

MEMORANDUM DRAWN BY THE EDUCATIONAL AD HOC COMMITTEE REPRESENTING
THE JOINT ADVISORY BOARDS OF JOHANNESBURG AND THE BANTU SCHOOL
BOARDS OF SOWETO:

MOTIVATION:

Faced with the responsibility of looking after the interests of the Bantu Community of Johannesburg and of planning, in conjunction with the Local Authority under whose jurisdiction they fall, for the provision and erection of schools, the Educational Ad Hoc Committee met in Johannesburg to examine the schooling facilities available for the children of the 600,000 inhabitants of Soweto and other Bantu Townships in Johannesburg. It was struck by certain important facts which it decided to bring to the notice of the Advisory Committee on Bantu Education, through Rev. Sekano Ntoana, whom the Committee understood was a member. The Educational Ad Hoc Committee of Johannesburg would have been happy to have sent another member in addition to Rev Ntoana, to assist the latter in presenting this memorandum; but owing to shortness of time the Committee could not arrange that this be done. Nevertheless, it would welcome an opportunity to do this in future if the Advisory Committee would permit of this arrangement.

THE PRIMARY SCHOOL POSITION AT PRESENT:

Since the passing of the Bantu Education Act, Bantu Primary Schools were divided into Lower and Higher Primary Schools. The Lower cater for beginners up to and including Standard II and the Higher Primary Schools for Standard III to VI pupils.

ERECTION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS:

The Lower Primary School Buildings are erected by the Local Authority while those of the Higher Primary pupils are the responsibility of the School Boards. Owing to lack of machinery for raising funds for school buildings, hardly any schools are erected by the School Boards. The effect of the arrangement is:

- (a) That more Lower Primary Schools are erected than Higher Primary Schools.
- (b) That a great number of children of school going age are thrown out into the streets without a hope of ever continuing with their education. These children later become delinquents and form the nucleus of the obnoxious Tsotsi element.
- (c) That the intake and output of the Higher Primary Schools is not commensurate with the needs of the Community and the pupils of that grade.

While we admit that there is provision for the School Boards to erect with the assistance of the Department of Bantu Education, Higher Primary Schools, on a Rand for Rand Basis, we do not visualise a time in the foreseeable future when the School Boards will ever find sufficient money in the Urban Bantu Townships to meet the ever increasing back log in the erection of Higher Primary Schools.

SOLUTION:

In order to obviate a large number of children of school going age becoming vagrants and delinquents after going through the Lower Primary School level, we strongly recommend that the Local Authority of Johannesburg be empowered to use the machinery it now uses in erecting the Lower Primary Schools for erecting Higher Primary Schools on same sites.

The Schooling accommodation in the Lower Primary Schools has reached saturation point and double sessions are no longer a solution. In any case, these are a bad enough arrangement in that they wear out the teacher and thus reduce his/her enthusiasm in the profession and his/her potential to do the best for the child.

MONEY PROBLEM:

The Ad Hoc Committee is mindful of the fact that Local Authorities use money borrowed from the Central Bantu Housing Board for the erection of school it is obliged to erect in terms of the Act. In the event of the Local Authority of Johannesburg finding it impossible to procure additional funds for erecting the Higher Primary Schools as recommended in this memorandum, the 86,000 registered tenants of Soweto, would be willing to make yet another sacrifice of 20c per month per registered tenant in order to meet the costs for the erection of the Higher

Primary Schools in this area. It is the opinion of the Committee that a sum of ~~R17,200~~ R17, 200 could be raised per month in this manner. According to the present building costs, a school of 8 class rooms having a Principal's office and a caretaker's cottage would cost about R15, 000. If the Levy of 20c per tenant would produce R17, 200 per month, it should be possible for the Local Authority of Johannesburg to erect 12 Higher Primary Schools per annum and with the assistance of the Department of Bantu Education on a Rand for Rand basis, a minimum of 20 Higher Primary Schools could be erected per annum.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION TO COMBAT DELINQUENCY:

If the output of schools, as stated above could be achieved by the adoption of the recommendations contained herein, it should be possible to introduce COMPULSORY EDUCATION for all children of school going age in Soweto in the foreseeable future.

Signed on behalf of the Committee:

1. *J. R. RATHBURN* (J. R. RATHBURN)

Representing Joint Boards
of Soweto

2. *F. S. M. MNCUBE* (F. S. M. MNCUBE)
representing Joint Boards.

3. *D. M. M. M. M.* Chairman
Dube-Moffat Joint Sch. Board.

4. *G. G. G.*
(Chairman Klepfontein Sch. Board.)

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