



SUMMARY OF REPORTS SENT TO H.O. FROM REGIONAL SECRETARY

This is a summary of reports sent to H.O. from Regional Secretaries responding to a resolution which was passed at the last N.E.C. meeting in Edendale Lay Ecumenical Centre from the 12th to the 13th October, 1973. <sup>(Nov)</sup> The Resolution is to the effect that centres/branches should send monthly reports with regard to the activities in their respective areas(see minutes last N.E.C.).

WESTERN CAPE:

GENERAL:

Western Cape has not been sending reports to Head Office for quite a long time. This is so because the Western Cape Regional Branch has been for a long time battling to get offices, and also handicapped by administrative problems. Transport facilities also stifle the smooth operation of this branch. By now things are getting back to normal as Western Cape has succeeded in obtaining offices though there are ominous indications that sooner or later they will be evicted from the C.I. Offices they are occupying presently. There are also a few obstacles such as apathy which I hope will soon be overcome.

Specific Projects:

Literacy:

Regarding literacy, work is in progress and at a literacy seminar recently held a few people were trained in order to continue with literacy training of co-ordinators.

BLACK WORKERS:

One member of the branch has received full training in the field of Black Workers Project and he is going to take charge in the Western Cape in this sphere.

Free University Scheme:

As things are presently, it looks as if Western Cape has taken the lead in the implementation of the Scheme. Presently Nicky Titus and Ben Louw are taking full charge of this Scheme.

Culcom:

Dashiki staged four performances in Cape Town but unfortunately the shows were not well attended. To those who were present, the message was carried across loud and clear and they were able to realise the new relevant trend in our music, drama and poetry.

Probate:

As recent as the 23rd September, 1973, a successful Probate function was held with Adam Small, Dashiki and the Hanover Park Drama sharing the night..

Eastern Cape Regional Branch - activities for the month October:

Administration:

After the Free University Seminar most of the time has been spent in the office. This was due to the fact that some administrative work had to be organised together with fact papers on current events in the area plus preparation of a report on a survey conducted at Dimbaza.

Branch Organisation:

Negotiations are in progress with regards to formation of Branches. This branch has encountered certain obstacles in as far as this is concerned but it is hoped that sooner or later things will come our way.

Literacy:

At the beginning of October, the Literacy Director was due to be in the Eastern Cape for a follow-up training of co-ordinators. In East London a few people were given the background to the whole sphere of literacy. But this had to be postponed because some of the people who were expected did not turn-up. Banning of Jeff hampered progress literacy-wise in this area but Mapetla on his own organised some pamphlets which he went through in order to acquire more information relating to literacy. This has helped him because by now he is just about to embark on literacy in Dimbaza.

Black Workers Project:

This project will be fully attended to when consultation with the field offer of the scheme materials. However, a meeting has been arranged for this purpose.

Transvaal Report:

Work in this area is being hampered because of harassment, arrest etc of people who are in the Jo'burg Regional Office. Presently the Regional Secretary is not functioning, he has been charged for assault and robbery and has been refused bail. This means

he wont be with us until January when he will be appearing again. With Welile the position is slightly different, He is out on bail and is charged for 'contravening' his banning order. He will be appearing on the 14th of January, 1974.

Work in their area has been centred on visits to the SASO Local branches in this Region. The purpose of the visits was mainly to improve communication between Regional office and branches, to restructure the executive and to lay down proposals for Literacy, Black Workers and Physical Projects.

The following branches were visited viz:-

Bloemso; Spriso; Kimso; Preso and Reeso.

From a general outlook, it is evident that these branches are experiencing the same problems notably, lack of involvement and initiative and in other areas lack of effective leadership. With regards to literacy, physical projects and Black Workers there is little if any done in these areas. To help improve the situation certain things had to be explained to them, e.g. legislation relating to the Black Workers World, Literacy and restructurisation. By the look of things, these visits had an impact in that these branches pledged to tackle this problems with renewed vigour and determination.

#### Natal Region:

Since May, the Natal Region has been without a Regional Secretary. This task has since been left to the Administrative Assistant who in most cases is unable to tackle this area. This is so because Head Office staff has during the past few months been depleted because of bannings and the like. This then means that the Administrative Assistant has to concentrate mainly on administrative work. It is hoped that soon things will be back to normal and work in this area will continue smoothly.

Despite all this, there is some amount of work being done viz:-

Free University: Arrangements are in progress for the implementation of the scheme in this area. Some members of the Fort Hare Action Committee are assisting H. O. in this regard.

Literacy: Presently about three guys are being trained as coordinators. After that they will in turn continue training other people. We hope that we will be able to conduct literacy soon in this area.