

NOTES ON MEETING OF ANC NEC EXTENDED TO
INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF MAZIMBU LEADERSHIP.

- PRESENT:
1. ANC NEC.
 2. Cd. Stanley Mabizela - ANC Chief Representative East Africa.
 3. Cd. T. Maseko - Principal SOMAFCO(Secondary Division)
 4. Cd. O. Dennis - Project Manager Mazimbu.
 5. Cd. N. Marcus - Regional Treasurer East Africa.
 6. Cd. A. Sidweshu - Regional Commissar East Africa.

SUMMARY OF PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS.

The meeting was to discuss aspects of the general administration of SOMAFCO in the light of reports that were tabled by the Secretary for Education, and the Principal of SOMAFCO(Secondary Division).

The meeting was the first of its kind, where the NEC met in extended session to discuss Mazimbu. The Chief Representative of the region had been invited, the Director of Mazimbu unfortunately indisposed could not attend, Cde. T. Maseko, Cde N. Marcus and Cde O. Dennis. Also Cdes J. Simons and W. Njobe representing the Education Secretariat.

The President welcomed participants and answering the question what had given rise to the meeting, pointed out that a number of reports, none of which edifying had reached Headquarters. People had come back from Mazimbu and pointed at serious problems.

A positive aspect of Mazimbu development that had been pointed to had been the Construction programme, but we could not derive much consolation even from that because what had been achieved had been realised largely by other than ANC members.

The Working Committee of the NEC had decided at a recent meeting that the time had come to seize the bull by the horns and to take a drastic look at the venture, which was threatened with collapse. The President pointed out that the project ought to be the pride of the Movement and our people, a mobiliser for the African National Congress and that it had the potential to develop broad friendships. Various commissions had made reports, and now the NEC had to discuss every aspect of Mazimbu, and make a thoroughgoing assessment. From that point of view, the President

expressed regret that the Director was not present and that the National Education Council was not represented as such.

Referring to the agenda, the President said that it would assist in the perusal of the problems that afflict the project, but central to the discussions should be a recognition that at the heart of all was the school and the children.

"Everything else is complimentary. We are not running a refugee settlement in the normal way in Mazimbu, and if there had grown up a settlement... it was secondary. SOMAFCO is being built to take on over 1 000 children and not the present 200. Our problem is to ensure that the school does not go down".

AGENDA.

The meeting adopted the agenda and the following reports were tabled:

1. Report by the Secretary for Education. It was read together with notes addressed to the Secretary for Education recommended for discussion by the Director of Mazimbu.
2. Report given by T. Maseko, Principal of SOMAFCO (Secondary Division)
3. Report given by Political Commissar.
4. Report given by Dr. A. Moreka to complement report given by the Secretary for Education on aspects of health in Mazimbu.
5. Report given by Regional Treasurer , N. Marcus.
6. Report given by O. Dennis School Building Project Manager. Cde Dennis also tabled a report "Damage of ANC Property - Problems and Possible Solutions".
7. Report by Chief Representative East Africa Mission.

The President summarised the preliminary discussion that arose after the presentation of the various reports as follows:

On Social Aspects.

We need to work towards a scientific approach to the problems of Mazimbu. There is no getting away from the fact that we confront a difficult problem

which in a sense has global terms of reference and is part of the general decadence that appears to be affecting Western society in particular. We are especially vulnerable because our children are torn from their home surroundings, live in exile, with a background making them vulnerable to trends and our objective should be to help them find stability at much higher standards and levels that are found in many places in terms of the cadre we want to produce.

There are counter-forces, but we have to succeed nonetheless. We must turn Mazimbu into the school we have thought it should be. Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College should be a unique school of which our People must be proud of. If things are going down, Mazimbu must go up. That is the challenge.

The question(of declining social and moral standards) must be thrown out to the community. At one time we thought students themselves should take up the question of pregnancy. But it should be a public issue around which we mobilise all sections of the community and involve every structure of the Organisation there. This must be the talk of Mazimbu.

We need to work on a plan, and this is where we require social scientists, who will help to ensure that in the absence of unexpected developments we will produce the desired results.

As a layman, the President recommended that we should launch a sustained campaign highlighted by appropriate slogans, for example "Secure our Girls" "Save Solomon Mahlangu's Sisters", "Defend the honour of Solomon Mahlangu's School". Our art workers should be involved to spearhead the campaign through their skills and talents; talks and lectures should be given, poems composed, dramatic performances should be given and the Youth should play a leading role. A climate should be created with a preventive effect, so that the community begins to frown upon negative practice. Levels of such a campaign would include family planning techniques etc and the objective should be that no child is born who was not intended to be born.

If we allow love relationship between boys and girls then we should reward proper relations and punish those that go against the community's spirit. there must be a deterrent, but we must set rewards against penalties; there

must be a clear advantage in doing the right thing. It remains a fact that we often punish those who do wrong, but fail to reward those who do right.

We can solve the (Social) problem without resorting to extremes. We need to plan scientifically. On the question of sanctions (penalty) the President expressed the opinion that students were understood to have gone to Somafo to study and they have to decide what to do. Obviously, where a girl becomes pregnant she would have to be withdrawn. He would not say definitely that the period of suspension should be two years, but at least a year. New problems would arise, but they would have to be addressed. The students would have to accept the period of suspension as a penalty they would have to pay and this is the opinion he held subject to the views of social scientists. The point is that it is undesirable for students to stay away so long that they forget their studies.

A campaign such as the one outlined above is one in which leaders should lead by example.

Discussion Plan.

The meeting decided on a plan to discuss the various reports

A. The school as an entity

1. Growth for example stagnant enrolment etc
2. Curriculum for example bridging the gap between academic and manual work, production work.
3. Syllabus
4. Staff for example calibre of staff, conditions etc
5. Staff/Student Relation: What happens after school?
6. Staff Relations: Do they pull together as a team? Is the national mix correct?
7. Social Problems: for example related to discipline, sex education, health.
8. Political work done in the school
9. Transport, Logistics, food supplies, uniforms etc.

B. The Community.

The question here was how does the community relate to the school and what is the basic political objective that it is desired to achieve.

C. Treasury.

How best can it function to overcome problems of endemic indebtedness, food shortages, transport etc.

D. Administration Structures:

How do we deal with development manifested in the increase in sophistication? Do structures set up in the past measure up to the potential situation? It is on the basis of concrete identifiable problems that we can go on to discuss relevant structures.

At the end of the meeting, the President made the closing remarks: He pointed out that the meeting had assembled at relatively short notice because ever so often, the NEC is called upon to respond to situations, and it should be geared to such eventualities.

The meeting had sat for six days and during that time it had attempted to focus immediately on problems which had given rise to the meeting, canvassed in reports given on Mazimbu and Dakawa, reports that had been given by individual members, by commissions that had been sent to investigate the situation at Mazimbu.

In the time at its disposal, and given the complexity of the problem the meeting had endeavoured to go into the problems carefully. It had not been an easy task and the meeting had had to cover a great deal of important ground and to take important decisions which had to be implemented.

He charged that such an enlarged collective should be able to assemble in another two or three months as it would be useful not to let go of the problem now that the NEC was seized with it, and try to complete the process of redemption.

To that end, it was proposed that; as far as the School is concerned and the whole Complex, the Secretary for Education should shift his operational post without dismantling it, and he himself should operate from Mazimbu to assist in so far as SCMAFCO is concerned and also to reinforce the representation of the NEC. If possible, the Secretary for Education should move within a week to Mazimbu.

In regard to other plans and in regard to tackling other problems as for instance, the problem of pregnancies and crime, the NEC would have to engage the services of social scientists to monitor that situation.

To that end, Comrade Jack Simons should be asked to be around Mazimbu, to give lectures and hold talks and also to observe that situation with a view to the NEC launching a campaign to arrest the negative developing trend.

It would be necessary to lay the necessary political structures, plan the operation and start in an impressive manner and sustain the work. We should go about it scientifically. It was needful to organise and mobilise all sorts of people, and the themes that we should run should be related to "the cadre Mazimbu/ Dakawa in the Year of the Cadre".

In the context of the problems which the meeting had addressed the starting point, and the sorest point, and the most important task was to solve the problem of food. After all the discussions the children should feel that there is a distinct change and this will help to improve morale. It seemed necessary to consult more precisely about the preparations for the campaign, and that effort would have to be political.

Contributors to the discussions had pointed out that at Mazimbu we were developing a school, and it was important to assess what progress was being made. But basically we were confronted with a weakening system. Could the Principal cope? the Director? the other functionaries? On evidence, they were not coping as they might. The President charged the office of the Secretary General to find out if there were no opportunities for the senior leadership in Mazimbu to take leave. This would be part of the strengthening process.

The question of training of cadres is one which went right through the discussions and it ought to receive utmost attention. There are facilities which had to be explored and so that there was need for a manpower development programme for the short term and as well as the long term to provide for administrators all round.

The problems relating to student life have been discussed and a lot of time was devoted to the problem of pregnancies, but the solution to this problem

will have to be sought in the context of the campaign that is proposed to be launched.

Other matters referred to the Disciplinary Code: Within the following week NEC members would be placed in possession of copies that an early discussion might ensue leading to the formulation of a code of conduct affecting all our operational areas.

Matters relating to the ANC Solidarity Hospital and health matters will be the subject of further discussion.

The Secretary General had been given a requisition for transport from Mazimbu and that would be considered immediately.

The Treasurer General's office will attend to the provision of sports equipment as well as uniforms.

The Secretary for Education would attend to ~~curriculum~~ matters in relation to the Primary School as well as the Secondary School. The Primary School had not been discussed in sufficient detail because the Primary School Report had not been put before the meeting.

A bothersome aspect of the finances was the accumulated debt which the Mazimbu administration had incurred. The important thing was to find regular sources of funds and to identify those that would be regarded as reasonably secure.

Dakawa had been discussed, especially in relation to the Orientation and Rehabilitation Centres, and the Secretary General's office would monitor progress in relation to decisions taken so that a report could be presented to the next meeting.

The fears that had been expressed about Mazimbu have been complicated by the constant fear that we need to have about the security of Mazimbu.

The long term objectives of SONAFCO need to be borne in mind, and these can be achieved through a planned programme of growth taking into account the availability of cadres to be trained and working and administrative personnel.

ANNEXURE

W. Njobe commented as follows on matters affecting curriculum;

The key areas are indiscipline, political commitment, school organisation. In accordance with established principles of education we should utilise the experience of others, because the school has come to be regarded as a highly developed institution, and it is on such a basis that the ANC school should be run. An important consideration relating to SCNAFCO is that in discussing it, we cannot avoid to keep our focus on the real issues at home, we have to monitor what is happening at home, and whatever changes we introduce (in the sphere of curriculum) should show a bias towards progressive development. We have to evolve modern and scientific approaches to our problems particularly in socialisation techniques and polytechnic education. Our education philosophy should be oriented towards building a personality understood in political terms as a cadre. Attitudes and values are learnt more from experience of the structures in which one lives.

School organisation should be based on a scientific approach that is decisions must be taken on facts, and not on prejudice. A small team of social scientists should be set up to study the roots of the problems we have, to assemble data which would be fed back to the NEC for study. The essence of a school is the quality of its cadres and not the buildings. The school should be separated from the community in management and financing so that its development is not hampered by other programmes within the community. Rules ought to be enunciated which serve to protect the various elements of the Department of Education, the Principal, the Students etc to reduce the effect of the element of insecurity.

The students should be allowed to participate not only in administration but in planning. This principle should not raise any fears particularly taking into account the background of our students and, in any case, experience has demonstrated that whenever students are allowed to participate, they do so in a manner that tends to strengthen authority.
