

28th. December, 1946.

The Chief Native Commissioner,  
P.O. Box 382.,  
PIETERMARITZBURG.

Sir,

With reference to your Minute No. 58/19 of the 10th. instant, my Executive Committee would desire to submit the following representations at the interview you have kindly granted it for the 15th. January, 1947:-

Co-operation between the Department of the Native Affairs and African Leaders:

It is the desire of the Executive Committee to co-operate fully with the Department of Native Affairs in all matters falling within its administration in pursuance of the trusteeship concept, and it is actuated in this by the appreciation of the fact that success of the Government's schemes designed to improve the social, economic and other material conditions under which Africans struggle, could be achieved by the fullest co-operation of the people concerned. That the co-operation can be had if the leaders of the people are taken into and enjoy the fullest confidence of the Department, and are consulted at every stage prior to any decisions are taken on any phase of the problems being grappled with, so that African leaders may share in some measures in the responsibilities of administration.

Consultation before any measure seeking to regularise farm labour SOUGHT:

It has come to the knowledge of the Executive Committee that the South African Agricultural Union has submitted to the Government a memorandum setting out certain proposals affecting farm labour. There is a genuine fear among the Africans that the proposals in question may become a subject of legislation before the leaders of the people concerned have been given an opportunity to examine and study the document and consult farm labourers thereon for the purpose of assisting both the Government and farmers to arrive at the fair and just settlement of the conditions regulating agricultural labour in this country. Congress holds that any form of contract which is imposed and not entered into spontaneously cannot be conducive to efficiency and productivity. Congress asks that it be given an opportunity to assist in the settlement of this burning problem and that the Government should submit the proposals/.....

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proposals in question to African leaders in order that they in consultation with the labourers may submit counter proposals before finality is reached.

Disposal of Crown Lands and the fate of Africans families thereon residing:-

There is considerable restiveness among the African people in this Province resident Crown Lands. The Louwsberg and Dundee lands are in point. It would be an act of grace if your Department could indicate the Government's policy as to the ultimate settlement of the families now threatened with dispossession and what steps have been taken in pursuance thereon.

Facilities for purchase by Africans of land adjoining the Scheduled and Realised areas:-

In view of the general eviction of farm labourers in this Province, and the evident difficulties confronting the Government to obtain land upon which to consider a modification of its policy under the Native Land and Trust Act of 1936 so that Africans may be allowed to buy land adjoining Scheduled and Realised areas which may be offered to them for sale by any individual owner, which land if purchased may be included in the quota earmarked for additional African land.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. Selby Msimang.

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