

256  
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15th January, 1948.

His Worship the Mayor,  
Mr. L.L. Boyd,  
City Hall,  
DURBAN.

Dear Sir,

We acknowledge receipt of a letter from your Secretary, dated 23rd December, 1947. Pressure of work has held up an earlier reply in this matter.

We note the points that you make, but the only matter of substantial importance are :-

(a) your impression that "talks on the question of extending the Municipal franchise to Indians should precede any discussion on the provision of better amenities for Indians.....", and

(b) "His Worship regrets his inability to accept the suggestion which can have no other effect than to delay for years the provision of civic amenities..."

In regard to the first point it may be pointed out that your impression is not quite correct. My Congress did and does desire the discussion of the question of extending Municipal franchise as a matter of vital and immediate importance and one that must have a very considerable bearing not only on the nature and extent of amenities that are likely to be made available to Indians, but also for a better appreciation of the spirit in which the City Council's efforts at cooperation, as well as the Indian community's extent of cooperation, are available.

This attitude of ours must not be construed as imposing a condition, the fulfilment of which will take years. My Congress, in the first place, does not see grounds for the belief that a meeting between your Council or its ex-representatives and representatives of my Congress may not be held within a matter of weeks, for the discussion of the question of Municipal franchise.

What will follow the initiation of these discussions is difficult for us to foresee. If your Council is motivated by a genuine spirit of friendship, goodwill and cooperation, a measure of understanding and joint endeavour for the realisation of common roll franchise for Indians, should not be difficult and should contribute very considerably to more useful efforts in the direction of amenities being provided for Indians in Indian areas.

We trust that you will give this matter your serious thought. In the meantime we have advised our branches to take up the question of amenities with your Council, which we have no doubt they will do as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Sgd. GENERAL SECRETARY.