



MINISTRY FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT
MINISTERIE VIR WELSYN EN BEVOLKINGSONTWIKKELING
MINISTERI YA PABALELO LE TLHABOLLO YA SETSHABA
IMINISTRI YEZENHLALAKAHLE NOKUTHUTHUKISWA KOMPHAKATHI

Republic of South Africa
Republiek van Suid-Afrika

Privaatsak/Private Bag X9153 Kaapstad Cape Town 8000
Tel No.: (021) 45 4011 Fax: (021) 45 4469

Privaatsak/Private Bag X885 Pretoria 0001
Tel.: (012) 328 4600 Fax: (012) 325 7071

3/B4/20/6

Ms Adele du Plessis
The House
PO Box 18557
HILLBROW 2038

Reference number:

Verwysingsnommer:

Dear Ms Du Plessis

1996-05-21

THERAPEUTIC PROJECT FOR TEENAGE GIRLS - KULULU KIBBUTZ

Minister McKenzie requested me to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 13 May 1996.

The matter is receiving attention and a further communication in this regard will be forwarded to you in due course.

With kind regards

J M BURNETT
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY



THE HOUSE GROUP
P O Box 18557
Hillbrow, Johannesburg
2038, South Africa
13 May '96

Department of Welfare and Population Development

Private Bag X 9153

Cape Town

8000

Fax: [021] 454-469

Att: **The Honourable Minister Patrick C McKenzie**
Minister for Welfare and Population Development

Re: **With reference to our discussion**
- Project for Girls to be planned by The House

Dear Minister McKenzie

I refer to your speech and our discussion at the Ithuba Trust Presentation Ceremony held on the 19th of April in Johannesburg. You stressed that I must jog your memory when writing to you: I joined you for desert and suggested I track down the photographer to obtain a picture taken of us - you assured me that such drastic measures will not be necessary.

I discussed the plight of our runaway girl-children [mostly sexually abused children] that fall prey to a life of prostitution and drug addiction, explaining the lack of resources to help them off the streets.

Children's homes do not want to take these girls in due to their involvement in juvenile prostitution, experimenting with drugs and experiencing the 'streets'. Furthermore children's homes changed their policy to short-term placement and will not take children that need to be placed for a period longer than 3 to 6 months maximum.

The age of our children, between 15 and 19 years of age, makes finding placement even more difficult. A child of 17 is 'almost discarded' by the Department Child Welfare and a school going child of 18 is 'discarded', as she is no longer a child according to the law's definition of a child. Where to with our children? It is most unfair to send the child to an industrial school or

reformatory, punishing her for being exploited and for crimes committed against her.

You requested a program from The House that will cater for the specific needs of these 'throw-away' children, a program that will give them the opportunity to overcome life's adversities and make them whole. It was suggested by you that such a much needed program may be wholly sponsored by the Department for a period of three years to ensure its implementation and effectiveness. Herewith follows a pro-forma proposal for Kulula Kibbutz.

Should this proposal agree with your line of thinking, we await your directives.

With gratitude and kind regards

Adèle du Plessis
Public Relations