

AFRICAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING  
HELD AT THE BANTU MEN'S SOCIAL  
CENTRE, JOHANNESBURG, ON THE 24TH  
SEPTEMBER, 1962.

OPENING: The meeting commenced at 9.45 a.m.

Mr. E.A. Tlakulu led devotions.

ROLL CALL: Council Executive Members:  
Messrs. D.M. Mphahlele (President)  
A.J. Mwelase (Vice-President)  
C.A.R. Motsepe (Treasurer)  
H.H. Dlamlenze (General Secretary)  
G.T. Radebe (Assistant General Secretary)

C.A.T.U.:  
Messrs. C.N. Lekalake  
S.R. Gaobepe  
S.J. Mahila

T.U.A.T.A.:  
Messrs. P.R. Ngwana  
I.E. Zwane  
J.S. Kumalo

N.A.T.U.:  
Messrs. R.M. Hlefane  
G.T. Yeni

O.F.S.A.T.A.:  
Messrs. E.E. Monese  
D.D. Rametsi  
M.M. Mkwibiso  
M.Z. Koekoe

APOLOGIES: The Treasurer, Mr. C.A.R. Motsepe, was reported to have been unavoidably delayed by having to start at the offices of the Department in Pretoria.

WELCOME BY PRESIDENT:

Mr. Mphahlele, the President, welcomed the delegates who, he said, had sacrificed to attend. He referred to the sad absence of Mr. M.M. Mochochoko who had passed away the previous Monday. After the conference had observed a few minutes' silence, the President outlined the purpose of the meeting. He said that through A.T.A.S.A. teachers are able to pool their provincial experiences. At A.T.A.S.A. conferences we tackle national problems.

WELCOME BY T.U.A.T.A.:

Mr. P.R. Ngwana, Vice-President of T.U.A.T.A., in welcoming the delegates referred to the blending of sugar (Natal), grapes (Cape), diamonds (O.F.S.) and gold (Transvaal) to make South Africa's trade flourish. He said this analogy was to illustrate how the provinces might, through A.T.A.S.A., solve their problems as teachers.



CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter from S.A.F.T.A. enquiring if A.T.A.S.A. would be interested in joining W.C.O.T.P. was read. Enclosed in the same letter was an invitation to A.T.A.S.A. to attend a S.A.F.T.A. conference at Kimberley on 1st October, 1962.

An invitation from the South African Institute of Race Relations to A.T.A.S.A. to attend a conference on Human Relations was read.

In a different letter the Institute suggested that A.T.A.S.A. should give evidence to the Cingo Commission on mother tongue instruction.

DISCUSSION:

S.A.F.T.A. had seven constituent bodies. Dr. van der Ross had been asked for a copy of their constitution. No copy had been received. Conference agreed to send an observer to the S.A.F.T.A. conference at Kimberley on the 1st October, 1962. Mr. C.N. Lekalake was appointed observer. Dr. van der Ross was to be advised accordingly.

In view of the fact that A.T.A.S.A. had to pay R10.50 to attend the conference on Human Rights, conference decided not to send an official delegate. Local people were, however, encouraged to attend.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

The General Secretary read the Taj Mahal minutes (28.9.61) which had been circulated, prior to the meeting, to Provincial Executive.

DISCUSSION:

Only delegated officials should see the Department.

A.T.A.S.A. conferences were being held in September to accommodate the Transvaal which generally held its district conferences in December.

The Executive would consider a time for conference which would suit all teachers including those in boarding schools.

No judicial inquiry but only a commission of enquiry had been instituted on disturbances in post primary schools.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION:

When the design of the badge was decided upon, the badge that was selected had the inscription AFRICAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF S.A. This was at the Taj Mahal conference at Maritzburg. By inference the name of Council was changed. In accordance with this, the constitution had to be amended.

It was moved by Mr. A.J. Mwelase seconded by Mr. C.N. Lekalake that the name "Federal Council of African Teachers' Associations" should be replaced by "AFRICAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA".

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS:

This, cyclostyled, was distributed among delegates.



DISCUSSIONS:

Mr. Lekalake expressed the view that our organisations are weak and ineffective. He said that teachers had no effective voice and should find the cause of their ineffectiveness. He said that a President could not, when he acted, be sure that he had the support of the body he led. He further said A.T.A.S.A. could achieve solidarity and an effective voice if every teacher were made to belong direct to A.T.A.S.A.

For the last three years A.T.A.S.A. had lost ground in this regard. According to him some of A.T.A.S.A. representations to the Department had been offset by bodies other than those in Pretoria. e.g. School boards and regional directors. Accordingly, he suggested that A.T.A.S.A. should make contacts with bodies not necessarily in Pretoria, e.g. advisory councils.

Mr. Zwane suggested that teachers should go all out to organise school committees and school boards.

Mr. P. Ngwane said that provincial associations should avail themselves of opportunities to put across their point of view without committing A.T.A.S.A.

Mr. Yeni said that it would be advisable to have the Press give publicity to A.T.A.S.A. deliberations.

It would be futile to establish liaison with advisory councils as these would be Government nominees.

The National Council of African Women had organised a conference on Bantu Education in July and A.T.A.S.A. could perhaps consider joining forces with such a body.

Mr. C.N. Lekalake moved a vote of thanks on the President's address. He felt that the meeting had not exhausted the suggestions for getting A.T.A.S.A. practical recognition.

He suggested calling a national conference of teachers where committees could be formed and arrive at decisions.

It was further decided that provincial actions, e.g. conferences on national issues such as mother tongue instruction, should have the stamp or approval of A.T.A.S.A.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT:

This was distributed among delegates.

ADDITIONS:

The Star, Johannesburg, could not donate a trophy because the name 'National Eisteddfod' clashed with that of a registered National Eisteddfod.

Arising from a case of a teacher dismissed in Natal it was observed that essential channels had to be gone through before taking up a matter with Pretoria. The case of a principal teacher demoted at Whittlesea in the Cape was reported.

The O.F.S.A.T.A. memorandum on provincial eisteddfods was read.



The Regional Director of that province replied that he had referred the matter to the Secretary for Bantu Education. Subsequently O.F.A.S.A. received a reply from the Secretary, dated 21.5.1962, to the effect that her request could not be considered.

DISCUSSION OF GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT:

1. The President suggested that the matter of drawing up a memorandum on the medium of instruction be left to the Executive.
2. The case of a Natal teacher was to be shelved until A.T.A.S.A. and the Natal Executive had crystallised their views on the matter.
3. The Natal delegate expressed alarm at the manner in which the Eisteddfod in Bloemfontein had been run.
  - (i) Adjudicators had been appointed but results were not announced by them.
  - (ii) In order to save A.T.A.S.A. from criticism N.A.T.U. allowed one choir to proceed to Bloemfontein.
  - (iii) Mr. Yeni finally criticised the omission of the song "There is Music by the River" from the syllabus.
4. The President pointed out that it was an error on the part of O.F.S.A.T.A. to ask the Department for permission to run provincial eisteddfods. Under the circumstances the best thing would be to go on.
5. Ministers were to be approached to allow teachers to buy blazers on instalments.

NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 1963:

A.T.A.S.A. decided that the 1963 Eisteddfod should be held in Durban in June. T.U.A.T.A. prescribed songs would be used for the eisteddfod.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

N.A.T.U. had not paid for the choirs at the National Eisteddfod.

The door takings were R537 and a nett of R297.45 had to be divided equally among the five provinces.

The overall statement on finances revealed a total income of R1404.69 and a total expenditure of R591.57, leaving a balance of R813.12.

PROVINCIAL REPORTS:

1. C.A.T.U.

No report available. The Cape delegation was asked to send enough copies to the General Secretary for distribution.

2. N.A.T.U.

Cyclostyled copies were distributed.



3. O.F.S.A.T.A.

Cyclostyled copies were distributed.

4. T.U.A.T.A.

Cyclostyled copies were distributed.

Mr. C.N. Lekalake appealed for assistance in the organisation of the Cape - the north west districts being the only active sector. This had been the position since the death of Mr. Mkize.

Conference felt that the N.W. Cape should not despair, let alone joining another province.

It was suggested that the Cape should be flooded with a barrage of propaganda - provincial publications and other forms of initiative by the Executive.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. A.T.A.S.A. is governed by a Federal and not by a Unitary constitution.
2. A letter of condolence was to be written to the Mochochoko family.
3. In the event of A.T.A.S.A. repudiating mother tongue as medium of instruction, it would not be good tactics to ask for any one official language. This choice would be better left to the parents.
4. Consolation trophies should and would be given at the National Eisteddfod.
5. Delegates remarked that notices of Council meetings were rather short - an appeal was made for response to correspondence.
6. The meeting rose at 7.05 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN.

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DATED AT EAST LONDON.

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