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M I N U T E S

OF

THE

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING

Held at:

The Lay Ecumenical Centre,
Pietermaritzburg.

From: 12th - 13th
Nov. 1973.

LAY ECUMENICAL CENTRE, PIETER-
MARITZBURG -OCT. 12th-13th

This is not a complete report on what took place at the N.E.C. The reason being that some of our documents were seized by policemen in Alice before a full report could be made.

The meeting was scheduled to start at 9.00a.m. Friday 12th, October, 1973, but because of late arrivals we had to start at 2p.m. same day.

OPENING: The meeting was opened by the Vice-President of SASO Rev. H.L. Qambela at 2p.m. same day. He briefly outlined the nature of the meeting, delivered a short speech on the recent spate of indiscriminate bannings.

PRESENT: Executive and Staff, H.L. Qambela(Chairman), Miss Nana Langa, Pumzile Majeke, N. Titus, Welile Nhlapo, Mapetla Mohapi, Puso Khutsoane,

DELEGATES: M. Manthata(Reeso), B. Khabo(Spriso), M. Njikelana(Turf), M. Mdalose(UNB), D. Mji(UNB), M. Kleinschmidt (Western Cape), M. Paile(Preso).

ABSENT: Kimso, Bloemso, Kroonso, Maphumulo, Durban West, Western Cape Regional Sec.

AGENDA:

- (1) Reading of last N.E.C Minutes.
- (2) Reports from Head Office, Regional Secretaries branches and centres.
- (3) Strategies,
- (4) Campus Visits,
- (5) Review of Projects
- (6) Free University
- (7) Decentralisation.

(1) Minutes of the last N.E.C. were distributed to delegates.

REPORTS:

(a) Head Office:

A verbal Head Office report was presented by Pumzilee. It was a short report in view of the fact that I had just assumed duties

at Head Office. There was no other report from Head Office. This is so because the people who were at Office before I came had been recently banned.

(b) Regional Secretaries:

- (i) Western Cape: There was no report tendered, and Council imagined that this was so because Mr Issel had just been banned. However, we are still awaiting some report from our Western Cape Regional officer.

(ii) Eastern Cape:

The Eastern Cape report covers the following projects:

- (i) Probeat
- (ii) Literacy
- (iii) Culcom
- (iv) Black Workers
- (v) Eduploy

Probeat: A probeat function was organised in P.E. after G.S.C. It was to be staged at Alabama Hotel. The system interfered by intimidating the Hotel Manager with the result that the function could not go on.

Literacy: There is a group of people who have been trained but presently the number is very low because many people have left the Eastern Cape e.g. Fort Hare Students. Presently is planning to embark on literacy work at Dim'za.

Culcom: Dashiki staged about 5 shows in the Eastern Cape and they had a terrific impact in promoting Black art, culture etc.,

Black Workers: preliminary contacts have been established but there isn't much work which has been done so far.

Eduploy: In this regard, one finds problems because of lack of jobs. In the report it is suggested that even students who get jobs on their own should be approached in order that they can provide information about working conditions.

(iii) Transvaal:

The report covers the visit by the Regional Secretary and Welile to the Mafso SASO Local branch. The local branch members explained to them the problems they encounter plus their future plans. During the meeting the branch members

reported that the Black Consciousness movement has been received with acclaim by the people. They also visited Rooigrond to look into possibilities of starting a project there. Rooigrond is a residential settlement area. People in this area are generally poor, there are no schools and people are dying daily of hunger and diseases. They realised that there is need to help the people in this area by establishing soup-kitchens providing health services, but at the same time make it a point that you don't inculcate a dependency complex. In the last N.E.C. a resolution was passed to the effect that a community development project be started in this area.

Black Workers:

Not much done here because Welile had to assist the Transvaal Regional Secretary until he could take care of the situation on his own.

Break: for tea at 4.20 p.m.

Resumed: 4.30 p.m.

Branch and Centre Reports:

Centres who gave reports were:

- (i) Preso
- (ii) Spriso
- (iii) Turfloop
- (iv) Unizul
- (v) UMB
- (vi) Fedsem
- (vii) Rceso

The meeting strongly reprimanded the Preso Branch for having shown a definite lack of activity and initiative. Other branches were warned in a similar fashion, because the Council felt it is pointless keeping passenger branches as they only frustrate the work of the organisation as a whole.

-STRATEGIES:

Certain strategies were formulated to take care of the situation as regards bannings and harassment, but for obvious reasons they cannot be disclosed in this report.

CAMPUS VISITS:

Council dealt with this issue quite at length and to resolve a lengthy debate the following motion was tabled.

That this N.E.C. noting that:

The extravagande and futility of Head Office staff regularly visiting campuses.

2. (i) the killing of the initiative of students as a result of these visits, and futher noting
- (ii) the philosophy of Black Consciousness is not only a monopoly of SASO leaders

THEREFORE RESOLVES TO:

- (i) Mandates the Permanent Organisor to pay a single visit at every centre/branch during the beginning of the year
- (ii) to encourage centres/branches ton invite SASO leaders when they feel it si necessary, and to ask to talk on specific issues which are relevant to that particular centre or branch.
- (iii) to endorse the invitation of other relevant speakers from the entire Black Community.

MOVER: M. MOHLAPISO

SECONDER: M. PAILE

CARRIED UNAN.

Review of Projects:

New areas were defined for the starting of new Projects. In this regard there were three emotions which were tabled and adopted. Unfortunately these motion cannot be found since the Alice cops felt that they need them.

The first motion was for continuing a physical project which had been started by Seminar people in Alice, at Upper Gqumushe Location.

The second motion was to the effect that a sum of R500 be granted to Mpeko people near Umtata. People in this area are trying to build up a school. It was felt that the area in view of the fact that it is not far from Rev. Qambela's place could be adopted.

The third one is about a place called Rooigrond. This area is near Mafeking and the people have for a number of times been threatened with eviction by the S.A. Government co-operating with Bophutatswana so-called Government. The people in this area live in poor conditions. The Western Cape SASO Local branch was also mandated to look into possibilities of starting a project at a place called Elgin near Cape Town. This is sort of an

Industrial area where people ^{process} applies into appletiser and other
beverages.

5. - FREE UNIVERSITY:

This was not discussed in view of the fact that the next day was scheduled for a Free University Seminar.

- DECENTRALISATION:

Under this topic a motion will suffice.

That this N.E.C. noting:

- (i) the need to restructure Branch Executive
- (ii) the need for regional Secretaries to determine and define areas of co-operation with branches.

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

To mandate the Regional Secretaries to round up the branches and help restructure them as this will make individual members be actively involved in the Community and also help in defining areas of co-operation between them and Regional Secretaries.

MOVER: KHUTSOANE

SECONDER: MOHAPI

CARRIED UNAN

-OTHER MATTERS:

Co-operation between SASO and SRC in campuses was also discussed and it was in fact emphasised. No particular strategies were laid out since this is a situational case.

Amongst other things, it was stated emphatically that students who go for projects should see to it that they don't misbehave. What happen at Dududu during the Dec. holidays antagonised many supporters to the extent that the whole thing almost cost us a project.

Lastly, the following motion was presented.

That this N.E.C. noting that:

- (i) In order to improve the factuality of reports
- (ii) Make more systematic

(ii) Facilitate the working of Head Office.

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

- (i) to accept the following pattern of reports
- (ii) that centres send in reports monthly

REPORT ON:

1. Number of active members.
2. Meetings for the month e.g.
 - i. symposia
 - ii. seminars
3. What have you done about (and difficulties encountered)
 - (a) Literacy
 - (b) Probeat/Legal Aid Fund
 - (c) Community Development Project
 - (d) Black Worker's Project
 - (e) Culcom.
4. What are your relations with
 - (a) Church Leaders,
 - (b) Other Professional People
 - (c) Other Organisations
5. Further remarks that need a special comment
6. What was your response to a special matter which challenged your expression of solidarity
7. Recommendations to H/O.
8. What are your difficulties generally.

This is all I could reconstruct from the scattered papers, the police gave us after satisfying themselves about our documents. In most cases I had to rely on my memory.

The meeting was closed at about 12 midnight by the Chairman. It was closed with a short prayer and he read a relevant part from the Bible.

POWER AND SOLIDARITY!