

(39)

Evening Post 12/3/56

3

# Protest against ban on meetings

THE Eastern Cape Regional Committee of the A.N.C. has issued a protest against the ban on meetings of more than ten in the Port Elizabeth and Humansdorp magisterial districts.

The new regulations, which exempt gatherings like religious services, weddings, funerals, and entertainments make a permit from the Native Commissioner compulsory for any other type of meeting.

The regulations, a "model" set designed by the Government, have been applied at the request of the Port Elizabeth City and Divisional Councils.

The A.N.C. says: "This drastic invasion of African rights will have a seriously disruptive effect on the organised life of the African community.

"It is no consolation that, almost as an afterthought, the Government remembered that even Africans must marry and bury their dead.

## 'On the agenda'

"The A.N.C., which has consistently opposed the policies of the Nationalist Government in the past seven years, has gained their inveterate hatred.

"It is, therefore, not surprising that the Government has directed all its venom against this organisation in order to destroy it.

The A.N.C. wishes to affirm, however, that no force on earth is more powerful than an idea whose time has come. The liberation of the African people is on the agenda of world history in our time.

"Nothing the Government can do, whether directed against the freedom of the Africans or of other sections of the South African population, will halt the inexorable march of the people towards a free, united, democratic and progressive multi-national South Africa in their own lifetime."

uit gekomp. uit: Evening Post 12/3/56  
P.P.G. This document filed 19001

12/3/56

39

XXXXXXXXXX/34

ca 1.13.11.2 IC (EASTERN CAPE REGIONAL COMMITTEE) S.H.

TT 13

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE EASTERN CAPE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

I

By administrative decree the Nationalist government with the connivance of the Port Elizabeth City Council, has removed the right of the vast majority of people in the Port Elizabeth and Humanity Magisterial Districts, to assemble for the purpose of discussing matters concerning their material welfare and well-being.

Last Friday a proclamation issued in terms of the notorious Native Administration Act of 1927 banned all gatherings of more than ten Africans in the above-mentioned areas as from the date of publication, March 2nd 1956.

Needless to say this drastic invasion of African rights will have a seriously disruptive effect on the organised life of the African community. nor is it any consolation that, almost as an afterthought, the government remembered that even Africans must Marry and Bury their dead.

The aim of this draconian measure is perfectly clear. This government of restrictions and injustice is aware of its unpopularity among the great majority of South Africa's people. Realising that it does not command any popular support and that its backward and primitive social and political doctrines are detested by all progressive mankind, the Nationalist government grows daily more desperate and therefore more tyrannical.

Thus they have proscribed and exiled leaders of political organisations and trade unions; they have banned newspapers and books; they have barred exit from the Union; they have gaoled and victimised Freedom Fighters - all in the name of White Supremacy and Western Christian Civilisation.

The African National Congress which has consistently opposed the policies of the Nationalist government in the past seven years has gained their inveterate hatred. It is therefore not surprising that the government has directed all its venom against this organisation in order to destroy it. The African National Congress wishes to affirm, however, that no force on

2

earth is more powerful than an idea whose time has come . The liberation  
of the African people is on the agenda of world history in our time .  
Nothing the government can do , whether directed against the Freedom of the  
Africans or of other sections of the South African population , will  
halt the inexorable march of the People towards a Free , United ,  
Democratic and Progressive Multi-National S.A. in their own lifetime.

The African National Congress calls upon the people of all races to unite in opposition to this government and its unjust laws. The history of our country teaches that what is done to the Africans today is done to others tomorrow . It is therefore in the interests of all national groups that this viciously undemocratic measure and others still to come are resisted to the utmost .

The lights are going out in South Africa , one by one . That is not a cause for despair . On the contrary it is the clearest proof , if any was required of the inevitable downfall of the small clique of frightened and discredited men who today rule our fair land . The African National Congress is confident that by rallying around a truly democratic programme , such as the FREEDOM CHARTER , adopted by all the people of South Africa at Kliptown on June 26 , last year , the People can and will defeat the Nationalist dictatorship .

C. M. MAYEKISO

Chairman Eastern Cape  
 Regional Committee of the  
 African National Congress.  
 P.O. Box 48 , New Brighton,  
PORT ELIZABETH

March 9 , 1956.

T. Takume  
 P.O. Box 117 da  
 Mainkwastraat 155, Pt.  
 22/3/56  
 Verwysings No. 29

g. 573

UNITY IS STRENGTH.

It has been said that patience combined with determination will always defeat the bully.

For the last six years we have had in power a fascist government in this country. In order to get obedience in its tyrannical and unjust law the government has relied on force, threats, intimidation and bullying. Although their policy flies in the face of all the facts of history, they thought it would succeed in halting the drive of the peoples of South Africa for freedom.

Face with this bullying and threats, many people and organisations were and are still silenced. Some instead of attacking the government made a paid profession out of attacking the peoples' liberation movement.

But the African National Congress with its allies on the democratic camp, the South African Indian Congress, the Congress of Democrats and the South African Coloured Peoples' Organisation in the face of great odds having utterly refused to be bullied and are determined to free this country and overcome all the difficulties entailed in that task.

These organisations have during these last six years led the struggle against the Nationalists. They have opposed every unjust law and action of the government. They have shown the people what the Nats are planning at every stage. They have opposed every move of the Nationalists. They have organised a powerful world opinion to the side of the liberation movement, in South Africa. They have conducted big and successful battles against the Nats. They have delayed the government and made apartheid a costly expensive luxury, they have BUILT AND ARE STILL STRENGTHENING EVERY DAY A POWERFUL MOVEMENT WHICH WILL SEND THE FASCISTS TO THEIR ROOM IN OUR LIFETIME.

All this has been accomplished by a peaceful unarmed people without force and without great financial resources. All we have had in our side is a great and just cause, a people eager for freedom and the leadership with brains that is incorruptible and cannot be bought.

We could have done more and bigger things and we shall have to do them if we are to survive; but many have not yet learnt the value of acting as a united force. Many doubt themselves and their people. Many still look upon the white man as a kind of a tinpot god, instead of just a common oppressor. In the boycott campaign which started last Monday, we as a people must show that we are dissolved NOT to be bullied and threatened anymore no matter what the sacrifice. Verwoerd must be made to understand that no one, even if he brings a whole army with the sten-guns and machine guns can dictate to us, about the future of our own children. Verwoerd and Co., have been indoctrinating white children with false ideas about the African. They have taught their children to despise and hate us and call us "Kaffir" "Annie" "John" "Boy". WELL THEY CAN TEACH THEIR CHILDREN THAT KIND OF RUBBISH, BUT THEY MUST NOT THINK THAT WE CAN BE BULLIED ABOUT OUR CHILDREN WHOM WE BROUGHT INTO THIS WORLD. WE DO NOT REQUIRE ANY ASSISTANCE FROM THE WHITE MAN TO BRING CHILDREN INTO THE WORLD.

As usual in South Africa we are going to be threatened and bullied about the boycott. Police have been sent to schools to intimidate the teachers and children. Children are told to go to school and not to wear their uniforms and hide their books. The dirty implication behind these implications is that Verwoerd and his stooges LOVE OUR CHILDREN MORE THAN WE LOVE THEM. WHAT UTTER BALDERDASH.

YES THEY CAN LIE TO THE CHILDREN. But the African National Congress is appealing to these parents not to send their children to these schools. We appeal to them not to think of today only they must think of the future. They must think of the destiny which Verwoerd deKlerk Strijdom and Co., have for their children. These men say openly that we must remain oppressed, FOR EVER. WHY SHOULD WE TRUST THEM? NOT IN THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN.

REMEMBER THE MIGHTY CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE.

SEND IN THE NAMES OF YOUR DELEGATES.

COME LETS ALL FRAME UP THE LAWS TO GOVERN THIS COUNTRY.

STREET ELECTIONS MUST BE THROUGH BY MAY 31ST 1955.

REMEMBER JUNE 25th & 26th 1955.

REMEMBER SUNDAY 26th ALL ROADS LEAD TO VEEPLAATS. HERE THE EASTERN CAPE REGIONAL REPORT OF THE BOYCOTT IS OFFICIALLY REPORTED TO OUR LOCAL OFFICE.  
REMEMBER THE BOYCOTT IS ON.

*10/Sgt. Sagani*

T.T. 8 (30)

DO NOT SLEEP, THE COUNTRY IS IN A CRITICAL POSITION:-

I

It is long we have been waiting for what will transpire. The Town Council Committee has asked that the A.N.C. meetings be banned. The oppressive Government has fulfilled their wish. As from the 2nd. of this month the oppressive law is blaming anyone holding or talking to the people more than ten (10).

This law covers the whole town of Port Elizabeth up to Humansdorp. Obviously this Dutch Government is prepared to destroy anything that is against the oppressive laws.

On our side we say:- By accepting the banning of meetings, our rights to fight for freedom are finished, we would be accepting the destruction of the Country or we would be hanging ourselves. Never! It was the first and the last during time of the false prophet - MONG-AUSE.

So lovers of freedom, daughters of Africa, we are born to be free, the freedom struggle is still proceeding.

Today we must be observant and take the orders as they come. When we are told to do a thing we must do it. The time to hesitate has passed, the time to say I forgot has passed, what you are ordered to do you must do it properly because you serve under your country, by so doing you worship God. By hesitating you could easily kill your country, because we handle this burden together - we must pick it up together and put it down together so that we do not hurt each other.

The announcements will come to you by means of these leaflets or through your leaders. Respect and perseverance is the only stronghold in our time. We are being tested by the oppressors. We are being like Jesus Christ in the Wilderness. Temptations will come to you alone at home, at work or wherever you are.

We must guard against scandals, and bad spirits that will create misunderstanding. Those who come with those things you must know they are the people who hate freedom. You will know that they work for the oppressors.

Each and everyone must make a sworn statement and say:-  
"We say we will never rest until freedom is gained during our time". This testament must go throughout the Country.

"AFRICA MUST COME BACK".

African National Congress, Eastern Cape Region.  
P.O. Box 1294,  
PORT ELIZABETH.  
13/3/1956.

**Collection Number: AD1812**

**RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961**

**TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

*©2012*

***LEGAL NOTICES:***

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of the collection records and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a private collection deposited with Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.