

CITY OF PORT ELIZABETH.DEPARTMENTAL CIRCULAR NO. 54 OF 1954.TO MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.SLUM CLEARANCE OF THE PORTION OF DASSIEKRAAL KNOWN AS
SLUM CASE NO. S.577.

1. I HAVE TO REPORT THAT THE 47 REMAINING FAMILIES STILL LIVING IN WHAT WAS ONE OF THE WORST SLUM AREAS IN THE CITY WILL BE REMOVED ON TUESDAY, THE 25TH MAY, 1954. IT WILL BE RECOLLECTED THAT THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL WELFARE ON THE 9TH OCTOBER, 1950, STATED THAT THE INSPECTOR FOR POOR RELIEF WHO HAD RECENTLY VISITED THE CITY HAD MADE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS IN CONNECTION WITH CONDITIONS AT DASSIEKRAAL, VIZ.,

- (i) The conditions met with at Dassiekraal are shocking. As Photo No. 2 shows there is little or no sanitary service. In the street between the tin shanties are stinking rubbish heaps and mud pools in which pigs rout. It is a breeding place of germs and negatives the attempts made to prevent tuberculosis, enteric, etc. Rubbish heaps in streets is a condition which ought not to exist in a thickly populated industrial area.
- (ii) Assistance for poor relief is given to inhabitants of Dassiekraal as the bread-winners are too ill to work because they are suffering from tuberculosis. Some are waiting for the assistance while others are receiving it. Just a small distance away from Dassiekraal and bordering on it are modern factories where workers are voluntarily contributing monthly to assist the campaign against tuberculosis while literally in front of the doors of the Dassiekraal shanties, one of the main causes of tuberculosis and other diseases could be buried with a few loads of soil.
- (iii) It is strongly recommended that the condition and seriousness thereof be brought to the notice of the authorities concerned and that if necessary influence be brought to bear by the State through the Department of Social Welfare to do the obvious immediately. It should not be impossible for the Municipality to put a bull-dozer on the streets and roll in a few loads of grit to institute a reasonable sanitary service to prevent a repetition and to prohibit the uncontrolled keeping of pigs.

2. PRIOR TO THIS DATE THE COUNCIL HAD BEEN GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO REMOVE THIS MENACE TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND ON THE 14TH OCTOBER, 1950, THE ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH SUBMITTED A REPORT IN TERMS OF SECTION 4 OF THE SLUMS ACT NO. 53 OF 1934, AS AMENDED, ON THE 104 PROPERTIES SITUATE IN THIS AREA.

3. DESPITE MANY SETBACKS IT IS PLEASING TO BE ABLE TO REPORT THAT WITH THE CLEARANCE OF THIS AREA 1,581 NATIVE FAMILIES AND 114 COLOURED FAMILIES WILL HAVE BEEN REHOUSED AND 1,644 SLUM ROOMS DEMOLISHED. THIS HAS INVOLVED A TOTAL OF 8,500 PEOPLE.

4. IT IS FELT THAT ALL COUNCILLORS SHOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY OF WITNESSING THE REMOVAL OF THE LAST OF THE SLUM STRUCTURES EXISTING IN THIS AREA AND AFTER THE OCCUPANTS AND THEIR BELONGINGS HAVE BEEN EVACUATED IT IS PROPOSED TO DESTROY THE 47 STRUCTURES REMAINING BY SETTING THEM ALIGHT. YOU ARE, THEREFORE, CORDIALLY INVITED TO BE PRESENT AT DASSIEKRAAL ON TUESDAY, 25TH MAY, 1954, AT 10 O'CLOCK A.M.

5. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS CEREMONY IT IS PROPOSED TO PROCEED TO NEW BRIGHTON WHERE COUNCILLOR MRS. HOLLAND, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL HAND OVER THE KEYS OF THE NEW HOUSES TO THE 47 FAMILIES REMOVED FROM DASSIEKRAAL.

6. PERSONS DESIRING TRANSPORT FROM THE CITY HALL AT 9.30 A.M. SHOULD ADVISE ME NOT LATER THAN MONDAY, 24TH MAY, 1954.

M. H. Brewer
TOWN CLERK. *H. H. H.*

Town Clerk's Office,
PORT ELIZABETH.
22nd May, 1954.