

An editorial which appeared in Rand Daily Mail of Johannesburg on Wednesday, 13th November, 1944 entitled "Neglect of Duty" is one of the greatest challenges which a great daily has ever published in South Africa. It should be nailed on the desk of every legislator, municipal, provincial and parliamentary as all molders of thoughts in church or in states.

While dealing with this question of education among other things Congress must interest itself in the question of starting schools for adult education so that we must help our older people to read the printed word at least in their own language.

OBSTRUCTIVE ORGANISATION AND LEADERSHIP AMONG AFRICANS:

In a studied effort to obstruct organisation and leadership among the Africans deportation orders have been issued against some African leaders. Other Africans have been arrested under emergency regulations which to our own minds have been directed against the activities of Africans who are busy organising our people in the anti-pass, the trade unions and other struggles. The restrictions on holding open air meetings and limiting the numbers of people who come together for a meeting without the permission of a controller under the emergency regulation has led to many arrests at the Rand.

We must register our protest against this infringement of our freedom of speech and requesting the Minister of Justice to see a deputation to discuss ways and means of bringing about relief on this position so that our legitimate organisational work and just protests may not be frustrated.

All the problems I have outlined are an indication of the sad plight the hopelessness and helplessness of people who have no political rights. Without a direct vote they have no way of influencing legislators. Politicians need the agitation of their constituents as defence against losing the votes that return them to the legislature. Africans have no such weapon as that their position has deteriorated even in the Cape since they lost their direct vote for members of Parliament.

We Africans must struggle for full political rights to raise and secure our status.

Collection Number: AD843

XUMA, A.B., Papers

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- **Historical Papers Research Archive**

Location:- **Johannesburg**

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