

1) G.W.  
2) F.W.  
1961  
Jmtt  
File

MUNICIPAL NATIVE ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT,

132 Ordnance Road,

DURBAN.

11th November, 1957.

MEMORANDUM BY THE MANAGER, NATIVE ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT,  
TO THE INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (NATAL REGIONAL COMMITTEE).

The following pages contain a general review of matters concerning local Native Administration which have received consideration during the past three months. These are matters of which it is thought that they might be of general interest, but no attempt has been made to arrange them in chronological order nor in order of importance.

VISIT OF PARAMOUNT CHIEF.

At the request of Cyprian Bekuzulu, Paramount Chief of the Zulus, the Native Administration Department sponsored a mass meeting for the purpose of presenting him, for the first time in his capacity as Paramount Chief to his subjects and generally to the African population of Durban.

The meeting, which took place at the Somtseu Road Bantu Recreation Grounds on Sunday 13th October, 1957, was attended by many thousands of Natives. The Paramount Chief was accompanied by his wife, his cousin Chief Buthulezi and a number of Zulu dignitaries. Prominent speakers at the function included His Worship the Mayor of Durban, Senator C. Cowley, Umtwana Pika Zulu, Mr. William Campbell, Mr. Steyn (the State information Officer who represented the Department of Native Affairs) Mr. A.W.G. Champion and Umtwana Sithela Zulu. His Worship the Mayor presented the Paramount Chief with an inscribed and polished shield bearing in colour the City's Coat of Arms and the Manager, Native Administration Department, presented him with a scarlet and silver sash, mounted with leopard skin.

The Paramount Chief spent ten days in Durban and during that period he opened the new Cossar press which was recently installed at the "Ilanga Lase Natal", and visited several large industrial concerns in the Mobeini area.

OPENING OF CHESTERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

The official opening ceremony of the new Chesterville Community Centre took place on 3rd October, 1957. The Paramount Chief, Senator C. Cowley, Councillor A. Blakeley, and a number of prominent Natives and senior officials attended the function.

1957/58 ADVISORY BOARD ELECTIONS.

A remarkable feature of the Native Locations Advisory Boards Elections which took place recently was the fact that a considerable number of the former members were beaten by new candidates. Notwithstanding this fact, the percentage poll, as in previous years, remained depressingly low, in the case of Somtseu Location it was as low as 5.7%.

GRANTS-IN-AID.

The City Council at a meeting held in August, 1957, approved (subject to the approval of the Minister of Native Affairs) the payment of grants-in-aid amounting to £14,500 to various bodies involved in African social

welfare/...

welfare and recreation activities. Under a new arrangement one fifth of the amount is contributed by the Borough Fund and the balance is borne by the Native Revenue Account.

#### POLICE RAIDS IN LOCATIONS.

Following the large-scale raid by the South African Police in the Somtseu Location during June, 1957, a number of discussions have been held with the Police with a view to finding suitable means of tightening up control in order to eliminate entry by illegal or undesirable elements without imposing undue hardships and restrictions on bona fide location residents. A report on these aspects will be submitted to the Native Administration Department in due course.

#### HOUSING MATTERS.

The Department is in the fortunate position of having the prospect of being able to improve the African housing position in view of the commencement of building operations in the Kwa Mashu Township. A number of unexpected difficulties and problems have arisen but the scheme, on the whole, is progressing favourably. This matter is not dealt with in detail in this report in view of the tentative arrangements which have been made for the address illustrated by film slides on the Scheme to be given by the Manager, Native Administration Department, to the Institute towards the end of November, 1957.

#### ELIGIBILITY FOR MUNICIPAL NATIVE FAMILY HOUSING : PERIOD OF RESIDENCE OF WIVES.

The City Council has adopted the policy that in view of the need to ensure priority of allocation of houses to families with long periods of residence in the City, it be laid down as one of the qualifications for eligibility for family housing provided for Natives by the City Council, that any wife or putative spouse of a male family head applying for family housing, shall be required to establish that she has been living in the City since 1st July, 1956.

Provision has been made to relax this restriction as and when, as a result of extensive resettlement, the need for such a restriction is reduced or ceases to exist.

#### PRE-NATAL FACILITIES FOR NATIVE WOMEN.

The City Council has adopted a recommendation that having regard to the large numbers of Natives who will be resident at Kwa Mashu Native Township, the attention of the Provincial Administration be drawn to the need for the establishment thereof of Clinics and District Midwifery Services; further, that as and when the construction of a Hospital in the vicinity of Kwa Mashu is planned, consideration be given to the construction of the Maternity Section as a first priority.

#### HEALTH STATISTICS.

All African males in the City are required to undergo a medical examination before qualifying for registration for employment.

The following schedule, covering the last six months is submitted as the figures indicating causes of unfitness might be of interest to members:

	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>
Total No. of Natives examined.	9,690	10,413	10,399	9,880	9,840	10,777
Total No. of Natives vaccinated.	9,114	9,112	9,527	9,187	9,260	10,154
Total No. of Natives rejected.	295	310	289	301	310	351

CAUSES OF UNFITNESS.

Venereal disease	167	162	170	181	182	160
Bilharzia	95	90	73	78	83	117
Tuberculosis	5	15	6	2	5	7
Other Causes	28	43	40	40	40	67
<b>Total Rejected</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>351</b>

WATER CONSERVATION AND TAP MAINTENANCE.

The Department has been perturbed for some time at the comparatively high domestic water consumption recorded for locations and hostels. In an endeavour to reduce wastage of water it has been decided to employ suitably trained Natives to repair leaking taps - work which, up to the present time, has been carried out by European tradesmen of the City Engineers Department. These Africans will be tested by the City Engineers Department and then appointed to the various locations. In addition to repair work they will also be expected to encourage location and hostel residents to conserve water wherever possible.

In this latter regard water inspection and prevention of wastage has been made an additional specific duty of all location staff including the Security Corps personnel.

REMOVAL AND RESETTLEMENT OF NATIVES IN CONNECTION WITH THE KWA MASHU SCHEME.

The Native Administration Committee adopted a recommendation that following the example set by the creation of a Special Committee re Native Housing which is entrusted with the technical details of the Kwa Mashu scheme there should be created a Special Committee to deal with the even greater human problems involved in the removal and resettlement of the 123,000 people who will eventually reside at Kwa Mashu.

In conjunction with this, the establishment of a liaison Committee consisting largely of Africans was to be formed.

These proposals were based on the pattern set by some major centres on the Reef where similar removal schemes were carried out very successfully. The proposals were hailed by the Africans and by the press as a major contribution towards the solution of a problem of considerable magnitude.

In a sub-leader the Natal Mercury wrote : "This human aspect of the transfer calls for care and wisdom by those in local authority. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of tolerance and collaboration. A successful and happy readjustment of tens of thousands of human lives would be a living monument to the wisdom and humanity of the special committee to which it is suggested the task should be entrusted."

The City Council's General Purposes Committee, however, considered the formation of a Special Committee unnecessary and turned the proposal down. It was suggested that the removal and resettlement of Natives could be dealt with by the Native Administration Committee in the normal course, and that that Committee could establish a Sub-Committee if it so desired.

No recognition was given to the African Liaison Committee which had already begun to function in anticipation of recognition and which had already made some valuable contributions. Its future is now undecided.

From a construction point of view the Kwa Mashu scheme is progressing favourably. This latter aspect is not dealt with in detail in this report in view of the tentative arrangements which have been made for the address illustrated by film slides on the Scheme to be given by the Manager, Native Administration Department, to the Institute towards the end of November, 1957.

S. BOURQUIN  
MANAGER.

DMcC/JN.

Information H/O H/40

MUNICIPAL NATIVE ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT,  
132 ORDNANCE ROAD,  
DURBAN.

2nd February, 1957.

The Natal Coastal Regional Committee,  
South African Institute of Race Relations,  
DURBAN.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

QUARTERLY REPORT: DURBAN MUNICIPAL  
NATIVE ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT.

I wish to report on the following projects and activities which have been instituted or have taken place during the past four months:

TRANSPORT FACILITIES CATO MANOR:

During January the Deputy Manager met a deputation of Native women who alleged that the bus company operating on a certain route in Cato Manor was running a depleted service which resulted in considerable inconvenience and in some instances their menfolk were being threatened with discharge by their employers because of late arrival at work.

The matter was thoroughly investigated by my Department and it was found that many other bus companies were also operating depleted services on the Cato Manor routes which resulted in large early-morning queues at the various bus termini.

It appears that the depleted bus services are occasioned by the action being taken by the City Police Department ensuring that public motor transport vehicles are in a roadworthy condition. This has resulted in a number of buses being taken off the road for repairs and for inspection for certificates of fitness.

I do not wish to interfere with the activities of the City Police Department who are endeavouring to ensure the safety of the public. Representations have been made, however, to the Local Road Transport Board, requesting that bus companies concerned be urged to make greater efforts in maintaining adequate services.

INSPECTION OF DURBAN NATIVE HOUSING SCHEMES.

Mr.L.J.Vincent who until recently was in charge of the Meadowlands Housing Scheme, having resigned his position in the Department of Native Affairs to take up an appointment in the Northern Rhodesian Housing Board, was conducted on a tour of inspection of Durban Native Housing Schemes.

When inspecting the Umlazi Glebe and Lamont Schemes, where houses are being constructed by Native building workers, Mr.Vincent appeared most impressed with all aspects of the organisation and at the conclusion of his inspection congratulated the Department on the quality of workmanship which he claimed was of the highest standard yet attained in the Union by Native building workers.

UMNINI HOLIDAY CAMP.

Through the kind auspices of the Umnini Holiday Camp Committee (under the Chairmanship of Dr.Alan B.Taylor) the Department has been able to send a group of 30 Cato Manor youths to spend a fortnight's holiday at the Umnini Camp. The party left on 16th January with two African supervisors to organise games and their activities generally for them, an African woman to see to the catering, and a lifesaver to see to the boys' safety when they go bathing at the beach nearby. This is the first occasion on which an event of this description has been organised entirely by this Department.

SECURITY/.....

SECURITY CORPS.

(a) First Aid Training.

It is the usual practise in all police forces for its members to be made proficient in the rendering of First Aid.

As it would be of great service to the Natives of the City of Durban if the Security Corps were so trained it was accordingly decided, as a start, to enter 20 Native Constables for the St. John Ambulance Association First Aid Course, I have pleasure in reporting that all 20 men have successfully completed the prescribed examination and have been awarded certificates by the St. John Ambulance Association.

At a date to be arranged, a ceremonial parade of the Corps will be held at which presentations of the certificates will be made.

(b) Parcel Carriers: City Market.

I have received from the City Market Master, a copy of a letter from the National Council of Women of South Africa thanking all concerned for the great improvement at the "Squatters" Market since Security Corps personnel began supervising the Parcel Carriers.

HAVILAND ROAD SHACKS.

In the Haviland Road shack area determined efforts have been made during the past few months to move eligible tenants into the Cato Manor Emergency Camp, and to clean up the area.

Normal administrative measures had proved futile because immediately Departmental notices to vacate were served on any of the shack-owners, they were countered by interdicts staying my Department from further action pending civil court proceedings. Criminal actions were therefore instituted against the shack-owners under the provisions of Section 9(5) of the Natives (Urban Areas) Consolidation Act (Act 25/1945 as amended).

Approximately 250 summonses have been prepared and the first batch of shack-owners have appeared before the Magistrate, and found guilty. They were sentenced to £5 on each count, suspended for three months with the condition that their shacks were to be demolished within that time.

It was found in the majority of cases that the shack-owners concerned did not live on the premises, most of them being Basutos from outside Natal.

As a result of these actions it has been observed that a large number of Basuto female shack-dwellers are vacating the area, presumably to leave the City.

Children's Christmas Parties.

4,000 Native children aged 2 - 12 years gathered at Lamont Location one day during the festive season to enjoy a Christmas party specially organised by the Department for children of residents there. Minerals, balloons, cakes, sweets, etc., were issued to each and every child and the event was hailed as an unqualified success by all concerned.

Similar events were staged at Umlazi Glebe and Cato Manor. In the latter case a voluntary welfare body undertook the running of the party. Donations from parents and other sources (e.g. concert proceeds) and assistance given by various interested Natives, especially the womenfolk, contributed very substantially to the success of these events.

Welcome Ceremony for the Superintendent, Lamont Location.

A ceremony of welcome was arranged by the residents of Lamont Location for their Superintendent, Mr. C. C. Koel, and presentations were made to him and his wife.

In addition/.....

In addition to some European guests, the ceremony was attended by a large crowd of residents and it was pleasing to see the Superintendent welcomed in this way, especially as over a year has elapsed since his appointment, which shows that his work has not passed unappreciated.

Community Hall Glebelands Emergency Camp.

The Rotary Club of Durban South have donated a well built brick hall for the use by the Bantu residents of Glebelands. The hall was officially handed over to the Native Administration Department on Sunday, 11th November, by the Rev. de Villiers, Chairman of the Rotary Club of Durban South.

This hall is a valuable contribution to the general welfare of the local Bantu residents and is much appreciated by both the Department and the local residents.

Completion of Cato Manor Beer Hall.

The alterations and extensions to the Cato Manor Beerhall, except for the re-rendering of the floor area, have been completed and full use is now being made of the new premises.

The enclosure of the beer drinking area giving full protection against the weather is greatly appreciated by the Cato Manor patrons.

Duffs Road (Kwa Mashu) Native Housing Project: Removal Scheme.

I recommended to the City Council that a team of 4 officials later reduced to two, should proceed to Johannesburg and Benoni for 5 days to collect information in respect of the Meadowlands and Daveyton schemes for the purpose of preparing a master-plan for the removal of Natives from Cato Manor and other shack areas and their resettlement at the Duffs Road Site-and-Service Scheme. It was felt that this suggestion would afford a good opportunity of utilizing the experience already gained by other Municipalities in this regard specially in eliminating any possible hardships which the shack-dwellers are likely to suffer.

The City Council did not favour the recommendation and expressed the view that nothing could be learnt from Johannesburg and Benoni and that whatever information there was could be obtained by correspondence.

LAMONT ECONOMIC SELLING SCHEME.

The African building contractors scheme is continuing to function efficiently at Lamont Extension. Under the scheme approved African contractors enter in labour-only agreements with the City Council for the erection of houses. To assist the contractors, the majority of whom have no capital backing, the Native Administration Department lends trestles, scaffolding, concrete mixers and other essential equipment. The contractor is responsible for employing his own labour, and for labour used in the erection of a 4-roomed brick house and separate W.C. block he is paid £70. If he so wishes, the Department is prepared to make advances of money as work progresses so that the contractor has sufficient to pay any labour he hires.

The building materials for the scheme are bought in bulk by the City Council, and thus the advantages of bulk buying are passed on to the prospective home-owner. Plumbing work is being carried out under a sub-contract.

The 750 houses, of orthodox 9" brick construction, will comprise 2 bedrooms, living room, kitchen and separate W.C. and are estimated to cost in the vicinity of £260. Approximately 90 houses will be detached, the remainder being semi-detached, to make the most effective use of the land available. When completed the houses will be sold to eligible Africans. If a loan is required the maximum the Council can advance is £250 and the balance must be paid by the purchaser by way of a deposit the amount advanced must be repaid over a maximum period of 30 years, the monthly instalment being £1.5.7. In addition a monthly site rental of £1.10.0. is payable.

50 larger sites are also available on which Africans may erect more substantial dwellings, assisted if necessary by a loan advanced by the Council. From enquiries already received it seems possible that the contractors already working on the selling scheme will build many of these larger houses.

DUFFS ROAD NATIVE HOUSING SCHEME: ACQUISITION OF LAND:

The Minister of Native Affairs has approved the Durban City Councils proposals to acquire land from Messrs. Natal Estates Limited, for the Duffs Road Native Housing Scheme.

NATIVE ADVISORY BOARDS CONGRESS.

It has been the practice in the past for travelling costs and subsistence allowance of Native Advisory Board members and City Council officials (usually the Chairman, Native Administration Committee, and the Manager, Native Administration Department) attending the Annual Native Advisory Board Congress, to be paid out of Native Revenue Account funds.

The Minister of Native Affairs, however, will no longer approve expenditure connected with the Native Advisory Boards Congress as a charge against the Native Revenue Account.

Durban (and the majority of the other centres in the Union) was therefore not represented at the 1957 Congress.

NAMING OF DUFFS ROAD NATIVE HOUSING SCHEME.

The Special Committee for Native Housing at a meeting held in December, 1956, adopted a plenary decision to the effect that the proposed Native Township at Duff's Road be known as Kwa Mashu (after Sir Marshall Campbell) and that the proposed new terminal railway station within the scheme be similarly named; also that the subsidiary railway station in the vicinity of the Scheme be named 'Elangeni' (Place in the Sun).

The Native Advisory Boards at a recent meeting expressed their dissatisfaction regarding the abovementioned names and submitted their own suggestions which will be considered by the Special Committee for Native Housing.

TRADING FACILITIES: MAYDON WHARF BEERHALL:

The trading stalls at this institution were quite inadequate and have been converted into beer-drinking space. A new trading block adjoining the beerhall has recently been completed. It comprises 2 general dealers shops, a fresh produce dealer (Tea Room), butcher, tailor, cobbler and 5 caterers (Eating houses).

TRADING FACILITIES: LAMONT LOCATION:

The trading facilities in Lamont Location for some time have been inadequate and in an endeavour to improve these conditions the Department made available a site to a well-known Native business man on which to erect a trading block.

The block which includes a general dealers shop, butchery, restaurant and a fish and chip shop was completed towards the end of 1956. The Native manager lives on the premises in a flat.

This undertaking not only assists considerably in supplying the needs of the community but also employs a large staff selected from the location residents.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION.

The Department is aware of the need for accommodation for visiting Native dignitaries and educated people such as businessmen, teachers, Ministers of religion etc., who demand (and are prepared to pay for) accommodation and facilities of a higher standard than is available in the/.....



locations and hostels.

The Durban and District African Football Association has been approached in this regard with a view to contributing towards the financing and running of a hotel which could include a number of single rooms and also a dormitory for visiting football teams. Vacant land for the erection of such a project will be difficult to find in existing locations such as Lamontville but it might be possible to make provision in the proposed Duffs Road Scheme where certain existing buildings could be converted for the purpose.

Yours faithfully,

*S Bourquin*  
S. BOURQUIN  
MANAGER.  
*pu DMC*

**Collection Number: AD1715**

**SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation*

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

©2013

**LEGAL NOTICES:**

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document forms part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.