

18.1

PASS CAMPAIGN SUCCESS AT LANGA AND NYANGA.

CAPE TOWN: PAC scored a major success at Cape Town last week when a nearly total stay-at-home strike combined with a pass resistance campaign was achieved in three African townships, Langa, Nyanga and Nyanga West. The campaign began on Monday, 21st March.

Mr. R. M. Sobukwe, President of the PAC had appointed this day. Mr. Sobukwe asked the men to leave their reference books at home, go quietly to the nearest police stations and asked the police to arrest them. If the police should refuse, they were asked to go home and to stay there until Mr. Sobukwe permitted them to return to work. He undertook not to give such order until he had negotiated the abolition of pass laws with the PM Verwoerd. In speeches planning the campaign, he asked hearers to kill him should the strike be called off without having gained any concessions.

The first clash took place at Langa. Early in the morning PAC officials led 5,000 men towards the Langa police station under the command of Philip Kgosana who had given up a university career to work for PAC and is now ~~xxxxxxx~~ regional secretary for the Western Cape branch.

Mr. Kgosana said: "I was appointed to lead the Langa group against pass laws. We gathered at the Langa single quarters early this morning and at 7 a.m. decided to move to the police station.

"We were approached by a group of armed police. I had the impression they were about to carry out a baton charge. I immediately left my followers - about 5,000 men - behind and went to the police. I told the police that I was the man responsible and asked to be arrested.

"The senior officer in charge of the police refused to arrest me. He wanted to know who would control the demonstrators if I was in gaol.

"I told him that our demonstration was opposed to any form of violence. At this he shook me by the hand in congratulation.....

"The police wanted to know what our plans were. I told them we were marching to the police station where we wanted to be locked up for being without passes. The senior officer said that if we went anywhere near the police station he would defend it with the last bullet and drop of blood. As I am against violence, I asked my people to disperse. I told the officer I would withhold my labour and I asked him to withhold his bullets.

"I then picketed the police station and kept the demonstrators away from the police station."

Asked whether he believed non-violent civil disobedience would bring freedom to Africans, Mr. Kgosana said: "I believe in non-violent methods and any African who resorts to violence is a traitor to his people and their cause. We are not against White people.....but against the pass system." Mr. Kgosana said they were prepared to stay away from work until the bosses of commerce and industry and the Govt climbed down on the pass question.

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- **Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand**

Location:- **Johannesburg**

©2010

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

DOCUMENT DETAILS:

Document ID:- **A2618-Ch2**

Document Title:- **Contact: Pass Campaign success at Langa and Nyanga**

Author:- **Contact Magazine**

Document Date:- **2 April 1960**