

REPORT ON THE WHITTLESEA RESETTLEMENT AREAS
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ZWELEDINGA

1. BACKGROUND

The Whittlesea area is composed of four resettlements, Thornhill i.e. people from Hershel and surrounding farms, Zweledinga those from Glen Grey district; Oxton people from Ilinge resettlement and white farms in the North Eastern Cape and Sada those from the areas that were declared white and from farms in the Eastern Cape, Karroo and North Eastern Cape.

These resettlements within themselves are divided into small areas after people had been given permanent sites from the temporary tent shacks for instance Zweledinga is divided into Mbekweni, Yanda, Sibonile which are permanent sites and old Zweledinga and Dipana with people who have not been allocated permanent sites and Thornhill with its three areas. In addition there are people occupying farm houses, sheds and backrooms in the farms that have been given to the Ciskei Government. These farms, are characterised by overcrowding and bad health conditions.

All these resettlements resulted from independence of the Transkei when the Glen Grey and Hershel districts were ceded to the Transkei together with the Ilinge resettlement. In this report particular attention will be given to Mbekweni, one of the permanent areas of the people from the Glen Grey district.

2. INTRODUCTION

The situation of the people from this area is that of rural life with people building small, mud brick houses with lice stock and small gardens.

3. ACCOMMODATION

Housing is one of their greatest problem as people were not compensated for their houses and have had to build their own houses. The small mud brick flats are completely small for family housing resulting into overcrowding. From my observation people who are resettled in the reserves have to build their own houses unlike those in townships like Dimbaza and Sada. Their houses are characterised by small mud brick flats roofed with second hand iron with no ceiling, these are oven-hot in summer and ice cold in winter. Toilets are made of temporary wooden shacks with a bucket placed on each.

4. HEALTH/2