

Draft letter for consideration of committee

Native Youth Board

Dear Sir/Madame

Adapted with deletion
of reference to complex
regulations. 5/12/50

We deeply regret that we have not as yet been able to meet the demand for domestic servants. In spite of the present unemployment among African youths we find there is now such a strong dislike of this type of employment that boys accept it only as a last resort. Such boys may not prove reliable & we are, therefore, reluctant to recommend them.

There are many reasons for the growing unpopularity of domestic service, among which may be cited irregular hours, uncertain conditions of pay, lack of recreational facilities & the increasing expense, difficulty & even danger involved in travelling to visit relations or friends. Unfortunately, a few bad domestic employers obtain far more publicity than many good ones & Johannesburg has continued to expand with little if any attention being paid to the ~~needs~~ needs of its African domestic servants.

While the Youth Board does not regard domestic employment for African youths as an end in itself, it is trying to persuade

suitable youths that it can be a valuable means to an end in as much as they can support themselves without being a burden to their families until they are old enough & experienced enough to obtain permanent adult employment ^{of a type} that will offer them a chance to develop a family life of their own.

However, the difficulties of overcoming the youths' fear & dislike of domestic employment are great. Few employers realise how greatly changed are the present conditions of the urban African domestic servant compared even with conditions immediately pre-war. There are more & more European townships & less & less open space for the use of servants in their off premises, while non-European transport services are more & more congested. Also, the more rigid application of the many complex laws & regulations relating to Africans have given rise to a sense of personal insecurity, especially with younger Africans who can hardly be expected to master complex regulations that even few Europeans understand fully. So much so in fact, that African youths prefer to stay in an environment with which they are familiar, even if this means unemployment.

The Youth Board is doing all in its power to remedy the situation & if we have we ask your indulgence if we have not been able to help you personally.

Draft letter for committee

Native Youth Board

Dear Sir/Madame

NATIVE YOUTH BOARD

(Sponsored by Social Services Association of South Africa, Johannesburg Branch)

Chairman: Dr. Ray E. Phillips
Treasurer: Mr. W. J. P. Carr
Secretary and Employment
Officer: Mr. Howard Mehlomakulu
Field-Officer: Mr. William Mbhata

3 POLLY STREET
JOHANNESBURG

Telephone 22-2676

20th September, 1950.

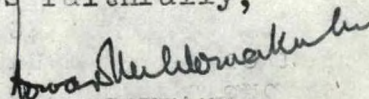
Mr. H. W. S. Marshall,
P. O. Box 7794,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed for your information a copy of the suggested proposal put forward at the last meeting of the Board by Mr. Peter Bormann regarding Farm Work Camps for Secondary and High School pupils during vacation periods. It was decided that this material, edited by the Chairman, be circulated to members.

I am also enclosing a copy of the letter prepared by your Sub-Committee for circulation to employers in the Johannesburg area. Several hundred of these are being posted to employers of large numbers of African workers.

Yours faithfully,


SECRETARY.

NATIVE YOUTH BOARD

(Sponsored by Social Services Association of South Africa, Johannesburg Branch)

Patron: Sir George W. Albu, Bart.
Chairman: Dr. Ray E. Phillips
Treasurer: Mr. W. J. P. Carr
Secretary and Employment
Officer: Mr. Howard Mehlomakulu
Field-Officer: Mr. William Mbhata

3 POLLY STREET

JOHANNESBURG

Telephone 22-2676

Dear Sir,

The Native Youth Board is an organisation sponsored by the Johannesburg Branch of the Social Services Association of South Africa. On the Board are representatives of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce, the Municipal Native Affairs Department, Rotary, The Jewish Board of Deputies, the Juvenile Court Magistrate, the Chief Native Commissioner, the S. A. Trades and Labour Council, and various Social Agencies.

There are to-day thousands of older Native Juveniles whose homes are in the Johannesburg area and yet who are not in School and are unemployed. In the absence of regular, gainful employment, some of these lads are certain to drift into delinquent and criminal ways. We feel that these youths should be given preference over those who live outside Johannesburg when employers require workers.

The Native Youth Board keeps a register of Native employable juveniles and assists such youths to obtain employment and give satisfaction to employers. It is working along other lines to reduce the causes of juvenile delinquency among urban Natives.

The Board has already met with success in its efforts and is now, after some two years, an established organisation. Your co-operation in this work is requested, particularly in the following ways:-

- (1) If you have employment openings which might be filled by keen lads from the Native Townships, please get into touch with the Employment Officer at 3, Polly Street, Johannesburg (Phone 22-2676). The Board endeavours to obtain information on the background and capabilities of individuals and recommends them accordingly.
- (2) Please let the Board know whether any youth it recommends gives satisfaction. Our staff is limited and this will ease greatly the work of keeping a check on the youths who are placed by the Board.

Finally, we would like to emphasise that the Board is not a commercial organisation and makes no charge for the services of which it hopes you and other employers will make increasing use.

Yours faithfully,

CHAIRMAN.

TO EMPLOYERS OF JUVENILE AFRICAN LABOUR

Dear Sirs,

The Native Youth Board is an organisation sponsored by the Johannesburg Branch of the Social Services Association of South Africa. On the Board are representatives of both the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and the Municipal Native Affairs Department.

Aims of the Board include the keeping of a register of African juveniles in the Johannesburg area, the assisting of such youths to gain employment, the occupation and, when possible, training of such youths as may be waiting for employment and, generally, the study and improvement of the African juvenile employment situation, particularly with a view to reducing causes of juvenile delinquency among Africans.

The Board has already met with success in its efforts and is now, after some two years, an established organisation. Your co-operation in this work is requested, particularly in the following ways:

1) If you have employment for African juveniles, please get in touch with the secretary at 3, Polly Street, Johannesburg (Phone 22-2676). The Board endeavours to obtain information on the background and capabilities of individuals and recommends them accordingly.

(2) Please let the Board know whether any youth it recommends gives satisfaction or not. Our staff is limited and this will ease greatly the work of keeping a check on the youths who come under the notice of the Board.

Finally, we should like to emphasise that the Board is not a commercial organisation and makes no charge for the services of which it hopes you and other employers will make increasing use.

Yours etc.

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