

Confidential

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P.O. Fort Hare,
Alice, C.P.
9-2-59

Mr E. Mfafa,
P.O. Box 10,
Stutterheim, C.P.

Dear Mr Mfafa,

Thank you for your letter of the 4th inst. in which you informme of your intention to convene a meeting of the Cape Executive to be held in Queenstown on the 14th inst.

It is not clear from your letter which Executive you intend to summon, because at the present time we here in the Cape are in the unfortunate position of having two Executives, the old one and the one elected at Paarl. I must assume that you mean the old Executive.

I am afraid it will not be possible for me to attend the meeting for reasons which I need not go into at present, but if the meeting is held I should like you to make my position clear at that meeting.

I am not in favour of anything which looks like breaking away from the A.N.C. and forming another A.N.C. If there are differences among us owing to the way in which things have been done in the recent past, it is our duty to work for the removal of these differences rather than to increase them by means of splits into new bodies. If there are branches which have lost confidence in the leadership of Chief Luthuli, they must be reminded that the A.N.C. does not belong to Chief Luthuli, and they must work for his removal constitutionally. Otherwise we shall simply be adding to the disunity which is undermining our organisation at the present time. The same applies to the new Executive. I am not happy about the way in which they are doing things, but I do not feel that we should break up the A.N.C. as the Africanists want to do simply because we ~~xxxx~~ do not agree with one another. Where are we going to get the perfect organisation ~~in~~ in which mistakes are never made and people never disagree. The times are too critical for us to be quarrelling among ourselves about leadership. Here I am supposed to be Treasurer of both the old and the new Executive, but branches are not sending in subscriptions to me, because they are puzzled about what is going on in the Cape. What we want is to appeal to both sides to bury the hatchet and to revive the organisation; whoever the leaders may be, if we are not satisfied with them they must be changed at the annual conference in the usual way. Otherwise we are doomed as a nation. The New Executive has also convened a meeting for March 15th at George. I intend to tell them the same thing, that what is required urgently is to work for the reunification of the Cape and not for splits which may come from other Provinces whose problems we do not understand.

These are my views. If I am wrong, I am prepared to be put right by other members of the A.N.C. provided they are working for unity and not disunity in our ranks.

Yours for Africa,

J.P. Maitland