

OUR MOTTO : "REMEMBER AFRICA DEPENDS ON YOU"

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

1. This is the first number of a Quarterly News Bulletin which the Provincial Executive of the African National Congress (Cape) has decided to issue for the Benefit of its members. The need for an organ of this kind to keep the branches and members of our organisation in touch with headquarters and with one another has long been felt, and in spite of the practical difficulties usually associated with such a venture, it has at last been definitely decided to launch it.
A Publications Committee consisting of Messrs. Socenywa (Convener) Kwinana, Myataza and Ximiya has been entrusted with the editing of this bulletin and the Provincial Executive trusts that branches and members will co-operate with the Committee by regularly sending in material for inclusion in future issues. In the first instance it is proposed to publish the bulletin quarterly; if, however, the bulletin gets the support, financial or otherwise, of those for whom it is intended, the number of issues will be increased to bi-monthly or even monthly. All branches in good standing will receive a free copy of the bulletin while the subscriptions for individual members who desire to receive their own copies will be 1/- post free. The more individual subscribers we have the better. So send in your individual subscriptions to the Treasurer, Dr. R.T. Bokwe, P.O. Middledrift.
2. Provincial Executive
One of the moot functions of the supreme authority of our organisation - the Annual Conference - is the election of office-bearers to manage and direct the affairs of the organisation for the ensuing year. At our recent conference held in Port Elizabeth in June the President and eleven members were elected while at the Executive meeting held at Alice in August the following office-bearers were appointed:-
President : Prof. Z.K. Matthews, M.A., LL.B., Fort Hare.
Vice-President : Rev. J.A. Calata, St. James Mission, Cradock.
General Secretary : Mr. G.I.M. Mzamane, M.A., Fort Hare.
Asst. Secretary : Mr. G. Magqwashe, Cape Town.
Treasurer : Dr. R.T. Bokwe, M.B., Ch.B., Middledrift.
Committee Members : Mr. V. Kwinana, B.A., Welsh High, East London.
Mr. B. Socenywa, B.A., Bantu Sec. School, Cradock.
Mr. Malangabi, Cape Town.
Mr. Ed. Tsenyego, East Bank Loc., East London.
Mr. Tshume, New Brighton, Port Elizabeth.
Mr. Ximiya, " " "
Mr. E.N.C. Duna, Korsten, Port Elizabeth.
Mr. Myataza, Queenstown.
3. Sub-Committees
The Provincial Executive at its first meeting held at Alice on August 20th, 1949, decided to appoint the following sub-committees, with powers to co-opt, to deal with specified matters:
(a) Working Committee to act on behalf of Executive between meetings of the Executive: The President, vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
(b) Publications & Publicity Committee (a) to edit quarterly bulletin (b) to report on Congress matters in the Press: Messrs. Socenywa (Convener), Kwinana, Myataza & Ximiya.
(c) Finance Committee to advise on matters relating to the raising of funds for the Cape Congress: The Treasurer (Convener), Messrs. Calata, Kwinana, Malangabi, Duna.

- (d) Organisation Committee to advise on problems relating to the more effective organisation of the Cape Congress: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary.

It was agreed that the sub-committees of all of which the President and Secretary are ex-officio members will have to report on their activities to the Executive.

4. Financial Position - NATIONAL FIGHTING FUND.

The greatest need of the Cape Congress at the present time is MONEY. Without the necessary funds it is impossible for the organisation to become an effective instrument and so play its part in the nation-building on which we are engaged. Our membership - 2/6 p.a. - is too low; even that small sum is either not regularly paid by members or is not forwarded to the Provincial Treasurer. It has become abundantly clear that in order to do our work properly, we cannot rely on subscriptions alone. The Provincial Executive accordingly directs all branches (a) to embark upon alternative fund-raising efforts such as Concerts, Dances, Bazaars, Appeals for Donations and to remit the proceeds to the Provincial Treasurer, and (b) to collect membership fees more regularly and systematically. In future issues of this bulletin we shall report on the efforts that have been made by different branches. In this connection branches are advised to make full use of the branches of the Youth League and Women's Section in their areas. If you have not started these auxiliaries in your area, the sooner you do so, the better. All hands are required to build up our NATIONAL FIGHTING FUND.

5. The Policy of NON-PARTICIPATION

A separate circular has already been sent out calling upon all branches and members to take the initial steps in embarking upon a policy of not participating in schemes or measures intended to entrench the policy of racial discrimination in South Africa. The African National Congress was founded for the purpose of building up the African Nation and winning for it in the body politic of South Africa a place of honour and dignity. That nation-building can only be done for them by the African people themselves who must stand together and be vigilant in resisting all attempts to undermine their nationhood and in promoting the national consciousness of their people and so prevent their country from becoming a so-called "white man's country".

6. YOUTH LEAGUE

The Provincial Executive calls upon all areas in the Cape to establish branches of the Congress Youth League. This section of Congress is very much alive in centres where it exists. Branches exist at Herschel, Victoria East, East London and Cala. A new branch has recently been established at Port Elizabeth and we are informed by the Youth League quarters that inquiries about how to establish branches have been received from several other centres. We regret to report that Mr. A.P. Mda, the indefatigable President of the Youth League is in indifferent health. We wish him a speedy recovery. Projected activities of the Youth League include conducting literacy classes, fund-raising efforts, a proposed conference of African artists, preaching the boycott and the formation of study circles for the political education of African Youth in the principles for which Congress Youth League stands.

7. Presidents' Conference

A recent innovation by our President-General, Dr. A.B. Xuma, was the convening of conference of Provincial Presidents which was held at Eloemfontein on Sunday, August 7th, 1949. The Presidents discussed a variety of subjects affecting the organisation, and it is hoped that the decisions arrived at will prove fruitful. The President-General has already, as a result, issued a thought-provoking statement about the state of the African Nation (See "Inkundla" September 10th, 1949).

8. Annual Conference

The annual conference of the African National Congress will be held at KIMBERLEY from December 15th to December 18th, 1949. This is election year and, in order that the Cape should be adequately represented, it is suggested that every branch should make an effort to send a delegate or delegates to conference.

ISSUED BY THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE OF
THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (CAPE).
ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:
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Bantu Secondary School,
CRADOCK.