

THE PROTEST OF THE NATIVES' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Outline of the Causes (based upon Professor Z.K. Matthew's Statement in the Bantu World of 21st September, 1946.

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Lack of Respect to the Council -

Ministers ignore it.
The Minister of Native Affairs only attends to open the sessions.
No replies to debates from responsible Ministers - heads of departments unable to discuss policies.
Refusal to inform Council on Rand Strike and Lovedale Riot.
No verbatim report to Parliament.
No Afrikaans version.
No suitable meeting place. Undignified position of Council.

Failure to Consult Council -

Legislation introduced without consultation with Council prior to drafting.
Commissions appointed without reference to Council or discussion of terms.
Omission of Africans from Commissions.

Lack of Action -

No action on recommendations of Council's Select Committees on (a) Taxation, (b) Political Representation, (c) Natives Urban Areas Act, (d) Pass Laws, (e) Native Administration Act.
No action on resolutions e.g., Recognition of African Trade Unions.
Failure to continue purchase of land and to carry on development schemes.
Refusal to give hearing to complaints of Mine Workers.

Continued Repressive Legislation -

Prohibition of Meetings in N. Transvaal.
Prohibition of Meetings on Mining Ground (proc.145).
Prohibition of Strikes (proc. 145).
Extension of Pass Laws in the Cape and transfer to municipalities.
Control of travelling.
Use of force in dealing with strikes and imprisonment of strikers.
Compulsion on strikers to return to work.
Unsympathetic administration of Pensions.

General -

Offensive Speeches by Politicians.
Field-Marshal Smut's "not unduly concerned".
Sense of Frustration amongst the People.
General Effects of Native Policy.

Suggestions for Action by the Government -

Appointment of Committee of Enquiry to consider the foregoing complaints under two main heads -

- (a) Policy and Administration,
- (b) Functions of Natives' Representative Council

Committee should include Africans.

Matters for Consideration by the Committee of Enquiry -

Possible linking up of Council with Local Government in Native and Urban areas.
Closer association of the Council with Administration and Revenue and expenditure.
Creation of Executive Committee.
Use of individual members of the Council to handle particular subjects, e.g. Education, and to present programmes to the Council.
Method of Consultation prior to drafting and introduction of legislation.
Political Representation - extension of representation in Parliament,

Provincial/....

Provincial Councils and Municipal Councils.
Methods of election with a view to extension of principle of individual direct vote.

Increase of membership of the Council.

Chairmanship of the Council.

Relation of Ministers to the Council.

Use of Africans on Commissions and Committees.

Presentation of Council Reports to Parliament.

(a) on Specific measures

(b) on the work of the Council.

Housing of the Council.

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