KMM 1 TKP 174

DR. ARTHUR E. LISTER, D.D.S.
DENTAL SURGEON.

FRANCISTOWN. Next Visit.....

Telegrams: "LISTER" LOBATSI.
Also P.O. Box 16, MAFEKING.

P.O. Box 16.
Lobatsi,
Bechuanaland Protectorate.

2nd March 1938

P.B.3.05

Dear Friend,

I regret not having seen you prior to the Native Council Meeting now in session at Mafeking, as I have (what I consider) an important subject in connection with the welfare of the Bechuanaland Tribes to discuss with you.

Any-way I will endeavour to give you the gist of it, and if after perusal you are inclined to agree with my deductions and the suggestions I make? then I can either run down to Mafeking while you are in session or await your return to go into the subject more fully.

In brief, the subject matter is,——

1. Assuming it a foregone conclusion that the Protectorate will in due course be either incorporated with the Union of S.A.; Rhodesia; or both.
2. Knowing from experience the tendency of Union legislation in connection with native welfare, colour bar, &c.

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The.

3. In conjunction with the suggested ~~suppr~~ suppression of the "Native Herbalist Doctors" (who are not "witch-doctors" as implied) and have practised their calling from time immemorial in connection with the ills of the Tribes.

4. It would therefore appear essential for the future advancement of the Bantu that definate provision be made for the furtherance of Scholastic, Medical, and Dental studies to enable the Bantu to perform each and every such service for the race by the Bantus themselves.

5. If such alienable rights are not entrenched in any "Act of Co-operation" then the Native will remain in a vassal state position to be continually exploited by an alien race.

Granting for the moment that the foregoing hypothetical assumptions should prove correct, I feel that (Bantu) it may be my privilege to assist you to evolve by your own endeavours in so far as Rhodesia is concerned.

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Concerned.

With my long professional experience in the Protectorate I have noted that the Dental deterioration is an increasing factor, caused through various reasons, hence I suggest for your consideration the following,

1. Dental inspection of schools. By a Dentist.
2. Facilities for carrying out urgent Dental treatment, gratis.
3. The immediate training of the Bantus to enable them in due course to undertake the Dental treatment of the respective tribes.

I have given a great deal of thought to this subject, so will proceed further in what way and under what conditions I could be of assistance to the Protectorate Government in furthering the object under discussion.

Viz.

1. The Government to provide me with a house and quarters.
2. Pay to me a nominal retaining fee.

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4.

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fee.

3. Pay for material used under this scheme.

4. Make the necessary provision for travelling or an allowance in lieu thereof.

In return for such assistance from the Protectorate Government as a "quid pro quo" I will undertake to train a certain number of the Bantu people which would enable them in due course to attend to the Dental welfare of the different Tribes themselves.

The actual number of students would be a matter of arrangement with the Chiefs Concerned and the Government.

I would suggest that the Chief with the cooperation of his Councillors nominate a student from each of the respective Tribes, i.e. large Tribes.

Conditions.

a. The selected individual must have passed Standard VI

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Standard VI.

b. There must be an agreed apprenticeship of three years.

c. The accomodation and board of the apprentices to be debited against their respective tribes.

Please treat this communication in a semi-confidential manner. I would like you to allow Dr. Molema to read it, also you could discuss it with Chief Bathoen. Further I leave it to your discretion.

Yours Sincere Friend
Arthur E. Lister.

Kgosi Kgama G.
Paramount Chief of the Bamangwato.
Serowe.