

TEXT OF AN ADDRESS TO THE ROODEPOORT ROTARY CLUB
ON FRIDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY, 1960.

Mr. President, I would like to thank you for this opportunity of addressing your Club, and of meeting your members.

This afternoon I would like to deal with two matters in connection with the administration of Bantu affairs in Johannesburg which, I think, will be of interest to your members. Firstly, I want to deal with the increase in the numbers, and the change in the constitution, of the Bantu population in Johannesburg, and, secondly, to deal with certain aspects of the distribution of Kaffir Beer.

So far as the population is concerned, if we take our starting point as being the turn of this century we find that the Non-European population of Johannesburg was 72,279. Of these 64,664 were males, of whom 3511 were below the age of 15. The female population was 7615, of whom 2505 were

were under 15. Of the Non-Europeans 59,605 were Bantu.

By 1910 the Native population had increased to 101,971 the proportion still being approximately ten males to every female. In 1927 the population was 117,700 males and 19,000 females - six to one. Twelve years later, in 1939, it was 179,000 males and 65,000 females - three to one, and by 1946 the total was 395,331, of whom 211,322 were men, 100,000 women and 83,909 children. By 1959 the population had increased to 560,408 of whom 241,344 were men, 143,579 women and 175,485 were children. What a contrast with the predominantly adult migrant male population of thirty years ago, and in twenty years the population increased from 244,000 to 560,000 an increase of 316,000.

What a transition for these people - from rural life to city life - with tribal customs largely broken down and no other sanctions to replace the tribal discipline: with long and tedious travelling to and from work and the difficulties

of living on a cash economy: they have, however, come to the city to stay.

Why did all these people come to Johannesburg? And what work do they do? The records of the Department reflect that the male natives in employment as at 30th June, 1959, were:

<u>Type of Employment</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Juveniles</u>	<u>Total</u>
Agriculture	116	1	117
Mines and Quarries	79	-	79
Factories and Industries	60517	3718	64235
Building Industry	17106	318	17424
Commerce	68429	2785	71214
Hotels, Flats, etc.	22469	236	22705
Government Departments	1700	239	1939
Railways	9208	100	9308
Municipalities	19203	353	19556
Provincial Administration	1918	91	2009
Domestic Service	18226	548	18774
	218971	8389	227360
Gold Mines	28635		28635
	247606	8389	255995

As there is no complete registration of Native females, no figures are available listing the categories of employment. It is estimated, however, that 8000 are employed in flats and 56,000 in domestic service. Some of the males employed do not reside in the Municipal area.

As you are aware, the onus of housing the Bantu population is placed upon the local authority. I do not want to detail all the steps taken by the Johannesburg Municipality to meet the backlog in housing. Suffice it to say that by the 30th June, 1959, the Council had built 43,000 houses and Hostel accommodation for 20,000 persons. In the financial years 1954 to 1959 £10,700,000 of capital expenditure was incurred, and the estimates for this year alone reflect a capital expenditure of £3,000,000: It is pleasing to report that the slums of Moroka and Shantytown are now no more, and that within the next five years the backlog should be overtaken. It is ground within a reasonable distance of the City that is now proving to be the difficulty.

I would now like to deal briefly with some of the aspects of the distribution of Kaffir Beer. The demand for this "liquid" has increased tremendously. In 1942 the sales in Johannesburg were approximately 1M. gallons: four years later this had doubled to over 2M. and it increased to over 4M. gallons four years later, and four years after that it was 8M. In 1957/58 it was 10M. and last year 12M. gallons. Part of this increase can be attributed to the increase in the population during that time.

A long time ago the large beerhalls in Johannesburg became unsatisfactory, in that the Bantu congregated there in large numbers causing congestion in the streets in the neighbourhood. The daily average attendance at the three main beerhalls in the City, that is Central, Mai Mai and Wolhuter, was 28,000 during the first session and 37,000 in the afternoon session. On Saturday the daily average was 63,000 and on a Sunday 45,000. It is estimated that the maximum number at

the Central Beerhall at any one time was 5000. The average aggregate consumption at these three beerhalls was 21,000 gallons per day. Over the year the average consumption was one-third gallon per person through the turnstiles; a person could pass through the turnstile more than once. I marvel that there was not more trouble at the Beerhalls. What would be the position if European Bars catered for 5000 drinkers at a time?

The Johannesburg Municipality's standpoint had been that such a large congregation was unsuitable, and that it would be preferable to have smaller units in more suitably selected sites. Towards the middle of last year the Council started the erection of beer-gardens in the South-Western Bantu areas so as to cater for the drinking of the Kaffir Beer in the Bantu areas rather than in the City for those who live in those areas. You will probably recollect that in June last year the large beerhalls in the City were closed, and new beerhalls erected on more suitable sites in the worked-out mining

areas. Since that time the sales in the City have decreased, and the consumption in the Townships has increased.

The profits made from the sale of Kaffir Beer are considerable and in terms of the Native Urban Areas Act can only be used for certain purposes such as the subsidising of housing, the provision of recreational facilities and medical services.

Is the City Council morally right in being a party to this large sale of Kaffir Beer? I think we will all agree that the Bantu population throughout Africa have developed a taste for liquor of one sort or another. My feeling is that if the Bantu are to have liquor, Kaffir Beer is the least harmful alcoholic drink available. At lease it is a drink of which the contents are known, and the alcoholic content limited to 3% by weight. Kaffir Beer is regarded by the Bantu population as much as a food as a drink, and is an integral part of a

number of social customs and festivities.

The Council has had a chemical analysis made of the ingredients of Kaffir Beer by the National Chemical Research Laboratory, and this states:

"In comparison to European beers, kaffir beer is a mild beverage of rather low alcoholic content (Table I).

Nutritionally, however, it is superior to the average European beer, being especially rich in vitamins. Kaffir beer contains considerable quantities of solids which make it more of a food than is usual with alcoholic drinks. It is important to note that the protein content of kaffir beer is considerably greater than that of British and Continental beers. The calorific value of a quart of kaffir beer is approximately 517 calories; of European beer, 483 - 500 calories. The calorific value of a quart of kaffir beer is roughly equivalent to that of half a pound of bread or two-thirds of a quart of milk.

Kaffir beer is rich in the B-vitamins, especially in thiamine and riboflavin (Table II). This is particularly important as the native diet is usually poor in these vitamins. A quart of kaffir beer a day will supply more than half the minimum daily requirement of nicotinic acid; 83% of that of riboflavin and 160% of the thiamine required. In contrast it will be noted from Table II that European beer is a particularly poor source of thiamine.

TABLE I

Constituent	B E E R A N A L Y S I S		
	Kaffir Beer*	British	Continental
Alcohol % w/v	3.0	3.3 - 4.8	3.7
Total solids, %	6.0	3.4 - 6.3	5.7
Reducing sugars, as maltose, %	0.49	0.6 - 2.0	-
Protein, %	0.63	0.24- 0.33	0.5

* Average of six samples from Reef Municipalities.

TABLE II

Vitamins	Minimum Daily Requirement mg $\frac{1}{2}$	Quantity of Vitamins, mg. Supplied by 1 Imp. Quart of	
		Kaffir Beer	European Beer
Thiamine	1.0	1.6	0.03 - 0.06
Riboflavin	1.2	1.0	0.39 - 0.64
Nicotinic acid	10.0	5.6	6.6 - 10.2
Vitamin B12	1 mg.	0.5 mg.	?

But it may surprise you to know that the amount of alcohol in half a gallon of Kaffir Beer, costing 1/-d., is equal to alcohol in five tots of brandy. The question is: are the intoxicating effects the same? When this question was first posed to me I was very worried, and for the last six months I have been seeking information to try to find out the truth. Studies have been made here and overseas regarding the comparative intoxicating effects of European liquors, but

to my knowledge no such study has been made regarding Kaffir Beer.

One of the essential differences between Kaffir Beer and European Beer is that the Kaffir Beer is a thick, gruelly substance which contains a large amount of solid matter. The alcoholic content of European beer is usually from 3.7% to 4.8% by weight. From the information I have so far obtained it is quite clear that that solid matter in the Kaffir Beer helps to absorb the alcohol before the alcohol enters the blood stream. It has also been established that diluted alcohol is less intoxicating than alcohol in a concentrated form. The custom of the Bantu is to drink Kaffir Beer leisurely, and a drink so consumed has not the effects of a drink which is quaffed down.

However, to try and establish answers to these questions the Johannesburg City Council is now considering a research project to try and find an answer to some of these questions. Amongst matters to be considered are:

- (a) How intoxicating is Kaffir Beer.
- (b) What place does Kaffir Beer take in the diet of the Bantu.
- (c) What is the effect upon work competency of an industrial worker who has had Kaffir Beer during the lunch-time.
- (d) What is the chemical analysis of the various illicit alcohol concoctions which the Bantu would resort to if Kaffir Beer were not available.
- (e) What part does Kaffir Beer play in the social life of the Bantu.
- (f) Should we encourage employers to supply their employees with Kaffir Beer.
- (g) Does Kaffir Beer act as an antidote to the tensions and stresses to which the Bantu population is subjected.

It is also hoped that it will be possible to see if some steps can be taken to reduce the illicit liquor traffic.

In my opinion we shall never get race relations right in South Africa until the relations between the Bantu

population and the Police is right. I don't think we will ever get that relationship right while, inter alia, the Police have to administer liquor laws which are quite unacceptable to the Bantu population, and laws which tend to put temptation in the way of the white man to make a living out of the illicit liquor traffic.

In 1957 the convictions for drunkenness were 97,285 and for other liquor law offences 207,462, of which 163,778 were for the illegal possession of liquor, and of the convicted 100,784 were Native women. It is the possession of liquor that is the crime and not drunkenness. It is known that the convictions are only a small proportion of the offences. While the Police are called upon to raid homes day and night for the possession of liquor, enmity and ill-feeling will grow. While engaged on this work Police work for the detection of real crime has to be neglected. Why cannot we be sensible and bring things into the open? Commissions have sat and made

recommendations: it is recorded that a number of senior Police officials advocated that certain European liquors be made available to the Bantu, but nothing is done and the evil state of affairs is allowed to continue unabated.

It is hoped that the contemplated research will give us more facts to help us formulate a policy in regard to the distribution of Kaffir Beer: a policy in which our conscience will be clear that we are doing the right thing.

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