

G.P.
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27th March, 1944.

Town Clerk,
DURBAN

Dear Sir, re Commission of Enquiry into matters affect-
ing the Indian population of Natal.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant furnishing me with a copy of the terms of reference of the above Commission which I understand are as follows :

- (1) To enquire into and report upon -
 - (a) matters affecting the Indian Community of the Province of Natal, with special reference to housing and health needs, civic amenities and civic status ; and
 - (b) the provision of adequate residential, educational, religious and recreational facilities ; and
- (2) to make recommendations generally as to what steps are necessary further to implement the uplift clauses of the Cape Town Agreement of 1927 and as to all matters affecting the well-being and advancement of the permanent Indian population of Natal.

His Excellency has further been pleased to appoint the Honourable Justice Francis Napier Broome, K.C., M.C., as Chairman, and William Michael Power Esquire, M.E.C., Senator the Honourable Denis Gem Shepstone, Scoba Rama Naidoo, Esquire, and Abdulla Ismail Rajee, Esquire, as members of the said Committee.

I would point out that whereas the terms of reference cover all the matters affecting the Indian Community of the Province of Natal and more particularly a special reference to housing and health needs, Civic Amenities and Civic Status, the Civic Authorities of Natal have no representative on the Commission whatever.

I feel that a strong protest should be lodged with the Government and a request made for the inclusion of a representative of local Authorities.

The City Council should seriously consider informing the Government that unless local Authorities are given representation on the Commission, the findings of the Commission will not be accepted as Authoritative.

Kindly place this letter before the Special Meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

Yours truly,

(Sgd) A.L. BARNS.

CHAIRMAN : GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.