

Minutes : Ordinary Meeting of the Urban Bantu Council : 26 August 1976 :

WES-RANDSE BANTOESAKE-ADMINISTRASIERAAD  
WEST RAND BANTU AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION BOARD

DIE STEDELIKE BANTOERAAD VAN JOHANNESBURG  
URBAN BANTU COUNCIL OF JOHANNESBURG

MINUTES OF THE 99TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE URBAN BANTU COUNCIL OF  
JOHANNESBURG HELD IN THE URBAN BANTU COUNCIL CHAMBER JABULANI ON  
THURSDAY 26 AUGUST 1976 AT 2,30 P.M.

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS : Makhaya, T.J. (Chairman)  
Chuenyane, F.  
Hanyane, S.  
Hlungwane, H.  
Jiyane, G.  
Jiyane, J.M.  
Lengene, P.M.  
Mahlangu, F.  
Mahlangu, S.S.  
Makhanya, A.  
Manthata, S.  
Mlonzi, L.L.  
Mosala, L.M.  
Motha, S.  
Mzinyane, J.B.  
Nevnulaudzi, J.  
Ngubane, Z.  
Nkosi, K.  
Poce, D.  
Radebe, L.  
Rakgomo, J.M.  
Rasmeni, D.  
Tshabangu, L.  
Vilakazi, E.G.

OFFICIALS:

Mr. M.P. Wilsnach (Director, Housing)  
Mr. D.M. Kubayi (Acting Secretary)

SUSPENSION OF THE URBAN BANTU  
COUNCIL AGENDA

On the motion of Councillor Manthata it was RESOLVED:

That the Urban Bantu Council agenda be suspended tolerable the Council to discuss violence in Orlando West and Meadowlands.

UNREST IN SOWETO

Councillor Mosala Suggested that all the recommendations emanating from the Committees be adopted with the exception of the one on the Future of Soweto Market and that a special meeting of the Urban Bantu Council be called to consider the Future of this Market.

He said that the Urban Bantu Council should march to Protea to request the Senior Police Officers to maintain peace and order in Soweto by protecting the lives of the residents from the hostel inmates of the Mzimhlophe and Dube Hostels.

Councillor Lengene said that people residing at Orlando West and Meadowlands allege that police were escorting hostel dwellers who were armed with dangerous weapons and who among other people, killed five people related to him.

He said if this position is left unchecked it might escalate into a city and that innocent people resident in the city and the Soweto community working in town will be embroiled into this violence. He added that the Orlando West and Meadowlands zone 1 residents were evacuating their homes and sought refuge with relatives living in other townships.

Councillor Mlonzi said that the Council should first examine the situation properly and decide on what action to take before marching to Protea. He said none has not heard that hostel dwellers were in collusion with the police in that they were conveyed by police vehicles and dropped at strategic places where they started killing and injuring residents of Soweto. He said that Senior Police Officers from Protea were aware of the crimes that hostel inmates were committing in Soweto and were abetting violence in Mzimhlophe and Meadowlands areas by supporting the hostel inmates and firing at residents who tried to defend themselves from the invaders. He said hostel inmates were fighting Soweto residents at the instigation of the police. In conclusion he said that while the Councillors marched to Protea, Mlonzi, would go to the troubled areas to seek peace among his people.

He moved:

- (a) That all Homelands leaders be invited to a special meeting of the Urban Bantu Council and other prominent people of Soweto to be held at 30 Albert Street. Homelands leaders would be briefed on the prevailing situation in Soweto and thereafter they be requested to address their subjects resident in the various townships in an attempt at restoring peace in Soweto as a matter of urgency, and

- (b) That the air fares of the Homelands leaders be borne by the West Rand Administration Board.

Councillor G. Jiyane seconded the motion.

Councillor Mosala said that he endorsed Councillor Mlonzi's views because the majority of hostel inmates are migrant labourers who owe their allegiance to their various Homelands. He said hostel dwellers were armed to the hilt and are ready to attack the Soweto community. In conclusion he wanted to know what action the Council was going to take to bring violence to a halt as a matter of urgency. He felt that the idea of bringing Homelands leaders was a long term solution.

Councillor Lengene said that Homelands Governments have their own funds and should not be financed by the West Rand Administration Board when called upon to come and address their own people.

The Director Housing wanted to know to whom Homelands leaders would speak as there was a ban on public meetings and added that if they did meet the Urban Bantu Council they would still not have reached the people.

The Chairman said that Homelands leaders should in the first instance meet the Urban Bantu Council members and thereafter they be requested to address their own subjects living in the hostels in the presence of the Urban Bantu Council members and other prominent residents of Soweto in an attempt at restoring peace.

RESOLVED:

That all Homelands leaders be invited to a special meeting of the Urban Bantu Council and other prominent people of Soweto to be held at 80 Albert Street where Homelands leaders will be briefed on the prevailing situation in Soweto and thereafter they be requested to address their subjects resident in the various hostels in an attempt at restoring peace in Soweto as a matter of urgency.

The meeting closed at 4.00 p.m.

CONFIRMED

CHAIRMAN:  .....

DATE: 18/8/76 .....

18/8/76