

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS - NATAL PROVINCE.EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTED AT PIETERMARITZBURG RECOGNISED BODY.

To clear the air on the position of Congress in Natal, I want to state that the Executive Committee elected at Pietermaritzburg recently is the recognized to lead and conduct African National Congress affairs in the Natal Province.

The so-called breach of the constitution is merely technical and if there has been any constitutional breach it seems to have been made by leaders concerned in the notice calling the Conference and in the manner the Conference appears to have been conducted. It is the leadership and not the people or the Conference the must shoulder the blame.

My last letter to Rev. A. Mtinkulu was written after Mr. Champion informed me, in the presence of Rev. Mtinkulu, that the letter has already been invited by the new Executive Committee to meet them.

It was no recognition of Rev. Mtinkulu as a leader of any recognised body. He (Rev. Mtinkulu) asked me to write so that he could convince his supporters of the arrangements.

The publication of the letter, although it might have been intended to cause political and constitutional confusion, is, if Rev. Mtinkulu did not attend the Executive Meeting he agreed to attend, bad taste and a breach of faith.

It must be made clear that this decision is not a recognition of Champion over Mtinkulu. Both are friends of mine. Congress does not belong to either. It is merely placing the interests of unity and the cause of the people in its proper perspective.

Congress is nobody's private concern or property. It is a mass liberation movement for the people and as such all of us as leaders, for the time being, must bow to the will of the people and work for their advancement and the raising of their status.

All who believe in Congress and its mission will sink personalities and support the new Executive Committee as long as it works in public interest.

A copy of this letter has been forwarded to both M. r. Champion and Rev. Mtinkulu.

Yours for the Unity and Advancement of the Africans,

PRESIDENT GENERAL.

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