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Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre

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12 August 1987

Dear Achmat

FUND-RAISING ACT AND FUNDING MEETING : EXCERPT OF MINUTES OF WILGESPRUIT
FELLOWSHIP CENTRE LETTERHEAD

Subsequent to your telephone call of the 13 July and your letter of 30 July 1987, I have now had the opportunity to investigate the matter fully with both Mr Zabala, Convenor of the Fund-raising and Funding Meetings in the P.W.V. area as well as Mr I Mkhabela, a member of the Sub-Committee of this discussion forum charged with the responsibility to interact and seek clarification and information about Trusts and Foundations operating in South Africa so as to provide discussion member groups with relevant information. I would like to begin by putting the whole issue first in context and then respond to the specific contentious issue.

1. These Fund-raising Act series of meetings have happened purely as a joint effort by these quoted organisations to find ways of talking to each other and closing ranks against the advancing enemy. You will recall that Mr Zabala invited you personally in your office to become part of this discussion since it seemed at the time to be a threat to all of us. Subsequently, a list of organisations threatened with this matter (like the Kagiso Trust) has been kept and updates done on the issue. The initial meeting which happened at SACHED was initiated by Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre nationally and subsequently regional discussions have been ongoing. Mr G Zabala was asked to convene meetings within the P.W.V. area which he had done to-date.
2. The venues for these meetings have been circulating from organisation to organisation with Griffiths doing the distribution of minutes and convening the meetings which thus explains why this information appears on the Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre letter-heads.

EXCERPT MINUTES (PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH 9)

There definitely seems to be a misunderstanding of this extract which might contribute to the insinuations you suggest. I have been assured by both Mr Zabala and Mr Mkhabela:

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- (i) That the insinuations referred to are definitely not intended and are a mis-reading of the minutes.
 - (ii) That at no stage in that meeting was reference made to an article in the Citizen regarding the Kagiso Trust and/or the EEC. No member of that meeting ever raised that issue from the perspective of the EEC.

To the contrary, a member of the discussion group had reported that "there seemed to be some confusion in Europe that he had picked up regarding EEC funding and processes and structure for EEC funding in South Africa which might seem to be benefitting European rather than South African programmes."

It was then pointed out that rather than make conclusive decisions on such an issue it might be provident to refer the matter to the Sub-Committee which had been established prior to this meeting to identify Trusts and other funding groups willing to join the discussion group. This would be seen as part of the process to clarify matters such as criteria, structures for funding and types of programmes to be funded and from what organisations and sources. The Kagiso Trust, SACC and SACBC as well as labour groups seem to be knowledgeable in this area. The Sub-Committee was particularly requested to approach these groups for such clarification and information. It was also felt desirable that they should be part of the discussion so as to ensure a better understanding of processes and possible networking relationships which could be developed. This would alleviate such misunderstanding between allies and help us all to stand together against inroads of the Fund-Raising Act.

I am further informed that Mr John Samuel, a member of the Sub-Committee was requested to initiate face-to-face discussions with you on this matter to clear this apparent misconception.

It would indeed be very disconcerting if Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre and/or any of the discussion member groups who themselves are under the same strain from the South African illegal regime would attempt to discredit the Kagiso Trust or their own European donors in this manner. All partner organisations are for the people and are parts of the credible and progressive forces which continue to give the strongest support to our mutually supportive political, educational and other efforts, as well as supportive actions of the European countries in our struggle for a non-racial, democratic South Africa.

I hope that this explanation sets this matter straight and reiterate that there is no intention nor desire to slur the Kagiso Trust nor the EEC countries for their work in South Africa by Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre and the above-mentioned progressive organisations. We are all, after all, working for the abolition of the apartheid regime.

Mr Achmat Dangor
Director
Kagiso Trust

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11 August 1987

I enclose relevant documents of the discussion meeting to validate my claims in this letter.

With warm Christian Greetings,

Dale White

DALE ST JOHN WHITE (REVD)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PS: I would appreciate a copy or cuts or at least dates of publication of the said Citizen report since I have not cast my eyes on it. I generally am opposed to reading the Citizen, let alone buy it.

c.c. Distribution Lists

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MEMORANDUM

TO: DALE ST JOHN WHITE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WILGESPRUIT
FELLOWSHIP CENTRE

FROM: ISHMAEL MKHABELA
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, WILGES-
SPRUIT FELLOWSHIP CENTRE

RE: FUND-RAISING ACT & FUNDING MEETINGS

DATE: 1 AUGUST 1987

1. I am a member of the Sub-Committee of the Fund-Raising Act discussion meetings. The Committee is charged with the responsibility to seek clarification and information on various Trusts and Foundations operating in South Africa with the aim to promote contact, understanding and interaction.
2. The information gained is to assist groups to understand funding criteria, structures, and types of programmes.
3. On 17 July, I informed another member of the Sub-Committee, Mr John Samuel, Director of SACHED, the content of the telephone discussion between Mr Achmat Dangor, Director of Kagiso Trust, and the Revd Dale White on 13 July 1987.
4. The discussion related to an excerpt of minutes (item 9) of 4 June 1987 which was held at the Legal Resources Centre.
5. On the same day, I requested Mr Samuel to raise the issue with Mr Dangor during their pending meeting. Mr Samuel was asked to correct the unfortunate misconceptions and also invite the Kagiso Trust and representatives to the following Fund-Raising group meeting on 30 July 1987 at SACHED Boardroom.
6. On 30 July 1987, Mr Samuel reported on the outcome of the meeting between him and Mr Dangor. Relevant issues were raised. Mr Dangor was reported to have registered his strongest displeasure on the item in question. His reaction is seemingly based on Mr Dangor's reading and understanding of the item in question.
7. Mr Samuel reported that he was informed that the Kagiso Trust had an intention to discuss the matter in their own meeting.

8. The represented groups in the meeting of 30 July resolved to seek a meeting with Mr Dangor before the meeting of the Trust. The meeting could try to iron out difficulties and possibly clear the disputed points.
9. The referred article of "The Citizen" has never been implied or mentioned in any of the discussion meetings. We had never heard of the Citizen report prior to the receipt of Mr Dangor's letter dated 30 July 1987.
10. Discussion meetings are open to all progressive organisations including the Kagiso Trust. Refer to the minutes of the first meeting on 22 January 1987 as well as the minutes of 4 and 10 June.
11. Lastly it is noteworthy that all participating groups believe that much can be achieved in working together.
12. The next meeting will be held at SACHED on 27 August 1987 at 2.30 p.m.

ISHMAEL MKHABELA

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