

The CP of South Africa is the vanguard of the struggle of all the African toilers, and this gives it special obligations which the CP will be able to carry out if it moves along the path pointed out by the Comintern, struggling against Right opportunist, chauvinist deviations and also against 'left' errors, consolidating its own unity, building up the organisations of the proletariat, standing at the head of the toilers and rousing them to a heroic struggle for freedom, for a people's republic, in defence of the USSR, for the world revolution of all proletarians and oppressed peoples.

RGASPI, 495/64/105/30-3, 41-3, 45-8. For the full text of the document see: RGASPI, 495/64/105/30-48.

Original in English (Comintern translation of the Russian original text. For the Russian original see: RGASPI, 495/64/105/49-65).

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Report of A. Nzula to ECCI on Situation in CP SA, 5 August 1931

Confidential

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT ON THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA (SUBMITTED BY M. JACKSON, S.A.C.P.)¹

The present organisational forms of the Communist Party of South Africa (membership about 5,000) have come into being² only this year as the result of the reorganisation that was carried out as a result of the last Party Convention (December 26 1930) decisions. Formerly the leading organ of the Party between Congress was an Executive Committee of 12, the members of which were elected mainly on account of their proximity to Johannesburg, the Headquarters of the Party. Under this Executive Committee came the different branches of the Party with their various committees.

The last Party Convention elected a Central Committee, consisting of 23 members. The number of natives to European members is 19 to 4. The Central Committee³ has met once since its election, in July. The Political Bureau, elected from the C.C., is the leading organ of the Party between the meetings of

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1. This report was obviously written soon after Nzula's arrival in Moscow.
 2. There is an illegible crossed-out word after 'being'.
 3. There is an illegible crossed-out word after 'Committee'.

the C.C. It meets on the average once a week. The P.B. consists of 7 members, 4 Africans and 3 Whites. There is also a secretariat of three, whose members at present are Wolton, Kotane and Moloinyane. (One European, two Natives).
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#### Composition of the Party.

The proportion of native to white members is estimated as 1 white to 25 natives. The majority of the whites are members of the working class representing mainly the light industries and an appreciable number of unemployed. Petit-bourgeois white elements are today only a negligible proportion.

The social composition of the natives is about 95 per cent industrial and agricultural, of this 95 per cent about 80 per cent being industrial.<sup>4</sup>

Industrial<sup>5</sup> here includes town workers, not always working in factory but in the shops and as house servants and gardeners. The proportion of factory workers will be seen in the following account of groups. The peasants form about 4 per cent of the Party and the native intellectuals, such as teachers and small number of clerks are one per cent of the membership.

The Party has 8 paid functionaries, 4 at Johannesburg, 1 <sup>each</sup> in Capetown, Durban, Potchefstrom, Transkei and Pretoria, in addition there two trade union<sup>6</sup> organisers, Moloinyane in Johannesburg and La Guma in Capetown.

There are four Party Departments, with four members in each on the average. The women's department with comrade Josie Mpama as leader. This Department is handicapped in its work to a certain extent by the fact that its leader does not stay in Johannesburg but at Potchefstrom visiting Johannesburg once a month.

The Agitprop is led by Comrade Wolton and its main activities up to the present have been<sup>7</sup> connected with the Party training classes which have been carried out in English and Sesuto, one of the chief native languages.

The Industrial Department deals with trade union work and is composed of Party members engaged in trade union work. This Department was responsible for the drafting of the programme of the African Federation of Trade Unions.

The agrarian department is charged with the work of the organisation of the peasantry and other agrarian sections. Its immediate task is the drafting of an agrarian Party programme.

#### District Party Committees.

Johannesburg: There are twelve factory, mine and area groups divided as follows. Two each in the Clothing and Furniture industries, and one each in the

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4. The following paragraph is connected with this one by a hand-drawn line.

5. There is an illegible crossed-out word after 'Industrial'.

6. There is an illegible crossed-out word after 'union'.

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bakery and laundry with an aggregate membership of 30. These groups have participated in all Party campaigns but fail through lack of direction and experience in carrying out their daily activities.

There are three <sup>(gold)</sup> mine groups, one at the City Deep with 30 members, one concentration group of 7 members at the Crown Mines and one of 2 members at Robinson Deep. These are new groups whose growth will depend upon the proper combination of legal and illegal work in them. There are two area groups at<sup>8</sup> New Clare Native Location, one 80 members, chiefly of Basuto origin and who were previously connected with the Mines and who can be used for the purpose of establishing contact with Basuto miners along the whole Reef mines. The other<sup>9</sup> group is composed of about 20 members in which Bunting had influence through his wife Rebecca Bunting. She has very likely been disposed of now. The Doornfontein Municipal Compound group with 12 members is largely a concentration group which has failed to penetrate the Compound as yet. The Municipal workers are an important section of the workers of Johannesburg as their strike in 1919 against pass laws showed.<sup>10</sup>

This was the state of the Johannesburg District Party Commission three months. The reorganisation of the Party on the industrial units basis has proceeded very slowly and there are still scores of members in Johannesburg who are not yet included in their groups.

The Brakpan District Party committee, situated in a mining area has 100 members, of which approximately 40 are miners or connected with the mines. The reorganisation of this committee into groups is being taken into hand.

The Durban Committee's legal apparatus has been smashed up by the police terror. Groups remain at Clairwood brick and tile centre with 130 members, Pinetown an agricultural centre with 25, and a Docks whose membership ~~is~~ <sup>has</sup> not yet re-established contact with the Party center three months ago. There is an illegal Party centre in the form of a school under the direction of Comrade Roux, issuing a Bulletin in the Zulu language, and charged with the reorganisation of the Party in Durban.

Capetown with 200 members is one of the most advanced Party centres carries on trade union having established two red trade unions since the beginning of the year, the Tobacco Workers and the Unemployed Workers Unions in addition to a strong Ikaka (International Red Aid)<sup>11</sup> group. It is the only Party District that has contact with railway workers, at Saltriver railway works, Capetown. Ndabeni <sup>(Native Location)</sup> with 80 members has led and leads the agitation against high rents amongst the native workers. Ndabeni is a Native location.

8. There is an illegible crossed-out word after 'at'.

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11. Ikaka la Basebenzi.

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Potchefstroom 500, Vereeniging 200, Bloemfontein 130, Evaton 170, Pretoria 120 are non-industrial in agricultural centres. Their activities are mainly connected with Party campaigns, otherwise their membership is largely passive.

Transkei is a native Reserve ~~~~~~~ Peasant area which Native peasantry is restricted by~~ with Party Groups at Umtata 15, Engcobo 135, and Libode 27. It is still suffering from the Bunting influence and has made little headway because of this among the peasantry.

The question of trade unions, Ikaka La Zabenza (Mopr),<sup>12</sup> the League against Imperialism,<sup>13</sup> etc. has been dealt with in my other report and there is nothing<sup>14</sup> of importance that I can add here. The facts represented in this report are at least three months old and many changes must have taken place during that period in a forward direction.

RGASPI, 495/64/112/45-8.

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12. Ikaka la Basebenzi.

13. There is an illegible crossed-out word after 'Imperialism'.

14. There is an illegible crossed-out word after 'nothing'.