

SLUM DWELLERS HAPPY IN THEIR NEW HOMES

MAR 21 1955

The Native families who have been removed from the slums of Sophiatown, Johannesburg, are happy in their new separate brick houses and have no intention of ever going back to Sophiatown.

They never had such decent housing in their lives. Many of them have moved from mud shelters in the primitive bush, to slums in Sophiatown, to nice houses at Meadowlands.

Strangers in the slums have made friends since settling down as respectable neighbours at Meadowlands.

The families were not forcibly removed from the slums. The police were there to protect the Natives from outside agitators but there were no incidents.

Overseas press representatives who expected a so-called blood-bath expressed surprise that everything had gone off smoothly and with enthusiastic acceptance of the Bantus who had been resettled.

Natives are keen to move to Meadowlands for two reasons: The new township offers trading facilities for Native traders only and lodgers and tenants in the slum areas are anxious to get proper brick houses for about £2 to £2.10s. per month which in many cases is less than they were paying at present for hovels and shacks.

A 1951 survey showed that in those slum areas 82 per cent of the inhabitants were tenants, 16 per cent sub-tenants and only 2 per cent of the families actual owners. The tenants were mercilessly exploited by the landlords. Very often they have to pay so-called goodwill just to get the right to lease. This sum varies between £10 and £15 and then sometimes it is repeated after six months. The person is not even sure that he will not be given notice, that he will have to move again unless he again pays £5 or £10 to acquire his right to lease. The tenants are at the mercy of the landlords practically from month to month.

Fairly high prices were paid by the Government to Native and Coloured owners of plots in the slum areas. A few examples:

<u>PLOT NO.</u>	<u>OPTION PRICE</u>	<u>MUNICIPAL VALUATION</u>	<u>PURCHASE PRICE</u>
300	£ 1200	£ 775	£ 1150
315	1250	800	1150
1624	1500	1255	1500
41	1000	675	1000
1302	1600	1275	1600
1616	1500	1255	1500

The fact is that all the owners were quite satisfied with the prices paid.

The density of the slum dwellers is more than 300 per morgen (one morgen is 2.1 acres) while the greatest density at Meadowlands, where provision is made for wide, open spaces, will be 50 per morgen, at least six times less.

File
C/A/6/1

File No. 12/20/2.

Natives Resettlement Board,
P.O. Box 9848,
JOHANNESBURG.



To: Mr. Job Richard Rathebe,
33 Gerby Street,
Sophiatown.

Greetings,

List of affected properties compiled in terms of
Section 15(1) of Act No. 69 of 1955.

As owner of Stand No. 1448 situated at 33 Gerby Street
Sophiatown in the district of Johannesburg, you are hereby notified
in terms of Section No. 17(1) that this property has been included
in the abovementioned list.

With greetings,

SECRETARY.

Natives Settlement Board,
P.O. Box 1179,
1st Floor, Armadale House,
261 Bree Street,
JOHANNESBURG.

1

29/12/1954.

To...Richard Muthekwane...
Room..... Stand..1656...
...43 Toby Street.
...Sophiatown.

Greetings,

You are hereby required in terms of section 25 of the Natives Resettlement Act 1954 (Act No. 19 of 1954) to vacate the premises in which you reside namely Stand..1656 situate at No..43 Toby Street ..Sophiatown Johannesburg on or before .. 1 p.m. on the .. 26th day of ..February 1955, together with the members of your household and to remove all property belonging to you or any members of your household on or before the said hour and date from the said premises.

In terms of the provisions of Section 25 of Act No. 19/1954 a house or place of residence is hereby offered to you and the members of your household at Stand ..693 Street ..S.3. Meadowlands, Johannesburg. Should you alternatively elect to provide for your own housing needs and that of your household a right to occupy land, namely a demarcated stand in extent not less than 40' x 70', on which you may provide for your own housing needs and that of your household is hereby offered to you on portion 21 of Diepkloof No. 9, Johannesburg.

Greetings,

(Sgd.) SECRETARY.
NATIVES SETTLEMENT BOARD.

PLEASE NOTE:

- (1) Failure to comply with this notice is an offence.
- (2) Attached hereto annexure "A" is a form of election. Please make your election sign and date the form and return the completed election form to the person who serves this notice on you.
- (3) The Board will provide necessary transport free of charge for yourself, members of your household and property belonging to you and/or members of your household on a day to be advised which will be between ..21.2.1955 and ..26.2.1955. If you do not avail yourself of this facility you are required to provide transport at your own expense.
- (4) According to information obtained from the survey carried out by my Board the undermentioned persons are the only members of your household who are entitled to occupy the house or other place of residence or land on which you have acquired the right to provide for the housing needs of yourself and your household:

(i)	Your wife	(vi)
(ii)	Portia	(vii)
(iii)	Richard	(viii)
(iv)	Miriam	(ix)
(v)		(x)

(b) Please advise me immediately if the names of all the members of your household are not mentioned herein as otherwise only those persons mentioned herein will be rehoused.

- (5) A letter to your employer is attached Annexure "B"; kindly hand it to your employer to let him know when you will be moving to the new area.

(Sgd) SECRETARY; NATIVES RESETTLEMENT
BOARD.

ANNEXURE "A".

Election in terms of Section 25 of Act No.19
of 1954.

I being a native residing in the specified area at.....

..... hereby elect to:

- (a) accept a house or other place of residence for myself and my household at Meadowlands, Johannesburg.
- (b) accept a right to occupy land on which I may provide for the housing needs of myself and my household at Diepkloof, Johannesburg.

Dated at Johannesburg this..... day of19...

.....

Witness:

.....

Delete which is not applicable.

ANNEXURE "B".

No.....

Natives Resettlement Board,
P.O. Box 1179,
JOHANNESBURG.

.....19.....

To: The Employer of

.....

Gentlemen/Sir/Madam,

Your employee is being resettled in the Meadowlands/Diepkloof area by my Board. He is required to vacate..... between the.....and the.....(a definite date to be advised later) together with the members of his household and all property belonging to the household.

Your co-operation by allowing him to be absent (if necessary) from work on that day will be greatly appreciated, in order that he may personally supervise the removal of his household and effects.

Rent to be paid for the new stand/house depends on your employees income. Will you kindly indicate hereon what your employees wages are.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY.

The Secretary,
Natives Resettlement Board,
P.O. Box 1179,
JOHANNESBURG.

Noted. The wages plus cost of living allowance and the value of any rations or other privileges enjoyed of..... are..... per month * / per week *.

.....
Signature of Employer.
Address of Employer:

.....

Date.....

* Delete which is not applicable.

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