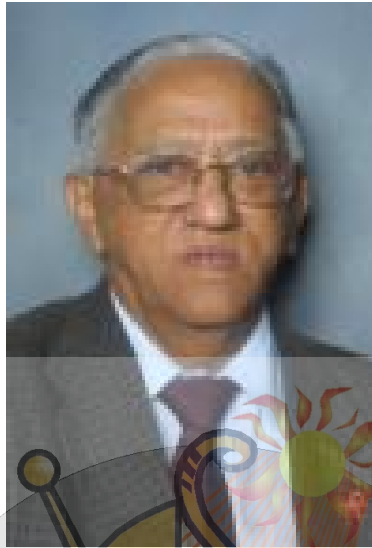


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BIOGRAPHY
EDUCATION
LENASIA RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION
PEOPLES CANDIDATES PARTY
SPORT
ISLAM
INDIAN SOUTH AFRICANS
YOUTH

Our fundamental rejection of and opposition to the Lenasia Management Committee remains unaltered. No amount of delegation of powers or spices can alter its inherent racial foundation. We believe the changing order in Southern Africa has now laid to rest any argument in favour of participation in Government created discriminatory institutions, as a strategy. Also, we must forever cremate the illogic that "if the right people do not get in, the stooges will". In the recent Zimbabwe elections even the Nationalist Party Government and its verkraampste side-kick the S.A.B.C. joined in the chorus for a "free and fair election". In keeping with this slogan ~~by that~~ we reject the Management Committee system and hence the forthcoming election for a candidate for Ward I. This election is not free, because we had no choice in framing the type of local authority needed and an objectionable apartheid system has been imposed. It is not fair because the functions of the Committee are discriminatory, racially limited and unmeaningful. Let us examine the present Management Committee and its performance to date, because they got onto the Committee "to keep the stooges out."

I. LAND : the newer extensions in terms of the regulations fall outside the jurisdiction of the Committee. So they are powerless to act effectively in the problems of these areas. Further, it is clear that the land expropriated from the whites in these extensions was paid higher values than comparative land forcibly possessed from ~~black~~ our people. Thus we find that land, rentals and purchase price of housing units are higher than that in adjacent townships for other groups. Another, such favoured acquisition is to result in a so-called "prestige township for Indians" - Brettmeade on the southern outskirts of Lenasia. In a nutshell the "Indian House and Home seeker" will pay ~~higher~~ discriminatingly higher purchase and repayment amounts. (See annex)

Thus with the abnormal supply and demand ratio, we are going to have speculators and land sharks having a field day. So much so for elitism and the ~~of~~ "free enterprise system".

II. DOLOMITE : In the past when we raised spectre of dolomite and its dangerous effects on Lenasia, we were contemptuously told that the problem was not serious and would in no way hamper the urgent needs of the area; now we are shamelessly told that delays in essential services as a hospital, police headquarters and low rental flats in Ext 2 ^{was} due to the dolomite problem. It is strange how morality changes with expediency.

III. HOUSING: The accelerated housing construction program, no thanks to the Management Committee, but facilitated by the upsurge in gold price plus the feverish desire of the Government to achieve residential segregation for ~~it~~ the success of its three parliament plans, has not in anyway solved the problems for the harassed and puzzled natural growth needs within the area. The "resettlement express", with its glaring loopholes and unexplained allocations on the basis of questionable priorities has bedevilled the chances of really needy families in Lenasia. The pie in the sky promises of improvements in the quality of the lives of Thomsville residents and the heavily exploited backyard tenants is living proof of the hoax perpetrated in the name of community development. Instead of an open-house and inspection policy of Departments that are supposed to act in the interests of the citizens, we have a bureaucratic maze of secrecy and distorted priorities; and what do we find the Management Committee doing : bickering about invalid, unscientific and abused surveys.

Thus each member is desperately trying to have an undesirable hold over the very contentious issue of allocating houses in an unhealthy situation of demand outstripping supply by an unbridgeable margin. This dog fight dog to have a piece of the allocation cake does not leave much to the imagination of even the simplest minded in the public. Since Extension 5 Lenasians have been forcibly told that resettlement of Pageview was priority number one; but with Ext IO & II under construction we are still being bluffed that Pageview is priority I : Pageview is still perilously alive and we wish its survival all our good wishes; the list of the natural growth of the population is galloping to unrecorded heights; whilst the single-minded unfeeling persecution and prosecution of the "twilight, illegals in central city" gains unabated momentum; the garages and wendy-houses in Lenasia's backyards are bursting at the seams. Despite all this the newer houses erected fill up rapidly. Is it not pertinent to ask by whom, how and by what standards of morality and priority?

IV. The purchase price of "Greville Type" houses built in Ext 2 & 5 : Previously agreed and negotiated to be sold to its long-standing occupants at no profit ~~at~~ construction prices are now sold by D.C.D. at market prices. Where has been the voice and protest by the L.M.C. at this erosion of the public right ? Also, when the Naidoo's found their goods on the pavements of Fordsburg, L.M.C. Chairman pleaded that his Committee had no jurisdiction in that area; but now that Mr Sivakumar with his 17 day old child finds himself on the pavements of Lenasia, we find the Chairman most of the time in the area where his jurisdiction at one time was inoperable. No Chairman can be forgiven for this dereliction of responsibility.

V. The ongoing laborious process of kerbing and paving in Ext I is taxing the patience of the residents and the persistent potholes and surface tar erosion of our roads make driving hazardous and costly. Whilst the traffic flow in the busier parts of Lenasia is increasing by leaps and bounds, the solitary robot reminds one of a one horse and cart town.

VI. The much heralded mighty lake and exotic pleasure resort area, after a decade of trumpet blowing and a $\frac{1}{2}$ million rand later has created more flies and mosquitoes in Lenasia this year, than any in the past.

VII. If progress can be measured by promises then by now we should have had a fully-fledged hospital, not one promised hopefully by 1986 and a day-care hospital in 1982 $\frac{1}{2}$ promised for 1979. Whilst we have to contend with an itinerant clinic which has to serve not only Lenasia but the whole of the South of Lenasia. What was good for a few thousand people is still considered adequate by the "Gods" of our destiny for nearly a hundred thousand people. That is priority with a capital P in bureaucratic language. Now we are expected to whoop with joy at the promise to make available 140 beds at the white abandoned General Hospital in Johannesburg Central. What was not good for us when we lived there, is now to be made "usable" for us, not forgetting the distance to be travelled, poor transport and ambulance service with escalating travel costs. How considerate and just of our "benevolent authorities", whilst the whites enjoy 5 star facilities at the new Hospital. So much for separate, equal and just.

VIII. If the Police Departments priority lists are to be taken seriously then by now a fully fledged police headquarters would have been nearing completion opposite the rail-

way station. But alas! the temporary nondescript hut in Extension 6 appears to be set to continue as headquarters of our security and protection. We are certain very few if any are inspired by the effectiveness of the service or protection that follows from its grey walls. Most people have to depend on self-protection and fear to keep safe. Like our clinic the arm for the safety and protection of the expanding population is deplorable.

IX. The glaring disparity between the housing construction program and the school building program makes a mockery of compulsory education. To talk of equality and quality in relationship to white education we fall far below in all aspects. We are presently plagued by overcrowding, shortage of schools, bussing, lack of proper facilities, drab prefabricated temporary-permanent buildings, zoning and hopelessly inadequate planning. That our children are able to cope with whites at universities and in the market place, is a tribute to the inherent strength and capacity of our people, and no thanks due to the authorities. We now have the galling reality that matriculants that failed to pass last year are denied re-admission. This at a time when education is supposed to be under the control of that talking shop: THE S.A.I.C. We forgot that deftly and obediently they have re-delegated their paper-authority to the white controlled Dept. of Indian Education. What the authorities fail to provide our emasculated school committees try to fulfill. Have we lost the guts and sense of courage that of our pioneering fathers and mothers that characterised their commitment to a S.African identity? Education is one field in which we cannot and should not fail our children. It has been proven the S.A.I.C., Management and Local Affairs Committees and School Committees have failed us miserably. As parents we need to act and demand our inalienable rights to an equal and qualitative education.

X. Transport : the lifeline to opportunities and jobs for us remains UNSUBSIDISED, whilst all other transport commuters have theirs subsidised through transport levies or deficits in annual Municipal budgets. Thus not only does an ever escalating transport costs add a heavy burden but undermines the quality of life of the people. The state is presently energetically involved in energy programs and transport strategies, but our basic inequality seems to escape their attention. Repeated representation seem to fall on deaf ears. Instead of worrying about such an important item the L.M.C. is too busy motivating increased payments for their presence on the L.M.C.

XI. Nearly 4 years ago the concept of affordable low rental and repayment cost Factory Flats for Lenasia's small entrepreneur was accepted by the Industrial Development Corp. The plan was to be commenced in Ext 6. Instead we find the present L.M.C. is still busy with surveys and feasibility acrobatics. Also, the fallow, dusty and ugly land between Concord Place and Grand Place was in principle to be developed by the Johannesburg City Council at economic rental for the small trader, office-seeker, service industry and to give the business district character and atmosphere. The only progress visible is dust, rubbish and soil indentations. The pigeon-holes of unfulfilled promises has but one more file to clog its ^{bulging} filled spaces. Even the sop of rights to trade in the C.B.D. has more strings attached and disadvantages to persons living in Group Areas intended for eventual forced autonomy than advantages. Our taxes and licences will add to the bulging coffers of the white local authorities, whilst we beg and peddle to make our areas viable and presentable. Thus these platitudinous concessions have more deadly

sting for us then we are aware of. Under apartheid we can never win.

XII. As roving commissions come to sample the fruits of an apartheid society and pronounce on the heady question of progress in the field of NON-RACIAL sport, we have not got beyond the level of rudimentary amenities in the existing codes of sport. Whilst opportunities and facilities in the many other and newer codes remain non-existent. The aphorism that there can be no normal sports in an abnormal society" remains incontestable. It is not wheter we play with and against whites that is the yardstick, but whether we have the facilities and opportunities to develop on an equal basis that is the cardinal determinant factor. No renaming of sports stadia, having biryani or sharing bar-room facilities with whites can make equal, what is unequal.

Finally we must have no illusions about the direction and intent of those who have devised and imposed the Management Committee system on us. The L.M.C. is the illegitimate offspring of a racial ideology and is designed to lead us into an unholy autonomy. It has creating a racially introverted society, in which group suspicion, religious intolerance and personality conflicts will keep us occupied; and so divert our attention from our desire for a say and promotion of a non-racially just social order in South Africa. The choice before us is clear and we must not become trapped in the vicious orgy of a racial conflict. We can begin by showing our maturity, our commitment and our patriotism to a united S.A. by showing our distaste for the system by at its basic level : The Management Committee.

1977

R. A. J.

Chomas P.C.P.