

6 Kalebli Street,
Galeshewe Village,
Kimberley.

17th July, 1969.

My dear Benji,

After speaking to you this morning, I was invited to collect my monthly allowance. Awaiting me at the magistrate's office was a letter from the office of the Minister of Justice. I reproduce it in full:-

Sir,

Re: Your Allowance.

By direction of the Honourable the acting Minister of Justice I wish to inform you that he has approved the payment to you of a further sum of R100:00.

The Minister has been informed, however, that you have rejected an offer of employment by the Kimberley Municipality. This matter is being investigated in order to decide whether the amount which you would have

earned had you accepted the offer should be taken into account in determining future payments to you. A further communication in this regard will be addressed to you in due course.

Yours faithfully,
 ? · Van Wyk
 Private Secretary.

The letter is dated 15th July, 1969 and carries the reference number M.J. 21.

As I said to you, I am not bothered by this. Had I accepted the job - setting aside the political implications - they would in any event have taken the course hinted at. In other words, it would appear that they regard R100:00 as the limit of my earning powers - what Pelsa describes as "standing on my own feet economically". And that, evidently, would have been all I could look forward to for the rest of my life.

As I told you over the telephone I am going ahead with arrangements to serve articles. The news, incidentally, both of my turning down the offer of the municipal job and of my intending to become an attorney, has been warmly received and politically commented upon in African circles even as far as Lesotho! Without exception, our people saw the political implications of a municipal job.

Veronica is still well, as I said in the letter you have not yet received, but is still quite unhappy. She argues that for nine years I've lived under restrictions and for the next ^{least} five years, at least, I'll continue to ~~lead~~ ^{lead} an emasculated life. She is pressing that I apply for an exit permit. She has the support of Zeph. for one.

Her arguments are valid and she and the children are certainly entitled to a better, fuller and freer life. But you know my views on the matter.

We had think (or at least I do), that we may strike a compromise, whereby she and the children may leave on an exit permit on the understanding that I shall follow. As things work out, I may find that I cannot be articles, in which event I shall have no option but to go where I can earn a living.

I am sorry about you and Claudie. I hope there's still time to put matters right. We must have the patience of saints!

The children are leaving to-morrow (Friday) afternoon. Milisawa and Dini will be back on holiday in November, the twins a month later. They have all been down with flu, except Dalindyebo. Milisawa ~~is~~ spent a day in bed but is still showing signs of the flu.

The people here are a lovely lot as I told you. I am at home with them.

By the way, there's talk that this might be declared a Coloured Border Area. Another argument to strengthen

yours and Veronica's case. I'm happy at the office and feel I would enjoy defending some of the cases I have listened to.

Ab's wife, Loretta, has asked me to send her photographs of the family. So has my sister-in-law in P. G. I'd like to send some to my parents as well.

Have you heard that my eldest brother has been appointed Bishop Suffragan of St John's, Umata? He has a tough time deciding to leave teaching (He was then a Sub-inspector) for the ministry. So my choice may not be as foolish as it appears.

We rejoiced at the news of your "release"; though we felt there should have been no need for invented commas.

Sorry about Mandela's son. What misfortunes Nelson has had to endure!

I'll be seeing Dr Amos on Thursday, 24th. Will phone you next week.

Love to Jenny.

Affectionately, Bob.

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