

THIRD PERMANENT HOUSING PLAN FOR NYANGA TO BE STARTED SOON

Movement into transit camp reduced

By a Staff Reporter

THE Cape Divisional Council hopes to start work soon on a permanent housing scheme for about 500 families and 700 bachelors, at Nyanga.

Meanwhile, the movement of Natives into the Nyanga transit camp continues, though at a much reduced rate.

Since May 1 last year about 6,000 people have been moved in, and about 100 a month are arriving now.

Ministerial approval has been given for a loan of £208,000 for the new scheme, which will consist of 146 houses, 584 pit latrines and eight ablution blocks.

CONVERTIBLE

The houses are convertible either to house four families or 36 bachelors. It is planned that 127 houses will be used for families and 19 for bachelors.

About 56 morgen have been set aside for the scheme, of which about 32 will be used for houses, 16 for open spaces and seven for roads.

This is Nyanga's third permanent housing scheme. The first, begun in 1946, consisted of 210 houses, and is occupied now by about 1,100 people.

SECOND SCHEME

The second, built in 1953, consists of 350 houses, each of which holds two families. About 3,000 people live in these houses. There are also bachelor quarters for about 450 Natives.

In addition to these two permanent schemes, there is the transit camp, where Natives live in huts they have built themselves.

The camp has a standpipe water supply and pit latrines. Some street lighting is being installed.

6,000 PEOPLE

The transit camp holds about 1,900 families—or 6,000 people—now. It is designed to hold 3,400 families.

When it is full officials hope there will be enough permanent housing to take the overflow from the camp as fast as new arrivals move in from outside.

Nyanga is planned ultimately to house 25,000 Natives—about a quarter of all those living in the Peninsula and Northern Areas.

There are plans for churches, schools and sports grounds, and some have already been established.

Housing.

*Sub file. } Nyanga super camp
in correspondence }
file*

hope to begin leveling ground

CAPE ARGUS 26/4/57

Nyanga

12,341 Move to Nyanga

6/6/57

Cape Times Chief Reporter

MORE than 3,000 Native families—12,341 men, women and children—have moved to Nyanga in the past 18 months from squatters' "black spots" at Bellville, Parow, Goodwood and parts of the Divisional Council area.

Most of these people are now living at the Nyanga transit camp in temporary huts they have built themselves.

"In no case has legal pressure been used to force these people to move to Nyanga. They have all come voluntarily," said Mr. H. M. Pansegrouw, Manager of Native Administration, yesterday.

PLAN APPROVED

A £208,000 scheme to provide permanent three-room semi-detached cottages for the squatters had received Government approval this week, and as soon as funds had been allocated by the National Housing Commission tenders would be invited for the next big extension to Nyanga Native Township.

About 1,200 Native families still had to be moved from Cook's Bush and Turner's Bush near Ottery, and also from parts of Goodwood.

"When warmer weather comes I expect a big exodus from these places. Even to-day families who are swamped out at Cook's Bush are applying for transit camp sites at Nyanga.

"Less than two years ago thousands of Native squatters were living in 48 uncontrolled blackspots throughout the areas of the northern municipalities and the Divisional Council.

"To-day there are only three such places left, and by the end of the year I hope there will be none."

"CAPE TIMES" 23rd JULY, 1957.

Original price.—(Sapa.)

NYANGA RENTS C. PROPOSAL ^{23/7/57}

Draft regulations, providing for the increase of rentals at Nyanga, will be considered by the Nyanga Advisory Board at a meeting to-morrow.

The rents, which are paid monthly, will, in some cases, be increased by 100 per cent.

The cottages, which are divided into different classes, depending on the size, range at present from £1 to £2 3s. 4d. a month.

~~_____~~
houses £2.3.4.

single quarters

5/- p. w/p. man

RENT RISES REJECTED ^{25/7/57}

The Nyanga Advisory Board room was crowded last night by residents listening to the decision of the Board on proposed rent increases.

The spokesman for the Board, the Rev. I. Mbina, said it had decided not to approve the increases because they were much too high for the residents.

Many found it difficult to pay present rentals, and were taken to court for non-payment. A further increase would only make matters worse.

The Board's decision will be considered by the Cape Divisional Council next Tuesday.

Natives to *C.A. 29/7/57* oppose higher rents

Residents of Nyanga location decided at a meeting called by the African National Congress yesterday to oppose proposals by the Cape Divisional Council to increase certain rents. They decided to send a deputation to the council.

The rents at present are £2 3s. 4d. a month for two-roomed houses, £3 15s. for three-roomed houses and £1 1s. 8d. a month for single quarters.

Each of the houses has a dining-room and a kitchenette and there is an eating house attached to the single quarters.

ACCORDING TO EARNINGS

The Government want the Divisional Council to introduce an economic scheme under which rentals will be worked out on the basis of earnings. The effect would be that Natives would pay rents ranging from £2 to £7 a month.

To avoid this the Divisional Council has put forward alternative proposals, which are the ones the meeting objected to.

These proposals are that some of the two-roomed houses be supplied with electricity and water and the rent raised to £4 15s. and that the rent for the others be raised to £2 5s.

OWN DECISION

This would mean that a prospective tenant could decide whether he would be able to afford the added amenities or whether he would rather do without them and pay the old rent.

A rise in rent for the single quarters to £1 12s. 6d. has also been proposed.

The rent for the three-roomed houses, which are still being built, will remain at £3 15s.; and no change is proposed in the site-and-service charge of £1.

Nyanga

"CAPE ARGUS" 3rd OCTOBER, 1957.

~~urneys~~

C.A.

21/10/57



COLOURED PENSIONERS wait for the monthly payment. The picture is from 'South Africa in Transition' (published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York). The book illustrates, in prose by Alan Paton and photographs by Dan Weiner, the emergence of Natives and Coloured in South Africa from a state of isolation towards a future that holds promise.

150 March in Protest ^{a.s.} 14/10/57 Over Shacks

MORE than 150 African men, women and children marched to the administrative offices at Nyanga on Saturday in a demonstration against the Cape Divisional Council's order that by Wednesday their Cook's Bush shacks must be demolished.

Ground has been provided for them at the Nyanga site and service scheme and the Council's order says that the shacks demolished at Cook's Bush should be built on the Nyanga site.

The crowd arrived from Cook's Bush in lorries and assembled outside Nyanga before marching through the township to the administrative office where an official met a deputation.

The marchers returned to Cook's Bush without incident.

COOK'S BUSH: TWO DAYS TO GO, BUT FEW HAVE HOMES

ONLY two more days are left before many of the people living at Cook's Bush must leave. The married Natives must go to Nyanga, but most of the Coloured people have no other place to go to.

One Coloured family whose house at Cook's Bush has been pulled down is being helped by Cafda to find temporary accommodation elsewhere.

'They and other Coloured families are the tenants of "absentee" landlords, Natives who do not live at Cook's Bush but own pondokkies there which they let out,' Dr. Oscar Wollheim (Warden of Cafda) said.

CHRONIC INVALID

'The head of the family which we have tried to help is an elderly man who is a chronic invalid, and with the assistance of the Medical Officer of Health of the Divisional Council (Dr. J. P. de Villiers) we have got him into the Conradie Hospital and we are finding temporary accommodation for the rest of the family.

'Another family has had its house half pulled down, but the roof is still on and they say they can manage to live there a bit longer.'

Dr. Wollheim said the Divisional Council provided free transport for Native families to move their pondokkies and belongings to Nyanga.

SPECIAL PROBLEM

'Native families who cannot get their houses put up at Nyanga in a day are allowed to sleep for a night or two with friends or relatives,' Dr. Wollheim said.

'The Coloured people who have to move from Cook's Bush are a special problem as they have no housing scheme to go to, but the Divisional Council is, I believe, trying to deal with this problem.'

GIVEN TIME

The secretary of the Divisional Council (Mr. C. V. Emms) said that the Natives who had to leave Cook's Bush were first given notice that they must register at Nyanga and be given a site. They were then given two months, and in cases of real hardship longer in which to move.

Not all of them had been given notices at once. The moving had been going on for about a year.

About one-sixth of the Natives had already moved.

200 Will Lose Homes in Cook's Bush Clearance Scheme

THE Cape Divisional Council's Housing Committee will meet on Thursday to discuss the plight of several scores of Coloured families—totalling perhaps 200 people—who will be left homeless by the Council's squatter clearance scheme in Cook's Bush.

Their predicament is an unexpected "side-effect" of the removal of married Africans from the shanty-dotted area of Cook's Bush to the emergency squatters' camp at Nyanga. Most of the Coloured families are sub-tenants of African tenants and sub-tenants who must demolish their pondokkies.

Many of the Africans have only two more days in which to demolish their shanties and take up their sites at Nyanga.

"We knew Coloured families had been encroaching gradually on Cook's Bush," said Dr. J. P. de Villiers, the Divisional Council Medical Officer of Health, yesterday.

POLICY MATTER

"What action the Council will take on the problem is a policy matter and it will be discussed by the Housing Committee on Thursday."

"We are faced with the problem of these Coloured tenants," said Mr. C. V. Emms, Secretary of the Divisional Council. "No provision exists for their housing by the Council and I do not know what action the Council will take."

Dr. Oscar Wollheim, Warden of Cafda, told the *Cape Times*: "There were at one time between 5,000 and 6,000

people in Cook's Bush. When the Divisional Council served notices on them to leave and demolish their pondokkies, many hundreds of Africans simply disappeared, after letting their pondokkies to Coloured families.

"Now the pondoks have to be demolished and the Coloured sub-tenants will be left homeless."

"Others who will be affected are the Coloured sub-tenants of African tenants."

AT NYANGA

"Then there are Coloured sub-tenants whose African landlord has sold his shanty to another African who now wants to demolish it for the building material so that he can erect his own place at Nyanga."

"The Africans can get a site reasonably easily at Nyanga, but the Coloured folk are left homeless and without provision."

One of these is Mrs. Annie Deeuw, 57, a Coloured woman who has a grandchild and a foster child, both less than a year old. Her husband, a chronic invalid, has recently been taken to the Conradie Hospital. Their total income is £10 a month.

The Deeus had been living for years in a room of a pondok belonging to an African, Mr. David Banzana, who must move to Nyanga. He completed the demolition of the pondok yesterday and at 9 a.m. to-day divisional council lorries will move the material to Nyanga for him to start rebuilding on his site there.

CAFDA HELPED

Last night Mrs. Deeuw, her children and Mr. Banzana sat amid the piled timbers and rusty sheets of corrugated iron of their former home, planning to spread a tarpaulin for shelter for the night. Mrs. Deeuw will not be able to move to Nyanga which is restricted to Africans.

"I would like to take Ouma with me", said Mr. Banzana. "We have become like one family. But it is impossible."

Cafda has been able to help in this particular instance and temporary accommodation is being found for "Ouma" Deeuw. But there are hundreds of others. Cafda has had a score of applications for help and cannot help them all.

START MADE ON REVISION OF NATIVES' WAGES

^{17/10/57}
The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA, Thursday.

THE Government have started on what will eventually become a general revision of Native wages. The Wage Board has completed a wage determination for the unskilled trades — in which most Natives work — in Port Elizabeth and its findings are due to be published in the 'Government Gazette' to-morrow.

Meanwhile the Minister of Labour (Sen. J de Klerk) is drafting instructions to the board to make similar determinations for Bloemfontein, East London, Durban, the Rand and Pretoria, Kimberley, Cape Town and Maritzburg.

Wage Board determinations do not cover servants or farm workers. Nor will they directly benefit Natives whose wages are already laid down in industrial agreements or whose employers are paying them more than the stipulated minimum.

They will, however, have the effect of raising the 'floor' level, and so, indirectly, of improving the standard for all.

DANGER TO ALL

The Government have received repeated warnings both from Members of Parliament and the public that Natives are not getting enough to live on and that their poverty is an economic and a social danger to everybody.

A letter from Krugersdorp published in the 'Star' this week crystallized the effect on the Natives of continuing poverty in these words: This is turning them into immoral, don't-give-a-darn' people . . . It is a matter of complete indifference to them when they are caught stealing. If they are arrested they laugh; if they are not arrested they jeer.

Housing Scheme Given Support

A COMPREHENSIVE scheme for housing the Coloured shanty-dwellers of Cook's Bush, by putting 50 approved families in Bishop Lavis Township and by offering others work where housing is combined with a job, was recommended to the Cape Divisional Council by its Housing Committee yesterday.

The secretary of the Council, Mr. C. V. Emms, told the Committee, that Press reports and representations had been made about the removal of Natives from Cook's Bush to Nyanga.

It was apparent that many people were under the erroneous impression that the Council in trying to clear the "black spot" was using forceful methods with little consideration either for the Natives or the Coloured people there.

A letter had been received from the manager of the Citizens' Housing League Utility Company, that the company was prepared, in principle, to provide housing for 50 approved Coloured families now living in Cook's Bush.

NOT CORRECT

The impression that the Council was acting in a high-handed manner in the clearing of Cook's Bush, the committee said, was not correct.

A contract had been signed and work would start within the next fortnight on a scheme to provide 584 family dwelling units in brick, with the usual amenities.

This would supplement more than 900 family units already built at Nyanga and would be followed up by a number of similar schemes until sufficient houses had been built to eliminate the transit camp completely.

50 FAMILIES

The Committee resolved to authorize the immediate acceptance of the offer by the Citizens' Housing League Utility Company to take up to 50 families from Cook's Bush and house them in Bishop Lavis Township.

The Council, it said, would assist with transport. The action would be reported to the Council for confirmation.

The committee also decided to report to the Council that while this would overcome the immediate difficulty there would still be a residue of Coloured families who would be made homeless and to recommend that the Department of Labour should be approached immediately to find out definitely what work was available for these people, where housing could be combined with a job.

C.o.l.a. for unskilled labourers

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA, Saturday.

FURTHER reflection on the new wage determination for unskilled labour in Port Elizabeth, published yesterday, shows that it represents a bigger improvement than was at first thought.

It raises basic wages in unskilled occupations — in which most Natives work—from £1 7s. as fixed in 1941, to £1 17s. 6d. This is an increase of about 40 per cent, which in itself falls far short of the rise in cost of living in the same period.

ANOTHER DIFFERENCE

But there is another difference. These wages are now accompanied by a compulsory cost-of-living allowance which raises them to a minimum of £2 15s. 9d. a week, or £12 a month, rising to £13 5s. a month after three years' service.

This is an effective increase of about 100 per cent since 1941 and would bear a close comparison to the increase in the cost of living if the point from which the wages started in 1941 had been at all realistic.

The unreality of the old minimum wage has long been recognized by many employers who have been paying their unskilled labour more even than the new determination lays down.

Even £12-£13 a month falls short of what is now estimated to be necessary to keep a Native family above starvation and out of crime.

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