

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

101/276.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS,
499 MARKET STREET,
PRETORIA.

13th October, 1937.

DEPARTMENTAL CIRCULAR NO. 46 OF 1937.

Relations between Senators and Members
of Parliament elected in terms of Act
No. 12 of 1936 and Administrative Officers

Instances have come to the notice of this Department where a Senator elected under Act No. 12 of 1936 was allowed to interrupt a Quarterly Meeting of Chiefs and Headmen and take over the chair in order that he might himself hold a meeting with the people assembled, where a Native Commissioner made arrangements for a meeting of Natives on behalf of a Senator and where the intervention of a Senator has been permitted in a matter of a purely administrative nature.

It is apparent that some officers of the Department are not quite clear as to the attitude they should adopt towards Senators and Members of Parliament representing Native constituencies when they visit their districts with a view to forming contact with the Natives whose interests they represent in Parliament.

Officers are accordingly advised that, while these Senators and Members of Parliament are to be accorded the courtesy and respect which is their due, they are not Government officials and are not entitled to facilities which are not ordinarily extended to other Members of Parliament. Every opportunity should be given to them to move about freely among the Natives and to hold and address meetings, but officers should be careful to avoid any semblance of giving administrative sanction to their political or electoral propaganda or of permitting their intervention in matters of departmental administration.

TO ALL OFFICERS OF THE
NATIVE AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

D.L. SMIT.
SECRETARY FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS.

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