

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE RIOTS AT
SOVETO AND OTHER PLACES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

AFTERNOON SESSION:

28th JANUARY, 1977.

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THE COMMISSION RESUMES AT 14h15 ON THE 28th JANUARY, 1977.

DR YUTAR: M'Lord, I call the last witness, Mr Joseph Joe Matotie.

JOSEPH JOE MATOTIE: sworn states:

DR YUTAR: You are a member of the Advisory Board and urban representative of the Western Thembu Land Chiefs? -- Yes.

You are also a member of Parliament in the Transkei Government. -- Yes.

As a matter of interest, you are in the same constituency as your Minister of Justice. -- Chief George Matanzima, yes. (10)

Now you stay at Duncan Village, East London? -- Yes.

And you are in the fortunate position where you can tell His Lordship that in the Eastern Province your people behaved with exemplary restraint notwithstanding the unrest in other parts of the country. -- Yes.

And you agree with the statement made by Mr Coetzer, that that is due in large measure, to the communication channels that exist between your people and officialdom? -- Yes.

And you speak here of course as a member of the Urban Representative .. -- Advisory Board. (20)

Advisory Board. -- Yes.

You of course want to mention one factor which has caused a certain measure of unhappiness amongst your people, but you are fair enough to say that it is not in your view a cause for rioting. -- Yes.

And you would like to bring this to the notice of His Lordship, even though it may be possibly outside the terms of reference, that your people resented the removal from Duncan Village to Mdantsane. -- Yes.

The resentment is felt all the more because the area (30) you vacated, was given over to the Asiatics and the Coloureds. --

Yes/...

Yes.

Now, I have only one further question to put to you. Your people, they accepted the independence of the Transkei? -- Wholeheartedly.

And what is the feeling of the youthful members of your people? -- They are enthusiastic, they are praising their Prime Minister, Paramount Chief Kayzer Matanzima for leading them to get their independence in the Transkei.

It would be far removed from the truth to say that about 80% of the youth of your people is against the Transkei (10) independence? -- It is far from the truth. Even the youth now are joining the military of the Transkei.

Of the Transkei in defence of their country. -- To defend their country.

Is there anything else you would like to tell His Lordship? I notice you have some cuttings over there. Do you want to draw our attention to anything? -- Yes. My people resent to be removed to Mdantsane because it is very hard for them to be miles away from the town which they have built up and through the cuttings here we feel that there is some injustice (20) because Coloureds do not pay their rents, they owe round about R70 000, but if it is a Black that Black is being evicted. The treatment between the Blacks of East London and the Coloureds and Indians are mostly biassed. Now as they have been removed to Mdantsane, they feel the hardship, which is now very easy for the youth to be influenced by thugs, etc. so that they could be disobedient to the law of Mdantsane.

Yes, I forgot to mention you were originally at Duncan Village, that is a matter how far from East London city? -- Duncan Village is 3 miles from East London. (30)

And where they have now been removed to is a matter of? --

Mdantsane/...

Mdantsane is 14 miles away almost to King William's Town way.

And what means of transport are available. -- Oh, very, very severe.

You have got buses only? -- Buses and taxis.

No trains? -- There are trains really. We paid only 8 cents from here to Duncan Village in a bus, whilst they pay round about 27 cents from here to Mdantsane.

By bus. -- By bus.

And of course taxis are .. -- Taxis are very high. You have to pay R5, R1, etc. (10)

And the cuttings you have there are in support of what you have told His Lordship that your people feel unhappy about.--Yes.

I have no further questions.

CHAIRMAN: Anything more you wish to add? -- At Mdantsane I would like to add that where we are being sent, there are councillors who are looking after the interests of the people, but we found that they are now dishonest councillors, they are being found usually in a court of law for fraud by selling these houses to the people, now people are really unhappy. Because a leader should be honest. Now the point I would like (20) to put to emphasise my stand. The former mayor of East London, Mr De Lange, in a statement he has made on September the 4th, 1973, he has welcomed a German prime minister. These were the words he made when he was welcoming the Prime Minister of Germany.

"East London is the gateway to the Transkei and the Free State and also that horrible place called the Transvaal.

Mr De Lange pointed out that East London has a great industrial potential. We have 12 000 acres of industrial ground available (30) in the East London area and plenty of

labour/...

labour available nearby Mdantsane which has a population of 200 000. We have all the amenities and concessions industrialists could hope for, he said. Mr De Lange hoped the Prime Minister would encourage German industrialists to come to East London. We even have Berlin and Frankfort. I think that we would make any German feel at home."

(10)

do you say that there the Germans are being asked to come to Ciskei? They can come here at any time. We have been sent Mdantsane, a remote place, a glorified slum. Which now the youth take no interest now to the leader because they feel that we are only puppets. They have now taken out their initiative which they are now doing. Against the will of their parents.

Thank you.

NO FURTHER QUESTIONS.
