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The First National College of S.A.

School Address:
Garland House
Cnr. Garland/Earp Streets
Ophirton/Booyens

11/2/107

Postal Address:
P.O. Box 2161
Johannesburg 2000
Tel: (011) 493-0216/0253
Fax: (011) 493-1590

22 October 1993

The State President of RSA
Mr. F.W. De Klerk
Private Bag X1000
PRETORIA
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Honourable State President of South Africa

Is South Africa becoming new? Are negotiations the correct tool to attain one's dignity? Are we really leveling the playing fields in South Africa?

Definatley not, for those who are down on the ground. Not for those who are doing all in their best to do better out of the worse.

I am reminded here of my days as a young man stydying under a candle light in my two roomed home in Orland East (Soweto) with my mother and father sleeping next to me.

I remember the day when my Principal told us disciplined youth/students of Orlando West Secondary School that the Minister of Bantu Education has instructed that we study certain subjects in Afrikaans.

It was difficult Sir, but, we had to do it.

We wrote to the Minister, who told us that we just had to do as we were told.

That obstinate attitude of the Minister, and the frustration of my mates exploded into June 16, 1976. The spark of that fire is now the fernace we are experiencing in our education today. Since then, we never saw education as education but as a political tool to liberate us from the shackles of apartheid education.

There was no ANC nor PAC influence then, but the Government of the day and its tools was in control.

I served a prison sentence and many detentions under the 'Security laws' of this country, for complaining that Afrikaans was difficult. I never served myself educationally, econmically and socially.

All this sacrifice was for my people.

I drew my brothers and sisters back into the classroom that I missed when I was in a cell. My age then was sixteen.

In the middle/...

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Prof. I. Tager (Chairperson); Mr. E. Davie (Finance & Control); Mr. S. Catton (Development/Planning); Mr. D. Schlaphoff (Employment); Rev. I. McD. Maseko (Co-Chairperson); Mr. S.S. Mazibuko (Headmaster)

In the middle of the fire in 1986, I worked with the community on the ground in the establishment of St. Ansgars College, in a delapidated building in Roodepoort. This school today is one of the leading private schools in South Africa assisted by Anglo American.

In the same year I worked with another community in establishing Grace College in Johannesburg, and in 1989 another College - Bophelo/Impilo Institute. Both these schools are now one of the well established learning institutions.

In 1991 a group of Parents asked me to establish a school called Mike Morison College, that later was affectionately regarded as the First National College in South Africa and it was called and/or named exactly that - THE FIRST NATIONAL COLLEGE OF SOUTH AFRICA.

This College is on its third year, with two and a half years of no funding except by parents fees.

Only in August this year did we receive help from the Department. This school started with 222 children in 1991 and grew to 325 in 1992, now we are having 560 children from all over South Africa and from exile - Cape Town, Natal, Tzaneen, Venda, Soweto, East Rand, etc.

This must be saying something to all those who know what is to establish a school.

Two hundred of these children are sleeping, playing, learning in an office building called 'our school'. They are boarding in an office block against the fire department and Health rules. These children's ages are from four years (Pre-School) to age eighteen (Matric).

Eager to learn, fighting against any form^{of} marginalisation, not wanting to be the so called lost generation.

I communicated the plight of these children and that of my Teachers and staff to Minister Sam De Beer, who re-directed me to a certain Mr. A. Nell of the Department of Housing and Works
See letter marked.

Prof. L. Tager who is the Chairperson of my Board of Directors communicated with Mr. Shill and Mr. Theron (See letters attached).

The last correspondence indicated to us as a school that the South African Government takes 'black life very cheap' (as Dr. Mandela usually puts it)

We were told that Brixton Primary School is handed-over to the S.A Police. Thats how cheap black life can be!!!

This is terrible!!!

Five hundred and sixty children are without a school building and an available school is given to the police!!!

I start doubting the genuinity of the process of negotiations in this country. It is only fire that changes South African minds.

I suspect/...

I suspect we are discussing or negotiating for a police state instead of a country that wants to educate its children for the sake of the future. Do we really need the police rather than a educated force?

We have prioritised and invested in the machines and people that need education for them to take South Africa to the chart of peaceful and prosperous nations.

As a Christian and a leader of Christian Youths, I find this disgusting and unchristian, that education could be sacrificed for the sake of people of war.

There is no law that will change the attitudes of people and particularly those who are discriminated against, except the realisation (by them) that something is done for them, to improve their situations.

FNC is not asking for a hand-out but for a shelter to learn.

Why is it difficult for your Government to give schools to blacks who want to learn? These were the school buildings used by whites to educate themselves, and we are asking 'for the crumbs from those masters tables' who are white children, who have been using the school building and abandoned it later.

Briston school is a learning institute not a police station. It was used for education by whites, and black children are asking for it.

Do black children have to go out in the street, and face guns to be allowed 'the priveledge' to learn?

For black children learning is not a right but, 'a priveledge'. This is so according to South African Law and/or according to your official's responce, as in the letters attached.

My Teachers and staff find this disgusting.

We have sacrificed for our children

We had to go on for eleven months without a salary. Not because we were on strike but because our Parents could not afford our fees. The Government does not want to see the need for education of blacks.

Sir, we are pleading to you to intervene in this matter, as a MATTER OF URGENCY BEFORE YOUR NEXT TRIP OVERSEAS or before you go to receive your Nobel Peace Prize.

Thanking voi in anticipation



S.S. Mazibuko (Mr)
HEADMASTER

CC. Dr. Nelson Mandela (ANC)
Mr. Clerence Makwethu (UNESCO)
Board of FNC
Education Forum
Multi Party Neg.