

EASTERN CAPE REGIONAL OFFICE REPORT FOR  
THE 5TH G.S.C., -ST PETERS', HAMMANSKRAAL

14TH - 19TH Jan. 1974.

INTRODUCTION: Since the last G.S.C. events in the Eastern Cape are indicative of one thing: the philosophy of Black consciousness is beginning to be understood and accepted especially by the youth in this area. The most difficult section remains to be the elderly folk.

PROBEAT:

A Probeat fundraising dinner was arranged for in Port Elizabeth immediately after the G.S.C. Invitation cards for this occasion were printed and distributed among the people in P.E. for extension to our guests in that area. Response to this invitation was good and we were set to have a very big and successful occasion.

On the morning of the day on which we were supposed to have the dinner the security police visited the manager of the hotel where we were to have the dinner and told him that our band and some of our guests must produce permits. To us this was nonsensical because the hotel is licensed to cater for all black people. The manager sought legal opinion and we sought legal opinion about the permit issue. The opinion obtained by both sides was that since the hotel is licensed to cater for all black people no people are required to have permits.

The manager of that hotel nevertheless felt that because he had been threatened with prosecution should he not demand these permits he should cancel the dinner we were supposed to have. Thus our efforts were rendered fruitless by this unwarranted act of fear by the manager. Some of the guests who understood clearly what was our aim made outright donations with the money they had already given us. This amounted to R163.00. During this time the office was in financial difficulties as these had been no grant made to the office by head office except the initial amount that was supposed to be used for getting the office off the ground.

CULCOM:

In September we had the Dashiki touring the Eastern Cape. It was in P.E. that we met with many music groups, some of them shared the stage with the Dashiki for more than once. Also in King Williamstown we had a group sharing the stage with Dashiki. In this way

it was hoped that these various groups would come to appreciate how music can be made relevant and meaningful to black people in this country. It was hoped that these groups would appreciate the difference between their music and that of the Dashiki.

Successful as the Dashiki tour was for purposes of conscientising both the audience and the groups that they shared the stage with, financially it was not very successful. The problem was that in some of the areas which were far like P.E. and Umtata I relied on contacts to advertise and prepare accommodation for the shows. I had to be around Kingwilliamstown and I only discovered late that my contacts were unreliable people. So most of the shows were poorly advertised besides the fact that Dashiki was a new group to most of them. It was in Kingwilliamstown that the Dashiki had their biggest organised show. Throughout their tour the Dashiki showed great determination, courage and commitment in demonstrating relevant art to the Black Community.

Besides the tour by the Dashiki some women have been organised in some village around Kingwilliamstown to make beads for Culcom. The material for beads was obtained and given to these people and they have started making beads. The main thing with beadwork is that there is a great scarcity and the prices have gone up. So beadwork is a pretty expensive venture which needs an initial capital for buying the material to be used in bead-making.

#### BLACK WORKERS' PROJECT

Preliminary contact in various work situations have been made. The field worker of the B.W.P. came down to Kingwilliamstown and we had consultation on the project. However, because of involvement in other projects ~~it was not successful.~~

#### INTERORGANISATIONAL WORK:

The Eastern Cape Office is continuing to have joint undertakings in some areas around the Eastern Cape. A symposium was arranged which was to run over three days in P.E., Kingwilliamstown and East London where the president of BPC, the vice-president of SASO, the president of AICA, and the philosopher and poet Adam Small were to feature. This was arranged mainly as a conscientisation drive. In P.E. the symposium was not successful but in Kingwilliamstown and East London it was a great success although two of our scheduled speakers could not turn up.