



AZAPO

AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: AZAPO SECRETARY FOR PUBLICITY & INFORMATION

DATE: July 26, 2024

SUBJECT: AZAPO CALLS FOR TEACHING OF BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS PHILOSOPHY IN SCHOOLS

AZAPO is disturbed, but not surprised, by reports of a group of teenage learners at a privileged exclusive high school in Pretoria sprouting racism.

The public discovery of such chat group indicates abject failure by the government to address inequalities in basic education, the patent lack of social cohesion, and the them vs us mentality. The search for better-resourced and functional schools, results in the daily movement of large numbers of Black learners to schools which whites have considered to be their own since the apartheid years. Access to these schools is then perceived as an invasion, which is met by hostile adolescent white learners who feel entitled and who fail to understand that all of the country, and especially the learning space, is intended for all learners, and that the country has moved away from whites-only schools.

AZAPO calls upon the Department of Education to engage in a Black Consciousness anti-racist education and socialisation approach, to ensure that our children grow with an understanding that colour cannot be a determinant, especially of entitlement at the exclusion of the majority, that racial lenses should not exist, and that all are equal in our fractured country. The Black Consciousness philosophy, as the antithesis to racism, will help foster a culture of mutual respect, instil much-needed confidence in Black learners, transform those who harbour nascent racism, and enable all our children to challenge anything that serves to undermine their own dignity and that of those who wish to return to the superiority/inferiority narrative. Steve Biko's book, "*I Write What I Like*" must be a compulsory text in all our schools to help learners avoid incidents such as these, and create a more harmonious society.

AZAPO further calls upon government, and, by extension, the Basic Education Department to ensure that all schools are equally resourced and functional to minimise the outflow of Black learners to far-flung schools in search for better education, but whose human rights are violated.

AZAPO will avail itself in the quest to develop an anti-racist, anti-sexist and anti-violent education environment.

END

Issued by **AZAPO** Department of Publicity and Information (DPI).

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