



THE HOUSE GROUP
P O Box 18557
Hillbrow, Johannesburg
2038, South Africa

23 August 2000

Department of Social Services and Population Development
61 Rissik Street
Johannesburg

Att: **Dorothy van der Spuy**

Re: **Changes in projects and proposed Handing over of Projects**

Hallo Dorothy

Things are going very well with the projects in Hillbrow, although I truly can not say the same for Hillbrow ☹, as Hillbrow is getting worse by the day – dirtier, grimmer and the crime and violence is escalating by the day.

Just to keep you posted on Hillbrow Drop-in Centre, Intombi Shelter and Kulula Skills Centre.

1. Premises

It was decided that the 2 projects will 'swop' premises. Thus Hillbrow Drop-in will now be at 62 Olivia Road, and Intombi Shelter will be at 60 Olivia Road, Berea. (Not to worry, it is perfectly legal – see attached Certificate of Registration). The reason for this is that the Intombi children stay longer in the project and they need the additional space for movement.

2. Security

In addition, for security reasons, we are going to have all the girls (that is drop-in and shelter) sleep in only one of the premises, which will be 60 Olivia Road. A division will be made between the drop-in and shelter girls as not to mix the stable group with the un-stable group. Due to the risks of having only women and girl-children on the premises that move around between the two houses in the evenings and early mornings, it was decided that for the safety of the women and children, to share facilities at night.

3. Handing over of Projects

For the past three months the staff in Hillbrow and Cullinan has been receiving training on how to run an organization for non-profit. The time has come for the projects to be running independently - each with their own management committee, bank account and responsibilities.

Reasons for this decision were:

- At The House Group's appraisal in December '99, the group was told that our management committee is not representative of the population and that we must endeavour to have more black people on our management committee, reflecting the population ratio. You will be happy to learn that the new management committees' representation will be 70-80% black

- and the rest the other 'colour's' representation (unfortunately only white, but we will endeavour to get asian and coloured representation as well).
- The projects fall in different Welfare Regional Offices, this is Johannesburg and Bronkhorstspuit.
 - The projects are funded independently from each other; therefore each will have their own budgets, bank accounts, signatories, etc. making the financial accountability easier. The projects will share the same treasurer on their management committees and will continue to use the same bookkeeper/treasurer and the same auditor.
 - A six-month audit will be conducted at the end of August this year, so that the new managements will take over and start with their independent accounting and responsibility as of the 1st of September this year.
 - The projects' management committees will have the same Youth Care Representative – that is Nomzamo. You have met her before, she is a remarkable child/young woman and has worked very hard to improve and better herself. She has intimate knowledge of all the phases of the projects as she herself is the product of The House Group of Projects, and she will be a very good voice for the children in the projects.
 - In addition to the new managements for the projects, the existing management (80% white, ☺ ... sorry couldn't resist that one!) with all their many, many years of expertise will step-down, but will be available on 24-hour call to the new managements. We will not have a vote, will not interfere or bully them, will attend their respective meetings when invited, and will be as I said, available for consultation, guidance and whatever assistance the managements might need.

Pretty exciting! We are very proud of taking these giant steps and of empowering the new managements to take charge and to do things the way they want to do things. We, that are the existing management, have been around for too long and are maybe too set in our ways. The fights have been fought, the begging, the pleas, the tantrums ... the struggle's fruit is the existence of the projects and now we must step-back and give it to the people in order for them to help their own people ...

Wow, never thought we would say that we are happy to step-back, but we are! We are exhausted after 11 years ... God's been with us!

Warmest regards

Adèle du Plessis
Director Communications
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