

MCR/013/2032/4

REPORT ON THE EASTERN TRANSVAAL

WITBANK: In Witbank's three townships there is a taxi owners association. The chairman is Mr John Nkosi. During its meetings through its chairman criticised the local community councils due to the lack of clinics in Witbank's three townships. The place has coal mines and it employs a lot of workers.

MHLUZI (MIDDLEBURG)

At Mhluzi a community council was elected in January 1980 the cabinet ministers were the ones who elected the officials. A certain businessman and a former school head was elected as the chairman after his Mhuzi people's progressive party won all 11 wards. Additional 10 councillors took office. The activities of this council will be the solving of the community problems and to build houses for approximately 23 000 residents.

MIDDLEBURG STEEL AND ALLOY COMPANY

This company has deducted some percentage of its workers wages to build the community centre in Mhluzi. When the centre was opened the managing director of the company said 'the people had build this centre out of their own pockets'. Mr John Hall the director collected the sum of about R250 000.

SASOL IN SECUNDA:

This installation employs 18 000 workers and has hostels for the workers' accommodation. Since the attack by the ANC militants there has been lots of arrests in the area. About 780 workers of CMGM, a civil construction firm went on strike on the 5.8.80 Two men were arrested when the police were called to keep order at Driefontein quarters (for workers). One security police was injured during stoning. The strike coincided with violence in the Driefontein quarters. CMGM is constructed by the Sasol for maintenance work and construction at the local affluent treatment plant. In Sasol 2 and 3 11 black workers and 30 coloureds workers were sacked for being alleged to have instigated the strike of mid-Dec which caused damage of about R35 000 investigations were to be made concerning the sacked workers and consultation between the workers liaison and the management about the grievances of the workers, which were better living conditions and the wages.

EDUCATION:

The regional director of education in Natal Mr W.J.R Lotz, said he had 169 000 pupils under his control. He said compulsory education would be enforced at Greytown, Dolktrust and Ermelo although in the TVL were part of Natal circuit.

ERMELO, BETHAL, BALFOUR:

These areas are dominated by the farmers where child labour is practised in full, farm labourers are accommodated in compounds and paid by food they eat. Most of labour is extracted from prisons by buying long term prisoners, paying through prison authorities at a low price.

WHITE YOUTH :

The white children here are taught what is termed anti-terrorist at school. They are taught how to respond to different situations e.g. ambushes of their school-buses and what to do when they see funny figures in their farms. Meanwhile black children attend farm schools up to standard three only if they can talk to 'Die baas' and count 'potatoesbags' is enough. These areas are the core of afrikaner nationality concentrating mainly on farming. Suitable for farming most boers are advocating for autonomy of the region. These two white homelander Mr Robert van Tonder of eastern and Dr J.C Jooste of western transvaal mobilise the afrikaners conservatives for support.

THE JUNE 16 AFTERMATH:

From the Cillie commission report after 76 uprising 1 person was reported by the police. Their names are Mr Mkhabela (20- with bullet wound on the chest, on the 20 July. He was shot at the Lynville, Witbank during the stoning of the police.

BALFOUR:

Balfour location, a township with the population of more than 2000 people. This township has a problem of water supply when shortage has come they travel for 5km for water. Mr Aaron Motsuenyane a member of the Balfour community council said the township had not had water regularly for the past three years. During that period the council had been battling to have the water reservoir built for the township.

After being completed the constructors who were buying water pipes in the township went on holiday before completing their work. The community council made representations to the administration board in Witbank. After the board's consultation with the Balfour municipality the people started getting water.

HEALTH CONDITIONS:

Health conditions are bad for the black people in these areas it can be noted by the cholera cases. In the eastern Transvaal the latest figures reveals the number 723 serious cases. Louws Creek on the Kaap River near Barbeton has suffered heavily since the cholera epidemic, Standerton cholera cases were admitted at Lerotong hospital due to the lack of medical facilities for blacks.

RESETTLEMENT

MORE REPRESSIVE LAWS ARE BEING DONE TO OUR PEOPLE

63 remaining human graves have been exhumed from Driefontein cemetery to be buried at Langverwacht. About 100 graves were reopened by the labourers of the highveld administration board are to be removed to the Langverwacht township most blacks around East and Southern Transvaal are being resettled. Some of the coffins exhumed are being kept in an unused house in Driefontein township until such time that the graves are being dug for them. The exhumed graves are being placed alongside each other in groups of 50 in one trench about 25m long dug by the excavator. The graves in Driefontein were started in 1965 and the graves belonged to the blacks who lived in the township.

The cemetery is closed to the workers' quarters of Sasol 2 in Secunda and has more than 900 graves. One official of Sasol said that the graves were on private property ground which belongs to Sasol 2 and have to be moved to make way for the development of the area. A special meeting was called by the headman of the township in Langverwacht and the residents were told that the graves were to be moved.

Men and Women from the areas outside Langverwacht who had attended the meeting wept uncontrollably after the announcement and prayers as a last tribute were offered.

The headman asked the residents who had the grave numbers of their relatives to submit them to the local office for reburial. He said the remains of the unidentified graves would be reburied in a communal grave.

REMOVALS

OGIES

The town of Ogies on the eastern Transvaal plans to move its Indian community of about 50 families to residential site 3km from the town centre. At the general meeting with the group areas board and white residents, Indian community accepted the resettlement proposed. They said they realised their accommodation situation in the town had become critical. In many cases housing for Indians in Ogies was of a very poor standard. However they hope to keep trading in the Ogies town centre under the auspices of section 19 of the group areas under permit. Section 19 makes provision for the minister of community development to allow Indians to trade in the white group areas under the permit. The Ogies expansion problem arose on the 18.8.80 when various representatives explained that most of the land around the town was owned by mining concerns. Members of the Indian community warned that the establishment of two trading centres in Ogies would be detrimental for all concerned.

MIDDLEBURG:

This town was also affected by the Indian resettlement they moved to the east of the town 2km. A spokesman for the town council of Middleburg where the Indian trading community was resettled in a complex, said there had been no marked comment on the matter at the time of the removal of the Indians from town. Mr G.E. Kallal vice-chairman of the Middleburg chamber of commerce disclosed that his organisation had not been in favour of the move and has submitted its feelings to the relevant authorities.

BETHAL

Bethal's council has made no decision on open business areas, although organised commerce in the town has no objections.

HEIDELBERG

The council had also made no decision on the matter. There is no sakkamer or chamber of commerce in the town.

RESETTLEMENT

KWA-NDEBELE

When the first people moved to the Vlaklaagte resettlement village in the Kwa-Ndebele homeland they thought they were going 'home'. That was a year ago.

Today Vlaklaagte two, as the area is known houses 3 000 families are offloaded by the government trucks and left behind in a cloud of dust and the families are arriving at the rate of six a day.

The Kwa-Ndebele scheme consisting of 6 villages. Vlaklaagte one and two Kwaggasfontein two and three and Vrieger's Vaght is the latest of the government resettlement schemes clearing the veld of the Eastern Transvaal.

Some families arrived believing Vlaklaagte is 'home' others are sent to the areas by the government decree after being evicted out of 'white' South Africa.

There were families including elderly people and small children who had been brought to Vlakfontein and dumped in the wind-swept with all their belongings.

They were hurriedly preparing makeshift shelters before night fall using sheets of corrugated iron borrowed from friends in the village. The village vary in size so does the availability of essential 'services' such as water supply.

Vlaklaagte 15 000 people are supplied by water pumps but Vriesgevat gets its water from the truck which comes once a week. Although no reports of famine have been made a local church saw a great need and begun a scheme to help alleviate the worst cases of hunger in the area.

The food is bought in Grobeldsdal and emerging supplies of powdered milk, soup and vegetables distributed in the area villages. The church workers compiled a list of needy families but it is impossible to find a household which is not poor, one of the helpers said.

The small truck on its weekly food supply among the dusty trails between the tin shanties. As soon as it comes into sight of the village women and children stream towards the truck carrying containers. If their names were on the list a food ration was handed to them. The helpers had to explain to those they had to refuse. 'We can add no new names to our list until next year. We have too many names already.'

Most of the able-bodied men work in Pretoria, travelling to the city by bus everyday. This means starting out at 4am and arriving at home at 8pm after commuting 270km. The number of people commuting between Pretoria and Kwa-Ndebele rose by 714% in one year, Mr D Louw divisional manager of Putco said. His view 'This shows clearly how keen the people are to stay at home.'

There is only one hospital with 50 nurses and nine doctors. They treated about 300 out-patients a day the hospital also held a clinic at Kwaggasfontein.

At Vlaklaagte 2, there is one primary school, 1 131 children write sexams into 10 classrooms built like most corrugated houses. The school principal Mr J. Mthombeni said that of the 23 teachers only 3 are qualified. The children had to pay 75c a month in fees and had to buy their own books he said.

Trench toilets had been dug at the school and the sanitary conditions constituted a severe treatment health hazard, Mr Mthombeni said. In the school there is no water so children had to go to people who live next to the school.

Mr J. Mahlangu the chief is also a shopkeeper. He lives in a farmhouse the one in the village vacated by the white farmer. He said planning of Vlaklaagte had only started recently people were housed in shacks as a tempo-

rary measures. Most of the villagers had been moved from Delmas, Brokhorstspuit, Middleburg and areas around Pretoria.

In Mr Mahlangu's shop posters on the wall portray white SA soldiers as 'growers of food' and warned against 'terrorists'. Depicted as black men in camouflage uniforms. The posters were distributed among the local population by the local soldiers, the shop assistant said.

KA-NGWANE:

Official opening of the 2nd session of the territories legislative assembly Dr W Vaseqoo, Deputy Minister of Plural relation and development warned about the unplanned settlement of the people who migrated to the region. The influx of people to the reserve had created administrative problems. He also pointed out that the ~~developing-small-industry~~ developing plan of Ka-Ngwane was being drafted, it was aimed at developing the small industry for the region.

C

COPORATION FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

ITS ACTIVITIES:

1. The running of previously white owned farmers, to maintain their productivity and training homelands citizens in modern agriculture.
 2. Developing tribal areas under the subsistence farming into large modern units.
 3. Assisting the local department of agriculture in inculcating more modern know-how into the agricultual sectors of the homelands.
 4. Granting loans from National coporation development to individuals and small farmers and corporatives with training and back-up technical and administrative advices.
 5. Assisting the outside investors to develop projects such as tea and sugar.
- Kangwane's value in mineral production is R14238 100.

Kangwane is Swazi homeland for the swazispeaking people. It is strategically situated on the borders of Swaziland and Mozambique. It has absorbed 150 000 people from 'black spots'. Its latest statistics released by Benso points to an increase in Kangwane's de facto Swazi population from 85 200 in 1970 to 1971 700 in 1978 an increase of more than 200%. Some of the resettlement areas lack basic amenities and the people blame the Kangwane authorities rather than Pretoria. Chief minister of Kangwane had this to say when confronted by the angry people Mr E J Mabuza 'As far as we are concerned the resettlement is a ~~bombshell~~ political bombshell'. According to Mr Mabuza and his lieutenant David Luthuli said this 'some resettlements have no amenities whatsoever and no clinics' added Mabuza 'many people have no jobs, some people have to drink dirty water. They think we are responsible. There is no message we can get across to them until their problem, is attendant to'

List of some of the resettlement areas affected by Eersternhoek, Dundonald, Fernie, Lochiel all situated in the Eastern Transvaal near the boarder with Swaziland. More of the 'resettle' People have been moved in accordance with the grand design of consolidating mini-ethnic states, on the periphery of 'white controlled South africa'. The creation of these ethnic states have been interpreted as part of the calculated policy of divide and rule. But the policy is not only inducive to tribal rivalries between different ethnic states, but also to division between their political rulers and resettled people.

It notes in its detailed study of Kangwane that the resettlement of Swazi in Kangwane has started in earnest and the 2 proclaintowns Ekulindeni and Eerstehoeck could not nearly keep pace with the resettlement. Eerstehoeck is better known to Swazis as Mhlazatshe, with Peter Nhlabathini, who represent Nhlabathse in the Kangwane legislative assembly acting guide

Apart from the resettlement centre there's nothing in sight they come from various places, but mainly from Kromgrans near Cullinan and Doornkop a black spot near Middleburg. Doornkop was exised amidst controversy and black resistance in 1974. There is an element of irony in Doornkop being a place of origin. One of the arguments used to justify the removals is that the people did not have the proper sewage facilities and that it was a health hazard. It is primarily a resettlement of women and children. Most men are away earning money to keep their families alive in these areas.

"DEFENCE FORCE" OF KANGWANE HOMELAND

The SADF has yet trained another 4th ethnic force known as The Swazi Battalion also known as Battalion 111 they have recruited them to help in defending the borders like this other three. Kangwane with its battalion 111 is a designated homeland of South Africa born Swazis.

The chief minister Mr E J Mabuza accused his former Internal affairs minister Mr David Lukhele of gross double standards in their dispute over the South African trained Swazi battalion, culminated in Mr Lukhele's dismissal from the cabinet at a special session of the Kangwane legislative assembly on Tuesday.

Mr Mabuza admitted visiting Swazi Battalion at its Amsterdam HQ in the Eastern Transvaal, but denied that his visit signified approval of the battalion. Defining his government policy as a non-violent search for a liberation, Mr Mabuza recalled it had been approached by defence force officers about the recruitment of the Swazi men into the battalion 111. We resolved that while we would neither encourage young men to join the ~~second~~ battalion nor be involved in their recruitment we would not stand in the way for those who want to be recruited while Lukhele was still a member of his cabinet. Kangwane has asked for assistance from national service men under the defence forces civic action programme. Mabuza said their assistance included the supplying of water during the period of drought, initiation and the supervision of a agricultural and engineering programmes and medical help. Surely we do not approve of warfare and bloodshed we do welcome their humanitarian assistance to our people and shall welcome it whether it be from David himself. Battalion 111 were to be sent in the operational area in Namibia but they protested saying that not whilst they were granted same status with whites.

BORDERSLUCK EASTERN TRANSVAAL

SADF is on a project on cross-breeding wolf and police dogs to produce half siberian wolf. They are mainly for border patrol and tracking.