

What are the Prospects for a Free South Africa Without Education?

"We know that the days of apartheid are numbered. But we also know that bantu education was put in place to ensure that when the inevitable birth of a free, non-racial, democratic South Africa comes, there should not be enough so-called "non-whites" to play an effective role in running our new country.

If it is true that whites comprise 97% of South Africa's engineers, 95% of lawyers, and 100% of pilots, train engineers, supreme and appeal court justices, then we need efforts like SAFTE to help redress the imbalance. For what are the prospects for a free South Africa without education? What will be the meaning of majority rule, if our own people are deprived of the education they need to be effective leaders and participants in all sectors of society?

—Dean T. S. Farisani, Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Africa

SOUTHERN AFRICAN FREEDOM THROUGH EDUCATION

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What is SAFTE's Mission?

SAFTE is a new organization formed as a grassroots, American response to the educational crisis in South Africa and Namibia. Our mission is to arrange college scholarships in the U. S. for refugees and exiles from Southern Africa.

We are proud to be the first Southern African scholarship program working with community colleges. Because of the severe educational deprivation imposed by bantu education, this setting provides a far more appropriate initial learning environment. Laney College in Oakland, California is the site of our pilot project.

SAFTE students will transfer after community college to four year colleges. They will receive degrees in technical and managerial fields—especially in those areas denied them by bantu education. Namibian students will return to their newly independent country after completing degrees. South African students will return to serve the refugee communities in the Frontline States, until their own country is free.

Helping to develop an educated leadership during the current phases of political struggle, as well as for an independent Namibia and a free South Africa, is an important contribution to peace and stability in this vital area of the world.

Please join us.

SAFTE

THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN FREEDOM THROUGH EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Supporting Leadership Development for a Free South Africa and Independent Namibia

What is "Bantu Education"?

The South African government systematically denies black South Africans and Namibians access to a decent education. The education policy called "bantu education" is no mere accident of apartheid. It is a law actually stating "there is no place for the Native in the European community above certain forms of labor."

Bantu education guarantees that black schooling is completely inadequate, both in absolute terms and relative to that provided whites. For instance:

- In 1984, the government spent 1654 rand on a white child's education, and 234 rand on a black child.
- The teacher to student ratio in black classrooms is more the double than in white classrooms.
- A quota system ensures that most blacks are never given a chance to pursue degrees in technical and managerial fields.

Black Demands for Equal Education

Blacks have long protested their inferior education. Active resistance to bantu education reached a turning point with the Soweto Student Rebellion of 1976. In recent years, student boycotts were so commonplace that the government used military troops to occupy schools that remained open.

Some 40% of the 30,000 people arrested during the latest period of unrest were students under the age of 18. Students, teachers, and parents formed the National Education Crisis Committee in 1985. Before it was banned in 1988, the NECC was developing a "people's curriculum" as an alternative to bantu education.

The unequal education guaranteed by bantu education will be a major focus of the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa and Namibia until majority rule is established. Undoing the effects of bantu education will be one of the primary tasks for future democratic societies in South Africa and Namibia.

Students as Refugees and Exiles

Many young people have been forced to flee South Africa and Namibia to escape persecution. Others know that their educational aspirations can never be realized in their own countries. In Namibia, for instance, there are virtually no institutions of higher education.

Thousands of South African and Namibian students are now refugees or exiles living in the Frontline States of Africa. Many of them must endure the difficult conditions of refugee camps while they seek out opportunities to continue their interrupted educations.

Other students will be lucky enough to get a chance to study at the pre-college level in a host country. However, these young people must contend with constant threats against their lives from South African security forces. Namibian and South African student residences in Zimbabwe are under round-the-clock, armed guard by police to protect the students from cross border raids by apartheid forces.

How You Can Help

SAFTE cannot survive and grow without your help. We need your support—please use the coupon included in this brochure to make a tax-deductible contribution to SAFTE's efforts.

We also welcome the support of the groups of which you are a part. Please get in touch with us to obtain more copies of this brochure. If you know of other individuals who should receive information about SAFTE, let us know.

Remember—supporting education is one of the most vital and enduring ways in which you can aid the cause of freedom for South Africa and Namibia. It will build lasting bridges of friendship between our people and the people of Southern Africa.

SAFTE cannot survive and grow without your help! Please be as generous as possible.

Yes! I want to help educate young South Africans and Namibians. Enclosed please find my tax-deductible contribution for:

\$1000 _____ \$500 _____ \$250 _____

\$100 _____ \$25 _____ Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to SAFTE

Address: P. O. Box 10172, Berkeley, CA 94709
