

82.61  
141, Durban Road,  
Korsten,  
PORT ELIZABETH.C.P.  
20th September, 1958.

Prof. Z.K. Matthews.  
FORT HARE.C.P.

My Dear Prof.,

It is quite a long time since I wrote you last, and have a talk with you. Quite a lot has happened since we met last at Canon Jingiso's funeral in 1955.

I would be very grateful if you would be kind to send me a copy of the resolution passed by the National Executive which was held sometime in May 1955 about the Bantu Education, and the steps which the A.N.C. intended adopting.

I notice that the local branch of the A.N.C. has been active even before the resolution was passed by issuing leaflets to boycott schools, school committees as well as school boards.

I was approached by many local teachers to accept nomination for both school committee and school board. After a careful survey and consideration, I decided to accept. At first I was elected as chairman of the Edward Memorial School, and a little more than a year I was appointed a member of the Bantu New Brighton School Board. When the term of all the members expired, I was re-elected to serve for another three years.

When the new board was constituted, there was a lot of opposition against the new chairman—the Rev. J.C. Mvusi—by the local branch of the A.N.C., with the result that his segregation urged him to resign. At the same time the vice-chairman—a Mr. Jantjies resigned for reasons known to himself. The board was left in a quandary without a chairman and a vice-chairman. I understand that several members were approached, but they all declined. I was also approached privately by some members, but I informed them I was not prepared to accept unless it was by a popular vote, and that if the Government was satisfied with me, if I was a fit and a proper person to be chairman. Later I was approached by the Circuit Inspector of Bantu Education, if I would accept nomination as Acting Chairman which would later be permanent. I agreed.

A few days later an extra-ordinary meeting was summoned to elect an acting chairman and an acting vice-chairman. I was elected unanimously, while the vice-chairman was elected at a subsequent meeting.

A few weeks later I was confronted by a Mr. G. Mbeki of the local branch, who informed me that he understood that I had been approached to accept the chairmanship of the New Brighton Bantu School Board, I agreed. He then gave me a 'friendly' warning to keep out of that Board and that I should resign forthwith, as he and the members of the movement that a man whom they respect should be subjected to attacks and insults. I told him that I would consider the matter and would inform him of my decision at a later date. I met him after a ten days spell, when I told him my reasons for joining these committees and accepting the position as chairman. I was still explaining my reasons when he informed me that that the matter was closed with him and the A.N.C. He further declared that the decision rested with me or my conscience to serve Dr. Verwoerd and his policy or to serve my people.

At first I decided to resign immediately, but on second

thoughts I decided to carry, and not allow my convictions to be dictated to by anybody. I would only wait for the reaction and repercussions. I had suggested that I should meet Congress leaders among them Chief Albert Luthuli to discuss the situation. Mr. Mbeki told me that I had no right <sup>as</sup> an individual to approach and discuss this matter. That was the business of a branch, and moreover <sup>he</sup> would not be the President-General of the A.N.C. if he was not opposed to the Bantu Education.

I should have left Korsten to live out at New Brighton, but I am delaying my moving, until such time tension has cooled down.

I wrote to Mrs. Ballinger our Member of Parliament and informed her of my trouble, and asked her opinion if I had <sup>acted</sup> unwisely by serving in these Educational Committees. Her reply was most encouraging as she always thought the people should serve on the committees in order to see how the matter is being handled and to get the experience these committees can afford. If one finds that committees are really just a cloak for Government authority, one can resign with that knowledge to help him to argue his case.

We were very much disturbed when you were involved in the treason trial. At any rate it is our fervent wish and prayer that you will be discharged and again become free citizens.

With kind greetings to you and Mrs. Matthews.

Yours Sincerely,

*E. M. Duna*