

EAST AFR. PROT.

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Rec'd  
8 Nov 17

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1917

18 Sept.

PUBLIC WORKS EXTRAORDINARY

"MAJOR WORKS"

Reports question in Local Councils to say full information is not submitted to C.O. of such projects in accordance with Col Regs 257 and 258 and states reply given. Submits suggestions and requests early expression of views on matter.

Mr. Grindle

The new Unofficial Members of the Council are apparently determined to keep the local Government straight in matter of public works expenditure. I do not suppose that they have such real confidence in the value of an examination of the plans by the Colonial Office. It is clear that no hard and fast line between important and unimportant works can be drawn, and I think that all we need secure is that, in addition to the really big works, we should have details of proposals which perhaps do not entail any large expenditure but involve new questions of principle and, in particular, matters which we should probably wish to submit to our technical or professional advisers.

From this point of view the proposals in paragraph 4 of the Governor's despatch seem to be adequate provided that we add something to the effect that matters which involve questions of sanitary principle which may demand discussion of principle as to the way in which the work should be executed should be referred

Home in detail

1000 (3/11/17)

I agree - but I should say that it is  
 impossible to lay down a precise  
 definition of important works either  
 for the U.S. & Protectorates as a whole  
 or even for any one particular  
 territory, & while <sup>the S.D. accepts</sup> ~~accepting~~ in  
 suggestion ~~as a~~ with your  
 additions, as a working rule,  
~~the S.D. will rely on the~~  
 judgment of the will of course  
 be exercised in particular  
 cases

SS

1117  
at New

1000  
 1117  
 at New

AFRICA PROTECTORATE  
No. 535

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

September 18th, 1917.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that when the estimates for the current year were before Legislative Council, the question was raised by one of the non-official Members as to why projects for what are described as "major works" in the Public Works Extraordinary Schedule had not been submitted to you with plans and fully detailed specifications and estimates in accordance with the requirements of sections 257 and 258 of the Colonial Regulations.

2. A reply was given to the effect that it was believed here that this regulation was not intended to apply to works of a comparatively unimportance as the majority of the works which appear in the Public Works Extraordinary Schedule as "major works". The local definition of a "minor work" is one of which the estimated cost does not exceed

£1000

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

G. H. LONG, Esq., M.P.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

10, DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

£1000, and all works of higher cost are classed together as "major works". The classification thus covers a remarkably wide field and an indication of your opinion as to the character and scope of projects which should be submitted in detail for scrutiny and sanction would be appreciated.

3. During last financial year and the present one there has, for instance, been under construction in Nairobi a new sewer of a total cost of some £8,000. In the present year surface drains to the total value of about £5,000 are to be constructed in the new Native Quarter which it is proposed to establish in Nairobi. These projects, quoted merely as examples, present no departures from existing works previously executed in the country, and their design and execution is left in the hands of the Director of Public Works. Although of some slight total cost, they are merely extensions to, or duplications of, existing systems. In a totally different category would be placed such projects as harbour improvement at any of our minor ports to the North of Mombasa, new water supplies to the townships, the establishment of a hydrographic survey, a large new block of Government Offices, an extensive new Native Hospital and other distinct advances on present-day conditions, particularly if the total cost, immediate or prospective, should appear likely to exceed £10,000. It would certainly not be the case that

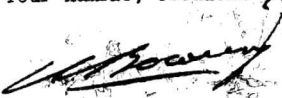
that any such projects would be proposed for adoption without previous reference for sanction accompanied by as full a description of scope as our available staff of engineers could supply. It is largely the case in normal times, and even more so at present, that the staff of the Public Works Department is only equal to conducting the execution of sanctioned works without being able to spare any time for the detailed examination of extensive projects in prospect.

4. I suggest therefore that the requirements of sections 257 and 258 of the Colonial Regulations should be held to apply to new projects of an estimated cost of more than £10,000 and also to projects which involve any notable departure from existing procedure, and I should be obliged if I could receive an early expression of your views, in order that a definite reply may be made in Council if, as may quite possibly be the case, the point is again raised when the Estimates for next financial year are presented.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,



ACTING GOVERNOR.

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TW 880

23 November 1917

MINUTE.

- Mr. Braithwaite 19 Nov
- Mr. Roberts 20 Nov
- Mr. Astbury 20 Nov 17
- Mr. G. ...
- Mr. Lambert.
- Mr. Read.
- Mr. G. Fiddes.
- Mr. Hewins.
- Mr. Long.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter no. 535 of the 18th Oct. & to inform you that it is not possible to lay down a formal definition of important work which should be submitted for sanction to the Sec. of State either for the non responsible post of Protectorates as a whole