

file
H/B/15/2

28th March, 1958.

Mrs. L. S. Masuabi,
National Council of African Women,
144, Claude Street,
GreenPoint Village,
BEACONSFIELD, C.P.

Dear Mrs. Masuabi,

Thank you for your prompt reply of 17th instant. Of course, you are quite right - you did say that you already had copies of Dr. Gutsche's address. My apologies!

We sent the Minutes by parcel post on 27th instant. I hope you find them in order. We have in the past been told to make minor alterations where necessary, and I presumed that it was in order to do so again.

I enclose a statement of 16/9, being the actual costs of rose-
ing the material. When I sent the last Minutes to Mrs. Msezane at
Vlakfontein in December 1957 I also sent her a statement under separate
cover. Owing to the change of office, there was no doubt no time
to settle this amount, but I should be grateful if you would check up
with Mrs. Msezane so that both amounts can be paid to us at the same
time in due course.

Best wishes for a successful term of office.

Yours sincerely,

S. Barnett (Miss)
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AFRICAN WOMEN HEADQUARTERS

"Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you"

MAR 20 1958

Life President
Miss M. T. Soga,
"America,"
P.O. Lady Frere

President
Mrs. M. Sesedi,
716 Makenna St.,
Galeshewe Village,
Kimberley.
Phone 3127

Vice-Presidents
Cape Western: Mrs. M. Matthews
Cape Eastern: Mrs. E. G. Mzamane
Orange Free State: Mrs. M. P. Ramushu
Transvaal: Mrs. R. Moabi
Natal: Mrs. A. Tshabalala

Treasurer
Mrs. C. G. Caswell,
P.O. Box 15,
Orlando,
Johannesburg.

Gen. Secretary
Mrs. L. S. Masuabi,
144 Claude Street,
Green Point,
Beaconsfield.
Phone 3323

17th March 1958.

Miss S. Barnett,
Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Miss Barnett,

I thank you very much for your letter of the 13th inst. With regard to Dr. Gutsche's address, I thought I made mention the fact that I had sufficient copies with me which were sent by the secretary of N.C.W. and that I would just attach a copy to each copy of the minutes when I post them to the respective branches.

Dr. Gutsche had been kind enough to let us have as many copies of her address as we required so it will save you all the trouble as far as that was concerned.

Yours sincerely,

L. S. Masuabi

L.S. Masuabi.
Honorary Secretary.

5th February, 1958

Mrs. L.S. Masuabi,
General Secretary,
National Council of African Women,
144, Claude Street,
Green Point Village,
BEACONSFIELD
C A P E.

Dear Mrs. Masuabi,

Thank you for your letter of 27th January and congratulations on your election as General Secretary of the N.C.A.W.

LETTERHEADS I am afraid we cannot help you here. We have our own printers, but I would suggest that you have your letterheads printed in Cape Town. If you would care to ring our office in Cape Town, they may be able to suggest an inexpensive and reliable printer.

MINUTES The Institute roneos these Minutes for your organisation. A charge is made to cover the cost of the paper, stencils and roneo ink used, and the invoice is sent to you.

I am very glad to hear that your Minutes are ready so early this year, as it is very much easier for us if they can be done in our slack period. I should be glad if you would send them up as soon as possible, letting me know how many copies you require.

Just one or two points. I sometimes find it a little difficult to follow the draft minutes. In particular the names of persons must be very clear, and the names of organisations be shown in full - at least the first time they are mentioned. Could you please also make the sections and sub-sections quite clear, distinctly numbering them.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) S. Barnett.
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

JB
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AFRICAN WOMEN.

HEADQUARTERS 1958.

JAN 30 1958

144 Claude Street,
Green Point Village,
BEACONSFIELD.

27. I. 58.

The Secretary,
Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 497,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Having been elected as the new general secretary during the last conference of Dec. 1957, I am keen to know how far the N.C .A.W . is privileged by the Race Relations with regard to the printing of our general conference minutes and stationery (letterheads). I have already drawn up my minutes for publication but I thought it would be wise to investigate before sending them to you for printing. We are in need of new letterheads as officials have been changed.

Owing to pressure of work during last conference this point was not made clear to me. I shall be very glad to get a reply from you at your very earliest convenience.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

L. S. Masuabi

(Mrs.) L.S.Masuabi Gen. Secretary.

13th March, 1958.

Mrs. L.S. Masuabi,
144, Claude Street,
Green Point Village,
BEACONSFIELD : C.P.

Dear Mrs. Masuabi,

re: N.C.A.W. MINUTES.

My apologies for the delay in sending you back your Minutes after your promptness in sending these to me.

Under the item "Address by Dr. Gutche" are the words "Find Attached", but this was not attached to the Minutes, although you did attach the Presidential Address and the Executive Minutes. Could you send me Dr. Gutche's Address by return please. Perhaps if it is very long, a shorter summary would suffice. In the meantime I am continuing with the typing of the stencils for the Minutes themselves.

Yours sincerely,

S. Barnett (Miss)
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.

AB
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AFRICAN WOMEN.

HEADQUARTERS.

I44 Claude Street,
Green Point Village,
BEACONSFIELD.

II. 2. 58.

The Secretary,
Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

FEB 14 1958

Dear Miss Barnett,

I realised after I had posted the ~~mi~~^minutes that I did not stipulate the number of copies I required.

Kindly make 80 copies for me.

Thanks.

Yours sincerely,

L. S. Masuabi

Gen. Secretary.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AFRICAN WOMEN.

HEADQUARTERS

I44 Claude Street,
Green Point Village,
BEACONSFIELD.

II.2. 58.

FEB 14 1958

The Secretary,
Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Miss Barnett,

I wish to thank you very much for the information you gave me. I shall now be able to make headway ~~in~~^{with} my work. Our N.C.A.W. is celebrating its 21st birthday this year, and the conference will be held here in Kimberley. This year will be a particularly busy one, as the preparations will entail real hard work.

Enclosed please find a copy of the minutes. You will kindly notify me re the charges. I hope I have clarified all points so as not to give you extra trouble. You will note that I have the executive report and the presidential ~~reports~~^{address} separately. A copy of each has to be attached to the minutes when I send them out to the different branches. I have copies of Dr Gutschke's ^daddress already, & it will just be a matter of attaching each copy to the minutes.

Your services will certainly be very highly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

L. S. Masuabi

GEN. SECRETARY

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.

I. 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 mothers' knees, like prayer for example, remain indelible in our minds even as ^{adults} grown-ups. The African mother, having more hurdles to cover, must ^{make} take 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} control 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} hinted 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~~ as the local manager of Native Affairs. He gave a very worthy advice to this council, ~~and~~ 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. - ^{small letters} The question of a treasurer was discussed at length, and ^{decided} (in spite of lack of funds), it was concluded that the need of a treasurer was urgent.

(b) QUESTION ON ASSYLUMS. - This question was ^{raised} brought up by Mrs Moerane. ^{although} Being previously discussed, it was ^{had} unfortunately ^{been} omitted in the ^{previous} minutes. ~~prior to these.~~ Mrs Msezane explained that the question of assylums was taken up by the resolutions committee at Pietmaritzburg, but the matter was not finalised. After a long discussion the Queenstown delegate mentioned that the matter was referred ~~back~~ ^{it} to them, and they were told that ~~the matter~~ was ^a domestic ^{matter} and they should deal with it ^{such} at home. The hospital in question ^{was} the Komani hospital in Queenstown. This Council felt that ^{since this was} this being a government establishment, it could not delve ^{deep} into this matter.

It was found impossible to ^{discuss at the moment} go into ~~discussion~~ on the living ~~and~~ conditions of the individual inmates of the Komani hospital ~~just then~~, as a thorough investigation was required. The ^{parent} mother 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 ^{and} than the branch could handle. Thus the ^{parent} mother body ^{was} is required to assist in this matter. The president felt that this was a very thorny question and ^{the Council} we may be regarded as intruders by the ^{government} govⁿ, 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 ^{had given} was particularly thankful that Dr. Gutsche ^{gave} 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} ~~carry~~ 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 ~~str~~ structure of the mind. Mrs. Moerane ^{and} touched by the word "constructive", ^{and} 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~~ 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. 1958.

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} house to Sex Education, a matter which was left undecided at the last conference.
(a) Mrs Mditsebe - Some mothers felt that ^{they could not adequately deal with} sex education was ~~too much for~~ them 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 say} Our failure lies in the 'respect' ~~we have~~ for ~~our~~ 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 ^{Gen. Sec. / Treasurer} ~~gen. sec. 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 ^{mi}minised 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 - ^{small letters} The presidential address was very ~~construet~~ construct

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 ~~our~~ ^{it} ~~energy~~ 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 N.C.A.W. BUT DISCOVERED THAT THEY ~~got~~ ^{small letters} ~~got~~ ^{became} bored very soon and eventually ~~just~~ ^{their numbers had} dwindled ~~away~~. Mrs. Moerane ~~su~~ suggested the formation of guides, unity clubs etc. where girls could take an active part and remain interested. These clubs ^{should} ~~to~~ be supervised by N.C.A.W. and their leaders ^{should} ~~to~~ report to this Council on the progress of such clubs. In Queenstown this has already been done.

5. TYPEWRITERS. - The Gen. Sec. reported that three type-writers ^{had} ~~have~~ been donated to this Council by the N.C.W. (~~Shann~~ - Johannesburg) the DeBeers 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 ^{shall be} ~~to~~ chosen ~~from the rest~~.

^{the following} A committee was then elected to go into the matter of the medals: -

~~The following were chosen:~~ Mrs Msezane, Mrs. Koza, and Miss Ndlazi.

All branches were requested to send in their designs to Miss Ndlazi ^{would} by the 31st March the latest, after which date the committee will 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~~ Accepted

9. FUNDS OF HOPE TOWN BRANCH - Mrs. Matthews proposed that the General President investigates ~~about~~ 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} ~~volunteered~~ ^{to try to} ~~to go and~~ revive that branch accompanied by the Gen. Pres. 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 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} ~~to be~~ responsible for the sending of such news.

12. MEMORIAL SERVICE - Was conducted by Mrs. Ramushu, after which the President ~~made~~ made a few comments. Miss Soga suggested that a letters of sympathy be written to Mrs Oppenheimer, Mr. Harry Oppenheimer, and Mrs Nhlapo.

DECEMBER 19th 1958.

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. (1) That branches give a birthday present to the ^{parent} mother body. (2) That a magazine be printed and ^{with photographs} have pictures 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. (3) That floats be organised. Miss Soga was made responsible for the ^{making} ~~compiling~~ of a brochure with the assistance of people ^{such as} like Mrs MOrake, and Mr. Dan Skota if such assistance ^{could} ~~can~~ 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 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 P President of the N.C.A.W. ~~AND HER TRAVEL~~ and her travelling expenses ^{was} to the celebration, to be the responsibility of the N.C.A.W.

3 REGIONAL REPORTS.) - ~~Announced~~. Read and accepted

4 RESOLUTIONS. -

1. That the ~~meeting~~ ^E Executive visit branches without being called to do so. To make this possible, the Executive should stage functions where they ^{wished} please, using branches for fund raising.
2. It is important that the S Secretary and P President be in the same province in order to execute resolution one.
3. That with the appointment of a T Treasurer, conference should issue audited statements to individual delegates at conference.
4. The conference of the National ~~conference~~ 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} ~~wishes respectfully~~ 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 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.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AFRICAN WOMEN.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: BANTU HIGH SCHOOL, BLOEMFONTEIN.

16th DECEMBER 1958.

OPENING: Mrs M.P. Ramushu, ^Ppresident, welcomed all the delegates, and said she ~~hoped~~ that this would be an unprecedented ^{meeting} ~~one~~ as the N.C.A.W. ~~has been~~ ^{was} born here at Bloemfontein.

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

MINUTES. These were read and accepted .

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 ~~us~~ one, and ~~1~~ one came from the N.C.W. Headquarters.

Passes for women.- It was agreed that as this was now an ~~act~~ it would be better to let things ~~be~~ take their course.

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~~ fund to build a nursery school was long granted, but nothing had been done due to ~~some~~ ^htechnical reasons. As soon as these were ironed out, the building ^{would} operations will proceed.

Shilling Drive - It was agreed to close this fund as many difficulties were encountered ~~in~~ the selling of the stamps.

Medals.- As the ^{po}posed pattern of the intended medal had been circulated, it was agreed to ~~ask~~ branches to try and ^{obtain} ~~get~~ 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.

M.M.S.F. It was agreed that as the N.C.A.W. was a donor, more information should be sought in connection ~~x~~ with the conditions governing the awarding of bursaries to applicants.

General- Coming of age of N.C.A .W. in 1958. The principle of celebrating this occasion was ~~a~~ accepted. It was left to the conference to devise ^sways and means of making this occasion

a success.

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.

SPECIAL EXECUTIVE MEETING. 17.12. 58.

At the request of Dr. Gutsche, through the ^President, this ^Executive ^{ive} met. ^{At} In this meeting it was disclosed that because of recent ^{Legislation}, ~~unpleasant things had happened.~~ This was now making it impossible for our delegate to attend ^{small talks} N.C.W. CONFERENCES. It was agreed to elect a European ~~Rep~~ 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.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AFRICAL WOMEN OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Presidential Address Delivered by the General President, Mrs. Magde Sesedi at the 20th Annual Conference held at Bloemfontein
Residential Address. 16th - 19th Dec. 1957 17th. December, 1957

My Dear Friends,

We live in stirring times, of rapid changes, that one hardly knows what to expect from one day to the next.

But, they are also days of opportunity for all of us to play our part in the re-making of society in general, and our own communities in particular.

With this as my firm conviction, I have chosen as the basis of my address today, the theme :- The duty of an African Woman to the Community:-

1. From time immemorial women have played an important role in the affairs of the community to which they belonged. Of course, it is true to say, that Women have not always been free; that they have not always been regarded as the equals of men; and yet in spite of this prejudice of the sexes, women have proved over and over again, to be no mean partners of their menfolk, in the important task of community and Nation building.

In the beginning of Society women were suppressed because rightly or wrongly, the menfolk must have felt that the women by virtue of their great contribution to the life of the tribe or race, would easily overshadow the male section; and in that narrow sense, endanger their authority.

2. All over the world today society is in a state of flux. The old order of life is fast breaking up. New forces of change are in evidence. Where, once we had quiet lands and peaceful flocks, we are Now surrounded by modern hustle and bustle. Mines, machines and factories have shattered for all time, ^{our} rural peace and quiet; and in the process have changed forever our economy and way of life - (A profound change indeed).

3. These disturbing effects of this social revolution are nowhere, more discernable, than among the African community. Most of all, it is the disintegrated home and family life which disturbs us as women. The demands of industry call away the menfolk from their homes in large numbers.

The young and inexperienced maidens venture from the protective influence of home and family life, and drift about aimlessly in the modern cities.

We see, further, the young mothers drifting to the towns, there to seek and to find, that adventures denied them, as a result of the disappearance of their menfolk from the tribal village.

There in the already overcrowded townships they fall a ready prey to drink, prostitution and disease. This is a most depressing picture which, I feel we must face, squarely.

4. Our Opportunity:

It is within these discouraging realities that our opportunity of service and duty lies.

Those forces in the community, especially the women, whose function it is to heal the wounds and succour the lost, the solution of these evils of society, calls out to your conscience.

Go out, into the lanes and by-paths of our distressed and battered communal life, to help redeem our nation - you have it in you --.

5. Let us apply our energies in a beneficial way to the community having in mind that the problem is not a scientific one - but Human, or shall we say sociological.

It is a question of human behaviour - an unpredictable thing "deceitful is the heart above all things" says the old prophet.

6. AND WHAT----- ?.

- (a) First, on my list of danger - spots, I wish to place that "serious break down to home discipline", that is eating into our family life like a cancer.

The sorry spectacle that we have to witness almost daily, of fathers and children straying away from the family fold.

- (b) Economic stringency takes away dozens of women from the seclusion of domestic bliss on to the labour-market.

- (c) Then, also Easy Divorce is not making things any the lighter for the conscientious home-builder.

Are we doing all that we are capable of doing to save our homes and our children? Are we not guilty of putting selfish pleasure before duty? Do we leave our responsibilities and duty of family discipline to the teacher, the priest, and in many instances to the police?

There is much talk these days of the "problem-parent" How does it come to exist? The incidence of child delinquency is very high among the community. The weak spot must be found and remedied.

Men are by nature rovers and roamers, and the principal function of married and home life, is to act as a curb to his ~~shiftiness~~ ^{shiftlessness}. Many women do not realise this particular function of their existence as life-partners. The woman remains the pivot upon which the family, and community rotates.

"A virtuous woman, the crown of her husband, says the Scriptures. I have dealt at length upon the paramount importance of wholesome family life, where the woman's strongest influences are at work and where her chief duty lies.

Her function is not only to help with the general well-being of the child, but ^{so} for his character-building, and development of his personality, and thereby equip him, to take his rightful place in society.

7. We should find time and opportunity to extend a helping hand to those of our sisters and children who are in distress, and ~~we~~ have become the victims of circumstances.

We should look upon such effort not in a spirit of self-righteousness, but in the spirit of rendering "National Service and duty". Every member of this council should regard it as her God-Given task to labour for a more "decent way of life" in the community in which she lives.

8. There are other things in which the touch of a woman's hand is urgently needed. Her special gifts of heart, mind and outlook are in pressing demand in the avenues of professions. In the councils of our community life, we have a special point of view to put - which only we know How.

Let us ^{imbue} ~~imbue~~ those around us with the spirit of courage and ambition.

9. When things are dark and foreboding, logic and reason often fail. We women have the power of intuition and are often able to see the silver lining to the dark cloud, where others have failed:- "Ours is Faith". The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

In conclusion, therefore, dear friends, I shall appeal to you to leave this conference with a clear cut vision, not so much of our difficult and distressing situation, but a vision of possibilities :- .

Magde Sesedi : General President.
National Council of African Women.

M/B/15/2

1st October, 1958.

Mrs. M. Sesedi,
General President,
National Council of African Women,
716, Makenna Street,
Galeshewe Village,
KIMBERLEY.

Dear Mrs. Sesedi,

It is with particular pleasure that I write to congratulate the National Council of African Women on the attainment of its Twenty-first Birthday. Throughout the years the National Council of African Women has done a magnificent job, and I believe that in the future the African people will look more and more to African women for the positive, constructive work which will ameliorate their lot. The National Council of African Women is now of age; it has the experience of twenty-one years behind it, and it can take its place with confidence beside other women's organizations in South Africa. The Institute of Race Relations which was so closely associated with the early years of the National Council of African Women, sends its sincerest congratulations on the past and its best wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Quintin Whyte,
DIRECTOR.

QW/amb.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AFRICAN WOMEN HEADQUARTERS

"Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you"

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Mrs. L. S. Masuabi,
144 Claude Street,
Green Point,
Beaconsfield.
Phone 3323

20th September 1958.

Mr Quintin Whyte,
Director S.A.I.R.R.
P.O. Box 97,
Johannesburg.

SEP 24 1958 *Sw.*

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the National Council of African Women, I wish to request you in your capacity as the Director of the S.A.I.R.R. ~~to~~ to send a congratulatory message for inclusion in our coming-of-age brochure.

We hope to send the booklet to print during the month of October. As one of the Institutions that has been among our greatest benefactors, during our initial stages of development, it behoves us at this stage to seek your proved ~~ax~~ goodwill, when an important milestone has been reached.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

Magde Sesedi

Gen. President
National Council of African Women

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