

MPLA

people's movement for the liberation
of Angola

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**Angolan
pioneers**

DIP — department of information and propaganda

p. o. box 1595 Luanda

"... The Pioneers, like the other comrades inside, both study and fight, because they too uphold the MPLA's ideals..."

Dr. Agostinho NETO
PRESIDENT OF THE MPLA

SERVICE ORDER N. 13/69

The Executive Committee of the MPLA has posthumously honoured the Pioneer by the name of AUGUSTO NGANGULA who was hacked to death on 1 December 1968 when going from his village to one of the MPLA schools.

On the way, he was spotted by Portuguese soldiers, who tried to force him, on threat of death, to show them not only his school, but also the location of one of the MPLA bases.

The Pioneer, who was only 12 years old, but for whom the MPLA's watchword "VICTORY OR DEATH" had its full significance, chose to die rather than reveal MPLA bases to the enemy.

The courage and firmness of MPLA Pioneer AUGUSTO NGANGULA are an example to be followed by all Angolan Pioneers, youth women, men and old people.

For his courage and dedication to his people's struggle, the Executive Committee of the MPLA has decided to confer on Pioneer AUGUSTO NGANGULA the posthumous title HEROIC PIONEER OF THE MPLA.

VICTORY IS CERTAIN!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MPLA

ANGOLA, 3.3.69

LUCIO LARA

"We are pioneers of the MPLA
We are Angolan Pioneers
Certain of our victory
We are fighting for freedom..!"

(The Song of the MPLA Pioneer)

The Centre of Revolutionary Instruction (CIR) schools in the Third Politico-Military Region were about to resume classes for the Pioneers, who had made use of the time during which classes were suspended to go and visit their families.

Like all the others, Pioneer Augusto Ngangula set out from his village to return to his school, which was in one of the zones in the Third Region.

The Portuguese colonialist troops were using all possible means to discover the whereabouts of the MPLA schools and bases, trying to take by surprise, capture or kill the Pioneers, their teachers and the guerrillas. But all their attempts were either greater or lesser failures.

On 1 December 1968, Augusto Ngangula, carrying his books, was cautiously covering the ten or so kilometres to his school.

His face showed how pleased he was to be returning to join his MPLA comrades, with whom he had learned to read, to know his country, to work and to fight for the freedom of his people.

However, heliported troops had just landed in the area of the school Pioneer Augusto Ngangula was attending and so they saw the young Pioneer making his way there.

Taken by surprise by the hidden enemy, Augusto Ngangula was unable to get away and the colonialist soldiers captured him.

They immediately started to interrogate him, asking him under threat of death to reveal the whereabouts of the CIR schools and MPLA bases, but Pioneer August-

to Ngangula categorically refused to give any of the information demanded.

But his steadfast attitude exasperated the enemy, who began to beat him brutally. Then the young Pioneer tried to throw the enemy off the track and led them towards some cultivated plots in the hope of meeting up with one of the MPLA detachments.

Later realising that they had been tricked, and already enraged by the courage, determination and dignity of Pioneer Augusto Ngangula, the Portuguese colonialist soldiers barbarously murdered him with axe blows.

Some hours later, Alouette 2 and Alouette 3 helicopters picked up the criminal Portuguese soldiers. The horribly mutilated body of the young Pioneer lay abandoned until MPLA guerrillas found him a little later and gave him a proper burial.

Heroic Pioneer Augusto Ngangula was only 12 years old.

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"We are fighting against colonialism
And against all forms of oppression
Today we are young guerrillas
We are fighting and studying..."

(The Song of the MPLA Pioneer)

The pages that the Angolan Pioneers are adding to the history of the armed struggle led by the MPLA are filled with acts of heroism, showing the spirit of abnegation, growing consciousness, determination to fight and to win or die so that Angola may be free and independent.

Understanding perfectly the 10 principles which guide their conduct, the MPLA pioneers have made a great contribution to this truly revolutionary process of which they form an integral part.

One hears more and more frequently how such and such an MPLA Pioneer on this or that combat front distinguished himself in a given operation. MPLA Pioneers have performed countless acts of courage and determination. A few such cases taken at random are given below as examples:

Taking part in battles alongside the MPLA guerrillas was becoming a habit with the young Pioneer known as ESTRELA.

In one of this battles fought against the Portuguese troops in full marshland, Pioneer ESTRELA was seriously wounded. Its having been decided to evacuate him from the combat fronts for proper treatment, Pioneer ESTRELA still had to make the considerable effort of walking some dozens of kilometres to arrive at one of the bases at the border. His major preoccupation was that he wanted to complete his third year class exams.

..."it's nothing serious, comrades. Let's run after the Portuguese. They fled, comrades..." he kept repeating to his comrades, smiling in spite of his evident suffering.

Once he had recuperated, ESTRELA refused to stay away from the combat front, resolutely preferring to carry on with his studies and guerrilla activity based at the CIR in one of the zones in the Third Politico-Military Region, where he had won the rank of Chief Pioneer.

Despite the fact that he knew about the frequent incursions of the Portuguese armed forces into the area where his school and former companions were, he decided to set off -- with just a grenade -- to rejoin them and ..."to continue to fight, to study and to work."

Although the other Pioneers had begun their classes some months earlier, Pioneer ESTRELA not only succeeded in catching up completely, but also obtained one of the best marks in the exams.

Meanwhile, during his absence another Pioneer had taken over his rank and responsibilities.

ESTRELA therefore acted like an ordinary Pioneer once again, accepting this quite modestly and naturally.

But considering his behaviour, his work, his discipline, his application to his studies and his fighting spirit -- which made him an exemplary Pioneer -- the other Pioneers decided at a meeting held in April 1971 to elect him Pioneer Commander.

Pioneer ESTRELA is only 16 years old.

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"With courage and determination
We carry forward the flaming torch
Today we are young fighters
Tomorrow independent Angolans..."

(The Song of the MPLA Pioneer)

Whenever circumstances so demand, the MPLA Pioneers actually take part in battles against the colonialist armed forces.

And it sometimes happens that Pioneers fall on the field of honour, ... "for the liberation of our country which requires blood, the blood of its finest sons..."

In February 1971, the enemy launched an offensive in an area of the Eastern Front where there were large number of Pioneers. It was imperative to defend positions which had been won and, therefore, both to resist and counter-attack.

Taking up his weapon, Pioneer AUGUSTO MATCHELE joined the experienced MPLA guerrillas. But in the course of the battle, he was mortally wounded by an enemy bullet. Thus, on 7 February, School N. 1 had one brave Pioneer less.

Pioneer AUGUSTO MATCHELE was only 14 years old.

Despite the death of their companion in studies and in arms, the morale of the others was unaffected and they fought with greater determination in fitting tribute to AUGUSTO MATCHELE's supreme sacrifice.

The following day, it became absolutely necessary to get new food supplies. This meant crossing an area where there were enemy forces.

Volunteers were called for and Pioneers PATRIA and CORAGEM immediately presented themselves for this mission. Despite the fact that the enemy had prepared an ambush in that area, the two young MPLA Pioneers were able to achieve their aim and to return with the required provisions.

That same day, commandos of the Portuguese armed forces were operating in the area of Pioneer School N. 17. Most of the school and CIR equipment had to be moved to another place.

Because food supplies were short, a girl Pioneer, BATALHA, went in search of food in the company of two other Pioneers and her teacher.

They were taken by surprise by enemy forces and an exchange of shots ensued. The teacher was wounded in both hands and Pioneer BATALHA fatally hit by three bullets.

She was only 8 years old.

In spite of his wounds, the teacher managed to organise their retreat, carrying the body of the unfortunate Pioneer BATALHA.

In May 1971, two other Pioneers distinguished themselves in the defence of their own school and its control area.

Three Alouette helicopters landed colonialist troops who invaded the HENDA School. In the course of the counter-offensive, the MPLA Pioneers and guerrillas fell into an ambush mounted by the

enemy.

But the courage of Pioneers FIRME and DISCIPLINA, who threw grenades and discharged their magazines at the enemy, helped considerably to reverse the situation and the Portuguese colonialist troops suffered heavy losses.

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"Long live MPLA, long live MPLA,
The Fourth of February
Is the day when started the struggle
Of the Angolan people
For their complete Independence..."

(MPLA Pioneer song)

CIR School N. 12 is in one of the areas on the Eastern Front where battles against the Portuguese colonialist troops are somewhat frequent.

There is therefore a constant need to carry out patrols, as the colonialist troops periodically attempt to find the CIR schools and MPLA bases.

One day a group composed of Pioneer UNIAO, some other Pioneers, a teacher and several members of the D.P. (Defenders of the People) set out from the base to patrol the area.

In fulfilling this mission, they had occasion not only to find traces of the enemy's presence, but also to determine their positions.

Pioneer UNIAO was entrusted with keeping a look-out and had to signal any enemy troop movements.

But from one moment to the next, Pioneer UNIAO realised that two groups of Portuguese soldiers were approaching the place where he was from opposite positions.

Seeing the impossibility of leaving to warn his

his captors, none of his comrades would know where to find the hidden bag of CIR documents. So with a disguised movement, he also managed to hide the grenade in dry leaves.

While the two GEs were leading him to a strategic hamlet, they confiscated the Pioneer's blanket and clothing.

Once they arrived at the strategic hamlet, Pioneer UNIAO was subjected to the inevitable interrogation.

Q. Are you an MPLA Pioneer?

A. I live with my family in this area.

One of the members of the local population present (traitor Mutunga) reacted to this answer, denouncing UNIAO as really being an MPLA Pioneer.

Then started the physical punishment aimed at making him reveal the whereabouts of the CIR schools, the material depots and MPLA bases.

The valiant Pioneer refused to give any of the information demanded by the enemy, claiming he knew nothing.

He was then threatened with death. ... "You can kill me if you want. I don't know those places", he replied.

Faced with Pioneer UNIAO's resolute attitude, his captors decided to take him as a prisoner to the Muié post and then to Cangamba, where he was subjected to further interrogation by agents of the sinister PIDE.

Because Pioneer UNIAO maintained the same attitude of revealing nothing, he was put in prison and remained there until the beginning of April. Then he was allowed to leave his cell, but was kept under guard.

From that time on, he began to examine the possibilities of running away and he managed to escape

in the month of May.

And one fine day, to the great surprise of his comrades, Pioneer UNIAO presented himself at his CIR, having previously taken the trouble to recover the bag of documents and the grenade he had hidden at the time of his capture.

After he had related everything that had happened to him, he went straight back to his studies.

Pioneer UNIAO was only 15 years old.

This act of courage and determination by Pioneer UNIAO filled the Pioneers in all the MPLA's Politico-Military Regions with joy, showing once again that the Angolan Pioneers are following the example of heroic Pioneer AUGUSTO NGANGULA. They prefer to die rather than live by betraying their Organisation and their vanguard, the MPLA.

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"Internationalism of the peoples of the world
Solidarity with the oppressed peoples
All the children in the world
Let us unite against imperialism
All the children in the world
Let us unite under the banner of freedom."

(MPLA Pioneer song)

THE MPLA PIONEER FIGHTS, STUDIES
AND PARTICIPATES IN ALL ACTIVITIES

The behaviour of MPLA Pioneers is guided by their 10 principles, which they not only learn, but also apply in practice.

MPLA Pioneers:

LUCIO LARA

- a- have political training, learning the History of Angola and of the MPLA, as well as its political line.

They know the principles of solidarity and internationalism and they know why they are fighting against colonialism, neocolonialism and imperialism;

- b- have military training, learning to handle arms and to fight with them, and even gaining some elementary notions of combat tactics;
- c- participate in battles against the Portuguese armed forces, patrols, guard duty and supplying the fighters and the population;
- d- are organised in study and productive labour brigades;
- e- implement the principle of self-reliance in practice;
- f- hold periodical meetings, under the guidance of the Pioneer Commander or Chief Pioneer, to discuss their own problems, so that they get used to discussion and taking decisions.

Only when they are unable to find a solution to this or that problem do they ask their teachers to intervene;

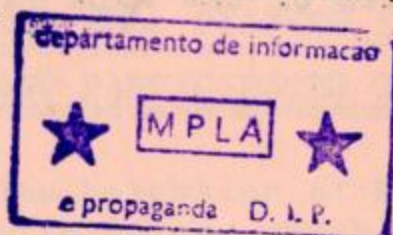
- g- listen daily to the MPLA programme "Fighting Angola", which contribute to their political education;
- h- fulfil all the "Ten Principles of the MPLA Pioneers".

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"EVERYTHING FOR THE PEOPLE" is the motto of the MPLA Pioneers, and they fight for freedom with the certainty of Victory!

THE TEN PRINCIPLES OF THE MPLA PIONEERS

1. The MPLA Pioneer is disciplined and at the same time vigilant. He learns to respect his superiors and constantly to defend the Revolution.
2. He fraternally criticises his comrades' mistakes and accepts criticism of his own.
3. He does not talk behind people's backs and is not offended when he is criticised.
4. He is not proud. He is hardworking and modest. He knows that everything he does is nothing compared with the sacrifices made by his people.
5. He has the courage to defend his opinions wherever he may be. He does not hide them out of fear or shame.
6. He does not want for himself that which all the others cannot have.
7. He is forward looking, advancing to the future, trying to be better, more educated, more courageous, more disciplined.
8. His motto is "everything for the people".
9. He feels the victories and defeats of other peoples in the world to be his own. He is an internationalist.
10. He will only cease to struggle when there is nothing left to be done. And he is conscious that there will always be something to be done.



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MPLA'S DEPARTMENT OF
INFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA

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