

BLACK PEOPLES' CONVENTION

Let

BOX 11427,
JOHANNESBURG.

n.d.
Dec. 1973?

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Comrade,

On behalf of the National Executive Committee I wish to bring the following to your notice.

I wish to annul all allegations that were propounded by the ever-antagonistic white press about our National Executive being elected ~~in~~ SECRET and also that it is a secret Executive. The truth is that the Executive ~~was~~ elected in public during an open session at the close of Congress. It was pointed out to the reporter present that there would be no coverage (press) of the proceedings of Congress as such but that press statements would be issued from time time during proceedings by the P.R.O. The said reporter abused privileges accorded him and went out of his way to interview observers during closed sessions, and unfortunately some of the observers interviewed outside happened to be teachers. I further wish to annul the allegation that they were excluded from proceedings because they were teachers. We do not accept people into the Movement (i.e. B.P.C.) on the basis of their academic qualifications but only if they comply with our ideals, aspirations, goals, and principle. This can be confirmed by the fact that our former President Mrs. Kgwe and Sipho Buthel were teachers until they were obliged to serve on the 1st. B.P.C. Executive. Even among our members we have teachers.

I wish to point out here hours of business at Head Office. On weekdays Head Office shall be open between 9a.m. and 5p.m. On Saturdays between 8a.m. and 2p.m. These hours are merely a safeguard for members who would like to call at the Head Office to meet with any member of the Executive. These are stipulated only to avoid inconveniences to members calling during or at hours when nobody is expected at Office. Head Office may be open earlier or later than the stipulated hours.

I wish to announce our National leaders as elected at our second Annual National Congress;

- President-----Tshenuwani S. Farisani
- Vice-President---Collin T. Jeffrey
- Secretary-General---Zithulele Cindi
- National Organiser---Nkwenkwe Nkomo
- Public Relations Officer---Revabalan Cooper.

On the same note I call upon Branches to submit their present Executive so as to facilitate communication and correspondence.

May you be informed about the NTHULI KA SHEZI tombstone that was unveiled on the 17th of December last, is no more. Vandalism is the obvious intention though the perpetrator(s) have not yet been discovered. It pains me to expatiate herein the degree of damages. To sum it up in a few words I would say there is a 100% damage and theft. This ungodly and dastardly act shall painfully go down the annals of BL'CK History. I call upon members to send contributions forthwith to Head Office for the erection of another tombstone. We intend unveiling it on Heroes' Day.

I call upon Branches to acknowledge receipt of this circular by submitting to Head Office names of their Executive members. Minutes of the 2nd National Congress shall be coming in the not- too-distant future. Members are called upon to dedicate themselves to the liberation of the Black man as yet another arduous year

lies ahead. The present Executive can only function with your cooperation. Branches are called upon to "mobilise" their members for proposed projects that are forthcoming.

ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS:

I wish to inform you about our Leaders who are behind bars. Mosibudi Mangena was sentenced to five years imprisonment. Lawyers handling the case have indicated intention to lodge yet another appeal against the sentence to the Chief Justice of the Appellate Court. Our Secretary-General Sipho Buthelezi is held in custody while lawyers handling the case are appealing for the reduction of bail which was R1600-00. Another member of our Organisation in detention is Nkotesoeu Mtsau of the Sharpeville branch. At the time of writing this circular word had been got through the press that he had appeared for the fourth remand yesterday. Proceedings were held in camera and after the trial he was whisked away by the security police at high speed. A colleague Puso Tladi was arrested at the scene and no reasons for his arrest were given. Such intimidatory acts are what we expect as the year unfolds. We should not allow ourselves to be intimidated and recede into fear-infested cocoons. We should portray and pledge Solidarity with our banned, harassed, interrogated and intimidated comrades.

"BREAKING THE CHAINS"

Zithulele Cindi.

SECRETARY-GENERAL