

March 29, 2010

US South African Embassy  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
Johnny Moloto  
3051 Massachusetts Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Re: Recommendation of Support for the GIDA

Dear Mr. Moloto:

It was a pleasure meeting you at the Extraordinary Life event luncheon back in January. I'm glad we got to briefly speak. As you recall my foundation (The Melvin B. Tolson Foundation) was a sponsor of the event.

I am writing you to let you know that one of your country men Fika Mbambo has started a wonderful international education forum centered on the "Art of debate". Oprah Winfrey produced a movie called the "Great Debaters" a few years ago. The Hollywood actor Denzel Washington portrayed my Grandfather Melvin B. Tolson in the movie. The movie has become very popular among educational professionals and youth progressing through elementary school on the way through college. Debate leagues have skyrocketed here in the USA.

Mr. Mbambo has come up with a wonderful idea where our Nations can collaborate together, students work together and enhance education within our two countries. Mr. Mbambo has started the Great Debaters International Association, which is the first of its kind. As President of the Melvin b. Tolson Foundation, my family and I support this education endeavor Mr. Fika Mbambo has started.

It is my sincere hope that the South African government supports this wonderful education association by providing the funds needed for Mr. Mbambo to get this organization off the ground and running. He will probably need travel and accommodations funding for a planned trip to the US to build support from an international perspective for the "GIDA". Unfortunately my foundation is short on funds and we are still recovering from the global economy crisis and are not in a position to fund his travels.

I just want to let you and the south African Chancery know that this is a wonderful well thought out and planned educational association that can have a positive impact within South Africa and the great African continent. The Melvin B. Tolson foundation stands by this educational initiative and looks forward to working with the South African government, GIDA and support

public-private partnerships that extend the educational opportunities of our two nations in the areas of Debate.

It is my unwavering belief Mr. Mbambo would be an excellent representative of South Africa in the educational industry where debate and growing young African minds are the common goals. And I am honored to recommend him for representing GIDA (Great Debaters International Association). Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions regarding Mr. Mbambo. Thank you for your gracious time and attention.

All the Best,

Kenneth S. Tolson  
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