



AL2418 - The Progressive Teachers' League Collection

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Abstract: The education crisis and ineffectiveness of the Teachers' Association of South Africa (TASA) led to the formation of the Progressive Teachers League (PTL) in 1986 under the repressive conditions of the State of Emergency. It reflects the increasing militancy of teacher organisations and the impact of the education crisis during this period.

Introduction

The Progressive Teachers' League (PTL) was formed in 1986 in Lenasia. It was formed by progressive teachers who were concerned with the education crisis and the ineffectiveness of the Teachers' Association of South Africa (TASA). It largely organised teachers who fell under the Department of Education and Culture, House of Delegates. PTL was in its short life-span mainly based in Lenasia, although branches were established in Johannesburg Central, Actonville and Laudium. The thrust of PTL activity therefore occurred in Lenasia. From its inception PTL worked closely with other progressive teacher and education organisations in the country. The PTL was also a leading participant in the National Teacher Unity Forum which culminated in the launch of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU). Upon the formation of SADTU, PTL ceased to exist.

Acronyms

ATASA - African Teachers' Association of South Africa
CTPA - Cape Teachers' Professional Association
NECC - National Education Crisis (later Co-ordinating) Committee
NEUSA - National Education Union of South Africa
NTUF - National Teacher Unity Forum
PTL - Progressive Teachers' League
PTU - Progressive Teachers' Union
SADTU - South African Democratic Teachers' Union
TASA - Teachers' Association of South Africa
THSSA - Transvaal High School Sport Association
WECTU - Western Cape Teachers' Union

Notes on the Collection

The PTL collection is a small collection (0.5 linear metres). It has been arranged to reflect its main activities. This collection also reflects the increasing militancy of teacher organisations, and the impact the education crisis of the 1980s



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had on teachers.

Sections A - H deals with the PTL itself and its membership. As the PTL was formed under the state of emergency and operated under repressive conditions, there are no minutes of its executive meetings available as these were not kept. This phenomenon holds true for many organisations during this period who were opposed to the apartheid regime. Section I - K deals with the whole teacher unity process at the National and the Southern Transvaal regional and NECC level at which the members of PTL were involved. This process culminated in the formation of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU). Copies of minutes as well as hand-written notes of some of these meetings provide interesting insight to the whole process of the formation of a national teacher organisation. Section L has files kept by the PTL on the various teachers organisations in the country. It was not uncommon for PTL executive members to also be members of some of these organisations, more notably TASA. Section M are miscellaneous documents relating to education that the PTL had collected in the course of its activities.

Classification

- A: PTL Constitution
- B: Correspondence
- C: Conference papers and minutes
- D: Speeches and workshop papers
- E: Press statements and petitions
- F: Application for permission to march
- G: Publications
- H: Press Cuttings
- I: National Teacher Unity Forum
- J: NECC
- K: SADTU
- L: OTHER TEACHER ORGANISATIONS
 - L1: NEUSA
 - L2: PTU
 - L3: WECTU
 - L4: ATASA
 - L5: TASA
 - L6: Miscellaneous teacher organisations
- M: Miscellaneous documents relating to education

Inventory

- A: PTL Constitution[s]. Includes draft constitutions. 1986. 1 folder
[1986]
- B: Correspondence
 - B1: In-coming correspondence 1986-1990. 2 folders
 - B2: Out-going correspondence 1987-1990 . 2 folders.
[1987-1990]
- C: Conference papers and minutes. Includes resolutions. 1986-1990 . 1 folder
[1986-1990]
- D: Speeches and workshop papers. 1980s . 1 folder
[1980s]
- E: Press statements and petitions. 1987-1989 . 1 folder



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[1987-1989]

F: Application for permission to march. 1990 . 1 folder

[1990]

G: Publications

G1: Issues of "The Progressive Teacher", the newsletter of PTL. Incomplete 1987-1990 . 1 folder

[1987-1990]

G2: Pamphlets 1988-1989 . 1 folder

[1988-1989]

H: Press Cuttings on issues relating to education 1986-1990 . 1 folder .

[1986-1990]

I: National Teacher Unity Forum

I1: Minutes and related papers of national meetings on teacher unity talks, including those of the National Teacher Unity Forum. 1989-1990 . 2 folders.

[1989-1990]

I2: Reports by the various Regional Teacher Unity Forums to the NTUF. 1990 . 1 folder

[1990]

I3: Correspondence, organisational structures, draft constitution, draft bill of rights for teachers and draft teachers charter all relating to the NTUF. 1990 . 1 folder

[1990]

I4: Report, press statement and pamphlet of meeting with Minister of National Education and NTUF. 1990

[1990]

Also included is minute of a meeting of the 'working party, and the Minister of Manpower. 1990 . 1 folder

I5: Minutes, reports and related papers on meetings, seminars held in Harare on teacher unity 1988-1990 . 1 folder

[1988-1990]

I6: Pamphlets and miscellaneous documents on national teacher unity. Includes a copy of 'agreement entered into between COSATU, NACTU, and SACCOLA'. 1990 . 1 folder

[1990]

I7: Southern Transvaal Teacher Unity Forum. 1990 Notes, reports and minutes. . 1 folder

[1990]

I8: Memorandum by the Southern Transvaal Teacher Unity Forum and reply from the Dept. of Education and Culture, House of Delegates 1990. Includes pamphlets by the STUF. 1 folder

[1990]

I9: Minutes of the 'working committee', Lenasia 1989-1990 . 1 folder

[1989-1990]

J: NECC

J1: Reports, resolutions and related documents on national conferences of the National Education Crisis (later Co-ordinating) Committee.

[1986-1990]

Also included is a report of the NECC National Education Executive Meeting to the NTUF. 1986-1990 . 1 folder

J2: Papers on 'the need for teachers unity' and 'tasks of the education movement' by the NECC. c1990

[c1990]

Also included is a copy of the resolution on national education crisis taken at the Conference for a Democratic Future, Dec 1989. . 1 folder

J3: NECC workbooks: Introduction to Calculus via Analytical Geometry, C1 and Introduction to Calculus via Functions, C2 . 1 folder



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- J4: Reports of regional education crisis committees, EDASA and keynote address c1989 'The NECC and the Education Front in the 1990s' to the regional [W Cape] Education Conference.. 1 folder
[c1989]
- J5: Report and notes of the NECC Southern Transvaal Region Annual Conference. July 1990 . 1 folder
[July 1990]
- K: SADTU
- K1: Draft constitutions, proposals and amendments, and draft resolutions on the launch of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU). 1990 . 1 folder
[1990]
- L: Other Teacher Organisations
- L1: NEUSA
- L1.1: Newsletters and pamphlets of the National Education Union of South Africa (NEUSA). 1980s-1990s . 1 folder
[1980s]
Includes a draft copy of the Teachers Charter. 1980s-1990s
- L2: PTU
- L2.1: Draft constitutions, speeches and papers, memorandum, pamphlets, and newsletters of the Progressive Teachers Union (PTU). 1980s-1990s . 1 folder
[1980s]
- L3: WECTU
- L3.1: Constitution, pamphlets and newsletters of the Western Cape Teachers' Union (WECTU). Includes copy of 'Heads of argument', inquiry into the conduct of Philip Tobias. 1980s-1990s . 1 folder
[1980s]
- L4: ATASA
- L4.1: Constitution and newsletters of the African Teachers' Association of South Africa (ATASA). 1984-1990 . 1 folder
[1984-1990]
- L5: TASA
- L5.1: Teachers Association of South Africa (TASA). Working paper on South African Teachers' Council, Progress reports on teacher unity and AGM papers of the Lenasia Branch. Includes a report of a consultative meeting of South African Association of Independent Schools. 1980s-1990s . 1 folder
[1980s]
- L5.2: Pamphlets 1989-1990 . 1 folder
[1989-1990]
- L5.3: Incomplete set of newsletter, 'TASA News' 1986-1990 . 1 folder
[1986-1990]
- L5.4: Printed AGM reports, minutes and records and AGM Report-backs. Includes a copy of TASA journal Galaxy 'Compilation of papers presented at a seminar on non-racial education'. 1985-1990 . 1 folder
[1985-1990]
- L6: Misc teacher organisations
- L6.1: Material by the following teachers organisations: Cape Teachers' Professional Association (CTPA); TUATA; Transvaal Association of Teachers; EDASA; and ITEC. 1980s . 1 folder
[1980s]
- M: Miscellaneous documents relating to education
- M1: Circular from the Dept. of Education and Culture, House of Delegates concerning appointments of teachers and official opening of state educational institutions. Includes anon. statistical analysis of education. c1990 .



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1 folder

[c1990]

M2: Various documents relating to education, 1980s including some by the Community Based Education Programme, the Education Aid Programme, and the All Schools for All People (ASAP). Also includes anon. discussion paper [on state strategy], a speech on [teaching] and a printed booklet 'People's Education for Teachers: proceeding of a conference held at the Univ. of W Cape, Oct 1987.'1f

[Oct 1987]

M3: Information brochure, AGM and related papers, reports on the Transvaal High School Sports Association (THSSA) and the South African Senior Schools Sports Association (SASSSA). 1990 . 1 folder

[1990]