

A.N.C.

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REPORT OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS  
WOMEN'S LEAGUE (NATAL).

No report of the activities of the African National Congress Women's League (Natal) was made to the National Conference of the African National Congress in 1957. This was because the Executive Committee had not been properly constituted.

On the 7th May, 1958 a regional Conference of the African National Congress Women's League was held at Kuphuhuleni (Ladysmith). We are happy to report that this Conference was a great success. The New Executive Committee was elected and consisted of the following members:-

- (a) President - Natal D.Nyembe.
- (b) Vice-President Mrs.M. Thiye.
- (c) Secretary Florence Mkhize.
- (d) Vice-Secretary M.Zamisa.
- (e) Treasurer M.Sithole.
- (f) Additional Members: i) Mess N.Luthuli.  
ii) Mrs. Z.Vilakazi.

For the convenience of the Executive Committee meetings most of the members were from the area of Durban and the surrounding districts.

The new Executive Committee embarked on a number of campaigns and activities e.g. assisting those whose homes had been demolished by the Corporation, fighting against the deportations of women from New Town, Cato Manor.

Seeing that meetings had been banned the Cato Manor Advisory Board was asked to convene meetings of the residents with a view to continuing with the work of the Women's League. Three meetings were held ~~xxxxx~~ according to this arrangement.

In one/.....



In one of these meetings it was resolved that a deputation be sent to see the Mayor of Durban in connection with the alleged threatened deportations. On the 21st September, 1958 ~~xxxxxxx~~ a large number of women from Cato Manor went to the Mayor who directed the women to the Manager of the Native Administration Department. On the 23rd September, 1958, the deputation met Mr. Bourquin who promised to go into the matter later. Whilst the women were conferring with the Manager a ~~xxxxx~~ word went that many women were forming queues at the Native Affairs Department in readiness for the issue of reference books to them. It was reported that these women had been threatened with an order of deputation unless they were in possession of reference books. The President of the Women's League immediately went to see the Superintendent of Cato Manor on the matter. The explanation from the Superintendent was that there had been no order of deportation against any body and the women who were taking reference books were doing so on their own accord and voluntarily and in fact in that own "interest". A circularé was distributed explaining that no law forced women to carry reference books at the moment.

Once again a deputation was sent to the Mayor. It was explained to him that some of the women who were threatened with deportation orders had children in schools. The Mayor ordered that within 14 days the women affected should have arranged alternative schooling facilities for their children. The deputation however, was not satisfied with this order.

On the day of the 2nd anniversary of the Protest against the issue of passes staged in Pretoria in August 1956, this branch of the Women's League organised prayer meetings conducted by the African National Congress Clergymen. A report on this was sent to the National Secretary of the Women's League.

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At the meeting at Cato Manor of the 24th October, 1958 it was decided that all women should go to the Native Affairs Department to protest against ~~immigrations~~ deportations and the issue of passes to women. This was done on the 12th November, 1958.

On the 27th October, 1958, 91 women were arrested in the Cato Manor area under the Urban Area Act (Section 10). Legal assistance was sought for them and 55 were deported. The rest are still awaiting trial which will be on the 17th December, 1958,.

Another protest was organised on the 12th November 1958, . There were about 300 women who participated in protest.

BRANCHES:

There are now 14 branches of the Women's League in Natal. These are :

- (1) Two Sticks.
- (2) Chesterville.
- (3) Dabulamazi.
- Durban.
- (4) Soutou.
- (6) Ladysmith Central.
- (7) Kupumuleni.
- (8) Lusithamiya.
- (9) Bathes Kraal
- (10) NewClare.
- (11) Glencoe.
- (12) Vryheid.
- (13) Newclare. (Cato Manor).

*Hlonene Mkhiz*  

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*Secretary*



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**FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN 1954-1963**

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