

Indian Council objected

Market row takes new turn

S-4-73

Daily News Reporter

THE ROW over Durban's Victoria Street Indian Market took a new turn last night when it was revealed that the South African Indian Council had objected to a plan to allow the stallholders to build a new market on an adjacent site.

Mr George Singh, an executive member of the Durban Indian Market Stallholders' Association, told a meeting of stallholders yesterday that the Indian people were confused about why the Durban City Council had refused to rebuild the market after the fire three weeks ago.

Mr Singh said he was certain that if the stallholders themselves approached the Durban City Council they would receive a sympathetic hearing.

"I can go further in guaranteeing you that the market will be rebuilt on the unanimous resolution passed by the Council some years back.

UNANIMOUS

"The Durban City Council passed a unanimous resolution some years back to allow a market to be built on land leased by them to a consortium.

"We as market stallholders were prepared to build the market by a consortium formed by ourselves.

"But this was objected to by the South African Indian Council (SAIC) who had their

own ideas for a market," Mr Singh said.

Mr J. N. Reddy, executive member of the SAIC, who is meeting the Minister of Community Development, Mr A. H. du Plessis, and the Minister of Indian Affairs, Senator Owen Horwood, in Cape Town today, told the stallholders that he would make the strongest representations to the Government to have the market rebuilt.

Mr Reddy who was to be accompanied by the Stallholders Association's chairman, Mr A. R. Naidoo, said that he would tell the Government that immediate action should be taken to get the stallholders back in business.

"We are going to see that justice is done for the Indian people. We will ask the Government to take immediate steps to have temporary structures set up for you to start business again.

"We will also ask the Government to ensure that a permanent market be rebuilt as soon as possible."

Mr Reddy said that he would inform the Government that the Durban City Council had a moral duty to the people to see that the market was rebuilt.

"The City Council must do the same things that it would have done for the Whites in similar circumstances."

A deputation of seven prominent Durban Indian citizens, led by Mrs Fatima Meer, Natal University lecturer, was to have met the Mayor, Mr Ron Williams, at noon today.

Graham's rally may yet aid fund

April 10 Mail



DR. BILLY GRAHAM
... not a rand.

By G. R. NAIDOO

DURBAN. — The Billy Graham organisation in Durban will decide at the end of this month whether to make a donation to the Indian Market Relief Fund.

The organisation was criticised by Durban's Mayor, Mr. Ron Williams, at the weekend when it was revealed that only R100 was donated to the fund after Billy Graham's Durban rally which attracted 45 000 people of all races.

The relief fund, opened by the city council, stood at a meagre R4 024 yesterday afternoon.

The mayor has said he was left "absolutely stone cold" when he knew that all that had come out of the Billy Graham appeal for funds was R100.

"There was a great to-do and Dr. Graham appeared at the Indian Market and prayed and it was tremendously dramatic and all the rest of it. But it doesn't seem as though beyond that and the personal publicity from it any more happened.

"In other words, despite Dr.

Graham's impassioned message about the Indian Market and the tragedy and his personal appearances, all that has come out of it is R100," the mayor is reported to have said.

The 'Mail' Washington correspondent yesterday reported Dr. Graham as saying that if the victims of the fire were shortchanged by a fund-raising appeal during his rally there, it was not his fault.

Speaking from his North Carolina home, Dr. Graham insisted that "we did not receive one rand from anybody in South Africa."

"I and my organisation had nothing to do with the organising of the congress or the funding. We received absolutely nothing. We paid all our own expenses to South Africa, while in South Africa, and while on the way back," he said.

Mr. Keith Jesson, Dr. Graham's organiser in Durban, said yesterday that the accounts of the rally were not yet closed and the amount of any surplus was not known. He said that the budgeted expenses were exceeded and the audited financial statement would be available at the end of the month.

REQUEST

Mr. Jesson said his committee had received an official request for a contribution to the fund.

"This request has been sent to the finance committee and until all our bills are in and we know what the total expenditure relating to the rally was, we do not know even if there will be a surplus. I can assure the public that no relief money was mixed with the rally fund."

He said the R100 donated by the committee came in the mail after the rally expressly for the relief fund.

Mr. Jesson said that Dr. Graham promised while he was in Durban that he would make a contribution to the fund. Dr. Graham, he said, had only just returned to America and he was sure that when his board met this month, a contribution would be made.

No evidence

ANGELES. — Defence lawyers in Los Angeles said the defendants in the Haddon Chase Papers trial would have evidence to deny that he had stolen Government officials and committed offences against the Espionage Act.

Name rejected

Staff Reporter
ANNESBURG'S Management Committee yesterday rejected a request by the Huddlestone Golf Club to change its name to the Linksfield Golf Club at Huddle Park.

Horwood's intervention

Mercury 14/9/73

PERHAPS if the Durban City Council had called on Senator Owen Horwood for help immediately after the fire which destroyed the Indian Market on March 17, leaving hundreds of stallholders destitute, he would have taken prompt and energetic steps to restore order out of the chaos.

But whatever the reasons for the delay, Senator Horwood has made up for lost time since summoning the Mayor, Councillor Ron Williams, to Cape Town for urgent talks a week ago.

The Council is now to set about providing alternative facilities near the old site, and the hapless traders can look forward to being back in business soon.

It has been made clear that the renovated premises are temporary, and there is a suggestion that the ultimate plan is to move the market out of the city to some other unspecified Indian group area.

If this happens Durban will lose one of its main tourist attractions, and since Senator Horwood is Minister of Tourism

as well as Indian Affairs, it can be assumed that he is aware of this as well as the hardships that would be caused if Indians were deprived of their traditional business rights in the Grey Street area.

Senator Horwood has appointed a joint committee, presumably to iron out difficulties, consisting of one representative each from the Departments of Indian Affairs and Community Development, the Durban City Council and the South African Indian Council.

If this committee, which will start work immediately, can persuade the Government to issue a proclamation declaring Grey Street an Indian trading area, it will remove the uncertainty which has allowed the complex to degenerate into a run-down enclave in a prosperous city.

There is said to be more than R50-million investment capital waiting for confirmation of the Government's promise before being ploughed in to development and renewal schemes. The Government has a moral responsibility if it cannot continue to sidestep.

POST

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Govt. pressure

VICTORY IS OURS — STALLHOLDERS MARKET

THE STALLHOLDERS of Durban's Indian Market, which was ravaged by fire last month, are heading for a great victory in their fight with the City Council over a new market.

Although it could not be confirmed at the time of going to press it is strongly believed that the Government has stepped in and put pressure on the council to provide accommodation for the stricken market men.

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And Mr. P. S. Schoeman

By
Bobby Harrypersadh

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Thousands of people were affected by the market fire on March 16.

All the stalls in the world-famous market were destroyed and the stallholders dreams and livelihood went up in smoke, too.

Then came a bombshell. The City Council opened a relief fund appeal but insisted that the market would not be rebuilt.

The council said the market had been due for demolition in June to make way for a new super highway.

But this week, a series of top-level meetings took place involving the Minister of Indian Affairs, Sen. Owen Horwood, the Minister of Community Development, Mr. J. du Plessis, and the Mayor of Durban, Councillor Ron Williams.

Urgent

Both Cabinet Ministers sent their representatives to Durban for urgent talks and on-the-spot investigation with a member of the South African Indian Council Executive, Mr. J. N. Reddy.

The Government officials flew back to Cape Town to report, and as POST was going to press, confident stallholders were predicting that a decision granting them at least temporary accommodation until a permanent solu-

tion is reached, will soon be announced.

Mr. J. Drew, the Mayor's secretary, told me that the City Council was anxious to hear from Cape Town as the stallholders were.

And Mr. R. S. Schoeman, assistant secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs, said: "I appreciate how important the market decision is for so many people, but I can assure you that the decision has not been taken up to now (Wednesday lunch-time) and a statement will only be made to the Press once it has.

Meanwhile stallholders

have praised prompt action by the Government at a time when it appeared the City Council would do little to help.

Donations to the Mayor's Relief Fund continue to be made including a cheque for R1 350, the gate takings from a match between Durban City and Maritzburg last week.

The City Council has still not made a donation of its own.

THE North Coast Football Association, which has giv-

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