

the materials we are, in fact, perpetuating adult education as it was known by our forebears.

More research should be carried out to find out how traditional education can be used to make today's education more effective. The practice of telling stories is dying out and such innovations as radio are taking its place. When the elders who preserved such oral materials die, our unwritten culture dies with them.

In this experimental programme, then, we handled only traditional stories. But many other aspects could be treated, such as historical backgrounds (as remembered by elders); outstanding personalities; songs; maxims; riddles; poems; birth; marriage and death ceremonies; and proverbs.

The list of possibilities is long and exciting. The United Republic of Tanzania has more than 120 tribal groupings, each with its own way of life. Suppose only stories were

worked on and that about 30 of them were gathered and printed from each tribal grouping. This would produce 3 600 stories for our adult readers. Similar treatment of poems, proverbs, etc., would provide a tremendous amount of reading material bearing the stamp of Tanzanian culture.

The United Republic of Tanzania is a young nation, only 13 years old. Before it attained political independence it was made up of many different tribes and one of the tasks facing us is to shape the former tribal groupings into a united nation.

Fortunately, there already exists a powerful unifying factor, namely the Kiswahili language. Another great force for unity is the traditional culture in which Tanzania is so rich. It is thus essential that we should gather and print in Kiswahili all our oral traditions so that they become available to Tanzanians and to the world at large. □

DEATH OF PHAKAMILE MABIJA



Phakamile Mabija.

On Thursday July, 7th, Mr Phakamile Mabija, a detainee under the Riotous Assemblies Act, plunged to his death after allegedly jumping through a louvred window on the sixth floor of the Transvaal Road Police Station in Kimberley.

Phakamile had been detained on 27th June, after an alleged stone-throwing incident in Vergenoeg Township. At the time, he was a full-time youth worker for the Anglican Diocese of Kimberley.

As a member of the Anglican Church's NOMAD team (a team of young people doing diocesan youth work), Phakamile had been a delegate on the National Youth Leadership Training Programme, a 3 and a half month training course held at the beginning of this year in the Durban area. Those of us associated with NYLTP got to know Phakamile as a forceful yet gentle and non-violent man.

It was thus with great pain, shock and disbelief that we learned of Phakamile's death on Friday, July 8. At a memorial service held that same day, a group of friends identified themselves with the appended statement.

We would be grateful if you could give this statement and the background thereto maximum publicity in your newspaper. If Christians and the public in general may, through this, become more fully aware of the evil of detention and if this awareness will lead to some meaningful action against this evil, then perhaps Phakamile's death has not been totally pointless.

Reiner Holst

(Reprinted from DiaKonia)