

# BLACK PEOPLE'S CONVENTION

P O BOX 10401  
JOHANNESBURG 2000

MIN

609 LEKTON HOUSE  
5 WANDERERS STREET  
JOHANNESBURG 2001

Phone: 23 2404.



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BLACK ORGANISATIONS CALLED BY THE BLACK PEOPLE'S CONVENTION.

Date : 16th July, 1977.

Venue : St. Peter's Seminary, Hammanskraal.

### Organisations present :

1. B.P.C. (Black People's Convention)
2. Black Parents Association (B.P.A.)
3. South African Students Organisation (S.A.S.O.)
4. Black Community Programmes (B.C.P.)
5. South African Students Movement (S.A.S.M)
6. Union of Black Journalists (U.B.J.)
7. Interdenominational African Ministers Association of South South Africa (IDAMASA)
8. Association for the Educational and Cultural Advancement of African People in South Africa. (ASSEGA)
9. Transvaal United African Teachers Association (TUATA)
10. Black Priests Solidarity Group (B.P.S.S.)

### Apologies:

1. South African Black Social Workers Association (SABSWA)
2. African Independent Churches Association (A.I.C.A)
3. Natal Indian Congress (N.I.C.)

### OPENING REMARKS:

The Conference was opened by the President of the Black People's Convention, Mr H. Rachidi, who impressed on the delegates the importance of such a meeting, This meeting was called because of the impending dangers posed by the fragmentation of our country by a section of people who have no right whatsoever to do so.

It was incumbent on B.P.C. and the Black People as a whole to reject in toto this balkanisation and it was the duty of this meeting to strategise and devise means of exposing if not stopping this so-called independence of Bophuthatswana. The President then called upon P. C. Jones, B.P.C. Secretary for Economics, Finance and Trade to read a paper that was to form the basis of the discussion.

#### WORK SHOPS DELIBERATIONS:

On the basis of the lead-in paper three commissions were assigned the task of analysing the Bophuthatswana "independence" as follows:

- a. The Framework of Principle.
- b. The Campaign.
- c. Publicity.

#### REPORT BACK:

##### a. FRAMEWORK OF PRINCIPLE.

- i. We reject Bantustans and similar government created platforms as fraudulent bodies intended to fool the outside world that Blacks within our country have a meaningful political voice within the system, and secondly, to detract Black people themselves from the path of true and meaningful liberation.
- ii. Azania is one country - total and indivisible. The land belongs to all its inhabitants. Any decision to balkanise it should be the decision of all its people. The present government therefore, has no authority to balkanise the country. Accordingly, all separatist institutions will automatically fall away on the attainment of our liberation.
- iii. No referendum has been conducted to canvass the opinion of the Black people on homeland independence. We believe that the Black people have been both coerced and hoodwinked into assuming "independence".
- iv. The stress of the South African government through its homeland policy has been on separate nations. We reject

the existence of separate nations as enunciated by the South African government. We recognise only ONE AZANIA.

- v. We recognise the establishment of homelands as a measure to provide cheap labour reservoirs.
- vi. For the purpose of our campaign we must link up all similar issues, e.g. point out that the C.R.C., S.A.I.C., homelands etc. are all part of a common rationale. Accordingly, we have to be careful that our efforts are not exploited by opportunists to further their own ends.

b. THE CAMPAIGN:

The Conference affirmed its stands that South Africa is one country and that it shall remain so.

In our efforts to stop the balkanisation of our country we propose the following:

1. MANGOPE: MOTION.

That an open letter be directed to the Bophuthatswana Democratic Party on behalf of the Black People's Convention and all those organisations represented here today, in order to inform them (the Democratic Party) of the total rejection of Bantustan independence and reasons relating thereto.

Mover : P. C. Jones.

Seconder : S. Tloubatla.

2. RURAL PEOPLE AND CHIEFS:

B.P.C. will hold meetings with the chiefs and the tribal people. In the event of the B.P.C. finding it difficult to reach the rural people, it will use other channels such as attending meetings convened either by the members of the opposition or the ruling party. In these meetings people will be handed pamphlets that will contain information relating to the <sup>of</sup>frudulence of "independence".

### 3. URBAN AREAS:

B.P.C. will call public meetings in the urban areas where the B.P.C. will expose the fraudulence of the forthcoming Bophuthatswana "independence". B.P.C. will also solicit assistance of other influential organisations and/or persons when convening these meetings.

P.C. Jones paper will be distributed in all such meetings.

### 4. PLEBISCITE:

A plebiscite will be used to demonstrate the rejection of "independence" for homelands by the Blacks of South Africa.

An agenda will be drawn for every meeting held in the rural and urban areas, and at the foot of the agenda will be a form where people will indicate with a NO their objections against the Bophuthatswana "independence" and any other homeland "independence".

### 5. DEMONSTRATIONS:

Efforts will have been made to organise the people that on the day of the celebration of the Bophuthatswana "independence", there will be nation wide demonstrations against that "independence".

### 6. CORRUPTION:

All allegations of corruption of the chiefs by the system should be verified and if proved to be true they should be blown up in the press and where necessary take legal action.

### c. PUBLICITY:

To effect the campaign against balkanisation B.P.C. will have to:

1. Compile a factual paper which will give inter alia, the historical development of the homelands, giving the statistics and the present structure of the homelands.
2. Compile pamphlets which will be distributed all over the country.

3. Compile an anti-independence magazine which will contain articles and viewpoints on Bophuthatswana "independence" and other homelands.
4. Anti-independence stickers and posters will be produced.
5. Members are encouraged to write letters to the editor on the "independence" issue.
6. A magazine that will circulate internationally will be compiled which will educate the international world on the Black standpoint on "independence".

CONCLUSION:

The meeting was rounded up by the singing of the National Anthem.