



ALICE 68.

Mr. C. Mayekiso,
P.O. Box 1294,
PORT ELIZABETH.

Gaga Street,
Alice, C.P.
25/5/55.

re: Schools Boycott Cape Eastern Region.

Dear Mr. Mayekiso,

I learn from the Press that the Cape Eastern Region has embarked upon a boycott of schools which began on Monday, May 23. In view of the fact that this action is contrary to the directives of the National Executive in which the Cape Executive concurred at its last meeting held on March 12, 1955, I should like you to give me some explanation as to how this departure from the declared policy of the A.N.C. came about. On my instructions Mr. Tshumungwa sent you a telegram on May 20 suggesting that you should await the instructions of the National Executive on this matter. The National Executive met in Natal on May 21 and there the members of the National Secretariat informed the Executive that no instructions had been issued by them to the Cape Eastern Region on this matter and the Executive made it clear that it was not in favour of these unauthorised boycotts which are doing the A.N.C. more harm than good. My own view about this matter is that it is intended as an expression of a vote of no confidence in our leadership and I have accordingly decided not to stand for re-election at the forthcoming Cape Conference, so as to give the Conference an opportunity to elect someone in whose leadership they will show more confidence. At all events I shall be glad if you will give me some information about this development.

As you will remember, it was decided at the last meeting of the Cape Executive that the Annual Conference should be held in Port Elizabeth on June 25, 26. In view of the C.O.P. Assembly which is to take place in Johannesburg on the same date, it has been decided to hold the Cape Conference a week earlier i.e. June 18, 19. Now I should like you to let me know as soon as possible as to whether Port Elizabeth is still prepared to receive the Conference. It is necessary for us to get into touch with the Branches immediately so as to make arrangements for the Conference. For that reason I would advise that the boycott business be dropped immediately and that we should concentrate on the Provincial Conference for June 18 & 19 and the C.O.P. on June 25, 26.

Please treat this as a matter of urgency and let me have your reply as soon as possible.

Yours for Africa,

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