

ANNEXURE "A"

CHARLES MATLOPORO makes the following statement:-

I am a Msotho employed as a head teacher in the American Board Mission School at George Goch.

On Sunday morning, December 15th, at 1 a.m. I was in charge of a group of about ten scholars going home to George Goch from a meeting of the Eisteddfod at the Bantu Men's Social Centre, Eloff Street. The scholars were in front, and I was behind with two Native women and two Native men. The scholars under 18 had their school passes, those over 18 had specials, except the girls none of whom are over 18. The adults had passes and I had my Exemption Certificate.

When we reached the corner of McIntyre and Marshall Streets, we were stopped by two constables who had with them some White youths. They stopped our party, and I moved forward at once to speak for the party. Constable TC39 grabbed my cap and struck me on the head with it three times, saying: "Staan in die lyne, wie denk jy laat jy is"?

I replied that I wished to explain why the scholars were not carrying specials, that they were in my charge, and that I carried an exemption. He interrupted me and said: "Skool kinders is nie ge eksent, jou Certifikaart sal nie hulp nie. Jy maag hom maar weg gooi".

Constable TC144 asked to see my Exemption. He looked through it, and showed it to TC39 and said that I was exempted; but TC39 replied: "Ja! Maar die kinders is nie ge eksent nie". I asked why he had hit me, and he said: "Bly stil hoor! Ek wil niks hoor van jou nonsense. Ek vang jou nou".

I said that it would have been better to have done so than to hit me in front of my scholars.

TC39 then picked out the male scholars and told them to go, but the girls he kept. They began to cry, and I told them not to worry as I would go with them. Then TC39 said: "Ek sal sien laat jy nie saam gaan nie". "Bly stil julle" (to children). As they went on I followed, and TC39 aimed three blows at my head, the first hit me, the other two I warded off by putting up my arms. The girls were crying. I remonstrated with TC39 for assaulting me. He then took the girls on, and I followed.

He asked me questions. I said I would answer all questions in the Charge Office. There was some more talk as he was now unwilling to go to the Charge Office. He went off and said he would fetch his witnesses. We waited for him to return, but as he did not do so we went home.

Later that morning, probably about 11 a.m., I went to the Jeppe Charge Office to lay a charge. TC14 was there, and I asked him to take my statement, but before putting anything down in writing, he began to abuse me, saying: "Jy dink die policeman sal jou verniet slaan. Jy kom hier stories vertel".

I resumed my story, but he told me to keep quiet. He was so abusive and unpleasant that I went out without giving a statement. The sergeant was all the time standing next to him. The sergeant asked me why I did not give my statement. I explained that the policeman was so abusive that I preferred to go to someone I knew would take down my statement properly.

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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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