

# **AFTERMATH OF THE FLOODS**

As if the suffering of the exploited and oppressed were not heavy enough, nature contributed even further to the misery and suffering. The floods in September 1987 ravaged and devastated large areas of Natal. The people in the rural areas, townships and locations lost not only their meagre possessions but the lives of their loved ones. Even in natural disasters, the poor always pay the heaviest price.

So vast was the devastation, that a Disaster Fund was established. People were called upon to dig deep into their pockets to assist the victims of the floods and donations were made in cash and kind. The government also announced that it will make state funds available to alleviate the plight of all those affected. This act **MUST NOT** be considered as a magnanimous gesture. Any state, which in the final analysis should have the welfare of the people uppermost in the mind, is expected to rally to the aid of its citizens, who are in distress. So, in essence it is the duty of the state to offer such assistance and does not require an applause for its performance. All that the state is doing is distributing the tax payers money – that is, money paid by the citizens of the country to the state coffers.

Despite vast amounts of money that were collected and despite the government's intention to assist, the position after six months is that very little assistance has in fact been given to those who have been gravely affected.

The stance of the quislings in the House of Delegates, in this regard, is utterly reprehensible. They are attempting to score political points at the expense of the victims of the flood. Rajbansi is depicted as a hero in photographs in which he is handing out keys to some of the people who lost their houses in the recent floods, and to make things worse he considers such a move as something tangible which the sell outs have achieved.

The construction of the houses were financed from public funds. In other words, the people paid for these houses. The sell-outs did not use their own money. To make political capital out of the misery and unfortunate plight of these victims is, at the least, appalling.

---

## **HOSTEL SITUATION AT UNIVERSITY DURBAN-WESTVILLE**

Despite being subjected to an inferior education in the bush colleges, the students at these institutions are still saddled with more problems and obstacles. This article is referring particularly to the "hostel situation" at the University of Durban-Westville in Natal. Students who are married and students who are not in their first year are being hindered from seeking hostel accommodation. This ridiculous aspect of the situation (and there is always a ridiculous aspect in these situations) is that there are (according to the Sunday Times Extra, Sunday 14/2/1988) 200 – 300 vacancies at the hostel but students are still being turned away and are being forced to seek accommodation at high cost and at great distances from the campus, which increases costs as students now have to pay for transport services to the university.

It is these senseless, and bureaucratic decisions that continue to infuriate one further.