



SCHOOL OF LAW

Room 3155, Arts Building,
Trinity College,
Dublin 2.

Tel: 772941 ext. 1125

with the compliments of the
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Albie

It was good that we were able to
reply to each other. From my response
to Nathaniel's letter, you will see that
I am not very happy with the work of the
Lords' Committee and we should discuss
them and other matters on your return.

Finally, you may be amused (?)
at the ephemeral piece I did for the book this
on my return. You were right - the reaction
of family and friends was overwhelming.

Waver

☎ 01-203 3117

McHall-92-7-1

3 Hendale Avenue
London
NW4 4LU

Cde. Zola Skweyiya
Acting Chair
Legal and Constitutional Committee
Lusaka

Monday 25th June 1990

Dear Zola

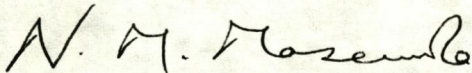
I hope you are safely back in Lusaka after the Jan Smuts fiasco. I popped over in Johannesburg for a day to visit the Office and see our people. It was good seeing Walter Sisulu. I last saw him in 1956 - yes 34 years ago. He looks very much the same, except for the white hair.

I have since our Cape Town meeting, given further thought to what the Legal and Constitutional Committee should be doing. I start from the premise that the government is ready for negotiations on a new Constitution for our country and that they will have a mature Draft Constitution by December 1990. They will table this Draft when negotiations begin in 1991 - probably early in the year because de Klerk cannot afford to face the white electorate in 3 years time without a settlement of the constitutional question. I suspect that at the rate at which we are going, we will not be ready with our own Draft Constitution. We will still be doing research work.

We will therefore be forced to negotiate on de Klerk's draft, or if we refuse, risk losing the propaganda war at home and abroad. I think all of us ought to find this unacceptable. The implications of this are that we should, therefore, start now working on our own Draft Constitution for submission to the leadership for consideration. I do not think that to do this is to go beyond our brief. I do not believe that we are usurping our people's right to write their own Constitution when we prepare a Draft for them. In any case, our people

have had the chance to debate the Constitutional Guidelines which form the basis of our work in this field. Further the people en masse cannot draft a Constitution. Somebody has to put a Draft before them for consideration and decision. We, the Legal and Constitutional Committee, are that somebody. I, therefore urge that we start on the business of drafting a Constitution for our country without much ado. This does not conflict with our researchers as they can continue indefinitely. I hope I am not misunderstood in this regard .

Yours in the cause



NATHANIEL M. MASEMOLA.

c.c Mr O R Tambo President
Alfred Nzo Secretary General
Albie Sachs
Dullah Omar
Pius Langa
Kadar Asmal