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GRAHAMSTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
C/O PRIVATE BAG 1024
6140 GRAHAMSTOWN
SOUTH AFRICA

June
6 May 1984

The Town Clerk
RHINI TOWN COUNCIL
P.O.Box 376
Grahamstown.6140

Dear Sir

RHINI TOWN COUNCIL'S REFUSAL TO GRANT GRACA THE USE OF
COMMUNITY HALLS IN GRAHAMSTOWN.

- A. On 5 January 1984 your Council cancelled GRACA's booking for 8/1/1984 (Noluthando Hall) without giving any reasons.
- B. On 3 February 1984 your Council confirmed our booking for 5/2/1984, but on the same 5/2/1984 your Council cancelled our booking, without giving any reasons.
- C. Mr P.V.Nkayi booked the 23 and 24/5/1984 for use of Noluthando and Albert Halls, but Mr.Loots refused, giving the following reason: Graca says the Rhini Town Council is a "Toyshop".
- D. Bookings for 30 and 31/5/1984 were refused by Mr.Loots who re-iterated that Graca will never get permission to use the community halls again because Graca says the Rhini Town Council is a "Toyshop". He told Mr. N.D.Sandi that he (Mr Loots) had told Mr.Nkayi the same thing. Mr.Loots refused to take the application letter.

Graca would very much wish to remind your Council one little, but very important thing:

Your Council was elected by no more than 4,6 percent of eligible voters in the Black Townships. This says very much for the type of democracy that obtains in South Africa as a whole. Your undemocratic refusal to grant Graca the use of community halls is testimonial to the fact that only the offspring is a sick thing, but the mother is very much the same.

- (i) Mr. Celliers: Has your Council considered thoroughly the implications of this action in terms of the general profile which the South African Government is trying to display, not only in South Africa, but also to the international community?
- (ii) Mr. Celliers, Graca believes that you have a working knowledge of Administrative Law. Now, in terms of law, how would you justify this blatant deprivation of rights, freedoms and privileges?
- (iii) Graca is aware of the fact that your Council has some discretionary powers, but believes that such powers should have been published according to accepted legal principles so that the people being affected by them could read, and respond to them accordingly.
- (iv) Graca believes that your Council has erred in refusing Graca use of the Community Halls, not only because Graca believes that your Council acted ultra-vires, but also because Graca is the bulk of the people who pay for the Community facilities, including the halls.
- (v) Graca puts it to you, Mr. Celliers, that your Council did not reach a unanimous agreement on the issue of denying Graca the use of the Community Halls. Indeed, the decision was probably made by a large minority - to be specific, Mr. Celliers, it was you and your Mayor who

DA 193.

made this decision.

(vi) Graca believes that for your Council to deny it the use of community halls because Graca says the Council is a "Toyshop" is not only childish, but a further proof that the "Emperor has no clothes".

(vii) Graca deploras going to your meetings to deny you the chance of misleading people- because:

- a. you are exercising your "democratic" right, albeit deceptively;
- b. you will eventually use our attendance and humiliation of your Council as an excuse for calling in your "strong arm"- the Security Police.

(viii) Graca cannot believe why a Rhini Council, backed by such a powerful and ruthless machinery, should not permit Graca- an organization whose back-up is the people and the truth only- the use of community halls. Or, is the truth dangerous?

(ix) Graca cannot believe that your Council is afraid of the people for that will be tantamount to saying that your Council is not supported by the people- a necessary factor for its existence.

(x) Be fair, Mr. Celliers, permit us the use of these halls- consider the principle 'Audi alteram partes'- in the interests of the community. Graca wants to tell the people what it considers to be in their interests, expressly why Graca was formed by the people. By denying Graca use of these halls, whose interest is your Council serving Mr. Celliers? Graca suspects your Council is serving no interests of the Government; no interests of the community; no interests of the East Cape Development Board; no interests of the Rhini Town Council; but the interests of one or two Rhini Town Councillors.

(xi) For advice, Mr. Celliers, assist your Rhini Town Council with information so that its actions do not cause an embarrassment to your seniors and the Government. Graca administrative staff have found the following book very useful in local government issues:

Local Government Law. Volume 1- General Principles.

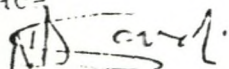
(Meyer, J (B. Admin. M.D)-Assistant Clerk of the Council, City Council of Johannesburg.

(xii) Please be advised that Graca is backed up by a powerful legal team, and has already referred this matter for legal consideration. The reason that makes Graca reluctant to take legal action against Mr. Celliers, is that it is Graca's money that the court will use in its defence. But, if this is absolutely necessary, we will do so because that will be better than buying two cases of beer for the illegitimate Rhini Town Council.

I refer to the 4,6 percentage poll. I will refer back to it in a moment. Dr. Morrison stated that the people of Grahamstown exercise their democratic right when they did not vote. How true. The poll, without doubt, is that they were expressing their acceptance of the previous Council members. Nothing can be further from the truth. The people of Grahamstown stayed away from the polling booths expressly because they do not only reject the Council incumbents, but they reject and abhor the council system itself. In fact, the people go a step further than that: They reject and detest Apartheid, a grand system which has given rise to these councils.

A copy of this letter has been posted to the Chief Director for perusal and consideration.

Yours faithfully
for Graca



Secretary: H. D. SANDI

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