

Professor Nancy Charton then welcomed guests. She stressed the meeting should be action-orientated. She suggested it should be a think tank to see what concerned people could do.

In the absence of Mr Winston Middleton, Municipal Social Worker for the Coloured Community, Professor Charton read a paper prepared by him. The paper is comprehensive and stresses first the plight of many of the 50 Indian families who have been, expropriated and are now forced to build. As was remarked should they want to leave to whom do they sell? Despite a struggle of many years by the entire community, Indian and Whites, the battle had been lost!

Mr Middleton said the waiting list for houses in the Coloured community was somewhere in the region of 500. Over crowding was chronic. There was also an urgent need for hostel facilities for scholars at Mary Waters High School. Sixty per cent of the Coloured community also earned less than the poverty datum line. People were "warehoused." There was no soul nor any involvement of the community in planning. Sun City had neither electricity nor stand pipes. (However, at this week's meeting of the Grahamstown Management Committee - on December 10 - it was revealed that 12 latrines had been installed.)

Here the emphasis was placed on the urgent need for more land for housing for Coloured people, a fact reiterated when dealing with housing for Blacks.

It was stated that the PDL in Port Elizabeth was estimated as R278 a month. It was underlined that credit facilities for Blacks needed to be taken up. Blacks comprised 70 percent of the population but their allocation of land was only 21 per cent. It was estimated that the population density was 310,31 a hectare. Roads were poor. Street lighting was bad. Rubbish drums were a health hazard and each standpipe tap was used by 150 people. The average white household had five taps.

Dr Eily Gledhill gave a brief history of Abalizi (Civic Action Association) started in 1977 to promote low cost traditional type housing. It also worked towards promoting work for unemployed people. A year later, on a municipal plot in Ringo Village the first Abalizi house opened. It was financed by Ford Motor Company. Next six plots at Makana's Kop were made available. Houses were paid for by employers who could take a 30-year lease and retain the house or donate it to the occupier on a 99-year lease.

Then the ECAB (now the ECDB) took over and Tantjani extension or Xolani was opened up. Abalizi houses originally cost R2 000 but with the rise in building costs they now were about R3 000. Costs for a 99-year lease were R300 in legal fees.

Recently negotiations with the Emphongeni training centre in Port Elizabeth were enabling building workers to be trained. It was hoped to have a branch of Emphongeni in Grahamstown. Presently ten men were being trained in PE financed by the Urban Foundation at a cost of R7 000.

Dr Gledhill said 60 men could be trained in a year. Two taking six weeks to build meant 240 houses a year. So in eight years 3 900 houses could be built. It was estimated that 5 000 houses would be needed by the year 2 000. The object of the operation was to give people the pride of ownership.

Again the acute shortage of land was stressed. On this account, two resolutions were passed.

A: In view of the acute shortage of land for the extension of Black and Coloured housing in Grahamstown, Albany Black Sash requests Kani Town Council and the Grahamstown Management Committee to investigate the cause of the shortage and to take immediate steps to remedy it.

B: That Central Government funds and the wealth of Municipal business districts be more effectively used to cover the cost of local services that at present with a view to bringing service charges in the townships within the range of residents' ability to pay.

+ resolutions
SEE PAPERS / ATTACHED.