

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

DIE STEDELIKE BANTOERAAD VAN JOHANNESBURG
URBAN BANTU COUNCIL OF JOHANNESBURG

MINUTES OF THE 97TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE URBAN BANTU COUNCIL OF JOHANNESBURG HELD IN THE URBAN BANTU COUNCIL CHAMBER JABULANI ON WEDNESDAY 26 MAY 1976 AT 2,30 P.M.

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS : Makhaya, T.J. (Chairman)
Chuenyane, F.
Cindi, S.
Hlungwane, H.
Jiyane, J.M.
Leepo, J.M.
Lengene, P.M.
Machaba, B.C.
Mahlangu, F.
Mahlangu, S.S.
Makhanya, A.
Maponya, R.J.P.
Mlonzi, L.L.
Mokoena, D.
Motha, S.
Mothibinyane, E.
Nepfumbada, F.
Nevhulaudzi, J.
Pelotona, A.
Pooe, D.
Radebe, L.
Rakgomo, J.M.
Rasmeni, D.
Scwebu, M.
Thebehali, D.
Tjeeko, M.
Tshabangu, L.
Vilakazi, E.G.
Vukeya, M.S.
Xulu, M.B.

OFFICIALS:

Mr. M.P. Wilsnach (Director, Housing)
Mr. A.M. Conn (Senior Townships Manager)
Mr. A. Mfete (Senior Clerk)
- Mr. D.M. Kubayi (Acting Secretary)

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. G.M. van Niekerk (Assistant Chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner)

OPENING PRAYER:

The Chairman of the Urban Bantu Council opened the proceedings with a prayer.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 29 April 1976 were circulated to members.

CONFIRMED

2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- (i) Leave of absence in terms of Regulation 29(2) was granted to the following Councillors : Hanyane, Mosala and Ntloko.
- (ii) Leave of absence in terms of Regulation 29(3) was granted to the following Councillors:

Nkosi for the period 26 May 1976 to 26 June 1976
Ngubane for the period 2 May 1976 to 2 June 1976
Hlungwane for the period 1 June 1976 to 1 July 1976.

3. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS.

4. URGENCY MATTERS.

URBAN BANTU COUNCIL SOWETO: (26.5.76)

AMENITIES COMMITTEE: (4.5.76)

WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD

COMMUNITY HALLS

The Urban Bantu Council at its meeting held on 31 July 1975 RESOLVED

That, in view of the fact that the present Community halls in Soweto cannot accommodate an audience of 1 000, provision be made in the 1976/1977 Estimates, to build an all-purpose Soweto Community Hall, with all the necessary theatrical facilities to accommodate at least 3 000 people, and that it be built in such a way to enable it to be extended at a future date to seat up to 10 000 people.

This matter was taken up with the Assistant Director Community Services who commented as follows :-

A Community Hall with the capacity as requested by the Urban Bantu Council is impracticable as a hall of this size tends to be used only for the "big" occasions which normally occur only once or twice a year, and that the "Five Roses Bowl" now under construction at Mofolo Park will in all ways satisfy the demand for a venue of this nature.

The Senior Townships Manager described the "Five Roses Bowl" as an American type of an open air stadium with stands some of which are covered.

Councillor Vilakazi wanted to know if the "Five Roses Bowl" will accommodate more than 1 000 people.

At this stage the Chairman arrived at the meeting.

The Senior Townships Manager replied that although he did not know the number that could be accommodated, the "Five Roses Bowl" will be one of the biggest stadiums in the country.

He added the proposed hall could be impracticable because it would require cleaners and a caretaker who would have to be paid for the whole year while the hall may only be used two to three times a year. This would be a waste of money.

COMMUNITY HALLS

(Continued)

Councillor Rakgomo said that had this Council been informed in advance of the construction of the "Five Roses Bowl," this recommendation would not have been approved at the Council meeting held on 31 July 1975.

Councillor Manthata said it is futile and a waste of money to build a hall which will be used two to three times a year.

He advocated the provision of a hall in each Township that will seat between 600 to 850 people.

Councillor F. Mahlangu and Buthelezi addressed the meeting.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

- (a) That the Urban Bantu Council resolution taken on 31 July 1975 be amended by the substitution of the figure "3 000" by the figure "1 500" so that the new resolution should read thus:

That, in view of the fact that the present Community halls in Soweto cannot accommodate an audience of 1 000, provision be made in the 1976/77 Estimates, to build an all-purpose Soweto Community Hall, with all the necessary theatrical facilities to accommodate at least 1 500 people.

- (b) That the Chief Director be requested to furnish this Council with the details and the plans of the "Five Roses Bowl."

Councillor Thebehali said that the "Five Roses Bowl" will be used by the schools and the churches and events like the "Carols by Candlelight" and churches will also be able to hold their Conferences at this proposed venue.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE : (4.5.76)

WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD

COMMUNITY HALLS

(Continued)

- (b) That the Chief Director be requested to furnish this Council with the details and the plans of the "Five Roses Bowl."
- (c) That a deputation consisting of Councillors Scwebu, Pooe and Chuanvan and the Chairman of the Amenities Committee be appointed to interview the Director Housing on this matter.

U.B.C. 37/76

Ref. No. 3/7

H/O Ref. No.

DMK/MVS/OM

AMENITIES COMMITTEE : (4.5.76)

WEST HAVEN ADMINISTRATION BOARD

COMMUNITY HALLS

(Continued)

- (b) That the Chief Director be requested to furnish this Council with the details and the plans of the "Five Roses Bowl."
- (c) That a deputation consisting of Councillors Scwebu, Pooe and Chuenyana and the Chairman of the Amenities Committee be appointed to interview the Director Housing on this matter.

U.B.C. 37/76

Ref. No. 3/7

H/O Ref. No.

DMK/MVS/OM

URBAN BANTU COUNCIL SOWETO: (26.5.76)

TRADING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE: (6.5.76)

WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD

3. REQUEST FOR AFRICAN METER OFFICERS TO REPLACE
AFRICAN MALE TRAFFIC INSPECTORS PRESENTLY
OPERATING IN JOHANNESBURG AND SUBURBS

On 30 October 1975 the Urban Bantu Council RESOLVED:

- (a) That representations be made for the employment of female Africans to replace African male Traffic Inspectors presently operating in Johannesburg and Suburbs.
- (b) That the African male Traffic Inspectors presently doing duty in town be detailed to do duty in Soweto only.

This matter was referred to the Chief Traffic Officer of the Johannesburg City Council who commented as follows:

"With reference to your letter A71/1/7 dated 21 January, I wish to inform you that your suggestion is not feasible for numerous reasons."

Councillor Nkosi said the Chief Traffic Officer has, in his reply to the Urban Bantu Council's resolution, not given reasons for his rejection of the request and for this reason the reply is not accepted.

Councillor Hanyane said the Urban Bantu Council made this request in an attempt to overcome the manpower shortage in Soweto. There are African ladies who are just as competent as their European counterparts in issuing tickets to defaulters.

Councillors S.S. Mahlangu and Mzinyane addressed the meeting.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the reply received from the Chief Traffic Officer of the Johannesburg City Council be not accepted as no reasons have been given and that further representations be made through the Chief Director with the request that the Chief Traffic Officer or his Deputy be invited to attend a subsequent meeting of this Committee.

ADOPTED

U.B.C. 20/7
H/O Ref. A71/1/7
DNK/JSM
UAC 20/7

URBAN BANTU COUNCIL SOWETO: (26.5.76)

EDUCATION AND HEALTH COMMITTEE: (11.5.76)

WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD

ABSENCE OF A QUORUM

The ordinary meeting of the Education and Health Committee which was scheduled for 11 May 1976 could not be held owing to the absence of a quorum and was adjourned to the next ordinary meeting of the Committee.

NOTED

URBAN BANTU COUNCIL SOWETO : (26.5.76)
WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD

4. URGENCY MATTERS :

(1) BOYCOTT OF CLASSES BY SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The Director Housing said that he was approached by the Chairman of the Urban Bantu Council and the Chairman of the Education and Health Committee to arrange a meeting between the Officials of the West Rand Administration Board, Urban Bantu Councillors and the Regional Director of Bantu Education, Southern Transvaal. This meeting will take place either next Tuesday or Wednesday in an attempt to resolve the boycott of classes by children who refuse to use Afrikaans as a medium of instruction.

It is important that school buildings where children have gone on strike be protected from vandals and also striking pupils who may become rowdy and aggressive.

Councillor Mlonzi wanted to know the line of action the Urban Bantu Council was going to take. He said children do not want Afrikaans as a medium of instruction and wanted to know if the Urban Bantu Council is going to compel children to accept Afrikaans or to plead with the authorities to reverse to English as a medium of instruction.

Councillor Thebehali addressed the Council and thanked the Chairman of the Urban Bantu Council and the Chairman of the Committee for having taken part on the administrative matters of the schools which the School Boards have in the past claimed to be their sole responsibility.

The Chairman in reply to councillor Mlonzi said he knew the needs of the children and the people of Soweto and they would do their utmost in representing their case to the representatives of Bantu Education.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That this matter be noted with appreciation.
- (b) That the delegation be given a mandate to interview the Director of Bantu Education.

(11) INCREASES IN PUTCO BUS FARES

A representative of the Chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner explained that fares would be increased with effect from 14 June 1976 and said that the Councillors were not held responsible in any way for the increases and were only requested to inform the public about the increases.

He said that Putco motivated their application to the Transportation Board and the Department of Transport so well that the two bodies had no choice but to approve the increases although not in toto. The bus commuters will pay an increase of 20c a week and the Government will grant Putco a subsidy as Putco cannot make ends meet on the existing fares.

Employers of Bantu labour would be asked to increase wages but pointed out that they the employers could not be forced to accede to the request of his Department.

4. URGENCY MATTERS :

(1) INCREASES IN PUTCO BUS FARES

(Continued)

Radio Bantu and the press would be requested to disseminate this information to the public, whilst PUTCO would distribute pamphlets to the commuters.

PUTCO has purchased 44 new buses for the Soweto routes and would provide two new buses every week until they totalled 100. 25 Old buses which had been reconditioned are just as good as new, and are on these routes.

Councillor Tshabangu said PUTCO should have bought new buses first and increase the fares later.

Councillor Maponya said he appreciated the explanation made by the Bantu Affairs Commissioner but stated that he found it difficult for him to persuade his people to accept the increased fares while their wages were still lagging behind.

Councillor Thebehali said according to the Market Research the minimum wages of an African is R124 a month and expressed a belief that if the lowest wage earner was paid this amount the people would accept the bus fare increases. He said should the people of Soweto boycott the buses spontaneously, the economy of the country will be disrupted.

Councillor Mlonzi, Lengene, Scwebu and the Director Housing addressed the Council.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That this Urban Bantu Council reject the report presented by the representative of the Chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner on increased bus fares.
- (b) That this council rejects the request to disseminate the information to the public.
- (c) That no member of this council should attempt to call a public meeting in connection with this matter.
- (d) That this Council deplores the attitude of the representative of the Chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner in leaving the meeting whilst this subject was still under discussion.

The meeting closed at 5,10p.m.

CONFIRMED

CHAIRMAN:

DATE:

18/5/76

OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE URBAN BANTU COUNCIL OF JOHANNESBURG
OF THE URBAN BANTU COUNCIL CHAMBER JABULANI ON MONDAY 14 JUNE 1976

COUNCILIORS : Makhaya, T.J. (Chairman)
Mnweba, K. (Deputy Chairman)
Buthlezi, E.
Chuenayne, F.
Jiyane, G.
Jiyane, M.
Mahlangu, S.S.
Makhanya, A.
Manthata, S.
Maponya, R.J.P.
Mokoena, D.
Mosala, L.M.
Motha, S.
Nepfumbada, F.
Ntloko, M.M.
Pelotona, A.
Rakgomo, J.M.
Thebehali, D.
Tjeeke, M.
Tshabangu, L.
Vukeya, M.S.

OFFICIALS : Mr. M.F. Wilenach (Director Housing)
Mr. A.M. Conn (Senior Township Manager)
Mr. D.M. Kubayi (Acting Secretary)
Mr. A. Mfete

THE PRAYER :

Councillor Mofa opened the proceedings with a prayer.

Report back by the Delegation of the Urban Bantu Council that met the Director of Bantu Education, Southern Transvaal on the boycott of schools by school children.

The Director Housing said that he and the delegation had a very successful meeting with the Director of Bantu Education on 7 June 1976.

He advised the Urban Bantu Council not to talk to the Department of Bantu Education through the press if they wanted the delegation to achieve success in Pretoria. He suggested that this be a closed meeting but added that he did not want to take a decision for the Urban Bantu Council.

Councillor Mlonzi said the School Boards felt that the administration of African Schools is their sole responsibility and that if the Urban Bantu Council wishes to discuss school matters it should do so in conjunction with them.

He said the Urban Bantu Council had nothing to hide in this matter. People are entitled to know what is going on in Soweto and pointed out that the only source of information for a man in the street is the press.

Councillor Mosala said that this is a serious matter which, if not resolved promptly, will get out of control. If we operate in the dark we will be destroying the image of the Urban Bantu Council because people will view the Urban Bantu Council members with suspicion. He appealed to the Council to discuss this matter openly if they do not want the Urban Bantu Council to lose its credibility to the public.

Councillor Maponya said this is a delicate matter which, if not handled carefully, will be blown out of proportion and this will not be in the public interest.

He suggested that the press should be debarred from the meeting at this stage for it is a known fact that the Government is sensitive to criticisms made through the press. If the Minister of Bantu Education sees the wind of our line of action beforehand his attitude will be hardened to an extent that he will go out of his way to defend his officials. Children have registered their point and their parents should take over the fight.

Next/.....

Continued:

He considered that the Chairman should, at the end of the meeting, make a press statement.

Councillor Thebehali said what the Regional Director of Bantu Education told the delegation was not hundred per cent true. He said if this matter is discussed in the presence of the press, the Minister will say that we have given vent to our feelings and there is no point in our seeing him. He will take a unilateral decision.

Councillors Rakgomo, S.S. Mahlangu, Manthata, Ntloko and G. Jiyane spoke in favour of allowing the press to be present.

Councillors Makhaya and Vukeya were against the presence of the press in their address.

On division votes cast : FOR : 11 votes
AGAINST : 8 votes

Members of the press were admitted into the meeting.

The Chairman of the Urban Bantu Council said the delegation was given a very good support by the Director Housing in presenting this matter to the Regional Director of Bantu Education.

He said the Regional Director of Bantu Education told the delegation that it was not his duty to take a decision on this matter, but that it was the responsibility of the Minister and pointed out that he is duty bound to carry out the instruction of the Minister to the letter.

Councillor Thebehali said the interview the delegation had with the Director of Bantu Education was very difficult and frustrating. The Regional Director who was very impatient told the delegation that we were not qualified to discuss the teaching of certain subjects through the Afrikaans medium because this is a professional matter to be considered by professional people.

He said principals should follow the right channels to apply for exemptions but when he was asked how many schools have applied for exemptions, how many were approved and how many were turned down, he did not have the information. He said that from the discussion it was apparent that the Regional Director was not in favour of the delegation going to Pretoria to discuss this matter with the Minister.

Councillor Chuenyane wanted to know from the Chairman what the content of delegation was about the allegation made by the Regional Director who said that he had received information from the Tswana people that Zulus were going to strike.

He said he did not think that school principals applied for exemptions which he maintained that even at this stage are still being granted. Children are striking because their teachers are not competent to teach certain subjects through the Afrikaans medium.

Continued:

He said the best teachers who are qualified to teach any subject through Afrikaans are those who attended Afrikaans medium schools such as Emmarentia High School, Strydom Opleiding Skool and Stofberg Gedenk Skool. He wanted to know why these schools were closed when the authorities want the Black people to be proficient in Afrikaans.

He suggested the establishment of certain schools which should teach all subjects through the Afrikaans medium and that they be staffed with teachers who are authorities in Afrikaans.

Councillor Manthata said that forcing the children to go back to School will not solve the problem. He said all the school Boards in the Urban Areas chose English as a medium of instruction but this was refused by the representatives of Bantu Education.

Councillor Mosala said that it was not done anywhere in the World to teach subjects through two languages. He said he supported the children and the teachers' organisation who rejected Afrikaans as a medium of tuition. He called for the scrapping of the 50-50 English and Afrikaans basis as this is cumbersome and retarding the progress of the child. He added that children have no respect for their parents for allowing this system and feel that their parents do not have their interest at heart. He predicted that coercing the children to study certain subjects through Afrikaans medium will result in another "Sharpsville shooting".

Councillor Mlonzi presumed that the Department of Bantu Education is refusing to grant exemptions because some of the teachers when applying for posts stated in their applications that they are bilingual. He said that forcing a people to know your language is an attempt at indoctrinating them which cannot be allowed as it may create chaos in the country.

He said research was made in Canada where there are two official languages which were used in Schools on a 50-50 English and French basis and in Schools where only one language was used as a medium of instruction. It was found that children who were taught through one medium of tuition did better than those who are taught through a dual medium of tuition.

In South Africa Black children are the only ones who are forced to be taught through two languages which are foreign to them and cannot cope with two languages.

He disputed the statement of the Regional Director of Bantu Education that the education of a Black child in the Urban Areas is financed by the white people. He said the General Revenue of the country does not only come from Whites but Blacks also contribute towards this revenue directly and indirectly. He argued that in South Africa money belong to all the people living in South Africa. Eighty per cent of Bantu Taxation is allocated to Bantu Education according to an Act of Parliament and he said he was not aware of any amendment to the Act.

Continued:

HE MOVED: *

That a delegation consisting of four Councillors and three Chairmen of the School Boards be appointed to meet the Minister in Cape Town as expeditiously as possible.

Councillors Motha, Vukeya, Rakgomo and Thebehali addressed the Council.

As a result of a personal attack by Councillor Thebehali against Councillor Mosala, most councillors left the meeting in protest and this resulted in a broken quorum.

The remaining members RESOLVED.

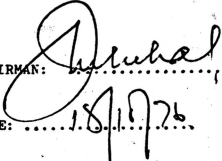
That the same delegation that met the Regional Director of Bantu Education be appointed to discuss this matter with the Minister of Bantu Education with the right to co-opt.

The meeting closed at 5.45 p.m.

CONFIRMED

CHAIRMAN:

DATE:

Handwritten signature of Thobeka and the date 18/1/76.