

I. C. U.  
INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL WORKERS UNION  
YASE NATAL.

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HEAD OFFICE:

DURBAN.

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PHONE 398. CENTRAL.

OFFICE OF General Secretary,

110, Queen Street,

Durban, 25th Oct., 1929.

Mr. J.W. van Aardt,  
Durban.

Dear Sir,

Anent our conversation with further reference to the establishment of the Native Village by the Town Council of Durban, I beg to give you my view which is supported by many of our people.

It is admitted that there is now Native Unrest in Natal which is an echo of the Durban disturbances of June 1929. We are all anxious to eradicate this feeling of Unrest. I, for one, believe I am most anxious more than any one else because of my responsibility with many of my people both in the country and in the towns. I think you are aware of my influence over the Natal and Zululand Natives. I am committed to an unhappy position of being expected by large numbers of Natives of varying degrees to advise and guide them along the right lines.

In my opinion it is essential that we should begin in Durban to make the practical attempt to settle the Native

Unrest /

Mr. Van Aardt.

25th Oct., 1914.

-2-

Unrest. I can believe of nothing which will go a long way to gain this desired end than to have advanced natives buy free hold plots of land just outside the Borough Boundary of Durban. This will give such natives security of tenure and will create that happy feeling of independence in the minds of Natives and generally make them forget many of the irritative bye-laws and talks that are a source of petty ill-feeling which at times grow to the degrees which cause what is now called Unrest.

In Pietermaritzburg Natives have their plots in New Scotland and I am informed that although their Village is not properly laid out, they value this place; hence there are no acute grievances in the City.

I would strongly be in favour of allowing all Natives from Natal and Zululand to be allowed to buy the plots, that is, there should be no restriction.

I would point out that while we have Durban to start this I am certain all other towns would soon realise the wisdom of this step and would soon have genius men like you who would put to the Natives disposal plots of grounds in the way suggested by you in such places as Ladysmith, Dundee and Vryheid and that would automatically confine Natives of each town to their respective Villages.

In /

Mr. Van Aardt.

25th Oct., 1929.

-3-

In my opinion it would be unfortunate if the Hon. Minister for Native Affairs would like to confine the purpose of these plots to only local Natives.

Many plots would be registered under false owners. The Natives who do not live in Durban would get Durban Natives to have registered in their names properties own<sup>ed</sup> by them - outsiders. This is the case in Sophiatown, Johannesburg, where Indians and Chinese are not allowed to own properties. They get irresponsible Natives to register properties on their names and sign big bonds.

I am asking you once more to proceed with this scheme. I would ask you to place all the facts before the Minister as he may not be aware of some of the relevant facts.

Yours respectfully,

General Secretary.

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