

Education - Geerd

KLIPTOWN PARENTS' COMMITTEE,
P. O. BOX 8,
KLIPTOWN.

Box 460724a

24-7-46

The Secretary,

African National Congress,
.....
104 End Street,
.....
City of Johannesburg
.....

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Kliptown school Boycott.

The above Committee, after two months of struggle against the Department's proposed erection of a school in Volkshaven, a new and uninhabited township, three to four miles distant from Kliptown, wishes to give you the facts to clarify the present situation, so as to enlist your organisation's worthy support.

In 1943, the parents of Kliptown undertook to boycott the present school in Kliptown as a protest against the erection of a school for Kliptown children in Volkshaven and also as a protest against continued schooling of the children in unhygienic buildings which then consisted of dilapidated stables, storerooms and church buildings. The Department of Education, realising that the parents were determined to fight in the interest of a just cause, asked the Committee to call off the boycott, and promised to erect a bigger and better school in Kliptown, as the money had already been voted for the purpose.

In April 1946, the school Board erected temporary classrooms in Volkshaven, despite previous assurances and subsequent negotiations for a school in Kliptown. The parents, failing to obtain satisfaction, through normal constitutional channels, undertook another boycott.

This boycott reached a climax when five women were charged with public violence and convicted. The Magistrate commented, after an inspection in loco of the school in Volkshaven, as follows:-

" The Court has seen the site proposed for the new school at Volkshaven, and has ascertained that to get there, the children must walk a long way over a dangerous railway, or cross an even more dangerous spruit.

" Some official body in the Department of Education must have been unreasonable or at fault in not complying with the urgent requests of the residents of Kliptown.

" I come to the conclusion that something is wrong. The Department cannot be excused, because it has had petitions, and the residents registered a protest in an uncertain manner."

Rand Daily Mail, Tuesday, July 9, 1946.

The Department has made no reply to this criticism, and is preparing to accommodate some of the children at Volkshaven when the school re-opens on July 30, 1946.

The Committee is determined to continue the boycott and is calling an open air public meeting in front of the Grand Theatre, Kliptown, on Sunday 28 July, 1946, and invites representatives from your organisation to be present and if possible give moral support from your organisation.

We also urgently call upon you to assist us by sending telegrams of protest to the Director of the Transvaal Education Dept., and the Minister of Education on Tuesday, 30 July, 1946.

ABx. 4607296

A.M.C
(Natal)

24/7/46

Mr. A.W.G. Champion, M.R.C.,
19, Old Dutch Road,
Durban, Natal.

Dear Mr. Provincial President,

I wish to thank you for your letter of recent date and also for your good wishes to the family. I regret, however, that you forgot to put in the enclosure which might have explained to us your difficulties.

As the Natal Womens League has not been properly and officially set up we propose that the same tickets as sent through your office be used by all and adjustments to be made when the League is officially set up.

I've had so much pressure on my time that I have not been able to catch up with half the demands on it. Any way, I thank you and your Executive in Natal for the excellent work you are doing and I am sure you will continue to do so.

Yours sincerely,

1946.

26th July, 6.

ABX/ARM/

Dear Councillor,

When the Representation of Natives Act was passed, although most of us knew it was a blind alley, it was decided reluctantly to take the Government at their own word and test their sincerity. Some had hoped that the advice of that Council, besides African leaders in general, would guide the so called Native Affairs. However, nine years experience has dashed to the ground any hopes and have proved the uselessness of the Natives Representative Council in that the Government's policy has become worse from year to year in most essentials, e.g. the oppressive amendments of the Natives Urban Areas Act - including the authority given Native Commissioners - sole authority to refuse our people railway tickets to go and seek work in certain areas;

- (b) Extension of the pass laws to the Cape and Natal Provinces;
- (c) Inclusion of African women in the transfer of the control of pass laws by the municipalities;
- (d) The refusal of the Government to recognise African Workers as Trade Unionists.

As you will recall the Native Representative Council from its first session and almost at every successive session has passed unanimous resolutions for the abolition of the Pass Laws. African Organisation have done likewise. The Transkeian Bhunga has passed a similar resolution.

In spite of all this the Government has ignored the African demand. We, therefore, feel that the Government has thus treated our people with contempt even in organisations of their own creation, proving thereby that these organisations were set up as places for letting off steam and for dividing Africans and diverting them from National organisations of their own creation.

We congratulate members of the Councils for having consistently identified themselves with their own National Movements.

We, therefore, call upon you and other members to support a motion of adjournment of the Council and non-co-operation unless the Government accepts the appeal of the Africans;

- (a) for the total abolition of the pass laws;
- (b) Recognition and registration of the African Trade Union under the Industrial Conciliation Act without qualifications;
- (c) Repeal of restrictive and oppressive provisions under the Native Urban Areas Act;

Mr. J. S. Moroka

(d) Repeal of sections of the Native Administration Act which authorise anyone to remove an African leader or leaders without trial.

We feel that the Council has been made a toy and the dignity of our people has been assailed.

We, therefore, appeal to you, declare in your reply and do everything in your power to vindicate our honour as a race. Some may imagine that we have no honour but we can establish that and bring it to the recognition of others.

You must declare yourself to come out and help organise the masses for the achievement of those things which some of you have worked so hard, so heroically and so convincingly for 9 and 4 years respectively. You are not to be blamed for failures.

We are sure you will not fail us in this hour of crisis. Your people require your leadership and guidance and the time and circumstances demand your unqualified devotion to the cause of freedom for your people.

We must close ranks.

Your Servant in the service for full citizenship of all in South Africa,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL, AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL ANTI-PASS CAMPAIGN.

Councillor, Dr. J. S. Moroka,
Thaba Nchu,
ORANGE FREE STATE.

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ABX/ARM.

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PRESIDENT-GENERAL, AFRICAN NATIONAL
CONGRESS.
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL ANTI-PASS CAMPAIGN.

Councillor L. T. Msomi,
212, East Street,
VRYHEID, Natal.

Dear Councillor,

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CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL ANTI-PASS CAMPAIGN.

Councillor R.H.Godlo,
68, St. Paul's Road,
EAST LONDON.

ABX/ARM.

26th July,

6.

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full citizenship of all in
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PRESIDENT-GENERAL, AFRICAN NATIONAL
CONGRESS,
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL ANTI-PASS CAMPAIGN.

Councillor, A. W. G. Champion,
19, Old Dutch Road,
Durban,
NATAL.

ABX/ARM.

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A.B. XUMA

PRESIDENT-GENERAL, AFRICAN NATIONAL
CONGRESS.
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL ANTI-PASS CAMPAIGN.

Councillor R.V. Selope-Thema,
54, Tucker Street,
Sophiatown,
JOHANNESBURG.

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Councillor P.R. Mosaka,
1515, Orlando Township,
JOHANNESBURG.

ABX/ARM.

26th July, 6.

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PRESIDENT GENERAL, AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.
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Chief Mshiyeni ka Dinizulu,
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P.O. Mahashini,
ZULULAND.

ABX/ARM.

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Collection Number: AD843

XUMA, A.B., Papers

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- **Historical Papers Research Archive**

Location:- **Johannesburg**

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