City of Johannesburg



Stad Johannesbura

NON-EUROPEAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AFDELING NIE-BLANKE-SAKE

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Verwys No.

Kindly address all communications to the Manager. Adresseer asb. alle mededelings aan die Bestuurder. Ref. No. 401/26/7.

Please ask for/Spreek asseblief Mr./Mnr.....

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JOHANNESBURG.

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E' 4 MAY 1962

Councillor P.R.B. Lewis, M.P.C. 606 Union Castle Building, cor. Commissioner & Loveday Streets, JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Councillor Lewis.

CONVERSION OF EUROPEAN POSTS TO NON-EUROPEAN POSTS.

The item in the current Management Committee agenda (Page 30) concerning this matter refers.

I enclose for your information copy of a few notes I made at the time when the item was last under discussion by the Management Committee, which may be of assistance to you when you discuss this matter with the Minister at a suitable opportunity.

ANAGE

WJPC/MJM. Encl.

(54)

Head Office.

16th January, 1962.

MEMO

CONVERSION OF EUROPEAN POSTS TO NON-EUROPEAN POSTS.

Attached report to Management Committee on the 9th January 1962 refers.

I told the Management Committee that in my opinion the officials in Pretoria did not really have a clear picture in their mind of the circumstances surrounding the training and employment of Bantu artisans in this area when they refused Council's request to train the classes mentioned in the report and refused to see a deputation on the issue.

In the first place the Native population for Johannesburg is in excess of 560,000, with approximately 1-million men in day to day employment. To replace the wastage in this enormous labour force in the face of the rigid application of Influx Control, it is necessary to train local Bantu juveniles in skilled work so as to ensure that the industrial and commercial potential of the City is not jeopardised.

I feel that the size of Johannesburg in relation to the rest of the country is not appreciated. We have over 560,000 Bantu here and this must be considered in relation to the fact that there are approximately 3-million Bantu in the whole of the reserves throughout the Republic of South Africa, i.e. over 3 in the such a substantial section of the country's population. It must also be remembered that the Johannesburg Bantu population is almost on parity with the entire Bantu population of Basutoland and larger than the combined populations of Swaziland and Bechuanaland, as the following table makes clear:-

Basutoland 638,857 (1956 Census) 675 one 60 Swaziland 229,744 (1956 Census) 264,300 Bechuanaland 300,000 (Estimated in the latest 353,000 in Annual Report available)

(Figures supplied by Mr. Armstrong, Agent for High Commission Territories (Tel. 33-4696).)

In parenthesis it should be noted that the Bantu population for Johannesburg exceeds the entire White population for the whole of the Federation which, according to the last Census return, was 312,000.

The second factor to be borne in mind is that the Minister for Bantu Administration and Development in approving the continuance of the Vocational Training Centre attached the proviso that youngsters trained there were to be employed in the Council's own building organisation. That presupposes the continuance of the Housing Division and the Technical Services Branch of the City Engineer's Department and since the V.T.C. is not allowed to train the trades enumerated in the report, it is obviously essential that these men should be trained in these specific occupations in either of these two Departments to maintain the Council's housing programmes and essential maintenance work.

Finally, there are 1,400 building workers unemployed at the moment and the interesting thing is that almost all are Protectorate Natives. If this class is repatriated then it means a complete dearth of semi-skilled building workers to fill the vacancies so created and this only lends emphasis to some form of technical training for local Bantu.

W. J. P. CARR. MANAGER. **Collection Number: A1132**

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