

Chapter Two

WELFARE

WELFARE WORK in the black community is mainly carried out by welfare organisations which operate voluntarily or under government auspices. Under voluntary, we differentiate between black and non-black welfare organisations.

The former have black policy-making bodies with authority to make their own decisions regarding policy, administration and programmes.

The non-black organisations are those which, although catering solely for blacks, are nevertheless white-controlled.

Welfare organisations in the first category (black autonomous) were established as a result of the prevailing social conditions in the black community. Their services were and still are responses to particular human needs in various fields of welfare work and to the determination of blacks to meet these needs.

Examples of black welfare organisations and their main objectives and the nature of their programmes:

Name of Organisation	Objective/s	Programmes
African Housewives' League	Improving family life. (Relationships between spouses, parent-child and child-child) and social conditions among Africans.	Meetings, discussions, fund-raising, recreational activities.
Kentani Ntlalontle Organisation	Promotion of child and family welfare. Care of aged and disabled.	General Welfare work.

Name of Organisation	Objective/s	Programmes
Orlando Mothers' Welfare Association	(a) to combat any social maladjustment within the African community, especially the youth and to provide programmes of cultural, social, educational and religious amenities for the youth. (b) To educate mothers on matters such as child welfare, home management, illegitimacy and also to combat juvenile delinquency.	(a) Arrange group and inter-group discussions. (b) Hold symposia on matters pertaining to education, religion. (c) Engage in fund-raising schemes.
Mount Frere Social Welfare Committee	Improvement of health and educational facilities.	Work in cripple care clinics. Lectures on home economics, child care, nutrition and agriculture. Organise womens' clubs. Campaign for the building of classrooms, youth centres, etc.
Cheshire Home (Durban)	To cater for the needs of disabled adult persons.	Provide food, shelter, entertainment.
Durban Indian Child Welfare (Durban)	To provide services for families, children and also attempt community organisation work to do preventive work.	Securing grants, effecting adoptions, seeing to foster care, organisation of creches, nursery schools etc.

Most of these organisations are registered with the National Welfare Board in terms of the National Welfare Act of 1965 so as to legitimise some of their activities, e.g. public funding.

A great deal of welfare work in the community is due to the selfless devotion and dedication of such organisations.

According to the survey carried out by BCP, lack of co-ordinated services is the greatest short-coming of self-help organisations. A lack of training in appropriate skills essential for programming, management, and administration results in the failure or malfunctioning of most black welfare organisations.

Voluntary welfare organisations under white control but rendering services to blacks often work in close co-operation with government departments, e.g. the Departments of Bantu Administration and Development, of Indian Affairs, and of Coloured Relations and Rehoboth Affairs. Several are affiliated to National Councils in accordance with their field of service, e.g. the Bantu Child Welfare Societies are affiliated to the National Council for Child Welfare.

In addition to voluntary organisations, we have welfare institutions which operate under government auspices. These are established by law and the personnel is usually employed under the civil service. Such agencies are part of the political power structure.

The Department of Bantu Administration, though still largely responsible for 'Bantu' welfare services, has since transferred the administration of several welfare institutions to homeland governments. Social welfare services are dealt with by the Department under three sections: General Welfare, Child Welfare and Professional Services.

General Welfare includes the establishment of residential institutions or settlements for infirm Africans. Such settlements are not situated in 'white' areas but in the rural areas. Very few are situated in the so-called urban 'Bantu' residential areas, like the Umlazi Workshop for the Blind.

The section on Child Welfare deals with adoption, the establishment of reform schools and state homes for children, grants to foster parents and the registration of welfare organisations.

The Professional Services section is responsible for the professional aspects of the 'social development of the Bantu' and has, in addition, the major function of bringing forward suggestions in connection with the formulation of policy regarding social development.

Welfare Services in the Homelands

Although the BAD has transferred part of its administration to homeland governments, not all of the latter are as yet involved in such services.

The Bophutatswana homeland has three settlements for the aged and the chronically handicapped. They are at Thusong (Gelukspan) in the Ditsobotla district; Boiketlong in the Thaba'Nchu district; and T.C. Esterhuizen in the Bafokeng district. There is one workshop catering for 400 blind persons, Itireleng at Ga-Rankuwa. In addition there are two handicraft centres, Itsoseng at Ditsobotla, with provision for 400 persons, and the Ithuso Handicraft Centre near Pilanesberg.

Bophutatswana has two state-run centres for children, the Mooifontein Youth Camp which provides for 300 pupils from all African groups, not specifically Tswanas, and the Eureka Youth Camp in the Thaba'Nchu district which accommodates about 400 boys. In addition there are two privately-run children's homes, the Barend van Rensburg Home at Thaba'Nchu which provides for 130 Tswana and South Sotho children, and the Pabalelo place of safety at Ga-Rankuwa which holds about 90 children.

Vendaland has only two welfare institutions, the Khathutshelo home for the chronically physically handicapped and the Hayoni Home for lepers.

The Ciskei has one settlement for aged Xhosas, the Ekuphumuleni

settlement near Peddie, which also accommodates physically handicapped people, and one workshop for 14 blind people at Thembelihle, near King Williams Town. There are two handicraft centres, at Sada and at Ilinge. The Ciskei also has a state-run reform school for 300 boys at Bekruipkop near King Williams Town, and a private children's home, Khayaletumba, in Mdantsane Township, East London, which provides for 145 Xhosa-speaking boys and girls.

The Machangana homeland has one institution for cripples, the Letaba Institution.

KwaZulu has a settlement for the aged, Kwabadala in the Nkandla district; the Madadeni institution for chronically physically handicapped; the Matigulu Leprosy Institution; the Osizweni Handicraft Centre near Newcastle, and a newly completed workshop for blind people at Umlazi.

In terms of child welfare, KwaZulu has the Vuma Reform School, near Eshowe, for 225 boys, and a similar institution for girls at Ngwelezane near Empangeni (so far the only reform school for African girls in South Africa). In addition, the privately-run Dingaansat Children's Home near Babanango admits children committed in terms of the Children's Act of 1960, as does the Sacred Heart Mission Children's Home at Mtwalume. There is one place of safety and detention, at Umlazi, with a daily average of 125 children, and three places of care in the same township.

State Expenditure on 'Bantu' Welfare Services

The table below reflects the estimate for the financial years 1971/1972 (overall expenditure):

Pensions and ex gratia assistance to needy Bantu	R16 339 000
Reform Schools and State Children's Homes	4 519 000
Settlements for the Aged etc.	171 700
Subsidies	51 000

Pensions and Grants

Financial and other forms of assistance are rendered to indigent 'Bantu' under various statutory and non-statutory schemes. The following are statutory ones:

The Aged Persons Act, No. 81 of 1967, provides for the payment of monthly pensions to indigent aged 'Bantu' who have reached the ages of 65 (men) and 60 (women). Income, fitness for work etc. are factors taken into consideration in determining pension grants.

The Blind Persons Act, No. 26 of 1968, provides for pensions for blind 'Bantu' who have attained the age of 19. This act has less stringent requirements than for old age pensions.

The Disability Grants Act, No. 27 of 1968, provides for the payment of disability grants to 'Bantu' who have attained the age of 16 years and whose physical or mental disability is of such a permanent nature that they are unfit to accept remunerative work or are not in a position to provide for themselves by pursuing an occupation.

Welfare Services for Indians

Statutory welfare services for Indians are rendered by the Department of Indian Affairs, which employs professional Indian Welfare Officers. The Department has decentralised its professional welfare services to offices in Chatsworth (Durban), Pietermaritzburg, Laudium (Pretoria), Lenasia (Johannesburg) and Actonville (Benoni).

Professional welfare services include dealing with case loads, preparing reports of a varied nature, i.e. for children's courts, juvenile courts, school of industries, children's homes, etc. Most of the cases dealt with involve uncontrollability in children and child neglect. According to the report of the Department, a great number of such children come from broken homes.

Students of Social Work receive practical training in the regional office of the Department. A practical training project at Chatsworth is conducted by Durban-Westville students.

The Department also subsidises the following homes for Indian children: the Lakehaven Children's Home, Durban; the Sunlit Gardens Home, Pietermaritzburg; the Aryan Benevolent Home, Durban; the Darul Yatama Wal Masakeen, Durban; the M.A. Motala Indian Lads' Hostel, Wyebank; the Waterval Islamic Institute, Johannesburg.

Most of these institutions cater for boys and girls with an approved enrolment of sixty. The M.A. Motala Indian Lads' Hostel is the only one which caters for boys only. Subsidies (per capita) amounting to R32 478 were paid to the institutions by the Department.

The Aryan Benevolent Home, Durban makes provision for 120 aged persons. Plans are being made for the erection of an old age home in Chatsworth. The Aryan Benevolent Home, Pietermaritzburg, accommodates 30 inmates, 14 of whom are subsidised. Overall subsidies for both the aged homes amounted to R2 847. The subsidy per capita in respect of the ordinary aged is R2,50 per month per inmate and in respect of the infirm aged R8,50 per month per inmate.

Welfare Services for Coloureds

The state pays a per capita grant of R11 per month for Coloured children in need of care who are placed with foster parents or committed to children's institutions (the grant for 'special cases' is R13).

There are five places of safety and detention maintained by the state, in Kimberley, Durban, Port Elizabeth, Benoni and Wynberg, accommodating 475 children altogether.

At present 37 registered private children's homes cater for 4 016 Coloured children, with the state paying grants for improvements and equipment. There is a state-run home at Westlake, Cape, for 150 boys with behaviour problems.

The state maintains the De Novo Old Age Home in Kraaifontein, which accommodates 300 aged and chronically handicapped Coloured men and women, while there are ten private homes for the Coloured aged which accommodates 590 and which are subsidised by the state (R2,50 per month for ordinary cases and R8,50 for the infirm). Expenditure on subsidies for these homes amounted to R48 460 in 1971-72.

The state, through the Department of Coloured Relations, also subsidises five welfare centres for social and group work activities, while there are youth camps at Weltevreden and Vredenburg.

COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL WELFARE, PENSIONS AND GRANTS TO THE DIFFERENT RACIAL GROUPS (PERIOD: 1971-1972)

Service	Whites		Coloureds		Indians		Africans	
	No. of Benef.	Expenditure Rands	No. of Benef.	Expenditure Rands	No. of Benef.	Expenditure Rands	No. of Benef.	Expenditure Rands
Old Age	109411	51740598	63264	12072888	124660	2215060	205116	12144300
Blind Pensions	885	395503	1628	371927	2114	40750	6464	376500
War Veterans	16708	9655171	4431	1080685	1867	42649	22	43100
Disability Grants	21841	10049576	23486	4640153	105581	1956028	57368	3520700
Maintenance Grants	14579	11188929	23178	6160333	112834	2665761	—	—

REFERENCES:

Annual Reports: Period 1971-1972:

1. Department of Coloured Relations and Rehoboth Affairs.
2. Department of Bantu Administration and Development.
3. Department of Indian Affairs.
4. Department of Social Welfare and Pensions (Whites).