

FEDERATION OF NATIVE WELFARE SOCIETIES

IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

CO-ORDINATION OF POLICY.

The following statement was accepted by the Council of the Federation at a meeting held in Que Que on June 24th, 1944.

1. MATTERS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE FEDERATION AND NOT BY LOCAL SOCIETIES.

This is considered to be of fundamental importance. If local Societies take action on national matters, there is likely to be confusion and lack of adequate representation; also the position of the Federation, which is a national organisation, would be undermined.

It is hoped that representations on matters of national importance will be made through the Federation. An Executive Committee has now been appointed and action can be taken between Council meetings on matters of urgency.

The services of the Organising Secretary are available, when desired, on matters of local concern.

2. MINUTES AND REPORTS.

It is requested that Minutes of all meetings and copies of Annual Reports be sent to the Organising Secretary. Matters of general interest to be circulated by him to all societies through the medium of the Native Welfare Bulletin or circular letters.

3. MEETINGS OF NATIVE SECTION COMMITTEES.

It is suggested that these should be held regularly in order to maintain the interest and co-operation of Africans. It is considered that these Committees need European guidance and help. Definite rules governing the administration of local societies cannot be laid down, but it is suggested that much will be gained, in most societies, by having Europeans on the African Committee and Africans on the European Committee.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS.

A general rule governing the amount to be paid by European members cannot be laid down, but it has been suggested that Societies consider fixing the sum of 10/6 as a minimum.

In order to secure uniformity in African subscriptions, the following are suggested :-

Adult males	...	2/6d. per annum.
Adult females	...	1/6d. per annum.
Juveniles	...	1/- per annum.

It is also suggested that provision be made for "country" members at reduced subscriptions, say 1/- per annum for adult males and 6d. for adult females.

5. AFRICAN MEMBERSHIP:

It is suggested that all Africans participating in sport and recreation under the aegis of Native Welfare Societies (football, cycling, libraries, etc) should become members of local societies. It is further suggested that all members of Native Welfare Societies should be allowed free admission to local league football matches and to such other functions at the discretion of the Society concerned. If it is possible to secure a uniform practice throughout the Colony, it will be of considerable assistance especially when members are transferred from one centre to another.

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IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

ORGANISING SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1944.

MEETINGS OF FEDERATION COUNCIL:

The Council met twice during the year - at Gwelo on May 15th, 1943, and at Bulawayo on February 5th, 1944. It is proposed to hold the next meeting of the Council at Que Que during June 1944.

AFRICAN CONFERENCE:

The Annual Conference of African delegates was held in Salisbury on December 11th, 1943.

MEETINGS:

I have addressed the Annual General Meetings of the Plumtree, Que Que, Umtali and Bulawayo Societies and meetings of Africans at Salisbury, Umtali, Que Que, Selukwe, Plumtree and Bulawayo. At meetings of Africans special attention was given to the importance of thrift and co-operation and the need for reliable and efficient work on the part of employed Africans.

I have addressed the Bulawayo Chamber of Industries, Salisbury and Bulawayo Rotary Clubs, Salisbury Women's Institute and two Young People's Clubs.

VISITS TO SOCIETIES:

Every Society has been visited during the year and some centres have been visited more than once.

NEW SOCIETIES:

A Native Welfare Society has been formed at the Victoria Falls Native Village and is now affiliated with the Federation.

A request for the establishment of a society at Fort Victoria has been received from interested Europeans and steps are being taken to visit this centre. Inquiries have also been received from other districts and these are being investigated.

It is apparent that there is an increasing interest in Native welfare work throughout the Colony.

FEDERATION OFFICE:

Increasing use is being made of the office for obtaining information on various aspects of Native welfare. Information is sought not only by people and organisations in the Colony, but also in Kenya, Nyasaland, Belgian Congo, Northern Rhodesia, the Union of South Africa and Great Britain.

NATIVE WELFARE BULLETIN:

A monthly Bulletin is now issued from the Federation office and has a circulation of 270. This Bulletin is circulated to members of Native welfare societies, Government Departments, local authorities, the Press and interested members of the public.

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REFERENCE LIBRARY:

The library was commenced during the year and 250 publications have been donated. Good use is being made of the library and it is necessary to purchase a number of additional books, reports, pamphlets, etc.; an application has been made to the State Lottery Trustees for a grant of £100. to enable this to be done.

SURVEY OF URBAN AFRICAN CONDITIONS:

This Survey was completed in June 1943 and the report published in October. The Survey covered 26,494 employed Africans in the main urban areas of the Colony, and dealt with housing, rents, rations, diet, marital relations and wages of urban Africans.

INVESTIGATION - SALISBURY GIRLS' HOSTEL:

At the request of the Salisbury City Council an investigation was made into the need for, and desirability of, erecting a Hostel and Club Room for African females employed in Salisbury. The report submitted to the City Council in November 1943 recommended that a Hostel and Club Room be erected to meet a very urgent need.

SURVEY - AFRICAN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY:

This survey was commenced in March 1944 and will continue for several months. African juveniles serving sentences in prisons are being interrogated and information sought from Judicial officers, prison authorities, the Police, Native Department officials, Location Superintendents and others who are in contact with the problems of delinquency.

SURVEY - PLUMTREE: A survey is being undertaken covering the wages, housing and living conditions of Africans employed in Plumtree.

MEMORANDA: Memoranda have been prepared on the following subjects:-

- Social Security.
- Communal Feeding.
- Native Marketing.
- Bantu Co-operative Movement.

FINANCE: The year commenced with a credit balance of £174.16.11d. and ended with a credit balance of £173.12.9d. The generous financial assistance of Government, the Salisbury City Council and the Municipalities of Umtali, Gatooma, Que Que and Gwelo has continued. The Native Welfare Societies of Bulawayo and Plumtree have also contributed. It is pleasing to record that £51. 14. 0d. was contributed in private donations to the Federation during the year.

THANKS:

I wish again to express my appreciation of the help and kindly co-operation of various Government Departments, especially the Department of Native Affairs, local authorities and Native Welfare Societies and their officials throughout the Colony.

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PERCY IBBOTSON.

Bulawayo.  
1st April, 1944.

Organising Secretary.

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