

THE NATAL MERCURY

16 MAR 1974

Zulu Rag Queen for U.K.

African Affairs
Reporter

THE UNIVERSITY of Zululand rag queen, to be chosen today, will be flown to London at South African Airways' expense and will spend a month there as the guest of the British Government.

About 30 contestants paraded at the University hall last night and seven girls were chosen for today's final.

The Rag Committee has collected R3 000. This year's target is R30 000 which will be donated to various organisations.

It is the first University of Zululand Rag since the university's inception and is being organised by the African students.

Metal Box in union talks

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Mercury Reporter

IN AN EFFORT to provide negotiating machinery for all its workers — including Africans — the Metal Box Company of South Africa has begun discussions with a "mixed union" affiliated to the Trade Union Council of South Africa (Tucsa).

This was revealed yesterday by the managing director of the company, Mr. Flemming Heilmann.

He was replying to criticism by the secretary of the South African Tinworkers' Union, Mr. D. Thambiran, who said this week that Metal Box had denied them "the most elementary

trade union facilities," and had "constantly rejected the union's pleas to provide negotiating, recruiting and stop order facilities."

Mr. Heilmann said: "My company is certainly against any measure that would place any obstacle in the way of nationwide negotiating

machinery truly representative of our total work force, which is employed in 13 plants in South Africa and includes Whites, Indians, Coloureds and Africans."

EXPLORING

"We are having exploratory discussions with a union which is affiliated to Tucsa—a mixed union—which approached us a few months back because they knew we were seeking negotiating machinery on a national basis.

"They felt they could offer effective, if not registered, representation for our African labour as well, without in any way contravening existing legislation."

The company was continuing discussions with this union, and progress had been good.

The Tinworkers' Union had, in spite of correspondence and other forms of contact, not been able to demonstrate that its organisation could meet their needs, said Mr. Heilmann.

It was incorrect to say that their stand was "in any way contrary to the published House of Commons Select Committee Report, or indeed the British Trades Union Congress Report."

Exodus of Whites not sought

16 MAR 1974

UMTATA—Although his Government was anxious to replace White seconded officials in the Transkei public service with Transkeian citizens, it would always retain suitably qualified White officials for whom there were no replacements, the Chief Minister of the Transkei, Paramount Chief Kaizer Matanzima, said here yesterday.

White officials had played an important part in the development of the Transkei and were still doing so.

"The recent prominence which the replacement of White (seconded officials) by Blacks in the Transkei Government service enjoyed in the Press has given rise to widespread speculation about the future of White civil servants, especially White teachers, in the territory," the Chief Minister said.

"It is therefore necessary to reiterate that the Transkeian Government, although it is naturally anxious to replace as many Whites as soon as possible with Transkeian citizens in its Government service, will always strive to retain the services of those White officials for whom there are no replacements.

"The White officials have played and are playing a prominent part in the development of the Transkei."

TEACHERS

The Chief Minister said it was a fact that there were teachers and other officials who could not be replaced at this stage and his Government needed the services of these officials.

"Over-enthusiastic withdrawal of teachers in secondary or high schools from teacher training or technical colleges will have a detrimental effect on our

children and our development," he said.

"I wish, therefore, to assure all White teachers that my Government appreciates what they are doing for the people of the Transkei and that they are welcome to stay in the Transkei until they voluntarily request a withdrawal.—(Sapa.)

Ministers deny knowledge of Tswana letter

THE BANTU DAILY MAIL

16 MAR 1974

Staff Reporter

MAFEKING. — Tswana Cabinet Ministers yesterday denied knowledge of a letter written on their behalf and purportedly signed by the Chief Minister, asking the Commissioner-General to expedite the sacking of one of their colleagues.

The letter again dominated proceedings in the Tswana Legislative Assembly when Cabinet Ministers were questioned about it.

During the debate on a motion calling for the dismissal of the Chief Minister, Chief Lucas Mangope, four Cabinet Ministers told the House they did not know of the letter.

The fifth Cabinet Minister is Chief Herman Maseloane, deputy leader of the ruling BophuthaTswana National Party (BNP) and the man earmarked for sacking in the alleged letter.

LEADER

Chief Maseloane is the Minister of Works and the leader of "rebels" in the BNP who are seeking to oust Chief Mangope.

The chairman of the Legislative Assembly, Mr A. V. Maqondose, has said a copy of the letter exists and will be fully discussed later.

Chief Mangope has not denied the existence of a letter requesting the removal of Chief Maseloane, but has insisted that a copy is not necessarily the same as an original.

He has repeatedly asked

the chairman to reveal from whom the copy was obtained in the first place, and hinted strongly that it might be from a "highly placed" person.

He said yesterday: "There is somebody in a most responsible position who is likely to be embarrassed by all this. That is why I must have the source."

COPY

The copy of the letter allegedly written by Chief Mangope reads in part: "The other members of my Cabinet are agreed it is in the best national interest to have Chief Maseloane removed. . . It is impossible to work with him any further."

Dated January 21, the copy of the letter is addressed to the Commissioner-General of BophuthaTswana Mr G. R. Wessels.

The Legislative Assembly yesterday heard further details of an alleged meeting in Vryburg on February 28, where a "conspiracy" to unseat Chief Mangope was organised.

Mr M. J. Sebogodi told the House that two Cabinet Ministers — Chief Maseloane and Chief B. J. Toto — and the chairman of the House were at the meeting.

Mr M. Kruger, the chief director of the Bantu Administration Board at Vryburg, said yesterday he knew nothing about the meeting. He declined to comment further.