

UNITED NATIONS

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COUNCIL MASTER



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ANONYMOUS PETITION CONCERNING TANGANYIKA

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 84 and supplementary rule F of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Trusteeship Council and to the Government of Italy as the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of Somaliland, an anonymous communication dated 20 August 1951 signed "Mbeya Towns People" concerning the Trust Territory of Tanganyika. This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in East Africa.

MEEYA TOWNSHIP,
M B E Y A .

20th August, 1951

The U.N.O. Visiting Mission
M B E Y A .

Dear Sirs,

This letter is for telling you our grievances. Here they are:-

1. EDUCATION

Education here in Tanganyika as a whole is very limited. Many children do not go to school at all. If you look at the children's population which attends the Schools and of that which does not, you will find that the number of those who do not attend is much greater and that in itself is self-explanatory. What grieves the parents mostly is that many children get dismissed when they have reached Standard IV Swahili. Most of them get dismissed not because they have failed to pass their examination but because they are thought to be too old to continue their studies. Very often these children are 12 to 15 years old when they are dismissed and they practically know nothing to enable them to continue self studying at home nor can they be employed for any job. What happens then is that the child either forgets everything, as most have, or goes out to another country in search of Schools.

This year over 100 boys dismissed in this Province and left for Rhodesias. They sold all they had but unfortunately could not all be admitted after all their money had been lost in transport and food before they returned home. So the tragedy they had was overwhelming and beyond understanding. You probably know that many parents sell their cattle, their only property, in order to get School fees for their children and when they see their children getting dismissed before completing the course after all that loss of property, they feel very disgusted and lose confidence. The child is still ignorant for he can't with the knowledge he has acquired at School, help the parents in the house nor in the field he is as ignorant as ever. The result is then that the child deserts his parents for menial work or becomes a thief or a loafer, thus the saying "LITTLE EDUCATION IS DANGEROUS" is correct. This kind of education is bad and is disintergrating the families and as a result there is a great outcry throughout the Country. We want something better than this please.

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There is another thing which is more frightful than the above and that is the Grants given by the Government for the upkeep of Schools. They differ greatly. For instance, the maintenance of a European and Indian child is far greater than that of an African child. We do not understand why it is so, after all, the money comes from the Common Pool and yet it is enjoyed by a privileged few who can afford contributing from their own pockets if asked to. This is really maddening. This is maddening.

2. SCHOOL FEES

To stop the progress of an African means and ways have been invented. School fees is in this order:-

- (a) Elementary N.A. Boarding Schools Std. V-VII vary from Shs.40/- to 100/- per annum. Here a child stays at least 3 years if successful.
- (b) Government Provincial Secondary Schools Std. VIII-X from Shs.150/- to 200/- per annum. Here a child stays at least 3 years if he does well.
- (c) Territorial Secondary School, Tabora - Shs.200/- per annum. Stds. XI to XII. Here the child stays at least 2 years if promising, and it is believed that in 1952 Schoolfees shall be raised to Shs.800/- per annum.
- (d) Makerere University schoolfees is Shs.800/- per annum with effect from January, 1951. The stay of the Student at the College depends entirely on his intelligence and the agreed length of the course he has taken.

Many parents shall fail to pay for their children up to Makerere University. You can work out for yourself how much money he shall be spending from (a-d), no one shall be able. Besides, this, some parents have more than 3 children at School - what an amount he shall pay! Do not forget also that most parents are unemployed and even if employed they would be unskilled labourers getting 20/- per month and would fail to save to meet School expenses. Those who are employed as professionals and technicians not many get more than Shs.200/- per month. You can see how difficult it is for every parent to bear these expenses. With the rest of the money he must buy all the necessities for the household in spite of all these exorbitant prices of articles in the shops. Price of everything has gone up terribly. We all wish elementary education up to Std.X be free and compulsory perhaps only a small proportion to be borne by the

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parents. We feel Government has to find the sound solution and it has not helped us enough otherwise it will mean retrogression.

3. LAND UTILIZATION BOARD

No African in this Territory favours this. It is created because Government wishes it, we really dont know what is behind it, perhaps it is just a way to please and attract Settlers or it is the way for Government to take over the land from Africans. We dont know what it is and Africans have not been asked whether they like it or not. The work of this Board is to alienate land to Settlers without an African consent. Many lands which have been inhabited by natives have been turned into plantations and farms without the approval of the inhabitants. Some have been compensated -/50 or 1/- for an acre and were told to quit forthwith. (e.g. C.D.C. Njombe, Mr. Sanger's farm in Mbeya). We fear since the members of the Board are all white people they will speak in favour of their fellow men. Land tenure or acquisition should be as before the creation of the Land Utilization Board. Europeans before the creation of the Land Utilization Board. Europeans shall only benefit and they cannot live near the natives. They shoot at their beasts when they transpass their lands and finally the natives are checked off. There is a big outcry among the natives and are against this idea.

4. GOVERNMENT QUARTERS FOR SERVAANTS

This is self-explanatory. We ask you to see for yourself the quarters of Europeans, Indians and Africans and then make a comparison of them. African quarters are shabby humiliating; they are not furnished like those of Europeans. For an unfurnished house 7 1/2% of pay is deducted in the form of rent and 10% for a furnished house. Unfurnished houses or quarters are given to Africans and Indians or Asians only without asking them to take choice of the two kinds themselves. All Africans and Indians are prepared to live in furnished quarters despite of 10% of their small salaries, what they want is comfort and freedom of carrying luggage when on transfer.

Housing for Africans should be reformed. Quarters are too small for a native because it is his home so there are many visitors and guests who come to see him and they cant be accommodated. Many also have big families and a one roomed house is inadequate. Europeans, though strangers have big houses which can accommodate a number of guests without trouble. We are fussy for

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the defference of 7 1/2% and 10% is not greater and if so we should be deducted only half of the furnished house or give us equal terms.

5. RESPONSIBILITY IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

It is deplorable to point out that responsibility in the Junior Service is all held by Asians though most of them are no better qualified than an African. It is quite obvious that when they join the service they are also unexperienced but are highly paid. They are shown the work by the African clerks. For example there is chap in the Mbeya Revenue Office called R.M.K. Lodhi who is about 15 to 18 years of age has just started the job at the rate of Shs.226/66 per month. His educational qualification and Standard reached are not known. We want to know if he has passed any Entry Point Examination of the Junior Service.

With a view of the above point and by knowing that you, as members of the U.N.O. and who are responsible for this Territory, we hope you shall bear in mind all our complaints and shall be able to investigate all matters in details and find for yourselves.

We beg to remain,

Dear Sirs,

MBEYA TOWNS PEOPLE
