

NON-EUROPEAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENTCITY COUNCIL OF JOHANNESBURG.SOME POLICY ASPECTS AFFECTING URBAN BANTU ADMINISTRATION
PARTICULARLY IN JOHANNESBURG.A. HOUSING:

Until a few years ago, Bantu in urban areas were able to either purchase houses built by Municipalities in schemes specially approved under this heading, or were able to build their own homes on sites allocated to them, again under schemes specially approved for the purpose. This approach was discontinued in 1967 and Municipalities were instructed to purchase houses so acquired by Bantu as and when these houses were vacated.

No National Housing Funds are made available for this purpose and local authorities are expected to provide in their annual Estimates for this purpose. In Johannesburg some 10 000 houses are involved and it will cost the Council approximately R7-million to purchase all these houses.

The abolition of the self-building and home-ownership schemes is a great pity for the following reasons:-

1. The whole weight of the provision of housing in urban areas now rests on the local authorities and the State, whereas the affluence of some urban Bantu will enable them to build their own homes and so relieve the authorities of the obligation.
2. Home-ownership instills a pride which is so often absent in letting schemes. It is easier for a tenant to damage property which does not belong to him than if the position was reversed.
3. Home-ownership is a capital builder which enables a person to leave something of value to his wife and children.

4. Home-ownership also enables people to convert fairly modest homes to something in which they would like to live, thus also breaking the monotony of low-cost housing schemes in Bantu residential areas.

The lack of home-ownership in urban Bantu residential areas forms one of the main grievances of the urban Bantu. This grievance can be so easily removed with immense advantages to all concerned.

At the recent Conference (11th to 14th January 1972) of the Institute of Race Relations in Durban, the advantages of home-ownership for Bantu in urban Bantu residential areas were repeatedly referred to by speakers in discussing the various papers under the broad heading of "Housing and Human Needs". It became clear at the Conference that there is strong resentment building up on this score, i.e. denying the urban Bantu to own his own home.

B. SCHOOLS:

Local authorities are responsible, in terms of circulars by the Department of Bantu Administration and Development, for the provision of Lower Primary Schools (up to Std. II); Higher Primary Schools (Std. III - VI) and Junior Secondary Schools (Forms I - III). They are to provide classrooms in accordance with the following formula:-

Lower Primary Schools	-	12 classrooms for each 800 families;
Higher Primary Schools	-	16 classrooms for every 1 600 families;
Junior Secondary Schools	-	10 classrooms per 3 200 families.

The funds should be obtained through the Department of Community Development and a school levy can be added to the monthly rental for the repayment of capital and interest in respect of loans obtained from the Department of Community Development. There is a general shortage of State funds and Johannesburg is faced, at the present time, with a shortage of over 700 classrooms.

It is wrong in principle for the responsibility for the erection of Bantu schools in urban areas to be shifted on to Municipalities, particularly if Municipalities are still subject to the numerous controls emanating from Pretoria. There would appear to be a lack of proper communication on this subject between the three State Departments concerned, namely the Department of Bantu Education, the Department of Bantu Administration and the Department of Community Development. Here is an issue which clearly calls for consideration at the highest level to decide whether it is correct in principle, having regard to the facts of the issue, to continue the present system of making the local authorities responsible for the provision of Bantu schools. Far too many authorities are engaged in this matter, hence clumsy and time-consuming procedures and a rising shortage of classrooms.

C. PROFESSIONAL BANTU:

It is policy, as annunciated in a circular during 1969, for Bantu in urban Bantu residential areas to be served by White professional persons, e.g. doctors, lawyers, etc. Bantu medical practitioners and other professional people should practice amongst their own people in their various homelands. Against this background, facilities provided in urban Bantu residential areas are obviously not what it should be and this is another matter giving rise to discontent and grievances.

The policy should rather be to provide proper facilities in urban Bantu residential areas for particularly Bantu medical practitioners to such an extent that again the weight of providing medical services is taken off the Local, Provincial and State Authorities.

D. SKILLED BANTU:

Nothing is being done by the State to provide specific training programmes and projects in urban Bantu residential areas for use in such areas. Again the towns and cities should train Bantu in such numbers that

they "overflow", in a natural way, to the various homelands. Local authorities and the cities which they control, can make a tremendous contribution to the imparting of skills which are necessary, both in urban Bantu residential areas and in the homelands. In fact, towns and cities are the only sources for such skills. In this connection a positive and dynamic programme in urban Bantu residential areas still is necessary, also to counteract the rising tendency of Bantu youths to crime and a life of idleness.

E. ADMINISTRATION:

Although local authorities will be relieved of their responsibilities as the agents of the State in the matter of urban Bantu administration in terms of Act No. 45 of 1971, it is necessary for the State to take a hard look at the procedures involved in Bantu administration in urban areas. For sheer clumsiness it would be difficult to out-do the existing "controls" exercised by Pretoria. The time and energy devoted to the system are enormous and at a time when manpower should be used at maximum efficiency, there is certainly a case to be made out for a review of the procedures operating between local authorities and Pretoria.

In fact, one wonders if the time has not arrived for a "Tomlinson"-type commission to investigate the existing urban Bantu administration machinery in the country, as well as the future of this field of Public administration.

Coupled with this, one wonders if the time has similarly not arrived for a separate Ministry of Urban Bantu Administration, as the demands of large urban Bantu residential complexes have reached the stage where they deserve, in fact demand, special attention.

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