

**Letter from J. Gumedé to International Secretariat,
League Against Imperialism, 1931**

Kondhlo Lodge
Newscotland Road,
Pietermaritzburg
Natal, South Africa¹

Messrs W. Münzenberg and Chattopadhyaya
Intern. Secretariat
League against Imperialism
Berlin

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to inform you that I am still well and struggling very hard to keep and maintain the paper Abantu Batho Newspaper. The African National Congress in 1930 our last election was seized unconstitutionally by reactionaries who came in force and trodden down the constitution of the Congress.² These reactionaries led by Dr. Seme expelled the militants who offered strong resistance and urged me to call up another convention for militants. I requested them to wait and see what the reactionaries were going to do, as the majority of them held no membership tickets and were sure to differ very soon.

Of course, this was done to counteract my influence and to stop passive resistance. I am glad to inform you that the militants formed another association by the name of Independent African National Congress, which is largely supported by the people. Since 1930, the African National Congress is inactive. Unfortunately I am at present held up by the work of newspaper Abantu Batho,³ because the African National Congress abandoned it and left it to me with all the liabilities amounting to three hundred and eight pounds. I must pay these debts because as President General of the A.N.C. I purchased the press and plant and I signed as a surety. In July 1930[?] when the ANC failed to pay, I was sued to the Magistrate's Court at Johannesburg and judgement was given against me with costs. Thereafter, I took physical possession of the press and plant. My intention was to sail last year to attend the Negro

1. 'South Africa' underlined in red pencil.

2. The reference is to the events within the ANC, when the majority of the national executive resigned in protest against Gumedé's pro-communist stand and his style of leadership. At the annual conference of the ANC in April 1930 Pixley Seme succeeded Gumedé as president-general.

3. Official organ of the African National Congress. Both words, 'abantu' and 'abatho' mean 'people' in different South African Bantu languages. The title symbolised the unity of African peoples of South Africa.

Conference,⁴ but the Government refused to renew my passport. My idea was to visit you and appeal for help or a loan to pay off the debts mentioned herein. I appeal to you to help me to disentangle myself, so as to be free to lead the militants, who want my leadership very much. I hold this weapon Abantu Bathu is highly desirable.⁵

Yours faithfully
Gumade

P.S. I thank you very much for the papers you occasionally send me and to our press, the Press Service of the League against Imperialism and the Negro workers.

RGASPI, 495/64/110/1.

Original in English.

Typed, many corrections and typed-over words.

Inscriptions: 1931

(in red pencil).

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**Report by J. Ford to European Secretariat, RILU,
21 February 1931 (Extracts)**

REPORT TO THE EUROPEAN SECRETARIAT OF RILU ON ACTIVITIES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION COMMITTEE
OF NEGRO WORKERS AT HAMBURG

[...]

Political and Organisational Tasks Executed

2. Now with regards to the political and economic situation of the Negro workers which must determine the character of the work of the Negro

4. Most probably, International Negro Workers' Conference (founding conference of the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers) in Hamburg (Germany) in July 1930.
5. A line in red ink is drawn opposite the last two sentences in the original.