

P.O. Box 71,  
Hilton, 3245.  
5th April, 1976.

The Editor,  
The Daily News,  
DURBAN.

Dclb/5/2/5/42



Dear Sir,

It is reported in your newspaper that the vice-president of the Natal Law Society has told your representative that the Society intends taking no action in the case of detained attorney Mr. Griffiths Mxenge, apart from that necessary to protect the interests of his clients. According to your report no action will be taken by the Society in regard to Mr. Mxenge's actual detention as "it often happens that you make a fool of yourself".

I sincerely hope that this is a misquotation because, if it is not, its implications are very serious. One implication is that if you protest against a man's detention ~~incommunicado~~ incommunicado in the hands of the Security Police and, at some later stage, he is brought to trial and found guilty of an offence, you have made a fool of yourself. On this basis, in the 300 years since the principle of habeas corpus was established, everyone who ever protested at a delay in bringing to court a person later convicted of a crime, was making a fool of himself.

Is this what the Law Society thinks? If it isn't, it should be doing something about Mr. Mxenge himself, not just his clients.

Yours faithfully,

P.M. Brown.