

RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON MINIMUM STANDARDS OF ACCOMMODATION.TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COMMITTEES.

I.

The following terms of reference were agreed to at the First Meeting of the Main Committee on 3rd July, 1947.

"To examine the needs of the population in so far as they affect housing and to make recommendations for minimum conditions of health, comfort and welfare, (if necessary for different regions and different sections of the community in the Union), below which dwellings should not be erected, and to indicate practical objectives for future development in these respects."

Within the scope of the above General Terms of Reference, the following are the Terms of Reference agreed on at the first meeting of the various Sub-Committees:

Sub-Committee No. 1. (Social Trends, Population Needs, Family Structure and Family Economics).

"To examine and report on the social trends and population movements, the structure of families and the problems of family economics of the populations within and outside the Union in so far as these may affect the Union's housing situation and the laying down of minimum standards of accommodation in the Union of South Africa."

Sub-Committee No. 2. (Legislation).

"To examine and report on existing legislation in South Africa relating to minimum standards of accommodation in dwellings, including measures covered by Acts of Parliament, the regulations of Government and Provincial Authorities, Divisional Councils and Local Authorities and any special regulations which may govern the standards of accommodation in housing provided by Industries for their own employees, or by Public Housing Utility Companies or private concerns for dwellings built under their own auspices; to examine and report on related legislation in other countries, particularly recent legislation and special legislation enacted in view of emergency conditions, and to prepare a report on the Sub-Committee's findings for submission to the Main Committee."

Sub-Committee No. 3. (Survey of the Attitude of Occupants to Existing Housing).

- (a) Title. The sub-committee agreed to recommend to the Main Committee:-
- (a) That the name of the Sub-Committee No. 3 be amended to read "Sub-Committee to Survey the Attitudes of Occupants towards Housing."
- (b) That the investigation of the Committee will cover

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mainly existing housing but would not be limited by the word "existing" and would consider in addition such new types of housing as may be desirable.

(b) Terms of Reference:-

"To find out how far existing types of dwellings in South Africa are satisfactory from the standpoint of the householder, to discover common shortcomings and inadequacies in existing housing and to investigate the adequacy of residential neighbourhoods from the standpoint of the householder."

Sub-Committee No. 4. (Estate Planning).

- (a) "To make a study of the planning and use of land in residential areas and housing schemes in South Africa; to investigate the services and amenities provided and the character of the resulting environments;
- (b) To examine site planning techniques to discover where these could with advantage be applied to the development of future residential areas in the Union;
- (c) To prepare a report on the Sub-Committee's findings for submission to the Main Committee".

Sub-Committee No. 5. (Ventilation).

"To investigate the minimum ventilation standards necessary to maintain health and a reasonable degree of comfort in dwellings in the various regions of South Africa; to study the effects of various climatic conditions on the ventilation of dwellings; to examine the conventional methods of providing ventilation in the various classes of dwelling; to discover where these may be considered to be of too low a standard; to make recommendations as to the methods of improving the ventilation of dwellings; to outline those fields in which further research may be necessary, and to prepare a report on the Sub-Committee's findings for submission to the Main Committee".

Sub-Committee No. 6. (Lighting).

"To examine the existing legislation defining the minimum standards of natural and artificial lighting permitted in dwellings and to report on the suitability and adequacy of such criteria as exist at present; to collect evidence on studies made and methods adopted in the Union and elsewhere to find ways of improving the standard of natural and artificial lighting in dwellings, to make suggestions so as to achieve this end, and to prepare a report on the Sub-Committee's findings for submission to the Main Committee".

Sub-Committee No. 7. (Heating and Cooling).

- (a) "To examine the standards of accommodation at present provided in dwellings in South Africa.
- (b) To consider and make recommendations as to the accommodation and facilities required in new dwellings in South Africa, and as to their design, planning and siting."

Sub-Committee No. 8. (Noise).

"To examine the Standards of sound-insulation in existing forms of dwellings, and to make suggestions as to such changes in the design and construction of dwellings as the sub-committee may consider necessary or desirable, to reduce, if necessary, the noise level in dwellings to more comfortable standards".

Sub-Committee 9. (House Planning and Design).

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"To examine the conventional types of dwelling in use in South Africa with special reference to the factors of insulation of the enclosing walls, roof and floor; artificial means of heating, the maintenance of cool conditions within the house in the hotter parts of the country; the effects of solar radiation and any other factors effecting the heating and cooling of dwellings in South Africa. To discover where the conventional types of dwelling fall short in these respects and to make recommendations for the improvement of the standards commonly occurring at the present time; to seek to define the minimum provision for heating and cooling required to conform with the requirements of health and comfort in various parts of the Union and to prepare a report on the Sub-Committee's findings for submission to the Main Committee".

II.

REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SUB-COMMITTEES Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8 recommended by the Director, South African Bureau of Standards.

In order to clarify the function of the above sub-committees as joint sub-committees serving both the Research Committee on Minimum Standards of Accommodation and the South African Bureau of Standards, it was recommended that the Terms of Reference for these sub-committees be revised by the addition in each case of a preamble.

The revised Terms of Reference to read:

Sub-Committee No. 5 (Ventilation).

"To serve as a joint sub-committee of the Research Committee on Minimum Standards of Accommodation and the South African Bureau of Standards, to investigate the minimum ventilation standards necessary to maintain health and a reasonable degree of comfort in dwellings in the various regions of South Africa; to study the effects of various climatic conditions on the ventilation of dwellings; to examine the conventional methods of providing ventilation in the various classes of dwelling; to discover where these may be considered to be of too low a standard; to make recommendations as to the methods of improving the ventilation of dwellings; to outline those fields in which further research may be necessary, and to prepare a report on the sub-Committee's findings for submission to the Main Committee".

Sub-Committee No. 6. (Lighting).

"To serve as a joint sub-committee of the Research

Committee/.....

Committee on Minimum Standards of Accommodation and the South African Bureau of Standards to examine the existing legislation defining the minimum standards of natural and artificial lighting permitted in dwellings and to report on the suitability and adequacy of such criteria as exist at present; to collect evidence on studies made and methods adopted in the Union and elsewhere to find ways of improving the standard of natural and artificial lighting in dwellings, to make suggestions so as to achieve this end, and to prepare a report on the Sub-Committee's findings for submission to the Main Committee".

Sub-Committee No. 7. (Heating and Cooling).

"To serve as a joint sub-committee of the Research Committee on Minimum Standards of Accommodation and the South African Bureau of Standards;

- (1) to examine (a) the conventional types of dwelling in use in South Africa with special reference to the factors of insulation of the enclosing walls, roof and floor;
(b) artificial means of heating; *remedy*
(c) the maintenance of cool conditions within the house in hotter parts of the country;
(d) the effects of solar radiation and any other factors effecting the heating and cooling of dwellings in South Africa.
- (2) to discover where the conventional types of dwelling fall short in these respects and to make recommendations for the improvement of the standards commonly in use at the present time;
- (3) to seek to define the minimum provision for heating and cooling required to conform with the requirements of health and comfort in various parts of the Union;
- (4) to prepare a report on the Sub-Committee's findings for submission to the Main Committee".

Sub-Committee No. 8. (Noise).

"To serve as a joint sub-committee of the Research Committee on Minimum Standards of Accommodation and the South African Bureau of Standards to examine the standards of sound-insulation in existing forms of dwellings, and to make suggestions as to such changes in the design and construction of dwellings as the sub-committee may consider necessary or desirable, to reduce, if necessary, the noise level in dwellings to more comfortable standards".

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