

THE BLACK SASH

DIE SWART SERP

Estella House,
47a Main Road,
CLAREMONT. CAPE.

TO: REGIONS:

23rd April 1959.

CIRCULAR NO. 11.

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING.

For the coming National Council meeting planned for 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th June, the C.E. asks the Regions to send in their Resolutions by the 16th May so that we may get them back to Regions by the end of the same month.

We suggest that all Regions might like to plan General Meetings or All Branches meetings very early in June so that they can keep the date free to discuss Resolutions from other Regions, and give their National Councillors a good idea of their views on the Resolutions.

A SHORT HISTORY OF AFRICAN FRANCHISE.

The enclosed short history of the African Franchise since Union, which has been drawn up by Natal Coastal, could be used as a pamphlet, if Regions so desire, when they demonstrate against the removal of African Representatives.

This pamphlet which the C.E. considers valuable from an educational point of view is going to be put in the magazine, but Regions might like to order extra copies for educational or propaganda purposes. Will Regions please arrange for their own printing or reneeing.

The Promotion of Bantu Self-Government Bill will probably be discussed early next week. The C.E. will telegraph you when we know the exact date so that Regions who wish to can demonstrate.

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GIVE A BILL A GOOD NAME

Does it help?

"THE PROMOTION OF BANTU SELF-GOVERNMENT BILL"

takes away from the Parliament which governs
both black and white

ALL Native Representatives

IS THIS FAIR?

IS THIS WISE?

DO NOT BE DECEIVED BY A FINE-SOUNDING TITLE

BUT TURN THE PAGE.....

A SHORT HISTORY OF AFRICAN FRANCHISE.

- 1853 The Cape was granted Representative Government, and the first elections were held. There was a property qualification for voters, but men who met it, whether black, white or brown, were entitled to a vote on the common roll.
- 1865 British Kaffraria, and later the Transkeian Territories, were annexed. Now large numbers of Africans seemed likely to qualify as voters.
- 1892
1887 The franchise qualifications for all voters were raised. It was more difficult to become a voter. But the colour of a man's skin was still no barrier.
- 1909 After more than half a century's experience of a non-racial franchise, the Cape prepared to enter Union. So well had the policy worked, that all parties, all races and all language groups supported it. And before agreeing to Union, the Cape insisted that her non-racial franchise be specially protected by an entrenched clause. It was therefore written into the Constitution of the Union of South Africa that without a two-thirds majority of both houses sitting together, no change could be made in voting rights in the Cape.
- 1936 A ^{UNITED PARTY (FUSION)} Government obtained a two-thirds majority to remove African voters from the common roll in the Cape. But three things were offered in exchange:-

1. Africans were to receive more land.

TWENTYTHREE YEARS LATER THAT PROMISE IS STILL ONLY PARTIALLY FULFILLED.

2. Africans in the Cape were given three elected Members of Parliament in the House of Assembly.
3. Africans in the other Provinces were given a voice in Parliament for the first time. Four Senators were to be elected to represent Africans throughout the Union.

THESE SEVEN PARLIAMENTARIANS BECAME KNOWN AS NATIVES REPRESENTATIVES

They had to be white, but they were elected by Africans. Over the years, some of our ablest and most disinterested men and women have come forward to serve the African electorate; and the calibre of their representatives speaks well for the wisdom of the African voters. The views of Native representatives have often been disregarded; but like the still small voice of conscience, they have continued to plead for justice for all South Africans. Parliament and South Africa will be the poorer if they are removed.

1955

Failing to gain a two-thirds majority to remove Coloured voters from the common roll, the Nationalist Government passed the notorious SENATE ACT, which enabled it to achieve its object in a round-about way.

1959

Under the high-sounding title of a Bill to Promote Bantu Self-Government, the Nationalist Government intends to remove from Parliament all Natives Representatives. Instead Africans are told that they will be allowed to develop towards self-government in their own separate areas.