

# EDITORIAL/OPINION



## Diplomas, Diplomacy and Development

By N. Fungai Kumbula

## Curriculum for the future

The school district is preparing to develop one, two or more middle schools and to design a stronger upper grade program for Boise. Among the programs prominently mentioned - especially for a magnet middle school - is an arts program designed to draw children who would later move into the Jefferson magnet program.

We were disappointed to see in the district's Desegregation Plan the proposal that Boise, along with its fundamentals program be provided speech, drama, journalism and television/radio.

The arts are valid subjects of study and should be taught in every school, but how many Black youngsters will make a career of the arts? Its almost like encouraging vast numbers of Black children to place their hopes in professional sports, when only a few can achieve that goal.

In designing a new middle school in the Black community, the School Board should try to look into the future and determine what types of career opportunities will be available and to provide the type of education that will prepare children for those careers.

The EPA says there will be over 300 new job titles in environmental protection alone. Other growing fields are computers, space and alternate energy.

The Board also should look at fields where Blacks are underrepresented - medicine, law, engineering, foreign service - and provide not only the educational offerings, but the exposure to professionals in those fields that would inspire and enable students to seek these careers.

One reason Blacks are underrepresented in many professional fields and in professional schools is because Black children are mis-educated in the early years. It's difficult for a student who has never had science to get into medical school and it is hard for a student who has never met an engineer to be directed into engineering.

Any middle school established in the Black community should not only provide the basics - reading, writing, arithmetic - but should provide history and geography, French and Spanish, science, creative writing and speech as well as the arts, industrial arts, physical education and athletics.

Date: June 17, 1987.  
Place: University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe.  
Occasion: Graduation ceremonies for the University of Zimbabwe's medical class.

As Dr. Fungai Mungate, Dean of the School of Medicine got up to deliver the commencement address, he was thinking of the changes that had taken place in Southern Africa over the past decade. The position he held now would have been unthinkable way back then, in the days of "bad old Ian Smith." Back then, his MD and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Alberta, Canada, one of the best medical schools in the world, would have been good only to work in some remote, ill-equipped, overcrowded, rural Black hospital if he got a job at all.

"Everything comes to those who wait," the old folks used to say. "Sure," thought Mungate, "we would sure have rotted under the yoke of colonialism if we had waited." After the conclusion of the war of liberation in 1980 and the election of a popular government which had initially been hampered by the so-called London agreement restrictions, the development of the country and of the region had proceeded by leaps and bounds. After almost ten years of war, the primary task of the new revolutionary government had been reconstructed. The government had focused first on health, education and re-orientation of the economy to gear it more towards the needs of the people than had been the case under previous successive colonial regimes.

The task of reconstruction had proved to be quite formidable given the sorry state of the country at the time of independence. Even the \$2 billion from the Western sponsored Zimbabwe Development Fund had not been quite enough to finance the ambitious program the Zimbabwe

government had embarked upon. Faced with a cash shortfall, therefore, the idea, actually the brainchild of Dr. Mungate and a number of his colleagues at the various campuses of the University of Zimbabwe, had begun to make more sense. Called the "Pundits of Regional Development," this group had proposed the consolidation of all of southern Africa's development projects. The countries involved would be Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Angola and Namibia. South Africa, or Azania as it will then be called, would be invited to join as soon as the Africans took over.

The major selling point of regional development as opposed to each country going it alone was that, by pooling resources, the countries would be able to afford and carry out a lot more projects than they could individually. Education was the first area of cooperation proposed. Rather than try to expand the University of Zimbabwe to cover all the fields of study proposed in the curricula, they could, instead, make each country's university system an integral part of the entire region's educational system. The plan eventually agreed upon stipulated that the University of Zimbabwe would house all of southern Africa's medical, dental, pharmaceutical, biological, chemical, public health and other health-related fields of study.

Mozambique, which had developed a highly successful economic system, would house the School of Economics, Business, Finance and Financial Planning. Angola, with its overabundance of political experts, naturally was assigned the Schools of Political Science, Public Administration, Education, International Relations and Journalism. Namibia took over Mining, Metallurgy and

Engineering. Swaziland took Math, Physics, Genetics and Agricultural Science. Botswana had the Social Sciences, Humanities, Music and Art while Zambia took over Speech, Mass Communications, Languages and History. Malawi became the center for studies in Geography and Land Management. Thus the university of each country began to operate as an adjunct of the University of Southern Africa.

Not only did this serve a lot of money but it also increased cooperation in the region, improved the quality of education tremendously since all the experts in each field were concentrated in the same place. The artificial boundaries imposed by colonialism began to crumble and the African Family began to come together again. As successful as this project became, it was only a matter of time before it was duplicated in other parts of Africa.

This cooperation, with the lessons learned in education, was extended to other areas such as the building of roads, hospitals, schools, railroads and travel connections: an airline, bus and train services, telecommunications networks and agricultural as well as industrial projects. As a result of all this "umojia," southern Africa soon became the fastest growing region in the world in terms of national development. The success of all this also brought political stability because when people's bellies are full, what do they have to gripe about?

South Africa, which had anxiously watched all these goings on, hoping against hope that they would all come to nought, was dismayed at their success. At this point in time also, it was a matter of time before apartheid was buried for good.

As Dr. Mungate got up to speak, he was thinking: "When Azania joins..."

## Letters to the Editor

### Let's make progress at home

To the editor:

It is clear that any progressive future involving improvements in the quality of everyday life in American society immediately rests upon substantial changes in the content and direction of US foreign policy. It is difficult for many of the people of this nation to face up to, but the stubborn fact is that we inherit a terrible legacy of criminal-like behavior toward other nations of the world from the Truman Administration down to the recently disgraced Nixon-Agnew-Ford.

The suffering caused by this foreign policy has been enormous, as the government of this country poured billions of dollars into propping up fascist-type dictatorships all over the globe because these governments promised to be "friendly" to US corporate investments. It is primarily this area of regressive foreign policy that earned Dr. King's condemnation when he said, "The American government is the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today." In a very real sense our large cities with their squalor, mass unemployment, declining social services and deteriorating public school systems are a mirror and a symptom of what US foreign policy has wrought in domestic conditions. The riches of the national treasury have been poured into the military while the people's needs go begging. Consequently, foreign policy is, in a very fundamental sense, a major domestic issue. The spiritual and

economic waste, which every administration of the past three decades has sponsored by pursuing a foreign policy of national chauvinism and arrogance, has brought the nation to this point wherein a whole generation of young people are saddled with a way-of-life that offers less hope for a progressive future than has been faced by any generation of Americans in this century.

The foreign policy of the past 30 years has been characterized by its lack of morality and its unconcern for human rights. The economic and military aid which the US has repeatedly given to the most repressive regimes in the world -- Chile, South Korea, Iran, Haiti, Greece and South Afrika, to name a few -- has cost the American taxpayers billions of dollars and is an affront to civilized international relations. The foreign policy, whether measured by open warfare against the Korean and Vietnamese peoples or by such covert operations as the CIA's overthrow of the reform government of Guatemala in 1954, is a measure of the distortion of national priorities which has taken place in our country since the end of the Second World War. To fundamentally change the direction of US foreign policy will take more than good intentions expressed in words. The sincerity of President Carter's expressed intentions to turn US foreign policy toward a peace and good neighbor course is left in

serious doubt when he agrees to further US aid to the police-state regime in South Korea on the grounds that our "national security" is involved. This is just nonsense. It is not national security but US neo-colonialism which is served by such falsehoods.

The situation in South Africa reducing the arms race, especially nuclear weapons, are the focus of the international community at this juncture in world history. The struggle for jobs, a nationalized system of health care, and quality education in our country will meet with success in direct proportion to the victories we gain in the struggle to achieve a progressive change in US foreign policy. The current \$120 billion a year military budget hangs like an albatross around the neck of our national effort to fulfill these domestic needs. The military budget has become an institution -- a product of the Cold War -- and so has the far-reaching crisis it is generating in American society.

Our unfinished agenda of human rights here in Amerika is considerable. It's achievement is also inseparable from efforts to secure a foreign policy which respects the human rights and the national independence, democratic and socialist political gains of working people in other parts of the world.

Dr. Jamil Cherovec  
Field Dir. For CORE

## MHRC hits City hiring results

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

"Skilled Crafts" or "Service Maintenance." The department's minority percentage dropped from 6.5 to 6.3.

This department had 17 Black men and 2 Black women in a staff of 364, or 5.2 percent. Parks, the largest bureau, had 17 Blacks out of 330 employees.

**Public Utilities**  
The Department of Public Utilities is Commissioner Frank Ivancie's department. The department's minority employment percentage was 6.4 percent, with all minorities in "Office/Clerical", "Skilled Crafts" and "Maintenance/Service". According to the study, "The department serves as an illustration of the concentration of minorities and women in 'traditional' categories."

The Department of Public Utilities had 26 Black employees out of 575. The largest department is water which had 23 Blacks in a total of 422 employees.

**Public Works**  
The Department of Public Works was headed by Mayor Connie McCready during the 1977-78 fiscal year, the period of the analysis. "The Department of Public Works exhibits poor utilization of both women and minorities in every category with the exception of women in "Office/Clerical" positions and minorities in "Service/Maintenance," evidencing protective class concentration in traditional areas."

In all categories except "Protective Services" (5.3 percent) and "Service/Maintenance" (8.0 percent) the Public Works minority

staff are at less than parity. "Public Works, despite the larger number of hires, was furthest below parity in hiring both minorities (3.8 percent) and women (4.6 percent)." Minorities make up 4.8 percent of the employees.

Public Works had 36 Black men and one Black woman out of a total of 1,449 employees. Large departments include streets with one Black out of 146 employees, Sanitary Engineering with no Blacks on a staff of 93; maintenance with 14 out of 377, Fire with 17 out of 683; and Wastewater Treatment with 4 out of 122. Blacks made up 2.6 percent of the Department of Public Works staff.

The Department of Public Utilities and Public Works "stand out due to poor utilization as well as having the lowest promotional percentage for both protected groups," (minorities, women) "evidencing the need for affirmative actions to address limited progress towards equal employment opportunity."

MHRC made the following recommendations:

1. That the Affirmative Action Office determine and analyze underdetermined barriers to increase utilization of minorities and women, especially in departments where under utilization exists; analyze bureau's goals; report findings and make recommendations to the Commissioners-In-Charge.

2. That the training component of the Personnel Division work with the Affirmative Action Office to analyze the participation of minorities and women in training opportunities and develop plans to

further assist minorities and women in competing for permanent employment and promotional opportunities.

3. That the EEO Regulatory Committee be activated and assume its mandated role to "enforce both the need for, and the successful attainment of, positive Affirmative Action goals and timetables, and to serve as agent of the Council to ensure implementation of the Affirmative Action Program."

MHRC recommended that the Mayor and each Commissioner appoint staff members to sit on the committee and that the Mayor see that the committee is formed and meets regularly.

4. That the City allocate necessary staff and resources to the Affirmative Action Office.

Linda Roberts, Interim Director of MHRC, told the *Observer* that the Commission's employment committee is meeting with the City Commissioners to explain the study and discuss implementation of the recommendations.

"We have found a positive atmosphere and implementation of parts of the Affirmative Action ordinance that have been neglected seem closer."

"The EEO Regulatory Committee has met only a few times - very irregularly - in the past, and people were not appointed to serve on a continuing basis. This committee - if it functioned properly - would give the Commissioners an insight into what is happening in the departments on a regular basis. They wouldn't wait for a once-a-year report that is two years late."

### LUTHER



ALFRED L. HENDERSON  
Editor/Publisher

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