



International Literacy Year ILY

Umtapo Centre 1990

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Durban 4001

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Durban 4000
Tel.: 3053506

WHAT IS UMTAPO?

The Umtapo Centre is a non governmental, education and community development organisation that was established in 1987.

THE NAME
Umtapo is a Zulu word that encompasses a number of meanings. Simply, umtapo means a place where one can find something one needs in order to be informed or to improve one's knowledge or to be assisted in the achievement of a goal.

THE SLOGAN
Umtapo Centre has adopted as its slogan the apt saying: Free the mind, Free the land.

The slogan encapsulates the belief that before we can free ourselves from the physical servitude we need to free ourselves mentally, i.e. we need to free our minds from the lies and the misinformation that the ruling class has spread which has caused us to lose our self-respect, our dignity and our self-reliance. Fundamental to all the centre's programmes, therefore, would be the development of the spirit of self-reliance and independence amongst the oppressed and the exploited people.

WHAT DOES UMTAPO OFFER

1. Resource Library

The resource library provides information on education, history, social, political and economic theory, labour/trade unionism and training/resource material. A wide range of relevant magazines and newspapers are also available. The library is open for use by the community at a nominal annual membership fee.



2. Publications

The Centre produces a bi-monthly magazine, UMTAPO FOCUS, as well as monthly bilingual (Zulu & English) advice booklets and education bulletins. Papers delivered at seminars and conferences are also published.

3. Advice and Worker Education

Free advice and assistance on issues ranging from informal labour practices to maintenance claims are offered through the advice offices of the Centre. Worker education classes shall commence shortly.



4. Literacy

Zulu and English literacy classes are presently being conducted by the Centre. Relevant course material is also developed. Training of facilitators, and organising of seminars and workshops in the field of literacy are future projects.



BACKGROUND TO ILY 1990

At the end of 1987, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 1990 'INTERNATIONAL LITERACY YEAR' and requested that UNESCO take central responsibility, within the U.N. System, for preparing and holding the year.

Largely because of increased and improved provision of basic schooling, the percentage of illiterates among the world's adult population is gradually declining, from about one-third at the beginning of the 1970's, it has dropped to approximately one-quarter today, if present trends continue it may decline to one-fifth at the turn of the century, but because of population growth, the absolute numbers of illiterate adults continue to grow, from some 760 million in 1970 to about 890 million today and - if current trends hold - possibly some 912 million in the year 2000.

Women are more affected than men; while about one-fifth of men cannot read and write, the figure for women is almost one-third. More than 100 million school-aged children have no place to learn - adding to the problem at its source. Many who have learned, in school or in literacy programmes outside the school, run the risk of relapsing into illiteracy for lack of reading matter. And several industrialised countries are discovering widespread 'functional illiteracy' among their youth and adults: the inability to use reading and writing with facility in daily life. Widespread illiteracy severely hampers economic and social development; it is also a gross violation of the basic human right to learn, know and communicate.

Against this backdrop, International literacy year is intended to give a 'shot in the arm' to literacy work undertaken by all social forces.

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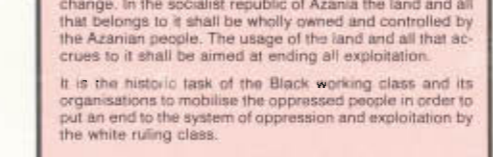
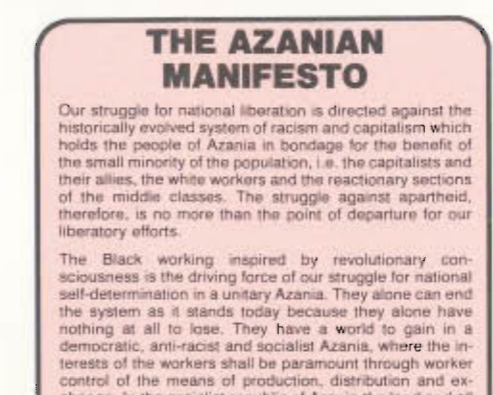
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THE FREEDOM CHARTER
We, the People of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world to know:

that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people;

that our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality;

that our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities;

that only a democratic state, based on the will of all the people, can secure to all their birthright without distinction of colour, race, sex or belief;

And therefore, we, the people of South Africa, black and white together - equals, countrymen and brothers - adopt this Freedom Charter. And we pledge ourselves to strive together, sparing neither strength nor courage, until the democratic changes here set out have been won.

The people shall govern;
All National Groups shall have equal rights;
The people shall share in the country's wealth;
The land shall be shared among those who work it;
All shall be equal before the law;
All shall enjoy equal human rights;
There shall be work and security;
The doors of learning and culture shall be opened;
There shall be houses, security and comfort;
There shall be peace and friendship;
Let all who love their people and their country now say: THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL FIGHT FOR, SIDE BY SIDE, THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES, UNTIL WE HAVE WON OUR LIBERTY.

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OUR PRINCIPLES
Successful conduct of the national liberation struggle depends on the firm basis of principle whereby we will ensure that the liberation struggle will not be turned against our people by treacherous and opportunistic 'leaders' and liberal influences. The most important of these principles are:

- Anti-racism, anti-imperialism and anti-sexism.
- Anti-collaboration with the ruling class and all its allies and political instruments.
- Independent working class organisation, free from bourgeois influences.

OUR RIGHTS
In accordance with these principles the following rights shall be entrenched in Azania:

- The right to work.
- State provision of free and compulsory education for all Education shall be geared towards liberating the Azanian people from all oppression, exploitation and ignorance.
- State provision of free health, legal, recreational and other community services that will respond positively to the needs of the people.

OUR PLEDGES
In order to bring into effect these rights of the Azanian people, we pledge ourselves to struggle tirelessly for:

- The abolition of all laws, institutions and attitudes that discriminate against our people on the basis of colour, sex, religion, language or class.
- The re-integration of the bantustan human dumping grounds into a unitary Azania.
- The formation of trade unions that will heighten revolutionary worker consciousness.
- The development of one national culture inspired by socialist values.

LITERACY ORGANISATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

- ADULT LEARNING PROJECT (ALP)
4 Ashley Street, Mowbray 7700 - Telephone: (021) 685-3330
- BUREAU OF LITERACY AND LITERATURE (LITSA)
1 Main Centre, c/o: Main and New Streets, Florida 1710
Telephone: (011) 674-1299
- CIC - ENGLISH RESOURCE UNIT (ERU)
36 Eccleston Centre, 20 St Andrews Street, Durban 4001
Telephone: (031) 30129718
- EASTERN CAPE ADULT LEARNING PROJECT
504 Afriq House, 510 Main Street, North End, Port Elizabeth 6001
Telephone: (041) 546876
- ENGLISH LITERACY PROJECT (ELP)
314 Dunwell House, 35 Jorissen Street, Braamfontein 2017
Telephone: (011) 3392864
- LEARN AND TEACH
11th Floor - His Majesty's Bldg., 22 Aubert Street, Johannesburg 2001
Telephone: (011) 8344011/2
- LEMBEDE-MDA (LM) LITERACY PROJECT
Fundis Adult Education Centre, Ramolongwana Street, Diepkloof 1804
Telephone: (011) 933 2692/1837 - Ex. 228
- MARYLAND LITERACY PROJECT
Maryland Centre, Summit Road, Handover Park 7800
Telephone: (021) 6374241
- MOZA VILLAGE PROJECT
c/o: Church of Natal, King George V Avenue, Durban 4001
Telephone: (031) 811366
- MMABATHO ADULT LITERACY AND EDUCATION TRUST
P.O. Box 6625, Mmabatho 8601 - Telephone: (014) 21482
- MOLTENO PROJECT
2 Rhodes Avenue, Grahamstown 6140 - Telephone: (0481) 26903
- MONTAGU - ASHTON COMMUNITY SERVICE (MAG)
Sullanasig, Montagu 6725 - Telephone: (0234) 4 1175/4 2619
- NATIONAL LANGUAGE PROJECT (NLP)
15 Durban Avenue, Salt River 7925 - Telephone: (021) 47 2761
- OPERATION ANDREW
43 Sonnensloot Street, Idas Valley, Stellenbosch 7600
Telephone: (02231) 70402
- OPERATION UPGRADE
P.O. Box 314, Durban 4001 - Telephone: (031) 329981
- PROJECT LITERACY (PROLIT)
The Ragging - WHPS Education Centre, 73 Charles Street, Brooklyn, Pretoria 0181
Telephone: (012) 46 5223/46 4489
- SACHED LACOM
P.O. Box 11350, Johannesburg 2000 - Telephone: (011) 8341341/8363331
- ST. ANTHONY'S ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE
St Anthony's Road, Reiger Park, Boksburg 1459 - Telephone: (011) 527446/9
- ST FRANCIS ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE
Nizibane Street, Langla 7485 - Telephone: (021) 684 1801
- TRUST FOR CHRISTIAN OUTREACH AND EDUCATION
P.O. Box 2263, Pietermaritzburg 3200 - Telephone: (031) 81291
- USING SPOKEN AND WRITTEN ENGLISH
118 Ninth Street, Orange Grove 2192 - Telephone: (011) 640307/3/4

FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL LITERACY YEAR

LITERACY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Literacy in South Africa is accorded very low priority. The government budget for literacy amounts to only a tiny fraction of the national education budget. With government expenditure on literacy it has been concluded that less than 0.41% of the country's illiterates would become literate every year.

At the present moment, non-governmental organisations do not have enough resources to make a substantial impact on the high illiteracy rate in South Africa where illiteracy is not only confined to the over 40 or over 50 age category. There is an estimated two to three million persons between the ages of 10 and 24 who are illiterate in South Africa.