



MINUTES OF THE FOURTH(4th) NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD
AT THE ST. ANSGARS LP STUDIOS FROM THE 16TH TO THE 17TH
MARCH, 1974.

The meeting commenced at 2.15 p.m. on the 16th of March with Rev. Mayatula reading from the Scriptures - a prayer followed.

AGENDA:

- 1.) Opening remarks by the President -A paper on B.P.C. in general.
- 2.) Announcements.
- 3.) Report by individual members of the National Executive Committee
- 4.) Minutes of the 3rd National Council meeting, 1973.
 - a. Matters arising out of the Minutes.
- 5.) Branch Reports.
- 6.) National Organiser's paper on B.P.C. Policy
- 7.) Financial Report - by the Secretary-General
- 8.) Branch Affairs :-a) The DON Branch;b)The Mehlomakhulu case;
 - c) The P. Elizabeth Branch;d)Sharpeville Branch
- 9.) HEROES' DAY -21st March, 1974
- 10.) Proposed projects and the Annual Programme
- 11.) GENERAL and CLOSURE.

DELEGATES PRESENT:

T.S. PARISANI - N/EXEC.; COLLIN JEFFREY - N/EXEC.; Zithulele Cindi-N/EX
NKWENKWE NKOMO -N/EXEC.; R.G. MAROLEN -Daveyton; Rev. M. MAYATULA -
Mapumulo; HAROLD DIXON Cape Town; PATRICK KHUMALO -Welkom; FANINI P.
TSOTETSI -JO'BURG CENTRAL.

1. The President read his paper on B.P.C. in general calling upon all the Chairmen to revive their Branches. He further urged them to take note of the following;

- people should not take pride in their being involved in a political mother body and view that as a sense of achievement.
- this has, as a result, brought about the crippled image of B.P.C. in the whole country.
- the President promised the N/Council of the efforts the N.E.C. would put into the whole Movement provided it gets support from the Branches. .../Our attitude..

-our attitude towards other people; our behaviour should befit us and avoid being too Black to be approached -infallible.

~~SHOULD~~ weigh the intrinsic values about being Black.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- the Secretary-General announced that no letters of apology were received from the Branches that were not present.
- also the absence of the Public Relations Officer was noted-the 2nd
- two members of the Council appealed to be excused during the evening due to ill-health. It was agreed that they could leave after part of the programme had been resolved.

3. THE EXECUTIVE(NATIONAL) REPORT:

- i.) The President reported on the Office situation when the present Executive took over. The financial position of the Convention was very precarious and the need for Branches to maintain Head Office could never be emphasised. The issue of the Typist was raised and it was left as resolved by the N.E.C. The Secretary-General was to acknowledge receipt of her letter. An abortive trip to Durban came as a result of the inefficiency of two members of the N.E.C. The amount that was put aside will get used up on other trips. The President felt nothing tangible had been done-so far.
- ii.) The vice-President reported of the inefficiency of the Branch Executives in the Durban area. Discussion followed after the Vice President's report. He apologised for his rather short report.

THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER:

The absence of the Public Relations Officer was noted and it was resolved that his attention be drawn to this matter.

THE NATIONAL ORGANISER:

He reported on his co-ordinatory efforts with regards to branches and his exploration into the cultural field. He also reported on his intended fund-raising project; his abortive trip to the Free State branches, due to the lack of funds. It was then agreed that the National Executive Council's report should be in the form of a Digest compiled by the Secretary-General. Reference was made to the minutes of the last National Congress in September.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL:

He presented his report which was of an administrative nature. He reported on steps taken with regards to the following cases:
i) Baldwin M. du.; ii) Ngwako Thebehali. The need for assessing its membership in the different branches was felt and a resolution to

that effect was adopted. The discrediting of people for their stand as regards the Convention should be discouraged -if this had to be done it has be done both situationally and diplomatically. It was felt advisable to attack the institution rather than the individual after a thorough assessment of the situation.

4. MINUTES OF THE 3rd NATIONAL COUNCIL.

The Minutes were read and a precedent that arose was noted -at the meeting i.e. allowing observers into a meeting supposedly for the N.E.C. and Chair-men. of Branches. A resolution was adopted calling for the amendment of the constitution of the National Council.

5. BRANCH REPORTS;

i.) JO'BURG CENTRAL

The Chairman reported about the dissidency of the forces of the Branch. He reported of some people being not for the good of the Convention-this is manifest in a constant number and the same members and locus attending meetings and the same with those who were absenting themselves from meetings. The Branch Exec intended conducting elections in the near future. The Chairman expressed his dismay on hearing about the "dumping" of the DON Branch into the Franch. This was rejected by the Council and the National Organiser was mandated to call upon a general meeting of the DON Branch-with a view of conducting elections.

ii.) DAVEYTON BRANCH

Nothing much has been done in the Branch in view of the absence of books ^{and} records of the Branch. The feeling of some members was not to elect a standing Committee but as it was a National procedure a Committee had to be elected. About correspondence from Head Office being received late, the Secretary General explained the position arising out of the Branch being not included in the Head Office mailing list.

iii.) MAPHUMULO

Correspondence was arriving late from the Head Office and this results in the inability to respond to the requests from Head Office. Some of the members have left the Branch. They-in the Branch-intend conducting a literacy campaign-financial problems abound in transporting Literacy co-ordinators. The project was encouraged and -funds permitting-assistance was promised from the National Offices.

iv.) WELKOM BRANCH / No branch report

iv) WELKOM BRANCH:

There was no Branch report as the members were not in possession of the books since the Chairman had moved away with them. He expressed his willingness to start a new branch at Welkom. The National Organiser was to investigate the affairs of the branch.

v) CAPE TOWN:

The branch was ~~in~~ ^{found} in disarray as the Chairman was missing with the books. There were however a number of people eligible for membership within the branch. Correspondence from Head-Office was very good but delayed and then forwarded at a time when it would be considered futile. A loan has been made to a SASO member and has not yet been repaid. R140,00 was fundraised and from this R60,00 was loaned to yet another SASO member. Relations with both SASO and NAYO were reported to be very good. The branch has started a library and has a fulltime qualified Librarian. The Bonteheuvel issue was tackled and pamphleted extensively. After the Cape Town report the meeting adjourned for supper at 9,30 p.m. It was resumed at 10,15 p.m. When the Council reconvened the President presented a paper directed to the branches in general and particularly to the Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurers. The President elaborated on this paper the ~~Branch~~ (BPC) on different aspects. An exhaustive discussion followed.

6) The National Organiser read his paper on B.P.C. policy on different aspects.

viii) FINANCIAL REPORT - SECRETARY GENERAL:

There was no report due to an Accounting technical point, but a perusal of the books indicated a BANK OVERDRAFT. An appeal was lodged to all members present to pledge themselves R5,00 a month or 20c a day, which was ^{ever} greater. This would in turn be directed to the general membership of the Convention.

8) BRANCH AFFAIRS: a) The Mohlomakhulu Case.

The matter was referred back to the branch on a technical point. An invitation was extended by the National Offices to the said member was treated with "contempt of orders from the Head Office". The disposed member was not willing to face the Branch Executive for a re-trial in the Presence of the National Executive Committee as a breach of procedure was felt by the N.E.C. There has so far been no indication on the

part of the said member to accept or abide by the decisions and or directives from the National Offices. The President indicated his willingness to meet with the said member and to get his point of view.

b.) The member of B.P.C. and so-called ex-member of S.A.S.O. as carried in the white press—who is now the leader of the Opposition in the Ciskei—is not known in the Black circles. The Nat. Org. together with the Secretary-General were mandated to investigate this matter and to act accordingly.

c.) The P. Elizabeth branch was looked into and it was agreed that funds-permitting the Nat. Organiser should visit the Branch. In the meantime, the people interested in B.P.C. should go ahead and form a Branch.

d.) The Sharpeville Branch;

The effective opposition by the agents of the system were prominent—this can be supported by the fact that one of the prominent members is being held incommunicado under the "TERRORISM ACT". Most if not all, members in the Branch are testifying as State Witnesses. The untiring efforts of the Nat. Organiser can never be over-emphasised as the Convener of the Branch shirked his duties dismally and had to be done away with.

9. HEROES' DAY - 21st March, 1974.

The National Executive intended to utilise the Heroes' Day for the second unveiling of the MTHULI-KA-SHEZI tombstone. This venture would be of a National magnitude. Arrangements were presently being made with the Contractors and the two members of the National Executive in Durban were to continue with their duties as agreed in the last N.E.C. meeting in consulting the sculptor for the 'fist'. Head Office would look into the acquisition of the other part of the tombstone. A number of Organisations were to be invited to the ceremony.

10. PROPOSED PROJECTS AND THE ANNUAL PROGRAMME.

Members present were encouraged to speed up the drive for more membership. Through amassing a large following can we be able to effect change fast. The need to gain credibility by the masses can never be looked down upon—we had to identify with the people and to articulate their aspirations—through this can we have the people identifying the Movement with liberation. The President appealed to those present that they organise Rallies inviting every member of the community and having one member from the National Executive addressing them. At the close of business members had to pledge financial support to the National Offices. Business was terminated on Sunday the 17th at 4.30 am. Prayer was said.

^{4TH}
RESOLUTIONS TAKEN AT THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE ST.
ANSGARS STUDIOS FROM THE 16TH
AND 17TH OF MARCH, 1974.

RESOLUTIONN/C I/ 74.

That this National Council Noting:

- i) The incomprehensive list of branch members as kept in the National Offices' Register.
- ii) The adverse effect of this list has on the National Office Administration and the rotarotary effect in the co-ordination of Branches.

The following Resolves:

To mandate Chairmen of all Branches to distribute the membership assessment forms to every member in their respective branches and to submit these to the National Offices for safe-keeping.

Mover: Nkwenkwe Nkomo

Seconded by: Zithulele Cindi ()

Unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION N/C / 2/74.

That this Council Noting:

The lack of fully-fledged B.P.C. branches in the Black community and that the rigid rules with regards to the constitution of the National Council cannot be implemented because of this lack of Branches.

Therefore Resolves,

That the constitution of the National Council be amended to consist of:

- i) The National Executive Council.
- ii) Branches Chairmen or their deputies and
- iii) Confirmed conveners from the different cells and or areas.

Mover: Zithulele Cindi.

Seconded: Nkwenkwe Nkomo.