

ORGANISATION OF ANGOLAN WOMEN

BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE MPLA AND THE CREATION OF THE WORKERS' PARTY WERE A RESOUNDING VICTORY FOR THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE AND THE ANGOLAN REVOLUTION

The First Congress of the MPLA laid down new guiding lines for leading our revolution to socialism. The MPLA, our people's vanguard movement, brought together, during the national liberation struggle, all ideological trends, all the classes of Angolan society which had the same common goal, the liberation of our country. At its First Congress, the MPLA constituted itself as the Workers' Party, and it will have new responsibilities in leading the Angolan revolution. Moral and political integrity are reaquired of its members, as well as many years of militant work for our revolution.

The First Congress summed up the 20 years of the MPLA's existence: from the forming of the Movement, to the country's liberation and the political, diplomatic and social achievements. The reasons for setbacks were honestly analysed and new guidelines were laid, down for overcoming present difficulties.

Our struggle was placed in its context of the historic moment of the liberation of Africa. Our unshakable will to help African countries still fighting to free themselves from the colonial yoke and apartheid and regain their freedom was reaffirmed. It was also reaffirmed that we stand by all the oppressed peoples of the world and will be unstinting in our efforts to help them.

The First Congress of the MPLA reaffirmed the need for the contribution of women in leading the destiny of our people and, consequently, three places fell to women in the Party's Central Committee. Rodeh Gil and Ruth Neto, of the National Executive Committee of OMA, and Maria Mambo Café, Vice-Minister of Internal Trade, were elected to the Central Committee of the MPLA-Workers' Party.

The MPLA-Workers' Party has a grandiose course lying ahead of it! The future of Angola is in the hands of its militants! But they, from Cabinda to the Cunene, will stand firm at their posts and carry out the tasks assigned to them by their Vanguard.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES.

VICTORY IS CERTAIN.

COMRADE PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO, DOCTOR OF LETTERS "HONORIS CAUSA" OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA

At the Convocation held in the Assembly Hall of the University of Lagos, on 18 January 1978, Comrade President Agostinho Neto received the degree of Doctor of Letters "Honoris Causa", because of that University's appreciation of his poetical works and political writings. It should be emphasised that since the founding of that University in 1964, the Assembly Hall was opened for the first time on 18 January to give the Angolan Head of State that honourable distinction.

The Chancellor of the University, observing all the academic formalities, conferred the degree of Doctor of Letters "Honoris Causa"

on the Angolan Head of State.

The Vice-Chancellor placed the hood on the shoulders of the new Honorary Graduand, after the Public Orator had read out biographical details about Comrade President which greatly moved the audience and made all those present feel proud of the great African

revolutionary, Comrade Agostinho Neto!

In the Assembly Hall of the University of Lagos, a more than well-deserved tribute was paid to the great leader of the Angolan revolution. We transcribe here a short extract. In his address, the Public Orator stated: "We have before us not only the embodiment par excellence of the spirit of the Angolan Revolution, but also the personification of the Angolan nation and a man of notable talent and great successes." "The poet, physician and patriot, who combined in his career the idealism and vision of the poet, with the precision and compassion of the physician, the realism of the revolutionary activist, with the firmness of the statesman." "The principal architect and intellectual spokesman of the ideas of the liberation movement and Angolan sovereignty." "He had the merit and the courage always to raise his voice against all forms of exploitation and oppression, speaking without equivocation of human freedom, of equality and dignity, in favour of peace and the preservation of civilisation."

Expressing his thanks for the tribute paid to him, the Angolan Head of State read an important speech on the theme "Liberation and Revolution", in which he discoursed on true liberation and on how a

revolution is necessary if there is to be real liberation.

Revolution is impossible if the old order is not abolished and replaced by a revolutionary order. Hence ideological struggle can lead

to confrontations in attaining the revolutionary goal.

At the end of this historic speech by the leader of the Angolan Revolution, who, constantly facing the wrath of imperialism, was able to guide his people to victory and independence, he concluded by stating that the future would be implacably socialist, since the productive forces would not be able to stop their own evolution towards socialism, where there is no exploitation of man by man.

The students and all those present warmly applauded the Angolan

Head of State, Comrade Agostinho Neto.



Comrade President making his address in the Assembly Hall of Lagos University after being awarded a degree of Doctor of Letters "Honoris Causa"

THE FUTURE SEEN IN FEBRUARY

When, 17 years ago, on 4 February, the Angolan people rose up to fight until victory against the colonialism and exploitation they had suffered for centuries, they were making a choice which was to mark their future definitively.

The years that ensued were proof of that decision. They can be summed up in the watchwords: Victory or Death! Victory is Certain!

Today, after 17 rich years of a glorious history, years rich in the example set by our heroes, rich in the experience which is an inexhaustible source of lessons, we commemorate 4 February with different and renewed prospects which, however, are also a consequence of the decision of February 1961.

We paid dearly. Too high a price. But it was a necessary price, the price imposed by colonialism and imperialism, which enslaved and trampled freedom and the life of our people under the studs of their bloodied boots. It was the price of the example which was to catapult other peoples into taking the same heroic and definitive decision.

handful of heroes all the determined will of the whole people. Today it is the whole people, through their work, through continuing the struggle and through confidence in victory, who have to write new chapters in the history which started then, great and immortal.

To evoke February to a people with February ever present in their ideas and in the determination to continue the struggle is tell the adventurists with their pipedreams, the masqueraders waiting for their chance, the propagandists of every stripe and the puppets and their masters that it is impossible to try to uproot this 17-year-old tree. They will not make us stop. They will not hinder our progress, now that we have reached the broad highway, now that we glorify in our memories and in our museums the overcoming of all the obstacles that we had to crush to arrive at his date.

The creation of the Workers' Party became the goal and the victory to be achieved after the tremendous battle for 11 Nvember had been won. Those two great victories summarise the history in which we take pride.

Today therefore, 17 years later, our responsabilities are greater, because of the greater duties we have assumed in respect of our people, the revolution, other peoples of the world, socialism and those who are carrying on the struggle for their 11 November.

And among the many responsabilities of the hour, first and foremost are defence and work; defence to enable us to work and build, and work to enable us to win.

This year, work, which has been planned for each sector, will focus on agriculture. Thus, the thinking of militants, of the whole people of Angola, will have to be mobilised, without waiting to be called upon to take part in agriculture alongside their usual activities. Each will have to assess his capacity for engaging in some way in that national battle for the year 1978.

And this, without any doubt, is a great opportunity for setting an example by engaging in struggle. We shall have to work, each at his post, in such a way that it will be difficult to distinguish between the examples set by everyone, by all those who are not militants.

These are not mere words. It is not idealism. It is once again a matter of remembering the struggle which continues. We won the big battles of the machettes and canons. We won the big battles of clandestine meetings and arrests and of debates on our admission to the OAU and the United Nations. We won the battles against the invading hordes, mercenaries, South Africans, puppets and factionalists. But we could finally suffer defeats in the work battle if it is not faced up to with the same force and determination. We could suffer defeats if our vision of today does not have, as it did yesterday, the same stubborn obligation to look to the future. Agriculture, mines, oll, industry, schools, health, transport, diplomacy, information, in addition to the whole range of activities that being a country and a nation demands, find their answer in the work solution, in the planning and courage of political decisions and their application, with a will and self-confidence.

This is how we commemorate 4 February worthily, and we are daily building the Party. in tribute to the heroes who broke the chains.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES!

VICTORY IS CERTAIN!



PLAN OF OMA'S DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS FOR 1978

Conscious of the need to conduct educational work and to eradicate the causes of the social problems which so greatly affect our country, a series of activities have been planned for this year. The main aim is to ensure the kind of social relations which are standard in our society.

MAIN ASPECTS

- 1. Attention to be given to refuges centres.
- 2. To raise the level of social workers.
- 3. To select comrades for the education of infants.
- 4. To set up creches and kindergartens.
- To ensure the continued involvement of women in the People's Defence Organisation (ODP).

DATA ON THE HISTORY OF OMA

The founding of the MPLA awakened in Angolan women the feeling that there was a need for a women's organisation to struggle for national liberation and, at the same time, to develop the consciousness of women in view of their effective participation in all aspects of the country's life.

During the initial phase, women MPLA militants, alongside their men comrades, denounced Portuguese colonial domination in Angolan at the international level, and during the second phase they set up a mass organisation which devoted all its energy and abilities to ensuring our country's independence and the proclamation of the People's

Republic of Angola.

When the MPLA was in Kinshasa, the first group of Angolan women militants whose task it was to encourage their comrades to join the armed struggle started to work towards this end. The need made itself increasingly felt for women to work politically within an organisation capable of mobilising Angolan women patriots for the tasks of national liberation. That organisation had to be made up of Angolan women, had to lay down the ways and means of their participation and establish the prospects for women in the Angolan context.

Thus, starting in September 1961, various contacts were made with Angolan women resident in Kinshasa. They had formed a group called Kudiango, which was essentially social by nature and involved essentially in mutual aid between its members, who paid dues for this purpose. It was necessary to carry out political work aimed at convincing those compatriots of the importance of transforming the group into a militant political organisation prepared to meet the practical needs of the war.

Finally, in March 1962, the Organisation of Angolan Women, one

of the MPLA's mass organisations, war born.

The OMA Statutes were drawn up, in which membership was open to all Angolan women, whether MPLA militants or not. An Executive was elected through a direct and secret ballot. All these initiatives were supported by the MPLA.

As from then, OMA started to develop a big mobilising campaign, first among Angolan women resident in Kinshasa and, later, among those living along the border and in Congo Brazzaville. During that phase, the campaign was to involve women in the work of the Movement's health and school organisations, which operated within the framework of the Angolan Voluntary Corps for Assistence to Refugees (CVAAR). In this way, nursing assistents were trained, a large number of Angolan children who had no access to Congolese schools received schooling, and political courses were held which helped to train our militants.

OMA members worked not only in Kinshasa and Brazzaville, but also along Angola's borders, where there were thousands of Angolans who had been forced by the murderous fury of the Portuguese cotonial army to seek refuge abroad. Angolan women also took part in growing

the crops needed to feed the refugees.

Initial contacts were made with national and international women's organisations abroad, which took the problem of Angolan women to the international scene and helped in obtaining the material means needed for our liberation struggle and for developing OMA. Thus, in 1961, we attended the West African Women's Conference, in Conakry, which led to the holding of the African Women's Conference in Dar es Salaam in 31 July 1962. Today that inter-African women's organisation is called the All-African Women's Conference and that

histotic date is marked as African Women's Day. In 1963, we attended the First World Congress of Women, in Moscovw, organised by the Women's International Democratic Federation. OMA, one of the founding African members of the All-African Women's Conference, became a member of the WIDF in 1963 and was later elected to its top

organs, the Council and the Bureau.

Also in 1962, on the occasion of the MPLA's First National Conference, OMA was represented by a delegation of 5 members. From the very outset, our Organisation, through its delegates, took part in all the conferences, enlarged meetings and regional assemblies of the MPLA. Some OMA leaders were members of the leadership of the Movement, which is proof of their high degree of political consciousness and of the appreciation and encouragement always shown in respect of Angolan women by the Angolan people's vanguard movement and its leaders, and particularly Comrade President Agostinho Neto.

In the course of the struggle, more and more OMA branches were formed, its Statutes were translated into various national languages, contacts inside Angola were establishd and developed, radio broadcasts were made periodically, and OMA bulletins were published both for within the country and for abroad. It was in the liberated areas of the MPLA's First Region that the first OMA branches operating inside our country were set up. OMA's presence made itself felt, successively, in the Second Region as from 1964, on the Eastern Front as from 1966, and also in the urban areas, where owing to the circumstances of fascist colonial repression, activity had to be clandestine.

With the development of the national liberation struggle, Angolan women sarted to operate as guerrillas, arms in hand, thus contributing to our country's independence. Among the various military actions, we make special mention of that carried out by our militants in the MPLA's Kamy Column, when we suffered the terrible blow of losing five of our most valiant comrades, notably Deolinda Rodrigues, a dedicated OMA leader, five comrades who were barbarously murdered by FNLA puppets.

Among the factors affecting the raising of Angolan women's political, ideological and military level were the OMA seminars held at the MPLA's politico-military bases. Within this same context, the first Seminar as held at Dolisie, lasting one month and attended by militants from the First and Second Regions. The MPLA was represented at it by comrades Gika, Pilolwa and Ingo, working as

instructors.

In 1971, the second OMA Seminar was held at the Sikongo base, on the Eastern Front, attended by a large number of comrades from that region and by a delegation from the Women's International Democratic Federation, led by its Secretary General. In 1972, again in the Third Region, the third Seminar was held. Out of it came the decision to build the OMA Centre for Training Cadres, the Deolinda Centre which was built in the northern sub-region.

As a result of this work, through which thousands of Angolan women were mobilised, educated and politicised, the Organisation of Women of Angola, now the Organisation of Angolan Women, became solidly weided, and with patriotic abnegation it contributed to the Angolan people's victory, under the leardership of the MPLA, to the destruction of the FNLA and UNITA puppets and to the defeat of the foreign invaders who came from South Africa and Zaire.

After the winning of the Second Liberation War, in which OMA once again played a dedicated and heroic part, it is always present in the efforts to consolidate and defend national independence and in the tasks required for production for socialism in Angola.

2 MARCH - ANGOLAN WOMEN'S DAY

OMA commemorates its day with patriotic activities related to national reconstruction efforts. It has therefore been planned that from 5 February to 2 March, fresh impetus should be given to work in support of agriculture. The following are immediate tasks to be fulfilled:

- To mobilise women for voluntary work in agriculture, industry and other fields.
- To organisse special days for cleaning and embellishing roads, homes, schools and hospitals.
- To hold graduation ceremonies for Health Defenders in the provinces who have completed their courses.
- To organise displays of sewing and cutting in the provinces and at national level.
- 5. To hold meetings of OMA branches to study the report of the Central Committee presented by Comrade President at the First Congress of the MPLA, giving special attention to Prospects for Economic and Social Development and the historical origin of 2 March.
- To give greater attention to the refugee centre on that day, arranging visits and politico-cultural activities.
- To raise the OMA flag at 6 a.m. on 2 March at all offices of the Organisation.
- To organise visits to cemeteries in remembrance of our heroes and heroines who fell in the first and second National Liberation Wars, laving floral tributes.
- To organise cultural activities with OMA groups in the municipalities and neighbourhoods.
- To hold political and cultural events in every neighbourhood on the night of 1 March.
- To organise football matches with OMA teams in as many previous as possible.
- To hold the central celebrations for 2 March in one of the provinces.
- To organise a mass rally in every province and municipality to be attended by all the women.
- To mount photographic exhibitions in the provinces on OMA activities since 1976.
- 15. To do radio and press interviews in the provinces with women who have been outstanding in their work for the Organisation, and carry out a popular enquiry on women.

- 16. To ensure that in the provinces the radio broadcasts the activities programmed for the day of political and cultural activities in celebration of 2 March.
- To make paper OMA flags and posters hailing that day showing women's support for agriculture, health, education and defence.
- 18. To ensure that each province prepares a company of women who have completed their ODP training, so as to show the military preparation of our women.
- The provinces must complete their programme of incorporating women in the ODP, in tribute to 2 March.
- 20. Luanda Province and the province in which the central celebrations will be held must prepare a special ceremonial platoon of the ODP to be presented at the celebrations on 2 March.

DATES MARKED BY OMA

- 7 November 60th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Soviet Women's Committee. 11 November — Founding of the Democratic Union of Korean
- Women.

 22 November Anniversary of the mercenary aggression against the Republic of Guinea (1970). Revolutionary Union

of Women of Guinea.

- 29 November Anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Yugoslavia. Conference of Social Activities of the Women of Yugoslavia.
- 2 December Founding of the Women's International
- 9 December Tanzania's National Day. Umoja wa Wanawake wa Tanzania.
- January Anniversary of the Triumiph of the Cuban Revolution. Federation of Cuban Women.
- 8 January Founding of the ANC of South Africa Women's Section of the ANC.
- 20 January Assassination of Amilicar Cabral. Women's Section of the PAIGC.
- 27 January Signing of the Paris Agreement on Vietnam. Union of Vietnamese Women.

TRIBUTE TO THE FIVE WOMEN GUERRILLAS

What song is this which comes to me from the earth What song is this which comes to me on the wave What song is this which comes to me on the wind What song is this which the sap sings?

Who is calling me with flying wings?

What joy is this What stirring of leaves What sheen of waters In unfurled flags?

But who is calling me?

I extend my arms
To broad horizons
And stooping in the hills
I ask the streams
What their song says.

And in a flurry of red dust Which carries with it Horizons and sea emerge the images of Tereza and Engrácia Deolinda, Irene, Lucrécia, smiling.

And now the song springs from their lips and growing, growing Sounds throughout Angola Singing, MPLA,

Victory, victory, victory.

EUGÉNIA NETO

Luanda, February 1976.

Remembering Tereza, Engrácia, Lucrécia, Irene and Deolinda, heroic guerrillas, in tribute to whom 2 March is marked, the day when they were captured and taken to the death camp at Kinkuzo, Republic of Zaire, where they were killed in 1968, we publish this poem, Victory, which sings of the victory of the MPLA over colonialism and imperialism and the invading forces of reaction.



THE LIFE OF PIONEERS IN THE GUERRILLA AREAS DURING THE INDEPENDENCE WAR

Would you like to know what the life of pioneers was like in the bush? If so, listen.

The pioneers living in the MPLA's liberated areas both worked and studied. No sooner had the bell rung early in the morning than the pioneers got up quickly and were the first to go and stand in formation.

It was there that if there was any problem related to the behaviour of any comrade, that comrade would be criticised and would then correct his behaviour. The MPLA was the home of all Angolans in the struggle and it therefore had a duty towards the people to teach and also to correct.

Then duties would be assigned. There was always collective work from half past six to nine o' clock in the morning. Sometimes there was farm work, sometimes schools were built for the pioneers and older people to learn to read and to study politics, and at other times stores would be built to hold food and other things.

After that work, everyone would set about his or her own work. Doctors treated patients and gave nursing classes to students who were going to treat the people and wounded guerrillas, teachers gave literacy classes and taught politics, mechanics repaires cars, drivers went off to fetch weapons or to take food to the guerrillas and people at the front, and so on and so forth.

On Saturday afternoons there were always meetings to study any problems and to assign new duties for the following week.

The pioneers helped their parents in the fields where beans, maize, groundnuts, cassava and so forth were grown. They did their school homework and performed all the tasks given to them by their organisation — the Angolan Pioneers' Organisation, OPA — and by the MPLA. Sometimes they took food to the guerrillas and, when the need arose, they fought alongside them. Pioneers Zeca, União, Amor do Povo and others fought like true guerrillas.

The comrades lived in the bush united under the banner of the MPLA. The MPLA represented the Angolan people.







Conrade Morie Enginio Neto, during the First Congress of the MPLArections representations Lawre Allonds of Chile. Berbare Ann. Lynarifies of Cypras and conducted Mayada Alon Fished of Placino, with whose the exchanged impressions on the general attention in their controls and internationally.

SOCIALIST EMULATION 1978

Socialist Emulation is the driving force behind all the day-to-day work of our Organisation, imparting greater quality and efficiency to it. It enables us to assess the work we are doing and to mobilise the masses of women through the activities to be carried out this year, 1978, YEAR OF AGRICULTURE.

Women have joined in agricultural work in massive numbers, so as to help to solve our people's basic problems.

Raising the level of women's skills is a task of vital importance to the country's economy. For this reason, OMA promotes the participation of women in preparatory courses in such fields as poultry farming, textiles, coffee, health, education and so forth.

1978 - YEAR OF AGRICULTURE

In his New Year message, Comrade Agostinho Neto, President of the MPLA-Workers' Party and of the People's Republic of Angola, informed the Angolan people that 1978 would be the YEAR OF AGRICULTURE.

When it made this decision, our Party's Political Bureau bas ed itself on the socio-economic realities of our country, where the worker-peasant alliance is vital to national reconstruction and building socialim.

Since Angola is a country with vast agricultural and live stock resources, it is fully justified that our Party and Government leaders should show such concern for the development of agriculture, mobilising for this purpose all possible support from pro duction sectors.

OMA, as a mass organisation of some of the member's of our society most closely related to life in the countryside, women, is fully engaged in the tasks to be fulfilled during this YEAR OF AGRICULTURE.

The year 1978 opens up new and better prospects for work, in accordance with the guiding lines issued by the historic First Congress of the MPLA.

OMA's Department of National Reconstruction plans, during this YEAR OF AGRICULTURE, to involve more worken as wage workers, and also as voluntary workers, in activities related to the coffee picking campaigns, so as to advance the economy, also through such activities as setting up permanent voluntary brigades for agricultural work with crops like cotton, sunflowers and so forth.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR AGAINST APARTHEID

The Organisation of Angolan Women, in full agreement with the UN General Assembly's decision to make 1978 anti-apartheid year, and with the documents adopted by the World Conference against Apartheid held in Lagos in September 1977, reaffirms its fighting solidarity with the people of South Africa and South African women.

Winnie Mandela and Helen Joseph are heroic fighters who personify the struggle of South African women to win their most

elementary human rights.

South Africa, sustained by France, Great Britain, the USA, Federal Germany and Israel, continues to massacre the defenceless population. The whole world still remembers well the crimes of Soweto, where imprisoned children were not only tortured and murdered, but also maimed, and their parents were not allowed to visit them, so that none of these crimes should become known.

Meanwhile, Vorster continues his fascist manoeuvres aimed at fooling the unwary. He has stated that he is going to do away with the passes for Africans travelling from one place to another, but in fact the whole black population is regarded as belonging to the "homelands", which means that people will have to have documents issued by the Bantustans and also that black South Africans will be able to enter white areas only as migrant workers.

OMA, which was a mass organisation of the MPLA, the Angolan people's vanguard Movement which led the armed struggle against Portuguese colonialism, knows from its own experience just how tough is the struggle against fascism and colonialism, and it therefore raises its voice in support of the Year against Apartheid and reiterates its full support for the women of South Africa and their martyred people, and it will do everything in its power, encouraging them to struggle unyieldingly until final victory.

VICTORY IS CERTAIN!



Florence Matomela (centre) attended the meeting in solidarity with South-Africa held in Luanda



The medal of the National Hero Order, the highest decoration of the People's Republic of Angola, was awarded for the first time during the First Congress of the MPLA, on behalf of our people, to the uncontested leader of the Angolan Revolution, Comrade Agostinho Neto

MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND WORKERS FREED FROM OBSCURANTISM — THIS IS THE BALANCE SHEET AFTER THE FIRST YEAR OF THE BATLLE FOR LITERACY

Through the battle for literacy in our country, the Angolan people are learning how to read and write and are increasing their political

knowledge.

The 3rd Plenum of the Central Committee of the MPLA set out the rapid eradication of illiteracy as one of the priority concerns, given that the Angolan population has 85% illiteracy, the majority of illiterates being women.

OMA, as a mass organisation guided by the MPLA-Workers Party, engaged in the fight against illiteracy, has always been present

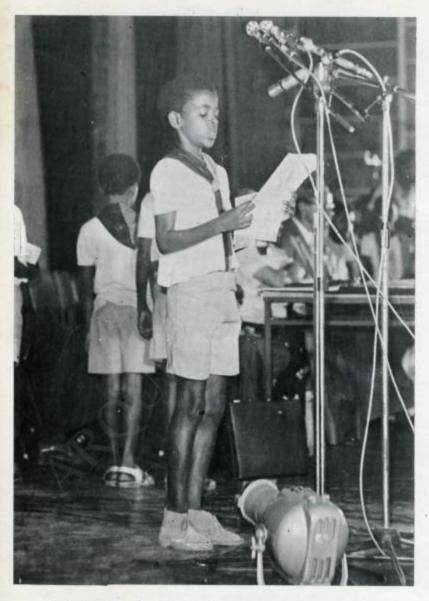
on that front.

The main thing hindering the training of cadres is ignorance, illiteracy, the tragic heritage bequeathed by Portuguese colonialism, as Comrade President of the MPLA-Workers' Party and of the People's Republic of Angola, Dr Agostinho Neto, pointed out at the official opening of the literacy campaign in the Textang factory. Although it will be a long and difficult fight, we are going to redouble our efforts, in national unity, until illiteracy is wiped out in Angola.

OMA reaffirms once again its determination to fight illiteracy, thus responding to the demands of the revolution, taking part in national reconstruction to achieve scientific socialism. During 1978, as the Year of Agriculture, we need to redouble our efforts, especially in the countryside, where the majority of the people live.

The difficulties are enormous, but the Angolan woman, side by side with the MPLA-Workers' Party and its President, Comrade Agostinho Neto, will remain at her post in the battle against illiteracy among our people, and particularly among our women.





Our pioneers are also ready to work in all the tasks of literacy teaching

HISTORY PAGE



The throne of Ekuikni II

King of Mbalundo (Bailundo)

(National Museum of Anthropology, Luanda)



STATUE OF KONGO CHIEF (National Museum of Anthropology, Luanda)



DORG Nacional Rue de Liberdade, Prédio n.º 128 Luanda Angolo.