

CITY COUNCIL OF PRETORIA.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONNAIRE AND POINTS FOR EVIDENCE BEFORE THE
INTERDEPARTMENTAL ENQUIRY CONCERNING ECONOMIC, HEALTH AND SOCIAL
CONDITIONS OF NATIVES IN URBAN AREAS, SUBMITTED BY THE MANAGER,
NATIVE AND ASIATIC ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT, AND APPROVED BY
THE RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL ON THE 10TH OCTOBER,
1941.

(Note: At a meeting of the Native and Asiatic Administration Committee held on 14th December, 1942, it was agreed that this memorandum be forwarded to the S.A. Institute of Race Relations as expressive of the views of the Pretoria City Council on the various issues involved.)

A. LABOUR.

(1) Only about 20% of the Native workers in the Urban Area are residing with their families in the Urban Locations. Of the remainder, about half (14,000) are domestic servants resident on their employers' premises and the remainder are resident in Compounds and hostels. About another 17,000 workers reside at Lady-selborne, Roberts Heights, Eastwood, Eersterust, Garsfontein, Mooiplaats and other peri-urban areas including domestic servants at Hercules.

(2) There are no seasonal fluctuations in the Native labour market in Pretoria, but :

- (a) Owing to the present huge military establishment in the City, Native domestic servants are practically unobtainable.
- (b) Owing to the present restriction of building operations and capital expenditure generally, there is a considerably less demand for unskilled Native labourers. This factor is however, to a large extent offset by present local building operations relating to the military establishment.

(3) Pretoria, Johannesburg, Durban and a few other Municipalities have Municipal Bantu Servants Registries under the Urban Areas Act. These registries find employment (free of cost to the Natives) for all classes of Native labour (including juveniles). These could easily be expanded into labour exchanges. A Juvenile Affairs Board for Natives could work through this machinery.

B. HOUSING.

(1) Approximately one-third of the Urban Bantu live in the Municipal Locations, about one-third are domestic servants resident on their masters' premises in town, the remaining third live in the Compounds and Hostels (outside the Locations). None live in rented dwellings, in town, outside the locations.

(2) The municipal housing provisions are quite adequate as regards type of housing, sanitation, recreation etc; but, owing to wartime conditions it is impossible to get the new houses expeditiously erected.

At the present moment, there is an immediate and crying need for additional Hostel accommodation for 1,000 male and about 300 female/.....

female Bantu.

(3) The Municipal rents charged to Natives in Pretoria are the lowest in the Union and the New Location Housing offers the greatest amenities in the Union, to Natives. The Atteridgeville rentals are :-

(i)	2	Roomed Houses (Semis)	18/-	per month.
(ii)	3	" "	(Semis)	23/-	per month.
(iii)	3	" "	(Single)	25/6d	per month.
(iv)	4	" "	(all single)	28/-	per month.

The above rents include, "inter alia" :-

- (a) A sewered W/Closet and a bath room integral in each house and also a sewered washing area to each house.
- (b) Water laid on to each house.
- (c) Electric light in every room, with separate switches in each house. Current left on all night and day.
- (d) Free medical services and medicine when required.
- (e) Tarred main roads, and street lighting.
- (f) Free municipal rubbish bin to each house, and a house to house (bi-weekly) rubbish removal service.
- (g) Municipally maintained sports grounds and Boys and Girls' Clubs.
- (h) Every house carries a (No. 7) coal stove free of cost to the lessee.

When moving the present householders (about 700) to Atteridgeville from Marabas, during the past 12 months, their Service Contracts showed :-

- (a) That the average wage of a family head was £4. 5. 0. per month.
- (b) That the average increment to the family head's wages from the earnings of his wife and children was £1 per month, making the average earnings per family £5. 5. 0. per calendar month.

It will thus be seen that the inclusive monthly rentals of the 2 roomed and 3 roomed semi-detached houses do not exceed the well known economic limit of 20% of the workers wages.

The transport is an extra item. The Municipal subsidy is 4/- per monthly bus tickets and 1/- per weekly bus ticket, between Atteridgeville and Town. The cost of these tickets (after reduction by subsidy) is 10/- per monthly bus ticket and 2/9 per weekly season ticket.

Until the present loss on the Council's model Native Housing Scheme has been finally ascertained, no further rent reductions can be made without a Government subsidy.

(4) There is no overcrowding, except in the few remaining houses in Marabas which are being demolished as rapidly as wartime conditions permit. Each lodger family removed from the old Location is provided with a house of its own in the New Location. In this way, overcrowding in the New Location is avoided. This obvious remedy is often overlooked by Urban Local Authorities when building New Locations, the number of new houses to be erected often being computed from the number of old houses to be demolished.

A final remedy for overcrowding lies in the lodgers' licence (not lodgers' permit). Here, no householder may keep lodgers unless he obtains a lodgers' licence. No lodgers' licence is issued unless the Location Superintendent is satisfied that the lodgers (to be specified in the licence) may be kept by the householder without overcrowding his dwelling.

These remedies can only be successfully applied where sufficient houses are provided for every Native family lawfully resident within the Urban Area.

Finally, the traditional hospitality of the Bantu, will always cause temporary overcrowding from visitors, especially during the week-end. Pretoria and many other Urban Areas provide for a

"visitors/....

"visitors permit" but it is practically impossible to apply this regulation, which regulation is also deeply resented by the Bantu.

(5) In Pretoria, there is such a substratum. It would not, however, embrace more than 5% of the Bantu workers. This class of Native worker could effectively be catered for under my answer to question 6.

(6) Yes, I would favour the creation of such villages, provided :-

- (a) They were situated on or near an existing railway line, and not more than 10 or 12 miles from a town.
- (b) The plots to be freehold and not less than 1 to 1½ acre in extent (one-third to one-half of a morgen).
- (c) The plots to be owned and sold to the Natives by the Urban Local Authority, so as to prevent the Natives from being exploited by speculators in land. I believe suitable land could be obtained for about £40 per morgen. The plots could be sold at cost plus 6% per annum interest spread over 20 to 25 years, and the cost to the Native would be about 1/- per month.
- (d) Economic Building Loans (for materials only) to be given up to a limit of £60. Amount to be spread over 20 to 25 years plus 5 or 6 per cent per annum interest. This would cost the Native about 5/- per month. These loans to be given under the O.F.S. System.
- (e) The terrain of the site to be as follows :-
 - (i) The soil to be suitable for gardening.
 - (ii) The subsoil to be suitable for a good scientific type of fly-proof pit privy (there is such a type at present on the market).
 - (iii) There must be ground, nearby, suitable for brickmaking by Natives.
- (f) All building to be according to varied types of approved stock plans and fixed building instructions and all building materials and operations to be simply supervised (as in the case of the O.F.S. System).

Such villages could be established by the Urban Local Authorities, if the Government made funds available for them and amended Section 1(1)(b) of the Natives Urban Areas Act by the deletion of the words : "the lease of" in the middle of line 5 of said paragraph of said section.

Government to be by the Urban Local Authority through a "Village Superintendent", an elected Village Advisory Board with its own Native Chairman to advise him and the Town Council through him on all matters affecting the welfare of the Native inhabitants of such Villages.

Such a scheme would be a fair 5% or 6% investment for the Government or the Urban Local Authority and would satisfy all the housing needs of the Urban Natives at a price within the means of the poorest of them.

C. HEALTH SERVICES AND NUTRITION.

(1) There are very adequate Native hospital, clinics (all types) and nursing services in Pretoria serving both the town and the location.

The dental services are, however, inadequate, in so far as they only permit of free extractions of teeth at the Native Clinics and not free stoppings.

Also, there should be provision of free eye examinations and spectacles to the poorer class of Natives.

Finally, European Medical Officers will not live in or at Native Locations. The location clinics should therefore be complemented by resident Bantu Medical Practitioners to visit and prescribe for Bantu who cannot come to the clinics or who are taken ill out of clinic hours. Such Bantu Medical practitioners

should/.....

should be encouraged by a small retainer fee (say £150 per annum) and a low scale of charges could be conditional to this subsidy.

(2) Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics presently provide fairly adequately for the Pretoria Urban Natives. These clinics are well patronised. The projected and approved Poly-clinic, the Child Care and Homecraft Training Institution, and the Place of Safety and Detention in Atteridgeville will supply any present minor deficiencies in this matter :-

- (a) The Child Care and Homecraft Training Institution (£9,500). This consists in 3 units namely:

A Creche,
A Nursery School,
A Special Kindergarten.

Working mothers may leave their children in any of the 3 units for the day. In any case, a child passes from one unit to the other according to its age. At the age of one month, the infants are received into the creche, while at the age of 7 years they pass out of the special Kindergarten into the ordinary primary school grades. These units are built under the same conditions as those for the Public Schools. In addition, the Department of Social Welfare has agreed to give a feeding grant of 6d. per day per child in the Institution.

The institution will be fed from the primary schools which will send classes of Girls for "so Many" one-hour periods per week to train as Nursemaids and domestic servants at the Institute where there will be large kitchens and laundries for the cooking of the food of the inmates and the laundering of their clothes. From Std. 5, young girls can attend the Creche, kitchens, etc. to train as Nursemaids and domestic servants under qualified Bantu Nurses and domestic science mistresses. There will however, be, in this case, one European Lady Superintendent - probably resident at the Institute.

In addition, High School Girls can do their first year General Nursing and their maternity course at the Creche and the Polyclinic- next door, which Polyclinic will provide all the necessary medical supervision and hygiene lecturers for the Institute. The S.A. University Diploma in domestic science may also be studied for in the Institute. There will be a special competency certificate for Nursemaids and domestic servants.

- (b) A Polyclinic to cost about £12,000, consisting in all branches of preventative medicine and also having 2 fair sized emergency wards for emergency maternity and casualty cases and also with, we hope, a Resident Medical Superintendent.
- (c) A Place of Safety and Detention for Bantu Juveniles pending the order of the Court. This is fully planned and approved at a cost of £6,000, and we hope all the money will be forthcoming by the end of this year.
- (3) The staple items of diet of the Urban Bantu are :-
- (a) Mealie meal.
 - (b) Meat and offal (about 3 times per week).
 - (c) Tea, coffee, sugar and milk, usually in very small quantities.
 - (d) Kaffir Beer. About a quart to 3 pints per day, if obtainable cheaply enough.
 - (e) "Motoho" (sour porridge - containing a small quantity of Kaffir Corn malt).
 - (f) A little fruit and vegetables when obtainable cheaply enough.
 - (g) A little bread (rarely).
 - (h) Maheu (about one gallon per day per adult worker).

The Native can purchase all his nutritional needs at the

usual/.....

usual (mostly controlled) prices. There are about 17 Native shops of all types in the old and New Locations.

(4) Yes. Native Markets containing some dozens of stalls have been planned and approved both for the Town (adjoining the central beerhall) and the New Location. These improvements will be shortly built.

(5) Yes. Native Co-operative Societies would be the best solution. We have one registered in Pretoria, but it has not yet started to trade. The trouble is that practically every able-bodied Urban Native wants to trade or hawk on his own account and he shows little if any interest in Co-operative Societies. This is a great pity. The existing Native traders would strenuously object to a system of specially low controlled prices for Native stores. Municipal Trading would not result in much lowering of the price level of staple commodities and would be very much resented by all the Urban Bantu.

(6) Yes. The present free distribution of surplus oranges to Natives in Pretoria and its environs has proved a great success and has been deeply appreciated by the Bantu. This example should be followed in the case of surplus crops of all kinds, when such surplusses occur. Such surplusses should never be destroyed or allowed to deteriorate in storage.

(7) Communal Feeding for families would not work in locations. It would be against Bantu tradition. Even where polygamy exists, each wife must have her own fire and cook her meals separately from the others.

If I remember rightly, communal kitchens were built for Bantu in Cape Town, several years ago, and were completely boycotted by the Urban Bantu. The same remarks apply to the communal washing places for Location washerwomen built in the Northern O.F.S. about 15 years ago.

Communal feeding however, could and should be introduced in all Urban Hostels for single Natives. Here, in the case of a hostel containing 500 to 1,000 single Natives, the inmates could be well fed communally for about 5d. per day per head, whereas their present feeding costs, singly or in small groups amount to about 10d. to 1/- per day per head.

(8) The wholesale price of milk in Pretoria is very high (1/4d per gallon). A Municipal milk depot and Bar has however been approved and planned for Atteridgeville (the New Location). In this depot milk will be sold at cost (presently about 1/5d. per gallon at the Location). The average Urban Bantu cannot afford to pay more than 1/- per gallon or 1½d. per pint.

(9) I do not favour extensive gardening facilities in sewered locations owing to the large additional cost of sewers and roads; but, I do favour such extensive gardening facilities in a Native Freehold Village as outlined by me in my answer to B (6).

(10) No stock is kept in the present Locations. There was not sufficient available grazing ground for stock on the scale on which Natives (with their traditional love for cattle) would keep such stock. Stock should however be freely kept by Natives in a Village such as that outlined by me in my answer to B (6), and the site of such a village should embrace sufficient grazing lands for stock.

The present location inhabitants are allowed to keep a reasonable amount of poultry in suitable runs and poultry houses.

D. TRANSPORTATION.

(1) An adequate bus service exists which brings the Atteridgeville Bantu into the centre of town. The cost of such transport to the Bantu has been dealt with in my answer to B (3).

A great additional transportation service might be a railway from Atteridgeville serving Pretoria West, Boom Street Central and Pretoria Central linking up with the existing railway services to Ladyselborne, Rissik, Kilnerton, Silverton and Roberts Heights.

A cheap/.....

A cheap season ticket or a heavily subsidised season ticket should be made available to Bantu workers having to use these routes and the cost of such ticket or subsidy thereon should be made legally payable by the European employer of each Bantu worker affected. A railway service, however, always lacks flexibility.

(2) The monthly season railway ticket of a Bantu worker between Orlando or New Brighton and Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth respectively, is 8/- for the 8 miles involved. This still forms too high an item in the Urban/Worker's budget and half this cost should be borne by each European employer concerned (unless the wages of the Urban Bantu worker is to be considerably raised). This will not form such a considerable burden upon the employers either, because about 50% of the average Bantu Urban Location dwellers will still use bicycles, even if the bus or rail season ticket costs as little as 4/- per month.

E. EDUCATION.

(1) The best answer to this question is the following short description of the Pretoria Bantu Public School System (the only one of its kind in the Union) :-

Four years ago, we all thought that we would achieve only a United School here in Pretoria; but, we found our Missionaries quite willing to adopt the scheme for a Bantu Public School System for the New Location. We must all take off our hats to-day to the old Mission School Superintendents who, after having borne the burden and heat of the day as far as the education of our Bantu is concerned and pioneered Bantu education, have nobly sunk all thought of self and religious sect and unanimously supported our Bantu Public School Scheme.

We have also heartily to thank our Provincial Administration and the Native Affairs Department of the Central Government for having done away with school fees in our Bantu Primary Schools. This step was I think expedited by the evolution of the first Bantu Public Schools. Each of these schools has a school Committee of 7 parents of children attending that School. This Committee is elected by an annual parents' meeting. The Chairman of the School Committee is nominated by the Education Department. It was fitting that that Department should and did nominate each of our old Missionary Superintendents to the Chairmanship of the first School Committees, thus paying tribute to the splendid contribution made to the education of the Bantu by the Christian Missionaries over the last 3 centuries. In addition, the Urban Local Authority nominates one member to each school Committee. Needless to say, this member should be and here is the Location Superintendent.

The School Committees are co-ordinated through the Governing Body of Bantu Schools for the Urban Area. This body consists in the Chairman and one member of each school Committee, 2 Education Department representatives, and representatives of the Locations Advisory Board and the Urban Local Authority.

We presently have 3 such public schools already built in our New Location (one High School and 2 Primary Schools). Five more primary schools are to be built "pari-passu" with the erection of the new houses so that there is no question of there being any lack of school facilities for any of our Urban Bantu children. Each school is built upon the most modern lines and takes 500 school children. The High School is also designed to take 500 children and is fed from the primary schools.

All the schools are built by the City Council out of economic loan funds, the Transvaal Education Department paying the Council 6% per annum interest on the capital outlay, as rent, for as long as the buildings are used as schools. The Transvaal Education Department pays all cost of maintenance, staff and equipment. We use solely Bantu Staff, all well qualified and experienced men, some being graduates as well.

(2) Yes. The problem will be partly solved in Pretoria by the Child Care and Homecraft Training Institution. Here, there will be evening lectures for adults in child care, family budgetting, use of cheap but nutritive food, social hygiene and the use of existing social and health facilities.

Our main deficiency here is lack of grants for ordinary night schools to teach the adult Bantu (especially domestic servants) to read and write. Almost one hundred per cent of our Amalaitas which cause so much trouble with their gang fights on Sunday afternoon are young house and garden boys fairly fresh from their kraals. Their leaders, gang organisation and fights are merely a continuation in town of the "Mampoli" boys and their gangs at the rural Bantu Villages. There they cause little nuisance, but in town and cities they cannot be possibly allowed. They will not join the boxing, soccer, cricket, tennis, indoor games or any other of the Clubs supervised by the Municipal Bantu Sports Organisers. The only cure is to educate them so that they will seek a more elevated type of recreation. We presently have several Bantu School Teachers giving most of their spare time (without any remuneration) holding night schools for these young Bantu domestic servants, in garages throughout the town, complementary to the garage religious services. It is high time that something tangible be done to assist in this matter.

F. SOCIAL SERVICE.

(1) The question as to how the Natives pass their leisure time, is answered by my reply to the next question.

(2) There is a full-time Bantu Sports Organiser with 2 (Bantu) Assistants to organise and supervise Bantu Sports in the Urban Area. The list of sports grounds etc. has already been given in my answer to the Committee's statistical questionnaire. The following is a list of the existing Bantu sports and recreation Clubs in Pretoria :

(a) Soccer (adults): 25 clubs	(total membership, 1,000 approx)
(b) Cricket : 2 clubs	(total membership, 60 approx)
(c) Tennis : 7 clubs	(" " 100 ")
(d) Golf : 3 clubs	(" " 150 ")
(e) Boys' and Girls' Clubs (indoor games)	(" " 300 ")
(f) Basket Ball : 7 senior clubs, 7 junior clubs	(" " 100 ")
(g) Soccer (Junior League) 14 clubs	(" " 250 ")
(h) Boxing Clubs : 6 (3 junior and 3 senior clubs)	(" " 150 ")
(i) Hockey Clubs : 2	(" " 50 ")
(j) Libraries, Homecraft Classes, and African Bisteddof Committees and a soup kitchen.	

All these Clubs are sponsored and supervised by the Urban Local Authority.

(3) There is presently no security offered to the Bantu during periods of unemployment, old age and invalidity; except very few and inadequate monthly pauper relief grants (usually 5/- per month or less). The City Council also pays a gratuity to its superannuated Bantu employees. This gratuity amounts to one week's pay per year of service.

(4) There are no Social Welfare agencies in Pretoria to protect the interests of the Urban Bantu. I believe that the Department of Social Welfare has made a start in this direction.

My recommendation, in this connection, is that the Bantu are entitled to the same Social Welfare Agencies as those presently existing for European and Coloureds.

(5) To the best of my belief and experience, the provisions of the Children's Act only come into operation as regards the Urban Bantu when the Urban Bantu Children have already become juvenile delinquents.

I do/.....

I do favour suitable extensions under the existing Children's Act better to meet the social welfare needs of Urban Bantu Children.

(6) Yes, Creches for the infants of Urban Bantu working mothers are most essential, because the vast majority of such mothers have to work out of sheer economic necessity. Please here refer to my answer to C (2) (Child Care and Homcraft Training Institution).

Finally although the question of the wages of the Urban Bantu is not being dealt with by this Committee of Enquiry, should not the employers be called upon to lessen the social and economic evils among the town Bantu by an increase in wages, especially of the unskilled Bantu labourers?

J.R. BRENT.

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NATIVE AND ASIATIC ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT.
CITY COUNCIL OF PRETORIA.

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