

# COUNCIL OF NON-EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS

ABX. 420216a

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY.

SECRETARY'S PHONE 33-9059  
PRESIDENT'S PHONE 22-0873

P.O. BOX 4549,  
JOHANNESBURG.

16th February 1942.

Dr. A.B. Xuma,  
President-General,  
African National Congress,  
104 End Street,  
Doornfontein,  
JOHANNESBURG?

*labour matters - Trades unions*

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 7th February, my Committee has instructed me to cordially accept your invitation to appoint a member of our Committee to the Congress Deputation to interview the Prime Minister and other Ministers of the Crown, on various matters.

Our appointee is the Honorary Secretary, Mr. D. Gosani, We are preparing a statement on the problems and difficulties of African trade unionists. As soon as it is ready I shall send you a copy.

Yours faithfully,

*D. Gosani*  
HON. SECRETARY.

# COUNCIL OF NON-EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS

ABX. 4202166

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY.

SECRETARY'S PHONE 33-9059  
PRESIDENT'S PHONE 22-0873

P.O. BOX 4549,  
JOHANNESBURG.

16th February 1942.

Dr. A.B. Xuma,  
104 End Street,  
Doornfontein,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 7th February, my Committee has asked me to thank you for agreeing to serve on the impartial Commission to investigate the conditions of various trade unions catering for workers in the same trade or industry.

I shall communicate again with you in due course.

Yours faithfully,

*D. Gosani*

HONY. SECRETARY.

*Labour matters - Trades unions*

ABX. 420217a

17th February, 1942.

Dear Sir,

This is to inform you that the Government has agreed to receive a deputation from the African National Congress including the N.R.C. deputation composed of Messrs. Mapikela, Sililo and Qamata; the Advisory Board member, Mr. R.H. Godlo, and a member of the Non-European Council of Trade Unions.

The date set is the 4th of March, 1942, and it will be most advisable and desirable, if possible, that all members should be in Cape Town by the evening of the 2nd. March, in order to have a clear day for discussing points and outlining the plan of approach.

Kindly make an effort to attend by all means, as this will be, perhaps, our last opportunity to render service for our people under suitable circumstances.

The points to be raised affect the African and Military Service; Land; Education; Representation; Wages (Recognition and Registration of African Trade Unions); Pass Laws; the Natives' Administration Act; and other questions that some of the members might bring to my attention.

Gather all the facts on these points and bring them to us for consideration a day before we meet the Government representatives.

Yours sincerely,

*A*  
PRESIDENT-GENERAL  
AFRICAN NATIONAL  
CONGRESS.

Mr. D. Gosani,  
Non-European Council of Trade Unions,  
P.O. Box 4549,  
JOHANNESBURG.

ABX-420217b

17th February, 1942.

Dear Sir,

This is to inform you that the Government has agreed to receive a deputation from the African National Congress including the N.R.C. deputation composed of Messrs. Mapikela, Sililo, and Qamata; the Advisory Board member, Mr. R.H. Godlo, and a member of the Council of Non-European Trade Unions.

The date set is the 4th of March, 1942, and it will be most advisable and desirable, if possible, that all members should be in Cape Town by the evening of the 2nd March, in order to have a clear day for discussing points and outlining the plan of approach.

Kindly make an effort to attend by all means, as this will be, perhaps, our last opportunity to render service for our people under suitable circumstances.

The points to be raised affect the African and Military Service; Land; Education; Representation; Wages (Recognition and Registration of African Trade Unions); Pass Laws; the Natives' Administration Act; and other questions that some of the members might bring to my attention.

Gather all the facts on these points and bring them to us for consideration a day before we meet the Government representatives.

Yours sincerely,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL  
AFRICAN NATIONAL  
CONGRESS.

ABX/pd.

Mr. Qamata M.R.C.,  
C/o The Chief Magistrate,  
UMTATA.

ABX.420217c

17th February, 1942.

Dear Sir,

This is to inform you that the Government has agreed to receive a deputation from the African National Congress including the N.R.C. deputation composed of Messrs. Mapikela, Sililo and Qamata; the Advisory Board member, Mr. R.H. Godlo, and a member of the Council of Non-European Trade Unions.

The date set is the 4th of March, 1942, and it will be most advisable and desirable, if possible, that all members should be in Cape Town by the evening of the 2nd March, in order to have a clear day for discussing points and outlining the plan of approach.

Kindly make an effort to attend by all means, as this will be, perhaps, our last opportunity to render service for our people under suitable circumstances.

The points to be raised affect the African and Military Service; Land; Education; Representation; Wages (Recognition and Registration of African Trade Unions); Pass Laws; the Natives' Administration Act; and other questions that some of the members might bring to my attention.

Gather all the facts on these points and bring them to us for consideration a day before we meet the Government representatives.

Yours sincerely,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL  
AFRICAN NATIONAL  
CONGRESS.

ABX/pd.

Mr. A.J. Sililo,  
Native Welfare Office,  
P.O. Box 154,  
DURBAN.

ABX. 420217d

17th February, 1942.

Dear Sir,

This is to inform you that the Government has agreed to receive a deputation from the African National Congress including the N.R.C. deputation composed of Messrs. Mapikela, Sililo and Qamata; the Advisory Board member, Mr. R.H. Godlo, and a member of the Council of Non-European Trade Unions.

The date set is the 4th of March, 1942, and it will be most advisable and desirable, if possible, that all members should be in Cape Town by the evening of the 2nd March, in order to have a clear day for discussing points and outlining the plan of approach.

Kindly make an effort to attend by all means, as this will be, perhaps, our last opportunity to render service for our people under suitable circumstances.

The points to be raised affect the African and Military Service; Land; Education; Representation; Wages (Recognition and Registration of African Trade Unions); Pass Laws; the Natives' Administration Act; and other questions that some of the members might bring to my attention.

Gather all the facts on these points and bring them to us for consideration a day before we meet the Government representatives.

Yours sincerely,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL  
AFRICAN NATIONAL  
CONGRESS.

P.S. Travelling expenses will be adjusted. Please come on your own at the present.

ABX/pd.

Mr. Z.K. Matthews, M.A.,  
Fort Hare, ALICE, C.P.

ABX. 420217e

17th February, 1942.

Dear Sir,

This is to inform you that the Government has agreed to receive a deputation from the African National Congress including the N.R.C. deputation composed of Messrs. Mapikela, Sililo and Qamata; the Advisory Board member, Mr. R.H. Godlo, and a member of the Council of Non-European Trade Unions.

The date set is the 4th of March, 1942, and it will be most advisable and desirable, if possible, that all members should be in Cape Town by the evening of the 2nd March, in order to have a clear day for discussing points and outlining the plan of approach.

Kindly make an effort to attend by all means, as this will be, perhaps, our last opportunity to render service for our people under suitable circumstances.

The points to be raised affect the African and Military Service; Land; Education; Representation; Wages (Recognition and Registration of African Trade Unions); Pass Laws; the Natives' Administration Act; and other questions that some of the members might bring to my attention.

Gather all the facts on these points and bring them to us for consideration a day before we meet the Government representatives.

Yours sincerely,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL  
AFRICAN NATIONAL  
CONGRESS.

ABX/pd.

Mr. R.H. Godlo M.R.C.,  
68, St. Paul's Road,  
EAST LONDON.

*Politics - General - N.R.C.*  
*ABX. 420217f*

17th February, 1942.

Dear Sir,

This is to inform you that the Government has agreed to receive a deputation from the African National Congress including the N.R.C. deputation composed of Messrs. Mapikela, Sililo, and Qamata; the Advisory Board member, Mr. R.H. Godlo, and a member of the Council of Non-European Trade Unions.

The date set is the 4th of March, 1942, and it will be most advisable and desirable, if possible, that all members should be in Cape Town by the evening of the 2nd March, in order to have a clear day for discussing points and outlining the plan of approach.

Kindly make an effort to attend by all means, as this will be, perhaps, our last opportunity to render service for our people under suitable circumstances.

The points to be raised affect the African and Military Service; Land; Education; Representation; Wages (Recognition and Registration of African Trade Unions); Pass Laws; the Natives' Administration Act; and other questions that some of the members might bring to my attention

Gather all the facts on these points and bring them to us for consideration a day before we meet the Government representatives.

I hope it would be possible for you to arrive in Cape Town earlier so as to be in touch with certain African leaders that matter in order for me to try to encourage them to organise Congress to undermine the undesirable elements.

We shall be able to adjust your travelling expenses.

Yours sincerely,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL  
AFRICAN NATIONAL  
CONGRESS/

Rev. Jas. A. Calata,  
Secretary-General, African National Congress,  
P.O. CRADOCK.



*Points - General - N.R.C.*

ABX. 420217g

17th February, 1942.

Dear Sir,

This is to inform you that the Government has agreed to receive a deputation from the African National Congress including the N.R.C. deputation composed of Messrs. Mapikela, Sililo and Qamata; the Advisory Board member, Mr. R.H. Godlo, and a member of the Council of Non-European Trade Unions.

The date set is the 4th of March, 1942, and it will be most advisable and desirable, if possible, that all members should be in Cape Town by the evening of the 2nd March, in order to have a clear day for discussing points and outlining the plan of approach.

Kindly make an effort to attend by all means, as this will be, perhaps, our last opportunity to render service for our people under suitable circumstances.

The points to be raised affect the African and Military Service; Land; Education; Representation; Wages (Recognition and Registration of African Trade Unions); Pass Laws; the Natives' Administration Act and other questions that some of the members might bring to my attention.

Gather all the facts on these points and bring them to us for consideration a day before we meet the Government representatives.

Yours sincerely,

PRESIDENT-GENERAL  
AFRICAN NATIONAL  
CONGRESS.

ABX/pd.

Mr. T.M. Mapikela M.R.C.,  
1437 Community Avenue,  
BLOEMFONTEIN.

ABX. 420217k

P.O. Wilberforce,

Evaton,

17th Feb 1942.

Dr A.B. Xuma,  
President-General,  
African National Congress.

Dear Sir,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 10th Inst and under separate cover, the pamphlet on Municipal Beer Halls. For this I must congratulate you most heartily. Already, my colleague is ahead of me by many copies (MR Mokone). I shall be very pleased to receive two dozen copies; and you may rest assured that I am prepared to do my best to have them sold and educate as many of our people as possible of this evil.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I am,

Yours faithfully,



ABX-420217i

T. M. MAPIKELA, M.R.C.,  
HEADMAN.



Uwundi Kaya,

1437, Community Av.,

Bloemfontein,

17th February 1942

Dr A. Kuma, M.D.

104 End Street

Doornfontein

Johannesburg.

Dear President

Greetings

yours of 10th Inst. now before me  
Contents of which are well noted.

— Re Deputation to Capetown —

As your suggestion is excellent  
now we show that we are united more  
our Cause will have weight. I go with  
it heartedly. I may inform you that  
my notice of warrant for Railfare has  
come I received it yesterday. It says  
The Minister of State in regard to Services  
matters affecting the African the interview  
will be on the 4th March 1942 - 10 a.m.  
I shall entrain from here Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>.

If you are coming please let us know

Best wishes to Mrs Kuma & family

yours in haste

T. M. Mapikele

ABX. 420218a

**BANTU WELFARE TRUST**

TELEPHONE 44-3326

P. O. BOX 1176

TELEGRAMS & CABLES "UBUNTU"

**JOHANNESBURG**

18th February, 1942.

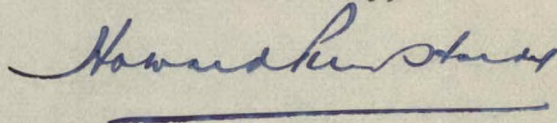
Dr. A. B. Xuma,  
President, African National Congress,  
104, End Street,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

We have pleasure in enclosing cheque for £50.0.0.,  
voted to you by the Trustees last month for the purpose of  
assisting towards travelling expenses and the publication of  
reports.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,



Hon. Treasurers.

Enclosure:

ABX. 4202186

Robins - General

18th February, 1942.

Mr. J. Neil Boss,  
P.O. Box 3033,  
North End,  
PORT ELIZABETH.

My dear Mr. Boss,

I received your letter of some days ago; but have not been able to reply to it until now.

I have, however, already taken certain action concerning it, and sounded certain opinions about it, with a view of find out from certain quarters what candidates are likely to be on the field for the seat.

I would also have been much clearer in the attitude to take, if I had known, even confidentially, the people who had approached you; because the Transkei seat, as the method of election is constituted under the Act, depends greatly upon members of the Bhunga and many of them under the influence of certain magistrates.

Besides, I have heard it rumoured that Dr. A. Kerr, Principal of Fort Hare, was maneuvering for the position for one of the seats and he would be a difficult candidate to come up against, as he would have the full support of all the magistrates, and, perhaps, of many of the Bhunga members.

I am hoping to see Mr. Qamata at Cape Town within ten days and am also communicating with the Editor of the "Umtata" published at Umtata, and I may also communicate with Mr. Tennyson Makiwana who does a great deal of lobbying at the Bhunga.

I am inclined to support you for the seat, and, I believe I could do a whole lot, if I could have had personal contact with many of the Councillors, and still have influence in the area as a son of the soil; but there is the question of expense and leaving my practice and the inconvenience of travelling under petrol rations. I am even now leaving for Cape Town leading a deputation under Congress composed of members of the N.R.C., Advisory Boards and Trade Unions. That is a great personal loss; but I am making the sacrifice in the hope that

Mr. J. Neil Boss

-2-

18th February, 1942.

I will be helping to raise the standard of others, and brighten their future thereby.

If some of these hurdles are cleared, you can count on my support and of those I may have influence over.

I hope to give you further information on my investigation about possibilities.

Yours very sincerely,

ABX/pd.

ABX.420218c

Native Welfare Office,  
P.O. Box 154, DURBAN.  
18th. February, 1942.

Dear Dr. Xuma,

Thanks for your kind letter contents of which are noted-I have had to re-write this letter as I have just received a letter from the Secretary for Native Affairs as follows: -

"You will remember that at the last meeting of the Natives Representative Council it was arranged that you and other Councillors should form a deputation to interview Ministers of State in regard to various matters affecting Africans."

"It has been arranged that Colonel Reitz, in his capacity as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Native Affairs, will meet the deputation here in Cape Town on Wednesday 4th. March, 1942. I shall be glad if you will kindly arrange to attend."

"I understand that Councillor Godlo has been nominated by the Advisory Boards Congress to accompany the deputation. I have accordingly advised him of the date of the interview."

"Should it be necessary to refer any of your representations to other Ministers of State the necessary arrangements will be made later."

Yesterday we had just had a long talk with the Rev. A.Mtimkulu, discussing the proposals in your letter. We were preparing to call an emergency meeting of Congress now this letter will not give me much time. Will you please let me know your proposals as it would really be a nice thing if you would join our deputation so as to keep a united front as much as possible.

The other members of the deputation are Councillors Mapikela and Qamata. Please get into touch with Godlo.

Hope this will find you and the family well.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

*A. J. S. S. S.*

BASNER, HELMAN & JAFFE  
ATTORNEYS

HYMAN BASNER  
HENRY HELMAN  
MEYER JAFFE

P.O. BOX 3210  
TELEPHONE 33-4129

ABX-420218d

When replying please ask for

Mr. Basner

SUITE 8-8a, SOMERSET HOUSE,  
(First Floor)

110 FOX STREET,  
JOHANNESBURG,  
Transvaal

18th February, 1942.

Dr. A. B. Xuma,  
104 End Street,  
Doornfontein,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Dr. Xuma,

re: PIMVILLE COLLISION

I attended the enquiry this morning and found that same had been adjourned until the 2nd March. There was no reason given for the adjournment, but we understand that certain of the railway men refused to give evidence until after the criminal case against the guard and the driver had been completed and also because the members of the enquiry felt that their terms of reference were not broad enough to include an investigation of the general relationship between the natives who used the train and the railway employees.

I personally feel that not much good can be done by pursuing the question of the enquiry any further as in the criminal proceedings (preparatory examination) against the driver and the guard it was clearly established that there had been negligence on the part of the railway servants. This means therefore, that the railway administration is responsible for all damages suffered by the families of the deceased and by those injured, and that this damage must be on a common law basis and not on the basis of the Workmens Compensation Act, which as you know lays down a tariff for death and incapacity, which is a blot, among the many other blots, on our statute books.

I understand that Mr. Brink, the Native Commissioner, has been asked by the Native Affairs Department to draw up a scale of compensation and that he has drawn up such a scale. I do not know the details of this scale, but I have spoken to Miss Heymann, who assures me that the Legal Aid Bureau will press for adequate



Dr. A. B. Xuma,  
JOHANNESBURG.

18th February, 1942.

---

compensation on a common law basis.

I think that the most that the Congress can do at the present stage is to issue a public warning to the relatives and to those injured in this collision to the effect that they are not to accept any compensation and that they are not to sign any documents until the Legal Aid Bureau or their own lawyer has approved of the amount of compensation.

There seems to me nothing more to be done at the present moment although I do think that this disaster presents the Congress with an opportunity to press for a proper enquiry regarding the treatment of natives on trains, trams and buses and it also presents the Congress with an opportunity to press the government and the bigger municipalities to employ natives as at least conductors and ticket examiners on those services patronised wholly by natives.

*Xuma.*

Yours sincerely,

**Collection Number: AD843**

**XUMA, A.B., Papers**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:-* **Historical Papers Research Archive**

*Location:-* **Johannesburg**

**©2013**

***LEGAL NOTICES:***

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations, held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.