

MALUKAZI ISSUE AND KWAZULU POLICY

Numerous discussions at the highest levels of policy-making in KwaZulu have led to the adoption of what can be termed an integrated housing policy. It is a policy which attempts to harness all available resources and explore innovative solutions. The Malukazi issue has been highlighted in various international newspapers, and the following is a factual statement of Malukazi situation.

Written jointly by
Mr J. Bhengu : Bureau of Communication
and
Mrs Clarissa Fourie : Inkatha Institute

The region of KwaZulu/Natal has proved itself over and over again to be the testing ground of many of the political and development initiatives in South Africa.

Today one of the major challenges to policy-makers all over the world is the issue of what are termed 'squatters'. It would be reasonable to say that the region of KwaZulu/Natal probably contains the largest number of informal settlements and people in the whole of South Africa. The majority of these reside along the borders of KwaZulu where it abutts centres of employment in Natal.

policy-makers, concerned people and academics.

SHACKS AREAS AND GROUP AREAS ACT

It is widely accepted that the mushrooming shack areas are a result of numerous factors such as: the Group Areas Act which enforces a system of ethnic residential segregation in the Urban areas, forcing blacks to live on the periphery of cities; the creation of homelands as separate entities within the larger South Africa, effectively stripping most

areas become overburdened; township overcrowding, as the population expands and insufficient houses are built, (from June 1976 to March 1981 7,712 houses for blacks were built in the whole of South Africa — 189,000 houses were required merely to equalise the backlog); eviction of farm labour from white farms together with the forced removals by the South African government from 'Black spots'; and the whole compounded by a system of influx control designed to keep the cities white and return as many blacks to the rural areas as are not required for labour in the white areas of South Africa.

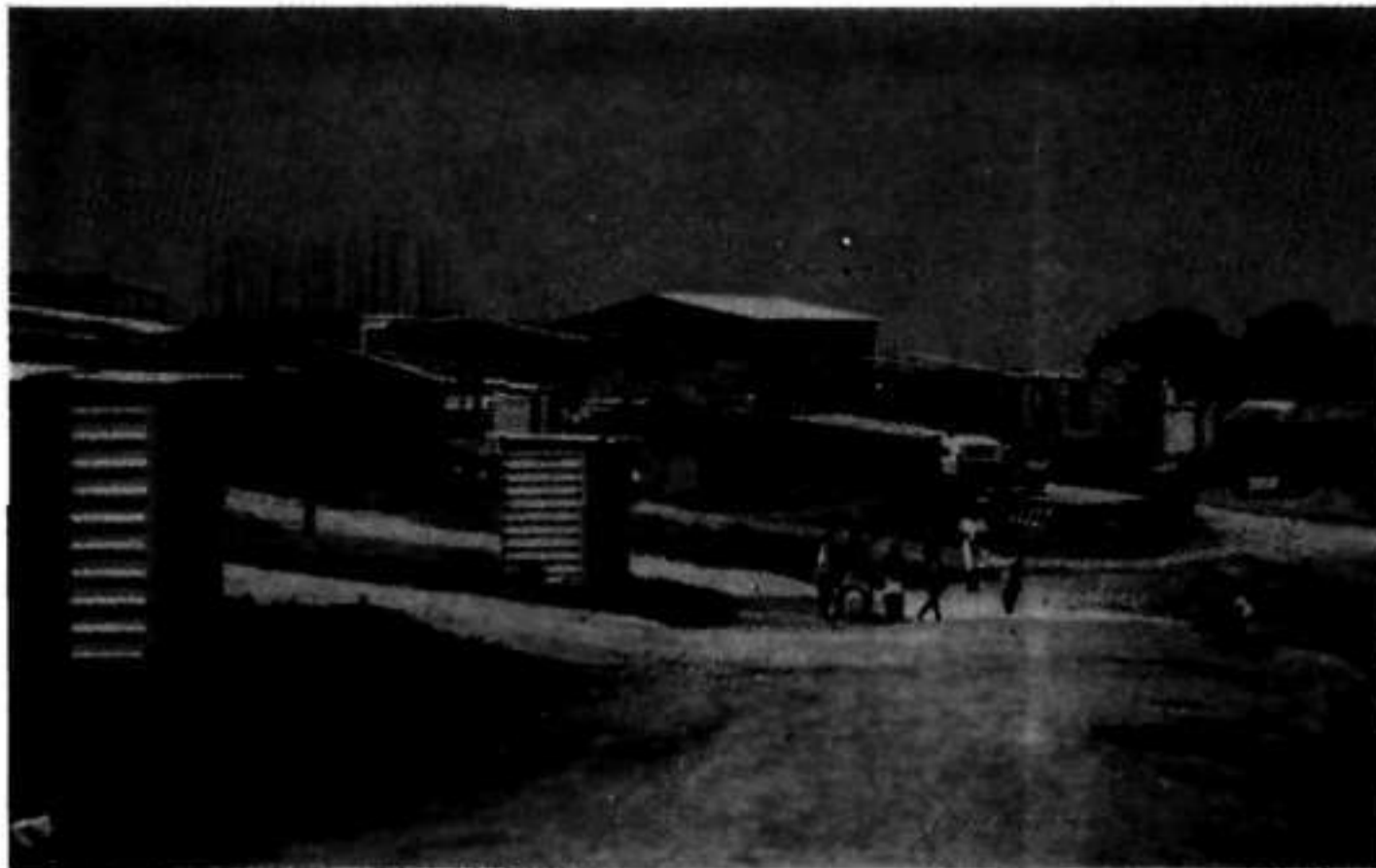
KwaZulu, given its limited financial resources, as well as being the successor to numerous situations initiated by the South African government concerning the shack areas, has taken on the challenge.

That is, the challenge of creating a policy for these areas which is both humanitarian (ubuntu botho is the prevailing philosophy of Inkatha the organisation which is the driving force behind KwaZulu), and pragmatic in its choice of development strategy. It must be stressed that any analysis of the actions of KwaZulu concerning the shack areas must be seen in this light and no comparison can be drawn with the South African government's strategy of forced removals and resettlement which is based in the majority on an ideological foundation.



These shacks areas are growing very rapidly and have for a number of years been the subject of much thinking and planning on behalf of

blacks of residential rights in the white cities; rapid urbanisation, as people pour into the cities in order to seek employment as the rural



The spontaneous settlement of Malukazi, on the South-western side of Umlazi, housing in the region of 27,000 people has been the object of much attention and publicity over the years. It has for a number of years been earmarked for the extension of Umlazi township (Unit 22).

REASONS FOR STAYING IN MALUKAZI

People have come to reside at Malukazi for a number of reasons, some of which are:

- a) There were no townships or locations on the Southern side of Umlazi to accommodate workers employed in Amanzimtoti or Isipingo. Malukazi filled this gap.
- b) Some residents did not qualify, as heads of families, for township accommodation.

When questioned by the Financial Mail about the effect of forced removals into KwaZulu Buthelezi made his, and his governments' stance towards this iniquitous policy very clear: "When KwaZulu was set up in 1970, Parliament (S.A.) passed a law which made it compulsory for 'squatters' on white farms to either sign up as contract workers or leave. People have been moving off farms in droves . . . Others have been chased away from the so-called black spots to the cities. it is very difficult now to care for them. But they are our people, so we must. Once Pretoria has moved off these people, they want to wash their hands of them. So we have to scramble to use the limited facilities that we have . . . there are people who have been moved from productive lands, where they have lived for generations, to barren land. They cannot eke out an existence. It is a crime."

As has been pointed out, forced removals by S.A. government officials have been one of the factors contributing to the burgeoning shack population. However it is both naïve as well as irresponsible to view the Malukazi situation in the light of removals for ideological reasons.

The KwaZulu government and Inkatha have always made it very clear that they will not tolerate the eviction of people without alternative accommodation being supplied

for their use. Chief Buthelezi has over the years intervened both in Malukazi and other shack areas to prevent the demolition of shacks and eviction of people, and has stated clearly that people cannot be expected to sleep in the gutters.



- c) Other residents are on the waiting list for accommodation in the townships, where the backlog of houses for the Durban area is 93,000 units. Some residents, knowing of this backlog, have not even applied to be put on the waiting list.
- d) There are of course other residents who prefer life in Malukazi to that of the township.
- e) Lastly Malukazi can be seen as a place where immigrants to the Durban area can find a modicum of convenience and comfort while fighting for the right to sell their labour in the nearby towns. This facility might not be so readily accorded to them in the township where their right of residence, together with their dependents, would perhaps be challenged to a greater extent.

have attempted to gain political mileage out of the plight of the people at Malukazi, by attempting to undermine structures (that is, Inkatha and the KwaZulu government), which the people themselves have responded to serve their needs.

Over the years of protracted negotiations surrounding Malukazi, Ulundi has worked very closely with the Inkatha branch, who represent the residents of Malukazi. Through this process Ulundi has attempted to ensure that the residents of Malukazi are involved in the settling of their future.

people of Malukazi obtain alternative housing, better services and their right to sell their labour in the city.

Compensatory money was earmarked for payment to residents of Malukazi, both for land as well as houses. The land was assessed at a value of R58,000 or R683,000 per hectare, and land users within the proposed Township area were offered first choice of site. Similarly some 4,000 shacks at Malukazi were assessed, and an amount of R131,000 or R33,75 per shack determined as compensation.



RELOCATION OF MALUKAZI RESIDENTS

Every effort has been made to relocate the residents of Malukazi in a fair manner. As has already been pointed out, this relocation of Malukazi residents is not based on ideological motives but is part and parcel of the development of the region. The authorities of the region, that is KwaZulu, in terms of broader development requirements, have had to support the relocation of the residents of Malukazi in order to effect improvements, in the lives of as many people as possible in the long term.

In undertaking this task, the KwaZulu government has bent over backwards to ensure that the

As far back as 1979 the KwaZulu Cabinet resolved "(it) . . . agrees to the development of 50 sites by the KwaZulu Development Corporation and the allocation of 150 sites to residents who are on the waiting list for serviced sites, provided that applicants erect or have dwellings erected within twelve months after the date on which the sites have been allocated to them; and that the provision of communal toilets is acceptable; the provision of three site sizes is acceptable and that of the larger, smaller, and smallest sites; and the site of 93 hectares be acceptable."

As a result of this Cabinet resolution FOLWENI was born. ". . . the KwaZulu Cabinet decided that some 85 hectares of Folweni

FACILITIES IN MALUKAZI

There are a very few facilities in Malukazi itself, a couple of general dealers together with a thriving informal sector cater for the needs of the local population. Water is obtained at two communal water points necessitating lengthy queuing. Sanitation is provided exclusively by pit-latrines created by the owners of the dwellings. Otherwise the adjacent overpopulated township, Umlazi, supplies the other facilities such as schools and recreational facilities.

Malukazi, like most other shack areas, has few clear lines of communication with the authorities responsible for administering these areas.

INKATHA & MALUKAZI

In Malukazi, Inkatha has for many years played a vital role in the development of this area through its branch in the shack settlement. Inkatha has been the communications link with the source of authority, lobbying force and point of unity for the shack-dwellers.

It is perhaps disturbing that some individuals and organisations

should be developed as a site and service scheme so that those shack owners from Malukazi who could not find their own alternative accommodation would be offered a site at Folweni.

FOLWENI — EXCITING DEVELOPMENT

The development of Folweni, comprising of 1653 sites, was started in January 1981 and by September 1981 construction of the basic infra-structure and the basic internal services was completed. The construction of individual, self built 'wattle and daub' type house was started during April 1981 and the response to this settlement scheme by the people of Malukazi has been so great that additional tribal land (has been) negotiated so as to extend Folweni by an additional 4 000 sites." (K.D.C. article on Folweni).

Folweni is viewed as an exciting development in the ongoing process of providing housing in KwaZulu/Natal. It is a unique settlement which consists of a mixture of both the public and private realms. The state has provided the infrastructure and the people their dwellings. Folweni as a settlement type might be said to be one of the most important steps which has been taken to solve the housing situation for many years.

The residents themselves have acquired numerous advantages as Folweni has developed. To name but a few:

- 1) Their completed houses are of a much higher quality than the ones the residents occupied before in Malukazi.
- 2) They have become part of a stable community as they now have some security of title.
- 3) The infrastructure of the area is far in advance of that which exists in Malukazi itself. Queuing for water is now a thing of the past for these ex-Malukazi residents. Toilets are hygienic and every house is serviced by a road.

- 4) But most important of all is the fact that the residents of Folweni have acquired the right to obtain work seekers permits ('specials') in order to seek work in the Durban area. This in effect puts them in the same position as Umlazi residents relative to the labour market in Durban. This right is not available to residents of shack areas like Malukazi.

The Folweni-type development is only one example of the attempt by KwaZulu to come to grips with the challenge of housing.

Numerous discussions at the highest levels of policy-making in KwaZulu have led to the adoption of what can be termed an integrated housing policy. It is a policy which attempts to harness all available resources and explore innovative solutions.

RELOCATION IS NOT IDEOLOGICAL

The relocation of Malukazi residents, as has been stressed, should not be seen in the light of ideologically motivated removals, but rather as part of development strategy which encompasses the region.

If we look at the policy and actions of KwaZulu with relation to the shack areas it becomes clear that its strategy is both people-based and pragmatic.

KwaZulu is aware of the enormous responsibility and challenge of the shack areas and this can be seen in a number of ways:

- 1) KwaZulu is exploring the methods whereby informal settlements and housing practices and procedures can be recognised and legalised.
- 2) Inkatha has requested at its 1982 National Conference that the Inkatha Institute undertake extensive research into these areas in order to contribute to policy for these areas.
- 3) At the present time the shack area known as Unit 10 near Mpumalanga Township is being

surveyed for upgrading. That is, the residents will remain, and services will be supplied. This is a concrete example of the policy and philosophy of the KwaZulu government. This, like Folweni, is again an example of the far-sighted integrated policy of KwaZulu policy-makers.

Within this context, Malukazi and its residents must be weighed against the larger development requirements of the region, be they in terms of housing or as in the case of Malukazi, its industrial potential.