

MINUTES OF THE BEGGARS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON THE 21.7.83 A 5.30

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Present: Mr Moorcroft (MP), Dr Hunt, Mrs L. Vuloer, Mrs F. Damana, Mrs T. Sabata, Mr E. Kleunbooi, Mr. Nduna, Mrs J. Toubert (Herald), Mr. Middleton, Mr. Webb, Rev. Gaga, Mrs R. Smith (G.A.D.R.A), Mr. M.S. Keese (Commissioner), Mr B. B. Cilliers, (Gh. Fun Comm. Council).

Apologies: Mrs Y. Booysen.

GENERAL:

Dr Hunt welcomed Mr Moorcroft the local MP and all the newcomers. He gave a brief outline of the general problems that arise in the Township due to severe socio/economic conditions ^(see attached paper) ~~general conditions~~. He then asked for comments on the above.

① Mrs Rosemary Smith stated that Black Psychiatric Services were desperately needed as $\pm 70\%$ of the adult Beggar Population were ~~psychotic~~ suffering from mental diseases.

Mr Moorcroft replied that the State were closing down the Port Alfred Black Mental Hospital yet no such new institution was to be built. He could therefore see in the future that a lot of pressure would be placed on the State to build such institutions - this was therefore encouraging.

② Phalo Children's Home. Mr Moorcroft asked how far plans for this home had gone. Mrs Damana replied that the

building of this institution was still under consideration. Mr Moorcroft suggested that the ^{orig} Begging Committee write a letter to him asking him to take up ^{the matter of the Photo Children's home} ~~the matter~~ and to treat it as urgent. ~~He would then be able to push the matter as urgent.~~ It was suggested to Mr Moorcroft that he push for ^{more} children's ~~institutions~~ ^{institutions} for Black ~~general~~ as well as there were insufficient institutions available for Blacks.

- ③ a general discussion of whether institutions were necessary arose. One suggested the use of Day Care Centres or Clubs instead. It was pointed out by the Social Worker that even if a Children's Home was built ^{in Grahamstown} it would not necessarily house Grahamstown Children but children from all over the country. If a home was to ^{be built} only for Grahamstown Children it would have to be organised on ^{the} Municipal level.

Mr Webb asked about the proposed Meyers fund. Dr Hunt replied that he would still have to look into this.

- ④ Mrs Viljoen suggested that if job opportunities were available many of the problems in the black Township would be solved. Mr Nduna agreed with this.

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Mr Kleinboon suggested that equal wages between the diff races would also help to solve ^{some of} the problems.

⑤ Foster Placement - Foster Placement was discussed as an alternative to building institutions - This would save the State expenses. Dr Hunt inquired what facilities were available to find Foster Parents. Social workers replied that they had extreme difficulty in finding foster parent & that most Foster Parents were related to the children in their care. Dr Hunt suggested that the church representatives discuss foster placement with their congregation & see if they were able to find ~~willing~~ people willing to foster children.

Mrs Damana then informed the Comm about the Child Welfare's Transit Home. ^{Dist} Co-op & Dev have given Child Welfare 2 rooms in a Municipal House which will be used as an emergency home for children awaiting placement. However, suitable Foster Parents had not yet been found to occupy the home. Mrs

Damana informed Comm that in E.H. several Municipal Houses had been allocated for emergency placement homes & that the system was working well. Mr Moorcroft suggested that a meeting be held to

discuss Foster Placement & Foster Homes as this could be an important solution to some of the ^{child} begger problems. Co-op & Dev. could possibly investigate the possibility of allowing some Municipal homes to be used for this purpose.

- ⑥ The need for recreational facilities in the Township was also discussed. Dr Hunt asked Mr Moorcroft if he could possibly look into this need as well.
 - ⑦ Market Garden - It was suggested by Mr Keese that the establishment of a Market Garden would help give certain women's employment & ~~that~~ keep them off the streets.
 - ⑧ Mr Webb suggested that as far as the Begging Problem was concerned no-one knew the exact number involved or how big the problem really was. It was suggested that the Social Work Dept at Rhodes be asked if a survey could not be done by the students.
 - ⑨ The need for ^{more} Black Community Workers was also discussed.
 - ⑩ Dr Hunt suggested that Comae meet again on Mon 22nd Aug to discuss Transit Homes & Foster Care. Mr Moorcroft would be available to meet the Committee again early in September.
- There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:00.