

# BLACK PEOPLES' CONVENTION



MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH (7th) NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT D.O.C.C.  
JOHANNESBURG, ON THE 17th APRIL 1976.

## 1. DELEGATES:

President.	Hlaku K. Rachidi
Vice-President	Mxolisi Mvovo
Secretary-General	Thandisizwe Mazibuko
Johannesburg	George Wauchop
	Nat Serache
Cape Town	Albert Beukes
King Williams Town	Thamsanqa Qambata
	Thenjiwe Mtintso
Daveyton	Mahlomola Skhosana
Grahamstown	Mzukisi Madlavu
East London	Zolile Keke
Pietermaritzburg	Important Mkhize
Publicity Secretary	Georege Marolen
Kliptown branch	
Absent	Mara branch and Krugersdorp

## Apologies

## Absent

## 2. AGENDA

1. Opening Remarks by the President
2. Presentation of credentials
3. Executive Report and Finance
4. Matters arising from the Executive Report
5. Branch Reports
6. Mthuli's memorial service
7. Regionalisation
8. General.

## 3. OPENING REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT:

The President apologised for the inconvenience caused by the postponement of the meeting, i.e. the meeting began on the 17th instead of the 16th as per circular. He explained that this was due to the fact that the venue (D.O.C.C.) was closed on the 16th and thus unavailable for use. He urged the Council to look into the business of the Organisation extensively and with one serious mind.

Without further comments he asked the Secretary-General to read the Executive report.

EXECUTIVE REPORT:

1) ADMINISTRATION.

The Executive would like to apologise for the delay of the Congress Report. This is due to the fact that we had to rely on other people for typing and printing.

OFFICE.

The first task of the new Executive elected in December was to establish the Head Office. This was done and the offices were procured at Dowing Mansions. However, the lease expires at the end of the year due to the fact that the building is to be demolished. The Executive will have to look for another office in the not too distant a future. With the establishment of the office a need arose of employing an administrative assistant. Accordingly, Charles Mthombeni was employed. Much as the assistant was employed, a typist is much needed. This has been a difficult issue, firstly due to lack of funds and secondly in obtaining a reliable and efficient typist. We are however, looking seriously into the matter. Again we need to have a Book-Keeper on a part time basis who will handle our books for trial balance.

Another problem is that of furniture and office equipment. Our old furniture is not sufficient and is actually falling apart. We are at the moment relying on a desk loaned to us by SASO and, we also have to use their type-writer. Our typewriters and other equipment are still in the hands of the Security Police and request to have them released was refused on grounds that the trial is still on.

FINANCIAL REPORT - JANUARY -MARCH 1976.

Income:

Balance carried forward .....	R720,00
Funds raised .....	R1000,00
Local donations .....	R200,00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>R1920,00</b>

EXPENDITURE.

Salaries .....	R680,00
Rent .....	200,00
Lease Agreement .....	50,00
Stationery .....	180,00
Postage & Phones .....	50,00
Travelling Expenses .....	540,00
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TOTAL .....	R1700, 00
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When the Executive took over, it found that B.P.C. was owing Hammanskraal R904,00 for the 1973-74 period. This centre was considering taking legal action against B.P.C. for the amount owed. However, this amount has subsequently been paid.

At this juncture the Executive would like to point out that the Branches have had no contributions made towards the National Office. It must be stressed that the branches have to embark on an extensive fund-raising campaign and that the branches are supposed to share their income with the Head Office on a 50 - 50 basis. The Chairmen are asked to seriously view our financial position and to start sending in both Affiliation and subscription fees to Head Office.

C. PUBLICITY.

The Executive apologises for the delay of getting this office going. This had been due to the fact that communication and co-ordination between the Publicity Secretary and other members of the Executive was poor so that part of this office was handled by the President, and the other by the Secretary-General. However, this situation has been alleviated.

The Publicity Secretary needs to look into having a regular newsletter for propaganda purposes. At the moment we are relying on Press Releases many of which are not published. Accordingly, the Executive intends to launch a publication on all Press Releases. At the moment we are engaged in a joint B.P.C. - S.A.S.O. project compiling a Heroes Day publication. This is undertaken by Durban for convenience. Needless to say that this department needs a lot of funding in order to promote a regular flow of publications. It is felt that we need another Administrative Assistant who will concentrate who will concentrate on the department to make it more efficient and effective. This Council must look into all aspects of Publicity.

aware that the Executive is planning a symposium on Black Communalism. This is to be held from the 29th-30th May at Mafeking pending confirmation. The Executive is also compiling a book on the papers that are going to be delivered.

#### NATIONAL.

It is envisaged that as soon as the Office activities are normal i.e. both assistants and staff settle to work, the Secretary-General should concentrate on looking into unexplored areas. So far, the President and the Secretary-General have been activating areas that were neglected. However, it has not been possible to look into these areas. The Executive has undertaken four journeys so far.

#### CAPE:

The President and Peter Jones addressed a rally in East London with the aim of establishing a branch. This rally was a startling success and the Executive hopes that the Eastern Cape Provincial Director has had a follow-up and a branch fully formed.

#### DURBAN:

The President and Secretary-General held a meeting in Durban with the SASO Executive. They then proceeded to the Eastern Cape for consultation with the Vice-President and to discuss the Congress Reports.

The Secretary-General spent four days in Natal trying to revive branches in P.M.Burg, Pietermaritzburg, Ladysmith and Newcastle. The Executive was getting worried that the absence of the Secretary-General from the area may hamper progress. However, the PMBurg branch is still active and alive and was planning a symposium then.

The MULO branch was having a problem of dual affiliation. Most of them should have their role to be in SASO. However, because of their position in the community, most of them are insisting their role to be needed more in BPC than in SASO. This situation could not be resolved, except that the relationship between BPC and SASO will maintain the division of duties, we hope.

Pietermaritzburg and Ladysmith need more time to consolidate themselves into solid branches. In Pietermaritzburg, the Secretary-General had to travel to Sibasa to collect the BPC car that was being kept by the former President.

The President and the Secretary-General attended a funeral in Durban of Mr Mdluli who was taken by the hands of the police. Much as we would have liked to be involved in the funeral, it was felt that because of protocol a message of condolence was sufficient. The message read:

As we physically and emotionally mourn the tragic death of one fellow-brother Mr Mdluli, BPC maintains that whenever a genuine struggle is undertaken by the people, there must be casualties. With utmost conviction, Mkhuthusi went down in Durban as a hero and a devoted struggler. He will be counted amongst those who paid

History has taught us that freedom must be struggled for and genuine freedom is attained the hard way. However, history is definitely on our side. No amount of detentions, harassments, jailings and even assassinations will deter Blacks from striving vehemently and relentlessly for their freedom. Time is on the side of the oppressed majority. Mkhuthuzi's death will be an indelible mark in our experiences towards liberation, it is a clear sign that the road we are undertaking is a genuine one."

What was remarkable about this funeral was the sentiments expressed by Mr Barney Dladla, a former colleague of Gatsha. He maintained that:

(i) Our true leaders are those in the Island, in Detention, house-arrested and those standing trial in Pretoria.

(ii) That Homelands must not be rejected but must be destroyed.

(iii) That the only organisations that are working for true liberation of the Blacks in this country are BPC and SASO, and accordingly people must fully support these organisations.

A follow-up on Mr Dladla is being sought and we hope that he shall truly seek to work for the liberation of Azania.

#### RELATIONS.

Relationship between this office and the Black Renaissance Action Committee has been suspended, due to slanderous report of this Committee on the events of 1974 conference. An apology was sought but has not been forthcoming, thus necessitating breaking of the relationship.

Relationship with international bodies is being undertaken. At the moment we are engaged in re-establishing the Free University Scheme with the help of the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Relations are being sought with the German Church groups.

#### CONCLUSION.

From this report it is obvious that much work needs to be done. It is the duty of BPC to organise and mobilise the Black community. As Black Consciousness strives to seek for a totality of involvement in the Black Community, BPC must of necessity seek to concentrate on field work. During the Springs Bus boycott BPC sent an investigating team. This is what is needed and is lacking at the moment, unfortunately. This Council meeting must bear in mind that with the discontinuation of the Office of the Permanent Organiser, central organisational work that can't be tackled by the Regional Directors will have to be dealt with by the Secretary-General. Thus the need to have at least two Administrative Assistants.

ISSUES ARISING :

Administration: The Council agreed to the request of the Executive to employ a Head Administrator pending the availability of funds.

Publicity: What emerged from the discussion on Publicity was that there is a need for Head Office Directive. It was felt that Head Office must communicate Press Releases to the branches for information and for keeping the branch working in line with that of Head Office. Thus besides the monthly or bi-monthly Press Release publications the Executive intends launching it was felt necessary to send weekly informative publications to branches. For a start the Secretary-General was instructed to compile the proceedings of the BPC/SASO trial, because areas like Cape Town do not carry proceedings in their newspapers. This the Secretary-General promised to look into immediately.

Relations: The Executive was instructed to investigate the Black Renaissance Action Committee with the aim of formulating a concerted attitude with SASO towards it. The Executive was further mandated to act, should the need arise, against this Committee, in view of the cunning and crafty nature of one of its members. A member wanted to know the relationship between BPC and the Black Press. It was explained that this organisation has no formal relationship except that Black Press accepted the Policy of Black Consciousness. Further it was questioned what the member's attitude towards advertisements in view of the BPC stand towards Foreign Investments. It was explained that the paper must be viewed as a private concern that BPC has no control on, but it was strongly suggested that means and ways be worked out of maintaining this informal control, lest the paper slips through hands.

Finance: The Council suggested that the Secretary-General send circulars to branches advising them to remit funds to Head Office. Further the Council discouraged door to door fundraising as this would tend to kill the image of the Organisation done irresponsibly.

BRANCH REPORTSANNESBURG:

On the 4th of January 1976, we had a meeting during which a report was given on the Congress was run, the resolution taken, and the future policy of BPC. It was also resolved in this meeting that on the 25th January another meeting be held at which elections would be held. In this meeting in which the National President presided, elections were held. This meeting was graced by the presence of Diliza Mafema, National President of SASO, Thandisizwe Mazibuko Secretary-General of BPC, and Marolene Publicity Secretary of BPC and of course the President whose presence at our meetings I demand because he is a member of the J.H.B. branch. In this meeting it was resolved that subsequent meetings will be held on every first Sunday of the month.

J.H.B.

ON the 1st February the meeting was held. People were requested to divide themselves either to the Finance or Community Development Committee. This being done the two committees were requested to meet, discuss their projects and report back to the general membership. Their projects were accepted by the house. It was also announced that on the following month the meeting will not be held on the first Sunday in view of the CORD's day of prayer. Members were urged to attend this meeting. A joint BPC/SASO Executive meeting was held in which it was decided that we should hold common projects in fundraising and community development. The first project to be embarked upon was the Transit camp. Fortunately the Housewife's League had already started on this and ours was to help them as far as we could. We therefore, decided to incorporate SABSWA and the Doctor's Union. A joint meeting between us, the Housewife's League, the Doctor's Union and SABSWA was to be held on the 3rd of April, but unfortunately the conveners viz SABSWA did not turn up.

In our meeting of the 14th March, the two committees were asked to report. The Finance committee announced its projects and the Com-Dev reported on;

(a) The Kwa-Thema Buss boycott- Now that the advisory board was directly involved, we had to co-operate with them and plan future strategy. The house also decided that this project we had to consult the East Rand branch because of their proximity to that area. They had better contacts and could be easily acceptable than us.

(b) The Soccer Boycott and FIFA delegation; We appreciated the Clubs difficulties and ours was to persuade them that they did not any sponsors because of the crowds they draw. NPLS was not the only body. SASF which preached multiracial soccer was the answer to their problems. Windowdressing viz multinational and the pending multiracial match against the Argentinian soccer team were not going the political climate. We discovered that the managers were only relevant in so as they brought fame and money to the players. Our main problem was to penetrate the clubs, players and officials. Gratifying was the FIFA report that the expulsion of South Africa was on the line.

(c) Another issue was the refuse trike. Much as we were for the workers for their stand, we were disappointed by the fact that they had already left for home. We were either too slow or they were too fast. Nevertheless the basic problem is the one that faces every Black in this South African labour situation viz exploitation.

On the 20th March the Com-Dev Committee was engaged in painting the Orphanage. On the 21st March we commemorated Heroes' Day at St Hildas Church hall at Sinaoane. The speakers were Sam Pop, Deborah Matsoba and our President Hlaku Rachidi.

A fundraising party is to be held on the 30th April.

Matters arising.

The council stressed that BPC must seek to involve itself in such situations as the Heinemann labour unrest if the Organisation were to gain massive support. The Council further cautioned the branches on Community projects. Projects like the painting of the Orphanage were to be cautiously undertaken and should not be seen as welfare projects but as means to politicize the community in their struggle for liberation.

CAPE TOWN:

At the moment there is only one branch existing which is operating in the Peninsula and the South Cape areas. The idea that the South Cape should become independent very soon. In this area we had the opportunity of stopping the system, temporary at least, in bulldozing the people's houses. The second thing for us was to join the Church and School institutions.

Moves are being made for the establishment of a communal buying scheme. In the Peninsula efforts are being concentrated on the preparations for a campaign against the Transkei "independence". On this project a pamphlet has been distributed which is general and serves as an introduction to the campaign which will reach its peak in October.

ville was not commemorated because of lack of venue.  
ers arising: This branch was strongly reprimanded for failing to involve  
community in its projects. The fact that this branch could not find a  
venue for Heroes' Day is an indictment on the branch. Meetings can always be  
held in the open veld.

#### PIETERMARITZBURG:

The first meeting of the Branch was held in the middle of January this year. This was held last year in King Williams Town. Delegates who attended the Congress, gave a Report of the Conference. Almost all the Branch Members attended this first meeting of the Branch. The meeting ended by electing a new Executive. Mr Cresby Ngcobo was elected as a chairman. Mr Percy Mthembu as Treasurer, Themba Gumede as Secretary. Important Mkhize was appointed by Secretary General as an acting Regional Director.

The second meeting was mainly on probing into the problems facing the branch. In this meeting the Branch felt a dire need of raising funds in order to sponsor its Activities. Increase its membership, in order to create potential and more manpower. Seeing that the former treasurer took with him the books of the branch and the branch is experiencing some difficulty in recovering those books from him, the branch felt that such a situation impedes progress, while hoping for the recovery of those books, meanwhile new books should be purchased for progress sake. New books are with the treasurer now. Monthly Donations by members are due to begin at the end of this month as part of Fund Raising.

The Branch used to hold its meetings every Wednesday of every week, with fluctuating attendance by members. This behaviour by members led to a strong warning that such a behaviour is so undesirable and unnecessary, and it retards progress. However after this warning there was some co-operation, and an increased spirit of working. The branch now has changed in holding its meetings, as mentioned above, but it has decided to have them every Sunday afternoon of every week. Sunday was chosen as the most convenient day for every member, more especially those who knock off very late in places where they work. As part of our programme Saturday has been chosen as day for raising funds.

In the middle of February the branch planned a welcome Symposium. This was to be done in order to welcome Federal Theological Seminary (Fedsem) in the community of Edendale and Pietermaritzburg, (as they have been victimised by the Government in their original place. As a result they are now finding themselves moving from place to place, without settling permanently.) The purpose was to spotlight to the people that they are not bad as they were alleged. Fedsem people accepted the idea, though subsequently they expressed fear of finding themselves in the same situation as at Mtata, that they will ultimately lose a site whose negotiation is still under way with the government.

The letter reminding the branch of Heroes' Day came only few days before 21st, this was due perhaps to the checking of the post. These were the very days the branch was still busy preparing for the welcome symposium. Nevertheless the branch did not lose hope for we thought that Fedsem will commemorate this honourable day of black martyrs, who died in the struggle for liberation. On finding out later Fedsem has advertised a special day of Prayer organised by Sonny Leon. Abiding ourselves with resolution 4/75, we condemned the move by the Seminary, when we were just about to send a letter of condemnation we heard that those who attended it, attended it on individual capacity, though we never excused that; but for the sake of avoiding our new prosperous relations with Fedsem being strained, we decided to discontinue the move.



In the following meeting it was strongly voiced that mistakes of this nature should never ever be allowed to happen in future; more especially an important day like Heroes Day in the history of a Black man's struggle in this land of our forefathers.

The branch is hoping to conduct more symposiums in order to advertise itself within the community of Edendale and Pietermaritzburg.

A fund raising committee was elected last Sunday. We hope the People chosen for this task will put their effort to the work they have been chosen for.

#### Matters arising.

The council strongly censured the branch for failing to commemorate Heroes Day. The reason given, that of late communication from Head Office was found unjustifiable since the Day is or should be in every Blackman's calendar. The council further reprimanded this branch for apparent lack of responsibility as observed during a visit by the President and Secretary-General. The branch then requested to hold a seminar on the policy of the organisation, which was given the blessing of the council. Further the Executive was instructed to prepare and distribute a paper on the policy as regard foreign investments.

#### King Williams Town Branch.

After hosting the congress last year all our efforts were concentrated on all that BPC meant as people now began to abandon the CNIP and CNP groups.

#### Expansion:

- (i) various rallies and meetings were organised. We had a bigger permanent venue for our meetings. Ginsberg Anglican church is being used twice a month for these;
- (ii) pamphletering, extensive pamphletering is carried out on BPC policy, black consciousness, Bantustans etc and papers on current issues are distributed regularly.
- (iii) Bi-weekly group discussions are held and led by the older members of the organisation;
- (iv) a delegation was out to Grahamstown to investigate possibility of opening a branch. We can announce in this NEC that a strong branch has since come up;
- (v) In East London a branch was opened by King branch but it still has its problems.

We have laid emphasis on expansion and politisation of people because of the "political messup" going on in Eastern Cape. We still have problems with P.E. branch that we are attempting to revive.

#### HEROES DAY:

We are proud to announce that we had a successful Heroes Day attended by +600 people at Ginsberg. Music and Black poetry was presented by the Dashiki. Speakers were Jey Mposelwa, Mr Ray Mafida, Miss Mtintso and Mr Z. Keke. The Grahamstown branch and East London joined us for this service.

A: We held our AGM two weeks back and a new executive was elected. Because of certain aspects that we envisage in our new approach we have created two new portfolios in the executive i.e. Publicity Secretary and Welfare Organisers..

New Executive members:

Chairman:-	Mr Ray Magida
Vice-Chairman:-	Mr T. Qambatha
Public Secretary:-	Mr Ray Currie
Treasurer:-	Mr M. Mbilini
Welfare Secretary:-	Mr F. Mabombo
Secretary:-	Mr S. Solombela.

Conclusion:

King branch has now established a 4 branched Region but the problem is still with the Regional Director whom we have not yet found. Our Regional Director Mr Mxolisi Mvovo has since been appointed to National Office. At the moment the Chairman with Committee does the work of the Regional Director.

Because of the extensive work especially typing, we have had to employ a part time typist and this means that most of our funds go to the salary.

We have also won massive support from the opposition members of Ciskei who have since joined BPC.

THE PORTFOLIO OF THE WELFARE SECRETARY ONLY APPLIES TO THE BRANCH AS IT SUITES THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. AS SUCH HE IS THE CONVENER OF OUR WELFARE SUB-COMMITEE.

Matters arising.

The creation of the Secretary for Welfare was found ill-conceived, however because it was only relevant to the local community it was accepted provided that it shall only apply to this branch, and the portfolio was to be taken as falling under the convener of community Development Committee. This was due to the presence of B.C.P.

EAST LONDON:

This branch apologised for the lack of the report. This was due to the fact that it was still busy organising and consolidating itself.

GRAHAMSTOWN:

The report I shall have to deliver here will be too manic for your liking for the following reasons.

- (a) the branch has been recently established in Grahamstown,
- (b) the invitation was served on us too late and we were in no position to meet in full and draft a full convincing report.

FORMATION OF THE BRANCH

meeting was held in Grahamstown on the 21/2/76 chaired by the National Vice resident, Comrade Mxolisi Mvovo. The guest speakers were Selby Baqwa and

Doc Nkonkobe. This was a historic meeting in the community as the goals, and aspirations of the BPC were advocated to the masses by the fore-mentioned speakers. The attendance of the meeting was fair and we were fully convinced that the consciousness that had been kindled would spread and result into the desired solidarity of the Grahamstown, Black Community.

On this concerned day there were seventeen people who joined the organisation. It was then decided that the members should try and further the aspirations and goals of the BPC, within the community. When the second meeting was held the number of the people joined had raised to thirty.

#### B. ELECTION OF THE OFFICE BEARERS.

A second meeting was held where the branch executive committee was elected. The names of the elected people goes thus;

Chairman:	Sidwel Mawa
Vice-Chairman:	Alister Maxhegwana
Secretary:	S. Speckman
Organiser	Mzukisi D. Madlavu
Treasurer:	S. Zotwana

#### ACTIVITIES OF THE BRANCH SINCE ESTABLISHMENT.

The Branch executive concerned decided that priority has to be given to the consolidation of the members who had joined the BPC so that they can be able to go to the masses and present our goals and not lead the masses astray.

Discussion groups were then formed with also the sole purpose of having the cream of the crop among our members. We needed people who would be able not only to be involved in criticism of the enemy and his system but also in self-criticism. This has been able to be brought about by stimulating them to keep abreast of current events. The policy of the BPC is being hammered in these discussion groups.

#### D. FUND RAISING

The branch is at present financially stigent but that has been discussed by us. We are having the problem of a venue. We had intended to use the Church halls but the priests were intimidated by the system so that our plans were foiled.

E. HEROES' DAY: Our branch failed to organise for this occasion because of venue problem. However, we sent representatives to the commemoration in King Williams Town.

#### DAVEYTON

At the moment the branch is not active as it used to be. This was brought to the consideration of the Head Office. After meeting the President and the Secy Gen they agreed to help me to revive the branch.

On the 30th of March we had a meeting which was the first meeting of the branch. In this meeting we decided to hold a symposium on Black Consciousness.

As far as the Springs Bus Boycott is concerned the workers are still prepared to walk it to work until their demands are met. Our efforts to provide direction to this event were frustrated by the confusion that had built up.

The branch has not elected the Office bearers but we hope that this will be done very soon.

YTHULI-ka SHEZI MEMMORIAL SERVICE: The Executive was given a greenlight to erect Shezi's tombstone. This was to be done a few days before the 16th of November since this day falls within the Congress sitting. It was further decided that the Shezi and Tiro's day should not be separated from the Heroes'

Regionalisation; From the branch reports it was evident that none of the branches had elected the Regional Directors. This was due to; the fact that some branches were still consolidating themselves, that the regions were at the moment engaged in expansion programme. However, the Council was promised that by the next sitting the Regional Directors will have taken their places.

SYMPOSIUM: AN announcement was made that the Executive was to hold a symposium on Black Communalism in Mafeking on the 29th till the 31st of May. It was explained that, since this was the first of its kind, it was to be a guideline for future symposia. Thus the need to have speakers from Black Consciousness Movements. In future, however, the Executive plans to involve authorities in all the field of Black Communalism.

General ;

Council requested to be informed about the BPC car. The Secretary-General explained that up until mid-March the former President was keeping the car. It was collected by the Sec-Gen, however, the former president refused with the membership papers. The Council then instructed the Sec-Gen to write to him instructing him to send the papers within fourteen days failing which the Executive must take further action.

Council urged the branches to involve themselves with the community both on social and political levels. It is unwise for members to label others as second redemption, actually it is a sham on the branch for failing to do its duty and penetrate to the community. Things like transportation would not be a problem for the Organisation if the branches involve the cross-section of the community.

It was felt necessary to clarify the Sport policy of the Organisation more so in view of the FIFA delegation and the NPSL/SAFA strife. The Executive was instructed to make approaches to the editors of the White Press with view to discussing their apparent hostility towards BPC publicity.

The King branch informed the council that they had embarked on selling BPC materials as part of their publicity projects. However, this was to be authorised by the Executive after investigations.

COUNCIL CLOSED DELIBERATIONS AT 21hrs45 ON SATURDAY.