

WES-RANDSE BANTOESAKE-ADMINISTRASIERAAD
WEST RAND BANTU AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION BOARD
DIE STEDELIKE BANTOERAAD VAN JOHANNESBURG
URBAN BANTU COUNCIL OF JOHANNESBURG

MINUTES OF THE 108TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE URBAN BANTU COUNCIL
OF JOHANNESBURG HELD IN THE URBAN BANTU COUNCIL CHAMBER, JABULANI
ON THURSDAY 31 MARCH 1977 AT 2,30P.M.

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: Thebehali, D. (Chairman)
Makhaya, T.J. (Deputy Chairman)
Buthelezi, E.
Chuenyane, F.M.
Hanyane, S.
Hlungwane, R.
Jiyane, G.
Jiyane, J.M.
Leepo, J.M.
Lengene, P.M.
Machaba, B.C.
Mahlangu, F.
Mahlangu, S.S.
Makhanya, A.
Manthata, S.
Mponya, R.J.P.
Mokoena, D.
Motha, S.
Mothibinyane, E.
Mzinyane, J.B.
Nevhulaudzi, J.
Ngubane, Z.
Nkge, E.
Nkosi, K.
Ntloko, M.M.
Pelotona, A.
Pooe, D.
Radebe, L.
Rasmeni, D.
Tjeeko, M.
Tshabangu, L.
Vilakazi, E.
Xulu, M.B.

OFFICIALS: Mr. M.P. Wilsnach (Director, Housing)
Mr. E.A. Walter (Chief Townships Manager)
Mr. N.M. Duguid (Chief Townships Manager)
Mr. A.M. Conn (Senior Townships Manager)
Mr. D.M. Kubayi (Acting Secretary)
Mr. A. Mfete

OPENING PRAYER

Councillor Makhaya opened the proceedings with a prayer.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meetings held on 17 February 1977 and 24 February 1977 circulated to members.

CONFIRMED

2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no applications for leave of absence.

3. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

DMK/MVS

Brigadier J. Visser said that Mr. de Villiers whom he had known since 1974 was approachable, and has always been a good friend of the police. He said that Mr. de Villiers although he will be joining the Johannesburg City Council, was not lost to the people he had served so well because he can always be contacted. He wished him Godspeed for the future.

The Director, Housing, thanked the Chief Director for the understanding and the co-operation he has displayed in the discharge of his duties and added that the Chief Director was always ready to assist and to advise.

Councillor Mashao said he found Mr. de Villiers to be an open-minded person and thanked him on behalf of the residents of Dobsonville and its Urban Bantu Council. He wished Mr. de Villiers success in his future task.

Councillor Makhaya said that the Urban Bantu Council was indebted to Mr. de Villiers for the manner in which he has treated the people of Soweto. He said Mr. de Villiers sacrificed his time and effort to alleviate the hardships experienced by the Black people. He said that Mr. de Villiers did not take advantage of his position nor threw his weight at people calling at his office for help. Mr. de Villiers always said that his doors were open to anybody wishing to see him. He said he gave Mr. de Villiers credit for looking at the merit of a case in which a Black person and a White person were involved.

He said Mr. de Villiers pushed through many projects in Soweto and mentioned the Jabulani Fire Station as an example.

In conclusion, he said Mr. de Villiers' successor would have a hard task to bring about change in Soweto because the Black youth do not accept and are not satisfied with the prevailing conditions in Soweto. He said Mr. de Villiers was leaving before the Urban Bantu Council was granted executive powers and that as the man who lead the Soweto Urban Bantu Council to meet the Minister to request the granting of greater responsibility he was leaving before he could reap the fruit of his labour.

Councillor Lengene said that it will not be an easy task to find Mr. de Villiers' successor, and hoped that the successor to Mr. de Villiers would emulate his example.

Councillor Maponya said that the people of Soweto have lost a great man in the person of Mr de Villiers who is leaving the department in search of greener pastures.

He said that during the unrest Mr de Villiers told him that he was worried because he foresaw a fire destroying a haystack. Mr. de Villiers made all endeavours to defuse an ugly situation in Soweto. The Soweto community will never have a man of Mr. de Villiers' calibre who is flexible and would get to grips with the problems.

In conclusion, he expressed the hope that Mr de Villiers will always be prepared to give advise to those who are in distress.

Councillor S.S. Mahlangu addressed the Council.

URBAN BANTU COUNCIL SOWETO: (31.3.77)

TRADING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE: (3.3.77)

WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD

2. SHOPPING FACILITIES: DENVER MEN'S HOSTEL

The following motion has been received from Councillor Nkosi:

"I recommend that the piece of ground on the Western side of the street leading to the hostel be set aside for shopping facilities at Denver Men's Hostel. Two pieces of grounds on the Eastern side of the dividing street, be reserved for parking purposes. Denver Men's hostel is the only hostel, built without shopping facilities, and people have to walk a long distance upto the Main Reef Road where the shops are situated to do their shopping."

The Senior Townships Manager said that Councillor Nkosi wants the vacant ground immediately in front of the hostel to be reserved for business premises so as to enable the hostel inmates to do their shopping near the hostel. The shops may be useful especially during inclement weather and in the evenings when the inmates fear of being robbed when they do their shopping at the existing shops owned by the Indians and the Chinese which are in the neighbourhood of the hostel.

The Senior Townships Manager pointed out to the meeting that sometime ago the Young Men's Christian Association was running a canteen in the hostel and withdrew because it was not paying.

He said that the West Rand Administration Board has accepted the recommendation of the Urban Bantu Council that parking bays be provided at each hostel. An open space in the Eastern side of Denver hostel was fenced for parking purposes and a policeman will be posted twenty hours a day to insure that only registered tenants parked their motor cars in the hostel, and for this service the tenants owning cars will each be required to pay a fee of R3,00 a month in addition to his monthly rent. Illegal tenants will not be allowed to park their cars in the hostel.

Councillor Mzinyane said that shopping centres within the hostel will be well supported mostly by inmates coming from work in the evenings.

Councillors Nevhulaudzi, Nephumbada and S.S. Mahlangu addressed the meeting.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the Chief Director be requested to establish a shopping centre on the open space on the eastern side of Denver hostel parking area.

ADOPTED

U.B.C. 8/77
DMK/MVS

URBAN BANTU COUNCIL SOWETO: (31.3.77)

EDUCATION AND HEALTH COMMITTEE: (8.3.77)

WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD

3. PROVISION OF A BRANCH OFFICE: CITY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

On 29 January 1976 the Urban Bantu Council RESOLVED:

That this request receive favourable consideration provided there is an existing office at either Pinville or Senaoane that could be used for the purpose and that no expense be incurred to provide such branch office.

The Director, Housing comments as follows:

Please advise the Soweto Urban Bantu Council with reference to item A minutes page 288 of an ordinary meeting of the Urban Bantu Council held on 29 January 1976 that there are no offices available at either Pinville or Senaoane at present.

Councillor Chuenyane said that this report emanates from the Urban Bantu Council resolution which was taken before the unrest in 1976.

The Senior Townships Manager said that the West Rand Administration Board plans to build centralised offices in the place of the Administration offices which were damaged during the unrest and will possibly accommodate all the Departments of the West Rand Administration Board.

It was then suggested to the meeting that the Chief Director be requested to include in the envisaged plans the offices of the City Health Department if and when the West Rand Administration Board do build the centralised offices.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the Chief Director be requested to make provision for offices of the City Health Department at each Block of Administration offices to accommodate Health Inspectors.

ADOPTED

Ordinary Meeting of the Urban Bantu Council : 31 March 1977 : MINUTES: 589

URBAN BANTU COUNCIL SOWETO: (31.3.77)

HOUSING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE: (10.3.77)

WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD

ABSENCE OF QUORUM

The ordinary meeting of the Housing and General Purposes Committee which was scheduled for 10 March 1977 could not be held owing to the absence of a quorum and was adjourned to the next ordinary meeting of the Committee.

NOTED with regret.

U.B.C. /77

DMK/MVS

URBAN BANTU COUNCIL MINUTES: 31 MARCH 1977

(a) SHEBEENS

The Chairman said that he has brought up this matter before the Council so as to get its consensus of opinion. He said that some residents of Soweto are in favour of shebeens being legalised while others deprecate the legalisation of shebeens.

At this stage Councillor Manthata was ordered to leave the house because of his rowdy behaviour.

The Chairman enquired from the Council if it approved of the legalisation of shebeens or not.

Councillor Lengene said sometime ago an opinion was expressed in this Chamber recommending that shebeens be granted Night Club Licences instead of conducting the illegal sale of liquor from their residential premises.

Councillor Mzinyane said that as the true leaders of the Black people they should be the last people to ask the Minister of Justice to legalise shebeens. He said if they allow shebeens to be legalised, they will be destroying their community. If a person drinks in a shebeen in the evening and the liquor fuddles his wits, who escorts such a person to his home, he asked. In conclusion he said that many people lost their lives in the shebeens.

Councillor Maponya said that the youth are condemning the drinking of liquor and displayed their disapproval of their parents' drinking habit by destroying the bottle stores, bar lounges and beer gardens during the Riots in 1976. Councillor Tshabangu wanted to know how the Council was going to run the affairs of the people of Soweto if it turns the community into drunkards by legalising shebeens where people drink throughout the night. How can the Council expect drunkards to be able to pay their rentals? He advocated the buying of liquor from the existing liquor outlets.

Councillor Motha said that the proposed legalisation of shebeens is an admission of failure on the part of the Government to close them down. He appealed to the delegation of the Urban Bantu Council, lead by the Chairman to inform the Hon. the Minister of Justice in Cape Town that the people of Soweto are against the legalisation of shebeens.

Councillor Pooe said that he has learnt from people who visited overseas that in London there are pubs where approximately one hundred people may relax and enjoy a drink. He advocated the establishment of hotels in Soweto in the place of shebeens, and added that the liquor Act should be amended.

Councillor Hanyane said that pubs and hotels in towns should be open to people of all races.

Councillor Manthata said tha instead of legalising shebeens, Blacks should be permitted to build bottle stores and run them.

RESOLVED:

That this Council gives the Chairman of the Urban Bantu Council and the two other members namely Councillor Maponya and Councillor Makhaya a mandate to make representations to the Minister of Justice against shebeens being legalised.

1. That the community of Soweto do not want the shebeens to be legalised.
2. That instead of shebeens being legalised we would like to see many hotels, night clubs and bottle stores in Soweto established and owned by Blacks.

MAKGOTLA

Councillor Motha said that many people in his ward told him that they are against Makgotla being granted Government recognition.

Members of Makgotla spread false rumours that their organisation has been legalised by the Government and that they are permitted by law to flog people in public if found guilty by their tribal courts and to impose fines on people found guilty.

He said that Brig. Visser, the Divisional Commissioner of Police in Soweto who wanted to have an insight into the functions and duties of the Makgotla said, after seeing people being flogged in public, that Soweto is not a jungle and added that this barbaric system of the Makgotla was untenable in the civilised world and should be done away forthwith.

Councillor Manyane said that the Makgotla system should be modified rather than condemning it completely. The Makgotla organisations know the criminals with whom they live.

He said that when the Makgotla wants to inflict corporal punishment to an offending person it should do so in the presence of a police officer and that in the case of children who defy their parents, punishment should be meted out to them in the presence and with the approval of their parents.

The Chairman pointed out that the tribal courts in the Homelands are presided over by Chiefs and inquired if Presidents of Makgotla have been appointed as Chiefs by the Minister of Justice. He wanted to know what was wrong with Police Reservists.

Councillor Poce said that the people of Soweto are so sophisticated that they will not in the least tolerate the establishment of Makgotla in their midst let alone granting this abhorrent organisation Government recognition. He said by accepting the Makgotla and at the same time accepting Municipal Status, this Council shall be taking three steps backward and one step forward.

He said that when the Council has been granted Municipal Status it should carry out its duties and functions with the dignity of any Municipality in the Country.

People who inquire into cases in the Makgotla have not got the vestiges of the knowledge of the laws of justice of this country, and added that the accused are not given a fair hearing and they are not allowed to defend themselves.

Soweto, being a pacesetter to other areas, shall have embarrassed the Black people of South Africa by asking for Makgotla to be recognised by the Government.

Councillor Maponya said that if anyone is in doubt about the fact that the people of Soweto condemn Makgotla, one should hold a referendum and the results of the referendum will prove beyond a shadow of doubt that the majority of the people are against this organisation. Makgotla is condemned in toto.

He appealed to the residents of Soweto who have suffered in the hands of the Makgotla to seek redress from the courts of law as a deterrent measure to the people who take the law into their own hands.

Councillor F. Mahlangu said that if a man has had a squabble with his wife and the wife reports the matter to the Makgotla the Makgotla send a group of men to go and pick him up in the morning in the presence of his children. He wanted to know how a man, who has been humiliated in the presence of his children could be in a position to maintain discipline in his house.

When he appears before the Makgotla he is flogged in public, and to make it worse with children watching.

Councillor Moinyane said that Makgotla law is a law of the jungle.

Councillor Mothibinyane said that the Makgotla assist the police.

Councillor Lengene said that if Makgotla could operate under the control of the Urban Council it would work as a deterrent to criminals and said that it should be legalised.

Councillor Bassani said that the flogging of people on Sunday was sinful and that Urban Blacks deprecate the flogging of people by the townships. He advocated the establishment of civic guards which would be under the direct supervision of Councillors instead of townships. The duty of Civic guards is to combat crime in the area and to arrest the criminals and hand them over to the police. He said that when the Government grant the Urban Council and Advisory Boards additional powers it should also grant the Councils and Advisory Boards the power to form Civic guards.

Councillor Leepo said that the intention of forming Makgotla was good but in practice it is open to corruption.

Councillor Matebe said that the Councillors who spoke in opposition to the Makgotla were not sincere to themselves. He said that notwithstanding the fact that some members of this Council are vehemently opposed to the Makgotla, Makgotla is there to stay.

Councillor Tshabangu said that the Makgotla thrash even women and wanted to know which man could stand to see his wife being thrashed in public. Makgotla is not in the interest of the people of Soweto.

Councillor Manthata said that Makgotla has a membership of 16, 000 people. He said that the South African Police, the National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of offenders (Nicro) and the South African Students Organisation support the idea of the Makgotla being granted Government recognition. He wanted to know what would happen if Makgotla was done away with and which other organisation could do that crime as effectively as the Makgotla. To say that police are there, he urged that it was not a satisfactory statement because they have failed in their fight against crime. He maintained that the people of Soweto prefer their cases to be dealt with by the Makgotla to the Police.

Councillor Mutha, seconded by Councillor Maponya MOVED:

That the Chairman of the Urban Bantu Council and two other members namely: Councillor Maponya and Councillor Makhaya be given a mandate to make representations to the Minister on behalf of this Council that:-

1. This barbaric practice of flogging people by the Makgotla be stopped forthwith.
2. That Makgotla must never be recommended in our society.

Councillor Manthata wanted the house to be divided.

On division : 15 votes for the motion.

4 votes against the motion.

RESOLVED:

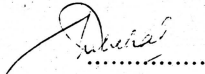
That the Chairman of the Urban Bantu Council and two other members namely: Councillor Maponya and Councillor Makaya be given a mandate to make representations to the Minister on behalf of this Council that:-

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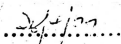
At this stage the Council went into Committee and discussed certain matters in private.

The meeting closed at 7,20p.m.

CHAIRMAN :


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DATE :


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LMX/MVS