

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS - NATAL BRANCH.

Executive Committee Report

re

Visit to Northern Natal

9 - 11 October, 1954.

AG 19

Representatives of the Executive Committee travelled to the Northern Districts of Natal where they met the Branch Executive Committee Members of Dannhauser, Newcastle and Charlestown.

At Dannhauser owing to some difficulty arising regarding the place where it had been intended to hold a public meeting and no other place being available at short notice the meeting was not held. The branch officials met, were given up to date information on the present position of Congress in Natal. A complaint against the abuse by the licensee of a Beer Hall premises was discussed and the approach by the local committee to the problem was supported in regard to the segregation of sexes and restriction of consumption of beer on licensed premises only. A full report was given regarding the unveiling of Tshaka's Memorial and the contribution made thereto by Congress and The President General - Chief A.J.Luthuli through representatives.

At Newcastle branch executive committee members were seen but owing to pressure of other prior engagements only an outline of events and developments was reported: a burning issue in the area was found to be causing serious concern to a large number of people - in that Africans are no longer permitted to make use of the cemetery which other races are still using and are now required to use a cemetery situated some 7 miles from their homes in spite of suitable land being available for the purpose nearer their places of residence and further that the local daily newspaper 'Newcastle Advertiser' had a report that the Newcastle District was to be the first area in which the Government would apply its apartheid programme in the country. A public meeting of residents was attended which appeared to be of the opinion that the Congress Lawyer should be instructed to protect their interests. A further report from local members should be available by the end of October in connection with this matter.

At Charlestown the local executive committee was met and given a comprehensive report on the present situation and the unveiling of King Tshaka's memorial as above and were impressed regarding the necessity to attend the forthcoming Congress conferences - Provincial and National.

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Problems facing the People at ~~Man~~ Charlestown were, briefly, as follows:

1. Removal from Charlestown, Clavis and Clavis Extension Township in terms of the Urban Areas Act to Buffalo Flats said to be about 75 miles distant from Charlestown; Freehold owners to receive half area of land presently held.
2. Ejection of tenants with own buildings on land let by Town Board - inadequate notice and no compensation for improvements and no transport expenses promised as per letter to Mr. Arenstein
3. Cancellation of leases in default of payment of rent and houses thereon then let to fresh tenants although property of and built by defaulting tenants.
4. The refusal of permits to residents to introduce stock for slaughter for ceremonial purposes in Clavis and Clavis Extension - Secretary to obtain copy of Charlestown Bye-laws and ascertain boundaries of Township
4. Mr. Arenstein's account for service rendered - not settled due to misunderstanding between ratepayers whose properties were saved and Congress members - latter agreed to raise amount among themselves and pay it to Mr. Arenstein.
5. Gate to commonage at Clavis damaged - stock strays - impounded, owners required to pay fines apart from pound dues. Provincial Congress Secretary to find out the nature of the charge in respect of which Jotham Twala paid a fine of £1 as per receipt hereto attached, Charlestown Branch Court, District of Newcastle. (13-8-54) (RCJ No.24-8-54) O.B. /8/54.
6. Validity of Membership tickets for 1954 discussed at length - decision deferred for Provincial Executive ruling.

A well attended public meeting was held and was addressed by the members of the Provincial Executive present thereat. Congress policy and programme including C.O.P. explained. Resolution passed as follows:

Lomhlango uyasisola kakhulu isenzo sikaHulumeni sokufaka isifonyo nokudingisela kaMapumalo umHoli uMnu Masabalala B.Yengwa nokufaka isifonyo umnumzane P.H. Simelane ~~xxx~~ kunye nabobonke abaholi ngaphandle kwesizatu. Lomhlango wona ubika ukubethemba ngokuphelel ukuba bangabaholi beminiso beBizwe esinsundu nokuqasekela njalo emizamweni afayizamela iBizwe esinsundu.

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c/o P.O. Box 16,
Charlestown,
October 20, 1954.

The Clerk of the Town Board,
CHARLESTOWN.

Madam,

Clavis Commonage Gate.

Representing the residents and ratepayers of Clavis and Clavis Extension Townships, last January, we reported to you that the gate of the Clavis Commonage was damaged and were promised that repairs would be made to it without delay but we regret to state that it has not been repaired yet and cattle stray from the commonage through the gate-way and onto the main road where they become a menace to vehicular traffic and are impounded and their owners have to pay pound fees and penalties which they can ill-afford for their release from the pound.

May we again call your attention to this matter and humbly request that the necessary action be taken at your early convenience to repair the gate.

We are,

Yours respectfully,

Class Commemorations Gate
 report in January 1954
 not reported to date
 No report on the road of
 anything on the road of
 importance
 That is the case for 1954 and I have
 examined in Bank & Commerce
 Committee for the date
 also by Mr. J. S. M. ...
 not reported to date

Namaste
 Consulting general services in the town
 in the office of the general services
 to be undertaken by the ...
 probably available; ...
 expenses & ...
 roads - ...
 from ...
 24/10/54

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URUTHO WESIZWE - LEKHOTLA LA SECHABA
 OFFICE OF TREASURER - GENERAL
 10/10/54

P.O. BOX 13,
 UMZIKHULU,
 C.P.

PHONE 24

Office rent £1 7
£2 7

Arrears to - debt to £10/10/-
Congress debt
collected £3 13.-
5/- each member
Committee member 5/- plus 10/2

Abattoir rules

side to Appear

1. Charleston public ^{etern} Clavistowship transfer diff
 2. Clavis feeholdy Clavistowship transfer diff
- Opposed to removal

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UBUTHO WESIZWE — LEKHOTLA LA SECHABA

OFFICE OF TREASURER — GENERAL

Assistance for Office rent & expenses
Charleston 10/24/54

- (A) Removal from Charleston ✓
- (B) unsatisfactory manner in which cattle are impounded ✓
mistake

(C) Town	Claris	(see township)
African & Euro	Freehold in	
occupied by Euro	part bought,	
occupied by Afric	let to Africans	
expulsion from	to be sold	
Town proposals	supplies paid	
	freehold ownership	
	arrangements	

Town Board refuses to consult African land owners merely give orders

Town Board refuse to be out over esp. and out of ground

factory down square — five k. subs ordered to leave on three month notices — no mention of compensation or ~~the~~ persons — all tenants of land are purchasers — alternative sites elsewhere no compensation for improvements

Government representative has informed us that to be removed to Buffalo flats — promised freehold of half area held here — own removal expenses 75 miles

rent default ^{rent} expected in 3-5 months — lease of land — own building tenants — have purchase in ten years

Town Board refusal of permits to introduce stock into township. Do you give Board power

Collection Number: AD1812

RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

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