

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

DIE STEDELIKE BANTOERAAD VAN JOHANNESBURG
URBAN BANTU COUNCIL OF JOHANNESBURG

MINUTES OF THE 107TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE URBAN BANTU COUNCIL OF JOHANNESBURG HELD IN THE URBAN BANTU COUNCIL CHAMBER, JABULANI ON THURSDAY 24 FEBRUARY 1977 AT 2,30 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

OFFICIALS:

Mr. H.P.P. Mulder (Chairman, West Rand Administration Board)
Mr. J.C. de Villiers (Chief Director)
Mr. M.P. Wilsnach (Director, Housing)
Mr. A.M. Conn (Senior Townships Manager)
Mr. Bosman (Information Officer)
Mr. D.M. Kubayi (Acting Secretary)
Mr. A. Mfete.

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. du Randt (Chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner)
Mr. Baynes (Bantu Affairs Commissioner)
Mr. Bordmann (Urban Areas Commissioner)
Brigadier J. Visser (Divisional Commissioner, South
African Police, Soweto)
Mr. Clemens (British Consulate)
Mr. Denison-Edison (Commonwealth Officer)
Mr. B. Styn

DOBSONVILLE U.B.C.

COUNCILLORS : Radebe, C. (Chairman)
Mosobe, A.R. (Deputy Chairman)
Mashao, I.B.
Sithole, F.
Mpepeto, D.

OPENING PRAYER

Councillor Makhaya opened the proceedings with a prayer.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

The Chairman introduced Messrs C. Radebe, du Randt, Mulder, de Villiers, Wilsnach, Baynes, Bordmann, Clemens, Denison-Edison, B. Steyn and Brigadier Visser and welcomed them to the meeting.

1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Leave of absence in terms of Regulation 29(2) was granted to Councillors Chuenyane and G. Jiyane.

2. FAREWELL TO CHIEF DIRECTOR

The Chairman said this is a special meeting which has been called to bid farewell to the Chief Director, Mr. J.C. de Villiers, who has rendered meritorious service to the Soweto community.

He said that he was going to call on people who came into contact with Mr. de Villiers during his tenure of office to say a few words.

Mr. du Randt said it was an honour for him to testify that he has known Mr. de Villiers for thirty years and that he was responsible for the granting of a licence to Mr. de Villiers when he was appointed by the Johannesburg City Council. He said that his department appreciated the role that Mr. de Villiers played as an official of the Johannesburg City Council. He added that Mr. de Villiers would call at his office whenever he had some problems and would not leave until he was sure that his problems were receiving attention or solved. He thanked Mr. de Villiers for his good services in the administration of Soweto and other area under his control.

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.

Mr. Mulder said that there is an expression which says "Great men never feel themselves great" and that this was indeed true of Mr. de Villiers. As President of the Institute of Administrators, Mr. de Villiers made valuable contributions to the running of townships and was always consulted by the Ministers.

He said Mr. de Villiers could control his temper and had many ideas to improve the situation in Greater Soweto and is indeed a realistic man. He said the Minister has announced that Greater functions will be granted to the Urban Bantu Councils before the end of this year and that these would, in the first instance, be discussed with the Urban Bantu Councils.

He said Mr. de Villiers built a good spirit with the staff both Black and White. He was firm without being harsh to the staff. He said that when he was appointed Chairman of the West Rand Administration Board, he did not stumble because he had a good man to lean upon.

He then thanked the Urban Bantu Council for creating an opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. de Villiers. He said Mr. de Villiers was not dead and that when they needed him he would always be available to help them. He wished him success in his new task.

The Chairman appreciated the manner in which Mr. de Villiers administered the Greater Soweto and Alexandra Township and said Mr. de Villiers catered for the people of Soweto in respect of their housing needs, and school facilities as well as their railway transport and other requirements. He presented the wishes and aspirations of the people of Soweto to the Minister and also mooted the question of leasehold rights for Urban Blacks to the Minister.

He said Mr. de Villiers was capable of transforming the dark yesterday into a brighter to-day, and that he had done much for the people of Soweto. Further, he added that every successful man had a woman behind him, and felt that had it not been for the support he received from his wife, Mr. de Villiers would not have achieved success in his work and he expressed gratitude to Mrs. de Villiers for the support she gave to her husband.

He added that Mr. de Villiers has worked hard as a liaison between the Soweto Urban Bantu Council and Pretoria in a bid to have this Urban Bantu Council granted greater responsibilities and regretted the fact that he was leaving the administration before this matter has become a reality. He thanked Mr. de Villiers for what he has done to make life worthwhile for the people of Soweto, and on their behalf and that of the Urban Bantu Council of Soweto, the Chairman presented Mr. de Villiers with a gift and a bouquet for his wife.

In reply the Chief Director said he felt very humble because he could not see the man they were talking about, and said that he would, however, endeavour to live up to it.

He said Mr. du Randt is a very successful man who helped him in every way possible and he was grateful for his support. He added that a man cannot work with people unless they are his friends. He thanked Mr. du Randt, Mr. Bayne and Brigadier Visser for their co-operation.

URBAN BANTU COUNCIL SOWETO: (31.3.77)

EDUCATION AND HEALTH COMMITTEE: (8.3.77)

WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD

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 Pimville or Senaokane 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 Pimville or Senaokane 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

U.B.C. 50/76
Ref. No. 8/1
DMV/MVS

He thanked the Chief Bantu Affairs, the Bantu Affairs Commissioner, the officials of the West Rand Administration Board and members of the Dobsonville Urban Bantu Council for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 4,35 p.m.

CONFIRMED

CHAIRMAN: 

DATE: 24/2/77

DMK/JSM