MINUTES: Ordinary Meeting of the Urban Bantu Council

31 March 1977

WES-RAND(Bantu) Affaires Administration, eOAR) Die Ste) Elike,
Bantu Council of Johannesburg Urban Bantu Council of
JohannesBURG.

MINUTES 0r 1 iiE 108TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE URBAN BAR-TV
COUNCIL
OF JOHANNESBURG HELD IN THE URBAN BANTU COUNCIL CHIJEBER'
JAWLANI
ON THURSDAY 31 MARCH 1977 AT 2:00 PM

PRESEE?:
COUNCILLIORI

OFFICIALS:
- Theb*thali, D. (Chairman), Kakchaya, T.J.*, <Deputy Chairman)
  Ik, thenexi, t.
  Chutayan., F.M.
  flanyane, S.
  Hlungwane, Ho
  Jiyan., a.
  Jiyane, JON.
  Leepo, J.M.
  LengemeP*M.
  Machaba, B.C.
  Mahlangu, r.
  Kahlangu, S.S.
  Nakhanya, A.
  '4anthatat So
  Naponya, R.J*P*
  Nokoena, D.
  Motha, S.
  Mothibinyane, E.
  Mzinyane, J.B.
  Nenvhulaudzi, J.
  Ngubane, Z.
  Nkge, E.
  Nkoue, K.
  -Ntloko, M.M.' Pelotona, A.
  Pooe, D.
  Radebe, L.
  Rasnmeni, D.
  Tjeeko, M.
OPENING PRAYER

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 17 February 1977 were circulated to members. CONFIRMED

2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE
There were no applications for leave of absence.

3. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS
DMK/AVS

Ordinary Meeting of the Urban Bantu Council: 24 February 1977

Brigadier J. Visser said that Mr. de Villiers, whom he had known since 1974, was approachable, and has always been a good friend of the police. He said that Mr. de Villiers, although he will be joining the Johannesburg City Council, was not lost to the people he had served so well because he can always be contacted. He wished him Godspeed for the future.

The Director, Housing, thanked the Chief Director for the understanding and the cooperation he has displayed in the discharge of his duties and added that the Chief Director was always ready to assist and to advise.

Councillor Mashao said he found Mr. de Villiers to be an open-minded person and thanked him on behalf of the residents of Dobsonville and its Urban Bantu Council. He wished Mr. de Villiers success in his future task.

Councillor Makhaya said that the Urban Bantu Council was indebted to Mr. de Villiers for the manner in which he has treated the people of Soweto. He said Mr. de Villiers sacrificed his time and effort to alleviate the hardships experienced by the Black people. He said that Mr. de Villiers did not take advantage of his position nor threw his weight at people calling at his office for help. Mr. de Villiers always said that his doors were open to anybody wishing to see him.

He said he gave Mr. de Villiers credit for looking at the merit of a case in which a Black person and a White person were involved. He said Mr. de Villiers pushed through many projects in Soweto and
mentioned the Jabulani Fire Station as an example. In conclusion, he said Mr. de Villiers' successor would have a hard task to bring about change in Soweto because the Black youth do not accept and are not satisfied with the prevailing conditions in Soweto.' He said Fr. de Villiers was leaving before the Urban Bantu Council to meet the Minister to request the granting of greater responsibility he was leaving before he could reap the fruit of his labour. Councillor Lengene said that it will not be an easy task to fizi Mr. de-Villiers' successor, and hoped that the successor to Mr. de Villiers would emulate his example. Councillor Maponya said that the people of Soweto have lost a great man in the person of Mr de Villiers who is leaving the department in search of greener pastures. He said that during the unrest Mr de Villiers told him that he was worried because he foresaw a fire destroying a haystack. Mr. do Villiers made all endeavours to defuse an ugly situation in Soweto. The Soweto community will never have a man of Mr. de Villiers' calibre who is flexible and would get to grips with the problems. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that Mr de Villiers will always be prepared to give advise to those who are in distress.

Councillor S.S. Mahlangu addressed the Council.
The Senior Townships Manager pointed out to the meeting that sometime ago the Young Men's Christian Association was running a canteen in the hostel and withdrew because it was not paying.

He said that the Wet Rand Administration Board has accepted the recommendation of the Urban Bantu Council that parking bays be provided at each hostel. An open space in the Eastern side of Denver hostel was fenced for parking purposes and a policeman will be posted twenty hours a day to ensure that only registered tenants parked their motor cars in the hostel, and for this service the tenants owning cars will each be required to pay a fee of R3,00 a month in addition to his monthly rent. Illegal tenants will not be allowed to park their cars in the hostel.

Councillor Mzinyane said that shopping centres within the hostel will be well supported mostly by inmates coming from work in the evenings.

Councillors Nevhulaudzi, Nepfumbada and S.S. Mahlangu addressed the meeting.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:
That the Chief Director be requested to establish a shopping centre on the open space on the eastern side of Denver hostel parking area.

ADOPTED

u.B.c. 8/77 DXK/MVS

-Ordinary Meeting of the Urban Bantu Council 31 March f7: MINUTES: 588
URBAN BANTu COUNCIL SOWETO:(33.77)
EDUCATION AND HEALTH COMMITTEE: (8.3.77)
WEST RAND ADMINISTRATION BOARD
3. PROVISION OF A BRANCH OFFICE: CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
On 29 January 1976 the Urban Bantu Council RESOLVED:
That this request receive favourable consideration provided there is an existing office at either Pimville or Sensoane that could be used for the purpose and that no expense be incurred to provide such branch office.

The Director, Housing comments as follows:

Please advise the Soweto Urban Bantu Council with reference to item A minutes page 288 of an ordinary meeting of the Urban Bantu Council held on 29 January 1976 that there are no offices available at either Plaville or Senaoane at present.

Councillor Chuenyane said that this report emanates from the Urban Bantu Council resolution which was taken before the unrest in 1976.

The Senior Townships Manager said that the West Rand Administration Board plans to build centralised offices in the place of the Administration offices which were damaged during the unrest and will possibly accommodate all the Departments of the West Rand Administration Board.

It was then suggested to the meeting that the Chief Director be
requested to include in the envisaged plans the offices of the City Health Department if and when the West Rand Administration Board do build the centralised offices.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:
That the Chief Director be requested to make provision for offices of the City Health Department at each Block of Administration offices to accommodate Health Inspectors.

ADOPTED

U.B.C. 5076 Ref. No. 8/1

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(a) SHEBEENS

The Chairman said that he has brought up this matter before the Council so as to get its consensus of opinion. He said that some residents of Soweto are in favour of shebeens being legalised while others deplore the legalisation of shebeens.

At this stage Councillor Manthata was ordered to leave the house because of his rowdy behaviour.

The Chairman enquired from the Council if it approved of the legalisation of shebeens or not.

Councillor Lengene said sometime ago an opinion was expressed in this Chamber recommending that shebeens be granted Night Club Licences instead of conducting the illegal sale of liquor from their residential premises.

Councillor Kzinyane said that as the true leaders of the Black people they should be the last people to ask the Minister of Justice to legalise shebeens. He said if they allow shebeens to be legalised, they will be destroying their community. If a person drinks in a shebeen in the evening and the liquor fuddles his wits, who escorts sub a person to his home, he asked. In conclusion he said that many people lost their lives in the shebeens.

Councillor Maponya said that the youth are condemning the drinking of liquor and displayed their disapproval of their parents' drinking habits.
by destroying the bottle stores, bar lounEes an& beer gardens Auring P
the 'iots in 1976'. Councillor Tshabangu wanted to know how the Council
was going to run the affairs of the people of Soweto if it turns the
community into drunkards by lealising shebeens where people drink
throughout the night. How can the Council expect drunkards to be able
to pay their rentals? He advocated-the buying of liquor from the
existing liquor outlets.

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ES:Councillor Motha said that the proposed lealisation of sheb4ens isan
admission of failure on the part of the Government to c~jse them down. He
appealed to the delegation of the Urban Bantu Coi1~l, lead by the Chairman to
inform the Hon. the Minister of Justice in Cap. Town that the people f Soweto are
against the lealisation of s tee. Councillor Pooe said that he has learnt from
people who visitileO oversee that in London thire are pubs where approximately
one hundred people. may relax. and enjoy a drink. He advocated the establishmhint
'I.1* in Soyeto in the place Of shebeen.,, and added that the liquor Act should be
amended.

Councillor Hanyane said that pubs and hotels in towns should be open to people
of all races.*V Councillor Manthata said tha instead.of legalising shebeens,
Blackshould be permitted to build bottle stores and run them

RESOLVED
That this Council given the Chairman of the Urban Bantu
Council and the two other members namely Councillor Mapya and Councillor
Makhaya--a-mandate to make representations to
the Minister of Justice against shebiens being legalised.

1. That the community of Soweto do not want the
shebeens to be legalised.
2. That instead of shebeens being legalised we would
like to see many hotels, night clubs and bottle#
stores in Soweto established and#owned by Blacks.

ordinary Meeting of the Urban Bantu Council : 31 March 1977 : MINUTES: 592

MAKGOTLA
Councillor Moths sai$ that many people in his ward toldhi.+ht they are against
Makgotla being granted Government recognition. Members of Makgotla spread
false rumours that their organiup on has,
been legalised by t i Government and that they are permitted by law to flog people
in public if found guilty by their tribal courts ad to lmpQo# fines on people found
guilty. He said that Brig. Vlsser, the Divisional Commissioner of Police in
Soweto who wanted to have an .insight into the functions and duties of the
Makgotla said" , after seeing people being flogged in public, tht Soweto is not a
jungle and added that this barbaric system of the Nakgotla was untenable in the
civilised world and should be done"awa forthwith*

Councillor Hanyane said that the Makgotla system should be modified rather than
condemning it completely. The Makgotla organisations know the criminala with
whom they live. He said that when the Makgotla wants to inflict corporal punishment to an offending person it should do so in the presence of a police officer and that in the case of children who defy their parents’ punishment should be meted out to them in the presence and with the approval of their parents.

The Chairman pointed out that the tribal courts in the Homelands are presided over by Chiefs and inquired if Presidents of Makgotla have been appointed as Chiefs by the Minister of Justice. He wanted to know what was wrong with Police Reservists. Councillor Pooe said that the people of Soweto are so sophisticated that they will not in the least tolerate the establishment of Makgotla in their midst let alone granting this abhorrent organization Government recognition. He said by accepting the Makgotla and at the same time accepting Municipal Status, this Council shall be taking three steps, backward and one step forward.

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He said that when the Council has been granted Municipal Status it should carry out its duties and functions with the dignity of any Municipality in the Country.

People who inquire into cases in the Makgotla have not got the vestiges of the knowledge of the laws of justice of this country and added that the accused are not given a fair hearing and they are not allowed to defend themselves.

Soweto, being a pacesetter to other areas, shall have embarrassed the Black people of South Africa by asking for Makgotla to be recognised by the Government. Councillor Maponya said that if anyone is in doubt about the fact that the people of Soweto condemn Makgotla, one should hold a referendum and the results of the referendum will prove beyond a shadow of doubt that the majority of the people are against this organisation. Makgotla is condemned in toto.

He appealed to the residents of Soweto who have suffered in the hands of the Makgotla to seek redress from the courts of law as a deterrent measure to the people who take the law into their own hands. Councillor F. Mahlangu said that if a man has had an agreement with his wife and the wife reports the matter to the Makgotla the Makgotla send a group of men to go and pick him up in the morning in the presence of his children. He wanted to know how a man, who has been humiliated in the presence of his children could be in a position to maintain discipline in his house.

When he appears before the Makgotla he is flogged in public, and to make it worse with children watching. Councillor Mzinyane said that Makgotla law is a law of the jungle. Councillor Mothibinyane said that the Makgotla assist the police. Councillor Lengene said that if Makgotla could operate under the control of the Urban Council it would work as a deterrent to criminals and said that it should be legalised.

The flogging of people on daz was sin.
orata Blacks deprecate the flogging of people by the civic guards, which or the establishment of civic guards, which are directed by Councillors. The supervision of Councillors is to combat crime in the area. Councillors and hand them over to the police. He said that some members of this Council are vehemently opposed to the Mekgotla. I Makgotla is there to stay. Councillor Manthata said that the Makgotla thrash even women and said that those who stand to see their wife be thrashed in Mekgotla are not in the interest of the people of scillow Manthata, said that Makgotla has a membership of 16,000 people. The South African Police, the National Institute for the Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nicro) and the South African Students Organisation support the idea of the Makgotla being fully recognised. He wanted to know what would happen if it was done away with and which other organisations could be as effective as the Makgotla. To say that police are used that it was not a satisfactory statement because they are in their fight against crime. He maintained that the Council went into Committee and disissed matters in private.

The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.