

PERSONAL OPINION

P.N.C. Secondary School,
Kulu, Kulu,
4th August 1969.

Dear Mr. Makiwane,

Your letter did not come unexpectedly and thus did not find me altogether napping. Thank you very much for it. Also, I must heavily thank you for the fine sentiments you expressed about my colleague Mr. Makiwane. I am certain that such encouraging words have also given him fresh vigour and strength.

Our experience in P.E. was not only an eye opener to the strength of the creed which we profess but also showed us what a mighty force men who know their goal and are determined to attain it through thick and thin could be. The whole experience was so educative that we returned clearer of our stand-point than we were before.

I am writing this letter right in the middle of the night and after much work and say this fail to do it justice. I wish to give you a short survey of the doleful funeral of the Convention and its President in P.E. after you had left. Mr. Makiwane and I were due to leave on Thursday evening. During the course of that very day we visited A.P. and he informed us of lecture he was to give at the Social Centre that evening. He then requested us to postpone our date of departure in order to attend and rally round if it became necessary. We agreed.

In short, he rendered the best exposition on African Nationalism I have heard or read so far. I will not go into details. Questions were asked and Mr. Tsoetsi ventured five all of which had been already answered in the lecture. The fact is that he had them in his mind before. Mr. Mda, dismissed them in such a cheap manner that everyone in the hall thought poor Tsoetsi had gone crazy before he could persuade himself to ask such foolish questions. After this he made a graceful retreat and left the meeting.

His henchman Mr. Ngotsi characteristically attempted to make an empty psychological analysis of African Nationalism saying it was merely a negative reaction evincing Nazi tendencies. A.P. became virulent and mercilessly exposed not only Ngotsi's political bankruptcy but also his psychological involency. It was a pitiful spectacle to witness - a man with a senior degree in psychology and keen to show it systematically shown, and in public, how little he knew of the subject he boasted he knew so well. The poor fellow dissolved into his chair.

The following day Swane, Nali, Makiwane, Surisa and I visited Tsoetsi in his office and naturally we started to discuss the two organisations. The whole thing ended in a proper fiasco. He told me frankly in the end that we had no common platform only the African masses and time will show which group is right. He pleaded for at least a minimum working programme, alleging that both groups at any rate wanted freedom. I pointed out to him that apart from the fact that his notion of freedom may be different from that the Africans want not only agreement on a watered down programme of action was inessential but the type of machinery for carrying it out was essential. As I said, we were on the verge of quarrelling when we left his office without even saying good-bye.

Believing, probably that he could pick up and re-assemble the broken fragments of his prestige he agreed to lecture on the Dangers of African Nationalism on Saturday evening when the poor fellow committed suicide. After making a poor show he was questioned and confuted by simple men from the audience. A.P. vehemently showed how confused the man was. Slowly and in a systematic manner he showed how Tsetse contradicted himself right through his talk. This time Youth Leaguers took their chance, man, we exposed the bankruptcy of the fellow. In fact the whole thing ended as an excellent propaganda meeting for the Youth League. I am told that Tsetse beating a hasty retreat after the meeting could say no more than that "these fellows are pure fanatics you can do nothing with them, it is useless trying to convince them otherwise".

This, I consider to be the highest tribute which could be paid us especially by an adversary. When we have attained a stage of sound-mindedness whereat agents of oppression could not convince us that we must remain slaves then the hour of our liberation is not far off.

You will please excuse me for not being comprehensive and clear I am really tired.

Give my kind regards to all Youth Leaguers. Here we are on the move.

Yours in the cause of Africa.

(Signed) TSEPO

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