

**Letter from M. Kotane to ECCL,
11 April 1934**

JOHANNESBURG
South Africa
11th April 1934

Dear Comrades,

We have received several letters and articles in connection with the bereavement of our dear comrade A.N.¹ The death of this esteemed comrade is a great loss to the Communist Party of South Africa and to the oppressed and exploited toiling masses of this country.

The writers of these letters and articles are very desirous at this fact (bereavement) should be made public and everything published in the newspapers. We too would be very pleased to give an account of the political activities of our late Comrade had the circumstances not proved otherwise. It is when we consider the way in which the journey to the place of death was accomplished and in particular of (circumstances) those who must of necessity return to this country – today or tomorrow, that we think it advisable not to divulge anything relating to this tragedy until later.

The Comrades must understand that immediately anything of the kind leaks out, the bourgeois press will make use of it to the detriment of the Party, and you can imagine what sensational publicity would such an incident receive from the enemy press. This would no doubt evoke that savage terror on the part of the South African 'Intelligence Service' and consequently the lives of the remaining others imperilled. It was from the above consideration that the Secretariat, P.B. C.P.S.A. decided against any public pronouncement.²

With revolutionary greetings,

Yours fraternally,

J.W. Macauley

for the SECRETARIAT P.B. C.P.S.A.

RGASPI, 495/64/133/46.

Original in English.

Typed.

Stamped: 1) 1.JUN.1934 – 3213

2) Attachment

(in German)

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1. Albert Nzula.

2. It is not clear whether the Secretariat decided against making the circumstances of Nzula's death public because he died in the Soviet Union (which might have jeopardized the security of other party members who were still there) or because of the awkward fact that Nzula's pneumonia was caused by sleeping outdoors in sub-zero temperatures as a result of drunkenness, or both.