

17.32

AFRICANIST FLOP: When Josias Madzunya, leader of the extremist Africanist group in the Tvl spoke at Durban, his extreme views not only met with little support, but he infuriated many Africans in the audience.

Josias Madzunya, leader of the extremist Africanist group in the Transvaal, has been variously described as the "Black Verwoerd" and the "prophet of the new Nationalism". It became quite patent when he addressed a meeting in Durban recently that he almost completely was without honour in this part of the country.

The Bantu Social Centre was packed and it was obvious from early on that most of the audience was not impressed with the Africanist concept of Africa for Africans only.

Mr. Madzunya himself was given a fair hearing - more out of interest than sympathy it seemed - by more than 200 Africans and a small group of white Liberals who included Prof. Leo Kuper, Durban chairman and Miss Cathy Shallis, national secretary.

He explored the rather tortuous avenues of the theory that "God's apartheid" had placed the Europeans in Europe, the Asians in Asia and the Africans in Africa and therefore Africa was for the Africans and Europe for the Europeans.

He added that Europeans who came to Africa would have the same privileges as the Africans who visited Europe - and any meddling with African affairs would not be tolerated.

His definition of an African was someone who had rejected western civilisation and was prepared to adopt a kind of African civilisation. Western civilisation he explained was that which resulted in Europeans killing each other off in bloody wars.

The African civilisation he hinted at was the civilisation of hospitality and peace of the old days (A few xx Africans in the audience recalled later that men like Chaka and Dingaan lived about then).

Mr. Madzunya also teased out a few warnings, and criticisms. Of Liberals: They had fooled and abused the Africans of Iqmaland.

Of Government supporters: They were standing in the way of God's apartheid - Africa for the Africans.

Of Southern Rhodesia's possible merger with the Union: A false premise because Africans in South Africa want pan-Africanism and will have self-determination.

Of the Congress of Democrats: Communists under another name.

Of multi-racialism: Multiplied racialism.

A stock figure with a wild-flowing beard, Mr. Madzunya was clad in a shabby grey coat. He delivered his speech in a sustained shout which frequently rose to a scream and his ~~sk~~ hands chopped and clawed the air.

Altogether it was a fascinating demonstration.

But the demonstration which was to follow was more impressive.

During the speeches by other Africanists, Congress followers had shown signs of irritation. At one stage when Africanists began singing "Nkosi Sikelele" Congress supporters had first stood up instinctively then when called on to do so by leaders, sat down - leaving a handful of people standing.

They were infuriated by Mr. Madzunya's attack on Liberals and howled with rage when he accused CND of Communism. Finally, when Africanist organisers refused to allow questions they had had enough.

Suddenly the meeting was a moving mass of fist-waving, protesting, Congress supporters. They stormed the boxing ring which served as a platform and burst into "Nkosi" and then a praise song for ex-Chief Luthuli, their leader. Women and men circled the ring jiving and singing in seriation while Africanists shouted impotently into the microphones.

A bottle sailed past Mr. Madzunya's ~~xxx~~ ear. Detective Sergeant P.C. Swanepoel of the Special Branch mounted the platform and called for order. His words were drowned in a roar of anger. But Mr. Moses Mabhida, jovial Congress leader and Trade Union official took over the "mike" and had the hall silent in a matter of moments.

The Africanists agreed to allow questions but when they ignored Mr. Mabhida's upthrust hand, jiving, singing and protesting began anew. Mr. Mabhida then led all but 50 of the audience out into the street. There were two interesting aspects to the meeting. Two truckloads of policemen with riot batons were called to stand outside the hall shortly after the first uproar, although the demonstration never looked really ugly.

A wave of pro-white feeling swept Congress supporters - some of whom immediately went to the Liberals and disclaimed any sympathy with Madzunya's view viewpoint.

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- **Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand**

Location:- **Johannesburg**

©2010

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

DOCUMENT DETAILS:

Document ID:- **A2618-Ab1**

Document Title:- **Draft news article, stamped 'TIMES' at back of pages**

Author:- **CONTACT**

Document Date:- **21 February 1959**