

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

-- DIE STEDELIKE BANTOERAAD VAN JOHANNESBURG
URBAN BANTU COUNCIL OF JOHANNESBURG

MINUTES OF THE 102ND ORDINARY MEETING OF THE URBAN BANTU COUNCIL OF
JOHANNESBURG HELD IN THE URBAN BANTU COUNCIL CHAMBER JABULANI ON
THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER 1976 AT 2,30 P.M.

PRESENT :

COUNCILLORS : Thebehali, D. (Chairman)
Makhaya, T.J. (Deputy Chairman)
Buthelezi, E.
Chuenyane, F.M.
Hanyane, S.
Hlungwane, H.
Jiyane, G.
Jiyane, J.M.
Lengene, P.M.
Machaba, B.C.
Mahlangu, F.
Mahlangu, S.S.
Manthata, S.
Maponya, R.J.P.
Mokoena, D.
Motha, S.
Mzinyane, J.B.
Nevhulaudzi, J.
Ngubane, Z.
Nkosi, K.
Pelotona, A.
Rakgomo, J.M.
Rasmeni, D.
Tjeeke, M.
Tshabangu, L.
Vilakazi, E.
Xulu, M.P.

OFFICIALS:

Mr. N. Malan (Assistant Director, Housing)
Mr. A.M. Conn (Senior Townships Manager)
Mr. D.M. Kubayi (Acting Secretary)
Mr. A. Mfete

ALSO PRESENT:

Rev. J.J. Segoni.

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Segoni opened the proceedings with a prayer.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 28 October 1976 circulated to members.

CONFIRMED

2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Leave of absence in terms of Regulation 29(2) was granted to Councillors L. Radebe and M.M. Ntloko.

URGENCY MATTER

On the motion of Councillor S.S. Mahlangu it was RESOLVED:

That the business of the day be suspended to enable the Council to discuss the notice of the meeting to be held in the Board Room 80 Albert Street between the Executive Committee of the West Rand Administrative Board, the Urban Bantu Councils and Advisory Boards within the jurisdiction of the West Rand Administration Board.

FUTURE OF SOWETO URBAN BANTU COUNCIL

The Chairman pointed out that Councillor Poee who was appointed as one of the spokesmen of the Urban Bantu Council at its meeting held on 28 October 1976 was out of town and added that he was not sure whether Councillor Poee would attend the meeting to be held on 12 November 1976 between the Executive Committee of the West Rand Administration Board and the Urban Bantu Councils and the Advisory Boards.

He said Councillor Poee did not attend the caucus meeting where the spokesmen were briefed on what they should say at the Urban Bantu Council's meeting with the Executive Committee of the West Rand Administration Board.

Councillor Tshabangu felt that Councillor Poee should be substituted.

Councillor Maponya said that it was not good practice to drop a person who was elected to represent this Urban Bantu Council without knowing whether he would be present or not.

He suggested that an alternative be appointed in case Councillor Poee was unable to attend the meeting.

Councillor Nkosi said that Councillor Pooe should be replaced because he does not know the decision of the caucus meeting.

Councillor Motha endorsed the remarks of Councillor Maponya.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Chuenyane be appointed as a spokesman in the place of Councillor Pooe.

The Chairman said that it was the Urban Bantu Council of Johannesburg which asked for executive powers and to this end requested a meeting with the Executive Committee of the West Rand Administration Board. The general feeling of his members is that the meeting to be held on the following day was a joint meeting of the Urban Bantu Councils and Advisory Boards with the Executive Committee of the West Rand Administration Board to discuss the future of the Soweto Urban Bantu Council.

Councillor Tshabangu said the meeting with the Executive Committee of the West Rand Administration Board emanates from the Urban Bantu Council's resolution which should be binding to the officials of the West Rand Administration Board.

He said representatives of Meadowlands and Diepkloof are not elected by the people of their areas.

The Chairman said after the Urban Bantu Council members had asked him whether the other Urban Bantu Councils and Advisory Boards had asked for the executive powers he contacted the Assistant Director Housing who pointed out that the Soweto Urban Bantu Council appointed its representatives to serve together with representatives of the other Urban Bantu Councils and Advisory Boards on the Ad hoc Committee for Greater Soweto that was going to ask for greater authority. As this matter is of common interest to all the Urban Bantu Councils and Advisory Boards within the area of jurisdiction of the West Rand Administration Board, the Executive decided to invite all Urban Bantu Councils, Advisory Boards and representatives of Meadowlands and Diepkloof.

Councillor Chuenyane said that if it is the desire of the West Rand Administration Board to invite the Urban Bantu Councils and Advisory Boards, the West Rand Administration Board should have given the Soweto Urban Bantu Council time to caucus with these Urban Bantu Councils and the Advisory Boards before the meeting with the Executive takes place so as to speak with one voice. As it is, these Urban Bantu Councils and the Advisory Boards do not know the views of the Soweto Urban Bantu Council on its request for executive powers. The Soweto Urban Bantu Council should not sit round the table with them because they will differ radically with the Soweto Urban Bantu Council.

Councillor Hanyane asked the Chairman to write to the West Rand Administration Board and say that this Council cannot accept the presence of the Urban Bantu Councils and Advisory Boards from other areas.

Councillor Maponya said people from other areas have common problems with the Soweto community and suggested that they be granted observers status.

He said there was nothing to fear as the Soweto Urban Bantu Council is in the majority and can always outvote the other Urban Bantu Councils and the Advisory Boards. He said they should be given an opportunity to learn so that they may emulate the good example of the Soweto Urban Bantu Council.

He said that, as these Urban Bantu Councils and Advisory Boards have already been invited, chasing them from the meeting will be embarrassing and will create an ugly scene.

Councillors Mokoena, Rasmeni, Manthata, Mzinyane, Nkosi and Lengene addressed the Council.

The Assistant Director Housing said the decision to invite other Urban Bantu Councils and Advisory Boards and representatives from Meadowlands and Diepkloof was taken by the Executive Committee of the West Rand Administration Board and not by the officials. This is the biggest Urban Bantu Council and all the other Urban Bantu Councils and the Advisory Boards are looking to the Soweto Urban Bantu Council for guidance. The Advisory Boards have asked for the Urban Bantu Council status and the Dobsonville and Kagiso Urban Bantu Councils have asked for executive powers.

They would like to learn from the experienced Urban Bantu Council of Johannesburg.

He added that the Soweto Urban Bantu Council will be taking the leadership in this meeting.

Councillors and Advisory Board members from other areas seldom speak at joint meetings attended by the Soweto Urban Bantu Council.

RESOLVED:

That the Urban Bantu Councils and Advisory Boards from other areas as well as representatives from Meadowlands and Diepkloof be granted the observers' status.

3. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS:

URBAN BANTU COUNCIL SOWETO: (27.11.75)(11.11.76)

HOUSING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE: (13.11.75)(12.2.76)(11.3.76)(8.4.76)
(13.5.76)(10.6.76) (12.8.76) (14.10.76)

WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF SOWETO TENDER BOARD

The following motion has been received from Councillor Mokoena:

That the West Rand Bantu Affairs Administration Board be requested to establish a Soweto Tender Board to deal with all Black Contractors, who must undertake all services required in Soweto.

The Director: Housing advised that in terms of the Financial Regulations promulgated under Government Notice No. 4770 on 27 June 1975, the Administration Boards are responsible for this and must handle the matter itself.

Councillor Scwebu said that the West Rand Administration Board was not being fair to the Urban Bantu Council by not passing on information regarding the promulgated Financial Regulations. That this could have obviated this motion.

The Senior Townships Manager, Urban, said that arrangements could be made that in future such promulgations be reported to the Urban Bantu Council.

Councillor Mokoena suggested that a specific "Tender Board" for Soweto be established.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the West Rand Administration Board be requested to arrange with the approval of the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development for exemption from the Financial Regulations mentioned in the body of this report in regard to the establishment of a separate "tender board" to operate in Soweto.

Councillors Mokoena, Mlonzi, Lengene and the Assistant Director addressed the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That this item be referred back to the Committee for more details.

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URBAN BANTU COUNCIL SOWETO: (11.11.76)

HOUSING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE: (13.11.75)(12.2.76)(11.3.75)(8.4.76)

WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD (13.5.76)(10.6.76)(12.8.76) (14.10.76)

ESTABLISHMENT OF SOWETO TENDER BOARD

(Continued)

On 12 February 1976 the Committee RESOLVED :

That a representative of the Department of Finance be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee to explain the financial implication of this matter.

On 10 June 1976 the Committee RESOLVED:

That representatives of the Department of Housing and of Finance be invited to attend the next meeting of the Urban Bantu Council to explain the financial implications of this matter.

ADOPTED

T.B.C. 2/4
S.M./G.M.
11.11.76

URBAN BANTU COUNCIL SONETO: (29.7.76)(25.11.76)

EDUCATION AND HEALTH COMMITTEE: (11.5.76)(8.6.76)

WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD

(b) ERECTION OF SCHOOLS FROM BANTU SERVICES
LEVY FUND

"The Education and Health Committee at its meeting held on 11 November 1975 RESOLVED inter alia:

- (a)
- (b) That this matter be deferred to enable the Secretary to obtain the following information:
 - (i) Names of all schools built;
 - (ii) Ethnic groups catered for at each school;
 - (iii) Category of schools (whether Lower Primary, Higher Primary or Secondary Schools)".

The information required by the Committee is as follows:

ZOLA/ENDENI COMPLEX

NAME	ETHNIC GROUP	T Y P E
Ezibukweni	Zulu	Lower Primary School
Dr. B.J. Vilakazi	Zulu/Xhosa	Junior Secondary School
Vusisizwe	Zulu	Lower Primary School
Icu' Lihle	Zulu	Higher Primary School
Sivuleleni	Zulu	Lower Primary School
Thathani	Xhosa	Lower Primary School
Esidlekeni	Xhosa	Higher Primary School
Esisisiwe	Zulu	Lower Primary School
Zola	Zulu	Lower Primary School
Zibonbele	Zulu	Lower Primary School
Mbulani	Zulu	Higher Primary School
Ngqolo	Zulu	Lower Primary School
Isihlani	Zulu	Lower Primary School
Mandani	Zulu	Lower Primary School
Iseni	Zulu	Lower Primary School
Not yet named	Zulu	Higher Primary School
Not yet named	Zulu	Junior Secondary School
Isilelo	Xhosa	Lower Primary School

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URBAN BANTU COUNCIL SOWETO: (11.11.76)

HOUSING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE: (12.8.76) (14.10.76)

WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD

WIDOWS EJECTED OUT OF HOUSES

The following motion has been received from Councillor Motha:

"Many times we have been told that no widows will be taken out of houses after their husbands' death. But the opposite have been happening.

You will find that after the death of the husband, the Township Manager has to make an application for the widow to the Bantu Affairs Commissioner that she should become the registered tenant of the house. Many of these applications are refused.

It is recommended that the Chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner explains how he considers these cases."

Councillor Motha said that when a widow applies for tenancy to be changed to her name on the death of her husband the Chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner turns down an application on the pretext that she has no dependants.

Some Townships Managers do not support the applications or motivate sufficiently.

The authority to allocate houses to widows should be given to the West Rand Administration Board and not the Chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner.

Councillor Rasmeni said that in the past only a death certificate of the husband was required when a widow applied for tenancy to be changed to her name, provided she qualified in terms of section 10 of the Urban Areas Act of 1945 as amended and is able to pay rent.

Councillor Chuenyane said the Bantu Affairs Commissioner should be invited to attend the Urban Bantu Council meeting to explain the regulations relating to the changes of tenancies to widows.

Councillor Lengene said the West Rand Administration Board was a Government Department and saw no point in this department referring these applications to the Chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner which is another Government Department.

Councillor Makhaya said some Senior Townships Manager treat widows sympathetically and are very co-operative.

He said immediately a husband who is a Registered tenant dies, the tenancy should be transferred to the widow, even if she does not qualify in terms of the influx regulations.

Councillor Hanyane and the Chairman addressed the Council.

RESOLVED:

That the Chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner be invited to attend the next meeting of the Urban Bantu Council to explain the regulations governing the allocation of houses to widows and divorcees with a view to repealing some of these regulations.

Councillor Motha said if a man is married to the first wife by civil rites the subsequent marriages by customary union are rendered null and void.

At this stage the Assistant Director Housing and the Senior Townships Manager left the meeting.

The Chairman explained that a man was required to marry by civil rites so as to qualify for a house to be allocated to him.

The position has since been changed. Customary unions are recognised by the Bantu Affairs Commissioner's offices and marriage certificates are now issued by the Bantu Affairs Commissioners.

He further explained that if a man who is married to his first wife by civil rites gets a permission from his wife to marry a second wife by customary union, he cannot be charge for bygamy. He is, however, obliged to support the children from the second marriage.

RESOLVED:

That this matter be discussed with the Bantu Affairs Commissioner at the next meeting of the Urban Bantu Council.

URBAN BANTU COUNCIL : SOWETO (11.11.76)

WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD

5. ADJUSTMENT OF WATER CHARGES

When the 1976/77 Estimates were drawn up the estimated loss of R1,8 million on water was brought to the notice of the Urban Bantu Councils and Advisory Boards. However subsequent increases by the Rand Water Board now reflect an additional loss of R1 million bringing the total deficit on R2,8 million.

During discussions with members of the Urban Bantu Councils and Advisory Boards during March 1975, the Hon. the Deputy Minister indicated that tenants will in future have to pay the actual cost of water consumption and other services.

The representatives of the various Urban Bantu Councils and Advisory Boards who met the Minister on this occasion, accepted this fact.

In order to partly recover the cost of the Rand Water Board's increased water charges the West Rand Administration Board resolved on 21 October 1976 to increase its water charges in Soweto to R3,00 per month as from 1 November 1976.

Despite the proposed increase there will still be a substantial loss on the Board's water account.

The Chairman said that a deputation that saw the Deputy Minister, Mr Punt Janson, agreed to the increase of water tariff by R1,90 and this was gazetted during March 1975. The West Rand Administration Board did not increase the price of water immediately, but did so with effect from 1 November 1976. The Chief Director decided to postpone the increase to January 1977 because of representations made by the Urban Bantu Council.

The Chairman of the West Rand Administration Board issued a press statement on this matter which was given to all newspapers but the statement has up to now not appeared in any of the newspapers.

He pointed out that water charges have increased by R1,90 and not R3,00 as stated in the notice.

RESOLVED:

That this Council regrets that it has not been informed about the increase in water tariffs.

URBAN BANTU COUNCIL SOWETO : (11.11.76)

WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD:

RETIREMENT OF SECRETARY : MR. JOHANNES KUBU

Mr. Johannes Kubu was appointed to the position of Secretary of the Urban Bantu Council when it was established in March 1968.

Since January 1976, he has been ill, and unable to perform his duties. Due to his indifferent health, he requested that he be retired from the West Rand Administration Board service on the grounds of ill health, and this request was granted reluctantly.

His last day in the service of the West Rand Administration was the 31 October 1976, and it is understood that he is to retire to Bloemhof.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Chairman on behalf of the Urban Bantu Council, writes a letter of appreciation to Mr. J. Kubu for the services rendered by him since his appointment to the position of Secretary in March 1968.

The Chairman said Mr Kubu rendered an excellent service to this Urban Bantu Council. He handled all cases given to him by members of the Urban Bantu Council very well.

Councillor Tshabangu said the West Rand Administration Board should have informed the Council in advance of Mr. Kubu's retirement. He regretted that this Urban Bantu Council is informed of his retirement long after he has terminated his services.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That a farewell function in honour of Mr Kubu be held in December 1976.

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- (ii) That each Councillor contributes R1,00 towards this farewell function.
- (iii) That Mr. Kubu be invited to attend the farewell function with his wife.

The meeting closed at 5,25 p.m.

CONFIRMED

CHAIRMAN: 

DATE : 

DMK/JSM