

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

DIE STEDELIKE BANTOERAAD VAN JOHANNESBURG  
URBAN BANTU COUNCIL OF JOHANNESBURG

MINUTES OF THE 98TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE URBAN BANTU COUNCIL OF JOHANNESBURG HELD IN THE URBAN BANTU COUNCIL CHAMBER JABULANI ON THURSDAY 29 JULY 1976 AT 2,30 P.M.

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS : Makhaya, T.J. (Chairman)  
Buthelezi, E.  
Chuenyane, F.  
Hanyane, S.  
Hlungwane, H.  
Jiyane, G.  
Jiyane, J.M.  
Leepo, J.M.  
Machaba, B.C.  
Mahlangu, F.  
Mahlangu, S.S.  
Makhanya, A.  
Manthata, S.  
Mponya, R.J.P.  
Mlonzi, L.L.  
Mokoena, D.  
Motha, S.  
Mothibinyane, E.  
Msinyane, J.B.  
Nepfumbada, F.  
Nevhulaudzi, J.  
Nguane, Z.  
Ntloko, M.M.  
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. Wilsnack (Director, Housing)  
Mr. D.M. Kubayi (Acting Secretary)  
Mr. A. Mfete (West Rand Administration Board)

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: CHILDREN  
WHO DIED DURING THE RIOT

On the motion of the Chairman it was RESOLVED:

That this Council places on record its sincere sympathy  
with the bereaved families.

(MOTION put and carried in silence, members rising from their seats  
as a mark of respect).

SUSPENSION OF THE URBAN BANTU COUNCIL AGENDA

On the motion of Councillor Manthata it was RESOLVED:

That the business of the day be suspended to enable the  
Council to discuss the school crisis with a view to seeking  
a solution to this problem.

THE SCHOOL CRISIS

Councillor Chuenyane said that school children were burning school  
buildings and school records which will be required for those who may  
wish to pursue their studies at colleges and Universities. The  
situation has got out of hand and anarchy has become the order of the  
day. In conclusion he said that the Minister of Justice, Mr. Jimmy  
Kruger, should be humbly requested to lift the ban on public meetings  
to enable the Urban Bantu Council to convene a public meeting to which  
school children will be invited so as to ascertain their grievances.

Councillor Radebe said the Urban Bantu Council should ascertain whether  
the upheavals in Soweto are caused by tsotsis or by politicians. He  
said that he was of the opinion that this is a political move. He  
maintained that the riot has come about as a result of a confrontation  
between the students and the police.

He said some members of the Urban Bantu Council endeavoured to stamp  
out crime in Soweto but the authorities took them to task. To enable  
the Urban Bantu Council to control crime in their area the West Rand  
Administration Board should ask the Minister of Justice to grant these  
powers to the Urban Bantu Council.

Councillor Rasmeni said he deplored the action of some of the Councillors  
who co-operated with people outside of the Urban Bantu Council and  
went to Pretoria without the knowledge of the Urban Bantu Council. He  
said the Chairman should appeal to parents through the Radio to send  
their children back to school.

sent...../

He added that because of the ban on public meetings the Urban Bantu Council is not able to explain the position to the people.

The Director, Housing said that the West Rand Administration Board found itself in a critical position on 16 June 1976. The Chairman and the Chief Director of the Board had, on 19 June 1976, to appoint a delegation consisting of Urban Bantu Council members and some prominent members of the Soweto community as well as experts in the field of Bantu Education to interview the Hon. the Minister of Justice and Bantu Administration and Development and of Education as a matter of urgency. The delegation did not pull its punches and presented their case very well. The language question has been solved and this is a victory for the delegation.

Councillor G. Jiyane said that this is a national issue which warrants a meeting of all the leaders of the Black people in South Africa to be called to sort out the problems confronting the Black people.

Councillor Thebehali appealed to the Urban Bantu Council members to sink their differences, forget the past mistakes and work together to seek ways and means to overcome this problem. He added that due to the urgency of this matter the Chief Director had to nominate a delegation on the spur of the moment, to meet the Ministers, and appealed to the members to condone this action. If someone outside the Urban Bantu Council can come up with a good suggestion on the solution of the problem the Urban Bantu Council members should appreciate it. People belonging to different organisations should be invited to attend a public meeting convened by the Urban Bantu Council so that they may put their heads together to find a solution. He added that the four circuit inspectors and the Regional Director of Bantu Education, Southern Transvaal should be removed. The concession of English as a medium of tuition is not enough to ensure peace in Soweto.

Councillors Ntloko, Rasmeni, Motha, Manthata, Leepo, Mlonzi, Mzinyane, S.S. Mahlangu, Maponya and Roco addressed the Council.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That this Council appeals to the Hon. the Minister of Justice, Mr. Jimmy Kruger, to lift the ban on public meetings to allow the leaders to address themselves to their people on the present situation in the country.
- (b) That the telegram received from Chief Gatsha Buthelesi which reads as follows:

" Our deepest sympathy to the bereaved stop We identify with our people resistance to oppressive imposition of Afrikaans on our children regretting escalation of protest into violent confrontation stop Have sent following telegram to Prime Minister recalling our representations on imposition of Afrikaans medium of instruction on 22nd January 1975 stop This whole business would not have taken place if what we said on behalf of Urban Blacks was not ignored and Afrikaans medium imposed in spite of our representations our hands without blood of those killed in Soweto where our people exercised their democratic right to resist this oppressive unnatural imposition of Afrikaans despite our representations stop Suggesting urgent conference of leaders with you to resolve this impasse

We have also sent following telegram to Minister of Administration and Development and Bantu Education We were amazed by callousness of trying to impose Afrikaans medium on our people despite our representative to you and Prime Minister stop Tragic that their exercise of democratic right to resist oppressive imposition has resulted in death stop Suggest an interview of leaders with you and Prime Minister to resolve problems stop Would like to stress that our hands without blood of deceased in view of our ignored representations." be ACCEPTED.

- (c) That (i) this entire Urban Bantu Councillors resolves that they are not prepared to participate in the next Urban Bantu Council elections if they are based on ethnic grouping;
- (ii) a Committee consisting of Councillors Mosala, Chuenyane, Pooe, Maponya, Msinyane, Thebehali, meet the Chief Director to have the method of ethnic sponsored candidates, and elections be changed as a matter of great urgency.

The Chairman thanked the Councillors who co-operated with him and spent sleepless nights in an attempt to avert this crisis. He appealed to the Urban Bantu Council to close its ranks and work together during this crisis.

The meeting closed at 5,05 p.m.

CONFIRMED

CHAIRMAN:  .....

DATE: 18/10/76 .....