

P.O. Fort Hare,  
Alice, C.P.  
24-2-59

Mr T.T. Makwabe,  
P.O. Box 1294,  
Port Elizabeth.

Dear Mr Makwabe,

Thank you for your letter of the 23rd inst. in which you inform me about the steps which you propose to take in connection the proposals of the Eape Eastern Committee of the Group Areas Board for the Eastern Cape area.

In reply to the matters raised in your letter I beg to state as follows:-

1. In connection with the enclosed circular letter in Xhosa, I have filled in the name of Mr Gibson K. Maneli, c/o E. Smitheman, Esq., Attorney-at-Law, Alice, whose name is quite well known in the district and who has expressed willingness to associate himself with this protest. The phone number of the office where he is employed is Alice 47. You can get in touch with him there in case of emergency. He has promised to see that Victoria East is well represented at any meeting which may be held for this purpose. I think you should also contact Mr Mbatani of Healdtown who is acting on behalf of the Healdtown residents in this matter. He has already been in touch with me about it.
2. In connection with the date which you have chosen for a meeting of the people of the area, namely, 28.2.59, it seems to me that that date is much too close already. I do not know whether you can expect a good response from the people at such short notice. Anyway you will be able to decide what is best.
3. I think that King Williams Town would be better than Ntselamanzi for the meeting. It is more central and is much easier to reach. Anyway as far as the Ntselamanzi Hall is concerned the person to contact is Mr Gwegi Booi, c/o Power Station, Alice. I doubt if the Ntselamanzi Hall Committee would agree to have such a meeting in their Hall as they are very much afraid of political meetings just now. Anyway there is nothing like trying.
4. With regard to the actual proposals of the Group Areas Board, I am not in a position to give you exact figures. These should be obtainable from the Offices of the Board in Port Elizabeth, but my impression is that the Africans are likely to lose more than the Europeans.
5. The people are naturally very much perturbed about these proposals but there seems to be a feeling of despair abroad that there is nothing much one can do once the Nats. make up their minds about a thing. I think the idea of a mass meeting where this matter can be discussed is a good one and will help to rouse the people to the seriousness of the position.

Yours for Africa.,

*J. K. M. M.*