

24th May, 1972.

C 18/72

TO: ALL SRC's
SASO Local Chairman

RE: ALICE DECLARATION ON TURFLOOP CRISIS

Dear Sir,

Our office has been inundated with calls from the Press regarding the controversy sparked off by the decision taken at the Alice Formation School last weekend. You have no doubt, by now, received the text of the resolution. We feel it essential that some word come from Head Office as an attempt at clarifying several issues.

It needs to be said in preface, however, that we deeply regretted the inability of your SRC to attend this vital event. Your show of solidarity with the exiled student of the University of the North was warmly applauded by all those present. We can assure you that the interest shown in SASO by black students in that part of the world is appreciated.

Therefore, in full cognisance of your stand on this issue, and also anticipating further action on students re: SRC at the Durban-Westville and Western Cape University was essential that black students' throughout the country to demonstrate solidarity and pressurise the university authorities to "rethink" on so many fronts.

The date set i.e. June 1st is one on which Turfloop students are due back and if they keep to their resolution they plan further demonstrations should any of them including Tiro not be allowed back at varsity. The Black Student Community indeed cannot be a happy community if but one of its brothers be missing while standing for those values we all hold dear. In other words further action will in the final analysis be determined by whatever means of negotiation students at Turfloop adopt when they return.

This stand had to be made public so that both the black community and the students should begin to debate issues and set the mood in preparation for the date. This has already had a pressurising effect on the Turfloop University Authorities. Messages of support have come from a wide range of community groups, parents, church leaders and social workers. We reject Adam Small's contention that our decision was reactionary and liberalistic and would sooner defeat its own ends. Such action will in fact lay the basis for meaningful negotiation between the universities and the student leaders. The pressure must be maintained if the black movement is to have any respectability even for the future.

It needs to be noted

It needs to be noted, further that the Alice meeting could only recommend action it considered appropriate and the final execution of it will remain with student leaders at local level. Then it cannot be said that students did not act when events dictated that they do.

We hope that the principle behind the Alice Declaration will receive the support of your SAC and student body. We urge all black students to stand together, differ in togetherness. We pray that no intimidation from whatever source will shake us from our endeavour for educational justice. (academic freedom)

Power and Solidarity!

Your Black Brother,

.....
N. Pityana.

ALICE DECLARATION: BOYCOTT OF BLACK UNIVERSITIES

That this Formation School noting:

1. the series of expulsions from various black Universities/Institutions;
2. the oppressive atmosphere in the black institutions of higher learning as demonstrated by the expulsion of the Turfloop student body;
3. that the 'wait and see' attitude, if adopted by other black institutions, will be a betrayal to the black man's struggle in this country;
4. that the black community is anxiously and eagerly waiting to learn and hear of the stand taken by black students on other campuses who invariably are subjected to the same atrocities and injustices suffered by the Turfloop students; and believing:
 - (a) that this cannot be viewed as an isolated incident;
 - (b) that black students have long suffered under oppression;
 - (c) that this can be escalated into a major confrontation with the authorities.

THEREFORE RESOLVES

that all black students force the institutions/universities to close down by boycotting lectures;

that the date when a simultaneous boycott of all classes be effected be on 1 June when it is expected that all Turfloop students will be returning to University.

The declaration was issued by a SASO meeting held at Alice, middle May 1972, in support of African students expelled for boycotting classes early in May at several Universities.