

2. SLUM CONDITIONS AT KORSTEN - DESIGNATION OF OFFICERS AS AUTHORIZED OFFICERS IN TERMS OF SECTION 9(3) OF THE NATIVES (URBAN AREAS) ACT NO. 25 OF 1945.

I have to advise that the Medical Officer of Health addressed a letter to the Manager of Native Affairs on the 23rd August, 1958, the opening paragraph of which read as follows, viz.,

Certain of the difficulties which this Department is daily experiencing give cause for not a little concern, and it is imperative that a number of problems be ironed out or clarified if the final clearance of Native occupied slums is to be brought to a successful conclusion without delay and that proper control of Korsten in the future be assured.

This Department has already emphasised the danger of unlawful immigration into Korsten and the regrowth of slums whilst Native families remain to form the nuclei of new slum development.

Apart from bona fide owner/occupiers and the foreign Natives - regarding whose future no satisfactory decision has yet been reached - progress is now being held up by Korsten Natives who fall into the following groups:

In reply to the opening paragraphs of this letter the Manager of Native Affairs stated as follows, viz.,

It is imperative, as you say, that the Korsten slum area be constantly kept under observation in order to prevent the regrowth of slums. This Department is carrying out nightly inspections and will do all it can to help in the removal of the many problem cases that remain.

As a result of my discussion with you and Mr. Jarman yesterday afternoon I wish to refer to the categories mentioned in your letter and at the same time to request you to give particular attention to the bona fide owner/occupier families. I feel that the uninterrupted residence of this group is one of the most important factors contributing to the difficulty of bringing about an orderly and complete clearance of slums. I can only urge you to act in accordance with your Public Health Law which may result in a more effective and speedy clearance of the area. I now comment on the points raised in your minute.

The following additional comments were made by the Medical Officer of Health and set out thereunder are the comments of the Manager of Native Affairs, viz.,

(a) Medical Officer of Health comments -

Unemployed (Indigents not included).

Manager of Native Affairs comments -

Unemployed (excluding indigents). Unemployed persons who are lawfully seeking work and possess the necessary documents will be endorsed for clearance immediately.

(b) Medical Officer of Health comments -

Those who qualify to live in Municipal Area
- but who have lost their Reference Books.

It is understood that your Department will not agree to these groups, i.e. (a) and (b), being transferred to New Brighton, and insists on their remaining in Korsten. This is most undesirable and it is suggested that they be accommodated in shacks at Kwazakele.

Manager of Native Affairs comments -

Natives who have lost their reference books. Persons who can produce an official document signed by the Native Commissioner indicating that steps have been taken to obtain a duplicate reference book will be transferred on a temporary basis pending official investigation in regard to their right to be within the area.

(c) Medical Officer of Health comments -

Indigents who do not possess shack building material.

Some families, who have been transferred from Korsten to the indigent area of Kwazakele, have been equipped by this Department with material donated by members of the public, following an appeal by the Chairman of the Housing Committee. No more material is on hand, however, and I shall be glad to know to what extent your Department is in a position to provide shacks for indigents who remain and who, in some cases, are too infirm to build for themselves.

Manager of Native Affairs comments -

This Department has been able to make available 15 shacks for indigent families. I shall be grateful if you will direct Ford Motor Company to supply us with a further 20 loads to complete the needs of the indigent group. The necessary permit has already been obtained.

Note by Town Clerk -

Action has since been taken to obtain information regarding timber from the Ford Motor Company and a verbal report will be submitted to the Committee.

(d) Medical Officer of Health comments -

Those who do not qualify to live in the Municipal Area of Port Elizabeth.

Manager of Native Affairs comments -

Natives falling in this group will be dealt with by the Police, the Inspectorate Section and referred to the Native Commissioner for repatriation.

(e) Medical Officer of Health comments -

Those who have recently moved into Korsten from outside areas, e.g. Uitenhage, Grahamstown, etc.

Manager of Native Affairs comments -

Same as (d) above.

(f) Medical Officer of Health comments -

Apropos your statement to the meeting of the Housing Committee on the 11th August, 1958, I shall be glad to know if your Department is prepared to take legal action against those in groups (d), (e) and (f), and (if the reply is in the affirmative) if you anticipate any delay before such action becomes effective.

Manager of Native Affairs comments -

Action in terms of Section 9 of the Act will be taken against squatters who fall within this class. In addition, to discourage completely any further settlement at Korsten, steps are being taken to arrange for the removal of qualified lodger families in New Brighton to the Site and Service area. This division will indicate that the Korsten living priority is no further force as a means to obtain sites in the Site and Service Scheme.

Note by Town Clerk.

The Manager of Native Affairs has since reported that he does not propose to remove lodger families from old New Brighton at this stage.

(g) Medical Officer of Health comments -

Married sons and/or daughters living with parents who are bona fide owner/occupiers.

Would your Department be prepared to make any special concession in respect of this group, e.g. the allocation of ready built houses at Kwazakele without the usual stipulation to occupy shacks beforehand?

Manager of Native Affairs comments -

Adult sons and daughters will receive the consideration outlined to you during the course of our discussion.

The majority of the matters set out above will be dealt with by the next meeting of the Housing Committee.

It is, however, the function of the Native Affairs Committee to recommend to Council that steps be taken in terms of Section 9(3) of the Natives (Urban Areas) Act, 1945. The Manager of Native Affairs cannot act under this Section until such time as he has authority from Council to serve notices on persons who refuse to move to the Location and to this end it is recommended that the Committee submit the following resolution to Council, viz.,

That the officials named hereunder be appointed in terms of Section 9(3) of the Natives (Urban Areas) Consolidation Act No. 25 of 1945, for the purpose of serving notices on Native persons resident within any portion of the urban area, calling upon them to remove to the New Brighton Location viz.,

<u>Official.</u>	<u>Designation.</u>
P.S. Pietersen	Senior Inspector.
W.G. Kemp	Urban Areas Inspector.

3. EUROPEAN TRADERS IN NEW BRIGHTON. (25/81).

The Committee will no doubt recall that at its last meeting Council resolved that the European Traders in New Brighton be given one year's notice in which to dispose of their businesses to Natives approved by the Council.

I set down hereunder notes of an interview which took place recently between the ex-Mayor (Councillor I.E. Struan Robertson) and Mr. Perelson, who is one of the traders affected by the abovementioned resolution of Council, viz.,

Mr. Perelson of Perelson Brothers, New Brighton, interviewed the Mayor on August 19th, on which occasion he pointed out that there would be difficulty in vacating their premises in New Brighton, before the proposed new Abattoir had been constructed. Messrs. Perelson Brothers hold a contract stated to be issued by the Meat Board for the distribution of all offal from the Abattoir, which forms an important part in the diet of many families in New Brighton. The wholesale handling of the offal in the Abattoir is a business which will remain in European control.

The Mayor suggests that in his opinion the ultimate location of this business of distributing offal to Native retail traders should be adjacent the new Abattoir.

In the interval which will probably occur between the evacuation of European traders from New Brighton and the building of the Abattoir, consideration could be given to allocating Mr. Perelson a site for wholesaling offal either at the old Abattoir or in Kwaford Industrial area which may be easily accessible to Native traders from New Brighton.

The Mayor further suggests that if the Committee thinks fit they might discuss this matter with Mr. Perelson, the Medical Officer of Health and the Manager of Native Affairs. This difficulty should not delay the termination of European trading rights in New Brighton.

The following are points contained in a paper which Mr. Perelson submitted to the Mayor, viz.,

Perelson Brothers.

The New Brighton business was purchased by us approximately during 1941.

We were advised by the City Council that we would have to build a decent building to trade in.

We built a modern building at a cost of over £10,000 excluding fittings, refrigerators, etc.

Our business is essential for the African housewife, as we supply them with commodities of foodstuffs which they can afford to buy.

We are the sole distributors of offal, etc.

It is essential for our business to have an outlet for the offal, as offal is not allowed to be handled in European populated areas.

As a last alternative, we would be prepared to employ African staff, exclusively, under our supervision, run on the same lines as the Bank, which was recently opened at New Brighton.

4. OPENING AND CLOSING ORDER - NEW BRIGHTON SHOPS. (25/145).

Council on the 31st July, 1958, adopted an amendment to the Opening and Closing Order for shops in New Brighton fixing a weekly half holiday (Wednesday afternoons) and the hours of opening on Saturdays so that these shops could remain open on Saturday afternoons.

In terms of paragraph 4 of the regulations framed under the provisions of Section 20 of the Shop Hours Ordinance No. 14 of 1930, as amended by Ordinance No. 5 of 1954, the terms of this amendment were advertised and objections called for. No objections were received and the Committee is now requested to recommend as follows, viz.,

That the amendment to the Opening and Closing Order for shops in New Brighton, as referred to in the resolution of the Council dated 31st July, 1958, be and it is hereby approved.

5. WAIVING OF LABOUR BUREAU FEE - ENGAGEMENT OF CASUAL LABOUR.

At its last meeting the Committee resolved to recommend the Council to review and rescind its resolution dated 28th May, 1958, whereby a temporary concession was granted to industrialists with regard to the payment of labour bureau fees for casual labourers.

This matter was referred back by the Council and is now resubmitted to the Committee for consideration.