

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

WHOLE SESSION:

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Gelukkig nie.

Dankie. Dankie ook dat u bereid was om sommige van die probleme te bespreek wat ek aan u kon stel.

GEEN VERDERE VRAE.

MNR. HLUNGWANI: Edele, die getuie wat ek nou gaan lei is Andrew Monyemore.

VOORSITTER: Doen u aansoek in hierdie verband dat sy naam en omstandighede nie bekend gemaak word nie?

MNR. HLUNGWANI: Ja, Edele.

VOORSITTER: Die aansoek word toegestaan dat die naam (10) en enige feite wat die identiteit van hierdie getuie openbaar kan maak, dat dit nie vermeld sal word in enige verslag of buite hierdie Kommissie nie.

ANDREW MONYEMORE: sworn states: (Through Interpreter)

MR HLUNGWANI: U is 'n lid van die Adviserende Raad te Ikageng te Klerksdorp. -- Ja.

'n Lid van die Skoolraad? -- Ja.

En voorsitter van een van die Skoolkomitees. -- Ja.

U het my gesê u wil maar hê ek moet u in Engels lei, maar Afrikaans is ook goed?. -- In Engels. (20)

You will describe to the Commission shortly what actually you saw happening or what you know to have happened on the 13th August, 1976. -- (Witness takes over from the Interpreter)
On the day of the 13th August, 1976, at a certain school, Basupi School on that morning the office of the principal was found to have - some people have tried to put to fire, but fortunately the fire did not grow, it just died and then at the time when the school had to start, when the pupils had to go into classes, they ran - they did not - they went into the classes and ran out of the classes and threw stones at (30) the school buildings and from then on they ran to other neighbouring/...

neighbouring schools, threw stones at the buildings and the pupils at those schools went out, running away. They did that with a few other schools.

Did they succeed in having the other pupils to join them? -- No, on that day they did not succeed, they did not actually join them.

What happened? -- With the throwing of the stones the principals were ordered that they should close down the schools and the children should be left to go home.

Did they break, burn or damage any public building? (10) -- Yes, they did damage the library; they threw stones at the library and there are two or three houses that they also threw stones at. One of the houses was one of the Advisory Board members, I think in actual fact two of them.

When the scholars of this specific school threw stones during the day and then what happened now in the evening? -- Later on in the evening, the students were joined by other groups. You know, I would say other groups, the tsotsi element amongst them. I would not say there were any responsible people who joined them. (20)

Now as a result of the tsotsi element having joined in the demonstration, what happened? -- Did the mode of damage to property change in any way? -- Yes, it changed in the sense that they began throwing stones at cars just at random. Cars and buses that were passing by.

Did the owners of private cars not have a passport here, the Black Power sign? -- No, they did not at ..(inaudible) ask for a passport.

When I say that I mean, in other places when they were demonstrating and throwing stones and you come, you must (30) show the Black Power sign and then you are allowed to pass.

Was/...

Was it not the case here? -- No, unfortunately not. They were just throwing stones at random.

When you say they threw stones at random, do you mean that even Blacks' cars were ... -- Yes, they threw at Black cars, yes, even taxis.

Even taxis. -- Yes.

You say the rioting took place up to the 14th, the following day? -- Yes, the 14th was a Saturday, there was sporadic stone throwing and then the police were called in and time and again just called again and you would hear that they (10) are again trying to throw stones at the library and just end up there again.

Now, in your opinion, do you think there was any planned strategy on the demonstration of the 13th? -- In my opinion really I think that the people were trying to identify themselves with the other people elsewhere.

With the Soweto people? -- With the Soweto people, yes.

And they did not actually have a reason to go on strike or to riot? -- No, I do not think they - I have not heard of any other reason yet, except that they wanted to (20) identify themselves with the other people.

But according to you they were just the pupils of one school who started the whole thing. -- It was just the students of the one school.

And on the 13th only the pupils of that school were active right through the whole day? -- No, I would not say so, because like I said after the stone throwing of the schools, all the children were let to go home, so you do not know what other people did join those particular students of that school that Friday. (30)

You mean that whoever joined the march from any other school/...

school did it on its own, not an organised group from one school joining the rioting school. Is that what you mean? They threw stones at the other schools to get the children to join them and you said the other schools did not join them and then the other schools were ordered to close. -- Yes.

Now I say to you do you mean that whoever joined later on after the schools had closed, did it on his own, not as a member of an organised group from a specific school. -- Well, one would not say it is not organised from a specific school, because you do not know what happened when they went out (10) of class, but then I think they did it on their own, because at the time when the other students were throwing stones and these pupils were expecting them to come out, they did not go out as they were expected.

Yes, that is what I mean. I mean that whoever joined later on might have joined on his own from the other schools. -- Yes.

And not as a group from a specific school having now arranged with the main school, with the rioting school to join them. -- Yes. (20)

THE COMMISSION ADJOURNS FOR TEA. THE COMMISSION RESUMES.

ANDREW MONYEMORE: still under oath:

MR HLUNGWANI: What is the relationship between the superintendent and the Blacks in Ikageng Township? -- The superintendent?

Yes. -- At the - the relations between the superintendent - the present superintendent?

The present superintendent. -- Is very good.

He communicates with people with respect and people of Ikageng like him? -- He does that very well. (30)

Now, you spoke about some shortages of schools. What is the/...

the opinion of the people about the shortage of schools? --
The people feel that there should be more schools built in
Ikageng, they are not happy about the shortage of schools.

This shortage of schools, is this now a shortage of high
schools or primary schools? -- We do not have high schools in
the first place, we only have a junior secondary school, we
go up to junior secondary school and the shortage of schools
is from the lower primary school up to the high school.

The junior secondary school is it from Form 1 to what
Form? -- Form 3. (10)

And people who want to proceed to matriculation where
do they go? -- They go to boarding schools like to places like
Mafeking, Pilanesberg (that is the other side of Rustenburg)
Thaba Nchu.

Is it now cheaper to go to a school which is nearby where
you will be a day scholar than to get to a faraway place where
you have to pay boarding fees? -- It is cheaper per day.

You spoke about some dissatisfaction in the payment of
Black education. -- Our people are not happy with the education
that we have to pay for. More especially now that we (20)
know that the other people do not pay, we do know that Whites
do not pay for education and we know that the Coloureds do
not pay for education.

You say that people say that the Whites do not pay for
their education, but they have to pay for their education? --
They feel the Whites do not pay for their education and the
Coloureds do also not pay for their education.

The other racial groups do not pay totally or do you
think they pay more for their education than the other racial
groups? -- In actual fact they think they pay more for (30)
their education.

What/...

What about housing? -- Housing is a problem, there is a shortage of housing.

Is that a grievance in your area? Is that a complaint, a general complaint in your area? -- That is a general complaint.

Now you spoke about the Advisory Board, that you would like to have more powers. Have you something to say about that? -- Yes, I feel the Advisory Board must have more responsibility, it should be given more responsibility. There are some other issues that they really have to have a say and make a decision about it, more specifically the administering of the (10) township as it is.

If you were given more responsibility, you would be in a better position to contain your people so that there can be no uprisings in the future? -- I feel if we have more responsibility the communication between us and the government will be better and in that way our people will feel satisfied.

Now you spoke about communication. Is there enough communication between the Black residents and the authorities? -- We do have enough communication with our local authorities, but for reasons I would like to mention this fact that we (20) do feel or I do feel I fear I felt dissatisfied by the fact that the other day the Minister for Bantu Administration invited the leaders of Soweto to have talks with him and we were left out.

In other words you mean there must be some contact between the officials and the residents? -- That is true. In actual fact the officials, even if it is not the Minister, even the government officials in Pretoria, I would feel that it would be best that we have contact with them so that they should really know what is actually happening in the township. (30)

Now you spoke about the confusion caused amongst the Black people/...

people in the township as regards the Bantu Affairs Commission and the Bantu Administration Board. -- Yes, I feel we Blacks still very - we have contacted the Administration Board, most of the things we do them with them, but I feel it is an inconvenience for us that we have to go to the Administration Board offices and again we respect the Bantu Affairs Commissioner. I feel that if the Bantu Affairs Commissioner's Office could be cooperative that could help us a little. I mean that would help the Black people a great deal. Some of the things, for instance to make an (10) example, you have a child born in the township, you actually put on the permit but you actually arrange that at the Commissioner's Office. If that registration was done there at the Administration Board Offices you would not have to travel to the Commissioner's Office for that registration.

That all services be centralised at one place where you could be served, where all your needs could be met. -- That is correct.

And where all documents could be corrected at one centre and that would ease the whole confusion. -- That is true. (20) In actual fact even as an Advisory Board we have the Bantu Affairs Commissioner. We do not really see what is his function there. I mean we do not, we deal with the Administration Board, our problems we solve them at the Administration Board and I do not see how the Bantu Affairs Commissioner can really help us. I mean we do not - there is no communication there between us.

Have you got something to add to what you told me in consultation? -- You mean?

Anything that you would like to - anything further. (30) you want to say? -- No.

M'Lord/...

M'Lord, I am through with the witness, I have no further questions.

CHAIRMAN: I think all that Counsel wanted to know was whether there was anything you want to add to what you have already said. -- I cannot think of anything. I think that is all.

NO FURTHER QUESTIONS.

MR HLUNGWANI: M'Lord, the next witness would be Samuel Moside. I make the same application as to the identity.

CHAIRMAN: The name and identity of this witness must not be disclosed in any report outside this Commission. (10)

SAMUEL MOSIDE: verklaar onder eed:

MNR. HLUNGWANI: U is 'n Afrikaanssprekende Bantoe van Ikageng. -- Korrek.

U is 'n sakeman. -- Reg.

U is ook 'n lid van die Adviserende Raad. -- Reg.

As 'n lid van die Adviserende Raad en ook 'n leier in u gemeenskap, sal u die Kommissie help van griewe wat u bewus van is in die woonbuurt? Sal u die Kommissie sê wat die gevoelens van u gemeenskap is in verband met behuising? -- In verband met behuising, dit is 'n probleem, daar is 'n groot tekort (20) van huise op die huidige oomblik. Ons het al ontmoet om te vra vir meer huise en dit is ons belowe. Nou onlangs is ons ook darem gesê dat die wat dan op die oomblik kan bekostig om te kan bou, kan maar begin.

U het my gesê dat die inwoners van Ikageng het alreeds reg gehad om hulle eie huise te bou en te besit. -- Ja, soos dit is, ek is eintlik een van hulle, maar dit is, soos ek verstaan, dit is nog met die ou kontrak van die ou lokasie is ons dit toegelaat om self te bou.

Was dit nou net die ou inwoners daarso wat daardie (30) reg gehad het om self te bou? -- Wat destyds kon bekostig het/...