

FEDERATION OF NATIVE WELFARE SOCIETIES
IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

MINUTES of the 17th meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Umtali, at 9 a.m. on Thursday, 21st June, 1945.

ATTEN-
DANCE:

There were present Mr. J.M. Greenfield (Chairman), Mr. P. Ibbotson (Organising Secretary), Mr. H.H.D. Simmonds (Secretary for Native Affairs), Major W. Tysoe (Northern Rhodesia Labour Officer), Major F. Stephens (Nyasaland Labour Officer), Mr. A. H. Elwell (Social Welfare Organiser in Northern Rhodesia) and the following delegates:-

- SALISBURY Mrs. G. Maasdorp and Rev. H. Carter.
- BULAWAYO Mr. J. H. Allen.
- QUE QUE Messrs. W. G. Vowles and R. L. Tollner.
- GWELO Mr. and Mrs. F. Hulley.
- UMTALI Messrs. J. McLoughlin and F. Keene-Young.
- GATOOMA Rev. G. E. Bussell and Mr. J. MacDonald.
- SELUKWE No delegate attended.
- PLUMTREE No delegate attended.
- VICTORIA FALLS No delegate attended.

The Chairman gave a special welcome to the Gatooma delegates and said it was a great pleasure to have the Gatooma Society represented once more at a Council meeting of the Federation.

A number of members of the Umtali Native Welfare Society attended as visitors.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for inability to send delegates were received from the Plumtree and Selukwe Societies.

OPENING:

The Deputy Mayor of Umtali, Councillor D. Catsicas, apologised for the unavoidable absence of His Worship the Mayor, and briefly addressed the meeting. He stressed that the Umtali Municipality was seriously interested in the welfare of the Native population. One of the great difficulties was that of the provision of adequate housing and some financial assistance would be necessary if local authorities were to meet their responsibilities. Last year there was a deficit of £4,000 on the Location Account, but in spite of this, £25,000 had been allocated for necessary extensions. The Umtali Municipality regarded the use of Beer Hall profits for housing as true Native welfare.

The Deputy Mayor welcomed the delegates to Umtali and hoped that success would attend the deliberations.

/Mr. J.M.

Mr. J. M. Greenfield expressed the thanks of the Council to the Deputy Mayor for his address and good wishes.

WELCOME:

The Chairman welcomed Mr. H.H.D. Simmonds after his period of sick leave and said it was a great joy to members of the Council to see him restored to health and strength again. It was a further pleasure to the Council to know that Mr. Simmonds had been awarded the C.M.G. in the recent Birthday Honours and he was heartily congratulated on this well-deserved award.

Mr. Simmonds expressed his thanks for the good wishes and congratulations, which he greatly appreciated. If he had qualified for the award which had been made it was due to the help and co-operation of those associated with him.

1. MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting held in Salisbury on 24th February 1945, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:

(a) Demobilisation and rehabilitation of African Soldiers:

Soon after the previous meeting of the Council the Government scheme of pensions and gratuities had been announced and these were regarded as generous. The sub-committee had met and made further representations on the need for better allowances for members of the R.A.A.C. Labour section on discharge. It was further reiterated that the present method of disposal of African soldiers through local Native Commissioners was entirely unsatisfactory and the establishment of Rehabilitation Committees had been again urged. Courses of training should also be regarded as an integral part of rehabilitation of African soldiers.

The Secretary for Native Affairs addressed the Council and said that the establishment of Rehabilitation Committees was desirable. Government was at present considering schemes to assist African soldiers who were "honourably discharged". These schemes included bursaries at Government schools for those who had enlisted before completing their studies, free land for discharged soldiers, and training for disabled men. The Federation would be notified when definite schemes had been approved. Government had already agreed that those who had been Government employees before enlistment would receive benefit for the period they had served and would be re-engaged at the rates of pay they would have been receiving had they not enlisted. It had already been agreed that members of the R.A.A.C. Labour section would receive 30 days pay, with ration allowance.

/Mr. Carter....

Mr. Carter asked that bursaries should also apply to Mission schools and the Secretary for Native Affairs promised to bear the request in mind.

Major Tysoe pointed out a conflict of instructions regarding the repatriation of non-indigenous Natives. The Prime Minister had stated that they would receive transport to their homes, but a R.A.A.C. circular had been issued stating that transport would be to the border only. Major Tysoe was asked to make representations on this matter to the Secretary for Native Affairs.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE SUB-COMMITTEE BE REAPPOINTED FOR A FURTHER PERIOD TO WATCH THE INTERESTS OF DISCHARGED AFRICAN SOLDIERS.

(b) Employment of African Artisans on Location Buildings:

The Organising Secretary reported that the Salisbury City Council had passed a resolution in favour of the employment of African artisans in the building of Location houses, and the Gwelo Municipality were erecting a number of Location rooms by African labour under Coloured supervision. These developments were noted with satisfaction.

(c) African Representation on Federation Council:

A resolution from the African Conference requesting that two African representatives be allowed to attend meetings of the Council had been circulated to all Societies for comments. Salisbury and Plumtree Societies had supported the resolution and the Bulawayo Society gave support on condition that the Africans were observers only, at any rate for a trial period. Selukwe, Gwelo and Que Que Societies were opposed to the resolution. Gatooma and Umtali Societies had not submitted views.

The Salisbury delegates (Mrs. G. Maasdorp and Rev. H. Carter) spoke in favour of the motion and outlined the benefits which would accrue from two responsible Africans being members of the Council and with full voting powers. If the request were refused it would be acting against accepted principles. Salisbury Society had greatly benefited by having Africans as full members of the local Executive Committee.

Rev. Bussell said the Gatooma Society was in favour of the principle, but certain practical difficulties were recognised even in the working of local Societies.

Mr. Allen indicated that the Bulawayo Society was of the opinion that advance should be step by step and that the two representatives should at first act as observers.

/Mr. Vowles

Mr. Vowles mentioned that the Que Que Society did not object to the principle of African representation but considered that the time was not ripe for such a step to be taken. Mr. Tollner expressed the view that the African representatives should be present only when matters from the African Conference were discussed. Mr. McLoughlin favoured African observers at Council meetings.

Mr. Hulley said that the Gwelo Society supported Que Que in the view that the time was not ripe and expressed the view that if two representatives were allowed, this would soon be followed by a request from the African Conference for an increased number of representatives.

The Secretary for Native Affairs was asked to express his view and indicated that he, personally, was in favour of two African representatives on the Federation Council.

After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Carter replied to the debate and said that he was opposed to the suggestion that the African representatives be only observers and felt they should have full voting powers. He recognised, however, that he would not receive the full support of the Council. He therefore proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Mrs. Maasdorp:-

THAT TWO AFRICAN DELEGATES BE ALLOWED TO BE PRESENT AT THE MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION. SUCH DELEGATES TO BE ELECTED BY THE AFRICAN NATIVE WELFARE CONFERENCE AND TO BE REGARDED AS OBSERVERS FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS. AT THE END OF THIS PERIOD THE WHOLE MATTER TO BE RECONSIDERED WITH A VIEW TO SUCH DELEGATES BECOMING FULL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

The resolution was carried by 7 votes to 4.

The Chairman indicated that though no amendment to the Constitution was necessary, there was nevertheless an important change in practice and felt this ought to be governed by the rule relating to a two-thirds majority. He had not recorded any vote but he felt he should do so, and voted in favour of the resolution, which was thereby carried by 8 votes to 4.

(d) Industrial Conciliation Bill:

A letter had been received from the Secretary for Native Affairs stating that the memorandum submitted by the Federation had been transmitted to the Minister of Internal Affairs and then to the Parliamentary draughtsman, who had replied that Section 30(9) had nothing to do with the representation of Native interests on an industrial council. Native interests were fully protected by the procedure under Section 59. The Secretary for Native Affairs had also drawn attention to the safeguard of Native interests provided by Section 54 of the Bill.

The Organising Secretary said it was now clear that Section 30(9) did not concern the representation of Native interests on industrial councils. He pointed out that the

/provisions

provisions of Sections 54 and 59 were known to the Council and had been referred to in the memorandum submitted to the Government. Some further protection was necessary and he hoped that the Council would re-affirm the previous request that Native interests on industrial councils be represented by a responsible European.

IT WAS RESOLVED TO RE-AFFIRM THE PREVIOUS RESOLUTION THAT NATIVE INTERESTS BE REPRESENTED ON INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS.

2. ANNUAL REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

This report had been approved by the Executive Committee and circulated to delegates. The Chairman called for comments on the report.

It was decided that if necessary the next meeting of the Council should extend to two days.

Mrs. Maasdorp suggested that the work of the Federation was extending and that steps should be taken to secure more support from local authorities, Native Welfare Societies and from Beer Hall profits at mines. Delegates also suggested that the basis of financial support should be broadened. The Chairman said that he had already promised the Executive Committee that he would interview the Secretary for Native Affairs regarding additional financial support from Government.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITIES OF SECURING ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT ON THE LINES SUGGESTED IN THE DISCUSSIONS.

The report of the Executive Committee was accepted.

The Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 11th May and 25th May 1945 had been circulated and were accepted. Two copies of these Minutes to be circulated to constituent Societies.

The Organising Secretary urged that the Agenda of Council meetings and the Minutes of Executive meetings be regarded as confidential to members of constituent Societies, and this was accepted.

3. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS:

The following were elected:-

- Chairman Mr. J. M. Greenfield.
- Vice-Chairman ... Mrs. G. Maasdorp.
- Treasurer Mr. W. A. Carnegie.

The following were elected as members of the Executive Committee:-

/The

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Mr. W. G. Vowles, Rev. G. E. Bussell, Mr. F. Keene-Young and the Organising Secretary.

4. PRIME MINISTER'S URBAN NATIVE POLICY:

The memorandum prepared by the Organising Secretary had been circulated to Societies for comment and suggestions. The Executive Committee had met and given consideration to the views of Societies. A memorandum had been accepted by the Executive Committee and circulated to delegates. The Chairman called for comments and suggested alterations to the memorandum. A number of minor amendments to the memorandum were proposed before submission to Government. (The memorandum as finally accepted is being circulated separately).

5. REPORT ON SURVEY OF NATIVE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY:

The Organising Secretary was commended for his valuable report. After discussion it was decided that the report would be strengthened if it had the support of constituent Societies, and possibly some additional recommendations might be necessary in view of the facts revealed by the survey.

It was decided that the report be studied by Societies and suggestions submitted to the Organising Secretary within a period of two months. The suggestions would be considered by the Executive Committee, and the report, along with the final recommendations, submitted to Government.

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

The Financial Statement for the year ended 31st March 1945, and the Estimate for the year ending 31st March 1946, were accepted.

It was suggested that the method of depreciation be examined and that an official auditor be appointed.

7. RESOLUTIONS FROM SOCIETIES:

(a) African Representation in Parliament:

A Salisbury resolution was discussed asking for delay of any discussion on African Representation in Parliament, and that the Federation appoint a Sub-Committee to investigate the full implications of the Prime Minister's statement and to obtain outside opinion on the whole question.

Delegates pointed out that it was unwise to press for delay as the Prime Minister had already indicated that he would not introduce legislation during the life of the present Parliament.

/The following

The following resolution, submitted by the Bulawayo Society, was adopted:-

THAT THE FEDERATION APPOINT A SUB-COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE FULL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT REGARDING AFRICAN REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT.

The Executive Committee (with power to co-opt) was appointed the Sub-Committee in accordance with the terms of the resolution. It was suggested that information be obtained concerning the schemes in operation in New Zealand, Northern Rhodesia, the Union of South Africa and other African territories. The Committee to report back to the next meeting of the Council.

(b) Avenues of Employment for Africans:

The Salisbury Society had expressed concern with the restrictions imposed on the development and use to the utmost of the skill and abilities of the African citizens of Southern Rhodesia. The principles at issue as applied to avenues of employment were:-

1. Avenues of employment should be decided by the ability of the individuals concerned and not by colour.
2. Any legislation which discriminates on grounds of colour - as does the Industrial Conciliation Act - is not acceptable to the Federation of Native Welfare Societies.
3. Our conception of justice and freedom, remembering that Southern Rhodesia Africans have left the Colony to fight for these principles, entails complete equality of opportunity for all peoples of Southern Rhodesia. "

Rev. Carter supported the views of the Salisbury Society and said that the time had come for the Federation to come into the open and declare its mind on these questions. There could be no question on the principle involved. Major Tysoe mentioned that Africans were employed mainly as unskilled labourers and greater opportunities were required. Rev. Bussell said that the Gatooma Society agreed with the principle, but there was a difference of opinion on the matter of procedure. Mr. Hulley stated that the Gwelo Society was strongly opposed to the views expressed in the resolution. Mr. Allen said that the Bulawayo Society viewed the resolution with grave concern. The Native Welfare movement had made progress, was having an increasing influence on public opinion, and it was unwise to jeopardise the present good feeling. Equality of opportunity might not be the best way. Care and caution should be exercised and further avenues of employment should be explored in detail. Mr. Vowles stated that the resolution, if accepted, would endanger the Native Welfare movement. The views expressed were many

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years ahead of public opinion and the aim should be steady progress.

Mr. Carter pleaded for no discrimination and the maximum contribution irrespective of colour.

The Chairman pointed out that much had been said about agreement with principles involved, but he had serious doubts on this question. He pointed out that there was much legislation which discriminated on the grounds of colour and cited High Court Assessors, Possession of Fire Arms and the Liquor Act. Was it suggested that these provisions were not acceptable? If so, he disagreed.

LUNCH. At this juncture (1.35 p.m.) the Council adjourned for lunch, generously provided by the Umtali Municipality. After lunch Mr. Greenfield expressed the thanks of the delegates to the Umtali Municipality for the provision of lunch, which was greatly appreciated by the delegates. He also thanked the Municipality for kindly allowing the use of the Council Chamber for the Council meeting.

Mr. Greenfield also thanked the Umtali Native Welfare Society for the generous provision of teas, and Mrs. C. P. Forder for all the help she had given in making local arrangements.

Business was resumed at 2.40 p.m. and discussion continued on the Salisbury resolution on Avenues of Employment.

The Salisbury resolution was put to the meeting and was defeated by 7 votes to 2.

Section 4 of the Salisbury resolution was then discussed:-

" 4. The Federation of Native Welfare Societies calls for an unequivocal, authoritative interpretation of all Industrial Legislation including the Industrial Conciliation Act as it applies to the use of skilled African labour. "

It was pointed out that an "authoritative interpretation" of any legislation could only be forthcoming by way of judicial decisions in the Courts of Law. It was claimed that funds would be available to meet legal expenses involved should a Court action arise. The matter was left to the Executive Committee to decide on further action.

8. AFRICAN
CONFERENCE
RESOLUTIONS:

(a) Government Native Hospitals:

"THAT IMPROVED ACCOMMODATION BE PROVIDED FOR AFRICAN PATIENTS WHO ARE ACCUSTOMED TO A BETTER STANDARD OF LIFE. "

/"THAT THE

"THAT THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT GIVE ATTENTION TO THE IMPORTANT QUESTION OF SUITABLE FEEDING OF AFRICAN PATIENTS."

The Organising Secretary was asked to bear these two resolutions in mind in his work connected with the National Health Commission, which was to inspect various Native hospitals throughout the Colony.

(b) Hospital Visitors:

A resolution was submitted asking Native Welfare Societies to appoint representatives to visit regularly Native hospitals. After discussion, the following resolution was passed:-

"THAT NATIVE WELFARE SOCIETIES BE ASKED TO APPOINT AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES TO VISIT REGULARLY THE NATIVE HOSPITALS IN THEIR AREAS WITH A VIEW TO GIVING ASSISTANCE TO PATIENTS. "

The Organising Secretary was requested to draw up a list of duties for visiting Committees.

(c) Native Department:

The following resolution was accepted for submission to Government:-

"THAT EXISTING ACCOMMODATION FOR WITNESSES ETC. AT SOME NATIVE DEPARTMENT OFFICES IS TOTALLY INADEQUATE, AND GOVERNMENT IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION AND COOKING FACILITIES WHERE THESE DO NOT EXIST. THESE FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED WHEN THE NECESSARY MATERIAL IS AVAILABLE. THE DESIRABILITY OF THE SEPARATION OF THE SEXES ALSO TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. "

(d) Kraal Heads - Payment:

The following resolution was submitted:-

"THAT REMUNERATION BE PAID TO KRAAL HEADS FOR THEIR SERVICES IN COLLECTING TAXES AND ASSISTING SUB-CHIEFS. "

It was pointed out that the majority of these kraal heads were appointed at their own request and often to meet their own convenience and for the sake of their own prestige. Travelling expenses were paid where necessary. Certain Africans had expressed their disapproval of this resolution and considered it unnecessary.

It was decided that the resolution be sent back to the African Conference with these explanations.

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(e) Lobola:

The following resolution was accepted for transmission to the Native Affairs Advisory Board, through the Secretary for Native Affairs:-

"THAT THE CHIEF NATIVE COMMISSIONER BE REQUESTED TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO GET 'LOBOLA' BACK AGAIN TO THE OLD SYSTEM AND TO AVOID COMMERCIALISATION OF 'LOBOLA' . "

It was pointed out that the remedy rested with Natives themselves. There had been limitation of lobola under old regulations, but this had been defeated by Natives themselves. It was decided that the responsibility of Natives be pointed out to the African Conference.

The Native Trade and Production Commission had recommended a reduction of 'lobola'.

(f) Essay Competition:

The following resolution was accepted:-

"THAT THE FEDERATION BE REQUESTED TO ARRANGE ESSAY COMPETITIONS FOR THE HIGHER STANDARDS IN AFRICAN SCHOOLS SO THAT MORE AFRICANS MIGHT ACQUAINT THEMSELVES WITH NATIVE WELFARE WORK. IT IS NOTED WITH PLEASURE THAT ESSAY COMPETITIONS HAVE BEEN COMMENCED FOR EUROPEAN PUPILS."

It was agreed that arrangements be left in the hands of the Organising Secretary in consultation with the Director of Native Education.

Mr. J. MacDonald of Gatooma generously offered to contribute the sum of £25. for prizes in the essay competition for Africans. The thanks of the Council were expressed to Mr. MacDonald for his generous offer which was gratefully accepted.

(g) Openings for Africans:

The following resolution was submitted by the African Conference:-

"THAT THE FEDERATION BE REQUESTED TO PRESS FOR THE TRANSLATION OF THE PAPER PRINCIPLE THAT 'AFRICAN INTERESTS ARE PARAMOUNT IN AFRICAN SPHERES' INTO REALITY. THE OFTEN REPEATED OPINION THAT AFRICANS ARE NOT YET FIT FOR RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS IS VIEWED WITH DEEP CONCERN AND IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS THE UNFITNESS OF ONE PEOPLE TO DO CERTAIN THINGS. "

The Secretary for Native Affairs mentioned that Africans had been appointed as Dip Supervisors in certain cases, but the difficulty had been to secure the services

/of Africans

of Africans who had a sense of responsibility. There was also the question of employing Africans as Land Development officers and in other capacities. The Organising Secretary stressed the importance of adequate training for responsible posts.

It was decided that further discussion on the resolution be deferred until a memorandum had been prepared on the Report of the Native Trade and Production Commission.

(h) Race Relations:

The following resolution was submitted by the African Conference:-

"THAT THE GROWTH OF ILLIBERALISM WHICH IS CAUSING UNNECESSARY RACIAL ILL-FEELING IS VIEWED WITH CONCERN. THE FEDERATION IS REQUESTED TO CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS (AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN) COMMITTED TO THE TASK OF DEVISING WAYS AND MEANS OF FURNISHING DATA, INFORMATION AND FACTS CALCULATED TO CREATE SOUND AND HEALTHY ATTITUDES ON RACIAL MATTERS."

Delegates did not agree that the attitude on racial matters was deteriorating, but that the reverse was true and there had been a steady improvement in the attitude toward Africans. One important African organisation had recently paid tribute to the improved relations between Europeans and Africans. Periodical outbursts in the Press were deplored by Europeans just as much as by Africans and local Societies could do much to combat these unreasonable views.

When trained personnel were available, the Federation would consider the employment of an African to work with the Organising Secretary on the lines indicated in the resolution. No trained African would be available until the beginning of 1947 (Rhodesian students from the Jan H. Hofmeyr School of Social Work) and by that time the Federation would have clarified the question of future development.

The Federation was making arrangements for additional clerical assistance for the Organising Secretary and this would give him more time for the type of work outlined in the resolution.

It was suggested that Refresher Courses be arranged for Africans engaged in Native welfare work.

It was resolved that the African Conference be informed of these proposals and suggestions.

(i) Cemeteries in Native Reserves and Native Areas:

A resolution was submitted by the African Conference requesting that the attention of the authorities concerned be drawn to the necessity for cemetery sites in Native Reserves and Native Areas.

/Rev. Carter

Rev. Carter stressed the need for cemetery sites, but Mr. Hulley mentioned that there were pagan burials as well as Christian and different practices and customs were involved.

After discussion the following resolution was passed for transmission to the Native Affairs Advisory Board, through the Secretary for Native Affairs:-

"THAT THE ATTENTION OF THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED BE DRAWN TO THE NECESSITY FOR THE PROVISION OF SITES FOR CEMETERIES IN NATIVE RESERVES AND NATIVE AREAS WHERE NECESSARY AND DESIRED BY THE AFRICAN RESIDENTS OF THE AREA. "

(j) National Council of African Women:

The following resolution was submitted by the African Conference:-

"THAT THE FEDERATION CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AFRICAN WOMEN."

The Organising Secretary was requested to prepare a statement outlining the basis on which such a Council could be formed in Southern Rhodesia.

It was stressed that African women could play a more important part in the activities of local Native Welfare Societies. Mention was made of the importance of African Women's Clubs in the various centres, and this development should be encouraged.

(k) Use of definition 'African' instead of 'Native' :

The following resolution was submitted by the African Conference:-

"THAT THE WORD 'AFRICAN' SHOULD BE USED INSTEAD OF 'NATIVE' AND THE TITLES OF WELFARE SOCIETIES SHOULD BE CHANGED TO 'AFRICAN WELFARE SOCIETIES.' "

Cases of where the use of the word 'African' had caused confusion in England were mentioned, but it was felt that Native sections of the various Societies should express their views before a final decision was reached. It was resolved that this resolution be submitted to the Native sections of the various Societies and that the matter be placed on the Agenda of the next Council meeting.

9. NATIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION:

The Chairman announced that the Organising Secretary had been invited to become a member of the National Health Commission. The Executive had been consulted and had given approval to Mr. Ibbotson serving on the Commission, as it was felt that this would be valuable work.

The Council confirmed the action of the Executive Committee.

/Mr. Ibbotson

Mr. Ibbotson stated that everything possible would be done to keep the work of the Federation office going during his absence on tour with the Commission. Correspondence to be addressed to the Bulawayo office as usual.

10. DATE
AND PLACE
OF NEXT
COUNCIL
MEETING:

It was decided that the next meeting of the Council be held in Gatooma, if convenient, in January or February 1946. If Gatooma was not convenient, Gwelo was suggested as the alternative. The final arrangements to be made by the Chairman and the Organising Secretary.

The meeting terminated at 4.20 p.m.

After tea the delegates were taken on a tour round the Umtali Location and this was appreciated.

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