

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (INCORPORATED)  
SUID-AFRIKAANSE INSTITUUT VIR RASSEVERHOUDINGS (INGELYF)

R E S O L U T I O N S

OF

CONFERENCE ON NATIVE EDUCATION

Held at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg,  
on Thursday, July 8th, 1943.

FINANCIAL PRINCIPLE:

1. That the time has come for Native Education to be financed from the General Revenue of the Union.

EDUCATIONAL PRINCIPLES:

2. That the principle of compulsory education should be applied as soon as practicable.
3. That as a first step all existing schools should be adequately staffed and equipped.
4. That as a second step accommodation and equipment should be provided for all voluntary school-goers.
5. That as an ultimate aim compulsory education should be from 6 to 16.
6. That compulsion be instituted first in the urban areas and in those rural areas which desired such compulsion.

PROGRAMME:

7. That a per caput subsidy of £7.0.0 per annum is desirable.
8. That the Institute of Race Relations be asked to ascertain from the Provincial Education Departments their estimates of the rate at which expenditure on Native Education could be brought up to £7.0.0 per pupil per annum.
9. That representations to be made should include provision for an annual increase of 10% in the enrolment in African schools.

CONTROL OF NATIVE EDUCATION:

10. The Missions cannot be expected to meet the demands for expansion in Native Education. We, therefore, advocate a State System of Education, with due provision for voluntary schools. This involves, in general, State finance, control and administration of Native Education.

It is clear that the Head Office and the Inspectorate need to have a larger staff of trained Africans for professional and administrative work to ensure closer and better direction of the schools.

It is of the utmost importance that the co-operation of the African chiefs and people and of the Missions be maintained and extended in the administration of Native Education.

REPRESENTATIONS:

11. The Conference appointed the following to be members of a deputation

to....

to present the representations of the Conference to the Government:-

- Mr. J. D. Rheinallt Jones (Convener)
- Representatives appointed by the four
- Advisory Boards for Native Education,
- Mr. G. Ballenden
- Councillor R. H. Godlo, M.R.C.
- Mrs. E. B. Jones
- Professor D. D. T. Jabavu
- Mr. A. C. Jordaan
- Rev. H. P. Junod
- Mr. S. J. J. Lesolang
- Rev. E. E. Mahabane
- Councillor Z. K. Matthews, M.R.C.
- Mr. D. Mtimkulu
- Mr. J. Nhlapo
- Adv. A. A. Roberts
- Dr. O. D. Wollheim

**PUBLICITY:**

12. That the Institute of Race Relations be asked to publish pamphlets in English and in Afrikaans for free distribution to all bodies directly and indirectly interested in Native Education to bring before them the educational needs of African children, and to institute a Union-wide press campaign on the subject.

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (INCORP.)  
SUID-AFRIKAATSE INSTITUUT VIR RASSEVERHOUDINGS (INGELYF).

THE CONTROL OF NATIVE EDUCATION.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE CONVENED FOR 2ND FEBRUARY, 1944  
BY THE MINISTER OF NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The Minister of Native Affairs called a Conference of certain bodies interested in Native Education in Capetown on 2nd February, 1944, to discuss urgent problems concerning the finance and control of Native Education.

There were present the Hon. the Minister of Native Affairs (in the Chair), the Hon. the Minister of Finance and Education, the Secretary for Native Affairs, the nominated "Native Affairs" Senators, the four Senators and three Members of Parliament elected to represent Africans in Parliament, and the Cape Member of the Provincial Council similarly elected, two representatives of the Christian Council, four representatives of the Dutch Reformed Churches, one representative of the Roman Catholic Church, one representative of the S.A. Institute of Race Relations, one representative of the National Council of Women, one representative of the African National Congress, one representative of the Federation of African Teachers (supported by other members of the Executive); officials of the various Provincial Administrations were also in attendance.

The Minister of Native Affairs welcomed the delegates and gave a brief, but very clear, historical account of the finance and control of Native Education and outlined the present position, in which, while expansion in Native Education is urgent, the whole of the Native Tax is being used for Native purposes and it is necessary to turn to the General Revenue of the country to provide for this expansion. He requested that, though consideration of Finance, Control and Content are all-important, discussion at this Conference should be limited to Finance and Control. He then stated that the Department of Native Affairs, while deeply interested in the furtherance of Native Education as had been shown by the progressive grants made during recent years, was too deeply occupied with other aspects of Native Development to be able to take responsibility for the administration of Native Education.

Senator E.H. Brookes thanked the Minister for this statement, saying he would like to have Native Education under the control of the Union Education Department, but administered by the Provinces.

The Minister of Finance and Education then agreed to make a statement. He accepted the position that in future the progressive grants for Native Education must come from the General Revenue of the country, but pointed out that neither as Minister of Finance, nor as Minister of Education could he be satisfied to make such provision on the Estimates, unless he were able, under principles accepted by the Cabinet, to direct the policy under which the money would be spent. The Union Department of Education was capable of assumption of responsibility for Native Education and he desired that it should do so, a special Advisory Board being appointed to advise the Minister, and the various departments, administrations and bodies concerned with Native Education being represented on it. As the Provincial Governments had indicated that they did not wish to relinquish the administration of Native Education, he was willing that, for the present, the allocation of funds for Native Education should be made by the Union Education Department to the Provinces and administered by them as heretofore through their Education Departments. Natal had even indicated its willingness to increase this subsidy from Provincial sources.

Speaking for the Christian Council (representing the main body of Christian Churches other than the Dutch Reformed Churches and the Roman Catholic Church) Principal Korr welcomed the statement of the Minister which was in accord with the resolution he had been directed to present on behalf of his Council.

The representatives of the Dutch Reformed Churches, of whom Rev. J.G. Strydom, Rev. Dr. P.G. de Klerk, and Rev. G.B.A. Gardener spoke, were in favour of the Department of Native Affairs retaining control and administering the finance on the ground that the content of Native Education must be kept in line with Native policy, and so that Native Education might be kept quite apart from that of Europeans. Mrs. Rheinallt Jones, speaking for the S.A. Institute of Race Relations, explained that this Institute had from its inception taken great interest in Native Education, conducting inquiries, publishing memoranda, convening conferences and organising deputations, the most recent of which had waited on the Minister in September, 1943, to stress the need for extended funds on a per caput basis, provided from General Revenue. At that interview, the Minister of Finance and Education had raised the question of control and the Institute had since made widespread inquiry as to the opinions of the affiliated and associated bodies and, with this information available, the Council of the Institute (itself a representative body) had the week before passed the following resolution, which substantially agreed with the intentions of the Minister of Finance and Education :-

- "(1) That the per caput principle be endorsed.
- (2) That in no circumstances should control of Native Education be handed over to the Department of Native Affairs.
- (3) That the recommendations of the Executive be adopted, viz. 'The Institute is in favour of the transfer of Native Education to the Union Education Department in respect of responsibility for finance, policy and the development of a national programme, but administration should be decentralised.'"

The concern of the Institute was that Native Education should be adequately financed and directed by an expert Educational Department. She stressed the need for the National Advisory Board having a personnel competent to put forward recommendations that could eliminate the inefficiencies and lack of co-ordination which otherwise occur in divided Provincial control.

As the matter of Content had been raised by some speakers, she begged permission to state that in her considerable practical experience in Native Education, she had never found anything that could specifically be called Native Education, but rather the educational task of enabling African children to adjust themselves to the modern world in which they found themselves.

Mr. D. M'Timkulu, speaking for the African Teachers' Organisations, expressed (as other speakers also did) his appreciation of the work of those who had guided Native Education under the Provinces and the feeling of his Association that Native Education could wisely be left in their charge and should not be dissociated from the Departments administering European education. He accepted, however, the scheme suggested by the Minister of Finance and Education.

Dr. A.B. Kuma, speaking for the African National Congress, stressed the desire of his Congress that Native Education should be adequately financed from General Revenue, and controlled by Educational Departments.

Senator W.E. Welsh hoped that the Union Education Department would take over financial responsibility for Native Education, but that the Provinces would continue to administer it.

Mr. G.K. Hemming, M.P., emphasised that Africans would not be content to have a special "Native" education differing from the ordinary education of the other children of our country.

Most speakers referred with gratitude to the progress which Mr D.L. Smit, the Secretary for Native Affairs, had through the last years made possible for Education by his successful efforts to arrange for the provision of increased funds.

Mrs. M. Ballinger, M.P., thanked the Minister for having called the Conference and made possible the understanding of the Government's intentions and the expressions of the opinions of the bodies interested.

**Collection Number: AD1715**

**SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation*

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

©2013

**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.

This document forms part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.