

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AFRICAN WOMEN.

MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD AT THE SOBANTU COMMUNITY CENTRE, SOBANTU VILLAGE, PIETERMARITZBURG FROM 19th - 21st DECEMBER, 1956.

Wednesday, 19th December, 1956

Devotions were led by Rev. Major Ngcobo.

1. OFFICIAL OPENING.

In the absence of his Worship, the Mayor of Pietermaritzburg, the Conference was officially opened by the Deputy-Mayor, Mrs Beardmore. She brought greetings from the Mayor who was unavoidably absent and welcomed the delegates to Pietermaritzburg. She extended her good wishes to the Conference and hoped that the deliberations would produce fruitful resolutions. Mrs. Beardmore also mentioned Pietermaritzburg's historic associations and said that most of Natal's History took place round Umgungundlovu, the Royal Kraal of many Zulu Kings. She thought that the foundations of racial harmony were first laid down in this City.

Referring to the theme of the conference, she felt that the highest quality given to women by God was motherhood and she urged women to consider their homes first above all else in spite of economic pressures. Mrs Beardmore then spoke about the custom of lobola. She felt that the abolition of lobola would encourage more young men to marry and thus reduce the likelihood of illegitimate children.

Votes of thanks were proposed by Mesdames Sedikelo and Sesedi.

Miss Soga then addressed the Conference. She thanked the Deputy-Mayor, the local Non-European Affairs Department and all present. She also expressed her appreciation to the Pietermaritzburg branch of the National Council of African Women for enabling her to attend the Conference by assisting with her expenses. She felt that the words of the Deputy-Mayor on the question of abolition of lobola merited deep consideration as she felt that this custom had degenerated in the urban areas into a commercial venture.

The theme of Miss Soga's address was "Come, let us go afishing", which she felt was an invitation and a challenge to both man and woman. She stressed the importance of the mother in the home and to the child and that no home or teacher or other worker could take the place of the mother. She outlined the varying stages of the development of the eleven million people of South Africa and said that the seven million who were under-developed must be fished out of the ocean of ignorance and gloom. She felt that moral erosion was taking a toll of the best that Africa could produce and she urged for a never-ending struggle after education.

Votes of thanks were proposed by Mesdames Crutse and Masuabi.

Mrs Tilley, Past President of the National Council of Women, Pietermaritzburg, brought greetings from the N.C.W. She associated herself with Miss Soga's address and hoped that this would inspire African women.

Mrs Naidoo from the Indian Women's Council congratulated the delegates and referred to them as the cream of Africa. She said that it was necessary for all mothers to extend Christianity to their daily lives and not confine it only to the Sabbath. She praised the Europeans for help

they had given in Africa and felt that people should end the conflict in their minds, Although people were at different stages of development all should try to reach the summit and strive for what was right.

A Vote of thanks was proposed by Miss Mdledle.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING. These were taken as read and confirmed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

(a) SEX EDUCATION. As the President had been abroad, this matter had not been taken much further. Members were asked to find methods of introducing sex education among their youth. Branches were advised to hold a Mothers' Day for educative purposes.

(b) It was agreed to elect a Committee to see the Minister of Native Affairs.

(c) JUNIOR CLUBS (Members 16 - 22 yrs). Members of this age group could be encouraged to join the National Council of African Women.

(d) TYPEWRITER. The Secretary reported that as the response had been poor a sum of only £5. 12. had been raised. A silver collection to augment this sum raised another £5. 0. 10. Branches would also be asked to give donations.

(e) RESOLUTIONS. It was agreed to elect a Resolutions and Constitution Amendments Committee.

(f) SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT. This was read and adopted.

4. ADDRESS BY DR. SILILO ON PRE-NATAL CARE. In his address, Dr. Sililo stressed the importance of attending clinics from the early stages of pregnancy to avoid difficulties in labour. He encouraged the members of the Conference to influence unenlightened women to make use of clinics. He reminded members that it was no longer necessary for expectant mothers to suffer the various ailments of pregnancy.

A Vote of thanks was proposed by Miss Mdledle.

Thursday, 20th December, 1957.

Devotions were led by Rev. J.H. Msimang.

1. PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS. The President took as the theme for her address that of "Loyalty" which was a feeling that bound man and wife, the citizens to their society and nations to nations. They were present at this conference as leaders of a nation of all types of people, and women had a great part to play as the trustees of the society in which they lived.

Votes of thanks were proposed by Miss M.T. Soga and Mrs S. Tema.

2. Fraternal Greetings from the following were read:

National Council of Women, Pietermaritzburg, T.A.T.A., T.I.A.M.A., the Staff of Itereleng Crêche, Lady Selborne, Messrs Mdledle, Sedikelo, Sesedi, Masuabi, Msezane, January, Mesdames Mapekula, Maria Dilape, Ditiri, Leah and Marjorie Tshabalala, Potchefstroom Branch; Dr. Nkomo, Rev. Tema; Mr. Maerane.

3. Address by Chief Gatsha Mangosuthu Butelezi. Chief Butelezi addressed the conference on advanced methods of farming, stressing soil conservation,

tree
/ planting, proper stocking of animals according to the pasture available, and using pedigree stock for better results. He appealed to the Conference to make good use of the help given by the Government by means of the agricultural demonstrators who would aid the people to change deserts into arable land. He said that dams were costly but paid dividends in the long run. He encouraged women to interest themselves in poultry farming which was a profitable venture.

A vote of thanks was given by Miss M.T. Soga.

4. REGIONAL REPORTS.

(a) Cape Eastern: Mrs Mzamane, the Provincial President reported two new branches at Cradock and Middelburg. Middelburg C.P. was to affiliate as from 1956 through the Provincial President.

(b) Orangia. A regional conference was held at Kroonstad on 2nd September, 1956. The Orange Free State was divided into Southern and Northern Regions for organisational purposes. A new Branch was started at Ficksburg, bringing the number of Orangia branches to five.

(c) Transvaal. A Regional Conference was held at Klerksdorp on 5th May, 1956. Many delegates attended and discussions on child delinquency and education of mothers into child care took place. Out of 20 branches, there were 12 active, 3 inactive, 2 new, 3 revived and 1 ceased. Due to the untiring efforts, both of the officials and the membership, the year had in many ways been fruitful.

5. Address by Mrs Russell. Mrs Russell paid tribute to the African woman who was emulating the women of other lands in striving for a voice among the people. She said that 50 years ago women of other lands also suffered many hindrances. She spoke of the emerging Bantu people and said that they were now laying the foundations for posterity. She stressed the importance of discipline, dignity, enthusiasm and exactitude in the conduct of the community.

A Vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. M.P. Ramushu.

6. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

(a) Typewriter. In spite of hundreds of letters requesting donations only £5. 12. 0. had been received.

(b) Lady Selbourne Loan. This debt had at last been cleared.

(c) Resolutions Committee: It was agreed to elect a new Resolutions Committee annually at the Conference to function at Conference.

(b) Home Demonstrators: It was agreed to await a report by Miss Soga who was not present at the meeting.

(e) Passes for African Women: Dr. Eiselen's reply was given as per the Act passed in Parliament.

(f) Mendi Mem Scholarship Fund. It was agreed to send £2.2.0. annually to this Fund and that branches should be asked to send 5/- per annum to the Provincial Presidents for forwarding to the General Secretary/ Treasurer.

(g) Amendment of the Constitution: It was agreed to devote more time to this matter at Conference and that a Committee should be elected at Conference to draft these amendments.

(h) Langa Shilling Drive: After lengthy discussion it was agreed that each

peninsula Branch should bank the takings from their Shilling Drives in their respective branch accounts.

(i) Queenstown Request to use Shilling Drive Fund for Building A Nursery School. After discussion it was agreed to allow all branches to use their shilling Drive Funds but that reports through the General Secretary should be made to Conference.

(j) Conference. (i) Dates. It was agreed to hold Conference annually from 16th to 19th December. Branches entertaining Conference should confine themselves to these dates. (ii) Programme. It was agreed that this should be the responsibility of a board of officers. The entertaining Branch would be expected to arrange for local speakers and a reception.

(k) News Letter. Price to be 6d per copy, branches being expected to pay this also for their branch copy. Branches were again requested to send articles for inclusion in the News Letter to the General Secretary.

(l) Delegates to the Council of the S.A. Institute of Race Relations.

It was agreed to elect delegates for 1957 and 1958.

(m) Medal. It was agreed to change from the present rosette with the colours of the Council to a medal. This matter would be discussed in open house.

(n) Cessation of a Branch. It was agreed that when a branch ceased functioning, the Provincial President should take charge of the records and property of the Branch and report to the Annual Conference through the General Secretary.

(o) Presentations. The Pietermaritzburg Branch of the Council presented the General President with a metal flowerpot and the Secretary-General with a bouquet. Both officers thanked the Branch for their thoughtful gesture.

Friday, 21st December, 1956.

The Devotions were led by Rev. Gcabashe.

A memorial service in honour of the departed members of the Council and their relatives and friends was held and high tribute was paid to the departed members by Mrs. M.P. Ramushu.

1. Address by Mr. L.J. Hodgkiss, Chairman of the Pietermaritzburg Native Welfare Society. Mr. Hodgkiss touched on a number of important matters in his address relating to the purchase of food, various methods by which Africans could make investments, the purchase of land, and the value of co-operative stores.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs E.A. Tshabalala.

2. Address by Mr. H. Selby Msimang. Mr. Msimang urged women to be in the vanguard of the progress of their people. He felt that the women's organisations could achieve a great deal by co-operation and he urged women to bring daily worship back into the homes, and never to forget Christianity.

Votes of thanks were proposed by Mesdames Crutse and Ngcayiya

3. Reports. (i) The report of the S.A.C.C.W. was read in the absence of the delegate. (ii) the report of the Mendi Mem Scholarship Fund was accepted.

4. Resolutions Committee: Mesdames Khoza, Mbatana, Sidekelo and Moabi.
5. Constitution Amendments Committee: Mesdames Denalane & Mapanzela.
6. Delegation to Pretoria: Mesdames Sesedi, Matthews Ramushu, Misses Soga, Mdledle and Hlahle.
7. Delegates to S.A. Institute of Race Relations Council: 1957:
Mrs. Sesedi, 1958: Miss G.J. Mdledle.

R E S O L U T I O N S .

1. That the minutes of Conference be sent together with an audited financial statement to branches not later than three months after Conference.
2. That the post of Treasurer be separated as provided for in the Constitution only when there were sufficient funds in the Treasury as determined by a board of officers.
3. That each branch should send £1. 0. 0. to Headquarters to defray the expenses of a delegation to Pretoria.
4. That each branch sends 5/- towards the Mendi Mem Scholarship Fund and that Headquarters donates £2.2.0. per annum to this Fund.
5. That each Branch should be asked to send a donation to Headquarters to augment the Treasury.
6. That each branch should be asked to send donations to Headquarters to enable the purchase of a typewriter by the General Secretary.
7. That copies of the amended Constitution be sent to all branches six months before the annual conference.

RESULTS OF ELECTIONS.

Standing Committee

Mrs C. Caswell:	S.A.C.C.W.
Mrs A. Mapanzela:	M.M. F.S.

Board of Officers

General President:	Mrs M. Sesedi.
Past President:	Miss G.J. Mdledle.
Secretary/ Treasurer:	Miss E.N. Msezane.
Auditor:	Mrs M. Sesedi.

Vice Presidents.

Cape Eastern:	Mrs. E. G. Mzamane.
Cape Western:	Mrs M. Matthews.
Transvaal:	Mrs R. Moabi.
Natal:	Mrs. E. Tshabalala.
Orangia:	Mrs M.P. Ramushu.

R/S/1572

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AFRICAN WOMEN.

MINUTES OF THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD
AT THE BANTU HIGH SCHOOL HALL
FROM 16th - 19th DECEMBER 1957.

Devotions led by Rev. Tshabangu.

1. OFFICIAL OPENING.

The official opening of the above conference was conducted by Councillor (Mrs.) Grinter. The Theme of Conference was, "The Duty of The African Woman To the Community". In her address she compared the difficulties of an African mother to those of a European mother, and pointed out that, through economic and cultural reasons the African mother has to carry an extra burden to bring up her child in the proper way. "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the World" was an appropriate quotation on this particular occasion. Things we remember from our mother's knees, like prayer for example, remain indelible in our minds even as adults. The African mother, having more hurdles to cover, must make the strongest and most noble effort to influence the child wisely. Another reason which makes the lot of an African mother even more difficult is that she has to go out and work to supplement the family income. This she does at the expense of her home and children, for the children are robbed of that parental care which should be a guide in their lives.

A vote of thanks was passed by Mrs. Moabi, who commented on what Mrs. Grinter said, and also mentioned that crèches have been started for the care of young ones of working mothers. She was seconded by Mrs. Nakene. Mrs. Grinter was then presented with a bouquet.

2. SPEECH BY MR. VILJOEN.

Mr. Viljoen was introduced to the conference as the local manager of Native Affairs. He gave very worthy advice to this council, that is, if you want anything done entrust it to a busy person and you can be certain that it will be done. The best we can give to our community is ourselves. He further said that the giving of self is greater than even the most valuable possessions.

A vote of thanks was passed by Miss Soga.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

(a) Appointment of Treasurer. The question of a treasurer was discussed at length, and it was decided that the need for a treasurer was urgent in spite of lack of funds.

(b) Question on Asylums. This question was raised by Mrs. Moerane. Although previously discussed, it had unfortunately been omitted in the previous minutes. Mrs. Msezane explained that the question of asylums was taken up by the resolutions committee at Pietermaritzburg, but the matter was not finalised. After a long discussion the Queenstown delegate mentioned that the matter was referred back to them, and they were told that it was a domestic matter and they should deal with it as such. The hospital in question was the Komani hospital in Queenstown. This Council felt that since this was a Government establishment, it could not delve deeply into this matter.

It was found impossible to discuss at the moment the living conditions of the individual inmates of the Komani hospital as a thorough investigation was required. The parent body had to find out how this hospital compared with the other mental hospitals. Although the Queenstown branch had tried to look into the grievances of the workers in this

hospital, it discovered that there were more serious matters concerned than the branch could handle. Thus the parent body was required to assist in this matter. The president felt that this was a very thorny question and the Council may be regarded as intruders by the government should we go into this matter.

4. ADDRESS BY DR. GUTSCHE.- Find attached.

A vote of thanks was passed by Miss Soga - seconded by Mrs. Moerane. Miss Soga was particularly thankful that Dr. Gutsche had given her address in the presence of the chieftainess Moroka and her people so that she could carry the message forward. Everybody was needed to preach this gospel. Africa was still a dark continent. The lack of technique in approaching our problems brings more harm than good. Illiteracy was one of our major problems. Education alters the structure of the mind.

Mrs. Moerane touched by the word "constructive", appealed to the women to be constructively dissatisfied with their lot. A lot of time is wasted on self pity and looking to others to solve our problems. The Africans' problems are only known to themselves. We are helped by being given small opportunities.

Dr. Gutsche suggested that in future two days of conference be set aside to discuss either Bantu Education or Mental Illness, but that the Council should get into contact with the Public Relations Office to get all the necessary information.

WEDNESDAY 18th Dec. 1957

Devotions were led by Rev. Mciteka.

The president thanked Rev. Mciteka with these words -"As we are living in trying times we need comfort for our souls. We need guidance to lead our people. God shall wipe our tears and enlighten our burdens".

1. CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF MINUTES. Miss Soga referred the meeting to Sex Education, a matter which was left undecided at the last conference.

(a) Mrs. Ditsebe. Some mothers felt that they could not adequately deal with sex education and that this matter be left for the schools. The secretary referred to minutes of Dec. 1955 where Mrs. Masikela had suggested that girls be taught about puberty and childbirth.

(b) Mrs. Jolobe suggested that sex education could be introduced through films obtained from the health department, as African parents seldom discuss sex with girls.

(c) Mrs. Sibeko thought that failure lay in the 'respect' for sons and daughters.

After a lengthy discussion Mrs. Kalaote promised to send a report on Sex Education from the I.O.T.T. conference to the general secretary. The committee which had to interview the Minister of Native Affairs failed in its mission through lack of funds as reported by the General Secretary/Treasurer.

2. PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS. - Find attached.

A vote of thanks was passed by Mrs. Kalaote who made these remarks- Are we doing our duty towards our African homes? Many men make use of their money by going to beer halls and neglect their families. Divorce cases must be minimised and peace must be brought to our nation.

Vote of thanks seconded by Mrs. Kunene- times have changed. We are treading on marshy ground.

- (a) Remarks by Miss Mdledle. The presidential address was very constructive and is a great help to African women at large. We should learn to apply our energy in a beneficial way and not waste it on gossip instead of reforming ourselves, nor put selfish pleasure before duty.
3. TELEGRAMS OF GOOD WISHES. Were received from the following:-
Alvina Tshabalala, Mapanzela, Catherine Mamabolo, Dlamlenze, Sesedi, Masuabi, January, N.C.W. (Bloemfontein) Selilo, Zuma, Seleka, Kunene, Ngcakane, Mary Nongauza, Msezane, Henley Mdledle (Pietermaritzburg Branch).
4. N.C.A.W. AMONG THE YOUTH. The Western Native Township Branch had tried to encourage young girls to join the N.C.A.W., but discovered that they became bored very soon and eventually their numbers had dwindled. Mrs. Moerane suggested the formation of guides, unity clubs, etc., where girls could take an active part and remain interested. These clubs should be supervised by N.C.A.W. and their leaders should report to this Council on the progress of such clubs. In Queenstown this has already been done.
5. TYPEWRITERS. The General Secretary reported that three typewriters had been donated to this Council by the N.C.W. (Johannesburg), the De Beers Co., through the N.C.W. (Kimberley), and the Anglo-American Co., through Mr. Ngakane.
6. MEDAL. It was the opinion of the house, that the design produced at conference, was rather elaborate, and that branches be allowed to send in designs of badges and the most suitable should be chosen.
- The following committee was then elected to go into the matter of the medals:-
Mrs. Msezane, Mrs. Koza and Miss Ndlazi.
- All branches were requested to send in their designs to Miss Ndlazi by the 31st March the latest, after which date the committee would be entitled to use its discretion.
7. REPORT OF N.C.W. CONFERENCE. Read and discussion on convict labour led to resolutions made.
8. REPORT ON S.A.I.R.R. Accepted.
9. FUNDS OF HOPETOWN BRANCH. Mrs. Matthews proposed that the General President investigate the Hope Town Branch which no longer exists but still has some funds. Miss Mdledle felt that it was the work of the Regional President to find out about such dead branches, Randfontein being one of them as reported. In the case of Randfontein, Mrs. Sibeko volunteered to try to revive that branch accompanied by the General President and Mrs. Moabi.
10. ADDRESS BY MISS CHILTON. (Organiser of Religious Education).

In her opening remarks she said that we lived in an age where science moved rapidly and this is bound to have an effect on our children. The duty of an African woman lies in the proper upbringing of her children although she has to travel on a road of difficulties. Religion

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may be a matter of words and children do not see religion put into practice in the home, school and social groups to which they belong. We should create public opinion in order to exchange views and get more women in our society. We should make our homes real homes and not a place where children eat and sleep. If kindness and unselfishness are shown by all the members of the family, the home will be a place where children will feel happy and secure. Nothing can take the place of a Christian home in training children. The biggest problem among all races is lack of leadership. There is difficulty in finding Sunday school teachers. People are very much concerned with the prevalence of delinquency.

A vote of thanks was passed by Mrs. Masikela and seconded by Mrs. Nkomo.

11. NEWSLETTER. Branches were reminded to send news to the Secretary quarterly for publication, and that each branch secretary was responsible for the sending of such news.
12. MEMORIAL SERVICE. Was conducted by Mrs. Ramushu, after which the President made a few comments.

Miss Soga suggested that letters of sympathy be written to Mrs. Oppenheimer, Mr. Harry Oppenheimer and Mrs. Nhlapo.

DECEMBER 19th 1957.

Devotions were led by Rev. Ramushu.

1. EXECUTIVE REPORT. Was accepted as correct. Find attached.
2. COMING OF AGE CELEBRATIONS. Conference had to decide what to do to make this affair a real success. The following suggestions were brought forward.
 - (i) That branches give a birthday present to the parent body.
 - (ii) That a magazine be printed with photographs of all the officials up to the present time and that these magazines be sent to all branches for sale as a fund raising effort.
 - (iii) That floats be organised.

Miss Soga was made responsible for the compiling of a brochure with the assistance of people such as Mrs. Morake and Mr. Dan Skota if such assistance could be obtained.

Each branch had to contribute a sum of £2.2.0 towards the celebration fund and this amount should be sent to the General Treasurer by the 1st July 1958, and this money to be earmarked as Celebration Fund. It was then decided that all arrangements should be given to the branch which had invited Conference.

Miss Soga was elected as Life President of the N.C.A.W. and her travelling expenses to the celebration was to be the responsibility of the N.C.A.W.

3. REGIONAL REPORTS. Read and accepted.
4. RESOLUTIONS.
 1. That the Executive visit branches without being called to do so. To make this possible, the Executive should

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stage functions where they wished, using branches for fund raising.

2. It is important that the Secretary and President be in the same province in order to execute resolution one.
3. That with the appointment of a Treasurer, conference should issue audited statements to individual delegates at conference.
4. The conference of the National Council of African Women views with alarm the inhuman treatment meted out by some farmers to the African convicts in the farm prisons of the Union of South Africa.
5. The conference respectfully wishes to draw the attention of the Government to the brazen irregularities which are reported from time to time in connection with the general treatment of convicts by those in charge of such prisons.

BOARD OF OFFICERS.

General President:	Mrs. M. Sesedi.
Past President:	Miss G.J. Mdledle.
Secretary:	Mrs. L.S. Masuabi.
Treasurer:	Mrs. C.G. Caswell.

VICE PRESIDENT.

Cape Eastern:	Mrs. E.G. Mzamane.
Cape Western:	Mrs. M. Matthews.
Transvaal:	Mrs. R. Moabi.
Natal:	Mrs. E. Tshabalala.
Orangia:	Mrs. M.P. Ramushu.

11/15/72

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AFRICAN WOMEN.

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
BANTU HIGH SCHOOL, BLOEMFONTEIN.
16th DECEMBER 1957.

OPENING: Mrs. M.P. Ramushu, President, welcomed all the delegates, and said she hoped that this would be an unprecedented meeting as the N.C. A.W. was born at Bloemfontein.

Roll Call. Twenty-seven branches were present. One branch had no credentials - this was corrected with the assistance of the Transvaal Regional President.

1. MINUTES. These were read and accepted.
 - (a) Typewriter: During the year 1957 we received three typewriters from N.C.W., Kimberley, and this was given to our National President. The Anglo-American Co-operation, through Mr. Ngakane, gave one, and one came from the N.C.W. Headquarters.
 - (b) Passes for women. It was agreed that as this was now an Act it would be better to let things take their course.
 - (c) Langa Shilling Drive. Nothing had been done at Langa. The Langa Branch invited the Cape Western Regional President to visit the Peninsula branches. Queenstown's request to use their shilling drive fund to build a nursery school was long granted, but nothing had been done due to technical reasons. As soon as these were ironed out, the building operations would proceed.
 - (d) Shilling Drive. It was agreed to close this fund as many difficulties were encountered in the selling of the stamps.
 - (e) Medals. As the proposed pattern of the intended medal had been circulated, it was agreed to ask branches to try and obtain more patterns. These should be sent to Miss L. Ndlazi before the 31st March 1958 and this would enable conference to come to some finality about the size and price of the medal.
2. M.M.S.F. It was agreed that as the N.C.A.W. was a donor, more information should be sought in connection with the conditions governing the awarding of bursaries to applicants.
3. GENERAL. Coming of age of N.C.A. W. in 1958. The principle of celebrating this occasion was accepted. It was left to the conference to devise ways and means of making this occasion a success.
4. VISITORS TO CONFERENCE. It was agreed that friends coming to conference as visitors, should be reported to the entertaining branch by the delegates who brought them along. For those who would not stay for the whole session, payments should be arranged accordingly. Visitors who wish to make their own private arrangements are entitled to do so.

Delegates attending conference are expected to pay for all the four days of conference irrespective of the number of days attended.

MEETING CLOSED AT 6.30 P.M.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AFRICAN WOMEN.

SPECIAL EXECUTIVE MEETING.

17th DECEMBER 1957.

At the request of Dr. Gutsche, through the President, this Executive met. At this meeting it was disclosed that recent legislation was now making it impossible for our delegate to attend N.C.W. Conferences. It was agreed to elect a European Representative to represent us at all N.C.W. conferences. Dr. Gutsche apologised for having started the war on passes for African Women at their Annual Conference in 1956 without the permission of the N.C.A.W. She asked the Executive to allow her Council to proceed pending our decision. It was felt that as a deputation was elected last year, it would still be in order to include this request of asking the Minister to withdraw the Act.

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE AND COMING OF AGE CELEBRATION HELD AT THE GALESHEWE SOCIAL CENTRE, KIMBERLEY 15th - 19th DECEMBER 1958. 64

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MONDAY, 14th DECEMBER, 1958. 64
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Devotions were led by Rev. Z. R. Mahabane of Kroonstad. Isaiah Chap 9 verse 6.

In his lesson he compared us with the people who were in the dark as Africa was known as the Dark Continent, but we are fortunate in that light did come to us. It is our own fault if we remain in the dark.

The world to-day is sick, and the symptoms are, (a) Lack of peace, (b) Murder (c) Robbery in various ways (d) Tension between Black and white. He further quoted from Malachi who said, "To them that fear the word of God, a day of pleasure shall dawn."

OFFICIAL OPENING.

Conference was opened by Councillor (Mrs) Iris Holloway who was introduced to conference by Mr. N. G. Meyer, local Manager of Native Affairs. In complimenting Mrs. Holloway, he said she was one of the women who played an important part in South Africa. ~~He compared her with cream in the coffee, sugar in tea and as yeast in the dough.~~

COUNCILLOR HOLLOWAY.

In her opening remarks, Councillor Holloway expressed her great love for her fellowmen and thanked God for having made her colourblind. She welcomed the delegates to the city and wished them an enjoyable stay. She further congratulated conference ~~on~~ its coming of age. *she said that it was* It is now time to acquire knowledge which is necessary for successful living. *and stated that* All women should be proud to belong to the National Council of African Women. Women should come forward and give their best. *she considered that* Although there is great prejudice against our sex, we must persevere. It is worth striving for an international language in order to be able to discuss all our problems in a language common to all mankind. She quoted from a Chinese proverb that says, "If there is richness in the heart, there is beauty in character etc."

Vote of thanks was passed by the General President who said, there is nothing that gives an individual greater inspiration when a fearless declaration is made. We need more peace in this world. If we could conquer the malady of hatred, life ~~weld-weld~~ would be worth living.

The National Council of African Women is entering a new era, and we should feel inspired and look forward to what the future has in store for us.

SPEECH BY MR. MURRAY (REPRESENTATIVE OF CHAMBERLAINS FIRM, JOHANNESBURG)

Mr. Murray gave a brief outline of the activities of his firm and stated that this firm operated in 37 countries. He said it was the wish of his firm to assist the National Council of African Women in organising a bursary fund which should be started by the N. C. A. W. We should make our own ~~effeers~~-efforts to meet the firms offer.

Vote of thanks by Rev. Z. R. Mahabane. In his remarks he gave a brief outline on the origin of the N.C.A.W. in Kimberley. The commencement of this branch was prompted by the sight of hungry children who had practically nothing ~~nothing~~ to eat during the winterdays. The women organised themselves and approached the city fathers with the help of the National Council of Women and the children were provided with meals and clothing. He compared the Chamberlains Firm with Father Xmas who has brought N.C.A.W. a Xmas Gift.

Vote of thanks seconded by Mrs. Nakene. She thanked Mr. Murray for the offer given by his firm and pointed out how heart breaking it is to see the education of our children cut short owing to lack of facilities to further their education. *We feel proud that this offer has come th through N.C.A.W. them.* *Ther NCAW*

A woman feels happy to know that she has taken part in building up a home. She further asked Mr Murray to convey the thanks of conference to Mr. Steele the General Manager of Chamberlain's Firm.

ADDRESS BY MRS. IDA NEWTON (President of N.C.W.S.A.) Find attached.

Vote of thanks passed by Mrs. R. Moabi - In her remarks she commented on this inspiring address. The message was encouraging. She further pointed out that primary education should start at home. Teaching had become an inferior profession and teachers were among the worst paid.

Vote of thanks was seconded by Miss Tsengiwe. - She stressed the point on primary education. It played a very important part as it laid the foundation of the children's life. There ~~are~~ ^{were} more children in the streets than there ~~are~~ ^{were} in the schools. There ~~is~~ ^{is} great need for school buildings. She thanked Mrs. Newton for the assistance given by N.C.W. to N.C.A.W. x

Minutes of the previous conference were read and accepted.

DISCUSSIONS. *Farm Labour*

1. Mrs. Ida Newton stated that her Council ~~did~~ ^{had} inquired into conditions under which farm labour was being carried out, but they were still gathering information ~~re~~ ^{on} this matter. Mrs. Newton promised to look through their files then send the information ~~to~~ ^{to the} General President who ~~will~~ ^{would} send out a circular about ~~the~~ ^{the} matter.
 2. The Hope Town Branch - The money which was saved in the name of the Hope Town Branch of N.C.A.W. was ~~had~~ ^{been} already transferred to Pretoria ~~because~~ ^{since} for some years ~~no~~ ^{no} one had claimed it. The money amounted to £35. The bank suggested that the signatures of the people who signed for it should be obtained so that the money be transferred to Headquarters.
 3. Miss Soga's travelling Expences to Conference - It was decided at the Bloemfontein Conference that ~~her~~ ^{her} travelling expences to the Celebrations ~~will~~ ^{will} be the responsibility of the Council, but the council could not guarantee that in future its financial position would permit it to continue ~~doing so~~ ^{paying} her travelling expences to ~~the~~ ^{the} conferences.
 4. Report on type-writers - One was sold and two were still in the possession of the Council.
 5. Representative to Anasca - Conference decided that in future a representative should be chosen who is near to the place where Anasca holds its conference.
- Visitors from Anasca - Mr Motsoenyane and Mohlala represented Anasca at our conference. Mr. Motsoenyane gave a brief outline on the work of his association and stated that it ~~was~~ ^{was} the wish of Anasca to invite the General President to become a member of their executive committee.

TELEGRAMS - Congratulatory tegrans were received and read. They were from the following:- Miss M. Soga, Mrs Williams (National Council of Negro Women) Klerksdorp N.C.A.W. Branch, Mrs M. Ngakane, S. Tau, Mapekula, P. Masikela, Moabi, Grace Msimanga, Adendorp N.C.A.W. Branch, Rev. & Mrs E. E. Mahabane, Kunene, Nurse Masongoa, Nurse Sebeta, Grace & Kay, G.N. Naidoo, Langa N.C.A.W. Branch, S. Nkile, Pietermaritzburg N.C.A.W. Branch, Seane, Moloke, Isabel Selelo.

REVIVAL OF RANDFONTEIN BRANCH - This branch ~~was~~ ^{had been} revived again. Mrs Mahabane gave a short history of how this branch was started. She further appealed to this council to work in harmony, ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~crave~~ ^{crave} for money will kill many associations.

GREETINGS FROM AFRICAN MINISTERS FEDERATION - This association was ~~re~~ represented by Rev. Mahabane. On behalf of his association he wished us ~~us~~ ^{us} a happy and prosperous conference and that N.C.A.W. should grow and become a powerful body of women with good intentions.

GREETINGS FROM BANTU METHODIST WOMEN MANYANO (CAPE TOWN) - Mrs Tshazibana represented this group of women. She said that mothers

should support N.C.A.W. as it is an organisation that works towards the upliftment of our race. It has been the desire of her association to know N.C.A.W. work and interest itself in the works of the council. A present of £2 was received from this union as a birthday gift.

Mr. Mohlala - From Ansa Association, expanded on what Mr Motsoenyane said about his organisation and how they became connected with N.C.A.W. He further discouraged us from pointing fingers at others for we do not know how many fingers are pointing at us. He quoted these words, "If you think that things are unbearable, may be you are the bear."

Mrs Mochochoko - (Representative of ~~the~~ ^{the} Anglican Mothers Union)

In her opening remarks she said she was very much encouraged by the words of Mrs Ida Newton, and she came to this conference to gather as much information as possible. The N.C.A.W. was very much concerned about the welfare of our children and her association wished to affiliate to mother body of N.C.A.W. The Mothers Union was established to encourage Christian family life.

VOTES OF THANKS. - Mrs Moerane thanked Rev. Mahabane for his words of encouragement and expressed our pleasure for having him in our midst. As a parent his presense was very highly appreciated.

Mrs Kunene - Thanked Mrs Mochochoko for her fine spirit of co-operation together with her association who sent her here, and wished that she should convey our appreciation to her Union.

16th December 1959.

Devotions were led by Rev. Seodi. Ephesians Chap. 7, verses 10- 12.

In his lesson he said, the battle we are fighting to-day is not of the sword but of the soul. Watch, pray and be strong. To have reached the 21st birthday is an indication that we ^{have} run the race.

The President commented on these words and appealed to us not to use words that will make us regret. We must abide by the laws that guide us in the right direction.

MINUTES
REPORT OF THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. These were read and accepted for discussion.

DISCUSSIONS.

Bursaries by Bantu Welfare Trust Fund. - As the Bantu Welfare Trust Fund wanted certain information from this council before it could give bursaries, the President suggested that the Provincial presidents should submit audited statements to Mother body in future so that these statements be sent to the Bantu Welfare Trust Fund for scrutiny.

Mrs Moabi suggested that financial statements of branches be sent to Regional Presidents in detail. The Provincial Presidents could then draw up their provincial statements and submit them to head-quarters.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS. - (Find attached).

Vote of thanks was passed by Mrs Masikela - She pointed out some of the difficulties that are confronting us in our work and in our branches, but we are managing to go on with the co-operation of husbands who are so tolerant in very many respects.

Vote of thanks seconded by Nurse E. P. Hlahle - She expressed her joy for having been able to attend the 21st birthday of this council and wished the council future success.

ADDRESS BY MRS M. BALLINGER M.P. Find attached.

Vote of thanks was passed by Rev. Z. R. Mahabane - He described Mrs Ballinger's address as thought provoking, educative and illuminating. He stressed the point that the voice of the African must be heard. If men are silent, then women must speak.

Vote of thanks seconded by Miss Tsengiwe - She thanked Mrs Ballinger for her most encouraging words.

for her most encouraging words. ~~They will remain indellible in our minds. We appreciate the spiritual ^{gift} given to us. It is our wish that our children get good primary education. In spirit we shall always be with you.~~

Mr. Mohlala suggested that conference should pass a resolution that a conference of school boards and organisations be called to go through the Bantu Education Policy.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT - (Find attached.)

GENERAL TREASURER'S REPORT - (Will be sent by treasurer.)

17th December 1959.

Devotions were led by Rev. Ngcakane. Mark, chap. 6 from verse 35.

In his remarks he said, things we do must be of sound judgement. Jesus always sees our toils and distresses and we sometimes think he has forgotten us. He looks at us with eyes of tender love. Even if we do things that God wants us to do, we shall always meet opposition. Fight the good fight with all your might.

GREETINGS FROM THE KIMBERLEY AND BLOEMFONTEIN DISTRICT (METH. MANYANO)

On behalf of the Methodist Mother's Union she brought the conference good wishes as a token of sisterhood. She quoted their motto which is "Immanuel" meaning - God is with us. If each one of us stuck to our motto, God will be with us.

The general President thanked Rev. & Mrs Ngcakane for the devotions and their kind message of goodwill from the district convention of the Methodist Manyano.

CELEBRATION DAY. Conference adjourned for the day. ^{rest of} We went out for sight-seeing for the rest of the day and winded off the day with a braai-vleis which was held at the Bantu Hall. ^{which was devoted to sight-seeing and ended with a braai-vleis.}

18th DECEMBER 1958.

Devotions were led by Rev. K. Petso. Acts, chap. 9 verses 36 - 43.

In his remarks he said, a mother is capable of fighting with the evil spirit. Deborah served her people prompted by the spirit of God. We serve our people because we are prompted by the love of God. When Dorcas was dead, widows still showed the people clothing she had given them.

Comments by General President - It is only when you are a corpse that you are beyond help. Those that ^{are} humble shall reap the fruit of victory. Actions speak louder than words. Let your light shine so that the world must see it. Forget not that an ounce of action is worth ^{more} than a pound of talk.

SPEECH BY MISS L.M. MACKENZIE - (National Organiser of Child Welfare Work in South Africa.) Find attached.

Vote of thanks was passed by Mrs. J. Mokgosi. She explained how Miss Mackenzie was helpful to them when the creche in Vryburg was started.

Vote of thanks was seconded by Miss Ndlazi who pointed out that our Council is trying very hard to co-operate with religious bodies.

Comments by Miss Mdledle - If children were again supplied with milk as in the past, it would tremendously reduce the number of T.B. cases.

AUTOMATIC PROMOTION IN SCHOOLS. Mrs. Nakene suggested that a committee be elected to interview the inspectors of schools re the question of children promotion of children who have failed std. II twice. An automatic promotion is suggested but this type of promotion is injurious to the children. The inspectors do accept constructive criticism. More educational facilities and a continuation of the feeding scheme should be clamoured for. The school boards and committees were responsible

for the abolition of the feeding scheme, but now they realise their mistake.

Mrs. Masikela - suggested that N.C.A.W. should have closer connection with the school boards and committees.

Conference decided that a committee be elected to interview the-inspecters go into this matter of automatic promotion and a resolution be drawn up. Every province should be represented on this committee.

The following names were proposed and accepted :-
Transvaal.....Mrs Nakene
Free State..... " Mochochoko
Cape Western.....Miss M. Tsengiwe
Cape Eastern.....Mrs. B. Moerane
Natal.....Miss F. Gombela

Miss Tsengiwe was elected as convener of this committee.

MEMORIAL SERVICE. - Was conducted by Mrs Mahabane. In her remarks she said that in this hour of sadness we must think of our dead with love as if we see their faces. They were stoned and persecuted through their belief. They asked for God's guidance. Let our people whom we remember at this hour, rest in peace.

Comments by Mrs Ramushu - We must have faith, He has gone before us to prepare places for us which we have to occupy. We have duties entrusted to us and through Christ we can conquer all.

FRIDAY 19th DECEMBER 1958

Devotions were led by Rev. S. Mabelle. Corinthians Chap. 2 from verse 14.

In his lesson he said, life is has a perfume, the smell of which is a light in our lives. We are e in the same position as St. Paul was among the Corinthians. When we have gathered here we have come to the fountain of the sweet smell. We must appeal to Christ to fill our hearts with love.

In thanking Rev. Mabelle the President said, "What impressions do we create in the circles where we move? A virtuous woman is the pride of her husband."

DISCUSSIONS

Disability Grants - Conference decided that Nurse Hlahle should investigate the matter with the Native Commissioner and report to conference.

Pin for Miss Soga. - It must be presented to Miss Soga as previously decided and that the same firm which is responsible for making the N.C.A.W. pin should make it. After its completion it must be sent to Miss Soga. *was agreed to a pin was*

Brochure - Delegates were asked to take copies home for sale. The copies were handed to all branch secretaries who are made responsible for the distribution. It was decided that Zonk be sent complimentary copies. Representatives of Anasca took 100 copies to sell at their stations. The Cape Eastern region were sent copies with Miss Mdledle. *for it would*

Cosmetics. - The same procedure as that of the brochures was followed. Orders were taken from Mrs Ellis who was responsible for the sale of the packets. Each branch was entitled to 12 packets only.

Name Cards - were printed and financed by headquarters.

Orlando Travelling Expenses. - A special collection was organised to help the Orlando accident victims to go back home.

Career for Daughters. - Mrs Sibeko suggested that we should have speaker to educate mothers in choosing careers for their daughters. The President promised to insert some information re this matter in the first issue of the newsletter. *there he*

The following information was received :-

(a) That nursery schools were and Kindergarten Training Schools were to be closed under the Education Committee.

(b) That the Social Workers Training College

- (b) That the Social Workers Training College is being removed from Johannesburg.
- (c) That married lady teachers will no longer be allowed to hold permanent posts.

Division of Western Cape - Delegates of the Western Cape decided to divide it into 3 zones owing to its size.

- Zone 1 Cape Town to South of DeAar.
- Zone 2 Kimberley - DeAar - Kuruman - Border.
- Zone 3 North of Border - Mafeking

With the division of the Western Cape, 3 regional organisers were elected by this province viz:

- Zone 1 Mrs Nkomo
- Zone 2 Mrs R. January
- Zone 3 Miss M. Tsengiwe

Representatives of standing Committees

- | | |
|------------|-------------------|
| S.A.N.C.W. | Mrs C. G. Caswell |
| M.M.S.F. | Mrs. M.P. Ramushu |
| S.A.I.R.R. | Mrs M. Sesedi |

BOARD of Officers

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Life President | Miss M. T. |
| General President | Miss M. T. Soga. |
| General Secretary | Mrs M. Sesedi |
| General Treasurer | Mrs L. S. Masuabi |
| | Mrs C. G. Caswell |

Regional Presidents

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Western Cape | Mrs M. Matthews |
| Eastern Cape | Miss J. G. Mdledle |
| Orange Free State | Mrs H. S. Sedikelo |
| Transvaal | Mrs R. Moabi |
| Natal | Mrs E. Tshabalala |

Venue of next Conference

Eastern Cape GRAAFF-REINET

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

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