

Douglas

Undated (Y.M.C.A.) 023.1

Y.M.C.A. NATIONAL COUNCIL.

Scheme for Development of Non European Work
by Promoting the Establishment of Community Centres
and Non European Local Associations to Operate as
Complementary Organisations giving Reciprocal Support.

1. Premise.

The conditions necessary to the successful development of Y.M.C.A. work amongst Non Europeans in South Africa include :-

- (a) A programme which will meet the needs of the local communities and at the same time appeal to the imagination of their leaders;
- (b) An adequate and recognised field of service;
- (c) A source from which to draw trained and qualified leaders and workers.

The best opportunities for development exist where the need is greatest, that is amongst the Non European urban dwellers including more particularly the detribalised native. This field, however, presents special difficulties because of the comparative inability of the people themselves to finance the work or to provide the necessary facilities such as buildings and grounds. The support, therefore, of the public and of government and municipal authorities is desirable.

Such support in view of the manifold demands being made for social welfare causes will only be forthcoming if the service the Y.M.C.A. is able to render is sufficiently wide in its scope to benefit the whole community.

This essential requirement co-incides rather opportunely

with the trend of thought and desire of the leaders of the native and coloured urban dwellers. They have strongly urged that the paramount need today is a service which will embrace the whole community - adults, young people and children. They apparently feel the need of an agency to unify and centralise their communal activities.

A Committee of native and coloured leaders working under the guidance of Dr. R. Phillips have prepared a draft constitution which gives expression to their conception of the form of organisation - a Community Centre - required to meet the situation. This draft constitution visualises a series of local Community Centres, directed and supervised by a National Council of Community Centres. The Y.M.C.A. National Council has been asked to sponsor the movement and to grant it affiliation.

The scheme seems to have great possibilities and to provide a splendid field of service for the Y.M.C.A. movement. The part, however, which the Y.M.C.A. is to play must be carefully worked out and specifically stated and recognised. The Y.M.C.A.'s part should be to provide that which is vital to the usefulness of the movement, namely, Christian leadership. This leadership will be necessary both at the top and at the bottom, i.e. in the National Council of Community Centres and in the local Centres. Apart from the effect upon the usefulness of the movement the character and quality of the leadership will be the test of its financial support by the public and by government and municipal authorities.

The Y.M.C.A., however, cannot look upon the Community Centre merely as a field of service. It must look to its own growth in order to have the needed resources, human and financial, to draw upon. The Community Centre can reciprocate by assisting the establishment and maintenance of a local Y.M.C.A.

in each Centre by providing accommodation and facilities.
A kind of parallel development is foreseen.

The possibilities are evident and the problem now is to work out a plan under which Community Centres can be established combining freedom of local control with a willing acceptance of Y.M.C.A. influence and guidance.

A plan drawn up with this object is outlined in the attached memoranda, namely :-

- (1) "Outline of Community Centre Service" which describes the kind of Community Centre which will comply with Y.M.C.A. ideals;
- (2) "Diagrammatic Representation of Relationship of Y.M.C.As. to Community Centres."
- (3) "Joint Scheme - Organisation and Procedure".

Collection Number: AD843

XUMA, A.B., Papers

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- **Historical Papers Research Archive**

Location:- **Johannesburg**

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations, held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.