

Black leaders slam group areas 'farce'

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They say it is easy to circumvent the Group Areas Act — and that it is full of loopholes:

By **DEVEN MOODLEY**

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Party carried out an investigation after complaints that rich Indians owned shopping centres and other businesses in Coloured areas. A lengthy report was sent to the Prime Minister and resulted in a police investigation, but no further action has been taken.

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This week Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, Chief Minister of the KwaZulu Government, warned other races to keep out of African areas.

"I know many cases of Africans being used as fronts by White businessmen. This must stop," he said.

And Mr Y. S. Chinsamy, an Indian Council member, supported him. "This kind of thing upsets Africans, who have complained to me many times," he said.

"There are Whites too who are guilty of this. They own shops in Black areas, and the Department of Community Development can't do anything to stop them."

Bungled

Mr Norman Middleton, Natal Labour Party leader, said these evasions were common throughout the country.

"But I don't blame the people who are doing it. I blame the Government, which has bungled in implementing the Group Areas Act.

"The National Party in the Transvaal approached the Prime Minister to stop these practices but nothing was done," he said.

Mr E. G. Rooks, Social Democratic Party leader, also blamed the Government. "All races should be free to trade anywhere."

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THE Black who's taken over from Harriet Bolton says he won't follow in her footsteps.

After 44 years with the Garment Workers Union, Mr Mothilall Stanley (58) took over this week as general secretary. Mrs Bolton resigned because of police harassment and left recently for London.

"Not for anything in the world will I do exactly what she did. It's not worth the trouble. I'm not a politician and I don't want to get involved with the police like Mrs Bolton did," said Mr Stanley.

"She was actively involved in the fight for the Black man and crossed swords with the Government and the police. Because of her activities she was constantly watched and harassed.

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"I am not going to suffer as she did, because I won't be following in her footsteps and cross swords with the police."

Mr Stanley said:

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★ He will not pursue Mrs Bolton's fight for an African trade union.

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Mr Stanley said he had known Mrs Bolton since she was 16. "She is a fighter, not only for the Blacks but for equality for all. And as far as that is concerned I will fight for my 30 000 workers. I also believe in the rate for the job."

He did not know whether Mrs Bolton had a hand in his appointment, but he was told by her: "You'll go to the top."

Mr Stanley disclosed that he had been harassed by police in the past. "Security police visited me constantly at work and at home.

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"Well, I don't want to be troubled like her. All I want is to stay in the union and fight for the rate for the job.

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Mr Stanley, who will represent his union in Dublin in August, said South African industrialists can expect increased international pressure to recognise registered trade unions for all workers. The world body would concentrate on the plight of workers in South Africa.



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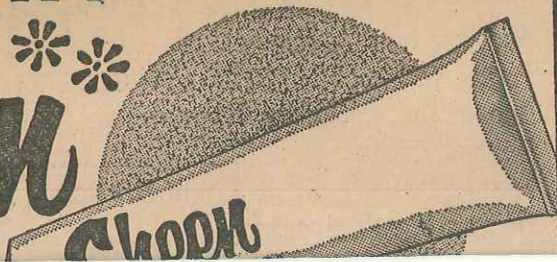
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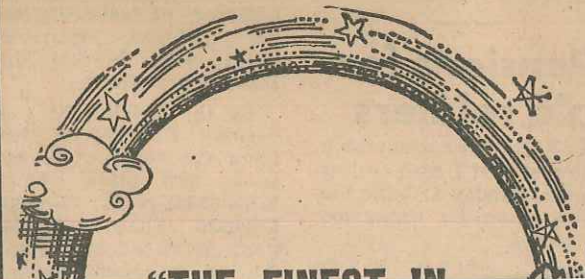
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