

Undated
(1947?)

The African National Congress stands first and foremost for total abolition of all discriminatory laws and to this end its leaders are determined to direct their energies and that of the African people: They are convinced that, whatever the authorities are grudgingly doing in matters of education, social service, health, and the economic sphere, the African people cannot and will never be satisfied until they have a full voice in the making and administration of the law that govern the country as a whole.

In other words, they claim as their constitutional and birth right full participation in the Government of South Africa. The Natives Representative Council has twice adjourned after passing a resolution asking the Government to remove the discriminatory laws based on race or colour in keeping with the policy of the African National Congress.

The Councillors since 1937 have repeatedly passed resolutions for the abolition of the Pass Laws, for compulsory education, free access to land for Africans with free hold title, the recognition of African Trade Unions, direct representation in all legislative bodies, Housing facilities for Africans with free-hold title, the improvement of the status of the Chiefs and other reforms.

The resolutions on these subjects are the same as those the African National Congress has passed from time to time. Now the Councillors have adjourned twice as a protest against the Government's disregard of the recommendations of an institution of the Government's own creation. Is it wise, Is it common sense to say the Native Representative Councillors must abandon the field and withdraw from the Council at this stage before the Government has given a satisfactory and considered reply to their resolution of 1946?

I consider such a step unwise and lacking in common-sense notwithstanding all the bad features inherent in the institution.

I, therefore, as President-General of the African National Congress and in the name of the National Executive appeal to Chiefs, Headmen, and the people to rally round the banner of Congress to return ~~the~~ ^{the} present members to finish up the negotiations they have begun with Government. We must not sit around with mouths wide open criticising the Councillors. They have done their best.

What is needed is for all of us outside and inside the Council under the banner of the African National Congress, to organise our people to work for all the things I have mentioned above. In other words, we must organise ~~our people~~ and train them for full citizenship with their European fellow citizens in the land of their birth.

A Happy New Year to all ~~xxx~~ of you. Africans close ranks and march to your freedom!

A.B. Xuma, President-General, A.N.C.

members as far as possible

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