

9,4,4,4

1-3 Wimpole Chambers,  
76 Kruis Street,  
JOHANNESBURG,

3rd February 1931.

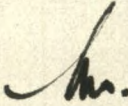
J.D. Rheinallt Jones, Esq.,  
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,  
Council of Education,  
WITWATERSRAND UNIVERSITY.

Dear Sir,

VENEREAL DISEASES, NATIVES AND COLOURED PERSONS.

I am sending you herewith copy of a draft letter which it is proposed to send to the Secretary for Public Health in furtherance of the provision of treatment facilities for Venereal Diseases amongst Natives. Will you kindly peruse the draft letter and, if you concur, return same signed to me with as little delay as possible?

Yours sincerely



L. ERASMUS ELLIS,

Convener.

(DRAFT).

The Secretary for Public Health,  
Union Buildings,  
PRETORIA.

Sir,

VENEREAL DISEASES, NATIVES AND COLOURED PERSONS.

In connection with the treatment of Venereal Diseases amongst Native and Coloured Persons, you will recall that the subject was first brought to your notice by Dr. E.H. Cluver in his minute No. 702/13 of the 24th March 1930, and the minute to you of the Medical Officer of Health, Johannesburg, dated 9th April 1930. To the suggestions made in these minutes you replied in your C.T.487 of 1st May 1930. Thereafter the Medical Officer of Health, Johannesburg, went more fully into the matter in his minute to you of 8th May 1930, to which you replied in your minute C.T.611 of 28th May 1930, and later in your No.175/93/9 of 18th July. In the latter minute you intimated that "the matter will be re-considered in connection with the Estimates for the next financial year." Subsequently, the City Council, on the advice of its Medical Officer of Health, adopted at its own expense, a modified scheme at a cost of £580 for its financial year 1930-31, for the provision of a venereal disease clinic for Native and Coloured females only at the Out-patient Department of the Johannesburg Non-European Hospital.

On 19th November, 1930, Dr. Erasmus Ellis of Johannesburg, representing the Rotary Club, addressed you requesting the Minister to receive a deputation representative of various bodies, including the City Council, Medical Association of S.A. (B.M.A.), Rotary Club, etc., etc. In reply to Dr. Ellis, the Acting Secretary replied on 24th November 1930, as follows:-

"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your  
"letter of the 19th inst. addressed to Dr. Mitchell  
"regarding the establishment of a Non-European Clinic  
"for Venereal Diseases in Johannesburg, and to inform  
"you that the Minister considers that a deputation  
such -

"such as suggested by you would not serve any useful purpose at the present.

"In view of the financial stringency at the moment no increase of expenditure can be contemplated."

This decision on the part of the Government would appear to denote, viewed in terms of your Minute to the Medical Officer of Johannesburg dated 19th July 1930, that whilst the Government could not consider the proposed scheme for its financial year 1st April 1930 to 31st March 1931, it was prepared to re-consider the matter in connection with the Estimates for 1931-32. Whilst it is not possible for the representatives of the different bodies interested to interview the Minister at Cape Town before the Estimates are framed, it is for that reason that they venture to ask you to bring again the question to the notice of the Minister.

The necessity of making proper provision for the early treatment in clinics and elsewhere of Natives in Johannesburg suffering from Venereal Diseases in communicable form hardly requires to be stressed. A comprehensive scheme to achieve this object at a cost to Government of not more than £1200 p.a., has already been submitted to you by the Medical Officer of Health, Johannesburg, and has received the approval of the City Council of Johannesburg. As representing various public bodies, we would, therefore, be very grateful if you would draw the attention of the Hon. The Minister to this very urgent matter, with the request that funds be placed on the Estimates for the complete carrying out during 1931-32 of the scheme already elaborated.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servants,

988

160 (Health).  
(Gesondheid).

Telegraphic Address } "HEALTH."  
Telegramadres



In reply please quote :  
Vermeld in u antwoord asb. 1

All Communications to be Addressed to the  
SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.

Alle briewe moet gerig word aan die  
SEKRETARIS VAN VOLKSGESONDHEID

745/339/9.  
No.....

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.—UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH,  
DEPARTEMENT VAN VOLKSGESONDHEID,

P.O. BOX/POSBUS 386,

PRETORIA.

17-8-1939

Sir,

Treatment of Venereal Disease.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd August, 1939, and to state that, /a District Surgeon will treat free of charge both Europeans and non-Europeans who are suffering from venereal disease and who are not easily in a position to pay for such treatment. In actual practice, in so far as non-Europeans are concerned, it can be safely stated that the great majority, if not all, non-Europeans receive treatment free of charge.

In local authority areas where schemes for the treatment of this disease are in operation, in terms of section 66 of the Public Health Act, No. 36 of 1919, application for treatment should be made to the Medical Officer of Health of the local authority concerned, and the same principle regarding payment as stated in paragraph one above will apply here.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

for SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.

Senator the Hon. J.D. Rheinallt Jones,  
South African Institute of Race  
Relations (Incorporated),  
P.O. Box 97,  
Johannesburg.

August 3rd, 1939.

The Secretary for Health,  
Union Department of Public Health,  
Union Buildings,  
P R E T O R I A

Dear Sir,

TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASES

I shall be grateful if you will inform me if District Surgeons are expected to give free treatment to persons suffering from venereal diseases. I have received enquiries on this point and I shall be glad to be placed in a position to give this information from time to time.

Yours faithfully,

18th August, 1939.

The Secretary for Health,  
Department of Public Health,  
P.O. Box 386,  
PRETORIA.

Dear Sir,

Treatment of Venereal Disease

I am very grateful to you for your  
letter of the 17th instant No. 745/339/9 and for the  
information which you so kindly convey.

Yours faithfully,

JDRJ/MM

**Collection Number: AD1715**

**SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation*

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

©2013

**LEGAL NOTICES:**

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document forms part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.