

TO: African National Congress, Dept. of Arts & Culture, Jo'burg  
African National Congress, Chief Rep. to US, Washington, D.C.  
African National Congress, Chief Rep. to UN, New York  
Attorney Lenox Hinds, lawyer to the African National Congress

RE: Deceased Dumile Feni & his Artwork.

Prepared by: Thembinkosi (Themba) P. Wakashe  
Submitted by: Sholto Ainslie  
M. Johnson Kgositsile  
Themba Wakashe

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On Wednesday October 16, 1991 I received news that Dumile passed away around 8:00PM. I tried to contact the Chief Rep of the African National Congress (ANC) to the UN, Mr Mafole, because Dumile was a member of the ANC. I was unable to reach Mr. Mafole. I then sent a fax to ANC in Johannesburg to Mr. Wally Serote, the head of the Dept of Arts and Culture

The following morning (10/17/91) I received a fax from ANC in Johannesburg informing that attempts were underway to get in touch with Dumile's family, and that Dumile's artwork should be secured immediately. After receiving the fax I went to ANC office in New York to report to Mr. Mafole on my initiatives the previous night and to show him the fax from Johannesburg.

Mr. Mafole contacted attorney Hinds, the legal advisor of the African National Congress in the United States and requested his advice throughout this project of Dumile.

Later during the day a call from ANC in Johannesburg informed the New York office that Dumile's family (wife, Fazile Morris) had been contacted and that she would like to be assisted by the ANC in (i) bringing the remains of Dumile to South Africa and (ii) securing Dumile's art works. A fax specifically requesting M. Johnson Kgositsile, Sholto Ainslie and Themba Wakashe signed by Fazile Morris was being prepared by Fazila Morris and ANC and was to be sent to the New York ANC office.

On Thursday October 17, Sholto, M. Johnson Kgositsile and Themba arranged to meet with Dumile's landlord Mr David Levy at 150 Warburton Avenue #1N, Yonkers where Dumile was residing by the time he died. (Mr. David Levy is the cousin of Sholto's wife). We arrived at Warburton around 7:00pm and we were met by Mr. Michael Marks who had spent the previous night at Dumile's place. Mr. Marks told us that he stayed the night there looking after Dumile's work and that he was a friend of Dumile. Mr. Levy arrived soon after us and we were later joined by Nina Bergman (Dumile's girlfriend). M. Johnson Kgositsile, Sholto, Themba and David arranged for the locks to be changed and that the only people who would have the key would be David (as the landlord) and Themba who was coordinating.



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Mr. Levy told us that Dumile's rent was up to date up to that time. However, we needed to be aware that he will charge rent for the future occupation of the apartment, that is, as long as Dumile's property was still in the apartment.

On Sunday October 20, M. Johnson Kgositsile, Dr. Khanyile and Themba went to St. Luke's Roosevelt regarding the details of moving the body of Dumile to the mortuary.

On Monday October 21, Themba arranged for Dumile's body to be moved from St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital (where it had been since 10/16) to Crestwood Memorial Chapel, Inc. 33 Spring Street, NY 10012. We (M. Johnson Kgositsile, Sholto and Themba) arranged that the body should be shipped to South Africa on October 25 and to hold a memorial on October 26.

A memorial committee was set-up consisting of Sholto, Themba, M. Johnson Kgositsile, Di Scott, Nomazizi Sokudela and Willie Kgositsile.

The costs for Crestwood Memorial Chapel, Inc. and the shipping of the body to South Africa amounted to \$3,914.19 ( see the attached cost breakdown). Money was raised from individuals and organizations.

Dumile's remains were flown to South Africa on October 25 and arrived in South Africa on Sunday morning the 10/27/91.

The remaining balance at Crestwood is now \$564.19. The Chief Representative of the ANC to the US, Ms Lindiwe Mabuza, told Themba that her office will raise the funds and pay the balance. Crestwood Memorial Chapel, Inc. was informed over the phone and a letter was also sent to Crestwood Director, Mr. Joseph Guidetti informing him to forward the balance bill to Washington, D.C. office. Themba also received a \$200 bill from St. Luke Roosevelt that needs to be paid. The bill is reflected in the breakdown.

There are cost that were incurred by M. Johnson Kgositsile, Sholto and Themba which need to be reimbursed. The receipts for these costs are available.

All funds raised were donated in form of checks. All the checks to cover the costs at Crestwood and shipping of Dumile's remains have been photocopied and are on file.



Two things need to be noted:

- (i) the first check contributed came from the American Committee on Africa. It was a check of \$675. There is no photocopy of this check on the file since it went directly to Crestwood. The receipts from Crestwood reflect this check.
- (ii) The check from the African Arts Fund (AAF) reflects \$1,200. Actually, AAF contributed \$200. The one thousand is a donation from Ms. Sarah Engelhardt who donated through the AAF.

Dumile's memorial service was held on 10/26 in Harlem at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Mr. Howard Dodson, the Chief of Schomburg Center offered the Langston Hughes Theatre and facilities of the Schomburg Center at no cost

An inventory of Dumile's artwork at Warburton was taken. Photographs of the finished sculptures and of the clay models exist and are going to be filed. There is also an inventory on films, slides, sketches and drawings that are at 150 Warburton.

There are some works of Dumile that are with either his friends or the people he worked with by the time of his death:

- (i) There are color plates for lithographs that are at Mr. Bob Blackburn's printshop. Mr. Blackburn is a master print maker and the last person that Dumile worked with in the United States. The works that are in Mr. Blackburn's printshop are as follows:
  - A portfolio sketches of horses
  - Color plates of 24" x 36"
  - Pen and ink drawings (between four and six)

- (ii) There is work of Dumile that is in London. Some of this work was shipped to London during the Summer by Dumile in anticipation of an exhibition that was to have taken place then. Unfortunately his papers were not ready then, and he could not travel to London. Eddie Tatane ( who was a friend of Dumile and was involved in this exhibition that unfortunately did not occur, promised attorney Hinds (while Eddie was here in New York During 10/23 - 28) that he will document and pull together in one place Dumile's artwork in London.

Wakashe informed the London ANC office through Mandla (who coordinates for arts and culture in London ANC Office) about Eddie's pledge to Mr. Hinds. Mandla told Wakashe that he will be in touch with Eddie and they will work towards the goal of securing Dumile's work in London.



(iii) Joe John, a former student at New York University (NYU) and also a friend of Dumile's informed us that he has a storyboard of a film that Dumile made called "Dont Shoot Me I Am Just A Poor Musician".

(iv) Mark Quinlan and Bill Guidall also have some material of Dumile's. These are mostly photographic works.

Edna and Stan van Harte, South African friends residing in New York have a portfolio of Dumile's work.

Dr. Cyril Khanyile has two bronze pieces, six pen and ink drawings and lithographs.

We checked the basement at 150 Warburton and there was no material or artwork in it.

A meeting was called on 10/30 by attorney Hinds between Nina, Themba, Sholto and M. Johnson Kgositsile. This was to arrange for Nina to take her personal belongings from Dumile's apartment. This she did on 11/10 and she listed what she took and what she gave to neighbors and a friend of Dumile, Bhubesi. This information is also on file.

On Sunday 11/17 Sholto, M. Johnson Kgositsile, Themba went to Dumile's place with Isaac Witkin, a South African sculptor and a friend to Dumile. The visit was arranged to assess what plan of action needed to be adopted to make plaster molds of the clay pieces which are in a deteriorating situation. We got a rough cost estimate of \$1,500. Isaac emphasized that the molds should be done as soon as possible, otherwise that work would be lost. Since this meeting Isaac called M. Johnson Kgositsile and informed her that the person who is to do the molding has suggested against the plaster mold. Instead he recommends rubber mold which will of course cost more. The new estimate jumped to \$4,000. This is the figure that we will be working on.

#### TASKS TO BE COMPLETED

1. Remove Dumile's artwork from the apartment to a storage place and get it ready to be shipped to South Africa. Isaac Witkin said he could store the artwork but first insurance should be arranged.

2. Raise \$4,000 to make rubber molds. This is urgent.

3. Raise funds for the November and December rent. The molds of the sculptures will need to be done in Dumile's apartment because the works are too fragile to travel in the condition they are in. Sholto informed us that the rent is \$650.00 per month.

4. Sort the legal claims on Dumile's artwork. Michael Marks' attorney has already petitioned attorney Hinds regarding a claim that Michael Marks has on one of Dumile's sculptures called "History".

5. Clear and clean Dumile's apartment.

6. There have been indications through Sholto that Dumile's wife, Fazile Morris, would like to appoint her lawyers to take over from current arrangement. This needs to be followed-up and resolved as soon as possible.

7. A box containing works on paper, films and some books will be moved to attorney Hind's office.

Themba will be away from December 18, 1991 until January. Keys to Dumile's apartment will be submitted to the ANC Chief Representative to the United Nations.

Sholto will be leaving for South Africa on November 29 to be back after two months.

Dumile's remains are buried at home and the artwork has been secured. The African National Congress with Fazila Morris need to spell out the next program of action.