

MSX. 411001a

South African Gifts and Comforts Committee

(SOUTHERN TRANSVAAL REGIONAL CENTRE)

DEPOT:

Burlington House
(First Floor),
Opp. Escom House,
Rissik Street,
Johannesburg.

Telephone 33-5702

Telephone 33-0751-2

Offices:

607-610, Shell House,
Rissik Street,
JOHANNESBURG.

*Military
Matters*

HOURS:

Weekdays-9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Saturdays-9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

U R G E N T .

1st. Oct. 1941.

~~THE MANAGING DIRECTOR,~~
~~Messrs.~~

Dr. A.B. Kumay,
104 End St.,
Doornfontein.

Dear Sirs,

May we make this urgent and earnest appeal to your Company to consider giving a regular monthly or annual donation to the funds of South African Gifts and Comforts. This Fund supplies gifts and comforts to all our men and women in the fighting Services, including our volunteers in the Imperial Forces, Red Cross personnel and all our Native, Indian and Malay Units, together, nearly 200,000 volunteers.

Since its inception the Southern Transvaal, including Johannesburg and the Reef, have donated to us on an average about £2,300 per month, which works out at the shameful figure of threepence per volunteer.

We can only assume that the Public have not yet realised this, although Mrs. Smuts has made innumerable appeals for more donations and has set a magnificent example of devotion to duty and it is now my duty, as Chairman of the Southern Transvaal Regional Fund Raising Committee, to make sure that all who can help shall at least be directly informed of this position.

If you wish to know more about South African Gifts and Comforts, and what It has Done, or if you think it has failed, please ask for our Bulletin S.T.1 and we will be surprised if you are not impressed with our achievements in the face of severe financial handicaps.

We must raise £10,000 per month in future, otherwise our men will have to be severely disappointed, and, as today the National Fund has not got £15,000 left (or less than one month's requirements), you will realise the extreme urgency of this Appeal.

It is suggested that we can meet our obligations most equitably if the larger and older established concerns donated from £25. to £10. per month, the smaller ones £5. per month, the tax payers £1. and others 2/6d per month.

We will much appreciate your reply to this letter at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

A Trevor Williams

CHAIRMAN : FUND RAISING COMMITTEE.

COMMISSION ON BEER HALLS

ABX. 4110016

Memorandum submitted to the Commission by the Vigilance Association of Bloemfontein Stand-holders and Rate-payers.

-PREAMBLE-

It is a well-known fact that the African has no place in State Legislatures, Provincial Councils and Town Councils, bodies that have powers to legislate for him and claim to know all that concern him and his interests. He has no right to find a place even on Committees and Commissions appointed by the Government from time to time to inquire and make recommendations from which legislators may make laws to govern and determine his destiny in this, the land of his fore-fathers and of his birth. His point of view does not seem to count but that of the other man. Discriminatory laws that often militate against him and his interests are made for the benefit of the other man.

The Native Urban Areas Act, 1923, which set aside certain areas for his sole occupation does not allow him tenure of land so essential for his progress and self-improvement. The often repeated statement: "Let the Native develop along his own lines", does not seem to contain even a shadow of meaning. He cannot and must not trade in his own area, worse still among his own people and is thus denied the of progress and self-improvement which cultivates and sustains the spirit of race Pride.

THE MEMORANDUM.

(a) The coming into being of Beer Halls.

The establishment of Beer Halls agitated the minds of Europeans for a considerable time and commanded the attention of the press. Durban was the first town in the Union to open a Beer Hall as a monopoly of the City Council. The huge profits which accrued from the sale of beer at this centre seem to have acted as an incentive to other centres throughout the country. Consequently Beer Halls sprang up in many centres within the last four years. The main idea behind the scheme of Municipalisation of Kaffir Beer was to obtain large profits which might go to augment the Native Revenue Account to provide essential services in the Locations, but the demoralising effects were not sufficiently weighed hence the unsatisfactory state of affairs at present prevailing such as drunkenness and crime among the African youth, and which are on the increase. Where these Beer Halls are run on a large scale the results have been more than unsatisfactory.

(b) The effects of Beer Halls on Africans.

It was argued by sponsors of Beer Halls that they would counteract drunkenness and lawlessness and thus minimise crime but, unfortunately the reverse has been the case as could be proved from statistics available. The illicit trade in liquor and other poisonous concoctions has ruined the health of the people, and the Africans have been so demoralised that they have lost all sense of shame, self-control, and responsibility. The Skokian queens and shebeens at present seem to outnumber those in existence four years ago.

(c) The chief Causes of illicit Trade in liquor and other poisonous concoctions.

(1) Low wages paid to African workers in general. The bread-winner's wages are so meagre that the wife ~~xxx~~ finds herself compelled, very much against her will, to brew beer in order to supplement her husband's poor earnings.

(2) Restrictions imposed on the sale of yeast to Africans while Europeans have the right to obtain it; some find themselves tempted to engage in the illicit but profitable trade in this commodity.

(3) Restrictions against home brewing by Africans.

EVILS RESULTANT FROM PROHIBITION AND POLICE RAIDS:

(1) Here the notorious Opperman case should be borne in mind; bribery in all its various forms.

(2) / (missing)

ABX. 411002

Social Welfare - General

2nd October, 1941.

D.L.Smit Esq.,
Chairman,
Native Affairs Commission,
Native Affairs Department,
P R E T O R I A.

Dear Sir,

I wish to state that I shall be giving evidence, as Leader and President-General of the African National Congress, before your Economic Committee of Enquiry.

I deeply regret that, because of the shortness of time between the formal announcement of the appointment of the Committee and its sitting, we are not now in a position to send even an outline of our Memorandum. Besides, I am leaving for the Free State where I am invited in my official capacity as President-General of the African National Congress, to address the O.F.S. African Teachers' Association in conference at Thaba Nchu, on Friday.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to postpone this important and urgent engagement, as the Association desires to consult me to get my reaction on certain questions as the people's National Leader.

I would, therefore, request the privilege of appearing before your Committee, preferably, on Saturday - October 11th - and, if that is impossible on Thursday morning - October 9th - at the earliest. Saturday would give us an opportunity to draft a short Memorandum as there will be no time for anything exhaustive.

Yours faithfully,

ABX/pd.

PRESIDENT-GENERAL
AFRICAN NATIONAL
CONGRESS.

THE CLERMONT TOWNSHIP TRANSPORT COMPANY, LIMITED.

(In course of Formation)

DIRECTORS. L.E.S. Gama (Chairman)
 A.F.S. Luthuli
 Dr. Wm. Ngcobo
 N.S. Zwane
 Rev. S.M. Duze
 J.D.T. Kuzwayo
 J. Zwane
 P. O. Box 87,
 JOHANNESBURG.

Personal matters - business

3rd October, 1941.

Dr. A.B. Xuma,
 President - General,
 African National Congress,
 c/o 85, Toby Street,
 SOPHIATOWN,
 Johannesburg.

Sir,

Clermont Township Aid Fund.

To me has been given the honour to express the appreciation and highest confidence the Transvaal Committee, Clermont Township Aid Fund has for you.

The Committee is convinced, and declares itself no less entitled in calling you the "First Gentleman of the Land" where the question of the African Race in Southern Africa is involved.

I also wish to associate myself, ^{with} this expression and add that the success of this Company in particular, and that of the Black Race in general unquestionably hangs immediately below your leadership in the field of the African National Congress approached with greater stress on self-dependency in the industrial sphere as the first stage, and tribal or racial ^{discrimination} break down as the second.

I donot wish ^{to be} understood as taking advantage of this ^{privilege} when I say that it would be an incentive to a few doubtful members of this organisation if the President were to become one of the promoters.

We are truly indebted to the Doctor for the trouble he took to patronise our Function on August 29, 1941 although it met with no response.

And I shall be glad if the Doctor may return to us copies of our Memorandum, Prospectus, such other relative documents.

Your obedient servant,

[Signature]
 CHAIRMAN

ABX. 4110036

A. N.C.

Lungalegwaba Hostel,
Orlando.

3rd October, 1941.

Sir,

I have been instructed by the President of the African National Congress to invite your Association to send three representatives to a meeting to be held on the 7th October, 1941 at 7.30 P.M. at the Offices of the Commercial & Distributive Workers' Union No 8 Kerk street, City, for the purpose of considering the preparation of a memo for presentation to the commission appointed by the government to investigate into the economic conditions of the African people.

Thanking you in advance,

I am, Sir,

Yours Sincerely,

W. M. Ngwenya
Ass. Secy A.N.C.

Nkosi sikeleli' Africa.

1 The principle that the poorest section of
the community should be scrapped, as it
is incompatible with modern practice in
social economics

APX 4110031

Ceremonies
and occasions

ABX. 411005

A

Grand Reception AND FAREWELL

In honour of Chief **Zwelivumile**, Justice
Mtirara the Son of Paramount Chief of the
Tembus

In the Communal Hall

Eastern Native Township,

On Sunday, 5th. October, 1941

Ladies and Gentlemen are cordially invited to attend

Rev. I. B. MVAMBO will open with a sermon.

Speakers : Superintendent of the Location, Dr. A.B. Xuma, R. Baloyi
S. Thema, B. Mdingi, J. Mavimbela, Sipoyo, & Festile.

Mr. N. W: Mngqibisa, Manager, & Act. Chairman,
Chairman : Mr. Piliso, Vice Chairman : Mr. S. Tyolweni.

Secretary : Mr. G. H. Mbekeni,
Vice Secretary : F. Nyezi, Manager : R. Bacela

Mr. D:D: Mafleka : Treasurer,

The Location Choirs will perform:

Commence

10 A.M:

ADMISSION FREE.

Caluza Press, 65 Mkwayi St. E N. Township G. Goch Johannesburg.



A GRAND RECEPTION & FAREWELL

In Honour Of Chief Zwelivumile
Justice Mtirara the Son of the
Paramount Chief of the Tembus



G.H. MASHAYI Secretary

AT THE
COMMUNAL HALL
Eastern Native Township

On Sunday 5th
October 1941

Ladies & Gentlemen
are cordial invited



Rev.I.B. Mvambo will open with a Sermon

N.W. MNGQIBISA Manager & Act. chairman

Speakers. Superintendent of the location

Dr.A.B Xuma R Baloyi S Thema B Mdingi

J Mavimbela Sipoyo & Festile

H IRMAN PILISO VICE CHAIRMAN S TYOLWENI

VICE SECRETARY F NYEZI MANAGER R BACELA



D.D. MAFILEKA Treasurer

The location choirs will perform

Commence 10.a.m.

ADMISSION FREE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

Robert - General

5/10/41

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

SUBJECT: [Illegible]

1. [Illegible]
2. [Illegible]
3. [Illegible]

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

(Signature)

5/10/41
3/5/51

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

ABX. 411006
Sport & recreation

BANTU MEN'S SOCIAL CENTRE.

Phone: 33-8110.

P.O. Box 4767,
JOHANNESBURG.
6th October, 1941.

NOTICE OF MEETING.

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Bantu Men's Social Centre, will be held in the Committee Room, on Thursday, 9th October, 1941, at 5 P.M.

You are earnestly requested to make a special effort, to attend.

Yours Faithfully,

JULIUS G. MALIE.
ACTING SECRETARY.

JGM/TBM.

AGENDA.

1. Minutes.
2. Matters Arising out of Minutes.
3. Extensions and Improvements.
4. House Committee Report.
5. Kitchen Report.
6. New Members.
7. General.

N.B. All African members of the Executive Committee, as well as those European members who will find it possible, are requested to attend a Meeting of the House Committee, on Wednesday 8th October, 1941, at 5 P.M.

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MEETING DATED 4TH OCTOBER, 1941.

7th October, 1941

Dr A. B. Xuma

Dear Sir

I am sorry I was mistaken when I said I had seen your address to the Chief Inspector in the Teachers Magazine, I mistook it for the Pinville Government School opening address.

Now reference to your address to the Chief Inspector Dr. Eislere for the Orlando Secondary School Opening, I feel I shall not be playing my part as one of the interested teachers in this Province.

Sir, I must indeed thank you very very heartily for the splendid and wide information you have given the Chief Inspector on behalf of your people in this subject. This is a symbol of a wise leader.

I was specially taken by your sagacious treatment of the Missionary Leadership and pioneering works towards the Education of the Bantu in this country. Your diplomacy in dealing with this question of public Education is excellent. I am almost sure the Chief Inspector has never had a fuller and vivid information of the feelings of our Bantu people through the Medium of their Bantu Organisation. This will mark slow cooperation of our Bantu people.

Sir, while I have the privilege of speaking my mind to you in pen, let me ask you to be good enough to note this difficulty now confronting the African teacher most unpleasant.

We are today as you know living in an age in which man's power and success are measured by the amount of money he earns. I am really sorry to not as an official but as a staunch and interested member of the AFRICAN TEACHERS ASSOCIATION of the TRANSVAAL PROVINCE

I We are today bitterly feeling the burden of underpaid service. War prices are pretty high and with our meagre wages we cannot afford anything good. We are given or rather paid a very shameful figure as an increase to meet what is called Living Allowance of 2/6 and 5/- per month and etc. This is without dispute a deprecation and a lowering of the Native Teacher's prestige. I conclude that this is due to our poor leaders or inferiority complex.



Education - General 8/10/1941

ABX. 411008

ORANGE FREE STATE AFRICAN TEACHERS ASSOCIATION.

REPORT ON CONFERENCE HELD AT TRABA NCHU, OCTOBER 1941. (Official)

The 38th. Annual Conference of the O.F.S.A.T.A. opened its session in St. Paul's School on October 2nd, 1941, Mr. M.L. Kabane, B.A., being in the chair. Rev. Mr. Matebesi led the devotions. After the reading and adoption of the minutes of the last day of the 1940 Conference the President delivered his address.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS. Reference was made to the difficult times thro' which we are passing as a result of the war which has affected not only the men on active service but the economic position of those who have remained at home, particularly the African teachers whose plight is especially distressing, since the cost of living allowances which were withdrawn during the depression have not been restored. He reported on an interview made by the Executive with the Administrator in an attempt to improve the position of teachers as regards salaries and conditions of service. He regretted that several teachers did not give the Association the support it deserved and appealed for greater interest in the Association's activities.

2. OFFICIAL OPENING. Rev. L.T. Sadler, Governor of the Institution presided. Speeches of welcome were made in the Assembly Hall by the Mayor, Dr. Kampfraath, Mr. Heyns, B.A., B.Ed., Chief Setlogelo and Chief F.Z. Fenyang. The Mayor donated a guinea on behalf of the Council for the entertainment of delegates to Conference. The following points were raised by the speakers: the advantages and importance of a religious basis in all educational work; the majority of Bantu children do not go beyond Standard II; dual language difficulty and mother tongue instruction; the need for an Infant School Teachers' Certificate.

3. GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: The report gave a detailed account of the interview with the Administrator on: conditions of service, particularly the appointment and dismissal of teachers; appointment of unqualified teachers; irregular inspection of schools; teachers' salaries and allowances; anomalous scale of salaries for African graduates as Itinerant Headmasters; pension scheme for African teachers on a £ to £ basis; furlough arrangements. He reported that steps had been taken to recover £20 belonging to the Association in Government Stocks. Correspondence with the Education Department on cases of teachers who had been unfairly treated was read.

4. FEDERATION REPORT: Mr. Makgothi reported on the following matters:- the appointment of European teachers in Bantu High Schools; scales of salaries for teachers in primary schools; the need for the appointment of Bantu Inspectors; the employment of African Agricultural Demonstrators; pension scheme for African teachers and the need for one Educational Journal for the four Provincial Associations to deal with matters of common interest as well as matters of local interest.

Moroka

5. DR. XUMA'S LECTURE: From the chair Dr. ~~Kuma~~ introduced the speaker who was at one time a teacher, as a prominent leader of the African people. Dr. Xuma's address dwelt on the efforts of the African National Congress in the following directions:- the making of laws for the protection of the African people; agitation for the removal of discriminatory legislation; redress of Native grievances as regards Franchise, pension rights, trading facilities, direct or indirect representation of Africans in Parliament; fight against laws like Masters and Servants Act, Native Service Contract Act; the abolition of beer halls, and police raids. Speaking on Native Education, he showed that most of the evils in the system arose out of the unsatisfactory system of financing Native Education on a block grant dependent on 'the ability to pay' of the poorest section of the community. In conclusion he assured the Association of the support of Congress.

6. LECTURE BY INSPECTOR ROSS: The lecturer expounded on the philosophical basis of the Administration and General Policy of Native Education. His general impression was that much progress has been made in this Province in spite of difficulties arising out of the system of financing Native Education.

A point of special interest to teachers arising out of the Inspector's lecture was his statement to the effect that teachers are employed by managers and not by the Education Department. In his opinion there are almost insuperable difficulties in the way of placing native teachers directly under the control of the Education Department. It is more feasible, he thought, for teachers to press for a Departmental enquiry whenever there are reasonable grounds for believing that a teacher has been wrongfully dismissed. The speaker appealed to teachers to take great interest in their work.

7. DEPUTATION TO WOMEN'S MANYANO. Messrs Moshoeshoe and Mothibi reported that the Thaba Nchu Women's Manyano members showed themselves deeply concerned in the problem of the bringing up of children and stated that satisfactory results can be obtained if teachers and parents work in close cooperation. A teacher-parent association is suggested. Conference commends such contact in all branches and schools.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT. Dr. Moroka reported that after all expenses incurred during the year a credit balance of £49. 0s. 7d. is carried over to the following year. This balance is made up of £20 from Government stock, £5 loan to be ~~repaid~~ repaid, and the rest cash in hand.

9 Competition. Bloemfontein, Thaba Nchu and Heilbron choirs took part in the musical competition and Miss J.R. Hadlow L.R.A.M. adjudicated. Bloemfontein won the trophy with 89% followed by Thaba Nchu and Heilbron with 85% and 81% respectively. Regret was expressed that only three choirs had taken part in the competition. The double quartette cup was won by Thaba Nchu which had been the only choir to procure the set piece. The governor of the Moroka Missionary Institution donated a cup to be competed for by mixed quartettes.

10. RESOLUTIONS. The following resolutions were passed:-

- (a) That the executive should bring to the notice of the proper authorities the need for native children in urban schools to be supplied with milk.
- (b) That an inspector of music be appointed to supervise the instruction of music in African primary and post-primary (other than training) schools.
- (c) That steps be taken to ~~fix~~ provide facilities for the preparation of candidates for the Higher Primary Teachers' Course in the Province. This course to be regarded as higher than the Junior Certificate.
- (d) That vacation courses be arranged by the Education Department at least every five years.
- (e) That the Department draw up a salary scale for principal teachers in primary schools on the same lines as for post-primary schools i.e. the principal's allowance be included in and not separate from his salary grant.
- (f) That our representatives in the Native Representative Council and the Provincial Advisory Board also the African National Congress, the Education Department and the Teachers' Federation be urged to take steps that would lead to an increase in the teachers' salaries and/or their allowances and to the restoration of the cost of living allowances abolished since the depression. Such allowances to be for all teachers in urban and rural districts.
- (g) That a joint deputation of the Transvaal and Free State teachers' associations interview the Minister of Native Affairs with a view to the restoration of these allowances.

- (h) That the status of teachers be raised to that of civil servants.
- (i) That in view of the fact that teachers are paid by the Department, contracts of employment should be between the teachers and the Department with the managers as agents of the Department.
- (j) That the terms of the contract should be altered ~~xxxxxx~~ in such a way that good reasons will have to be given whenever notice to terminate the contract is issued.
- (k) That there shall be a Board of Editors consisting of a Senior Editor and four sub-editors elected from the major branches. The sub-editors shall interest teachers in their localities in the African Teacher and the writing of articles which they shall collect and forward to the Senior Editor who shall be responsible for editing the African Teacher.
- (l) That since most of the Bantu Languages have at present no standing grammatical terminology this conference respectfully requests the University of South Africa through its registrar to urge the examiners to use the grammatical terminology (verb, pronoun) of the Official Languages in the Junior Certificate and Matriculation Bantu Language A (Paper II) where no accepted terminology exists.

II. THE AFRICAN TEACHER. The Editorial Board consists of the following:- Senior Editor: Mr. S. Rajulli B.A., Bantu United School, Harrismith. to whom contributions should be sent. Sub-editors are Messrs A Jordan B.A. (Kroonstad), A. Lambede B.A. (Heilbron), I. Mothibatsela B.A. (Thaba Nchu), M. Moshoeshoe (Bloemfontein).

12. STOP ORDER FORMS. These forms can be obtained on application to the Editor, General Secretary or the Secretary of the nearest local branch. If you have signed the stop order form you will get the "African Teacher" quarterly and be a duly registered member of the OFSATA, and get the protection of the Association.

13. CORRESPONDENCE COURSES. For the information of teachers who wish to prepare for the University Junior Certificate, Matriculation and the National Certificate equivalent to the matriculation certificate a Correspondence College conducted by a staff of fully qualified non-European teachers has been opened. Full information, prospectuses etc., may be obtained from Mr. E. Lekgela B.A., Principal, Moroka Practising School, Thaba Nchu.

14. BRANCH REPORTS.

(a) Thaba Nchu branch reports that regular meetings of the executive as well as general branch meetings have been held during the year and that the chairman and secretary supervised arrangements for the Conference. A Parent-Teachers' Association is flourishing here. Ten members have signed the stop order and fifteen have registered through the local branch. Socials to which parents and friends are invited have been organised. The chairman of the branch is Mr. M. S. Dondolo and the secretary Mr. S.E. Gopane. Conference commends the ~~activity~~ activity of this branch.

(b) Bloemfontein branch reports that the local schools gave a successful competition concert organised by the local branch. As a result of this effort the branch was able to donate £40 for charity work. Inter-school Athletic Sports were held in May. Inter-school football matches are in progress. Netball and hockey are under way. Executive meetings, general meetings, socials and subscriptions are satisfactory. The chairman is Mr. G. Mabaleng and the secretary Mr. B.L. Gaanakgomo. Conference notes progress of this branch with satisfaction.

(c) Heilbron. This branch was well represented at Conference. Its report was unfortunately misplaced and could not be tabled. Conference however, was much impressed by the determination of the branch to send at great cost to the branch a choir to take part in the singing competition. Conference gratefully acknowledges the receipt of a sum

of £7 donated to the Association. The Chairman of the Branch is Mr. A. Lambede, B.A.

- (d) Individual members of the Association attended Conference from Ficksburg, Goodhope, Kroonstad, Libertas, Viljoenskraal, Winburg and other centres. Conference directs that immediate steps be taken to organise or re-organise branches at these and other centres before next Conference.

15. RECOMMENDATIONS.

- (a) That in future a teacher shall be appointed as a representative of the Association on the Advisory Board.
- (b) That Branch Secretaries keep the Executive through the General Secretary informed of their progress and difficulties.
- (c) That the President visit certain centres for the purpose of assisting members to organise branches.
- (d) That members desiring to attend Conference should give the entertaining branch accurate information about members actually coming to the Conference.
- (e) That the Executive through the General Secretary inform branches at a reasonable time what pieces have been prescribed for the different competitions.
- (f) That the Executive keep in close touch with Branches by correspondence and other means as occasion demands.
- (g) That a bigger effort be made by those branches which in recent Conferences have failed to take part in the singing competitions, to organise choirs and/or groups to take part in the events requiring smaller numbers., e.g. The Mixed Double quartette for eight singers and the Mixed quartette for four singers.

16. VENUE OF CONFERENCE.

The Conference will meet in Bloemfontein in October 1942.

17. GENERAL.

Congratulations to Mr. S. Phayane (Bloemfontein) on winning the Choir Competition, and to Mr. E. Lekgela B.A. (Thaba Nchu) on securing the Double quartette Trophy.

Press Reporters for the Conference were Messrs. I. Mothibatsela B.A., and E. Lekgela B.A.

The Thaba Nchu Branch which entertained Conference spared no pains to make the visitors comfortable during their stay. The Institution authorities and the African community showed a keen interest in the work of the Conference and in the cause of Native Education generally, while the singing of the students under the baton of Mr. Tshabalala and the Drill Displays thrilled the visitors. "FLOREAT MOROKA".

18. OFFICE-BEARERS FOR THE YEAR 1941 - 1942:

President:	M.L. Kabane, B.A.
Vice-President:	S. Rajuili, B.A.
General Secretary:	M. F. Ntja, B.Sc.
Assistant Secretary:	L.K. Ntlabati, B.A.
Treasurer:	Dr. J.S. Moroka, M.B., Ch.B.
Committee members:	D. Matsepe, (Kroonstad) E. Lekgela, B.A., (Thaba Nchu) M. Maliza, B.A., (Heilbron) C. Mothibi, (Ficksburg)
Representative Advisory Board:	Dr. J. S. Moroka.

Editor:	S. Rajuili, B.A.
Sub-Editors:	A. Jordan, B.A. (Kroonstad) A. Lambede, B.A., (Heilbron) I. Mothibatsela, B.A., (Thaba Nchu) M. D. Moshoeshoe, (Bloemfontein)

ORANGE FREE STATE
AFRICAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

HON. GEN. SECRETARY

M. F. Ntja

ABX. 911010

NON-EUROPEAN MEAT TRADES EMPLOYEES' UNION.

PHONE NO. 22-7761

12, Kruis Street,
Johannesburg.
10th. October, 1941.

*Labour - Trades
Unions*

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE NON-EUROPEAN MEAT
TRADES EMPLOYEES' UNION AND THE EMPLOYERS IN THE
HAM, BACON & POLONY INDUSTRY, JOHANNESBURG,
TRANSVAAL.

It was in February, 1941, when the Non-Europeans employed in the Retail Meat Trade decided to form their own Union - this was very successful.

The difficulties arose, when it was decided that this Union was exclusively for the African Employees engaged in the Retail Meat Trade, except those employed in the Wholesale Meat Trade. The Polony, Bacon and Ham Factory Industry employees also decided to become the members of this Union, which was agreed upon by the Executive Committee of the above Union.

At the present moment the Non-European Meat Trades has a membership of 1,180 and further the African Employees are becoming members of the above Union in huge numbers and the membership is swelling daily.

Early in May, 1941, the Union took active steps to improve the lot of its members. Letters were drawn up and addressed to individual employers requesting for the improvement in working conditions of their Native Employees. A round table conference was suggested by my Union, which be presided over by the Department of Labour and the Native Affairs Department also to be represented. This endeavour of my Union met with no success, for it was ignored by some of the employers, for under the Conciliation Act, 1937 regards the Native Employees' Organisations not to be registered, but the Native Employees' Organisations are allowed to function by the Government. Further, some of the employers in sympathetic manner expressed their views towards our plea for the improvement of the lot of their Native Employees, but some of the Employers went further to tell us that we should first be well organised, when we will be in a position to negotiate with them. We assured these employers that we were properly organised and militant.

It seemed that we were making no progress in our endeavours. The Department of Labour was then approached and their good offices were respectfully asked, which were offered to us.

A first memorandum was drawn up and addressed to the Department of Labour on the 1st. July, 1941, and a reply was received from them stating that the matter was receiving attention. After a two weeks pause awaiting the matter to have effect, the African Employees were very restive and they resolved that, unless the employers were prepared to meet them they would be in a position to put down tools as from the 31st. July, 1941, and they were determined.

The employers understood, by this time, that the whole thing was not a joke, and thereby subsequently the Department of Labour convened the meeting, which took place in the Board Room of the Department of Labour, New Magistrates Courts Buildings, Johannesburg. Only three firms were represented at this meeting, viz. Messrs. Piel's Cold Storage,; Crownley Bacon, Ham and Polony Factory and Azet Products Limited, but the Rand Cold Storage & Supply Company, Limited, did not attend as they intimated that they were not prepared to recognise the Union as such.

A further memorandum was drawn up, detailing all the data about the conditions of employment and wages obtaining in these Trades affecting the African Employees.

A meeting for the same purpose was again arranged by the Department to take place on the 12th. September, 1941 (Friday), at 3 p.m. Our advisors, the Senator, one M.P. and two M.P.C's. were prohibited from attending by the Department of Labour on the grounds that this was a purely domestic affair. The Department of Labour pointed out to me that they would not entertain such people coming to this meeting, but the Union Officials and the General Secretary could attend as they are the legal representatives of the African Employees.

The meeting took place under the chairmanship of the Department of Labour, and to our surprise the four leading Ham, Bacon and Polony Factories were represented at this conference. Our memorandum was not considered and the employers countered with a feeble and absurd memorandum, not even signed by the writer or writers. From the very outset they were not prepared to discuss anything with us, and stated that they be given two weeks to organise themselves, which was agreed to by the Representatives of my Union. I worked day and night and always contacted the Department of Labour on technical matters.

The speaker for the employers proposed that they were prepared to negotiate with us, provided that these Natives were entirely employed in the Ham and Polony Factory, and, in answer to this a sub-Committee was formed of African Employees engaged in the Polony Industry from the four leading Polony Factories.

The formation of that sub-Committee was against my will and the Union's principles, because it came from the suggestion of the employers, and at this I looked with askance, but through some advices, I was not only compromised but appeased. Further, to my astonishment, the employers instead of organising themselves, attempted to disorganise us.

Under certain pressure and hoping probably, that I may perhaps gain something for these unfortunate exploited African workers amid the plenty.

A mass meeting of the African employees engaged in the four leading Polony Factories, Johannesburg, was called for the purpose of explaining to them what is taking place. This meeting was attended by representatives from the Departments of Labour and Native Affairs, the Employers and our Union Officials.

After an explanation had been given by one of the representatives of the employers, the meeting became rowdy and there were even threats to hit one of the employers and an African who was representing the Department of Native Affairs. The cause of this threatening attitude called from the employers' representative and the explanation of the African from the Department of Native Affairs which was in conflict of Trade Unionism, and on the fact was un-democratic, viz: one of the firms appointed their hench-man, satellites or Quislings on this sub-Committee, which was in conflict with the terms of reference of Democracy outlook.


It is heartbreaking that when the workers are endeavouring to improve their lot and conditions of employment, and are resolved to form themselves into a Union, the employers with their hood-winking tactics are playing hide-and-seek in an endeavour to evade the improvement of the conditions under which they employ their Natives.

Cutting short, the Africans in the said Industry are perturbed and restive, and unless something is done, on the 31st. October they are determined to go on strike (Drastic steps will be taken, despite the consequences).

Thank God, and God forbid, that we have gone into every lawful and legal channel to have this dispute settled amicably, but the employers tactics and attitude forces us to choose this very desperate action at this very critical time since the History of mankind.

Therefore, we are appealing to all progressive Organisations, Institutions and Associations, to assist us in this matter so that it may be settled amicably without causing strife in the Trade.

Yours faithfully,


Welsh A.R. Mokoena.

General Secretary.

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