

Spark

YOUTH FORTNIGHTLY

Pictures

APRIL

6

Vol. 1 No. 5

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1952

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AWAY WITH UNJUST LAWS DEMAND THOUSANDS PLEDGE:



We, the oppressed people of South Africa, do hereby solemnly pledge to carry on a relentless struggle for the repeal of the unjust laws, as specified in the plan of action, of the African National Congress, and supported by the South African Indian Congress, the Coloured Peoples' Organisation and the other freedom-loving peoples.

We shall do all within our power, to the utmost limits of our endurance and sacrifice to carry out the Congress call to fight against the unjust laws, which subject our people to political servility, economic misery and social degradation. From this day onwards we vow to act as disciplined men and women and dedicate our lives to the struggle for freedom and fundamental rights."

Thousands joined in the above pledge, which was read out by Dr. J. S. Moroka, President-General of the African National Congress.



WE WANT FREEDOM IN OUR TIME

**"Spark"
EDITORIAL**

THEY MARCHED . . .

EXTRA PARLIAMENTARY MASS ACTION

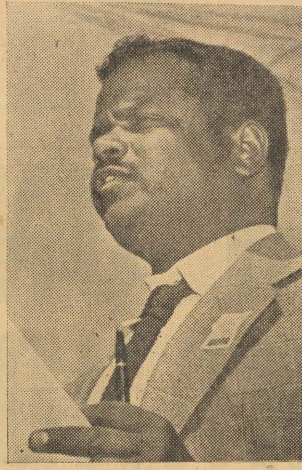
The Non-European people are on the march. The tremendous meetings called by the A.N.C., S.A.I.C. and Coloured organisations have clearly shown the Government and the world at large that the non-white peoples of South Africa are determined in their efforts to bring an end to their political, economic and social enslavement.

Despite the hush-hush preparation of the South African Police Force, supported by papers like the "Vaderland" and the "Transvaler" and many others, the Non-European people acted, as we knew they would, in a most disciplined and orderly fashion.

April 6 has indeed been the greatest silent protest of the oppressed in South Africa. This is only the first round . . .

No amount of threats on the people, or intimidation of their leaders can stop the second round.

Dr. Malan's obstinacy leaves the non-white people of this country only one alternative — mass extra-Parliamentary action.



. . . . AND THEY LISTENED



THE STRUGGLE HAS BEGUN

APRIL 6 TREMENDOUS SUCCESS

PEOPLE WIN FIRST ROUND

Throughout the Union of South Africa, April 6, 1952, was observed as a day of solemn dedication to the cause of freedom and to the campaign for the defiance of unjust laws begun by the African National Congress.

In great cities like Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth, and in small dorps in every Province, in Reserves and on farm-lands, tens of thousands of Non-European people came together in great mass meetings which marked the opening of the Congress campaign.

MOROKA, DADOO IN JOHANNESBURG.

One of the biggest meetings was that held on the "Freedom Square" in Fordsburg, where Dr. Moroka, A.N.C. President, was the principal speaker, and Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, President of the P.A. Indian Congress, presided. A vast crowd of over 15,000 African, Indian, Coloured and European men and women stood for five hours in the brilliant sunshine, applauding the speakers with never-flagging enthusiasm, and joining in full-throated chanting of "Afrika! Mayibuye Afrika!" and other slogans led by the platform.

WORLD SUPPORT.

Following a short prayer for national liberation, followed by a stirring opening address by the Chairman, Mr. D. Tloome, a Congress executive member and secretary of the Council of Non-European Trade Unions, read a number of inspiring messages of support from famous people in all parts of the world.

These included the Prime Ministers of India, Iran, China and the Gold Coast; the World Federations of Trade Unions, of Democratic Youth, of Women and of Students; hundreds of messages from organisations and individuals in Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Australia. In some overseas countries, special meetings and protests were held in sympathy with People's Protest Day. Mr. Tloome pointed out that the meaning of these messages was that hundreds of millions of people throughout the world sympathised with the struggle of the Non-Europeans in South Africa for freedom, and opposed racialism and oppression of the Union Government.

POWERFUL SPEAKERS.

Many of the most powerful and brilliant speakers in the country then addressed this great meeting. Mr. Walter Sisulu, secretary-general of the A.N.C., explained the significance of the campaign for the defiance of unjust laws, which, he pointed out, would develop from disciplined acts by selected groups of volunteers to mass action in which all Non-Europeans would participate. Mr. Y. Cachalia, S.A.I.C. secretary, deeply stirred the thousands present with a militant appeal for unity and courage in the struggle; while Mr. Moses M. Kotane, of the A.N.C. Executive, hammered home brilliantly the practical needs and lessons; enthusiasm was not enough; everyone must join Congress, recruit members (ten each by the end of April) contribute to the "Million Shillings" drive for funds.

Mr. Nelson Mandela, President of the African Congress Youth League, spoke for youth; pledged the support of freedom-loving young Africans, Indian, Coloured and European youth for the campaign; declared that the young people of South Africa would join their brothers of Egypt, Tunisia, India, China, Korea, in the worldwide battle for peace and freedom.

Then, after Mr. D. W. Bopape, Transvaal A.N.C. secretary, had delivered another of his fiery and colourful orations, a hush fell upon the crowd as Dr. Moroka, draped in the "Mantle of Freedom" presented to him by Dr. Dadoo, rose to speak.

MOROKA'S CALL.

Three hundred years ago, declared Dr. Moroka, van Riebeeck had landed at the Cape: an event celebrated today with great pomp and ceremony, but entirely ignoring the rôle of the Non-Europeans in South Africa.

The days of van Riebeeck had gone for ever, he said. Today the African, Indian and Coloured people were demanding their rights and freedom, and they could not be gainsaid. As long as they stood together they would be invincible. "We fear nothing. We have nothing to hide."

At the conclusion of Dr. Moroka's address, the huge audience repeated after him, sincerely and solemnly, the following pledge:

THE BIRTH OF A GREAT MOVEMENT.

The people sang "Nkosi Silale! I Afrika" and "Morena Boloka." The black-green-gold banners, and the many other slogan-banners demanding freedom, began to move from the square as the people made their way homewards. The meeting was over.

But to all who were present at the Freedom Square, as at the hundreds of other April 6 meetings throughout the country, it was clear that this was not the end but the beginning. We had seen the birth of a great movement which would never come to an end until unjust laws had been abolished and every South African, irrespective of race, sex or colour, had won the right to liberty, security and happiness.



"We want peace; we want freedom! Away with the passes! Away with unjust laws!"

AROUND THE UNION ON APRIL 6

April 6th demonstration reports are pouring in from all centres of the Union. From Standerton, Ermelo, Evaton, from Bethal, Ladybrand and many other centres our correspondents report that scores of people gathered to pledge support to Defy Unjust Laws.

In small places like Ladybrand 2,000 people attended the Protest meetings. In Pretoria over 10,000 people attended meetings in different centres. Over 35,000 people were present in Port Elizabeth at the Mountain Top dedication ceremony. Large protest meetings were also held at Cape Town, Durban, Kimberley and other centres. Latest report from our East London correspondent indicate that over 25,000 attended the Protest meeting.

In Bethal the police attempted to prevent the people from attending the meeting. Mr. Sibande, commonly known as "The Lion of the East," was mounted on a horse and chased the police away. Police also prevented many truckloads of people from attend-

A cable received from the s.s. Kampala on voyage to India, states that a meeting of passengers was held on April 6 to support the campaign for the Defiance of Unjust Laws.

ing the Freedom Square meeting. As the convoy from Benoni arrived in Denver on their way to Freedom Square, a troop carrier loaded with police intercepted them and said there was no meeting being held. The leader of the convoy told the police that if the meeting was cancelled, he would carry on with it with his own crowd. Two truckloads, however, were deceived later by the police and sent back.

SUPPORT
"SPARK"
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THE WAR IN KOREA

MAIL WARNS AGAINST U.S. WARMONGERS

The "Rand Daily Mail," reflecting a wide and growing section of public opinion which is becoming gravely alarmed at the aggressive trend of United States policy, published a challenging leading article on Friday, April 4, under the heading "Stop Rattling Those Sabres."

The "Mail" cites the statements of the U.S. Secretary of the Navy that, if the Chinese invade Formosa the American Seventh Fleet will "lobber hell out of them," and that if Chiang invades China the Americans "would stand on the sidelines and cheer."

It goes on to quote from the diary of General Grew, their military attache to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow in which he makes such observations as "Big electric power station near Shatura. Good target." "We must starve by hitting below the belt. . . Anything, truth or falsehood . . . to undermine the confidence and loyalty of Soviet subjects." "War! As soon as possible! Now!"

Stop the Americans!

The "Rand Daily Mail" concludes this powerful and remarkable editorial by the blunt statement:

"This is the greatest problem of the time: not to restrain the Russians . . . but to prevent the Americans from rushing the world into war."

While supporters of peace welcome the leading article as a contribution to meeting the menace of war, they observe with regret that this advance is by no means reflected consistently in that newspaper. A member of the Transvaal Peace Council told SPARK:

"The logical consequence is for the "Rand Daily Mail" now to oppose the deep involvement of the Union in America's war plans, via the Middle East Pact and the vast burden of war expenditure, amounting to £40 millions

DEGRADATION



which Mr. Havenga has thrust upon the country.

"We should like to see this news paper carrying its shrewd analysis further by publishing in full the Chinese allegations of American germ warfare and calling for a representative UNC investigation of these grave and horrifying charges."

CHURCH INDICTS MALAN

"Representing 1,000,000 members and adherents in all racial groups, and speaking mainly as a people who are South African by birth . . . the Methodist Church of South Africa has followed with great concern the development of policy under the present Government," says a statement issued by the President of the Methodist Church of South Africa, Rev. Garret. The statement added: "Fears have been engendered which never existed and suspicions have been created which none formerly entertained."

RUIN



HOW THEY SUFFER



Disease Weapon In Korea ?

World Wants Investigation

Throughout the world the demand is rising for United Nations investigation of and action upon the Chinese Government's allegations that the Americans in Korea are deliberately spreading disease germs as a weapon of war.

Day by day the Chinese newspapers have been publishing detailed reports of American planes flying over Korea and dropping special containers holding flies, fleas, spiders, birds, leaves and poisoned food. These insects and other objects, state the Chinese, have been infected with virulent germs. Laboratory tests have revealed the germs of plague, cholera, typhus, meningitis, tetanus and anthrax, as well as animal and plant diseases.

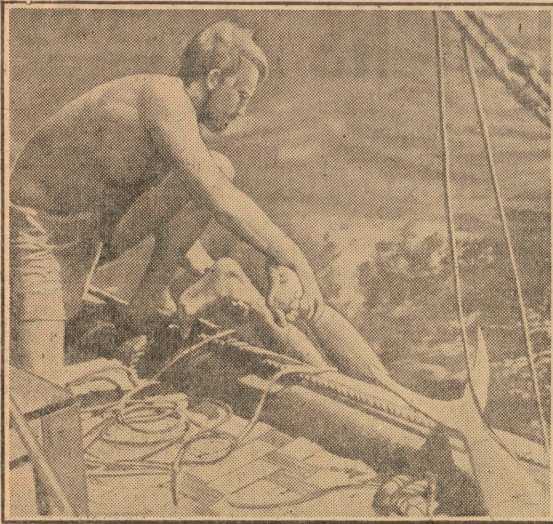
WAVE OF HORROR.

These reports have caused a wave of horror throughout the world. Germ warfare has long been outlawed by international conventions and con-

demned as a war crime. The American Government opposed a United Nations investigation as proposed by the Soviet Government. But, following upon the solemn protest by all Chinese democratic organisations and the weighty statement by Professor Joliot Curie, President of the World Council of Peace, world opinion is more and more insistently demanding a full and impartial investigation.

Latest reports from China state that American aircraft dropped disease-infected insects and substances over a number of North Korean areas on March 6, 7, 9 and 10.

MOVIES



One member of the six men scientist crew on the Kon-Tiki, holds by the ankles a companion, who thus dangling head down into the Pacific, inspects the lashings of the raft. The incident is one described in Kon-Tiki, a factual adventure film of an amazing voyage across the Pacific.

Protest Against Franco

The following statement was issued by Mr. I. Bhoola, secretary of the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress:

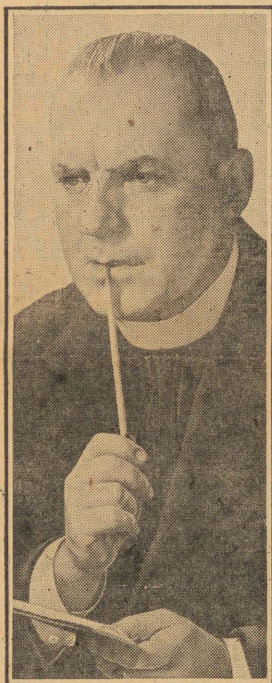
The Francosist gestapo police of Spain have arrested 34 democrats in Barcelona for strike demonstrations. Among them is one of the leading members of the youth movement, Lopez Raimundo, who was also a member of the Executive of the W.F.D.Y.

In Franco Spain the youth and the people live under the most inhuman and barbaric conditions. The people are made to work long hours with very low wages. Prices are terribly high and sometimes a loaf of bread costs as much as a week's wages. The people are forced to pay heavy taxes. Franco's budget gives 80 per cent. to war and repressive measures, 4.5 per cent. to public education.

The misery and hunger of the people of Spain have become unbearable. It is due to this that the people of Barcelona followed their leaders and struck.

Death faces these heroic leaders of Barcelona. The Youth Congress calls on all justice and freedom loving youth to send protests to the Spanish Embassy in our country.

The 14th of April is International Day of Solidarity with anti-fascist youth and students of Spain. On this occasion we call on every democrat to demand the release of Lopez Raimundo and his compatriots.



Fighting Father Dunne.

Protector Pat O'Brien stars as Father Peter Dunne, St. Louis priest whose newsboys' home grew into a famous institution, in RKO Radio's dramatic story, "Fighting Father Dunne."



Viveca Lindfors.

Glamorous international star from Sweden, currently to be seen in "Journey into Light," opposite Sterling Hayden, at the Lyric Theatre. Thomas Mitchell is also starred in the romantic drama.

BOOKS

The Struggle For Europe

For distortion of historical facts, Mr. Wilmot runs a close second to the organisers of the van Riebeeck Festival. Mr. Wilmot is faced with the task of proving that the real enemy of World War II was the Soviet Union. From his book therefore it would seem that the war was won by Churchillian cigars and Yankee chewing-gum. The Red Army, apparently, was only a minor factor in the overthrow of the Nazi regime and a superfluous one at that.

One point, however, emerges quite clearly and that is the extent of Churchill's Russophobia. This phobia was carried to fantastic extremes and was certainly one of the main reasons

for the delay in the opening of the second front in Europe. Roosevelt, on the other hand, is painted as the villain of the piece. He feared British imperialism more than Soviet socialism!

This book is contemptuous of the millions of people who laid down their lives in the fight for liberation from the fascist scourge in Europe. It attempts to justify the Atlantic Pact and other anti-Fascist schemes, setting out a pattern for the future "containment" of the U.S.S.R. and is nothing less than a text for Western warmongers. So much for a book that Rajani Palme Dutt has described as "a new version of Mein Kampf, dressed up afresh for 1952." S.R.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

They Want Us To Forget

Dear Sir,

I have noted with satisfaction that in the last issue of the SPARK your theatre critic reviewed the film called "The Desert Fox." I wish to take this opportunity of making further comments on the political significance of this film.

It appears that the people who made this infamous film want to whitewash the deeds of the Nazis. They want us to forget the deeds of the Fascists. They want us to forget Buchenwald and Dachau, the concentration camps to which they sent everyone who opposed their will. They want us to forget the misery and suffering they caused to the working class of Germany. They want us to forget the millions upon millions of men, women and children who were brutally murdered by the Nazis. Yes! and all this barely seven years after the end of the war.

Once again the imperialist powers are trying through the medium of their vast propaganda resources to bluff the people into another war.

In order to carry out the rearmament of Germany, which is universally opposed by all peace-loving people, American propaganda is aimed at showing the world that the Nazis were not such bad fellows after all. Thus we are being fed with films like "The Desert Fox," which glorifies the Nazis. In the "Readers' Digest," "Time," "Life" and many more American magazines, we find articles of a similar nature.

The winner of our photo competition. Will the young man whose face appears in the circle in our photograph please

It is therefore the task of all peace-loving people to rally round the peace movement and show the imperialists that the majority of the people are against their warmongering. We must show these so-called Democrats of Wall Street and Washington that we will not be taken in by such vile and misleading propaganda.

MAX

Bury the Poor as You Bury the Rich

Sir,

Please allow me through the medium of your paper to express my thanks to all friends, who so kindly set aside all other appointments so as to be present at Johannesburg station to give our brother Achmat Paulsen, the send-off which is so necessary to give to those who are on their journey to the Bantulah to fulfil one of the hardest faralds. There was quite a gathering, but it is a pity that with the exception of the chairman, vice-chairman and the assistant secretary of the Naseria Moslem School Board and Gaiip Niffa none of our leaders were present.

Wake up, you leaders! And bury the poor as you would the rich.

OBSERVER.

Photo Competition

Our roving photographer will regularly be taking photographs of people throughout Johannesburg and the Reef towns, for the photo competition of SPARK. A ring will be drawn around one person in the photograph and a prize of one guinea will be presented to the lucky winner.

Call at the SPARK Offices, 12 Wolhuter Street, Westgate, for a prize of one guinea.



The New **LYRIC**

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Mon 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
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Thu—Sat April 17—19
The story of a man who turned his back to God
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"KON-TIKI"
The 20th Century Robinson Crusoe

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"GUNFIGHTER" plus
"THEY WON'T BELIEVE ME"

Thu—Sat April 24—26
FIGHTING FATHER DUNNE

NON-EUROPEAN CAMPAIGNS OVERSEAS

BOXING

From GEORGE PETER

South African Non-European feather-weight champion, Albert Tissong, who is campaigning overseas in search of further honours, has a remarkable record to his credit.

He has had three fights of which he won the first on points, the second by a knockout and the third on a technical knockout. Don McTaggart, who was unbeaten in his thirty-two professional fights, lost on points to Tissong.

Benard Pugh, who twice went the distance with Roy Ankarah and beat Tony Lombard, Ronnie Clayton and others, lost to Tissong on a knockout. Tissong holds the reputation of being the first man to have knocked out B. Pugh.

Eddie Moran was battered severely, when the referee stopped the fight in the seventh round. Tissong is on his way to fame. He wasted no time in challenging Roy Ankarah for the British Empire featherweight title. We sincerely hope that he will bring the bacon home.

Amateurs Show Good Form

The amateur boxers in Natal are progressing very rapidly. High-class boxing has been displayed recently. The Natal flyweight champion, Dicky Pillay, bantamweight champion Harry Naidoo, welterweight champion Norman Tissong have joined the paid ranks.

The other Natal champions are confident that they will retain their titles when the Natal championships begin on April 17, 18 and 19. The Natal Non-European Amateur Boxing Association will present a boxing tournament on the 5th April in which popular boxers will participate.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

The Natal Indian Youth Congress held a symposium on the "Freedom of the Press in South Africa" in the Gandhi Library, Durban, on March 22. Speakers at the symposium included Mr. P. Poovilingam, editor of the Graphic, R. I. Arenstein and Mr. H. I. Dhlomo, of the Ilanga Lase Natal.

Mr. Dhlomo said that the entire press in South Africa, particularly the national daily newspapers, were controlled by a couple of huge financial concerns, and that in reality there was no free Bantu press. He lamented the fate of such publications as the "Democrat," the "Sjambok" and the "Inkundla Ya Bantu."

Mr. Dhlomo described how the authorities curtailed freedom of the press by restricting the quota of newsprint to non-European papers. There was

Benny Singh Promotes

Durban's ace promoter, Benny Singh, will present a Non-European boxing tournament in the City Hall, Durban, on the 25th April, 1952. Top billing goes to Leslie McKenzie, the Durban welterweight, who meets the former Western Province amateur middle-weight champion Julius Caesar, who has won his two professional bouts by knockouts.

Young Sabela, who meets Johannes Mhlangu has a decision over Homicide Hank. Cuban Hawk, who in his last fight in Durban beat Young Chetty of Pietermaritzburg, meets Speedy Bandes, who went the distance with Roy Ankarah.

Lingum Pillay, the popular flyweight of Durban, who recently lost to Young Jake on points in Cape Town, and Shaik Osman, who lost to Young Jake on a first round T.K.O. in Durban, are likely to appear on the same bill, matched against the toughest opposition that can be found for them.

ERROR

We beg to rectify an error which occurred in the SPARK dated 27th. R. Garda, in the match between Zulfikars and Crescents, scored 67, and not 7, as was previously stated.

MUDDLE IN ADMINISTRATION OF TENNIS

The present administration of the game of tennis amongst non-Europeans leaves much to be desired. The Africans, Coloureds and Indians all have their sectional National Tennis Boards. The Africans cater for all three sections irrespective of race, provided the individual is not registered with any other board. The Coloureds cater for two only, namely Coloureds and Indians, irrespective of whether the individual is registered with other tennis boards. (Apparently as long as he is not an African). The Indians cater for one only and that is for the Indians.

Taking the Transvaal as an example, you find this anomaly: the Transvaal Indian Tennis Union allows Africans and Coloureds what I may term restricted membership, in that members of these two races, though registered as members in the Indian Union, may only participate in league matches and

one instance when a wealthy syndicate bought up all the ink that was required by a non-European paper and thus forced this paper to close down.

Mr. Dhlomo concluded by calling on the Youth Congress to oppose the banning of the "Guardian" and to actively engage themselves in defending the freedom of the press.

After a short discussion from the floor the meeting adopted the following resolution:

"This public meeting held under the auspices of the Natal Indian Youth Congress is of the opinion that democracy cannot exist in South Africa without a free press. Therefore this meeting records its strong protest against the contemplated actions by the Government against the "Guardian" newspaper."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"BURY THE HATCHET"

Dear Sir,

I have been reading with interest and awe your reports of the controversy in the Transvaal Coloured Cricket Union.

I would like to make it clear to you that this Union has lost prestige by the publication of these articles; and it has not helped in any way to solve the matter.

I would like to elucidate that the problem on hand is not at all so severe as the articles would seem to indicate.

In fact, I say that it is simply a "domestic" matter and its solution lies in burying the hatchet completely.

Therefore, I should like you to print this appeal that this subject should be treated as closed.

You can only surmise how profoundly great your help will be by adhering to this appeal.

Thanking you.

A. MILLER.

We were given to understand that trouble was brewing in the above Union, hence we considered it only correct and justified to endeavour to settle these petty grievances, which seemed to have been prevailing at that time. Our comments have been impartial. The letter which appeared in our columns are not necessarily our views.

We don't see how our stand could cast a reflection on the prestige of the said Union. Our intention, I repeat, was an endeavour to put an end to trifles which, if it had to be carried on any longer, could have proved detrimental to the Union. As such our aim was based on unity and definitely not on causing further animosity or "exaggerated dissension." — The Sports Editor.

A New Union

Sir,—May we bring to the notice of sport fans the inauguration of the West Rand Football Association. Its sponsor, Mr. E. Saloojee, and the organisers, Mr. G. Padiachee and Mr. Baker, have left no stones unturned in their effort to make this association a success. To date, twelve teams have been affiliated to this association and at the time of writing applications have been received from two more clubs. Any clubs or teams willing to affiliate to this association must direct their applications to The Secretary, West Rand Football Association, P.O. Box 144, Roodepoort, Transvaal.

AHMAD VALIALLAH,
Secretary.

not in what are commonly known as championships, where the individual fights for personal honour. The Transvaal Indian Tennis Union, when granting this restricted form of membership, does so regardless of whether the individual concerned is registered with other unions.

The practice of dual registration is followed by the Coloured Union in so far as they admit players who are registered with the Indian Union and both these Unions in turn allow their individual members to register with the African Union. This is bad administration in that the Unions as such are controlled by the individual player who fluctuates as he or she pleases. This position means the tail wags the head. Consequently the administration must be difficult, if those at the head know what they are about. It is strange to observe that this anomalous position does not obtain in both Coloured and

Indian football nor indeed cricket, the principle there is universal: the tail

The position is now going to be is not allowed to wag the head, more complicated in tennis, since last year (subject to correction) the South African Coloured Tennis Union decided to change its designation to what is now known as the South African Tennis Board. Why on earth, when they thought of adopting this new name, did they not consult the other two National Boards, for at least co-ordination is a matter for conjecture. This latest step by the South African Coloured Tennis Board is not making any improvement to this chaotic state of tennis administration amongst non-Europeans, for that matter it makes the position worse in that, when it runs its championships, any player, irrespective of his identity administratively, may participate.

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