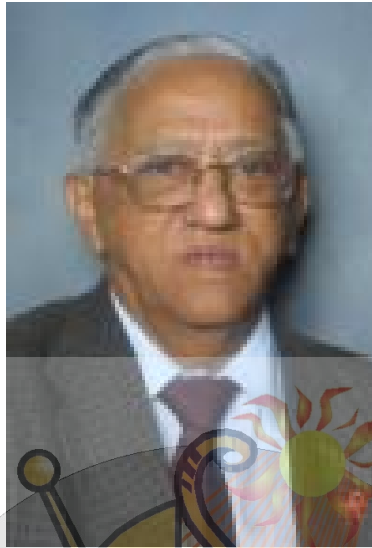


RAM SALOJEE



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

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7th November, 1978.

The Mayor's Secretary,
Office of the Mayor,
Civic Centre, Braamfontein.

Dear Sir,

re: Invitation For Presentation Of "A Testimonial under the Seal of the Council - 10th November, 1978."

In view of deeply held convictions regarding the establishment of separate institutions based on colour, I cannot compromise my integrity and conscience by accepting "The Seal of Office" issued by the council. At the time of the en masse resignation of the members of the Lenasia Management Committee, at the end of last year, we clearly stated that the Committee system was incapable of affording our people any hope of achieving a non-racially just society. This system of Local Administration merely served as an effective medium towards entrenching the policy of racial enclaves - the stepping stone leading to the fruition of racially structured autonomous units: the culmination of a policy which my party considered immoral, unjust and discriminatory.

From the outset the participation of the "People's Candidates Party" was based on clearly defined principles, which was overwhelmingly endorsed by the electorate in Lenasia. It was our purpose and desire:

- a. To clearly indicate to all authorities that the vast majority of Lenasians supported the principle of a socially just and non-racially harmonious South Africa - the mass support our party received in two consecutive elections clearly supported this submission.
- b. That whilst we served on this unilaterally State created third-tier institution, we would be espousing the deep yearning for justice and dignity of the deprived and discriminated masses of the country; and not act as conduit pipes for the realisation of the policy of apartheid.
- c. To expose clearly the inequalities inherent in the policy of enforced

dismemberment of the South African body polity.

- d. To fearlessly state, declare and record the demands and grievances of the unenfranchised citizens, regardless of whether it suited the interests of those who controlled our fate and development.
- e. To challenge the fallacy that these toothless institutions fulfilled the aspirations and expectations of our people, and to publicly pinpoint the refusals by all levels of Government to accede to the many demands for legitimate redress of grievances, especially when these not fit in with the policies and interests of those in authority. It showed how hollow the claim is, that at local level these Management Committees epitomised self-determination for our people. Our interest is even subordinate to the dictates of many civil servants.

Thus in the light of our past experience to accept "the Testimonial under the Seal of the Council"; which against our majority decision at the time, zealously motivated the slicing off, of Lenasia from greater Johannesburg and so rode roughshod over our right to be part of a non-racial city, will be tantamount to an act of desertion of all that we hold inviolable. Further, as a Muslim I would be guilty of impiety, if I accepted this dubious honour of a seal of merit. The policy of enforced separation desecrates the Islamic injunctions on social justice, racial equality, non-discrimination, human dignity and the unity of mankind.

Consequently I believe it was unfair of the Johannesburg City Council's Management Committee to prepare this Testimonial without our consent. Once more the Council's executive have decided to act injudiciously and so precipitate an unwarranted discord.

Therefore I must end by saying, that I will neither accept the award, nor be present at the presentation. On a fundamental point of principle and morality I cannot act otherwise.

Yours sincerely,

R.A.M. SALOOJEE.

