

Advised 28 JAN 1944

MEMORANDUM TO THE FOLLOWING :-

THE SECRETARY FOR THE NATIVE AFFAIRS, MEMBERS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCILS, AND OTHER BODIES.

SIR, TO
SIR,

RE NEW PIETERSBURG

The agreement entered into between the Native Affairs Dept. and the Town Council of Pietersburg on the above mentioned question as a result of the investigation made by Messrs J. Hoid Jong and F.S. Cradwell during April 1941 was made without consulting property owners of New Pietersburg. The New Pietersburg committee was invited by the above gentlemen to a meeting in the Native Commissioner's office during that period, and at that meeting Mr Jong told the committee that the agreement concerned was to protect the interest of Native purchasers who did not have transfers and who from Mr Van Niekerk. Further that Natives who bought plots from other sellers were not affected Mr Bassett the then Native Commissioner also summoned a meeting of the property owners of New Pietersburg at New Pietersburg at a later date and also assured them that the agreement did not affect buyers who had transfers and who bought plots from other sellers other than Mr Van Niekerk whose insolvency had placed purchasers of his plots and the majority of whom did not have transfers in a precarious position. The committee has learned with great astonishment from Mr A.J. Turton the Inspector of Urban Locations representing the Government at a meeting held in the Native Commissioner's office on the 10th January 1944 that the expropriation of plots will include all purchasers outside the proposed reserved area, and Natives who own plots inside the reserved area measuring more than 57ft X 100ft and 57ft by 120ft will also be expropriated. He further stated that all buyers who have more than one plot outside the reserved area will be deprived of the plots for which he they he will get compensation and for the remaining plot he will get a plot in the reserved and also that those in the reserved area who own more than one plot the same will apply to them; and further that Natives who own plots measuring more than 57ft X 100ft will also be expropriated.

The town Council of Pietersburg did not at any time consult the property owners on its intentions. Mr Turton gave two reasons to the committee why the Town Council wishes to divide New Pietersburg into residential and non residential areas, namely :-

- (1) That the town Council would be unable to render services as New Pietersburg measures 216 morgen in extent.
- (2) That the Council wishes to protect three quarters of native Native purchasers who own small plots measuring 103ft X 55ft and 120ft X 55ft in the reserved area.

These reasons were given by the Town Council according to Mr Turton's explanation in asking the South African Native Trust to advance money for the expropriation of the plots concerned.

In answer to the above reasons the committee submits as follows :-

- (1) The property owners of New Pietersburg pay rates to the Municipality which must enable them to render services. The bigger the Township the more rates the Municipality will get and enough for services.
- (2) Mr Turton informed the committee on that day that the Dept of Health has fixed as minimum 60ft X 60ft for plots. So the question of protecting three quarters of the purchasers in the reserved area must fall away because they all own plots measuring at least 103ft X 55.

In conclusion we here under register the following protests :-

- (1) The agreement entered between the Municipality of Pietersburg and the Native Affairs Dept. to which Mr Heald's report of the 15th Dec. 1941 makes several references was made without consulting the property owners and the details of this agreement are up to now unknown by the said property owners.

(2) The property owners of New Pietersburg are strongly opposed to the division of New Pietersburg into a residential and a non residential area proposed by Heald's report , and they feel that this agreement affects their rights of ownership which they aquired long before the agreement . They further wish to point out that the Native Affairs Commission led by the late Dr Roberts in 1932 , on the recommendation of the then Town Council of Pietersburg , and the Joint Council of Europeans and Natives , approved that New Pietersburg be a Native ~~Europ-~~ Township ; and it is felt by the property owners that this agreement approval be upheld .

(4) The property owners are strongly opposed to the question of expropriation as contemplated by the Municipality of Pietersburg . They wish further more to point that the reason why there are not so many houses in the so called non residential area is that for the last four years the Municipality has been refusing to allow property owners to erect new buildings .

(5) The property owners , therefore , humbly request the Government to withdraw the Proclamation whereby New Pietersburg was placed under Section 5 of Act 21 of 1923 as amended and reiterate their previous request that New Pieterbur be recognised a Native Township.

(6) Finally the committee strongly objects to the S.N.T. advancing money to the Town Council of Pietersburg for the sole purpose of expropriating property owners at New Pieterburg as the S.A. was ~~CSA~~ created for the ~~CSA~~ purpose of catering for the welfare of Native people .

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN M. K. Molepo
SECRETARY W. M. Molepo

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