

CONFIDENTIAL : NOT FOR PUBLICATION IN THE PRESS
LAWRENCE CTTEE
COPY

NATAL INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

P.O. Box 2299,
DURBAN,
5th April, 1941.

Town Clerk,
DURBAN.

Dear Sir, re Lawrence Committee.

Your letter of the 18th March, 1941, addressed to Mr. S. Rustomjee of the Natal Indian Association has been referred to me.

I have been asked to reply to same by the Natal Indian Association's representatives on the Lawrence Committee.

I have to point out that there is every urgency for the holding of a meeting of the Lawrence Committee at the earliest possible moment. It will be remembered that the last meeting was held on the 7th November, 1940, when the Honourable the Minister of Interior (Mr. H.G. Lawrence) addressed the Lawrence Committee on the question of making available sites for occupation by Indians. This was as a result of a deadlock between the Association's representatives and the Council's representatives on the question of suitable sites for Indian occupation. The Mayor at the conclusion of the meeting accepted the position that it was the Council's duty to endeavour to locate suitable area that could be submitted for the consideration of the Indian representatives. The Indian representatives agreed to the consideration of their memorandum dated May, 1940, being deferred.

Subsequent to this the Mayor on being approached agreed to take the Indian representatives into confidence and discuss with them Plan of Indian Housing Schemes, but so far nothing has been done in this direction.

Recently the Indian representatives have found to their dismay that the Council was planning a scheme of expropriation of areas occupied by Indians in such places as Sydenham, Riverside and Merebank/Wentworth while there has been no move made to consider the urgent needs of the Indian community for suitable sites for occupation.

Moreover in view of the fact that the 1st Annual Meeting of the Lawrence Committee is overdue (1st meeting of the Lawrence Committee was held on the 14th March, 1940), it is most essential that an Annual Meeting should be called as early as possible to survey the work of the Lawrence Committee for the year.

In view of the fact that Annual General Meeting of the Association is to be held soon for the election, among other things, of officials, the Indian representatives on the Lawrence Committee feel that they should submit report of their work on the Lawrence Committee to the Committee now in office.

I believe that I have established sufficient grounds for the holding of a meeting of the Lawrence Committee at the earliest time and this letter may be regarded as being addressed to you not only in your position as Town Clerk but as Secretary to the Lawrence Committee. I ask that you bring matters arising out of this letter before the Lawrence Committee for its consideration at the earliest possible date.

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In view of the fact that meetings of the Lawrence Committee have always been held in the evenings sometime surely could be chosen to meet the convenience of the Council's representatives to attend the meeting.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) S. R. NAIDOO.

Secretary to Indian Representatives of the
Natal Indian Association on the Lawrence
Committee.

