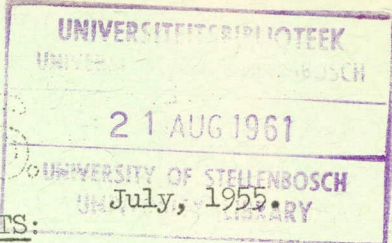


I.M.S.



THE ACTING TOWN CLERK, MR. F.W. POHL, REPORTS:

1. INDIVIDUAL HOUSING LOANS:

The Council has for some time past devoted attention to investigating ways and means of alleviating the general housing shortage experienced at Stellenbosch, as it is indeed throughout the Country. Apart from the erection of further Housing Schemes by the Council, it was felt that the position could be greatly improved by the public making considerably more use of the Individual Housing Loans granted by the Government, (National Housing Commission), through Local Authorities.

These loans have been made available for persons in the middle income group, (the gross income of the applicant may not exceed £70 per month), wishing to build houses for themselves. Parliament votes a certain amount of money annually for this purpose to the Commission and applications are submitted to them through the Municipality. The Municipality borrows the money from the Commission and in turn lends it to the applicants. The Council thus takes the risk and a first mortgage bond has to be registered in the Council's favour. Additional security may be required.

The terms on which the loans are granted are most favourable, up to 90% of the cost of the buildings and ground being obtainable, although the maximum loan is £2,250, and the house may also not cost more than £2,500. The rate of interest varies according to that charged by the Treasury, but is considerably less than that obtainable in the open market. At the moment the rate is  $4\frac{1}{2}\%$  per annum, redemption being over 30 years. This works out at approximately £6.3.0., interest and redemption per £100 per annum.

It is to be noted that the applicant must satisfy the Council that he does not own a house suitable for his occupation and that he intends to occupy personally the house in respect of which the loan is applied for.

Up to the present moment 38 of these Individual Housing Loans have been granted at Stellenbosch. 20 have already been repaid in full, leaving 18 loans running. The Council is pleased to be able to report that no undue difficulties have been experienced or loss suffered through granting such loans.

The Council felt that the reason for so few people making use of the loans is perhaps because the public is to a large extent unaware of this scheme. It was thereupon decided to send out the enclosed circular letter in both official languages to all residents appearing on the registers, inviting interested parties to come and obtain further particulars at the Municipal Offices.

It is to be noted that there is another favourable Government Scheme for persons with a gross income of between £70 and £100 per month, which is obtainable through the Building Societies. This is also pointed out in the circular referred to.

## 2. VOTERS' ROLL.

The current Municipal Voters' Roll was revised during July in terms of Section 18 of the Municipal Ordinance, which lays down that this shall be done in every year other than a year in which a general election is due to be held. (General elections are held every three years, and before such elections the Council must cause a completely new Voters' Roll to be compiled).

The Court consisted of the Deputy Mayor, Clr. Dr. E. Theron, (acting vice the Mayor who could not be present), and Cllrs. S.W.J. Liebenberg and L.F. van Copenhagen.

A fair number of amendments were made - 91 occupiers and 61 owners being removed from the roll upon information submitted to the Court by officials. 75 new names were inserted, 48 being owners and 27 occupiers. In comparison to a total of 2677 enrolled voters previously, there are now 2630.



The names removed were in respect of persons who had lost their qualifications through having sold their properties, died or having left the property in respect of which they had previously qualified. A certain number of occupiers against whom objection had been made, were not removed in view of insufficient information.

The Court expressed their regret at the fact that more people had not submitted claims for insertion in the roll. Apart from the required advertisement in the Eikestadnuus, the Municipal staff had sent a notification to all persons of whom they were aware who had qualified since last year, enclosing an application form, but the response was disappointing. It is to be noted that according to the law, the onus of securing enrolment rests on the person claiming to be so enrolled. The Court could further only consider claims put before it, and not insert names of its own accord.

It was, however, pointed out that apart from a general lack of interest in Municipal Affairs, the poor response might well be as a result of the fact that the matter was dealt with during the school and the university holidays, when so many people were out of town. The Court will recommend to Council that, in ensuing years, the Court should sit before the holidays and also that the matter should be much more widely publicised than merely as required by law. Posters in prominent places or circularisation with electricity accounts were mentioned as possible ways.

The Court will also make certain further recommendations to Council regarding possible improvements in other matters of procedure relating to the revision and compilation of the Voters Roll: and steps which might in general serve to increase interest in Municipal affairs amongst the public.

### 3. STELLENBOSCH POPULATION:

In the Municipal area of Stellenbosch there are at present living 8550 Europeans, 8120 Coloureds, 2255 Natives. A total population of 18,925. At the 1951 Union Census

the figures were: Europeans 8,271, Coloureds 7,440, Natives 1,934. Total 17,645.

4. SPORTS FACILITIES : IDAS VALLEY:

At the July meeting of the Council it was decided that the ticket boxes at the existing football field as well as the sanitary conveniences be repaired and that the road giving access to field no. 2 be gravelled. It was also decided that plans be prepared for the future development of the "Peerboord" for the establishment of Coloured Sports Facilities and to consider the conditions on which funds would be made available for such development.

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