

THE DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1984

Why Lamontville bus boycott drags on

SIR, — I would like to draw attention to the problems of buses, local government affiliation and ambulance services in Lamontville.

Port Natal Administration Board decided, without consultation, to throw the township to KwaZulu since the township was not accepting rent increase.

When the people of Lamontville requested what had been their right before Bantu Administration Boards were created — to be taken back by the Durban City Council — they were rebuked and the request rejected.

All the adjoining Durban townships are part of Durban City Council by right i.e. Lamontville, Chesterville, KwaMashu etc.

Before the action was taken to boycott buses, we had experienced three bus fare increases. Residents of Lamontville tried different methods of protest to indicate their unhappiness. There was a silent protest when about 25 percent decided to walk to the station instead of taking buses. There was a bus petition which the residents drew and submitted to Mr Cuthbert of the DMTB.

But Mr Cuthbert refused to meet the residents, stating that he only recognised community councillors.

The bus boycott has been going on for more than 18 months now and it looks like the authorities still will not understand.

I have a big suspicion that the DMTB is waiting for the new administration to take over with the hope that when the community councillors turn into KwaZulu Councillors, problems will solve themselves.

Lamontville does not have a fast ambulance service. If an emergency occurs one has to go to the entrance of the township to fetch one. The ambulance people refuse to come unless they are escorted in to the township. I believe this is wrong.

The authorities should realise that expediency does not bear long term results. I believe the council should look after its neglected black community by giving it a voice in the city council.

SIPHIWE MADONDO

Lamontville

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Chief calls for support for Inkatha in Germany

Daily News Reporter

A CALL for support for Inkatha from Western donor agencies was made by KwaZulu Chief Minister Chief Gatsha Buthelezi in Bonn, West Germany, yesterday.

In addressing a meeting hosted by the head of the German Association for African Politics, Professor Dr A. Kayser, Chief Buthelezi complained that a wide range of donor agencies had blacklisted Inkatha.

"The West needs to reinforce

positive black political developments in South Africa, and they need to do so now as a matter of urgency in their own self-interest and in the interests of Southern Africa," he said.

Chief Buthelezi criticised the flow of money since 1976 to organisations which mobilised anger in the townships "with no medium- or long-term gain".

He had expressed a willingness in recent months to meet leaders of the United Democratic Front and the African National Congress.

THE NATAL MERCURY, THURSDAY, OCT. 4 1984

Warning against high hopes for black homes

African Affairs Correspondent

BUSINESS leaders yesterday cautioned prospective black homeowners not to cultivate unrealistic expectations that vast sums of money were available for financing housing in the self-governing homelands.

They were reacting to an announcement by Minister of Co-operation, Development and Education Gerrit Viljoen that building societies would soon have the safeguards they required to finance housing in homelands.

The societies had sought a guarantee from the State that their investments would be protected should the areas involved opt for independence.

Mr Barry Rainier, regional manager for the S A Permanent Building Society in Durban, said that, because South Africa was in an economic downturn of 'horrific proportions', inflow of funds had dropped drastically.

Finance available for lending purposes had been greatly curtailed as a result.

While the society would continue to help people of all race groups to build their own homes, blacks living in homelands should be under no illusions about the present position.

Mr Rainier said his society would not lend money for homes in rural areas, but would concentrate on townships such as Kwa Mashu provided that there was adequate security and that borrowers complied with requirements.

Mr Piet Kruger, assistant general manager of the United Building Society, said the UBS was awaiting the final wording of the document agreed to by representatives of the building society movement and the Government.

Provision of finance for housing in homelands would be governed by availability of funds, he said.

Gerrit Viljoen values role of urban blacks

PRETORIA— Black urbanisation is 'inevitable and necessary', says the Minister of Co-operation, Development and Education, Dr Gerrit Viljoen.

Addressing his first Press meeting as Cabinet minister in charge of the new consolidated black affairs department, Dr Viljoen gave his views on black education, influx control and the consolidation of the homelands.

Dr Viljoen said that while some people considered black communities and black affairs as a problem, he saw South Africa's black population — 'with their abilities and their talents and their dynamic drive towards progress and their human quality' — as a 'tremendous asset'.

Informal

He was committed to expanding, with the co-operation of formal and informal black leaders and the Government, the opportunities of blacks to improve their quality of life.

Referring to the political future of blacks, especially those outside the homelands, Dr Viljoen said he would strive to 'work towards mutually acceptable structures

and processes for ensuring participation by the black communities in political decision-making which affect their interests'.

He added that political structures would be determined in negotiations with the Government, particularly the special Cabinet committee under Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning Chris Heunis, black local authorities, and as community leaders, both formal and informal.

Education

Asked what he meant by 'informal' leaders, Dr Viljoen said the 'self-made leaders' of the black communities, or those created by the media.

He would even talk to leaders who were 'strongly opposed' to the Government. However, these people had to be committed to peaceful, not violent, change.

As an indication of his preparedness to talk, Dr Viljoen added, he had last month held discussions with the South African Council of Churches, a body 'highly critical of the Government'.

Upgrading the quality of black teachers and improving communication between schools and the

Government were the main priorities in black education at present.

Dr Viljoen said he realised there were many 'problems and shortcomings' in black education.

'We will do everything in our power to rectify these deficiencies'.

To maintain stability and order in South Africa, further expansion of black education had to remain a 'high priority'.

Asked about the situation in Atteridgeville, where numerous schools have been closed due to boycotts, Dr Viljoen said the Government was prepared to reopen the institutions once it had received a 'clear and reliable guarantee' from parents and pupils that schools would be attended.

The Government wanted 'reasonably acceptable proposals'.

At present the biggest problems in black education were the lack of qualifications held by teachers, insufficient communication between teachers and pupils and between schools and the department.

A 'communications package' was being put together by his department, and would institute 'democratically elected' pupils' councils, teachers' councils and amalga-

mated bodies where representatives from the pupils, teachers, parents and local authorities would have a 'forum where they can articulate their problems'.

Furthermore, instead of a ministerially-appointed council of education and training, Dr Viljoen said the council should be elected by school and community representatives.

The minister said there was a lack of 'school-readiness' among black pupils, which led to a waste of money when pupils took longer to finish school than was necessary.

The introduction of a pre-school year was being considered.

He added that there should be greater orientation among black pupils towards technical skills, rather than theoretical training.

Housing

Dr Viljoen also announced that building societies would be able to finance housing in self-governing homelands.

Until now the building societies would not finance housing in the homelands until the Government had made a guarantee regarding certain political risks.

These included the possibility of a change in a homeland's monetary system or the possibility that the legal machinery in the territory became ineffective.

With the 'red tape' now removed 'the ball is in the building societies' court', Dr Viljoen said.

'We will look with great anticipation to see the building societies' willingness and ability to help,' he said, adding that their involvement would make a valuable contribution to alleviating the housing shortage among blacks. — (Sapa)

● See Editorial Opinion