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DEVELOPMENT OF THE BANTU HOMELANDS.

On the 12th December, 1966, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Non-European Affairs Committee, accompanied by Council officials, met a number of senior officials from the Union Department of Bantu Administration and Development to consider a request advanced by the latter, that the Council should seriously consider making a substantial contribution from its accumulated Bantu Beer profits, towards the development of the Bantu Homelands in the interests of the Bantu community.

The Chairman requested the Deputy Secretary, Bantu Administration and Development, to reduce his request to writing, and this was done in the following terms :-

- "1. My evenlyn numbered minute dated 20th November, 1966, refers.
 2. This serves to confirm the discussion which took place in the above connection on the 12th instant between representatives of your Council and officials from this Department. (Messrs. I.P. van Onselen and F.C. Greyvenstein).
 3. The Department wishes to place on record its appreciation of the sympathetic manner in which your Council's representatives received the visiting officials and considered the matter in the light of their verbal information, and also for the undertaking to submit and recommend the Department's views for favourable consideration to your Council.
 4. This also serves to confirm that the Department will be grateful to receive any contribution in cash which your Council may deem fit to make available out of accumulated surplusses in its Bantu Revenue Account for the accelerated development of the Bantu Homelands as explained at the meeting referred to above.
- The Department does, however, desire that any decision Your Council may arrive at in this connection

should be in consultation with its Bantu Advisory Board, despite the fact that it may be argued that such a grant ex Accumulated Surplusses in the Council's Bantu Revenue Account does not necessarily constitute expenditure for the purposes of the provisions of Section 19(5) of the Urban Areas Act, 1945 (Act No. 25 of 1945, as amended).

5. For the purposes of the provisions of Section 19(3) (c)(v) of the abovementioned enactment this communication serves as written approval of the Honourable the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development for any cash grant from accumulated Bantu Beer profits towards the development of the Bantu Homelands as being in the general interests of the Bantu.

6. During the discussions referred to above, an interesting aspect of financial support for the development of the Bantu Homelands was raised, viz. whether a local authority would be allowed to commit any surplusses in its Bantu Revenue Account to the development of any particular project/s in any particular Bantu Homeland area/s, and thereby such local authority being able to associate and identify its urban Bantu population with specific development projects in a Bantu Homeland. This aspect of the matter has been discussed with the Honourable the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development, and has intimated that the thought is not without merit. The Department will therefore be glad to receive your Council's proposals in this connection at your earliest convenience".

The Accountant, Non-European Affairs Department, reports that the balance of the Bantu Beer Two-Thirds Profit Appropriation Account at the end of 30th June, 1966, was R824,407, but of this amount R616,668 is earmarked for certain expenditure such as the compensation to be paid to the former residents of Pimville and for the construction of roads and stormwater drainage. The balance available in the current year's account, amounts to R207,739.

At the meeting referred to, the Manager advanced the opinion that he could foresee some difficulty in the Council approving of a contribution for the general development of the Bantu Homelands, because the money would be lost in a large *pool* used for development all over the country, and no-one would know for certain what purpose the contribution was being used for.

He suggested that the Council's attitude may be quite different if it its contribution, assuming this were agreed to, were used for the development of a specific project which could be identified with Johannesburg, namely the development of a "sister area" in one of the Homelands, where strong ties exist with the local population, and that the Johannesburg Council would then be responsible, in co-operation with the Bantu Administration and Development for the layout and provision of a small housing scheme, the provision of the necessary welfare services, recreational and public amenities similar to those which have been provided in Soweto as well as the training of young Bantu in an institution broadly similar to the present Vocational Training Centre run by the Council.

In this way, the Manager suggested that the citizens of Johannesburg would be able to associate and identify themselves with the specific development and improvement of an area or a village in one of the Bantu Homelands.

It would be possible, if this scheme were approved, for representatives of the Council and the Johannesburg people to visit such a place, and to see for themselves what was being done there with the financial aid of the Johannesburg City Council.

Local Advisory Board members would be encouraged to take an active interest in such a scheme, and the Manager can foresee ~~the~~ ^a continuous coming and going between such an area and Johannesburg by the people involved.

Young men domiciled there and trained there, could come to Johannesburg for employment in specific projects, but without establishing local roots or creating family ties here.

They would establish these and develop them in their own Homeland where all the facilities which normally attract such people to Johannesburg, would be available on a similar scale in proportion to the size of the village for which responsibility has been accepted.

Such a scheme is in full accord with the Government's thinking for the act of fostering and development of the Bantu Homelands, but will at the same time provide an essential link with ~~the~~ modern industrial economy, so that the people involved in such a scheme will really enjoy the best of the two worlds i.e. the rurally stable background where their family will be rooted and at the same time employment opportunity in Johannesburg.

The Deputy Secretary was asked to put this thought to the Minister, and as intimated in Paragraph 6 above, indicates that the idea has been discussed with the Honourable the Minister, who has intimated that it is not without merit, and that his Department would be glad to receive the Council's proposals in this connection at an early date.

Before any detailed work is done on the proposal, the matter is submitted for the consideration of the principle involved.

REPORTED FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMITTEE.

WJPC/MH

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