did add that he would continue to pursue contact with the PAC. M Tikly has recently contacted two independent schools, but he still needs to arrange meetings and visits to view other schools and determine whether or not any spaces can be made available for returnees. He does, however, have a clearer idea of the returnee's needs from the recent statistics compiled by B Watson. B Watson pointed out that M Tikly urgently needs assistance for approximately a two week period with many administrative details and possibly a distance from her in visiting some of the schools. Progress on the bursary program can not continue until the trust determines the criterion to select candidates for bursaries, the procedure to place returnees in schools, and the source of funding for these bursaries. On the question of determining criterion to select candidates, M Tikly proposed that he develop some rough guidelines over the next few days and then present them to the Trustees to be discussed. The Chairman recommended that before doing so, M Tikly consult B Thlagale or Mrs Molefe(sp?) at the Educational Opportunity Council (EOC) about the content of their bursary guidelines.

Concerning the procedure to place returnees in individual schools, N

McGurh stated that the success in placing students will depend on personalized assessments of the returnees so that individual attention and knowledge is at a maximum. He suggested that the Catholic Institute of Education and the SAAIS might be of some assistance in this area. B Watson suggested that a group of qualified professionals begin these assessments relatively soon after the students return to South Africa so that they maintain the sense that progress is being made on their school placement. The Chairman commented that the returnees would also benefit from writing a common assessment examination so that independent schools would immediately be able to place them academically.

Some arrangements have already been made with particular schools to accept returnees. The ANC has agreed to give money for bursaries specifically designated for the Kangwane Work-Study Project and the Khuphuka Skills Training and Education Project, both of which have agreed to accept returnees next year. There was also some discussion of individual schools including St Endas, Bernardo Park and Woodmead being available to accept students, but N McGurk strongly suggested that the trust consult with A Papenfus of the SAAIS who might be able to assist with the placement of appropriate students if bursaries were available. He commented that contact with the SAAIS could result in the placement of approximately 100 of the returnees. It was agreed that the trust would arrange to see A Papenfus on 31 October in order to discuss this issue.

Although M Tikly Unavoidably missed a meeting with St Ansgars on 21 October, he is continuing his negotiations with them to accept 90 students for next year. It was his impression that the Council of St Ansgars was sympathetic to the Batlagae Trust but that they feared a "takeover by the ANC". The Chairman replied that although the condition that the trust have a representative voice on the council once the Somafo students enter the school may be viewed by St Ansgars as a "takeover", doubts about the soundness of the managerial infrastructure of St Ansgars necessitate this condition. B Watson wondered whether the trust should send students to St Ansgars if representation on the council is denied to the trust or the ANC. She also stated that the returnees should become day students because St Ansgars' boarding situation is not very good and trouble in the . 5.001 might be falsely blamed on the presence of the returnees. The Chairman supported this, saying that the older Somafo students might prove to be an explosive mix with the St Ansgars students in a boarding situation. If the returnees do become day students they will need accommodation relatively close to the school and possibly transport.

A discussion arose as to what other placement options the returnees would have if arrangements at St Ansgars and other independent schools were delayed or inadequate. M Tikly indicated that Grace College was willing to accept students, but the quality of administration and education was questionable. The Chairman commented that sending the students to schools in Soweto would be a poor solution because many of the schools were often closed or in

turmoil because of violence and political activism in the area. B Watson agreed with this opinion, adding that in these schools, there would be a language barrier because many of the returnees only know English and one indigenous language. She argued that Independent schools and/or Model B schools would be good solutions because of their special programs to introduce a second language. The trust still needs to establish a mechanism to fund and administer bursaries. M Tikly reported that R1,150,000 has already been secured for the bursary program, R750,000 transferred by the ANC from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and R400,000 transferred by the ANC from the Nordic Operation Dayswork Fund. The NCCR also has money available for bursaries but M Tikly must prepare funding proposals. B Watson suggested that the NCCR consider funding the returnees to work under their support of personnel program, but M Tikly reported that the funds for this program were exhausted for this year and that the trust would apply next year. It was decided at the 21 October Oversight Committee meeting that each bursary will total R2,000 per annum, but N McGurk asked whether the bursary money would go to the individual student or the institution in which she or he enrolled. He stated that the trust must exercise tight control over this money so that it goes to the school for which it is intended. This might suggest that the money should go directly to the institution. B Watson also asked whether or not the trust would appeal to independent schools for a partial bursary because the parents or the relatives who take in the students might be unemployed or need this money to establish a home for the returnees. This might suggest that Model B schools would be a good option because R2,000 would cover school expenses for two years and provide R1,000 for school uniforms, books, and other necessities.

#### (C) Fundraising

M Tikly reported that the ANC is channeling R1.46 million from SIDA funds to the trust. Pending approval, the ANC is also scheduled to transfer R1.9 million of funds received from the Nordic Operation Dayswork Fund to be used in the following way: R210,000 for reception centres, R600,000 for the bursary program, R400,000 to the Kangwane Walt-Study Project, R500,000 to the Khuphuka Skills Training and Education Project, and R190,000 towards the trust's administrative costs.

For the bursary program, another R330,000 from the Boston based group, Free South Africa (FRESA) is awaiting approval. Likely future funding sources for the bursary program include the NCCR and the German Embassy. For other projects, M Tikly has already secured R415,000 from SIDA for the reception centres, and he is awaiting approval of an additional R1,000,000 from the Australian International Development Assistance Board administered by the Australian People for Health and Education Abroad, R500,000 of which will be transferred within the next two weeks. It was noted by the Chairman that M Tikly had done much intelligent hard work on fund-raising and deserves the Batlagae Trust's congratulations and thanks.

(D) Administrative Details

M Tikly asked for approval to lease three offices at 52 Plein Street, 16th Floor, the headquarters of the ANC, at the cost of R750 - R800 a month. This arrangement will be temporary until January when the offices will be moved to another floor, but right now this set-up is quite convenient for contacting members of the ANC administration. He has also ordered furniture and a computer that are soon to be delivered. M Tikly plans to purchase a car on 25 October to replace the one he is currently hiring. In terms of staffing, M Tikly has employed a full-time secretary, Irene Maminze, and a bursary administrator, Dot Zothile Mkhwanazi, to begin on 1 November.

(E) Miscellaneous Matters

M Tikly reported that communication with the NCCR has been difficult because Mr Chikane has been difficult to reach, but Archie Abrahams, a member of the ANC repatriation committee, has briefed Brother Jude Pieterse.

M Tikly also relayed J Samuel's interest in the trust coordinating the moving of the Somafo archives from Tanzania to S Africa. FINNIDA Q2: already agreed to fund the project and it was the consensus of the trust that the Library of the Community of the Resurrection at Wits University, the EPU, or possibly the University of the Western Cape might agree to lodge the archives. These three institutions will be contacted by M Tikly in connection with the project.

At the end of M Tikly's Executive Report, the Chairman once again thanked and congratulated him on the tremendous progress he has made since his appointment in September.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

M Tikly reported that he has opened two bank accounts at the Braamfontein branch of First National Bank, a main account and an operating account. Because the main account was opened first, the R100,000 donation from SIDA was deposited there and will be transferred to the operating account as soon as it is functional. For a full account of the income generated by M Tikly, refer to the fund-raising section of the Executive Director's Report. M Tikly reported that the estimated budget expenditure from October - December 1991 totals R92,700, R34,500 for salaries, R42,700 for travel and office expenses, and R50,000 in purchasing a computer, fax and vehicle.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The date of the next Batlagae Trust is to be determined at the meeting on 31 October with A Papenfus at Sacred Heart College at 5:15 Pm. '