

10.8.13

D/E/10/11

The Regional Secretary,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
106/8 Mutual Arcade,
Main Street,
PORT ELIZABETH.

4th January, 1956.

Dear Mr. Robertson,

TRAINING OF AFRICAN PHARMACISTS

Thank you for your letter of 27 December. The letter from the Provincial Secretary really does not add anything to what we knew already. Two parts of the course are necessary:


a) Theoretical

As the Provincial Secretary states, theoretical training must be provided at a University or technical college. Unfortunately, the future of university and technical training for Africans is at present uncertain. It was contemplated by the authorities that a pharmaceutical course should be instituted at Fort Hare; but it is most doubtful whether anything will be decided until after the proposed Separate Universities Bill has been introduced. Possibly your Alice local committee might discuss this matter with the Fort Hare authorities?

b) Practical

Once the theoretical course is available, provincial authorities can be urged to apply to the Pharmacy Board for recognition of a suitable African hospital dispensary for the employment of African pharmaceutical apprentices.

Yours sincerely,


Muriel Horrell
TECHNICAL OFFICER.

Ref. No.

1) Mr Whyte
2) 174.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (INC)
DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE INSTITUUT VIR RASSEVERHOUDINGS (INGELYF)

To: The Director,
S. A. Institute of Race
Relations,
P. O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

From: The Regional Secretary,
Cape Eastern Region,
S.A. Institute of Race
Relations,
106-108 Mutual Arcade,
Main Street,
PORT ELIZABETH.
27th December 19.56.

TRAINING OF AFRICAN PHARMACISTS

Dear Mr. Whyte,

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DEC 28 1956

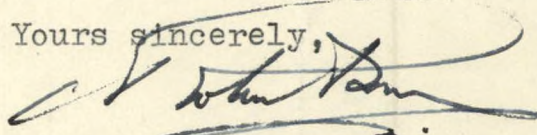
I enclose herewith copy of a letter received from the Provincial Secretary which is the culmination of correspondence with various bodies and authorities, each one trying to "pass the buck".

In view of the final paragraph this Regional Committee cannot take the next step and I therefore pass the matter on to Head Office. If you would like my full file on the matter I can send it on to you on hearing to this effect.

I am sorry that in the rush of other matters lately this communication has been delayed. It should have been sent to you last month; I only discovered the omission when clearing up for the year.

With best wishes to all for the New Year,

Yours sincerely,



REGIONAL SECRETARY.

P.S. I would like to have a short talk with you early in the week when in Cape Town on the matter of the Alice District Local Committee, re. which see Item 5 (b) of Minutes of our Regional Committee of 10th December, 1956.

COPY

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

PROVINCIAL BUILDING,
WALE STREET,
CAPE TOWN.
8th October, 1956.

in reply quote
HS/M. 79.

TRAINING OF AFRICAN PHARMACISTS.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 8th September, 1956, in connection with the abovementioned subject.

Where a dispensary attached to a provincial hospital is recognised by the Pharmacy Board for the employment of pharmaceutical apprentices, it is the policy of this Administration to employ such apprentices for eventual service in provincial hospitals. The Administration is at present investigating the possibility of apprenticing Bantus at certain selected hospitals, but such employment will of course depend on recognition of the hospital pharmacy by the Pharmacy Board and the availability of instructional and laboratory facilities at a local university or technical college.

It must be clearly understood that the Provincial Administrations are not responsible for the provision of laboratory facilities and instruction to such apprentices. These facilities are provided by certain universities and technical colleges which fall under the jurisdiction of the Central Government. As stated, this Administration simply accepts apprentices in its service in its service at certain approved hospitals, and in this respect is, therefore, on an equal footing with privately-owned pharmacies which are allowed by the Pharmacy Board to employ apprentices.

I consider, therefore, that you should approach the Secretary for Education, Arts and Science, Pretoria, with the request that laboratory and instructional facilities for Bantu apprentices be made available at institutions under his jurisdiction.

Yours faithfully,

(signed) for PROVINCIAL SECRETARY.

The Regional Secretary,
South African Institute of Race Relations,
106/108 Mutual Arcade,
Main Street,
PORT ELIZABETH.

D/17/10/11

The Regional Secretary,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
106/108 Mutual Arcade,
Main Street,
PORT ELIZABETH.

28th February, 1956.

Dear Mr. Robertson,

In reply to your letter of 24 February, Head Office has for some years been in touch with the Pharmacy Board and a number of institutions in regard to the training of Non-Whites as chemists.


There are two parts to the training - practical and theoretical. At one time the practical training had to be taken by serving an apprenticeship under a practising pharmacist. It was, of course, difficult for Non-Whites to gain acceptance as apprentices. Following conversations with the Institute's Director, a Reef Municipality agreed to allow a European pharmacist to practise in its African township on the understanding that he would use Non-White assistants; but then another difficulty arose - until he had been practising for a number of years he would not be allowed apprentices. Eventually, some eighteen months ago, the Pharmacy Board agreed to recognize institutional training (eg. in a hospital dispensary) as well as training under a private pharmacist. It is, thus, now possible for Non-Whites to obtain permission to take their practical training in the dispensaries of large Non-White hospitals.

Technical colleges have for some time been prepared to run theoretical classes for Non-Whites provided that sufficient numbers enrolled, that the necessary expensive equipment was available, and that suitable sites for the classes could be found. There have been difficulties under all three of these heads. Over a number of years the Institute has forwarded to the Pharmacy Board the names of Non-Whites whom it knew wished to take the course, in order to demonstrate that a demand does exist. The Board has during the past eighteen months been negotiating with the authorities at Fort Hare and the M.L. Sultan Technical College, Durban. A new degree course in pharmacy at Rhodes University has just been approved, which will make it easier for Fort Hare to inaugurate a course. After much delay a site for new buildings for the M.L. Sultan College has been approved, money for a pharmacy block has been raised mainly by the Indian community, and the authority of the Department of Education, Arts and Science to commence tuition is being sought.

We are keeping in touch with the situation.

I hope that this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,


Muriel Horrell (Miss)
TECHNICAL OFFICER.

Technical Officer
S.A. Institute of Race Relations

2/15/56

MAR 16 1956

J.P.B.
Dear Miss Howell This copy may be of interest

Yours Sincerely
[Signature]

14th March 1956.

The Town Clerk,
City of Port-Elizabeth,
P. O. Box 116,
PORT ELIZABETH.

Dear Sir,

Training and Apprenticeship of African Pharmacists.

At its last meeting my Regional Committee discussed the possibility of finding openings as pharmacists for Africans.

At the moment the large townships of New Brighton have no chemists shops. My Committee wondered whether your Council would not act to secure training for Africans in this profession so that they could fill the vacancies for serving their own people in this field. Since this would be in line with Government policy my Committee feels that your Council should meet with little difficulty in this connection.

My Committee was given to understand that there is an acute shortage of dispensers at the Livingstone Hospital, which is controlled by the Provincial Administration and it was suggested that the dispensary there and also, possibly, the dispensary at the Municipal Clinic in New Brighton might be suitable places where Africans might be apprenticed as part of their training.

My Committee suggests, therefore, that the City Council approaches the Provincial Administration to make provision for training Africans in this profession which is of such great importance to the well-being of Africans in general.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

REGIONAL SECRETARY.

SEP 17 1956

Michael we have a file on this
may I have it?

Ref. No.

1/2/4
2) Mr. Whyte

THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (INC)
DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE INSTITUUT VIR RASSEVERHOUDINGS (INGELYF)

To: The Director,
S. A. Institute of Race
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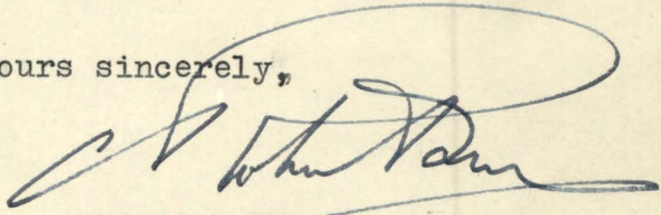
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From: The Regional Secretary,
Cape Eastern Region,
S.A. Institute of Race
Relations,
106-108 Mutual Arcade,
Main Street,
PORT ELIZABETH.
12th September 1956.

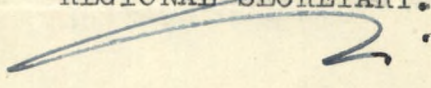
Dear Mr. Whyte,

The attached press cutting acquaints you of developments here in this connection and saves me the trouble of sending you a separate report. Incidentally the interview and the article were both approved by the Regional Committee at its meeting on Monday, 10th inst.

Yours sincerely,



REGIONAL SECRETARY.



Training plan for African chemists

POST Political Reporter

THE South African Institute of Race Relations has written to the Cape Provincial Administration to ask that facilities be provided at Livingstone Hospital, Port Elizabeth, for training African chemists.

There are no African chemists in South Africa. Yet, says the institute, chemist shops are urgently needed in African townships where Whites are barred from owning businesses.

New Brighton is only one such township. Because only Africans are allowed to open new shops in the location and no Africans are qualified, the 60,000 inhabitants have to travel great distances to their nearest chemist.

Main obstacle

The main obstacle is that there is nowhere at present where Africans can be trained and serve apprenticeships.

Mr. A. S. Robertson, regional secretary of the institute in the Eastern Cape, has approached the Technical College. But the college could not provide classes for Africans because of lack of finding separate premises and equipment.

Representations have been made to the Port Elizabeth City Council but the reply was negative.

He has now written to the Provincial Administration to ask whether the authorities will allow Africans to be apprenticed to the staff of Livingstone Hospital.

The authorities have said that White chemists refuse to take on Africans as apprentices, and have used this as an excuse for not providing training facilities.

Dispensing

Mr. Robertson says: "This is not the case. I personally know of chemists in the Eastern Cape who are willing to indenture apprentices if the training facilities are provided."

Some chemists have argued that they would lose customers if they had African apprentices.

But Mr. Robertson points out that there is no need for an apprentice to serve in the front of a shop. The essential work of his apprenticeship is dispensing, and this is done out of sight of customers.

Mr. Robertson adds he knows of at least one chemist who employs an African to serve behind the counter, but will not take on apprentices because of the cost of installing training equipment.

Lucrative trade

Lovedale Hospital would accept apprentices for training, he says, but the college cannot get a single White chemist to train them there. And doctors who do their own dispensing are not allowed to train apprentices.

In the case of African townships, says Mr. Robertson, some African doctors do not want chemists to open up in their areas.

At present, in the absence of African chemists, these doctors dispense as well as prescribe medicines for their patients. This provides an additional and lucrative source of income.

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

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