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(Phone: 33-5590)

*Life President*

*Copies sent to  
Dr. Xuma with  
President General's  
letter*

The Rev. Dr. John L. Dube, Ph.D., M.R.C.,  
Ohlange Institute,  
P.O. Phoenix.

My dear Doctor/

Greetings: I failed to see you in Durban and failed even to get you on the phone. I had the enclosed letter from the President General of the African National Congress for you and the other one addressed to the Paramount Chief Mshiyeni ka Dinuzulu.

The President General had asked me to convey to you both his personal respects and sincerest greetings. He expressed for you the desire to ask Congress to honour its greatest leader by making you the life member of the National Executive Committee. He wants your name to be raised high up before the eyes of our people and the world as representing good African leadership. I personally agree with Dr. Xuma in this matter and I sincerely hope that you will accept the good wishes of the President General.

The other matter about which he wanted me to see you, is in connection with the policy of the African National Congress which was endorsed by the last General Conference in Bloemfontein. The Conference, as you know passed unanimously the resolution to the effect that the Congress should embark upon a vigorous campaign immediately and enrol two or three million members throughout South Africa! And the President General feels that this can be only done with your co-operation and that of the important hereditary chiefs in the country. Therefore he asks you to approach the Zulu Regent Mshiyeni and to use your own influence with him. He remembers how the Paramount Chief once assisted the funds of the Congress in Durban.

The President General wants to entrust you with the mission of getting the Paramount Chief to support the General Conference of the Congress and have the Natal Native Congress to concentrate all its energy in enrolling one million members of the National Congress. After these numbers have been secured it will be for the General Congress to hand over the administration to the Provincial Body. What the President General wants today is to make our Congress to convince the world that it represents the millions of Africans on this continent just as the Indian Congress represents the millions of India. This step is very necessary to attain before the end of the War so that Congress will be in a position to claim recognition in a World Conference such as the Peace Conference. You know that the American Negroes will be looking for us at that time and we should be ready.

Dr. Xuma therefore hopes to have your support as well as that of the Natal Native Congress. It would help things very much if you called in your Executive Committee and urged them to take immediate action. Please reply direct to the President General. I close with my best respects and wishes for your continued good health.

Yours faithfully,

P. ka I. Seme.



**Collection Number: AD843**

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

***PUBLISHER:***

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

*Location:-* **Johannesburg**

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