



AL2421 - The Natal Indian Congress (NIC) Collection

Call Number: AL2421
Title: The Natal Indian Congress (NIC) Collection
SubTitle:
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Bulk Dates:
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Abstract: Formed in 1894 by Mahatma Gandhi to fight discrimination against Indian traders in Natal, the Natal Indian Congress (NIC), together with the Transvaal Indian Congress and the Cape Indian Congress went on to form the South African Indian Congress (SAIC). Although never banned, harassment of its leadership and repressive conditions brought an end to its activities, which were only revived again in 1971. This collection mainly reflects the activities of the organisation since its revival in 1971.

Introduction

The Natal Indian Congress (NIC) was formed in 1894 by Mahatma Gandhi to fight mainly against the discrimination meted out to Indian traders in Natal. However, Gandhi soon began organising on a much broader scale and launched his satyagraha campaign.

In the late 1930s, Dr Naicker took over the leadership of the NIC from the more conservative Indians and similarly in the Transvaal, Dr Yusuf Dadoo, took over the leadership of the Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC). They then forged an alliance with leaders from the African National Congress (ANC), leading to the "Dadoo-Xuma-Naicker Pact" in 1946. Thereafter, many joint activities between the South African Indian Congress and African National Congress were organised, the most notable being the campaign for the "Defiance of Unjust Laws" in 1952.

The NIC, TIC and the Cape Indian Congress went on to form the South African Indian Congress (SAIC).

During this period, many NIC activists were also active members of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) and the Communist Party of South Africa.

During the swoop on Congress activists after the Congress of the People in 1955, several of the NIC leadership were jailed and then charged for treason in what became known as the 1956 Treason Trial.

After the incidents of Sharpeville and the banning of the ANC, some NIC members were actively involved in the formation of Umkhonto We Sizwe, the armed wing of the ANC; many fled the country and others were banned, house arrested and jailed. Although the NIC was not banned, this harassment on its leadership and the repressive conditions at that time, led to a halt in the activities of the NIC.

It was only in 1971 that the NIC was revived. One of the main thrust of the activities of the NIC was to concentrate on bread-and-butter issues, i.e. on civic work. This gave rise to a number of civic organisations springing up in and around Durban and Pietermaritzburg. The most notable one being the Durban Housing Action Committee.

The NIC drew on many of its activists from the ranks of students, especially those attending the University of Durban-Westville. The school and university boycotts of 1980/81 threw up a new generation of NIC activists, many of whom today hold leading positions in the democratic government and the community.

In the 1980s the NIC embarked on several campaigns. The most striking of these campaigns was the Anti-SAIC campaign of 1981 and the anti-tricameral campaign in 1984 against the House of Delegates.



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The NIC was also a founding member of the United Democratic Front (UDF), and remained an affiliate until the disbandment of the UDF. And as such, the NIC participated in the UDF campaigns, such as the Million Signature campaign. Prominent UDF leaders, including NIC leaders, were tried for treason in the "Pietermaritzburg treason trial" during 1984/5.

After the ANC was unbanned in 1990, the NIC together with the TIC had various meetings with the ANC to strategise on the role of the two Indian Congresses. To date, both the NIC and TIC have not decided to disband.

Acronyms

CCLS - Centre for Community and Labour Studies

DHAC - Durban Housing Action Committee

NIC - Natal Indian Congress

SACTU - South African Congress of Trade Unions

SAIC - South African Indian Congress

TIC - Transvaal Indian Congress

UDF - United Democratic Front

Notes on the Collection

This collection is not a large collection, comprising of 10 archival boxes. It is also not the official NIC collection but was donated to SAHA by the Centre for Community and Labour Studies (CCLS) in Durban. Some of the material given to us by CCLS has been separated from this collection as it was clear that it constituted a separate archive, that of the South African Tin Workers' Union.

Classification

- A: Constitution
- B: Minutes
- C: Correspondence and circulars
- D: Speeches, statements and policy paper
- E: [untitled]
 - E1: Conference Papers
 - E2: Workshop and campaigns
- F: Media
- G: Finance
- H: Branches
- I: Tributes
- J: [untitled]
 - J1: Anti-SAIC Campaign
 - J2: Anti-tricameral parliament campaign
- K: Civics
- L: Welfare
- M: Education
- N: Other organisations
- O: Subject files
- P: Miscellaneous
- Q: Ephemera



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Inventory

- A: Constitution of the NIC as amended in 1953-1972
[1953-1972]
- B: Minutes of 3 Executive Committee meetings 1971-1972
[1971-1972]
- C: Correspondence and circulars. Includes a letter received by the NIC from the Minister of Interior, 1946. Incomplete 1971-1990
[1971-1990]
- D: Speeches, statements and policy paper. c1971-c1990
[c1971]
Includes papers on:
The Revival of the NIC its significance and its case'; 'The Role of NIC'; Role of Indians in South Africa'; 'Organising Strategy'; 'Strategies for change'; 'The Current political situation'; 'Youth'; 'Position paper on Housing in SA'; 'Draft NIC position paper on women' and misc. resolutions
- E: Conferences, Workshops, Campaigns
- E1: Conference Papers
- E1.1: 13th Annual Provincial Conference Booklet containing conference papers 1961
[1961]
- E1.2: Convention for the Revival of the NIC Conference papers 1971
[1971]
- E1.3: 1st Annual Provincial Conference. 1972
[1972]
Conference papers, resolutions and commission reports on Economics, Trade Unions, Housing & Land, Education, Sport, and Health
- E1.4: Annual Conference. Minutes and paper by Morgan Naidoo 'Sport in South Africa' 1973
[1973]
- E1.5: Annual Provincial Conference Presidential address by M J Naidoo and Secretarial Report by R. Ramesar 1974
[1974]
- E1.6: Annual Provincial Conference Presidential address by M J Naidoo 1976
[1976]
- E1.7: Annual Provincial Conference Secretarial Report by R Ramesar 1977
[1977]
- E1.8: Annual Provincial Conference Presidential address by M J Naidoo 1978
[1978]
- E1.9: Consultative Conference: Kwa-Natal Proposals A paper by Dr F Meer 1986
[1986]
- E1.10: Conference 1987. Secretarial Report prepared by the Organising Committee and draft constitution as amended in 1972. 1987
[1987]
- E2: Workshop and campaigns. Discussion paper 1989-1990 on the Anti-Apartheid Coalition; MDM discussion papers for the Conference for a Democratic South Africa (CDF); Papers on Negotiations [compiled by UDF]; Draft NIC Campaign proposals 1990; briefing package for the UDF Million Signature Campaign
[1989-1990]
- F: Media. Pamphlets, newsletters, leaflets and stickers relating to NIC events and campaigns c1970-c1990
[c1970]



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- G: Finance 1972-1987. Income and Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet for 1972-1973 and Audited Statement for 1987.
[1972-1987]
- H: Branches
- H1: Durban Central Branch 1971. Pamphlet and letter inviting the public to a NIC symposium on Black Consciousness
[1971]
- H2: Reservoir Hills Branch 1971-1972. Minutes, correspondence, statements, notes and pamphlets. Includes a few documents from 1989-1990.
[1971-1972]
- I: Tributes
- I1: Publications with profiles, obituaries and memorial and protest notices on Neil Aggett; Lillian Ngoyi; Oscar Mpanza; Richard Turner; Steve Biko; Missing leaders in P.E.; Dabi Sookho; Hennie Ferrus; Saul Mkhize; Molvi Saloojee; Moabi Dipale; Ruth First; Sadhan Naidoo; Bertha Mkhize; Dorothy Nyembe; Monty Naicker; Yusuf Dadoo; Sooboo Rajah; Albert Luthuli c1970-c1980
[c1970]
- I2: Tribute to R D Naidu 1990. Includes draft of pamphlet on R D Naidu's activities
[1990]
- J: Other campaigns
- J1: Anti-SAIC Campaign 1981. Includes pamphlets, newsletters and other material from the Natal and Transvaal Anti-SAIC Committees, and a booklet on the National Anti-SAIC Conference held in Durban, October 1991
[October 1991]
- J2: Anti-tricameral parliament campaign. 1983-1984.
[1983-1984]
Pamphlets, newsletters and other material on the Presidents' Council and the 'Don't Vote' campaign waged by the NIC and other organisations against the 1984 elections for the House of Delegates
- K: Civics
- K1: Durban Housing Action Committee (DHAC). 1980-1989
[1980-1989]
Memorandums, correspondence, discussion papers, press cuttings and newsletters on housing and rent. Includes DHAC booklet 'Rents we can Afford'
- K2: Chatsworth Housing Action Committee 1972-1984
[1972-1984]
(CHAC). Memoranda, correspondence, reports, newsletter and press cuttings relating to housing and rent
- K3: Asherville Housing Action Committee c1980s
[c1980s]
(AHAC). A memorandum submitted to the Durban City Council and 2 newsletters of AHAC.
- K4: Reservoir Hills Ratepayers Association newsletters 1979-1984
[1979-1984]
- K5: Port Shepstone and Marburg Civics. 1976-c1980
[1976]
Correspondence and memoranda relating to the autonomous establishment of a local authority
- K6: Cator Manor Residents' Association. 1980-1986
[1980-1986]
Correspondence, pamphlets and newsletters relating to the resettlement of residents
- K7: Phoenix Working Committee. Constitution and newsletters. c1983



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[c1983]

Includes memoranda to Durban City Council and Health and Housing Committee

K8: Newlands East Residents Association. 1982-1992

[1982-1992]

Pamphlets and newsletters. Incomplete

K9: Merewent Ratepayers' Association. 1980; 1985

[1980]

Draft memorandum [submitted] to the town clerk on the sub sub-economic scheme 168 and 20th AGM papers

K10: Clairwood and District Ratepayers and Residents Association. 1975-1985

[1975-1985]

Memoranda on the re-zoning of Clairwood into an industrial area.

Includes correspondence, brief histories of the area, pamphlet and press cuttings and a paper by Virgil Bonhomme 'Why Clairwood should remain residential'

K11: Tongaat Civic Association. c1980S

[c1980S]

Memorandum, newsletters, pamphlets and bi-ennial report for 1985

K12: Civics - Pietermaritzburg 1978-c1980s.

[1978]

Memoranda by various bodies in the area on civic issues.

Included is workshop material on local government and pamphlets of the Pietermaritzburg Combined

K13: Miscel Civics - Durban c1980s- c1990s

[c1980s]

Newsletters, pamphlets and correspondence relating to civic issues in the various townships/suburbs of Durban

K14: Civics - Cape Town c1980s

[c1980s]

Pamphlets, newsletters and various documents from civic organisations in the Cape

K15: Civics - Johannesburg c1980s.

[c1980s]

Pamphlets, newsletters and various documents of civic organisations in Johannesburg

K16: Civic subject files

K16.1: Housing. Booklet 'Urban spotlight on Bonteheuwel' by Hitner T and Jenkin T, 1976; Photocopy of 'Urban Update', n.a, n.d and copy of 'Outline of proposed research projet for consideration by the Joint Rent Action Committee' by Claudia Reintges

[1976]

K16.2: Rent Boycotts 1987-1989. Correspondence, reports to organisations, memoranda, telexes and press statements. Includes of press cuttings

[1987-1989]

K16.3: Transport. 1978-1979

[1978-1979]

Press reports, memoranda and press cuttings relating to bus services and bus fares

K16.4: Water 1984. Briefing paper and press statements on the water campaign by DHAC and its affiliates

[1984]

L: WELFARE

L1: South African National Council for Child and Family Welfare 1981. Minutes of a meeting held in Johannesburg, July 1981; Memo sent to all affiliated child welfare societies on 'HSRC investigation into education'; information pamphlets and paper 'Social security programme throughout the world ' by the US



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Dept. of Health and Human Services

[July 1981]

L2: Durban Indian Child and Family Welfare Society 1970s-1980s

[1970s]

Speeches, papers, newsletters and printed annual reports.

Includes speech by George Sewpersadh, NIC President, 'Role of the Volunteer in the last fifty year[s]'

L3: Tongaat and Districts Child Welfare Society and Community Centre 1976-1990. Annual Reports. Incomplete

[1976-1990]

L4: Umzinto and Districts Child and Family Welfare Society 1980-1981. Constitution, newsletter and annual reports

[1980-1981]

L5: Miscellaneous. Documents from the Phoenix, Veralum, Estcourt, Stanger and Johannesburg Indian Child and Family Welfare Societies. Includes documents from the Association for Self-Help c1980s

[c1980s]

M: Education

M1: Student action at University of Durban-Westville 1972-1981.

[1972-1981]

Pamphlets, petitions, memoranda and notices from the students and the rector concerning boycotts, especially during 1980, and demands for SRCs.

M2: Universities and Schools Boycotts. 1980

[1980]

Pamphlets, petitions, statements from student bodies, parent action committees, principals and rectors, church and other organisations during the 1980 boycotts that occurred in Natal and the Transvaal.

Includes of documents of the Education Action Committee

M3: Speeches, discussion papers and statements on education in South Africa c1970s-c1990s

[c1970s]

Included is a statement by the NIC 'The 20% reduction in the Indian Education budget' and a speech by Govan Mbeki delivered at the annual conference of TASA

M4: Miscellaneous 1978.

[1978]

Memorandum submitted to the director of Indian Education by the Phoenix School Action Committee concerning the establishment of a school in Phoenix, notes and leaflet 'Gandhi Work Camp. Phoenix Settlement'.

Includes leaflets and petition forms on 'Prisoners' education a Right', n.d.; and SADTU commemorative journal, launch congress, October 1990

N: Other organisations

N1: Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC). see AL 2563

N2: United Democratic Front (UDF). see AL 2431

N3: African National Congress (ANC). see AL 2457 H5

N4: South African Communist Party (SACP). see AL 2457 D6

N5: SASO Newsletters see AL 2457 H13

N6: Health Workers Association (HWA). see AL 2565

N7: National Medical and Dental Association (NAMDA). see AL 2565

N8: National People's Party (NPP) see AL 2457 D10.

N9: Centre for Development Studies (CDS). 1990

[1990]

Proposals minutes and reports on the proposal to set up the CDS.



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Includes copy of the 'Notarial deed of trust amending the original agreement establishing the Centre for Development Studies Trust'

O: Subject files

O1: Violence and the Peace Process

- O1.1: Resolutions, speeches and minutes of meetings held between UDF, COSATU and Inkatha on the violence in Natal, and particularly in Pietermaritzburg. c1980s

[c1980s]

Includes draft document for NIC/Inkatha meeting and documents relating to the National Peace Accord

- O1.2: Correspondence between UDF, COSATU and Inkatha and the Minister of Law and Order, A Vlok c1980s.

[c1980s]

Includes letters from A. Gumede, Harry Gwala, Peter Gastrow and photocopy of letter sent by Mandela to Buthelezi, 3 Feb 1989

- O1.3: Workshops, seminars and reports on Natal/PMB violence and on Inkatha.

[c1980s]

Includes memorandum on the relationship between Inkatha/Buthelezi and 'Indians'/NIC and some documents in Zulu c1980s

- O1.4: Memoranda by UDF and COSATU in the violence in Natal. Includes memorandum and draft manifestos for peace c1980s

[c1980s]

- O1.5: Memoranda and reports on violence in PMB by UDF and COSATU c1980s

[c1980s]

Includes document 'Re-evaluation of COSATU's position on the structure and function of the Complaints Adjudication Board, PMB, Natal'

- O1.6: Press releases and circulars by UDF, COSATU and UDF Midlands c1980s

[c1980s]

- O1.7: Memoranda, press statements and speeches by Inkatha and M G Buthelezi.

[c1980s]

Includes speeches by Buthelezi and D Lukhele of Inyandza National Movement, delivered at a rally of the South African Black Alliance.

Also included is a copy of 'KwaZulu Natal Indaba Bill of Rights' c1980s

- O1.8: Analysis and articles on the violence in Natal and PMB, Inkatha by various institutions, academics and reporters c1980s

[c1980s]

- O1.9: Press cuttings and pamphlets by UDF/COSATU. c1980s

[c1980s]

- O1.10: Legal matters. Letter from attorneys, Cheadle Thompson and Haysom to Law and Order Minister, A Vlok on conduct of SAP; Draft memorandum on 'Imbali Stage One'; Summary of Legal Actions and Relief Guarantees; Summary of application 'Phineas Zondo and others vs Inkatha and others; Charges sheets for the following cases: Mandla Wilfred Mkize and another vs David Ntombela and others; Hebron Bhekokwakhe Mkhize and others vs Christopher Sichizo Zuma; Stanley Ambros Mbambo and others vs the Minister of Law and Order and others c1987-c1989

[c1987]

O2: Negotiations c1990s.

[c1990s]

Discussion documents and articles on the negotiations and CODESA



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O3: Sports and culture c1980s.

[c1980s]

Annual report of the Natal Council of Sport 1989; Report of the SA Amateur Athletics Board with the ANC in Lusaka, 1989; paper 'Death to ethnic sports' and paper by NIC Cultural Committee - Convenor's remarks; copy of accord between various soccer bodies, National Sports Congress and the MDM

O4: Women. Various articles, discussion and workshop papers on women and liberation, feminism, and the organisation of women.

Includes copy of BA (Hons) dissertation 'The Political Economy of Population Control in SA' by B Klugman and MA (Town and Regional Planning) dissertation 'A study of african women's access to housing in the Durban area' by J I Eagle n.d.

P: Miscellaneous

P1: Press cuttings. c1940s- c1980s

[c1940s]

unsorted press articles, copies of newspapers including the 'Passive Resister' on resistance struggle against apartheid. Includes the Natal Daily News 'Union Jubilee Festival Supplement', 1960

P2: Community Newspapers. Copies of 1983 'Umthonyana' and 'Grassroots'. Incomplete

[1983]

P3: Saspu National. Students' newspaper. 1983. Incomplete. Includes NUSAS winter schoollectures, 1960 & 1961

[1983]

P4: Reality A Journal of Liberal Opinion. 1971 Incomplete 1973

[1971]

P5: International. Copy of 'Pro Veritae', 1971; Speech by US Ambassador 'Peacemaking and Democracy in Southern Africa: An American View'; Text of speech by US Assist. Sec for State for African Affairs on economic empowerment of Black majority in SA; copy of 'News of the Swedish Trade Union Confederation', 1980; copy of 'the Indian Worker', 1978

[1971]

Q: Ephemera

Q1: Slides of NIC activities and of the Tongaat Health Screening Programme. c1980s

[c1980s]

Also includes slides on housing in Phoenix 73 slides c1980s