



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
PRETORIA.

As one who is well acquainted with the outstandingly good work which the Athlone Blind School is accomplishing for the Coloured, Native and other non-European children of the Union, I desire to associate myself whole-heartedly with the appeal which the school is making for additional funds to carry on and enlarge the scope of its labours.

In caring for, educating and training the non-European blind children, not only of the Cape Province but of the Transvaal, the Orange Free State and Natal Provinces, the school is filling an urgent social need.

The accommodation available is now totally inadequate to meet the demands made on it, and I should like to assure the generous-hearted public of the Union that if they contribute to this fund, as I feel sure they can be relied upon to do, they will be supporting a most worthy institution which is doing work of inestimable value.

Clarendon

31st August, 1936.

ALL AFRICAN CONVENTION

OFFICERS :

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PRESIDENT

DR. A. B. XUMA
VICE PRESIDENT

DR. J. MOROKA
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GENERAL OFFICE :

10, ADAM ARCADE
37, COMMISSIONER STREET
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

P.O.Box 4179,
61, Albert Street,
Johannesburg.

SECRETARY FOR
EXTERNAL RELATIONS:
MAX YERGAN

ADDRESS :
347, MADISON AVENUE,
NEW YORK

20th. November, 1936.

Dear Sir,

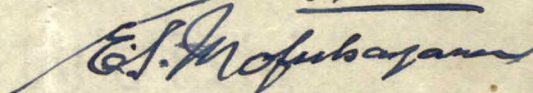
Owing to certain developments which require the immediate attention of the Transvaal members of the Executive Committee of the A.A.C., a meeting will be held at Pimville in Mr. Robert Ngcobo's House, on Sunday the 22nd instant at 11 a.m.

Agenda.

1. Organisation.
2. Tramways Case ~~is~~ now before the Courts.
3. Police Commission.
4. Arrangements for Executive Committee in January, 1937.
5. Congress resolutions.
6. General.

Kindly make an effort to attend.

Yours faithfully,



PROVINCIAL SECRETARY.

ABX 36 11 21 a

Ceremonies & occasions

21st November, 1936.

Mr. H.I.E. Dhlomo,
P.O. Box 6663,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mr. Dhlomo,

I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 9th inst., re Mr. Caluza's Reception.

As usual I welcome the idea of bringing before the public **those** who have achieved among our people.

While I was unable to attend the meeting of the Committee, I am, nevertheless, bound by and committed to any decisions that the Committee must have come to. The Committee can count upon me for any service they desire me to render.

Wishing the project every success,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ABX/PD.

Education - General

21st November, 1936.

Mr. T.M. Makiwane,
United General Council,
UMTATA, C.P.

Dear Mr. Makiwane,

I must apologise for having been so long in replying to your communication of some time ago. My time had been so taken up that I could hardly attend to even very important matters outside my work. I must thank you for the communication and the idea contained.

I do not think there is anything to quarrel with in your extract from the Committee's report. With you, I think that there should be a considered opinion on the Education of our people drawn up by competent leaders of our people for submission to the Government. Emphasis made on the final and content of the so called Native Education.

I believe that in future I shall be in a better position to give a considered opinion on this and other questions as I am arranging my work so that I may be relieved of routine activities.

With cordial good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

ABX/PD.

ATHLONE BLIND SCHOOL AND ITS NEEDS.

Some fifty years ago, the Dutch Reformed Church in the Cape Province undertook the first step in the care of the blind of the Union, by a Synodical resolution. A school was opened at Worcester, in the Cape, and ever since then, the European blind children of the Union have had facilities provided for education and vocational training. Some four or five hundred blind European children have passed through this Institution, and there are to-day more than 150 blind children in this school.

During the whole of this period, nothing was done for the non-European blind of the Union. The scope of the problem can best be gauged by the following figures. The only Census taken of the non-European blind in the Union was that of 1911, but the percentage of blind persons to the total population as it was then, applied to the latest figures, would give the following figures which can be accepted as a rough estimate of the total non-European blind of the Union as it was in 1933: Under 15 years of age: Males 197, Females 162, Total 359. 15 to 19 years...Males 105, Females 86, Total 191. 20 years and over...Males 3,773, Females, 3,364, Total, 7,137. This makes a total non-European blind population of 7,687 persons. These figures bring our problem to workable proportions, for it will be seen that not more than 550 of them are below the age of 20 years. To the 7,137 blind persons over the age of 20 years, very little can be offered by the Athlone Blind School, but if the usual age percentage apply to the non-European population, then quite 70 per cent. of this number will be above the age of sixty years.

In 1927, however, a start was made by opening a school at Athlone in the Cape Peninsula, which was intended to provide for coloured, native, Indian and other non-European children, the education and vocational training which is the fundamental essential to their becoming self-respecting and self-supporting citizens. A property was purchased at a cost of some £2,000 and this money was raised by private subscription in the Cape Peninsula. The school was opened with six blind children from the Peninsula. The Earl of Athlone, then Governor-General of the Union, performed the opening ceremony, and with Princess Alice became the Life Patron of the Institution.

Within a few months, the demands from other centres of the Union showed that the available accommodation was totally inadequate. Within six months of the opening of the Institution, some 13 children had been admitted, and applications were made by some 20 children for whom there was no possible accommodation.

An appeal was instituted within the Cape Province, in the centres of Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, and East London, for an additional £2,000 to provide additional accommodation for these 20 applicants. The money was raised within a fortnight by the Chairman of the School, who conducted a personal appeal in each of these centres.

The publicity given to this appeal by the Press throughout the Cape induced the late Mr. J.W. Jagger to suggest that the St. Raphael's Institution for discharged lepers should transfer its interests in certain property situated at Faure in the Cape Province, to the Athlone Blind School. The St. Raphael's Institution for discharged lepers had, with the assistance of the Government, erected hostels to accommodate about 150 of these lepers, but after a short trial, it was found that the social need was actually non-existent. The buildings were empty, and when these were offered to the Athlone Blind School for immediate occupation, the amount of £2,000 which had been raised by public appeal was handed over to the Government for its interest in the St. Raphael's Institution.

The Athlone Blind School now had buildings, though of a temporary character, capable of accommodating what was then thought to be all the non-European blind likely to come forward within the next 25 years or so. Applications, however, began to pour in from every Province of the Union, and to-day there are some 95 blind children in the Institution. Some 20 of these come from the Transvaal Province. All the accommodation available has been husbanded, and despite the fact that some of the smaller children share a single bed by sleeping one at either end, there is no possibility of bringing even the smallest additional child of either sex into the Institution.

Experience has shown that the venture of going out to Faure (some 25 miles from Cape Town) has many disadvantages which would be avoided if the Institution were

established nearer to the City. The buildings at Faure, which are of wood and iron, were originally structures which had been erected by the Government at Robben Island, and owing possibly to the late Mr. Jagger's personal interest in the experiment of St. Raphael's, were pulled down, transported to the mainland, and erected at Faure by the Public Works Department. The continued alteration and adaptation to an entirely different purpose from that for which they were first intended, coupled with the fact that they are in urgent need of repair, and particularly in view of the fact that we have already outgrown the capacity of these buildings, forced the Executive Committee of the Athlone Blind School to look for a permanent Institution for their present needs and possible future development.

To this end, representations were made to the Municipalities of Kimberley and Cape Town, for a site on which the Athlone Blind School might be erected. The site generously offered by the Cape Town Municipality of some 20 acres on the outskirts of Wynberg, Cape Peninsula, has been accepted, and an appeal is now being made for the sum of £25,000 (Twenty-five thousand pounds). This will ensure the erection of permanent buildings specifically designed for the purpose in view.

It is estimated that school and workshop accommodation for a possible 250 children of both sexes, with necessary accommodation for the teaching and hostel staff, would cost approximately this amount.

Since April, 1935, the Union Government has provided the whole cost of teachers' salaries, and half the cost of all approved expenditure, e.g., equipment for the school and vocational departments, as well as the necessary raw materials for the training of children in their selected handicrafts. In addition, the Government makes a contribution of £15 per child per annum to the cost of its maintenance.

The care of blind children admitted to our Institution, and the surgical and medical treatment given to them by honorary Ophthalmologists, has improved the sight of eight of these children to a degree which made it possible for them to be removed from the category of blind children. Their sight, however, was not sufficiently strengthened to permit their being educated by normal methods in ordinary schools, and this fortuitous circumstance was responsible for the first, and as yet the only "Sight Saving" class in the Union to be brought into existence. The scientific methods of sight saving and strengthening applied in their tuition have been more successful than the most optimistic could have anticipated. It is with pride that one records the fact that four of these children, who were admitted as blind, have now recovered a sufficient degree of sight to allow of their being discharged from our Institution as sighted children, capable of following their further instruction and training as normal sighted pupils.

No attempt has been made in this recital of our needs to justify the provision of a social service such as this School provides. It is felt that this has already been definitely proved. The blind can be made self-supporting only by increasing their intelligence, by arousing their self-respect, and by creating in their minds a belief in the possibility of future self-maintenance. The failure to give the blind a practical education often means dependence through life. It is the lack of energy and determination, not the want of sight, that causes so many failures among the blind. If it were possible to make provision for the sound education and vocational training of our blind children, and to inculcate in them the stimulus of initiative and action, there would be every hope of reclaiming this whole section of our community to the ranks of responsible, self-respecting citizens, imbued with the idea of independence, and proving themselves useful members of the community.

There is a wide range of handicrafts which can provide lucrative and useful occupation for the blind. Even under the most favourable circumstances, however, some are not able to earn enough for their whole support. Despite this, employment improves their condition, and occupation is the essential foundation of contentment. There is no greater calamity than to live a life of compulsory idleness in total darkness. The great cry of the blind to-day is "NOT ALMS! BUT WORK."

^{Dr. Malherbe}
Director Ed. Bureau - 4149 Pretoria

Ar3x361123

P.O. BOX 13.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION,

In your reply quote

CAPE TOWN.

No.

23/11/36.

Dear M^{rs} Mahuma,

I shall be glad to
see you at any time convenient to
you during the next few days -
between 9.30 & 12.30 a.m. & 2 & 5 p.m.

Malherbe. 44-3786

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

G.H. Welsh

Wickerford

ABX 361124

9 Pakea Street:
Hendington:
Johiburg.
24-11-36

Mr. A. B. Xuma:
Johiburg.

Dear Sir,
Your failure to forward
me my cheque for June is
really a great puzzle to me.
The inconvenience caused by this
delay is very great as my
family affairs are at a standstill.
To me it seems that as the other
cheques for March April & May
were promptly forwarded, the
June cheque could easily have
been dealt with accordingly.
A speedy reply together with
settlement will be very much
appreciated.

Yours truly:
W. B. Peters.

ABX 361125

ADVOCATE R. W. BOWEN, M.P.

TEL: 2-1990.
P.O. Box 1144.

Social-Welfare General TEMPLE CHAMBERS,
4, WALE STREET,
CAPE TOWN.

Dr. A.B. Xuma,
Toby Street,
Sophiatown.

25th November 1936.

Dear Doctor Xuma,

The cause of blind children has naturally interested me since I was blinded during the Great War and subsequent experience convinces me that vocational training alone can suffice to achieve my aim, which is to give every blind child in South Africa a chance in life.

At The Athlone Blind School, temporary wood and iron structures, now very dilapidated, serve to house and train 95 blind children from all parts of the Union. Smaller ones sleep two in a single bed--one at either end--to save space. Not one more boy or girl can be admitted.

I am trying to raise a sum of £25,000 to build an adequate school and hostels, on a site generously donated by the Capetown City Council, for 150 more blind children who urgently need suitable training.

Can you think of some way to help me raise this sum?

The enclosed memorandum and special appeal from His Excellency the Governor-General will explain the circumstances that impel me to ask you to help personally, if you can--or to persuade some of your friends to assist, perhaps by arranging a dance or bridge drive to aid this effort. For any such help, I shall be most grateful, and in expectation of your kind reply.

I am,
Yours sincerely,

Walter Bowen

N.B. Cheques should be made payable to the ATHLONE BLIND SCHOOL, and may be sent to myself, or to Mr. P.A.B. Faure, M.P., who is our Honorary Treasurer.

Personal - business matter

26th November, 1936.

The Editor,

"The South African Outlook",
Lovedale, C.P.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed herewith please find personal cheque for £1-10-6d.
5/- of which is payment for the amount in arrears and the other
15/- being payment for two years' subscription in advance; the 6d
being for exchange.

I must apologise for the delay in paying up my subscriptions
and thank you for your kindness to continue the service notwithstanding.

Yours faithfully,

ABX/PD.

ABX 36 11 26 6

Race Relations

26th November, 1936.

The Manager,
The Lovedale Book Press,
LOVEDALE, C.P.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed herewith please find a personal cheque for £1-8-0d for which please send me the following books:-

1. Johnson Charles S. (Cloth)
"A Preface To Racial Understanding" 4/3d.
2. Brown -Ina- C.
"The Story Of The American Negro" 4/3d.
3. Rev. Ross, Smory.
"Out Of Africa" 4/3d.
4. Mary Jennes.
"Twelve Negro Americans" 4/3d.
5. Cuthbert Marion
"We sing America!" 4/3d.
6. Wdwin E. Embree
"Brown America -
The Story of a New Race". 5/-

Thanking you in advance,
Yours faithfully,

ABX/PD.

ABX 361126 BC

Wilberforce Institute,

26-II-36.

Dear Doctor,

Mr. Qupe is not ready with the amount owing by the students in fees and the amount taken up in fees. This information I shall bring along on Saturday.

NORMAL DEPARTMENT.

ENROLMENT:

Ist. YEAR:	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
	19	10	29
SECOND YEAR	3	4	7
THIRD YEAR	4	2	6
	<u>26</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>42</u>

STAFF. One Male Teacher. (Male and Female should be ~~app~~ appointed.)

SALARY.

Mr. W. Sentso.

Salary received from Dr. Xuma.....£13-0-0
,, ,, ,, Dr. Tantsi.....£25-0-0

Total salary received between Dec. 1935 and Dec. 1936
£38-0-0

Amount owing July-Dec. 1936£36-0-0
Balance 1936.....£ 9-0-0
Total amount owing.....£45-0-0

Mr. Debra March - June £23-0-0 Dr Xuma

SALARY.

Mrs. Pule (Matron)

Amount received from Rev. Mareka...£6-0-0
Advanced by Mr. D.A.H. Opperman.....£1-0-0
TOTAL £7-0-0

Amount owing up to Dec. 1936.....£17-0-0

Cook Ester

HIGHER PRIMARY.

ENROLMENT.

STANDARD V.	BOYS 13	GIRLS 11	TOTAL 24
STANDARD VI.	11	6	17
FORM A.	10	4	14
FORM B.	2	0	2
FORM C.	9	1	10
<u>5 CLASSES</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>67</u>

STAFF.

~~Five~~ Three Male Teachers; Five Classes.

The Church supplement that was taken away during the depression be restored owing to the fact that the teachers in this department is doing Secondary work and are occupied all through the day. This is the request of the Teachers in the Department.

OTHER OUTSTANDINGS:

Mr. C. D. Nthoba..... £56-0-3
Sujee..... £4-3-11
I. M. Jada..... £49-10-1 } Grocery
TOTAL. ~~.....~~ } Grocery £53-14-4.

J. ash. Ottomani

Personal - business matter

27th November, 1936.

F.H.Ferriera Esq.,
Native Commissioner,
TAUNGS, Cap.

Dear Sir,

I am rather surprised and disappointed in your failure to pay the £12 which I loaned to Mr. George Hashe in February, 1932 when he was trading as the "African Leader."

When you took over the trusteeship of Mr. Hashe's business, when it was transferred to Krugersdorp, you promised faithfully that you would see to it that that amount would be settled then. It is now the fourth year since you made this promise but no effort on your part or on the part of Mr. Hashe, for whom you acted, has been made to settle. I must say with regret that unless that amount is settled immediately there will be no alternative left for me but to put the matter in other hands for collection.

Yours faithfully,

Personal - business matter

27th November, 1936.

Mr. Peter Morrison,

C/o Suluman, Ismael Miya & Co.,

43 Market Street,

Johannesburg.

Dear Peter,

I presume you realise that you were under moral obligation to refund the amount of £16 loaned, immediately you made up your mind to be re instated in your present position with Messrs. Suluman, Ishmael Miya & Co., The loan as you know was given you to help you out of the difficulty you alleged yourself to be with them.

I shall, therefore, appreciate the refund of that money immediately as you did not carry out the arrangements that were the basis of the loan.

Yours faithfully,

ABX 36 1127 C

Raw Relations

27th November, 1936.

Mr. Max Yergan,
347 Median Avenue,
New York City,
NEW YORK, U.S.A.

Dear Yergan,

I hope you and yours are well and that you are much happier that you can be near the boys. I am quite sure that Mrs. Yergan must be quite happy to be with her mother for a little while.

Why are you so silent? I wonder if you received my letter addressed to you in Care of Barclays Bank, London. In that letter I had answered many of your questions and suggested that I would be in America sometime in June and possibly remain there until the early part of September, when I should be returning to London for nine months' hard work.

Politically, things do not look too bright. The Government are advancing with their policy of control without hinderance and have even succeeded in electing one of their own as Governor-General in the name of Mr. Patrick Duncan. One can see how farcical a position of Governor-General is becoming. It is purely a political reward to one of those who have defended the policies of the government.

The Convention has not made any spectacular moves yet; but I hope to be sending you some interesting news about its activity as a result of certain lines of action that I have suggested.

Our old friend D.J. as usual is apparently holding the mysterious trump card that nobody can guess as yet.

But Max I have been much concerned about the future of our Organisation, as we have no organ with which to popularise our propaganda. As you know the so-called African papers, the "Umteteli", "Imvo", "Bantu World" etc, are controlled by interests that would not be too happy if the Organisation were to be a success. The attack is either a silent boycott or the usual paternal advice to our African Leaders.

2/...

Mr. Max Yergan.

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It would have served the interests of our people greatly if we could have had means to equip and finance an independent African paper. I hope I could find encouragement in that direction during my short visit over there.

Another thing that is in my mind is the idea that I have mentioned to you before, namely, ~~ixxi~~ the establishment of a scholarship and Research Fund for Africans to study overseas and get new contacts and also to do research work here at home and overseas. If we could make it possible for such selected men and women to have advanced training overseas, we would be creating a broader base and a more intelligent leadership and guidance for our people.

I do not know much about the library at Fort Hare; but as this Institution is our only seat of high learning, I certainly would be happy if I could be a party in inducing some philanthropic minded person to give Fort Hare a modern and up-to-date library that would assist our youth not only in acquiring a reading habit; but also an unlimited facilities to research.

With this also goes my desire for the complete equipment of the Scientific laboratories at Fort Hare. As you know, I am not former student of Fort Hare; but I would like to see Fort Hare equipped so as to compare favourably with the best schools of her type in the world, as she is the Nursery of further African Leadership.

As for private matters, we are doing nicely here. All is well with the children except the absence of a tender and guiding voice of a mother. But I feel that it is in Providence's plan to provide them with some one who will fill in the gap that the departure of the their late mother left. That some one will have made a great contribution to Africa if she assisted in developing in these little ones those ideals which my late ~~wif~~ wife and myself had for them. I know that in many ways our second mother will be different from our first mother; but those very differences will in some way compensate for the loss we sustained by the death of our first mother.

I greatly feel the need of a partner and the inspiration she will be in my little efforts to serve my Africans.

During the recent Conference of the International Council of Women held in Johannesburg, I would have wished that your dear

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Mr. Yergan.

3.

wife could have been here to have given some of her experiences of the fine work she was doing in the Cape Province. Young University women were mostly in the fore, such as Mrs. Hodgeson-Ballinger, and Mrs. Attorney Leo Cooper, an anthropologist. Incidentally the latter had close acquaintance with Mrs. Paul Robeson during her days at the London University.

They kept pace so hot on the so-called Native question that our friend, Mrs. Rheinallt Jones, had to endeavour to say something worthwhile. That made me think in what good company our friend could have been and what a contribution a person of her training, ability and experience could have made.

I have thought a good deal of these people of recent date and I am hoping anxiously to hear from them as I have written some time ago. I hope the spirit is still the same.

Let me hear from you soon with any latest information on personal matters.

How are Roy and Mrs. Wilkins whom I do not know; but whom I hope to meet soon? Tell Roy not to be so quiet.

I hope that in the short space of time it will be possible for me to meet many Leaders of thought on both sides of the Colour line. It would be of immense value to me when I return.

Wishing you and yours season's greetings,

Yours very sincerely,

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XUMA, A.B., Papers

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