

POPULATION - MIGRATION

JAN '97 - JUNE '97

State of nation is foreigners' doing, naturally

(236) Star 22/11/97

By SELLO MOTLHABAKWE

While black South Africans generally typify their lighter-skinned countrymen as purveyors and practitioners of racism, less is said – in the open at least – about black South Africans' xenophobia which fuels witchhunts against foreigners. An incident at the Orlando West Industrial Park last week brought this into sharp focus.

A trader called The Star's office to complain about the presence of foreigners at the park. Among the claims the trader put forward was that the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) favoured foreigners in allocating space.

The trader went on to bolster his case by alleging that local traders are afraid of the foreigners as they might be smuggling weapons from their premises.

The trader conceded that he could not support the claim about gun-running. But he insisted that foreigners are from countries where weapon smuggling is rife and that this meant there was a strong likelihood that gun smuggling was taking place.

The claims were insisted upon in spite of assurances to the traders by the SBDC that sites were allocated on merit. The SBDC said all foreigners trading at the industrial parks had proper work permits.

The trader – in common with many of his countryfolk – was simply latching on to a stock of demonising phrases to whip up local support against foreigners.

This stock of derogatory phrases in some instances predates the National Party policy of apartheid as it originates from the country's gold mines. Not too long ago "Blantyre" was a favourite swear word against the very dark-skinned folk from north of the border. Why and how the name of this Malawian city translated into a swear word against all black foreigners is unclear. But the mere mention of the name to a foreigner provokes the ire of the recipient.

Lately, terms such "lekwerék-

were, grigamba, mo tswa ver (he who comes from afar)" predominate among black South Africans discussing their foreign cousins.

It is not clear exactly what the term means but is generally a play on the language of the foreigners which is invariably unintelligible "gibberish" to the local.

There is a general disdain in which the black South African holds foreigners, whom they willy-nilly blame for the state of their towns, crime, misconduct and their joylessness.

Incidents such as the Malvern and Observatory rapes, allegedly involving foreign nationals, have not helped. Now the derogatory labels are out with a vengeance.

Would-be immigrants eaten by lion in the Kruger Park

80 31/97
PUNDA MARIA — Two illegal immigrants were eaten by lions as they tried to cross through the Kruger National Park from Mozambique into Northern Province, park officials said yesterday (236)

The woman and a child, part of a group of nine illegal immigrants who were waiting for the moon to come up before continuing their journey, scattered when an elephant bull surprised them.

They had been sitting next to the tar road between Shingwedzi and Punda Maria near the Mandadzidzi Windmill on the night of December 30

The rest of the group heard the woman and child screaming. The group got together the next day and told tourists of their ordeal.

The tourists reported it to game ranger Ben Pretorius at Punda Maria near Louis Trichardt.

Pretorius said he found the remains of the two victims on December 31 after they had been eaten by lions.

"Many more people may cross and get killed that we don't even know about," Pretorius said.

"I got there at 12pm and there was very little of them left. Another night and the hyenas would have eaten everything and there would have been no trace."

Pretorius estimated that as many as 300 illegal immigrants attempt to cross into SA through the Kruger National Park every month — Sapa.

Home Affairs immigrant check catches chancers

Star 13/11/97 (23b)

By BONGIWE MLANGENI

A number of immigrants from Southern African Development Community (SADC) states could be repatriated because they either submitted forged supporting documents for permanent residence, or they were convicted of serious crimes.

Hennie Meyer, spokesman for the Department of Home Affairs, said yesterday 6 396 applicants had been rejected, mostly because they were unable to prove they had been in the country before July 1991.

So far, 21 572 applicants had been granted residence certificates, and other applications were still being assessed.

Most immigrants applied for permanent residence last year after the department agreed to legalise the residence of foreigners from SADC countries who had been living in South Africa for more than five years.

SADC member states include Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Mozambique.

The announcement was followed by long queues at Home Affairs

offices which drew 192 422 applications countrywide.

Meyer said Gauteng (110 095) had the highest number of applications. The department approved 13 863 applications, rejected 5 175 and was still processing the rest.

Most people had been rejected because they could not prove they had been in the country for more than five years.

"Some applicants are employed as muneworkers under contract and others did not produce the birth certificates of children under 18," said Meyer.

He said cases of rejected immigrants could be reviewed and applicants would be asked to submit more evidence.

However, those who presented forged passports or false affidavits would be handled differently. "In such cases, the law will take its course," he said.

The same could happen to those who were wanted by police for serious criminal offences.

The department did not say how many immigrants were suspected of forging documents and how many were wanted criminals.

135 000 illegals sent home, but more stay

(236)

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban

Star 9/11/97

More than 135 000 illegal immigrants were sent home in 1996, the Department of Home Affairs said yesterday.

From January to November, 135 408 aliens, including more than 113 000 Mozambicans, were made to return to their countries.

The illegal immigrants also included 13 667 Zimbabweans, 3 117 Basothos, 1 853 Malawians, 1 424 Swazis and people from another 61 countries.

The Durban border policing and internal tracing unit also had its hands full in 1996. From January until the end of October the unit arrested 301 illegal immigrants who were staying in the country without proper documentation, said unit head Inspector Paul Alfred.

Another 111 were arrested for being in possession of fraudulent or expired documents while 16 people were caught for illegally assisting aliens by providing employment or accommodation.

The Onverwacht border post police patrols and public order policing units arrested 109 immigrants on the N2 highway near Pongola this week.

Alfred said most illegals gained entry by sneaking past border posts which were usually situated in areas surrounded by dense bush or by entering with a visitor's permit and then overstaying their visit.

Though no definite figures on the number of aliens in SA are available, Director Wessie van der Westhuisen of the border policing unit said they estimated the number could be anywhere between 3,2 million and 5,2-million.

Refugee flood shows SA's 'respectability'

Star 15/1/97

(236)

BY LEANN DE LA HUNT

The rising number of immigrants, including asylum seekers, in South Africa today is an indicator that the republic is re-establishing its good standing in the international community

However, the current influx is the source of an emotional debate among South Africans. On the one hand, there is widespread awareness of an implied South African obligation to provide solace and assistance to citizens of other African nations, in part because the previous South African government's policies destabilised the continent.

On the other hand, the arrival of migrants stirs xenophobic feelings among sections of South African society, especially among the urban black working class. They see the newcomers as potential freeloaders.

South Africa has been a migration magnet virtually from the time that Dutch East India Company representatives arrived at the Cape in 1652.

For centuries immigrants came from Europe, Asia and other parts of the African continent, primarily settling in the area south of the Limpopo river. The institutionalisation of the apartheid regime during the post-World War 2 era caused immigration patterns to shift.

The doors remained largely open for asylum seekers of European origin, including the ethnic Portuguese who fled Angola and Mozambique in the 1970s following the collapse of colonial rule, while various obstacles made it nearly impossible for blacks to immigrate legally.

As a result, forced migrants suffered. Blacks attempting to escape the violence of Mozambique's prolonged civil war could not legally find refuge in South

Africa. Nevertheless, in 1993, there were 300 000 Mozambicans living in South Africa.

These people, before 1993, were all regarded as illegal migrants.

The negotiation process that led to the dismantling of apartheid began in 1991. That same year, the South African government signed an agreement with the United Nations High Commission on Refugees to cooperate with international agencies in the repatriation of exiles back to South Africa.

An additional tripartite pact was signed by South Africa, the UNHCR and the Mozambican government as part of the largest repatriation exercise undertaken to date by the UNHCR.

In September 1993, South Africa signed a memorandum to establish refugee determination procedures, and to grant asylum to certain refugees.

In October 1994, South Africa became the 53rd member of the Organisation of African Unity and in December 1995 signed the 1969 OAU refugee convention. Last year the South African Government signed the UN refugee treaties.

Since the elections of April 1994, South Africa has been an inviting destination for asylum seekers. Most asylum seekers are from Angola, Burundi, Ethiopia, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan and Zaire. A high number of illegal immigrants, meanwhile, come from Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Asylum seekers in South Africa are dealt with under terms outlined in the Aliens Control Act

of 1991. This legislation is inadequate. For example, there is no mention of the words "refugee" or "asylum" in the law. Thus, asylum seekers are dealt with as a class of "prohibited persons", who may or may not be granted permission to remain in South Africa.

Of importance to an asylum seeker is the right to administrative justice and the right to be given reasons for an administrative decision which affects their rights or interests.

While a court has yet to hand down a judgment involving these rights where the applicant is an asylum seeker, there have been a number of recent court decisions involving aliens where the courts have emphasised the state's absolute discretion in resolving questions related to asylum.

In the absence of clear-cut guidelines, the Department of Home Affairs operates under the 1993 UNHCR agreement, which defines a refugee in accordance with the provisions of the 1951 UN Convention and the 1969 OAU Convention. Asylum may be granted to a refugee who has travelled through a safe third country, but who has not remained in that country for longer than three months.

In cases where the transit period exceeds three months, the asylum seeker will probably have his or her status as a refugee recognised but would not be granted asylum. The refugee cannot then be returned. But by remaining in South Africa he or she would be considered an illegal alien.

When an asylum seeker re-

ports to an immigration officer at Refugee Affairs, he or she usually receives a form that grants the "prohibited" person permission to remain in South Africa for a prescribed period and seek employment during that period.

When applying for refugee status, an asylum seeker is provided with the services of an interpreter, and may submit a statement in any language.

The application is forwarded to a standing committee for refugee affairs, which makes the determination on the basis of the file prepared by immigration officials.

In cases where the application is refused, an asylum seeker can request that the appeal board review the decision.

Within the next few months, the Cape provincial division of the supreme court will be considering an application for review of these procedures as the applicant, an asylum seeker, has contended in a test case that both the procedures and their application are not in accordance with the rules of natural justice.

Medical care is available and the provincial welfare departments assist refugees, and to a lesser extent, asylum seekers awaiting recognition. Further assistance is provided by NGOs, including religious organisations.

While the importance of South Africa's re-entry into the international community and its acceptance of obligations towards refugees under international law should not be underestimated, it is vital that the South African legislature and judiciary continue to develop a legal framework that takes into account forced migration in the subcontinent.

■ This article first appeared in *The Forced Migration Monitor*, which is published by the Forced Migration Projects of the Open Society Institute, New York.

Urban black workers see them as freeloaders

Migration policy flaws being ironed out

(236) MtG 17-23/11

Marion Edmunds

THE Home Affairs Department's control over immigration and migration should be handed over to a new ministry,



PHOTO RUTH MOTAU

Illegal immigrants: A thorny issue that may lead to a new ministry

rised to 157 084

The *Mail & Guardian* has also recorded instances where the Act, implemented by Home Affairs officials, has jeopardised foreign investment and the entry of needed skilled people.

Peberdy said South African immigration legislation had been developed with the original intention of keeping out all people except whites, and from the 1920s onwards laws were also used to diminish the stream of Jewish people coming to South Africa from Eastern Europe.

Arguing that the laws reflected the racial anxieties of the time, she described legislation introduced in Parliament in 1930 to control Jewish immigration to South Africa.

She quoted an internal government document of 1926, titled "Immigration of Hebrews into South Africa", which read "One in every four who has entered the Union this year is a Hebrew, generally of a low type".

"The European population of the Union is small and every possible endeavour should be made to strengthen it and to ensure the quality of any additions to it in order to preserve its position in relation to the hordes of native and coloured inhabitants."

istry, recommends research carried out by a government task team. The task team — chaired by Wilnot James, the Institute for a Democratic South Africa's executive director — was appointed by Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelez last year to study flaws in immigration policy. The current policy is proving to be inadequate, inappropriate, and in many instances unconstitutional.

The team, which includes Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's wife, Zanele, academics, unionists and lawyers, is to compile a Green Paper on international migration. It will report to cabinet in May.

Researcher Sally Peberdy told the task team in Parliament this week that current immigration legislation was rooted in the racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia of past South African governments.

She said there should be a fresh start, with a new Immigration Act as the cornerstone, and a new ministry "South Africa needs to formulate a coherent, positive, proactive alternative vision of the role of immigration, that recognises that immigration, properly managed, can be of great economic, social and cultural benefit to a receiving country," she said.

The current Act governing the entry and exit of non-citizens is exclusive and defensive in nature, seeking to protect South African citizens from the threat of "outsiders" who might jeopardise their livelihood and be a drain on the state's resources and Reconstruction and Development Programme.

While successfully keeping out many skilled foreigners, the policy, the department, and immigration officials have failed to stem the tide of immigrants from the rest of Africa, many of whom come illegally to South Africa to trade informally and are deported regularly at great cost to the taxpayer to their countries of origin. Researchers at the Human Sciences Research Council estimate that R210-million a year is spent on deporting illegal immigrants. In 1990, 53 418 illegal immigrants were repatriated, by 1995 this had

STATISTICS ON ILLEGAL ALIENS REPATRIATED

Country	1993	1994	1995	1996
Botswana	105	47	11	7
Lesotho	3 090	4 073	4 087	227
Malawi	250	398	1 154	67
Mozambique	80 926	71 279	131 689	43 783
Nigeria	22	45	61	9
Swaziland	789	981	837	165
Tanzania	52	241	836	23
Zimbabwe	10 861	2 931	17 549	984

According to Peberdy, the 1930 Act provided the foundation for the Aliens Act of 1937, on which subsequent immigration legislation was built. This subsequent legislation also vested enormous powers in police and immigration officers, giving them the legal right to make arrests without warrants — powers which are still used in immigration policy today.

The legislation also gave the state the right to refuse entry to individuals seeking to immigrate without giving them reasons for their rejection, a practice deemed unconstitutional but which still happens today.

The task team is to hear a number of viewpoints on immigration over the next months. While some researchers will argue that South Africa ought to be more accommodating of people from neighbouring states, others such as Hussein Solomon of the Institute for Defence Policy, will maintain that illegal aliens are a threat to domestic and regional stability and should be controlled more strictly. Solomon told the task team this week that illegal aliens were contributing to rising crime, having a negative impact on the labour market, increasing the problem of squatting and were a burden on the state.

He recommended bolstering border security and strengthening international controls on the movement of foreigners within South Africa. His thesis was challenged by members of the task team.

Authorities battle to stem flow of illegals who flock to

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Shaw 21

By Angus Shaw
Komatipoort

Mutese Mutembo took what should have been a grim ride with a smile and a joke

"See you next week," the 18-year-old told guards on a government train hauling him back to the border for deportation to Mozambique

South Africa's immigration officials aren't laughing, and say it's difficult trying to halt the flow of illegals over the loose borders of South Africa

Mutembo, who trained as a construction worker in South Africa, was one of hundreds put

on a "repatriation train".

The 12-car special runs from the Dyambu holding centre near Johannesburg to Komatipoort, a border post with Mozambique, 460km to the east.

The trip is no fun. Wearing sneakers, denim and light cotton in the early summer heat and carrying belongings in small bundles, the deportees are guarded closely by armed police on the overnight journey.

At each station, they must bow their heads below window level. That prevents them from figuring out where they are or how to escape, says Frans le Grange, a repatriation official.

Some do jump out when

guards fall asleep. Others are back in South Africa within days, or even hours

Colonel Daan Lotter, commander of the army's border patrol near Komatipoort, says his soldiers arrested one man seven times trying to get into South Africa

"The names change. One day it's James, the next it's Francisco. But the fingerprints are the same," says Michael Nkosi, Komatipoort's senior immigration officer, as he stamps hundreds of deportation warrants

Lotter's men patrol a 70km stretch of border that runs through hills and sugar plantations. Towering coils of electrified

razor wire mark the frontier, and computers pinpoint breaks or short circuits.

When the monitors signal a break, Lotter's motorcycle unit scrambles to catch the illegals.

His men also look out from hilltop observation posts, watching Mozambicans disappearing into the sugar cane to wait for passing taxi vans or pre-arranged transport

Using forked sticks to lift the electrified wire, and often helped by guides charging a lucrative fee, illegals can get through the fence in about two or three minutes, Lotter says

"We don't have long to get to them," he sighs. While pleased with his capture rate—probably 90% of those spotted—Lotter knows countless more slip into South Africa after trekking from as far away as Mali and Nigeria in West Africa

Officials compare the repatriation programme to baling out a leaking boat with a teacup. The Government estimates more than 4 million illegal immigrants live in South Africa

"There's really no way of knowing when you think of the risks people will take to get in and stay in," says Le Grange, who works at the Dyambu holding centre

He says illegals swim crocodile-infested rivers and cross minefields left over from years of regional wars

They also trudge through nature reserves, sometimes falling prey to wild animals. A Mozambican mother and child were killed by lions while trying to sneak through Kruger National Park on December 30

On the train back to Mozambique, Pedro Simango (27), describes how he crossed illegally into South Africa in 1989 and found work as a labourer in a botanizing plant. He was caught in a random police check. "I came for a better life," says Simango, who earned R920 a

month in South Africa, nearly four times the average annual income in Mozambique

He is clear about his future. "I won't get work in Maputo," Simango says. "I'll come back. I have no alternative, but I'll try and get some papers."

South Africa has agreed to let illegal immigrants from the other 11 member states of the Southern African Development Community apply for permanent residence if they have lived in the country at least five years, have full-time work or have children born in the country. That will not help everyone.

Jackson Matfwala (40), is from Zaire, which is not a member of the group

He describes himself as a businessman who fled to South Africa to escape the turmoil in his homeland

"Being a refugee doesn't mean you are poor," he says. "When South Africans ran away from apartheid, we didn't chase them away"

South African officials say deportees get access to independent refugee agencies for screening, but they concede some deserving cases may go unnoticed

"We're under pressure," Le Grange says. "It's a huge problem to plug all the holes." — Sapa-AP

SA for better life

NEWS FEATURE

Rowe Jan 23/1/97 (236)

Deporting 'illegals' a hectic job

By Angus Shaw

MOSES Mtembo took what should have been a grim ride with a smile and a joke "See you next week," the 18-year-old told guards on a train on its way to the border for deportation to Mozambique South Africa's immigration officials are not laughing and say it is difficult to try to halt the flow of impoverished Africans to the strong economy of South Africa

Mtembo, a youth who trained as a construction worker in South Africa, was one of hundreds put on a "repatriation train" It runs from the Dyanambu holding centre near Johannesburg to Komatipoort, a border post with Mozambique, 460km to the east

The trip is no fun Wearing sneakers, denim and light cotton shirts in the summer heat and carrying belongings in small bundles, the deportees are guarded closely by armed police on the overnight journey

At each station, they must bow their heads below window level That prevents them from figuring out where they are or how to escape, said Frans le Grange, a repatriation official Some do jump out when guards doze Others are back in South Africa within days, or even hours

Africa

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Officials compare the repatriation programme with baling out a leaking boat with a teacup The Government estimates that more than four million illegal mates that more than

While pleased with his capture rate, probably 90 percent of those spotted, Lotter knows countless more "economic fugitives" slip into South Africa after trekking from as far away as Mali and Nigeria in West Africa

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Colonel Daan Lotter, commander of the army's border patrol near Komatipoort, said his soldiers had arrested one man seven times trying to get into South Africa "Their names change One day it's James, the next it's Francisco But the fingerprints never change," said Michael Nkosi, Komatipoort's senior immigration officer, as he stamped hundreds of deportation warrants

Forked sticks

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Lotter's men patrol a stretch of border 70km long, running through rolling hills and sugar plantations Towering coils of electrified razor wire mark the frontier, and computers pinpoint breaks or short circuits When the monitors signal a break, Lotter's motorcycle unit scrambles to catch the "illegals" His men also sit at hilltop observation posts, watching Mozambicans disappear into the sugar cane to wait for passing taxis or prearranged transport

Patrol Lotter's men patrol a stretch of border 70km long, running through rolling hills and sugar plantations Towering coils of electrified razor wire mark the frontier, and computers pinpoint breaks or short circuits

Heartening

"It is heartening when you think of the risks that old and young people will take to get into the country," said Le Grange, who works at the Dyanambu holding centre He said illegals swim through flooded, crocodile-infested rivers and cross mine fields left over from regional wars They also trudge through nature reserves, sometimes falling prey to wild animals, such as the Mozambican mother and child who were killed by lions while trying to sneak through Kruger National Park on December 30 - Sapa

'Heartbreak Hotel' for illegal aliens

Star 28/1/97 (236)

Dyambu on the West Rand is one of the centres where immigrants are housed until they have been processed and arrangements made for their repatriation, a process which can take up to two years

By BUNTY WEST

Lines of people stand patiently waiting to be processed under the burning sun at "Heartbreak Hotel" in Krugersdorp

Dyambu, on the West Rand, is one of the centres where illegal aliens are housed until they can be repatriated — and it's full

The centre can hold more than 1 200 people, and the never-ending round of repatriation and capture means that people are coming and going at a tremendous rate

Seven hundred Mozambicans are being shipped out in huge trucks. Holding their deportation papers, they board their "taxi" to the train station, accompanied by immigration officials

They all have hard-luck stories to tell and say they'll never repeat the attempt to enter South Africa illegally again, but officials have heard it all before, often from the same mouths

It's not unusual to see the same face three times at the centre, which has only been open since August last year. As one truck leaves another arrives, dumping yet more grim-faced men on the doorstep

These are the latest batch of refugees who will have to be processed, housed and fed until another train can take them back to their homeland

Not only Mozambicans and Zambawans believe the grass is greener in South Africa. There are 10 Rwandans escaping their country's carnage, a Mexican, a Brazilian, several Nigerians seeking political asylum, a Madagascari, a Yugoslavian Serb, a Sri Lankan, a Liberian woman, and Burundi and Zairian nationals

The Mozambicans tell of border guards who turn a blind eye to the illegals, providing you cross their hands with silver, of mine buses used to get the jobless through the border, and, of course, there are those who make the crossing in the Kruger Park, facing death at every turn

Yet they keep coming back. At least eight of the Mozambicans have returned twice or more, and have succeeded in finding work for periods of time ranging from a few months to several years

The Rwandans are pitiful. Some have taken over a month to



YAQOOB RYKLIFF

Visiting dignitary ... Sipo Mzimela, the Minister of Correctional Services, speaks to illegal immigrants during a visit to Dyambu.

to the jail, before bringing us to Krugersdorp

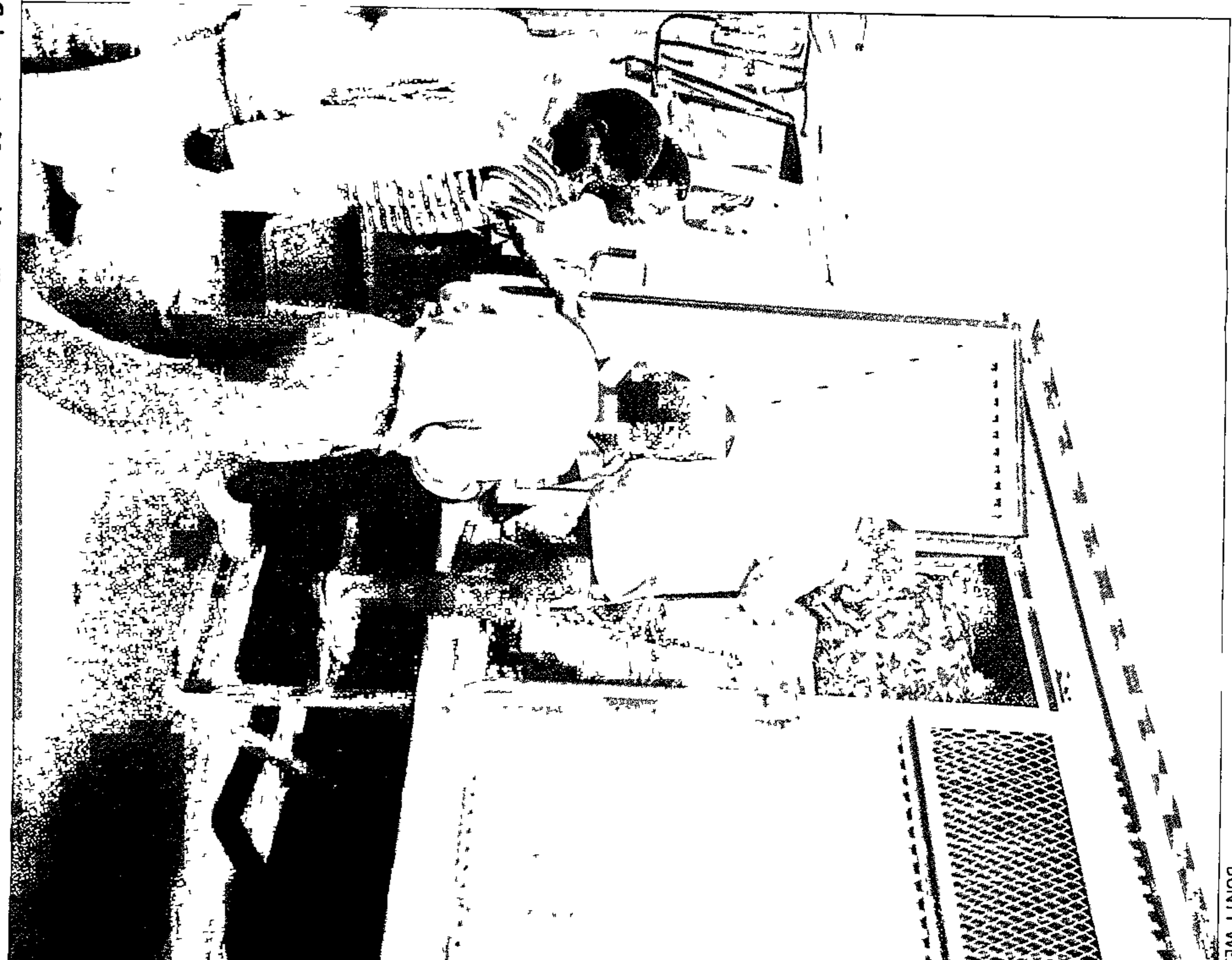
Alexandra Young is only 22 and alone in the world. She is good-looking, well-educated, and speaks English, French and Spanish, but has no money and no papers. A Liberian by birth, she escaped with her mother from the war and in 1989 they found a home in Zambia, where her mother married a Frenchman.

But the couple divorced in 1993 and her mother left for France, leaving Alexandra alone and penniless.

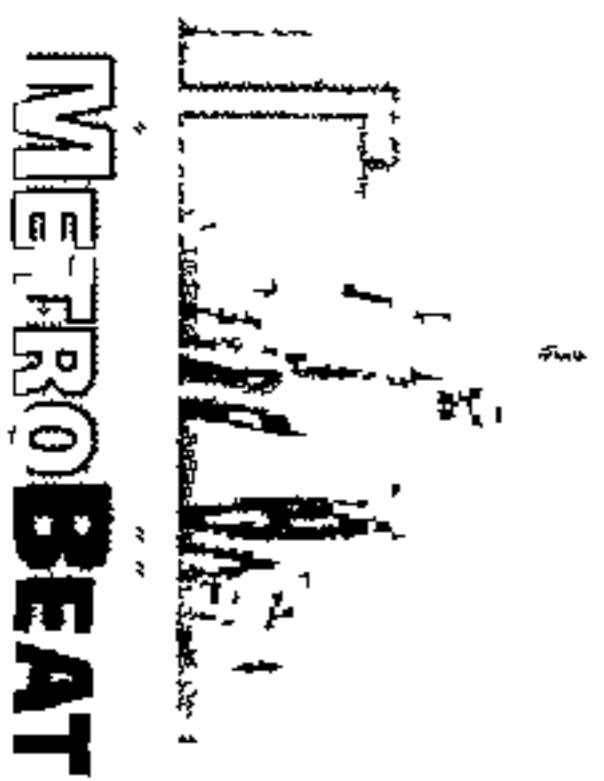
For a while she stayed with a friend of her mother's, baking cakes and scones to survive. But she wanted to better her situation and illegally entered Zimbabwe and tried to cross into South Africa via Beit Bridge. After explaining her situation to the authorities she was imprisoned at Messina and then moved to Louis Trichardt before being brought to Krugersdorp.

She has been told it could take up to two years for her claims to be processed. Young is just one of 22 women held at Dyambu, where men outnumber them 60 to one.

As their stories are told another truckload of men arrive and pass through the barbed wire gates patrolled by Rottweilers and their handlers. The signs say welcome, but inside it's just another long, empty day at "Heartbreak Hotel"



Going out ... Mozambican illegal aliens climb aboard a truck which will take them to the Johannesburg station from where they will be escorted to the border



ME PRO BEAT

Trekking on — to Mozambique

(236) of 4/2/97

OWN CORRESPONDENT

DURBAN: The bumpy red clay road winds its way for 15km from Lichinga past several rural villages and lush green fields to Matama Farm.

This is the present home of South African farmers who, since November, have been packing up their belongings "in the Republic" and heading for far northern Mozambique to start a new life.

They are driven not so much by a dislike of black people or a distrust of the ANC-dominated government, but by a desire to preserve their God-fearing, Afrikaans-speaking "boer" culture.

They say they came to this remote region with two rules: They would not work on Sundays and they would live as "white people".

They have no houses, no electricity, no running water, only a desire to work the land and live the way they choose.

Matama Farm was once owned by the Portuguese but after independence it was taken over by the government until the war.

Then the tractors and harvesters were parked and gradually stripped down over the years, leaving the area looking like a graveyard for machinery.

Shelter for the farmers is a huge, derelict barn, some outhouses and a few caravans dotted about the property.

This is only a temporary home until agreements have been signed with the Mozambican government giving them leasehold rights on land. Then they will probably move even further north, towards the border of Tanzania.

In the meantime, a long-drop toilet has been built and nearby land is out of bounds because there are still land mines there.

The pioneers of the project—four farmers who have partners back in South Africa—have been sleeping in what used to be a crèche since they arrived in November. They have planted peanuts but have other big plans such as starting a mango juicing factory in the province.

In the two caravans outside live "Oom" Alwyn Barnard, who has a farm in Bothaville where his wife and son still live, and Ernst and Hanneljé Baumgarten, also of Bothaville.

A washing machine sits outside, waiting for electricity.

Inside the barn, with its leaking roof and time-scarred walls, is the kitchen Hanneljé has set up, with preserves displayed neatly in a glass-fronted cabinet, flowers arranged on the table and gas freezer and stoves.

A caravan parked inside is the sleeping quarters of the newest arrivals, Lourens and Hettie Lemmer, he a former teacher from Nigel.

Their four sons—Lourens, 12, Louis, 10, Marlou 8, and Marius 6—have a cordoned off bedroom next to the family's eating area, which is seldom used because Hettie and Hanneljé cook together.

In the corner, behind the makeshift drapes, is the "bathroom", with a portable bag shower that has to be filled with water from the tanks outside and topped up from the kettle.

They are the "Gous group", so named because of their partnership with Dr Piet Gous, Free State Agricultural Union president and one of the initiators of the relocation scheme.

At the other end of the barn, past the sacks of seed and fertiliser and vehicles, lives Annette Louw who once farmed in Vryheid in KwaZulu-Natal but more recently owned a guest house in Pretoria.

Annette has brought all her worldly goods with her—lounge-suit, dining room table, television and microwave.

She is alone.

Somewhere, many kilometres along another dust track, live the "Brits group".

Their challenges are different from those of city dwellers and even their counterparts in South Africa.

They spend their days ploughing and planting the fields, experimenting with the strange soil and climate.

Every second day they have to fetch water from town. This they use for washing, they drink rain water.

Food is scarce and rationed out carefully.

"We can get some things in Lichinga," says Hanneljé, "but they are so expensive."

And a trip to South Africa to

stock up costs about R15 000. It's also a 33-hour drive, with luck.

But while meat is a luxury and chocolate a sheer indulgence, they have not skimped on certain necessities such as butter.

And at night, when they relax after a hard day's work, it's over a cup of coffee—drunk from a white china tea service.



WOMAN OF THE SOIL: Annette Louw, Lichinga's first woman farmer from South Africa

PICTURE: NATAL MERCURY

Two boys with visas held as illegal aliens

Star 7/2/97 (23b)

Johannesburg businessman tells how he received panic call while in Mozambique

By **ROONEY VICTOR**

Johannesburg businessman Mike Roup was awakened by a phone call at 11pm on Monday night while on a trip to Mozambique. The front door of his home was standing open, he was told, and his dogs were running loose in the street.

Roup was alarmed. He had left two children from Mozambique at his house, in the care of his housekeeper, Alfred Mokoena. The children boarded with him and his wife while doing their schooling in South Africa.

Roup phoned a friend, Gunter Graf. Graf drove to Roups house, which was open and deserted. He called the flying squad.

The police arrived. They found a note, written by the children, saying they had been arrested as illegal immigrants. They asked a neighbour to find their passports

METRO BEAT

and to bring them to the Booyens police

When Roup heard the news, he decided to return to South Africa the next day with Luis Bernardo Jun, the father of one of the children.

The next morning, Graf visited Booyens police commander, Director Daniel Vermaak, who confirmed the arrest of Darro Bernar-



CHRIS ADLAM

Rescue mission... Mozambican businessman Luis Bernardo Jun (left) speaks to his son Darro (centre) at the Lundele detention centre near Krugersdorp. Looking on are Getulio dos Santos and Alfred Mokoena.

do (15), Getulio dos Santos (15) and Roups housekeeper, Alfred Mokoena. They had been sent to the Lundele detention centre for illegal aliens, near Krugersdorp.

Knowing the children had valid study permits, Graf contacted the Mozambican embassy. Receiving very little assistance there, he called The Star.

When Roup and Bernardo arrived at Lundele, they were met by senior official Frans le Grange. Soon after Chris Kruger of the Department of Home Affairs arrived, having agreed to remain on stand-by to release the boys after hours if

their passports were in order.

Dos Santos had a valid visa and study permit, and was released. Bernardo's visa was in order, but he had not yet applied for an extension of his study permit as he was awaiting confirmation of last year's results from his school. Kruger released him on condition he obtained his extension within 30 days. Mokoena, a South African citizen, was also released.

Bernardo said "My son was locked up for a couple of days in a place he should not have been because some people were too lazy to pick up the documentation. The

police have a right to do their job, but my son was legal."

Roup, a former chairman of the Booyens Community Policing Forum, was also angry.

"The police can't go around picking people off the streets without ascertaining if they're legal. The children lived only a couple of blocks away," he said.

There were hundreds of Mozambicans legally enrolled at schools in Johannesburg's southern suburbs, Roup said. Any of them could be picked up and taken to a detention centre. Even South Africans were at

risk, even through there was no law requiring them to carry IDs on the street, he said. "If there's no law (about carrying IDs), then what the police are doing is illegal."

Booyens Senior Superintendent Schalk Burger agreed that police should give people "a reasonable opportunity" to obtain their identity documents. "The guys know that very well," he said.

"I suggest that Mr Roup puts in a written complaint so we can sort this out. He knows me very well. The guys that did wrong must bear the brunt of this," Burger said.

continuous liaison with other relevant parties in order to promote alternative sentencing options

(3) No

House in Pinelands guarded permanently

*21 Mr A FOURIE asked the Minister for Safety and Security†

(1) Whether he gave instructions that the house in Pinelands of a member of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, whose name has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, should be guarded permanently, if so, why,

(2) whether the house is occupied by the said person at present, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, what are the relevant details,

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

N160E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

(1) Yes

After the house of the person was broken into, I directed that a 24-hour static patrol be provided until an alternative arrangement could be arrived at in discussion with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)

Since then, guidelines have been developed by the National Commissioner of the South African Police Service for the protection of TRC Commissioners and Committee members. In terms of these guidelines, consideration is to be given to the protection of such persons after a security evaluation has been conducted on the individual and a manifest threat exists against his or her life

A threat analysis has been conducted and it was found that there is no threat to the life of the Commissioner in question. As from 6 February 1997 the 24-hour protection of his house has been withdrawn and replaced by special patrols in his absence, and intensive patrols during his presence

(2) Yes

The said person occupies the house at intermittent periods

(3) No

SAPS: economising on fuel

*22 Mr A FOURIE asked the Minister for Safety and Security †

(1) Whether any police stations and/or units of the South African Police Service have been requested to exercise thrift in their use of fuel, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, why,

(2) whether any activities have to be curtailed as a result of such thrift, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, what are the relevant details,

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

N161E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

(1) Yes

A letter from The Head National Logistics was circulated to all Commissioners at Head Office, Provincial Commissioners, all Heads of Finance and Logistics to emphasise a projected shortfall on payment for fuel used by the South African Police Service. An appeal was made to limit and optimise the use of state vehicles and to implement stringent measures to reduce and minimise expenditure. The various Heads Provincial

Logistics in turn appealed to their Headquarters at Provincial Level and Station Commissioners to exercise control and to optimise the use of state vehicles, but in no instance must the operational capacity on any police station be impaired

(2) No

No activities were curtailed as a result of these measures and normal police operations have not been affected

(3) No

Rejected permanent residence application

*23 Ms M SMUTS asked the Minister of Home Affairs

(1) Whether the ^(23b)Immigrants' Selection Board has incurred any costs in connection with legal proceedings instituted by a certain person, whose name has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, in connection with the said person's rejected permanent residence application and/or in respect of any subsequent considerations as to whether or not to appeal against the judgment, if so, (a) what specified costs were incurred and (b) what was the total cost involved,

(2) whether his Department has reconsidered the said person's application, if so, (a) with what result and (b) when was a decision reached in this regard?

N162E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(1) (a) and (b) The Immigrants Selection Board has not incurred any costs in connection with legal proceedings instituted by Mr Foulds in connection with his rejected immigration permit application

The Department of Home Affairs has, however, been ordered to pay the costs of legal proceedings, which included costs of an application for condonation and leave to appeal

Due to the fact that the costs have not yet been taxed, the total amount of costs involved is not known at this stage

(2) (a) and (b) The said person's application for an immigration permit has not yet been reconsidered as ordered by the Court due to the following reasons

(i) Members of the previous Immigrants Selection Board had their last meeting at the end of November 1996. At that stage officials were unable to resubmit the application to the previous Board members for consideration

(ii) The members of the new Immigrants Selection Committees have been appointed by the Minister during January 1997. The application for permanent residence will be presented to the Central Committee of the Immigrants Selection Board at the beginning of March 1997

In the meantime Mr Foulds and his family have been temporarily exempted under section 28 of the Aliens Control Act, 1991, from the requirement to be in possession of temporary residence permits in terms of section 23(d) of the said Act in order to legitimise their sojourn in the Republic

(iii) The Department is still corresponding with the applicant's attorney with regard to procedures to be followed and additional information to be submitted in order to enable the Central Committee of the Immigrants Selection Board to reconsider the application in a fair and just manner

Cape Town a magnet for poor

E Cape migration continues to city of good hope

AKS 13/2/97 (236)

THE CHANGING CITY



PACKING CITY IN PANSIOWIT

Cape Town is still a strong drawcard for poor Eastern Cape residents who come to the city seeking a better life.

A fifth of black households in the Cape Town metropolitan area say they will be joined by at least one relative in the near future, according to a housing study by the Western Cape Community-based Housing Trust.

The study, based on a sample of 800 households, is widely believed to be the most definitive recent research on migration patterns from rural areas and from within the metropolitan area.

It sketches a picture of "extremely diverse socio-demographic characteristics often not corresponding to conventional stereotypes and assumptions".

Research focused on mainly black communities in the metropolitan area, including people living in formal houses, backyard shacks, hostels and free-standing shacks in an area from north of Malmerton to Kraaifontein, Khayelitsha and the south of the Peninsula.

The survey, carried out in 1995 under the direction of Professor Robert Mazur, and co-authored by Vuyo Gangule, found that most household heads were born in rural areas, with more than a third arriving before 1980 and just under one-third since 1989.

More than half lived initially in townships and just under a third in informal settlements. The most common type of previous residence was a shack settlement with many of those living in shacks born in a township or nearby town. Thus not only rural-to-urban migrants live in shacks.

Reported mobility was high with senior men and women saying they had lived in an average of three residences within the metropolitan area, and an average of more than four in total. Half of household heads left their previous residences because of

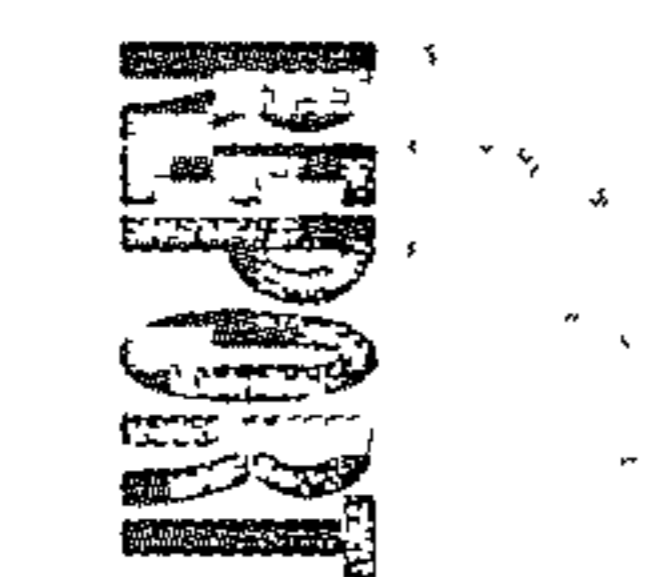


ROY WILLET

New arrivals: people from the Eastern Cape arrive in Cape Town where they hope to find a better life.



ANDREA WEISS



SABATA NGCALI

crowding, lack of privacy, poor infrastructure or an unsafe environment.

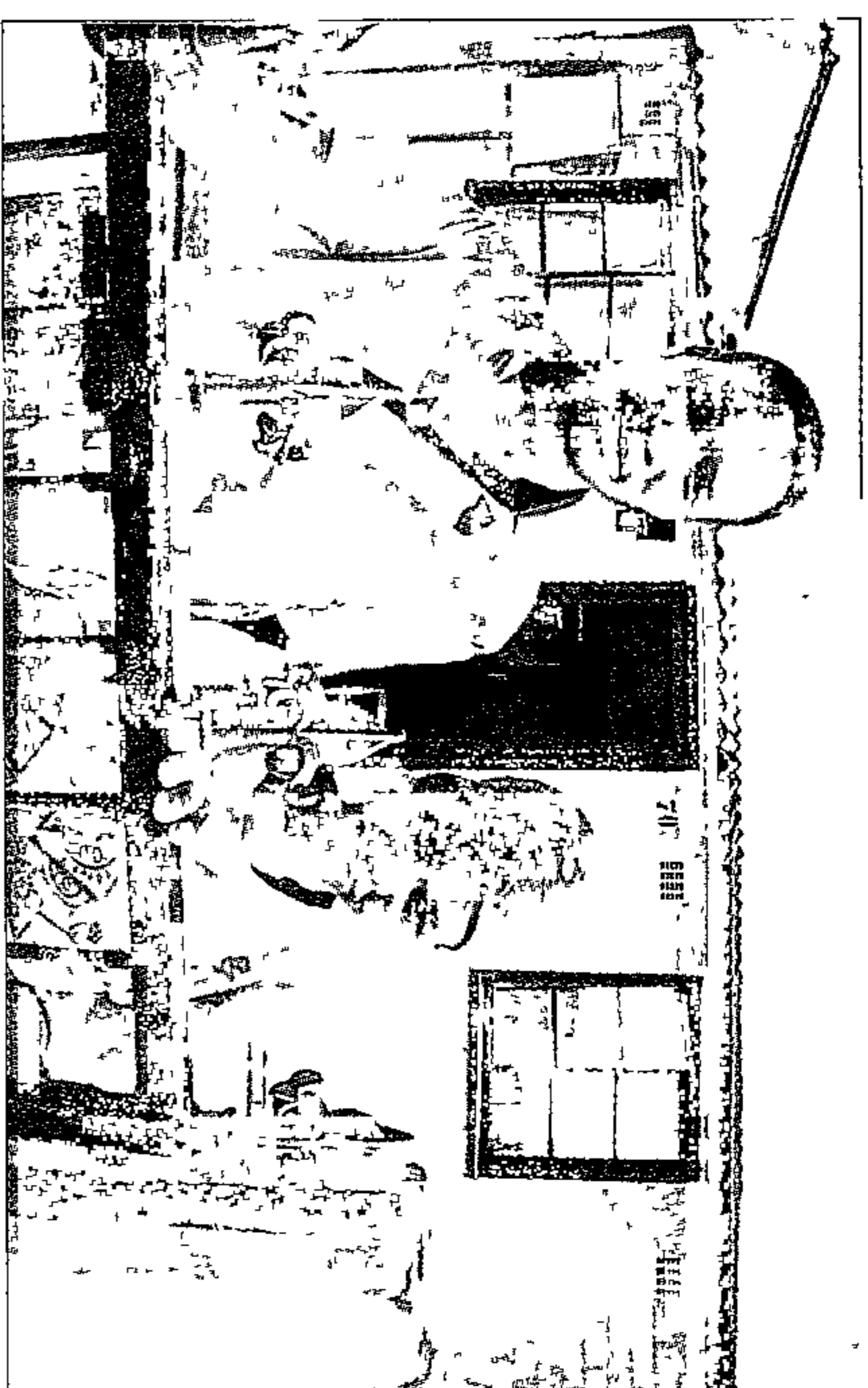
Most household heads surveyed regarded Cape Town as their home, while a third counted the Eastern Cape as home because of family and ancestral links, regardless of the length of time they had lived in Cape Town. More men than women favoured the Eastern Cape.

Among the other findings are:

- Nearly 40 percent of households are headed by women without partners.
- Household sizes vary from one to 16 people with an average of four to five. A quarter of households have six or more members.
- Women make up 57 percent of the population, with even higher numbers

between the ages of 20 and 39.

- More than half the population consists of adults of prime working age (20 to 59), biased towards the young adult years. A third of the population consists of pre-teenage children, while the elderly make up five percent.
- Education levels of household heads are low with 41 percent having Standard 5 or lower and only 10 percent certificates or diplomas. Lower education levels were observed in shacks.
- Average household monthly income is about R1 250, although at least 40 percent get R800 or less. A significant number of households have incomes at least 20 percent below subsistence level. A third of adult men and women are unemployed.
- A third of householders reported having consumer debt for furniture, appliances and clothing.



OBBD ZILWA

Hope for a better life: newlyweds Paul and Merriot Mohare moved to Cape Town from the Eastern Cape

Bread and water their lot, but the Mohares are living in hope

Newlyweds Paul and Merriot Mohare survive on bread and water in a modest house in Guguletu - but in spite of their dire situation Paul dreams of becoming a lawyer and educating people about human rights.

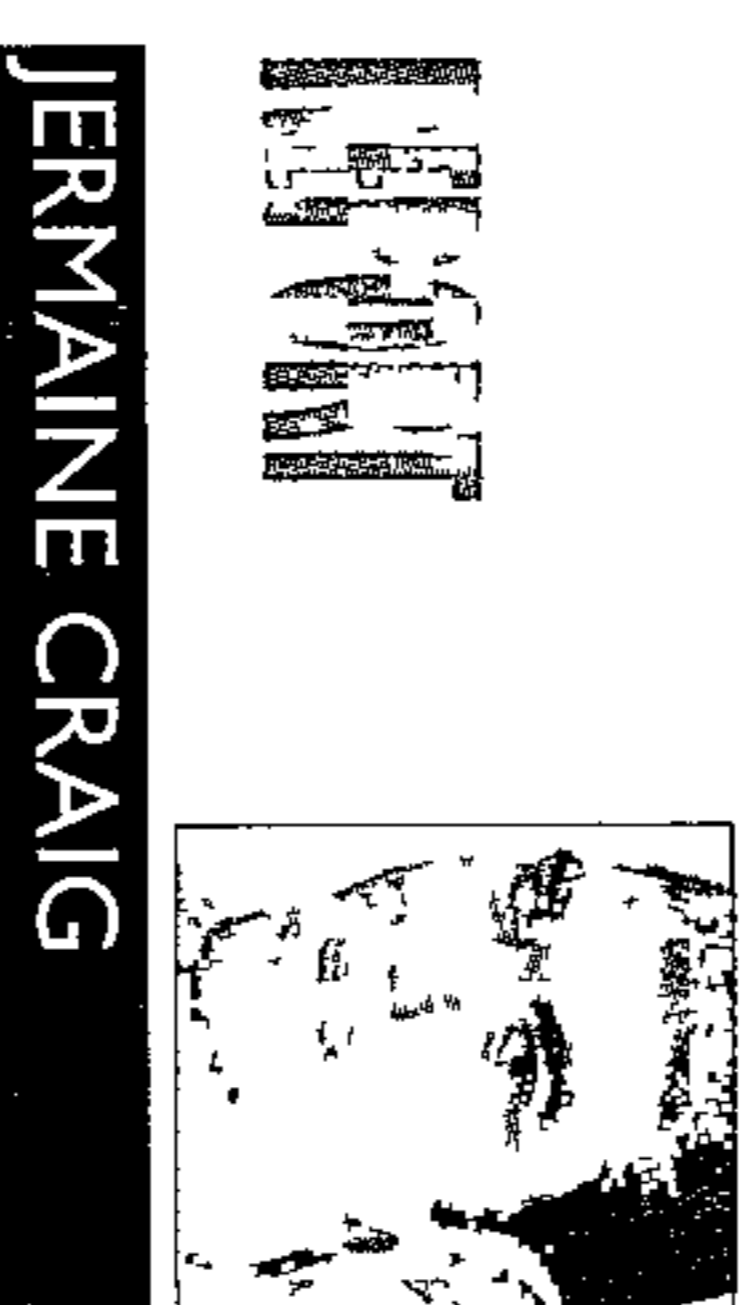
The Mohares came to Cape Town from Mount Fletcher just over a month ago. Like thousands of others from the Eastern Cape, they have pinned their hopes on building a better future for themselves in the city.

The going has been tough so far, but Paul is filled with a steely determination to be successful and to play a part in uplifting communities in the townships.

Unlike many others who have to resort to living in shack settlements, the couple are fortunate to have inherited Paul's grandfather's house in NY 53, Guguletu. Paul and Merriot were married in December and moved to Cape Town soon after his grandfather's death.

They arrived by bus with only R300 to their name and have had to borrow money from friends. Paul, 29, is unemployed at the moment and the couple survive on the R350 a month Merriot, 24, earns as a domestic worker in Mowbray. She works seven days a week and often has to sleep over, resulting in Paul seeing her sometimes only twice a week.

Paul lived in Cape Town for three years from 1991, working as a petrol attendant, but returned to the Eastern Cape in 1994 to pursue his studies. He was forced through lack of money to leave Lehana Senior Secondary School in Mount Fletcher after completing Standard 9. He intends finish-



JERMAINE CRAIG

ing his matric through correspondence and pursuing his dream of becoming a lawyer by studying at the University of the Western Cape.

Asked why he did not complete his studies when he was first in Cape Town, Paul - a top student throughout his school career - said he was not happy with the quality of education in Cape Town's townships.

"Schools in the townships are so overcrowded, classes are not attended regularly and sometimes riots break out. I wanted to make sure I would pass. I am not sure if I could have done that here," said Paul.

He has described life in Guguletu as "really terrible" because of rampant gangsterism. But in spite of the violence, Paul is convinced Cape Town is a better place for him and his wife. "Through law, he intends to play a role in helping ordinary citizens understand their rights - and he has vowed never to leave the townships.

"Cape Town is a nice place. "I like to be with the people - it is better to stay with the people who are experiencing violence than to run away from them, which is no good at all."

42 000 new citizens since cabinet decision

(236) Star 14/2/97

Largest number to get permanent residence have settled in Gauteng

By **PATRICK PHOSA**

More than 42 000 immigrants from 207 586 applicants have become South Africans following a cabinet decision last year to grant citizenship to nationals from certain neighbouring countries.

According to figures released by Department of Home Affairs spokesman Marks Nkwana, the largest number of grants for permanent residence status was in Gauteng.

Of the 120 611 applications made in Gauteng, 24 543 have been approved and 10 359 were rejected.

The remaining applications are still being processed.

Most of the immigrants took advantage of a cabinet decision last year to grant citizenship to immigrants from Southern Africa Development Community countries - Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Northern Province has registered the second highest number of applications approved, with 8 158 from about 35 000 applica-

tions. Only 77 applications were rejected.

From Mpumalanga, the department has received 36 286 application forms, and has already approved 2 338 and rejected 1 286. Western Cape has registered 53 approvals from 91 applications and two have been rejected.

Various offices of the Department of Home Affairs throughout the country are sifting through the other applications.

In order to qualify for the citizenship grant, the immigrants must have stayed in the country for at least five years, be employed, have a relationship with a South African, or have dependent children born or residing lawfully in South Africa.

The initial cut-off date for applications was September 30 last year. The period was extended until the end of November after the department continued to be inundated with applications.

The department said that although the number of immigrants given citizenship seemed high, it should be noted that there were between 2,5 million and 4,2 million illegal immigrants in the country.

Mother City is second home to hostel dwellers

ARC 17/2/97

(236)

... but rural roots remain

SABATA NGCAI
STAFF REPORTER

The story of Gugu Sifuba, a Langa hostel dweller, describes a pattern typical of many men of rural origin who have settled in Cape Town - but for whom the attraction of the Eastern Cape remains strong.

Hostel dwellers are clearly identified as a distinct group in a recent housing study on Africans in Cape Town carried out for the Western Cape Community-based Housing Trust.

The study shows that there is a diverse range of household types and housing needs in the city.

Typical hostel dwellers are older men, overwhelmingly of rural origin, most of whom came to Cape Town before 1985.

When Mr Sifuba arrived from Transkei 37 years ago he was kicked, punched and sjamboked by police for not carrying a pass.

Today he has what was once an impossible dream for many - a small hostel room which serves as a second home for family members on their visits from the Eastern Cape.

Mr Sifuba has rented a small room in a hostel block for the past 22 years. He now lives there with his son who is in standard eight in Langa Comprehensive Secondary School.

The small room, slightly bigger than a toilet, is on the first floor of a large old block of flats overlooking Langa taxi terminus.

His wife comes for holidays, before and after the maize harvest, and sometimes for medical treatment.

Mr Sifuba shares his small bunk with his son. "When his mother is here, I get him a place to sleep in the neighbour's room which is slightly

THE CHANGING CITY



TRACKING A CITY IN TRANSITION

bigger," he said.

He came to Cape Town in 1959 to join his uncle working on farms and for various construction companies.

In 1966 he was offered a job at a hotel in Green Point but was refused a permit by the Native Affairs office since the Western Cape was a coloured labour preference area at that time.

"You know you don't have a place here," was the answer Mr Sifuba got when he went to request a permit.

For the past 11 years he has been employed by the local municipal council which now forms part of the Cape Town municipality.

He intends to pass the room on to his family when he goes "home" to the Eastern Cape after retirement at 60 in five years time.

To many migrant workers, these rooms have become "family homes" which are passed on to other relatives on retirement.

His story is one shared by thousands of black people who migrated to Cape Town from the former Transkei and Ciskei to look for work.

The bond between them and the Mother City has become so strong that even when on pension, they "commute" between Cape Town and the Eastern Cape where they owe allegiance to their ancestors.

Mr Sifuba loves Cape Town, but is frustrated "to wake up every day to smell poverty all over the Cape Flats".



A room of one's own: Gugu Sifuba and his son Chumani in the hostel room they share in Langa, which Mr Sifuba has rented for the past 22 years

ANDREW INGRAM

SA vets go in search of greener pastures

Louise Cook

AS MANY as eight out of 10 veterinarians who graduated in SA last year took up positions overseas, Gauteng veterinary services director Malcolm de Bude said.

Although there was a critical shortage of vets in the country, new graduates found it virtually impossible to repay their study debts on the R50 000-a-year starting salaries offered by the state. They were able to earn enough to serve the loans only by working outside SA, De Bude said.

SA Veterinary Association president Antony Erasmus said a veterinary degree course was the most ex-

BD 17/2/97
pensive university qualification — some students ended up owing R100 000 or more on graduation.

An Onderstepoort veterinary faculty spokesman said "a large number" of last year's 87 finalists had left SA to work overseas. But this had "been the trend for many years", and almost all returned eventually. The flight — albeit temporary — was mostly prompted by a desire to travel and gain wider experience, and to repay study loans.

Asked if low state salaries contributed to the exodus, Erasmus said it was time to "start looking again at government's remuneration to professionals, including veterinarians", as salaries were not market related.

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Most of Onderstepoort's class of '96 had headed for the UK, and only eight foreign veterinarians had expressed interest in practising locally last year. SA Veterinary Council registrar Hanri Kruger said two of eight applicants passed the council's entry exam.

Kruger said she became aware of the shortage when the council was asked last year to lift curbs limiting certain veterinarians to certain areas.

Other sources said the shortage was limited to the public sector and did not signify a general brain drain. SA needed about 100 new graduates in the private sector each year, and between the Onderstepoort and Medunsa faculties this figure was usually met.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Skills shortage result of voodoo economics

⁽²³⁶⁾
 BD 19/2/97
 Near-worthless migration figures disguise the brain drain, while government turns away skilled immigrants. David Kaplan and David Lewis argue for a policy change

RECENT discussion of the emotive "brain drain" issue has generated more heat than light. Serious data deficiencies disguise the true magnitude of the problem, while discussion of the underlying factors spurring emigration and immigration, their impact and policy responses is rarely framed in the particular context of the SA labour market.

The issue of migration was accordingly included in the terms of reference of the Labour Market Commission.

The extent of the data problem emerges when SA data are compared with other countries. Official SA data record that for the decade 1984-1993, 28 965 emigrants left for the UK — the largest market for SA emigrants and our largest source of immigrants — while 33 640 British immigrants arrived.

However, for the same period, the UK data give the total number of immigrants from SA as 100 700 and emigrants to SA of 52 600.

Overall, the SA data record a net gain for SA of 4 676, while UK data record a net loss for SA of over 48 000. With respect to emigrants to Australia, in the year ending June 1996, Australia received 69% more immigrants from SA than we recorded emigrating to Australia.

For a variety of reasons, economic, emotional, ignorance, many SA emigrants, on leaving, declare themselves as tourists. In the period 1975-1994, the numbers of South Africans who declared that they were departing as tourists exceeded the number of returning tourists by more than 511 000 persons — more than 25 000 persons a year. Many of these effectively emigrated.

Two conclusions are obvious. Firstly, our data are near worthless. If we are to devise useful policies and to assess their impact, we will need far more accurate data. Secondly, SA has, over a very long period of time, seen a significant haemorrhage of persons — principally skilled persons.

The causes of increased emigration are diverse and controversial. They range from crime

through to SA's integration into the global economy — just as our manufacturers are exploring new possibilities for their commodities, so too are skilled South Africans selling their wares in international markets. Access is eased by personal networks established through decades of high rates of emigration.

Most of these factors are not directly susceptible to policy intervention. But some are. A detailed and less emotive examination of the motivations for emigration will help to identify positive policy responses.

However, we should not assume that all emigrants are necessarily lost to the country. Many skilled emigrants, who have no intention of returning, would nevertheless like to make some contribution to local developments.

With the support of the arts, culture, science and technology department, the Science and Technology Policy Research Centre at the University of Cape Town and ORSTOM, a major French institution, will be developing a network for former SA residents abroad linking them to local researchers and professionals.

A wide variety of linkages is possible, including research collaboration, regular teaching and research stints in SA and taking SA students into their laboratories abroad. A similar "brain gain" option has been pioneered by ORSTOM in Colombia with considerable success.

But the problem is by no means only one of emigration. We have a historically low and declining rate of immigration. This is potentially more susceptible to policy intervention. Historically, immigration to SA was positively related to the rate of economic growth. Barring political crises, immigration rose with the economic cycle. However, despite some positive signs in the

economy and the absence of political crisis over the past two years, the rate of immigration has fallen significantly. We have never attracted so few immigrants. The difference is accounted for by a change in policy by the home affairs department.

Home affairs has manifestly tightened up on the entry of "aliens" and the policing of "leakage". The loudly proclaimed rationale is protection of jobs for South Africans. This rationale — and certainly the methods associated with it as well as its effectiveness — is highly questionable even with respect to unskilled immigrants. With respect to potential skilled immigrants, they make no economic sense.

For almost all skill grades, labour is in chronically short supply — more so in periods of economic expansion. This is an important factor underlying the exceptional inequality between SA wages and salary earners, with skilled workers and other high-level personnel earning very high salaries relative to others.

Reducing wage inequality is an important social objective of government. Moreover, high skilled wage rates are an important advantage factor in SA's ability to compete internationally.

Since skilled labour is always in short supply, increasing the supply of immigrants will not lead to employment displacement of locals possessing skills. Moreover, international evidence clearly shows that most skilled workers are very flexible. Engineers or accountants can use their skills in a variety of contexts — not least by becoming successful entrepreneurs. In Taiwan most successful small entrepreneurs — the largest creators of employment — are drawn from the ranks of the technically skilled.

Competitiveness, equity and

employment considerations therefore suggest strongly that SA should seek to maximise the inflow of all categories of skilled labour that are in short supply. Barring a criminal record, skilled persons should have easy access to the SA labour market.

Instead, home affairs, proclaiming yet another populist economic fallacy, keeps out or criminalises a critical economic resource, a job-generating economic resource, all in the name of preserving employment for South Africans.

Even on its own terms, home affairs has little basis for deciding whether to grant a work permit. Official data on detailed labour

market conditions are not up to the task of fine-tuning labour demand and supply. So home affairs relies on the advice of professional associations. It should be no surprise to learn that these bodies persistently claim an excess supply of their particular skills.

One particularly instructive case was brought to the attention of the Labour Market Commission a highly qualified, young French architect was, largely on the insistence of the local architects' association, refused a work permit. When asked by the commission to explain its decision, home affairs, on information provided by the architects' association, advanced two arguments in

support of its decision firstly, that there were South Africans available to fill the post and secondly that she was willing to accept a wage offer below the prevailing market rate, thus undercutting local architects.

Talk about self-serving voodoo economics. On the one hand, we are told that we have to pay skilled workers inflated salaries because of the higher earnings available on the international market, but when the international market comes here we close our doors because it is prepared to accept a lower rate than our own citizens are.

What we have is a mix of jingoism and protectionism dressed up as national interest. It is time a brave political leader took on these "conventional wisdoms" that drive our migration policy.

□ Kaplan and Lewis are members of the Development Policy Research Unit at UCT and served on the Labour Market Commission.



Many SA emigrants declare themselves as tourists when leaving

Influx brings problems to Western Cape

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — The Western Cape needed to be compensated for the huge influx of people from the Eastern Cape, local government MEC Peter Marais said at the weekend

He would be raising the issue for debate in the National Council of Provinces, he said

The Western Cape government believed that the Finance and Fiscal Commission should change its formula for allocating central government funds to the provinces to take account of population shifts. School registration this year showed that on average about 30 pupils from outside the province had applied to join each West-

ern Cape school, Marais said

The unexpected rush of pupil registration in the Western Cape at the start of the year meant that the provincial education department — which rid itself of 6 000 "excess" teachers last year — found itself overloaded. As a result education MEC Martha Olckers had said she would have to investigate ways of rehiring some teachers

The increase in population would place an additional burden on the social and economic infrastructure of the province and would result in a lowering of standards if no financial compensation was forthcoming

Marais suggested the appointment of a regulator to determine the size of the provincial population

BD 24/2/97 (236)
"It is essential for the proper development of our province to determine and to know what the optimal number of people is that can be accommodated in terms of criteria such as natural resources, the environment and the ability to provide and render basic services. If the means to curb influx into the Western Cape is lacking we will be compelled to approach central government to reconsider the formula for the allocation of funds by the Finance and Fiscal Commission. Allocation of funds will have to be adjusted considerably to make up for this increase in the population," Marais said

Asked whether he planned meas-

Continued on Page 2

Influx

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Continued from Page 1

ures to stem the influx, Marais said this was not possible as the constitution guaranteed freedom of movement.

In a similar case last year the Gauteng government negotiated a deal to recover costs from three other

provinces that used its health services. Gauteng argued that provincial borders did not stop people moving and it had to bear the costs. This had been made worse by big cuts in the health budget. Referrals to Gauteng hospitals from the three provinces — Northern Province, North West and Mpumalanga — had cost about R180m, Gauteng banking and planning chief director Pradeep Maharaj had said.

Skilled foreigners 'the solution' to South Africa's brain drain

Marion Edmunds

SKILLED foreigners should be lured to South Africa to fill the gap left by the brain drain, according to research for an influential government task team on immigration.

Social scientist Robyn Cohen says official statistics have not adequately reflected the exodus of professionals with valuable skills from South Africa, and the education system is

not up to the task of quickly replacing those leaving.

The answer lies in aggressively recruiting professionals such as doctors, nurses, engineers, teachers and accountants from overseas, Cohen says, and tracking down emigres and persuading them to come home.

Cohen will make his submission to the Home Affairs-appointed task team next week. He is said to have the support of several members of the task team. The team's recommendations

tons, due before the Cabinet by mid-year, will be included in a Green Paper which is expected to shake-up current immigration and emigration laws.

The Central Statistical Service (CSS) says that almost 8 000 people emigrated between January and September last year, with only 3 307 immigrants coming in. According to the CSS, 34% of emigrants are teachers, 29% engineers, 24% accountants and 13% in the medical profes-

sions, leaving professional gaps behind them

Cohen says the CSS statistics are way below actual figures of emigrants

"If one combines data from training centres from destination country immigration statistics and from data on 'tourism', it is evident that a large number of intending and potential emigrants are not tabulated," he says. "Even the under-recorded data show that there is a large deficit in the number of economically active

(236)

people arriving compared with the number leaving. Thus, although there seems to be only a small net loss of migrants, this statistic is more serious when we consider that nearly two-thirds of immigrants are declared not to be economically active."

Cohen also suggests building a data bank of all skilled South Africans so that their knowledge and expertise can be harnessed in development projects around the country.

M+G 21-27/2/97

200 000 apply for SA residence

Drew Forrest

CAPE TOWN — More than 200 000 immigrants from neighbouring states had applied for permanent residence in SA in terms of the dispensation announced by government last year, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday.

The applications were still being processed, Buthelezi told a news briefing. He did not say how many had been approved.

Between July and November last year, citizens of Southern African Development Community states who had been in SA for five years and met certain other conditions were given the opportunity to apply for exemption from the normal requirements for permanent residence. Migrant labourers

BD 14/2/97
were also allowed to apply

Buthelezi said the concession should not be construed as a softening of his department's approach to illegal immigrants. After a period of discrimination against African "illegals", it gave the government the moral authority to deal with illegal immigration in a stricter manner according to the Aliens Control Act.

The minister also said that an independent task team had been appointed to probe migration matters and to draft a green paper.

At yesterday's briefing, African National Congress member and Deputy Home Affairs Minister Lindiwe Sisulu said the ANC had recently discussed illegal immigration and would announce its stance to the cabinet.

Earlier this week, Buthelezi

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complained of the ANC's "politically correct ambivalence" on illegal immigrants.

Sisulu said she sympathised with Buthelezi, who was driving policy on immigration and felt his ANC cabinet colleagues were not giving him enough support. This was because the ANC believed it had a responsibility to tackle the problems of the region.

Buthelezi said he there was growing anger among South Africans over the influx of illegals, who were competing for scarce jobs and services.

□ Buthelezi also announced that he hoped to introduce legislation during this year's parliamentary session for a marriage law that would apply throughout SA. The current Marriage Act applies only in former "white" SA.

DP wants probe into abuse of illegal aliens

Star 19/12/97 (236)

By MORGAN NAIDU

The Democratic Party has asked the South African Human Rights Commission to probe allegations of abuse against illegal aliens in a Randfontein accommodation centre run by a group of volunteers, including several ANC Members of Parliament.

Speaking in the Gauteng legislature this week, Peter Leon said a formal complaint had been lodged by his party over reports that detainees at the Lindela Accommodation Centre were being treated as common-law prisoners who were not allowed to speak between meals and were regularly assaulted by guards.

Leon also quoted reports which

claimed that proper tendering procedures had been neglected when the Home Affairs department awarded the contract to run the centre last year.

"It is a matter of grave concern to the DP that a privatised detention centre, whose ultimate beneficiaries appear to include Gauteng Agriculture MEC Nomvula and (legislature member) Lindiwe Maseko, has been established in flagrant disregard of government tendering procedures," Leon said.

The Dyambu Trust, which runs the detention centre, slammed media reports of abuse at the centre and accused the DP of blindly accepting incorrect facts that were designed to drum up bad publicity.

157 000 deported from SA

CT 10/2/97

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MORE than 157 000 people were deported last year, a 75% jump from 1994. Even more are expected to go this year.

Most are arrested in police raids, random ID checks and 24-hour military patrols on the border — tactics once used to fight anti-apartheid guerrillas.

Immigration officials have also tightened entry laws and sought to cut government-funded benefits for illegal immigrants, including barring their children from attending public

schools.

But it's a losing battle

From Angola to Zaire, the huddled masses on the world's most blighted continent have poured across South Africa's 5 000km land border. Some are refugees fleeing war, disease and disaster. But most are economic migrants, seeking a promised land of jobs and hope.

"Nelson Mandela is our Statue of Liberty," said Mr Vernon Seymore, director of the Centre for Southern African Studies, a research institute in

Cape Town "People come here to pursue their dreams"

Police blame illegal immigrants for rising crime. Labour unions say foreigners steal jobs and undercut wages. Government officials complain that newcomers strain limited resources for housing and health.

But, others argue, illegal immigrants are more likely to be victims of crime than the cause of it. Often they are exploited by unscrupulous employers and accept jobs for wages locals would shun — Reuter

Deputy minister denies transit camp allegations

(236)

of 12/2/97

POLITICAL STAFF

DEPUTY Home Affairs Minister Ms Lindi Sisulu has rejected reports that she was involved with a transit camp at Randfontein that repatriated illegal immigrants.

While she acknowledged that she was part of the "inception of the idea" of the Dyambu Trust, which now administers the camp, she said she had withdrawn from the group of women involved in the project when she was appointed deputy minister in July last year.

Sisulu said in a statement yesterday she was not a trustee of the

Dyambu Trust.

"I did not at any stage hold any equity or shareholding in the Dyambu Group nor did I benefit financially or otherwise from my participation in the trust."

Commenting on concerns by the Democratic Party that a deputy home affairs minister — in a department dealing with repatriation — should be linked to the project, she said she viewed "with dismay" the way in which the opposition party had "deliberately sensationalised" her alleged involvement in the issue.

"Furthermore, I want to assure the public that I have never in my

capacity as a member of Parliament or as the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs promoted an agreement between the Department of Home Affairs and Meritum hostels (where the camp is based)," she said.

Sisulu said she had been dismayed that newspapers had not approached her to clarify her position.

However, attempts were made to reach Sisulu on Sunday, as well as a spokeswoman for the Home Affairs Department, without success.

Sisulu said she would welcome a parliamentary inquiry "to verify my statement and my integrity."

ANC defends part in deportation centre

(236)

Bonile Ngqiyaza

20 12 1997

THE African National Congress (ANC) yesterday criticised Democratic Party (DP) criticism of top ANC members' involvement in the Lindela deportation centre in Gauteng, saying the DP wanted to perpetuate the exclusion of blacks from the "commanding heights" of the economy.

The ANC said the DP wanted to maintain privileges for the white minority and complained when "black people in general and these African women in particular seek a stake in the economy of our country". The party said Dyambu Holdings — whose trust consists of several female ANC members — was not an ANC business arm, but an independent company.

While it agreed Deputy Home Affairs Minister Lindiwe Sisulu had been among the founding members of Dyambu Trust, she had severed ties with the trust when she was appointed deputy minister.

The ANC said it was satisfied the procurement of the deportation centre had not been a result of impropriety or some undue influence, but had been awarded after an open and transparent tendering process.

The tender, it said, was awarded to Meritum Hostels which already had a relationship with Dyambu Holdings. Dyambu had developed this relationship much earlier with a view to securing a stake in Meritum Hostels' other business initiatives.

DP spokesman Dene Smuts welcomed the assurance that Sisulu was no longer involved with Dyambu Holdings.

"As for the involvement of the other ANC MPs, it is a dangerous practice for politicians, especially from the majority party, to engage in business which involves tendering for state contracts," she said.

The DP insisted on accountability because it wanted to prevent the creation of a small, self-serving rich black elite — leaving most black South Africans in perpetual poverty, Smuts said. Gauteng DP leader Peter Leon said he intended calling for a full inquiry into the tendering process.

Tightening the screws

South Africa 12/2/97 (236)

PLAGUED BY RISING unemployment, South Africa has tightened its immigration laws and is devising ways of strengthening border controls to stem the flow of job-seekers from neighbouring countries

"We have tightened our visa regulations, increased patrols along our borders and constantly check the usual 'flashpoints' for illegals. Deportations will be intensified this year," warns Home Affairs spokesman Hennie Meyer.

South Africa has attracted both skilled and unskilled job-seekers from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region for many years.

However, labour experts say the presence of these foreigners is seen negatively by the domestic market, who feel threatened and insecure.

South Africa's unemployment rate is estimated at 30 percent. Jobs are hard to come by and, according to labour experts, the country's huge informal sector is over-subscribed.

According to Meyer, 135 408 immigrants were deported from South Africa last year compared with 90 692 in 1994. The latest figure includes 113 000 Mozambicans, 13 667 Zimbabweans, 3 117 Basotho, 1 853 Malawians, 1 424 Swazi and 2 347 nationals from 61 other countries.

Simply disappear

He says many people enter the country as visitors and simply disappear into the community, overstaying the validity of their visas in an attempt to look for work.

Others risk life and limb by crossing borders through dangerous game parks or swimming across the Limpopo River. Many get jobs on farms where they are paid wages that are so low that ordinary South Africans will not accept them, he says.

Illegal immigrants have also been blamed for the rise in crime, placing an additional strain on health and housing services and "overstretching" the Government's social expenditure. Estimates of illegal immigrants living here range from two to eight million.

Last year South Africa succumbed to pressure from neighbouring governments to slow down its deportation policy, and offered permanent residence status to SADC citizens residing in the country for five years or more.

Meyer says 192 422 applications for residence permits were received last year and, of them, over 22 000 approved.

"We rejected some applications because they were submitted by people with criminal records, by immigrants who had forged documents and by miners working under contracts," he said.

Meanwhile South Africa reportedly lost

Thousands of illegal immigrants are streaming to South Africa – but efforts are being made to stem the tide. **Tag William** considers the situation...



Flashback ... Illegal immigrants from Mozambique before being repatriated.

2 764 professionals to other countries last year. Many cited rising crime as the cause for their migration. Their places were immediately taken after the approval of 43 891 applications for work permits, mainly from Africa.

David Galloway, group economist with Investec Bank, warns that the influx of these foreigners is bound to raise severe economic concerns in public services.

"We are being forced to subsidise other countries' citizens. The labour that is coming in is unskilled. If it were highly skilled we would probably turn a blind eye but the only thing these immigrants are adding to is the fiscal burden," he says.

South Africa's current anti-migration strategies are being questioned by the region's diplomats. "It will be impossible for South Africa to survive as an oasis of prosperity surrounded by a sea of poverty.

"The solution lies with the overall development of the region," are the sentiments of a Mozambican diplomat.

Abdul Minty, Pretoria's deputy director for Foreign Affairs, agrees. He says his department is working with SADC to develop a common approach to investment, regional reconstruction and sustainable development.

This, he says, will help hold immigrants in their own countries as jobs and opportunities become more widespread.

"The current policies are based on some form of punishment. They are based on a stick approach and will never work because of the rising costs of tracing, catching and deporting people."

Hussein Solomon of the Foundation for Global Change, a Johannesburg development agency, says the current policy adopted by the South African Government is directed at "fighting symptoms" rather than dealing with the causes.

Present policy

"Repatriating Mozambicans alone in 1994 cost the Government R120 million. In addition, the effect of the present policy shows a South Africa living against its neighbours as opposed to living with them," he says.

Until the insecurity caused by stagnant economies around South Africa is addressed, it will be impossible to prevent the wave of cross-border migration in search of improved life, he says.

The xenophobia currently engulfing South Africa is a recent phenomenon. In the past the apartheid state served to divide South Africans, racial identity as opposed to a broader South African national identity was stressed.

Soloman says "Since 1994, the new Government has been emphasising a single national identity, creating the notion of an 'insider' as opposed to an 'outsider'."

The fact that a third of South Africa's population is unemployed, plus the scramble for a better life in the new South Africa, has set the basis for discrimination against foreigners.

"In the past, it was easy to target the apartheid state as the source of one's misery. With the advent of a democratic government, foreigners have become the scapegoat," he says.

– *Africa Information Afrique*

up in arms (236) at 'foreign invasion of the streets'

By DAN DHLAMINI

SOUTH AFRICAN street vendors claim their trade is being taken over by a "mass influx" of Asian "foreigners"

Many of these are Chinese who were kicked out of Lesotho two years ago, vendors claim

Some of the "foreign" street vendors are also said to have entered the country on false passports allegedly obtained from the Home Affairs Department.

Certain Home Affairs officials have been arrested in connection with fraud involving the illegal issuing of passports.

While black illegal immigrants from neighbouring states have mainly been accused by workers and trade unions of "sabotaging the struggle for a living wage" by flooding the market with cheap labour, vendors accuse Asian "foreigners" of taking over the street markets and turning locals into poorly paid labourers

Local vendors in Johannesburg said they were being "overwhelmed" by these "foreigners" who had lots of money to buy stock.

"They sell the same product as mine at half the price - and where do you think the buyers will go? It is unfair competition," said Alfred Mkhonza, a street vendor in Johannesburg

"Most of our people have now been tempted to work for these Chinese who pay them low salaries"

Mkhonza said the bosses dropped the vendors off at strategic points between 6 am and 6 45 am and picked them up at about 6 30 pm - when most workers and shoppers had gone home.

This was allegedly done to evade authorities and officials of Achib and other organisations opposed to foreigners taking the business of "pavement sales" away from locals

In the North West, Free State and Northern Cape, where the unemployment rate is high, vendors working for Asian bosses say they are paid a pittance

They do not have the capital to buy stock for themselves

Vendors in Virginia and Welkom said they were paid between R60 and R100 a week.

Vendors in Potchefstroom, Klerksdorp, Wolmaransstad and Sannieshof said they earned between R70 and R120 a week from the "foreigners"



THE PASSING TRADE... Alom Sellasie says he came to South Africa from Ethiopia as a refugee and was employed as a street vendor by a Chinese vendor

■ Pic: SAMSON MOSWEU

Dikhukhunini Maumakwe of Ikageng told City Press that her employer - known to her only as "Mr China" - paid her a commission of R3 for every R100 she took

"When I told him the money was too little, he said I should quit if I did not want to work

"He said there was nowhere I could report him because the laws of this country were not binding to him and he could leave Potchefstroom and start another business somewhere else any time

"Although I have a family to support, I decided to quit rather than enrich foreigners at my expense in my land of birth"

Faule Mommath of Senegal told City Press he had come to South Africa as a refugee. At first he lived in a refugees' home in Johannesburg - but a "Chinese couple" took him to Klerksdorp, where he now sells leather bags and other items.

Mommath claimed he earned R500 a month. He said he also recruited labourers for his boss, known to him only as "Jan Francois"

Meima Majola and Nomonde Dlamama, both from Cofimvaba in the former Transkei, said Mommath had hired them to sell bags and paid them R70 each a week

□ A spokesman for the North West Department of Finance and Economic Affairs said aliens were not allowed to conduct any trade in South Africa unless they had a special permit to do so

He said even local street vendors and hawkers have not yet been licensed in the North West, pending the promulgation of the North West Business Act, which will be in force "very soon".

The spokesman said local vendors are allowed to trade in terms of the moratorium given by the premier - but this privilege is not extended to foreigners.

He said an extensive investigation into the matter should be launched by the departments of Home Affairs, Labour and Finance and Economic Affairs.

□ A Home Affairs statement said permits to earn a living in South Africa were granted to foreigners who qualified to take up employment or conduct their own business

Many factors were considered when it came to permits to conduct an own business, but basically a substantial amount of foreign capital should be invested in a viable business which would create jobs for South African citizens

Some handed money to police and were released

(23b) Star 7/2/97

By RODNEY VICTOR

A large yellow police van drew alongside the two boys walking to Mass at St Patrick's Catholic Church in La Rochelle on Sunday.

They pretended not to see it, but the police leapt out and came running towards them, asking for their identity documents.

"We told them they were at the house," said Dario Bernardo (15), a Mozambican doing his schooling in South Africa. "They said they didn't care. First we must go to the police station."

Bernardo and his close relation, Getulio dos Santos (15) were bundled into the van. In it they found Alfred Mokoena, the housekeeper at the home where they boarded. Mokoena, a South African born in Pietersburg, had also been arrested as an illegal alien.

The boys were worried. Their host was on a business trip to Mozambique, and with Mokoena also under arrest, there was no-one left to help them.

The boys told the police they had left their host's house unlocked, as they had been expecting Mokoena to return from an earlier church service at any minute. The police were unconcerned. "No-one can go into that house," they said.

Mokoena spoke to the police in English and Zulu. "No," the police told him, "you are not from here."

With a load of 30 suspected illegals, the police headed for Booy-

sens. There a number of other policemen appeared, Mokoena said, all very interested in finding out how much money those arrested had on them.

Four people handed the police sums of between R50 and R100, Mokoena said. They were released. Another 12 contacted friends or relations, who brought documentation to prove they were "legal". They too were released.

The boys smuggled out a letter with one of them, which was later dropped off at their house.

That night Mokoena, the boys and 11 others were taken to the Lindele detention centre for illegal aliens, near Krugersdorp. They were left there with 1 200 other suspected illegals, among them three Russians, a Brazilian and a mad Canadian, who claimed to have been there for more than a year.

The diet was sparse, Mokoena said. Breakfast was six slices of bread, porridge and a drink which may have been tea or coffee. Another meal was served in the afternoon, consisting of "very strong" mielie pap, "funny" mince and *mageu*, a watery porridge drink.

The boys were rescued from detention when Bernardo's father rushed from Maputo to sort out the situation. This week they returned to school. They had a lot of explaining to do to their headmasters, and a few tales for their schoolmates.



The long walk back home: Deportees line up for their daily meals at Lindela Accommodation Centre

Deporting for cash

M+C 7-13/2/97

(236)

Top ANC women helped establish the country's first private deportation camp, reports
HEIN MARAIS

SEVERAL prominent women members of the African National Congress are linked to a private company running South Africa's first private deportation camp. The Lindela Accommodation Centre, in Randfontein on the far West Rand, is a central holding point for captured illegal immigrants before they are shipped home. The centre has processed more than 15 000 illegal immigrants — charging R22,75, including VAT, a head per day — since it won the contract from the Department of Home Affairs last August.

It currently has 720 immigrants under guard. Some inmates complained this week of beatings, those held are also not allowed to talk during meals.

The centre's ultimate owner — Dyambu Trust — was created last year by a group of high-profile ANC women, including Deputy Speaker Baleka Kgositsile, Deputy Home Affairs Minister Lindi Sisulu, Adelaide Tambo, Lindiwe Zulu and Hilda Ndude.

But only two of the women — Gauteng MPLs Nomvula Mokonyane and Lindiwe Maseko — are formally registered as its trustees.

Dyambu co-ordinator Daniel

Mansell said this week he had advised the women not to register as trustees, because of potential conflicts of interests and because several were uncomfortable being linked to an operation that makes money from deportation.

But Ndude said she regarded herself and the other women in the group as members of the Dyambu Trust. Dyambu's operations had "nothing to do with the ANC or the women's league", but the group were "women with vision, women who fought the struggle, women who are trying to bring change".

Lindela was a "way of contributing to the normalisation of South Africa".

As much as we are not against foreigners coming into South Africa, we must assist our government in curbing the influx," South Africa, she said, has "its own problems of unemployment and the high rate of crime".

Mansell said he planned to call a meeting this weekend to clarify the women's relationship with Dyambu.

The women, who also include Nozizwe Nqakula, Nomatyala Hangana, Makho Njobe and Gily Pikoli, joined forces in April 1996.

The original idea, according to Mansell, was to buy a mining operation, from which profits could be ploughed into community upliftment projects.

The group agreed in June to buy the accommodation facilities at Randfontein from private company Mentum Hostels.

The agreement with Mentum stip-

ulated that the women establish a formal trust, a holding company called Newco Holdings and an operating company called Newco Operations.

Mansell was appointed to oversee these entities.

Lacking the funds to consummate the purchase, however, the group agreed that Mentum Hostel's owners would continue to hold all shares and manage the operations.

A share of the profits from the operations is paid to Newco Holdings, which then "distributes the funds to the Dyambu Trust or other activities it might identify", Mansell said. Dyambu also operates a nearby juvenile detention facility, and a catering business serving mines on the West Rand and East Rand.

Mentum's management secured the contract for Lindela on August 19 — 12 days after it tendered. Home Affairs was unable to comment on the allocation.

But Mansell said the group was "fairly upset" when it discovered the operations included Lindela. "They didn't know how to handle it, especially Lindi Sisulu." Sisulu withdrew from Dyambu in September.

Lindela's contract is renewed monthly. Home Affairs is soon to put out an open tender for the operation. In the meantime, however, Dyambu has refurbished an adjoining compound to hold an additional 1 000 deportees.

Twilight zone where deportees wait

M+G 7-13/2/97 (236)



This week's guest writer, **Hein Marais**, paid a visit to a private deportation centre near Johannesburg

A COUPLE of kilometres outside Krugersdorp lives a town of ghosts. The winches that once hoisted gold ore to the surface of Randfontein rust in fields of long grass. Lining the main street are grimy, melancholic buildings. It's hot, and time seems to be slowing to a crawl.

Your car bounces past figures shuffling from one spot of shade to another. To your left a South African flag droops over a building that has been honoured with a fresh coat of paint: a sign announcing it as the Dyambu Training Centre.

Then you spot the electrified fences, razor wire and guards. You explain yourself, the gate swings open and Frans Le Grange appears at your side, issuing a torrent of introductions and commentary.

You step into a dim, long room. Officials are hunched over the long counter, a few heads nodding sleepily to a Boom Shaka tune crackling from the radio. Behind them hangs a framed portrait of Home Affairs Minister Mungosuthu Buthelezi, his expression hovering somewhere between a smirk and a taunt.

Welcome to the Lindela Accommodation Centre, Le Grange says proudly.

He's one of the managers of this euphemism, a privately-run deportation centre for illegal immigrants. He informs you there are 720 people behind the brick-red metal door. Seven hundred-and-twenty surplus people, you think.

And he tells you "We try to make people feel at home here." That they can move about, that "this is not a prison", that "from this phone they can call anywhere". He points to a gaudy logo on a door. "It says that all nations, all colours are leaving South Africa, back into the world."

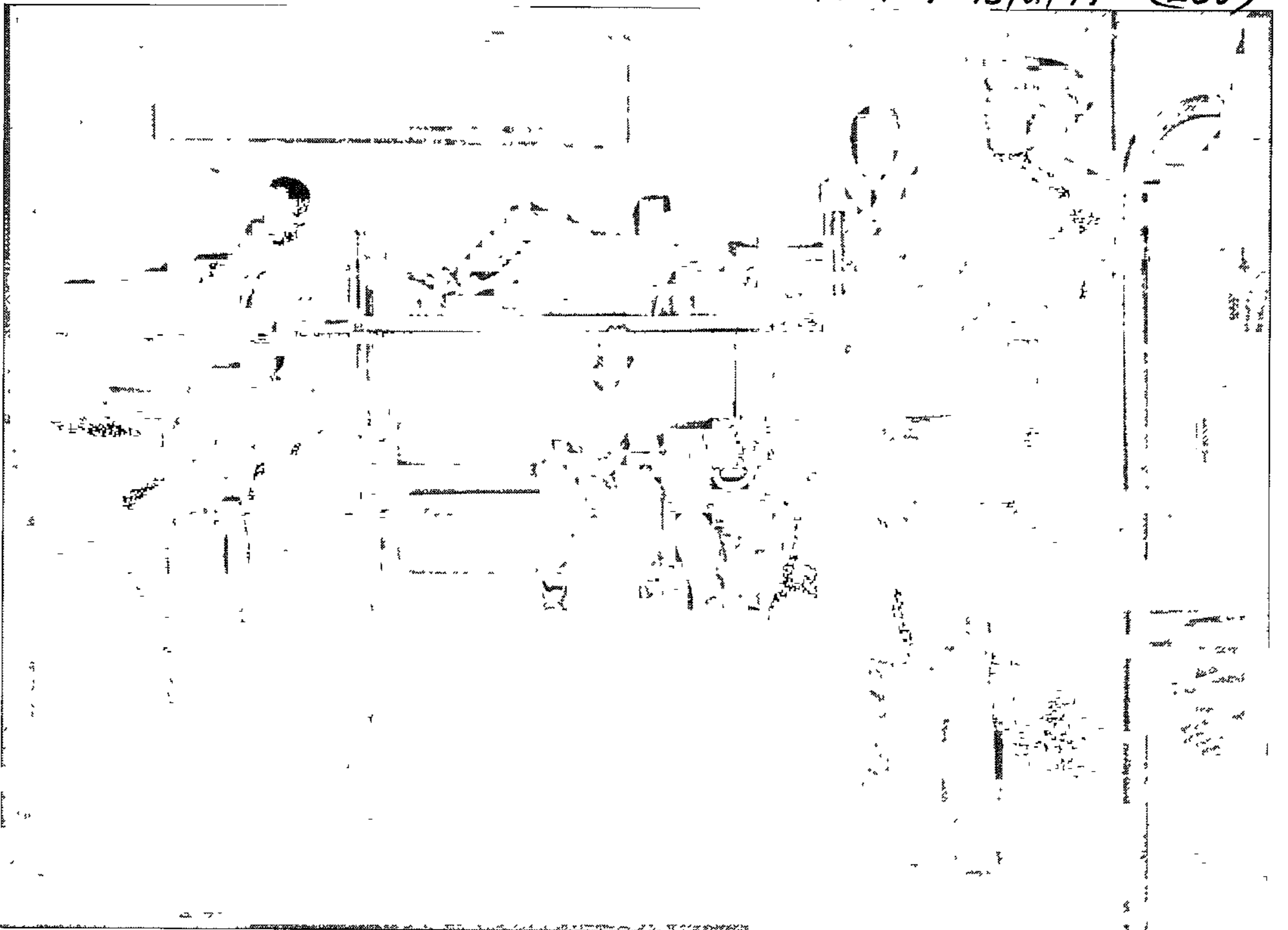
And when that door opens, it's in to a twilight zone, like those 1950s sci-fi flicks where the aliens lumber down emptied streets, transfixed by their displacement. Every head seems to turn, trying to decide whether you're good news or just part of another day. You've stepped across a threshold, on to the brink of the world. Before you, defined by state power, is the Other.

It's an old hostel compound, adapted to the exigencies of economic decline. It no longer hosts workers, but serves as a launch-pad for their expulsion — to a *favela* in Rio, an apartment address in Monrovia, a hovel in Xai Xai. And it squats there like a lesson in moral ambiguity.

In five-and-a-half months, 15 000 people have passed through here. Down one side run offices where the act of expulsion is legitimated, organised and catalogued, nine Home Affairs staff work there, nine more will join them soon.

There's a square of lawn patches, a couple of thatched shelters and a matchbox spaza shop. Separated, the women sit on one patch of grass, the men aren't allowed to talk to them. In the distance, a train rattles by.

Lindela began operating on August 18 1996. According to Le Grange, it happened like this: A company called Meritum Hostels had taken over much of Randfontein after the Wesrand Cons mine went belly-up back in 1989. The hostels were then bought by the Dyambu Trust, run by a group of high-powered African



Unwanted immigrants at Lindela. 'Compacted around you is not so much misery as 720 versions of fortitude'

PHOTOGRAPH OSCAR O

National Congress women

At first, some of the hostels were run as a kind of hotel residence for a miscellany of workers from surrounding areas. Last June, when Police Commissioner George Fivaz announced his scheme to capture South Africa's 10 000 most wanted criminals, a flash-bulb of inspiration lit up some heads.

Le Grange recalls the thinking: "If he caught them, where was he going to put them? You had all these 'illegals' being held in prison, where they didn't belong because they're not criminals."

Why not privatise part of the eviction exercise, and convert one of the hostels into a deportation centre? Fivaz liked the idea, says Le Grange. "We have the premises, why should the government spend money to go and build new ones?" Within a few weeks, Home Affairs gave the scheme the nod, and the trust was contracted to run the country's first central deportation centre.

You step down into a pall of puzzlement and anticipation. Lindela's unit leader, Judas Kgotse, has taken over the commentary, pointing out murals painted by deportees. He feels almost cosmopolitan.

"I've experienced the world here. We've had Africans from just about every country, we've had France, Japan, Britain, Brazil" — he pauses, with what sounds like regret — "but no Americans and no Germans."

Most people spend a week here. On Wednesdays the train for Mozambique is loaded ("605 went this week"), on Thursday it's Zimbabwe ("201 yesterday"), on Friday it's Lesotho ("33 this morning") and Malawi ("35 by plane") — a private contractor flies them out of Lanseria airport. The others take longer, much longer.

Some come back. "We've had people who've been here three times, Mozambicans mostly." These are lives propelled by structural realities that no high-voltage perimeter, no army of pen-pushers, and no cop with an ear

for accents or an authenticating eye or a desire for a quick buck can alter. But orders are orders. And at Lindela, business, it seems, is business.

Slumped in the shade of the far wall are the Mozambicans. They're all young men, in their teens to late 20s. The Zimbabweans loll on their own patch of grass. To your left, people huddle by region — West Africans in one spot, Pakistanis and Indians in another.

You wonder aloud what it feels like working here — and for the first time Kgotse looks you in the eye. "Most of the people here are poor — I feel pitiful, I'm sorry to say." You see him stiffen back into PR-mode, but not before he asks, rhetorically, "As an African, how can I feel?"

It's lunch time — 3pm, the last meal of the day — and guards are haranguing people into line.

Kgotse and Le Grange have other business to attend to.

Suddenly, everything changes. That air of compressed resignation is gone. Someone's thrusting photocopied documents at you.

His name's Abdul Sattar. For five years, he's lived in Bophuthatswana and Johannesburg, he's in import-export ("leather jackets, shoes"), he's an African National Congress member ("Mayfair branch"), he paid a Home Affairs official called "Peter" R200 for his papers in Mafeking. Now, Home Affairs says they're false.

"I'm no thief, I pay taxes for five years," he says. He was robbed in jail and can't afford the R5 Lindela charges for a phone call, can you call this number and tell Ashrid he's here?

Someone else starts towards you, then ducks back into line when a guard approaches. Food being slopped on to trays is the only sound conversation is banned during eating.

Later, Le Grange introduces you to Joao-Carlos Manuel, and saunters off. He's a Brazilian sailor who's been in and out of the country for six years, he says. In October, he went to Home

Affairs in Cape Town to apply for permanent papers and was told R3 000 would do the trick. He refused, and was arrested as an "illegal".

After weeks in Sea Point police station, he was moved to Pollsmoor, then to Lindela. On the advice of a Nigerian, he paid a Johannesburg lawyer R2 500 to get him out. There were arguments with the lawyer and he hasn't seen his money since.

When you check out his case with the lawyer, you're enveloped in a haze of contradictions. He told Home Affairs he was Angolan, then that he's Brazilian. He applied for refugee status, then retracted his application. You're faxed a copy of his statement. Manuel says he didn't know what he was signing. Home Affairs says they think he's wanted for armed robbery in Angola. You wonder why, if that's the case, he hasn't been deported — he's been in Lindela for a month. The legal firm says they paid him back R1 500 on January 20, via a "Tony Mambabela". The Nigerian's name was "Tony", Carlos has told you.

And you think, somewhere in there is Manuel's life, the story of the knife scars on his shoulders, his broken front teeth, his swollen lip.

But right now, he wants out. "Lindela is OK," he says, "but the guards are shit, they treat people like animals, especially the Mozambicans, they beat them every day."

They tried to beat him once for speaking to a woman, he says. When he resisted, he was told to stop acting "like a white man, like a gentleman". He laughs. "Like a white man? I'm a Brazilian."

Sheik Mohammed, a Burundian, joins the conversation and backs the allegations. He says the Home Affairs officials are almost as bad as the guards, except for a Mr Morris who "respects people". "This company is a business, they're making money," Mohammed sneers.

Compacted around you is not so

much misery as 720 versions of fortitude. Some like John Yeboah, the wiry and startled-looking young Ghanaian, have washed up on these shores thanks to a false South African passport bought off a South Korean church group in a bid to find work in the Far East.

Others, like the Mozambicans that crowd around you in their murky room, dare not step off this treadmill of survival.

Earlier in the day, seven of their compatriots were dumped at Lindela. They had valid papers, but had refused to hand them to the police. Le Grange has already told you that "some of the cops are a problem — they tear up papers or keep them when foreigners refuse to grease their palms. The seven furnished their papers at Home Affairs and were released."

The men around you have learned to make do without papers. Sandra, a Liberian, has not. Abandoned without a passport by her mother in Lusaka in 1994, she slipped into Zaire, sneaked back into Zambia, then declared herself at Beit Bridge, all in search of a Liberian embassy that will verify her nationality.

You make some small talk, and tales flow of supervisors who pocketed their pay packets, then reported them to the police as "illegals" of random arrests on the street. In the corner you spot someone hugging the clock, he's taking back to Mozambique. No-one else seems to have baggage.

"I've been inside for eight years," someone volunteers behind you in perfect English. You turn. "Car theft," he helps.

"Shit, it was probably my car," you say. He doesn't skip a beat, steps up to size you up and shakes his head. "No, it was a family car."

The room cracks up. And you blush, asking, "You guys coming back?" There's silence, until someone deep in the room says, "You know why?"

You walk back to the office, feeling a numb anger. As you step out of Lindela, you still can't figure out whether it was a question or a statement.

City grass often isn't greener for migrants from Transkei

CT 5/2/97

(236)

ERIC NTABAZALILA

MOTHER of two Miss Noxolo Melaphi is one of the thousands of people who flood into Cape Town every year in search of greener pastures, only to find themselves stuck in the shacks of Khayelitsha.

She arrived in Cape Town in 1991, hoping to get a decent job to support her family after her father left her mother and her two brothers and a sister.

"We had to fend for ourselves. It was a real struggle to make ends meet," she said.

In the city she met the father of her children, but he doesn't see them anymore and he doesn't support them.

Noxolo stays with her mother, her two children and five of her late sister's children in a one-roomed shack with three beds. This fly-infested shack with a leaky ceiling and one window has no electricity and no sanitation facilities. Water is carried from a tap about two kilometres away.

She is unemployed and her mother, Mrs Sweetness Tiwani, 57, is not yet eligible for a government pension.

Tiwani's husband left her with

their children about 1989 and "we have not seen him since", she said.

Noxolo's mother does "piece jobs", from washing to baby sitting, depending on what a temporary employer offers, while Noxolo looks after her 18-month-old child and the other children.

"We can just barely survive. I don't know even now what I'm going to give these children for supper. We just survive on prayer."

The family has lost hope of getting help from the government.

"We want to be able to look after ourselves," she says. "We hate to beg. If God would make a miracle and give us (Tiwani and her daughter) jobs, we would be very thankful."

They cannot afford to send money to the rest of the family in the Transkei.

Since 1993 they haven't been able to afford to visit the Transkei.

Ms Nomathemba Mali, 31, from Mount Fletcher, Transkei, came to Cape Town in 1991 in search of her father, who left the family when she was eight months old.

She, too, does "piece jobs" and sells chips and sweets to feed herself, a single mother who does not receive child support, and her two

children, including a five-month-old child.

Both families, like the thousands who migrate to Cape Town in search of work, usually travel to Transkei to be with their families for the summer holidays.

The migration from Transkei to Cape Town has swollen the population of Khayelitsha by more than 160 000 in the past five years.

Mr Henk Eichron of the municipality's Urban Study Division said the figure for 1991 census was 186 000 and that by mid-1996 the number had almost doubled to 350 000.

Ms Vanessa Watson of UCT's Urban Problems Research Unit said the number drops in December and then picks up.

"The December decrease is caused by the large numbers of families going to the rural areas of the Eastern Cape. The increase usually comes around February as the families return to the Western Cape" accompanied by other family members from the Transkei who come looking for work.

This, educationalists say, affects the number of children at Western Cape schools as more people come to the city in search of work.

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Illegal immigrants trick SA women into fake marriages

By ELIAS MALULEKE

THE government has called for an urgent probe into a scam in which South African women are married off to illegal immigrants without their knowledge.

According to some of the women tricked, they are offered jobs and asked to sign documents they are led to believe are employment contracts.

They are then asked to hand over their ID documents, only to be turned down for the jobs when these are returned to them a few days later.

Officials fear that the scam, apparently operated by a Taiwanese syndicate, has seen hundreds of women in Gauteng, Mpumalanga and the North West Province married off unawares to men they have never met.

"This has been going on for a long time and we need to unearth the truth," said the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Lindiwe Sisulu.

"I am going to call for a commission of inquiry to establish why this gross abuse of women is allowed."

The con came to light last week when a couple went to the Home Affairs office in Marabastad,

Pretoria, to register their marriage.

Josephina Ndlala, 24, and her husband, Jabu Mmsi, were informed she was already the wife of a "Mr Ho Ming".

"She got the shock of her life and Jabu was very disappointed," said Ndlala's mother, Maria.

She said that her daughter had applied for a job in 1994 at a Pretoria clothing store owned by a Taiwanese couple.

She had signed an "employment contract" and her ID was photocopied.

Ndlala's experience has since been confirmed by four other women, all of whom were offered jobs at the store.

They were taken to a house in Laudium, outside Pretoria, where an Indian man told them to sign what appeared to be employment contracts.

Lindiwe Masango, 24, a single mother from Mamelodi West, went to report her lost ID at the Marabastad Home Affairs office last month — only to be told she was married to a "Mr Iran Wei".

She said she was so distressed she had almost jumped from a second-floor window of the building

According to Home Affairs records, her mystery husband is a Taiwanese national who was born in June 1965.

The two are recorded as having married last June.

Masango said a sales assistant at the Pretoria shop, Maria Mahlangu, had told her in June 1995 that it was looking for staff.

Mahlangu is still working at the store. She said this week she had recruited women for two years and was herself married to a Mr Poyueng.

Another woman, who worked for the shop for a year until 1995, Jane Ntuli, said she had recruited 50 women from Mamelodi but had stopped because she feared it would land her in jail.

She said others like herself had recruited women from other parts of Gauteng, the North West Province and Mpumalanga.

A Home Affairs spokesman, Marks Nkwana, said this week a number of complaints had been received by the department from women conned by the scam, but he did not have figures.

A policeman working for the immigration unit said, however, that 300 cases were under investigation.

(236) ST 2/12/97

Ad hoc immigration policies feed xenophobia as Africa

AR 5/12/92

(236)

The question of immigration and, in particular, illegal immigration has become a very sensitive issue in South Africa. Many locals feel the influx of immigrants is resulting in a loss of jobs that could have been theirs. There is a simmering potential for conflict, warns Hoosain Kagee.

- Every citizen of SADC states has the right to enter freely and without a visa the territory of another member state for a short visit,
- the right to reside in the territory of another member country, and
- the right to establish oneself and work

'The perception that South Africa is the land of milk and honey has spread'

The perception that South Africa is the land of milk and honey has spread far and wide over the African continent and, today, hundreds of thousands of people seeking to make their fortunes have gravitated south.

The influx has been for both economic and political reasons.

Immigration, legal and illegal, has long been dealt with in a very ad hoc manner.

South Africa's re-entry into the international arena after the 1994 democratic elections included the signing of agreements with members of the Southern African Development Community on the question of the free movement of people.

In June 1995 a draft protocol on the Free Movement of Persons in the SADC was signed. Article two of chapter two of the protocol lists the following objectives

in the territory of another member state.

The objectives were to be achieved over a period of ten years. The protocol further stipulated that member states should draft legislation in harmony with the agreement.

Article 34 of the protocol relates directly to our present refugee crises. This article stipulates that when a state departs an alien, it must:

- give adequate notice of repatriation;
- afford the affected person the right to

- recourse in a court of law or tribunal hosted by the state,
- suspend any order of repatriation or expulsion if an appeal is lodged,
- give the alien reasonable time to settle his/her affairs; and
- bear all costs of repatriation or expulsion.

The question that must be asked is how does this agreement match up to the status quo on illegal immigration. The Aliens Control Act of 1991 does not include the provisions of the protocol. Which set of rules, then, do we apply?

In practice the stiff arm of the law has been applied in South Africa.

Opposition to an inflow of immigrants is based on a number of factors

- the impact it would have on the already depleted resources of the country, ie health care, housing, education, etc,
- the threat of diseases, for example the Ebola virus, and
- increased competition for jobs for locals.

Xenophobia has increased recently and is a direct result of poor social and economic conditions.

Recent studies by the Centre for Policy Studies found that customs officials at borders - the frontline where the various

agreements and acts are enforced - are opposed to the idea of free movement of persons within SADC states.

It is estimated that up to 50 people have been killed in illegal immigration conflicts, the most recent being that at the Vaal Reef Gold Mines in the Free State in which

'Up to 50 people have been killed in illegal immigration conflicts'

14 people died and 56 people were injured.

What is the solution?

It is most certainly not short term, it is to be found in full co-operation with other SADC states. The protocol is most certainly a radical document and, according to some analysts, surpasses even the European Communities Schengen Treaty.

It can be argued that the programme to be implemented by the SADC is too radical and that Southern Africa does not have the finances and resources to tackle this huge

problem. It can be further argued that the protocol makes no attempt to address the problem of people flocking towards South Africa seeking greener pastures.

What is required is a series of trade agreements linked with other investment initiatives in mutual economic co-operation. This is a stronger measure than just introducing a free uncontrolled movement of people which can only lead to super-exploitation by big business.

The question is, will a protocol like this build the region and bring harmony, or will it deprive the region of good neighbours? Will a free movement of people and capital see a trek of South African industries north as witnessed with the signing of the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) when United States multi-national companies fled across the border to Mexico? There are already signs of this - it was recently reported that Christo Wiase's Rep Store Group is now based in Malawi. The reasons are obvious to say the least.

Determining the best policy on immigration for South Africa lies in creating a region in which each member state feels secure and where prosperity for all is the starting point.

Hoosain Kagee is a researcher in National Street Law

'Fewer firms' plan to cut work force

LABOUR turnover had slowed, emigration was down and the number of companies predicting a decline in the size of their work forces had fallen over the past year, a survey released yesterday shows.

The 1996-1997 Special Survey on Salary and Wage Movements and Labour Trends found that employees resigned to emigrate, citing crime and falling standards in education as their reasons. It said 92% cited violence and falling standards of living.

Most emigrants (29%) had headed for New Zealand, the United Kingdom (26%), the US and Canada (16%), and Australia (13%).

The survey by FSA-Contact found also that information technology, engineering and finance were areas most affected by emigration.

About 32% of respondents predicted a decrease in their overall work force size, compared with 35% in the previous survey 12 months ago, said Herriet Webster of FSA-Contact's Remuneration Information Services.

"Only 1% of labour turnover was attributed to emigration, compared with 8% the previous year," said Webster. While industrial action increased last year, most SA organisations did not expect strike action this year. — Sapa.

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THE GREAT TREK TO THE SOUTH

(236) AR4 23/1/93



Great Truck, the Great Trek in reverse – from Gauteng to Cape Town – as people from up north pack up and arrive in the Mother City

HANNES THART

Chameleon city: chronicling Cape Town's changes

Yes, that's a colourful chameleon you see on the mountain slopes in the logo for THE CHANGING CITY series in the Cape Argus.

It indicates that profound changes are under way in our region, the impetus coming from several directions and certain to mean that come the turn of the century, the Mother City will be a different place in many ways.

Whether the change is good or bad, it's happening now and it affects you – that's why the Cape Argus has committed a specialist team of journalists to ensure that you are fully informed about developments.

Today we begin the series with a detailed look at the Great Trek south, a phenomenon everybody's talking about. Track your city's transition in Cape Town's biggest, oldest, favourite newspaper

Editor's comment: Page 11



1990s Settlers: unloading the furniture of yet another newcomer from the north who has come to settle

THE CHANGING CITY



TRACKING A CITY IN TRANSITION

in Johannesburg and "commuted." He had clients in that category, and a personal friend who had opted for the safer environment and better lifestyle in the Cape. Also exerting a strong southwards tug

ANDREA WEISS

METRO CORRESPONDENT

In the Cape it has been rumoured for months, talked around endlessly, speculated about incessantly – but the facts of the situation remained elusive.

Now the Cape Argus has done the research and the details are clear: there is indeed an unprecedented migration from Gauteng to Cape Town and environs, involving thousands of people.

The Great Trek is being played out in reverse as the year 2000 approaches and Cape Town is beginning to undergo social changes on a scale not seen before. The Gauteng migration south is the most prominent new trend.

The demand for Cape properties from Gauteng residents shot up about 50 percent

last year. Furniture removal firms report a substantial increase in the number of people moving to Cape Town from Gauteng, in a trend which is a reversal of past patterns. Residential and commercial properties are in hot demand, making the Western Cape the most bullish property market in the country and sending house prices on an upward spiral.

Using the 15 percent figure supplied by estate agents against the number of properties sold in Cape Town and its environs, it is estimated that 1 600 people from Gauteng moved here in the past year alone. This figure does not include newcomers moving into rented accommodation or living with relatives.

Roger Gallagher, Cape regional director of Pam Golding Properties, said about one in six properties was being sold to people

from Gauteng. His company had sold 57 units to buyers from greater Johannesburg and 10 to clients from Pretoria, with a total value of more than R33-million, in the past three months.

Whereas the Gauteng market used to provide about 10 to 12 percent of sales, this had risen to between 14 and 16 percent, he said.

Four of the biggest removal firms in Cape Town confirm they are battling to find enough household goods to send back on return trips to Johannesburg because of demand for space from the north.

"I estimate that 50 percent more is coming down than going up," said Grey Benzie, local director of Ellihott International. Mr Benzie said another new phenomenon was families moving to Cape Town while spouses retained business interests

is the growing perception that while the economies of other provinces are sluggish at best, the Western Cape is set to power ahead.

Tony Hall, operations manager for Pickfords, also gave a figure of 50 percent more household goods coming to Cape Town than returning to Johannesburg.

He said that during the peak month over the season his firm brought about 66 000 cubic feet (the unit the industry uses to measure goods) south but sent back only 42 000 cubic feet.

Johan Retief, managing director of Retief JH Transport, the largest independent firm in the Western Cape, said there had been a turnaround in the past four years. Before that it had been easier to fill trucks returning to Johannesburg. He said that for every family moving to

Gauteng, about three would move to the Cape. This figure excluded employee transfers, where families did not have a choice about moving.

Andre Slootweg, assistant branch manager of Suttatford Van Lines Cape Town, said "without any doubt" the trend was a migration to Cape Town. Competition between the main removal firms to fill their vehicles was intense.

Mr Slootweg said month-ends and year-ends were usually very busy but this season about five trucks every other week had come from Gauteng, with only two going back carrying household goods from Cape Town.

"Cape Town, you might say, is the promised land," he said. **AR4-23-1-193**
Map of Cape Town in 2015: see page 10

see any difficulties After all, his presence was needed to upgrade new technology The last thing expected was a tangle of bureaucracy and red tape

Even after the green light was given, the situation didn't improve Temporary work permits at R360 a throw were enforced — renewable every three months

Since then, surveys by major bilateral chambers of commerce reveal members' frustration by the department's attitude They reckon immigration policies are acting as a brake on productivity and scaring away foreign investors, who have difficulty bringing in desperately needed skilled staff

Maren Schellschmidt, head of the SA-German Chamber's market research and law department, says a chamber survey found 19% of German companies in SA struggled to bring in workmen from Germany with the necessary skills

This in turn impedes the transfer of new technology She finds the need to renew temporary permits every three months infuriating And the cost is high R360 for a temporary permit and more than R5 000 for permanent residence

Ivor Feinberg, a director of attorneys Berkow Feinberg & Suliman, who spe-

cialises in work permit applications, says the rules have been rigidly applied for the past two years It is almost impossible to get permits for standard occupations and extremely difficult even for qualified engineers

Department spokesman Hennie Meyer says the charges are "to defray costs" Immigrants are selected by an independent committee The policies are specific and intended to ensure foreigners don't get jobs that can be filled by South Africans who are qualified or who can be trained He accepts it is difficult to train for a position quickly to fill an urgent need but claims people are allowed in to train locals

SA has a dearth of qualified technicians According to the Central Statistical Service, 992 technicians emigrated between January 1994 and September 1996

They won't be replaced quickly locally because of the falling number of apprentices National Industrial Council for the Engineering & Metallurgical Industries president Dave Thompson says 13 000 apprentices a year were indentured in the mid-Eighties Only about 5 000 are currently indentured

IMMIGRATION POLICY (236)

No ENTRY Fm 24/1/97

When a German company applied to the Department of Home Affairs to bring a specialised engineer to SA, it didn't fore-

There is a vast pool of skilled but unemployed people in Europe ready to come to SA In Germany, 4,5m or 11% of the labour force is unemployed Many worked for medium-sized factories which turned to automation or moved to countries where labour costs less Those people can boost SA's low productivity levels, improve its technology and increase its pool of local craftsmen by passing on skills

DAV Personnel Group MD Ingrid Kast says "If an engineer wants to work in SA, he has to come here, spend two or three weeks being interviewed, then go back and wait three months until he gets his papers He can give notice only then The whole process takes six months and an SA employer who needs an engineer urgently cannot wait that long"

She quotes a CSIR study which finds another 19 jobs are created by every overseas professional employed

But, she claims, several German companies that wanted to come to SA backed off and went to East Germany instead when they learnt how complex our immigration policies are and the difficulties experienced in bringing in trained staff ■

Now Durbanites join great trek south

ASHLEY SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

KwaZulu-Natal residents, tired of violence and crime, are quitting their own lush green province for the mountainous beauty and relatively safer life in Cape Town, adding to the southward trek changing the face and character of the Mother City.

Removal companies in Durban say they are being inundated with people planning the coast-to-coast trek

Ahmed Musthapa, administration manager of Pickford Removals in Durban, said that on average his company got four inquiries a day from families wanting to move to the Western Cape

"Pickfords started keeping a register of people inquiring about moving to Cape Town only in November but, to date, four families a day have approached us," he said

Although he did not want to speculate about the reasons for the exodus of Durbanites to the Mother City, he said many families had told him they had property and relatives in Cape Town

Crime also played an important part in

THE CHANGING CITY



TRACKING A CITY IN TRANSITION

their decision to move out of Durban, he said

Les Staats, branch manager of Stuttaford Van Lines in Durban, said that during the past two years his company had been inundated with inquiries from families wanting to move to Cape Town

"I believe Durbanites see Cape Town as a safe haven from the violence which has plagued KwaZulu-Natal for many years. Even living in the city is no fun any more. It has become a hell-hole"

Mr Staats said his son had told him after a recent holiday in Cape Town that the

ARG 24/1/97 (236)
atmosphere was much more relaxed here
"My son said it is safer and the vibes are better. He also told me there are better job prospects"

A Durbanite who moved to Cape Town two weeks ago said he was determined to make a success of his food retail business "far away from the high crime rate in Durban's city centre"

The man, who did not want to be named, said he wanted a better quality of life for his wife and two sons and that this had forced him to move from Durban

"The crime rate in the city centre is pretty bad but we did not experience any problems in Overport, where we lived. However, I could not open a business in a residential area, as turnover would have been extremely low"

He said he was "definitely not going to place my family at risk by opening my shop in the (Durban) city centre"

Bala Naidoo, director of communication for the Durban police, said that although crime in the Durban city centre was still at unacceptable levels, he did not believe Cape Town was in a better position.

It's 'the only place to be' - page 6

Desperately seeking the status quo

(236) ST 26/1/97

MARK HEIDEMANN is a 36-year-old motor mechanic. He works in Germiston and lives in suburban Edenvale with his wife and two young children. Last December 23, the Heidemanns received their "best Christmas gift ever" — visas welcoming them as immigrants to Australia.

By June they'll be on a plane to Sydney, where Heidemann has already lined up a job through a friend. They can hardly wait. "This country's going down and we've got to get out of here."

The Heidemanns don't expect to get homesick all they see in South Africa's future are people like themselves working harder, getting poorer and probably ending up as crime statistics into the bargain. Besides, they won't be lonely — so many of their friends and family are there already.

When the Heidemanns decided two years ago to move, they employed Australia and New Zealand Opportunities, one of a growing crop of firms capitalising on the emigration boom.

Last year, the company facilitated Australian residence permits for 450 families nationwide. This year, they expect the number of successful applicants to double. In the first nine months of 1996, almost 8 000 South Africans left on one-way tickets, Australia sharing the number one slot with Britain as the most popular destination.

The MD of Opportunities, Nigel Boast, wouldn't go so far as to call it an exodus — yet. "There's a steady flow, but the psychology of migration is a very sensitive nerve," he says. "A sudden depreciation of the rand or a particularly bad spate of crime can set it off. I'd say it's pretty raw right now."

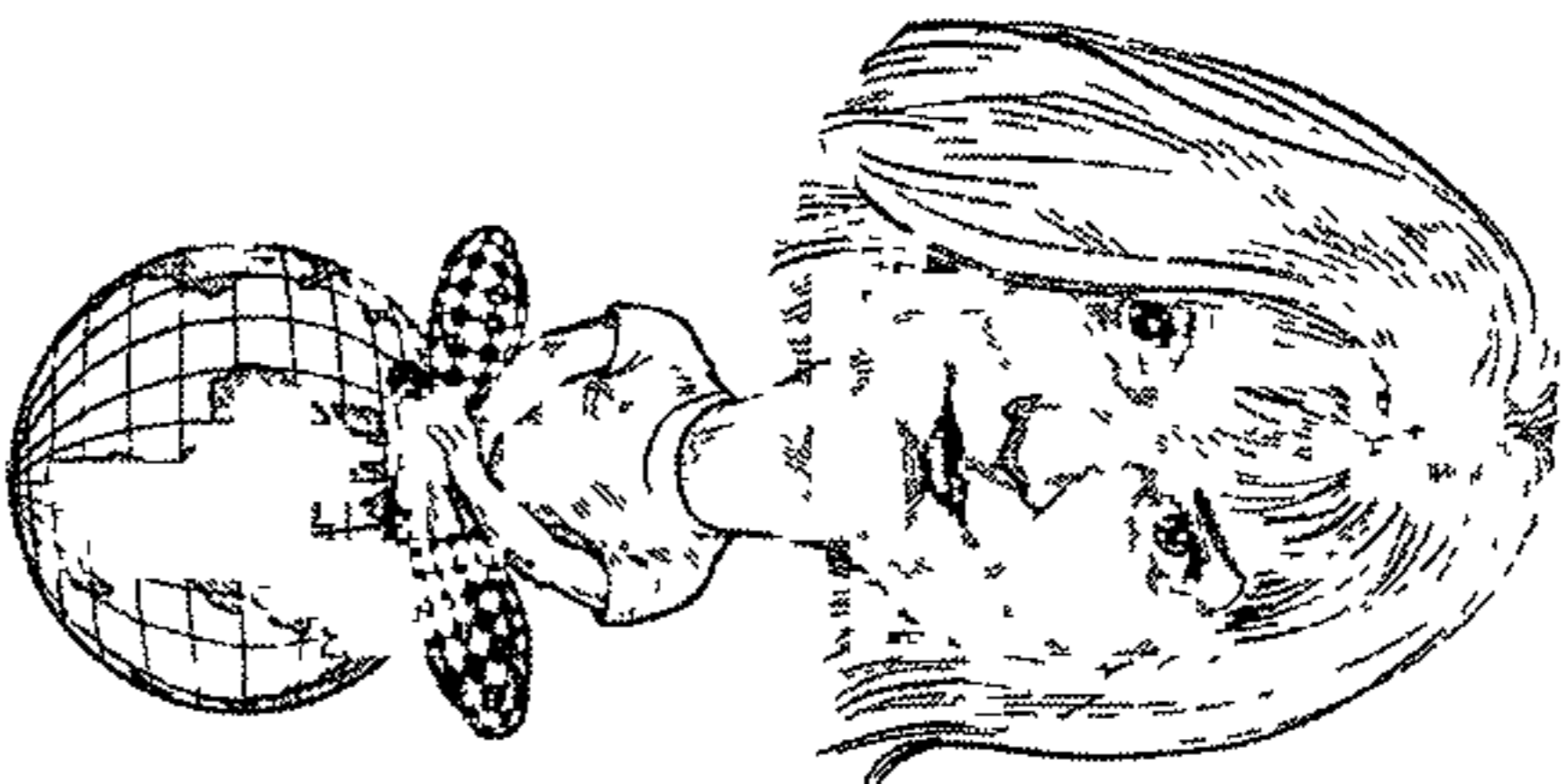
After the elections, there was a 100-day honeymoon in Durban, our weekly emigration seminars dropped to one a month.

But, as South Africa squares up to the realities of married life, the honeymoon's been relegated to a dusty snapshot in the family album. "Since then, we've had to move to the Musgrave Public Library to fit everyone in — we hold up to three seminars a week for approximately 160 people each time."

For about R12 000, the firm will handle the paperwork, find jobs via a video link-up whereby an applicant in Johannesburg can be interviewed by a prospective employer in Perth, and even pick immigrants up at the airport and install them in a hotel.

Last Monday night, I attended the weekly Johannesburg seminar held, fittingly enough, in Sandton. By 7pm there was standing room only. Couples silently took their seats, many clutching notebooks, while a video showed the sights and culinary delights of "marvellous

Charlotte Bauer's



World

Melbourne" A lone black couple stood out among a sea of anxious white faces. These are what one Australian newspaper dubbed the New Voortrekkers.

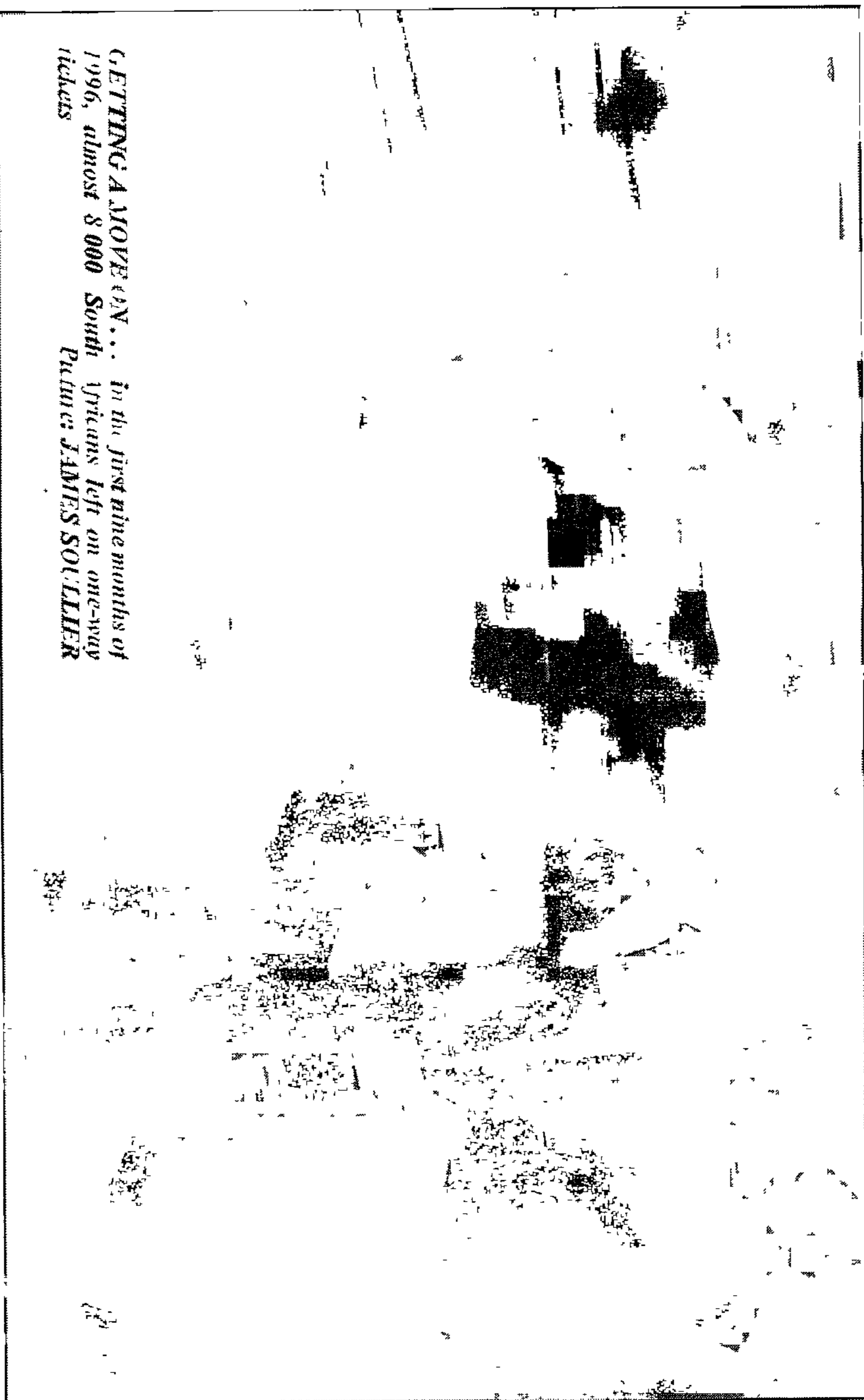
According to Boast, the profile of their typical migrant is changing. "Five years ago many of our clients tended to be well-established businessmen. These days they're regular guys with a trade or a degree and a couple of kids."

Is Mr Regular white? "Of course he's white," he replies, "and sometimes Indian." In six years of exporting people, Boast has only ever had one black client for Australia. So what was his problem, I wonder. "He had a white wife."

Throughout Monday's seminar, Boast — a lawyer with an MBA — subtly pressed home the similarities between Australia and South Africa. The Great Barrier Reef state, Queensland, is a big hit with clients from KwaZulu Natal and Brisbane is very much like Durban.

Johannesburgers tend to like Sydney because of its fast pace and Adelaide is like a bigger Maitzburg. As the video travelogue resumed, each Australian city's statistics flashed up — including the amount of sunshine per day.

The weather, it emerges, is a serious consideration. South African migrants, fed up with crime and the insecurities of no longer holding the trump card in the



GETTING A MOVE ON... in the just nine months of 1996, almost 8 000 South Africans left on one-way tickets. PICTURE: JAMES SOUTHER

new order, are a fussy lot who want first-world sophistication and third-world sunshine.

Though some are disconcerted to find they can't take their guns with them, South Africans are drawn to Australia for many reasons, not least because it offers all the comforts of home — outdoor living, a suburban temperament and cold beer — without the blacks.

AUSTRALIA'S aboriginals, once hunted as vermin, are invisible enough to ignore. Certainly, there aren't enough of them to win an election.

"Australia," Boast tells his clients, "is a non-racial environment." In practice this means non-racial with a white majority instead of a black one. Listening to people who have de-

cided to leave, one gets the feeling this is a big plus factor — though no one will say it explicitly.

Towards the end of the seminar Boast introduced the prospective clients to the dreaded "points system", by which dreams of living in a condo on Sydney Harbour hang or perish.

The audience grew tense with concentration as he explained Australia's ever-tightening immigration noose. Unless you have A\$750 000 to invest in Australian government bonds, a minimum of 115 points, won or lost according to age, skills and family ties, are required to gain permanent entry.

Then he explained that, if the rand depreciated much further, his company would be forced to start charging in dollars. The laughter that followed was brief and bitter.

plees queued up to buy an "Info Pack", which includes Australian classified adverts for cars and houses (cosy Dockside studio on Kangaroo Point, A\$88 000) and a useful glossary of local slang.

In Australia you don't lose your temper, you "spit the dummy" and when it's very hot Australians eat "icy poles (frozen lollies). But the most important word for immigrants to learn is "vaka" — it means work, and everybody wants it.

Mr and Mrs Average looked dazed but hopeful as they left the seminar for a place that, with a bit of luck and 115 points, they won't be calling home for very much longer.

On Tuesday evening, I drove even deeper North — Bryanston — to a lecture that was the polar opposite of Monday's. Dr Steve Burgess, an academic, business-

man and member of the Bahai Church, was giving a talk at the Karen McKerron Gallery. Irresistibly titled "Nine Reasons to Stay" South Africans, it seems, need not only to justify why they go, but why they don't.

Disappointingly, Burgess turned out to be American, though he hastened to assure his small audience he'd lived here for 20 years and intended to do so.

"Nine Reasons to Stay" was far from her than the nail-biting emigration

seminar. There were fewer people — no more than 30 — and once again they were, with a few exceptions, white.

"Why did you come here?" I boldly asked the room at large. A wag piped up. "We heard there were free snacks." But seriously folks, most had come to hear the good stuff about South Africa — a timely antidote to dinner party doom prophets and their tiresome fear and loathing predictions.

"We've been spoilt, we've lived in a cocoon," said Mr Free Snacks. "There's always been crime — we just didn't see it in our pristine little suburbs."

"When I go to Australia," said one woman, "I never see a black face. And she didn't mean it as a compliment."

ONE young couple admitted they were reluctantly considering leaving and had come in the hope of being dissuaded.

Burgess wasn't peddling miracles, or even short-term solutions. His number one reason to stay was the weather. Number two was "Racial Amity" — Burgess said he'd safely jogged through Alexandria, but had never felt worse racial tension than in Los Angeles.

And so it went. Much emphasis was placed on the virtue of all pulling together. South Africans value hard work, we invented plastic surgery and the Kreep-Krawly now we have a chance to bring meaning to our lives by making a contribution to the new society.

"Being part of building the rainbow nation gives one a sense of purpose not felt elsewhere," Burgess said. "The departure point for success was firmly stated. 'Whites are going to have to remove the picture — the propaganda — from their minds that we're a Eurocentric country where first-world living standards apply. We're not!'"

Afterwards I met a charming man called Lowell Johnson who said he'd lived in Hillbrow since 1963 and wouldn't dream of moving — even to the suburbs.

"The action is in Hillbrow — living in the centre of things is the only way to live as far as I'm concerned."

I ate a free snack and silently rejoiced.

Later, I drifted into the balmy night to drive to a maddening, fascinating, tormented, seductive place called home.

FARMERS LEAVING 'BECAUSE OF POOR CONDITIONS'

Trek to Moz is 'Economic'

(236) CT 29/1/97

THE TREK by South African farmers to Mozambique was driven not by racism but by a lack of farm land and poor farming conditions in their homeland, one of their leaders says.

"THIS is not another Great Trek," scoffs Dr Piet Gous, one of the leaders of the move of farmers to Mozambique.

He says the motivation for the project is simple economics. "South Africa is not an agriculturally friendly country. We don't have the land and we don't have the climate. The farmers are escaping drought and over-crowding."

The seeds of the Mosagrus Project — which has so far seen about a dozen farmers make the trek to the remote, far northern Mozambican province of Niassa — were planted in the mind of soil scientist Dr Gous two decades ago.

"I taught at the University of Wisconsin and got involved in similar programmes in Brazil and Argentina. The Americans spread their influence through economics, not through colonisation and it tickled me," he says.

When I returned to South Africa in the 70s I took a long, hard

look at the situation here. We have only about 11 million hectares of arable land of which only four million are high-potential.

"It was clear that it was only a question of time before the cost squeeze would cause a disaster — our production was too low, there was not enough good soil and there was not enough rain.

"That is exactly what happened in the 80s."

Gous approached the then department of foreign affairs with a view to encouraging active involvement in neighbouring countries, but at that time, politics would not allow it.

He was persistent, however, and eventually this paid off when, after the 1994 general election, he got the ears and the support of President Nelson Mandela and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.

Another factor had entered the equation by then — the millions of people streaming across the boarders into South Africa, desperate,

without the means to sustain themselves in their own countries.

"We had the knowledge, the expertise but not enough land and the wrong weather. They had the land and the weather, but not the knowledge," says Gous.

"With the borders becoming virtually non-existent, we had to start thinking about Southern Africa, not just South Africa."

And the ANC saw it the same way. So was born the South African Chamber for Agricultural Development in Africa, a joint government/private sector initiative that oversees the project.

Gous and his colleagues had their eyes on Mozambique, which has about 40 million hectares of agricultural land, most of it lying fallow.

"We had certain pre-conditions. The climate and soil had to be good and we didn't want to be in conflict with locals, so the chosen areas had to be sparsely populated."

Berra, he says, was too hot and humid for Highveld farmers, so they looked north, to Niassa, where the rainfall is good and the climate cool.

It took 18 months of fighting red-tape "because certain people were doing their best to sink the project". In October last year the final hurdles had been cleared and the first groups of farmers made the arduous, up to two-week journey via Zimbabwe and Malawi to Lichinga.

Most of the farmers have left in "groups" and some, like Gous, have elected to send relatives and friends on while they work the farms "back in the Republic".

He says there are three categories of farmers who have chosen to move: those with financial means who want a leg in two countries; "like me", those who want to be involved in agriculture but cannot expand their farms and cannot afford the exorbitant costs of farming in South Africa, and ordinary folk, like civil servants, who have lost their jobs because of affirmative action and need a new means of survival.

"It is not racism that is motivating these people — why would they go from one black-run country to another — but an entrepreneurial spirit, a sense of adventure and, most importantly, a vision — Own Correspondent



TAKING STOCK: Farmers Mr Ernst Baumgarten, Mr Lourens Lemmer, Mr Alwyn Barnard and Dr Piet Gous check a maize crop in Mozambique, where some South African farmers have settled

PICTURE: THE MERCURY

'Majority of new accountants leave SA'

Belinda Beresford

THREE-quarters of SA's chartered accountants leave SA soon after qualifying and only about a third of them return, research by international auditing firm Deloitte & Touche shows

Two senior members of Deloitte & Touche flew to London today in an attempt to lure some of these accountants back to SA

They are targeting about 100 accountants who have less than a year left on their UK visas. The firm will be holding a cocktail party in conjunction with a recruitment agency to expound on opportunities in SA.

Deloitte & Touche partner Chris Todd said yesterday that it had always

BD 29/1/97
been "part of the SA way for people to go overseas", but that now people were no longer committed to returning

Many of those spoken to by Deloitte & Touche had said crime and their fears about personal security had deterred them.

Todd said the result of the excess demand for newly qualified chartered accountants was that salaries were "very competitive"

This was backed by several accountants who said that total packages for newly qualified chartered accountants in accounting firms would typically range between R160 000 and R180 000 a year. For those working in commerce, packages could go up to R240 000.

One accountant, formerly at Ernst

(236)
& Young, said about 75% of the people he had worked with intended to go abroad. Many had also taken the British qualifying exams to make themselves "more saleable" in the UK.

Citing violence and crime as the primary reasons for leaving, he said that he was uncertain about whether he would return.

Although he would take a step down the career ladder by doing temporary work, it would give him the opportunity to work in London.

Another newly qualified chartered accountant also cited crime as the primary reason for leaving. She said that concerns about SA's economy and the high tax burden made it unlikely that she would return.

SA farmers happily put down new roots in Mozambique

(236) Star 30/1/97

By TAMIA BROUGHTON

Niassa, Mozambique – "This is not another Great Trek," scoffs Dr Piet Gous. As one of the patriarchs of the relocation of South African farmers to Mozambique, he explains that the philosophy of the project is one of simple economics.

"South Africa is not an agriculture-friendly country. We don't have the land and the climate. These farmers are escaping drought and overcrowding."

The seeds of the Mosagrus Project – which has so far seen about a dozen farmers make the trek to the far northern Mozambican province of Niassa – were planted in the mind of Gous, a soil scientist, two decades ago.

"I taught at the University of Wisconsin in the US and got involved in similar economic programmes in Brazil and Argentina. The Americans spread their influence through economics, not through colonisation, and it tickled me," he says.

"When I returned to South Africa in the 70s I took a long, hard look at the situation here. We have only about 11 million hectares of arable land of which only 4 million is high potential



At home in Niassa province ... farmers Ernst Baumgarten, Lourens Lemmer, Alwyn Barnard and Piet Gous check on the state of the maize crop.

"It was clear that it was only a question of time before the cost squeeze would cause a disaster. Our production was too low, there was not enough good soil and there was not enough rain

That is exactly what happened in South Africa in the 1980s." He approached the Department of Foreign Affairs with a view to encouraging active involvement in neighbouring

countries, but at that time, politics would not allow it. After the 1994 general election, he got the ears, and the support, of President Nelson Mandela, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki

and ANC provincial leader Jacob Zuma. Another factor had also entered the equation by then – the millions of people streaming across the borders into South Africa.

"With the borders becoming virtually non-existent, we had to start thinking about southern Africa, not just South Africa."

And the ANC saw it the same way. So was born the South African Chamber for Agricultural Development in Africa, a joint government/private initiative.

Gous and his colleagues had their eyes on Mozambique, which has about 40 million ha of agricultural land, most lying fallow. Berra, he says, was too hot and humid for Highveld farmers and so they looked north, to Niassa, where the rainfall is good and the climate cool.

In October last year, the final hurdles were cleared and the first groups made the journey via Zimbabwe and Malawi to Lichinga.

"It is not racism that is motivating these people – why would they go from one black-run country to another – but an entrepreneurial spirit and a vision. Whether they succeed depends on them. You have to have hair on your teeth to survive here."

Star 26/3/97

It was a (236) Human Rights Day to forget

By RODNEY VICTOR

Human Rights Day on Friday held little meaning for South African citizen Alfred Mokoena, arrested for the second time in two months on suspicion of being an illegal alien.

Mokoena, housekeeper to former chairman of the Booyens Community Policing Forum Mike Roup, was walking from home in La Rochelle to play soccer at Wemmer Pan.

He had taken to carrying his identity document with him since his arrest in February, when he was held incommunicado at the Lindela detention centre for illegal aliens near Randfontein for three days. So he was ready when a police van drew alongside. He showed his identity document, but the police confiscated it and bundled him into their van.

He told the captain at Booyens police station, but he refused to release him or return his document. He ordered Mokoena be sent to Lindela.

A friend saw Mokoena's arrest and alerted a nearby resident, Gunther Graf, who went to Mokoena's house and collected his South African passport.

The captain refused to accept that Mokoena's identity document and passport were valid, Graf said. He refused to contact the Booyens station commissioner Director Daniel Vermaak, who was aware of Mokoena's previous arrest and release. So Graf phoned Vermaak, who contacted the captain and ordered his release.

Mokoena said a number of other South Africans were arrested with him. He presumed they were shipped to Lindela.

He witnessed a number of serious human rights abuses, he said. Some of the police allegedly slapped people who said they were South Africans and protested at their arrests.

Vermaak could not be reached for comment yesterday.

STATE ALLOCATIONS (IN THOUSAND RANDBS) TO CERTAIN TECHNİKONS FOR 1995-96

TECHNIKON	1995-96				1996-97				Increase
	Funding level	Subsidy formula (R 000)	Ad hoc ¹⁾ (R 000)	Total (R 000)	Funding level	Subsidy formula (R 000)	Ad hoc ¹⁾ (R 000)	Total (R 000)	
Cape	0 611	76 664	12 952	89 616	0 682	89 529	20 391	109 920	22.7
Pretoria	0 611	98 896	18 152	117 048	0 682	135 329	30 359	165 688	41.6
Witwatersrand	0 611	78 733	16 034	94 767	0 682	96 155	25 766	121 921	28.7
Port Elizabeth	0 611	53 392	10 392	63 784	0 682	74 735	16 548	91 283	43.1
Natal	0 611	61 079	8 745	69 824	0 682	74 586	17 148	91 734	31.4
Penninsula	0 611	60 608	11 035	71 643	0 682	65 538	21 952	87 490	22.1
Transkei	0 760	20 849	9 731	30 580	0 745	28 823	8 136	36 959	20.9

- 1) *Ad hoc* amounts constitute contractual interest and redemption on loans capital allocations for new buildings financial aid to students property tax and purchases of land. Additional support to Transkei Technikon for its incorporation into the RSA is also included in the 1995-96 allocation.
- 2) The percentage increase in the subsidy formula amount of institutions cannot be compared because it is influenced by inter alia the growth in the number of students at each institution.

Subsidies to universities

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION

118 Mr R S SCHOEMAN asked the Minister of Education

- (a) What amounts in respect of the financial years (i) 1994-95, (ii) 1995-96 and (iii) 1996-97 were paid out by the State in subsidies to the (aa) University of Stellenbosch (bb) University of Cape Town, (cc) University of the Orange Free State (dd) Potchefstroomse Universiteit vir Christelike Hoer Onderwys, (ee) Rand Afrikaans University, (ff) University of Pretoria, (gg) University of the North (hh) University of Transkei, (ii) University of Venda (jj) University of Port Elizabeth (kk) University of Natal and (ll) University of Durban-Westville and (b) what did the increase or decrease in each case amount to?
- N206E

The subsidy formula allocations of the state for the 1994-95 1995-96 and 1996-97 financial years and the percentage increase in each instance are given in the table below according to university

- 1) Excluding *ad hoc* amounts constituting contractual interest and redemption on loans capital allocations for new buildings financial aid to students, property tax and purchase of land
- 2) The percentage increase in the subsidy formula amount of institutions cannot be compared because it is influenced by, inter alia the growth in the number of students at each institution
- 3) The Universities of Transkei and Venda were funded by the former TBVC states up to 1994/95

TABLE 1 STATE ALLOCATIONS 1) (IN THOUSANDS OF RANDB) TO CERTAIN UNIVERSITIES FOR 1994-95 1995-96 EN 1996-97

UNIVERSITY	STATE ALLOCATION				% INCREASE			
	1994-95 Funding level	1994-95 Subsidy formula amount (R 000)	1995-96 Funding level	1995-96 Subsidy formula amount (R 000)	1994-95 to 1995-96	1995-96 to 1996-97		
Stellenbosch	0 663	177 491	0 628	179 580	0 662	213 097	1.2%	18.7%
Cape Town	0 663	175 051	0 628	195 976	0 662	221 990	12.0%	13.3%
Orange Free State	0 663	112 800	0 628	118 810	0 662	144 268	5.3%	21.4%
Potchefstroom	0 663	92 882	0 628	98 457	0 662	124 761	6.0%	26.7%
RAT ¹⁾	0 663	105 759	0 628	116 209	0 662	154 813	9.9%	33.2%
Pretoria	0 663	294 719	0 628	289 898	0 662	362 225	-1.6%	24.9%
North	0 668	128 668	0 628	126 662	0 662	160 646	-1.6%	26.8%
Transkei			1 100	105 177	0 999	98 037		-6.8%
Venda			0 700	46 598	0 696	66 679		43.1%
Port Elizabeth	0 663	59 676	0 628	62 019	0 662	76 942	3.9%	24.1%
Natal	0 663	174 672	0 628	193 949	0 662	229 572	3.9%	24.1%

Refugees in South Africa (236)

140 Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Home Affairs

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

- (a) How many refugees are currently resident in South Africa (b)(i) of which countries are these refugees citizens and (ii) how many such refugees are there from each such country.
- (c) What steps has the Government taken to deal with such refugees while they are resident in South Africa and (d) in respect of each country of origin referred to above, what steps has the Government taken to deal
- (a) 3 229 Refugees are currently resident in South Africa
- (Also see note)
- (c) Recognised refugees are permitted to reside work and study anywhere in the country. Their residence is regularised in accordance with the provisions of the Aliens Control Act 1991 (Act No 96 of 1991)
- (d) The Government has not taken any steps to deal with such refugees repatriation to, or resettlement in, their countries of origin. This will only be done if and when the situation in their countries of origin has normalised
- Note In the case of refugees from Mozambique the following information has reference

(b) (i)	(b) (ii)
Afghanistan	4
Angola	2 018
Burundi	17
Bosnia/Herzegovina	1
Republic of Croatia	2
Ethiopia	1
Iraq	3
Iran	1
Liberia	9
Rwanda	77
Somalia	979
Sudan	4
Yugoslavia	46
Zaire	67

(a) The exact number is not known

(b) With the assistance of the United Nations High Commissioner 32 010 persons were voluntarily repatriated to Mozambique

(c) A large number of the refugees from Mozambique who opted to remain in South Africa have been granted exemption in terms of the Aliens Control Act, 1991 (Act No 96 of 1991)

Legislatures budget for administration

157 Mr A S BEYERS asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development +

- (a) What amount was budgeted for the administration of each of the Legislatures with regard to the latest specified financial year for which information is available and (b) what was the corresponding amount in this regard in each case in respect of the preceding financial year? N288E

THE MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The information is not readily available in my Ministry or the Department. In an effort to assist the hon member, the following information was obtained from the various provincial administrations

- Eastern Cape**
 (a) R1 5 336 000 (1996-1997)
 (b) R13 881 000 (1995-1996)
- Free State**
 (a) R15 685 000 (1996-1997)
 (b) R10 929 000 (1995-1996)
- Gauteng**
 (a) R55 136 000 (1996-1997)
 (b) R59 498 000 (1995-1996)
- KwaZulu-Natal**
 (a) R46 016 000 (1996-1997)
 (b) R26 381 000 (1995-1996)
- Mpumalanga**
 (a) R18 817 000 (1996-1997)
 (b) R20 233 000 (1995-1996)
- Northern Cape**
 (a) R10 362 000 (1996-1997)
 (b) R8 837 000 (1995-1996)
- Northern Province**
 (a) R28 280 000 (1996-1997)
 (b) R18 382 000 (1995-1996)
- North-West Province**
 (a) R20 788 000 (1996-1997)
 (b) R19 568 000 (1995-996)
- Western Cape**
 (a) R15 832 000 (1996-1997)

(b) R16 668 000 (1995-996)

The provinces have also provided me with the following budget estimates for the 1997/1998 financial year. These figures have however not been finally approved. The figures are as follows

- Eastern Cape** - R25 336 000 (1997-1998)
Free State - R17 610 000 (1 997-1 998)
Gauteng - R19 878 519 (1997-998)

Funding of political representation (R26 720 781) and education and public participation (R2 200 950) were listed as separate programmes under the 1997-98 budget. This accounts for the sharp decrease of the amount voted for the Administration of the Legislature in 1997-1998 in comparison to previous years

- KwaZulu-Natal** - R45 079 000 (1997-1998)
Mpumalanga - R21 056 872 (1997-1998)
Northern Cape - R11 842 000 (1997-1998)
N-Province - R22 797 000 (1997-1998)
N West - R24 295 000 (1997-1998)
Western Cape - R16 845 000 (1997-1998)

Department of Education: overtime

209 Mr TD LEE asked the Minister of Education

- (1) Whether public servants in his Department are still required to work overtime, also during weekends, to complete the work involved in the 1996 senior certificate examination, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so (a) why and (b) at what rate are these public servants remunerated for overtime work
- (2) whether this overtime work is due to (a) a shortage of staff, (b) staff inexperience and/or (c) a lack of management skills as a result of the process of rationalisation, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so what are the relevant details
- (3) whether with a view to saving costs, he or his Department will consider employing extra personnel on a temporary basis to perform such work during normal office

hours if not why not if so what are the relevant details? N350E

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

(1) No. The Senior Certificate examinations are not administered by my Department

(2) and (3) do not apply

Illegal immigrants deported

210 Mr I J PRETORIUS asked the Minister of Home Affairs

- (a) How many illegal immigrants were deported from South Africa in 1996 and (b) what was the percentage increase or decrease compared to (i) 1994 and (ii) 1995? N351E

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(a) 180 713

- (b) (i) 99% increase
 (ii) 15% increase

Illegal immigrants committing crimes

211 Mr I J PRETORIUS asked the Minister of Home Affairs

- (a) How many illegal immigrants (i) committed crimes and (ii) were the victims of crime in 1996 and (b) what was the percentage increase or decrease compared to (i) 1994 and (ii) 1995 in each case? N352E

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(a) and (b) No such statistics are kept. It is recommended that the hon member approach the South African Police Service for the required information

1997: 200 000 houses built

239 Mr J A RABIE asked the Minister of Housing +

Whether it is the intention to build 200 000 houses in 1997 if not what is the position in this regard if so (a) how many will be built in each specified (i) province (ii) town (iii) city and (iv) rural area and (b) what types of houses will be built? N387E

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING

No Housing delivery is however accelerating and it is expected that more than 190 000 houses will be built with government assistance during the 1997-98 financial year

The provision of affordable housing is an ongoing process undertaken by the various provincial governments. Information regarding the progress of programmes/projects which are carried out within the framework of Government's Housing Subsidy Scheme is not readily available at national level as projects are undertaken and monitored by the provincial administrations. However the Department of Housing is presently engaged in a process of collecting comprehensive data from provincial administrations in respect of each project which will be stored in the Department's Housing Information System which will enable the Department to provide the required information once the information system has been operationalised

It could however be confirmed that until 31 January 1997 138 459 individual ownership subsidies were approved in respect of beneficiaries who had bought residential properties. It should also be indicated that since the implementation of Government's Housing Subsidy Scheme on 15 March 1994 until 31 January 1997 388 830 subsidies have been reserved by the various provincial housing boards in respect of housing units to be erected in more than 660 projects approved by the provincial housing boards. At least 52% of these projects are active. The provincial breakdown of subsidies reserved and approved in respect of beneficiaries for the period 15 March 1994 until 31 January 1997 is provided in the accompanying table

SA profits hugely (236) from aliens

MAG 20-26/3/97

Marion Edmunds

THE Home Affairs Department has raked in more than R14-million since its decision last July to begin charging foreigners for their entry documents.

The department introduced the fees for applications for permanent residents, work, study, holiday and business permits and transit visas last year, arguing that it needed to cover processing costs and that the charges were in line with international practice.

It announced last week that the fee for permanent residence applications will go up on April 1 from R5 580 to R7 130 — a near 30% jump. Fees for work permit applications rose to R460 from R350.

Department figures this week show that between July and January, the department netted R7,74-million from permanent residence applicants, almost R5,9-million from applications for work, study, holiday and business permits, and R561 975 from transit visas.

Paying the fee does not guarantee a right to permanent residence, and if rejected, the money is not reimbursed.

At present, the department's interpretation of the laws governing immigration make it very difficult for individuals to anticipate whether or not their applications will be rejected.

Victims of the system are mystified as to how the fees were set, and why the processing needed for a permanent residence permit is so much higher than a work permit.

The department denied it had lifted fees for permanent residence applications. "It's not an increase in the ordinary sense of the word," a representative said, "but merely an adjustment to keep on par with the exchange rate."

Applications for permanent residence made abroad remain pegged at \$1 550. However, the difference between the rand/dollar exchange rate at the end of last July and this Tuesday was that the South African currency was marginally stronger — \$1 550 bought R6 866 on Tuesday, R47 less than it did last July.

The department said the cash raised had gone into the National Revenue Account. The Home Affairs Ministry received a R520,4-million budget for the 1997/98 financial year, up nearly one-third on last year's allocation.

Hairdressers and hawkers to protest

(236) (236)
Bonile Ngqiyaza

BD 14/3/97

A COMBINED group of hawkers and hairdressers is to launch a two-day national protest towards the end of the month in a bid to spur government to act against foreign street vendors trading illegally on SA streets.

The loose alliance, the Micro Businesses Against Crime and Illegal Foreigners Action Group, which is expected to spearhead the March 26-27 action, met yesterday in Johannesburg.

African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business president Lawrence Mavundla said that demonstrations would include marches and picketing the justice, safety and security and home affairs ministries.

He warned hawkers not to rely on the "corrupt SA Police Service" to do the job for them and the group agreed to approach unions and "SA's working population" to ask them to boycott merchandise sold by non-SA citizens.

sowetan 14/3/97
**Marches to protest
illegals immigrants**

By Themba Sepotokele

THE Micro Business Against Crime and Illegal Foreigners Action Group yesterday called on all South Africans to boycott buying from illegal immigrants and businesses that employ foreigners.

At a meeting in Johannesburg, the MBAC & FAC, comprising organisations such as the African Council of Hawkers and Informal Business and the Music Associations of South Africa, vowed not to bow until the Government addressed the influx of illegal immigrants into the country

Chief executive officer of Micro Business Chamber and Achib deputy

Mr Frans Moleko said the Government was too lenient in dealing with the issue and that is why the situation was out of hand

Boycott

The organisations have called on all people to boycott businesses that employ illegal immigrants and to cease trading with illegals.

They resolved to stage sit-ins and hold marches across the country on March 26 and 27 to register their disapproval of what they say is Government reluctance to deal with the issue. Moleko said hawkers' organisations were dissatisfied with foreigners trading without permits

Asylum rush swamps government

(236) m+G 14-19/3/97

South Africa is such a popular refugee destination that Home Affairs is swamped, reports **Marion Edmunds**

THE Department of Home Affairs is swamped with so many applicants for political asylum it is contemplating setting up reception centres around the country to accommodate them while they wait for their cases to be heard.

More than 800 people apply for political asylum in South Africa every month — a number that has been increasing exponentially since South Africa started accepting refugees under United Nations guidelines in 1993. In a good month the Department of Home Affairs processes only 20 to 30.

The numbers reflect primarily an increase in asylum seekers from elsewhere in Africa — Nigerians fleeing the repression in their country and Somalians escaping the chaos of their. There are growing numbers from the conflict ridden Great Lakes region. But large numbers also have come here from India — second only to Nigeria in the number of applications pending from Pakistan, Senegal and Bulgaria.

Of more than 23 000 applications in the department files on January 31, nearly half had not yet been processed.

The department acknowledged its problems in coping with the influx of refugees at a conference in Mpumalanga with members of the Green Paper Task Group on Migration and Immigration, and specialists in the field of refugee work.

The task group has spent this week working on a rough draft of a new refugee policy, with the goal of clarifying who should and who should not be granted asylum and of redesigning the system to accommodate them. It will replace a Bill the department drafted and then put on hold to allow the task group to start from scratch.

While Home Affairs has done as well as can be expected with its limited resources to set up a progressive system that complies with international refugee law, refugee specialists say its programme is not working. Relief workers are concerned about further strain on the system with refugees expected from the Great Lakes conflict.

Every relief worker has a horror story. A tireless worker with refugees, Sister Joan Pearson of the Sisters of Mercy, told how the Catholic church had taken on a group of some 130 refugees from all over Africa who, after four years of waiting for Home Affairs to process their applications, became angry. They staged a protest last July outside the Union Buildings and were forced to retreat to the Catholic church, which set them up in a camp in Garankuwa where they still live — the majority in tents — waiting for their applications to be processed.

"These are all professionals — engineers, administrators, teachers. And they are particularly worried about their children who, until they are formally granted refugee status, do not have access to schools."

"We have to provide them with everything because they are not allowed to work, and they feel very unwanted. People have dropped pamphlets off at their homes telling them to go away because they are foreigners," she said.



Africa on the move: Political conflict has driven refugees into countries such as South Africa

PHOTO AP

Pearson and task group members such as Zanele Mbeki argue that the government, in conjunction with non-governmental organisations, should set up resettlement centres to provide newcomers — such as the 130 who fled from African states — with a base from which to work out their next steps. Currently refugees have to find their own accommodation, usually in the slums.

The Catholic church is already negotiating with the Gauteng provincial government to use the old Johannesburg Hospital as a reception centre where refugees can seek sanctuary in their first few days in South Africa.

But setting up separate refugee settlements could create more problems than it solves — particularly given that the government is unable to provide food, shelter and education for its poorest citizens. Refugee specialists are also concerned that it could inflame the xenophobia already felt by many South Africans.

International refugee expert professor James Hathaway from the Osgoode Hall Law School of York University, urged the task group to balance human rights principles against the practical realities of South Africa in the formulation of laws and policy. He said South Africa ought to promote burden-sharing — where states in a region share the responsibility of accommodating refugees, and this would mean extensive negotiations with Southern African Development Community countries to work out a common approach.

He also warned the task group that it would be drawing up policy at a time when many countries were sealing their borders and hardening their hearts.

South Africa's reputation as "a paradise in Africa" means it is a favoured destination for

Africa's more than seven million refugees — about one third of the total world refugee population.

A representative from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, Bruno Geddo, described the average refugee in South Africa as a young man, between 20 and 30 years of age with between seven and 12 years of schooling and an urban background. Only 5.4% of recognised refugees are female and 5.6% children.

Geddo said refugees in South Africa survived by hawking, piece work and hand-outs from relief organisations. Most, he said, were interested in setting up their own businesses and younger people were wanting education.

In South Africa, refugees have freedom to move where they want within the country, a privilege not usually extended to refugees elsewhere, making South Africa an even more attractive destination. Many, once they arrive in South Africa, travel further south, to lodge their applications in Cape Town, saying that the queues are shorter, the people friendlier and the officials less corrupt.

However, all speakers identified as a major problem the xenophobia of South Africans who feel that outsiders — whether refugees or illegal immigrants — are threatening their livelihood.

The chairman of the task group, Idasa's executive director Wilmot James, told the conference that legislation governing refugees would probably be tabled in Parliament early in 1988, a year before the elections. It is feared that South Africans' antagonism towards immigrants and refugees will be exploited to get votes. "It's quite important for this issue of refugees to be depoliticised and this will require political leadership and a great deal of public education," said James this week.

Refugee applications pending as at January 31 1997

COUNTRY	NUMBER
Algeria	10
Angola	10
Bhutan	10
Burma	10
Cambodia	10
Chad	10
Cuba	10
Czech Republic	10
Dominican Republic	10
Egypt	10
Ethiopia	10
Guatemala	10
Haiti	10
India	10
Indonesia	10
Iran	10
Italy	10
Jamaica	10
Kenya	10
Laos	10
Lebanon	10
Malawi	10
Mali	10
Mexico	10
Moldova	10
Morocco	10
Niger	10
Nigeria	10
Pakistan	10
Peru	10
Romania	10
Russia	10
Senegal	10
Somalia	10
Sri Lanka	10
Tanzania	10
Togo	10
Tunisia	10
Uganda	10
Ukraine	10
USA	10
Vietnam	10
Yemen	10
Zimbabwe	10
TOTAL	13 279

SOURCE: UNHCR PRETORIA

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(a) 5 213— Statistics kept by Central Statistical Service, are presently available for the period 1 January 1996 to 30 September 1996, only

(b) According to Central Statistical Service a breakdown in countries of destination is presently not possible. However, the contents of destination and related statistics are as follows

Europe	1 088
Oceania	1 945
Americas	1 224
Asia and Middle East	218
Africa	694
Unspecified	44

Number of economically active emigrants

30 Mr I J PRETORIUS asked the Minister of Home Affairs †

How many economically active emigrants left the Republic during the period 1 November 1995 up to the latest specified date for which information is available?

N40E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

4 862— According to Central Statistical Service, statistics are only available for the period 1 November 1995 to 30 September 1996

Immigrants: statistics

31 Mr B C BESTER asked the Minister of Home Affairs †

How many immigrants that settled in the Republic during the period 1 November 1995 to 31 October originated from (a) Europe, (b) Africa, (c) North America, (d) South America, (e) the Middle East, (f) India (g) Japan, (h) Taiwan, (i) Hong Kong, (j) the

Hansard

Peoples' Republic of China, (k) Russia, (l) Australia, (m) New Zealand and (n) Cuba? N41E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

The statistics, obtained from Central Statistical Service and which are only available for the period 1 November 1995 to 30 September 1996, are furnished in the Annexure

Annexure

Immigrants who originated from the continents and countries, as indicated hereunder, for the period 1 November 1995 to 30 September 1996

Continents/Countries	Immigrants
Europe	2 153
Africa	137
North America	209
South America	41
Middle East	105
India	309
Japan	9
Taiwan	205
Hong Kong	19
The Peoples' Republic of China	113
Russia	82
Australia	56
New Zealand	17
Cuba	0

Emigrants: statistics

32 Mr B C BESTER asked the Minister of Home Affairs †

How many emigrants emigrated to (a) continents in (i) Europe, (ii) Africa, (iii) North America, (iv) South America and (v) the Middle East, (b) India, (c) Japan, (d) Taiwan,

(e) Hong Kong, (f) the Peoples' Republic of China, (g) Russia, (h) Australia, (i) New Zealand and (j) Cuba during the period 1 November 1995 to 31 October 1996? N42E

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

The statistics, obtained from the Central Statistical Service and which are only available for the period 1 November 1995 to 30 September 1996, are furnished in the Annexure

Annexure

Emigrants who emigrated to countries in the continents and countries as indicated hereunder, for the period 1 November 1995 to 30 September 1996

Continents/Countries	Emigrants
Europe	3 114
Africa	1 096
North America	190
South America	60
Middle East	260
India	19
Japan	9
Taiwan	24
Hong Kong	21
The Peoples' Republic of China	0
Russia	0
Australia	1 705
New Zealand	1 117
Cuba	5

List of commercial state assets

43 Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister for Public Enterprises

Whether, which reference to her reply to Question No 7 on 20 March 1996, the compilation of the list

of commercial state assets has been completed if not, why not, if so, (a) what assets does the list include and (b) what is the total value of these assets? N78E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

The process of compiling the list of state assets comprising those of a commercial nature involving the Ministry for Public Enterprises and those of a non-commercial nature, resorting under the Ministry of Public Works and Land Affairs, is ongoing. It is not a straightforward nor a simple task and involves substantial consultation interactive communication and cross correlation with a large number of departments, agencies and interest groups. At a later stage the value of the assets will be determined

(a) The list is not complete due to the process of compilation as described above

(b) Accordingly the total value of the assets cannot as yet be determined

Electricity: amount used/amount charged

44 Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister for Public Enterprises

In respect of the 1995-96 financial year, (a) what amount of electricity was used, (b) what amount was charged for this electricity and (c) what amount was still owed to Eskom in payments for electricity in each of the provinces as at the latest specified date for which information is available? N79E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

(a) and (b) Eskom's financial year is from 1 January to 31 December. Eskom sold 165 089 Gwh during 1996 at a price of R18 656,1 million

(c) Local Authorities owed Eskom R196,1m and individual customers R419,9m for the period ending 31 December 1996. The above figures exclude interest

Hansard

During 1996 Eskom entered into a number of bulk debt agreements with local authorities which will result in the recovery of substantial amounts. Towards the end of 1996 a debt agreement for individual (domestic) customers was developed with meaningful influence from stakeholders. These agreements will be entered into, on an individual basis during 1997.

The outstanding amounts per province are as follows

Province	Bulk Debt Rm	Individual Debt Rm
Gauteng	113,6	293,4
Eastern Cape	21,8	12,3
Western Cape	11,3	3,3
Free State	11,4	18,9
Mpumalanga	26,3	35,5
Northern Province	7,8	28,7
KwaZulu-Natal	3,9	27,8
Total	196,1	419,9

No debts are outstanding in respect of North West Province and North Cape

Home Affairs: training

55 Ms N E PHAKATHI asked the Minister of Home Affairs

Whether training (a) in public relations and (b) in respect of service standards has been made compulsory for staff working in sub-offices of his Departments, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

NI08E

(a) and (b) Yes. A course in client relations is compulsory for all staff dealing with the public as well as for various other occupa-

ional classes. A variety of other courses ensure that staff are adequately trained in respect of service standards. Details of courses conducted during 1995 and 1996 are as follows

Courses	1995		1996	
	Number of Courses	Number of Participants	Number of Courses	Number of Participants
Course for Office Heads	3	87	2	40
Course for Junior Managers	5	64	7	95
Introduction to Junior Managers	13	182	13	194
Course for Instructors	2	24	6	69
Course in Client Relations	44	750	32	447
Orientation of Newcomers (Including Distance Training)	13	461	12	160
Orientation of integrated personnel	9	233	-	-
Training of Consular Personnel	-	14	-	7
Seminar in Client Service	5	72	-	-
Seminar in Personnel Evaluation	-	-	3	71
Combined Course Orientation and Client Relations	-	-	3	28
Management Workshop	-	-	1	26
Seminar for Secretaries/ Switchboard Operators	-	-	1	7
Course for Middle Managers	-	-	1	19
TOTAL	94	1 887	81	1 163

Emigrants/immigrants: statistics

66 Mr F J VAN DEVENTER asked the Minister of Home Affairs †

How many persons in the occupational categories of (a) medical practitioners, (b) engineers, (c) computer experts and auditors, (d) architects, (e) teachers and lecturers and (f) farmers (i) emigrated from the Republic and (ii) immigrated to the Republic during the period 1 November 1995 up to the latest specified date for which information is available?

NI22E

Hansard

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

The statistics, obtained from Central Statistical Service and which are only available for the period 1 November 1995 to 30 September 1996, are furnished in the Annexure

Emigrants and Immigrants per occupation for the period 1 November 1995 to September 1996

Occupation	Emigrants	Immigrants
Medical practitioners	102	72
Engineers	312	216
Computer experts and auditors	361	79
Architects	28	10
Teachers and lecturers	324	120
Farmers	28	15

Number of immigrants

67 Mr A G MOHAMED asked the Minister of Home Affairs

How many immigrants from (a) the European continent, (b) India, (c) Pakistan, (d) Taiwan, (e) South American countries, (f) African countries, (g) Hong Kong, (h) Canada, (i) the United Kingdom and (j) countries in the Middle East received permanent residence in 1996?

NI23E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(a) European continent	946
(b) India	245
(c) Pakistan	46
(d) Taiwan	172
(e) South American countries	38
(f) African countries	1174
(g) Hong Kong	19
(h) Canada	25
(i) United Kingdom	816
(j) Middle Eastern countries	86

NOTE

The statistics, obtained from Central Statistical Service are only available for the period 1 January 1996 to 30 September 1996

Eskom: outstanding payments by bulk users

70 Dr D J DE VILLIERS asked the Minister for Public Enterprises †

(a) What amounts in outstanding payments by bulk users in each of the provinces were owing to Eskom in 1996 and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

NI26E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

(a) and (b) The outstanding amounts owed to Eskom by bulk users per province at 31 December 1996, were as follows

(a) and (b) The outstanding amounts owed to Eskom by bulk users per province at 31 December 1996, were as follows

Province	Rm
Gauteng	113,6
Eastern Cape	21,8
Western Cape	11,3
Free State	11,4
Mpumalanga	26,3
Northern Province	7,8
KwaZulu-Natal	3,9
Total	196,1

The chairperson of the SABC has informed me as follows

Number of listeners to radio stations

71 Mr J J DOWRY asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting †

What was the total number of listeners of (a)

Emigrants/Immigrants: various occupational groups (236)

136 Ms M SMUTS asked the Minister of Home Affairs

N225E

How many persons in the occupational groups (a) managerial, executive and administrative, (b) clerical and sales, (c) professional, semi-professional and technical, (d) transport, delivery and communication, (e) farming and related occupations, (f) service providers, (g) production foremen and supervisors, (h)

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

The statistics, obtained from Central Statistical Service and which are only available for the period 1 January 1995 to 30 September 1996, are furnished in the Annexure

Occupation	Immigrants		Emigrants	
	1995	Jan to Sept 1996	1995	Jan to Sept 1996
(a) Managerial Executive and Administrative	374	358	664	562
(b) Clerical and sales	250	230	861	722
(c) Professional, Semi-Professional and Technical	798	651	1 680	1 585
(d) Transport, Delivery and Communication	7	15	41	17
(e) Farming and related occupations	5	14	26	22
(f) Service Providers	79	67	102	87
(g) Production Foremen and Supervisors	58	45	40	29
(h) Mineworkers and Quarryworkers	*	*	*	*
(i) Artisans and Apprentices	103	85	319	271
(j) Other specified occupations	88	62	793	828

(*) Not available, included in category (g)

mineworkers and quarry workers, (i) artisans and apprentices and (j) other specified occupations (i) emigrated from, and (ii) immigrated to South Africa in 1995 and 1996, respectively?

Emigrants: statistics (236)

137 Ms M SMUTS asked the Minister of Home Affairs

How many persons emigrated from the Republic to (a) countries in (i) Europe, (ii) Africa, (iii) North America, (iv) South America and (v) the Middle East and (b) (i) India (ii) Japan, (iii) Taiwan, (iv) Hong Kong, (v) the Peoples' Republic of China, (vi) Russia, (vii) Australia and New Zealand and (viii) Cuba in 1995 and 1996, respectively?

N226E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

The statistics, obtained from Central Statistical Service and which are only available for the period 1 January 1995 to 30 September 1996, are furnished in the Annexure

Continents/Countries	Immigrants	
	1995	Jan to Sept 1996
Europe	2 963	2 641
Africa	1 114	896
North America	1 561	1 34
South America	51	43
Middle East	281	219
India	25	15
Japan	13	6
Taiwan	46	18
Hong Kong	27	17
The Peoples' Republic of China	4	9
Russia	0	0
Australia and New Zealand	2 446	2 378
Kuba	0	0

Immigrants: statistics (236)

138 Ms M SMUTS asked the Minister of Home Affairs

How many immigrants to the Republic originated from (a) Europe, (b) Africa, (c) North America, (d) South America, (e) the Middle East, (f) India, (g) Japan, (h) Taiwan, (i) Hong Kong, (j) the Peoples' Republic of China (k) Russia, (l) Australia and New Zealand and (m) Cuba in 1995 and 1996, respectively?

N227E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

The statistics, obtained from Central Statistical Service and which are only available for the period 1 January 1995 to 30 September 1996 are furnished in the Annexure

Continents/Countries	Immigrants	
	1995	Jan to Sept 1996
Europe	2 272	1 762
Africa	1 304	1 174
North America	238	167
South America	43	38
Middle East	136	86
India	303	245
Japan	4	9
Taiwan	247	172
Hong Kong	56	19
The Peoples' Republic of China	112	113
Russia	80	66
Australia and New Zealand	85	68
Kuba	0	0

Immigrante, afkomstig uit die vastelande en lande soos hieronder aangedui, vir die tydperk 1 Januarie 1995 tot 30 September 1996

Foreign artist held at police whim

(236)

M+G

7-13/3/97

Aliens are arrested and imprisoned without consideration for their rights, reports **Marion Edmunds**

RAPHAEL MAVUDZI was not the first visitor to South Africa from north of the border to fail to have his papers in order. Nor was he the first to be arrested for that failure, under the Aliens Control Act, and thrown into the dismal holding cells of the Sea Point police station.

But unlike the six men packed into the tiny cell with him, waiting for the police to take some action, Mavudzi, a respected sculptor from Zimbabwe, knew he had the right to a lawyer. And a series of phone calls from friend to friend brought Cape Town attorney Gary Eisenberg to his cell.

Mavudzi, who had been invited to South Africa in April by the Bartel Arts Trust in Durban, had been in police custody for two days by the time Eisenberg got to him, following a tip-off from a friend.

"The conditions were appalling and unhygienic," said Mavudzi at the weekend, just before he flew home.

"The blankets were wet with pee and there was garbage on the floor so we had to beg them for a broom to sweep it up.

"The police did not treat us with dignity. The food was awful — there were no washing facilities. We had to buy our own drinks."

By the time Eisenberg had got Mavudzi out of the cell, the rest of the men in the cell had signed themselves up as his clients. Until they had met Mavudzi, none had known they were entitled to legal counsel, or that they could challenge the law under which they were held on its lack of constitutionality. Nobody had read them their rights.

"I went to the cells and saw a bunch of people in little cages," Eisenberg said.

"Some of the people I spoke to had valid holiday permits, but had been arrested on suspicion of working or hawking illegally. Home Affairs did not interview the people they were holding in the cells and it is clear from what I saw they do not assess each case on its own merits."

Mavudzi said negotiations between Eisenberg and the Barrack Street Home Affairs Department had been slow because they had not been able to raise anybody on Friday. Most senior officials were at a party to bid farewell to a senior director, who was leaving to set up a private immigration consultancy.

Between cellphone calls to Home Affairs officials, Eisenberg started chatting to

Mavudzi about his artwork and soon they were swapping notes on cubism, Picasso and the influence of African art on European artists.

Eisenberg offered to provide a R1 900 deposit to Home Affairs to release Mavudzi — the deposit is supposed to be refunded once Mavudzi crosses the border — and helped Mavudzi buy his artwork to Harare.

He also gave Mavudzi cash, which Eisenberg said he needed because he could not return to his wife and son empty-handed.

In exchange, Mavudzi sold Eisenberg a sculpture, and left a number behind for Eisenberg to sell for him through tourist shops. The sculptures fetch between R15 000 and R30 000.

Mavudzi came to South Africa six months ago.

invited by art gallery curators to conduct stone sculpture workshops with victims of the KwaZulu-Natal war as part of a rehabilitation therapy. He displayed two sculptures at the Zimbabwe National Gallery in 1993 and 1994. The acting exhibition director, Rose Weston, said the works were original and differed from curio-type sculptures.

The sculptures had been called *The Bomb-blast Victim* and *The Sleep-walker*.

Mavudzi was to have done a further workshop at the South African National Gallery in Cape Town this week. But officials had refused to give him a work permit because he was an artist. He had to travel instead on a holiday visa.

"It's very difficult to come to South Africa from Zimbabwe. I do rehabilitative work with young people of all races and art to me has no boundaries," he said.

"It's not because I want to leave my country that I'm here, but because I want to expand my knowledge and share my experience with all people."

Home Affairs refused to give Mavudzi a work permit because he was an artist

Eisenberg organised the release of the rest of the other detainees on condition that they would see themselves out of the country by train.

He said this week that he will make it a habit to check on the holding cells from time to time. His anger is not directed at the Home Affairs officials, but at the law that prompts and governs their actions, which he says is unconstitutional.

"The Constitution says nobody can be detained after arrest for longer than 48 hours, but the Act allows Home Affairs to detain immigrants indefinitely without them being formally charged," he adds.

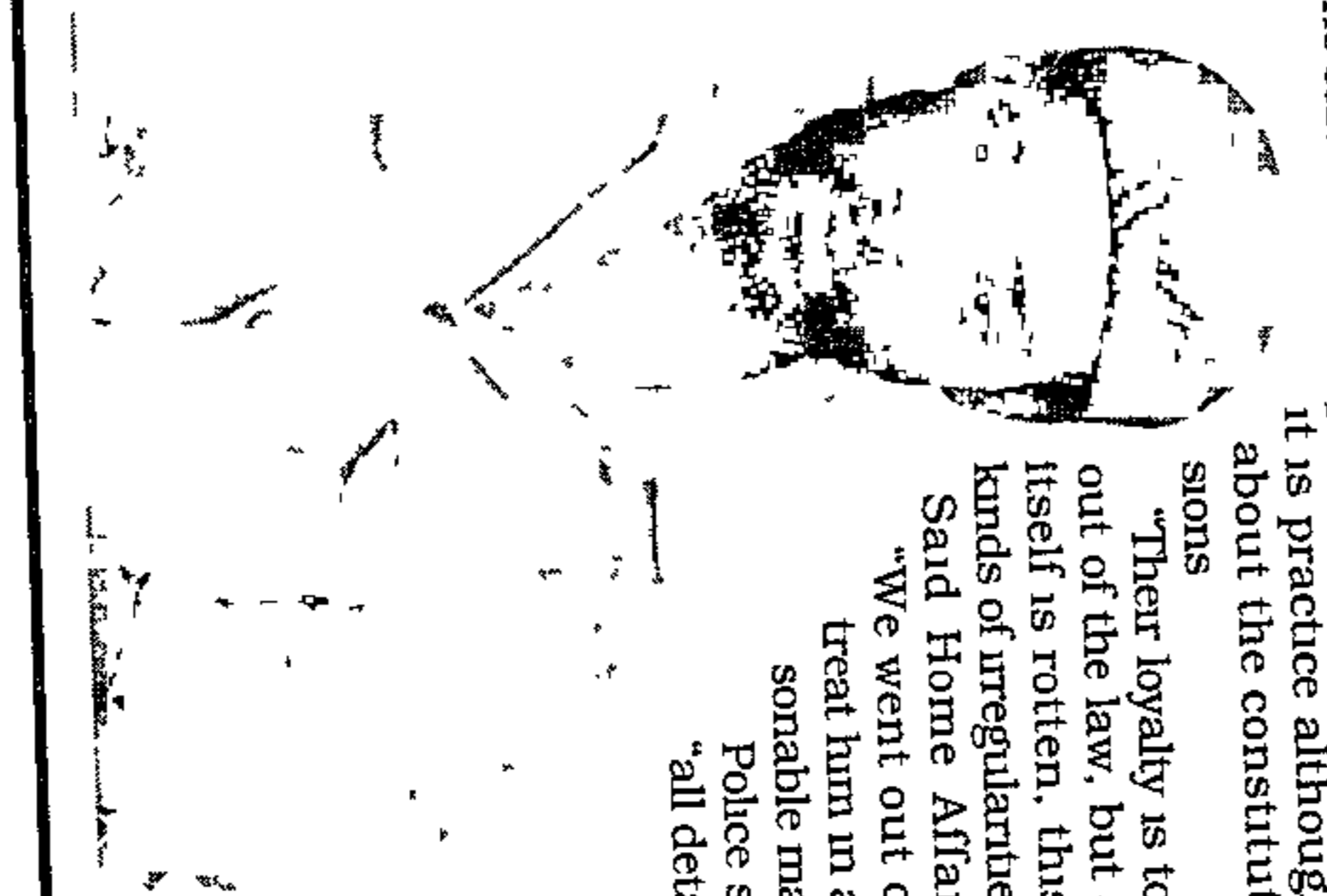
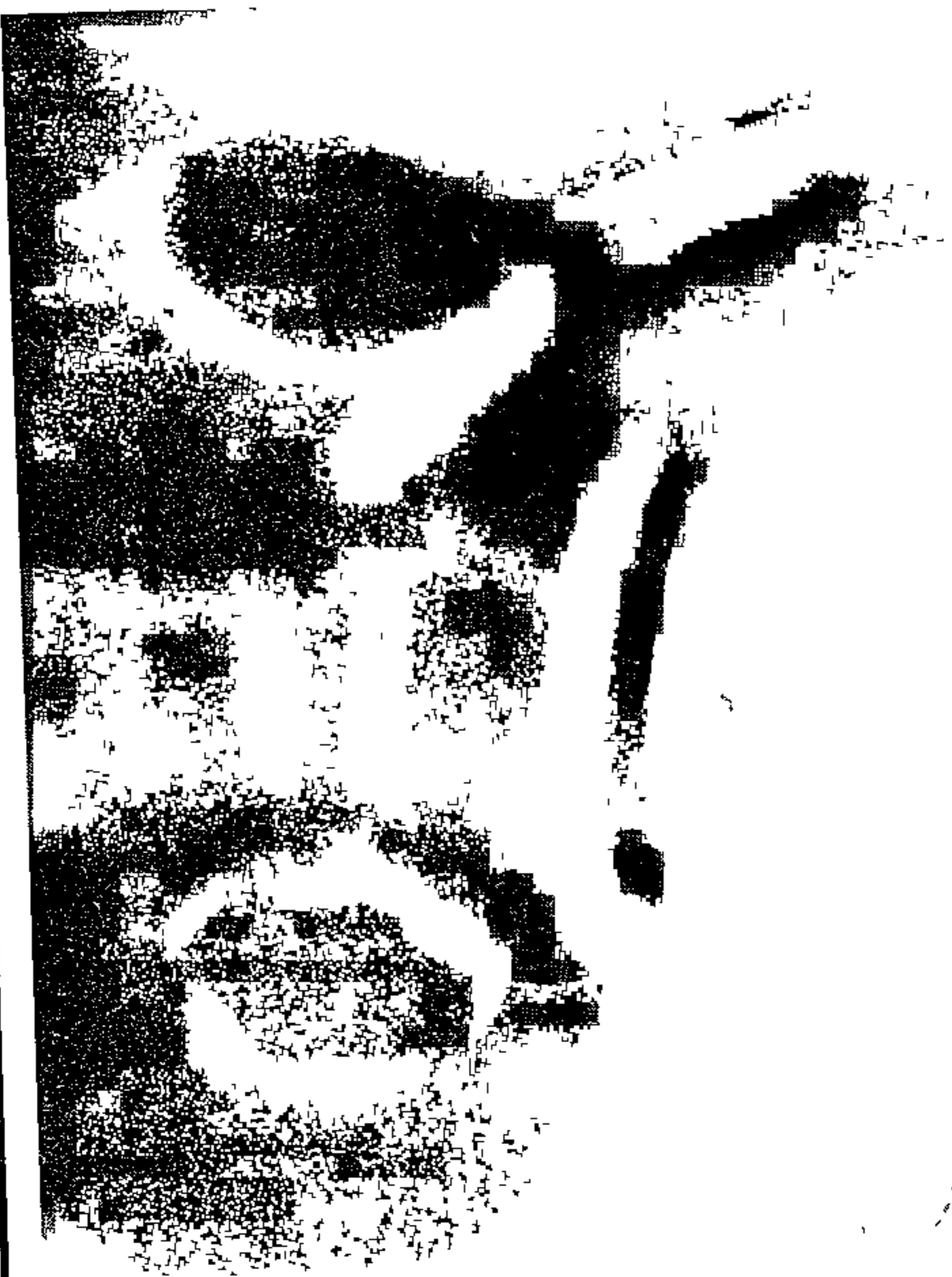
"Home Affairs officials say they persist in following this rule because it is practice although they know about the constitutional provisions.

"Their loyalty is to the carrying out of the law, but since the law itself is rotten, this leads to all kinds of irregularities."

Said Home Affairs officials: "We went out of our way to treat him in a fair and reasonable manner." Police said they treat "all detainees well."

Artist and his work- Respected Zimbabwean sculptor Raphael Mavudzi

PHOTO
RODGER BOSCH/
1-AFRICA



'No evidence' of
ill treatment at
refugees' centre

Pearl Sepolao

(236)

BD 6/3/97

THE SA Human Rights Commission found no evidence of alleged ill treatment of illegal immigrants at a refugee centre in Randfontein for illegal aliens prior to their deportation.

The Lindela Centre, administered by the Dyambu Trust, came under scrutiny last month after Democratic Party leader Tony Leon lodged a complaint with the commission following media reports of alleged abuses at the centre — including that guards regularly beat inmates.

It was also alleged they were not permitted to talk between meals, and were fed at 3pm then locked up.

The commission said that it had conducted a thorough two-hour inspection, including random interviews, at Lindela Centre and Dyambu Youth Centre, which housed about 300 children.

It also said officials' presence at interviews might have had "the effect of inhibiting more explicit answers", but it took the view that the centre was properly run and well maintained.

Gestapo-style crackdown on expat teachers

BRONWEN ROBERTS
DAILY CORRESPONDENT

East London - Teachers from as far as Ghana and India who packed their bags and families on a mercy mission to teach desperate rural Eastern Cape children, have been kicked in the teeth by the Home Affairs Department. Some of the volunteer Samaritans, who provide a priceless service to a region with few maths and science teachers, were given 72 hours to leave the country this week. And Umtata government officials moved Gestapo style from school to school, asking foreign teachers for their papers, dismissing their visas and threatening them with arrest.

But the threatened expulsion of expatriate teachers from the Eastern Cape which raised the ugly racist spectre of Idi Amin's cruel expulsion of Indians from Uganda in the 1970s appears to have been just another bureaucratic bungle. Last month the Eastern Cape education department agreed in a bargaining chamber meeting with teacher bodies that the province's 1 000 expatriate teachers be given until the end of the year to sort out their work permits and visas. This was because the former Ciskei, Transkei and Cape Provincial Administration had required different documentation from

expatriate teachers. But this week the Home Affairs Department's Umtata office began scribbling official notices ordering some teachers to leave the country within 72 hours because their papers were not in order. This infuriated teachers who had left their homes in Ghana, Sri Lanka and India to teach maths and science at ill equipped rural Transkei and Ciskei schools short of teaching staff. A small group of teachers from the Indian Association of South Africa marched on the Umtata office claiming harassment by govern-

ment officials who were visiting them at school to demand the documents. The teachers said visas granted them by Home Affairs in 1994 were rejected by the officials, who threatened them with arrest. The Education Department clarified the issue a little when it revealed later that the bargaining chamber had agreed the foreign teachers could stay in the country at least until the end of this year. But after a meeting yesterday the chamber decided that a task team of bureaucrats and teachers, to be appointed in March, would investigate the status of every expatriate teacher in the province. The qualifications of teachers and their legal status in the country would be assessed while the teachers would in turn be given a chance to ensure their

documentation was in order. South African Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu) provincial general secretary Mxolisi Dumaza said most of the foreign teachers had come into the country to address a severe shortage of science and maths teachers especially in the former bantustans. He said the shortage remained because most local teachers preferred to qualify in the humanities. Mr Dumaza said that when there were enough teachers trained to teach these subjects, Sadtu expected the expatriates to make way for South Africans. However, some expatriates would be naturalised South Africans by then. For the expatriates, it is now back to the bush while the bureaucrats try to find the right pieces of paper to shuffle. - Ecna

(236) ARG 1/3/97

Home Affairs began scribbling notices ordering teachers to leave the country within 72 hours

ALL CARS UNDER COVER!!!

POOR PEOPLE'S BOARDS

WEDNESDAY 26th FEB - SATS OPEN 12 NOON
CALL ENDS STRICTLY 4pm
ON SUN 2nd MARCH

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CHART FARM
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'Access denied' to Ribeiro witnesses

Pretoria - The detective who investigated the killing in the late 1980s of Mamedodi doctor Fabian Ribeiro and his wife, told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Mr Currin yesterday reminded Brigadier Van Wyk that police got access to the house about an hour after the killings. Brigadier Van Wyk conceded this, but

Immigration backlog climbs

(236)

Wyndham Hartley

60 5/3/97

CAPE TOWN — Regional immigration committees would work overtime and meet more frequently to overcome a backlog in the processing of permanent residence applications, a home affairs spokesman said yesterday.

Responding to suggestions that the scrapping of the old board late last year — replaced with decentralised provincial committees — had caused serious delays in the processing of immigration applications, the spokesman said it took between six and 12 months for applications to be processed. This was "reasonable" by international standards.

The spokesman said the central immigration committee, which dealt with the more problematic cases, had about 950 outstanding applications to process.

One of the reasons for the backlog was the serious understaffing caused by employees taking the voluntary severance packages on offer.

The size of the backlogs, if any, in the provinces had not been quantified, the spokesman said.

However, all the committees had met at least once this year and those who had backlogs would meet more frequently than their scheduled two weekly meetings to process them.

Exemptions for aliens at an end, says Buthelezi

David Greybe

BD 18/4/97

(236)

CAPE TOWN — More than 100 000 illegal aliens from neighbouring countries had been granted permission to remain in SA, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said in Parliament yesterday.

Another 100 000 applications for exemption were still under consideration, Buthelezi said in the debate on his budget in the National Assembly.

With another 150 000 mineworkers and Mozambican refugees in SA, "a total of about 350 000 exemptions are being attended to".

Illegal aliens who had been in SA at least five years before June 1996 were allowed last year to apply for exemption and legally acquire permanent residence.

However, Buthelezi said SA's "gesture of goodwill" to its neighbours in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) had ended.

"Illegal immigrants who now continue to remain illegally in SA will have to be removed," he said.

He disputed media reports of up to 12-million aliens in SA. The figure was between 2,5-million and 5-million.

Buthelezi said SA's unemployment crisis had compelled his department to adopt a more stringent approach to the admission of foreign workers, which had culminated in the Aliens Control Amendment Act, 1996.

The new measures had had an "overwhelming positive effect", he

said, as foreigners who had previously entered SA on holiday permits with the intention of seeking employment were now compelled to obtain work permits before entering SA.

Therefore employment opportunities were "better secured for local residents", Buthelezi said.

However, because of the need for investment and job creation, the department had embarked on a policy of closer co-operation with the trade and industry department and the newly established Investment SA.

Improved procedures for applications for work related permits and investment were envisaged, but not at the expense of local job opportunities.

Buthelezi said 9 708 people had emigrated last year compared to 5 407 immigrants — a loss of 4 301.

In the professional category, 1 970 people had emigrated compared with 843 who had settled in SA which amounted to a loss of 1 127. He said he was concerned about the brain drain.

Buthelezi said his office had appointed a task team to investigate international migration and to compile a Green Paper.

Reacting to warnings this week by the Electoral Steering Committee of a growing crisis around the 1999 elections, Buthelezi said the Electoral Commission would be functional sooner than expected.

He said "it will be possible to hold good elections in 1999", but said there was no room for complacency.

Repay Africa with kindness to its refugees

SOUTH AFRICANS have a moral responsibility to respond to the need of refugees arriving in the country from other African states because of the support those nations made available during the apartheid years.

This is the challenge now facing the nation, says Imam Rashied Omar, of the Claremont Main Road Mosque, which has been involved in efforts to provide relief and accommodation to Somali refugees who fled the civil war still raging in that country.

The mosque has been involved in the initiative in co-ordination with the Al-Jamria Masjid in Steyn Road, Claremont, which has also accommodated

refugees on its premises, and with the Africa Muslim Agency in Johannesburg.

The three institutions and prominent local businessmen also launched a programme at the Claremont mosque in February, during the fasting month of Ramadan when 30 refugees were provided with a special celebration lunch at the end of the fast.

Omar addressed the congregation at the time, saying that the accommodation of the refugees at the mosque should not simply be taken for granted because this was an abnormal situation.

"We need to consider how we can liberate them from the refugee status. One can hardly

refugees are able to go home.

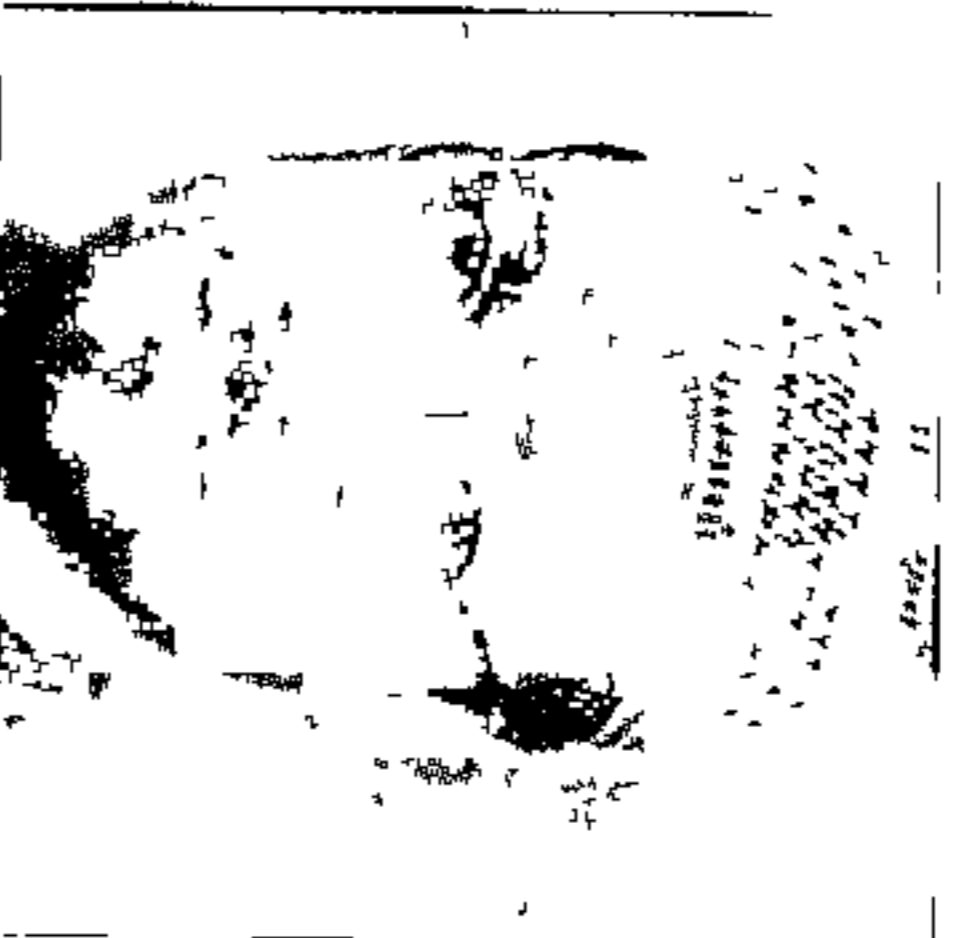
"We don't recognise that these are qualified individuals who are here simply because they've had a very bad time in their own country."

Attempts at breaking down xenophobia could be made through education at places of worship, at schools and community forums.

"Another way to destroy these prejudices is through interaction so that we can begin to understand that they are just as human as we are, that they have the same kinds of needs and desires and aspirations that we have."

Omar said he encouraged his congregation to invite refugees

to imagine the situation of the refugees. We have to find a way to help them. We have to find a way to help them. We have to find a way to help them.



BENEFACTOR

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CT 4/46/97

(236)

homicide... we are... the... in... or... it...

Accountants prefer to cash in High salaries, lower taxes lure SA's trained

ALDE DASNOIS
BUSINESS EDITOR

Three out of every four young chartered accountants choose to work abroad, according to a study by Deloitte & Touche.

Presenting the results of its annual salary review, Deloitte & Touche said a large proportion of the skilled financial professionals who left the country were young chartered accountants. About 75 percent of them chose to go abroad,

either to escape uncertainty in South Africa or to seek adventure and international experience.

A chartered accountant with less than one year's experience can expect to earn between R180 000 and R200 000 a year, the review found.

Blue chip industrial companies are paying R180 000, rising to up to R300 000 a year for people with up to four years' experience. Accountants earn more at financial institutions, which pay R200 000 a year to a

chartered accountant with less than one year's experience and R300 000 to one with three to four years' experience.

These salaries do not include bonuses, medical aid and pension contributions, which add between R25 000 and R27 000 to the package.

Top candidates can earn up to 20 percent more than these averages, the review says. In Europe and the US, newly qualified chartered accountants can command salaries of about \$48 000 (R211 000) - and

pay much less tax than in South Africa.

"With these levels of remuneration, it comes as no surprise that many recently qualified CAs seek overseas experience," the review says.

Typical middle management salaries found by Deloitte & Touche range from R123 000 a year for a credit manager in a R600-million-a-year insurance company, to R250 000 a year for the financial manager of a R80-million a year manufacturing firm.

Both figures exclude car allowances,

professionals

RAR 14/97

medical aid and pension benefits, estimated to add up to 40 percent to the package.

At the top, the survey found a 45-year-old group financial director in a R9,4-billion-a-year industrial holding company picks up a R935 000 package, excluding share options, while the chief executive of a construction company with a turnover of R3,3 billion a year earns R925 000, also excluding share options.

Share options, on average, add 14 percent to 26 percent to the company's annual cost of employment, the review says.

abroad

Abortion issue rages on among doctors

(236) Star 3/4/97

Under 24 weeks foetus has 'almost
zero' chance of survival

By HELEN GRANGE
AND JANINE SIMON

National Health Department guidelines advising doctors not to resuscitate an aborted foetus showing signs of life but with little to no chance of survival have prompted angry objections by Doctors for Life and some private doctors

The guidelines, given during talks with groups of doctors being trained to conduct pregnancy terminations, were intended to help them make decisions about the cut-off point at which resuscitation was viable, said Dr Eddie Mahlangu, national director of maternal and child health.

Each hospital, however, had its own cut-off point. Some doctors would refuse to administer resuscitation if the foetus was under 20 weeks old, while others might decide on the basis of weight - say, less than 1kg.

"This is normal policy and happens all over the world, based on statistics of survival rates among premature babies. If the baby is under 24 weeks, the chances of survival are almost zero," Mahlangu said.

The guidelines, according to Doctors for Life, were immoral and "plain infanticide" as they advised that if a "new born infant gasps for breath it should not receive any resuscitation".

Dr Helen Rees, director of the reproductive health unit at Chris Hanu Baragwanath Hospital, said that in the state sector, "definitely in Gauteng and probably throughout the country", resources such as ventilators were

scarce, and used only for patients considered to have a viable chance of survival.

There was no doubt that the proceedings were difficult, and it was very important that women and staff understood that a late termination meant an identifiable foetus would be passed.

"You can't pretend it won't happen, but it's one of those questions: do we do this, or do we allow the woman to commit infanticide, abandon her baby in a dustbin, or in a hospital ward, or let it become a street child," Rees said.

Extending availability of legal termination to 20 weeks had been done because health services were aware that illegal abortions were performed when the pregnancy was far advanced.

"We would all rather see no abortions at all, and our message to any woman who has an unwanted pregnancy is to come before 12 weeks," she said.

According to Thandi Chaane, acting director of maternal and child health in Gauteng, less than half of the 1 827 women who requested terminations in February, the first month in which the new legislation took effect, were able to have one.

This was because only 10 of the 35 designated facilities were willing to perform the procedure.

Of the 881 terminations performed, 485 were for women less than 12 weeks into their pregnancies, and 396 for women over 12 weeks.

Twenty doctors in the state sector had offered to perform terminations.

EAST, WEST, CAPE TOWN'S BEST

New SA commuters live here, fly to work

UPCOUNTRY business people, fed up with crime, are making their homes in Cape Town and flying back to attend to their businesses. CYNTHIA VONGAI writes.

CT 9/14/97

THE new breed of commuters are not to be found in bus, train or car — but plying the skies between Cape Town and Johannesburg or Durban.

They are the businessmen — and women — who have chosen to make their homes in Cape Town while keeping alive their business interests in Gauteng and Durban.

They consider Cape Town a safe haven in comparison with Gauteng and Durban — where crime is rampant.

Mr Morgan Day founded Morgan and Associates, which specialises in light fittings, in Durban, but opened an agency in Cape Town.

He fell in love with Cape Town and decided to move here with his Dalmatian, Lyka, last year. He opened an office in Wynberg while maintaining his client base in Durban.

Day says he has made the right move because his business in Cape Town has grown substantially.

"Virtually everyone I know is relocating. The property development here is fantastic for my business."

"The reason Cape Town has become so attractive is that there is so much more to do here. It is more exciting than Durban."

Day travels to Kwazulu-Natal once in eight days to keep abreast of developments at his Durban office.

He said he was fortunate as he could share his workload with his business partner, who allowed him to stay in Cape Town.

"I have wonderful friends in Durban, but I don't miss the city. Durban has no substance — for every step forward, it goes back two

steps. Cape Town is vibrant and has a greater outlook. There is always a different restaurant to go to. Every place is different — you have the country setting in Constantia and a different setting in Hout Bay."

Mr Phillip Claassen, a director of International Media and Business Consultancy, lives in Cape Town and makes regular trips to see his clients in Johannesburg.

"Ninety percent of my clients are in Johannesburg. I need them to see that I am just a two-hour flight away," Claassen said.

"I spend a lot of money on travel and entertainment because clients want to be well looked after and pampered. They also want to see who it is they are dealing with — so e-mail and other technologies are not good enough."

Claassen saves on travel by booking his flights well in advance. Even so, his travel expenses are high, but he would not consider moving back to Johannesburg.

"I hate that place. I have been burgled many times while living in Jo'burg. Once I was robbed of my passport and car within view of a security guard with an AK-47."

Work is also a short flight away for Mr Willie Brak, Old Mutual's manager of national promotion, who makes weekly business trips to Johannesburg.

"All the corporate companies are in Johannesburg and most of my business is done there, so three days a week I have to be in Jo'burg," Brak said.

But he has decided it would be more cost-effective to live in Gauteng.

Another reason to move is that commuting between Cape Town

and Johannesburg has become a strain, Brak says.

"If I get on the 7.30am flight I have to be at the airport by 6.30am — which means I have to be up by 5am. My day in Johannesburg begins late because flights aren't always reliable and I can have my first appointment only after 10.30am."

Another Durbanite who wants the cosmopolitan lifestyle Cape Town has to offer is Ms Josephine Hemingway. She hopes to move to the city soon — and to get away from Durban, where, she says, crime is a growing problem.

She says her car has been broken into four times. "This is the fourth time in six months I have had to fork out R2 500 to have the locks changed and the central locking system revamped because someone has jammed a screw driver into the side of the door to try to break in."

Hemingway spends most of her weekends in Cape Town and loves the city's international flavour.

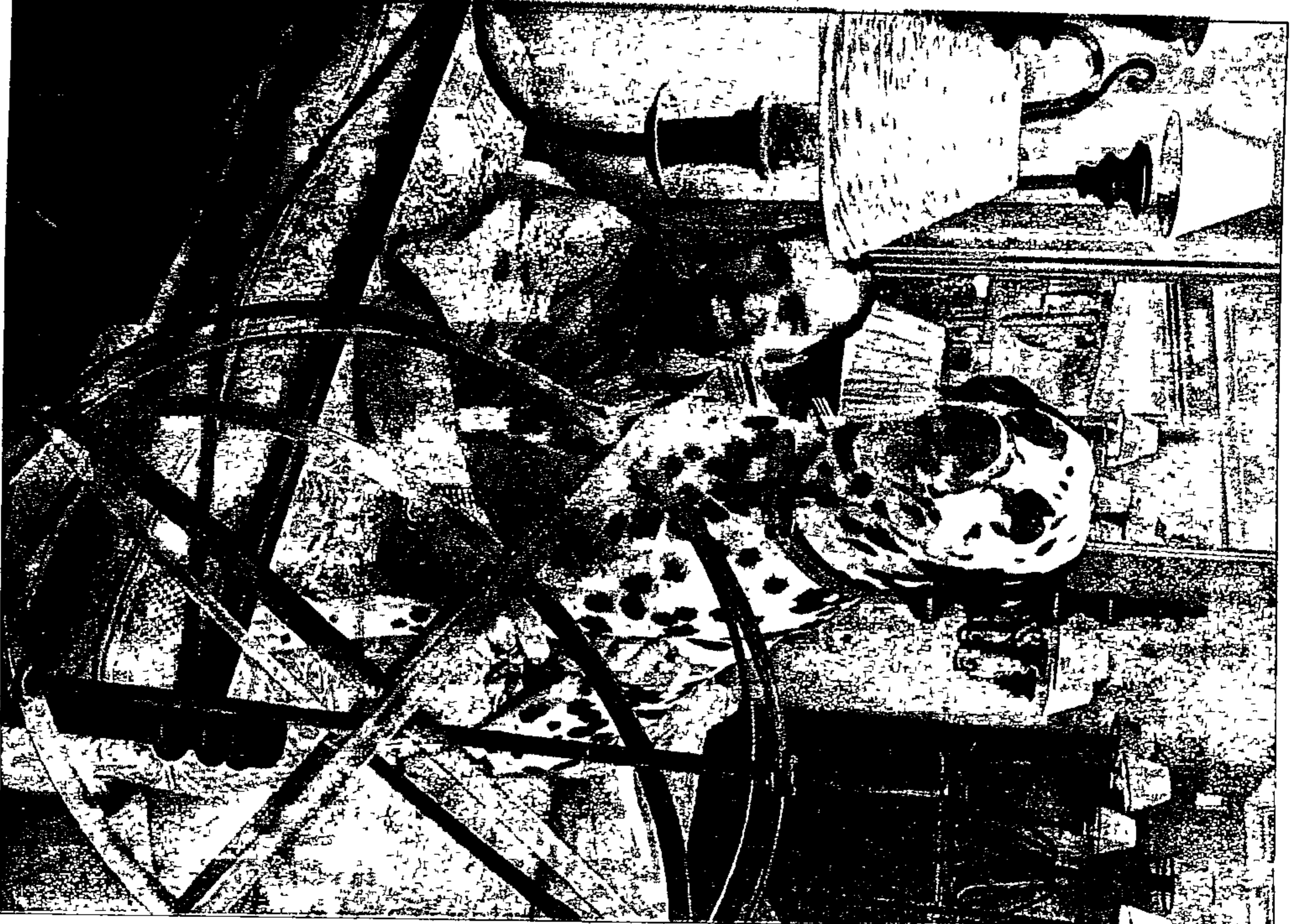
She says her company, Club Connection II, which designs and makes promotional clothing for corporate companies, can continue operating in Durban while she lives in Cape Town.

"I have a good business base in Durban which I would keep," Hemingway said.

"Cape Town is one of the major clothing centres in the country, so it would not be too difficult for me to set my business up there."

"If you are young and single, you need to be in a place where you will be introduced to other things."

"You can move to Cape Town without knowing anybody and blossom. It is becoming more international, with many outside influences creeping in. It is far ahead of the rest of the country, with great restaurants and night life."



FLYING VISITS: Morgan Day, seen here with his Dalmatian, Lyka, flies to Durban once in eight days to attend to business. Day moved to Cape Town last year, but most of his clients are in Durban. PICTURE: KARIM R. TITF

Suzman blames crime for exodus

'Fear driving out doctors'

APG 10/4/97

(236) (23)

Washington - The problem of crime and violence in South Africa was one of the reasons why young doctors were emigrating, former opposition MP Helen Suzman has told a black-tie gathering here.

She said some were leaving "largely because they are very nervous of the crime and violence, which have reached uncontrollable proportions in South Africa and must be tackled very vigorously if we are to get the necessary capital to provide the jobs which, in return, will reduce the crime and violence"

The veteran anti-apartheid activist was in Washington to receive an award for service presented by Medical Education for South African Blacks Inc (Mesab) at a function which attracted prominent political and business personalities

Mesab - which sponsors young South Africans at medical schools and technicians - also presented a service award to Arnold Langbo, chairman and chief execu-

tive officer of the Kellogg Company, which has made big contributions to social upliftment in South Africa.

Mrs Suzman said South Africa needed doctors but emigration continued - not necessarily because they did not want to live under a black government, but because of fear of crime and violence.

Others left because they were worried about the effects of affirmative action on the future prospects of their children or because they were concerned about declining educational standards during the period that the integration process was taking a proper course.

She thanked Mesab and its supporters for helping the education of young doctors and other health-care professionals.

Reviewing the situation in South Africa, she predicted a surge of constitutional litigation as clauses in the bill of rights came into conflict with demands by sections of the population, such as the return of the death penalty. - Sapa

AS SOUTH Africa becomes integrated into the global village, its people are becoming a tradable commodity. South African recruitment companies are opening branches offshore and overseas recruitment and immigration specialists are setting up shop in South Africa to tap into the mobile-people skills market and to service corporate clients wishing to globalise.

Mathew Collins, managing partner of London-based immigration and commercial consultant Ambler Collins, says his company has opened a branch in South Africa in response to "a large demand for our services."

Collins says he is in "the people import-export business, taking over management of applications for visas and work permits." He works for companies looking to relocate personnel and is involved in niche markets like professional sports and music as well as doing specialist skills searches.

"There has been a large demand from South Africans for our services. There is also a large demand for young professionals and skilled South Africans to fill skills shortages, especially in the UK."

Collins says the large demand should not be considered unusual and does not necessarily point to a desperate flight of skills out of the country. According to a recent research survey, 65% to 70% of South Africans under 30 years of age do not regard leaving South Africa as a permanent move. "They are doing what young people in other Commonwealth countries do, looking for a life experience, at opportunities to work in an overseas market and gain skills," says Collins.

In certain industries there is a shortage of skills, he says, and companies and countries are competing in the global village for these skills. Countries are also importing skills to

Job market

takes on ⁽²³⁶⁾ international flavour

ST (GT) 13/4/97

Doors are opening around the world for South Africans with marketable skills, writes MARCIA KLEIN

boost their economic growth as they cannot source the necessary skills locally.

The government of Southern Australia, for example, has advertised for people because it wants to fuel the growth of the domestic economy. New Zealand, which is in a position where it cannot train or equip enough people to fuel its economic growth, is recruiting masses of people in certain industries, for example in nursing.

"We see an economy boom and then a chase to get people into that economy," he says.

Collins says about 100 000 SA citizens under 30 years of age are leaving each year to enter the UK — but this is not different on a per capita basis compared to other Commonwealth countries.

A recent Gallup survey commissioned by *The Telegraph* showed that 49% of British

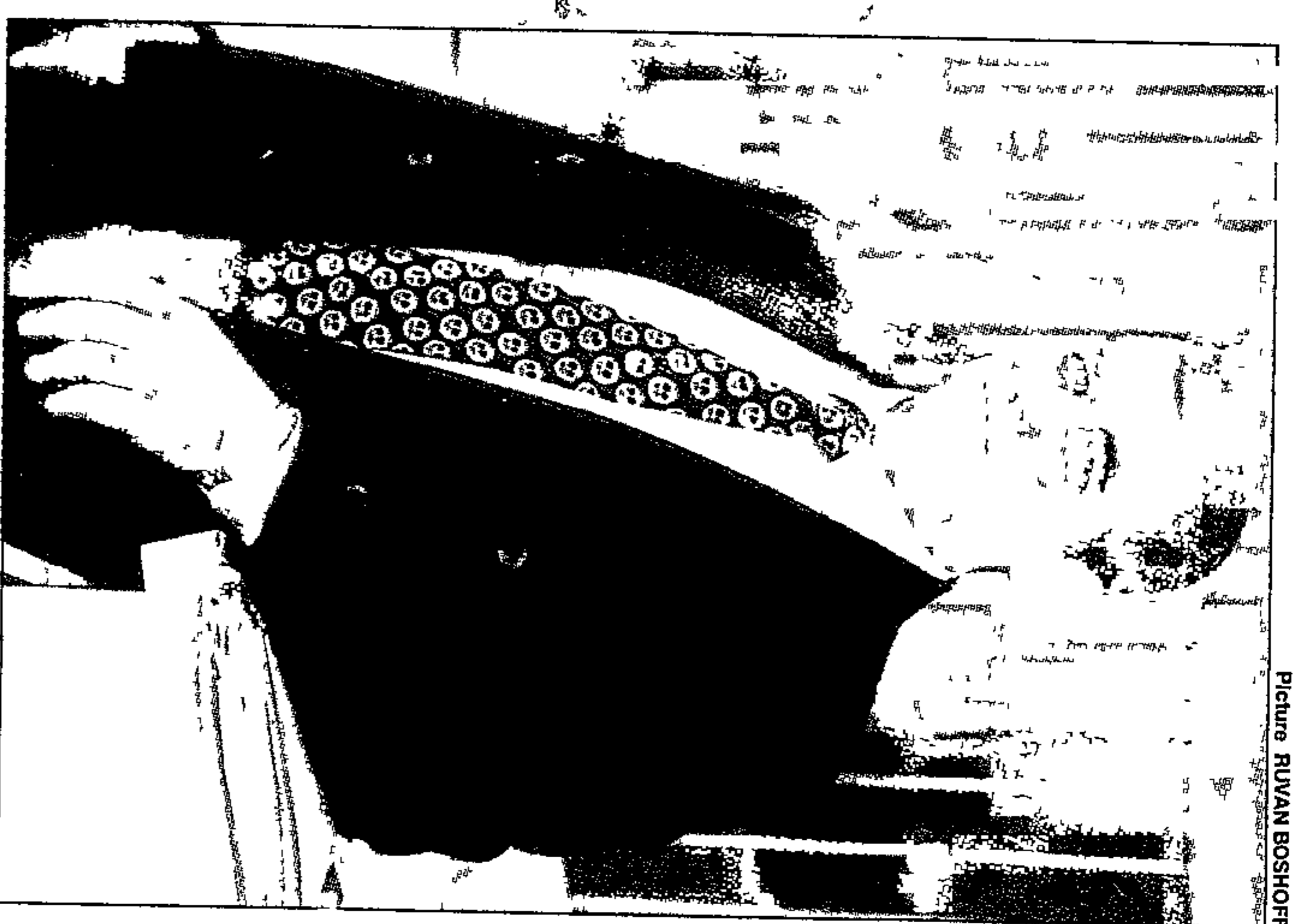
working adults said they would emigrate if they could.

Apart from recruiting South Africans overseas, there are about 150 multinational companies showing an interest in coming to South Africa. They will need to bring in specialist personnel and senior management. There is also a growing demand from people wishing to retire to South Africa, an attractive country because of its devaluing rand.

Major recruitment group Renwick has opened a London office "with the prime objective of hiring top level skills through head-hunting, advertised selection or interim contract management".

Renwick managing director John Sherratt says South Africa's lack of sufficient technical and managerial skills has been caused partly by low levels of immigration into the

'With the global village becoming a reality, skills are crossing borders'



NEW BLOOD ... Mathew Collins of Ambler Collins

country. While South Africa achieved a net gain of 205 391 people from 1975 to 1984, this dwindled to just 25 143 in the 10 ten years to 1994.

Renwick will also try and tap into "the huge pool of South African talent now resident in the UK, possibly as high as 400 000". Renwick aims to try and coax these skills back to the country and to recruit for companies coming in and SA companies operating abroad.

With the global village becoming a reality, skills are

crossing borders. Hoechst, for example, is a German company headed by an American. Initial training in Hoechst includes international business courses and personnel are sent to Hoechst bases around the world. The aim, says Sherratt, is to make the company truly global.

Sherratt says SA managers are considered extremely competent because of their broad experience, caused in part by the lack of middle management in the country.

30% of all students who graduate as engineers in SA leave for abroad

After 15/14/97 (236) (SOME)

1997 graduate of year to join the exodus overseas but will keep his options open

By **Trove Lumo**

Although he would like to remain in South Africa, top engineering graduate Graeme Welton, along with about 80% of his university class, will explore careers abroad before deciding where to settle.

The 22-year-old mechanical engineer from Randburg, who received the 1997 top young engineer award at the weekend, said yesterday that a decision to stay in South Africa would have to be made after a consideration of the crime rate, violence, education and work options.

"As soon as I have worked off my bursary, I plan to go 'I love South Africa and will

always keep the option of returning open.

"I will travel and work to start, but if ever I find myself in the position where I am starting a family, I will have to consider factors like crime and work options carefully before coming back."

After the national engineering awards ceremony Roy Marcus, chairman of the South African Engineering Association, warned that the country's shrinking engineering community was a threat to economic growth.

Marcus said a country's potential as a global competitor was measured in terms of the number of engineers per million of its population. There were 35 engineers per 1 million South Africans

compared with 220 in Australia and 600 in Japan.

Marcus said the current positive economic growth rate would not be sustainable if the engineering community continued to deplete at the current rate. An estimated 30% of all students who graduated as engineers each year left South Africa after having worked back bursaries and did not return.

Crime and poor education aside, the country was losing engineers because it was not keeping abreast with exciting technological cultures overseas.

Marcus also urged industry to change its mindset and introduce excitement into technological fields.

He said the Government had a responsibility to ensure maths and science did not lose their importance in schools, and to encourage more school-leavers to enter technological fields.

"Young engineers are limited here, but the other danger is that fewer and fewer engineers are being produced."

As a career choice in South Africa, engineering ranked seventh or eighth compared to first-world countries, where it was ranked tops.

Alan Wright, deputy chairman and chief executive officer of the Gold Fields mining group, also called for the Government to focus on retaining locally developed skills.

SA in grip of brain drain, figures show (236)

CLIVE SAWYER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ARG 16/4/97

Emigrants last year totalled nearly 10 000, close to double the number of immigrants.

The picture is graver when an analysis of the categories of those who emigrated is made.

Of those who emigrated, 1 970 were professionals and 737 were in managerial or administrative positions, while immigrant professionals numbered 843 and those in the managerial category totalled 466, according to the annual report of the Department of Home Affairs, tabled in Parliament today.

Emigrants last year listed as "economically active" totalled 5 163 of the total of 9 708 who left. The rest were regarded as "not economically active".

The largest disparity was in the manufacturing and construction sector, with 1 370 people leaving and 253 arriving.

The number of immigrants last year was 5 407, an increase of 63 compared to the year before, while the number of emigrants was 9 708 - 983 more than in 1995.

Most of the emigrants - 32 percent - went to Europe while most of the immigrants - 29 percent - came from Africa.

New entrant brings guarantees to immigration consulting

Amanda Vermeulen

(236)

THE globalisation of the world economy, burgeoning markets and broadening investment opportunities are just three of the many factors that have spurred the growing migration of people and companies between nations.

In SA particularly, political, economic and social concerns have for years caused people to uproot themselves, families and sometimes businesses and move to another country, with some of the most popular destinations being Australia, the US, Canada and the UK.

It is a painful business, as anyone who has been through the process of moving to a new country will testify. While dealing with the trauma of severing long-held ties, there was also the mountain of paperwork to overcome.

The migration trend has generated a huge industry in immigration consulting, and one of London's leading agencies, Ambler Collins,

having recognised the opportunities created by SA, has set up business in this country.

Led by Mathew Collins, a New Zealander by birth but now resident in Britain, the consultancy was launched six years ago after a personal experience opened Collins's eyes to a gap in the market. He spent nine months researching the SA market, and identified areas where his consultancy can provide advice and assistance to a company or person considering a move, or for groups contemplating SA as a destination for investment.

Reinvestment in SA as well as new investment has resulted in companies transferring executives and their families to SA.

In addition, certain countries, such as the UK, crying out for qualified personnel in certain professions, have opened many doors for young South Africans eager to travel and improve their experience. As a result, Ambler Collins has formed a link with an international

recruiting and personnel firm which will shortly be launched in SA.

Collins said a recent survey showed that 65% of the 250 000-plus South Africans who lived and worked in the UK saw their sojourn as an opportunity to harness skills which could be put to use when they returned to SA.

Immigration consultancies take the pain out of moving country. Well versed in the relevant legislation governing immigration in each of the countries the company deals with, Ambler Collins, unlike many other consultancies, only charge their clients if they are successful in their immigration application. Collins said his company only took on clients if they were eligible candidates in the country of their choice.

At present the fee involved could range from R500 to R25 000, with the average fee for a family to emigrate being around R9 000. Collins said this depended on the country and

category. Ambler Collins dealt particularly with Australia, New Zealand, UK and Canada, which all had immigration policies which encouraged people to apply for residence or citizenship, working holidays, work permits and traced their claims to any of these options through their ancestry.

Dealing with about 5 000 clients a year, Ambler Collins has increasingly focused on the corporate market, which constituted about 40% of its business. Certain countries had different immigration laws for candidates who planned to relocate their businesses there, and Collins said this had proved to be a substantial growth market.

A dark cloud on the horizon of this business was the large number of fly-by-night operators who, Collins warned, took an upfront fee while knowing that the individual concerned had no chance of qualifying as an immigration candidate.

2 000 professionals emigrated last year

BY JOVIAL RANTAO

(236) Star 17/4/97

Cape Town – Close to 2 000 South African professionals emigrated last year, according to a report released by the Department of Home Affairs in Parliament yesterday.

The department's report for 1996 reveals that 9 708 people – of whom 1 970 were professionals – left the country. Of the total, 5 163 were economically active, while 4 545, including housewives and children, were not.

In total, 5 407 people immigrated to South Africa last year, of whom 1 995 were economically active and 3 412 were not.

The department said that of the 5 407 immigrants, 2 315 came from Europe, 1 601 from Africa and 1 137 from Asia. From North and South America there were 257 immigrants and from Oceania there were 86.

Of those who emigrated, 3 198 went to Europe, 1 223 went to other African countries, 402 to Asia and 1 786 to North and South America. Another 3 035 went to Oceania.

The report said 180 713 illegal aliens were returned to their countries of origin during 1996, compared with 157 084 in 1995. Most of these people were citizens of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Lesotho.

A total of 28 071 visas were refused last year, compared with 15 546 during 1995.

The department said 23 million people of 16 years and older had so far been issued with identity documents. No final decision had been taken on the format of the new identity card.

The department said it was reviewing existing legislation with a view to making provision for the implementation of an automated fingerprint identification system and identity card.

"This will enable any business concern to identify a client without any doubt, using relatively inexpensive computer equipment capable of decoding the fingerprint and photograph and comparing it with corresponding fingerprint to be supplied on the spot," it said.

The department also reported that 408 people had renounced their SA citizenship, while close to 15 000 people became naturalised South Africans. Of these, 8 959 applied for naturalisation, 1 786 requested resumption of SA citizenship and 3 332 were as a result of the registration of the birth of children born outside the country to South Africans.

■ The department's Publications Control Directorate last year found 95% of the 43 publications submitted to it undesirable.

A total of 1 193 films were submitted for examination (1 159 new and 34 on review). Of these, 475 were approved for distribution unconditionally, 623 conditionally and 90 were refused certificates.

Buthelezi aims to keep the aliens out and the jobs at home

By JOVIAL RANTAO
Political Correspondent

Cape Town – The unemployment crisis has compelled the Government to adopt a more stringent approach to the admission of foreign workers, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said in the National Assembly yesterday

Opening a debate on the home affairs budget vote, he said the Government's strict approach had resulted in the Aliens Control Amendment Act, which stipulat-

ed that work, study and work-seekers' permits must be applied for from abroad

"These more stringent control measures have had an overwhelmingly positive effect, as foreigners who previously entered South Africa on holiday permits with the intention of seeking employment are now compelled to obtain work permits before entry, and employment opportunities are, therefore, better secured for local residents," Buthelezi said

He said he was committed to apprehending and removing

people classified as illegals

Buthelezi said the illegal alien population in South Africa, estimated at between 2,5 million and 5 million, had placed resources under severe strain. He estimated that the illegals cost the Government billions annually

He said he had appealed to departments, such as welfare, education and housing, as well as provincial governments, to request identity documents for certain services being applied for.

This was to ensure that services granted were focused on

South Africans or those granted permanent residence

The chairman of Parliament's committee on home affairs, Desmond Lockey, called for greater flexibility in immigration policy to attract skills

"While people are migrating to South Africa from neighbouring states, we have an ongoing problem with skilled people leaving. We must find a way to replace those skills. So we must provide for flexibility to assist us in building a globally competitive economy"

Star 18/4/97

(236)

Britain head-hunting skilled South Africans

Star 30/4/97

Consultancy opens offices in Sandton intent on recruiting teachers, nurses, optometrists, accountants and bankers

By **WINNIE GRAHAM**

Thousands of teachers, accountants, nurses and optometrists are being head-hunted in South Africa to fill vacant posts in Britain

A UK-based migration consultancy, Ambler Collins, has opened offices in Sandton intent on recruiting some 2 000 teachers, 700 accountants (or people with banking experience) 600 nurses and health care workers and 50 optometrists in this country

The move comes at a time when thousands of teachers have been retrenched in South Africa, and banks are being increasingly targeted for robbery. Many skilled people - deeply concerned at the seemingly unchecked crime - are

considering migration in the hope of a better life elsewhere.

Speaking from London this week, Mathew Collins of Ambler Collins' said the shortage of skilled staff in Britain had

SA workers are highly regarded in Britain

prompted him to look to South Africa to fill vacancies

"South African workers are highly regarded in Britain," he said. "There are already some 200 000 South Africans living here"

He stressed that in the global market, skilled people were in demand everywhere and could be expected to move around to gain experience

In addition, some multi-national companies look to relocate personnel overseas, at the same time bringing in expertise from abroad to work in South Africa

Collins described his consultancy as being in the people import/export business, handling the management of visas and work permits both for companies and individuals

Janne Jackson, who has been appointed head of Ambler Collins SA, said many South Africans were unaware that they qualified to work in Britain, either through ancestry or by taking advantage of

Britain's two-year "working holidaymaker's" visa for under 27s

Jackson said the consultancy also assisted people wanting to migrate to Canada, a country "crying out" for more nurses and information technology specialists. Here applicants who could speak both French and English often had an advantage. The waiting time for formalities to be completed ranged between seven and nine months

On the other hand, people hoping to move to Australia could expect to wait up to two years because there were fewer openings for immigrants

Those wanting to settle in Britain could expect formalities to take about three months "Any South African can apply

to migrate but obviously those with qualifications receive preference," she added

"School leavers with good matric symbols and assistance from their parents, are able to get tem-

Working holidays an option for under 27s

In fact, many young South Africans accept temporary posts overseas for a couple of years, have a great time, then go back to South Africa

Jackson said that would-be UK migrants are assessed without

charge by her consultancy.

Permission to work in Britain is usually sought in the form of a work permit or training and work experience permit from Britain's Department of Employment. To obtain this, the prospective employer has to make a formal application which meets the requirements of the appropriate regulations. The system is fair, but complex

The granting of work permits for overseas nationals is based on a qualification system. The Immigration Act of 1971 clearly shows the criteria which has to be met to secure a permit - but the legislation is comprehensive and not always easy to interpret

"It is our job to smooth the way," Jackson said

Channel	June		July		August		September		October		November	
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996
Good Hope FM	2 231 709	1 923 682	2 028 574	2 122 850	1 896 999	1 970 454	2 063 109	2 037 024	2 147 142	2 086 584	2 753 271	2 586 390
Radio Lotus Stereo	241 974	339 157	288 578	362 966	241 742	309 763	233 830	293 765	323 892	366 650	242 113	440 056
Radio Metro	3 991 948	4 653 486	3 819 041	4 879 018	3 680 947	4 974 860	3 990 022	4 684 325	5 019 826	5 636 416	5 894 769	6 347 912
Ikwelwezi FM	1 000 879	115 905	113 850	88 847	112 974	129 539	111 426	122 184	133 008	103 653	118 123	130 201
Thobela FM	1 131 559	1 233 862	1 121 766	1 236 011	1 071 191	1 357 043	1 196 640	1 312 751	1 327 831	1 337 627	1 335 244	1 516 489
Radio 2000	28 682	0	0	0	3 260	0	0	0	39 004	0	6 664	33 580
SFM	4 137 238	4 736 461	3 904 131	5 074 578	3 542 744	5 151 927	4 198 606	4 992 521	4 494 764	6 199 454	6 104 700	6 642 938
Radio Sonder Grense	839 462	618 882	721 435	778 661	808 800	708 560	780 425	660 201	844 255	543 129	827 485	1 040 070
SA FM	798 315	489 534	723 461	641 731	669 789	648 232	701 866	651 842	805 046	670 713	817 964	944 150
Lesedi	1 532 274	1 695 280	1 572 050	1 632 747	1 300 005	1 602 474	1 448 926	1 600 998	1 650 337	1 756 698	1 776 641	1 819 417
Ligwalwala FM	115 452	167 984	123 337	162 123	153 366	185 286	144 878	180 450	175 907	182 216	150 873	194 347
Munglana Lenene	170 642	262 182	171 035	254 792	195 619	310 676	193 271	327 039	227 794	291 625	212 686	315 001
Motsweding FM	1 032 608	1 342 153	1 066 121	1 341 980	1 028 239	1 383 847	1 185 074	1 316 222	1 397 111	1 538 545	1 329 427	1 588 457
Phalaphala FM	89 314	121 516	94 301	122 549	83 829	137 726	84 600	140 008	91 795	126 778	91 749	162 311
Umlhlobo Wenene	1 746 115	2 094 201	1 807 212	2 113 780	1 611 894	1 968 743	1 734 277	1 920 238	1 983 480	2 030 956	2 109 356	2 387 249
Radio Ukhosi	4 203 890	5 239 125	4 209 895	5 495 015	3 673 922	5 115 688	4 033 457	4 925 774	4 629 152	5 641 522	4 873 299	6 009 863
Total 1995	22 392 061	25 083 410	21 764 787	26 327 648	20 075 320	25 970 820	22 100 407	25 165 342	25 290 344	28 512 566	28 646 394	32 158 453
Total 1996	140 269 313	163 188 239										

Totals exclude channels sold

*31 Prof B TUROK - Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting [Withdrawn]

Rocket satellite technology: space council established

*32 Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Trade and Industry

- (1) Whether the Government has established a space council or body to investigate the growing capability of South Africa in the field of rocket satellite technology, if not, why not, if so, what are the terms of reference of this council or body.

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1137E

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

The Space Affairs Act, 1993 (Act 84 of 1993) makes provision for the establishment of a Space Council under the auspices of the Department of Trade and Industry. The Council shall on behalf of the State protect the interests carry out the responsibilities and fulfil the obligations of the Republic and its space and space-related activities in compliance with international conventions treaties and agreements entered into or ratified by the Government. The Department of Trade and Industry has submitted a cabinet memorandum (Cabinet memorandum 10) for submission to Cabinet on 28 May 1997 to seek approval to establish the South African Space Council (SACSA) and to appoint members to serve on the Council.

South Africa ratified the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the

Exploration and use of Outer Space in 1968 and the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts in 1969. The Liability Convention which sets out the responsibilities of a launching state has been signed, but not yet ratified by South Africa.

The Department of Trade and Industry agreed to co-host the 2nd United Nations Regional Conference on Space Technology for Sustainable Development in Africa which was held in Pretoria from 4 - 8 September 1996 with the title *The Role of Space Technology in addressing local needs*, as the DTI realises the importance that Space Technology plays in addressing local needs, with active contributions from our universities and research institutions, all of which are supported by our Government. South Africa has the most vibrant programme in space science and technology in Africa. The only remote sensing ground receiving station on African soil today is west of Pretoria known as the Satellite Application Centre of the CSIR. The University of Stellenbosch intends launching the Sunsat Satellite on 14 August 1997 in the United States of America.

Illegal immigrants: control measures

*33 Mr F J VAN DEVENTER asked the Minister of Home Affairs †

- (1) Whether he or his Department is considering any measures to curb the influx of illegal immigrants, if not, why not, if so, what measures.
- (2) what are the main causes of the influx of illegal immigrants into South Africa.
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1139E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

- (1) Hon member is referred to my budget speech in the National Assembly on 17 April 1997. In addition to what have been said on that occasion, I can confirm that bilateral discussions have already been set in motion with all the neighbouring countries in which the discouragement of illegal movement to this country is a standing item on the agenda.

(2) The main causes of the influx of illegal immigrants can be attributed to adverse conditions in their countries of origin.

(3) We are in the process of developing a White Paper on an immigration policy and hon members will be afforded the opportunity to make contributions towards the formulation of the new encompassing policy on aliens control.

New SA Tourism Board: appointments

*34 Mr N J J VAN R KOORNHOF asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism †

- (1) Whether the appointments in the new South African Tourism Board have been made in accordance with the provisions of the Tourism Act, 1993 (Act No 72 of 1993), if not, (a) why not and (b) in what respects have such provisions not been complied with, if so.
- (2) whether he or his Department intends taking any steps in this regard, if not, why not, if so, what steps? N1140E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

(1) The appointments have been made in accordance with the provisions of the Tourism Act 1993 (Act No 72 of 1993), except in the case of the Western Cape Provincial Administration.

- (a) owing to a communications problem.
- (b) where, according to the MEC for tourism, his nominee was not appointed to the Board.

(2) I have already communicated with the MEC for Tourism and have indicated that the matter can be rectified by the appointment of the person he had nominated. The MEC for Tourism has indicated that this might not be necessary as he can name one of the appointed members as his nominee. This possibility is being investigated.

Turning aliens into an asset

236

A task force reports that immigrants to South Africa need not be bad news, reports **Marion Edmunds**

MTG 30/9/97-5/6/97

The Green Paper on immigration recommends scrapping the country's current system and dealing with skilled immigrants as national assets

The proposals, handed to Minister of Home Affairs Mangosuthu Buthelezi last week, call for his department officials to be stripped of many of their powers, and for South Africa to seek to attract highly skilled foreigners and entrepreneurs

The Green Paper, due to be gazetted this week for public comment, follows months of investigation by a task team led by Institute for a Democratic South Africa executive director, Wilnot James

Buthelezi appointed the team late last year following long-running criticism that current policy, under the Aliens Control Act, is outdated, xenophobic and denies basic human rights. Home Affairs officials have also been accused of wielding excessive power over immigration policy

If implemented, the recommendations will lessen such power, fundamentally changing the way the system operates

"Immigration can be viewed as being in the national interest and a potential aid rather than an impediment to nation-building," the paper says

"Because of our past, South Africans tend to take a negative view of immigration. Policy is therefore focused primarily on control and expulsion rather than facilitation and management. We argue that immigration policy needs to be re-focused as an issue of growth and development."



Be cool: South Africa should allow more access to citizens of SADC countries, like these Mozambicans

PHOTOGRAPH: GUY ADAMS

Home Affairs officials should be stripped of all their functions other than those relating to citizenship and immigration, the proposals say. The department should be renamed the Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services. The department should also be monitored by

an independent immigration review board, which would serve as a board of appeal against the department's decisions

The Green Paper recommends that applications for immigration be determined by a points-for-skills system, where high point-scorers applications succeed

"The challenge for South Africa is to transform a racially motivated immigration/migration system into a non-racial and rational policy response to the objective needs of our country," the proposals say

The proposals also suggest that immigration policy acknowledge the importance of foreign informal traders

"The majority have no intention of remaining permanently in South Africa," the paper says. "Most recycle their earnings from sales of imported goods into the South African economy by buying goods and stock to trade back home hence contributing indirectly to job-creation in the South African manufacturing sector"

The proposals also show particular concern to open up South Africa for greater interaction with the Southern African Development Community (SADC)

"South Africa should work in the longer term towards the freer movement of people within the region," the paper says, but concedes that complete free movement is not viable as long as "gross regional economic disparities" exist. Nevertheless as an indicator of the direction in which South Africa wishes to move, policy should differentiate between SADC-country citizens and those from elsewhere"

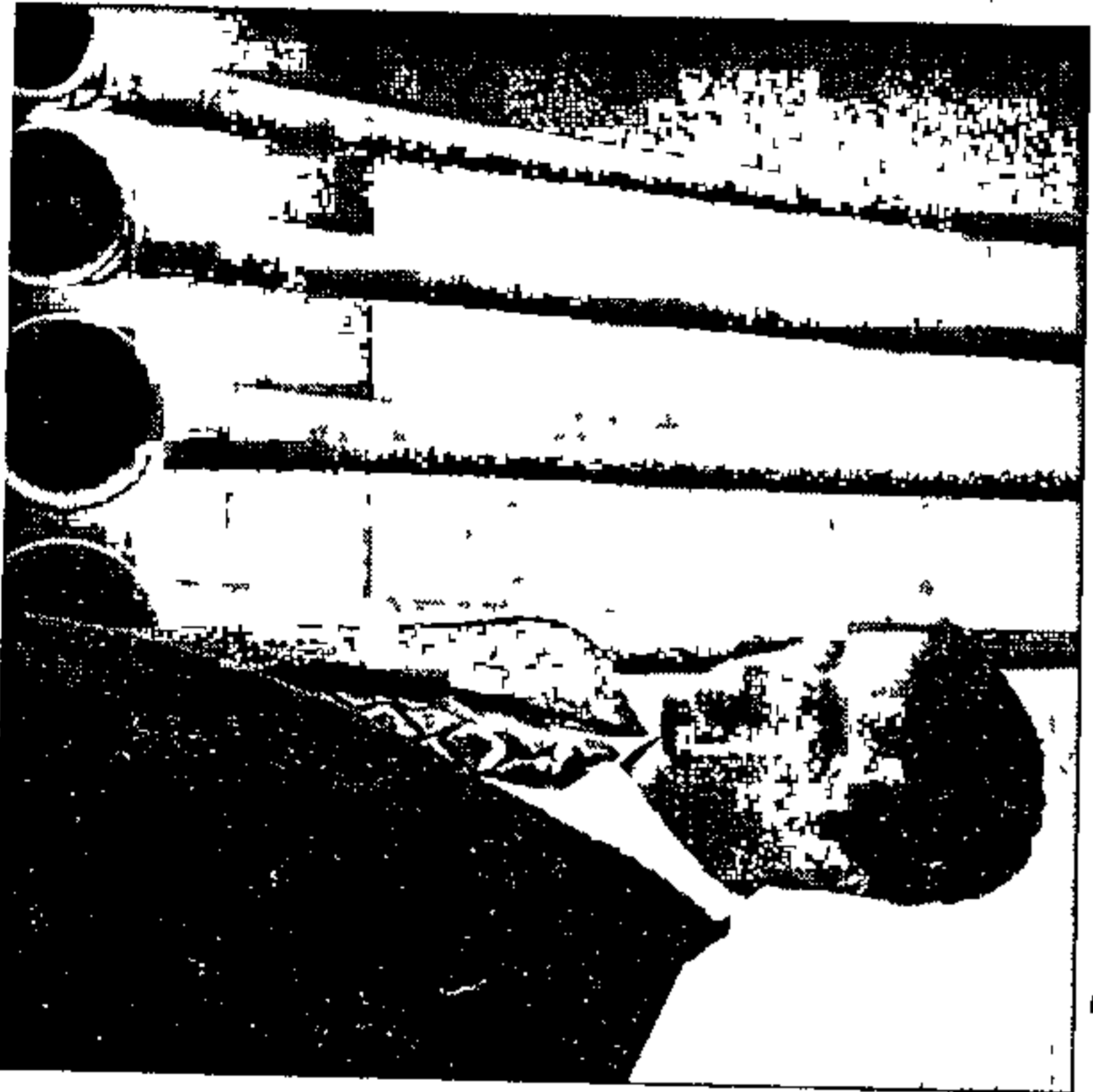
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Home Affairs officials' Hong Kong holiday with deportees

M+G 2-8/9-7

Marion Edmunds (23b)

TWO senior Home Affairs officials took a week-long break in Hong Kong, at the taxpayers' expense, to deport one Hong Kong citizen and allegedly enjoy the largesse of another, it emerged this week.

The two Hong Kong citizens — John Yung and an elder man who declined to be named — flew to Hong Kong after being convicted of perlemoen poaching. Both are back in South Africa — one legally, one illegally.

Both also allege that the two Home Affairs officials — former Western Cape regional director Koos van Wyngaardt and immigration official Herman Damas — spent much of their week in the colony indulging in entertainments, their bill footed by the senior Hong Kong citizen.

The *Mail & Guardian* has an official Home Affairs removal warrant, dated February 1996, which shows that the elder man — fined R90 000 for perlemoen poaching — should have been deported. However, the man returned to South Africa after the officials' outing, retained his permanent residence and currently operates a number of businesses across South Africa.

Yung, fined R12 000 in the same court case, was left in Hong Kong, but has since returned to South Africa and is in hiding.

Van Wyngaardt, who has since quit the public service to establish an immigration consultancy, was unavailable for comment this week.

Damas denied the claims concerning their alleged entertainment but confirmed that the elder man taken to Hong Kong had come along "just for the ride".

He added that he and Van Wyngaardt had been forced to stay in Hong Kong because at the time South African Airways had only one flight a week. They had also spent the whole time in a hotel — a Holiday Inn — living off their department allowances.

A regional department spokesman, Jurie de Wet, said it was practice for deportees to be accompanied, in case they "tore up their papers" en route to their native countries.

But De Wet could not explain why two officials were needed to accompany Yung, nor why the regional director was selected to go, nor why the elder Hong Kong citizen was invited.

Yung's legal representative said he would go to the Minister of Home Affairs, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and take the matter to court. Yung had been denied the chance to appeal before he was forced on to the flight. "He has nothing in Hong Kong to go back to. For him deportation is worse than prison. It's not a judge who took the decision. It was an official," the lawyer said.

"Yung is involved in two restaurant businesses; he has been a permanent resident in South Africa for five years; he lives here with his wife and he has been removed from everything that matters to him at the discretion of an official because he pleaded guilty to a charge, which is under dispute."

Somalis find uneasy refuge

(236) M+G

2-8/5/94

Jonathan Ancer

ABDI HUSSEIN (30) grabs a fistful of spaghetti and, with great skill, swings it into his mouth. Hussein is one of the 3 000 Somali refugees who have come to South Africa since their country erupted into civil war six years ago.

I meet Hussein in a hotel that is unlikely to be listed in any travel guide. The hotel's Fordsburg address is passed from one Somali refugee to the next. The room is full of men watching *The Bold and the Beautiful* on television, sipping *shahi* (sweet tea) and eating spaghetti—a result of Italian influence from the days when it administered parts of Somalia before independence in 1960.

A bowl of spaghetti costs the refugees R4 and it's R20 a night for a room.

Signs on the wall prohibit smoking and chewing *murra*—a sort of twig that stimulates the senses. *Murra* is to East African culture what boerewors is to the Free State.

Hussein's home village is on Somalia's border with Kenya. He recently completed his master's degree in History at Rhodes University and has been accepted for a PhD in Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University in Virginia in the United States.

"Africa is going to need those skills," he says. Unfortunately, they didn't help him last month. The evening he celebrated handing in his thesis, he was assaulted. Somebody broke a beer bottle over his head. He boasts a forehead full of scars. "I came very close to losing my life," he recalls.

Nevertheless Hussein claims he is one of the more fortunate Somalis in South Africa. He left the country before the war to take up a teaching post in Swaziland and managed to raise enough funds to study. When



Marking time: Mohammed Hirsi (left) and MJ (right) meet fellow Somalis at a community centre in Mayfair.

PHOTOGRAPH SEAN BROWN

civil war broke out, many of his compatriots fled, leaving behind families and qualifications to put themselves at the mercy of foreign governments.

"We've crossed many borders to come here and on the way many people contracted malaria," says refugee leader Mohammed Hirsi (41), who left Somalia in 1992. He travelled along the coast from Tanzania to Mozambique and then went to Swaziland. It took him two weeks to get to South Africa. "We travelled without documents and were harassed by officials in many countries. A lot of refugees were turned back when they reached Tanzania. It's only the lucky few who make it," he says.

The Somalis in South Africa recently formed a committee to represent their interests. Hirsi was given the social activities portfolio and is responsible for looking after newcomers. Why did they choose South Africa? "Because it's the most economically developed country in Africa and offers a lot of opportunities," he says.

There are not many opportunities for 60-year-old Mohammed Jama, or MJ as he is affectionately called. He clutches a walking stick to his chest and explains that he spends most of his time going to hospital to get treatment for his legs.

When fighting broke out in his village, he fled to the back of an overloaded truck. Soldiers ambushed the truck, killing the driver. The truck overturned. MJ jumped. His legs were crushed. He was lucky, though, because many people in the back of the truck were killed.

In Mayfair, about 8km from the Fordsburg hotel, is the Somali Community Centre. Forty young men are squeezed into a small room. The only noise that breaks the silence is the sound of lips smacking together. Bundles and bundles of *murra* are stacked in the middle of the room.

The *murra*, which costs R50 a bundle, was flown in from Nairobi and arrived that afternoon at Johannesburg International Airport. "It's not

illegal," Hussein says, "they bring it in as vegetables and cover it in dried banana skins to keep it fresh."

Mirra is farmed in northern Somalia, Ethiopia, Yemen and, according to Hussein, is now grown by a farmer in the East London area.

Hussein, who says he started chewing *murra* when he was 12, peels the bark off the twig and chews the bark strips.

"It's not like daggga or beer, it doesn't make you dizzy or aggressive," he says. "It's very sociable. It helps you tell stories. It's also a painkiller and very good for flu, because it keeps you warm."

MJ and Hirsi and some other Somali elders are sitting in another room, also chewing *murra*. Hirsi explains that in Mogadishu he was a wealthy businessman and now in South Africa he is a hawker. He says he studied political science for four years in Cuba, before working for Somalia's communist government. He switched to a business career in 1984. When the Somali capital turned into a battlefield after faction fighting erupted, Hirsi fled to South Africa.

"Our plight is a hellish nightmare," he says. "We've come to South Africa as asylum-seekers and we are only given temporary status. Because of this, we cannot get help from the Red Cross or any other non-government organisations and we struggle to find jobs."

The dozen Somalis gathered around the table nod in agreement. Hirsi continues. "Some of us are hawkers, some of us are security guards and some help out in stores. As casual labourers, we earn between R150 and R180 a week."

"I sell shoes and clothes that I buy from Chinese wholesalers. I was chased away from hawking in

Secunda because the locals there accused me of stealing their jobs. These days I hawk in Benoni."

Hirsi says that most of the refugees who do not have jobs spend the day glued to the television set and at night they chew *murra*.

"One day while we were sitting in the house, thugs with guns came inside. We could not defend ourselves. They stole our money and beat us. We went to the police station, but because we only had temporary documents we were told to go to the Department of Home Affairs. One policeman said that whoever doesn't have a permanent document has no rights in South Africa. We are powerless."

One of the reasons the Somalis congregate in Mayfair is to be near the mosques. They have received some support from the South African Muslim community. "We stuck to ourselves. We live in one country, but we are in a different world. You are the first white person we've had contact with," says Hirsi.

According to Hirsi, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees suggested the South African government set up camps for the Somali refugees. "But the government rejected the whole idea. We don't have the power to contact the big shots in government to help us."

'Our plight is a hellish nightmare. We cannot get help from the Red Cross and we struggle to find jobs'

We are refugees. We share rent and sometimes 15 people share a room. If a newcomer comes to South Africa we help him. We don't even ask R1. We know how tough it is to survive."

I get the impression that the Somali refugees are reluctant to answer questions about the problems in Somalia. They come from many clans, but in South Africa they only have each other to rely on, so they stick together, rather than quarrel about politics thousands of kilometres away.

Hussein believes that they will return to Somalia one day. "Yes," agrees Hirsi. "One day when there's peace."

Lessons from green paper

(236)

ET 5/5/97

FARANAAZ VERIAVA

THE green paper on migration policy is soon to be finished. A public participation process will follow. This article looks at the process of policy making, particularly on the role that civil society plays in policy development and governance within the new democratic order. It also highlights some of the substantive challenges which a new migration policy for South Africa must address.

The Minister of Home Affairs, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, in his April budget speech spoke of his "confidence in the task team as a well-balanced forum".

The team, which was established at the end of 1996 to prepare the green paper, is broadly representative of the various sectors of South African civil society. It reflects the government's harnessing of skills and expertise from academia, labour, business and the NGOs.

While individual members of the task team may not themselves have all the answers, the pooling of diverse skills and experiences is likely to mean that proposed policies are enriched and well-balanced. The early airing of differing opinions — ranging from those informed by xenophobic insecurities to those preferring free movement policies — allows for a better thrashing out of these differences which will, in the end, have to be resolved through the parliamentary process.

What has emerged uncontested, though, is that the government's new policy on interna-

tional migration must be guided by two overriding imperatives which inform all government policy.

Firstly, the policy must promote growth and development in South Africa and, secondly, it must deepen the new culture of democracy and human rights.

Consulting with broader civil society has become a necessary tool within this process. It ensures that the government acknowledges the diverse interests within society. It also ensures a system of transparency and accountability in policy making. The golden rule is that broad civil society input early on in the process is better than input after the event. The former leads to increased consensus and an improved quality of governance, the latter to conflict and delays in implementation.

Consulting has become a necessary tool in policy-making. Broad civil society input early on is better than input after the event.

For example, the recent opposition to the implementation of the Lund committee recommendations to cut back levels of child and family support has been led by a coalition of organisations of civil society. This provides evidence of the positive role that civil society organisations can play in critiquing government policy.

How much better it would be to unleash these positive energies and democratic impulses earlier on in the policy process through facilitating the effective participation of civil society organisations at the outset.

The participation of civil society from the beginning of the policy-making process provides a "well-balanced forum" of the sort which is more likely to propose well-considered,

appropriate policy.

Past and current policy relating to migration has been based on putting in place systems of control and expulsion. A challenge for the green paper is, rather, to create a policy that focuses on the creation of systems to facilitate and manage migration patterns in such a way that furthers South Africa's national interest.

This would include, firstly, the creation of opportunities for the country's economic growth and development within the global economy by retaining and attracting necessary skills and through job creation.

Secondly, our national interest would be fostered by acknowledging that the development of the Southern African region is in our material interest. It would also acknowledge our responsibility for the development of the region which is still experiencing the brunt of the apartheid regime's destabilisation policies — for many years it provided this country with a significant labour flow and provided a haven for many during the years of the anti-apartheid struggle.

Thirdly, immigration policy must reflect our commitment to upholding universal human rights, administrative justice and certain basic rights for all inhabitants of South Africa, citizens and non-citizens.

The extent to which the task team will be able to produce a migration policy which is able to meet these basic objectives will be an important test of the validity of the suggestion that policy outputs would be improved if civil society were to be integrally involved in assisting government to meet the challenges of governance.

□ Faranaaz Veriava is Idasa project co-ordinator for the green paper on international migration.

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Cash-rich foreigners buy up flats

Johannesburg's inner suburbs 'no good' for locals

NEWTON KANHEMA
OWN CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg - Entrepreneurs from Zaire, Nigeria and other African countries, with "suitcases full of money", are buying up entire blocks of flats in Johannesburg's deteriorating inner suburbs where banks are reluctant to grant bonds.

Estate agents say foreigners are rescuing the property market in Hillbrow, Berea, Yeoville and other areas where South African families still battle to get bonds.

In spite of government-backed measures to underwrite home loans, several realtors said many banks were still quietly "red-lining" these suburbs - the policy of denying bonds in high risk areas regardless of the buyer's own credit rating.

Two reporters, posing as home-buyers, were turned away by bank managers when they applied for loans to buy in Hillbrow. Cash sales, however, are still very welcome.

"We have people from Zaire, Nigeria, Angola and Namibia who bring in cash," said Walter Rosin of Sheraton Estate Agents, who has been selling property in these areas for the past six years.

Another estate agent, who declined to be named, said 90 percent of her clients were foreigners who had no dealings with the banks.

"When these guys say they like the property they don't even barter, but bring in a suitcase full of notes," she said.

"I was selling a block of flats in Hillbrow and these two guys from Nigeria came inquiring about the number of flats in the block and the price per unit. Two days later they came with two suitcases with R4-million and told me that they wanted to buy."

Foreign names dominate the sales board that stretches across an entire wall of her Yeoville office.

"I have found foreigners much easier to deal with. There are no delays of waiting for a bond to be approved and they don't waste time in making a decision," she said.

Many foreign buyers buy purely for investment purposes and then go "straight back to Kinshasa" leaving their associates to administer the properties, an agent said.

Another estate agent, Nicholas Ncube, discouraged local people from buying property in Hillbrow, saying the area was for foreigners. "I would not encourage you to buy in Hillbrow. It is not a good area for a person like you to live in," he said.

(236) ^{AKS} 17/5/97

"This is a place where foreigners live. They do terrible things like robbery and there are plenty of prostitutes. Now we can get you good property in Bez Valley," he said.

Most of the estate agents operating in this area say they survive through cash sales and government employees with subsidies.

Asked where the foreigners got their money and whether they checked if the buyers were legal or not, estate agents said they had only one function - to sell property.

"We are not immigration officers and I don't think it is our business where the money is coming from," said Rosin. "We check whether the money they have given us is fake or not. I personally examine each note I receive."

The Mortgage Indemnity Fund was established in 1995 to carry the risk for banks should they not get adequate returns. In terms of the fund's rules, banks can no longer refuse a bond purely on the basis of whether the property is in a "good" or "bad" area.

But, say estate agents, many banks are finding loopholes in this rule.

A visit to a branch of First National Bank revealed that Hillbrow had been classified as a slum. "Yes, we don't finance that area because it is a slum. If we put our money there

we might as well kiss it goodbye," an official said.

An enthusiastic official at Nedbank was surprised and immediately withdrew her enthusiasm when she learnt that our application was for a flat in Hillbrow. "I would not encourage you to apply for a loan in that area. Why don't you try another area?"

A Standard Bank official said she did not know all details of the bank's policy, but said her branch did not finance bonds in that area. Estate agents are normally told that an application has been turned down because the bank has already financed 40 percent of the units in a building.

"They say one bank cannot finance more than 40 percent but if you take the same application to the other bank they tell you the same thing," said Rosin. "Also, they are not at liberty to tell you which ones they have financed. They don't say it but it is red-lining."

Calle Nieman of Bellair Real Estate said the "red-lining" policy was hurting elderly people who were desperate to move to greener suburbs.

"The majority of people who are selling are the aged people and they are giving away their property for nothing," he said. "Property in Hillbrow is going for a song."

**To some,
a slum,
but to
others,
a castle**

All available space in Bertrams, no matter how cramped and humble, is being snapped up by the homeless and jobless, many of them immigrants



Once strongly Portuguese white area now Portuguese-speaking black one, with almost all jobless

Star 17/5/97

(236) (107)

By JOHN MAKONI

Eastern Johannesburg has always had a strong Portuguese character.

It is still like that, only the Portuguese you are likely to hear in the suburb of Bertrams today is more likely to be that of the new Angolan and Mozambican immigrants who, along with thousands of other "economic refugees", are packed into every nook and cranny of the area's once prime real estate.

You might still find a large flat with a view for R1 000 or so a month, but for R100 to R300 you can take your pick from a rooftop shack, a section of a subdivided underground garage or a dormitory-style room in one of the older blocks.

Thandi Dube and her husband share a tiny room, which was once part of a larger flat, with a bachelor in Farissy Court in Gordon Avenue. "The people from up the roof come down to share the toilets," said Dube (not her real name).

Her husband, like many other men at Farissy, does not go to work and the couple split the R225 rent with their unmarried roommate.

Downstairs on "G1", in what was once a parking bay, a couple and a single woman share the R200 rent for a cold, concrete space with no natural light.

Everyone in the block shares the few taps and toilets.

All four of Farissy Court's original four flats have virtually disappeared because they were converted into individual rooms. The block, which might

have once held no more than 10 people, is now occupied by close to 90.

Bertrams' new residents come from diverse backgrounds but one thing is common to all of them - unemployment.

Some of the Mozambican immigrants, however, are lucky. They often find jobs with Portuguese businesses in the area, many owned by families who fled Lisbon's former colonies 20 and more years ago.

The office of Gauteng Health MEC Amos Masondo told the *Saturday Star* that the health risks posed by overcrowding in Farissy Court and other buildings would be addressed by the recently adopted Residential Landlords and Tenants Bill.

Small subsidy

Urban overcrowding is, however, usually a local government matter, and metropolitan councils receive a small subsidy from the province to monitor and rectify this problem.

Christine Walters, a councillor for the Eastern council, said the council and the province were working together to alleviate such conditions.

Inspectors from the council's environmental management department were often sent to investigate complaints about poorly maintained buildings, Walters said.

"The dormitory-hostel approach which is becoming prevalent in some areas is not in the interests of the families who live in these places," she said.

Masondo's office said it usually gave owners of these buildings 21 days to rectify conditions, failing which they would be prosecuted.

Rundown blocks in Jo'burg flatland being bought for cash by Nigerians and Zaireans

By NEWTON KANHEMA

Entrepreneurs from Zaire, Nigeria and other African countries, with "suitcases full of money", are buying up entire blocks of flats in Johannesburg's deteriorating inner suburbs where the banks are reluctant to grant bonds

Estate agents told the *Saturday Star* that foreigners are rescuing the property market in Hillbrow, Berea, Yeoville and other areas where ordinary South African families still battle to get bonds

Turned away

Despite government-backed measures to underwrite home loans, several realtors said many banks were still quietly "red-lining" these suburbs - the policy of denying bonds in high-risk areas regardless of the buyer's credit rating

Two *Saturday Star* reporters, posing as home buyers, were turned away by bank managers when they applied for

loans to buy in Hillbrow.

Cash sales, however, are still very welcome.

"We have people from Zaire, Nigeria, Angola and Namibia who bring in cash," said Walter Rosin of Sheraton Estate Agents, who has been selling property in these areas for the past six years

Another estate agent, who did not want to be named, said fully 90% of her clients were foreigners who had no dealings with the banks.

"When these guys say they like the property, they don't even barter but bring in a suitcase full of notes," she said

"I was selling a block of flats in Hillbrow and these two guys from Nigeria came inquiring about the number of flats in the block and the price per unit. Two days later they came with two suitcases stuffed to bursting with R4-million in notes and told me they wanted to buy

"I was shocked because here in South Africa we don't do business in this fashion," said the

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estate agent. "But I have found foreigners much easier to deal with. There are no delays waiting for a bond to be approved and they don't waste time making a decision."

Many foreign purchasers buy purely for investment purposes and then go "straight back to Kinshasa", leaving their associates to administer the properties, one agent said.

"They came back later carrying two suitcases stuffed with R4-million"

Another estate agent, Nicholas Neube, discouraged us from buying property in Hillbrow, saying the area was for foreigners "I would not encourage you to buy in Hillbrow. It is not a good area for people like you to live in

things like robbery and there are plenty of prostitutes. But we can get you some really good property in Bez Valley," Neube said.

Most of the estate agents operating in this area say they survive through cash sales and government employees, who receive subsidies.

Asked where the foreigners got their money and whether they checked if the buyers were in the country legally, estate agents said they had only one function - to sell property

"We are not immigration officers and I don't think it is our business where the money is coming from," said Rosin. "We check whether the money they have given us is fake or not. I personally examine each note I receive"

A visit to a branch of First National Bank revealed Hillbrow had been classified as a slum

"Yes, we don't finance that area because it is a slum. If we put our money there we might as well kiss it goodbye," an official told the *Saturday Star*.

An official at Nedbank was enthusiastic until she learnt that our application was for a flat in Hillbrow "I would not encourage you to apply for a loan in that area. Why don't you try another area?" she asked

At Standard Bank, the story was essentially the same.

Estate agents are normally told that an application has been turned down because the bank has already financed the maximum 40% of the units in a building.

Going for a song

"Also, they aren't at liberty to tell you which ones they've financed. They don't say it, but it amounts to red-lining," said Rosin.

Calie Nieman of Bellair Real Estate said the red-lining policy was mostly hurting elderly people who were desperate to move to greener suburbs

"The majority of people who are selling are old and they are giving away their properties for next to nothing. Property in Hillbrow is going for a song."



HIDDEN ASSET: Squalor, such as these hidden areas, but it has not discouraged b

Western Cape foots big bill to deport aliens

Budget runs to R47 000 a month

(236)

ARG 22/5/97

LINDSAY BARNES
CRIME DESK

Deporting illegal immigrants from the Western Cape officially costs about R600 000 a year in travel and hotel costs, but the real figure could be much higher.

The provincial office of the Department of Home Affairs budgeted R47 000 a month for repatriating about 100 unwanted immigrants, said the department's acting regional director, Griet Erasmus.

But the figure could be much higher, according to a source in the department's immigration office.

Earlier this month 80 illegal

immigrants held in Pollsmoor prison were sent back to Tanzania, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Angola, India, Kenya, Ghana and Namibia.

They were moved a day after the Cape Argus highlighted the desperate plight of two Zairian castaways who had survived being set adrift from a Turkish vessel, only to be arrested by Home Affairs officials and dumped in Pollsmoor's maximum security section.

A third man apparently drowned after being allegedly beaten up by the Turkish crew and thrown overboard.

At least 23 of the 80 illegal immigrants deported were flown to Tanzania, at a cost to the Gov-

ernment of R2 700 each, a total of R62 000, the source said.

The Government also pays for immigration officers to escort the foreigners to their countries' border posts.

Added to this is the price of immigrants' lengthy stays in prison - the national estimate was R65 a prisoner a day, said Correctional Services spokesman Eddie Claasen.

This means it costs the country nearly R2 000 a month to keep an illegal immigrant in prison.

But the head of operational services at Pollsmoor, Victor Lategan, said the prison sometimes had more than 300 illegal aliens, who could be kept for two to three months at a time.

Fivaz 'funeral' at Popcru demo

NORMAN JOSEPH
STAFF REPORTER

Members of the Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (Popcru) have held a protest in Cape Town during which they burnt a coffin to symbolise their demand for the dismissal of Commissioner George Fivaz.

Yesterday's march in the city streets by hundreds of police and prison warders formed part of a national campaign by Popcru to oust Commissioner Fivaz and to

increase the pace of affirmative action in the service.

Protesters, watched by a large contingent of public order police, called for the removal of Commissioner Fivaz as well as of national and provincial police management. They shouted slogans denigrating the competence of top police structures.

Western Cape Popcru leader Johnny Jansen outlined some of the union's other demands, which were

■ "Transformation" of the police.

■ That the use of resources such as police patrol vehicles should be evenly spread and not be used mainly in formerly white residential areas.

■ That crime be addressed through a definite plan of action

■ That corrupt officers to be dealt with severely

The mock funeral, held in Kaizergracht in District Six, was conducted by warder Michael Marwebu, who was dressed as a priest and waved President Mandela's autobiography, *Long Walk To Freedom*.

Back to earth

ARG 22/5/97

Home Affairs faces glut of applications

(236)
Star 29/5/97

The Department of Home Affairs is to finish processing about 200 000 applications for permanent residence by nationals from Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states at the end of June

Last year SADC nationals residing in SA applied for permanent residence status after a cabinet decision to grant them special exemption if, among other things, they were married to South Africans and were employed

The department said this week that applicants who had not received correspondence regarding the outcome of their applications should inquire at the offices where applications were made before June 9. Those wanting to appeal against decisions regarding applications should also apply before June 9.

The department said that after June 30, unsuccessful immigrants would be removed from SA. - Staff Reporter.

SA AND MOZAMBIQUE SIGN
UP FOR THE NEXT GREAT TREK

Maputo — The Mozambican government and the South African Chamber for Agricultural Development in Africa signed an agreement yesterday formalising the creation of the Mosagrius Development Company, under whose auspices South African farmers will settle in the northern province of Niassa.



At the same ceremony, trade and industry minister Alec Erwin (pictured) and Mozambican finance minister Tomaz Salomao signed an agreement on the mutual protection of investments, without which the Mosagrius project could not go ahead. The company was established exactly a year after Presidents Joaquim Chissano and Nelson Mandela signed the agreement of principles on agricultural co-operation between the two countries — Paul Fauvet, Independent Foreign Service

OUTER 7/5/97

(236)

Border fence may be switched to 'lethal mode'

By **NORMAN CHANDLER**
Defence Correspondent

Messina - The electrified fence on South Africa's northern and eastern borders could soon be switched to "lethal mode" to stop illegal immigrants and other cross-border violators.

Defence Minister Joe Modise said at a briefing yesterday that increasing the voltage would have to be considered if the Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique borders were continually crossed illegally.

The fence has been at "non-lethal" detection mode, which alerts army patrols to transgressions, since 1990. The electrified fence - known as Norex - was built by the previous government in 1986 as a means of securing the border against ANC and PAC cadres. It runs about 220km along sections of the borders, with sisal and the Kruger National Park securing other sections.

"The threat we are facing is not a military one at this stage, but an internal crime threat which is threatening to destabilise the

country. Crime is a definite deterrent to investment, and not only that, but people are being held up, tortured and shot," Modise said after being briefed on the border situation by top military officers.

"The perpetrators are not all South Africans. If we are not coping with the influx of illegal immigrants and our people are being threatened, there will come a time when we will switch on the fence to lethal mode," he warned.

Modise pointed a finger at corrupt border officials who help illegal immigrants and smugglers.

Star 6/5/97

(236)

Border fence won't be set at lethal mode

Star 7/5/97

(236)

The Defence Ministry has moved to allay fears that the electrified fence on South Africa's northern and eastern borders will be switched to lethal mode in an attempt to keep out illegal aliens

Defence Minister Joe Modise said at a media briefing on Monday that increasing the voltage would have to be considered if the Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique borders were continually crossed illegally

But Modise's spokesman, Colonel Puso Tladi, yesterday

denied the minister was considering increasing the voltage to lethal mode and told Sapa that such actions would be used only in the worst-case scenario, which might include a war situation.

The fence has been at non-lethal detection mode, which alerts army patrols to transgressions, since 1990

It was built in 1986 as a means of securing the border against ANC and PAC cadres and runs about 220km along sections of the border. - Staff Reporter

AMONG the dozens of South African farmers who have recently crossed the border to plough Mozambican soil, Willie Nortje most certainly qualifies as the old-timer

While the 13 farmers who made a much-publicised move to Niassa Province last year are expecting their first harvest next month, he is preparing for his third crop of tomatoes on his 1 000ha in southern Mozambique

Now 64, Nortje had to come out of retirement to begin farming here. And while most of the new trekkers began to contemplate leaving home only after 1994, Nortje first applied to farm in Mozambique four decades ago

In the next two years, as many as 200 SA farmers are expected to move to Niassa to join the Mosagrus project, the ambitious settlement programme in northern Mozambique

Two agreements signed last Tuesday in Maputo should help accelerate the migration. One, signed by the two governments, will protect SA investments in Mozambique from nationalisation. The other establishes a corporation to manage the Mosagrus project, including the assigning of plots to SA farmers

Though Nortje is farming farther south and is not connected with the project, his story suggests the potential wealth that South Africans could bring — and receive — in a country that knows little of modern farming practices. He has also seen his share of the obstacles that await them. On balance, however, Nortje believes that the opportunity to raise crops in the land of his dreams was well worth a very long wait.

Nortje was just 20 when he first tried to buy a farm in colonial Mozambique, but the Portuguese authorities turned him down. He sweated for 40 years raising cattle and growing tobacco on the unforgiving soils of Northern Transvaal, but he never completely let go of his hope of farming in Mozambique. Nortje had retired from his unprofitable farm by the time the Maputo government opened its doors to SA investors, but the opportunity was enough to rouse him out of retirement.

He applied to lease land near the Sabie River, not far from the eastern border of Kruger National Park. After three years of bureaucratic wrangling, his 40-year wait was over. In June 1995, he began planting tomatoes, cabbages and maize on a former Portuguese farm that had gone to seed during the war.

Today his tomatoes are ripening for the third time. With no frost and a continual supply of irrigation water, he can plant and harvest throughout the year. Those rewards will multiply when the grapefruit and mango trees he has planted begin to bear fruit.

The Mozambican government charges Nortje a pittance for the land and water he uses. Irrigation fees are R15/ha, compared to R500 in South Africa.

The government in Maputo does, however, require all foreign farmers to make significant investments in their property. Nortje must spend at least \$70 000, the equivalent of more than R310 000. The demand seems reasonable to him. By the end of the year, Nortje expects his expenditures on fruit trees, fencing, irrigation and other improvements to total more than R500 000.

Nortje has also become one of the largest employers in and around the town of Sabie, with 45 farmworkers. By the time his orchard is producing, he expects to have a workforce of 200. But even

The Boer who makes deadly Mozambican soil yield life

(23b) ST(BT) 11/5/97
DON BOROUGHS visited a tough South African farmer who crossed the border to seek new pastures in a devastated land

by the standards of South Africa's poorly paid farmworkers, their earnings are meagre, the equivalent of less than R100 a month

Nortje defends the wages on the grounds that they are well above the required minimum and that several candidates appear for every job opening he has. He admits however, that with the money he pays, his workers cannot get ahead, they can only get by. One, while grateful for a job, confirms that he earns "just enough for the basics and nothing more"

Most of the local people have welcomed Nortje. Nearby farmers even helped him out with a tractor and an irrigation pump before his own arrived. In exchange, Nortje does what he can to earn their kindness. He has repaired broken-down tractors, which are an even more common sight in Mozambique than the rusting army tanks that litter the countryside. He gives advice to other farmers on fertiliser and sells them improved maize seeds. In the community, he has become the unofficial patron of the soccer team, supplying uniforms and ferrying them to out-of-town matches on weekends.

Not everything has been sunshine and soccer games for Nortje, however. There are Mozambicans who have found it difficult to forget South Africa's role in their civil war. "I've come across some people who wouldn't even shake your hand," he admits.

Nortje must also contend with two long, narrow mine fields that cross his property. Every day he hears land mines exploding. Usually they have been detonated by mine-clearing teams, but two cows have been killed on the farm. His wife has refused to move to Mozambique because she considers it dangerous. Until he can persuade her otherwise, Nortje must commute back to South Africa for occasional visits.

South Africans in the remote Niassa Province face even more hardships, particularly with the underdeveloped infrastructure. Nortje's farm lies just a couple of hours from Maputo, where he sells most of his tomatoes. But in the north, the route from the newly settled area to the poorly equipped Nacala harbour takes two days, crossing rivers where the bridges are frequently impassable in the rainy season.

The SA Chamber for Agricultural Development in Africa, this country's partner in the Mosagrus project, is talking with the government in Maputo about improving road and rail links.

If the farmers' produce cannot reach Mozambican and foreign markets, only a fraction of expected settlers will risk the move. Starting farms farther south is not a simple solution, either.

Nortje depends on irrigation in the drier climate there, and most land that has access to both roads and irrigation is already being farmed by Mozambicans.

Such difficulties have not dissuaded Nortje from trying to interest other South African farmers to join him. His son-in-law has already visited and is considering making the trek.

Still, Nortje rails against South Africans who come to establish game farms, others who are hoping to make a quick buck and return home, and any farmer who isn't prepared to get his hands dirty in the greening of Mozambique. "Absentee farmers," Nortje sneers, "those are the buggers we don't want in this country." The "we" slips out naturally, as though he had been born here. "I don't regard myself as a South African anymore, my interest is here."

It is this attitude, in part, that has endeared Nortje to the local government. And his well-cultivated relations with local officials has led to an ingenious project. Running across the property is a line of nine metre-high sentry posts. Mozambican soldiers used to stand atop the tall steel poles, looking out for Renamo guerrillas. After discovering that they are made of galvanised steel pipe, Nortje sought and received permission to begin knocking the poles down and adapting them for irrigation.

"That pipe is going to do a big job here," says Nortje, "instead of just standing all lonely there, watching nothing."

When white rule ended in South Africa, the Frontline states hoped fervently a new South Africa would beat its swords into ploughshares. As Willie Nortje beats his sentry posts into irrigation pipes, that hope is fulfilled as literally as they could ever have wished.

● *Boroughs is a correspondent for US News and World Report in southern Africa.*

'Absentee farmers who are just hoping to make a quick buck are the kind of buggers we don't want'

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Picture DON BOROUGHS



SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES . . . Willie Nortje and a labourer at work in Mozambique

'Trekker' should change their ways

Winds of change have not only brought uncertainty to Afrikaner farmers, they have forced them to opt for yet another Great Trek into southern Africa, speculates **Dave Husy**

INTENT on establishing a "food corridor" stretching across the southern African region from Angola to Mozambique, Afrikaner farmers are being welcomed by the governments of Mozambique and Zambia, and further north by those of Zaire and Congo.

The countries involved are acting on the notion that these farmers will bring investment and skills which will help with the economic development and reconstruction of their economy.

But SA delegates at the recent Southern African Regional Conference on Land, Labour and Food Security, who have an experience of these farmers, told a different story. The legacy these farmers leave, they say, is exploitation, conflict, and inefficiency. They cannot understand why developing countries continue to offer these farmers free or discounted land, generous support and credit facilities and political goodwill. "Farmers will bring their problems with them," they insist.

The reasons for the farmers' trek are varied. Political changes in SA have weakened their privileged place in the country. Progressive new land reform and labour legislation have forced farmers to change their farming

practices or leave. Many have left.

Added to this is the increasing level of conflict over land in some areas and the possibility of claims against farm land. As threatening as these processes may seem, the design of the land reform programme virtually ensures that their land cannot be taken away from legal owners by the new SA government. In the few instances where it can be taken away, market-related compensation certainly ensures that the pill to be swallowed may turn out to be a sweet one.

Perhaps the strongest reason for the farmers leaving for their new countries is a financial one. The notion that SA farmers are efficient is belied by their general financial situation. About one-third are so heavily in debt that they are unable to continue farming operations. Another third are breaking even, but are facing declining profitability.

While there may be structural factors contributing to this situation, like declining producer prices and increasing interest rates, the fact remains that farmers have been unable to survive in the existing climate.

"The reasons for this are clear," said

(236) b0 15/15/97

delegate David Canham of the Farmworkers Research and Resource Project in SA. "Firstly, they established their farming operations under the political patronage of successive racist governments. These governments offered subsidies and easy credit on which farmers grew fat. Equally, they were able to exploit politically oppressed farm workers as cheap labour with the support of government."

The removal of subsidies, the regulation of credit and interest rates, and the introduction of legislation protecting farm workers have removed the sheltered position of farmers. So, many white farmers have failed in this new climate and are now exporting their methods and approaches to other developing countries of the region.

They are also being supported by political and commercial interests in SA. The conservative Afrikaner political party, the Freedom Front and some members of the African National Congress have spearheaded these initiatives. Both these organisations seem to do be doing so for their own political interests.

White farmers are making their presence felt in the worst way

"In Zambia two villages have been demolished and people removed from their land to make way for a white farmer," reports Martin Kalungu-Banda of Oxfam-Zambia. "The sad feature of these removals has been that they have been effected through legal means by the farmers, together with the support of the government."

Mozambican delegates report that Afrikaner farmers are settling on land owned by peasant farmers who were forced to flee from the war. "What will happen when these people return?" asked Valente Langa of Mozambican agricultural organisation Oram. "They will find that there is no way to claim back their land. In fact, they may end up working for an Afrikaner foreigner on their own land."

Delegates at the conference have called on governments in the region to end their support of the Afrikaner settler farmers.

If these farmers want to contribute to these countries, they say, let them contribute in real terms, not by importing exploitative practices.

□ Husy is deputy director of the National Land Committee

Brain drain to US from fear

(236)

CT 20/5/97

WASHINGTON: A survey of South Africans living in the United States found that many were driven out of their country by fears of crime and affirmative action and were more "comfortable" abroad.

They were reluctant to return to South Africa even if criminal violence was brought under control.

The survey was conducted by University of Alabama's Mr Craig Peters assisted by Mr Cliff Matheson, editor of Juluka, a newsletter on South African issues.

It found that those who had left South Africa were mostly engineers, professors, scientists and attorneys.

Three-quarters were male and 90% were white. Most were aged between 20 and 40.

"There is evidence of a substantial brain drain," said Peters.

"At least 20% were medical professionals, 23% had occupied business managerial positions and 20% were computer professionals.

"The remaining respondents consisted primarily of engineers, professors, scientists, attorneys and students. Only one respondent was unemployed," Peters said.

"Obviously, a well educated and highly skilled (sector of the) population, 21% (of the emigrants) earned between \$40 000 and \$60 000 (R178 800 to R268 200), a third had annual incomes between \$60 000 and \$100 000 (R268 200 to R447 000), and 24% earned in excess of \$100 000.

"More than half said they found their quality of life and job prospects had improved in the US while 15% preferred their lives in South Africa and 10% were undecided," he added.

Peters said that apart from family and long-time friends, emigrants missed a wide range of things, including Johannesburg thunderstorms, Cape beaches and "Africa's spirituality".

One respondent said "the USA is definitely a better place to bring up kids".

A marketing analyst living in Westport, Connecticut said she slept soundly at night, and didn't have to listen for the sound of someone breaking into her home — Independent Foreign Service.

New immigrants to benefit in tax bill

CHRISTO VOLSCHENK

ECONOMICS EDITOR

Cape Town — Immigrants would not have to pay tax on investment income earned abroad for the first three years following their residency in South Africa, according to the Income Tax Bill tabled in parliament yesterday

But investment income earned on assets acquired after they become residents would be taxed in the same way as all other investment income earned abroad by local residents, according to the bill.

The bill gives effect to all the tax-related announcements contained in the March Budget, including the one that the local tax base would be protected by making investment income earned abroad taxable in South Africa

ET(BR) 28/5/97 (236)

The bill defines investment income as interest, rentals, royalties and income in the form of annuities, but not dividends

Trevor Manuel, the finance minister, said in his Budget speech that it would be necessary to protect the tax base after foreign exchange regulations had been reduced on July 1 this year to allow local residents to invest limited amounts abroad

Residents will not be able to evade tax on investment income by donating the income to a non-resident or by reinvesting the income abroad to earn dividends which are not taxable

According to the bill, the income earned by the donation would be included in the income of the resident and be taxed accordingly

The bill also spells out how in-

terest rate swop-agreements would be taxed and how benefits transferred from public sector pension funds to provident funds would be taxed

Two-thirds of the benefit transferred would be taxed, leaving the member of the fund to receive a lump-sum payment of one-third of the capitalised value of all his benefits, the memorandum to the bill says.

The 1997 Taxation Laws Amendment Bill, also tabled yesterday, introduces a new section to the Value-Added Tax Act which prevents the splitting of a business into more than one business to keep the annual turnover of each below the threshold of R150 000.

This bill also extends the definition of rental income received by pension and provident funds

City haven for victims of Africa's wars and woes

Call for help as 200 arrive every week

JULIAN JACOBS
STAFF REPORTER

Cape Town is experiencing an influx of refugees from all over war-torn Africa with an estimated 200 new arrivals a month, a senior immigration officer has disclosed.

Home Affairs chief immigration officer Jaco Duckitt said "We have 5 000 refugees in Cape Town and it is a complex problem with no quick solutions."

A great influx took place in 1995. It dropped in 1996 but is picking up again. Mr Duckitt said the Department of Home Affairs followed the same rules as the rest of the world when dealing with refugees.

The Cape Town Refugee Forum was formed in March 1994 to alleviate the seemingly insurmountable difficulties faced by refugees and asylum-seekers.

The forum, a group of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and refugee members, describes a refugee as someone who has fled his or her country of birth because of civil war, religious intolerance, racial discrimination or violations of human rights.

On registering with Home Affairs, a refugee obtains asylum-seeker status and if approved will receive refugee status after a certain period, usually up to 12 months.

Mr Duckitt described the relationship with the forum as both essential and confronting.

The forum, which sees to housing, food, employment and training, has become a model mirrored in other centres in southern Africa.

Pastor Jack Mahoney of the Ark City of Refuge in Westlake said that as a church they accepted the homeless and destitute. "We have about 20 young men and four families living with us and 90 percent of

them are Angolans," he said.

He said as they found work and left the Ark, many ended up living in Muzenbergh. "They like living together for a sense of belonging and security," he said.

"Refugees arriving in Cape Town frequently flee persecution and war from countries like Angola, Burundi, Rwanda, Zaïre and Somalia, and each case has to be treated on merit and with sensitivity."

Refugees arriving in Cape Town face the enormous task of having to adapt to a foreign culture, language and xenophobia. The local population tend to view the refugees as outsiders and as competitors for scarce jobs.

The refugees invariably display symptoms of stress, anxiety, post-traumatic stress, adjustment disorder, depression, psychosomatic and medical problems.

Males between the ages of 18 and 30 are the main group of asylum-seekers visiting the Trauma Centre for Victims of Violence. Programmes have been initiated by the Refugee Forum to help overcome their isolation and fit in with more established refugee communities.

The forum has introduced a youth programme, a counselling programme, a children's English-bridging class and a support group for women. It offers counselling on the asylum application process, social events for new arrivals and legal services.

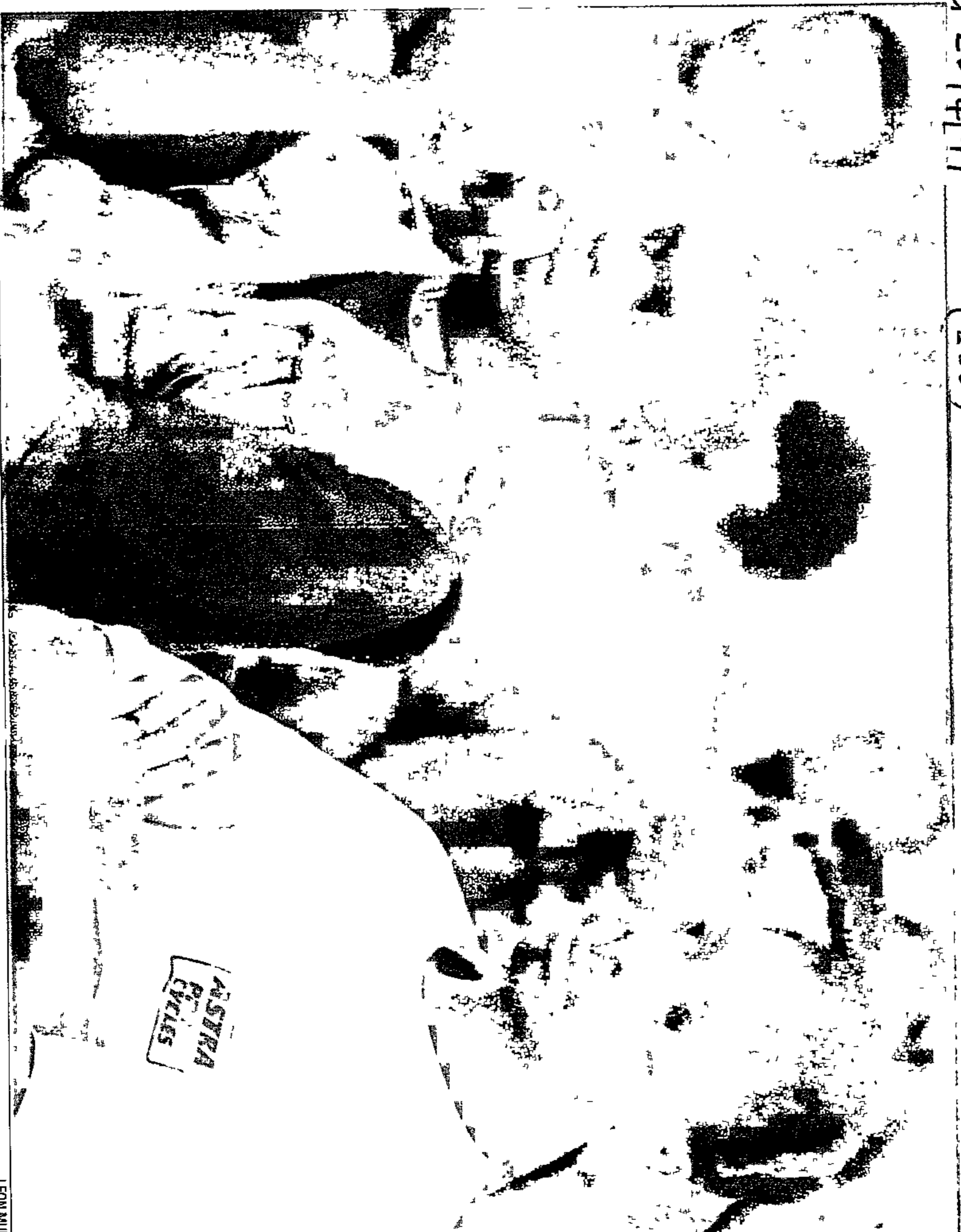
The Ark is appealing to the township communities for spare rooms.

Spongile Mbothwe, housing programme co-ordinator, said: "We are looking for the community's help to reach out to these people who are struggling in this country, many without friends and many without knowledge of the language."

"It is our moral duty to help these people because many of these countries have looked after our brothers and sisters during the years of the struggle."



Stalwart forum secretary Bran Redelinguys



Free at last: refugees at a meeting of the Cape Town Refugee Forum in Wynberg. Many flee persecution in Angola, Burundi, Rwanda, Zaïre and Somalia.

LEON MULLER

Taxpayers must not fund services for illegals, says Buthelezi

Durban - It was imperative that illegal aliens did not have access to services paid for by the South African taxpayer, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday.

Speaking in Durban at the Conference on the State of Transformation in South Africa, Buthelezi said this was why he had announced the introduction

of a new national identification system.

The new system would discourage illegal aliens from fraudulently using identity documents and would make social services largely inaccessible to them.

Buthelezi said the Government was committed to removing illegal aliens from the country. The police and the defence

force had been deployed to put a halt to clandestine border crossings. Buthelezi said 15% more illegal aliens had been deported in 1996 than in 1995.

Ministers involved in the national crime prevention strategy had agreed to a co-operative approach to border control, he said.

However, not all foreigners in SA were in the country illegally.

Turning to the subject of emigration, Buthelezi said the problem could be stemmed by stamping out crime and other factors causing South Africans to leave.

The influx of illegal aliens, on the other hand, would be stemmed in the long term only by the economic development of the entire Southern African Development Community region - Sapa.



GARY BERNARD

Star 30/4/97

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Another amnesty offer after poor results

Marion Edmunds

REFUGEE monitors and a few senior Home Affairs officials are lobbying for another amnesty for illegal immigrants — possibly for Mozambicans only — after last year's asylum offer reached fewer people than had been hoped.

Only 200 000 illegal immigrants and refugees from Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries applied for amnesty, and nearly half of them had their applications for permanent residence turned down.

Maxine Reitzes and Nigel Crawhall, who evaluated the amnesty for a study commissioned by the Southern African migration project of Idasa, indicated that the numbers of applicants fell far short

of the Home Affairs Department's expectations.

"If we look at 204 000 out of a million [refugees], then we can say that the initiative only convinced 20% of potential applicants. This would appear to be a failure because it leaves a further 80% in a continuing and unnecessary illegal situation.

"If the real number of possible applicants was 500 000, then Home Affairs can claim a 40% success rate, a major improvement but still begging the question of what happened to all the others."

Of the 11 SADC nationalities which applied for amnesty, Mozambicans came in with far the largest number, with more than 146 672 pitching for permanent residence. Just under 50% were rejected. Zimbabweans and Malawians fared

comparatively better with 67% of Zimbabwean applications approved and 68% of Malawian applicants getting permanent residence.

While the state has received credit for pioneering the amnesty, there has been wide-ranging criticism about the confusion it initially inspired — politically and logistically — and its implementation.

There is also a fear that Home Affairs will use the data it has collected to arrest and deport those who were rejected and whose temporary permits have now expired.

The Black Sash has complained that rejected applicants were not provided with reasons why they were turned down, making it difficult for them to appeal against the decision, made in many cases by officials, some of them temporary workers

with little expertise, brought in to handle the amnesty queues.

Reitzes and Crawhall recommend that Home Affairs upgrade its research on immigration issues, that it co-ordinate better with relevant departments, such as Foreign Affairs, non-governmental organisations and immigrant groups, and that corrupt Home Affairs officials be rooted out and penalised.

Nicola Johnston, the co-ordinator of the Wits Rural Refugee Programme in Mpumalanga, said she was lobbying Home Affairs for another amnesty because there were still hundreds of thousands of Mozambicans, many of whom had lived in Mpumalanga for 10 and 15 years, who had not been able to take up the amnesty.

"It was too expensive for many to

travel to the local Home Affairs office to make the applications. There were also hidden costs of corruption, which made it difficult for them. Headmen, for example, were charging about R19 for a referral letter stating how long the person had been in the country, clerks were demanding R6 to take fingerprints, and people were having to pay R20 to clerks to speed up their applications."

Johnston estimates there are about 300 000 Mozambican refugees around Bushbuckridge who did not apply. Of the 36 268 who applied for the amnesty in Nelspruit, only 10 000 applications were approved.

Johnston said she had picked up — through discussions with Home Affairs officials — that some government officials saw the project as a useful way to isolate the criminal element within the illegal alien community.

The Home Affairs Department had not responded to questions at the time of going to print.

Cabinet bid to clamp down on illegal aliens

Star 24/4/97 (236)

Anyone found supporting them may be fined or imprisoned

By **NORMAN CHANDLER**
Pretoria Bureau

Two decisions taken by Cabinet last year, but which have been kept under wraps until now, restrict government assistance to illegal immigrants and indicate a hardening official attitude to the estimated five million illegals in South Africa

The decisions, taken on July 3 and August 16 last year, were confirmed by Home Affairs director-general Piet Colyn yesterday

They seek to limit illegal immigrants' access to subsidised services like agricultural-sector facilities, government credit sources, water schemes, education, research facilities, industrial development, enterprise finance, hospitals and clinics, transport, housing and welfare.

The South African Institute of Race Relations, which alerted The Star to the clampdown, said the Aliens Control Act now also forbids South African citizens from accommodating, supporting or trading with illegals, including pavement vendors.

Anyone helping them faces criminal charges, and can be fined or jailed.

Some illegals are being given the chance to legalise their positions if they have been in the country for five years, been em-

ployed here or are married to South African citizens

Last year, more than 100 000 were repatriated to countries of origin, mainly Mozambique and Zimbabwe, compared with 157 084 in 1995 and 90 692 in 1994

Colyn said in reply to questions from The Star yesterday "The whole thrust of the Reconstruction and Development Programme is aimed at the improvement of the wellbeing of South

Access to education, health care, services restricted

African citizens and permanent residents, especially those previously disadvantaged

"With an illegal-alien population estimated at between 2,5-million and five million, it is obvious that the socio-economic resources are further being burdened by the presence of illegal aliens

"The Cabinet decided on July 3 1996 to appeal to foreign companies operating in South Africa to demonstrate their support for the RDP by refraining from appoint-

ing alien employees to positions which could be filled by South Africans or permanent residents," he said This was followed on August 16 by a cabinet resolution to make an extra effort to address the problem

He said government departments had to formulate their own policy towards aliens within the framework of cabinet resolutions

"Illegal aliens simply cannot be accommodated in the RSA without any adverse effect on citizens or permanent residents, as the state cannot provide services required by its own citizens and permanent residents at present "

The institute, in its publication *Fast Facts*, quotes Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi as saying he intended to deal more strictly with illegals "now that the Government had gained the moral high ground by offering an exemption" (in terms of five-years residence or marriage to citizens)

More than 200 000 people have applied for exemption and, says the institute, state departments have meanwhile been told "to request the identity documents or passports of all foreigners requesting services subsidised by the Government, and in this way ensure that they do not gain access to services in short supply to our own people"

Homeless immigrants say Sanco is exploiting them

Tenants in abandoned factories object to being charged up to R200 a month for accommodation with no toilet facilities

By ANNA COX
Sandton Bureau

A row has erupted between people living in unoccupied factories in Marlboro and the Alexandra branch of the South African National Civic Organisation (Sanco).

The tenants, mainly immigrants, claim that Sanco is exploiting them by charging them up to R200 a month for small, partitioned sections of the factories. Sanco in turn claims that it is protecting the tenants against unscrupulous people who collect money for landlords.

Twenty one factory owners in Marlboro are renting their premises out to homeless people. There are hundreds of vacant factories. Owners abandoned them because of the high crime rate in the area.

Most of the factories being let out have no water or electricity,

and few have toilet and bathroom facilities.

Tenants would not talk to The Star yesterday because they are mostly immigrants and fear reprisals. They claim they are threatened if they are late with their rents.

Sanco, however, says it stepped in because factory owners had appointed people to collect money and these people were exploiting tenants by charging up to R400 a month.

Said Alex Sanco secretary Phulemon Machitela: "We stepped in because we got complaints about the high rentals. There was no relationship between tenants and owners."

"We managed to get nine lease agreements signed. Each of those buildings now has a management committee which decides on rentals, water and electricity payments. No one pays more than a

maximum of R200," he said.

Sanco had also recently formed a housing association and was looking at converting some empty factories into proper flats, said Machitela.

He said four factory owners had indicated they were willing to sell. Sanco was negotiating with local and provincial authorities to get money to buy the buildings, but if this fell through, they would apply to banks to finance the purchase, he added.

"We have proved that people are willing to pay. If they get better accommodation and services they will pay. We don't want to see the industrial face of Marlboro destroyed. We want to see it as a mixed use area. If there is a residential component, crime will drop. We want to encourage investment in the area so we can provide jobs for the people of Alexandra," he said.

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Star 18/4/97

Clampdown on foreign workers

Curbs aim to alleviate jobs crisis, says Buthelezi

POLITICAL STAFF

The unemployment crisis has compelled the Government to adopt a much tougher approach to admission of foreign workers, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi has told the National Assembly.

Opening a debate on the Home Affairs budget vote, Chief Buthelezi said yesterday

this had resulted in the Aliens Control Amendment Act, which stipulated work, study and work-seeker's permits must be applied for abroad (not after arrival here)

"These more stringent control measures have had an overwhelmingly positive effect, as foreigners who previously entered South Africa on holiday permits with the intention of seeking employment are now compelled to

obtain work permits before entering South Africa and employment opportunities are, therefore, better secured for local residents," he said.

He said he was committed to apprehending and removing illegals.

The illegal alien population in South Africa, estimated between 2,5 million and 5 million, had put socio-economic resources

under severe strain. He estimated illegal aliens cost the state billions of rands a year.

The Cabinet had appealed through the media to foreign companies operating in South Africa to demonstrate support for the RDP by refraining from appointing alien employees to positions which could be filled by South African citizens or permanent residents, unless this was absolutely necessary

ARb 18/4/97

(236)

Immigrant tenants say they are being exploited

Sowetan Correspondent

A ROW has erupted between people living in unoccupied factories in Marlboro, Johannesburg, and the Alexandra Township branch of the South African National Civic Organisation

The tenants, mainly immigrants, claim that Sanco is exploiting them by charging them up to R200 a month for small, partitioned sections of the factories

Sanco, in turn, claims that it is protecting the tenants against unscrupulous people who collect money for landlords

(236) Twenty-one factory owners in Marlboro are presently renting their premises out to homeless people

There are hundreds of vacant factories in the area because owners have abandoned them due to the high incidence of crime

Most of the factories being let have no water or electricity, and few have toilet and bath room facilities

Tenants refused to talk to *Sowetan* yesterday because they are mostly immigrants and fear reprisals

But they claim they are constantly threatened if they are late with the payment of their rent

Sanco, however, says it stepped in

because factory owners had appointed people to collect money and these people were exploiting tenants by charging up to R400 a month

Said Alexandra Township Sanco secretary Mr Philemon Machitela "We stepped in because we received complaints about the high rentals. There was no relationship between tenants and owners

"We managed to get nine lease agreements signed. Each of these buildings now has a management committee that decides on rentals, water and electricity payments

"No one pays more than a maximum of R200."

Sowetan 17/4/99

More than 100 000 SADC immigrants given citizenship

BY PATRICK PHOSA

(236)

Star 11/4/97.
tionship with a South African, or have dependent children born or residing lawfully in SA.

More than 100 000 immigrants have become South Africans following a cabinet decision last year to grant citizenship to people from neighbouring countries who had been living in South Africa for some time

Of the 199 596 applications received by the Department of Home Affairs countrywide, 100 218 applicants have been granted citizenship so far. A total of 87 600 applications have been turned down.

Department of Home Affairs spokesman Marks Nkwana said the largest number of citizenship grants was made in Gauteng.

Of the 117 569 applications received in the province, 60 728 were approved and 46 889 turned down. The remaining applications are still being processed by the department.

The applicants took advantage of a cabinet decision early last year to grant citizenship to some Southern African Development Community nationals living in SA. Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe belong to the SADC.

In order to qualify, the foreign nationals had to have been in the country for at least five years, be employed, have a rela-

In Northern Province, 17 735 of about 30 000 applicants were successful and 12 034 applications for citizenship were declined.

Hot on the heels of Northern Province was Mpumalanga, which received 36 286 applications. The department approved 10 000 and rejected 26 286.

North West received 9 792 applications, approved 6 627 and rejected 1 555 so far.

The lowest number of applications were received in Northern Cape. Of the 84 applications received there, 76 were given permanent residence status and eight were turned down.

Although most of the offices of the Department of Home Affairs throughout the country have already finished processing the forms, some are still assessing whether the applicants meet requirements set by the Cabinet.

The initial cut-off date for applications was September 30 last year but this period was extended to the end of November because the department was flooded with applications.

It is estimated there are still between 2,5 million and 4,2 million illegal immigrants in the country.

By Coudjoe Amankwaa

CHICCO X (not his real name) is a refugee from Liberia who has been living in South Africa since May 1994. He works as a shoemaker in Johannesburg.

Chicco told *Sowetan* he does not get any financial assistance from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as the organisation has stopped giving monthly allowances to refugees.

UNHCR only assisted him to obtain legal refugee documents from the Ministry of Home Affairs to enable him to secure refuge in South Africa.

"I then decided to use my skills as a shoemaker," Chicco said.

He said he earns a decent income and was happy that he has many customers who bring their shoes to him to repair.

On a good day, Chicco can go home with R120, and when it's a bad day he gets about R40.

He rents a flat in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, for about R850 a month.

Obafemi Awolowa (not his real name) from Nigeria is a barber in Johannesburg.

Awolowa, who lives in Berea, has been in the country since General Sani Abacha took over power from General Ibrahim Babangida in 1995.

He also does not receive any money from the UNHCR.

Need to control flow of refugees to SA

Sowetan
17/4/97
(236)

He and Chicco are just two of the millions of refugees and asylum-seekers around the world who now have to fend for themselves.

UNHCR senior regional legal officer in South Africa Pia Prutz Phiri told *Sowetan* "The UNHCR has taken a conscious decision to stop paying money to refugees to eradicate the dependency syndrome which was creeping in among asylum-seekers and refugees."

Help to survive

She said the UNHCR previously used to pay asylum-seekers and refugees a monthly allowance as a way to help them survive in the country in which they sought asylum.

But now that the parent body, the United Nations, is itself battling to survive,

refugees are no longer granted monthly allowances, making life difficult for them.

Phiri said: "The UNHCR is now



UNHCR official Pia Prutz Phiri believes South Africa's attempt to address the plight of its poor will be under threat if large numbers of refugees flock to the country.

focusing on funding refugees to obtain vocational skills to give them life-long skills to help them become self-sufficient."

Refugees in South Africa do not live in designated camps because their numbers are so small — "unlike in Tanzania where, in one day, one million people flocked from Rwanda during the height of the civil war".

"In such instances, refugees need confinement for monitoring," she said.

She added that refugees in South Africa were fortunate as they stay in the community in a place of their choice.

Outcry

The South African Government's decision to review its refugee legislation this year stems from the outcry by South Africans that refugees are taking advantage of the country's hospitality and engaging in illegal deals.

Home Affairs spokeswoman Mpho Mawela said at the moment there are 13 447 applications from refugees and asylum-seekers.

Phiri, however, disputed the perception which linked refugees to poverty.

"Some refugees have opened businesses in South Africa and are employing local citizens," she said.

She also argued that it was better for refugees to work as they helped to boost the economy of the host country by paying taxes.

And, she added, the only way to monitor refugees was through the periodic extension of their temporary residence permits.

Phiri also said that a distinction needed to be made between illegal immigrants (estimated at 2.5 million) and refugees (estimated at 23 645) in South Africa.

"The Organisation of African Unity should encourage a culture of dialogue between governments, to minimise conflicts and wars if the refugee problem on the continent is to decrease," she said.

According to a UNHCR report on Africa, there are 5.6 million refugees and 1.3 million internally displaced people on the continent.

In an attempt to support themselves, more and more refugees and asylum-seekers are becoming involved in illegal activities.

"As South Africa enters the next century trying to address the plight of her previously disadvantaged, excessive numbers of refugees flocking to the country pose a threat to that goal," said Phiri.

What is SA's responsibility to migrants, refugees?

ET 10/4/97

(236)

FINDING fair and durable solutions for the growing influx of refugees and foreign migrants into Southern Africa will become a pressing need in coming months and years, writes **MARION SINCLAIR**.

THE recent visit to South Africa by Sadako Ogata, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, has come at a significant time for South Africa's foreign policy, coinciding as it does with the formulation of a new South African position on refugees and immigrants.

While we remain largely untouched by the growing crisis in the Great Lakes region and in Sudan, our country's position in the Southern African Development Conference, as well as our being the primary recipient of migrants on the continent, means that our responsibilities towards migrants and refugees is growing.

Sadly, as Ogata herself pointed out, our role as migrant recipient has been tainted by growing signs of xenophobia. Public hostility towards migrants in South Africa has become a distressing feature of the new South African identity.

While the great majority of newcomers in South Africa are here voluntarily, many others are here because the alternative — of staying in their home territories — has become too dangerous. We are experiencing a rise in the number of asylum-seekers, though the number of applicants is still very small — despite recent media reports of government offices being "swamped" by asylum-seekers.

Our new role in the region as a country sympathetic to refugees is particularly significant when one considers that, until only a few years ago, South Africa generated rather than supported refugees. The fact that refugees from the entire continent increasingly seek asy-

lum here reflects the importance of the victory of democracy to Africa as a whole.

While the humane reception of asylum-seekers in South Africa is indeed something of which we should be proud, it carries with it at least two problems.

The first is that asylum-seeking is open to misuse. The incidence of migrants being sold stores and identities to qualify as refugees is growing.

The other is the perception of preferential treatment to forced migrants from outside South Africa.

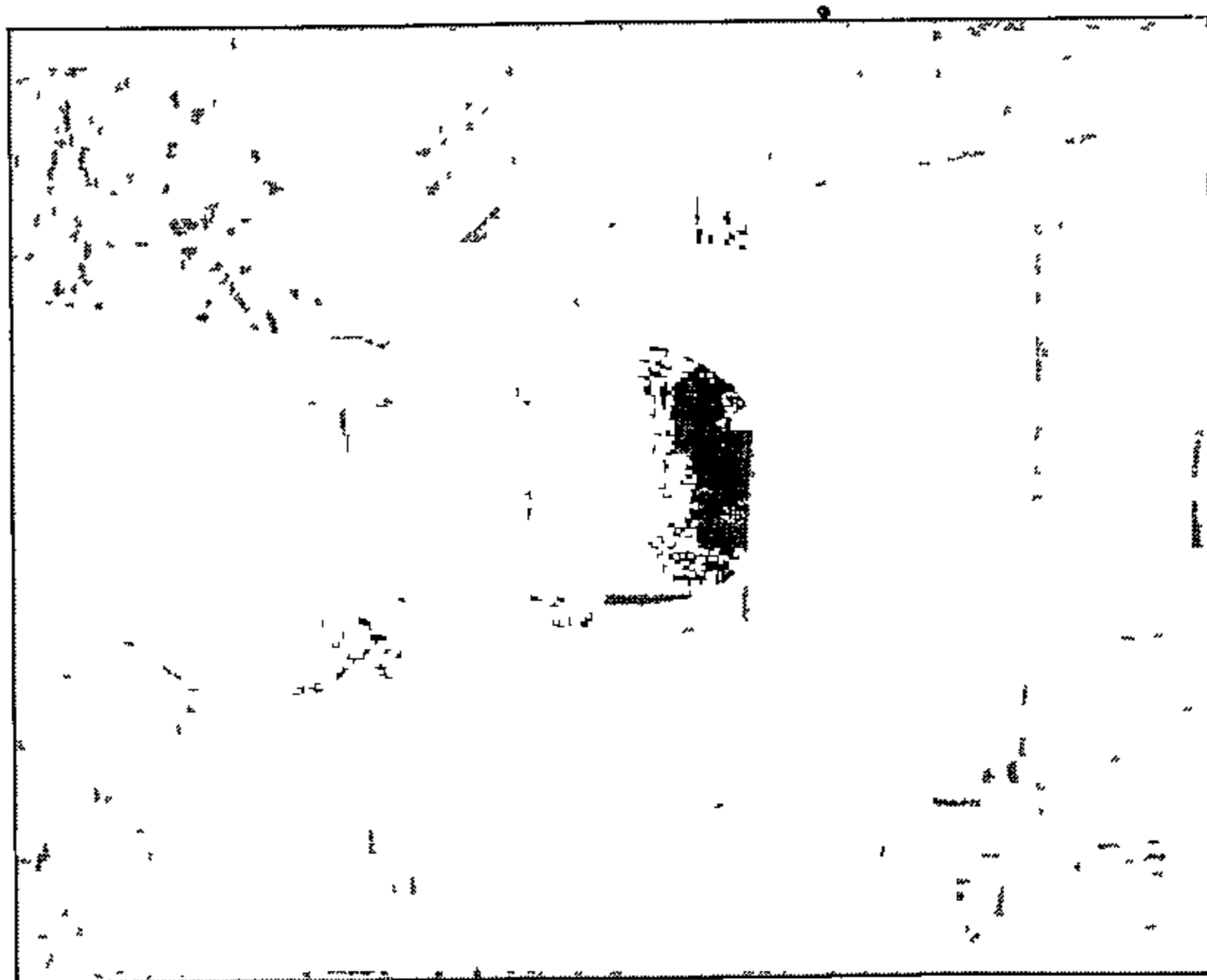
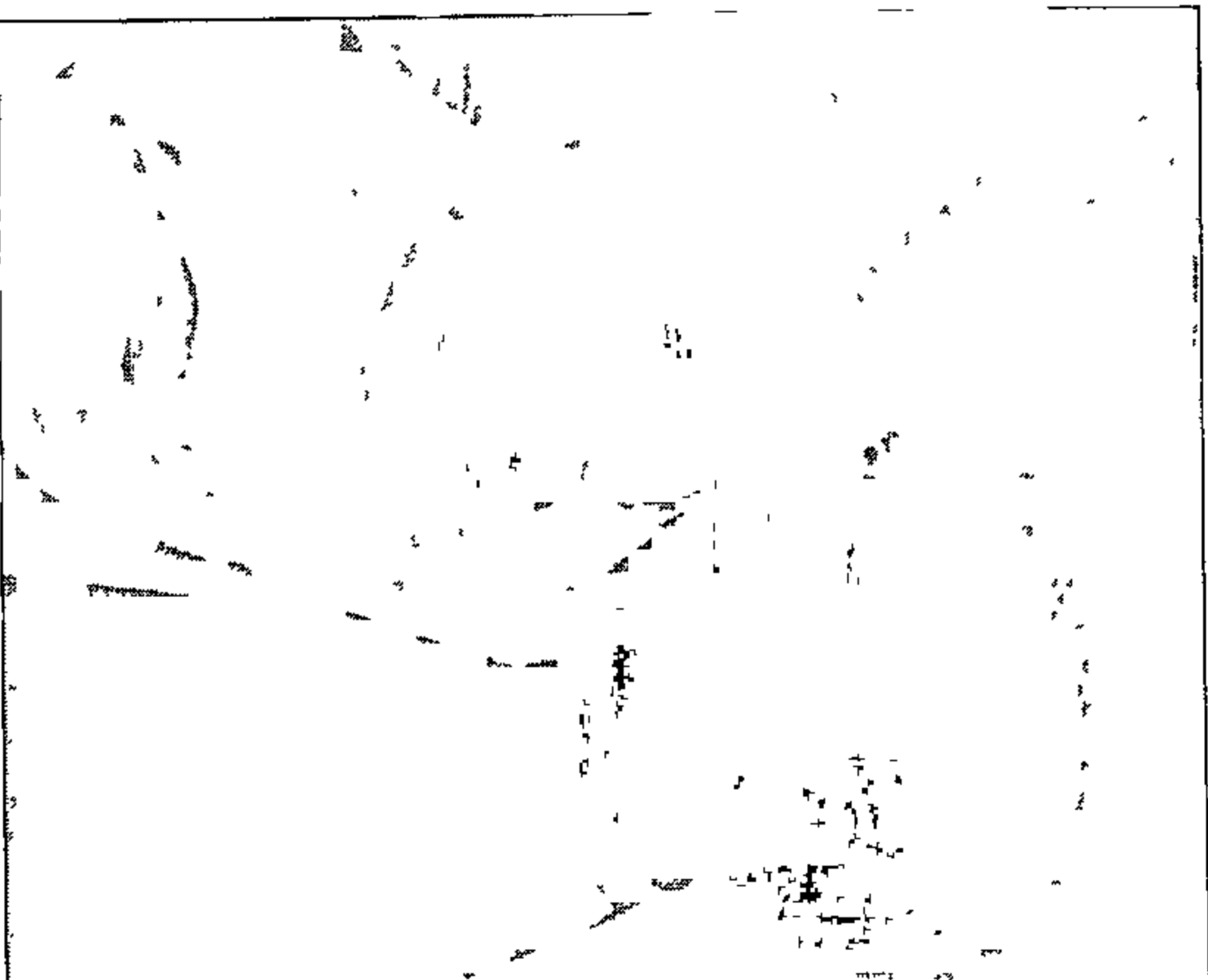
Whereas international co-operation and conventions offer some protection and guarantees of assistance to international refugees, domestic forced migrants — of which there are tens of thousands in this country and hundreds of thousands across the region — have no such back-up. This creates a very real opportunity for conflict and enhances anti-foreigner sentiment.

We are by no means alone in our disregard for internal refugees. Globally-speaking, this group receives the least assistance from international agencies and is the group most neglected through lack of domestic interest, or even active marginalisation, by national governments.

Within the SADC, internal refugees in countries such as Angola and Mozambique attract far less humanitarian aid than refugees from those countries either still outside their home countries or being repatriated to them.

In South Africa, huge numbers of South Africans remain displaced by the apartheid policy of forced removal. Despite of their obvious need and their numerical significance, these internal refugees still attract little or no domestic support.

Clearly, the issue of internal refugees is central to both the SADC as a region and to South Africa. As both confront their responsibility to develop and implement a humane and sustainable policy towards international refugees,



STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND: In SA, the primary recipient of migrants on this continent, there are growing signs of xenophobia. Public hostility towards migrants, such as these children from Mozambique, is a feature of the new SA identity.

the internal refugees within individual countries should not be forgotten.

As we make important and significant strides towards promoting reconciliation and integration, the forced migrant — both international and domestic — deserves our compassion and assistance.

Where the UNHCR attempts to match aid with prevention, so, too, should we address ourselves with renewed vigour to prevent the ongoing generation of forced migrants locally and regionally.

As poverty and persecution increase on the continent, it is inevitable that we will continue to see increasing numbers of asylum-seekers and economic

migrants across the region. How the latter should be treated in terms of policy is the subject of many an unresolved debate.

How asylum-seekers and refugees are currently treated, and how they will continue to be treated, will be guided by international conventions and, eventually, by domestic legislation.

The encouragement of a regional position in this regard might be one way to address prevention as well as cure. After all, migrants are the most visible demonstration of the arbitrary, even nonsensical, nature of national borders in the region.

A regional position on the reception and rights of both internal and interna-

tional refugees and a shared mandate towards a joint responsibility for preventing future conflicts, would strengthen the region's ability to act fairly and effectively to deal with the forcibly uprooted peoples of the region and beyond.

Finally, for South Africa in particular, assistance to refugees or other foreign migrants should not be given simply to curry favour with international opinion, but because we should be honoured finally to be able to play a positive role for the peoples of our region.

□ *Marion Ryan Sinclair, is a research fellow with the Centre for Southern African Studies at UTWC.*

More and more aliens sent home

SDWETAN 2/4/97 (236)

South Africa has not attracted many refugees but illegal aliens flock in

By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent

THERE ARE CURRENTLY more than 3 000 known refugees in the country - but this figure could run into thousands if the exact number of refugees from Mozambique were known

Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi told Parliament. "The Government has not taken any steps to deal with refugees' repatriation to, or resettlement in, their countries of origin

"This will only be done if and when the situation in their countries of origin is normalised"

He revealed that there are currently 3 229 refugees living in South Africa

Of this figure the majority come from other African countries but there are a few from troubled European countries such as Bosnia, Yugoslavia and Croatia. The biggest number, 2 018, are from Angola, followed by 979 from Somalia and 77 from Rwanda.

With the crisis in Zaire the number of refugees from that country, currently 67, is expected to rise considerably.

Buthelezi said that *bona fide* refugees have extensive freedoms in the country in terms of the Aliens Control Act No 96 of 1991.

He explained: "Recognised refugees are permitted to reside, work and study anywhere in the country"

Referring to refugees from Mozambique, whose number is not

known, Buthelezi said: "With the assistance of the United Nations high commissioner 32 010 persons were repatriated to Mozambique."

However, he said that the Aliens Control Act had granted exemption to a large number of Mozambican refugees who chose to remain here

The minister also revealed that a staggering number of illegal immigrants were kicked out of the country last year. Altogether 180 713 were deported, he said

That number reflected an almost 100 percent increase in deported illegal immigrants compared with 1994 and 1995 statistics

Organised crime

Nigerians have proven to be a headache for security forces inside South Africa. Minister for Safety and Security Mr Sidney Mufamadi told Parliament that many of them had been found to be involved in organised crime.

Mufamadi said: "Our commitment to focus on the activities of criminal organisations that are responsible for a substantial percentage of crime in the country, means that the SA Police Services pays particular attention to syndicates that are involved in cross-border crimes"

He said that during the period January 1 to December 31 last year 180 Nigerians were arrested on drug-smuggling and drug-related offences. "The fact must also be taken into account that Nigerian nationals often use falsified travel documents"

40% of managers 'would leave SA'

Business Day Reporter

BD 5/6/97

FOUR out of 10 managers would leave SA to work elsewhere, according to a study by the University of SA's (Unisa) Graduate of Business Leadership survey. This compares with a third who said they would leave when asked the same question in a similar study three years ago.

The latest study polled 300 managers for their opinions on leaving SA, affirmative action, job satisfaction and performance management.

The study found that 60% of managers believed that top management of their company was committed to affirmative action. This is lower than the percentage recorded in the previous study.

Relations between employees of different races were perceived to have slipped since 1994, with a little more than 60% of managers now reporting that race relations were good, the study said.

On the other hand, half the managers surveyed believed their promotion prospects were good, higher than in the previous study.

The study was conducted with the International Survey Research, a Chicago-based firm studying employee and management attitudes in 92 countries.

Two out of three managers were satisfied with their job security, more than the proportion found in studies of managers in the US and the UK.

Project leader of the Unisa study Karl Hofmeyr said that this last finding suggested that although job security was regarded as important in SA, there was still more perceived security here than in other countries.

The majority of managers in the study felt they had enough opportunity to receive training to improve their skills in their current jobs. This was slightly higher than the percentage recorded in the US and UK.

Only six out of ten managers understood how their job performance was evaluated and only half felt their performance were evaluated fairly.

"In this area, SA companies do less well than their counterparts in the US or UK," Hofmeyr said.

The study also found that SA companies were inadequate in getting the opinions of their employees

Influx challenging local government

Star 5/6/97

(236)

The backlog for housing in Gauteng stands at 500 000 units and this number increases with the influx of people into the province who are looking for job opportunities, Gauteng MEC for Housing and Local Government Dan Mofokeng said on Tuesday.

Speaking in Pretoria at a seminar on challenges facing local government in the 21st century, Mofokeng said the influx into Gauteng was estimated at 20 000 people a month, which posed a great challenge for local government.

"Services are already overstretched and the resources available to local government are diminishing all the

time. The local governments have been prevented from increasing property taxes and service charges," Mofokeng said.

Local authorities had the major challenge of identifying new sources of income apart from the income they received for water and electricity service charges

There was a need to develop a long-term

strategic approach to service provision, and authorities should desist from responding to environmental challenges in a reactive manner, but should be more proactive, he added.

- Political Staff.

Big housing backlog in Gauteng

SA NEWS DIGEST

ACCOUNTANCY

Crime and taxes are driving young CAs abroad, says worried institute

The South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) has warned that the country's accountancy profession is in a state of decline due to a combination of factors, including crime and high taxes. The institute's deputy chief executive, Graham Terry, said that the profession has lost a significant number of young members to other countries, particularly the United Kingdom and Australia. Terry noted that the high cost of living and the prevalence of crime in South Africa are major factors driving this trend. He also mentioned that the high tax rates on income and capital gains are making it difficult for young accountants to build wealth and secure their financial future in the country.

Graham Terry, the institute's deputy chief executive, said at the end of the year that the profession had lost 17 percent of the institute's total membership to other countries. 'The profession is in a state of decline and we are losing our young members to other countries. We need to take action to reverse this trend and attract more young people to the profession in South Africa.'

CT (BR) 5/6/77 (236)

SA urged to open doors to skilled workers

Study proposes free entry
ARGUS 10/6/97 (236)

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg - Skilled people from anywhere in the world should be allowed free entry into South Africa.

This is the conclusion reached by the Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE) at the close of a three-year study on migration and its implications for South Africa.

The CDE has put forward a migration policy framework for government that proposes the freeing up of controls on movement in ways "that are most consonant with South Africa's national interest".

It suggests that restrictions on the immigration of skilled people should be lifted immediately. Skilled immigrants should be granted permanent residence straight away and qualify for citizenship after five years.

These policy recommendations are contained in a two-part report on migration prepared by the CDE.

The recommendations come at a time when both immigration and emigration are on the increase in South Africa. On one hand the influx of "illegal" migrants is increasing, and on the other is the outflow of skilled people intent on escaping escalating crime and the perceived effects of affirmative action.

The CDE's report is based on the belief that migration into South Africa is inevitable and that what is required is a thorough review of migration policy options - and then a decisive choice on how to deal with migration.

The CDE report recommends that unskilled people from the Southern African Development Community countries be permitted into the country provided they register with the Department of Home Affairs and furnish a local address. Thereafter they would have to satisfy a number of requirements at different stages, with different levels of rights, before they could qualify for permanent residence and citizenship. They would have six months to find work and accommodation and face a two-year probation.

The reports list several key issues analysed by the CDE before it formulated its proposals. Each, says the report, has policy implications. The issues include:

■ South Africa's national interest must come first

■ Migration policy must support the Government's macro-economic policy

■ South Africa needs all the skills it can attract

■ The economic contribution of migrants must be recognised

■ Increased development in southern Africa will not stop migration to South Africa

■ The serious lack of data about the scale, nature and possible future trends with respect to immigration to South Africa

■ Migration policy is not just about economics. Political leadership is required to deal with popular fears and misconceptions

■ Crime must be tackled directly, not through migration policy

Report urges immediate lifting of all controls on skilled immigrants

By Winnie Graham

Skilled people from anywhere in the world should be allowed free movement into South Africa. This is the conclusion reached by the Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE) at the close of a three-year study on migration and its implications for South Africa.

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These recommendations are contained in a two-part report on migration prepared by the CDE. One is entitled "People on the move. Lessons from international migration policies" and the second, "A new approach to cross-border migration in South Africa".

The recommendations come at a time when the influx of "illegal" migrants is increasing, and there is an outflow of skilled people intent on escap-

(236) ing escalating crime and the perceived effects of affirmative action.

The report is based on the belief that migration into South Africa is inevitable, that what is required is a review of migration policy options - and then a decisive choice on how to deal with migration.

Professor Myron Weiner, chairman of the external research advisory committee to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, along

Unskilled people must also be allowed in

with five other migration experts, worked on the international issues.

The South African team - CDE executive director, Ann Bernstein, consultant Lawrence Schlemmer, Charles Simkins, professor of political economy at Wits University - is the same one that researched the issues leading to the abolition of influx control. It has now developed the CDE approach to migration.

The CDE report recommends that unskilled people

Star. 10/6/97
from the Southern African Development Community countries be permitted into the country provided they register with the department of home affairs and furnish a local address.

Thereafter they must satisfy a number of requirements at different stages with different levels of rights before they can qualify for permanent residence and citizenship. They will have six months to find work and accommodation and face a two-year probation.

"After this period, provided the unskilled immigrant still has employment and accommodation, and can prove he can support immediate family, he may apply for permanent residence and bring in a spouse and their children," the report states.

"Opening the doors to skilled migrants immediately removes a major barrier to faster economic growth," the report says.

"By protecting uncompetitive local labour, migration controls are not helping that labour in the long run.

"The answer to labour vulnerability which is compatible to economic growth is to train local workers and job seekers, rather than keeping out competition."

Open door to all skilled people, says study

Bonile Ngqiyaza

FAR-REACHING proposals for the free movement of skilled people from anywhere in the world into SA were made in a major two-part report released yesterday by the Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE).

The three-year study argues that the magnitude of SA's brain drain is disguised by serious data deficiencies which fail to take into account grey emigration, where people leave on holiday and do not return, or return as occasional visitors to avoid red tape.

It recommends that restrictions on the immigration of skilled people be lifted immediately and that such immigrants be granted instant permanent residence and qualify for citizenship.

It recommends also a number of requirements unskilled immigrants should satisfy over a period of five years, including a six-month period to find work and accommoda-

tion, and a two-year probationary period before they are granted residence.

It cites the North West University and says SA universities, under pressure to reflect the demographic and social structure of the country more closely, find Africanisation a more viable option than indigenising or applying affirmative action.

The case study says questions facing SA are how rapidly skilled black technicians, managers, entrepreneurs and academics can be trained, and what the overall attitude of its citizens is towards skilled foreigners.

According to the study, the composition of expatriate staff at the university — 19% in 1981 — increased to 32% in 1995 while that of SA citizens decreased from 81% to 68% in the same period.

The percentage composition of black staff, it says, increased from 44% in 1981 to 76% in 1995, while whites decreased from 55% to 24% in the period under review.

The study quotes a "prominent" SA migration researcher saying many migrants, particularly traders who sojourned temporarily in SA, regarded themselves as migrants primarily, and not immigrants.

Such migrants, it says, have no option but to remain undocumented, and therefore "illegal", due to the lack of a policy that adequately addresses their requirements, and blames partly the expenses and time constraints involved in the application for temporary work and work-seeker permits for this state of affairs.

It recommends that a long-term, multiple entry temporary work or residence permit may be one way of regularising and legalising the status of this category of migrants.

Meanwhile, a joint Human Sciences Research Council and the Institute for Security Studies survey conducted in October last year has found that South Africans are generally hostile to illegal immigrants and that they

strongly support moves by government to curb illegal immigration.

The survey of public opinion on security issues found that almost two-thirds of respondents (65%) strongly disapproved of illegal immigration.

The study found that anti-illegal migrant sentiment increased with South Africans' educational qualifications.

While 59% of respondents with no schooling disapproved of the influx of illegal immigrants, 81% of people with qualifications higher than Grade 12 held a similar view.

It said the negative perception of illegal immigration cut across all racial groups, although it was higher for whites (93%) and coloureds (76%), and lower for blacks (56%) and Asians (65%).

In the study, personal interviews were conducted nationwide with 2 200 SA residents aged 18 years and older, and all nine provinces were included in the survey, the

Human Sciences Research Council said

See Page 12

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BD 11/6/97

Migration regulations should be more flexible

ET 11/6/97

(236)

SOUTH AFRICA'S policing strategy for dealing with unauthorised migration is largely unworkable. In this the first article of a five-part series on immigration reform, **WILMOT JAMES** argues for greater flexibility in regulating those crossing our borders

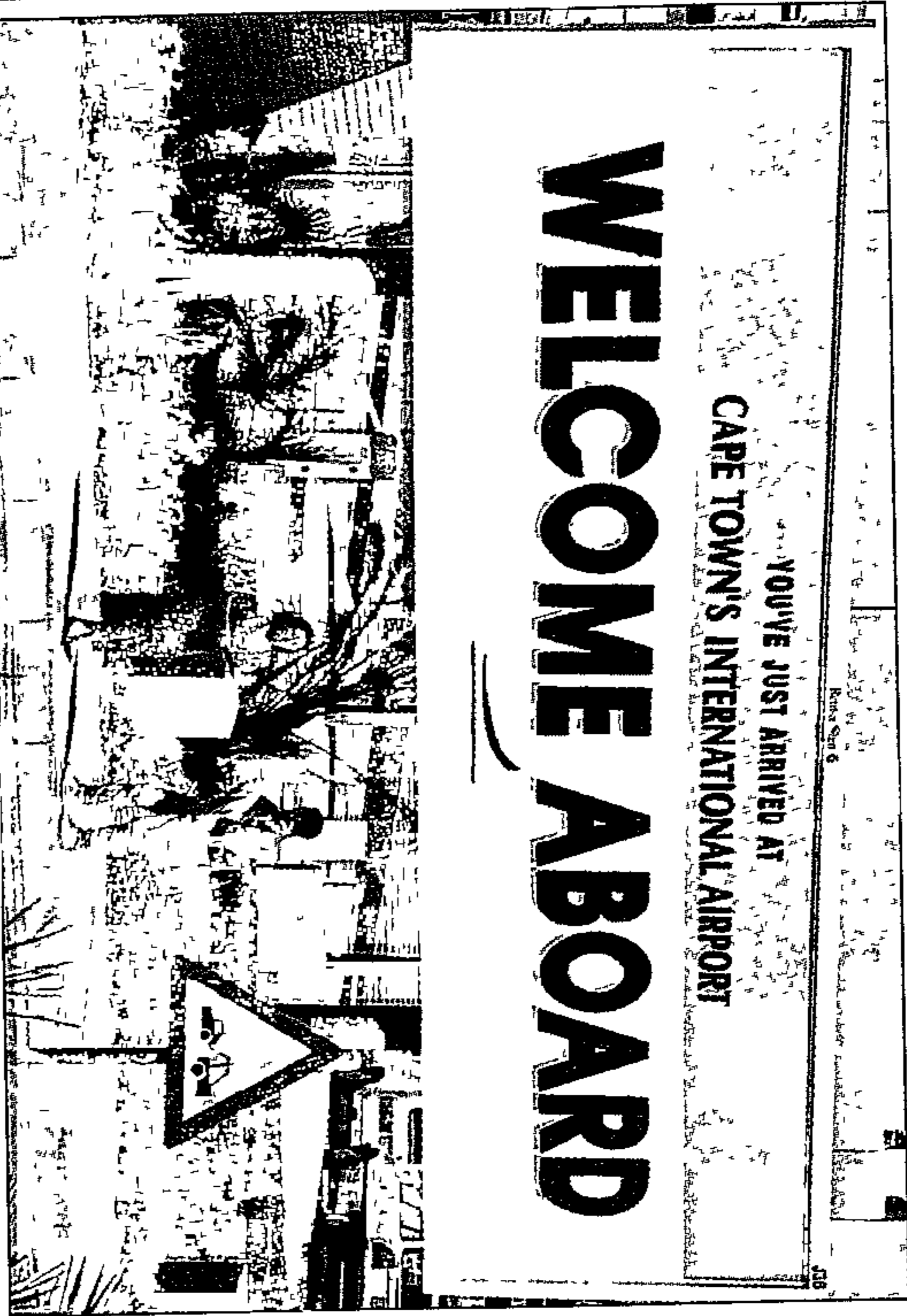
THERE are three streams of people crossing South Africa's borders. The first is composed of immigrants, individuals who would like to settle here permanently. The Green Paper on International Migration recommends we introduce a points-for-skills system — as used by countries such as Australia and Canada — by which South Africa can proactively recruit immigrants with the skills, expertise and resources to make a contribution to the development of our country. The points system will replace the current apparatus, including the Immigrant Selection Boards.

Our assessment is that training initiatives in the public and private sectors devoted, in particular, to previously disadvantaged people should be strongly encouraged and accelerated. However, this is not enough to make up for shortages in the labour market, particularly from the middle to upper levels. Immigration should be used as a tool to recruit skills internationally.

Business, entrepreneurial and corporate staff mobility should also be facilitated and not inhibited so that there is a freer flow of investments, entrepreneurial energy and corporate skills. This will add to growth and create jobs for South Africans. We should remember that labour markets are not fixed or zero-sum (one more foreigner does not mean one less job for a South African) and that freer skills and business movement will have a positive effect on employment markets.

The second stream is of refugees, people who flee persecution in their own country and seek asylum here.

South Africa is a signatory to the UN and OAU conventions on refugees. Therefore, our policy must honour international obligations in domestic law. Refugee policy is a human-rights remedy to a problem of forced migration and is not an immigration issue as such.



WELCOME MAT: Some immigrants who meet the criteria set by the new points-for-skills system might be met in Cape Town with a message of welcome. The same spirit, however, will not be extended to illegal refugees and migrants

Most asylum-seekers are young men in their twenties who have fled from countries such as Angola, Somalia, Zaire, Liberia, Rwanda and Ethiopia. Recently, many others have arrived from Pakistan, India and Bangladesh.

By June 1997 the Department of Home Affairs had received 27 769 applications. Of these, 10 667 have been finalised, 3 431 approved and granted asylum and 5 236 rejected. A total of 17 102 applications are pending. South Africa has no refugee legislation and there is, as a result, an urgency to legislate in this area.

- Legislation should follow principles of
- Temporary and not permanent protection
- A simple system of refugee status determination

health care and social welfare systems. Though there is little basis for having any faith in the figures offered so far, the problem is serious enough to warrant government action.

The question is what kind of action meets the critical test of effectiveness? Our policing strategy is largely unworkable. We arrest and deport people at great cost to the taxpayer, only for them to return the next day.

More effective policing is clearly needed, but it must be in line with our Constitution and bill of rights. This includes as much due process, administrative review and the right to information as might be feasible.

The problem of unauthorised migration should be dealt with by increasing opportunities for legal participation in our labour market to bona fide economic migrants from other SADC countries who have no intention of settling here permanently.

The temporary legal entry of small traders, students from SADC countries and family members often residentially straddled across our borders bring no harm to South Africa. In fact, their presence is largely to our good.

The green paper recommends the management of a points-based immigration system, the development of a plan for temporary SADC migrant access to South Africa's labour market and for the establishment of a rights-based enforcement, which should reside within the Department of Home Affairs.

We believe the department should undertake a transformation process so that it has the staff, expertise and professionalism to deliver citizenship, migration, refugee and immigration services to the public. It should change its name to the Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Until there is greater economic parity in the SADC region, we believe it is premature to agree to any proposal to open up our borders. We do believe that migration and immigration can be managed and regulated properly but flexibly, in the interests of South Africa, firstly, but also in the interests of our partner states in the SADC region.

Dr Wilmot James is executive director of Idasa. Articles in this series, which will appear every Wednesday, have been drawn from the Green Paper on International Migration, produced by a Home Affairs-appointed task group which he convened.

Research body calls for policy changes

Immigration laws 'should be relaxed'

CT(BR)11/6/97

(236)

FRANK NXUMALO

Johannesburg — The Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE), an independent research body, called yesterday for relaxation of immigration laws for both skilled and unskilled immigrants

The centre's far-reaching proposals said restrictions on the immigration of "skilled people from anywhere in the world" should be lifted immediately

It also said "unskilled people from Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries should be permitted into the country provided they register with the home affairs department, can furnish a local address and satisfy a number of staggered requirements thereafter"

The proposals followed three years of research by scholars, including Helen Suzman, a professor of political economy at Wits University, Ann Bernstein, the executive director of the CDE, and migration consultants Lawrence Schlemmer and Charles Simkins

The CDE said South Africa's national interest had to come first and the country needed all the skilled people it could attract. Also, increased development would not stop migration into South Africa, on the contrary, projects like the Maputo corridor

were expected to boost mobility into Mpumalanga and Gauteng

The CDE would recommend to government that it followed a two-tier immigration policy

"First, skilled immigrants should be granted permanent residence straight away and qualify for citizenship after five years," said Bernstein.

Secondly, unskilled SADC citizens should be allowed into South Africa provided they "satisfy a number of requirements with different levels of rights before they can qualify for permanent residence and citizenship".

permanent residence and citizenship".

Bernstein emphasised that the immigration policy recommendation on unskilled labour "stopped at the SADC borders"

"We think this policy recommendation builds on international experience

and the reality of South Africa's economic history South Africa has the capacity to implement it, and we would add that it is the only remaining way forward," said Bernstein

Bernstein said the government "was all over the place on migration", with leading government figures calling deportation of illegal immigrants a waste of resources, others inviting investment into South Africa and yet others wanting border fences to be switched on to "lethal mode"

'Restrictions on the immigration of skilled people from anywhere should be lifted immediately'

Getting right migrants

SOUTH AFRICA should open its doors to skilled migrants and not try to stop the inevitable movement of people to the southern tip of Africa

Instead, suggests a new report, policy on migration should be well debated and take into consideration the national interest, while putting into place a system that will be sustainable in the long term

The three-year study on migration was done by the Johannesburg-based Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE) in conjunction with Professor Myron Weiner, chairman of the External Research Advisory Committee to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and former director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Centre for International Studies

Local experts who led the research included CDE executive director Ann Bernstein, Professor Lawrence Schlemmer, Professor Charles Simkins

The findings will be presented to the Department of Home Affairs' task team on migration for consideration when drawing up its policy

A lot of the debate around migration has been clouded by emotion and is often coloured by xenophobia. But if it can be shown that migrants can contribute to South Africa, then there will be a shift away from the paranoia, the report says

And as there is no accurate or comprehensive information available on migration patterns or the numbers of illegal immigrants already in the country – figures vary from two to eight million – policy-making “appears to be *ad hoc* and rather confused”, the report says

The CDE maintains that making South Africa into a “fortress” against migration will not work. Historically, this country has had a steady flow of migrant workers – whether miners from neighbouring countries or professionals from Europe – who have contributed to the development of the economy

And while development in Southern Africa is important, it will not stop migration to South Africa, says the report. The international experience has shown that migration is likely to increase the more development there is

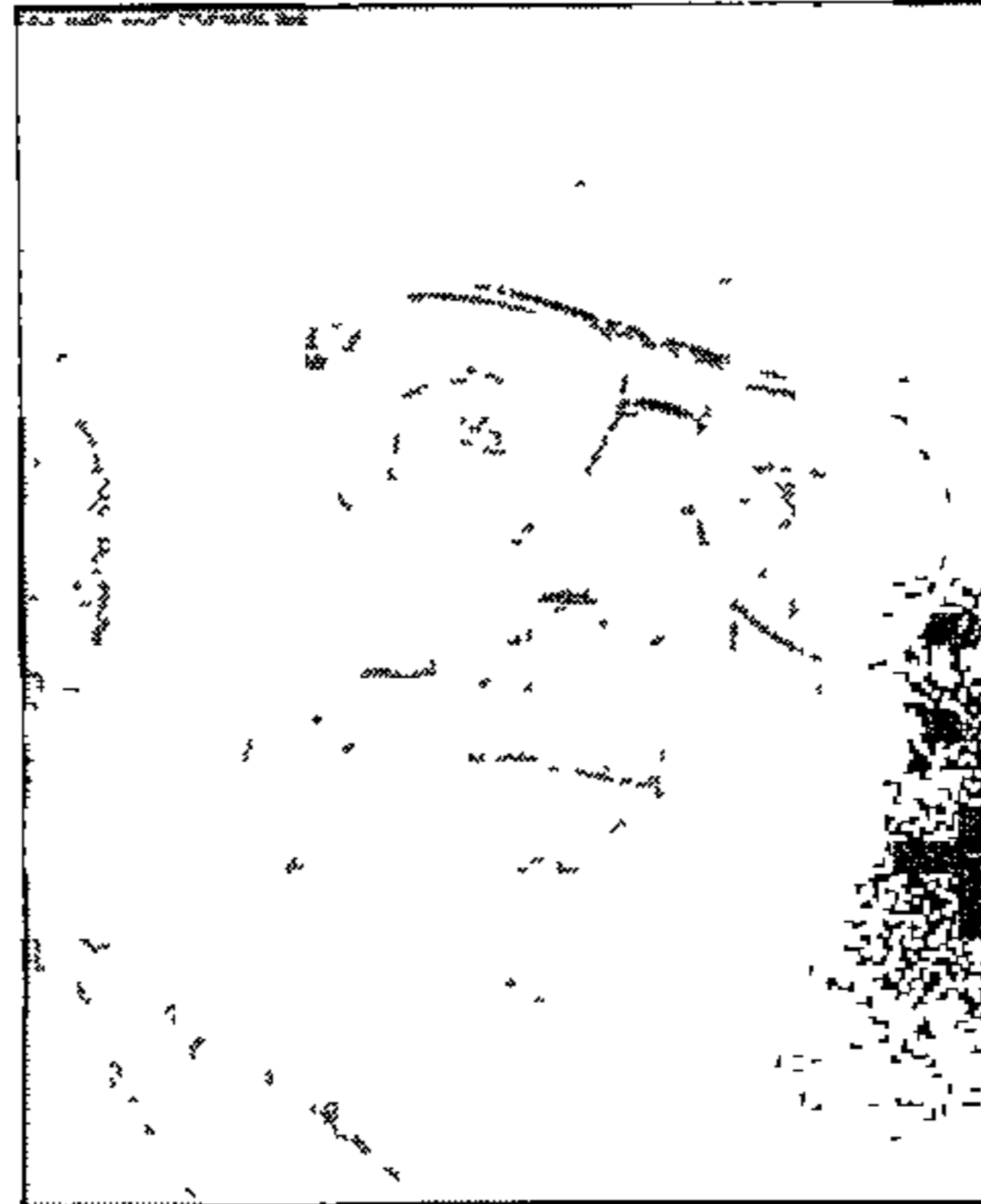
Once the Maputo Corridor development is done, says Bernstein, there are likely to be more Mozambicans coming to South Africa

Besides, the existing network between those already here and their connections back home will make it difficult to prevent more people coming to South Africa

The aim should not be just to keep people out but rather to properly manage the way migration happens. But first, much has to be done to change perceptions about migration

South Africa should embrace immigrants with useful skills who could make a contribution to the country.

Sharon Chetty looks at the pros and cons...
Sametian 12/6/97 (236)



Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi .. a new report asks his task team on migration to think carefully about their policy.

Strong political leadership is needed to ensure that the debate is about facts and not unfounded speculation and rumour. More importantly, misconceptions about foreigners being the main perpetrators of crime and taking away jobs from locals must be addressed urgently

While there is no doubt that some illegal immigrants are involved in crime syndicates, it must be borne in mind that this is part of a bigger problem – that of the breakdown of law and order in South Africa, rather than one of migration

Crime must be tackled

Crime must be tackled directly – it is no use trying to target criminals through the migration policy, says the report

How much migrants contribute to denying locals employment is still to be assessed. A recent study found that 79 percent of South Africans believe that competition from foreigners is a major cause of unemployment

At the same time, the study says that South Africans would not accept work at the rates foreigners are prepared to

However, there are indications that foreigners can contribute to job creation: traders who travel regularly to South Africa sell their goods

and then buy local goods to take back home

Skilled migrants, however, contribute to growth and development and are seldom a burden on social services

While warning against adopting policies and laws that may be far too ambitious and thus unimplementable, the report proposes that there be a two-tiered approach for skilled and unskilled migrants

Skilled immigrants from anywhere in the world should be welcomed in South Africa and, on application, be granted permanent residence rights. They should qualify for citizenship rights after five years

Unskilled people from the Southern African Development Community countries should be allowed in, provided they register with the Department of Home Affairs and can furnish a South African address

But to qualify for permanent residence and citizenship they must satisfy a number of requirements at different stages, with different levels of rights. A distinction should also be made between those who apply from outside and those already in the country illegally when the policy is implemented

All applicants should be granted temporary work and residence permits, initially for six months. It must be for individuals only and not families

Authorities must be told of any change of address, and if not the permit must be withdrawn and the person repatriated

On application, the immigrant should pay a modest fee which would be used to defray some of the costs of deportation

If after six months the person can prove that he is working and paying taxes and has a fixed home, he can stay on for another two years, which is still a probationary period

Only after two years of proving that he can support himself can an immigrant be eligible for permanent residence. And only then will he be able to bring in his spouse and children

At all times, medical certificates must be produced to prove good health and anyone convicted of a criminal offence must not be allowed in

Adopting the CDE proposals will initially need Government to spend a lot on resources like computerised record-keeping, training of police and other personnel and communicating the policy



SOUTH AFRICA is hemorrhaging skills, but the official figures, disturbing as they are, may reflect only a small part of the problem. **CHRIS BATEMAN** reports.

236 CT. 13/6/97

OFFICIALLY the number of skills South Africa lost in the "brain drain" last year was the highest in a decade — but the true figure may be as much as five times more than the official figure

A survey of foreign embassies and consulates shows that thousands more skilled South Africans are leaving the country than there are skilled people coming in

Government officials appear powerless to stop, or even measure, the full extent of the hemorrhage

Home Affairs' figures estimate a net loss to the country last year of 3 168 "economically active"

people, but foreign diplomatic sources say the true figure is nearer 15 000, or more.

Home Affairs depends for its figures on the declarations departing South African travellers make in their exit forms.

Tens of thousands also leave each year as tourists, and many secure work permits overseas and do not come back.

The British consulate in Pretoria estimates that 800 000 South Africans carry British passports.

It has been receiving some 1 500 telephone inquiries a day from prospective migrants since last September.

British Consul, Mrs Sheila Lyall-Grant, said her staff were receiving 2 000 applications a month for UK passports, about 100 of them for new passports, not renewals. "We expected a drop off in applications around Easter, like last year, but it just didn't happen," she said

From January to May this year, the UK consulate issued 3 764 visas and work permits to South Africans, compared with 6 476 for the whole of last year and 2 480 in 1995

In the same five-month period this year, 312 people received clearance to settle in the UK, compared with 441 for the year in 1996 and 224 in 1995.

A check with two other foreign embassies showed that

about 1 500 skilled or economically active South Africans emigrated to Canada (800) and Australia (700) last year

So far this year, 50% more South Africans have emigrated to Canada than in the same period last year, according to Canada's immigration chief in Pretoria, Mr Mark Davidson.

Sources in the foreign embassies and consulates confirm that official South African figures are unreliable and inaccurate.

Home Affairs spokesman Mr Hennie Meyer confirmed that South Africans leaving the country were not filling in their exit forms properly

"Some say they're going on

holiday but are in fact emigrating. Some have already arranged jobs overseas. It's all legal and

above board, but we don't know about it here," he said

It also emerged yesterday that hardest hit by emigration are education, engineering, accountancy and the medical and dental professions — all vital to the country's economic future.

Central Statistical Services figures show that since the 1994 elections South Africa has suffered a net loss of 9 048 economically active people, whereas in the three years before the election the country gained 10 037

Dr Wilmot James, chairman of the government task group on international migration, said the situation was "worrying and something will have to be done"

"We obviously can't stop people from going. The options would include requiring people to commit themselves to public service — for example making it part of the requirement for getting a medical degree," he said.

James suggests a points-for-skills system to lure talent back.

Mr Desmond Lockey — chairman of the Home Affairs portfolio committee in Parliament, says the flight of skills could have "serious implications for our future economic prospects, because ultimately it's the skilled people who

YEAR	EMIGRANTS	IMMIGRANTS	GAIN/LOSS
Jan to Feb 1997	1 105	281	- 824
1996	5 163	1 995	- 3 168
1995	4 526	1 762	- 2 764
1994	4 860	2 568	- 2 292
1993	(no stats)	4 134	n/a
1992	2 077	4 132	+ 2 055
1991	2 008	6 040	+ 4 032
1990	2 377	6 727	+ 3 950
1989	2 372	509	- 1 863
1988	3 496	5 010	+ 1 524
1987	4 544	3 468	- 1 076
1986	5 578	3 085	- 2 520

Graphic: Mugamad Jacobs

1990 - 1994 = 10 037 (Net gain)
1994 to date = 9 048 (Net loss)

ENJOYING THEIR LIVES IN SA — PAGE TWO

Brain drain

SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR SA ECONOMY

create economic growth"

That so many South Africans could find jobs showed there was a global head-hunt for skills in which South Africa was losing out. This had serious implications for the international competitiveness

Mr Blade Nzimande, ANC MP and chairperson of the Education portfolio committee, referred to Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's recent criticism of the media highlighting the brain drain while ignoring the brain "gain".

He said that while the figures were "sobering", Mbeki's argument was that the tendency was to count only skilled whites leaving and arriving in South Africa

He doubted whether "hundreds or even thousands" of highly skilled former exiles and "returnees" who were black had been captured in official statistics.

highest in decade

SA farmers lose out in bid to obtain land in Uganda

(236)

OCT 25/6/97

DAR ES SALAAM: Foreigners interested in buying land in Uganda either for agricultural development or for industrial purposes now have to look elsewhere

A Law Reform Commission appointed by President Yoweri Museveni to look into ownership of land by foreigners has rejected recommendations to open up the sector to outsiders. The country's Public Land Act and the 1995 Constitution bar non-Ugandans from owning land.

The move spells death to dreams of a large group of South Africans who wanted to settle in Uganda. Last year, the Transvaal Farmers' Association sent a delegation to Kampala with a request for three thousand acres of land to enable its members to engage in

dairy farming, game ranching and traditional and non-traditional farming.

The new breed of South African settlers wanted either a joint venture with local farmers or a long-term lease agreement of more than 45 years with automatic renewal. During the visit at least 200 Ugandan farmers expressed interest in joint ventures with the South Africans.

The visitors also indicated an interest in Ugandan citizenship. They said they wanted to be settled in groups to allow them to maintain culture and language. But the request came at the height of Uganda's presidential and parliamentary campaign which made it difficult for a decision to be made.

Although the Uganda Invest-

ment Authority (UIA) favoured the idea, some politicians feared the presence of such a large group of wealthy white South Africans in the midst of rural Uganda so soon after the end of apartheid could have sent wrong signals to the local population.

"The matter was, and still remains sensitive," says a political analyst. "A feeling of neo-colonialism could creep in and create racial tension."

But others felt the settlers would bring advanced farming technology and expertise that could help transform vast tracks of virgin land into a useful reservoir of food.

An American legal consultancy firm has recommended that land be opened to foreigners — IFS

SA farmers' Uganda settlement dreams fade

Act and constitution bar ownership of land to foreigners

By JOE KHAMISI
Dar es Salaam

Foreigners interested in buying land in Uganda, either for agricultural development or for industrial purposes, now have to look elsewhere.

The move spells death to dreams of a group of South Africans who wanted to settle in Uganda.

Last year, the Transvaal Farmers' Association sent a delegation to Kampala with a request for land to enable its members to engage in dairy farming, game ranching and traditional and non-traditional farming.

But, a commission recently appointed by President Yoweri Museveni to look into ownership of land by foreigners has rejected recommendations to open up the sector to outsiders. The country's Public Land Act and the 1995 Con-

stitution bar non-Ugandans from owning land

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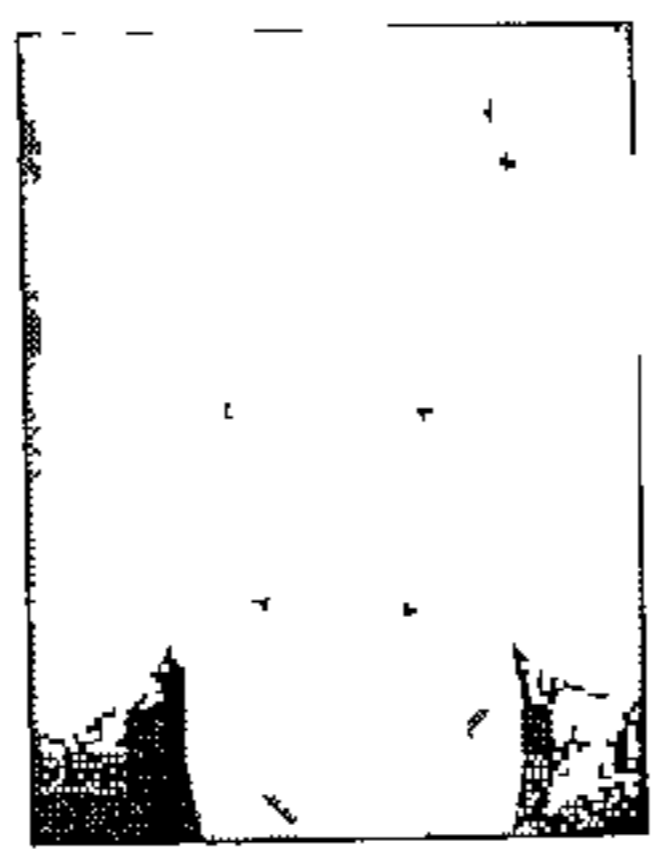
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Star 26/6/97 (236) which made it difficult for a decision to be made

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"The matter was, and still remains sensitive," says a political analyst. But others felt the settlers would bring advanced farming technology that could help transform vast areas of virgin land into a reservoir of food.

An American legal consultancy firm, Reid and Priest, appointed to look into the issue, recommended that land be opened to foreigners as an incentive to investors. The consultants called for a repeal of the Land Act. - Star Foreign Service



Star 27/6/97 (236)
A fresh focus on immigration needed

In the course of the 20th century, various white governments restricted immigration to Europeans with assimilable characteristics. Typically, these were Anglo-Saxons and Protestants.

During the apartheid years, an assisted immigration scheme paved the way for many immigrants actively recruited in foreign countries, and NGOs, subsidised by earlier incarnations of Home Affairs, were created to help whites settle in. As the idea was to boost the white population, no such courtesy was extended to black Africans.

Indeed, foreign black people were hustled in and out of the economy, without their families, when and if they were needed. Though it has largely been forgotten now, in the 1950s the National Party abandoned a long-standing fantasy of repatriating people of Indian descent to a country they left a century before. The racism of immigration policy found its most banal expression here.

The policy of welcoming assimilable whites and keeping out blacks was abandoned in the late 1980s.

Home Affairs ceased active recruiting and ended the subsidies made available to NGOs which culturally cushioned white assimilation. Between then and today there was a hiatus in policy. Home Affairs largely reacted to applications coming forth through missions, by selecting desirable immigrants through a system that involved the immigration selection boards.

The Green Paper on International Migration recommends a wholesale restructuring of immigrant selection. It begins with the premise that South Africa needs, once again, to recruit immigrants actively, but this time on a skills and not a racial basis. The argument is that there needs to be a refocusing on immigration as an issue of growth and development, that our immigration rates are, comparatively speaking, low and that we need to counteract an under-enumerated brain drain.

The point is not lightly made. It is of great concern that our immigration rates are not only low and declining but that, in addition, we are losing educators, engineers, accountants, doctors and dentists at a rate we simply cannot afford. Though it may be legitimately argued that emigration may create opportunities for disadvantaged South Africans, it would take much too long for existing training capacity to produce graduates on a scale that will replace those departing.

This is not to suggest that we do not pursue the

South Africa must counteract an under-enumerated brain drain, writes Wilmot James

education and training of formerly disadvantaged individuals. However, this is not enough and will not serve the growth levels expected under GEAR.

What is more, our present attitude to business, entrepreneurial and investment-based immigration is much too restrictive. The current permit system, as many executives tell us, makes it difficult for companies to move their staff around easily.

The green paper recommends a radical departure in immigration selection. Simply put, it recommends the introduction of a non-discriminatory brownie-point system, according to which people can automatically enter if they meet our criteria. To run such a system requires enhanced capacity for embassies and missions, the end of the Immigration Selection Boards as we have known them and good labour market information on the basis of which the brownie-point system can in part be constructed.

Apart from general immigration, South Africa needs to define a specific set of relations with the Southern African Development Conference (SADC).

The approach taken in the green paper is one of long-term development, so as to stem the regional demand on our labour market. The green paper also supports the vision of the SADC's protocol on the free movement of persons, but believes it would be premature to open up our borders, until the inequity of the region significantly diminishes.

In the short term the recommendations are to grant greater legal access to specific categories of people who add value to our economy and society, such as traders and small businessmen and women, and to modernise the contract labour system.

Finally, the green paper recommends that Parliament be given an enhanced role in giving direction to and overseeing an immigration and migration plan.

■ *Dr Wilmot James is executive director of Idasa. This is the third article in the series drawn from the Green Paper on International Migration by a Home Affairs-appointed task team which he convened.*

Refugees treated with 'hostility' in SA

(236) AAC 21/6/97

There was an rising tide of xenophobia in South Africa which was cause for alarm, Amnesty International's African chapter chairman Noel van Breda said when releasing the organisation's refugee report in Cape Town.

Amnesty International South Africa delivered its international report on refugees yesterday to Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezzi entitled: *Refugees - Human Rights Have no Borders*.

Mr Van Breda said refugees came from troubled regions and merely sought refuge in South Africa.

"Often refugees are treated with hostility by South Africans and the authorities," he said, adding there had been reports that three refugees were allegedly killed by police in Cape Town. "These allegations need to be investigated by the authorities and appropriate measures need to be taken."

Mr Van Breda said many countries had agreed to international treaties, but these were often ignored for the sake of political or economic expediency. The international community was also obliged to ensure that the costs of refugee protection were properly shared, regardless of where refugees had fled to, he said.

The Government is a party to the international convention relating to the status of refugees and under the South African Bill of Rights refugees are afforded protection.

South Africans have an opportunity to deliver submissions to the Government on the green paper on immigration to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers are treated in terms of international law, Mr Van Breda said - Sapa



OBED ZILWA

until July 13

Exaggerated figures are creating a xenophobic atmosphere

Figures often bandied about on numbers of illegal aliens in SA are the result of poor research, writes Jonathan Crush

(236) 00 30/6/99

THE National Party (NP) has accused government of lacking the political will to deal with (expel?) the estimated 2,5-million to 5-million illegal immigrants in the country. The NP figures are alarming. How accurate are they?

The source is a study by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). Regrettably, the NP is not the first to be fooled by this study. The HSRC's figure are regularly cited by politicians and journalists wishing to castigate government for its apparent lack of attention to this problem or, altogether less subtly, to fan the flames of xenophobia. Government officials often cite the same study and its pseudo-scientific authenticity.

Since the HSRC's figures have become so influential — to the considerable embarrassment of some of the organisation's more sober and sound social scientists — it is worth asking how they were arrived at.

In June 1995 the HSRC's polling division, Markdata, asked a nationally representative sample of South Africans the following question: do any of the following people who are not SA citizens live in the houses around this property? If yes, how many?

Extrapolated nationally, Markdata claimed 9,1-million foreigners were known by their sample respondents to be in the country.

After subtracting the number of foreigners legally in the country, the authors estimated that there were a minimum of 2,4-million and a maximum of 5,1-million illegal foreigners illegally in SA.

There are many reasons why this method does not count what it purports to. First, it assumes that every South African has perfect knowledge of the citizenship of his or her neighbours, a dubious proposition at best. Second, it assumes that everyone asked would interpret the phrase "around this property" in exactly the same way. Third, it does not adjust for the very real possibility of double-counting if the same person is known to more than one South African.

The answers do not reflect real numbers but instead the myriad impressions, prejudices, rumour and variable local knowledge of respondents. What those who ap-

provingly cite the 1995 HSRC figures do not report are the follow-up surveys by the organisation, perhaps because they directly contradict the findings of the first survey. When the HSRC asked South Africans exactly the same question nine months later, the number of foreign citizens reported fell by more than 4-million from 9,1-million to 4,7-million.

If this figure had been taken as seriously as the first study, officials and the media should have reported that millions of foreigners were now flooding out of the country.

Furthermore, the number of illegal immigrants in the country should have been reported as only 500 000. But these figures were completely ignored. Presumably because they undermine the fashionable, though misleading, idea that the country is being swamped by an uncontrolled flood of foreigners.

In fact, the results of the 1995 survey were no more accurate than those in 1994. One indication of this is the astonishing results this method of "counting" produces for the distribution of foreign citizens within SA.

The method seems to show that every six months there is a massive redistribution of hundreds of thousands of foreign citizens within the country. In the Free State, for example, there were supposedly 1,1-million foreign citizens in June 1995 but only 6 800 nine months later. Similar "falls" are reported in KwaZulu-Natal and Northern Province. Where did they go?

The danger of the HSRC study is that people have taken its pseudo-science seriously and used the alarming statistics to drive a particular agenda. Academics, politicians, the police and the media have all been guilty of failing to exercise reasonable judgment and proper care in repeating these figures. The NP and anyone else who wishes to embarrass government into a draconian approach to illegal immigration would do well not to build its case on the back of these discredited figures.

However, what if the original survey was right for the wrong reasons? How many illegal immigrants are there in the country? The truth is no one really knows and we are highly unlikely ever to know for sure. Care and sobriety should therefore be taken with all talk of numbers.

Various expert observers, including the labour market commission and the task group on international migration, have come to the conclusion that the numbers are probably smaller than is claimed. Those who

boost the numbers have a vested interest in doing so — to get more resources for policing. Others are confusing volume with visibility. Because non-South Africans are now more visible on our streets it is assumed that they must be here in overwhelming numbers. Others point to the growth in deportations (180 000 last year), but this reflects intensified policing and multiple deportations of the same people. The fact is that most deportees are Mozambicans and many came here in the 1980s as refugees.

A primary source of confusion is that it is misleading to talk of "illegal aliens" or "illegal immigrants" as if they were a single category of people. Take government "overstay" data (that is, people who entered legally and of whom there is no official record of departure). There are currently 828 000 overstayers in the home affairs computers. Half of these entered the country in the past 18 months. International experience suggests 18 months is a useful cut-off period to distinguish temporary/short-term/immigrant overstayers from permanent/long-term/deliberate overstayers. The latter are the true "illegal immigrants".

How many of these true illegal immigrants appear in the system? Fewer than 20 000 from before 1990, 270 000 from

the period 1991 to 1994, and 128 000 from 1995 — or a total of about 420 000 illegal immigrants.

Are they all still here? That seems doubtful since a significant proportion are from Lesotho and Zimbabwe and have probably long gone home through "unofficial" crossing points.

There will be those who say that this does not factor in the many illegal border crossers who have no documentation. That is quite true and impossible to measure. The SA National Defence Force estimates that one person crosses the border illegally every 10 minutes. That sounds like a steady flow, if not a flood. But one every 10 minutes is only 50 000 a year.

There will also be those who say that even one illegal immigrant in the country is one too many. My point is simply that numbers, particularly wrong and inflated ones, do matter in creating a political environment in which xenophobia can flourish and human rights are compromised.

No one knows for sure how many illegal immigrants there are in the country but the current estimates, derived from a faulty methodology, are probably grossly exaggerated.

Jonathan Crush is with the Southern African Migration Project and acts as an adviser to the green paper task group on international migration.

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The answers do not reflect real numbers but instead the myriad impressions, prejudices, rumour and variable local knowledge of respondents. What those who ap-

Nigerians said to be making false IDs

for refugees

(236) 101 25 / 6 / 97
BY PATRICK PHOSA

A Nigerian syndicate is manufacturing bogus identity documents in Hillbrow, Johannesburg, which buyers use to apply for refugee status, according to Nigerian acting consul-general Adamu Abbas

Abbas said yesterday that his consul had stumbled on to a bogus identity document when a Nigerian national arrived at the consular offices in Rosebank to seek information.

He indicated there were no documents similar to South African identity documents in Nigeria and said all those asylum-seekers producing IDs were conning the government.

"They are printing their own IDs purportedly issued by the Nigerian minister of internal affairs. We have received a sample copy which has colours of our flag," he said.

Abbas said the Nigerian embassy had distanced itself from the scam. "As far as we are concerned there is stability in Nigeria. We do not want them, and we did not bring them here. If the South African Government gives them refuge, they should not blame all Nigerians when they engage in illegal activities," he said.

About 25 000 foreigners have applied for political asylum since January 1994. According to reports, more than 3 000 of these are Nigerians, and police believe that about 90% of them are involved in drug trafficking.

Home Affairs Department aliens control director Claude Schravasande said it was possible Nigerians were manufacturing IDs, but the issue had not been brought to his attention.

Captain Blen Jonker of the aliens department said his unit was unaware of any scam involving Nigerians manufacturing fake documents, adding that an investigation would be launched into the matter.

apartment building on South Richmond Avenue... throughout the region on Florida's east coast. There were no injuries at the apartments resulting from the strike

PHOTOS: APH, AI

Deluge of illegal aliens must stop, says Buthelezi

Star 21/6/97
(236)

The flood of illegal immigrants into South Africa had to be stopped immediately and those already in the country had to be removed, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday.

Failure to do so would impoverish South Africa and lead to further demands for amnesty in a few years, he told a conference on illegal migrants in Pretoria.

Buthelezi said that if all illegal aliens were removed, the country's unemployment problem would be closer to a solution. There were estimated to be between 2.5 million and 4.1 million aliens in South Africa. Some organisations claimed the number was more than 8 million.

In another five years, the Government would again be faced with the dilemma of whether to grant further exemptions to those who had already

settled in the country.

"If we are, therefore, to take the matter seriously, the flood of illegal immigrants must be stopped forthwith. Furthermore, those in South Africa must be removed," Buthelezi said.

If each alien cost the country R1 000 a year, the total expense would run to billions of rands annually.

Buthelezi said the Aliens Control Act might be amended soon to exact heavy penalties on people employing illegal aliens. Such individuals were not being prosecuted to the extent they should be.

He said his department was also aware of South Africans abusing citizenship by entering marriages of convenience



COSTLY MATTER: Mangosuthu Buthelezi

their aliens wishing to stay in South Africa. "One allegedly entered into

her third marriage with a foreigner recently, and one can only presume that this has become a lucrative source of income," he said.

Buthelezi denied he was acting on his own when it came to dealing with illegal aliens.

"I have to be aware of the sentiments at ground level, and report this to Cabinet to ensure that measures adopted are in the final instance those of Government and not personal sentiments," he said.

Some cabinet members have suggested that illegal immigrants from neighbouring states should be treated leniently because these countries supported the struggle against apartheid.

Buthelezi said the Govern-

ment's decision last year to grant permanent residence to some citizens of Southern African Development Community members had resulted in 200 000 applications. More than half of these had so far been approved.

"Taking also into account exemptions to mineworkers and Mozambican refugees, a total of 350 000 exemptions are being attended to," Buthelezi said.

Legal immigration, he added, should continue in order to obtain rare skills, professional expertise and investment. Last year, 1 970 professional individuals left the country against 843 immigrants in the same category.

"Immigration, therefore, is still necessary in the short and medium term to partly counter the brain drain," Buthelezi said.

- Sapa

21 June 1997

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Groote Schuur in the dock for reporting illegal

PARL 21/6/97 (236) (42)

ADELE BALETA
STAFF REPORTER

Groote Schuur Hospital has been singled out at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) watershed two-day health sector hearings for compromising its professional ethics in its treatment of illegal immigrants.

The Health and Human Rights Project's (HHRP) Leslie London said in a TRC submission that the hospital was abusing its title by insisting that illegal immigrants be treated in emergencies and that its administration reception staff immediately report the patients to the nearest police station or immigration office.

He said that even though apartheid had been eradicated and the environment had

changed, the "mindset of hospital managements had not changed"

Referring to the complexity of the health sector in human rights abuses of the past, Dr London said: "Ten years ago it was detainees, now it's refugees and illegal immigrants"

Chief Medical Superintendent of Groote Schuur, Peter Mitchell, replied that hospitals had provincial government instructions to provide emergency treatment to refugees and illegal immigrants, "but to ensure that they were reported to the police or immigration department"

"We would like the hospital to be able to function as a sanctuary. Ideally it should be a source of all treatment for any patient, without having to consider financial or legal aspects surrounding the patient

"In reality the hospital is a component

of a large provincial and national government system. The resources available for health care are critically limited. Services provided have to be prioritised and even rationed," he said

Dr Mitchell said virtually all countries gave preference to their own citizens

"Nevertheless any patient, legal resident or illegal, will be treated with sympathy and human dignity. Emergency treatment will be given as a first priority to the best of our ability," he said

After this week's TRC hearings Dr London told Saturday Argus that the duty of hospitals and staff was not to report to the police on patients "This (reporting) is

'This (reporting) ... is a breach of trust in the relationship with the patient'

playing a role not intended for the health sector. This a breach of trust in the relationship with the patient"

Any explanation that the hospital had to unquestioningly abide by the national Department of Health policy would not wash if the sector was to move toward a culture of accountability and respect for human rights

The HHRP submitted that abuses of the past were not isolated events involving a few "bad apples ... rather these abuses arose in a context in which the entire fabric of the health sector was permeated by apartheid, and in which human rights were profoundly devalued."

Dr London submitted to the TRC a copy of a memorandum from Groote Schuur Hospital, dated May 14, 1997 and subtitled "Admission and Treatment of Foreign Patients". Under "Rationale" the Hospital Notice No 12/97 informs staff of the need to get payment in full before the patient is admitted. This was to be done if the hospital was not to lose out on revenue.

It says that "Foreign patients, should however, be encouraged to make use of private hospitals wherever possible".

The circular adds that tariffs and tariff regulation was governed by national policy, to which the hospital must adhere

Under the heading "Policy", which is "laid down by the National Department of Health", instructions are given in terms of admitting illegal immigrants. The phone numbers of the relevant police or immigration

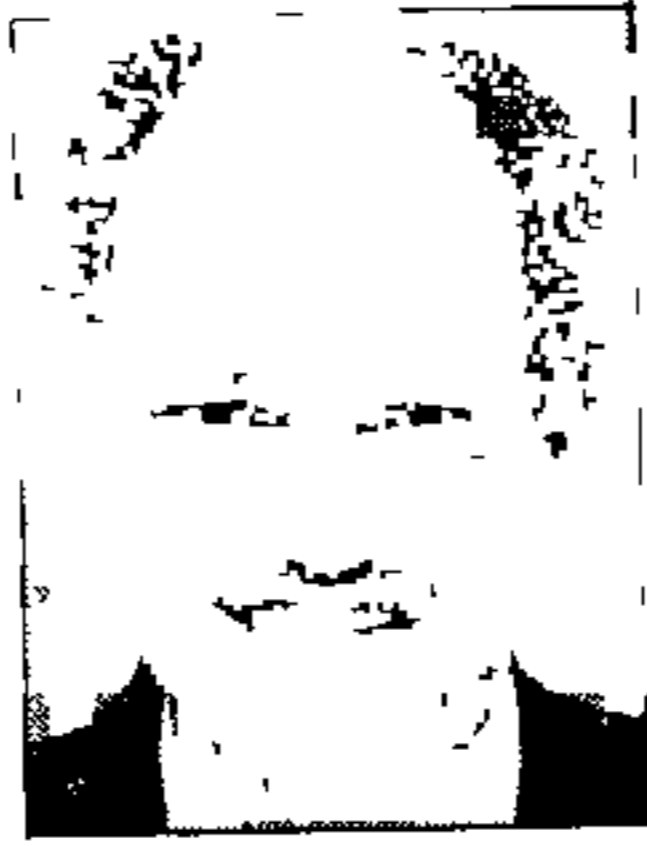
offices are provided.

The circular also states that: "The admission of patients in general is at the discretion of the head of the institution, except in the case of an emergency. Other than in an emergency, only those patients specifically referred to this hospital and authorised by a medical superintendent will be seen and treated."

In July last year a similar circular that warned doctors that their foreign patients' unpaid bills would be docketed from their pay, provoked an outcry.

A doctor was reported as saying that the practice was morally and ethically "outrageous". He said it required doctors to act contrary to the Hippocratic Oath and the Geneva Declaration under which they were obliged to treat all and any injured and distressed people.

aliens seeking care



Political dabbling has no place here

Star 20/6/97 (252)

Our refugee policy must honour
human-rights obligations, writes

Wilmot James

There is one thing we need to get very clear in our minds; it is the qualitative difference between refugees and immigrants. Refugees, unlike immigrants, have no desire to leave their homes and settle elsewhere, but are driven by a manifest threat to life, by persecution and by heightened exposure to human rights violations.

An argument can therefore be made for a moral equivalence between people who fled South Africa and went into exile and people who, today, might knock on our door for a life of safety and dignity. Indeed, South Africa has drawn the comparison by becoming a signatory to the UN and OAU conventions on refugees.

We have gone further by assuming other international legal obligations that impose a situation-specific duty on us not to return people at risk of serious human rights abuse, by agreeing, for example, to the Convention Against Torture and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Thus, our policy response to refugees must honour international obligations to solve a human rights problem of forced migration in our domestic law.

It is in this sense that the refugee issue is not an immigration issue and, as a result, the green paper on international migration recommends that a separate white paper and separate legislation to deal with refugees be drafted. The question is what is a feasible, practical and broadly acceptable model of refugee protection for South Africa?

We should remember that the scale of asylum-seekers in South Africa is not that great. Up until now the Department of Home Affairs has received 27 769 applications, of which 3 431 have been approved and 5 236 rejected.

The balance of applications have either been finalised awaiting final decision or are pending (17 102). Although Home Affairs is processing applications faster than in the past, there is obviously still a problem with capacity. One of the key things to get right with a refugee system is rapid status assessment and decision-making.

Chapter 4 of the green paper recommends that an authority independent of government should make rapid assessments of a claimant's right to refugee status. This would be the mechanism by which manifestly unfounded claims to refugee status could be determined and where well-founded claims could be quickly dealt with.

It must be an independent authority because it is

critical to the credibility and efficient functioning of the system of refugee protection that it be sheltered from political interference, in particular foreign affairs considerations.

There is, though, a role for Home Affairs, which ought to intervene if there is reason to believe a claimant is not entitled to refugee status. Refugee status determination can be made quickly and fairly. The independent authority should provide a one-step process to investigate status and a quality interview, and it should have a mandate to investigate all facts.

Claimants should have a single opportunity to have their cases reviewed, and there must be the commitment to quickly deport rejected asylum-seekers who have exhausted their right of appeal.

It is critical that refugee protection be temporary and that refugee status should not be assumed to automatically lead to permanent residence. The green paper suggests a maximum guaranteed period of five years, and an unambiguous promise that permanent residence can be granted if a person cannot be returned to their country of normal residence and live there in safety, or in special cases where, for example, orphaned children are involved.

This requires further explanation: in terms of our international obligations, we cannot return refugees if there is evidence they would be subject to persecution, physical attack, discrimination, family break-up, or denied the right to work, education, freedom of association, movement or religious practice.

To make this assessment on a country-by-country basis requires access to the best quality human rights databases available. Good, continuously updated databases do indeed exist. If a refugee can be returned this should happen quickly. If required, mandatory repatriation can be carried out in association with the UN High Commission for Refugees.

■ Dr Wilmot James is executive director of the Institute for Democracy in South Africa. This is the second of a series drawn from the green paper on international migration produced by a Home Affairs-appointed task team which he convened.

Embracing the stranger in our midst

Xenophobia is strongest among the most privileged South Africans

AAU 19/6/99 (236)

THE STRONG SENTIMENT AGAINST AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS, ESPECIALLY AMONG WHITES, IS EMERGING AS ONE OF THE MAJOR OBSTACLES TO REFORMING SOUTH AFRICA'S IMMIGRATION LAWS, ACCORDING TO WILMOT JAMES OF IDASA

For a very long time South Africans lived in relative isolation from the global community and from Africa itself

This was particularly so during the apartheid years, when sanctions and disinvestment strategies increasingly cut us off from outside contact

Not every one who today lives in South Africa was so isolated, however

Former exile communities had considerable international exposure – in Europe, North America and Africa – as did people who could afford to travel

Although our settler colonial history made us seem to be more part of Europe than Africa, communities and extended families straddling the colonial boundaries of African countries lived in blissful ignorance of their importance

Since the turn of the century, at the workplaces of our mines, farms and some areas of industrial life, people from all over Africa have been sweating together, learning together and, at times, hating the ways of one another

Since 1990, and particularly 1994, we have been thrust into the global world at extraordinary speed, normalised our relations with countries and finally were able to embrace our neighbours and the pariahna of African governance, as friends

In this we are confronting a problem, an inheritance of a century of capitalist development and labour migration

Democratisation in South Africa has added further attraction to the scale of economic opportunity we already offer

So we are unsurprisingly becoming the point of major attraction to people in

search of jobs and a life in dignity

Our allure has been exaggerated – many do not want to swap their customary lives for one rife with crime – but the attraction of resources is here

In these circumstances our friends from Africa, very rapidly, have become the stranger among us

The comrade from Malawi, or Mozambique, or Lesotho, long a part of us, is now, suddenly, prominent and visibly the other

We are, ourselves, the products of the people of Africa, Asia and Europe

Our African ancestors conquered, subjugated, absorbed and intermarried across putative ethnic and national lines

Our strangers today were our mothers yesterday

Why, then, are we increasingly identifying friends as strangers and becoming so obsessed with this that we talk of xenophobia, a harsh and unflattering word used to describe an irrational fear of and anxiety about strangers?

Why, indeed, was a conference recently held at the University of the Western Cape devoted in its entirety to a concern with xenophobia?

Don't we realise that the more we identify others as strangers the more we make them so?

The preoccupation with xenophobia seems most powerfully focused around the conundrum of unauthorised immigration in South Africa

There is a regrettable tendency to explain public attitudes towards unauthorised immigration as somehow rooted in xenophobia

Public attitudes towards unauthorised immigration are, indeed, largely negative

An HSRC October 1996 survey indicated that almost 65 percent of our population strongly disapprove of illegal immigration and 80 percent supported strong government action against it

The results are consistent with an Idasa October 1995 survey, which in much more calmer times found that 64 percent of



COLIN DANIEL

The razor-wire curtain: many people in South Africa are against relaxation of the immigration laws

our population favoured stricter immigration controls

Idasa has another survey in the field and it would be surprising if the results differed very much with that of the HSRC

What is particularly fascinating about the HSRC survey are the largely counter-intuitive racially based results: the highest level of disapproval was among the most educated and most travelled white

population (93 percent), followed by coloured (76 percent), Indian (65 percent) and, least of all, the African population (56 percent)

Counter-intuitive because it is broadly presumed that African people are the site of xenophobia, because that is where the competition over jobs, access to social services and sheer survival is concentrated

Not so, says the HSRC survey

The most

educated and most exposed population is the least tolerant

A closer look at the reasons for anti-immigrant attitudes among Africans reveals, as a matter of fact, that the principal concern here is the protection of jobs

In the Idasa survey, 81 percent of the public agreed that when jobs were scarce, South Africans should get jobs first

Africans felt the strongest about the issue

A similar protectionism prevailed when attitudes about free trade and other material factors were perceived as negatively affecting living standards

This is, of course, a universal refrain, when times are tough, attitudes towards immigrants become tough, too

Blaming the outsider has become typical

This material suggests it is too easy and it might even be misplaced to reduce community responses to unauthorised immigration entirely to xenophobia

It is primarily a question of employment and living standards

Fix that and everything else will take of itself

And yet it is among whites that anti-immigration attitudes are toughest, a group of people presumably least vulnerable to fluctuations in the labour market

How is this to be explained? Why are whites the least and Africans the most willing to embrace Africans who are now seen to be strangers in our midst?

Of course, I am generalising badly and crudely, but it seems that the conflict between Europe and Africa still plays itself out in spite of our efforts at nation-building

It also seems as if our educated elite feels that becoming part of Africa will drive our living standards down further

The message for policy-makers is clear, the degree of anti-immigration sentiment directed towards Africans limits the scope of reform in immigration law

People desire government action that protects South Africans against the stranger, even although, ironically, that stranger is finally a part of us

Isn't it Jung who claimed that "what if I were to discover that the very enemy is within me, that I myself is the enemy to be loved, when then?"

Yes, what then?

■ *Dr Wilmot James is executive director of Idasa.*

Legislation proposed for refugees in SA

CT 18/6/97

(236)

WHAT IS a feasible, practical and broadly acceptable model for refugee protection in South Africa? In the second article in a five-part series, **WILMOT JAMES** examines critical areas of immigration reform.

THERE is one thing we need to get very clear in our minds, it is the qualitative difference between refugees and immigrants. Refugees, unlike immigrants, have no desire to leave their homes and settle elsewhere, but are driven by a manliest threat to life, by persecution and by heightened exposure to human rights violations.

An argument can therefore be made for a moral equivalence between people who fled South Africa and went into exile and people who, today, might knock on our door for a life of safety and dignity. Indeed, South Africa has drawn the equivalence by becoming a signatory to the UN and OAU conventions on refugees.

We have gone further by assuming other international legal obligations that impose a situation-specific duty on us not to return people at risk of serious human rights abuse, by agreeing, for example, to the Convention Against Torture and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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The question is what is a feasible, practical and broadly acceptable model of refugee protection for South Africa? We should remember that the scale of asylum-seekers in South Africa is not that great. Up until now the Department of Home Affairs has received 27 769 applications, of which 3 431 have been approved and 5 236 rejected.

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Chapter 4 of the green paper on International Migration recommends that an authority, independent of government, should make rapid assessments of a claimant's right to refugee status. This would be the mechanism by which manifestly unfounded claims to refugee status can be determined and where well-founded claims can be quickly dealt with.

It must be an independent authority because it is critical to the credibility and efficient functioning of the system of refugee protection that it be sheltered from political interference, in particular foreign affairs considerations. There is, though, a role for Home Affairs, which ought to intervene if there is reason to believe that a claimant is not entitled to refugee status.

The authority should provide a one-step process to investigate status, should provide a quality interview and have the full mandate to investigate all facts. Claimants should have an opportunity to have their case reviewed...

Refugee status determination can be made quickly and fairly. The independent authority should provide a one-step process to investigate status and a quality interview, and it should have the full mandate to investigate all facts. Claimants should have a single opportunity to have their case reviewed, and there must be the commitment to quickly deport rejected asylum-seekers who have exhausted their right of appeal.

It is critical that refugee protection be temporary and that refugee status not be assumed to automatically lead towards permanent residence. The green paper suggests a maximum guaranteed period of five years, and an unambiguous promise that permanent residence can be granted if a person cannot be returned to their country of normal residence and live there in safety, or in special cases where, for example, orphaned children are involved.

This requires further explanation in terms of our international obligations, we cannot return refugees if there is evidence that they would be subject to per-



SPECIAL CASES: Orphaned Rwandan children in the former Zaire. They would be given special status in South Africa, if recommendations made in a Green Paper on International Migration produced by a Home Affairs committee were adopted as policy.

secution, physical attack, discrimination, family break-up, or denied the right to work, access to education, freedom of association, movement and religious practice.

To make this assessment on a country-by-country basis requires access to the best quality human rights databases available. Good, continuously updated databases, do indeed exist. If a refugee can be returned this should happen quickly. If required, mandatory repatriation can be carried out in association with the UN High Commission for Refugees.

Because of the emphasis on temporary protection, refugees should be deliberately and pro-actively empowered to preserve their social structures, to maintain good relations and communications with

communities to whom they will return, and to enhance their skills and capacities. These might seem generous, but it is essential to a system where temporary protection is expected.

At present, it is the responsibility of the receiving state to carry the burden of refugee protection. This is unfair, inadequate and unsustainable. The green paper recommends that the responsibility be shared among states, based on what they realistically can contribute, in protection, capacity and funds.

□ *Dr Wilmot James is executive director of Idasa. This is the second of a series drawn from the green paper on International Migration produced by a Home Affairs appointed task team, which he convened.*

Embracing immigrants will boost the economy

CT (DR) 17/6/97 (236)

JABULANI SIBAKHANE

PICTURE EDITOR

An anonymous writer said. "The early North American Indians made a great mistake by not having an immigration bureau."

It is a mistake South Africa can ill afford. But in designing a migration policy, South Africa will have to realise it cannot stem the flow of migrants from neighbouring states, at least in the short to medium term.

A report by the Centre for Developing Enterprise, a policy research group, said increased migration to South Africa was inevitable.

"The only question is how to manage this phenomenon in the best possible way so as to capture the most benefits for South Africa and the people who live here," it said.

The report, released last week, said South Africa would have to design a migration policy consistent with "a more open, trading economy and support maximum economic growth and job creation".

Such a policy would include opening South Africa's borders to skilled labour from all corners of the world.

The centre said the government's growth, employment and redistribution (Gear) strategy aimed to position South Africa's monetary, fiscal and exchange rate policies to achieve a growth rate of 6 per cent by the turn of the century.

"The modest growth of the past three years has already seen the re emergence of a skills shortage," the report said. It also said while the expansion of opportunities for education and training would increase the supply of skilled labour, it would take time.

In some fields where training and education was expensive, it would be optimal for South Africa to import skills rather than try and produce them locally.

"It is a fallacy to think there is a contradiction between equal opportunities for all South Africans irrespective of colour, and the active participation of employers in the global marketplace for skilled personnel," the report said.

On the contrary, migrants could play a positive role in South Africa's economic growth and development.

The centre warned, however, that the importing of skills should not occur at the expense of opportunities for training and advancing the local population.

It said there was also the danger of skill migration pro-

Repatriations and deportations, 1990-1996

Year	Repatriations	Deportations (convicted criminals)	TOTAL
1991			
1992			
1993			
1994			
1995			
1996			
TOTAL	763 894	3 170	767 064

grammes becoming substitutes for the education and training programmes that would enable a country like South Africa to meet its manpower needs internally.

Nevertheless, the report said one benefit of skills migration was "increased human capital", which led to a rise in productivity. That in turn generated more employment.

"Skilled migrants arrive already educated and trained, so the receiving economy experiences a net increase in human capital without having to subsidise its creation," it said.

Moreover, companies in Third World countries were competing not only against one another but also against firms in the First World. They therefore needed the highly skilled people who would enable them to compete globally.

The centre's report, "People on the Move: A new approach to cross-border migration in South Africa", concluded that increased economic integration with southern Africa would increase migration pressures on South Africa.

Many people suggested increased aid by the South African government to uplift the economies of neighbouring states as a key policy measure in stopping migration to South Africa. Though the strategy sounded plausible, international experience was instructive.

A US commission for the study of international migration and co-operative economic development, formed in 1992, noted "While job-creating economic growth is the ultimate solution to reducing these migratory pressures, the

economic development process itself tends in the short to medium term to stimulate immigration by raising expectations and enhancing people's ability to migrate."

It was also doubtful whether South Africa had the resources to become involved in massive development aid to neighbouring states.

However, this did not mean South Africa's migration policy should work against the development of its neighbouring states.

Rather, South Africa should encourage and promote viable economic growth and socio-infrastructure development in the southern African region.

"But to think that this will reduce the migration pressures to South Africa in the short to medium term is an illusion," the report said.

It added that a better infrastructure, education, communications and other opportunities would facilitate greater mobility. For the vast majority of potential migrants, greater mobility would mean moving to South Africa.

In examining international experience, the centre's report said migrant workers helped hold down the rate of increase

in wages. Their availability also allowed employers to expand production by building additional assembly-line facilities that employed unskilled workers.

Contrary to popular belief, this helped local workers move upward

as foreign workers filled the vacant jobs they left behind. Furthermore, "foreign workers sometimes raised the profitability of investments in machinery because they were willing to work at nights and on weekends", the report said.

Overall, as the centre's report clearly indicated, whatever route South Africa took in dealing with migration, there would be no gain without pain.

'South Africa will have to realise it cannot stem the flow of migrants'

Foreign workers can raise the profitability of investment in machinery

THERE ARE IMMIGRANTS AS WELL AS EMIGRANTS

We enjoy every day we live in SA — Russian surgeon

CF 13/6/99 (231)

"WE'RE HAPPY," say doctors who came to South Africa from Russia and Nigeria. The high crime rate bothers them, but they enjoy the standard of living.

WHILE thousands of skilled professionals are leaving South Africa, there are those who are coming in — and finding this country a satisfactory haven.

Immigrant families are difficult to track down, but The Cape Times found two.

One is a Russian surgeon who ran the gauntlet with his family to get here, and a Nigerian who is training to be a brain surgeon.

"We enjoy every day we live here. I do not have enough English words to describe how happy we are," said Dr Arkady Verkhovsky.

Verkhovsky, his teacher wife Elena and their daughters Anna, 12, and Margarita 8, left Russia

in 1991 with the intention of immigrating to South Africa.

But Verkhovsky could not apply to South Africa from Russia and, being Jewish, decided to take his family to Israel, from where they would be able to apply to South African hospitals for work.

When they arrived in Israel they were repeatedly told that professionals were very unhappy in South Africa and were leaving in their thousands, which made them reconsider. But eventually they decided to move.

Verkhovsky's qualifications were not recognised in Israel and he was forced to take labourer's jobs for nearly five years before he approached South African hospitals about work and came

to see the country.

They arrived in Cape Town about 18 months ago with very little money and four suitcases "that contained mostly dictionaries".

He had been given a position at Tygerberg's trauma unit. He spoke a little English, but his family none at all.

However, just a few months later Anna finished at the top of her class at Tamboerskloof Primary School and the family has bought a house in the northern suburbs.

Dr Oluosola Wale Adedipe of Nigeria also moved to South Africa with his agricultural wife Oluwakemi and two young children — three-year-old son Wale and year-old daughter Adetola.

Adedipe is a registrar at Groote Schuur Hospital where he is training to graduate as a brain surgeon in 1999.

A problem though, is that his

wife who has a BSc and double honours in agriculture cannot get a work permit.

They have a larger family income and are enjoying a much better lifestyle than in Nigeria.

Adedipe says he still enjoys living in South Africa, but feels uncomfortable with the level of violence.

He also feels the government should not treat all the immigrants the same and must encourage the immigrants like himself, who can contribute to the country, to stay here.

"Immigrants are not all the same. Some have good education, are doctors and can be good for this country."

"If they are treated like the illegal immigrants the government will throw away the baby with the bathwater and lose the valuable immigrants," said Adedipe.



GOOD MOVE: Dr Oluosola Wale Adedipe of Nigeria with his wife Oluwakemi (left), son Wale and daughter Adetola are finding life a little easier in South Africa

Aliens not such a threat, says report

John 12/6/97 (236)

Foreigners shouldn't be seen as a problem to SA, but as valuable 'human capital', say researchers

By WINNIE GRAHAM

When the problem of illegal aliens was broached with the Minister of Home Affairs, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, at a function last year, he brought the house down with his reply. He told his questioner in Zulu - so that only part of the audience understood - that there were complications in resolving the migration problem. "We can't just cut off the Mozambicans, you know," he said. "After all, they are virtually our brothers-in-law."

It was a lighthearted response to a problem many perceive as insurmountable. No one knows exactly how many illegal migrants there are in the country. Some suggest two million, others quote five million. A figure of up to eight million has even been bandied about.

"If there were indeed that many we'd be tripping over them," Professor Lawrence Schlemmer told a media briefing this week.

He, along with Ann Bernstein, executive director of the Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE), and Professor Charles Simkins, professor of political science at Wits University, are part of a team of experts who have just completed a major three-year research project on migration.

Their report, "People on the Move: A new approach to cross-border migration in South Africa", is part of a two-pronged approach to a highly controversial issue. One of the world's leading migration scholars, Professor Myron Weiner, chairman of the external research advisory committee to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and a former director of MIT's Centre for International Studies, co-authored another report on migration entitled, "Lessons from International Migration Policies".

The two books jointly provide a thorough review of South Africa's migration policy options - and come up with a strategy many will per-

ceive as revolutionary. Yet, says the CDE, it was guided by one central concern throughout the investigation: how South Africa could adopt migration policies that meet its national interests and be compatible with the values of its citizens.

In a country where crime is rampant and often blamed on illegal migrants, will such an open door policy not make it easier still for criminal elements to slip into South Africa?

The CDE looked at this problem.

"South Africa has enough real criminals," the report says. "A migration policy should not condemn millions of otherwise law-abiding people as criminals. This will be costly and will undermine attempts to build a new human rights culture in the country."

Bernstein points out that the Mozambican worker who crosses into South Africa illegally to work on a farm in either Mpumalanga or Kwa Zulu Natal has no intention of committing a crime. He wants work.

Migration policy must be humane

Professor Simkins added: "A recent study by the Organisation for Economic and Co-operative Development in the United States couldn't find a shred of evidence that illegals steal jobs. Nor are they a particularly heavy burden on the state. Migrants come in at a lower end. They make less use of social services. Most are male migrants of prime working age. Benefits outweigh the costs."

What of xenophobia? If a survey were held, there is little doubt that South Africans would oppose the entry of foreigners into the country, yet the CDE team is not unduly concerned. Bernstein said that in the 80s white South Africa favoured the retention of the Group Areas Act, yet when it was discarded by the



Looking for illegal migrants ... police search a flat in Hillbrow.

National Party, popular opinion changed.

"There is another argument that migrants will create greater tensions," she said. "Of course there are ingredients for conflict in this country, even among South Africans, but public opinion needs educating on the realities of migration. The economic contribution of migrants must be recognised. Political leadership is required to deal with popular fears and misconceptions."

The CDE's proposals do not cover all categories of migration. They do not deal with the question of refugees, itinerant traders or oscillating migrant workers. It makes the point that the previous government tried influx control as a means of controlling the movement of people - without success.

The researchers have developed a migration policy framework for Government in which they suggest that there should be free movement of skilled people from anywhere in the world to South Africa. Skills must be defined broadly, as a combination of qualifications and experience.

The CDE proposes that restrictions on the immigration of skilled people be lifted with immediate effect. All skilled people wanting to settle in South Africa must be granted permanent residence rights and qualify for citizenship rights after five years. Skilled immigrants will have to be citizens to qualify for any one-off lump sum subsidies from the

state, for example, for land and housing.

They will be allowed to bring in members of their nuclear family (that is, spouse and children). If they want to bring in any additional family members, they would have to apply for special permission and prove they have the means to support them. All applicants and their families would need to provide recent medical certificates indicating their good health. No one convicted of a serious crime would be granted permanent residence or citizenship.

More controversial are the proposals for admitting unskilled people from the Southern African Development Community. The CDE suggests that these people should be given permission to enter provided they register with the Department of Home Affairs and can furnish an address in South Africa. In order to qualify for permanent residence and citizenship, they will have to satisfy a number of requirements.

All applicants should be granted temporary work and residence permits for an initial period of six months. This permission will be granted to individuals only and not to members of their family.

As a condition of entry, it is suggested that they provide the South African authorities with a local residential address.

Applicants would have to pay a modest fee. Revenue raised in this way could be used to defray part of the

costs in cases where repatriation is necessary.

At the end of six months, these migrants must prove that they are able to support themselves and would have to provide proof of employment. They must have a fixed place of abode.

Unskilled people who are in South Africa illegally when the new policy is introduced would have to apply to remain legally.

"It is important to encourage people inside the country but still outside the legal system to acquire legal status and become part of the official records," the report says.

"The trial entry period provides powerful incentives for would-be immigrants to follow the legal channels. They have to prove their potential to become productive and support themselves and they must abide by the law. If they complete this trial period they are duly rewarded and will be granted permission to remain a further period of two years, then five years."

The CDE poses the question: Can South Africa stop

Temporary permits for six months

migration? It suggests not. England, an island, has some 5 000 immigration officers. South Africa, with its large borders, has fewer than 1 000. The United States, in spite of its enormous resources, cannot keep out tens of thousands of illegal Mexican workers.

"There are those who say we should tighten our controls and produce forge-proof ID documents," Bernstein said. "But we can't even catch people who don't pay TV licences or are guilty of tax evasion or the non-payment of services."

In the CDE's view, the country needs a policy that facilitates government control, one that does not penalise migrants and one with which they will be willing to cooperate.

Fortress SA' is hardly a wise way to discourage aliens

A new policy for cross-border migration into SA is proposed by Ann Bernstein, Lawrence Schlemmer and Charles Simkins

SD 11/6/97

(236)

IT SEEMS logical to argue that SA must act strongly to curb migration into the country. After all, "charity must begin at home" and we have millions of our own citizens desperate for jobs, housing, schooling, and other services.

And yet the assessment of the Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE) of the realities of the migration process, the implementation capacity of the state, the nature of the SA economy, and extensive local and international research — all indicate that this "get tough" approach on migration will not work and government will be seen to be failing to exercise its legitimate authority.

The "get tough" argument — or "fortress SA" — is based on many assumptions shown by the research to be false. A few examples:

□ SA has had border controls and programmes of repatriation — about as strict as it is capable of — for a number of years, but the number of illegal migrants is still large.

No-one knows exactly how many — and probably less than is speculated — but significant numbers of people have slipped through the net. Proponents of Fortress SA generally fail to explain how the country will suddenly become more effective at sealing the borders and at what cost.

□ The Institute for Security Studies has proposed tighter border controls (floodlights, motor detectors etc) and internal controls such as tamper-proof identity cards, a comprehensive national registration system with built-in punitive measures against employment and a "system to ensure that illegals are not employed in the underground economy".

CDE suggests that a country which cannot even measure its underground economy, control tax evasion, collect rates and service charges from residents who live at listed addresses, enforce TV licence requirements, collect parking tickets or register voters without duplications and omissions will not be able to implement tougher measures. Former Deputy Home Affairs Minister Penneil Madina has highlighted the country's limited resources. "England, as an island, has a total of an excess of 5 000 immigration officers, while SA with its vast borders,

has fewer than 1 000 officers to fulfil the same task. The allocated funds for 1996/97 unfortunately do not allow the enlargement of the department's establishment in regard to immigration officers. The service simply cannot be rendered at the required level."

There is only flimsy empirical data on the overall impact migrants have on the social, political and economic life of SA. Yet proponents of Fortress SA make only negative assumptions about all these issues. International research points in a different direction.

For example, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development found in 1992 that "the methodological arsenal of modern econometrics cannot find a single shred of evidence that immigrants have a major adverse impact on the earnings and job opportunities of natives of the US," and

□ Many people suggest curbing migration to SA through increased aid to uplift economies of neighbouring states. Again this sounds plausible, and yet evidence suggests otherwise.

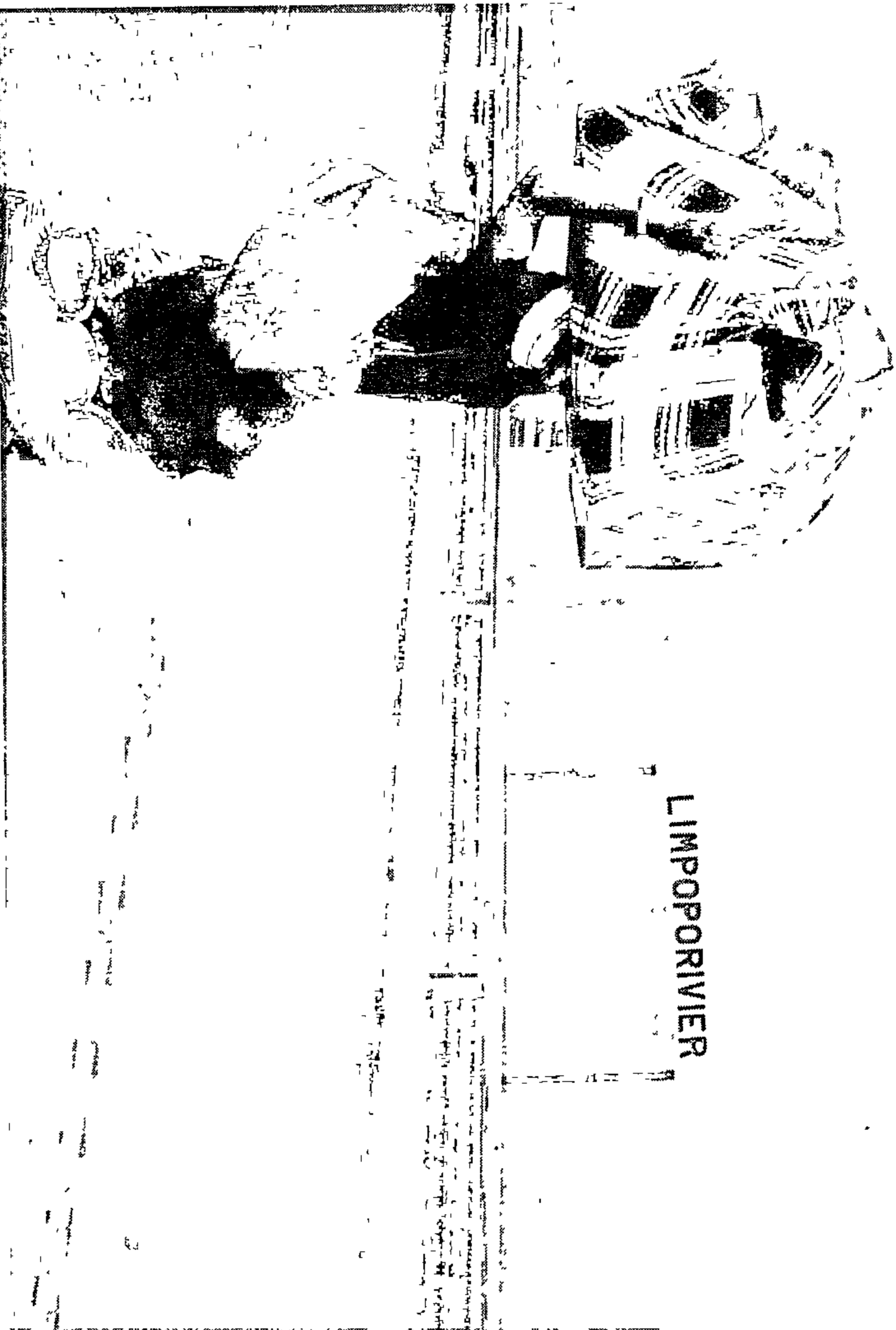
The 1992 US Commission for the Study of International Migration and Co-operative Economic Development put it this way:

"While job-creating economic growth is the ultimate solution to reducing these migratory pressures, the economic development process itself tends in the short to medium term to stimulate migration by raising expectations and enhancing people's ability to migrate."

The truth is that developments like the Maputo corridor are more than likely to increase the flow of migrants to SA for the foreseeable future.

Current government policy on migration issues is ad hoc and confusing.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki says that deporting illegals is a waste of resources. Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthezi talks of increasing resources and policing in order to deport and keep illegals out. The defence minister speculates on the possibility of switching on the electrified border fence. The ministers of Finance, and trade and industry travel the region and the world



The SA government's attempts to curb cross-border migration may prove to be tough to implement successfully

arguing for greater trade and investment, SA — all of which will increase migration pressures.

Current policy assumes that any job occupied by a non-South African means one less job for a South African, and yet the macroeconomic strategy (and we might add the global economy) is based on an expanding view of jobs and opportunities,

not this zero-sum approach. No migration policy will work perfectly — there will always be ways in which people can slip through the system. However, it is essential for citizens of a country to believe that government is regaining control of the migration process.

This requires a decisive choice about migration and leadership from politicians. The Centre for Development

and Enterprise's analysis and orientation is clear. We are in favour of migration as a phenomenon — many migrants are the risk-takers of their communities, people with the drive and need to work hard.

This philosophy should apply to rural-urban migration within SA and to migration across our borders. SA will not become a successful world competitor as a closed protectionist,

narrow society. Diversity, openness and the opportunity to maximise the energy and unforeseen talents of people are required to build a great society and encourage entrepreneurial growth.

This does not mean an open invitation should be issued to everyone in Africa to migrate to the southern tip. States have a right to secure their borders and keep out un-

desirables — criminals, vagrants, drug-traffickers, gun-runners, cross-border cattle rustlers and so on — and to do this effectively.

A clear distinction needs to be made between crime control and migration issues. Strict and tough crime control measures should not be used, mistakenly, as tools of migration control.

CDE's proposals address the central challenge of migrants seeking medium- to long-term work and residence in SA. We advocate a two-tiered approach to migration policy — for skilled and unskilled migrants.

With respect to skilled migration, CDE advocates the immediate lifting of all restrictions on skilled people from anywhere in the world moving to SA. The country's focus on illegal, generally unskilled, migrants has drawn attention away from the real crisis issue — the enormous and growing shortage of managerial and other skills which undermine prospects for sustained economic growth.

The definition of "skilled persons" should be expanded to include not only the traditional professional, technical, managerial and investor categories but also entrepreneurs of all kinds who have some demonstrated skills in the creation and management of either formal or informal enterprises.

It is an illusion to think that tough restrictions on getting into SA will help neighbouring countries keep skilled people. If denied the opportunity to move to SA when and if they want, many skilled people will leave the continent altogether.

The CDE proposes that unskilled migrants should be accepted only from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries and, in order to remain in SA, must demonstrate that they are able to become self-supporting, tax-paying, law-abiding residents.

While our proposals are generous, they facilitate control since they provide incentives for people to register with the authorities and "play by the rules".

The CDE's approach gives any unskilled migrant from a SADC country six months to prove that they can find or make work to support them-

selves, on condition they provide an address in SA. At the end of this period those who succeed in finding or making work must serve a further two-year probationary period. At the conclusion of the probation migrants are rewarded with permanent work and residence rights and only then access to more than minimal health services.

Access to one-off lump sum subsidies (housing, land, infrastructure) should be restricted to migrants who fully commit to SA by acquiring citizenship — accessible only after an additional three-year period of successful work and law-abiding residence.

The centre's approach has two significant advantages. It offers positive incentives for migrants to follow legal channels and operate within the laws of the land, and the system of control within the country can focus mainly on individuals with names and addresses rather than a mass of nameless, faceless "illegals" whose existence and scale can only be guessed at.

Under the proposed system it will be easier to track down defaulters who fail to report back as required — a very different approach from unacceptable mass "pass raids".

Does SA have the administrative capacity to implement even CDE's modest approach to migration policy?

An upgrading of information systems and monitoring procedures is necessary, but the scope of the problem will be hugely reduced.

The proposed policy builds on international experience as well as on SA's own experience. We believe it is in the country's best interest, and that it is a policy which SA has the capacity to implement.

A policy like this is probably the government's only chance of regaining control of the migration process.

□ This article is based on the CDE's Migration Series of two documents — the product of a three-year project involving leading international scholars. Bernstein is executive director of the CDE, Prof Schlemmer is a CDE consultant, and Prof Simkins is a CDE consultant and head of the Wits University economics department.

State won't tolerate exploitation of illegal immigrants

By BLACKMAN NGORO

Employers who exploit illegal immigrants, and then ask the Home Affairs Department before payday to have them removed from the country, will now be prosecuted for employing aliens

A home affairs assistant director, Willem Vorster, said at the weekend "We are targeting the employers in a big way. It is wrong to employ illegals but worse to exploit their vulnerability"

Much of this type of exploitation was reported in the agricultural sector, restaurants and the construction industries

Asked to respond to allegations of exploitation by farmers of illegal immigrants, Jack Raath, executive director of the South African Agricultural Union, said it was "far-fetched" to say that union members were dumping illegals before pay day

"We encourage our members to work within the law of

the land. If it is taking place then the law must take its course," he said

In the Mpumalanga Lowveld and in areas bordering Mozambique, workers said farmers were in the habit of employing illegal immigrants en masse

This has also been confirmed by police and defence force officials, who say workers take up employment and then move to Gauteng, settling mainly in the Alexandra area

(236)

Star 9/6/97

September last year. The final approval by the President was secured on 13 May 1997. Following the President's approval, the remuneration of Board members has been effected. I am satisfied that the Department has complied with all the steps prescribed by the Act.

In addition the Department is continuing to render comprehensive support to the Pan South African Language Board in order to create an environment in which the Board can function effectively. Apart from providing interim office accommodation and an infrastructure for the Board's chief executive officer, the support service rendered by the Department includes legal services, financial and personnel administration and language facilitation services.

(3) No

Housing subsidies: alleged fraud

*27 Mr J A RABIE asked the Minister of Housing †

(1) Whether any complaints of alleged fraud with regard to housing subsidies were lodged in the period 1 January 1996 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, if so (a) how many and (b) what are the amounts involved.

(2) whether any investigations were undertaken in any of these cases, if so, what are the relevant details in each case.

(3) whether she will furnish the names of the persons and/or institutions allegedly involved in such fraud, if not, why not, if so, what are their names? N1246E

The MINISTER OF HOUSING

The administration of the housing subsidy scheme is a provincial competency. Allegations of fraud is therefore a provincial matter.

However I have instructed my Department to request the information required by the hon member from the Provincial Administrators and I shall convey the information by letter to the hon member as soon as possible after it has been received, should he be amenable to this arrangement.

Training programmes for judicial officers

*28 Mr D M BAKKER asked the Minister of Justice †

Whether, with reference to the new court management system being envisaged, he or his Department has contemplated preparing draft legislation in accordance with section 180 of the Constitution with a view to providing training programmes for judicial officers and participation of people other than the judicial officers in court decisions, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so what are the relevant details? N1247E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

The Minister of Justice provides that national Section 180 of the Constitution provides that national legislation may provide for any matter concerning the administration of justice that is not dealt with in the Constitution, including training programmes for judicial officers, procedures for dealing with complaints about judicial officers and the participation of people other than judicial officers in court decisions.

Regarding legislation pertaining to complaints against judicial officers, it can be mentioned that the Magistrates Act, 1993, was amended in 1996 to provide for the appointment of a special committee to deal with complaints against magistrates and disciplinary issues. The Judicial Service Commission has also recently resolved that the enactment of possible legislation to regulate the handling of complaints against judicial officers should be investigated. My Department is at present busy with research in this regard and is preparing a working document which will be submitted to the Judicial Service Commission and all interested parties for comments.

Regarding the participation of people other than judicial officers in court decisions, I can mention that we are at present involved in an initiative to expand the use of lay assessors in our lower courts. We are encouraging magistrates to make greater use of the provisions of section 93ter of the Magistrates Courts Act, 1944. As part of a pilot project I established an Assessors Co-ordinating Committee to oversee this project. After assessing the working of the pilot project, the Committee submitted comprehensive proposals regarding the appointment of assessors. We are at present refining draft legislation which will be submitted for consultation and promotion in Parliament.

I turn to the question of training. At present, Justice College is responsible for the training of magistrates. This training is in the form of courses and seminars in the adjudication of civil, criminal and of family related matters. At this stage this training does not take place under the auspices of any specific legislation but programmes relating to magistrates enjoys the approval of the Magistrates' Commission. The possibility of regulating some aspects of judicial training by means of specific legislation is not excluded in the future.

Reducing number of deaths/accidents on roads

*29 Mr J S A MAVUSO asked the Minister of Transport †

(1) Whether he has taken or intends taking any steps with a view to reducing the number of (a) deaths and (b) accidents on South African roads, if not, why not, if so, what steps.

(2) what was the cost to the taxpayer of road accidents in the latest specified financial year for which information is available? N1249E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

(1) Steps have already been taken with a view to reducing the number of

(a) deaths and

(b) accidents on South African roads.

I have previously made statements on the unacceptable fatality rate on our roads and have suggested methods to overcome the complex underlying problems which have given rise to this unacceptable situation. I have also indicated that my Department is working tirelessly on all these issues, continuously striving to improve coordination between the activities of all role-players in government and the private sector at national, provincial and local level.

I would also like to bring to the attention of the hon member the published *Business Plan Towards Implementation of the Road Traffic Management Strategy (RTMS)*, which was presented to the Standing Committee on Transport. I would further recommend for quick reference, the abridged copy of this

document which has just been published. This document can be obtained from the Parliamentary Office in my Department. The RTMS is the result of a Road Traffic Quality Symposium which was held in Pretoria in July 1996, when a target was set to reduce road fatalities by 10% by the year 2000.

(2) The cost to the taxpayer of all road accidents in 1996 was R11 918 460.

*30 Mr G C OOSTHUIZEN - Correctional Services † [Question standing over]

Electrified border fence: "lethal" mode

(236)

*31 Dr P J STEENKAMP asked the Minister of Defence †

(1) Whether the Government is considering switching an electrified border fence on South Africa's eastern border to the "lethal" mode if not, why not, if so, when will a decision be taken in this regard.

(2) whether the South African National Defence Force has directed a request to his Ministry in this regard, if so, what are the relevant details.

(3) whether he has made or will make a recommendation to the Cabinet in respect of the switch-over of the border fence to the "lethal" mode if so, what are the relevant details.

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1251E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(1) No. The Government is not considering the switching of the NOREX fence to the "lethal" mode.

(2) No. The SA National Defence Force has not directed a request to me in this regard recently. The last request was submitted in November 1994.

(3) No. I have no intention at present of making a recommendation to Cabinet that the mode be changed to "lethal".

(4) Yes. Despite the fact that the high crime rate experienced throughout the country is often attributed to illegal border crossings and the

smuggling of weapons, I am of the opinion that the greater majority of those illegal crossings are the result of the poor economic circumstances in which some of our neighbouring countries find themselves

**Koeborg Power Station:
radioactivity**

*32 Mr A H NEL asked the Minister of Minerals and Energy †

- (1) Whether any employees of the Koeborg Power Station were exposed to radioactivity in 1997, as reported in the press on 14 April 1997, if so, what are the relevant details,
- (2) whether any such incidents have been investigated by the Council for Nuclear Safety in 1997, if so, (a) what incidents and (b) what are the further relevant details? N1253E

THE MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY

There have been two incidents at Koeborg during which unplanned radiation exposures were received by Eskom personnel, namely on 11 March 1997 and 2 May 1997. Both were investigated by the CNS Corrective actions have been implemented. In the first incident the personnel concerned entered a high radiation zone erroneously and in the second a probable malfunction of an instrument resulted in maintenance staff not being aware of a high radiation field existing at the time

**Termination of world-wide ban on
trade in ivory**

*33 Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

- (1) Whether the Government has expressed itself in favour of ending the world-wide ban on trade in ivory, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, why,
- (2) whether the Government intends taking any steps to (a) prevent (i) illegal poaching and (ii) excessive culling for commercial gain and (b) control the trade in ivory and ivory products, including the export of ivory and ivory products from South Africa, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, what steps? N1254E

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL
AFFAIRS AND TOURISM**

- (1) Government is in favour of sustainable use of natural resources which includes the use of ivory. South Africa did not submit a proposal for the downlisting of its elephant population to the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Thus, the *status quo* regarding the moratorium on the trade in South Africa elephant ivory and products will be maintained
- (2) (a)(i) The provincial conservation organisations in co-operation with the Endangered Species Protection Unit of the South African Police Service are constantly involved in actions aimed at preventing poaching

(ii) Presently no culling of elephants takes place in South Africa. Only a few elephant hunting trophies are exported every year

(iii) Since 1989 there has been a moratorium on trade in South African ivory and ivory products. No ivory, except hunting trophy tusks, are allowed to be exported or imported

**Development of new
competition policy**

*34 Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Trade and Industry

- (1) (a) What progress has been made with the development of a new competition policy and (b) when is it anticipated that the drawing up of this policy will be completed,
 - (2) whether any delays are being experienced in respect of the drawing up of this policy, if so what are the causes of such delays? N1255E
- THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**
- The progress in the development of a new competition policy has been slower than most would have liked because of the Minister's work programme and interrelated developments in the field of corporate law

(b) A memo on competition policy will be piloted through Cabinet in June, following which the agreed process in Nedlac will commence

- (2) There is no fixed schedule for the drawing up of a new competition policy. It is, of course, a complex matter requiring careful deliberation which should not be equated with delay

**Local governments: financial
soundness/performance**

*35 Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development

Whether the Government has considered publishing records of the financial soundness of and adherence to service provision performance targets for local governments if not, why not if so, what are the relevant details? N1256E

**THE MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS
AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

No information of this nature is not collated by the Department of Constitutional Development. The Department does however monitor the cash flow position of local authorities on a quarterly basis through Project Viability. The Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk or a person acting in that capacity for each municipality informs the Department of the current financial position of the municipality by reporting on key financial indicators such as cash debtors and creditors

The Department published a document on "The Present State of Municipal Finance and Action Steps taken by Government to Manage the Situation". This document was publicly launched and made available to the press and representatives of the financial institutions on 18 March 1997. A copy of this document can be obtained from the Department on request

**Local authorities:
financial obligations**

*36 Dr W J BOTHA asked the Minister of Finance

- (1) Whether any local authorities have not been able to meet all their financial obligations since April 1994, if so, (a) which local

authorities in each specified province and (b) what amount is involved in each case,

- (2) whether the Government has come to the assistance of such local authorities, if not what is the position in this regard, if so to what extent,
- (3) whether any conditions have been set in this regard, if not, what is the position in this regard if so, what conditions? N1259E

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

(1) The Department of Finance is aware that there are local authorities that have experienced problems in meeting some of their financial obligations. As far as defaults on debt servicing and redemption are concerned the Department of Finance is currently conducting a survey among financial institutions to assess the extent of any such default by individual local authorities

Furthermore it is planned for the survey to be conducted on a regular basis in the future to enable the Department to keep abreast of developments. Accurate information by financial institutions to the test questionnaire are only expected to be received during the first half of June. The information requested in paragraphs (a) and (b) is thus not available at present

As for the meeting of financial obligations other than debt redemption and servicing is concerned, the Department of Constitutional Development is conducting surveys (through the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants) on the cash flow situation (the so called "Project Liquidity") of local authorities. The question should thus perhaps also be directed to the Minister of Constitutional Development

(2) The Government has indicated that it will not bail such local authorities out. The Department of Constitutional Development is developing a short-term intervention programme, known as the Financial Management Support Programme, in order to deal with situations where local authorities run into financial problems

(3) As no financial assistance has been provided, no conditions have been set. The Department

GRAPPLING WITH CHANGE

★ WEDNESDAY

Allie's winding road to survival





IT'S BEEN more than a year since a Somali father made the difficult decision to leave his wife and three children to search the African continent for a means to help them survive.

YAZEED FAKIER reports.

PICTURES: SASIA KRALL, AFRICA

(236) 574-1619

THE LIVES OF ordinary Capetonians will be affected more and more by the steady stream of African refugees seeking a safe haven in the city as political stability elsewhere on the continent forces citizens from their native countries.

The number of political refugees in Cape Town is comparatively estimated at about 5,500 at present. The influx rate is least 200 a month, so that number will grow as refugees flee the dangers of internal conflict, civil war and strife — the harrowing consequences of a continent in transition, struggling to affirm its identity as it approaches a new century.

Refugees leaving the land of their birth — and forced to abandon family and loved ones in the process — often have to contend with the additional torment of xenophobia from the ranks of citizens of the host countries they enter.

They will be faced with stereotyped prejudice that they are lazy, uneducated, ruddy and don't belong, that they have no regard for local culture and that their presence will serve only to rob the locals of their jobs and be a drain on resources.

Yet — drawing a distinction between political refugees and illegal immigrants or economic refugees in search of better business opportunities — these perceptions are, at best, ill-informed and, at worst, without substance.

A case in point is a 48-year-old Somali refugee with whom I recently had a meeting during which all these myths and labels so often unfairly apportioned to asylum-seekers from other African states were dispelled.

Judging from his experience, it made me realise again how precious — and fragile — is this thing we call democracy. And how easily and imperceptibly society can degenerate into a quagmire of destructive in-fighting if the keepers of the flame are not constantly vigilant.

These were the thoughts that played on my mind as Allel Abdifrah unfolded his life in a soft-spoken, humble and supremely proud manner.

His well-worn yet well-kept clothes belie the fact that he is a university-educated teacher who has managed against great odds to find temporary refuge, with two of his countrymen, at the Claremont Main Road Mosque, which is headed by Imam Rashied Omar.

Omar has been working in close co-ordination with the Al-Jamaa Mosque in nearby Stegmann Road to find ways to assist the Somali refugees. (See separate story on this page.)

Afrah ("It means joy") last saw his family in January, 1996, when disruptive and endless faction fighting finally forced them to make the wrenching decision that he should leave his homeland and search the African continent for a base from which to establish a lifeline for his

brood — until domestic conditions improved. As a regular listener to the Voice of America and BBC Radio stations, he had first thought about coming to South Africa when he heard a news bulletin.

It was the BBC's Somali Service, said Afrah, that reported the existence of a community of Somalis in South Africa "and that they would be able to provide food and shelter."

He left Somalia once he and his family had saved enough money for a plane ticket. It was to take him on a journey into a future of no guarantees.

In halting and measured English, Afrah related that his flight took him as far as Kenya, where he stayed for three days before continuing his journey by bus to Tanzania.

There he stayed with a compatriot for two months during which time he secured a one-month tourist visa from the South African consulate.

A three-day bus trip followed, which took him through Zambia, Zimbabwe and finally, to Johannesburg, where he continued his search for employment opportunities. After a month in the crime-ridden city, he set his sights on Cape Town where he arrived just over a year ago on May 16.

"I decided Cape Town would be more preferable (in terms of) stability, compared with Johannesburg," he said. Stability is an issue that features prominently in Afrah's considerations. It is his home town, the Somali capital of Mogadishu, it was "the instability" that forced the Afrah family to flee to a village 90km away.

"Faction fighting is worst in the capital, where everybody wants to have control," he said. He left behind his wife, Zahra, and three children, aged 18, 15 and 12. They go through their daily grind for survival by trying to cultivate the barren farm they run with their hardy cattle and goats.

However, it's not sufficient and the eldest son spends his time in a small shop that stocks essential goods such as sugar and oil which is brought in irregularly from the capital, while his siblings attend school where they are kept busy with recitals from the holy Qur'an.

"There is no work there," said Afrah. "The children need food for sustenance and nourishment, and since you are not working there, it's useless to stay. You have to go into the world, to find a place where you can get money for daily bread so that you can support them and keep them alive."

"That is what compelled me to leave and to find jobs outside my country," said Afrah. Other Somalis eke out an existence through agriculture for local consumption, or "do business by importing food from the outside world."

But even the latter practise is a tenuous arrangement

due to the high levels of corruption prevalent in the country.

Afrah says there are many qualified people like himself, including doctors and other professionals, who have been driven to desperation and have been forced to leave the land of their birth.

Many of them are scattered across South Africa, some have moved on when their stay has no longer proved viable.

Others have pooled their resources and live in rented houses in suburbs such as Athlone, Claremont and Wynberg.

Afrah has difficulty getting to grips with the multicultural nature of South African society "because in Somalia, we are just one race, whether you come from north or south Somalia, and we have one religion (Islam) and speak one language (a mixture of Arabic and original Somali). Here, there are so many different groups and religions."

Afrah obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree at a university in Somalia. He majored in English and history, and taught English and Arabic at a high school in Mogadishu. He had hoped that, on arrival in Cape Town, he would be able to secure a teaching post.

"But they said I could only get work as a temporary teacher. There were some difficulties involved — even those who are born in your country are not satisfied with the teaching profession — so I started my own self-help business at the (Claremont) station, selling some chips, chocolates and soft drinks, which I buy from the wholesaler."

Fridays and Saturdays are "good business" days that have to carry him through the quieter weekdays. The onset of winter, however, will add to his burden. It will be difficult to trade from his uncovered pavement stall in the rain.

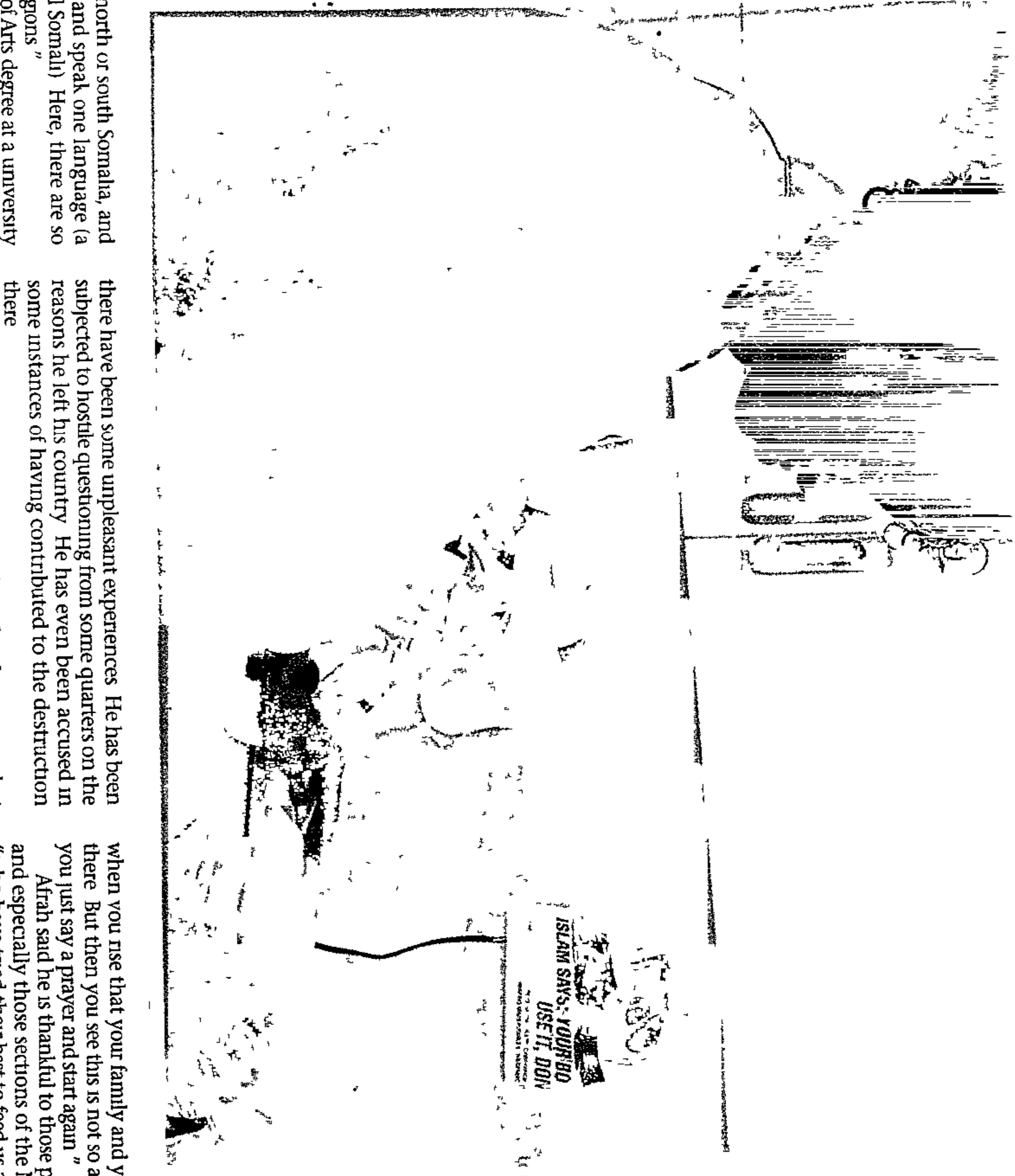
The major portion of his profit from this business is sent to his family — it is transferred via friends "because you cannot be sure that it will get to them if you send it in the normal way through the post office."

"Whatever money is left over, I use for myself, to survive. However, he will most likely have to dip into his savings to get through the lean months of winter."

Afrah has a government permit to remain in South Africa for a limited period, bona fide refugees usually acquire the status of asylum-seekers when they register with the Department of Home Affairs. Once this is approved, they are afforded full refugee status.

"My renewal depends on the government's decision and if the government refuses me, I will have to find somewhere else to go or go back to my homeland," he said. While he has generally felt welcome in Cape Town,

there have been some unpleasant experiences. He has been subjected to hostile questioning from some quarters on the reasons he left his country. He has even been accused in some instances of having contributed to the destruction there.



A GREATER CALLING: Somali refugee Allel Abdifrah (top) awaits customers at his stall. Profits will be sent to his wife and children struggling on their barren farm about 90 km outside Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia.

LEFT: Fellow Somali refugee Yusuf Tohow (25) taking care of the chores at Claremont Main Road Mosque.

there are some illiterate people who don't know why you came here and they talk badly about you. Those who don't understand say to you that you should go back. But you will find there are different kinds of people in every society you come into contact with."

Afrah said he last spoke to his wife and children a month ago, but the prohibitive cost of an international call made it a brief and hurried conversation. "They said 'We just miss you very much, but we are all right, that's all.' I asked the meaning of his wife's name and his face lit up as he gave an animated, though jumbled, description of its meaning. "Zahra means 'the rose of the flower.' Originally this name comes from zihir, meaning the top part of the flower, the reddish colour. Inside is the nectar sugary liquid," he said.

I asked him how it has affected him being so far from his family for such a long time. "You would love to be with them," he said, "but if a problem comes to you, you have to tolerate that problem."

"Certain circumstances do not permit you to stay with them because you realise they need to survive, they need some clothing and medicines and if you stay with them then you are not able to get those things."

"I worry about them and my country, my friends and colleagues, and that I'm living here as a stranger."

"At those times, your heart is not strong, so that sometimes you will not sleep normally, you sleep less hours. You remember all these things about how your property was looted or destroyed and sometimes you wish that

when you rise that your family and your property will be there. But then you see this is not so and you feel upset. You just say a prayer and start again."

Afrah said he is thankful to those people of Cape Town and especially those sections of the Muslim community "who have tried their best to feed us and help us as much as they can afford."

Did he ever expect that he would be away for so long? "I didn't think so, but circumstances forced me to stay this long."

"God gives you the ability to go somewhere — everywhere you live is God's land — and you can leave only when God gives you permission and your heart tells you to leave."

"At that time it will be right for you to go back to your country — right now, I have no ability to return."

He said that the thought of not returning home was not one that he entertained, even though the outlook for his country's future is bleak.

He would have no hesitation in returning notice if conditions were altered and there was positive change in Somalia.

"Personally, I like my homeland, I must go back. My family, my friends, are there, my forefathers were buried there. The satisfaction I get from my country I won't get anywhere else."

Just before the end of our conversation, I suggested we publish a telephone number in case some kind-hearted folk want to get in touch with him and his fellow countrymen. However, the proud Afrah would have none of it — he did not want charity.

And as we rose and prepared to leave, I wished him good luck.

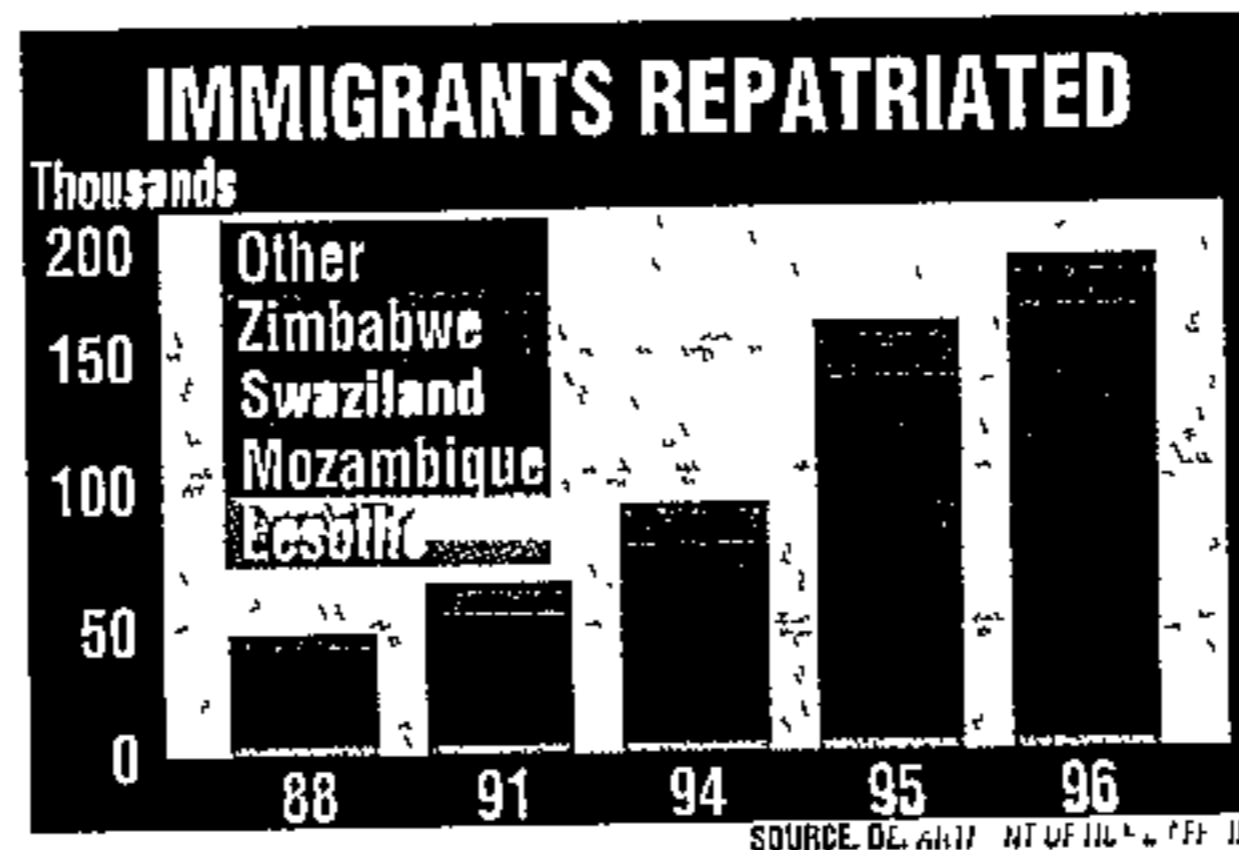
He gently corrected me with a line from his philosophy "Insha-Allah," he said, "God will provide."

The burden of being Africa's rich relative ⁽²³⁶⁾

FM 23/6/97

SA deports more illegal aliens

Attitudes are hardening towards illegal immigration, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi says he's cracking down on it, Defence Minister Joe Modise recommends cranking SA's electrified border fence up to "lethal mode," and there's increasing hostility towards the estimated



2,5m-4,1m illegal foreigners now in SA

For SA, it's the price of being wealthier than one's neighbours. Americans are roughly seven times richer than Mexicans, and they face an immigration problem. In 1995, South Africans were about 36 times richer than Mozambicans — who make up the largest category of immigrants.

There were 180 713 deportations last year — more than four times the number in 1988 (see chart) ■

POPULATION - MIGRATION

1997

JULY - DEC

Illegal immigration still on the rise

Star 21/7/97

(236) (236)

82 000 people have been sent back to their countries of origin in the past 6 months

By BUNTY WEST

More than 1 400 illegal immigrants are repatriated from South Africa to their countries of origin each week and the figure could more than double within the next three months

Illegal immigrants are held at Lindela Repatriation Centre in Krugersdorp which can only cope with 1 400 people at a time, but work is under way to increase temporary accommodation facilities to 3 500.

Between January and June this year more than 82 000 people have been sent back to mainly African states. The exact cost of repatriation cannot be gauged at present.

Last year's repatriations cost the Department of Home Affairs more than R7,5-million and the South African National Defence Force another R700-million on border protection.

By far the biggest group of illegal immigrants are Mozambicans. This year's figures show that 84,5% are

from Mozambique, 10,7% from Zimbabwe, 1,2% from Malawi, 3,4% from other African states and 0,2% from the rest of the world

Illegals in SA estimated at 8-million

According to Judas Kgotse, Lindela's unit leader, there are an estimated 8-million illegal immigrants in South Africa.

"As quickly as they are repatriated, they return, so we don't even make a dent in the numbers," he said.

Mozambican children as young as 10 years old have been found on the streets of Johannesburg. With no papers or identity documents, the task of the Department of Home Affairs is daunting.

At Lindela, all illegals are fingerprinted and their photographs taken before they are shipped out by truck and train for their homelands.

Of the 14 women at Lindela last week, five were from

Zimbabwe and all had husbands living in South Africa illegally. Although the women knew they would be sent back to Zimbabwe, they vowed to return to their husbands and jobs within weeks.

One woman, who did not want to be named, said she had worked in South Africa for eight years and was employed at a restaurant. She believed her boss would keep her job open for her.

Migrants Assets or liabilities?

page

Illegals cost SA R210-m

Sowetan 24/7/97

By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent

(236)

IT COSTS the South African taxpayer in the region of R210 million a year to remove illegal aliens from South Africa

While Minister of Home Affairs Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi says it is not possible "to quantify the annual cost to South African taxpayers" for illegal aliens entering South Africa, he did refer to research done by the University of Pretoria and the Human Sciences Research Council

Buthelezi revealed that a total of 180 713 illegal immigrants were repatriated to their countries of origin. For the first three months of this year he revealed that 41 466 illegals were repatriated

It is widely known that a number of illegals are repatriated, only to return at some later stage. In his response to a written question in Parliament, Buthelezi says research results from the HSRC and Pretoria University reveal that an estimate of costs per illegal alien can be quantified

Seny back by train

It shows that it costs about R20 a person to transport Mozambicans to the Lebombo border post. It costs R40 a head to return Zimbabweans to the BeitBridge border

"Zimbabweans and Mozambicans caught in Johannesburg are usually sent back by train every Thursday, also at a cost of around R45 a head," the report says. It points out that these costs exclude the feeding and detention in prison

For those who have to be flown back to their countries, the costs are obviously a lot more

These costs, the report reveals, range from R1 000 a person for Malawians and Tanzanians, to as much as R4 000 to R8000 for certain East European and Asian countries

Overall, the report says "An estimated total of R210 million a year is spent on removing illegal aliens from South Africa"

The report also says that each alien that the SA National Defence Force catches at the border costs them R4 000 on average

How to reach Sowetan ...

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Tougher parole system tabled in Parliament

CAPE TOWN — Draft legislation for a tougher parole system, allowing courts to fix a nonparole period of a prisoner's sentence, was tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The proposals include new parole boards with greater community representation.

In a presentation to MPs earlier this year, director of prison services Annelie Raabe said it was crucial the legislation be accepted by Parliament as soon as possible.

However, because of the need to set up new infrastructure and educate prisoners about the proposed system, it was unlikely that it would be implemented before the end of this year.

The bill proposes that where a court has set a nonparole period, a prisoner not be

considered for parole unless he has served that period, or half of his term of imprisonment, whichever is longer.

If no period has been set, a prisoner will have to serve at least half his sentence. However no prisoner will serve more than 20 years before being considered for parole.

Prisoners sentenced to life will not be paroled until they have served at least 20 years, except those who have served at least 15 years by the time they have turned 65.

Habitual criminals must serve at least seven years in jail.

The existing power of the commissioner of correctional services to grant a two-year remission of sentence to prisoners who have rendered "highly meritorious service" is retained in the Bill, with the additional proviso that this remission may not be deducted from the nonparole period.

The Bill says at least two of the eight members of a parole board must be drawn from the community, but according to the department the chairperson and vice will also come from the community.

The remaining board members are one official of the SA Police Service, one from the justice department, and two from correctional services.

While existing boards, which are dominated by correctional services officials, are only able to advise the minister and commissioner on parole, the new boards will take decisions themselves. — Sapa.

Leon slams ministers over police protection

Vuyo Mvoko

DEMOCRATIC Party leader Tony Leon yesterday slammed the disclosure that 1 138 members of the SA Police Service devoted part or all of their time to protecting ministers and deputy ministers.

This cost the taxpayer more than R11,5m in the 1996/97 year.

Leon said he became aware of the "waste of resources in the SA Police Service" only through a reply to a question he had tabled in the National Assembly recently.

"If these figures exclude the president and the deputy president, our ministers and deputy ministers are allocated 28 police members each. Contrast this with the rest of the population—a total of 135 984 police members in March 1997 make for roughly one to every 279 people, if the latest census results are to be believed," he said.

Leon called on Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi to "explain exactly what these 28 police members per cabinet member do to justify their allocation to these positions, and the enormous amount of money spent on them".

Aliens 'to work on contract basis'

BD 23/7/97

(23b)

NELSPRUIT — Mozambicans and other foreign farm labourers should not be barred from earning a livelihood in SA as illegal immigrants, but should rather be allowed into the country as seasonal contract workers, the Transvaal Agricultural Union said yesterday.

Illegal immigrants should be allowed to work on a permit system, union president Lorrie Bosman said after a conference with Mpumalanga premier Mathews Phosa.

"We are still against illegal immigration and still believe that stronger controls should be put in place to control it," he said. "But at the same time we also believe for eigners who want to work on SA farms during harvest or other high-pressure periods should be allowed to through a well-controlled permit system."

Recommitting the union to its promise to crack down on illegal evictions and the under-payment of farm labourers, Bosman said the union had decided to attempt to address the problem internally.

Bosman said the union had voiced its concern about the "rapid" deterioration of both tar and secondary gravel roads in Mpumalanga. "We aren't asking for new

roads but rather for a commitment about the maintenance of existing roads."

Phosa asked the union to draw up a list of the region's most important roads for inclusion in provincial government strategies. "Agriculture contributes significantly both to the country's gross domestic product and in terms of jobs, so we can't allow it to be hurt by either crime, infrastructural problems or other factors," Phosa said.

"We have therefore agreed to meet the union four times a year to resolve concerns and we are also going to be including them in everything from planning the physical Maputo Corridor road to giving them a voice on local authorities."

Farmers are concerned the Maputo corridor crosses prime agricultural land and could disrupt farming, especially by preventing the free movement of livestock over the highway.

"You can't have cows crossing the highway, so we're now looking at special animal tunnels under it."

"It's great that this potential problem was pointed out to us before we actually began construction or it would have been a massive cost later," said Phosa. — Sapa.

Provincial education departments in crisis

BISHO — Government provincial education departments are running out of money and Finance Minister Trevor Manuel has called a crisis meeting on Friday in response to the problem, it was learned in Bisho today.

East Cape MEC Nosimo Balindilela revealed at an Eastern Cape legislature education standing committee meeting this afternoon that Manuel had called the meeting "to get the global picture, to find the shortfalls."

"It was quite surprising to find out that we are all in the same boat," said Balindilela. "Gauteng needs R1bn more, and KwaZulu-Natal needs almost that much."

Earlier in this afternoon's meeting Eastern Cape education permanent secretary Ronnie van Wyk said that he had budgeted R6,5bn for the 1997/98 financial year but the department had received only R4,5bn.

"I did not underbudget and we are not overspending. We were underfunded," Van Wyk told the meeting.

He told a finance standing committee recently that the education department would spend R1,5bn more than it was allocated in the provincial budget this year.

Van Wyk and his staff explained his department's cash-flow problems to the committee as the result of the fact that the department had to rely on weekly bank deposits from the national treasury to pay off debts bit by bit.

Democratic Party MP Eddie Trent, who is not a member of the standing committee but was present at the meeting nevertheless, said that he knew of a huge, reputable book company which was owed as much as R100m by the Eastern Cape education department.

"This big company can perhaps carry it, but what of smaller ones?"

He declined to name the firm.

Balindilela and Van Wyk questioned the validity of such a claim.

"I'm not saying that we don't owe that, but in some cases the companies which make those claims do not have their own books up to date," said Van Wyk.

Balindilela said to Trent: "You must be careful because people can take you for a ride." — ECN.

BD 23/7/97

Officials blitz entry points in clampdown on illegal travellers

ARG 24/9/99
60 fake passports seized monthly
(236)

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg – Customs and police authorities seize an average of 50 to 60 false African passports and other identity documentation from prospective travellers at Johannesburg International airport a month.

This week, three government departments – which launched a nationwide clampdown at key entry and exit points earlier this month – moved to Lanseria International Airport in a visible effort to bolster the handful of officials stationed at Gauteng's second international airport.

Johannesburg airport border control commander Chris van Zyl said beefed-up security procedures at the airport had already resulted in significant arrests of predominantly West African nationals and the seizure of a number of false African passports.

Superintendent Van Zyl said many foreigners had already appeared in court and were either fined or imprisoned before being repatriated.

"Discussions with the attorney-general's office earlier this year led to an increase in fines as we found that the accused were using their air-ticket (which cannot be seized by the state) value to pay

their fines," Superintendent Van Zyl said.

Some "regulars" who have been caught more than three times attempting to leave South Africa with false documentation are serving one-year prison terms before being repatriated again.

Police, customs and immigration officials made use of a mobile X-ray vehicle at the Lanseria blitz to scan arriving passengers' luggage. Lanseria has, at present, four immigration and two customs officials who do duty at the airport, which handles more than 30 international flights a day.

Gauteng border policing commander Frans Kloppers said the mobile X-ray machine, valued at about R1-million, is one of nine vehicles stationed at various points in the country. One of the vehicles has been seconded to a Pretoria-based field team which has been tasked to rove around the country and conduct spot checks at more than 100 entry/exit points in South Africa.

"The remaining eight have been stationed at major points such as Beit Bridge (Northern Province), Johannesburg International Airport, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town and can be dispatched from those areas to other entry/exit points," Senior Superintendent Kloppers said. More blitzes are planned.

No fences please, but tough action needed

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CT 2/7/97

IN HIS penultimate article in a five-part series on immigration reform, **WILMOT JAMES** argues that South Africa should ease up on bona fide migrants but toughen up on unauthorised immigrants.

SOUTH AFRICA has a serious problem with people who violate current immigration law. These include tourists who overstay their visas or entry permits and visitors who breach the conditions of entry, but the biggest problem by far are those who evade normal channels and enter the country clandestinely.

While we have a good idea of the number of people who overstay their visas and a reasonable idea of those who do not honour the conditions of being here, we know precious little about the number of people who have settled here permanently without official permission. Available figures are, at best, guesswork.

The task team that produced the Green Paper on International Migration looked carefully at the available figures. The social scientists on the team, well versed in the methodologies of migration studies world-wide, drew the unsurprising conclusion that they "have little faith" in these figures on unauthorised migration.

In search of newsworthy items, I suppose, some newspapers have repeated the guesswork and elevated it as fact in the public mind. Somehow the figures of 5,1 million, 7 million or the more outrageous figure of 11 million keep popping up, without any anxiety or regard shown as to their accuracy. The fact is that we simply do not know.

There is a very good reason for this. People who are within the country illegally have every motive in the world to evade detection and deceive those who try to identify them. It is a bit like the time when black people were living under apartheid's influx control laws, elaborate strategies were devised to evade the system. The figures matter because officials would like to know the scale of the problem that

confronts the nation. This is a legitimate concern and every effort should be made by our research community to develop more accurate estimates.

But, as Minister Gatscha Buthelezi rightly argues, the numbers should not detract us from developing an effective approach for dealing with the problem. In the green paper it is argued that three principles should govern the approach to unauthorised immigration.

- It must be rights-based.
- It must focus on unauthorised immigration with less attention paid to migrants
- It must strengthen the government's capacity to act effectively.

A rights-based approach is consistent with the Constitution and Bill of Rights. In these terms, unauthorised immigrants are persons who are not citizens and have access to all rights (except political ones, for example, the right to vote), who have restrictions on their freedom to work or trade

and, by administrative discretion, could be limited to the bare minimum of socio-economic rights.

The focus on unauthorised immigrants rests on a critical distinction between immigrants and migrants. Immigrants are people who intend to stay in South Africa permanently; migrants only wish to be here temporarily.

Because of our general commitment to a rights-based culture, the green paper is uncompromising on the need for a system that affords immigrants and migrants fair and reasonable administrative decisions, rights of appeal and review and the right to information. The challenge is to design a system that is practical, manageable and cost-effective, which admittedly is not easy.

The focus on unauthorised immigrants rests on a critical distinction made between immigrants and migrants. Immigrants are people who intend to stay or end up staying in South Africa permanently. Migrants only wish to be here temporarily, such as most mineworkers, farm labourers and traders.

Properly regulated by law, migrants pose little threat. The green paper recommends that we should ease up on bona fide migrants but toughen up on unauthorised immigrants. But toughening up must meet the critical test of effectiveness. Presently, the police waste enormous resources and energy hunting



ACROSS THE BORDERLINE: An illegal immigrant waits to be deported back to Lesotho after entering the country clandestinely. The authorities spend vast amounts of time and resources tracking down such people and evicting them. Wilmot James argues for a more effective approach to dealing with the problem.

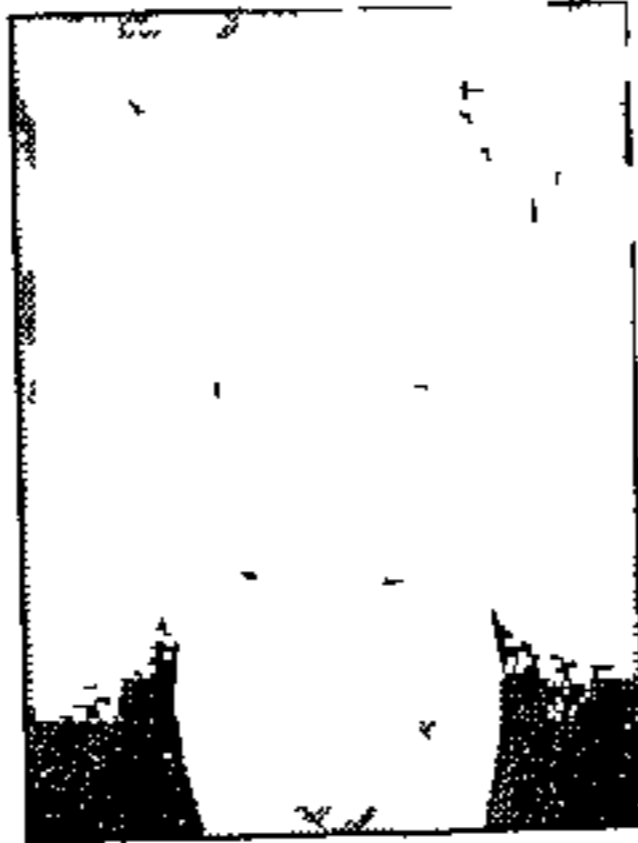
down people who are technically illegal and throwing them out of the country, only for them to return again — and again.

The enforcement of a new immigration regime must break the cycle of "revolving-door" migration by

- More effectively implementing employer sanctions
- Moving the policing function to a professionally-trained cadre of immigration officers
- Increasing the co-ordination between the police, the SANDF and the SAAF to counteract fraud, smuggling — particularly drugs — and clandestine

movements across SA's borders. Finally, as a matter of principle and practice, the green paper rejects the proposal to turn on the electrified fence marking the border between South Africa and Mozambique. "It would be a violation of basic norms if we were to seriously contemplate turning the fence into an instrument of lethal deterrence."

□ *Dr Wilmot James is executive director of Idasa. This is the fourth of a series drawn from the Green Paper on International Migration produced by a Home Affairs appointed task team, which he convened.*



Illegal immigrants challenge policies

Star 4/7/97

A distinction needs to be made between migrants and illegal immigrants, writes Wilmot James

South Africa has a serious problem with people who violate current immigration law. These include tourists who overstay their visas or entry permits and visitors who breach the conditions of entry, but the biggest problem by far are those who evade normal channels and enter clandestinely.

While we have a good idea of the number of people who overstay their visas and a reasonable idea of those who do not honour the conditions of being here, we know precious little about the number of people who have settled here permanently without official permission. Available figures are, at best, guesswork. The task team that produced the Green Paper on International Migration looked carefully at the available figures. The social scientists on the team, well versed in the methodologies of migration studies worldwide, drew the unsurprising conclusion that they "have little faith" in these figures on unauthorised migration.

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People who are illegally within the country have every motive in the world to evade detection and to deceive those who try to identify them. It is a bit like the time when black people were living under apartheid's influx control laws. Elaborate strategies were devised to evade the system. The figures matter because officials would like to know the scale of the problem that confronts the nation.

This is a legitimate concern and every effort should be made by our research community to develop more accurate estimates. But, as Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi rightly argues, the numbers should not detract us from developing an effective approach for dealing with the problem. In the green paper it is argued that three principles should govern the approach to unauthorised immigration:

- It must be rights-based;
- It must focus on unauthorised immigration with lesser attention paid to migrants, and,
- It must strengthen the Government's capacity to act effectively.

A rights-based approach is consistent with the constitution and Bill of Rights. In these terms,

unauthorised immigrants are persons who are not citizens and have access to all rights – except political ones like the right to vote – who have restrictions on their freedom to work or trade and, by administrative discretion, could be limited to the bare minimum of socio-economic rights.

Because of our general commitment to a rights-based culture, the green paper is uncompromising on the need for a system that affords immigrants and migrants fair and reasonable administrative decisions, rights of appeal and review, and the right to information. The challenge is to design a system that is practical, manageable and cost-effective, which is admittedly not easy. The focus on unauthorised immigrants rests on a critical distinction made between immigrants and migrants. Immigrants are people who intend to or end up staying in South Africa permanently.

Migrants only wish to be here temporarily, such as most mineworkers, farm labourers and traders. Properly regulated by law, migrants pose little threat. The green paper recommends that we should ease up on bona fide migrants but toughen up on unauthorised immigrants. But toughening up must meet the critical test of effectiveness.

Presently, the police waste enormous resources and energy hunting down people who are technically illegal and throwing them out of the country, only for them to return again and again. The enforcement of a new immigration regime must break the cycle of "revolving-door" migration by:

- Effectively implementing employer sanctions;
- Moving the policing function to a professionally-trained cadre of immigration officers; and,
- Greater co-ordination with the police, the SANDF and the SAAF to counteract fraud, drug smuggling and clandestine cross-border movements.

■ Dr Wilmot James is executive director of Idasa. This is the fourth of a series drawn from the green paper on international migration produced by a Home Affairs-appointed task team, which he convened. The last article will be published next Friday.

Immigration: An emotional, vexed question

CT 9/19/99

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IN THE FINAL article in a five-part series on immigration reform, **WILMOT JAMES** argues that the development of an immigration policy should help to define a new national ethos for South Africans living for the first time in a democratic state.

THE Department of Home Affairs initiated a transformation process by publishing in the Government Gazette the Green Paper on International Migration. The question is whether there is the political will to see through much-needed changes to how the lives of refugees, migrants and immigrants are regulated.

Aside from changes in policies, outlined in this series over the last four weeks, the green paper has a few things to say about the Department of Home Affairs itself. As we know, it is the institution primarily responsible for regulating the fate of people we regard as strangers and, as such, wields enormous regulatory power.

The department defines, on the basis of law and administrative discretion, who is not a refugee, a migrant or an immigrant and how that person is to be treated by the state. As such, the manner of treatment must be a reflection of the kind of people we are and want to be. The point of departure is a definition of a national ethos.

The defining moment of the democratic state is the introduction of concepts wholly foreign to apartheid such as charity, humanness, rights, protection

against the state, due process and constitutional governance. The Constitution and Bill of Rights are ethical and philosophical aphorisms of this, our people's ethos.

The green paper recommends that the Department of Home Affairs initiates a transformation process that alters its ethos and institutional design, in at least five ways.

First, by thinking of itself as an agency delivering a service to the public and not as a controlling or repressive apparatus. This is much more difficult than it seems. Remember that this same department, in its various profligate incarnations, was responsible for "native" affairs, "bantustan" affairs, homelands and influx control. Enter the department's buildings in Pretoria and you can feel the aura of repressive control in which its history is steeped.

The Green Paper on International Migration recommends that the Department of Home Affairs initiates a process that alters its ethos and institutional design.

Second, the green paper recommends the minimisation of executive and administrative discretion vested in the department. Immigration is finally not law governed, but by regulations and administrative decisions taken by an entrenched civil service. It became clear to us, for example, that the immigration boards were rubber stamps to decisions taken elsewhere.

What should happen is that all decisions regarding refugees, migrants and immigrants be clearly governed by law and that Parliament, the elected body of legislators, should have a significant oversight role of an immigration and migration plan prepared by the department and presented to the legislature.

This plan, prepared annually or over a two-year cycle, should specify desirable immigration and migration levels and



POLITICAL REFUGEES: The lives of refugees, migrants and immigrants will be affected by the proposed changes to South African legislation. This group of men fled to Cape Town because of civil war in their respective countries. They were photographed a few years ago at the Ark, a haven run by Christians in Westlake.

characteristics, and should be prepared by an inter-departmental committee consisting of representatives from all departments of state affected by immigration and migration, but hosted, of course, by the Department of Home Affairs.

Third, the green paper recommends that, on the basis of an Immigration and Migration Act, drafted from scratch, the new immigration regime be enforced not by the police but by a professional cadre of immigration officers. This will require a professional training facility (we don't have one) and a reassessment of the department's budget.

Of course, immigration officers responsible for enforcement must cooperate with the police and the national defence force in order to deal with crime

related to cross-border movement, particularly smuggling. Strategic monitoring of our borders should also involve such cooperation.

Because of its expanded tasks, it is suggested that the department be stripped of all functions other than those to do with refugee protection, citizenship, naturalisation, migration and immigration. A less severe option would be to have enlarged directorates to deal properly with these issues.

For reasons to do with history, symbolism and the presentation of a new institutional face to the public, a change of name to the Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services is desirable. The "services" part of the name is important, for it signals a shift in ethos,

from control to rendering naturalisation and immigration services.

To take these recommendations forward will require political will and clarity of vision.

It is also important to get policy design and legislation in place before the campaign begins leading up to the general election in 1999. It would be unfortunate if so emotional and vexed a question as immigration becomes part of an election platform.

□ *Dr Wilmot James is executive director of Idasa. This is the final article in a series drawn from the Green Paper on International Migration produced by a Department of Home Affairs-appointed task team, which he convened in an individual capacity.*

Migration controls need to be liberalised

THE GOVERNMENT'S draft proposals on migration are counter-productive and costly, say **ANN BERNSTEIN, LAWRIE SCHLEMMER** and **CHARLES SIMKINS**

IS THE implementation of the government's proposals in its Draft Green Paper on International Migration feasible? This is the key concern raised

The proposals include the establishment of a Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services which, if ever set up, will simultaneously have to transform itself, establish an elaborate categorisation of skills required in the labour market, regulate migrant worker quotas, sanction employers who employ unregistered cross-border workers, apply a points-based system of skilled immigration, control the informal immigration of non-SADC (Southern African Development Community) migrants, and, most onerous of all, attempt to curb the entry of large numbers of unregistered SADC migrants whose entry will be facilitated by the new social and home community networks that the expanded migrant labour system will create

The draft green paper also argues for the establishment of a new immigration "police", at precisely the time when the SAPS with its more essential function is starved of resources and man-power

A new South African migration policy should be realistic about the country's limited institutional capacity. After all, this is a country which cannot even measure its underground economy, or collect rates and service charges from residents who live at listed addresses, or enforce television licence requirements, or collect parking fines, or register voters without duplications and omissions

Again, international experience is instructive. Leading researchers conclude that "employer sanctions are very difficult to implement in Third World countries due to the large, unregulated and informal labour force"

The central proposals in the draft green paper will result in policies and actions which will be counter-productive, impossible to implement, perpetuate costs for the economy and negate some of the very principles on which the draft green paper is based

The Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE) welcomes many of the draft's points of general departure but finds, unfortunately, that the draft

does not follow these through in its policy recommendations

The draft proposals effectively extend the present arrangements for male contract migrants (in agriculture and mining) to include women and additional employment sectors using annual quotas. They argue that the primary means of access of SADC citizens to the South African labour market should be temporary and such access should not be seen as a first step towards permanent residence

Such a system will perpetuate the migrant labour system in which the initiative would remain with employers to justify requests for cross-border labour

This expanded approach to migrant labour will nonetheless have the same deleterious effects on family life, amount to bureaucratic control over regional labour allocation — as opposed to Gear's (Growth, Employment And Redistribution) programme of the government's macro economic plan) commitment to "greater labour market flexibility", and will inevitably counter provisions of the Bill of Rights

This remarkable recommendation in the draft paper runs counter to all that we know of the process of migration

CDE's research into the international experience of migration policy is clear. As University of California's Professor Philip Martin puts it "There is nothing more permanent than temporary workers. Guest (or migrant) worker programmes are easier to start than to stop, one of the best ways to actually ensure continuous, as distinct from short-term, labour migration from a country or region is to recruit guest workers"

In the draft it is argued that the disparities in wealth between countries in Southern Africa make a liberalisation of migration policy — which would accord with the principles of Gear and with the promise of an open regional economy — impossible at this stage. SA must contribute to the economic revival of the region with a view to making eventual liberalisation of labour movement possible

CDE contests this approach on two grounds. First, while helping countries in the region is to be

CT 16/7/99

recommended, the notion that SA could make a sufficient contribution while necessarily pursuing its own more rapid growth is unrealistic

Second, international research shows clearly that development assistance in the short-to-medium run tends to increase the propensity of citizens of the poorer country to migrate

To link migration policy to a long-range regional economic strategy is likely to be effective only in the very long term

With respect to skilled migration, the draft green paper provides for an elaborate occupational categorisation of the South African labour market. The aim is to establish a points-based system of control

International experience is clear: 'There is nothing more permanent than temporary workers. Guest (or migrant) worker programmes are easier to start than to stop. One of the best ways to ensure continuous... migration is to recruit guest workers.'

Such an approach is neither consistent with Gear's commitment to achieving optimal labour market flexibility nor compatible with our limited national statistics

Even the latest population census, when its full results are eventually available, will not allow the refined differentiation between grades and types of skills that will be sensitive to employer needs. Any system which requires elaborate information will not only be difficult and

very costly to establish and maintain but will inevitably lead to distortions in the allocation of skills in the labour market. It is most unlikely to function better than a system which simply requires the would-be immigrants to describe their qualifications and skills and provide proof that their skills were useful in an economic and vocational sense in their country of origin

The draft's approach will also discourage recognition of less-formal accomplishments, particularly of abilities in small-scale entrepreneurship

The draft green paper ventures these high-risk, high-cost proposals because they defer to the view that migrants take South Africans' jobs

It is a plausible fear but, in practice, far less actual job competition occurs than people imagine, migrants take jobs South Africans do not want and

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they often create their own work and employ South Africans

International research is unambiguous. "The methodological arsenal of modern econometrics cannot find a single shred of evidence that immigrants have a major adverse impact on the earnings and job opportunities of natives of the United States," says an economic development organisation

CDE proposes a simple two-tiered approach to migration: free movement of skilled people from anywhere in the world to South Africa, and the probationary entry of unskilled SADC people who, once they have satisfied a series of basic requirements, may in time, qualify for permanent residence and work rights

The CDE policy provides real incentives for migrants to enter the country legally, register with the authorities, become economically productive and observe the laws of the land

It establishes a framework which offers the best prospects for the effective management of the inevitable process of migration

It offers the country the best chance for the state to re-establish its legitimate authority. Political leadership is crucial

A liberalisation of controls on migration into SA will not be immediately popular but, if political leaders are prepared to spend some effort in pointing out the complexities of the problem, CDE is convinced that opposition will begin to abate

Unfortunately the draft green paper stops halfway. A policy that follows its recommendations will be unable to hold the line where they have drawn it, will consume more and more state resources, perpetuate nameless, faceless, mass rads to apprehend illegals, will impose onerous restrictions on employers, will continue to undermine the state's legitimate authority, and will fail to harness migration policy as a tool for growth and development — the very objective they set themselves

□ This article is based on the recently published CDE migration reports "Lessons from international policy experience", and "A new approach to cross-border migration in South Africa"

Ann Bernstein is executive director of CDE, Lawrie Schlemmer is a CDE consultant, and Charles Simkins is Head of the Economics Department, at Wits University



Transforming the UN

Sowetan 7/7/97

The world body needs an overhaul to be more relevant to the changing realities of a globalised international system. **Garth le Pere** explains why... (236)

FOR BETTER or worse, the United Nations (UN) will be the incubator of global governance in the next millennium. However, the organisation and its machinery will require a major overhaul in order to live up to the expectations and demands thrust upon it at the end of the Cold War.

The new secretary general, Kofi Annan (widely acknowledged as a breath of fresh air after his predecessor, Boutros Boutros-Ghali), is faced with redefining the UN's normative base, its organisational structures and decision-making processes.

Indeed the UN's entire *raison d'être* is at stake. Its future depends on its adaptive and transformative capacity.

The preoccupation with adapting the UN to new challenges and exigencies around the globe is nothing new. In the course of its institutional life, it has felt a variety of pressures for change.

It has usually responded to these with what has been called "reflexive adaptation" – adding new structures to those in existence and modifying institutional processes to meet greater demands from an exponentially growing membership and increasingly complex agenda.

As a consequence, the UN has evolved more by fortuitous happenstance than rational design. This has resulted in a super-bureaucratic byzantium with unbridled growth in structures, policies and decision-making apparatuses.

Purposive efforts at reform have been attempted at various stages. These involved conscious, deliberate and collaborative initiatives to improve the UN's operational processes and management systems.

Major macro-level UN reforms have dealt with improving the capacity of its development assistance system, reorganising the economic and social sectors, rationalising its administrative and financial structures, and adjusting its international peace and security role.

Transformative change

Annan's legacy will depend on the extent to which he embraces a kind of purposive, transformative change that will move the UN to greater relevance in the post-modern era.

Much of the UN's historical change efforts have been of a reflexive-adaptive or incrementalist-reformist nature. This stems primarily from a reluctance to question the underlying premises upon which the organisation has been based since 1945.

Further complicating matters is a faint-hearted multilateralism – a penchant of most states, including the Security Council's permanent five, to overload the UN's agenda without providing the necessary resources to execute its missions.

Then the ideological prisms through which member states from the developed (read "rich")



Kofi Annan a breath of fresh air.

North and developing (read "poor") South view the UN reform process suggests contradictory diagnoses of what ails the organisation.

The North argues that the UN is a product of a liberal institutionalist world view which has allowed it to be dominated for decades by a combative Southern (Third World) majority (backed by erstwhile socialist allies).

The South thus bears responsibility for the promiscuous expansion of the UN's structures and processes. Reform measures, in this view, should give greater control to its main shareholders, essentially the dominant global powers of the G7 who hold sway in the globalised financial and economic system.

Change strategies involve, among others, eliminating programmes and organs which are not in the interests of the main shareholders, streamlining and reducing the UN bureaucracy and operation budgets.

This also involves strengthening the North-controlled Security Council and Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank and International Monetary Fund) at the expense of the South-dominated General Assembly and Economic and Social Council.

At the opposite pole, the South bloc generally views the UN as the institutional custodian of the interests of the poor and marginalised of the world. Not only should the UN champion the cause of international peace and security, but it should usher in greater equity and justice among states and peoples.

In this view, the UN should promote the

South's economic and social development and act as a bridge in narrowing the developmental gap between the North and South.

The punitive withholding of subscriptions by the major donors of the North – the United States often accused of being the major culprit – is considered one of the main obstacles to addressing these root causes of global problems.

The South calls for greater democratisation of the UN intergovernmental machinery and operations as well as for the expansion of the Security Council to include representatives of the South.

Delivery systems

In short, the South advances counter-hegemonic positions which place the focus of organisational change on delivery systems, equitableness, fairness and justice.

Generally, and from their particular vantage points, there is consensus on both sides on the need for managerial, administrative and structural reforms to make the UN more effective and efficient.

However, the more important issue (which is often lost in the heat of the reform debate) is making the institution more relevant to the changing realities of a globalised international system.

The primacy of a Western, technocratic approach to change inhibits the system's vitality and curbs its innovativeness and capacity to make the painful but necessary changes in the face of new global challenges and realities.

The UN stands to learn much from the way transnationally linked groups in civil society are trying to confront global problems using non-traditional multilateral methods.

A major problem is that the UN system is still very much a state-centric institution which has made very little space for actors in civil society. State and societal mechanisms are equally important in deciphering the needs of an evolving international society.

Immediate international political issues, which typically engage the energies of states in the UN, will have to share the stage with longer-term structural issues which tend to depend to a proportionately greater extent on a broader range of societal actors and social forces.

Thus a mix of state and societal action will be necessary if the UN is to adapt successfully to the emerging conditions of the post-modern era.

(The writer is executive director of the Foundation for Global Dialogue, Johannesburg.)

Govt migration draft comes under attack

Bonile Ngqiyaza

(236)
20 4/7/97

GOVERNMENT proposals for international migration has been criticised for proposing the expansion of migrant labour in agriculture and other sectors in order to help the economy.

The draft could have the immediate effects on family life as migrant contracts are at present and could amount to a loss of control over regional labour allocation, Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE) executive director Ann Peters said.

Criticising the recommendations for temporary and permanent contracts and the proposal that there be a quota for migrant workers, she quoted international research to show that migration can have a negative impact on momentum.

While migration can contribute to economic growth, she pointed out the CDE's report to the media paper, 'Born to roam and migrant workers: friends and relatives back home to migrant workers', which provides information about how to manage the process of migration and the impact on the family.

On skilled migration, she said, the government proposal for an elaborate occupational classification of the SA labour market and a quota system by the labour department in order to control the points-based system.

Born to roam said it is difficult to enforce laws prohibiting illegal migration and that it required more resources and the coordination of several agencies including labour in order to manage migration and labour policy.

The CDE's response to the government's proposal to set up a commission to review migration policy for SA, completed last month, the report 'People on the Move: Evidence from International Migration Policy' and 'People on The Move: SA's approach to Cross-border Migration' outline the international policy experience and present a draft SA migration bill.

Peter Schlemmer, a CDE consultant, said that the political leader hopes to control migration by highlighting the complexity of the migration system, which has been done in the case of the death penalty and the reason in demand.

See Page 9

Taiwanese bitter over endless SA migration delays

Star 30/8/97 (236)

By BRYAN PEARSON

Taiwanese nationals, once welcomed with open arms by the former apartheid government, now believe they head the "not wanted" list of President Mandela's administration.

Leaders of South Africa's 20 000-strong Taiwanese community claim that immigration applications by their compatriots are being ignored by the Home Affairs department, even though many have large sums of money to invest.

They claim the already-bad situation deteriorated even further when Mandela in November announced that Pretoria will drop recognition of Taipei in favour of Beijing from the end of 1997.

"A lot of people are waiting for residence permits; some have been waiting more than two years," said Hank Chang, chairman of South Africa's Taiwanese Association. "They want to come here to open factories and help create jobs."

Many, he added, had bought properties for homes, and factories in South Africa soon after the 1994 historic all-race elections and have been waiting for Home Affairs to process their applications for permanent residence ever since.

"Home Affairs should give priority to people with investment," Chang said.

Particularly hard hit is an ambitious scheme to attract large-scale Taiwanese manufacturing to Bronkhorstspuit, the conservative farming town east of Johannesburg.

The focal point of the scheme is a huge Buddhist temple – the biggest in Africa – currently being built at a cost of around R200-million on the outskirts of the town by the Fo Kuang Shan organisation.

Three years ago, around 500 Taiwanese nationals, drawn by the prospect of living within walking distance of the temple and within access of the nearby industrial park and a planned "Chinatown" complex, paid upwards of R16 500 for a plot in a township next to the shrine.

co-ordinator Linda Lee, or have grown tired of South African bureaucracy and instead settled in other countries, taking their money with them.

Bronkhorstspuit's mayor Hosea Ntshabaleng is furious that the project, which promised to bring money and jobs to the impoverished local community, has been virtually halted by what he terms central government intransigence.

"It is a huge problem," Ntshabaleng said. "We have been waiting for the investment but it has not been coming. People can't operate factories by remote control from Taiwan, they must be allowed to live here."

He said Cultura Park, the housing scheme created by the council alongside the temple, was costing ratepayers money.

"We have laid on water and electricity at great cost but no one is living there," he said. "Not a cent is coming in."

Attempts to get an interview with the Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi to discuss the problem, he said, had been ignored.

Matters came to a head last month when members of the Taiwanese Association, via their ambassador, I-cheng Loh, demanded answers from the Government.

In a lengthy address, Deputy Home Affairs Minister Lindiwe Sisulu assured the Taiwanese that they were not being discriminated against but conceded that, because of the changed diplomatic status of Taiwan, they might understandably be feeling vulnerable.

"My Government values the Taiwan contribution," Sisulu assured them. "We value your presence here and your contribution to the economy."

Sisulu said all immigrants are subject to the same selection procedures and are considered individually on merit.

"The policy is of a non-discriminatory nature in regard to nationality, race, or creed."

Meanwhile, the temple project – due for completion in 2002 – has also been hit by the slowdown in investment from Taiwan, but no one is saying to what extent.

Temple officials, however, remain philosophical. "The temple will be built when it is built," said one. – Sapa-AFP.

So far, only a handful have managed to get the crucial residence permits that will allow them to realise their dream.

Most are either still waiting in Taiwan, according to project

Hawkers' trading forum proposed to stop clashes

BD 18/8/97

(236) (18/8/97)

Nomavenda Mathiane

THE only way to put an end to clashes between SA hawkers and foreign traders in Johannesburg's city centre was for the metropolitan council to speed up the establishment of a hawkers' trading forum, African Council of Hawkers and Informal Businesses president Lawrence Mavundla said at the weekend.

Reacting to last week's events when hawkers attacked street traders in and around downtown Johannesburg, claiming that they had no right to sell in the city streets, Mavundla said the answer to the problem would be to have a register of street traders which would enable law enforcement to be able to monitor the industry.

Although all major streets in town were affected by the violence, Jeppe, Bree and Eloff streets were the ones that suffered most from the attacks.

In Bree Street, staff of Lords Outfitters — one of the oldest shops in the city that has been operating for the past 50 years — said they were not affected by the outbreak of violence "as the whole thing was happening on the streets and pavements". However they had a full-time security man at the door of the shop. They said they would be moving out of town soon.

Opposite Lords, the manager at Davison's Designer Wear — Hitesh

Oka — said although his shop was not vandalised, last weeks' incident did have a negative effect on his business.

This argument was also advanced by his neighbour, who runs a radio shop and has a staff of eight people. He said although he did not condone violence, he could understand why hawkers had taken the law into their hands to solve a problem.

He said he did not feel safe trading in the city centre — however, he did not have any alternative but to remain in Johannesburg.

Hawker Phillip Nkosi said he was attacked by a mob on Wednesday who took 18 hats from his stand and robbed him of R50.

His neighbour, Cynthia Shezi from Transkei, said she had been trading on the pavements since 1991 and doing good business until foreigners came in. She said attempts to rid Johannesburg of illegal traders would continue.

Sapa reports that Gauteng safety and security MEC Jessie Duarte and the hawkers' provincial leadership last Friday condemned looting and destruction of property committed during the protest action in Johannesburg on Wednesday and Thursday.

Hawkers' organisations said they distanced themselves from those actions, and said they committed themselves to working closely with government in trying to develop the sector.

SA 'sick' for 'scandalising' AIDS research

Louise Cook

BD 18/8/97
HEALTH Minister Nkosazana Zuma described SA as "a sick country" for portraying efforts to discover a drug to control AIDS, as a scandal.

Zuma told the presidential review commission on Friday that despite the outcry, she still supported Virodene research even if it did not produce a cure.

In the fourth round of commission hearings on transformation in the public service, Zuma admitted that her department was not coping with the problem of AIDS and said government needed to have a co-ordinated strategy to deal with the problem.

"In the year 2006, an estimated 3-million people in the country will suffer from the disease — creative ways are necessary to change people's behaviour" Zuma reaffirmed her support of the Sarafina AIDS play, saying it was a useful way of getting the message through to the youth.

In answer to a question on incentives for doctors to serve in rural areas, she said it cost R600 000 a year for a medical student's training, saying this should be seen as an incentive.

The other option was to expect doctors who are not prepared to do service in rural areas, to pay the cost of their studies without a state subsidy.

"People should heed President Mandela's call to be patriotic and to serve their country without expecting additional rewards," Zuma said.

'Corrective action' needed — Asmal

Louise Cook

BD 18/8/97
WATER Affairs and Forestry Minister Kadar Asmal told a commission probing restructuring in the public service that he was personally responsible for his department avoiding the phrase "affirmative action".

Asmal said he would continue with his approach unless he was overruled by the commission.

He told the presidential review commission in Pretoria on Friday he supported the autonomy of government departments only as far as such autonomy did not become "tyrannical".

There was still a need for central government intervention in provincial and local government affairs in SA until genuine empowerment had been established, he said.

In answer to a question from commissioner Lot Ndlovu, Asmal said "affirmative action" referred only to jobs in the US and was not sufficiently comprehensive to properly address imbalances of the past in the country.

"We need to create our own solutions; the term corrective action has a larger dimension than affirmative action and does more to bring about peace in SA," Asmal said.

Trading against odds

Sowetan 19/8/97 (236) (1237)

ANGRY investors invade Johannesburg Stock Exchange and beat up foreign investors, read the headlines of all South Africa's daily newspapers on the morning of August 14

Of course, no such headlines were to be seen that morning. There was, however, another kind of investor beaten up in the middle of Johannesburg the previous day: immigrant hawkers.

What drives them to Johannesburg? Cheap black labour from the entire Southern African region needs South African capitalism.

To defend itself in the old apartheid days, South African capitalism had to ensure that there was no viable economy in the region.

The result was that thousands of former peasants and workers from Southern Africa were forced to migrate to South Africa to survive.

But there is another and much more powerful force driving these poor peasants and workers to walk to Johannesburg. This force is called globalisation.

Furious integration

Over the past two decades a furious integration of the world economy, called globalisation, has been under way. A number of changes have taken place which now make it possible for capital to move from one country to the next in a very short time.

The competition for capital among different countries has made the owners of capital very powerful as different countries try to offer better terms to investors. The owners of capital have used this new-found power to ensure a transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich.

Two institutions supportive of this process, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, have forced many countries to adopt policies that promote globalisation.

Many countries have been forced by the IMF to privatise state-owned enterprises, cut social expenditure, drop tariffs and open their economies to international capital.

The drop in tariffs, for example, has meant that factories that used to produce goods and employ people have had to close because they can no longer compete with the capital-rich factories of Europe and America.

This has led to an increase in unemployment and poverty, and also to the migration of workers in those countries to South Africa in search of a livelihood.

The globalisation process has not only affected countries in Southern Africa, but has also affected the policies of the South African Government.

The dropping of the Reconstruction and

The xenophobia displayed by South Africans towards immigrant hawkers last week does not augur well for this country. **Oupa Lehulere** explains why ...



Growing unemployment in South Africa is making workers and informal sector traders hostile to people from neighbouring countries.

Development Programme (RDP) and the adoption of the Growth Employment and Redistribution strategy (Gear) is also a result of the pressure of the IMF, World Bank and the owners of capital.

The result is that in South Africa as well, unemployment is growing and fears of sinking further into poverty are making South African workers and informal sector traders hostile to their brothers and sisters from neighbouring countries.

Globalisation causes competition for jobs through the threat of moving capital and factories to those countries in which workers are prepared to accept low wages and bad working conditions.

Establish businesses

In the last budget, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel announced that owners of capital can now take R50 million into Southern Africa to establish businesses.

What this will mean is that if the hawkers of Johannesburg and Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi manage to keep the illegals out of South Africa, the owners of capital will follow the illegals into Mozambique, Malawi and so on by establishing factories there.

The beating up of foreign traders, however, applies only to those who are black and poor. If you come into South Africa and buy shares on

the JSE, South Africa will embrace you. You become a foreign trader who brings jobs.

If, however, you set up shop in the street outside the JSE, you become a leech and you take away jobs. It does not matter at all that the goods you sell may be carvings of rare Central African wood that no one in South Africa produces or sells.

What matters is that you are poor, black and accessible to the angry hawkers who are also black and poor.

And maybe it was because it was the investor outside the JSE, and not the one inside who was beaten up that the nation's dailies, politicians and even its trade union leaders went about their daily business.

They refused to take note of

what is likely to become a dangerous political development in South Africa.

Where will it all end? Without being an alarmist, it is useful to remember that fascism in Germany started with the beating of Jews for being leeches, as one of the traders called his brothers and sisters from Africa.

Doesn't take much

It is also useful to remember that it does not take much these days to be a *kwerekwere*. Besides the various shades of skin colour, the real thing that distinguishes an illegal in the trading line in a Johannesburg street is language.

Am I therefore an illegal when I speak Xitsonga or isiNdebele? After all, these are languages spoken in Mozambique and Zimbabwe. And these are also some of South Africa's official languages. What this reveals is that the present wave of xenophobic feeling not only threatens to cut black South Africans off from the rest of Africa, but it also threatens to set South Africans against South Africans.

Pogroms against other Africans are a dead-end. Solidarity with Africa's poor is the best way out for South Africa's poor.

The alternative is internecine conflict among South Africa's poor.

(The writer is a labour educationist at Khanya College, Johannesburg.)

(153A)

Attacks on aliens under the spotlight

(236)

The South African Human Rights Commission met the Gauteng street hawkers' organisation on Tuesday to discuss last month's attacks on foreign hawkers in central Johannesburg.

Jody Kollapen, acting chairman of the commission, said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss tension between local and foreign hawkers, as well as last month's violence, which left several people injured.

Livingston Mathanga, chairman of the Micro Business Chamber of SA, which is said to represent more than 50 000 local hawkers, denied that his organisation was involved in the attacks.

Mathanga blamed the attacks on a criminal element.

Kollapen said the SAHRC had decided to talk to the hawkers first and then take up the matter with other stakeholders. - Sapa

Star 4/9/97

Foreign hawkers sent packing by attackers

ED 19/8/97 (236)
FOREIGN hawkers packed up for the day in Johannesburg's Kerk Street Mall yesterday afternoon after they were attacked by a group of about 30 men.

The attackers moved down the mall shortly before 2pm, wielding sjamboks and sticks. Hawker Papa Demba,

from Senegal, had several bricks thrown at him which hit his head. Police intervened and Demba was rescued and advised to leave the area.

Another hawker said they would pack up for the day, but would be back to trade. "We cannot go back to Senegal as we are refugees here."

Police arrested one of the attackers who was taken to Johannesburg Central Police Station.

The SA Human Resources Council said the xenophobia displayed against foreign hawkers must be denting the image of human rights-based SA society internationally. — Sapa

Xenophobic hawkers could ruin Johannesburg's future

After 20/8/97

(236)

says bishop

Attacks on aliens condemned from all angles: no need for callous ill-treatment of economic refugees, says bishop

By Tefo Motswagole

The recent attacks on foreigners who are hawking on Johannesburg's city centre pavements received a stream of condemnations yesterday. The actions of local hawkers have raised serious concerns in some quarters that the Gauteng government's efforts to revamp the image of the city could be ruined in the process.

Neil Fraser, executive direc-

tor of the Central Johannesburg Partnership, says: "Violence is not the answer to these problems. No doubt pictures of the latest mayhem will appear in media around the world, underlying yet again its violent nature of the city and its society".

He said people considering leaving the city would have their decisions made easier by yet another example of anarchy.

The vision of a clean, safe and friendly city will be that

much harder to achieve and take that much longer to accomplish," he said. The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) described the local hawkers' rampage through the city as xenophobic, and said the hawkers had dented the image of human rights internationally. African society internationally, especially in the rest of Africa. "Like all persons, aliens also have certain fundamental rights. Our courts of law have

indicated that the word 'person' in our Bill of Rights must be construed to include the non-South Africans," the organisation said.

Southern Africa Methodist Church Bishop Mvume Dandale said: "While unemployment is a crisis for South Africa, that is no reason for the callous ill-treatment of the economic refugees who come to South Africa."

The Rev. Paul Verryn, Methodist Bishop of the Cen-

tral District in Gauteng, added: "We need to remember that many African states protected, housed and employed some of those who hold leadership positions in South Africa today." Despite these condemnations, Sapa reported that 30 local hawkers attacked their foreign counterparts yesterday around Kerk Street Mall. The group moved down the mall, a trading place for local and foreign hawkers, shortly before 2pm, wielding sjamboks

and sticks. One of the hawkers, Papa Demba (25) from Senegal, was assaulted with bricks, within minutes and a blood-splattered Demba was rescued and advised to leave the area. One of his alleged attackers was arrested. Last week local hawkers rampaged through the city's streets attacking foreign hawkers, whom they accused of taking away local business opportunities. More than 100 calls were arrested.

Farmers head north

(236) Sowetan 20/8/97

MORE South African farmers are expected to flow into Mozambique as farming prospects in that country continue to open up

The governor of Manica province, in northern Mozambique, Mr Arthur Canana, is presently in Mpumalanga where he is holding talks with provincial government officials and farmers on possible areas for farming in

his country

On Monday night, Canana met Premier Mathews Phosa in Nelspruit where it was agreed that a delegation comprising officials of the department of agriculture and farmers would go on a fact finding tour of the region

Canana said his visit to Mpumalanga was also aimed at gaining first-hand knowledge regarding the province's farm-

ing techniques

His province offered opportunities for cereal, vegetable and flower farmers, he said

Canana added that he would like to see Mpumalanga and Manica sharing trade through the import and export of foodstuffs Phosa said trade links between the two provinces would bring to life the dream of feeding the people of South Africa and Mozambique - Sapa

Mozambicans question SA farmers' deal

By 19/8/97

LICHINGA — As the first SA farmers start clearing land in Niassa province, questions are being raised about the Mosegrus agreement that brought them

Signed in May last year between President Nelson Mandela and Joaquim Chissano, Mosegrus plans to settle hundreds of SA farmers in Mozambique's largest, least-populated and least-developed province.

Its sponsor is the SA Chamber for Agricultural Development in Africa, set up by the Freedom Front.

Mozambique granted a 50-year renewable concession for 220 000ha (100 000ha for agriculture, 100 000ha for cattle ranching and 20 000ha for fruit and ecotourism). Also granted were generous tax exemptions to bring in supplies, from farming equipment to medicines.

This has angered nongovernmental organisations which pay heavy duties on their imports for development and relief work. One criticism levelled against Mosegrus is that its details, from negotiations to implementation, are shrouded in secrecy.

Although settlers are clearing land by the Lugenda river, the size and location of their concessions have not been made public.

The chamber will not disclose the amount of help extended to settlers, nor the capital raised for the venture. The agreement was framed through with little public debate.

Late last year a seminar was held in Niassa to publicise the agreement. From it sprang the watchdog Forum for Land Rights, an umbrella of 10 nongovernmental organisations and

peasant associations.

The chamber's line is that its settlers will boost food production and food security for locals. Yet Niassa is not a province with hunger. Malnutrition is not an issue, structural poverty is.

Working with hoes and without fertiliser or pesticides, peasant farmers produce more maize than the province can consume, but are unable to sell the surplus. The reasons, poor roads, lack of cash and credit, no traders, in one word, the collapse of Mozambique's marketing system during 17 years of civil war.

The forum fears that when concessions are carved up, peasants will lose their "machambas" (plots) and become landless labourers or tenant farmers — as happened in SA. They will work for cash and mainly depend on employers for food and accommodation. They would be allowed small plots where wives will grow just enough food — and which gives the owner the excuse for keeping salaries low.

Or the men may flock to commercial farms, leaving the women behind. That is already happening in Mayne district. The first settlers have taken dozens of labourers from Matama to open roads and clear land. Will they stay or will they go?

Women will be further marginalised as they will be on their own. Gone will be the already slim chances of daughters attending school because they will have to replace the male labourer absent.

This is why the forum is pushing for scattered concessions, not the compact blocks the

chamber prefers. Ideally, there would be adjoining Mozambican and SA commercial farmers, and large blocs of equally fertile land, held by communities through recognised and guaranteed customary rights.

If commercial farms are surrounded by big areas of fertile "machambas", peasant farmers do not depend only on wage work. Women retain the ability to make economic decisions. The settlers say they do not want to take land from locals. Mayne district, where up to 500 farmers will settle, is not densely populated — perhaps 30 000 people in an area of 1.27-million hectares. A mere 4 140ha are under cultivation. But uncultivated land does not mean it is not used or that it does not belong to a community.

Niassa farmers practice shifting agriculture spread over many years. As soil fertility declines, they leave land fallow for three to four years and move. In 10 years, when the "machambas" are too far for convenience, the whole village moves closer to the plots. After a 50-100 year cycle, they may come full circle. Land not cultivated is part of the survival system collection territories for hunting, fishing, fruit, honey, thack and herbal medicines.

"My fear is that in 20-30 years, Niassa will resemble southern Malawi or Zimbabwe, where peasants are squeezed on the worst land and rich farmers have the best," says Gareth Davies, a Mozambican Institute for Agricultural Research agronomist.

Davies doubts that the highly mechanised, intensive agriculture of SA, which depletes

soil fertility in 10 years, is best for a country with little capital but millions of peasants. Lastly, many fear there is more than the commitment to grow food behind the emigration plan. Although Mandela has urged African countries to accept the migrants as "economic aid", their departure relieves pressure off SA's land and politics.

"South Africans have a sad history and it is hard to lose habits," says forum spokesman Marcos Wiriamo.

The fact that so far all the settlers are white, and that all the chamber governors are Freedom Front members, except a token black, Mpumalanga premier Matthews Phosa, speaks for itself.

Niassa, however, needs investment. Its small private sector has embraced Mosegrus, hoping to benefit from training and credit. So far, none has materialised — and the farming season is getting closer.

Promises of better roads, health clinics and schools make people hopeful. Jobs are badly needed in Mayne, where cash is scarce, and for demobilised soldiers throughout Niassa. Again and again, this proverb was quoted: For he who has nothing, even a little means a lot.

The agreement has been signed, settlers have arrived. The forum gives out a brochure on peasant's rights. Its community workers are starting village groups as focal points for smallholders.

"We must make people aware of their rights, be alert and help the government monitor the project," says Wiriamo — ALA.



Bullfighter Rodolfo Nunez hangs from the bull's horns during a bullfight in Madrid. Las Ventas arena at the weekend. While the encounter was closer than he had hoped, Nunez was not hurt. Pict.

SA may contest UN council seat

BD 15/8/97 (236)

PRETORIA — SA's cabinet would decide within weeks whether to challenge Egypt and arch-rival Nigeria for a permanent seat on the UN security council, Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad said yesterday.

Pahad told reporters SA envoys from New York, Vienna, Geneva and Addis Ababa, seat of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), had met recently to discuss the expected contest for Africa's first permanent seat on the security council.

"We will put options to the ministers and they will have to take the final decision, but one of the options will be whether South Africa should contest the seat and the cabinet will have to decide that very soon," Pahad said in an interview.

A UN working group is discussing reforms including the proposed expansion of the 15-nation Security Council. The US, Britain, Russia, China and

France are all permanent members of the security council with the right to veto council decisions.

The US has backed the inclusion of Germany and Japan and three permanent seats for the developing world, but has not said which Third World countries should join.

The OAU has called for two permanent seats for Africa alone and an additional two seats that will rotate among other African nations.

The existing permanent members have all said they would not tolerate any dilution of their veto powers, but have not agreed what powers the new members should have.

"As part of the OAU and the Non-Aligned Movement, we support the position that there should be no difference between permanent members. Either the veto must go completely or all members should have the same veto powers," said Pahad — Reuter.



Looking back on changing waves of emigration

(236)

It is 50 years since many British citizens came to live in SA after World War 2, writes Michael Irwin

Staw 27/8/97

In August 27 1947, it will be 50 years since my late parents and I arrived in South Africa. We had left Southampton, and post-war Britain 14 days earlier aboard the mv Winchester Castle. Our ship carried 764 adults, 134 children – including this writer, aged 11 – and 25 infants.

At the back of a dusty shelf, under papers or in bottom drawers, we keep our mementoes. Most of us have them – mine, a clutch of photos, seagulls, lifeboats, snaps of Madeira and a postcard of the mv Winchester Castle, a Union Castle souvenir booklet and my ticket I was passenger Number 107

The booklet, "Souvenir of Voyage 82 (Outward Bound)", has a paragraph which reads "There are far more people who now want to leave Britain for South Africa than can possibly be carried .. something like one thousand a week call at South Africa's Immigration Headquarters. Although living costs are slightly higher, wages are much higher too, and taxes are a great deal lower than in Britain. There is no rationing."

The ship was still in her wartime livery of battleship-grey Accommodation, likewise, war-footing. sexes split up – Mum forwards in a cabin with 20 other women, Dad and I on C-deck, a promotion for him as he'd gone to war in a

troopship on E-deck

Bunkbeds for us, set in tiers of four, in what had been the "other ranks" quarters. Meals were by rote. We were table number 6, second sitting, with breakfast at 8.30am, lunch at 1 and dinner at 7pm.

Late afternoon on August 26, bathed in sunlight, Table Mountain appeared as a thin sliver above the horizon almost dead ahead. I'll never forget that – my first sight of my new country. By nightfall we lay at anchor, staring across the water at the lights of Cape Town. We disembarked the following day.

One of the first to greet us was a Mrs Finch. Marty Finch had been a South African Women's Auxiliary worker during World War 2. She and thousands of other South African women volunteers

used to meet the huge troopship convoys and give the soldiers the big South African welcome.

Auxiliaries would take soldiers on tours, sightseeing, scenic drives, for example to Franschoek or Stellenbosch, dances and visits home. Marty had welcomed Paul (my father) in 1942, when part of the Royal Tank Regiment passed the Cape on its way to Egypt. Through the war she had corresponded with him and sent food parcels to us. Now she was there on the dock once more.

Customs and excise also welcomed us. Anything to declare? Not really – but they thought otherwise. The customs slip, written in pencil, another memento, shows the duty-price of entry into our new country was – typewriter 16

shillings, field glasses and camera one guinea each and customs stamp 6d – total: £2.18.6.

We prospered. Some even became rich. Others famous. Many are dead and their sons and daughters, in their turn, now have families.

But 50 years ago, for me, it was a terrible wrench to leave my cocker spaniel, my home, my pals and to have to sell my toys. Much later I was able to understand the heartache all immigrants through the ages have experienced – like my mother. When she said goodbye to her parents, she knew, with fair certainty, she'd never see them again. She never did.

MHC 29/8 - 4/9/97

Mozambicans at odds with 'Boer' settlers

(236) ~~(238)~~

Mercedes Sayagues

Traditional chiefs in Niassa, northern Mozambique, have complained bitterly about the presence of Afrikaner farmers in the district.

The farmers were settled there by Mosagrius, a joint programme between the South African Chamber for Development of Agriculture (Sacada) and the Mozambican government

The chiefs complained that they had not been notified or consulted about the settlers, and that local people were chased off their land and forbidden from hunting or fishing in the usual areas.

The governor denies he authorised the South Africans to move there, and criticised the lack of co-ordination between the National Directorate of Geography and the provincial Department of Agriculture

"The meeting was very tough against the Boers", says an NGO source in Niassa. The source said the South Africans arrived alone, showing their land on maps and arguing they were covered by the agreement signed by presidents Joaquim Chissano and Nelson Mandela in May 1996

One settler, Tinus de Jaeger, was quoted as saying: "We were told in South Africa that this land was virgin and unoccupied."

W Cape hires apartheid planner

(236)

M+C 29/8-4/9/97

The Western Cape government's answer to mass migration is to hire an apartheid land-planning consultant, writes Andy Duffy

The man who oversaw apartheid land-planning in Cape Town is now a top consultant to the Western Cape government, devising plans to handle mass migration into the city.

Bertie van Zyl ran the Cape Metropolitan Planning Committee (Metplan) for 11 years until 1985, co-ordinating land planning and development for a string of local authorities. The agency provided detailed plans for townships ordered by the national government such as Khayelitsha, Delft and Blue Downs.

Now the Western Cape government has chosen Van Zyl to head a task team to draw up policy on people moving into Cape Town from other countries and provinces.

The provincial Cabinet, fearing the city is being over-run by people from poorer provinces such as the Eastern Cape, has dubbed Van Zyl's work a priority. His findings are likely to form the basis for new legislation.

Van Zyl declined to comment on the project this week, saying he was bound by a confidentiality agreement with the provincial government.

What Van Zyl was willing to tell the *Mail & Guardian* was that Metplan officials had tried to isolate themselves from the politics of the day, and had merely responded to apartheid planning demands ordered by the central government. Other former Metplan employees back this argument.

"I'm a professional person, not a politician, and the provincial gov-

ernment saw fit to appoint me," Van Zyl added. Other planning pundits, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the previous government's town planners, willing or not, had provided the grass-roots structure for segregation policies.

Van Zyl's new role in determining Cape Town's development could also fuel suspicions among provincial African National Congress ranks that the National Party-controlled province is determined to maintain what it can of old-order planning.

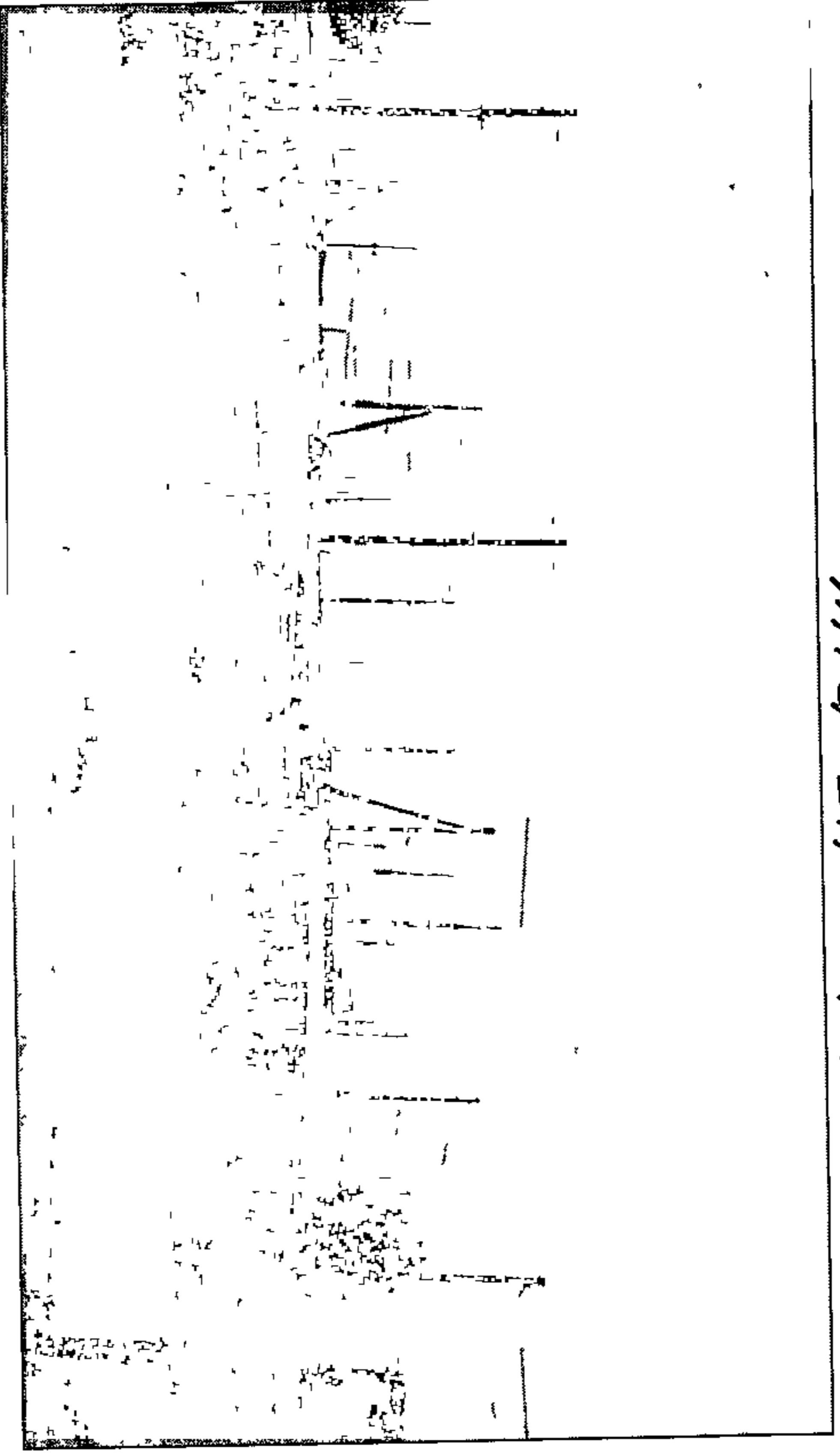
Van Zyl responded that his task team would consult across the political spectrum. "This has been cleared by the provincial government, on which the African National Congress and Democratic Party are both represented," he said.

Metplan was set up and funded by the region's then 21 local authorities in 1973 to advise on land usage and planning across the metropolitan area, and research issues such as population and employment.

Francois Theunissen, former provincial government representative on Metplan and now a development chief in the Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC), said the agency had not set out to create an "apartheid city." But its officials had followed and implemented government directives.

"To the extent that the Group Areas Act was government policy then, yes, we followed that," he said.

"Government was always looking for land for new townships and we had to do what was necessary to integrate those townships into the



Khayelitsha's desirable property: Metplan provided detailed plans for townships. PHOTO: RODGER BOSCH

metropolitan fabric."

Metplan was scrapped in 1989, when its responsibilities were taken over by a new regional services council.

The decision to recruit Van Zyl follows a briefing which the provincial housing minister Cecil Herandien gave the Cabinet in June. He warned that land invasions and squatting were a growing hazard, and migrants were straining services already hurt by the central government's drive to redress imbalances in provincial funding.

Such problems "don't just stare the legislature in the face but are apparent to the whole country. The [Van Zyl] project must enjoy the highest priority." The Cabinet

agreed and gave the go-ahead.

Herandien said this week "Van Zyl is but one member of a core group of reputable, independent-minded professionals who definitely won't be associated with or accept urbanisation policy options based on segregation."

Van Zyl's team, which includes Vanessa Watson, head of the University of Cape Town's urban problems research unit, and Stellenbosch University sociologist Simon Bekker, enjoys a R350 000 budget. It is expected to table its findings next year.

Just how much of a migrant problem Cape Town faces remains unclear. Kobus Boshoff, development promotion director in the provincial housing department, said "Thousands of

them are streaming in here. My view is that irrespective of the numbers, urbanisation is taking place."

Watson says getting a clear picture is practically impossible. She believes numbers are actually falling. Many of those coming from the Eastern Cape are not permanent settlers but are merely looking for work or services such as health. They tend to keep their homes in the Eastern Cape.

The motives for the provincial Cabinet's haste in drawing up guidelines are also moot. Watson says many migrants from poorer provinces are likely to be ANC supporters — but the numbers are not large enough to threaten the National Party's grip on the province.

Simonstown: important facility for international warships

790 Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Defence

Whether the naval base in Simonstown has once again become an important and widely used facility for international warships, if not, why not, if so, to what extent has the use of this base by international warships increased

N1383E

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Yes The Naval Base at Simon's Town has once again become an important and widely used facility for international warships

Prior to April 1994 and subsequent to the international arms embargo, the Naval Base at Simon's Town was only visited by warships from the Republic of China Navy

Since the re-emergence of the RSA into the international arena, Simon's Town Naval Base is once again frequented regularly by foreign warships Sixty-six foreign warships from 20 countries have visited the RSA since 1994 The countries include Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, India, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of China, Russia, Singapore, Spain, United Kingdom Uruguay and United States of America Forty-seven (47) of these visiting ships called at the Simon's Town Naval Base A breakdown of visits to Simon's Town are as follows

Country	Date	Ships	Type
i	ii	iii	iv
United Kingdom	Jan 94	HMS Norfolk	Frigate
France	Jan 94	German	Corvette
Denmark	Sep 94	Vaerden	Corvette
Spain	Oct 94	Infanta Christina	Frigate
Spain	Oct 94	Infanta Elena	Frigate
USA	Nov 94	Galtysburg	Cruiser
USA	Nov 94	Halyburton	Frigate
India	Dec 94	Khukri	Corvette
India	Dec 94	Gomati	Frigate

(b) Visits during 1995

Country	Date	Ships	Type
i	ii	iii	iv
United Kingdom	Mar 95	HMS Britannia	Royal Yacht
France	Apr 95	Floreal	Corvette
Italy	Apr 95	Scirocco	Frigate
Italy	Apr 95	Drade	Corvette
Argentina	May 95	ARA Parker	Corvette
Argentina	May 95	ARA Espora	Corvette
Brazil	May 95	Independencia	Frigate
Brazil	May 95	Jacequay	Tanker
Brazil	May 95	Adm Gastao Motta	Tanker
Uruguay	May 95	Uruguay	Frigate
France	Jun 95	Prem Maitre L'Her	Corvette
Pakistan	Oct 95	Zulfiqar	Frigate
Pakistan	Oct 95	Mowain	Tanker

(c) Visits during 1996

Country	Date	Ships	Type
i	ii	iii	iv
Spain	Mar 96	J B De El Cano	Sail Tug Ship
Mauritius	June 96	Vigilance	Patrol Craft
France	Sep 96	Somme	C & C Ship

(d) Visits during 1997

Country	Date	Ships	Type
i	ii	iii	iv
France	Feb 97	Centaure	Navy Tug
France	Mar- Apr 97	Ventose	Corvette
Argentina	Mar- Apr 97	ARA Parker	Frigate
Brazil	Mar- Apr 97	Constituciao	Frigate
Uruguay	Mar- Apr 97	Uruguay	Frigate
Argentina	Mar- Apr 97	ARA Rosales	Corvette
Brazil	Mar- Apr 97	Inhauma	Corvette
Brazil	Mar- Apr 97	Adm Gastao Motta	Tanker
France	Mar- Apr 97	Garonne	Frigate

(d) Visits during 1997 (Continued)

Country	Date	Ships	Type
i	ii	iii	iv
Kenya	Mar- Apr 97	Nyayo	FAC(M)
Kenya	Mar- Apr 97	Umoya	FAC(M)
India	Mar- Apr 97	Tir	Frigate
USA	Mar- Apr 97	McInerney	Frigate
France	Mar- Apr 97	La Reuse	Corvette
Russia	Mar- Apr 97	Nastoychuy	Destroyer
Russia	Mar- Apr 97	Lena	Tanker
Singapore	Mar- Apr 97	Perseverance	TLC
ROC	Mar- Apr 97	Wu Yi	Log Sup Ship
ROC	Mar- Apr 97	Yueh Fei	Frigate
ROC	Mar- Apr 97	Cheng Ho	Frigate
United Kingdom	Mar- Apr 97	HMS Chatham	Frigate
Pakistan	Mar- Apr 97	Babur	Frigate
Pakistan	Mar- Apr 97	Mowain	Tanker
India	Mar- Apr 97	Gomati	Frigate

(e) Expected visits during 1997

Country	Date	Ships	Type
i	ii	iii	iv
Canada	Sep 97	HMCs Halifax	Frigate

Since the cessation of the Simon's Town agreement with the UK in the seventies, only the French have made use of repair facilities in Simon's Town in accordance with a repair agreement with Armscor Other countries visit the port on goodwill visits, to conduct combined naval exercises, for minor repairs or rest and recuperation for crews during long deployments

It is foreseen that the repair facilities and use of the base for rest and recuperation will increase once multi and bilateral national and military agreements in support of foreign policy are signed and ratified

Strategy for dealing with HIV/AIDS

791 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Health

(1) Whether her Department has formulated a strategy for dealing with HIV and AIDS in the Republic, if not, why not, if so, (a) what is this strategy, (b) who is in charge of implementing it and (c) what steps had been taken to implement this strategy as at the latest specified date for which information is available.

(2) what total amount was spent by her Department in the (a) 1994-95, (b) 1995-96 and (c) 1996-97 financial years on research into HIV and AIDS,

(3) whether any amount has been made available for research into Virodene if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, what amount? N1384E

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

(Reply bound in Annexures of House - see M312/97)

SA emigrants

792 Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Home Affairs

(a) How many South African citizens emigrated during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available and (b) how many of these persons were practising in (i) law, (ii) accounting (iii) engineering, (iv) science and (v) finance? N1385E

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(a) 865 - for the period 1 April 1996 to 31 March 1997

(b) (i) 44
(ii) 275

Hansard

236

- (iii) 368
- (iv) 178
- (v) Not available, included in subparagraph (ii)

Note Statistics obtained from Central Statistical Service

Telkom staff members: fraud/theft/corruption
 793 Ms M SMUTS asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting

Whether any Telkom staff members were (a) charged with and/or (b) dismissed as a result of (i) fraud, (ii) theft and (iii) corruption in (aa) 1995, (bb) 1996 and/or (cc) 1997, if so, how many in each case? N1386E

THE MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING

The Acting Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Telkom has informed me as follows

An investigations unit has only been in operation from 1 April 1996, therefore reliable statistics on fraud, theft and corruption can only be provided for the 1996/97 financial year. Statistics on corruption relating to the international telephone fraud scam committed during the 1995/96 financial year are however available due to the size and impact of the scam. Further statistics for the 1995/96 financial year are therefore not available as was previously stated.

- 1 Telkom staff disciplined or dismissed for (i) theft and (ii) fraud
 - (a) Disciplinary action was taken against 393 Telkom staff during the 1996/97 financial year
 - (b) 170 staff members were dismissed. The other staff members were given serious warnings and/or a combination of various sanctions. This is as a result of
 - inconclusive evidence in some cases, and
 - incidents where the substantive circumstances of cases resulted in varying interpretations and therefore varying judgements. It should be noted that

the 15 Telkom employees involved in the international telephone fraud scam. Another 6 employees involved in the above mentioned four incidents of corruption, were disciplined and subsequently dismissed.

- disciplinary hearings are normally presided over by an independent chairperson, elected by management, and
- the employee is allowed representations by a co-worker, shop steward or union representative

2 Telkom staff disciplined or dismissed for (iii) corruption

(a) Corruption is defined as the improper performance by employees of their duties as a result of benefits promised or received. The improper performance either entails or results in other fraudulent activities.

(aa) A number of 174 cases, with a direct loss to Telkom of R210 million, were reported in respect of the international telephone fraud scam where 15 Telkom employees were involved. Four other incidents of corruption, where the loss to Telkom could not be accurately determined, were also reported. These incidents include

- The receipt of an airplane ticket from a supplier by a Telkom employee.
- The implementation of a "slush fund" by Telkom employees and a supplier allowing expenditure that Telkom would not have approved such as overseas trips, cellphones, etc.
- Collusion between a Telkom employee and auctioneers in the sale of used Telkom vehicles at lowered reserve prices, and
- The repair of Telkom vehicles at a Telkom technical Workshop with Telkom still being invoiced for the work by an outside supplier.

(bb) and (cc) 1996/97 Financial year. While no incidents of corruption, as defined above, were reported during the 1996/97 financial year, significant audit and investigate effort continue to be focused in this area.

(b) During 1996 and into 1997 disciplinary and criminal actions were taken against

Minister/Deputy Minister/staff: trips outside RSA

795 Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Trade and Industry

(1) (a) How many times in (i) 1996 and (ii) during the period 1 January 1997 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, did (aa) he, (bb) his Deputy Minister and/or (cc) staff members of his Ministry go on trips outside the borders of the Republic funded entirely or partially by the State and (b) what was the (i) purpose, (ii) cost to the State, (iii) destination and (iv) duration of each such trip,

(2) whether any family members and/or other persons not employed by the State went on any of these trips, if so, in each case, (a) who and (b) at what cost to the State? N1388E

THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

(1) Trips outside the borders of the Republic for the Minister, Deputy-Minister and staff members for the following period

Purpose	Cost	Destination	Duration
1 UNCTAD	R 2 933 34	Amman	7-12/1/96
2 UNCTAD	R 7 442,55	Ethiopia	12-17/2/96
3 SADC	R 1 553,96	Botswana	21-24/2/96
4 Meeting with heads of missions	R 2 824,97	United Kingdom	9-12/3/96
5 Presidential delegation	R 25 757,56	Germany	20-24/5/96
6 SADC	R 15 039,89	Zimbabwe	9-12/6/96
7 ESA Invest-ment Conference	R 43 603,52	France	15-20/6/96
8 Explore trade opportunities	R 33 034,56	Cuba	26/5-3/6/96

Purpose	Cost	Destination	Duration
9 WTO meeting	R 18 770,67	Switzerland	2-3/7/96
10 State Presi-dents trade visit	R 247 335 36	UK, France, USA	4-26/7/96
11 Maputo De-velopment Corridor	R 8 099,09	Mozambique	26/7/96
12 SACU	R 7 204,30	Swaziland	20-24/8/96
13 SADC	R 17 530,64	Botswana	29-30/8/96
14 WTO, Bi-lateral trade talks	R 86 950,54	UAE, Iran, Saudi-Araba, Switzerland	28/9-12/10/96
15 Bi-lateral trade talks	R 9 680,12	Zimbabwe	22/10/96
16 SADC	R 37 713,93	Tanzania	31/10/96
17 Accompanied Deputy-President	R 2 872,23	Germany	6-8/11/96
18 WTO meeting on least developed countries	R 20 123,64	Switzerland	13-15/11/96
19 Bi-lateral trade talks	R 73 983,36	Mauritius, India, Singapore	29/11-15/12/96
20 Trade delegation	R 15 395,28	Australia	29/11-9/12/96

Trips outside the borders of the Republic for the Minister, Deputy-Minister and staff members for the following period

Purpose	Cost	Destination	Duration
1 SADC	R 18 751 88	Namibia	6-7/2/97
2 Bi-national commission	R 7 224 86	France	23-27/3/97
3 Trade talks	R 4 048,43	Australia	26/4-4/5/97
(2) (a) A family member that went on these trips was the Ministers wife. She went on the following trips			
1 Zimbabwe	9/6 to 12/6/96		
2 UK, France and USA	4/7 to 26/7/96		
3 Mauritius, India and Singapore	29/11 to 15/12/96		
4 Australia	26/4 to 4/5/97		
(b) The total cost to the state was R62 854,01			

Counterfeiting of SA banknotes

800 Mr J A MARAIS asked the Minister for Safety and Security

In (a)(i) 1995 and (ii) 1996 and (b) during the period 1 January 1997 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, (aa) how many people were arrested for counterfeiting South African banknotes, (bb) how many such counterfeit notes were seized and (cc) what was the face value of such counterfeit notes? N1395E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

- (a) (i) (aa) 1 538
- (bb) 535 481
- (cc) R36 839 547
- (ii) (aa) 1 355
- (bb) 372 349
- (cc) R46 294 620

(b) The statistics for 1997 depict the period 1 January to 31 March 1997

- (aa) 334
- (bb) 252 888
- (cc) R32 542 880

Bank robberies in SA

801 Col N G RAMAREMISA asked the Minister for Safety and Security

(a) In 1996 and (b) during the period 1 January 1997 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, (i) how many bank robberies were reported in South Africa (ii) what was the total loss incurred as a result of these bank robberies and (iii) how many arrests were made in connection with such bank robberies? N1396E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

- (a) (i) 642
- (ii) Amounts have not been reported in all cases, and therefore the correct figure cannot be provided
- (iii) 316

(b) (i) 121 [Latest specified date 18 June 1997]

- (ii) Amounts have not been reported in all cases, and therefore the correct figure cannot be provided
- (iii) 145

Child abuse reported/investigated

802 Mr W L FOURIE asked the Minister for Safety and Security

(a) How many cases of child abuse were (i) reported and (ii) investigated (aa) in 1996 and (bb) during the period 1 January 1997 up to the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) how many arrests were made following such investigations during each of the above periods? N1397E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

- (a) (i) and (ii) (aa) 35 838
- (bb) 14 245 [Latest specified date May 1997]
- (b) 11 532 [January till December 1996]
- 4 975 [January till May 1997]

Foreign students in SA

803 Mr T D LEE asked the Minister of Education

(a) How many foreign students are currently studying at each specified South African tertiary institution and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished? N1398E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION

In the beginning of 1996 it was estimated that the number of foreign students studying at South African universities and technikons in 1994 was about 11 000, of which 45% were distance tuition students. Sixteen percent were studying at the post graduate/post diploma level. It is not possible at this stage to provide a breakdown per tertiary institution. However, the national Department of Education is in the process of developing policy on the future State subsidisation of foreign students. The proposed policy will also address the lack of detailed information on foreign students at each tertiary institution.

Visitors to SA

804 Mr N J J VAN R KOORNHOF asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

How many citizens of (a) South Africa, (b) countries in (i) the rest of Africa, (ii) the Americas, (iii) Asia, (iv) Europe, (v) Oceania and (c) other countries visited South Africa in (i) 1995 and (ii) 1996? N1399E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

The numbers of citizens of South Africa and also of other countries who visited South Africa, are not available at present because calculations are based on the country of permanent residence and not the country of citizenship

Emigrants

805 Mr I J PRETORIUS asked the Minister of Home Affairs

(a) How many emigrants in each specified occupation category left South Africa in (i) 1995 and (ii) 1996 and (b) what was the increase or decrease in the number of emigrants in each category leaving South Africa in each of these years? N1400E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

Emigrants by occupation for 1995 and 1996

Occupation	1995	1996	Increase/Decrease (-)
Grand Total	8 725	9 708	983
Total - Economically active	4 526	5 163	637
Professional semi-profession and technical occupations - Total	1 680	1 970	290
Engineers and related technologies	319	340	21
Industrial Production	7	12	5
Chemical	11	2	- 9
Electrical and related	18	6	- 12
Agricultural	0	1	1
Mechanical	3	3	0
Mining	2	0	- 2
Civil and related	2	1	- 1
Engineers (not elsewhere classified)	18	2	- 16
	258	293	35

Hansard

Occupation	1995	1996	Increase/Decrease (-)
Medical practitioner	56	92	36
Medical specialist	15	11	- 4
Dental professions	14	33	19
Education and related occupations	314	351	37
Accountant and related accounting occupations	234	271	37
Other	728	872	144
Managerial, executive and administrative occupations	664	737	73
Clerical and sales occupations	861	921	60
Transport, delivery and communications occupations	41	23	- 18
Service occupations	102	116	14
Farming and related occupations	26	26	0
Artisans, apprentice and related occupations	319	339	20
Production foreman and supervisor miner and quarry worker operator production and related worker	40	32	- 8
Occupation unspecified and not elsewhere classified	793	999	206
Total - Economically inactive	4 199	4 545	346
Housekeeping	1 158	1 159	1
Child - not scholar	741	868	127
Scholar/student	1 776	1 919	143
Pensioner	443	568	125
Economically inactive (not elsewhere classified)	81	31	- 50

Thefts at SA harbours

806 Mr D M STREICHER asked the Minister for Public Enterprises †

In (a) 1996 and (b) the period 1 January to 31 May 1997, what was the cost as a result of theft at the harbours of (i) Cape Town, (ii) Durban, (iii) Port Elizabeth, (iv) Richard's Bay, (v) East London and (vi) Mossel Bay? N1401E

Escaping the hell in their own countries

ep 31/8/97

(236)

By HANGWANI MULAUDZI

FOR HUNDREDS of aliens flocking to South Africa, fleeing from the whirlwind of African wars, famine and despots, our country is the land of the free and the land of opportunity.

Even if it means starting from scratch, quite late in life, as with Julian Bally-Tabu, they keep on coming.

A major in the intelligence section of the army in the former Zaire, Bally-Tabu now finds himself, at 40, selling fruits on a Durban pavement.

His situation is a rude reminder that the change of government in the newly-formed Democratic Republic of Congo, has not stopped hundreds of refugees from seeking asylum in SA and elsewhere.

For years, he and his countrymen were saddled with a plundering elite and a rotten regime which left the once-thriving nation in ruins.

Two years ago, the anger of the poor and the marginalised boiled over, plunging the country into a bloody civil war.

Major Bally-Tabu fled the genocide. Posing as an international truck driver, he managed to pass through Malawian, Zimbabwean, Mozambican and SA borders with no papers or identity documents.

He has since obtained South African papers.

Fortunately, word got out that he had been arrested and his fellow comrades devised a plan to free him.

Twelve members from his unit stormed the prison guards at midnight and he was whisked off to Zambia.

"My family, including my wife, were in the dark about my arrest and my greatest concern was the thought that something bad might happen to them," said Bally-Tabu.

Two months after, his family was smuggled out of Zaire and taken to Zambia where their long journey to SA began.

"It is a pity that people in South Africa do not understand our problems, but from our stories they might begin to have an idea of the hell we come from."

"Having to leave your family and friends and venture into the unknown is one of the most painful things you can do but if you value your life, then you have to take such decisions," says Bally-Tabu.

Unemployed, he sells fruit to feed his family.

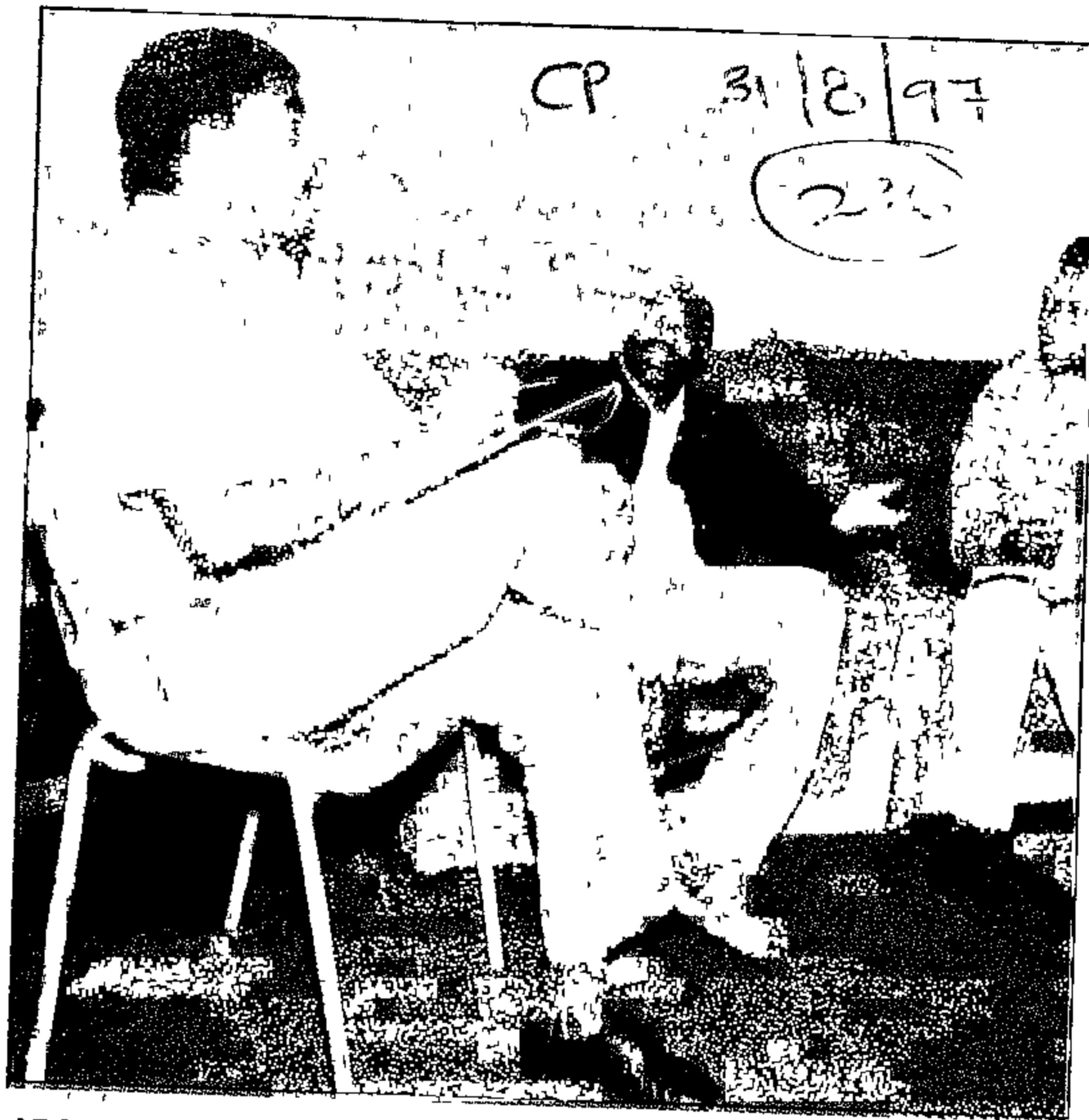
A former officer of the hated Mobutu army, he can't go back now, even though he had tried to help oust the dictator. This is an indication of the depth of the feelings back home.

Speaking in poor English, Saidi Gerard Ndela (38), a Hutu from Burundi, believes locals have no idea what it is like in his country.

"If you are a Hutu, you are nothing in our country. The situation is similar to



cont ↑



ABOVE: Mama Bally-Tabu cooking at her place at Point Road, Durban
BELOW: Meeting to decide their future are, from left to right, Buli Kilimbilo, Saidi Gerard Ndela and Julian Bally-Tabu.

■ **Pics: RAJESH JANTILAL.**

As a former member of the notorious army of ousted dictator Mobutu Seseko, the threat of execution hung over his head

He was arrested, stayed in jail for four days but escaped

Scared and confused, he left behind his wife and seven kids and journeyed into the unknown

Bally-Tabu fled Zaire in 1992.

It took him almost ten days to finally arrive in southernmost Africa, South Africa

"It was the worst experience of my life but because of the attempt on my life, I had to take the chance," said Bally-Tabu

Heading a unit in Kisangani, north of Zaire, Bally-Tabu became involved in politics, which made him unpopular with the authorities

"It was not by choice, but there were many disillusioned soldiers within my unit who saw the need to change the political situation in the country"

"In 1992 we contemplated taking over the government but our attempt was thwarted by the Zairian's intelligence agency," said Julian

He said many of his colleagues were rounded-up and became victims of continued executions

Bally-Tabu was arrested and jailed in Buluwo prison at Lumbubashi. He spent four days in solitary confinement.

"I knew my days were numbered as many of my friends had already been killed," he said

what SA experienced Apartheid is alive and kicking in Burundi -The Tutsis are like whites in SA and the Hutus are like the blacks"

"There will no peace in Burundi until all ethnic groups are equal. Protection should be given to everyone and not to the Tutsi's only," said Saidi

Saidi said many refugees from Africa come to SA not only for greener pastures but because there is real democracy and the recognition of human rights.

"It is an independent state and many refugees from outside feel they will be safe here

"Without the intervention of President Mandela and Mangosuthu Buthelezi, we could well be languishing in prisons or even be dead by now," said Saidi

Saidi believes Tutsis were on a mission to rule over all central Africa

"They want to rename the region Hima, and create an empire of their own

"They are now after Kenya and Tanzania and their aim is to have absolute power in the region and to change the African map," he claims

"Unless there is real intervention from other countries like SA and France, the war will never end," said Saidi

The two, brought together by their plight, have now formed an association of refugees and displaced people to assist refugees in their new life in SA

(b) None

(c) During 1995, 1 publication was rejected in terms of section 47(2)(b) of The Publications Act 1974 (Act No 42 of 1974) because it was blasphemous/offensive to the religious convictions or feelings of a section of the inhabitants of the Republic

All other films publications and objects rejected during 1995 1996 and 1997 (as at 31 July 1997) were found to be indecent or obscene or harmful to public morals in terms of section 47(2)(a) of the said Act

Permanent/temporary residence permits issued/refused

942 Mr B C BESTER asked the Minister of Home Affairs

(a) How many (i) permanent and (ii) temporary residence permits were (aa) issued and (bb) refused to persons at ports of entry in 1995 and 1996, respectively, and (b) how many persons violated the conditions attached to temporary residence permits in each of these years?

N1644E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(a) (i) Permanent residence permits are not issued at ports of entry. However, during 1995 and 1996 respectively, 4 610 and 5 233 applications for permanent residence were approved while 798 and 234 applications were refused by the committees of the Immigrants Selection Board respectively

(ii) Temporary residence permits were

(aa) issued to 4 239 031 aliens who visited the RSA for holiday, family, medical and business purposes during 1995. During 1996 the number of temporary residence permits issued for the same purposes was 5 186 221

(bb) No statistics are available for refusals as such cases are dealt with on an individual basis

(b) According to the Movement Control System the number of persons that failed to leave the

RSA upon expiry of the validity of their temporary residence permits (and thus became illegal) is

1995 - 119 927
1996 - 192 846

The number of persons who violated other conditions of temporary residence permits is not known

Immigrants: various occupational groups

943 Mr F J VAN DEVENTER asked the Minister of Home Affairs

How many persons in the occupational groups (a) clerical and sales, (b) transport delivery and communications, (c) professional (d) managerial and administrative (e) agricultural (f) service workers and (g) manufacturing and construction immigrated to South Africa from foreign countries in (i) 1995 and (ii) 1996?

N1645E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

Occupational Groups	Immigrants	1995	1996
(a) Clerical and sales		250	315
(b) Transport delivery and communications		7	18
(c) Professional*		798	843
(d) Managerial and administrative**		374	466
(e) Agricultural		1	0
(f) Service workers		79	84
(g) Manufacturing and construction		116	62

* Semi-professional and technical occupations included in this category

** Executive occupations included in this category
Note Statistics obtained from Central Statistical Service

Emigrants: various occupational groups

944 Mr W L FOURIE asked the Minister of Home Affairs

How many persons in the occupational groups (a) clerical and sales, (b) transport, delivery and communications, (c) professional, (d)

managerial and administrative (e) agricultural (f) service workers and (g) manufacturing and construction emigrated from South Africa to foreign countries in (i) 1995 and (ii) 1996?

N1646E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

Occupational Groups	Emigrants	1995	1996
(a) Clerical and sales		861	921
(b) Transport delivery and communications		41	23
(c) Professional*		1 680	1 970
(d) Managerial and administrative**		664	737
(e) Agricultural		0	1
(f) Service workers		102	116
(g) Manufacturing and construction		40	32

* Semi-professional and technical occupations included in this category

** Executive occupations included in this category

Note Statistics obtained from Central Statistical Service

Households: access to telephone facilities

965 Mr P I BIKITSHA asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting

(a) What percentage of (i) urban and (ii) rural urban households in South Africa had no ready access to telephone facilities as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) on what basis are such statistics kept?

N1667E

The MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING (Reply found in Annexures of House - see M 367/97)

Passengers/goods entering SA through international airports

971 Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Transport

What was the (a) number of passengers and (b) volume of goods entering South Africa through the (i) Johannesburg, (ii) Cape Town and (iii) Durban international airports in each of the latest specified three years for which information is available?

N1676E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

(a) Number of passengers entering South Africa

	Johannesburg	Cape Town	Durban
1994	1 411 802	209 731	70 008
1995	1 539 251	286 368	77 396
1996	1 682 314	348 409	85 381

(b) Volume of goods entering South Africa

	Johannesburg	Cape Town	Durban
1994	63 005 342 kg	Not available	Not available
1995	91 207 774 kg	Not available	Not available
1996	84 499 771 kg	Not available	2 320 675 kg

Traditional post office outlets closed

973 Mr A S BEYERS asked the Minister for Posts Telecommunications and Broadcasting

(1) Whether he or his Department is planning to close down any existing traditional post office outlets and to replace such traditional post office outlets with other postal service points in previously underserved areas if so (a) what will this process entail and (b) when will such plans be implemented

(2) whether he will make a statement on the difference between traditional post offices and the other postal points referred to above?

N1678E

The MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING

The Managing Director of the South African Post Office Limited has informed me as follows

(1) Yes

Many of our traditional type post offices and old type postal agencies are uneconomical and not conveniently situated, even in the previously under-served areas. To improve service levels and to create a cost-effective post office and postal agency retail network it is necessary to reposition the existing infrastructure on a continuous basis to satisfy the needs of all communities, especially our

clients in the under-served areas This means that certain traditional post office outlets will be closed, repositioned, amalgamated with strategically situated offices or the establishment of new traditional type post offices, retail post offices [Postpoints] and new type retail postal agencies in serviced as well as previously underserved areas

(a) The process entails network planning and development according to scientifically founded methodologies such as location and market analysis with a view to locating post office outlets in the most convenient environments, based on client behavioural patterns

(b) The ultimate goal of a business plan which commenced on 1 April 1994 is to reduce the number of traditional type post offices to 1 000 while increasing the number of Postpoints to 1 000 and establishing 1 500 retail postal agencies This will expand the distribution of service points to our clients by more than 42% compared with the current situation However, the availability of funds as well as the postal services demand study currently under evaluation for an ideal post office and postal agency distribution network per suburb magisterial district and provincial region will play a major role in reaching our ultimate goal

(2) Yes

Traditional type post office This type of facility is provided in company-owned or leased accommodation on a stand-alone basis It is either operated on a full-time or part-time basis by post office staff providing the full spectrum of post office products and services to our clients during standard business hours (Monday to Fridays between 08 30 and 16 30 and Saturdays between 08 00 and 12 00)

Retail post office (Postpoint) A Postpoint is a fully fledged post office providing the full spectrum of post office products and services to clients by our own staff with the difference that it is situated in a host business such as a

Harwood

supermarket, pharmacy, etc with extended business hours to coincide with that of the host business In addition, it offers (a) convenience to our customers in line with the one-stop shopping concept and (b) working customers the opportunity to do their postal business after normal working hours on weekdays as well as on Sundays and public holidays

Retail postal agency This type of outlet is also situated in a host business such as a café or other small business and is usually established in areas where the operation of a traditional type post office or Postpoint is not economically viable It is operated by a fully trained agent during the same business hours of the host business rendering full basic postal services with the choice of optional services The agent's remuneration is calculated in terms of a fixed remuneration structure

Immigrants granted/refused permanent residence

979 Mr I J PRETORIUS asked the Minister of Home Affairs

How many immigrants from (a) Europe, (b) Africa, (c) Asia (d) North America, (e) South America, (f) Oceania and (g) other countries were (i) granted and (ii) refused permanent residence in (aa) 1995 and (bb) 1996?

N1684E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

Continent/Country	(i) Immigrants Permanent Residence Granted	
	(aa) 1995	(bb) 1996
(a) Europe	2 272	2 315
(b) Africa	1 343	1 601
(c) Asia	1 063	1 137
(d) North America	247	217
(e) South America	34	40
(f) Oceania	85	86
(g) Other countries	20	11
Total	5 064	5 407

Continent/Country	(i) Immigrants Permanent Residence Refused	
	(aa) 1995	(bb) 1996
(a) Europe	466	196
(b) Africa	277	245
(c) Asia	674	220
(d) North America	53	8
(e) South America	21	1
(f) Oceania	20	7
(g) Other countries	2	3
Total	1 513	680

Note Statistics obtained from Central Statistical Service

Aliens: work permits approved/refused

980 Mr B C BESTER asked the Minister of Home Affairs

How many work permits for (a) work seekers, (b) temporary employment, (c) self-employment or own businesses and (d) activities relating to the arts and entertainment industry were (i) approved and (ii) refused in 1995 and 1996, respectively, to aliens (aa) not in South Africa and (bb) already in South Africa?

N1685E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(a) (i) (aa)	1995		1996	
	(aa)	(bb)	(aa)	(bb)
(a) (i) (aa)	None	24	None	22
(b) (i) (aa)	None	None	None	None
(ii) (aa)	None	22	None	22
(b) (ii) (aa)	None	None	None	None

Note

The workseekers' permit was one of the new category of temporary residence permits introduced with effect from 1 July 1996 in terms of an amendment to the Aliens Control Act, 1991, adopted by Parliament during 1995

(b), (c) and (d) (i)	1995		1996	
	(aa)	(bb)	(aa)	(bb)
(b), (c) and (d) (i)	11 053	32 383	19 498	33 206

(ii) (aa)	1995		1996	
	(aa)	(bb)	(aa)	(bb)
(ii) (aa)	372	2 641	870	1 355

Note

It is unfortunately not possible to provide separate statistics of work permits in the specific categories as requested, since the Department only maintains a record of the total number of work permits issued

Aliens: study permits approved/refused

981 Mr I J PRETORIUS asked the Minister of Home Affairs

How many applications for study permits were (a) approved and (b) refused in (i) 1995 and (ii) 1996 to aliens (aa) not in South Africa and (bb) already in South Africa?

N1686E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(a) (i)	1995		1996	
	(aa)	(bb)	(aa)	(bb)
(a) (i)	6 422	17 681	10 359	21 185
(ii)	10 359	21 185	246	578

State departments: tender procedures

1011 Mr J W MARÉE asked the Minister of Finance

- Whether State Departments are obliged to comply with tender procedures, if not why not, if so, what are the relevant details
- What are the current tender procedures
- Whether any exceptions are being made in this regard, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE

(1) Yes, State departments are in terms of the State Tender Board Act, 1968 (Act No 86 of

More illegal immigrants fall prey to Kruger lions

Star 9/9/97

(236)

PRETORIA CORRESPONDENT

One, and possibly two, more illegal Mozambican immigrants have fallen prey to Kruger National Park lions

Phin Nobela, senior manager for the northern areas of the park, said follow-up operations got under way yesterday following the discovery of human remains in the Kremekart

area of the park. It is believed the attack took place some time over the weekend.

This is the same area where five lions were put down last month after they attacked and killed four border-jumpers. Human remains were found in the lions' stomachs.

Nobela said rangers were trying to track the lions

There are three lion prides

in that area and teams were tracking them to see which, if any, were responsible for the death, he said.

He added there were unconfirmed reports a second border-jumper had also been killed by lion Rangers are searching for clues as to whether this is true.

No decision had been made about whether the lions would also be shot

Over 174 000 aliens get exemptions to stay in SA legally

Cape Town - More than 174 000 illegal aliens from various southern African states have been granted exemptions, legalising their stay in South Africa, Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi

said in Parliament yesterday.

He said exemptions to 50 692 migrant workers were granted after discussions between himself, President Nelson Mandela and the National Union of Mineworkers.

As a result of exemptions extended to South African Development Community nationals who complied with certain requirements, 124 073 people were granted exemption. - Political Correspondent

Home Affairs promises improved services by '98

CHRIS BATEMAN

AN ambitious national plan to make it easier to register births and deaths, get identity documents and passports quicker — and hold Home Affairs officials accountable — is expected to be in place by January

Director-General of Home Affairs, Mr Piet Colyn, said yesterday that rural communities would be visited weekly or monthly with mobile units to save people tiresome waits in city centres, sometimes hundreds of kilometres from their homes

Health clinics or maternity hospitals would in future be used for officially registering births while municipal offices, where electricity and rates payments are

made, would double up as Home Affairs offices, saving money and improving efficiency

His department had added 67 vehicles, an increase of 25%, to their national fleet and had begun extensive campaigns in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.

A comprehensive policy document setting out basic principles for Home Affairs staff, making specific commitments to communities, such as promising answers to written queries within three weeks, would allow communities to monitor progress.

Colyn said a new Home Affairs office was opened in Mitchells Plain last week. A suitable venue in Khayelitsha was being sought

16/9/97

(236)

Illegal aliens' camp 'rife with bribery and corruption'

(236)

Star 25/9/97

Two South African citizens wrongfully held at camp claim bad treatment

By GILL GIFFORD
Crime Reporter

Two South African citizens who were held at the Lindela holding camp for illegal aliens at Krugersdorp claim corruption is rife at the facility

Steve Sipho Khoza, a security guard, alleges he was wrongfully arrested in Nugget Street, Johannesburg, last Wednesday and taken to Lindela without being allowed to produce identity documents

"When I got to the camp I told them I was born in Springs and showed them a copy of my birth certificate, but they hit me and said I was from Zimbabwe, taking jobs from South African people"

Khoza says he was charged R5 to make a phone call, and alleges he was assaulted several times in the two days he was held at the centre

Khoza's friend Ephraim Shanga went to fetch him last Friday, and showed immigration officials Khoza's identity book and birth certificate.

"I was told I had to pay R450 bail money, or Steve would be sent to Zimbabwe I asked for a receipt, but I was refused," Shanga said

Collen Khumalo, a credit controller from Johannes-

burg, had a similar experience when he was arrested by police on Sunday, September 14, while he was walking in Joubert Park

"I didn't have my ID book, so I asked if I could quickly fetch it from my flat nearby. The policemen refused to let me go, and I was bundled in a van with 56 others. Some had valid passports and were released when we got to Booysens police station," he said

Khumalo claims he was taken to Lindela camp, but was not allowed to make a phone call. He was found the following day by his boss

Khumalo's employer, Paul Fletcher, confirmed that he went to Lindela to fetch Khumalo. "He had been assaulted and his eardrum was perforated," he said

Dolf Gouws, chief immigration officer at Lindela, said people wrongfully brought into the camp were released as soon as identity documents had been checked

He said detainees could use the phone in the Home Affairs' immigration office at Lindela camp free of charge and could call "anyone they want, whenever they need to"

Questioned on allegations that people had to pay for release, Gouws said "We don't



Wrongfully arrested ... Steve Khoza was held for two days at the Lindela camp, a holding facility for illegal aliens. His employer managed to track him down and secure his release.

take money for a release warrant. But maybe it happened, I can't say, I don't know"

Frans le Grange, head of operations for Dyambu Trust - the private company contracted to run the facility, said suspected illegal aliens were allowed access to the phone in

the trust's management office, but were charged R5 per call.

Senior legal officer for the Human Rights Commission, Advocate Liesl Gerntholtz, said she had received complaints about Lindela

"People should be given a reasonable opportunity to

provide proof of citizenship in terms of the Bill of Rights a person who is detained should be informed of the reason for arrest and be allowed to inform a spouse or anyone else to insist on payment for the phone call is unconstitutional," Gerntholtz said.

Deportation camp linked to prominent ANC women may have to close

By GILL GIFFORD
Crime Reporter

Lindela is a private deportation camp capable of housing up to 2 700 illegal immigrants, and was established in August 1996.

Frans le Grange, opera-

tions head for the holding company Dyambu Trust, said the company employed 23 staff members and 19 security guards to run the facility, situated just outside Randfontein on the West Rand

"The Lindela camp was opened last year by a group of

12 women who formed the trust, with the aim of raising funds for community development. They were contracted by Home Affairs to run the camp," Le Grange said

The Mail and Guardian reported on Friday that the private deportation camp is

linked to several prominent African National Congress women, and could be facing closure if the Ministry of Home Affairs decides to end their contract at the end of this year

"Losing the contract would be a massive blow to Dyambu

Holdings. High-profile ANC women, including Deputy Speaker Baleka Mbete-Kgositsile, Deputy Home Affairs Minister Lindiwe Sisulu and MP Adelaide Tambo created Dyambu to raise funds for community projects," the Mail and Guardian stated

Home Affairs hit by R2,5-million illegal entry scam

By JIMMY SEPE

HOME AFFAIRS officials were paid R2,5 million in bribes to grant 54 Taiwanese families permanent residence, a City Press investigation has revealed.

The Department yesterday confirmed that the families - consisting of 272 people - were granted permanent residence after arriving in South Africa in 1995 on tourist visas.

□ This means the corrupt officials were paid almost R50 000 a family.

It is not yet known if this is just the tip of the iceberg - as more than 10 000 people have been granted permanent residence during the past two years.

The Aliens Control Act of 1961 prohibits people who arrive in South Africa as tourists from working in the country.

Visitors on tourist visas are not permitted to apply for permanent residence while in the country. Applications for permanent residence must be made from the applicant's home country and R10 000 must be

54 Taiwanese families buy residence permits for R50 000 each

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deposited with Home Affairs if permanent residence is granted.

□ Home Affairs spokesperson, Henne Meyer, told City Press a department official and a former employee involved in the scam are being investigated by the police.

They - and three other suspects - are expected to be charged in the Pretoria magistrate's court on October 9 under Sections 57 and 58 of the Aliens Control Act of 1991, as well as on fraud charges.

□ An attorney for the families has applied for permission for the illegal immigrants to remain in South Africa. He says the families incurred enormous costs to settle here through an immigration agent who allegedly dealt with the corrupt officials.

The Department has agreed to

thoroughly investigate each individual case.

It is believed the Taiwanese illegal immigrants have invested millions of rands in properties and businesses and should they be forced to leave both they and the country would suffer financial loss.

Their lawyer is expected to argue that unlike millions of illegal immigrants who have become a nightmare for the authorities, the Taiwanese are contributing positively to the economy.

The families are also said to have asked for consideration because their children are at school here.

□ The pending decision on the Taiwanese families has created a row between the department and the ANC's parliamentary standing committee. The committee's chair-

CORRUPTION 1

person, Desmond Lockey, wants the department to stick to its rule and deport the families to Taiwan - saying they can follow proper procedures if they are interested in settling in South Africa.

"They have broken the country's laws by bribing officials to gain permanent residence status," he says. "No country in the world would allow such a practice and we must not be called on to change our rules for certain nationals."

Lockey says he will ensure, through the standing committee, that the department followed procedures. "I don't buy the families' argument that they are now in dire straits."

Visiting SA an alien experience

Mukoni T Ratshtanga

AZIMBABWEAN woman was arrested three times within an hour in Johannesburg this week as an illegal immigrant — even though she was legally in the country

Roseanna T (39), who works in a hotel shop in Mutare, western Zimbabwe, says the first two times she was released after bribing the police, the third time she was taken to a detention centre and held overnight

She came to South Africa a month ago to visit friends in Auckland Park and had a visa entitling her to enter the country

She says she twice went to the city centre and had no problems. On Monday she went to Park Station to buy a rail ticket to return to Zimbabwe two days later

She was barely out of the station when a group of uniformed policemen stopped her and demanded her passport

"I told them that I had left it at my friends' house because I was afraid it could be stolen. They said that I was not allowed to move around without a passport in South Africa and I was under arrest."

T says the police took her to what she thought was a charge office nearby. She did not know where it was because she does not know Johannesburg.

"They wanted a R50 bribe as a condition of release. I gave them R30 and they accepted it and freed me."

M&G 1-7/8/97

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"A few minutes later another group of uniformed policemen stopped me and asked for my passport. I told them I had left it in Auckland Park. They also took me to what I thought was a police station and they too demanded a bribe as a condition of release. I gave them R20."

T says she went to Eloff Street to get a bus to Auckland Park. A group of plainclothed men who identified themselves as policemen demanded her passport, arrested her and bundled her into a yellow police truck.

"Twenty-nine people — five of them women — were in the truck. Four of the men were let off after paying R200 each."

and the others were taken to Lindela Accommodation Centre in Randfontein on the West Rand

T says that she saw men being assaulted at the centre. "They were hit with fists and shoes and there was a lot of screaming." She also heard staff telling inmates that if they paid R5, relatives and friends would be phoned. But she believes that the calls were never made.

She was put into a cell for the night with other women. Breakfast was the first food she had eaten since her arrest.

Meanwhile, T's friends became increasingly worried when she did not return home.

"I was distraught, thinking of having to tell her family that something had happened to her," said T's friend Carol Martin. "What I find interesting is that they put the onus on the person to prove that she is innocent."

Martin phoned hospitals and police stations, without success. Then Park Station police advised her to try Lindela — who said she should phone back the next morning.

That's when T was traced, and through her friends' efforts, was released late in the morning.

Lindela disputes T's allegations of assaults. Juda Kgotsi, who says he is the unit leader, told the *Mail & Guardian*. "The security personnel have no authority to release anybody. The only people who have the authority to release people are Home Affairs. "I personally don't allow security to beat people," he says.

At Park Station, Sergeant ML Maoto invited T to press charges against the policemen involved. "We know that some of our policemen are very naughty. They might miss procedures," he said.

T returned to Zimbabwe as planned on Wednesday night. She left behind a question: "I want to know if they will stop taking money from poverty or will the government give police money so that they leave people alone?"

As reported in the *M&G* in February, Lindela is the country's first private deportation camp: a central holding point for captured illegal immigrants before they are shipped home.

The ultimate owner, Dyambu Trust, was created last year by a group of high-profile African National Congress women including Adelaide Tambo and Deputy Home Affairs Minister Lindi Sisulu.



Happy holidays: Visitor Roseanna T had a lucky escape from a detention centre

PHOTOGRAPH: SIDDIQUE DAVIDS

Street gang attacks foreign hawkers

Sowetan (236)

A GROUP of about 30 men sent the foreign hawkers of Johannesburg's Kerk Street Mall packing yesterday by launching an vicious attack on the hapless informal traders

The attackers moved down the mall - a trading place for hawkers - shortly before 2pm, wielding sjamboks and sticks. Hawker Papa Demba (25) of Senegal was beaten, and bricks were

hurled at him, at least one of the missiles hitting him on the head

Within minutes of the start of the attack police arrived on the scene and rescued the blood-spattered Demba. He was advised by police to leave

Another foreign hawker, who was also assaulted, said he would pack up for the day, but he would be back. However, he did not say when this

would happen

"We cannot go back to Senegal since we are refugees here. We are more afraid of getting killed at home than here," the hawker said

Police arrested one of the group of 30 attackers. He was taken to Johannesburg Central Police Station while a crowd - obviously South Africans - shouted "*Phansi makw-*

erikwere, phansi" (Down foreigners, down)

Last week local hawkers, of whom more than 100 were arrested, rampaged through the city's streets and also attacked foreign traders. Locals accuse the foreigners of taking away their business

Meanwhile, the South African Human Rights Commission said yes-

terday the xenophobia being displayed would certainly "dent" South Africa's image abroad, especially in Africa

"The commission maintains that the actions of the local hawkers must be discouraged," it said. "The problem of aliens in the country must be left to the Department of Home Affairs to settle. It is not for ordinary citizens to enforce street law," - *Sapa*

Minister defends SA hawkers

Pretoria - Home Affairs Deputy Minister Lindiwe Sisulu says the Government has to protect the jobs of South African hawkers.

She yesterday commended the leaders of Johannesburg hawkers for distancing themselves from the violence that erupted in the city centre last week, when hawkers went on the rampage

They smashed shop windows during a march to protest against the presence of foreign hawkers - some of whom they assaulted. *ARL 20/8/97*

Ms Sisulu on Monday met Gauteng Safety and Security MEC Jessie Duarte to discuss the issue of foreign hawkers

Ms Sisulu said Ms Duarte had wanted to know why there were large numbers of foreigners in the hawking sector, bearing in

(1528) *(236)*
mind that South Africa's immigration policy was based on the notion that "no immigrant should be employed to the detriment of a South African citizen".

Ms Sisulu said foreign workers in the hawking sector were usually asylum-seekers awaiting determination of their status by the Department of Home Affairs

They were issued with permits in terms of Section 41 of the Aliens Control Act of 1991, which legalised their stay in the country and allowed them to work.

Ms Sisulu said her department did not issue immigration or work permits to foreigners that would allow them to become informal traders. Foreigners issued with immigration or work permits for employment other than hawking had entered the hawking sector illegally. - Sapa

Illegals succumb to lions and crocodiles in their quest for a better life

Star 9/8/97
(236)

Pafuri - An increasing number of illegal immigrants are falling prey to South Africa's lions, hyenas and crocodiles

Kruger National Park police say "more than 10" illegal Mozambicans have been eaten by lions or trampled by elephants over the past year, while Messina police claim that "hundreds" of Zimbabwean illegal immigrants have been eaten by crocodiles

Last week, the third illegal Mozambican immigrant in three weeks was eaten by lions in the Kruger Park.

Police spokesman Sergeant Ronel Otto said Adam Chauke (18) was attacked and eaten at the Punda Maria turnoff near Pafuri in the northernmost region of the park.

She said 10 other illegal immigrants with Chauke survived the attack by climbing mopane trees and had been repatriated to Mozambique

Members of the South African National Defence Force based at the Masakosa pan in the park rescued the group, but all that remained of Chauke were a few scattered bones

Pafuri police spokesman Inspector Samson Shabalala said more than 10 illegal Mozambican immigrants had been killed by elephants and lions in the park in the past year. Three weeks ago, two illegal immigrants were eaten by lions

The incident involving a man and woman, who were attacked about 30km from Pafuri camp, would not have come to light had it not been for another illegal immigrant who survived the attack.

After the lions had finished, some hyenas came, which is why there were

so few bones left," Shabalala said.

The woman was later identified as N'wa-Rhombe but the man's name is still not known.

On December 31 last year, Salita Mathwasa and her 2-year-old son Izaya were also eaten by lions.

In the past eight months, two men have died in Malamulele Hospital after being trampled by elephants.

Shabalala said more than 2 000 illegal immigrants had been repatriated to Mozambique this year.

According to Messina police, hundreds of illegal immigrants from Zimbabwe have been eaten by crocodiles while trying to swim across the Limpopo River into South Africa.

Attacked and eaten

Sergeant Peter Chatema Mdaui said the last incident took place two weeks ago, when a youth known only as Clement, from Pumula North near Bulawayo, was eaten by crocodiles.

"Clement managed to swim ashore and while he was resting on the bank of the river, with his legs still in the water, he was attacked and eaten," he said.

Another immigrant, Sigalise Ndlovu (18), who was travelling with Clement, was able to get help from border police, but when they arrived at the scene, Clement had already been pulled under the water

Also about two weeks ago, an unidentified man was eaten by crocodiles while swimming across the Limpopo from the Botswana side, - African Eye News Service

SA traders up in arms

REACTIONS to Bafana Bafana's victory last weekend let loose a joyous celebration of national pride. However, the ugly side of nationalism was also demonstrated in Johannesburg recently.

Non-South African street traders were assaulted and their goods stolen and destroyed by South African hawkers.

They have been intimidated off the streets of central Johannesburg, Hillbrow and Yeoville.

For the past week non-South African traders in Yeoville have been unable to return to their stands as intimidation continued.

The assaults on African non-South Africans highlight a number of misconceptions about Africans who are living and trading in South Africa.

Two recent studies of immigrant small and medium enterprises and street traders conducted for the Southern African Migration Project give a different picture.

Although African traders are called "illegals", most of the people who sell on the streets are here legally. The studies show that immigrants are more likely to be providing jobs than taking jobs.

The studies found that all those people interviewed with small and medium enterprises were providing employment for South Africans.

The 70 people interviewed provided 277 people with jobs.

The study of 100 street traders found over 20 percent were providing employment for one or more South Africans.

Many of those hawkers who were not employers were selling goods which are unavailable in South Africa.

Traders from the region are mainly migrants, not immigrants. They are involved in a cycle of cross-border trade, where they invest their profits from sales in SA, buying goods which they take to sell in their countries.

They bring the profits from those sales back to South Africa (as goods or cash) to invest in trade here and again buy (mainly South African-made) goods to take home.

It is also forgotten that when immigrants are here, they contribute to the South African economy by paying rent and buying goods and services.

More than 50 percent of the income of regional street traders is spent on living in South Africa. For refugees and asylum seekers, the figure is much higher.

African immigrants are portrayed as poor peasants seeking gold in South Africa and some are refugees fleeing war and persecution in their countries.

But the studies found that non-South African small entrepreneurs and street traders tended to be better educated than South African

(USA) (236) *Sowetan 25/8/97*
Most of the foreign traders contribute to the South African economy, as well as provide employment. **Sally Peberdy and Toure Talibe** explain the situation . . .



Flashback ... local hawkers have attacked traders from other countries several times in Johannesburg in the last two weeks.

PIC MBUZENI
ZULU

traders. Of those interviewed, many held university degrees, over 90 percent had some secondary education and two-thirds had some form of tertiary training.

Given the attitudes of South Africans to other Africans, it is perhaps not surprising that the study of street traders found that less than five percent wanted to stay here permanently – most of those were refugees or were married to South Africans.

Similarly, most wanted their families to remain in their home countries and their children to be educated in their home countries.

It seems that people think that there is a one-way street leading to South Africa. But it is just one stop in complex networks of regional and continental trade that runs between Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zaire, Botswana, Namibia and Angola, and further north between West African countries.

Trade on the streets of South Africa's cities should be seen as part of the opening up of South Africa and its reintegration into the region and the continent.

Trade links

Most of the traders we see on the streets come from countries with long-standing trade links with South Africa, including West Africa and Zaire where links stretch back to the 1980s.

Non-South African traders are investors in South Africa's future. South Africans do not go and destroy the property of other foreign investors like IBM and Coca-Cola.

South African traders and entrepreneurs were disadvantaged by apartheid which restrict-

ed opportunities for black South Africans to develop trading skills and disrupted and destroyed marketing networks.

But, instead of persecuting non-South African traders, South African traders could learn from them and seek to exploit their advantages as locals with knowledge of local markets and languages.

Perhaps traders in Johannesburg could follow their compatriots in Mpumalanga and look north for trade and other opportunities that exist for business in the region and the rest of Africa.

And when these immigrants – legal residents pursuing legal occupations – have been attacked, they have sought the protection and advice of the police.

Yet, according to those who have asked for help over the past week, the police have repeatedly failed to protect them or even respond, with the exception of last week's demonstrations.

Much is made of crime in South Africa. The police have a responsibility to protect South African citizens but surely all people who are living here as well.

If South Africa wants to "bring the Olympics home to Africa", and to be one of Africa's representatives in the World Cup in France, then it seems South Africans may have to make some significant steps to change the kind of home and welcome they give for Africans living in and visiting this country.

(The writers are researchers with the Southern African Migration Project, a research project based in South Africa with partners in Lesotho, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.)

Duarte wants tighter control of foreigners

Sowetan 29/8/97

By Sello Seripe

THE Department of Home Affairs must ensure that foreign nationals visiting South Africa for a specific period returned to their countries on expiry of their permits

Speaking exclusively to *Sowetan* on Wednesday, Gauteng MEC for Safety and Security Mrs Jessie Duarte said many foreigners entered SA on the pretext of being on holiday, but then settled here

Duarte's office together with the Micro Economic Business Chamber has made attempts to help reduce the animosity between local and non-SA hawkers

She suggested that relevant local government departments should restructure the issuing of hawker permits to limit the number of hawkers

Although the MEC was aware that most foreign hawkers had left their own countries because of poverty, she said South Africans, who were also in a desperate situation, had to claim more space for hawking their wares

According to the MEC, the United Nations High Commissioner

for Refugees reports that Mozambicans, Zimbabwean and Malawians are not political refugees "Therefore, there is no reason for their being here," Duarte said

"However, I am aware that most of the neighbouring countries find themselves in a pauper-like situation - especially Mozambique - as a result of economic strangulation by the National Party government

"We are also aware that some farmers, especially in the Magaliesberg area, are using these poor foreigners. Instead of paying them, they call police and get them arrested," she said

Make a living

Duarte also understood that according to section 41 of the Aliens Control Act of 1991, aliens also have the right to earn a living, but not at the expense of locals

Meanwhile, the Human Rights Commission (HRC) is planning a meeting that will bring together the feuding hawkers

The HRC will also help locals understand that aliens have a right to make a living

(236)

Illegals run gauntlet of death as lions shot

ETIENNE ROTHBART



Deadly once lions have tasted human flesh, they don't stop. They turn into man-eaters and never stop hunting for humans and must be put down, says a game ranger.

8 Nov 13 | 8 | 97

(236)

Man-eaters slain after 11 known deaths this year of Mozambicans crossing Kruger Park in search of work

BY SHIRLEY WOODGATE AND SAVA

Large numbers of illegal aliens who regularly cross the Mozambican border into South Africa are daily risking a terrible death as they run the two-day gauntlet of thousands of wild animals - especially lions - roaming over almost two million ha of conservation area in the Kruger National Park.

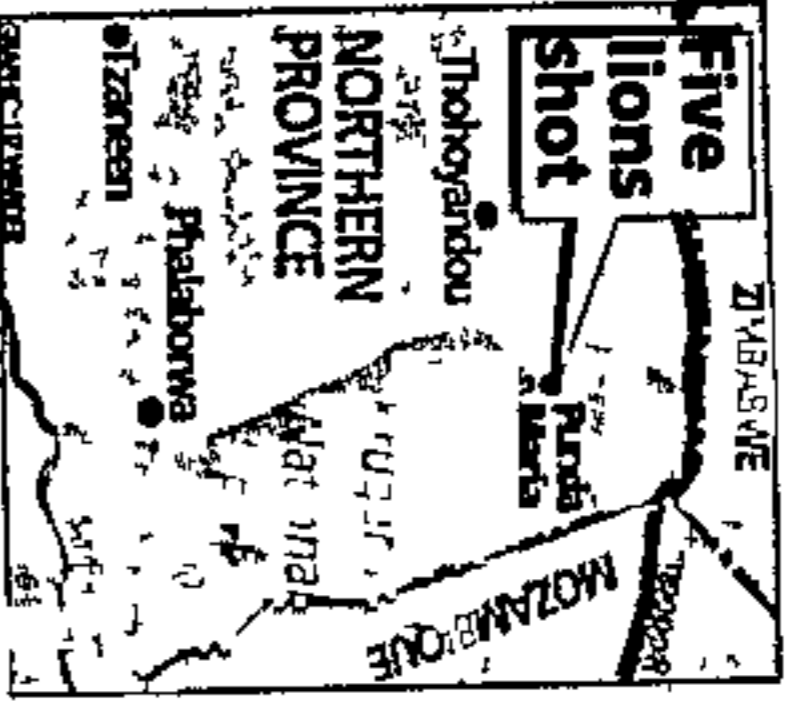
The danger was highlighted this week when five lions which killed four Mozambicans attempting to enter South Africa illegally were put down by park wardens on Monday.

The death of the Mozambicans brought to 11 the number of border-jumpers known to have been killed by wild animals in the park in the past nine months.

A post-mortem revealed human remains in the stomachs of all the lions. A purse worth about R8 in Mozambican currency was found in the stomach of one of the animals.

The National Parks Board said the pride killed three border-jumpers over the past three weeks, and attacked and ate their fourth victim in the Pafuri/Punda Maria camp area in the northern part of the park on Monday morning.

Sources indicate the illegals who come to South Africa from Mozambique and Zimbabwe in a desperate search for work are not only facing possible death from some 2 000



lions, but crocodiles in the rivers they must cross.

Park warden Harold Brack said, "It may appear cruel to a lot of people that we put down these lions, but we had no choice. Our experience with lions is that, once they have tasted human flesh, they don't stop. They turn into man-eaters and they never stop hunting for human beings."

Board spokesman Fanyana Sibhoni said Monday's victim was among a group of six Mozambicans who were repatriated at the weekend following their arrest two weeks ago. They were detained in Louis Trichardt before being deported on Saturday.

Five of the illegal aliens returned on Sunday to the northern part of the park where they were attacked by the lions at the Kremetjart drinking hole. Four who climbed into a Mopani tree to escape the lions later handed themselves over to SA National De-

fence Force soldiers. Police spokeswoman Inspector Salome Gouws said, "We will now repatriate them to Mozambique for the second time."

More than 2 000 illegal immigrants have been repatriated to Mozambique this year alone, many of them returning as soon as they can along well known routes. Sources at the park indicated there was no way of knowing how many illegals had been killed by animals.

While the peak of the influx of refugees escaping to South Africa during the war between Pretoria and Reunamo had now passed, the latest influx into South Africa consisted of work seekers who often cross a stretch of about 50km across the park once a month to take money and food to their families at home.

They travel light and unarmed, usually moving at night carrying only the basics such as food and drinking water in a plastic can.

When they are attacked and killed it may be months before a game warden on his routine rounds of remote areas discovers the bones of an anonymous person.

A total of 180 713 illegal immigrants were repatriated and 517 people were deported last year. Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday a further 41 466 illegals were repatriated in the first three months of 1997.

Page 2

Rioting city hawkers target foreign traders

(236) Star 14/8/97

Protest against aliens turns nasty as
marchers smash windows, loot shops

By **PATRICK PHOSA**

Hawkers protesting against foreign vendors in Johannesburg's city centre went on the rampage yesterday, smashing windows, looting shops and other hawkers' goods, and assaulting foreigners.

About 300 hawkers left their stalls on the street pavements empty to attend a meeting at the Library Gardens, where the "invasion" of the hawking trade by foreigners was discussed.

The foreigners had also abandoned their stalls because they feared attacks from the South Africans.

The locals vented their anger at the foreigners for "infesting the city streets and killing our business" and expressed their frustration at the Government for "doing nothing to rid the streets of foreigners".

Police said hawkers later marched towards Hillbrow, smashing windows and looting shops on the way.

They assaulted foreigners and local hawkers who had not heeded the "no-selling" call. Several hawkers were arrested.

Moffat Sebulelo, a spokesman for the Greater Johannesburg Hawkers' Planning Committee, said the locals would forcibly remove the foreigners from Johannesburg city streets from today.

He said they would do this

because business had become unprofitable since foreigners started flocking into South Africa.

"They sell their goods cheaply and we cannot compete with them. This way our business is destroyed. And they also sell counterfeit goods," he claimed.

But Sebulelo (37), who became a hawker in 1970, distanced his organisation from the unruly behaviour of the looters yesterday.

He said the hawkers' meeting was "hijacked" by a group of jobless people who then marched without permission.

On July 9 the hawkers marched to the Metropolitan Centre in Braamfontein, where they delivered a memorandum demanding the suspension of the construction of stalls until their problems were addressed.

The hawkers plan to march to the Department of Home Affairs offices on September 7 to demand the expulsion of foreign hawkers from the city centre.

Chris Rabaji, a Southern council economic development committee executive member, said there was no room for the foreigners in the city because the council was accountable only to South Africans.

He said the council had to put up stalls to ensure local hawkers traded in a proper environment.



A group of South African hawkers removing the stalls of foreign-born vendors in a Johannesburg street yesterday. Earlier in the day hundreds of hawkers had marched to the Library Gardens to protest against foreign vendors. They later marched towards Hillbrow, the core area of foreign vendors, overturning stalls along the way. The hundreds of hawkers who normally vend from stalls along the streets of central Johannesburg were absent yesterday afternoon.

PIC MBUZENI ZULU

Hawkers rampage

Sowetan 14/8/97

By Dan Fuphe and Sapa

(236)

AT LEAST six hawkers were arrested, shop windows smashed and trading stalls overturned in central Johannesburg yesterday after hawkers went on the rampage through the city after a protest meeting.

Angry members of the Inner Johannesburg Hawkers' Committee (IJHC) ran riot in the streets, chasing what they said were "leeches" from other countries who had set up hawking stalls in the city.

Dozens of heavily armed policemen assisted by members of the Johannesburg Traffic Department had their hands full trying to quell what nearly turned out to be a full-scale battle between South African street hawkers and those from African countries such as Mozambique, Zaire, Somalia and Rwanda. Hawkers from Asian countries were also targeted.

Johannesburg police spokesman Superintendent Chris Wilken said about 300 hawkers gathered at the Library Gardens in Market Street at about 9am to voice their dismay against foreign vendors trading in the city.

"Everything was peaceful up to then. People made their speeches and the gathering started to break up around 11:35am," he said.

The hawkers broke up into about eight groups of between 30 to 60 people and started moving in the direction of Hillbrow. Chaos broke out in Hillbrow's Clam Street where one group plundered stalls belonging to foreign traders. The same thing happened in central Johannesburg where by the afternoon there was not a hawker in sight on the streets.

Chairman of the IJHC Mr Mannekie Solomon told *Sowetan* that since the new dispensation, which allowed foreigners equal trading rights, their businesses which they had fought for during the apartheid era were on the verge of collapse. "We fought the Nationalist government very hard to be where we are today, only to be hit by a deluge of foreign traders who do not even show any sense of cleanliness," he said.

He said his association comprised 630 registered members but were eclipsed by about 10 000 foreign hawkers.

"We are prepared to push them out of the city, come what may," he said. "My group is not prepared to let our government inherit a garbage city all because of these leeches."

Mayhem in Jo'burg as 'foreign' hawkers given the boot by locals

~~1578~~ (236) ARG 14/8/97
ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg - Stick and sjambok-wielding hawkers swept through the streets here for the second day today, attacking "foreign" traders and overturning their stalls.

Watched by fearful shopkeepers, local vendors hastily pulled their wares off Kerk Street mall as at least two waves of angry hawkers raced through the city, spreading mayhem soon after 10am. Some local vendors were attacked too.

The vigilante groups, initially just young men, were soon joined by women - some with babies strapped to their backs

As they moved along President and Sauer streets, they wrecked hawkers' stands, leaving the road strewn with tomatoes, bananas and nuts.

One hawker said. "It's not that I am a foreigner, they just came to steal"

At least six hawkers were arrested, many shop windows smashed and trading stalls overturned in central Johannesburg and Hillbrow yesterday after hawker vigilantes rampaged through the city after a protest meeting at Library Gardens

About 300 local hawkers vented their anger at foreigners for "infesting the city streets and killing our business". They expressed frustration at the Government for "doing nothing to rid the streets of foreigners".

Illegals 'not criminals'

ET 14/8/97

OWN CORRESPONDENT

(236)

~~ET~~

PRITORIA Organised crime and illegal immigrants are not the main culprits in South Africa's escalating crime rate

Dr Chris de Kock, director in charge of crime research at the police's National Crime Information Centre said that although the estimated four million illegal immigrants had long been blamed for the escalating violence, it wasn't true

A few immigrants were involved in taxi wars, he said, but most were illegally employed as cheap labour in legitimate industries

De Kock also played down the role of organised crime syndicates, saying that although the syndicates were on the increase they did not play a direct role

'Yes, they do contribute by selling drugs and bringing weapons into the country but it is the moral position of the citizens of South Africa which does the damage'

A pilot study conducted over a four-day period in Hillbrow showed that 80% of all suspects arrested were under the influence of alcohol or drugs, he said

Only two percent of the 26 000 murders that occurred in South Africa every year were carried out by organised crime syndicates, he said

Illegals to blame for joblessness?

ET 14/8/97

(236) (205) (204)

CHERYL CHIPPS

IT IS widely claimed that unemployment ranks alongside crime as South Africa's greatest challenge. Indeed, some argue that until joblessness has been drastically reduced, crime will not.

But it is not at all clear just how large a problem unemployment actually is; those other bogeymen in the public's mind, illegal immigrants, may also have little to do with crime and unemployment. On the contrary, their participation in our economy may be irreplaceable.

A "significant proportion" of people who claim to be unemployed are in fact productively employed in the informal sector of the economy. This is according to a study conducted by the South African Institute of Race Relations. The preliminary results of the study are reported in the latest *South Africa Survey*, published by the Institute.

The study questioned the validity of claimed unemployment after it found that the monthly personal expenditure of people who said they were unemployed was more or less at the same level as that of employed, low-level unskilled workers. Less than one fifth of the unemployed were living in dire poverty. Some 30% of coloured and 21% of African "unemployed" respondents to the study said that they were working in the informal sector, while the figure for Indian and white respondents was somewhat lower at 15%.

According to estimates by the Central Statistical Service, 1,74 million people (or 17% of the total number of people working) were involved in the informal sector, three quarters of whom were self-employed. The CSS estimated that the monthly contribution of the self-employed in the informal sector to gross domestic product was about R2,7 billion in 1995. According to the study, a number of the "officially unemployed" were not in the market for low-wage, labour-intensive job-creation schemes because of their earnings outside the formal sector.

At the same time, opinion polls indicate that most South Africans in all race groups regard illegal immigrants as the single greatest cause of unemployment. This despite the effects of the distortion of the economy over decades in pursuit of social engineering. But would South Africa's unemployed accept the jobs that immigrants are apparently happy to

take? It is not clear that they would.

The lowest wage (after deductions) that unemployed African respondents were prepared to accept for formal-wage employment was at an average of R756 a month. White respondents indicated that they would not accept a wage or salary below R1 434 a month. This is significantly higher than what is regarded as the kind of wage that should be paid in public unemployment relief programmes, and is close to the market-related wages paid for unskilled starting grades in many formal commercial and industrial sectors.

The study demonstrated that supporters of the ANC and the IFP were emphatic in blaming business self-interest for unemployment.

The majority of South Africans believed that trade union demands had a significant effect on unemployment and in creating inflexibility in the labour market.

Democratic Party, IFP, National Party and right-wing supporters endorsed this view strongly, as did African semi-skilled workers and people earning less than R600 a month.

Most of this country's unemployed are apparently not prepared to work at the same income levels as foreign workers, and the ... hostility towards [them] could be ... scapegoating.

Unemployed Africans, Indians and supporters of the Pan-Africanist Congress were the most inclined to disagree with this view. Some 53% of ANC supporters said that trade union pressure was at least partly to blame for unemployment. This is surprising considering the prominence of the Congress of South African Trade Unions within the ANC alliance. But if even the

non-unionised are not prepared to accept jobs at low wages, then who will take these on?

There is simply no convincing evidence to suggest that illegal immigrants are taking large numbers of jobs away from South Africans. The majority of this country's unemployed are apparently not prepared to work at the same income levels as foreign workers, and the perceived hostility towards foreign workers could, therefore, be a form of scapegoating rather than the result of competition for scarce jobs.

It appears that we have no choice but to rely on foreigners to carry the load of low-paying jobs if we are to enjoy economic growth.

□ Cheryl Chipps is a researcher at the South African Institute of Race Relations and a co-author of the 1996/97 *South Africa Survey*, released this week.

Hawkers vow to continue CBD protests

Star 15/8/97 (236) (KSA)

Locals warned to stop selling goods
for foreigners, and people assaulted
during trashing of Jo'burg city centre

By **PATRICK PHOSA**

Hawkers in the Johannesburg CBD have vowed to intensify their campaign to remove foreign vendors from Johannesburg's city centre following two days of mayhem and looting and the arrest of at least 100 hawkers.

A rampant mob of locals wielding sticks, knobkerries and sjamboks assaulted foreign traders for "invading our trade", overturned their stalls, and mugged people and trashed streets yesterday.

They marched to John Vorster Square police station where they demanded the release of their chairman.

A spokesman for the Greater Johannesburg Hawkers' planning committee, Moffat Sebulelo, said hawkers would apply for a

three-month permit to stage mass protests in the city to oust foreigners. "The Government should deport them," he said.

Sebulelo said locals selling for foreigners had been encouraged to start their own businesses or face the wrath of the committee if "they continued selling for the Pakistanis, Chinese and Indians".

Sebulelo said the committee had urged the locals "to put aside the little money they get to start their own businesses".

There are between 10 000 and 12 000 hawkers in the inner city and about 25 000 throughout Greater Johannesburg.

For a Mozambican national, Thomas Muteko (16), who says he fears for his life, life is difficult on the streets, especially with the recent spate of the attacks. Thomas sells fruits in President Street for a Pakistani man, and says he is doing so for survival. "I have no choice, but to do what I am doing because I have to live. It is not that I want to take away business from the South Africans, I have no other source of income," he said.

Next to him is Julia Mmine, a South African, who says foreigners should be thrown out of the country. She used to make R400 a day before the 1994 elections, but now she takes home R40 a week. "This is because foreigners flocked here after the elections and took our business. We will not rest until they are gone," she said.

Gauteng Safety and Security MEC Jessie Duarte urged vendors not to be influenced by people who thrived on lawlessness and said she would meet the leaders today.

Lee-Ann Alfreds reports that Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council spokesman Roger Hand said the council had been taken by surprise by demonstrations yesterday and on Wednesday by the hawkers' planning committee.

He added that by-laws regarding hawkers, promulgated on January 8, would be implemented as soon as the question of enforcement had been finalised.

“
**I have
no other
source
of income**
”

Taiwanese in court for false residence permits

Sowetan 30/9/97 (206) (236)

A TAIWANESE national appeared in the Pretoria Regional Court yesterday in connection with alleged fraud and bribery involving the Department of Home Affairs and R2,5 million

Investigating officer Captain Blackie Swart said charges against Mr Paul Chuang (41) related to the illegal issuing of permanent residence permits to 272 Taiwanese nationals, who had entered the country with tourist visas last year

The case was postponed to January 27, when he will be asked to plead

Chuang was arrested last November with five others, including a serving Department of Home Affairs official. They had allegedly charged 54 Taiwanese families about R30 000 each for the falsified permits

Chuang was rearrested in July after he fled prosecution

He apparently posed as an immigration agent and obtained the permits fraudulently from Home Affairs officials, whom he allegedly bribed

Swart said another 52 families, scattered across the country, were believed to have been defrauded but statements still had to be taken from them

Those arrested with Chuang were the head of the department's Randfontein office, Mr Chabaud Botha, the retired head of the Roodepoort office, Mr Derrick van der Merwe, and immigration agent Joubert Bosman

They have appeared in court twice since their arrest and will be asked to plead in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court on October 9, said Inspector Johan Fourie of the alien investigation unit

Swart said three more people were

being sought. They were Taiwanese national Mr Jeffrey Chen and purported immigration agent Mr Chris Hendrikz, who both fled the country after their arrest. The third unnamed man had not yet been arrested

Swart said police were alerted to the scam when they arrested one family with false residence permits last year

All the families had brought no less than R3 million with them to South Africa, money which they have since invested in houses and businesses

According to law, people can only apply for permanent residence permits from their country of origin and not while in South Africa

Home Affairs spokesman Mr Hennie Meyer said the Taiwanese nationals were not at this stage considered accomplices in the crime - *Sapa*

Resentment building up in Zambia against SA settler farmers

Star 22/9/97 (236)

Lusaka - A week after being admitted to the university teaching hospital in Zambia's capital, Lusaka, a farm worker in the Chisamba area died from first-degree burns and other injuries after his Afrikaner employer allegedly poured acid on him and beat him for tiring easily during farm work

The Zambia Civic Education Association, a local NGO, tried in vain to get legal action over the incident

Association chief Lucy Sichone said: "We failed to see the assault case through because the victim was dead and nobody else was ready to step on to the witness stand."

Chisamba, a farming block 42km outside Lusaka, is home-away-from-home for several South African farming and game ranching settlers

In the southern province, villagers in Saichobe area, about 200km outside the city limits, had a shock when settlers appeared in their village one morning waving title deeds in their faces and ordering them to vacate the land they and their ancestors had tilled.

"In the case of the displaced villagers, we could do nothing either because the settlers were in possession of title deeds, which are legal according to the new Land Act," said Sichone

Land is held in trust by the president on behalf of the citizens, according to a controver-

sial law passed in September 1995, which removed powers from the chiefs

According to Sichone, the new law means that every Zambian without title deeds is in danger of being treated as a squatter.

The National Farmers Union, comprising mostly big commercial farmers, seems to welcome the influx of settlers

Sichone says. "(The settlers) seem to have come with their own law"

She says in the north "local farmers, both white and black, are ganging up to buy land whenever they get wind of South Africans being interested in it".

The civic association contends that the settlers are using local members of parliament to smooth their way. It is also alleged that chiefs are being bribed with gifts such as cars or shares in game reserves located in their areas.

Concessions for game ranching and reserves, as distinct to farms, are given by the wildlife and parks department on 15- to 25-year renewable leases. Critics think the issue of the influx is a time bomb if the relevant authorities ignore the plight of locals.

It has been reported that some NGOs have called upon villagers to arm themselves and fight if anyone tries to come and take over their land
- Star Foreign Service-AIA

SA migrants in Oz top the income tree

Sydney - South Africans were by far the richest migrant group in the city, according to a new survey just released.

About 40% of them, aged between 22 and 45, earned \$A1 000 (about R 3 400) a week or more, it added, well ahead of the next group, Malaysians, who had just 29% earning that salary

The survey, into the financial status of the 3.5 million people who live in Australia's biggest city, was conducted by

the Centre for Population and Urban Research at Monash University in Melbourne.

Director Dr Bob Birrell said many South Africans had incomes higher than Australians.

Along with Malaysians and British, they earned significantly more than all other migrants. There was then a big gap between these three nationalities and the next, headed by New Zealanders and Indians. - Star Foreign Service

Star 22/9/97 (236)

Curbs favour SA migrants

FOREIGN SERVICE

(236)
ARG 18/9/97

Melbourne - South Africans wishing to emigrate to Australia will be the big beneficiaries of tighter entrance conditions on skilled migrants soon to be announced by the Australian government.

The basis of the new rules will be the requirement of a minimum financial base and tougher screening of qualifications to make entry harder for those occupations which are already oversupplied.

The underlying reason for the shake-up is to eliminate any possibility that the annual skilled migration intake will contribute to Australia's already high unemployment.

In future skilled immigrants will need to prove that they have at least R150 000 to provide for themselves if they are not able to obtain jobs immediately. Such migrants are not allowed access to the dole or other welfare payments for their first two years in Australia.

The changes address what is seen in government circles as the "Sri Lankan psychologist taxi driver syndrome" - a crude reference to the problems encountered by many skilled migrants in finding work in their chosen fields.

Officials said almost all potential South African migrants would easily be able to meet the new requirements and would thus have an advantage over those from less affluent countries.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH

- 1 Yes The Health Systems Trust has done research for the Department of Health
- 2 The projects are
- 2.1 Evaluation of the Primary School Nutrition Project
- This research project looked at various components of Primary School Nutrition Programme including coverage, educational messages, community involvement eating patterns, parasite treatment and the place of farm schools. The following are research areas covered
- (a) *Review of existing nutritional data and its implications for PSNP*
The aim of this area of research was to analyse available nutrition data using demographic as well as nutritional status, and review published and grey literature
- (b) *Investigation of opportunities of extending the parameters of the Primary School Nutrition Programme*
The aim of this area of research was to provide ways by which the PSNP can include greater community participation and be more cost effective and cost beneficial through linkages with other nutrition related interventions
- (c) *Parasite control for the Primary School Nutrition Programme evaluation*
The aim of this area of research was to place the school based control of parasites in the context of the Primary School Nutrition Programme
- (d) *Primary School Nutrition Programme in schools on commercial farms*
The aim of this area of research was to assess whether PSNP could play a catalyst role for an integrated nutrition programme on commercial farm schools
- (e) *Assessment of food Quality and Quantity Issues in the evaluation of the Primary School Nutrition Programme*
The aim of this area of research was to identify acceptable food quality in the Primary School Nutrition Programme which would meet the main objective which is to alleviate short term hunger
- 3
- 2.2 *Evaluation of Protein Energy Malnutrition in the Northern Cape*
The aim of this research is to assess the existing PEM scheme as well as develop and implement a monitoring system for the scheme in the Northern Cape
- 2.3 *An Evaluation of the Protein Energy Malnutrition (PEM) Food Scheme for children aged 0-5 years at all clinics in Mitchells Plain*
The aim of this research was to describe the implementation and evaluate the effectiveness of the protein energy malnutrition scheme in the Mitchells Plain district with regard to rehabilitation of under weight children under the age of 6 years
- 3 *Parasite control study in KwaZulu-Natal*
The aim of this research was to analyse the cost effectiveness and efficiency of a holistic Bilharzia control programme in Mpolweni Mission, Natal Midlands, KwaZulu-Natal, and document the impact and then present it to the Department of Health, KwaZulu-Natal
- 4 *Free Health Care for Pregnant Women and Children under the age of six in South Africa*
The aim of this research project was to look at

perceptions of consumers and providers of free care, conduct economic appraisal of the free health care policy and an evaluate the impact on the use of services

5 *Reproductive Health Research*5.1 *Developing tools to assess the quality of STD care*

The aim of this research study is to develop and pilot a performance based quality assessment instrument for routine use by district clinic supervisors

5.2 *Barriers to access and provision of effective and appropriate contraceptives for adolescents Patient and provider perspective*

The aim of this research study is to contribute to the improvement in accessibility and quality of family planning services and contraceptive service provision for adolescents in the Northern Province of South Africa

Emigration of doctors/specialists

*19 Mr I J PRETORIUS asked the Minister of Health †

(1) Whether there is an increase in the number of medical doctors and specialists leaving South Africa, if so,

(2) whether she or her Department has taken or intends taking any steps with a view to preventing the loss of such experts, if not, why not, if so, what steps,

(3) whether she will make a statement on the matter? N1579E

The MINISTER OF HEALTH

(1) Yes, in 1995, 56 general practitioners and 15 specialist left the country. In 1996 more (97) general practitioners and fewer (11) specialists left the country. It is however not known as yet, whether these doctors were from the public sector or the private sector

(2) Yes, an improved salary dispensation has been implemented and we will implement non-financial support, trusting that it will prevent the expertise leaving the Republic. We have also increased the number of doctors in the public sector which decreases the workload

(3) No

Source: *Central Statistical Services, 1997*

Nationalisation of health care: statements

*20 Mrs P W CUPIDO asked the Minister of Health †

Whether her or her Department's attention has been drawn to the statements by a certain person, whose name has been furnished to her Department for the purpose of her reply, at the Europe SA 97 Conference in Scotland in regard to the nationalisation of health care in South Africa, if so, what was her reaction in this regard? N1580E

The MINISTER OF HEALTH

No

*21 Mr J W MAREE – Justice [Withdrawn]

Residents at Pelican Park/Acacia Park/Laboria Park: regulations

*22 Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister of Public Works

(1) Whether any regulations exist governing the conduct of residents at Pelican Park, Acacia Park and Laboria Park, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, how are these regulations enforced in each case

(2) whether these regulations have been found to be adequate, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so what are the relevant details,

(3) whether his Department received any complaints during the latest specified period of six months for which information is available, from residents in these areas concerning the conduct of other residents, if so, in each case, (a) what was the nature of the complaint, (b) who was the subject of the complaint and (c) what action was taken in response? N1583E

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS

(1) Draft rules governing the three Parliamentary Villages have been compiled and distributed to the occupants of the Villages. It was decided at a meeting on 19 May 1997 with the Chief Whips of the Political Parties and the

Hausward

Neither Attorneys-General nor prosecutors need my permission to become involved in monitoring investigations

My view is that in the current situation there should be closer co-operation, though unfortunately the prosecutors cannot do the work of the police

There are also certain specialist areas in which public prosecutors need to be more closely involved through active monitoring, for example in commercial (white collar) crime, organised transnational (syndicate) crime and special investigations. Active monitoring, however places a huge additional burden on the prosecution services and the current lack of resources and human power hamper implementation in all cases. In the same way that a new court management system is being developed, Attorneys-General are re-organising the prosecution system to fit in the new cluster system. In addition and as part of the restructuring process, additional resources including resources to employ more prosecutors are required and being sought.

(2) Attorneys-General encourage better liaison between public prosecutors and investigating officers in order to address the deficiencies in police investigations. Measures to stop the loss of experienced prosecutors and to create more posts are under way. The training of all court personnel is a high priority and Justice College is also executing a business plan in this regard on an urgent basis. Part of the business plan consists of joint prosecutor-investigating officer-training and this will definitely improve the situation.

Medical interns: postgraduate vocational training

*4 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Health

- (1) Whether medical students currently registered as interns with the Interim National Medical and Dental Council of South Africa, have to undergo any additional years of postgraduate vocational training with effect from 1998 if so, what are the relevant details,
- (2) whether such students have been officially

informed of this decision if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, when.

(3) whether she or her Department has devised a plan to ensure that students are sent to hospitals that have adequate facilities, if not, why not, if so, what is this plan,

(4) whether negotiations with hospitals in respect of the allocation of such students have taken place, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, what were the results of these negotiations,

(5) whether such students will be receiving any guidance or be supervised during the additional years of postgraduate vocational training, if not, why not, if so, from or by whom? N1841E

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

- (1) No
- (2) Not applicable
- (3) Not applicable
- (4) Not applicable
- (5) Not applicable

Brain-drain of doctors

*8 Rev K R MESHOE asked the Minister of Health

(1) Whether her Department is currently experiencing a brain-drain owing to the proposed requirement that doctors undergo an extra year of training, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, what are the relevant details,

(2) whether an investigation has been undertaken so as to determine whether this requirement will not accelerate this process, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details,

(3) whether doctors who undergo such extra training will be granted any incentives in this regard, if not, why not, if so, what incentives? N1846E

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

- (1) No information is available to indicate that the Department of Health is experiencing a brain-drain

(2) Not applicable

(3) Doctors working in many rural hospitals already qualify for a special area allowance. The way in which this system works is being reviewed.

Questions standing over from Wednesday, 3 September 1997 (transferred for oral reply in accordance with Rule 202)

Schoolchildren: malnutrition

*7 Mrs E J CHAIT asked the Minister of Health [Written Question No 913]

(1) (a) How many schoolchildren in South Africa suffered from malnutrition in 1996 and (b) how many of these schoolchildren were between the ages of (i) 5 and 9, (ii) 9 and 13 and (iii) 13 and 18 years,

(2) whether the figure furnished in respect of paragraph (1) (a) represents an increase as compared to 1995, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, what was the extent of this increase,

(3) whether she or her Department intends taking any steps to improve the situation in this regard, if not, why not, if so, what steps? N1606E

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

(1) (a) Unknown

(b) (i), (ii) and (iii) fall away

(2) Falls away

(3) Yes, the Department of Health is currently developing a National Nutrition Surveillance System which will enable it to better manage nutrition information. This system is developed through pilots and will be phased in over a period of time.

Infant mortality rate

*8 Mrs P W CUPIDO asked the Minister of Health [Written Question No 914]

(a) What was the infant mortality rate in (i) South Africa and (ii) the (aa) rural and (bb) metropolitan areas in (aaa) 1994, (bbb) 1995 and (ccc) 1996 and (b) what is the estimated

average infant mortality rate in South Africa for (i) 1997, (ii) 1998, (iii) 1999 and (iv) 2000? N1607E

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

(a)

	Infant Mortality Rates per 1 000 live births		
Areas	in 1994	in 1995	in 1996
South Africa	49	46	43,9
Rural areas	86**	*	*
Metropolitan areas	12	*	*

**This figure excludes Infant mortality in former TBVC states

(b) Information is not available

* Information concerning rural and metropolitan parts of the population is not available as the latest mortality study in South Africa was conducted in 1993 by the CSS (Central Statistical Studies)

Hospitals: corruption/discrimination/victimisation

*9 Dr W A ODENDAAL asked the Minister of Health [Written Question No 915]

Whether any hospitals in South Africa were (a) reported in connection with and/or (b) under investigation following allegations of (i) corruption, (ii) discrimination and/or (iii) victimisation (aa) in (aaa) 1995 and/or (bbb) 1996 and/or (bb) during the period 1 January 1997 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, if so, (aaaa) how many and (bbbb) what was the outcome in each case? N1609E

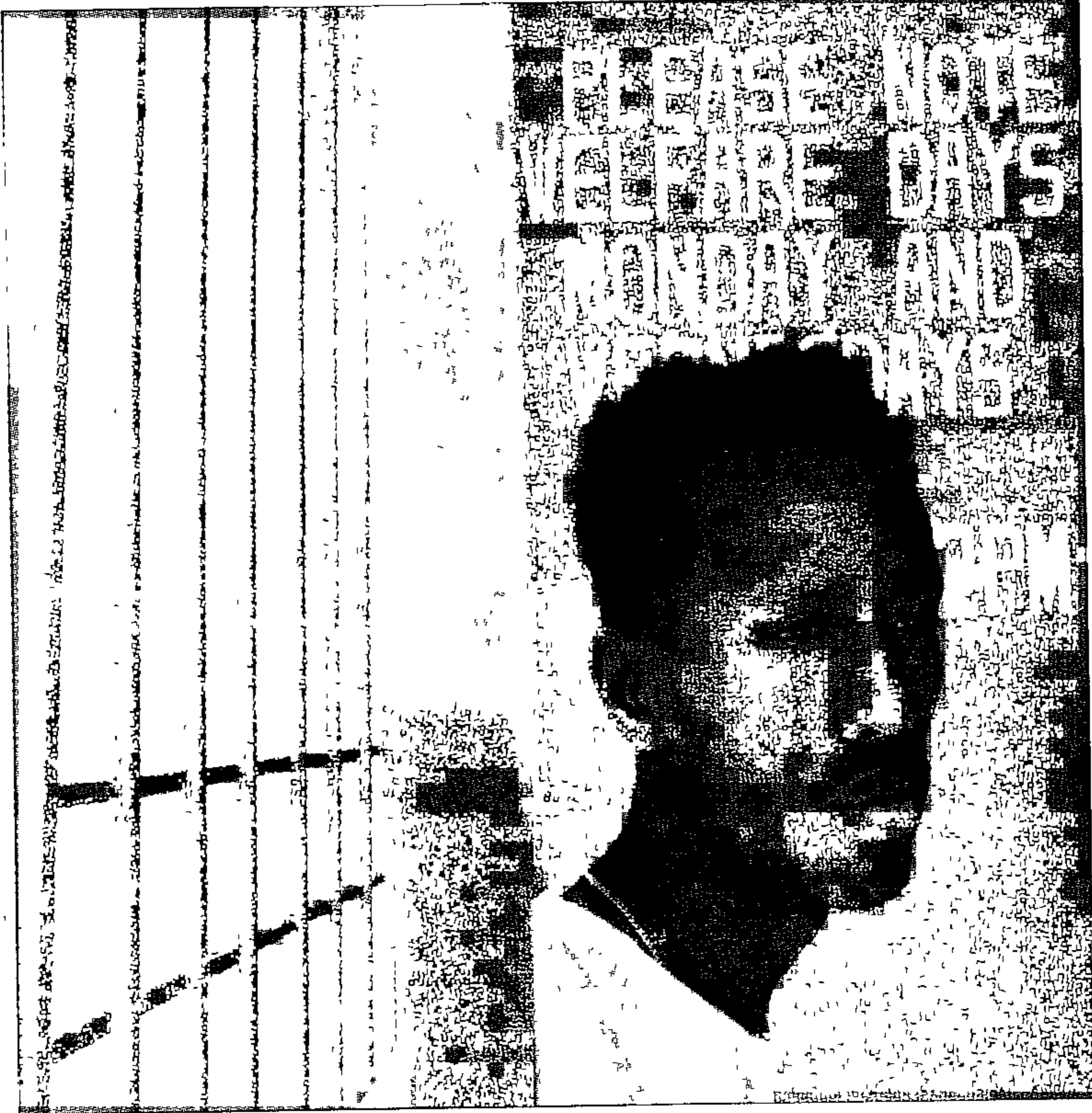
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

The hon member is advised to table this question in the different Provincial Legislatures for a reliable answer

New questions

SAPS: case concluded

*1 Mr A J LEON asked the Minister for Safety and Security



Desperate plight ... Somalian Mohammed Ali is one of 4 002 approved refugees already in South Africa.

Refugees seek asylum, but find more hardship

Star 9/10/97 (236)

Chased from their home country, they struggle to survive here too

By GASANT ABARDER

For Somalian refugee Mohamed Ali Yusuf (32), it was just another day of voluntary work for his daily bread and that of his daughter and two sons.

He was at work, although his 24-year-old wife had died just the previous day. For Yusuf, there was no time to grieve.

According to the Home Affairs department, Yusuf is one of 4 002 approved refugees in South Africa to date. He is unemployed.

"I sleep anywhere I can find a place. Refugees are suffering here and the Government only gives you papers. You have to look after yourself. If you are a hawker they take all your stuff. They say I am an illegal foreigner," Yusuf said.

Charity organisations which look after refugees, find it hard to cope with the influx of refugees entering SA every year from war-stricken countries like Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania and Zanzibar.

One such organisation is the Johannesburg Muslim Charity Organisation (JMCO) in Mayfair, Johannesburg, - where Yusuf works - which is headed by Ahmed Tarag. Without any Government grants and relying totally on the generosity of the community, they provide refugees with monthly food and clothing handouts.

Tarag said his main grievance with the refugee situation in South Africa was the manner in which refugee status permits were issued by Home Affairs. Asylum seekers are given permits, but then left to their own devices, he said.

"The Government gives them permits and says 'The best we can give you is the sky over your head.' Home Affairs said they do not have the finances to support refugees.

"Most of them can't get jobs. Housing is the biggest problem, they need shelter. They are found especially on the streets of Mayfair," said Tarag.

"They also rent houses and now there's a shortage of housing for citizens. Buildings are being taken up by refugees. Unscrupulous landlords push up the rent, knowing they are desperate. They then pool for a flat which causes unhygienic living conditions.

"Street vendors also can't distinguish between refugees and foreigners, and they (the refugees) are frequently harassed," Tarag said.

Tarag said refugees also come from Palestine, Yemen and other Middle Eastern countries.

With food hampers costing R250 a month per refugee, the JMCO's budget had been stretched from R20 000 to R60 000 per year, because of refugees. The

JMCO is also involved in helping local people who are destitute.

Department of Home Affairs spokesman Hennie Meyer confirmed both the statistics and the procedures Tarag described, but declined to give further comment.

He said the definition of a refugee as found in the UN convention, a protocol relating to the status of refugees, and the Organisation of African Unity convention relating to the specific problems of refugees in Africa, governed how South Africa handled refugees. SA is a signatory to all three and thus has an obligation to accept refugees.

He said refugees apply for asylum at Home Affairs. An interview is conducted and the applicant is issued with a temporary permit legalising his stay, pending the outcome of his asylum application.

The permit allows the holder to seek employment or study in the country. No financial assistance is provided.

Approved refugees are entitled to the same social services as permanent residents. They are also entitled to travel documents issued by Home Affairs.

Meyer said there are now 20 365 asylum seekers in the country and this grows at 7 200 a year. There are 13 205 asylum seekers and 2 229 approved refugees in Gauteng alone.

Plan to tighten up on bail comes under fire

New bill 'may flout constitution'

ART 13/10/97

POLITICAL STAFF

Legislation which tightens up conditions of bail is in for a rough ride through the parliamentary justice portfolio committee this week, with opposition from human rights groups and opposition parties.

Questions are also expected to arise about the constitutionality of the measure, which places the onus on those charged with serious crimes - murder, rape and robbery - to show why they deserve bail.

The Criminal Procedure Second Amendment Bill has already faced strong opposition from the Human Rights Committee, the Black Sash, Lawyers for Human Rights, the National Association of Democratic

Lawyers and the South African Institute of Race Relations.

While the National Party is likely to support the measure because it makes bail conditions more difficult, the Democratic Party is expected to oppose its stipulation that magistrates also have to consider the sense of shock that granting bail to someone accused of a serious crime would have on the community.

But human rights groups are arguing that the bill may be unconstitutional, as the constitution enshrines every person's right to the due process of law - which is based on the principle of being innocent until proved guilty.

Justice Minister Dullah Omar, however, is responding to a growing perception that criminals are being

allowed to roam free, and the measure is interpreted by human rights groups as an over-reaction to public sentiment about crime.

DP justice spokesman Douglas Gibson says the capacity of the courts and the police to deal with criminal cases is a far greater problem.

Indeed, existing bail legislation passed in 1995 - the Criminal Procedure Amendment Act - had led to 10 000 extra accused being brought to trial.

The human rights groups say that the existing law is adequate.

This legislation provides for a ban on after-hours bail applications, with an application to be postponed if the attorney-general issues a written confirmation that the accused will be charged with a serious offence.

SA role in arms trade under fire

ARG 13/10/97

Johannesburg - Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town Njongonkulu Ndungane has criticised South Africa's involvement in the international arms trade.

Speaking at the end of a mass peace march in Assisi, Italy, he said it was significant that many world leaders were questioning South Africa's role in the arms race.

"They are saying that we are sending out mixed messages in terms of promoting global peace," he said.

"And they are adding that if we wish to be a forceful member of the southern hemisphere, we should not involve ourselves as a power broker in the field of arms," he said in a speech sent here - Sapa

SA slams the door on illegals and smugglers

(236)

ART 13/10/97

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg - Widespread smuggling and illegal immigration will be dealt a significant blow by a clamp on the number of land, sea and air entry points into South Africa, says Transport Minister Mac Maharaj.

It has been estimated that R17-billion a year is being lost in customs revenue, and that as many as 500 people are entering the country illegally every month.

Commenting on Cabinet approval for measures to restrict the number of international airports to 10 - of a total of 36 countrywide - Mr Maharaj

said some airports would be able to negotiate concessions for certain international flights.

The airports that will be allowed to clear goods and passengers for or from international flights are Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban International, and Bloemfontein, Lanseria, Nelspruit, Upington, Pietersburg, Mmabatho and Port Elizabeth.

The Safety and Security Department's deputy director-general, Bernie Fanaroff, said cross-border flights were at present allowed to land at virtually all airports. The restrictions would bring South Africa into line with other countries.

Upsurge in stowaways at SA ports

236

RAVIN MAHARAJ

ET (82) 14/10/97

Durban — The number of illegal immigrants or stowaways entering South Africa through the ports of Durban and Richards Bay was soaring, shipping industry leaders warned yesterday

The problem, they said, led to huge costs in repatriating stowaways to their countries of residence.

Shipping agents are obliged to absorb all costs, including repatriation, which can amount to \$30 000 for each illegal immigrant.

Nigel Sergeant, the general manager of King and Sons, the shipping agents, said the stowaway problem had worsened over the past 18 months, but the issue had not been taken seriously

He said at least 25 stowaways arrived in Durban every month

The number of stowaways boarding ships in South African ports is also increasing. Sergeant said stowaways favoured Maydon Wharf and the Point, the area close to the entrance of the harbour.

"Security is non-existent" at Maydon Wharf. The issue of stowaways cannot be sorted out until this issue is addressed "

Dan Dalton, the non-liner director of King and Sons, said there had been a "significant increase" in the number of stowaways — to three to four cases a week — at Richards Bay.

Stowaways, he said, seemed to be coming in from north Africa. Many were on temporary work permits, and when their permits elapsed, they would illegally board an outgoing vessel

Ronald Wohn, the director of Maritime Consulting and Research, a German safety and environmental management and quality management consultancy, said estimates showed there were 6 000 stowaways worldwide at any given time

ANC Women linked to deportation row

By Victor Mecoamere

FROM Nkomo's decision to relocate from Soweto to Hillbrow a few months ago almost led to his deportation to Zimbabwe after an eventful weekend at an aliens detention and repatriation centre in Randfontein.

He was stopped in Hillbrow on his way to work on Friday morning, accused of being a Zimbabwean and taken to the Lindelani Accommodation Centre, where suspected aliens are kept before repatriation.

Lindelani, which is owned by Dyambu Trust, a company that was created by several women members of the African National Congress, is a private deportation camp.

These include Deputy Speaker Ms Baleka Kgositse, Deputy Home Affairs Minister Ms Lindi Sisulu, Mrs Adelaide Tambo and Mrs Hilda Ndude.

The centre won a contract from the Department of Home Affairs last August.

Nkomo, a 28-year-old employee of a Johannesburg private security company, did not have his identity document on him at the time of his arrest.

An unidentified friend who was present during the arrest called Nkomo's grandmother, Mrs Nomonde Dube, in Mzimhlophe, Soweto.

Dube sent one of her other grandchildren to Lindelani on Saturday morning. He was made to wait for hours

after he produced proof of Nkomo's identity.

"When he asked the officials who were supposed to release Jerome (Nkomo) when he would be set free, he was told the ID was missing," said Dube at Lindelani yesterday.

She claimed that she was born in King William's Town, as did Jerome's mother, Mrs Farmer Dube.

Nkomo, whom Dube said had decided to move to Hillbrow a few months ago, had to spend a second night at Lindelani.

Inmates' complaints of beatings and ill-treatment surfaced in February and have been rife since then.

"I then went there on Sunday with Jerome's passport. The officials wanted to take it but I kept it and showed

them his ID numbers. They told me they could not help me because the computer was down," said Dube.

So she sought the help of the Gauteng safety and security department.

Dube said before departing from Lindelani on Sunday she saw Nkomo being slapped three times.

Sowetan accompanied a safety and security department official Mr Sylvester Rakhoadi to Lindelani yesterday soon after Dube was told that her grandson had been taken to Johannesburg Railway Station.

She was told that Nkomo was going to be sent by rail to Zimbabwe.

This reporter, a photographer, Dube and Rakhoadi were led to the

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office of immigration officer Mr Dolf Gouws, who declined to talk to *Sowetan*.

Then followed a high-speed drive to Johannesburg Railway Station.

On the way there I called Gouws' senior, Mr Andre Erasmus.

He wanted to know if there was proof that Nkomo was a South African.

On arrival at the station a Sergeant Mogapi and a Constable Kupi said immigration officials had already removed Nkomo from a group of 250 illegal immigrants.

The policemen said the officials were on their way with Nkomo to Lindelani, possibly for eventual release.

Sowetan 14/10/97

Man loses fight to be deported

(236)
Sowetan 15/10/97
By Pearl Rantsekeng

A 28-YEAR-OLD man faces repatriation to Zimbabwe tomorrow despite claims by his grandmother that he is a South African who grew up in Zimbabwe

Mr Jerome Nkomo was arrested in the Johannesburg city centre last Friday on his way to work. Nkomo, who works for a security company, did not have his identity document on him.

He was taken to Lindela Repatriation Centre, near Krugersdorp, where all illegal immigrants are kept before they are deported.

Nkomo's grandmother, Mrs Nomonde Dube, is adamant that he is a South African.

She claims that Nkomo, like his mother, was born in King William's Town. His mother went to live in Zimbabwe, taking Nkomo with her in the early 70s.

False information

According to Gauteng West Home Affairs inspector Mr Joshua Nethononda, Nkomo is a Zimbabwean who got his ID and passport by using false information.

"The man actually confessed that he is a Zimbabwean and that he had lied to get the identity document. And even before that we were able to verify his citizenship with the Zimbabwe trade mission, which confirmed our suspicions," said Nethononda.

Speaking to *Sowetan* at the centre, Nkomo denied making the confession and said he had told home affairs officials that he grew up in Zimbabwe and came to South Africa in 1989 to live with his grandmother in Soweto.

Identity document

"I told them what my grandmother told me about being born here and explained that I was too young to remember whether I was born here or not. They decided to conclude that I got the identity document falsely.

"But I did not, because my grandmother went and filed an affidavit for me so that I could qualify for an ID," said Nkomo.

He claimed that since his arrest he has been beaten by security guards and home affairs officials who said he had lied to the press.

Home affairs silent on initial queries from The Star

Star 15/10/97

(236)

The Star was contacted on Sunday September 21 by Steve Siphho Khoza, a South African citizen who claimed he was wrongfully held at Lindela as an illegal immigrant for two days.

In an interview, Khoza and his friend Ephraim Shangga, who fetched him from the camp, claimed they were charged R450 "bail" money for the release and were not given a receipt.

On Monday September 22 The Star spoke to Collen Khumalo, a credit controller from Johannesburg, who had also been picked up by police and taken to Lindela. He too is a South African citizen.

Khumalo's superior, Paul Fletcher, said Khumalo had disappeared over the previous weekend and failed to report for work on Monday September 15. Fletcher, through numerous phone calls, tracked Khumalo to Lindela and demanded his release. He went out to the camp and collected Khumalo.

Khumalo alleged he had been assaulted by a security

guard at the camp. He has since been for a medical examination and sought legal advice regarding possible further action.

The Star contacted the Human Rights Commission and was told that several complaints, similar to those of Khoza and Khumalo, had been received by the organisation.

On the same day, September 22, a reporter from The Star also contacted the Home Affairs Ministry in Pretoria for comment and was referred to spokesman Mpho Mawela. She was not immediately available, and The Star was asked to fax through a list of questions and was told that a response would be forthcoming in about 24 hours.

Some 48 hours passed, and no response arrived.

Also on September 22, The Star contacted the Lindela holding camp - both the management office and the immigration office.

Dolf Gouws, chief immigration officer at Lindela, agreed to speak to The Star and was quoted in our original

report which appeared on Thursday September 25.

Frans le Grange, head of operations for Dyanbu Trust, the private company contracted to run the facility, was also contacted. He was informed of the contents of the report, and his comments were used.

66

I stand by what I said and it's still my view

”

On Monday September 29, exactly a week after our questions had been sent to Pretoria, a regional officer from home affairs contacted The Star for clarity. The officer was told the report had already been carried.

Mawela contacted The Star on October 1, 10 days after the

request for her response had been made.

"Your queries about Lindela should have been directed through us," she said.

When informed that her office had been contacted and adequate time for its response allowed, she said "I don't know what happened in this instance. There has been an oversight I am sorry."

On October 1 The Star received a faxed complaint from Dyanbu Operations, claiming the Lindela article did "not have the content to warrant the headline (Illegal aliens' camp 'rife with bribery and corruption') given to it", and that Dyanbu had not been allowed to comment.

The complaint further stated that "Dyanbu employees were certainly not involved in the assault of any person" despite insinuations in the article, and that the full facts of a statement by advocate Liesl Gerntholtz (of the Human Rights Commission) had been taken out of context. The Star subsequently contacted Gerntholtz, who said

she had not been misquoted. "I stand by what I said and it's still my view. Nothing attributed to me was published out of context," she said.

She added that she had handed over complaint cases concerning Lindela inmates to the director-general of home affairs and was still waiting for a response.

The Star was invited by Dyanbu officials to visit Lindela camp "at short notice, if you so wish", and accepted the offer. Operations director Danny Mansell was told of The Star's intention to write again on the camp and given copies of two of the reports.

He agreed to a response deadline, but failed to submit a comment for publication. The Star concedes that the photograph published on September 25 was not taken at Lindela camp and apologises that, in editing the caption, the wrong impression was created. Mawela was again contacted for comment from home affairs, but also failed to respond within the suggested 24 hours.

The Star

Private facility holds illegal alien suspects

(236)

Lindela, a holding facility for suspected illegal immigrants, was established by a group of women who formed Dyambu Trust

Dyambu succeeded in winning a tender issued by the Department of Home Affairs for a private institution to accommodate illegal immigrants awaiting deportation. Funds raised by the camp are used for community development.

Dyambu's role is to place on record the photographs and fingerprints of all suspected illegal immigrants brought into the camp by police. The company is responsible for providing food, shelter, blankets and hygiene facilities for all inmates.

Dyambu claims that people held at the camp are released or deported only on home affairs' authority. It further states that home affairs officials are on site 24 hours a day.

SAPS spokesman Superintendent Milica Moss said allegations against the police could be followed up only if complainants laid charges or could identify specific offenders.

"The SAPS's role in the deportation of illegal immigrants is limited to apprehending suspected aliens and handing them over to the camp, where a broader check on their identity and documents is done. If they can provide evidence of their legal status they are released from the camp," Moss said.

She said that where allegations of corruption had been made concerning police involvement in taking money or mishandling of detainees, the SAPS would welcome specific charges so that offenders could be dealt with.

The Star ran a report on the camp on September 25 after receiving two complaints from South Africans claiming they had been wrongfully detained at Lindela and ill treated there.

Scan 18/10/97

Accusations of corruption, cruelty at Lindela camp

(234) Star 15/10/97

"We are treated like animals, the only thing used to enforce instructions is a hard stick," it is claimed in a note secretly handed to The Star

REPORTS BY GILL GIFFORD

Lindela Repatriation Camp, near Krugersdorp on the West Rand, is a holding facility for suspected illegal immigrants and serves the entire country

While the number of inmates at the camp fluctuates, between 1 000 and 1 500 people can be found on the property on any given day

The Star visited the camp recently and the premises appeared to be running smoothly, with nine security guards controlling the camp's detainees, who are allowed to roam the property during the day

People brought into the facility on suspicion of being in the country illegally are registered at the Lindela administration office, where their fingerprints and photographs are placed on a temporary identity card issued to them for the duration of their stay.

Inmates are interviewed and their documents checked at a nearby Home Affairs Department office. "Only home affairs officials

decide who is deported or released from the camp Lindela staff have no input in that regard," said Danny Mansell, operations manager for Dyambu, the trust that operates Lindela camp

Mansell said he was aware of allegations of corruption concerning the release of prisoners for money.

"Two people from the home affairs office were arrested but the case was dropped because the trap money which was to be used as evidence disappeared," Mansell said

He said people brought into the camp were allowed one free phone call. He was informed that The Star had received complaints from a number of people who claimed they had not been allowed to make this call.

The constitutional right to a phone call applied only to South African citizens, and Lindela inmates were not South Africans, Mansell responded.

While The Star's team was touring the camp, inmates secretly passed two notes to the photographer.

When the photographer and I were leaving Lindela, we were questioned by security officials on whether we had been passed notes from prisoners.

The Star team denied having received notes on the grounds that they might contain information relevant to the report, and might have been confiscated by the guards.

Both notes, still in the possession of The Star, claim ill treatment of inmates as well as bribery and corruption at the facility

One note states: "Here at Lindela we are treated like animals. The only thing which is used to enforce instructions is a hard stick. The security guards beat people for such simple things as queuing for food, smoking or even speaking in your own native language."

The note further alleges: "We pay to submit fingerprints. One has to pay R200 to be released from this camp. You are beaten before you answer a phone. The police are destroying exemption certificates, in order to unjustifiably sent (unjustifiably send) us home"



NAASHON ZALK

Patrolling the line... a Lindela security guard keeps a check on Mozambican citizens awaiting deportation.

(236) (357A) CT 21/10/97
Rose by any other name ...

HOME Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi yesterday piloted through the National Assembly legislation to prevent South Africans holding dual citizenship.

Buthelezi also piloted a measure which will allow women to adopt double-barrelled names to include both her married and maiden names.

A woman may continue to use her maiden name, even if she is married.

All seven parties in the National Assembly accepted both measures.

The citizenship bill also provides that a child — whether born in or out of wedlock — may become a citizen of South Africa if born outside the republic "as long as one of his or her parents was a South African citizen at the time of the birth".

Previously, this applied only to those born after October 6, 1995.

The minister is given the power to deprive a person of SA citizenship "where such person is making use of the passport facilities of another country" — Political Staff

● Full story, Page 5

Abortion rate: 3 women an hour in SA

Sowetan 23/10/97
(23b)

SOUTH Africans are having abortions at the rate of about three women an hour and doctors are struggling to keep up with the growing demand for the procedure after it was legalised in February this year

In the first six months since South Africa adopted one of the world's most liberal abortion laws, nearly 13 000 legal terminations were performed, according to the Reproductive Rights Alliance, which monitors the law's implementation

Although the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act allows pregnancy terminations for all women over 16 in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, and in the first 20 weeks in certain cases, the state's medical facilities are strapped and many doctors refuse to perform abortion

In Gauteng the 6 332 abortions performed from February to August represent half of all requests, says alliance administrator Ms Judi Merckel

Those who are not able to get legal abortions continue to support the illegal backstreet abortion industry, which flourished under the apartheid era's Calvinistic "Christian values" and male-dominated administrations, Merckel says

Before abortions on request were legalised, up to 300 000 backstreet

abortions were performed each year, according to the alliance

Of these, an estimated 43 000 of these women were hospitalised from medical complications

Adding to South Africa's overburdened health system, women from neighbouring Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia - countries where the procedure is either not easily available or illegal - have begun making the long journey to have the procedure carried out here

Many medical personnel in South Africa have resisted performing abortions, with conscientious objection to the procedure most acute in KwaZulu-Natal, where only 548 legal abortions occurred in the first six months, Merckel says

The low rate of pregnancy terminations in rural areas has also been attributed to scarce medical facilities

In North West there were 109 terminations, in Northern Cape 215, in Northern Province 295, and in Mpumalanga 870

Merckel says the legal abortion rate is expected to increase further in the short term with improved medical access, but will eventually subside as a result of greater awareness through education programmes provided at clinics and hospitals -
Sapa-AFP

RESCUE COSTS OVER R9 000 EACH

Escaped farmers face harsh realities in SA

JOHANNESBURG: Four South African farmers who escaped from Congo earlier this week will have to pay for the costs of their rescue. **DAISY JONES** and **STUART KELLY** report.

CT 24/10/97 (236)

THE four South African farmers who escaped from war-ravaged Congo on Tuesday were happy to be alive when they arrived in Kinshasa yesterday, but today they confront the hard economic realities of life after looting.

The South African embassy told them yesterday that they must each pay \$950 (R4 465) to cover the cost of their rescue and flight back to South Africa. They must pay \$500 (R2 350) each for a small plane chartered by the SA embassy to bring them from Louzi, just inside the former Zaire, to Kinshasa. The flight back to Johannesburg will cost another \$450 (R2 115), which the embassy will not pay.

"The guys (in Congo) put us at gunpoint and they didn't even want to let us keep our luggage," said Mr Ben Fouche, 49, who made a harrowing four-day escape with his brother Mr Hannes Fouche, 59, Mr Erick Meiring, 46, and Hannes' son, Chris, 16.

Together they escaped with \$1 400 (R6 580) after gangs of their former friends and neighbours looted their homes last Friday.

"We can give distressed citizens a maximum of R50," explained

ambassador Mr Jan van Deventer. "We have no budget for this sort of thing. This is normal for all distressed South African citizens. We can make submissions to the Department of Home Affairs but that can take a week or so."

But, to get the group home quickly, the ambassador offered to pay the costs on condition the men repaid him.

How to get home is only part of their worries. They have no homes and no assets left in South Africa.

"When I arrive at Johannesburg airport, I have no job. I don't have a house. My wife is staying with her mother in Zimbabwe," said Meiring.

"Our losses? You are looking at R1 million in selling my farm, cattle, stopping production and costs for getting there," said Ben Fouche.

With few prospects in South Africa, all four expressed hope of salvaging what they started in Congo.

Meanwhile, their families in

South Africa told of the dreams the 28 farming families who settled in the Congo had of building a new life for themselves 18 months ago.

Hannes' wife, Trudy, said last night that she was very relieved that her husband, her brother-in-law and his son were safe.

"I was almost off my head. I was very, very, worried. We had no communication," she said.

Trudy first spoke to Hannes on Wednesday night, after he fled from their farm last Friday. He only told her that he was fine.

The other information about his escape to the South African embassy in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, she gained from friends and the media. "Apparently we have lost every-

thing," she said.

Hannes, Ben and Chris had been living on the same farm about 10km from Loudima in the Congo. Trudy and her two teenage children had also been living there, until they were sent back for safety's sake in June.

Trudy said their prospects had been good and they had started selling to neighbours, locals and markets in neighbouring countries.

'When I arrive at Johannesburg Airport, I have no job. I don't have a house. My wife is staying ... in Zimbabwe.'



Pawns in the struggle ... Congolese celebrate the return of rebel leader Denis Sassou-Nguesso 40km outside Brazzaville yesterday and vilified ousted president Pascal Lissouba as a 'criminal and enemy of the people'.

Desperate escape from Congo leaves four SA farmers virtually destitute

BY ROSS HERBERT, DAISY JONES AND STUART KELLY

The four South African farmers who escaped from war-ravaged Congo on Tuesday were happy to be alive when they arrived in Kinshasa yesterday, but today they confront the hard economic realities of life after looting.

The South African embassy told them yesterday they must each pay \$950 (about R4 000) to cover the cost of their rescue and flight back to South Africa. They must each pay \$500 (about R2 250) for a small plane chartered by the SA embassy to bring them from Louzi, just inside the former Zaïre, to Kinshasa. The flight back to Johannesburg will cost another \$450 (about R2 000), which the embassy will not pay.

"The guys (in Congo) put us at gunpoint and they didn't even want to let us keep our luggage," said Ben Fouche (49) who made the harrowing four-day escape with his brother Hannes Fouche (59), Erick Meiring (46) and Hannes' son, Chris (16)



the four SA farmers who must borrow to pay for their rescue and flight home from Kinshasa. Left to right, Hannes Fouche, Ben Fouche, Hannes' son Chris, and Erick Meiring.

Together they escaped with \$1 400 (about R6 300) after gangs of their former friends and neighbours looted their homes last Friday.

"We can give distressed citizens a maximum of R50," explained ambassador Jan van Deventer. "We have no budget for this sort of thing. This is normal for all distressed South

African citizens. We can make submissions to the Department of Home Affairs, but that can take a week or so."

But eventually, to get the group home quickly, the ambassador offered to pay the costs himself on condition the men repay him.

How to get home is only part of their worries. They have no homes and no assets left in South Africa. "When I arrive at Johannesburg airport, I have no job. I don't have a house. My wife is staying with her mother in Zimbabwe," said Erick Meiring.

"Our losses? You are looking at R1-million in selling my farm, cattle, stopping production and costs for getting there," said Ben Fouche.

With few prospects in South Africa, all four expressed hope of salvaging what they started in Congo, in part because of the richness of the land.

Meanwhile, their families in South Africa told of the dreams of the 28 farming families who settled in the Congo had of building a new life for themselves 18 months ago.

Hannes' wife Trudy said last night that she was very relieved that her husband, her brother-in-law and his son were safe. "I was almost off my head. I was very very worried. I didn't know how to handle it. We had no communication," she said. Trudy first spoke to Hannes on Wednesday night, after he fled from their farm last Friday. He only told her that he was fine.

The other information she had about his escape to the South African embassy in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, she gained from friends and the media. "Apparently we have lost everything," she told The Star.

Hannes, Ben and Chris had been living on the same farm about 10km from Loudima in the Congo. Trudy and her two teenage children were also living there until they were sent back for safety's sake in June.

Another family, Gerhard and Della Boshoff and their 6-year-old son, were farming in the south. They are believed to be safe now in a monastery.

Three of the Boshoffs' four children are staying together in Pretoria. They are very worried since the last time they heard from their parents was on Saturday.

► Congo victor cheered

Star 24/10/97 (236)

Emigration is 'seriously' hurting retail management

(236)

FRANK NXUMALO

Johannesburg— Emigration was having a serious effect on higher management levels within the retail industry, with 16 percent of managers resigning to work overseas last year, said FSA-Contact, a human resources consultancy, yesterday

The report said this figure was higher than the national averages of 13 percent for executives and 6 percent for middle managers, reported by the consultancy earlier in the year.

In the survey, which examined

remuneration levels, perks and labour practices of South African retailers, respondents were also asked about staff turnover of high-level and mid-management and of other retail staff.

"Employee-instigated resignations accounted for 82,6 percent of labour turnover, while 6,6 percent was uncontrollable due to death, retirement or pregnancy. Employer-instigated resignations, dismissals, retrenchments or redundancy, accounted for 10,6 percent of all retail staff turnover," said Kris Crawford, FSA-Contact's national sales manager

ET(BR) 29/10/97



Mozambique readies land (236) for farmers

from SA
4/10/97

Maputo - Land for the first 20 or so South African farmers who intend to work in the northern Mozambican province of Niassa is being demarcated, and the farms should be operating by the end of this year, Mozambican Prime Minister Pascoal Mocumbi told reporters in Maputo yesterday.

The land, in the fertile Lugenda valley, will be allocated to the Mosagrius Development Corporation, a joint venture owned 50% by the Mozambican state and 50% by the South African Chamber for Agricultural Development in Africa.

Mocumbi said the start of farming had been delayed because Mosagrius did not approach the ministry of agriculture's mapping and surveying department in good time to demarcate the land.

But he was confident that the work would be concluded soon and the land handed over to Mosagrius, which would then sign contracts with each of the 30 commercial farmers who will work it.

At the moment only 13 South African farmers are in Niassa. A further 10 are waiting for the go-ahead to leave South Africa.

Mocumbi said that, under the Mosagrius programme, start-up funds of about R50 000 would be made available to both South African and Mozambican farmers. -- Independent Foreign Service

Star 8/10/97 (236)
Trekkers get their Mozambican farms

Durban - South African farmers who moved to Mozambique more than a year ago have finally been given their own land.

Dries Bruwer, president of the South African Chamber for Agricultural Development in Africa, which co-ordinated the relocation project, said yesterday that 25 would be allocated farms under concession for 50 years.

Fourteen of them and their families are already living in

the far north province of Niassa and 11 more are in the process of moving to the remote region.

The first groups of farmers moved there a year ago and have been experimenting with crops on land owned by the Mozambican government.

Bruwer said a partnership between the Mozambican government had been formed. As part of the deal, 10 local farmers would also be allocated farms. - Own Correspondent

IMMIGRATION POLICY

Learning to cope with the irresistible human tide ⁽²³⁶⁾

New policy proposals would change hiring practices of mines, border farms and the construction industry ~~(240)~~

Two months ago angry hawkers rampaged through Johannesburg's city centre, beating and evicting fellow merchants, whom they identified as illegal immigrants. The SA hawkers claimed the immigrants were stealing business, jobs and space.

Recently, after arresting 103 illegal immigrants in Messina, Northern Province police Senior Superintendent Phuti Setati said the "influx" was continuing unabated. He predicted that most of those arrested would slip back across the border almost as soon as they were repatriated, because of hunger and joblessness in their native Zimbabwe.

Violent public outbursts and the constant arrest-and-repatriation routine of government illustrate the rise of a xenophobic mentality in SA and the failure of current immigration policy — rooted in a "fortress SA" mentality — to deal with the issue.

"Immigration policy in general — and the Aliens Control Act in particular — provide few answers and little vision for the governance of temporary migration for employment across national borders in southern Africa," says Jonathan Crush of the Southern African Migration Project.

No-one knows how many illegal immigrants are in the country. The latest census gives no estimate, the SA Police Service says there are about 5,5m and the Human Sciences Research Council says 5m-8m, while the SA National Defence Force claims 50 000 cross into SA every year — one every 10 minutes.

Critics of government immigration policy say the Aliens Control Amendment Act of 1995, which manages immigration, is woefully inadequate and still reflects apartheid's bias towards white immigrants.

All of this will change if the draft Green Paper on International Migration, drawn up by a task team led by Institute for Democracy in SA executive director Wilmot James, becomes law.

The mining sector, which employs about 200 000 Southern African Development Community (SADC) citizens, would be especially affected as about half of its workers are foreigners on special permits regulated

by decades-old bilateral labour agreements. The treaties, regulated by the Employment Bureau of Africa, set the terms and conditions of access by miners to the SA labour market. Mining houses and the trade unions are opposed to the treaties.

While the new policy proposals are in tune with SA's new nonracial human rights culture, they are criticised by Cosatu and business organisations.

The business-orientated Centre for Development & Enterprise (CDE) says the draft "falls short of satisfactory guidelines". Cosatu claims it could lead to a two-tier labour market of poorly paid foreigners and their better-paid SA counterparts.

Innovations in the Green Paper include a proposed points system in which the quality of potential immigrants is gauged at missions abroad using a preference system based mainly on economic and occupational needs at home. The policy would also establish quotas for the flow of labourers from SADC countries into SA.

The paper points out that there are potential immigrants in many countries who would be a positive economic asset for SA. It notes immigration levels to SA are not only low but are falling.

"Our declining immigration rate would be less of a concern were it not for the simultaneous high emigration rate," the Green Paper says.

The CDE says the type and quality of occupational information on which a valid points-based system could be built would be difficult and costly to assemble. Cosatu believes that the "only appeal of the points system is its administrative neatness, but there are serious question marks as to its workability and fairness."

The paper supports the idea that SA should work towards the freer movement of people within the SADC, but acknowl-

edges "this is not politically nor economically viable" while gross regional wealth disparities exist.

This addresses the mining industry in particular, the paper says inter-governmental labour treaties that ensured migrants came without dependants and had to return home every year should be scrapped. It also calls for elimination of the controversial Compulsory Deferred Pay, whereby a portion of miners' wages are deferred to their home country.

The draft recommends "special, well-managed, legal avenues of entry for other SADC citizens who seek to enter SA on temporary basis." It recommends an annual, flexible quota system for unskilled labourers, placing the onus on employers to show a need to employ SADC citizens.

Cosatu strongly disagrees with this. The federation says that would create a two-tier labour market where, for example, employers are given the opportunity to show that their company's financial circumstances mean that they have a special need for employing "cheap foreign labour."

"Under no circumstances should employers be allowed to pay foreign workers less than they pay SA nationals," says Cosatu. The federation warns that this would lead to "the increased fragmentation and casualisation in the labour market as employers are given the opportunity to employ temporary instead of full-time workers."

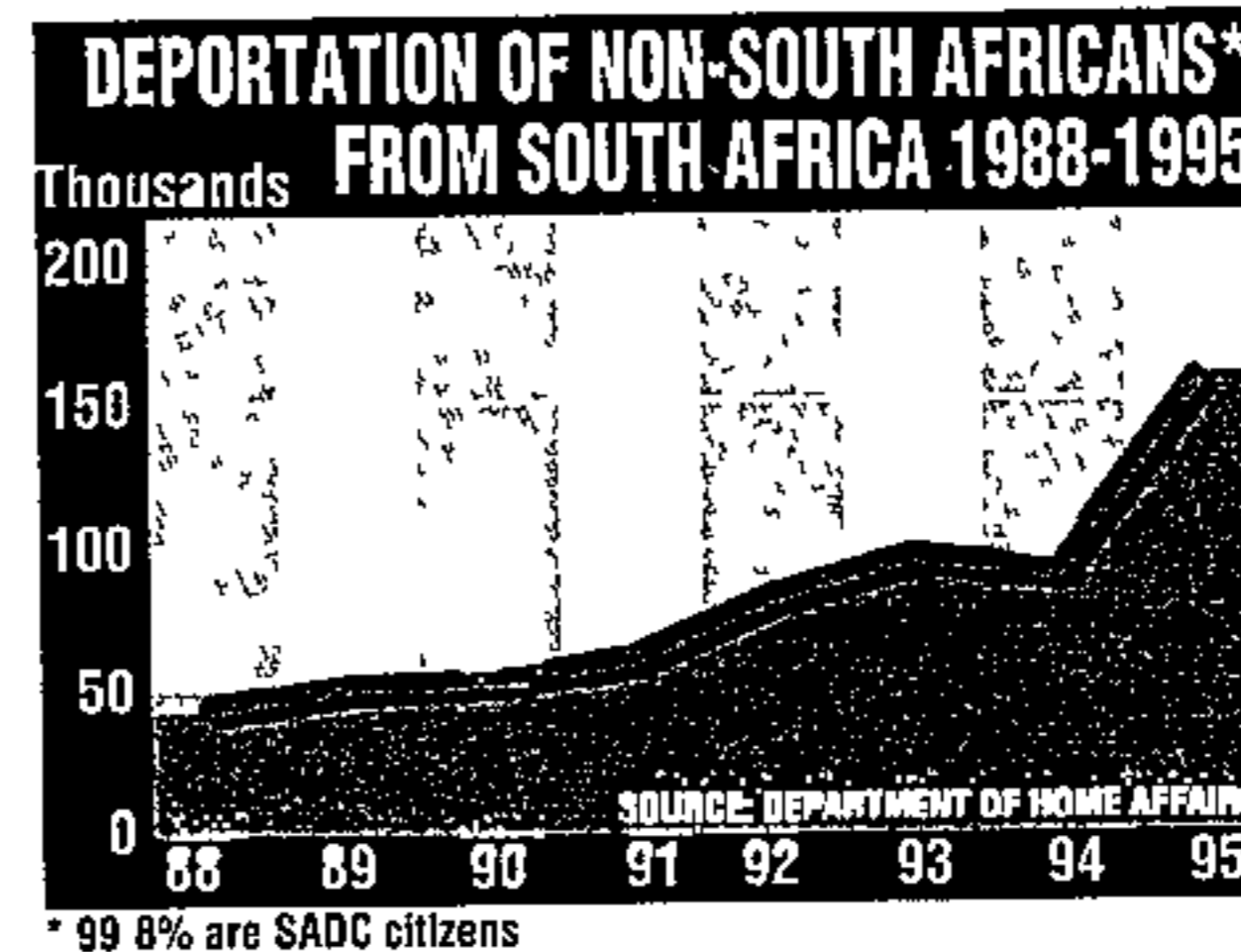
"This could have dire consequences for, and weaken the bargaining position of, both foreign workers and SA workers who may be pressured into shorter-term, competitive employment contracts," Cosatu says.

The task team "strongly" recommends that the Department of Home Affairs hand over responsibility for immigration to a new Department of Citizenship and Immigration. The CDE, however, opposes any new bureaucracy.

Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi hopes parliament will accept the Green Paper early in 1998. This would translate into legislation in 1999 — at the earliest.

He may rue the delay, for with xenophobia on the rise and the authorities failing to deal effectively and humanely with the human tide from neighbouring countries, this initiative may prove to be too little, too late.

Justice Malala



Afrikaner settler families run into land disputes

Farmers find 'virgin land' they have been allocated to be peasants' traditional hunting and fishing areas

By MERCEDES SAVAGUES
Luchinga

He was perplexed, said Afrikaner settler Yunus de Jaeger, quoted recently by the Mozambican press. "We were told in South Africa that this land was virgin and unoccupied."

It is this attitude that incenses chiefs in Niassa province, Mozambique. They regard settlers as an unwelcome invasion by people trying to take over their land.

And, as the conflict snowballs, the government and non-governmental bodies are forced to step in to find ways to create harmony.

In the Majune district, south east of Luchinga, traditional chiefs or *regulos* have accused the settlers of taking over land under use and forcibly evicting the residents. One settler is said to have fenced off the river bank with an electric fence. The locals are forbidden access to usual hunting and fishing areas. Another bone of contention is that, contrary to promises made by the government last year, the *regu-*

los were not informed or consulted about the settlers moving into the district. The location of the settlers' farms had not even been discussed or agreed upon.

Eight settler families are in Majune through Mosagrins, a programme of the South African Chamber for Development of Agriculture in South Africa (Sacada) and the Mozambican government aimed at settling Afrikaner farmers in the northern province of Niassa.

The agreement specifies virgin land will be cleared. When one settler cleared land close to the village of Matucuta (pop 1 000), no *machambas* or plots were disturbed. But on the uncultivated area beyond the *machambas*, people fish, hunt, collect water, firewood, thatch, fruit, medicines and building material. This is the land the settler claims.

In August Niassa governor, Aires Aly, and senior officials travelled to Majune as mediators in the apparently snowballing conflict. In an unusual alliance, the *regu-*

los and the government-appointed district administrator complained jointly to the governor.

The representatives of customary society and those of the Freimo-dominated state are usually at odds, in Niassa and throughout Mozambique.

The governor denied authorising the South Africans to move into Majune, their land had not been demarcated. He blamed the problem on lack of co-ordination between the capital and district authorities. And land clearance was halted.

Complaints were heard of arrogance among the settlers. The *regulos* said the South Africans arrived alone without official escort, waving maps and informing the people they were authorised to take over land by the Mosagrins agreement signed by President Chissano and Mandela in May 1996.

"Niassa is not a land supermarket for self-service," says Rodrigo Castro, of the Forum for Land Rights or NTN. Prompted by the secrecy and

Stew 2/10/97

lack of transparency, a dozen NGOs in Niassa set up a forum to monitor the programme and inform peasants about their land rights. "Mosagrins does not plan any active inclusion of local people. Any benefits for local people will be indirect, without any share in decision-making. There is no planning for activities of common interest."

It goes on to point out the government has granted too many privileges (customs exemption, choice of land) and preferential treatment to the farmers. The forum also criticises the vagueness of the project.

"How can Mosagrins develop agriculture in 220 000ha without a proper plan on the use of natural resources and a study on its socio-economic and environmental impact?"

One fear is that locals will be forced to move to make room for settlers. However, under the new land bill approved by parliament in July, peasants are protected. The bill recognises that certified occupancy for a minimum of 10 years, gives a right to the land, with or

(236)

without title deeds. The Afrikaner settlement near Matucuta is thus illegal - a recipe for conflict.

For the time being, conflict was defused. The governor promised to improve co-ordination. The communities agreed to let the eight families stay, provided they respected local customs and rights. The settlers promised to help local farmers with seeds and fertiliser, and to buy products from them.

Teams are being sent to map out the areas Mosagrins wants. They want to avoid land demarcation as was done in Zimbabwe and in South Africa. Settlers took over the best land. Locals were confined to marginal dry and rocky lands.

"If Mandela and Chissano want to solve a political problem in South Africa, they should not do it at the expense of Mozambican peasants," says land expert Jose Negrão, of the Eduardo Mondlane University.

Local communities are watching over their rights. - Star Foreign Service/Africa Information Afrique

Hillbrow mirrors 'a city in crisis'

Nomavenda Mathiane

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ways that endangered the public. Traffic officers issued 66 fines.

SIXTY more illegal immigrants were arrested in Hillbrow yesterday, making a total of 140 since police clamped down there on Wednesday, police said.

The operation — an initiative by the safety and security and local government departments involving police, traffic, environmental, health and electricity departments and the hawking unit of the greater Johannesburg metropolitan council — was launched to fight crime and the presence of illegal immigrants.

On its first day the team concentrated on Pretoria and Kotze streets. Eighty illegal immigrants were arrested and 45 hawkers fined for trading in

ways that endangered the public. Traffic officers issued 66 fines. Yesterday the team worked in Es-selen and Van der Merwe streets. Forty inspections were carried out by fire and public safety officials and nine written warnings issued to landlords.

A waste management team removed 300 bags of garbage from the streets and 180 bags from lanes between buildings, executive officer Christa Venter said.

Johannesburg mayor Isaac Mogase said the high level of problems facing the Hillbrow community gave a disturbing picture of a city in crisis. He challenged business and citizens to become involved in the rehabilitation of Hillbrow in fighting crime and grime.

BD 17/10/97 (236)

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Aliens withdraw as hawkers march in protest

By **THEMBA SEPOTOKELE**
City Desk

Foreign hawkers yesterday vacated the pavements of central Johannesburg to avoid confrontation with local traders who marched to the Department of Home Affairs offices in Braamfontein

Local hawkers are demanding that the Government stop issuing permits to foreigners, who they claim are cutting into their profits. They are also demanding that permits issued to foreigners be declared null and

void and that those in possession of fake documents be jailed until the year 2000

About 800 members of the Greater Johannesburg hawkers' planning committee converged on the Library Gardens at 9am before heading for Braamfontein to submit a memorandum to John Nethononda and Gavin Strachan from the director-general's office of the Department of Home Affairs.

Hawkers' committee chairman Manikis Solomon, who is on R500 bail for inciting vio-

lence when hawkers went on the rampage and attacked foreign traders in August, said local hawkers were not prepared to share "our pavements" with illegal immigrants.

"We will clean Johannesburg of foreigners who are selling counterfeit goods. They have created unfair competition and must be repatriated.

"We want to revive our city (and) we are going to clean our city of illegals," he said.

The marchers dispersed peacefully after their leaders called for calm.

Star 23/10/97 (236)

Parliamentary employee 'signed in' protesters

Jacob Dlamini

BB 30/10/97



CAPE TOWN — Speaker Frene Ginwala announced yesterday that a parliamentary employee assigned to the Freedom Front had been suspended pending an investigation into his role in Tuesday's rowdy demonstration in the public gallery by front supporters.

Ginwala said a preliminary inquiry had revealed that the employee had signed the forms allowing the demonstrators access to the National Assembly.

The assembly was disrupted when students from Free State and Stellenbosch universities protesting against the higher education bill broke into song.

According to Ginwala, one of the protesters was carrying a firearm which was temporarily confiscated by parliament's security staff.

The employee's suspension would come into immediate effect and he would also be barred from parliament's precincts. Ginwala said a thorough investigation into the man's conduct would be instituted and possible disciplinary action taken against him.

Ginwala said the gallery would remain open to the public but Parliament would not allow its members to be intimidated and its proceedings disrupted.

She conceded people in the public gallery had previously disrupted proceedings but that this had not occurred while she was in the speaker's chair.

The announcement was rejected by front chief whip Joseph Chole who accused Ginwala of overreaching. Chole said the employee, whom he described as a loyal and hardworking front, had been doing his job when he signed the protesters in.

SA citizens held in raids found in deportation centres

Taryn Lambert

BB 30/10/97

(236)

AN INVESTIGATION by the SA Human Rights Commission has discovered a number of SA citizens being held in the Lindela repatriation centre in Randfontein on the West Rand, waiting to be deported to Mozambique and Swaziland.

The commission's findings had been forwarded to the home affairs department, commission media director John Mojapelo said yesterday.

Freddy Mukanjane Maluleke, from Bushbuckridge in the Northern Province, was in possession of a valid identity document when he was arrested by police in Alexandra and taken to Lindela, Mojapelo said.

He was waiting to be deported to Mozambique even though he claimed he had never been to that country and did not know anyone there.

Lukas Sikhosana from Soshanguve near Pretoria said he was arrested in Johannesburg while seeking employment. He is married with three children and is a former employee of the Pretoria city council.

Three SA youths from Nelspruit,

Mpumalanga, were also waiting to be deported to Mozambique.

Sapa reports the large majority of those at Lindela were illegal immigrants, according to commissioner Jody Kollapen.

Kollapen said the commission was concerned that there were insufficient mechanisms in place to ensure those who were not illegal were properly safeguarded.

This also raised questions as to the criteria and methods followed by the department and police in arresting alleged illegal immigrants.

Juveniles and adults were held in the same facility and shared the same cells, which was a violation of the convention which required children to be detained separately from those over 18 years. No soap or towels were provided for detainees, Kollapen said.

The commission was told these could be bought on the premises, but Kollapen maintains the right to accommodation should include the right to physical hygiene and provision of the basic necessities to exercise the right.

A department spokesman could not be reached for comment.

Kicked out by own country

Seven SA citizens with documents as proof are lined up for deportation

BY GILL GIFFORD

South Africans are being detained at the Lindela Repatriation Camp in conditions deemed less than adequate by human rights officials and deported to other countries.

This discovery was made by the Human Rights Commission when it paid a surprise visit to Lindela and conducted investigations on the premises.

Commissioners found that seven South Africans had been on the verge of deportation. The findings back claims that have been made in reports carried by The Star over the past month.

The newspaper's investigations showed that three parties are involved with the processing of illegal immigrants. They are Dyambu Trust, which runs the camp, the police, and the Department of Home Affairs.

Allegations included wrongful arrest, assault of inmates, bribery and corruption.

The preliminary findings of the HRC's visit, compiled by commissioners Jody Kollapen, John Mojapelo and

Malesela Phukubje, have been handed over to the Department of Home Affairs.

During their raid, the commissioners found several South Africans in possession of identity books, which appeared to be valid, scheduled to be deported to Mozambique and Swaziland as illegal aliens.

Mojapelo said Freddy Mukanjane Maluleke was in line to be deported to Mozambique, yet possessed a South African identity book.

"Maluleke told the commission he was from Bushbuckridge in Northern Province, and spoke Shangaan and Sotho when interviewed," Mojapelo said. "He had been arrested in Alexandra after assaulting a woman, and was surprised when he was taken to Lindela for deportation."

Lucas Skhosana of So-shanguve, near Pretoria - a married man and a former employee of the Department of Manpower and the Pretoria City Council - was about to be deported to Mozambique.

"He claims he has never been to Mozambique, nor does he know anybody there. He was arrested while looking

for work in Johannesburg on October 18," said Mojapelo.

Skhosana's citizenship was confirmed by his uncle, John Mahlangu of Thembisa. Skhosana had apparently been arrested because he had not been carrying his identity book with him.

Mike Ndou, who claims to come from Sibasa in Northern Province, was to be taken to Zimbabwe.

"He speaks fluent Venda and told the commission he did not know anyone in Zimbabwe. He claims he has a valid ID document," Mojapelo said.

The HRC also found several South African youths about to be deported.

Sixteen-year-old Izak Fakude of Nelspruit was about to be deported to Swaziland. The commission found he had been living with his mother before becoming a street-child in Johannesburg.

Solomon Mkhabela and Dan Magagula, of Nelspruit in Mpumalanga, and Izak Ndlovu, of Giyani in Northern Province, were to be deported to Mozambique.

Kollapen said while conditions at the camp compared favourably with most penal

institutions and police holding facilities, he was concerned that juveniles and adults were being held at the same facility and shared the same cells.

He said this was a clear violation of the constitution, which required children to be detained separately from adults over 18.

He said no soap and towels were provided to detainees, and although these were available at a shop on the premises, the HRC maintained that the right to accommodation included the right to physical hygiene and the provision of basic necessities to exercise this right.

"While most of the inmates at Lindela are indeed illegal, we are concerned that there are insufficient mechanisms to ensure that people who are legally in the country, as well as SA citizens, are properly guarded," Kollapen said.

"This also raises questions as to the criteria and modus operandi followed by home affairs and the police in effecting the arrests of illegal immigrants."

Numerous claims of corruption at Lindela are still being investigated by the HRC.

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Xenophobia: One of the Greater Johannesburg Hawkers' Planning Committee marshalls tries to keep in line marchers protesting against foreign hawkers. PHOTOGRAPH: DANNY HOFFMAN

Hawkers want foreigners out

Emeka Nwandiko

Street hawkers in Johannesburg are threatening to "cleanse the streets" of foreign traders whom they blame for disease and decay

Amid chants of "chase the *makwere-kwere* out" and "down with the foreigner, up with South Africans" a 500-strong crowd of informal traders toy-toyed to the Department of Home Affairs in Johannesburg on Wednesday

They delivered a memorandum which demanded an immediate halt to the issuing of work permits to foreigners

It was the second time in as many months that hawkers have blamed foreign traders of robbing them of their livelihood. Violence flared in August when local traders meted out street justice to foreign traders, assaulting them and destroying their wares. This week's march was peaceful

Manikis Solomon, a representative of the Greater Johannesburg Hawkers' Planning Committee which organised the demonstration, stoked the crowd that had assembled at the Library Gardens into a xenophobic frenzy when said "These people are not welcome. No city in the world will allow the mess Johannesburg has come to. We must clean up the streets of Johannesburg of foreign hawkers."

"The pavements of Johannesburg are for South African citizens and not for foreigners."

Urshula Dhalimi, who sells footwear, vases and disposable nappies in Hillbrow, agreed. "We are the people who voted and suffered for this country and we can not even eat our sweat. Foreigners have taken our jobs." She said South Africans could not compete with foreign hawkers who she claimed had flooded the market with cheap Chinese goods.

Honey Mamshila, who sells confectionery and tobacco in Hillbrow, said foreign workers

had an unfair advantage as they sold less expensive goods which she claimed had been stolen. She demanded the immediate repatriation of Zimbabweans and Mozambicans who she accused of being the source of friction between locals and outsiders.

The protest ended with the handing over of a memorandum to Gavin Strachen, acting district representative of refugee affairs.

A senior immigration official predicted that further clashes would erupt between locals and foreigners as his department was unable to deal with the increasing weight of asylum applications which he said were as many as 100 a day.

"Anywhere else in the world an application for asylum is dealt in a short period of time. Here we have cases stretching back over three years. The hawkers are getting impatient. They want action and I can't say I blame them. We have a very high unemployment rate in this country and we have to deal with our own first," he said.

Sandton brothels might face costs over 'illegals'

(236)

Admission of guilt fines would include cost of transporting women back to their home countries

Star 24/10/97

By GILL GIFFORD
Crime Reporter

The managers of two Sandton brothels raided by police on Wednesday night may have to cough up a substantial amount of money if they choose to pay admission of guilt fines for "aiding and abetting illegal immigrants" by employing foreign prostitutes.

They will be slapped with the full financial costs of the case, including transporting the women back to their home countries, the national aliens' investigations unit's Captain Blackie Swart said.

"They may opt to pay an admission of guilt fine, in which case they will not have to appear in court. The penalty is usually around R5 000," said Swart.

But the cost of avoiding publicity involves many other expenses. "When the brothel admits guilt we are entitled to charge them for our part in the arrest. They are invoiced for our petrol from the office to the premises, and then for transporting the arrested women to the police cells.

"On top of this, they are charged about R60 per day for keeping each of the women in custody," Swart said.

When the women are deported in groups, airlines usually required them to have an escort and a policeman or home affairs official is assigned to accompany them - again at the

would be detained as illegal immigrants and were likely to be deported to their home countries from Monday.

He said the manager of The Ranch was served a summons yesterday to appear in the Randburg Magistrates' Court. The manager of The Blue Orchid was likely to be served with a summons today.

"When the brothel does not pay the fine and chooses to fight the case in court, the expenses are charged to the women themselves," Swart said.

He said his unit was cracking down particularly hard on prostitutes from Thailand who were being brought into the country in growing numbers.

"An agent buys the girl from her parents for about R15 000. He brings her here and offers her to a brothel where she earns about R350 a week as they call it - most of which goes to her agent," Swart said.

He said the practice had developed into organised crime and networks of agents.

Some girls are held against their will and are kept locked up by their agents, said Swart.

66
Agents buy girls from parents for R15 000

99

expense of the brothel.

"I've travelled the world," Swart said, commenting on his various trips to return prostitutes to their home countries.

In this week's arrest, fourteen Thai, Romanian and Bulgarian women working at The Ranch and The Blue Orchid were taken to Silverton police station cells in Pretoria.

Swart said the women

Prison battle as aliens are sent home

'I came for better life' says one

Vicious fighting broke out in Pollsmoor Prison yesterday when 47 aliens in the country illegally were deported from Cape Town back to their homes in neighbouring countries

Chanting Mozambicans, Zimbabweans, Somalians and Namibians apparently fought over personal possessions while immigration officials and air force staff waited for them at Ysterplaat air force base for almost two hours

The aliens, speaking a mixture of several languages, apparently fought over personal possessions such as food, clothes, blankets and money

Somerset West businessman Johannes Zeelie went to the prison with his lawyer M G Lourens, to pay more than 40 Mozambicans who had worked for him, and was attacked, but escape uninjured carrying thousands of rands in wages

Mr Zeelie accompanied by his attorney M G Lourens, was not hurt in the fracas

Most of the aliens refused to get into trucks bound for Ysterplaat, delaying a flight for two hours

REPORT



WORDS: NORMAN JOSEPH
PICTURES: OBED ZILWA

Another fight broke out when they eventually arrived at Ysterplaat under heavy guard

Fists flew in all directions as Mozambican Orlando Samuel Mazive said tearfully in broken English "I came to South Africa in search of a job and a better life, but "

Then he was whisked away by officials into the aircraft

Mr Zeelie and another businessman, Herman Dames, tried to calm the fighting men

Chief immigration officer Andre Farrell and his colleagues had their hands full trying to keep the groups apart

This further delayed the flight, he said

Mr Farrell, with immigration officers Dirk Human, Martin Van Wyngaardt and armen, accompanied the aliens to Waterkloof in Pretoria

From there they will be transferred today to Lindela - a place of safety - in Krugersdorp

The home affairs departments of the country the aliens came from would be advised to collect their citizens, Mr Human said

He said 50 aliens in the country illegally had been arrested between October 10 and 20 on Kullis River farms

He said that most were not charged, but kept at Pollsmoor Prison waiting to be repatriated

Meanwhile, Mr Zeelie, 40, of Paul Kruger Street, Somersset West, appeared in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court this week on 180 charges relating to breaches of the Aliens Control Act



Job provider Johannes Zeelie, who allegedly employed more than 40 illegal immigrants

Employer faces 180 charges

The case of a Somersset West man who is facing 180 charges under the Aliens Control Act for allegedly employing 45 Mozambicans and renting accommodation to them has been postponed to November 12

Johannes Gerhardus Zeelie, 40, of Paul Kruger Street, has pleaded not

guilty in the Cape Town magistrate's court

It is alleged that he employed 45 illegal aliens at the Waterfront Holiday Inn construction site, that he unlawfully leased them accommodation, and that he unlawfully aided and abetted them - Staff Reporter

Taxpayers foot bill for deportations

Illegal immigrants are being deported from South Africa at the rate of between 50 and 60 aliens every fortnight

And the deportations of the illegal aliens are costing the taxpayer thousands of rands, according to Department of Home Affairs immigration officers

Repatriations of aliens to Mozambique, Somalia, Zimbabwe and Namibia began at the beginning of the year

In one operation, 90 aliens were flown back to their countries of origin in an air force transport aircraft. A further 40 aliens were flown to Pretoria in a small plane

Immigration investigator Dirk Human said that the illegal immi-



Appeal: aliens in the country illegally appeal for help after a fight at Pollsmoor Prison delayed their deportation for nearly two hours

grants had to be fed and accommodated while in transit

This process sometimes took several days

The taxpayer was footing the bill, Mr Human said

Yesterday 47 illegal Mozambican immigrants were repatriated to their country

Mr Human said immigration officers might ask the court to make a ruling about costs should Somersset West businessman Johannes Zeelie be found guilty on 180 charges under the Aliens Control Act

Mr Zeelie, 40, appeared in court this week charged with unlawfully employing 45 Mozambicans on a construction site opposite the Waterfront



Homeward bound: some of the aliens deported yesterday wait to board the aircraft

Hillbrow swoop nets 320 illegal immigrants

Star 22/10/97

(236)

At least 320 illegal immigrants have been arrested in the Hillbrow area since the start of an "anti-crime-and-grime" blitz last week.

The Johannesburg metro council said operations would continue until the end of the week, when the operation would be evaluated.

The multipronged roundup, which started

last Wednesday, saw police and metro council officials move into the area to arrest offenders and issue fines.

Metro policing research co-ordinator Richard Brown said the council might move its focus to areas such as Berea or Joubert Park.

"During the past days, looking at the co-operation by the com-

munity and the reception we got from them, it indicates that we are doing a good job," Brown said.

At the weekend, police arrested another 45 illegal immigrants, four robbery suspects and an armed robber trying to escape after robbing a bank on Saturday morning. A cocaine dealer was also arrested. - Sapa

Phoney immigration agents prey on SA

Bonile Ngqiyaza

(236)
BD 22/10/97

US GOVERNMENT agencies have sounded a warning on the proliferation of scams involving South African and US companies that advertise they are able to obtain university placements and immigration visas at a price for SA citizens.

The US Information Service (USIS) and the US consulate said the companies charged up to R6 000 for educational placements and about \$75 for information on a US lottery aimed at achieving diversity in immigrants to the country.

US officials said yesterday the information in both cases could be obtained through direct communication with university authorities and the country's national visa centre or agencies of the US government.

"As people find that they can make money from these scholarship placement projects the number of agents is increasing ... as far as I can remember there is not one I can recommend," USIS educational adviser Lyn van Hagt said yesterday.

She said the USIS educational advising service had dealt with about 150 cases of mostly township-based pupils who claimed to have been defrauded by only one of a number of agencies currently active in poorer areas.

US regional consular officer John Nay said: "If any agent actually does have a contract with a school in the US, it is normally those schools which are desperate for pupils — and they are not the good ones."

Explaining the diversity immigration programme, Nay said despite the fact that the lottery was free, a number of agencies advertised themselves as available to apply on behalf of others.

"The ads imply that they have special methods which increase your chances. Some have chosen names and logos which give the impression that they are arms of the US government."

The lottery is run on a random computer-generated model modified to meet specific country quotas.

The US diversity programme makes available 55 000 permanent residence visas each year to persons meeting a number of eligibility requirements, including matriculation. About 23,000 of these places are reserved for candidates from African countries.

WHAT THE 'ILLEGALS' SAY

(236)



THE HIGH PRICE OF HOPE: An illegal immigrant on the Zimbabwe-bound train checks his money . . . probably to pay his way out

ROBERT MALULEKA: SA citizen from Giyani, Northern Province

I WAS on my way to work when I met two policemen in Edenvale near Johannesburg. One white and one black. They said they were arresting me because I came from Mozambique.

I pleaded with them, telling them I am a South African, but they would not listen.

On the way to the police station, a Zulu-speaking man with an identity document was also arrested.

"They kept asking if we had any money with us," said Maluleka.

MARCEL: An alien who has been in Johannesburg for seven years. Although he might qualify as a resident, he has not tried

THE people at Home Affairs want R375 to register you," he says. "I don't know if that is the fee or if it is for their pocket."

He has been arrested at least seven times. "I can't remember, normally you just give them some money and they let you walk off."

He says detained illegals pay up to R400 to bribe policemen. "Nigerians have to pay a lot more."

"At the police station, they took me to a cell full of illegal immigrants. The policemen kept asking for money. They said if you had anything from R20 you would be freed. About five people paid the bribe. They were taken out through the back door so the senior officers couldn't see what was happening."

"The policemen asked me to describe the place where I come from, and asked me to say a Shangaan idiom. I managed to do all of that and they let me go," he said.

And after the Komatipoort border post the train in which they are deported is left unguarded.

"Some get off at once and probably get back to Johannesburg before the police guards, who have to wait for the train to return."

Marcel went on to Maputo, had a prawn lunch with his father, and was back in Johannesburg less than a week after his arrest.

ROGERS MABUNDA: Ten years living in Alex. Comes from Giyani in Northern Province. Shangaan-speaking. Stopped by police on his way to work.

#ST 19/10/97
THEY asked for my ID and I produced it. They asked me where I came from, and I told them I came from Giyani. A black policeman who spoke Shangaan said I was lying.

"He said I came from Mozambique. They arrested me. They took me to a tent where there were many other people arrested for being Mozambicans."

"I told the police that I was not a Mozambican, and two other policemen began assaulting me. My face was sore, and I had a huge bump on my left side."

"One of them took my ID and tore it apart. He said it was a fake and I had to be taken back to Mozambique. There was nothing I could do. When my brother, Lawrence, came and told them I was not a Mozambican, they tried to arrest him too."

"I sat there for two hours with all those other people. I was finally freed when the others were taken away in a truck."

"I was injured, but I still went to work. My employer was very upset about what had happened. He has written a letter saying that I am a South African citizen. He has told me to keep it with me wherever I go. When I asked the police for my ID, they said they had burnt it and I must go before they hit me again."

"I have applied for a new ID with my own money. Now I carry the duplicate with me wherever I go. But it won't help because they will still say I am an illegal immigrant."

"I have been living in Alexandra for the past 10 years and nothing like this has ever happened to me. I always heard that the police arrested people from Maputo, but I never thought it would happen to me."

"I don't know why the police think I am a Mozambican. Maybe it is because I speak Shangaan."

Slipped bucks and blind eyes

(236)

The authorities have gained wide publicity for a renewed crackdown on illegal immigrants. Thousands of foreigners found living illegally have been sent back to their countries. But it seems the campaign has also given corrupt police a golden opportunity to extort money from their captives. And deportation does not seem to be a solution — the aliens simply return within a day or two. South Africans have also fallen prey to greedy cops. LUCAS LEDWABA tells the story

The desperate pay bribes to go free in SA

GODFREY Mabunda, 28, is an illegal immigrant from Mozambique. In the three years he's been here, he's been arrested and deported only once — and came back within hours.

For three years he has avoided deportation by bribing policemen and hiding in toilets. But two weeks ago, his luck ran out — even after he paid a police officer R50.

Mabunda was on his way to work when he came across a police "roadblock" in Stsweta squatter camp, Alexandra township, where he lives.

"They always wait for us here, and if you have money to pay them, you can be lucky to go free," he says.

The police tore his temporary residential permit to shreds, saying it was fraudulent.

As he had usually done in such situations, he handed the policeman questioning him R50 to let him go. But he was arrested when he was unable to pay bribes to other officers on the scene.

"They were so many, and I had nothing left, so they arrested me," says Mabunda.

He and other suspected illegal immigrants were taken to the Lindela centre near Krugersdorp.

"At Lindela, the security guards swore at us, kicked us and beat us with open hands. Even when we were doing nothing wrong," says Mabunda.

Later that afternoon, they were put on trucks and taken to a train near the centre.

"There were so many of us, about a thousand or more," he says. Inside the train they were ordered to sit in a "chaffkop" position (sitting with your head placed between your thighs).

"There were two policemen in our carriage. They told us to sing and clap hands."

Mabunda says not all of the deportees reached their destination.

"About four people in our carriage were let out of the train by the policemen. If you have money and want to go, you raise your hand. A policeman comes to you and you negotiate. When the train stops or slows down, he opens the window and lets you go," he says.

At 5am the next day, the train

reached the Komatipoort border post and the deportees, including Mabunda, got off on the Mozambique side.

"I sold my waist belt for R20 at the border gate. I used the money to buy bread and a tin of fish because I had not eaten the whole night," he says.

Mabunda and many of the others sat waiting at the border gate for dusk to fall so they could make their way back to South Africa illegally again.

"I was with 40 others, who also came by train. At midnight, we walked to the border fence and crossed back to South Africa."

Their journey was interrupted by a border patrol, which fired and wounded one of them. Many managed to get away but the border patrol caught up with Mabunda and about 10 others. They were taken back to the border fence and told to cross back into Mozambique.

"They left, and then we returned to South Africa again," says Mabunda with a smile.

"We walked for the whole night, until we came to a tarred road. There were some taxis waiting there. It was about 8am when we got there. You see, there are special taxis that wait for people who jump the border fence. They charge R150 a trip to Johannesburg, and they deliver you to your home."

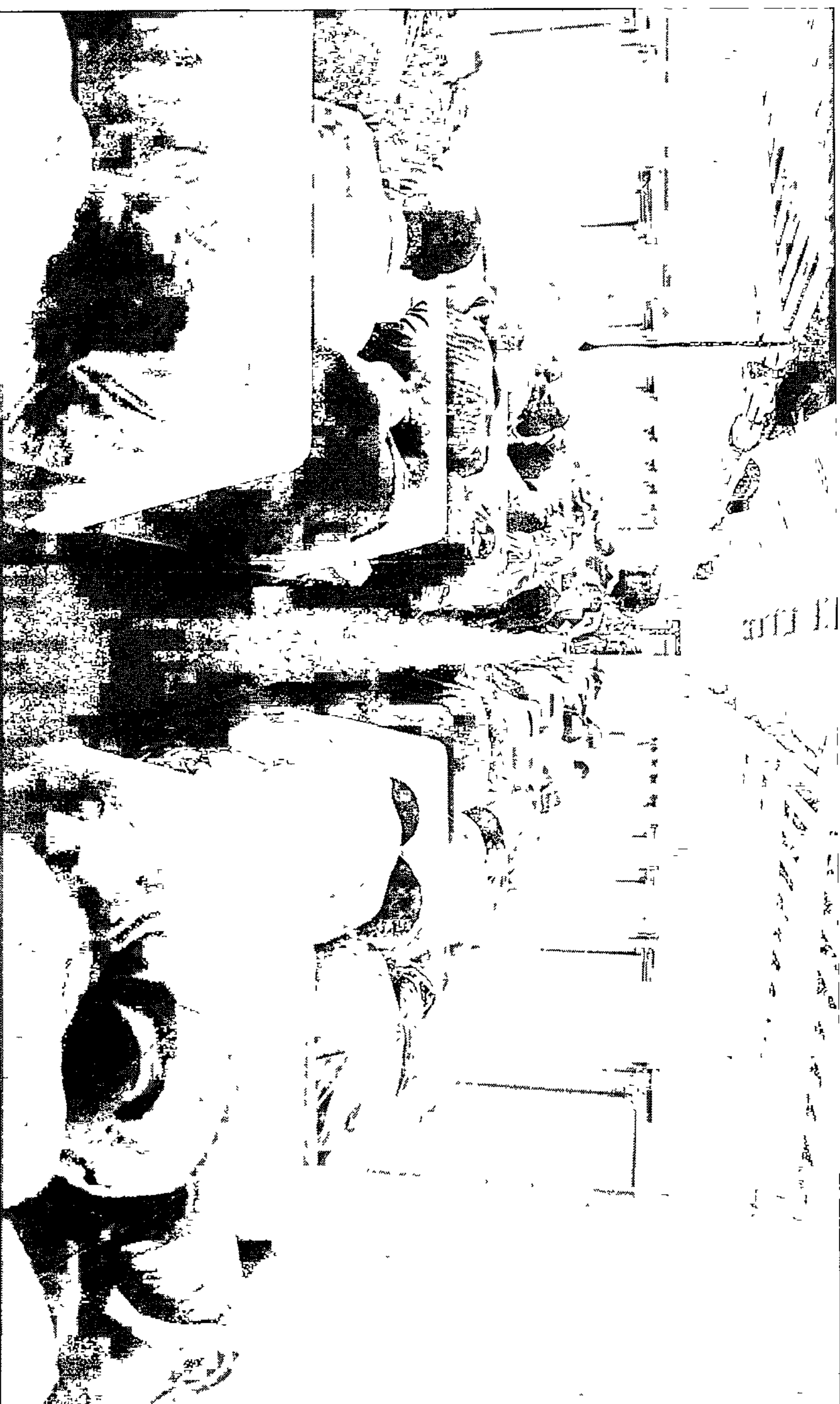
"I did not have any money with me, so I had to take the special price of R450. If you don't have money with you, you have to promise the taxi driver that you will pay him when you get to your place."

He was back in Alexandra by Monday, just days after his arrest. Mabunda first decided to come to South Africa "because here there is work and food in our country, there is nothing."

The civil war that depleted his country also claimed the lives of his three brothers and parents.

Each day Mabunda leaves for work at 4.30am to avoid the police. In September alone, he paid R130 of his hard-earned cash in bribes.

"On Friday afternoons, the police wait for us near our workplace. They know we are getting paid and they are going to get money. We hide in the toilets until they go." Mabunda works with seven other Mozambican immigrants at a con-



TAKEN FOR A RIDE: Illegal immigrants being deported by train to Zimbabwe are made to sit in the 'chaffkop' position, heads between their thighs. Policeman allegedly negotiate bribes to allow illegal aliens out of the windows along the way. Pictures: ELIZABETH SEJAKE

Some family members try to bribe our police officers so they can get their relatives out. Some officers accept money to free people, but we are trying hard to stop such activities."

Johannesburg mobile unit commander Superintendent Wessel Theron

The Mozambique-bound train is the most dangerous one. Most of the Mozambicans are former soldiers. It is easy for them to jump off the train while it is in motion. And when they get to the border post, they are left to go free and they return. It's better with the Zimbabweans. When they get to the border, they are arrested by the Zimbabwean officials."

Police sergeant at Park Station, Johannesburg

"It's like we are going on holiday to Mauritius. The government is wasting money. I will be back next week. The police notice the manner in which we dress and the way we walk. We are not like South African women. We are different. We are smart."

Woman being deported to Zimbabwe on Thursday

struction company in Kyalami, north of Johannesburg.

"When the police want to identify someone from Maputo, they look at the mark on his left arm. The South African people have got the mark on their shoulders," he says, referring to vaccination scars.

On the day of our interview, Mabunda did not go to work because he saw a "roadblock."

"They arrest us, but we don't steal. We are working, so they must let us get IDs so we can live like other people," he says. "I just want to work and build myself a decent house here in South Africa."

Stowaways flee wars for Cape

Some quietly allowed loose in city by captains

MARC VAN DER STERREN

More and more stowaways are sneaking ashore at Cape Town harbour to escape civil war in African countries, such as the Republic of Congo, shipping companies have disclosed.

While many stowaways come ashore undetected, some of those discovered hiding aboard ships are said to be quietly let loose on the streets of Cape Town when the ship docks here rather than being handed over to the authorities.

This practice is apparently carried out to avoid the high costs of repatriation, which are borne by the shipping companies.

As many of the stowaways are never reported to the authorities, no meaningful figures are available, but shipping sources report an upsurge in their numbers.

David Hitchman, general manag-

er of shipping company Barwl, said his company alone had about six stowaways a month in Cape Town. It cost his company about R19 000 to repatriate each stowaway. "These stowaways are really desperate," Mr Hitchman said.

"Most of them are refugees who have to leave their country, otherwise they will get killed.

"When they get aboard they don't know where the ship is going. They even don't know if they will arrive alive."

He said most simply walked aboard pretending to be stevedores and then hid on board.

But being a stowaway could be very hazardous.

Often they were surrounded by containers, creating a tomb from which they could not escape. Their bodies were often only found when the ship was unloaded.

Some stowaways hid in the ship's

engines where they were often injured or killed by the moving machinery and high temperatures.

Once a stowaway had been found hiding in oil in the crankcase, breathing through a straw, Mr Hitchman said.

'They don't know where the ship is going or if they will arrive alive'

He was taken out alive in spite of the hot oil ordeal.

Although fewer stowaways discovered on ships at sea were thrown overboard these days, there were still captains who perpetrated this practice.

AR 5/18/10/197 (236)

Mr Hitchman said a Greek skipper had recently been arrested for throwing a stowaway overboard. The captain said in his defence that he would be sacked if he brought a stowaway ashore, because of the expense involved.

Nowadays when stowaways are discovered aboard, they are usually allowed freedom of movement on the ship and are fed.

"We can't let them work, because then they become members of the crew and we would have to pay them."

Ron Karis, chairman of the Associated Shipping Agency Brokers of South Africa, confirmed there had been an increase in stowaways.

A new twist is that more people are boarding ships in Cape Town harbour in order to stow away.

Mr Karis said this was due to the removal of fences around the harbour.

The previous system of security and fencing at the harbour to keep out unauthorised people and prevent theft had been removed to cut costs, he said.

This had opened the way for stowaways to board ships here.

The dangers of stowing away were graphically illustrated in April, when three refugees from Zaïre, now the Democratic Republic of Congo, were cast off on a rowing boat from a Turkish ship off the Cape coast. One, who had been beaten senseless, drowned. The other two landed at Kommetjie.

In January, 12 West Africans were put on a makeshift raft from a Thai cargo ship off the Cape coast. One didn't make it but 11 survived after coming ashore near Gansbaai.

Last year four seamen were accused in the Canary Islands of throwing overboard 21 Liberian stowaways, two of whom drowned.



Scenes from Hillbrow streets yesterday, when a major anticrime blitz got under way, included school boys observing the action, top left, and a traffic officer, top right, contacting police radio services to find out if a vehicle was stolen. Hillbrow station commander Dir Pieter de Witt, bottom left, monitors the operation while a traffic officer tickets a hawker and a man is led to a police van, bottom right.

Pictures ROBERT BOTHA

80 illegal immigrants arrested in blitz (236)

Nomavenda Mathiane

EIGHTY illegal immigrants were arrested in Hillbrow when police launched an unexpected blitz yesterday morning.

The operation was a combined effort by a number of agencies including the SA Police Service, the traffic and environmental health departments, the greater Johannesburg metropolitan council hawking unit and the home affairs department. The sweep concentrated on Pretoria and Kotze streets, targeting illegal immi-

grants, stolen cars and goods, dangerous weapons, and motorists who had not paid traffic fines

A preliminary report said two people were arrested in connection with the theft of cellphones from vehicles, one in connection with a housebreaking in Kempton Park and another one for pointing a firearm.

Six environmental health officers visited 21 buildings and issued notices for offences ranging from waste water flowing into residential areas, accumulation of refuse, structural defects, lack of

water and lack of ablution facilities, to vermin infestation.

The officers visited eight informal food traders and found that five vendors were selling and cooking food under unhygienic conditions

A range of tickets was issued for traffic offences. The hawking unit issued fines to hawkers for obstructing pedestrians or traffic, or for offences such as endangering pedestrian safety by, for example, leaving oil on pavements.

Different areas will be combed each day during the operation

80 16/10/97

Wynham Hartley

Repatriation camp keeps possession of legal resident's passport

STAFF REPORTERS

Lindela Repatriation Camp outside Krugersdorp was still in possession this week of the passport of a Zambian permanently residing lawfully in SA a week after he was nabbed off the street by police.

Nathan Mwale was arrested last Tuesday on suspicion of being an illegal immigrant. Desperate attempts by his brother to free him proved fruitless and he was forced to remain behind the high walls of

the centre until Friday, when he was released.

Despite this, Mwale's passport was retained by Home Affairs Department officials at the camp and he had not been able to retrieve it by yesterday.

Mwale's brother, Jones Mwale, contacted The Star on Thursday after he was allegedly told he could not fetch his brother from the camp unless he paid R250, although he had produced Nathan's passport.

Star reporters accompanied Jones to the camp and wit-

nessed the lengthy release procedures a legal South African resident is forced to endure.

Jones and a reporter again went to Lindela on Thursday at about 6pm. He was sent away after being told that no home affairs officials were on duty and that his brother could be released only the next day - even though legal documents were again produced.

On Friday Jones made a third visit to the camp. After waiting at the gate for about 40 minutes despite having an ap-

pointment with "a Mr Gouws", Jones was eventually allowed in. A man known as Bobo said Gouws was not there.

"Since I am Gouws' second-in-charge I can be of some help," he said, and took Nathan's documents from Jones. He returned 30 minutes later and said Nathan was going to come out, but told Jones to "make a plan".

When Jones appeared reluctant, Bobo went on to say: "My brother, *mx khokha* (without paying), I can't help you."

Bobo said he had to keep the passport, but it could be collected on Monday and Jones was repeatedly reminded to "bring something on Monday".

Nathan claimed Bobo said he should not bring less than R50 to get his passport back.

A security guard who identified himself as Memela stopped the brothers on their way out and told them to "give me some cold drink so that in future we should not experience much problems here". He could do with anything

between R5 to R50, he said, and signed a release paper only after he was paid R10.

Jones returned on Monday to fetch his brother's passport, but was told that Nathan had to come back and sign for it.

The Home Affairs Department was contacted for comment but failed to respond in 24 hours, which it said was the usual time limit given to formal requests for information.

► Corruption, cruelty

Star 15/10/94

(236)

in South Africa, but many of them are too scared to own up to their nationality

— instead they lost their souls

MTG 17-23/10/97 (236)



Whether this arrangement will work in a country that has well over 250 ethnic groups and a population above 100-million is anyone's guess

Nevertheless, Nigerians in South Africa hope the reins of political power will be firmly in the grasp of civilians by October 1998 and beyond. However, many seem to have forgotten that civilians are equally to blame for Nigeria's turbulent past. Six years after independence in 1960 bitter ethnic rivalry resulted in the deaths of thousands, and the army intervened in an unsuccessful attempt to arrest the disintegration of the new republic into regionalism and anarchy.

Many of the young men outside The Sands Hotel were not even born when their parents fought a savage three-year civil war when Igbos from the eastern region attempted to secede from the federation to form the Republic of Biafra in 1967.

They were teenagers about to enter university in the early 1980s when their elders failed them yet again during Nigeria's second experiment with democracy. It was a time when education was a growth industry — text books were scarce, teachers were on strike but it seemed that every state government had enough resources to build a university in every local government capital, one was even called Pope John Paul University.

To put an end to this madness, the military intervened. In a radio broadcast, Sani Abacha, then a brigadier, proclaimed to stunned citizens that he and his colleagues in the armed forces deemed it necessary to "effect change in the system of government" after excessive "squandermania" (corruption) by civilians.

The country's political instability is borne out by the composition of its elites. A vast majority of Nigerians are southerners by origin. It is rare to find a northerner in the depths of Hillbrow or lecturing at Wits, one finds them in high government positions or in the diplomatic corps. Since independence northerners have dominated Nigerian political history, which explains, to an extent, why the presidential elections of 1992 were annulled.

The avidity of generals aside, Nigeria stands to be in a unique position if its impending and latest experiment with democracy succeeds. It will be the first ethnically diverse country with a huge population in Africa to settle harmoniously, once and for all, the competing aspirations of ethnic groups within one boundary.

It could be the first to keep the generals (and aspiring ones) where they belong — in the barracks, and not in the business of arresting the development of millions as if they were commodities to be disposed of during their quest for power and self-aggrandisement.

And if the experiment fails? Life as an exile in South Africa will continue unabated for the men standing around The Sands Hotel in Hillbrow, and for thousands more. Bogyman or not, who — in their right mind — wants that?



Above: Henry John, a fashion designer in Nigeria and Tony Ade, a registered accountant, sell jeans in the street. Left: Obesere John has a BA in English from a Nigerian university, but he's a barber in Johannesburg. PHOTOGRAPHS: DANNY HOFFMAN

University of Port Harcourt in southeastern Nigeria, and Ali, a computer components salesman, comment on the disastrous state of affairs back home. They strongly urge the need to end corruption and build a stable economy. Ask them what can be done to achieve these goals and derisive laughter is the reply.

There is nothing more pitiful than to hear a people crying out to be saved by their country. There is nothing more disheartening than to see the failure of will and imagination among these same people as the main cause of their woes.

Aikhoro is certain that democracy will be the panacea for all his country's ills. "What they want to see is political stability," says the banker. He astutely warns that if the current state of affairs continues, Nigeria "will remain stagnant — or get worse."

The khaki-clad businessmen who run the country have earmarked 1998 as the year when political power will be transferred to a democratically elected head of state. For the first time in its history, the northern hegemony that has steadfastly gripped Nigeria since independence will be relinquished, with the introduction of a unique formula of power-sharing among the diverse regions of the country.

ing drugs into South Africa and asks the indignant question "Have you ever heard of cocaine being made in Nigeria?"

He is joined by Nnamdi, with whom he studied for a political science degree at the University of Nsukka in eastern Nigeria. Nnamdi interjects "We are stranded here. If someone gave us a ticket to leave South Africa today we would gladly take it" — but only if the destination is anywhere other than Nigeria.

A cellphone rings. Nnamdi is in

deep conversation for a few minutes. He returns and announces that the pair have been advised by a friend in America to apply for a US green card in the lottery scheme run by the US government.

Such is the desperation of Nigeria's youth that they are willing to gamble their future in any country but their own which, they feel, has failed effectively to use its own natural resource, namely, its citizens, as a result of rampant corruption and economic mismanagement.

As if to emphasise the point Edwin, who once had a legitimate pharmaceutical business in Lagos, the commercial capital of Nigeria, says forlornly: "Fuck-all is happening here and back home." He darts off towards a car to solicit the needs of its occupants.

Ask any of the Nigerians, young men in their prime — each with a university degree or a background in small business — and the reply is often the same. Emenike, a recent graduate in economic science at the

Pair showed SA identity documents but were ignored

(236) Star 15/10/97

A recent Star report on the Lindela holding camp, a facility where suspected illegal immigrants are held before deportation, triggered a response from businessman Peter Day

He claimed that when his employee Bilat Dzimbiri and his sister Miriam were taken by police to Lindela on Monday September 9, they produced South African identity documents, but these were ignored

Dzimbiri, when contacted by The Star, said that when he got to the camp, he had protested that he was a South African citizen, again showing his identity document

"The security guards at

Lindela told me to keep my book in a safe place or it would be taken away and burnt if given to the wrong security guard. They said I had to wait until the next day before I could speak to someone from home affairs," Dzimbiri said.

Camp officials took photographs of Dzimbiri and his sister, listed their names and registered their nationalities as Zimbabwean

"The next day I tried to cross the camp to the home affairs office. But every time we got near the big gate we were hit and pushed back by the Lindela security guards," he said

Dzimbiri asked if he could

make a phone call, for which he claims the Lindela officials wanted to charge R5. He also alleges he was told to inform anyone planning to fetch him to bring some money for his release

"I eventually found a security guard who said he would phone for me. I asked him to call Mrs Tinkie for me," Dzimbiri said

Tinkie Day, Dzimbiri's employer, was contacted by the Lindela authorities and given a number to phone

"I called them immediately and was told the office was closed. I could only call Bilat the next morning," she said

Day managed to contact

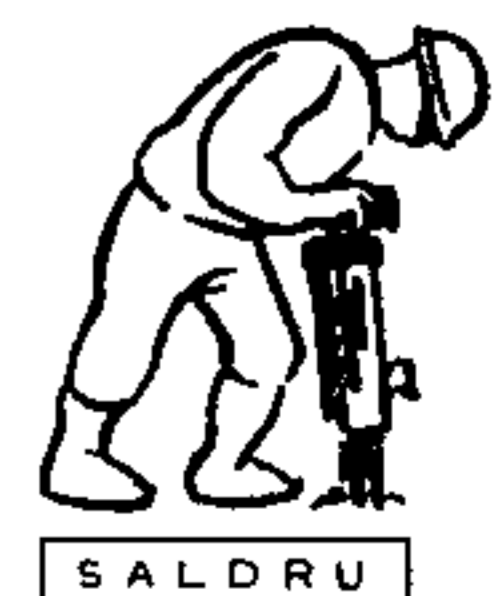
Dzimbiri the following day after making numerous calls

"When Bilat told me that his sister was also being held I immediately called the officials and told them to release her as well. I was told: 'She's got a problem, she's got no money' I gave them a mouthful," Day said

Dzimbiri was released two days later after he was issued a release form by the home affairs office

He returned to the camp the following day to fetch his sister

"When I showed her ID book they let me take her without asking for money," Dzimbiri said.



Police round up hundreds of Alexandra illegals

Star 3/10/97 (236)

Pre-dawn raid nets 368 suspects in township where locals believe foreigners are taking jobs away from them

By GILL GIFFORD
Crime Reporter

The illegal immigrant population in Alexandra Sandton, was woken abruptly before dawn yesterday when a task team raided the Maputo section and arrested 368 suspects.

The crackdown, initiated by Johannesburg's high-density crime prevention operation, formed part of a struggle to clamp down on the increasing number of illegal immigrants who erect shacks in Alexandra.

"There are constant wars between Alex people and the illegals," police Captain John-son Byyela said.

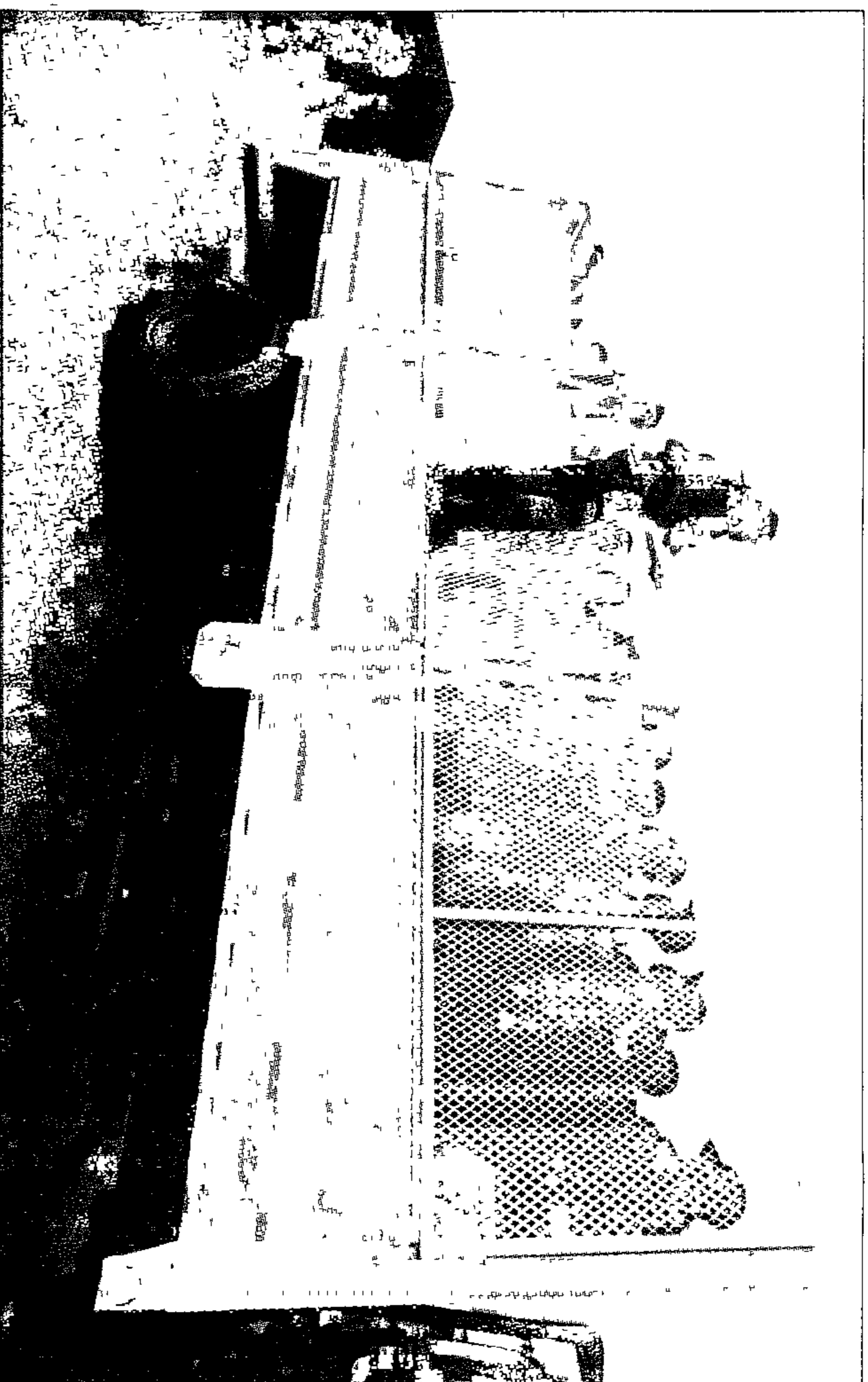
"Employers often take illegal immigrants on as they can get away with paying them minimal wages. This causes conflict, as local people feel they are being robbed of jobs.

"We have no official statistics on the population (of Alexandra), although a rough estimate we work on is 500 000. Personally, I think it's closer to between 600 000 and 800 000. And, it is fair to say, illegal immigrants make up about 40% of the total," Byyela explained.

In an effort to crack down on illegal immigrants, a task team from Johannesburg's high-density operation - a project launched in April to crack down on crime in the city - swooped on the township.

About 300 policemen, public-order policing members, defence-force members and municipal workers raided the Maputo section at the lower end of the township shortly after 4am.

The area is called Maputo because of the high number of Mozambicans who live there.



PICTURES GARY BERNARD

Police entered and searched shacks, while troops blocked escape routes. People whose identity documents were believed to have been forged or altered were loaded on to vans and taken to a makeshift joint-operations centre nearby where they were questioned.

Home-affairs staff registered the people, releasing those they believed had been wrongly apprehended. People with fraudulent identity documents or forged entry visas in their passports had their

names entered on an official report document known as a "body receipt". "These people are taken to the Lindela camp near Krugersdorp, from where they will be deported back to their home countries," a home-affairs official said.

Immigrants believed to be from Mozambique, Zimbabwe and as far as Senegal, were among those arrested.

In the four-and-a-half-hour raid, police made 368 arrests, recovered three unlicensed or

stolen firearms and a stolen BMW.

Johannesburg police spokesman Inspector Mark Reynolds said the operation would continue today.

The raid contributed to the successes of ongoing high-density operations, which started on April 14. The operation entails increased police visibility and the deployment of policemen from outlying stations into task teams to focus on crime problems.

The operations have been

Left: Human cargo ... a truck gets ready to take a group of suspected illegal immigrants to a holding camp, from where they will be deported to their home countries.



Right: Passport pile-up ... a home affairs official examines suspected fraudulent or altered identity documents belonging to people arrested in Alexandra.



Below: Strong arm of the law ... a policeman comforts a baby girl during a raid in Alexandra yesterday, during which suspected illegal immigrants were arrested.

Immigrants hounded 'for taking SA jobs'

'20 killed in city in 1997'

ART 27/12/97 (236)

BLACKMAN NGORO

About 20 African immigrants have been killed in Cape Town this year as a result of xenophobia, according to an organisation looking after their interests.

The scope of attacks on asylum-seekers from other African countries was described this week by Brian Redelinguys, co-ordinator of the Cape Town Refugee Forum, based at the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace.

Giving examples of the attacks, Mr Redelinguys said one immigrant had been shot dead after being robbed in Guguletu. Members of the community had arrested the killer and handed him to police. He said police had released the culprit without charging him.

"Refugees don't have rights in this country," Mr Redelinguys said.

He said another had had his legs amputated by a train after attackers threw him onto a railway line because he was a foreigner.

"All in all, you can count 20 people who have died just because they were black and foreign," Mr Redelinguys said.

The Catholic Commission has laid an official complaint against the police for their alleged hard-handed treatment of immigrants seeking refugee status and political asylum. One immigrant from Burundi died after police arrested him earlier this year.

This situation has set two government departments, Safety and Security and Home Affairs, on a collision course. Refugees anticipate a torrid time in the run-up to the 1999 elections as they see themselves as being used as a political football in that many locals resent them for taking jobs which might otherwise go to South Africans.

The Inkatha Freedom Party has taken a position against illegal immigrants, saying they absorb jobs and resources intended for South Africans, while influential African National Congress members on the parliamentary Home Affairs committee have also taken a strong anti-immigrant stance.

Yusuf Hassan, spokesman for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Pretoria, said the Government could not benefit from the politicisation of the immigrant question. He said South Africa had international obligations which could not be fulfilled while immigrants were being used for political ends.

Mr Redelinguys said he was frustrated with the Government's lack of direction on refugees. "The Government has no policy on refugees and is looking to post-1999 to come up with one. Political asylum seekers, of which there is a 20 000 backlog, cannot have benefits because their applications haven't been heard.

"Refugee status means immigrants can have benefits from the UNHCR. But as it is, the country is a signatory of Geneva conventions dealing with refugees as well as the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) Charter and none of those provisions have filtered into our law. We continue to treat immigrants under the old Aliens Control Act," said Mr Redelinguys.

Michael Tlhoemleng, director responsible for migration and immigration, said: "Home Affairs has nothing to do with the mistreatment of foreigners who are legally here as permanent residents, holders of work permits, refugees or asylum seekers.

"The police are a law unto themselves. We don't have a police force. What the police do is outside the jurisdiction of my department. We don't have any powers against the police. What they are doing is not with the

permission of Home Affairs and, therefore, we can't comment on what they are doing."

The Catholic Commission's complaint was handled by the Independent Complaints Directorate (ICD), which monitors the police.

Burundian refugee, Jean-Pierre Kanyangwa, died on his way to hospital shortly after police had brought him to the offices of the Department of Home Affairs in Cape Town earlier this year.

Mr Redelinguys alleged police had tortured him.

"Not only this man has died because he was a foreigner - nearly 20 others have been killed so far this year in Cape Town alone. We think this is as a result of some kind of third force activity motivated by xenophobia. Some members of the police are part of that. Immigrants, particularly refugees and asylum seekers, are prey to this phobia," Mr Redelinguys said.

Cape Town border police director Phillip Nel said Mr Kanyangwa was taken to Home Affairs after his arrest as this was normal procedure.

"When they arrived, he complained of pain and was taken to Somerset Hospital where he died. A case docket is being investigated by the ICD. Any unnatural deaths should be investigated."

The ICD's Gavin Meyer said the investigation of the complaint against the police had been completed.

He could not give any further details other than to say it would now be up to the attorney-general to make a decision on whether to prosecute.

Pathologist Gideon Knobel performed an autopsy and found the cause of death had been laceration of the spleen.

"Allegations were made that this person had been assaulted before or during his arrest," he reported.

SA 'should adopt humane refugee policy'

Pearl Sebolao

SA WAS a new destination for asylum seekers and refugees from strife-torn countries in Africa and the former Yugoslavia, the UN High Commission for Refugees' southern African director of operations, Nicolas Bwakira, said yesterday

At the launch of the commission's publication, State of the World's Refugees, in Johannesburg, Bwakira said SA should not turn its back on refugees and should adopt immigration and refugee policies that were humane and reflected African realities

He warned against following the examples of Europe and the US, which had created more restrictive policies and legisla-

(236) BS 9/12/97
tive barriers to deter the arrival of people seeking refuge on their territory

Bwakira said it was important that southern African governments and organisations like the SA Development Community played a more active role in preventing conflict and in taking decisive action to halt fighting and human rights abuses

He warned that there remained points of tension in southern Africa, as demonstrated in the failed coups in Lesotho and Zambia, and labour unrest in Swaziland, which had the potential to produce refugees or displace people internally

SA Justice Minister Dullah Omar reaffirmed SA's commitment to addressing and protecting the rights of refugees

SA had a special responsibility towards refugees, especially since many of its people had been refugees during the apartheid years and had benefited from the hospitality of its neighbours and the international community, Omar said

It was unfortunate that, despite all that South Africans had been through during those years, xenophobia was again "rearing its ugly head" in SA. There was a need to educate and sensitise people to the problems faced by refugees, he said

He said as global emergencies became increasingly complex and protracted, demands on humanitarian action had also grown, but as essential as it was, there were limitations on what this could achieve

To let people stay, or push them out

Government struggles over question of what to do with

BLACKMAN NGORO
STAFF REPORTER

Thousands of refugees are giving the Government a headache in their attempts to either stay in the country or obtain South African passports to travel abroad.

And it's not just the Government that has a problem many airlines have been burned by refugees, mainly from Africa and mainland China

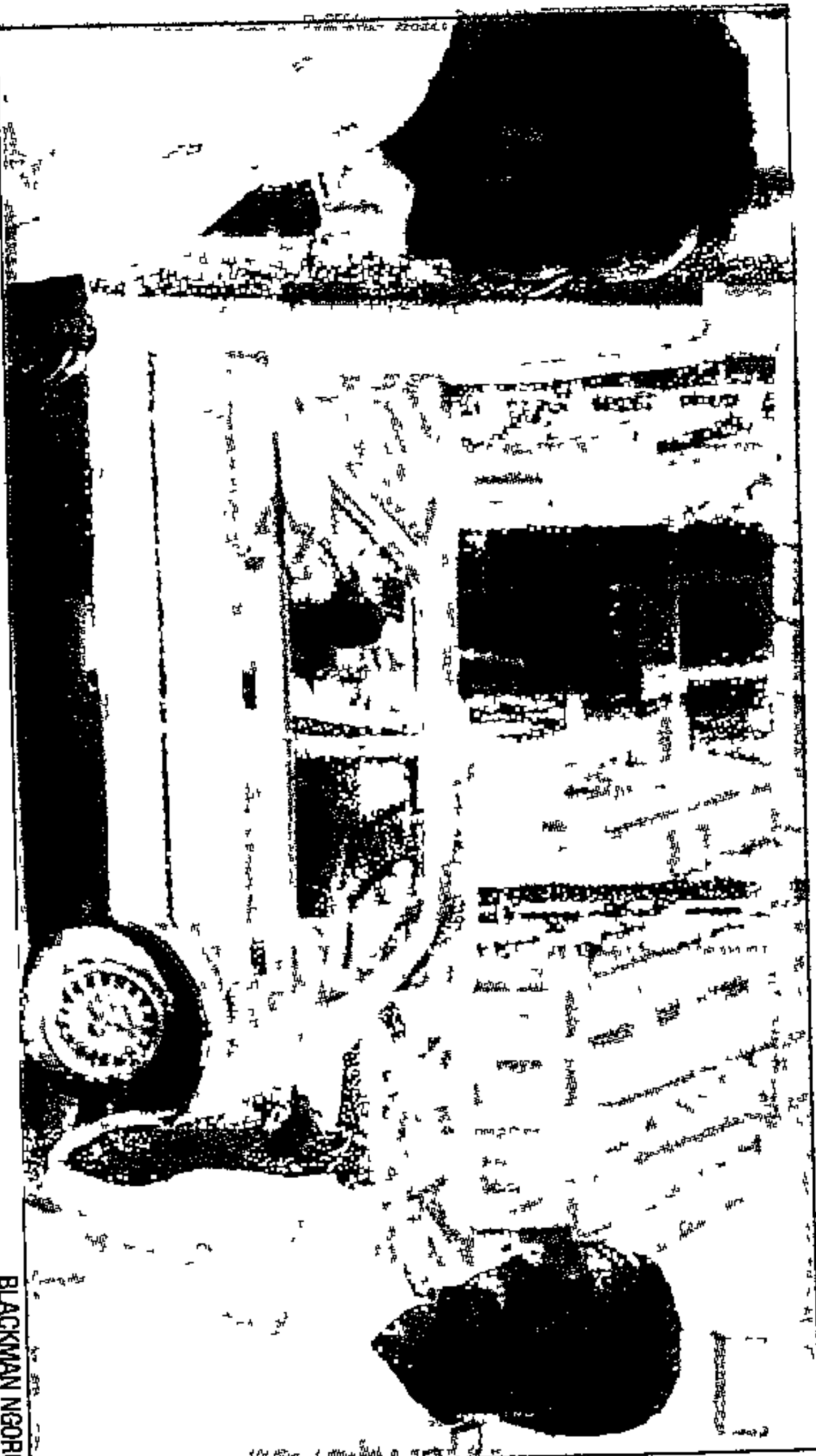
South African Airways says that so far this year it has paid fines in excess of R1.2-million to foreign immigration departments for transporting people with false documents. This figure includes fines paid for those travellers who didn't meet visa requirements and had to be turned back.

Each time a passenger with inadequate travel papers or one with false documents is picked up by foreign immigration departments, the airline carrier is fined up to R5 000 (about R45 000)

Other airlines that have been hit include KLM, Air France, Lufthansa, British Airways and Air Malaysia

Many refugees are political asylum seekers who also hope to better their lives through job opportunities in South Africa. But they said that when these opportunities failed to materialise and xenophobia put paid to their efforts at business on the streets, they wanted to leave.

At present, there are 20 500 foreigners seeking political asylum in South Africa. Of these, a total of only 4 500 have been granted the status. The political asylum seekers are in the country on temporary permits issued under section 41 of the Aliens Control Act, pending the approval



Future in the balance: Somalis Mohammed and Ismail discuss leaving South Africa

BLACKMAN NGORO

of their applications. This could take more than six months.

Section 41 permits are valid for three months, and can be extended.

"If a person comes over the border illegally and applies for political asylum he gets the permit," says border police captain Lisa Potgieter.

"He must keep the original document until the investigation into his circumstances has been completed. Then his application for South African papers is either approved or rejected."

Captain Potgieter said the section 41 permit was "the most abused permit in the country", and could be used by people who only intended to stay long enough to carry out criminal activities. The permits

were intended for people seeking political asylum and for people who could not prove they had South African nationality.

"It is during the investigation stage that some applicants carry out their nefarious activities," said Captain Potgieter.

Willem Vorster, assistant director responsible for ports of entry at Home Affairs, said, "Many have already been denied asylum."

He also said Christmas time posed a special problem for his department.

"By this time of the year, a lot of illegal immigrants have obtained falsified South African passports to leave the country to take some goodies to their relatives at home."

Some of them bought the documents

from corrupt Home Affairs officials. Others bought passports from syndicates who had stolen them from their owners, and then substituted the identity pictures.

Those most guilty of this were people from neighbouring countries, but numbers had dropped since earlier this year when the Government offered an amnesty to foreign nationals with jobs who had been in the country for more than five years.

Recent trends show that the number of those seeking asylum, even from war-torn regions such as Somalia, has decreased as governments the world over get tougher with stateless people.

Yusuf Hassan of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees said Europe was increasingly becoming a fortress against political asylum seekers.

"It is no longer possible for refugees to enter European countries and the United States, though Canada, America and Australia have programmes to resettle refugees if they have family in those countries."

Mr Vorster said the foreigners who tried to leave the country without the right papers were the exception rather than the rule.

"We cannot allow them to leave because they want to," Mr Vorster said. "If they travel without papers, they will be returned here."

Mr Hassan also added his voice to the overall concern about travellers without proper documents. "South Africa can be blamed by foreign governments for permitting its territory to be used as a launching pad for illegal immigration."

Mohammed, who is from Somalia, and

ARK 19/12/97

Refugees

P.T.O.



NIKE gig

Mary X

X



runs a street sweet shop, said xenophobia was a major problem here, causing immigrants to want to leave for Europe

"We can no longer make a living selling on the streets because we are being chased off. So how do we survive?"

But Mr Hassan warned refugees here that things would not necessarily be better for them abroad

"Problems in Europe are pretty much the same as here. It's not as if it is paradise there. There is racism and victimisation"

Mohammed agreed "All I'm waiting for is a South African passport. Once I have that I will inform my brother in England and he will send me a ticket. But I have to wait for one more year"

Ismail, his friend, also from Somalia, said he had lived and worked in the United Arab Emirates, Tanzania and Malawi, said there was no place like home

"Look at me, I run this sweet stall to earn my daily bread. I'm a qualified litho machine operator

"I'm not interested in this kind of life. But I can't go back"

Most of the Somali refugees in South Africa have families living and working in as diverse countries as Britain, the Netherlands, and Scandinavian countries

Mr Hassan said the South African Government had an obligation to protect immigrants it granted asylum to.

"They have a right to work in South Africa. The South African Government and police must give these refugees protection

"These people fled from fear in their own countries. The Government must take a very strong stand on xenophobia"

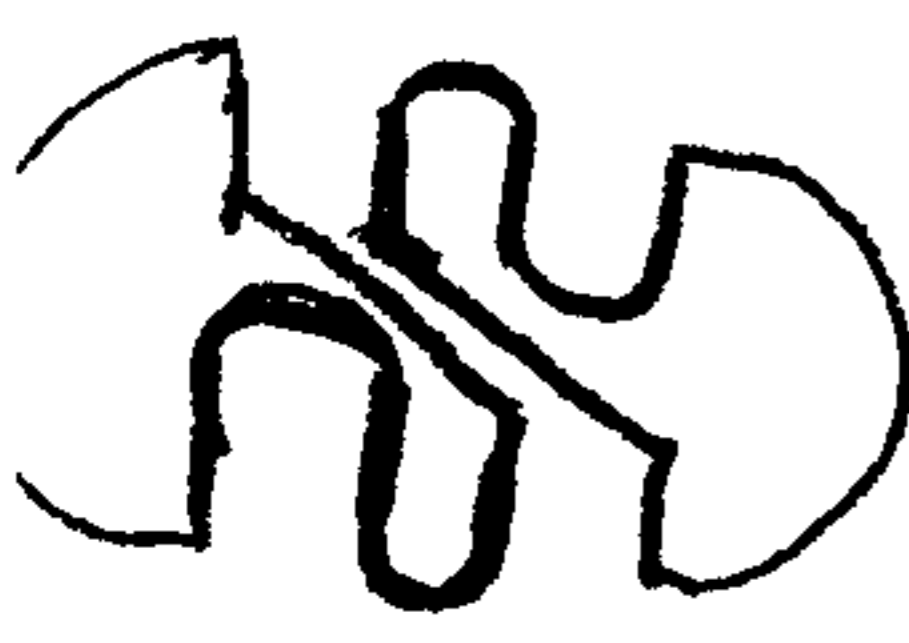
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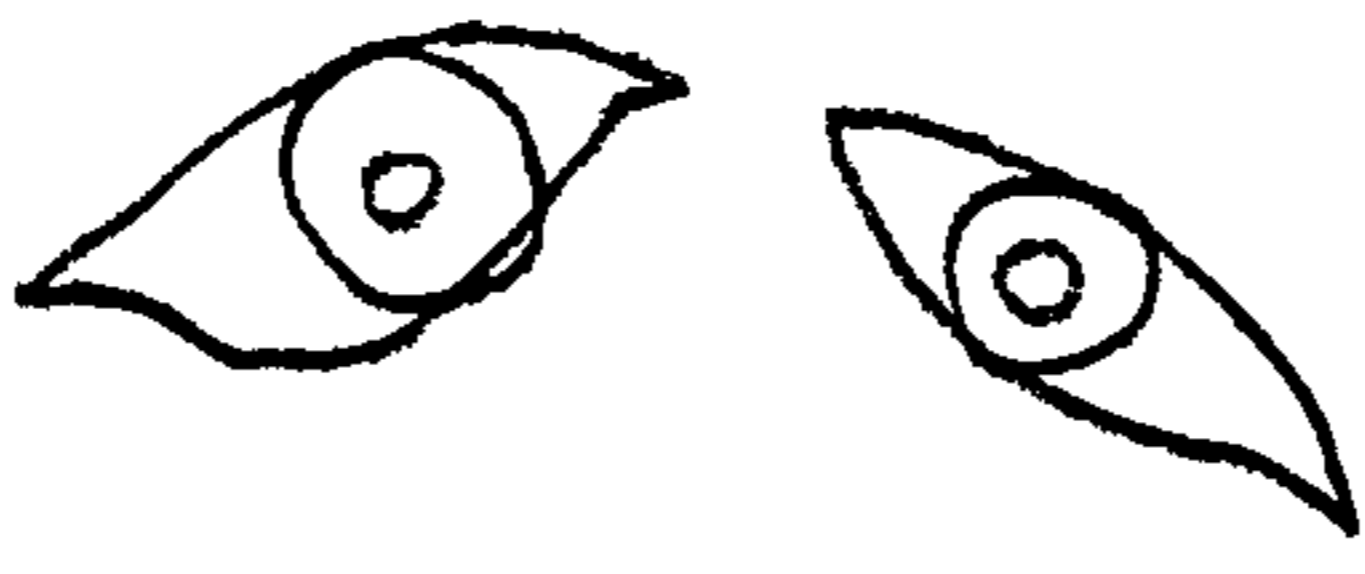


AOR



RAVE

RAVE
EVEL, EYE



Riot on eve of detention-camp probe

There are still questions over the treatment of illegal immigrants at Lindela camp, writes Andy Duffy

Guards at the private deportation camp Lindela had to use batons and dogs to quell a near riot last week after hundreds of inmates massed to storm the gate

Management at Lindela, which is linked to high profile African National Congress women, says no one was seriously hurt in the fray. But four guards face disciplinary action, following accusations that they later beat inmates

The stand-off came the day before an influential American human rights group, Human Rights Watch, visited Lindela for a report on South Africa's treatment of illegal aliens. Inmates told them Lindela staff often beat them and take bribes. "I am scared to report them because they beat you," one inmate claimed.

The centre, on the far West Rand, operates under contract with the Department of Home Affairs as a central holding point for illegal aliens before they are shipped home. Lindela has processed more than 80 000 deportees, most from Mozambique, since it opened in August 1996.

Lindela currently holds 1 100 inmates, enclosed behind 5 000V electrified fences. Many have been there for months, partly because their countries are slow to take them back. The train service to Mozambique has also been suspended for the holiday season, so the centre is using buses to ferry deportees home.

Last week's incident was sparked when 600 Mozambicans tried to charge the gates, apparently because they were impatient to go home. Manager Daniel Mansell says the inmates hurled bottles and other missiles at the 10 guards, who responded with batons and dogs. At least one person was treated for baton strikes.

Hours later, several guards allegedly beat the ringleaders. Police were called in after inmates identified four of their alleged attackers in a line-up. Mansell says the inmates, desperate to get home, dropped the charges, but Lindela is still investigating the four.

Mansell says inmates have "apologised profusely" but warned him "they can't control the ringleaders". He adds there are no plans to call in police reinforcements, and that the camp remains calm.

The day after the incident, however, inmates were seething — just as a representative from Human Rights Watch arrived to interview them. The organisation does not want



Lindela limbo: Many illegal immigrants are stuck in the centre for long periods, waiting to be repatriated. PHOTOGRAPH: OSCAR G

to publicise its findings until the allegations have been checked. Its researcher, however, spoke to several inmates, including Mozambicans, Zimbabweans, Angolans and South Africans. Their stories were very similar.

"The problem is that we are not treated like human beings," says one Zimbabwean. "Yesterday guys were beaten severely. One guy was 18 years old. He was beaten severely with a baton stick."

A Mozambican inmate adds "Yesterday they went cell by cell beating people. They woke us at night, beating us."

Another inmate, who says he is South African, says "If you complain, they beat you and tell you are complaining to white people. I tried to solve my problem. I approached a white man who took me to the home affairs representatives at Lindela. After the white man left they hit me. They asked me how much had I got."

Inmates also spoke about having valid immigration papers torn up, and having to pay officials up to R200 to buy their way out. "Even if you have your papers on you they want a

bribe," the Zimbabwean says. "Everybody knows that to get out you need to bribe. So many guys have gotten out from here by paying money."

Mansell says many of the allegations relate to the inmates' treatment before they arrive at Lindela. He confirms that several South Africans have been held at the centre, and also foreigners who are actually permitted to be in South Africa. But he says it is police and home affairs who are responsible for preventing such mistakes.

These are not the first such allegations of beatings and maltreatment levelled at Lindela. The Human Rights Commission investigated similar claims earlier this year, but found no evidence.

The claims have nevertheless been acutely embarrassing to the ANC women linked to the centre, such as deputy speaker Baleka Mbete-Kgositsile, deputy home affairs minister Lindi Sisulu and Adelaide Tambo, who set up Dyambu, the trust that owns Lindela. Sisulu severed her ties with Dyambu as soon as she discovered its involvement in Lindela.

Trustee Hilda Ndude says she asked Lindela management three weeks ago to investigate the claims. She adds "These people will try telling all sorts of stories that they must be freed."

But the timing of the latest incident could not have been worse for Lindela. Its contract expires at the end of this month, and Home Affairs has warned it does not have the cash to renew it. Management has been rallying support for the centre, arguing that it is cheaper than holding illegal aliens in prison — R19,95 a day plus VAT, compared to nearly R72 — and that the conditions are far better.

Lindela's allies include Gauteng Safety and Security MEC Jesse Duarte, who has told Home Affairs it has a moral responsibility to keep the centre open. Lawyers for Human Rights refugee project co-ordinator, Jeff Handmaker, says "The alternative for housing illegal aliens, in prison, would be far worse, piling further pressure on the hugely overburdened prison service."

Home Affairs has approached the Department of Correctional Services about sharing costs, so far without success.

Medicines council to work with Virodene researchers

Pat Sidley

DD 8/11/97

Viridene

THE Medicines Control Council (MCC) would meet the researchers involved in clinical trials for controversial AIDS drug Viridene today, MCC deputy chairman Prof Peter Eagles said.

Thus follows a meeting of the Council in Pretoria on Friday which saw the MCC change its attitude towards the research and development of Viridene. The council said it would work with the researchers towards scientific protocols aimed at establishing clinical trials for the drug.

A request for compassionate use of the drug was submitted for a decision on Friday, but Eagles said the council was unable to deal with it in limited time. Thus would be dealt with, he hoped, in the course of working with the Viridene researchers.

The council had also not suspended its legal action taken against the illegal sale and distribution of the drug.

According to Eagles the council hopes to work together with the clinicians to find a way of scientifically deciding whether or not the drug can be used in the treatment of AIDS. "We believe it is necessary to provide all stakeholders with some finality on the issue," he said.

He believed that because the drug was apparently in use in several African countries and in Portugal, the MCC now had a regional duty to assess

The statement issued by the MCC on Friday expressed reservations once again about Viridene.

"The product is made from an industrial solvent, with unknown impurities, and is known to be toxic. There has been almost no good laboratory data on whether Viridene has any action against the HIV virus," it said.

The council had decided, however, to do a "comprehensive review of all the available data on Viridene" and to "finally get resolution on whether or not Viridene is safe and effective."

Josey Ballenger reports that the lawyers for Virodene inventors Olga Visser and her husband Zigi, and University of Pretoria researchers Dr Dirk du Plessis and Dr Calle Landauer, said the two parties "welcomed" the decision. They were determined not to allow "minor differences" to sidetrack the "national goals" of developing a safe treatment against HIV and AIDS.

Zigi Visser, Virodene patent-holder Cryopreservation Technologies' administrator, said last night that no one from the closed corporation would be directly involved in the clinical trials, as there would be a conflict of interest in being the inventor or researcher and having a financial interest in the drug.

Du Plessis and Landauer are both Cryopreservation members.

Comment: Page 9

Farmers exploiting illegals — unions

Renée Grawitzky

DD 8/12/97

THOUSANDS of illegal Mozambican workers employed on SA farms were living under prison-like conditions and were earning about R5 a day, Mozambican trade union federation's international relations secretary Pedro Mangaze said yesterday.

Mangaze said illegal Mozambican workers were often hired on three- to six-month contracts, but were paid only at the end. He said often farmers tried to get out of paying workers, calling in the SA police Service on the pretext these workers were squatting on the farms and such practices were happening not only on border farms, but on Gauteng farms, the SA Agriculture

Minister and Alfred Wolkoff. The union and other organisations had tried on many occasions to speak to illegal workers but were stopped by farmers — who kept them hours apart from SA workers and stop them from doing "strange things". Mangaze said workers would continue to sleep the hard because of the extremely high level of unemployment in Mozambique.

In the case for Democracy in SA, the union project manager Virodene said farmers were "exploiting" such workers and continued to do so despite the fact that under current legislation farmers faced fines for employing illegal workers.

Agriculture union to meet Mandela on Louise Cook

Louise Cook

THE SA Agricultural Union will meet President Nelson Mandela tomorrow for the second time in two months to discuss the reign of terror in which 16 farmers have been murdered since last month.

In October the farmers' union asked the president to establish a judicial inquiry to find whether the attacks on farmers were politically motivated or attempts to strip farmers of land.

Speculation was rife that former MK and Apla guerrillas were responsible for the killings. Mandela said the intelligence services would first complete investigations before an inquiry.

Union CEO Jack Raath said it would impress upon the president that January was the cut-off point before farmers took drastic action. Government was told at the previous meeting it had three months to produce results. Indications were that the intelligence presider two weeks ago were no political killings, Sydney protect worked. "It will take the because stable long term

'WE ACTED IN GOOD FAITH'

HK immigrants face deportation from SA

CT8/12/97

236

DESPITE making substantial investments in the country, two Hong Kong families face deportation because of a "misinterpreted" clause. **CYNTHIA VONGAI** reports.

TWO entrepreneurial Hong Kong families who moved to South Africa have fallen foul of an ambiguous clause in immigration law — and have been told to go back to the territory which is now controlled by China.

Another 60 families, who are living in Cape Town and have invested substantial amounts of money in the country, are also affected by this ruling

The two families have both invested about R520 000 in the South African economy and bought properties worth about R670 000. The other families have invested similar amounts

At the time of their immigration, the families were required to invest R250 000.

Now however, under tough new immigration laws, if they wished to begin the lengthy process again, they would have to transfer an amount of not less than R1,5 million to a South African bank, of which R700 000 must be invested for three years

Home Affairs officials say the Hong Kong families may have "misinterpreted" the Aliens Control Act of 1991, while the families argue they acted bona fide in accordance with the act

Although Home Affairs officials say that the clause was clear in its meaning, the families interpreted it to mean that once they had been granted residency, they had to come to South Africa and have their passports stamped, and that they had to make sure that they took up residency within a five-year period

Two months ago they were notified by Home Affairs without prior warning, that their residency

permits had been cancelled and that they had to leave. Sixty others who interpreted the clause in the same way are terrified that they too will have their permits revoked

Family A: husband, wife, young daughter and a baby. Has lived in SA for nearly "two years". Their son was born here and had been issued a South African birth certificate and passport

They applied for permanent residency in 1992 and the application was approved in May 1993

"I do not understand what I did wrong," said Mr A

"I have lived here for nearly two years and my son was born here. We have invested our money in the economy. I sold my business. I could not return to Hong Kong because there is nothing there for me anymore"

Family B: husband, wife and two teenage daughters, applied for residency in 1993 but only emigrated from Hong Kong two years ago after buying a R420 000 house in Tableview. Mr B, unable to sell his business earlier, only moved to Cape Town in February.

"We came here thinking that this country would provide us with a better quality of life. It was enjoying its new democracy and we wanted to be part of that and make our contribution to it," Mr B said

When families A and B applied for residency, they were granted it on the strength that they were financially independent and would make a substantial investment in the economy

Each family invested R250 000 and went on to buy homes and other assets

Once the families had been granted residency, they came to

South Africa to have their passports stamped but, at the time, both families still had to wind up businesses in Hong Kong

They made frequent visits to South Africa. Family B said they spent about R25 000 on travelling expenses alone. They also spent nearly R20 000 on immigration consultants

During these visits both families also tried to arrange accommodation and find new schools for their children and each time, as the Aliens Control Act stipulated, they "provided satisfactory reasons" why they had not taken up residency immediately and each time their passports were re-stamped.

But now Home Affairs say their permits have been cancelled because they had not settled here within six months of being granted residency

"It is clear that the immigrant must enter South Africa (within six months) for the purpose of settling permanently, which implies that any medium to long-term absence shortly after entry results in the purpose for which the permit was issued, being nullified.

"It often happens that immigrants apply for an extension for the validity period of their permits and it is at the discretion of the director-general that such a request is complied with or rejected," a Home Affairs spokesperson said

They have been instructed to hand in their permits for cancellation. If they want to remain residents, they will have to re-apply under the new permit condition

If they re-applied, they would be considered as new applicants, meaning that their previous applications would be taken into consideration, but would not guarantee approval. This is what angers the families, who feel they were "convinced" to invest here only to be turned out a few years later

Fence to keep out animals and aliens

CONSTRUCTION of a fence to protect SA from animal diseases like tuberculosis and foot-and-mouth disease north of the country is expected to begin early next year, deputy director of animal health Dr Johan Krige said yesterday.

The 55km electrified fence would extend from the water across the Tlokweng corridor from the Kruger park's northern boundary.

Krige said the defence force would also fit alarms to the fence to detect the entry of illegal immigrants into South Africa.

BD 10/12/97 (236)
REPORTS REPORTS Sapa AP

Countries are ganging up against refugees and asylum seekers

By Mathatha Tsedu
Political Editor

THE number of refugees, returnees and internally displaced people around the world has decreased since 1995 – but the conditions under which they live have actually worsened, according to a report by the United Nations high commissioner for refugees.

The 298-page report, titled *The State of the World's Refugees – a humanitarian agenda*, states that while the total number of people of concern to the UNHCR increased from 5.7 million in 1980 to 27.4 million in 1995, a drop of 4.7 million occurred between 1995 and this year.

However, this statistical picture is deceptive, as countries have ganged up against refugees and victims of wars, shutting borders and repatriating refugees against their will to their countries of origin.

In some cases, such as in the former Zaire, Rwandese refugees were forced home by the ongoing war between Hutu militias, Laurent Kabila's forces and the then Zairean army.

Over two million people walked through dense bush to Rwanda – not because the situation had stabilised at home but to save their lives.

Massacres by militias

In Tanzania the government twice shut its borders to refugees and later forcibly repatriated Rwandese refugees after massacres by militias waging tribal warfare.

As different parts of the world experience continuing problems, Southern Africa was cited by UNHCR director of operations for Southern Africa Nicolas Bwakira as the area where the organisation was closest to achieving its goals of stabilising refugees, repatriating them home and helping them regain their independence through economic projects.

This refers particularly to Mozambican refugees, whose repatriation has been hailed as a model operation. However Angola and its endemic civil war is a blot on an otherwise promising situation.

While South Africa has not closed its borders to refugees, senior UNHCR officials have criticised the lack of a clear migration policy, which creates an environment in which foreigners have become easy targets for attacks.

There was therefore a need for government to endorse a public awareness campaign that could be run with the UNHCR to ensure that the ignorance that feeds xenophobic behaviour – which has seen hawkers from African countries targeted in the streets of Johannesburg – can be dealt with.

Economically depressed

Such attacks, which sometimes stem from economically depressed conditions where refugees and other foreigners are seen as competition for scarce jobs or other resources, have resulted in the killing of an entire family in the Western Cape during an arson attack motivated by a lack of housing.

The attacks were allowed to happen while police stood by.

If government does not formulate clear policies to safeguard foreigners it will create a "numbness to human rights violations that allows the erosion of human rights, firstly for the affected people, but later for South Africans themselves", UNHCR senior external relations officer for Southern Africa, Yusuf Hassan told *Sowetan*.

The report itself calls for a humanitarian agenda in dealing with the problems of refugees. It says the attitudes of governments against refugees have fostered the growth in internally displaced people, estimated to number over 30 million.

Of these only 4.9 million receive help from the UNHCR as internal displaced people are not covered by UN conventions on refugees. The excep-

World's unwanted



About 100 000 Rwandan refugees were forced to return home last year when Tanzania decided to close the camps sheltering them. *Sowetan* 11/12/97

PIC: UNHCR

tions are in the former Yugoslavia and Angola, where the UN Security Council and the General Assembly, through the secretary-general, have asked the UNHCR to help.

The over 25 million people in places like Algeria, Afghanistan and other Asian countries receive no help and are living in conditions of sheer hell, the report says.

"It is becoming increasingly difficult for refugees to find a place of safety beyond the borders of their homeland. In many parts of the world, people who have taken refuge in another country have been harassed, attacked and even forced to go home against their will," the report states.

It said civilians have become major targets in over 35 conflicts raging through the world today, with expulsion for ethnic and/or religious reasons. The victims have found less tolerant governments outside their home countries where they are seen as polit-

ical, social and economic threats. Five million people who requested asylum in Western Europe, North America and Australasia over the past decade faced "an array of different measures intended to prevent or deter people from seeking refuge," the report says.

Media and politicians randomly label refugees and asylum-seekers "bogus", in the end influencing poorer countries to follow suit.

Ethical foundations

"When the very countries responsible for establishing the international refugee regime begin to challenge its legal and ethical foundations then it is hardly surprising that other states, especially those with far more pressing economic problems and much larger refugee populations, have decided to follow suit," the report states.

Africa, the report states, has the largest number of refugees at 4.3 million, and also the largest number of

returnees at 1.7 million. The largest repatriation of 1.3 million people also happened in Africa, while the continent is also responsible for 16 of the 30 million internally displaced.

UNHCR commissioner Sadako Ogata says in the preface to the report that aid agencies are finding themselves having to provide solutions to complex political problems, and warns that this is not their responsibility.

"However proficiently such agencies are managed and coordinated, they cannot bring wars to an end, oblige states to respect the human rights of their citizens or bring a halt to the deliberate displacement of civilian populations," she says.

Ogata called for a plan of action to eradicate poverty, promote human rights and democracy, strengthen peace-building operations in war-torn societies and ensure that those responsible for forcing millions from their homes are brought to account.

... was a significant improvement from the R74m deficit it faced three years ago

Apology for Chinese workers

(236) BD 19/12/1977

HOME affairs director-general Albert Mokoena apologised publicly yesterday to 40 Chinese nuclear technicians — who had been working secretly in SA — for being “inconvenienced” by a December 3 police and immigration raid on the Atomic Energy Corporation’s (AEC’s) premises.

Police and immigration officers raided the premises at Pelindaba and found the Chinese workers, who had been working in secret since October to dismantle a crucial part of SA’s nuclear-fuel production capacity to ship back to China.

The workers had SA business permits but the home affairs department insisted they needed work permits instead. China demanded an apology from the police and the department.

The matter was expected to cause embarrassment ahead of this month’s

visit to SA by a delegation from Beijing for ceremonies to mark China’s upgrading to full diplomatic status.

Mokoena apologised to the workers, the AEC and “anybody who might have been inconvenienced as a result of this raid” and acknowledged his department was responsible for the administration of the Aliens Control Act under which the raid was carried out.

He said two immigration officers attended the raid at the request of the police, who had organised and executed the operation. The department could not comment on the circumstances leading to the raid but the matter was being taken up with police.

“I will endeavour to establish the motivation for this raid and take the necessary steps to avoid the recurrence of indiscriminate actions such as this,” Mokoena said. — Sapa

Forum gives refugees a chance to air problems

(236)

Star 11/11/97

By GASANT ABARDER

African refugees now have the opportunity to voice their problems in South Africa since the recent formation of the Gauteng Refugee Forum by local non-governmental organisations.

The forum has the support of the Department of Home Affairs

"The forum is great because it's bringing together refugees from different nations and we can sit together and talk about our problems. Sometimes we are treated like foreigners - we are not aliens," said refugee representative Sulega Dahir

Somalian Dahir (31) fled her home because of the ongoing war in her country. Her parents and younger sister have been killed

and she is not sure where the rest of her family is.

Forum chairman Yusuf Seedat said the formation of the forum was important as police do not distinguish between refugees and illegals and the former were often targeted as illegal aliens

It would also assist charity organisations which distributed food and clothing to refugees to have correct identification of people who qualified for such assistance.

Seedat said forums had been launched in the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal and a national consortium is being planned. He said because of its past, South Africa had an obligation to refugees

Last month, The Star reported

the poor living conditions in which refugees live in South Africa. Their livelihood depended on the generosity of charity organisations and the community

The Johannesburg Muslim Charity Organisation - an organisation led by Ahmed Tarag which helps refugees - said their budget had swollen from R20 000 to R60 000 a year because of the influx of refugees

About 7 200 asylum seekers enter South Africa each year from war-stricken countries such as Rwanda, Burundi and Somalia, and the number is increasing, according to Home Affairs.

A department official confirmed that no financial assistance was provided to asylum seekers and approved refugees

Alien's court battle to stay in SA

AYESHA ISMAIL

(236)

ST (cm) 16/11/99

A MOROCCAN has taken the Minister of Home Affairs, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, to the High Court for refusing to allow him to stay in the country permanently.

In papers before court, Youssef Essakhi, 24, who married a 62-year-old Cape Town woman more than a year ago, has asked the court to set aside the minister's decision.

Essakhi was ordered by the Department of Home Affairs to leave the country by November 7, after being told that his marriage was contracted "to evade the provisions of the Aliens Control Act".

The Essakhis have now sought the help of the Cape High Court to force the minister to allow them to live here as husband and wife.

Essakhi said he met Amina, of Athlone, in Durban and three months later they were married in Cape Town.

He applied for permanent residence in November last year but was told by the Immigrants Selection Board on June 13 this year that his application had been denied.

A letter from the board said that although the couple were both Muslim, they did not marry according to Muslim rites.

Essakhi, who works in a bakery, will be allowed to remain in Cape Town until the High Court decides his fate next year.

NUJOMA, MANDELA DISCUSS PROBLEMS

'Illegals' a concern to SA

CT 27/11/97

(236)

IT IS IMPORTANT to spread investment over the region to encourage people not to leave their countries, says President Mandela. Political Writer **ANDRE KOOPMAN** reports.

SOUTH AFRICA was concerned about the large number of illegal immigrants from neighbouring countries, President Nelson Mandela told visiting President Sam Nujoma of Namibia yesterday

Speaking after bilateral talks at his official residence Genadendal, Mandela said South Africa had a duty to see that the economies of its neighbours "flourished" because they had assisted South Africa in its liberatory struggle

Fifteen illegal immigrants and 14 refugees from Zimbabwe, Malawi, Pakistan, Zambia, Morocco and Nigeria, were arrested in Cape Town yesterday in joint operation in the city bowl carried out by the police and Department of Home Affairs officials

Mandela said it had become important to ensure investment was spread over the entire region, so that jobs could be created in neighbouring countries, and this would prevent, 'people from moving across the border into other countries'

The problem was being addressed by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) but it was also "fruitful to discuss this on a bilateral level to ensure we assist SADC in search of a solution"

Mandela said "During the years of the anti-apartheid struggle, liberation movements in South Africa were given asylum in neighbouring countries

"Now that we are victorious, they regard our victory as their victory, they say now that our brothers and sisters are free in South Africa, we can go there and look for jobs"

South Africa therefore had an obligation to ensure that the economies of neighbouring countries flourished and created jobs for their unemployed

Mandela said issues of bilateral and regional co-operation, particularly trade and investment, had been discussed with Nujoma who was accompanied by his Minister of Finance Mr Nangolo Mbumba and his Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy Mr Jesaya Nyamu



STILL TALKING: Nelson Mandela with Namibian President Sam Nujoma

PICTURE BENNY GOOL

Plans afoot to turn Lindelani centre into a refugee 'camp'

By JIMMY SEEPE

(236)

CP 23/11/97

TRUSTEES of the controversial Lindelani detention centre on the West Rand, run by a consortium of leading members of the ANC Women's League, plan to turn the centre into a transit "camp" for thousands of people seeking refugee status in the country.

The plans to convert the detention centre, owned by Dyambo Trust, come as the contract between the trust and the Department of Home Affairs runs out at the end of the year.

The department does not plan to renew the contract with the trust, which stands to lose millions of rands unless it gets another contract.

The issue of the status of refugees in the country is said to have come under the spotlight two weeks ago during the ANC special policy conference in Midrand.

A discussion document compiled by a think-tank consulted by the organisation to come up with proposals on the refugee status has provided the movement with different policy options on the issue.

It is alleged that one of the proposals is the issue of housing some of the refugees before they are settled in the country.

The Dyambo trustees hope to open negotiations with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and the International

Red Cross for the new proposals.

The centre could make a huge income from the UNHCR and the IRC as there is currently no centre to house people seeking refuge in the country.

Applications for refugee status in the country have risen since the new dispensation. By September this year, 33 236 had applied for refugee status, but only 12 668 applications have been processed.

And there is growing concern that closure of the centre could once again lead to prison overcrowding as home affairs officials and the police would have no option but to send illegal immigrants to prison before their deportation.

Home affairs spokesperson Hennie Meyer said his department would not renew the contract because of budget constraints.

Meyer said there were currently no plans in the department as to where they could house thousands of refugees.

Plans by the Dyambo trustees to turn the detention centre into a transit camp for refugees are said to be enjoying positive response within the organisation.

A feasibility study looking into various options about what to do with the centre has already been completed and handed to the trust.

But home affairs said it did not have any future plans to do with Lindelani and that plans to turn it into a transit camp were not theirs.

Baker (24) battles state for wife (62)

Marion Edmunds

As in the movie *Green Card*, a Cape Town couple has challenged South African immigration officials to prove that they have not consummated their marriage.

Moroccan baker Youssef Essakhi (24) says he is wildly in love with his wife Amina (62) and he is taking the government to court for denying him permanent residence in South Africa.

The Western Cape Immigrants Selection Board rejected Essakhi's application in June this year, saying his marriage to Amina née Gamielien was a sham. "After interviewing you and your wife, all evidence [presented by yourself] indicates that the marriage was contracted to evade the provisions of the Aliens Control Act," the board stated, advising Essakhi to leave the country and return to his family in Casablanca.

But Essakhi says he is in love with both his wife and Cape Town and is fighting back. In

papers before the Cape High Court, he explains that he was attracted to Gamielien — who is old enough to be his mother — from their very first meeting.

"There was something about her that immediately attracted me to her. She is to me a beautiful and vivacious woman," he said in a sworn affidavit. She declared in a supporting affidavit: "As far as I was concerned it was love at first sight when I met him."

Essakhi met Gamielien while on holiday two years ago. He flew from Casablanca to Johannesburg, but after three days in the city, he was mugged and robbed of all his goods. Shaken, he retreated to Durban, and met the Naidoo family at the Isipingo mosque.

They befriended the lonely traveller, invited him home frequently, and it was there that he first clapped eyes on his beloved, who was staying with the Naidoos, on a short visit from Cape Town.

Both Gamielien and Essakhi claim to have embarked on a whirlwind romance, and when

she left for home, he followed and they lived together in her Athlone house

They married in April last year. Essakhi got a job as a baker in Mitchells Plain, and started to bake "a new line of products with a Moroccan influence." Essakhi vouches that he and his wife have healthy and regular sex, and that he is satisfied that their marriage is the lasting kind Gamielien claims to be equally satisfied.

Essakhi's legal representative, Shehnaz Serra, said his week: "Had she been a 62-year-old man, and he a 24-year-old woman, there would not have been such a gasp. The fact that she was a woman, and so much older, triggered off prejudices."

Ironically, Gamielien was 17 years old when she married her first husband, who was 22 years her senior. He died 15 years ago. She has six adult children and she acknowledges that they have taken a while to get used to her marriage.

She is learning Arabic so she can commu-

nicate better with her husband. They are both Muslim, but were married in a civil ceremony, in community of property. The couple are angry with the Immigrants Selection Board for judging their relationship after a short and, they believe, superficial inquiry.

"No member of the board inquired from her whether or not we enjoyed an active sexual life," said Essakhi in his affidavit, "nor did they inquire about our living and domestic arrangements."

"No member of the board attended on her or I at our home, nor did they require that a person well known to us attend the interview to be asked questions about our relationship."

The interview took 20 minutes and was the government's only test of the depth of their relationship.

The board based its rejection of the application on the grounds that Essakhi was not an expert baker, that the couple had not married according to Muslim rites, and that their answers to the questions were not credible. The interview was prefaced by the remark by a member of the board to Essakhi: "We the panel believe that you only married so that you can stay in the country."

The minister and the Department of Home Affairs are opposing Essakhi's application

M+G 14 T 20/11/97 (236)

... ..

Mozambican illegal tells how he got job

ANI 11
1987
STAFF REPORTER

(236)

ARG 73/11/97

An illegal immigrant from Mozambique told the Cape Town Magistrate's Court he had not told his South African employer where he was from because he wanted to keep his job.

Orlando Antonio Vilankulu was testifying in the trial of Johannes Gerhardus Zeelie, 40, of Paul Kruger Street, Somerset West, who is facing 180 charges under the Aliens Control Act for allegedly employing 45

Mozambicans on the Waterfront Holiday Inn construction site and renting them accommodation

He has pleaded not guilty

Mr Vilankulu, who is being held at Pollsmoor prison, told the court through a Shangaan interpreter yesterday that he had entered South Africa illegally in April because of the hostile situation in his country, where he was unemployed

"In Alexandra a person told us a white man was looking for workers We jumped on to a truck and came to

Cape Town We were taken to Mr Zeelie's place in Kuils River When he got home he told us about a five-year work contract"

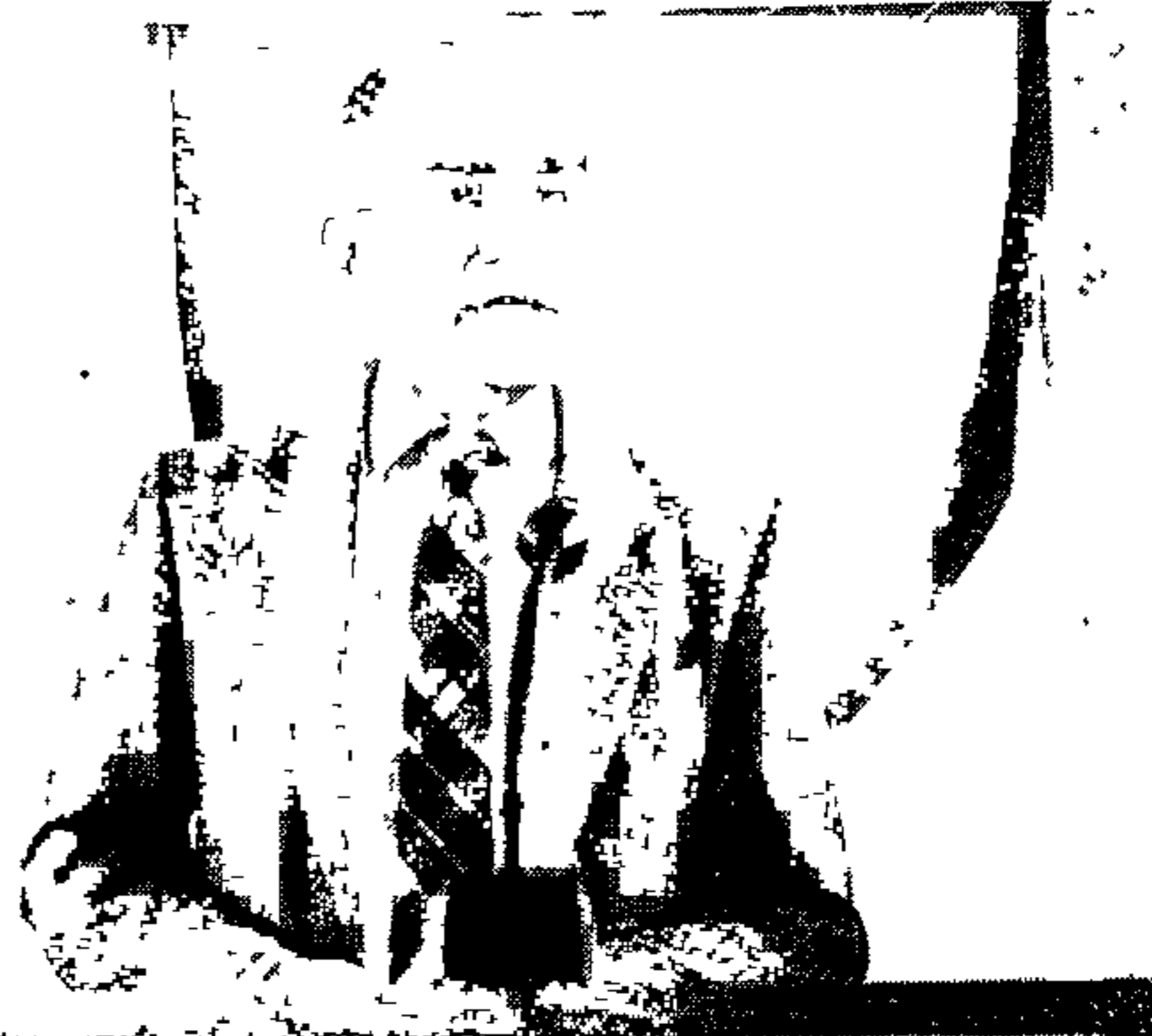
Mr Vilankulu said he was employed as a labourer and paid R35 a day

"I didn't tell Mr Zeelie I was from Mozambique because I wanted to keep my job Also, the person who looked for workers in Johannesburg did not ask specifically for South Africans," Mr Vilankulu said

The trial continues tomorrow

The Specifics of South-South Co-operation

1 2 Novem 97



Australian Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Ian Forsyth, left, and SA Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Abdul Minty, at a conference in Johannesburg yesterday organised by the SA Institute of International Affairs to discuss south to south co-operation.

Picture LORI WASELCHUK

'Drugs, refugees threaten stability'

Bonile Ngqiyaza

SOUTHERN African countries were faced with a host of potentially destabilising factors, including narcotics trading, displaced populations and environmental and economic problems, an SA Institute of International Affairs conference heard yesterday.

Institute for Security Studies representative Jakkie Cilliers, speaking at the conference organised by the SA Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), estimated the value of the worldwide trade in illegal drugs to be as high as \$500bn a year.

The US, Cilliers said, was the world's largest consumer of illegal drugs with 30-million users spending an estimated \$28bn a year on cocaine, \$6,8bn on marijuana and between \$10bn and \$12bn on heroin.

There were ominous signs SA was being targeted both as a major trans-shipment centre for a wide variety of narcotics and as a lucrative untapped market. Drug use was not simply a social phenomenon, but had wider political and security implications. "For instance, in Latin America there is an intimate relationship between the narcotraficantes (drug traffickers) and leftist revolutionary groups."

Cilliers said political unrest, social upheaval, economic dislocation and ecological disaster had all contributed to the movement of people across national frontiers from one southern African state to another.

"The largest and most dramatic population movements of recent years, however, have been the 30-million refugees and other displaced people in the

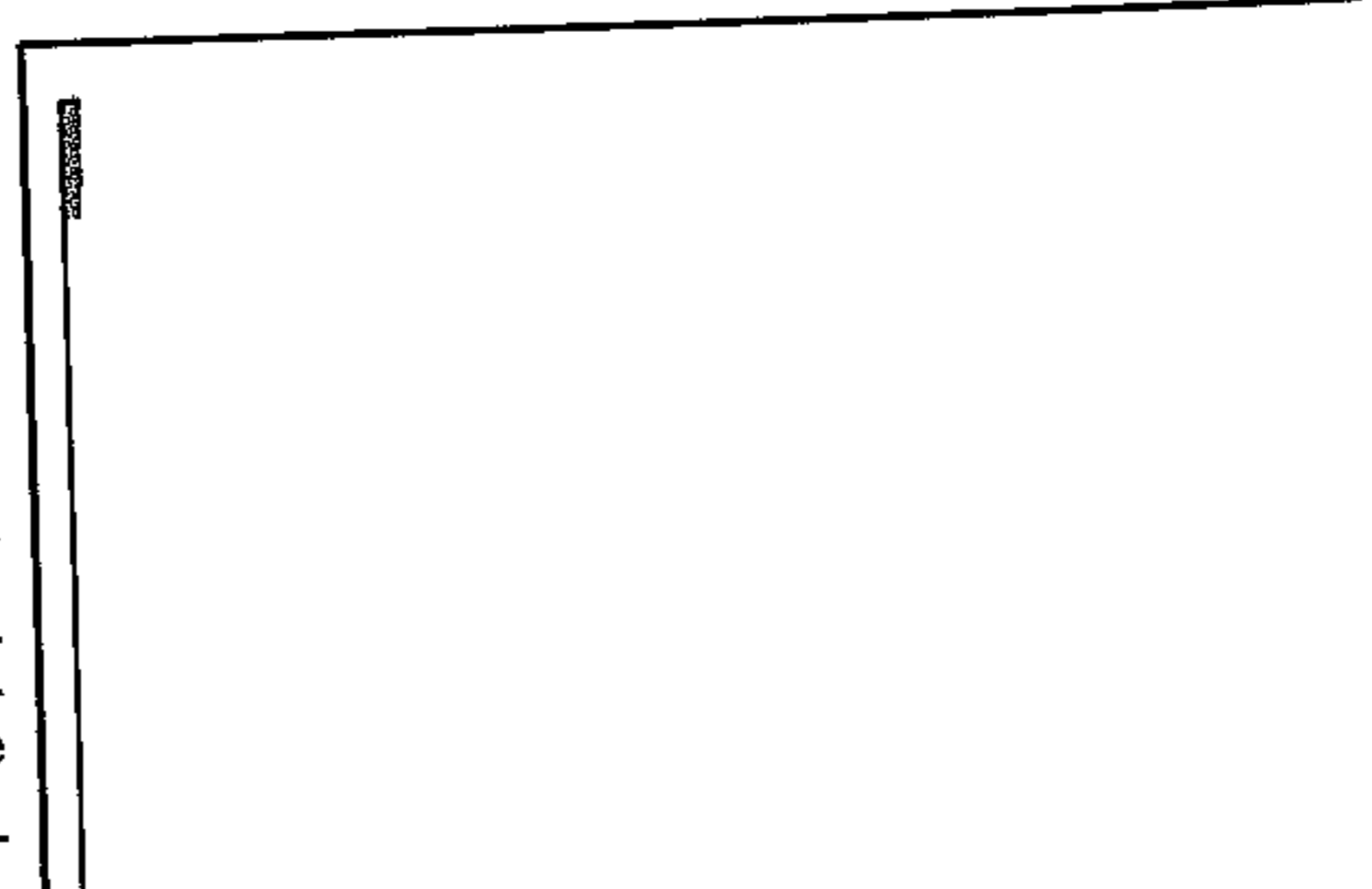
developing world," he said. "Mass population movements create domestic instability, generate interstate tension and threaten international security."

He said the waning of Cold War military tensions had coincided with the growing visibility of problems that threatened the security of many states and required international solutions.

These included the hole in the ozone layer, the greenhouse effect, deforestation and the scarcity of water, energy and other resources.

"Current calculations are that by 2000 SA will suffer water stress. Malawi will have moved into absolute water scarcity," he said.

Cilliers called for the reformation of the United Nations and its security council in order to address regional representation and the existing permanent council members' veto power.



Illegal migrants fleecing citizens

By Marthinus van Schalkwyk

EARLIER THIS YEAR Deputy President Thabo Mbeki proposed the idea of a national consensus for addressing the major challenges facing our country

The idea was that major challenges will require the cooperation and the commitment of all important role-players to ensure successful solutions

After proposing the idea of national consensus, no further concrete proposals have been put on the table to give content to an idea which is in principle acceptable to the National Party (NP)

During the last few weeks of the parliamentary session, legislation with regard to education and the labour market were pushed through Parliament, against strong opposition by the NP and other opposition parties

The Education Amendment Bill, which took away important rights of parents with regard to their children's education and provided for unhealthy Government interference, and the Basic Conditions of Employment Bill, which will destroy jobs instead of creating it, are examples where an approach of national consensus is required

A narrow ideological approach to important issues such as education and the labour market will

Sowetan 14/11/97 (236)
National Party says it is willing to play role in creating consensus

always lack broad support

The NP is of the opinion that issues such as education and the labour market are so important to the nation as a whole that content must now be given to an approach of national consensus on issues such as these

The NP is willing to play its role to ensure that we create approaches towards major challenges which will have more broad-based support than the present partisan approach

The test for the African National Congress will be which is more important - the country's interest or the interest of their own party?

And the problem of illegal immigrants is no longer just a theoretical debate

It is a problem that more and more South Africans are becoming aware of. If one analyses this problem, it becomes clear that it is already placing a heavy burden on the South African taxpayer

Illegal immigrants are not only taking away job opportunities from South Africans, but they are also using basic Government services such as welfare and education to which they do not contribute

In practice the South African taxpayer pays for Government ser-

vices provided to illegal immigrants. If one accepts a conservative figure of 2,5 million illegal immigrants (many analysts claim that the figure is much higher), they are costing the South African taxpayer about R1 billion a year for basic services and welfare

This money could rather be spent on poverty relief for our own people. For R1 billion the Government could build 40 000 houses or 14 000 classrooms

There is also a close link between the flood of illegal immigrant and crimes such as drug-peddling. The country needs a different approach towards illegal immigrants than the present lax one by the Government

Taking into account high unemployment in South Africa, it is irresponsible to allow illegal immigrants to take jobs South Africans should get. It is also indefensible that illegal immigrants can make use of Government services to which only the hard-working South African taxpayer contributes

(The writer is the leader of the National Party. This is an extract from a speech he delivered at the party's Northern Province congress in Pietersburg last weekend.)

FIVE years and almost R130-million later, plans to create a home for 500 Taiwanese families in Bronkhorstspuit have come to nothing

Street lights and tarred roads with Chinese names are the only signs of the R8,5-million the council poured into Cultura Park, a new suburb set up for Taiwanese families expected to settle in the town. The suburb has full services, including electricity, sewerage and water connections.

The council borrowed a further R120-million from the central government to develop an industrial area to cope with the expected economic spin-offs of the settlement.

While the Development Bank of Southern Africa sent a team to the town to demand back its share of the loan this week, there is little chance any of it will be recovered.

The industrial area is empty and the plots, which are next to Bronkhorstspuit's grand Buddhist guest house, are overgrown with weeds.

The Taiwanese settlement was planned by the former white town council. Like Newcastle and some other small towns, Bronkhorstspuit hoped to attract Taiwanese businesses through the former government's incentives schemes in homeland areas. Bronkhorstspuit bordered on the homeland area of Kwandebele.

While stands were sold to interested people in Taiwan five years ago, no one has arrived to live there.

George Seitisho, Bronkhorstspuit's town clerk, says this is because of changes made to the regulations governing permanent residency after 1994. While Taiwanese businessmen had been able to acquire permanent residence status easily when the plan was first mooted, regulations now require that they live here for five years before they can apply.

Seitisho said the council had lost touch with the owners of the residential land. He said the council did not know how to contact the families in Taiwan to find out whether they still intended to live in Bronkhorstspuit and if they would pay rates and service charges of more than R1,7-million.

Seitisho said that in addition to the R8,5-million owed to the Development Bank, the council was also obliged to repay a loan of R120-million, probably to the Department of Land Affairs, which had provided the money in the dying days of apartheid.

"Bronkhorstspuit was seen as a point that was definitely going to grow," Seitisho said.

"The Taiwanese were supposed to relocate their businesses here. When we took office we were told that the central government saw Bronkhorstspuit as a growth point."

But Bronkhorstspuit has seen very little development and the council estimates that unemployment is at about 80 percent.

Seitisho said the council could not afford to repay the loans.

"People should be living in Cultura Park and paying rates and taxes. We should be getting returns on the investment, but the people are just not here



CONTACT: Bronkhorstspuit's council says Linda Lee is their only link to the Taiwanese

The bank wants the money back. We are in a stalemate," he said.

But the council has done very little to solve their problems.

Seitisho said Linda Lee, a local Taiwanese woman, had been employed by the former council to recruit families in Taiwan.

But, he said, the council's relationship with Lee soured, "especially after South Africa severed diplomatic ties with Taiwan and recognised China".

"A lot of things then went wrong. Now we have only one link left with the Taiwanese and that is Mrs Lee."

As Lee acted as the contact for the 500 families, the only address the council has for them is Lee's post office box in Bronkhorstspuit.

Seitisho said a committee had been established by the council to meet with Lee but it had been unable to do so.

However, Lee — who owns an electronic goods store in the town — said the families who had bought land could easily be traced through the office in Taipei that had helped recruit them.

Lee said she had never been asked to help find the missing families.

"In 1992 and 1993 the land sold very well. But after 1994 we had a problem because the people who bought land could not get permanent residency."

"Then the new council came in. They did not worry about us. We needed help but we had nowhere to go," Lee said.

"They have broken the relationship with the company in Taipei. They can contact the Taipei office themselves or they can contact me for a meeting."

"Everybody knows where to find me," said Lee. "The mayor was in my shop this morning to get help with a technical problem."

Lee said she believed the new council "preferred China to Taiwan" and, as a result, had not made any attempts to trace the owners of the stands.

"I know some people in Taiwan have lost interest but there are still some who want to come to South Africa," she said.

Seitisho said the council was investigating the possibility of taking legal action against the Taiwanese owners to enable it to sell the stands to pay the rates and services debts.

"But if we take the land, who will we sell it to and at what price?" Seitisho asked.

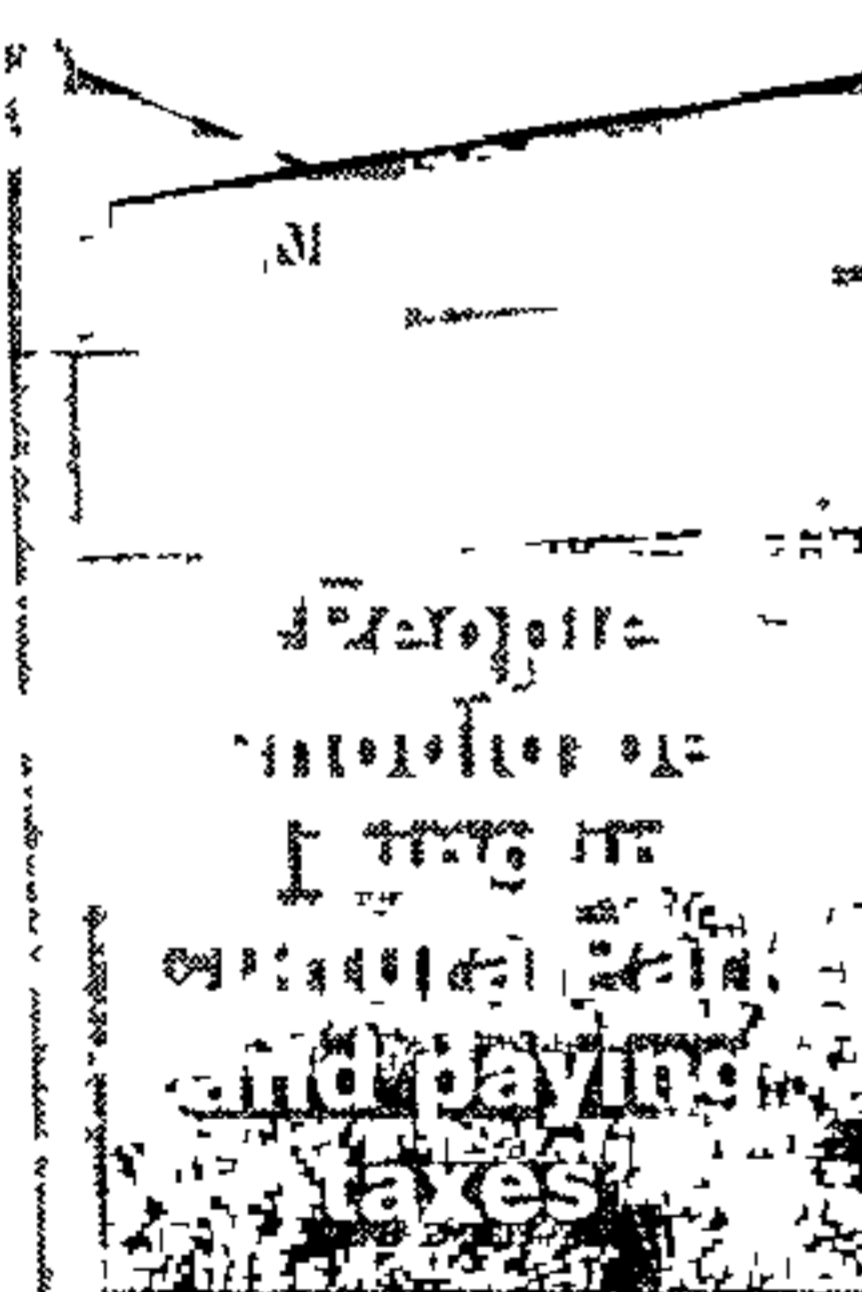
CAROL PATON

Taiwanese turn down the promised land

Bronkhorstspuit finds it is flat broke instead of booming

ST 21/1/97

(236)



IN BRIEF

Plan to protect assets of SA farmers in Mozambique

SA FARMERS who had moved to Mozambique would be covered by an investment protection plan, Mpumalanga premier Mathews Phosa's spokesman Oupa Pilane said yesterday. Pilane was responding to the farmers' concerns about Mozambican land laws, which do not allow the private ownership of land, African Eye News Service reported.

Several SA families have already settled in the Limpopo province and have been farming for almost a year, pending an agreement between the two countries to allow SA farmers to help develop Mozambique's agriculture. BD 13/11/97

Oilman is working here illegally

M+G 28/11 - 4/12/97 (236) (E83)

Marion Edmunds

The principal director in Emanuel Shaw II's fledgling consultancy, International Advisory Services (IAS), is working in South Africa illegally

Home affairs officials confirmed this week that Ethelbert Cooper — a Liberian business man linked to a number of Shaw's questionable deals, is not supposed to be working in this country

It is not clear how Cooper — who is also an associate of state oil chief Don Mkhwanazi — managed to get into the country, but officials say they will pursue him

"If Mr Cooper is working in Sandton, he is doing so illegally and should the department be informed of his residential or business addresses the matter will be pursued further," a home affairs representative said

Cooper was unavailable for comment. The *Mail & Guardian* established this week that Mkhwanazi played a crucial role in getting Shaw and his family into South Africa, helping them evade the red tape which entangles less well-connected visitors

Home affairs effectively naturalised Shaw, his wife and four children in 1996, because the department was persuaded that his skills were invaluable to South Africa. None of the Shaw family need immigration permits to live in South Africa, and can come and go as they please

Shaw's effortless entry into South Africa runs counter to the department's supposed attempts to tighten controls on foreign work-seekers and immigrants. Applicants must prove themselves to be of exceptional value for their application to be seriously considered

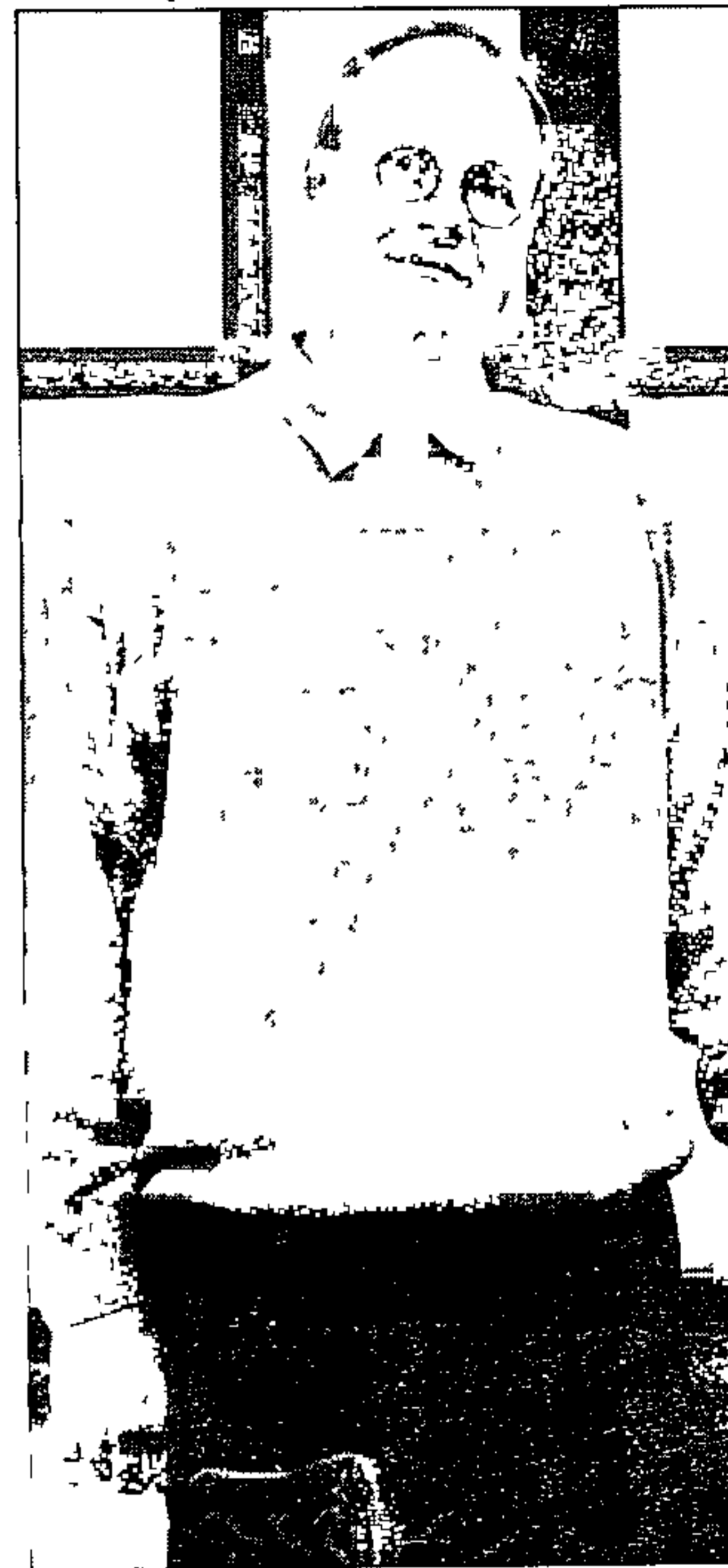
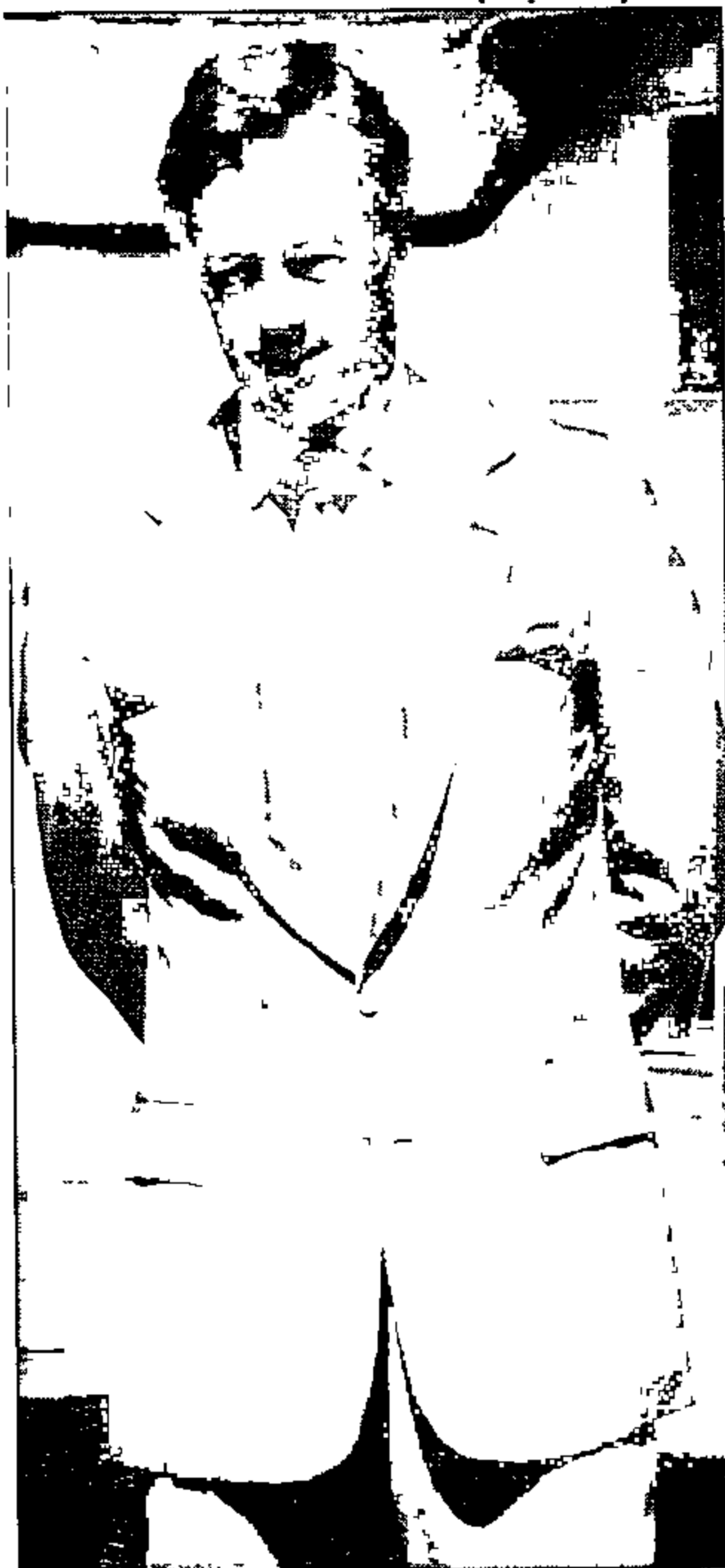
"The exemptions were granted on 24 June 1996 in the light of representations made regarding the knowledge and experience of Mr Shaw that could be extensively utilised in the RSA," the department says

The representations included one from Mkhwanazi, from Charles Stride, special adviser to Finance Minister Trevor Manuel, and from Neo Moikangoa, executive vice-president for technology and development at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

Stride, himself one of South Africa's highest-paid government consultants, says he was asked to write a letter reflecting work Shaw had already undertaken. He says he cannot remember who asked him to write the letter

Shaw's son and fellow Central Energy Fund (CEF) consultant, Emanuel Shaw III, was able to ride into South Africa on his father's ticket. In his application forms of 1996, he was registered as a student, but on arrival in South Africa took up the job at the CEF

Home affairs says Shaw III was a student of finance at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in the United States. The Shaws also promised to bring R150 000 into



Welcome to sunny South Africa: Rich people like Mark Thatcher (left), Victor Palazzolo (centre) and Jurgen Harksen pass through immigration quite easily, despite sometimes shady associations

South Africa, but a home affairs representative said that the department had not checked whether the money had been deposited

Home affairs officials say they could reconsider the Shaw family's status, depending on the outcome of the probe into the IAS contract recently ordered by Minister of Minerals and Energy Penuel Maduna

Maduna, also a friend of Shaw's, was home affairs deputy minister at the time the Liberian was waltzing through the immigration process

Shaw's experience is not uncommon. *M&G* inquiries to home affairs show the rich, famous and infamous tend to enjoy a smoother ride through South African customs than most

South Africa is home to a number of renowned international characters, seeking to escape attention in their home countries. These include American dentist Robert Hall, controversial Sicilian businessman Vito Palazzolo, Mark Thatcher, son of former British prime minister Baroness Margaret Thatcher, German financier Jurgen Harksen and the late Princess Diana's younger brother (and alleged multiple adulterer) Earl Charles Spencer

Most come in loaded with cash, which seems to blind home affairs officials rather than raise their suspicions. Officials say that they seldom query the origin of the money, which is presented as a guarantee of an applicant's bona fides

Senior home affairs officials say poorly paid clerks are often bribed — though there is no suggestion that the people named above would stoop to such measures — to ease applications through

Home affairs says Palazzolo obtained South African citizenship through naturalisation in September 1994

"The department was aware of Mr Palazzolo's history, but was nonetheless prepared to grant him citizenship in view of the fact that the security authorities had no objection in this regard." Officials say the department can reconsider Palazzolo's presence in South Africa if "negative information" about him is brought to their attention

The department says it is unable to substantiate any allegations against Thatcher — which they picked up from the local press — when considering his application for perma-

nent residence in 1996. Thatcher brought in more than R1.3-million, describing himself as an "investor"

Harksen, whom home affairs now wants to leave the country, came in December 1993 with a seductive R7.8-million. Nine months later, it emerged he was being sought on fraud charges in Germany, and the department withdrew his permanent residence permit

Three years later, Harksen is still in the country, fighting extradition with the best and most expensive legal team South Africa can provide

Charles Spencer is here on a temporary work permit, extended to September 1998. Home affairs originally said that his work permit qualified him to conduct his own business, but now says the aristocrat is a freelance journalist

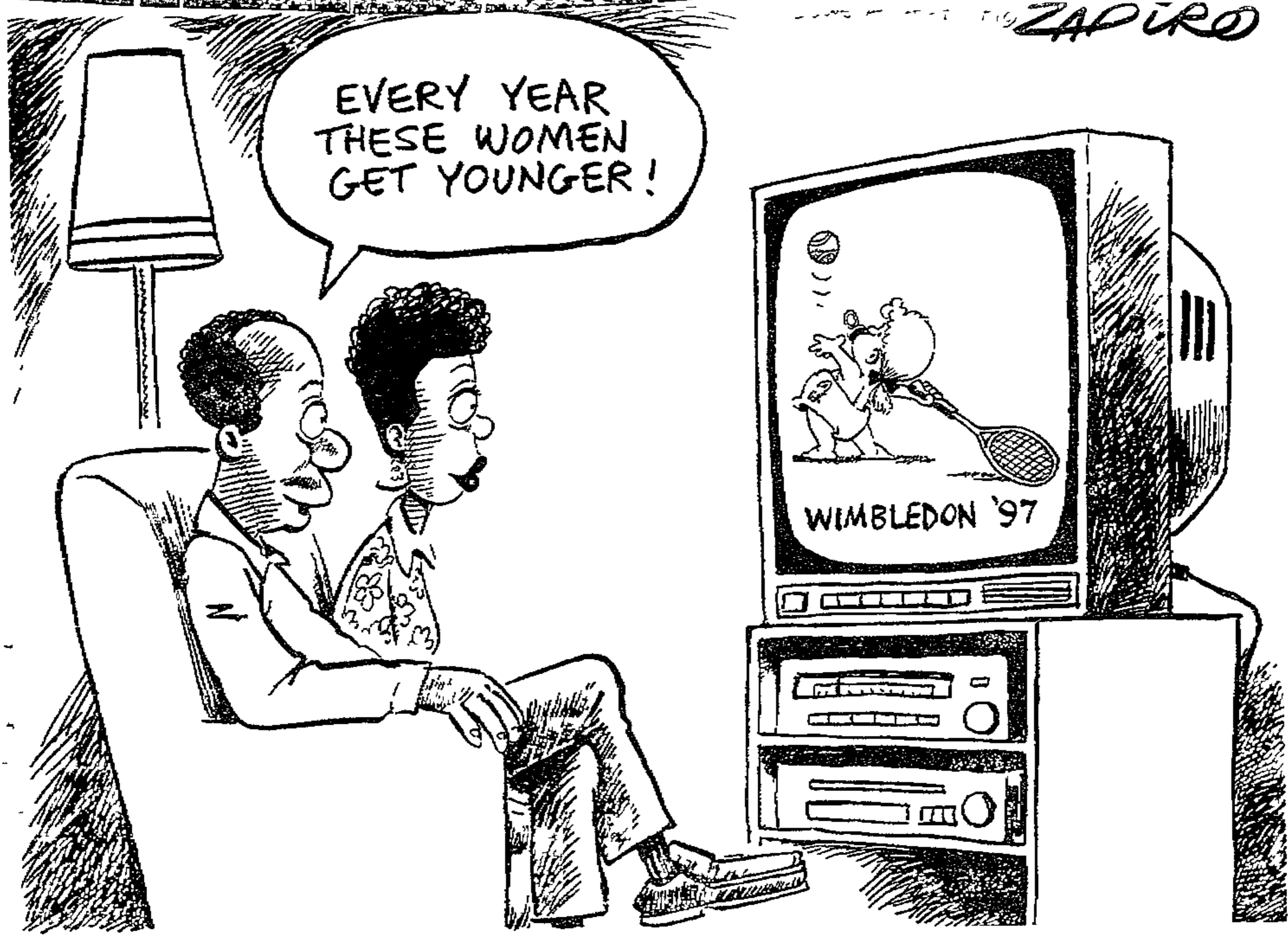
"It's a world-wide recognised concept that the foreign new media agencies make use of their own nationals for media coverage," the department insists

Spencer is currently battling with his estranged wife, Victoria Lockwood, over divorce proceedings in the Cape High Court

POPULATION - MIGRATION

JULY 1997 - DEC 1998

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Migrants: a new look

(236) Sawetas 4/7/97

THE proposals in the Government's draft Green Paper on international migration will result in policies and actions that will be counterproductive, impossible to implement, perpetuate costs for the economy and negate some of the very principles on which the draft is based

The Government's proposals effectively extend the present arrangements for male contract migrants (in agriculture and mining) to include women, additional employment sectors and annual quotas

Such a system would in essence remain a migrant contract labour system in which the initiative would remain with employers to justify requests for cross-border labour

This new system will have deleterious effects on family life, amount to bureaucratic control over regional labour allocation and will counter provisions of the Bill of Rights

The draft contends that the disparities in wealth between countries in Southern Africa make a liberalisation of migration policy, which would accord with the principles of the Growth, Employment and Redistribution (Gear) programme and with the promise of an open regional economy, impossible at this stage

Economic revival

South Africa must contribute to the economic revival of the region with a view to making eventual liberalisation of labour movement possible. The Centre for Development Enterprise (CDE) contests this approach on two grounds

The notion that South Africa could make a sufficient contribution, while necessarily pursuing its own rapid growth, thus leading to a meaningful reduction in disparities in the foreseeable future, is unrealistic

Unless the countries of Southern Africa were to uniformly adopt good economic policies and South Africa had ones, wide disparities in levels of welfare will persist for several decades

Sound policies on cross-border migration cannot be delayed for this length of time

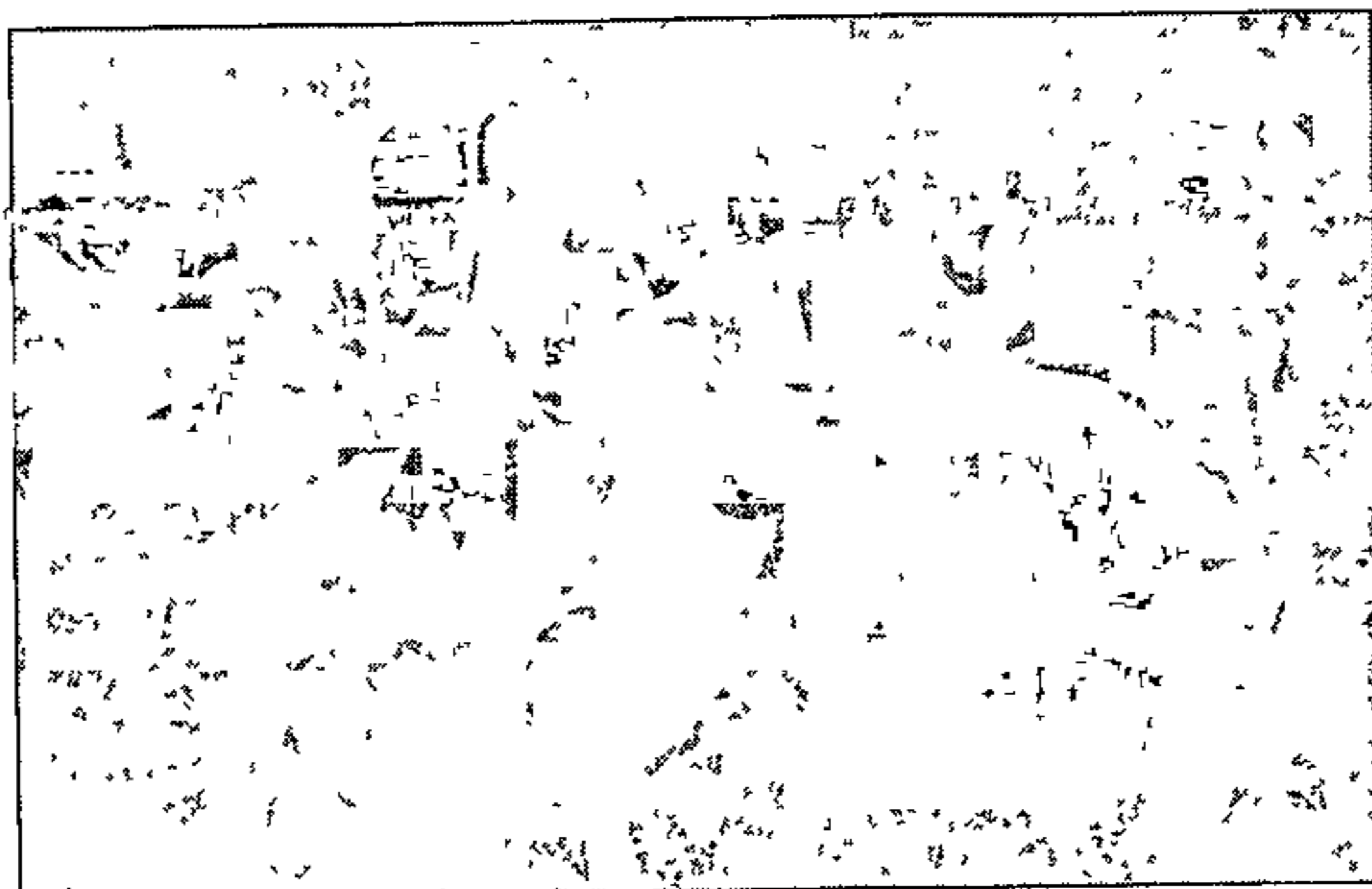
Second, international research shows clearly that development assistance in the short-to-medium term tends to increase the propensity of citizens of the poorer country to migrate

Development raises expectations and increases communication and resources - all of which lead to more migration. To link migration policy to a regional economic strategy is misplaced

With respect to skilled migration, the draft Green Paper provides for an elaborate occupational categorisation of the South African labour market, with the aim of establishing a points-based system of control

CDE would argue that such an approach is inconsistent with Gear's commitment to achieving labour market flexibility, will be difficult and

Disparities in wealth of Southern Africa countries will persist for some time. Therefore we need to have sound migration policies, **Ann Bernstein** explains ...



Flashback . a group of illegal immigrants from Mozambique before being returned home.

costly to implement and maintain, will result in labour market distortions and will discourage the recognition of small-scale entrepreneurial ability

CDE's greatest concern with the proposals in the draft lies in the feasibility of their implementation by the proposed Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services

The proposed department will have to do the following

- Transform itself,
- Establish an elaborate categorisation of skills required in the labour market,
- Regulate migrant worker quotas,
- Sanction employers of unregistered cross-border workers,
- Apply a points-based system of skilled immigration,
- Control the informal immigration of non-Southern African Development Community (SADC) migrants, and
- Attempt to curb the entry of large numbers of unregistered SADC migrants whose entry will be facilitated by the new social and home community networks that the expanded migrant labour system will create

It also argues for the establishment of a new immigration "police" at the time when the South African Police Service is starved of resources and manpower

The draft ventures these high-risk, high-cost proposals because they refer to the view that migrants take South Africans' jobs

It is a plausible fear, but in practice far less actual job competition occurs than people imagine - migrants take jobs South Africans do not want and they often create their own work and employ South Africans

CDE proposes a simple two-tiered approach to migration: free movement of skilled people from anywhere in the world to South Africa, and the probationary entry of unskilled SADC people who, once they have satisfied a series of basic requirements, may in time qualify for permanent residence and work rights

The CDE policy provides real incentives for migrants to enter the country legally, register with the authorities, become economically productive and observe the laws of the land

It establishes a framework which offers the best prospects for the effective management of the inevitable process of migration

Political leadership is crucial. A liberalisation of controls on migration into South Africa will not be immediately popular, but if political leaders are prepared to spend some effort in pointing out the complexities of the problem, CDE is convinced that opposition will begin to abate

Draft stops halfway

Unfortunately the draft stops halfway. A policy that follows its recommendations will be unable to 'hold the line', will consume more and more state resources, perpetuate "nameless, faceless, mass raids" to apprehend illegals, impose onerous restrictions on employers, continue to undermine the state's authority, and will fail to harness migration policy as a tool for growth and development

(The writer is executive director of the Centre for Development Enterprise. This article is based on the CDE's recently published reports: Lessons from international policy experience and A new approach to cross-border migration in South Africa)

Govt migration proposals 'unviable'

Government's draft proposals on migration will result in policies likely to be counter-productive, as well as very costly, write Ann Bernstein, Lawrence Schlemmer and Charles Simkins

THE central proposals in government's draft green paper on international migration will result in policies and actions which will be counter-productive, impossible to implement, perpetuate costs for the economy and negate some of the very principles on which the paper is based

While many of the points of general departure in the draft are welcomed, it is unfortunate that it does not follow through on these in the policy recommendations. The draft proposals effectively extend the present arrangements for male contract migrants (in agriculture and mining) to include women and additional employment sectors using annual quotas

They argue that the primary means of access of Southern African Development Community (SADC) citizens to the SA labour market should be temporary and such access should not be seen as a first step towards permanent residence. Such a system will perpetuate the migrant labour system in which the initiative would remain with employers to justify requests for cross-border labour

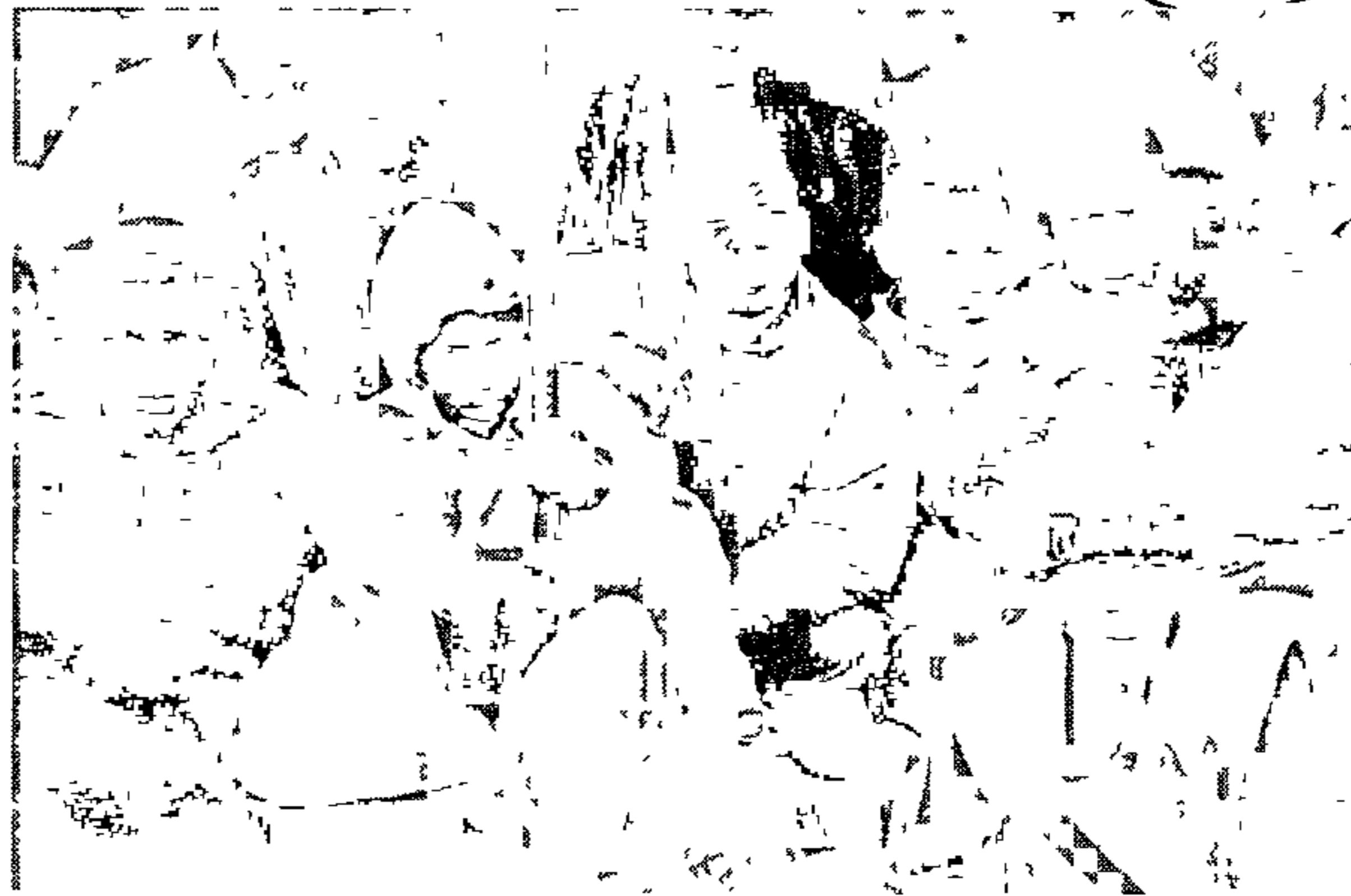
This expanded approach to migrant labour will have deleterious effects on family life, amount to bureaucratic control over regional labour allocation — as opposed to the growth, employment and redistribution (Gear) commitment to "greater labour market flexibility" — and will inevitably counter provisions of the Bill of Rights

This remarkable recommendation in the draft paper runs counter to all that we know of the process of migration

Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE) research into the international experience of migration policy is clear. As University of California professor Philip Martin puts it "There is nothing more permanent than temporary workers, guest (or migrant) worker programmes are easier to start than to stop; one of the best ways to actually ensure continuous, as distinct from short-term labour migration from a country or region, is to recruit guest workers."

In the draft it is argued that the disparities in wealth between countries in southern Africa make a liberalisation of migration policy which would accord with the principles of Gear and with the promise of an open regional economy impossible at this stage. SA must contribute to the economic revival of the region with a view to making eventual liberalisation of labour movement possible

This is contestable on two grounds. While development assistance to countries in the region is to be recommended as desirable under any circumstances, the notion that SA could make a sufficient contribution while neces-



University of California professor Philip Martin: "There is nothing more permanent than temporary workers"

Picture TREVOR SAMSON

sarily pursuing its own more rapid growth, to lead to a meaningful reduction in disparities in the foreseeable future is unrealistic

Unless the countries of southern Africa were to uniformly adopt good economic policies and SA bad ones, wide disparities in levels of welfare will persist for several decades. Sound policies on cross-border migration cannot be delayed for this length of time

Secondly, international research shows clearly that development assistance in the short-to-medium run, tends to increase the propensity of citizens of the poorer country to migrate. Why? Because development raises expectations and increases communications and resources — all of which lead to more migration. To link migration policy to a long-range regional economic strategy is likely to be effective only in the very long run

With respect to skilled migration, the draft green paper provides for an elaborate occupational categorisation of the SA labour market

The aim to establish a points-based system of control

Such an approach is neither consistent with Gear's commitment to achieving optimal labour market flexibility nor compatible with our limited national statistics. Even the latest population census, when its full results are eventually available, will not allow the refined differentiation between grades and types of skills that will be sensitive to employer needs. Any system which requires elaborate information will not only be difficult and very costly to establish and maintain but will inevitably lead to distortions in the allocation of skills in the labour market

It is most unlikely to function better

than a system which simply requires the would-be immigrants to describe their qualifications and skills and provide proof that their skills were useful in an economic and vocational sense in their country of origin

The draft's approach will also discourage recognition of less-formal accomplishments, particularly of abilities in small-scale entrepreneurship

The greatest concern with the proposals in the draft green paper lies in the feasibility of their implementation by the proposed department of citizenship and immigration services

The proposed department will simultaneously have to transform itself, establish an elaborate categorisation of skills required in the labour market, regulate migrant worker quotas, sanction employers who employ unregistered cross-border workers, apply a points-based system of skilled immigration, control the informal immigration of non-SADC migrants, and — most onerous of all — attempt to curb the entry of large numbers of unregistered SADC migrants whose entry will be facilitated by the new social and home community networks that the expanded migrant labour system will create

It also argues for the establishment of a new immigration "police" at precisely the time when the SA Police Service, with its more essential function, is starved of resources and manpower

A new migration policy should be realistic about the country's limited institutional capacity. After all, this is a

country which cannot even measure its underground economy, collect rates and service charges from residents who live at listed addressees, enforce television licence requirements, collect parking tickets or register voters without duplications and omissions

Again, international experience is instructive. Leading researchers conclude that "employer sanctions are difficult to implement in third world countries due to the large, unregulated and informal labour force"

The draft green paper ventures these high risk, high cost proposals because they defer to the view that migrants take South Africans' jobs. It is a plausible fear, but in practice far less actual job competition occurs than people imagine — migrants take jobs South Africans do not want and they often create their own work and employ South Africans

We propose a simple two-tiered approach to migration: free movement of skilled people from anywhere in the world to SA, and the probationary entry of unskilled SADC people who, once they have satisfied a series of basic requirements, may in time, qualify for permanent residence and work rights. Such a policy provides real incentives for migrants to enter the country legally, register with the authorities, become economically productive and observe the laws of the land

Political leadership is crucial. A liberalisation of controls on migration into SA will not be immediately popular, but if political leaders are prepared to spend some effort in pointing out the complexities of the problem, that opposition will begin to abate

Unfortunately, the draft paper stops halfway. A policy that follows its recommendations will be unable to "hold the line" where they have drawn it, and will fail to harness migration policy as a tool for growth and development — the objective it sets itself

□ Bernstein is executive director of the Centre for Development and Enterprise; Schlemmer is a CDE consultant, and Simkins is head of the economics department at Wits University. This article is based on recently published CDE reports *Lessons from international policy experience*, and *A new approach to cross-border migration in SA*.

(236) BD 4/7/97

Firm laments 'perceptions left by crime'

Nicola Jenvey

DURBAN — The serious loss of managerial, technical and professional skills through emigration will not be halted unless the negative perceptions of SA and the economy among this sector are changed, says Tongaat-Hulett

In his annual report, Tongaat-Hulett group chairman Chris Saunders said the perception was that the previously advantaged class was becoming disadvantaged as a result of the redistribution of wealth and rising health care and education costs

Although calling for the emigration trend to be reversed, he pointed out that the spiralling incidence of serious crime, coupled

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with the growing culture of non-payment, generated negative perceptions among residents, visitors and potential investors

Saunders said the country's vast store of natural and human resources, combined with the restored membership of the international community, pitched SA as a major global business player. Industries had to be price, quality and service competitive

However, achieving the predicted 2,5% growth rate for this year demanded that the local manufacturing sector harness the competitiveness provided by the currency devaluation and secure more export contracts

"For economic opportunities to be realised, it is crucial for senior

management to have the ability, capacity and focus for innovation and adaptation"

The industrial holdings group increased total net earnings 38% to R547,4m in the year to March, benefiting from operational efficiencies and strategic core business re-investments. Headline earnings rose 35% to 472,3c on a marginal increase in issued shares and a 123c (1996 90c) final dividend was declared, bringing the total to 175c (130c)

Saunders said the economic outlook was promising and the group's divisions were forecasting real growth in profits for this year. Group investment and portfolio strategies were focused on medium to long-term earnings growth

Should our migrants be welcomed as assets, or kicked

BY LIESA JOSSEL

The subject of foreign nationals in South Africa has become quite a controversial one. First, there is disagreement about how many foreigners are living and working in the country - estimates range wildly from just 500 000 to six million. Second, there is a big debate on whether they drain or enhance our society.

While recent research by the Centre for Development Enterprise suggests migration can be good for the economy (because it brings people who have initiative, are prepared to work hard for little and who are also consumers) many are unconvinced.

There is a growing feeling these foreigners are unacceptably encroaching on the informal sector and therefore on the livelihoods of our huge num-

bers of unemployed people. Not all foreign nationals are here illegally, some are living or working here on bona fide residence or work permits.

Recently, the Constitutional Court heard a case which concerned a group of eight foreig-

People who work hard, play role as consumers

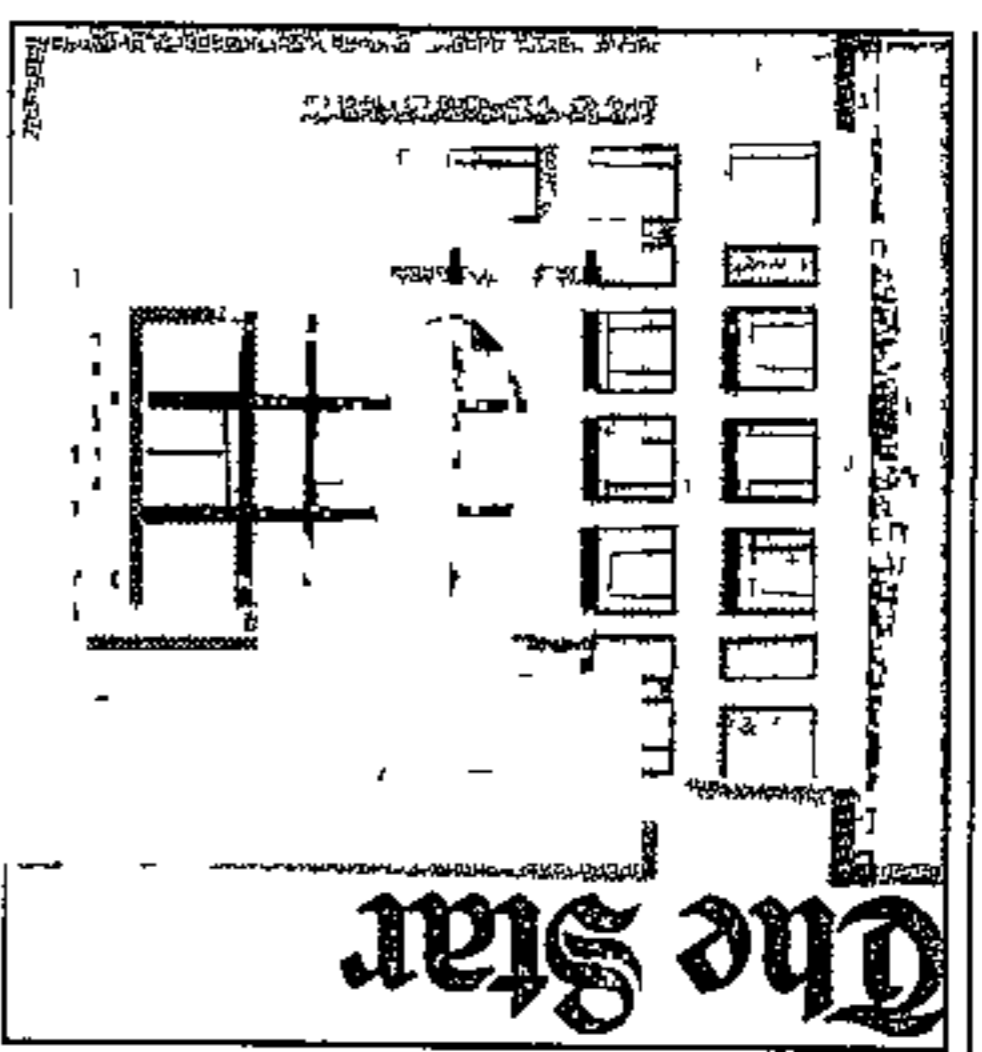
teachers - all employed by the state - who had been teaching in South Africa for many years. The teachers are either on permanent or temporary resident permits. None were citizens of South Africa, although some of them married South Africans and have children born here.

They had received letters

from the department of education warning them that they would be required to vacate their positions in terms of Education Department Regulation 2 (2). This regulation basically says that only South African citizens can occupy permanent positions in education.

The teachers were advised in the letters that their posts were to be filled by South African teachers. They objected, and took their case to the Botswana Provincial Division of the Supreme Court. Here, the judge found the State's arguments to be convincing. The teachers then appealed to the Constitutional Court.

In court, the State argued that it had legitimate reasons for excluding foreign teachers from permanent teaching posts. Because it spends substantial amounts of taxpayers' money on training, it must cre-



ate employment opportunities for teachers. The State must first of all protect the interests of South African teachers.

The State also argued that non-citizens could return to their country of origin at any time, and so it was against public policy to give them permanent posts.

In response, the teachers said that they were not depriving South Africans of jobs. They said that many South

African teachers prefer to be unemployed rather than work in the isolated areas in which the foreign teachers work, that the number of foreign teachers in the country (5 000 out of 345 000) is so small they do not constitute a threat to local teachers, and that the fact that they have invested long years to teaching in South Africa shows that they are committed to our broad educational goals and the

interests of the students.

The teachers argued that their dismissal would be unfair because it would violate section 8 of the interim Constitution. This section guarantees the right to equality and prevents unfair discrimination. The equality clause lists a number of grounds of discrimination such as race, gender, sexual orientation etc.

It does not list citizenship as a ground. Nevertheless, in other cases, the Constitutional Court has said that the list of grounds in the equality clause is not a closed list and that other grounds can be added to it. The teachers in this case argued that their exclusion amounted to unfair discrimination against non-citizens.

Discrimination by itself is not necessarily unfair. In other cases heard by the Constitutional Court, the court has said

The Constitutional Court has not yet delivered its judgment as it is receiving further submissions.

■ Liesa Jossel works for the Constitutional Information Programme, a project of the Education programme of Lawyers for Human Rights.

able? Does it achieve the state's objective of protecting the interests of South African teachers? Is this objective, in fact, legitimate? And could some other - less drastic - way have been found to achieve this objective?

The answer will be of vital interest to the 5 000 foreign African teachers as well as South African state departments employing foreign nationals as well.

ity of the teachers, so making it unfair discrimination? If it is unfair, is it justifiable? Does it achieve the state's objective of protecting the interests of South African teachers? Is this objective, in fact, legitimate? And could some other - less drastic - way have been found to achieve this objective?

So the first inquiry that the court makes is to find out whether the discrimination is

that, where legislation (or government action) treats people differently in a way that affronts their human dignity, it will be unfair discrimination.

People who take work from our own jobs

Among the questions that the court may address in this case are: does the regulation excluding foreigners from permanent posts intringe the dig-

ond inquiry that the court usually undertakes.

And this is the section 33 - and this is the section still be justifiable - under actually unfair. If it is unfair, it may still be justifiable - under

Out as habitues?

Skilled refugees could benefit SA

ARLT 2/8/97

(236)

TWEET GAINSBOROUGH-WARING

Many of the immigrants from war-torn African countries pouring into Cape Town are said to be highly skilled, but are unable to find jobs, becoming instead a drain on overburdened welfare organisations.

In a recent study carried out by the non-governmental Centre for Development and Enterprise, it was shown that the country could in fact benefit were it to employ immigrants with suitable skills.

Florence Patiwe, a social counsellor dealing with refugees at the SA Red Cross Society in Wynberg, said "We are far too xenophobic"

Locals were hostile to refugees, who were seen as outsiders and competitors in the job market.

"In particular," she said, "refugees are taken advantage of in a job situation as they are not really in a position to fight for better wages or working conditions."

Refugees unable to get jobs are forced to remain dependant on organisations such as the Red Cross for as long as possible, which puts pressure on strained finances

"Funding is a major problem as resources are scarce," Ms Patiwe said.

Latyo-Mory Kumba, 41, from the former Zaire, has been living in Cape Town for four years and has been unable to find a job in his field

Mr Kumba spent six years in mainland China where he graduated from the Tianjin University as an industrial automation engineer. In addition, he speaks four languages. English, Chinese, French and Swahili.

"I have been to many interviews, but am refused on the grounds of not having an identity number or permanent status," he said

Mr Kumba was imprisoned in Zaire, under the rule of former president Mobuto, for his political beliefs.

Friends helped him and four others escape and they made it on foot to Zimbabwe

"I left Zaire with nothing but my life, leaving my wife and daughter behind in Kinshasa," he said

From Zimbabwe he came by truck to Johannesburg.

He now lives in Rondebosch East and is employed by the Cape Town Refugee Forum, which deals with emergency housing at the SA Red Cross in Wynberg, where his language skills are invaluable.

The Cape Town Refugee Centre was established in 1994 to cope with the increased number of refugees coming to the city. The centre co-ordinates



LEON MULLER

Stopgap measure: Julio Mustapha of Angola with a Red Cross food parcel



Change of attitude: Florence Patiwe says Capetonians are afraid of foreigners

assistance available to refugees such as food parcels, trauma counselling, education and accommodation.

Last month, the Red Cross assisted 1 259 refugees, of whom 991 were asylum seekers

Ms Patiwe said priority was given to asylum seekers who have been in the country a week or less.

Asylum seekers are foreigners who have been interviewed by the Department of Home Affairs and issued with Section 41 permits (valid for up to a year), before being considered for refugee status

Fewer skilled emigrants this year

AUDREY D'ANGELO

Cape Town — Emigration from South Africa was 5 percent lower in the first four months of this year compared with the same period last year, figures issued yesterday by the Central Statistical Service show

"In April the number of pro-

professionals, semi-professionals and technicians who reported that they were emigrating was 202 while the corresponding number (with these qualifications) who immigrated into the RSA was 58," the CSS said

The total number of documented immigrants in April, including those from other African

countries, was 420 — a decline of 9 percent compared with the same month last year

The CSS also reported South Africa attracted 24 percent more visitors from overseas in April this year than in the same month last year. The number rose to 111 562, most of whom were from other African countries

CT(BR) 6/8/97 (236)

Those who can't adapt do us well to leave

(236) et 7/18/97

HOW SERIOUS are South Africa's emigration figures? Contributing Editor **COLIN LEGUM** examines some of the pros and cons of the "brain drain".

IS THE flight of economically-active South Africans so serious as to justify the anxious concern — even mild hysteria — aroused by publication of the emigration figures?

Is there not, perhaps, an upside as well as a downside to the loss of mainly English-speaking South Africans and a dribble of Afrikaners and Indians?

Any debate on this issue needs, above all, some perspective on the actual numbers involved, the irreplaceable loss of skills, the actual loss to the economy and the history of emigration in the years before the birth of a democratic South Africa

Neither the reasons for a brain drain nor the rush to escape from an uncomfortable political or social environment are unique to South Africa. Britain and Israel are only two of a score or more of westernised countries that have been experiencing both phenomena for several decades now.

South Africa's brain drain has been going on for the better part of a century — one thinks of Cape Town zoologist Professor Solly Zukerman who became the chief scientific adviser to Churchill and president of the Royal Society of Scientists, of the parents of Aba Eban who became Israel's Foreign Minister, of historians such as De Kiewit, W M McMillan and Arthur Keppel-Jones (author of *When Simus Goes*), Myer Fortes, Max Gluckman and I Shapiro. Poets such as Roy Campbell, Roy McNab and Empson. Writers such as Laurens van der Post.

But the real explosion of emigration occurred during the apartheid years when possibly 100 000 South Africans left the country for Britain, North America, Australia, New Zealand and Israel. They included what Miss Brophy would have called the *crème de la crème* of the intellectual, professional, technical and business life of this country.

In Britain, they contributed three judges to the British bench, the presidents of the Royal Society of Medicine and the British Psychiatric Society, business tycoons such as Sir Mark Weinberg and brilliant managers such as Sir Michael Edwards, English writers and poets, even Afrikaners poets such as the late Olga Kirsch and Breyten Breytenbach. Scores of pro-



THEIR GAIN: Mr Aba Eban, former Israeli Foreign Minister, whose parents emigrated from SA

fessors headed faculties in universities on four continents.

Their loss to our country was the world's gain, but South Africa was able to replace all but a few of the topmost achievers. No doubt the country would have advanced further were it not for the constraint of apartheid on intellectual freedom and the economy which made it impossible for them to stay.

In the end it wasn't the loss of these emigrants but the apartheid system that harmed the country most. So, too, it is unlikely to be the loss through emigration but the success of the ANC's economic and social policies that will determine the future health of the economy.

I wonder what impression the average person has of the actual number of those leaving the country? It is usually the headlines that spread the news of the "exodus" while the figures are given in small type, often in single paragraphs.

Even an academic such as R W Johnson, the director of the Helen Suzman Trust, resorts to hyperbole when, in his latest contribution to the influential British monthly, *Prospect*, he writes of "huge

swathes" of the country's 10-million "non-Africans" emigrating because "most of them feel radically disenchanting." Huge swathes? Come on, professor!

What, then, are the facts?

So far, the number of emigrants since 1993 has been on average, year-by-year, incomparably less than between 1948-1973.

In 1995, the total of economically-active emigrants was 4 123 against 1 572 immigrants, a loss of nearly 2 500. In the previous year, 1994, the relative figures were roughly the same — 4 526 against 1 762 economically-active immigrants — a loss of about 2 800.

There was no significant change in 1996 when 4 123 left and 1 572 came in. So far this year, based on the latest figure for March of 210 emigrants, the number of those leaving might even be falling.

What matters, of course, is the skills composition of the emigrants and of the immigrants (whose figures are given in parenthesis). The figures for the nine months from November 1995 to September 1996 were: medical personnel 102 (72), engineers 312 (216), accountants and auditors 361 (79), architects 28 (10), lecturers and teachers 324 (120), farmers 28 (15), business executives and administrative personnel 563 (358), semi-professionals and technicians 1 585 (651).

Thus, the total overall loss of economically-active people in the nine-month period from November 1995 to September 1996 was 5 751 — by categories semi-professionals and technicians 934, business and administrative personnel 104, doctors, etc 30, engineers 86, accountants 282, architects 8, lecturers and teachers 204.

The number of South Africans qualifying for these categories every year easily fills the gap left by the emigrants, but they still lack experience. The number of qualified black South Africans, freed from the colour bar, far exceeds the vacancies left by the emigrants. Not all, but many of them are qualified and a number have overseas experience.

Moreover, multinationals and banks which have been investing in South Africa are bringing in their own experienced senior people.

South Africa's present laws for legal immigrants are badly in need of revision to encourage the right type of qualified immigrants. Revised immigration laws, sensibly applied, could easily attract a fresh stock of worthy new South Africans.

For the present, the problem of illegal immigrants is as uncontrollable as that of Mexicans crossing the US borders, but the pros and cons of the influx of several million "illegals" from neighbouring countries requires separate considerations from the issues discussed here.

People who leave South Africa do so for five main reasons: fear of crime, suspicion that a policy of affirmative action will deny their children fruitful employment, frustration over the inefficiency of the new bureaucracy, the problems thrown up by the over-hasty implementation of necessary health and education reforms and a sense of insecurity about what is likely to happen after President Nelson Mandela steps down.

Taken together, these reasons amount to an unwillingness to share in the difficult transition period leading from a society based on discrimination and inequity to a democratic society which will expunge the over-generous privileges of a minority white community.

People who were willing to put up with life under the apartheid system, but are unwilling to do so under the difficult, but promising, new situation really do the country a favour by leaving.

Basic human rights guarantee freedom of movement. Nobody should blame, or discourage, those from leaving who no longer feel at home under the new dispensation.

One of the advantages of the departure of some 6 000 economically-active South Africans is that the country is quit of a disgruntled minority who are of no benefit to the new society, whatever their contribution might have been to the economy.

Another beneficial aspect of emigration is that it leaves vacancies for promotion of those held back by lack of seniority and for new entrants — mainly Africans, coloureds and Indians — to the employment market.

Within, say, five years at the present rate of emigration and the opportunities for technical education, training and experience, the outflow of non-adaptable and frightened South Africans will be only a sad memory.

Other much more serious issues thrown up by a society engaged in radical transition will be occupying the minds of the five-million or so whites and of the 30-million or so African, coloured and Indian South Africans who will be staying on.

Challenge to green paper on migration

ET 13/8/97

(236)

JONATHAN CRUSH

THE Green Paper on International Migration has aroused surprisingly little public interest to date, despite the importance of the issue to South Africa

One exception is the Johannesburg-based Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE) which launched a vigorous attack on the green paper in the Cape Times (July 16) and published two reports containing its own recommendations

The CDE draws attention to the costs and logistical problems of implementing the far-reaching transformation of South African immigration policy proposed by the green paper

However, they seriously misrepresent some of the paper's proposals and their alternatives are, themselves, highly problematical

First, they argue that the temporary work system for Southern African Development Community (SADC) citizens proposed in the green paper will extend and perpetuate the iniquitous migrant labour system. This ignores the fact that the mechanism proposed is very different from the old migrant labour system. In effect, other SADC country migrants would become like temporary workers and residents from anywhere else

Permits issued to SADC citizens would not prevent them from bringing immediate dependents (as other temporary residents of the country are permitted to do), it would not preclude them from domestic legislation and the rights and privileges of all workers, it would not confine them to fixed contracts, it would mitigate the rampant exploitation that characterises the illegal employment sector and it would be consistent with recommended ILO standards

It would also allow all employers, not just mines and farmers, legal access to non-South African labour

Most importantly, the proposed system is consistent with the wishes and desires of migrants themselves. Research by the Southern African Migration Project proves that most SADC country citizens in the major supplying states (Lesotho, Mozambique and Zimbabwe) do not wish to come here permanently or to take up residence. The CDE repeats the views of a US researcher that there is nothing so permanent as a temporary migrant

In the South African context, this generalisation is of limited value, if the migrants themselves are to be believed. The CDE's criticism is ironic since their

own proposals would encourage all migrants to remain here permanently. The green paper, in turn, falls short because it does not provide a mechanism which allows temporary residents with long residence to apply for permanent residence and eventually citizenship, if they so desire

The CDE also opposes the green paper's suggestion that the government should place limits on the numbers of work permits issued to SADC citizens. The CDE, by contrast, would post no limits at all. Their counter-proposal is, in effect, a recipe for "open borders" where anyone could come to South Africa, work and settle

The suggestion is similar to that made in the SADC draft Protocol on Free Movement of People

The protocol suggests a principle of reciprocity where South Africans could also move in the opposite direction. Under the CDE proposal it would be one-way traffic. All levels of South African government have rejected the draft and it is hard to see why anyone would support it until there is a better idea of what its impact will be

Second, the CDE maintains that the "development" of the source areas of migration will not impact on migration flows and will even increase them. Their evidence is not based on research on the region's migration dynamics but on international precedent

It is probably true that balanced development in the source regions would take too long to have any short-term impact on migration flows and that South Africa cannot, and should not, be expected to pump development aid into the region for this purpose. However, the green paper stresses that migration cannot be isolated from broader issues of regional integration, trade and job creation

The issue is "job location", not some vaguely defined "development". The green paper focuses primarily on trade imbalances which throw people out of work in the region even as they simultaneously create jobs in South Africa. The basic point is that South Africa needs to face up to its own complicity in contributing to the conditions that bring people to the country

Third, the CDE argues that the proposed points system for skilled workers wishing to come to South

Africa is unworkable. The green paper proposes an

objective points test for permanent immigrants only, not for all skilled workers, as the CDE implies. An ideal points system for adjudicating permanent immigrant applications would be based on detailed labour market information. That this data does not exist does not mean South Africa lacks the capacity or sophistication (as the CDE implies) to generate such information on an ongoing basis

A points system does not need to be elaborate. But it is necessary in order to rid ourselves of the inherited immigrant selection system with its subjectivity, bureaucratic discretion and lack of transparency. The CDE proposes that South Africa should simply open its borders to anyone from anywhere in the world who has "skills", an astonishingly naive proposition

The green paper is concerned that South Africa not cut itself off from the global skills market and

The Green Paper on International Migration is particularly concerned that South Africa not cut itself off from the global skills market and that employers enjoy flexible access to foreign skills.

that employers enjoy free and flexible access to foreign skills. The paper states that the existing system of temporary residence and work permits is a hindrance rather than a help to the economy. Temporary residence for highly-skilled migrants should be much more accessible. There is absolutely no need for a points system to govern this form of entry and the green paper does not propose it

Fourth, the CDE suggests that the green paper holds the view that migrants take jobs from South African citizens. The CDE thinks that there is less actual job competition than people imagine, that migrants take jobs South Africans do not want and they often create jobs for South Africans

That some migrants do create jobs is certainly confirmed by research undertaken for the green paper task team and it proposes much more generous terms of access for immigrants and migrants who demonstrably create employment

The issue of job competition is more problematic since the CDE does not appear to have done the primary research to back up its position

Why, one might ask, are there jobs that South Africans do not want? Could it be, in fact, that they do not want them precisely because employers, who could afford to pay more, do not do so because they

can get cheaper illegal labour?

The history of the gold mining industry is instructive. Mine managers always argued (and still do) that South Africans would not work on the mines which is why they were forced to recruit abroad. When they were forced to raise wages above starvation levels in the 1970s, they were swamped by these supposedly reluctant South Africans

Finally, the CDE claims that the green paper recommends "mass old-style pass raids of nameless, faceless illegals". On the contrary, this is precisely what is happening under current policy. The green paper recommends a break with this ineffective and inefficient system and its daily compromises of human rights

Rather, there needs to be a clear distinction between long-term immigrants who come illegally with the intention of staying and migrants who are only here temporarily. The green paper proposes that enforcement focus on immigrants while simultaneously providing improved legal channels of access to migrants

The green paper makes a strong case for a transformed Department of Home Affairs (even the name should change) and a new ethos of service rather than control

The CDE's alternative proposals — based on the principle of open borders and free movement — would see a virtual dismantling of the department altogether

If all anyone has to do is simply register their entry and presence, it is hard to see why South African would need an immigration department at all

The green paper tries to thread a path, admittedly not always successfully, between the extremism of the "open borders" position of the CDE and the "fortress South Africa" view that immigration is a threat and immigrants should be kept out at all costs. Neither of these extremist positions is in the national interest, despite claims to the contrary

Advocates of the extremes will certainly find little to attract them in middle-of-the-road policy positions

The green paper is far from a perfect document, and leaves much unsaid, but it deserves to be taken very seriously by all South Africans, and not trivially dismissed as "unviable"

Jonathan Crush is with the Southern African Migration Project.

1 178 scientists emigrate (236)

PRETORIA: More than 870 scientists and technologists left South Africa last year to pursue careers elsewhere and 308 more left between January and March this year, the Pretoria Technikon said yesterday. A statement said the loss of natural scientists was "shocking".

CT 19/8/97



IT HAS been a tough year for SA's top 1 200 executives. Nearly 13% of the best executives emigrated last year — and those who stayed behind don't earn more in real terms than they did 10 years ago.

These are the key findings of FSA-Contact's annual top executive survey of wages and working conditions. The survey is based on face-to-face interviews with the managers and executives of 1 200 public and private sector corporations

The most worrying finding is that the crime wave is propelling the executive brain drain. Almost 13% of executives have left their jobs in the past year to emigrate. Nearly 84% of emigrating executives — some 6% of whom were chief executives or general managers — cited crime and violence as their reason for leaving.

The remainder blamed falling standards in education and declining health care. Only 4.6% cited better employment opportunities abroad.

Kris Crawford, head of FSA-Contact's remuneration information services, says emigration was the third highest reason for turnover of executive personnel in the year to end-July 1997, behind retirements (36.4%) and moving to another company (22.4%).

Fewer than 8% of executives resigned their jobs to start their own businesses.

Executive positions most affected by emigration were those in sales and marketing (25.4%), information technology (18.3%), and finance (16.9%), with emigration lowest among human resource executives (4.2%).

Most migrating executives went to Australia (26.3%), followed by the UK (18.8%) and New Zealand and the US with 15.6% each.

Crawford warns that the brain-drain leaves SA companies ill-equipped to compete in the international economy.

The only positive aspect emerg-

Crime propels brain drain of top executives

A new survey has found that pay packages for the best managers have not improved in real terms, writes SVEN LUNSCHE

ST (PT) 17/8/97 (236)

ing from the flight of executives is that it could lead to premium pay being offered to executives with the right skills and experience.

This would be a welcome reversal of the trend over the past decade when the salaries of top businessmen have remained stagnant in real terms. And when the effect of indirect taxation is taken into account, business leaders today might be even worse off than they were in the late 1980s, says Crawford.

The situation has been compounded by the fact that in the 12 months to end-July executives received their lowest total cash increases — and indeed the lowest package increases — since 1993. She warns that salary increases in the year ahead are likely to be lower still.

In structuring their salaries executive are making increasing use of car perks — they are worth

more than remuneration from any source other than the basic cash portion, and considerably more than performance bonuses.

Non-cash fringe benefits constitute about 30% of the remuneration packages of senior executives, the survey finds.

Only in the remuneration packages of chief executives are the car perk and performance bonus given almost equal weight each contributes around 16% to the total package.

Crawford says there has been little change in the cash vs non-cash portion of executive remuneration in the past 10 years, probably as a

result of increased taxation on fringe benefits.

The basic salaries of executives who are employed by companies which pay performance bonuses or incentives, are much the same as those whose companies don't pay bonuses or incentives.

'Nearly 84% of emigrating executives cited crime and violence as their reason for leaving'

Namibia and Zimbabwe popular havens

Neighbours gain from SA braindrain

CT(BR)2/9/97

(236)

CHRISTO VOLSCHENK

Cape Town — Since the beginning of this year, South Africa had experienced a net loss of skills to southern Africa, the Central Statistical Service reported yesterday.

The service's official migration statistics reported more people emigrated from South Africa to settle in countries in southern Africa than immigrated from those countries to South Africa.

The figures only reflect the movement of people through South Africa's major airports and border posts and do not account for people who might have moved across the borders illegally and undocumented.

The service said 628 South Africans emigrated to countries in southern Africa in the first five months of the year, while only 490 people immigrated.

The figures surprised demographers, who said local farmers settling in countries in southern Africa under the Freedom Front's programme of resettlement could have been responsible for the "distortion".

This is a turnaround from last year when 1 549 people officially immigrated from countries in southern Africa to South Africa and only 1 151 emigrated from South Africa to those coun-

tries, for a net gain of 398 people.

Five months into this year South Africa was a net exporter of people to Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe while only Lesotho and Zaire registered more emigrants to South Africa than immigrants from South Africa.

Namibia and Zimbabwe are particularly popular destinations for South Africans, with 460 people settling there last year and another 251 emigrating there in the first five months of this year.

Only 34 Namibians settled permanently in South Africa last year, and by May this year another nine people emigrated from that country to South Africa.

In the first five months of the year, South Africa lost 110 emigrants to Zimbabwe and gained 94 immigrants.

The service said the braindrain from South Africa gained more momentum in May when South Africa experienced a net loss of 428 people to the world, to bring the total net loss in the first five months of the year to 2 749.

Should the braindrain continue at the same pace until the end of the year, the net loss of skilled people this year would be 50 percent higher than last year.

Email fminfotech@tmi.co.za

HUMAN RESOURCES

SA losing IT skills in big-money exodus

Crime, education and cash send top personnel scurrying for the security of foreign but happier climes

(236)

fm 19/9/97

It's no longer a brain drain, it's a haemorrhage, and IT industry sources say there is no end in sight to the exodus of top computer programmers, project leaders and systems analysts from SA. Most head for North America, Europe, the Middle East and Australasia, where they are offered salaries up to twice what they could hope for at home.

Pat McLaren, director of recruitment agency CPL, says that of those who leave, only 15% return. Though it is difficult to estimate just how many IT professionals are leaving — because many declare they are leaving on holiday or on working visas — McLaren thinks the figure is at least 30 a month.

The most popular destination is the US, followed by the UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. McLaren says Cobol programmers are in particular demand. Cobol is an old programming language used at mainframe sites, particularly affected by the year 2000 date-change problem. Business management software SAP skills are also in demand. Cobol programmers earn up to US\$60 000/year in the US, and SAP professionals can get \$100 000/year.

SA's two main IT trade journals, *ComputerWeek* and *Computing SA*, are chock-a-block with advertisements luring local IT skills away.

In a cover story, US publication *BusinessWeek* recently identified SA as one of the regions targeted by US-based IT recruitment agencies.

Adabas/Natural, a so-called "fourth generation" programming language used in mainframe computers, is popular in the UK. Because there are many Adabas/Natural programmers in SA — the result of extensive training undertaken over a number of years by Dimension Data subsidiary SPL — the flight of these skills to the UK is high. Client/server and Internet skills are also in demand, as are programmers for IBM systems CICS and DB2.

Mike Bergen & Associates (MBA) executive chairman Mike Bergen says there is a shortage of high-level project managers

pared with the US and Europe, year 2000 specialists are being paid very little."

SAP R/3 professionals are also attracting massive salaries in the US.

First National Bank senior GM in charge of strategic planning and IT, Mike Jarvis, says the situation in the bank is critical. "Retaining skills is the most severe problem that we have at the moment."

For FNB, the turnaround of staff is mainly in the development area. Jarvis is losing top analysts, programmers and project managers, though he adds that the demand is

right across the board. Even basic Cobol programmers are being poached, he says.

Already FNB offers a separate salary structure and additional perks to its IT staff in an attempt to retain them.

Overseas recruitment agencies are poaching staff from FNB, a situation that is common to all large SA companies. Incredibly, Jarvis says, when they have been poached, they are sent back to the bank to attempt to poach their colleagues.

"People have to put a lot of effort into the year 2000 issue with no business benefit in return," Jarvis says. "This problem is simply not going to go away until after 2000, and crime is just making things worse."

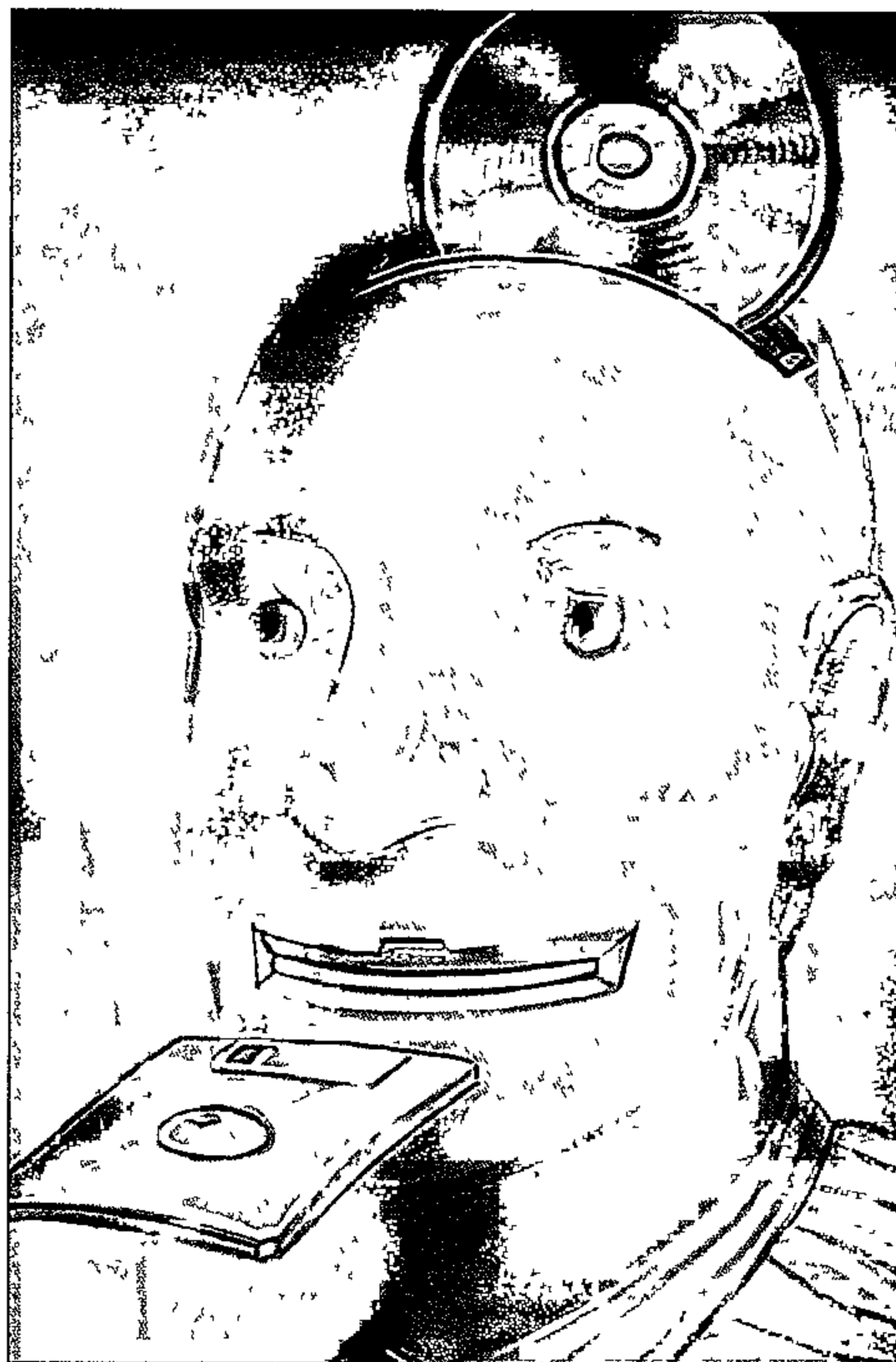
Despite this, local companies and banks are concerned

about wholesale poaching from each other. "We all realise we can start a devastating war," Jarvis says.

Stefano Mattiello, marketing manager at SAP Southern Africa, denies claims by recruitment agencies that there is an SAP skills crisis in SA.

"It is an outdated perception," he maintains. "SAP people still emigrate, but two to three years ago the US SAP market was ballooning. They sucked up a lot of global resources."

Mattiello says that the situation has now



He adds that the problem year of 2000 has pushed up salaries dramatically in the US and Europe. Contracting rates in the UK for date-change skills have risen to \$500/day. In the US, contracting rates for Cobol programmers have risen 400% in four years.

Positions in Australia are being advertised at salaries of R9 000-R13 000/week.

In SA many companies have left the 2000 problem late, Bergen says. "They are going to find that the skills simply aren't available, or are prohibitively expensive. Com-

occupational categories cannot be accurately determined. But it does propose a migration policy that will make it easier to employ overseas professionals.

However, in light of the 2000 computer date problem, McLaren warns that the time it will take for the proposed legislation to be enacted could be the time it takes to plunge both the private and public sectors into crisis. "Unless we hurry up, SA is in grave danger of missing the year 2000 boat," he warns.

Bergen warns government that affirmative action policies in the IT industry could backfire. He believes it's critical to bring in offshore expertise, while encouraging a skills transfer between the immigrants and South Africans. It would be a mistake if government prevented IT skills from entering the country, Bergen warns. "It will take a long time to build up black skills, while at the same time we will be losing our own resources overseas. Even-



Mike Bergen many SA firms left Year 2000 problem late

tually there won't be enough skills to train local people."

Bergen is investigating the problem facing his clients. For the past five years, MBA has had a successful programme running in conjunction with Rhodes University, developing programmers. MBA has supplied costly technology to Rhodes and trained its lecturers to use it.

Bergen suggests one way to counteract the problem is to sponsor the development of resources. "Young people like to go overseas. Sponsor them to go, but then let them come back to work for the same organisation."

Large organisations will have to pay international rates to retain their existing skills base and to attract new skills, he adds.

"Once that happens, SA companies can start recruiting from overseas."

Technology itself is also boosting the skills exodus. CPL's McLaren says job ad-

vertising and communication between recruitment agencies and computer professionals is easy and inexpensive across the Internet. This is creating increased fluidity in the jobs market.

Until legislation is passed, what can SA do about the problem?

McLaren says "companies are reluctant to offer training because they fear their staff will leave for better pay elsewhere. The solution may be for companies to employ more trainees."

Duncan McLeod

IT DIGEST

Ahead of a planned JSE listing, Pinnacle Holdings acquires SCSI Technology for an undisclosed amount. SCSI, founded in 1994, supplies high-volume storage systems and distributes storage hardware, software and consumables for Seagate, Pioneer, Sony, Yamaha and others.

Interested in buying wines ahead of Business Day's Wine Festival? TML's new cybercellar is at <http://wine.bday.co.za>

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THE LOGICAL ALTERNATIVE

(236) *Louweran* 15/10/97

Importing skilled labour will 'negatively affect SA'

A SOUTH African migration policy should allow the importation of skills in the short term - on work permit - while ensuring that an intensive human resource development programme guarantees a South African is trained for every expatriate job

This was said by Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Dr Lindiwe Sisulu at yesterday's Centre for Development and Enterprise debate 'Should South Africa open its doors to skilled foreigners?' held in Bramfontein

Dr Sisulu said South Africa had a long way to go before it can adopt and sustain liberal policies adopted by countries such as Canada and Australia

"What we are looking for ideally is an immigration policy that will develop in tandem with all other sectors of society," said Dr Sisulu as she put the issue of immigration within the context of

government's broader policies

"The final product of the policy-making process on immigration will have to take into account the policies of welfare, health, education, foreign affairs, labour and housing. It is no tardiness on our part that we are one of the last departments to formulate policy

"It is important that our immigration policies will not be premised on economic factors alone. Immigration is but a small fraction of the factors that account for total economic growth

"South Africa is also a part of the sub-regional community whose basic agreements would further proscribe our scope

"South Africa has been approached by a number of African countries who are worried about their brain flight to South Africa urging us not to use our Rand power to their disadvantage

"We have bound ourselves to an agreement that we will not poach their skills, particularly in the departments of health and more recently in the areas of

science and technology"

Dr Sisulu said any suggestion that South Africa should grant residence to skilled immigrants would run counter to any human resource development drive, adding that "big business would be freed of its responsibility to help produce skills" and "when skilled immigrants become citizens, South Africa would be severely disadvantaged"

Dr Sisulu said it was important for all who are involved in the migration debate that agreement was reached on

the definition of terms

"It is absolutely necessary to separate the legal stream of migration and immigration from the illegal South Africans must understand that not every black foreigner in this country is an illegal immigrant," she said

Talking specifically on CDE's own two-part migration study launched in June, Dr Sisulu said the "liberal policy" put forward by CDE of free movement into South Africa of skilled labour raised the question of South Africa's own policies with respect to skills development

"Our immediate responsibility should be to develop skills among our own people. Importing skills does not solve the problem of human resource development - not now, not in the future"

Many more specialists will emigrate – survey

AAU 18/10/97

(236)

Johannesburg – Emigration of South African middle managers and high-level specialists will continue to rise and lower-skilled and hourly-rated staff will get the lowest salary increases in years during the next 12 months.

Human resource consultants FSA-Contact said these were some of the findings of the latest general staff remuneration survey.

The survey found that six percent of middle managers and high-level specialists who resigned in the past year did so to emigrate, compared to five percent in the previous year, the company said. "The proportion of specialised, skilled and senior supervisory staff who emigrated in the past year also increased, from two to three percent of those resigning their jobs."

Two percent of all personnel below executive level who resigned gave emigration as a reason.

On salary increases "the survey found that, in contrast to an established trend which saw lower-skilled staff receive the largest percentage salary increase over the year, lower-skilled workers will receive marginally lower overall increases in the year ahead than clerical, supervisory and general staff, as well as senior, skilled and specialised staff."

But, FSA-Contact's national sales manager Kris Crawford said lower-skilled workers were still likely to see marginally higher basic wage increases than their more skilled counterparts.

"It's only when the non-cash portion of employee wages are taken into account that skilled workers will receive more."

In the year under review, lower-skilled and hourly-rated workers received the highest basic wage increases, as well as the highest total package increase," she said.

The survey, which incorporates over 400 companies and organisations, examined remuneration levels and employment practices, including staff turnover.

Half the respondents who reported employees resigning due to emigration blamed crime and violence, compared with 84% of emigrating executives.

Twenty percent of general staff gave education as their reason for leaving, compared with five percent of executives; 17% blamed a decline in living standards and 13% were worried about health care in South Africa.

Nearly 30% of emigrants were going to the United Kingdom, 23% to Australia, 17% to the United States, 13% to New Zealand and nine percent to Canada – Sapa

Migrants: Is 'get tough' the way?

ANN BERNSTEIN, LAWRENCE SCHLEMMER
and CHARLES SIMKINS

IT SEEMS logical to argue that South Africa must act strongly to curb immigration after all, charity must begin at home and we have millions of our own citizens desperate for jobs, housing, schooling and other services. Yet an assessment by the Centre for Development and Enterprise of the realities of the migration process, the implementation capacity of the state, the nature of the South African economy and extensive local and international research all indicate that this "get tough" approach on immigration will not work and the government will be seen to be failing to exercise its legitimate authority.

The "get tough" argument (Fortress South Africa) is based on many assumptions shown by our research to be false. A few examples

South Africa has had border controls and programmes of repatriation — about as strict as we are capable of — for years but still the number of illegal immigrants is large, though nobody knows exactly how many. Proponents of Fortress South Africa generally fail to explain how the country will suddenly become much more effective at sealing the borders or at what cost.

The Institute for Security Studies has proposed tighter border controls (floodlights, motor detectors, and the like) and internal controls such as tamperproof identity cards, a comprehensive national registration system with built-in punitive measures against employment and a system to ensure that illegals are not employed in the "underground economy". CDE suggests that a

country which cannot measure its underground economy, control tax evasion, collect rates and service charges from residents who live at listed addresses, enforce TV licence requirements, collect parking tickets or register voters without duplications and omissions will not be able to implement tougher measures. Former deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Penuel Maduna, highlighted the country's limited resources: "England, as an island, has more than 5 000 immigration officers while South Africa, with its vast borders, has fewer than 1 000 officers for the same task. The allocated funds for 1996/97 unfortunately do not allow the enlargement of the department's number of immigration officers. The service simply cannot be rendered at the required level."

There is only flimsy empirical data on the overall effect migrants have on the social, political and economic life of South Africa. Yet proponents of Fortress South Africa make only negative assumptions about all these issues. International research points in a different direction. For example, the OECD found in 1992 that the methodological arsenal of modern econometrics cannot find a single shred of evidence that immigrants have a major adverse impact on the earnings and job opportunities of natives of the United States.

Many people suggest curbing migration to South Africa through increased aid to uplift the economies of neighbouring states. This also sounds plausible yet international evidence suggests otherwise. The 1992 United States Commission for the Study of International Migration and Co-operative Economic Development put it this way: *While*

job-creating economic growth is the ultimate solution to reducing these migratory pressures, the economic development process itself lends in the short to medium term to stimulate migration by raising expectations and enhancing people's ability to migrate.

The truth is that developments such as the Maputo corridor are more than likely to increase the flow of migrants to South Africa for the foreseeable future.

Current government policy on migration issues is ad hoc and confusing. The deputy president says deporting illegals is a waste of resources. The minister of home affairs talks of increasing resources and policing to deport and keep out illegals. The minister of defence speculates on the possibility of switching on the electrified border fence. The ministers of finance and of trade and industry travel the region and of the world arguing for greater trade and investment, contacts and tourism with South Africa — all of which will increase migration pressures. Current policy assumes that any job occupied by a non-South African means one less job for a South African, yet the macro-economic strategy (and we might add the global economy) is based on an expanding view of jobs and opportunities not this zero-sum approach.

No migration policy will work perfectly — there will always be ways in which people can slip through the system. However, it is essential for citizens of a country to believe the government is regaining control of the migration process. This requires a decisive choice about migration and leadership from politicians.

CDE's analysis and orientation are clear — we are in favour of migration as a phenom-

non — many migrants are the risk-takers of their communities, people with the drive and need to work hard. This philosophy should apply to rural-urban migration within South Africa and to migration across our borders. SA will not become a successful world competitor as a closed, protectionist, narrow society. Diversity, openness and the opportunity to maximise the energy and unforeseen talents of people are required to build a great society and encourage entrepreneurial growth.

This does not mean an open invitation should be issued to everyone in Africa to migrate to the southern tip. States have a right to secure their borders and to keep out undesirables — criminals, vagrants, drug-traffickers, gun-runners, cross-border cattle rustlers and so on — and to do this effectively. A clear distinction needs to be made between crime control and migration issues. Strict and tough crime control measures should not be used, mistakenly, as tools of migration control.

CDE's proposals address the central challenge of migrants seeking medium to long-term work and residence in SA. We advocate a two-tiered approach to migration policy for skilled and unskilled migrants. With respect to skilled migration, CDE advocates the immediate lifting of all restrictions on skilled people from anywhere in the world moving to South Africa.

The country's focus on illegal, generally unskilled, migrants has drawn attention away from the real crisis issue — the enormous and growing shortage of managerial and other skills which undermine prospects for sustained economic growth. The definition of skilled people should be expanded to

include not only the traditional professional, technical, managerial and investor categories but also entrepreneurs of all kinds who have some demonstrated skills in the creation and management of either formal or informal enterprises. It is an illusion to think that tough restrictions on getting unskilled people into the country will help SA. SA will help neighbouring countries' key skilled people. If denied the opportunity to move to SA when and if they want, unskilled people will leave the continent altogether!

CDE proposes that unskilled migrants should be accepted only from SADC countries and, to remain in South Africa, must demonstrate that they are able to become self-supporting, tax-paying, law-abiding residents. While our proposals are generous, they facilitate control since they provide incentives for people to register with the authorities and play by the rules. CDE's approach gives any unskilled migrant from an SADC country six months to prove that they can find or make work to support themselves, on condition they provide an address in South Africa.

At the end of this period those who succeed in finding or making work must serve further two-year probationary period. At the conclusion of the probation migrants are rewarded with permanent work and residence rights and only then access to more than minimal health services.

Access to one-off, lump-sum subsidies (housing, land, infrastructure) should be restricted to migrants who fully commit to South Africa by acquiring citizenship — accessible only after an additional three-year period of successful work and law-abiding residence.

(236)

CF 27/10/97

Agriculture's input to GDP drops 12%

Louise Cook

THE agricultural sector's contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) in the third quarter of the year had dropped more than 12% to R3,1bn compared with R3,5bn in the third quarter last year, Standard Bank senior manager of agriculture Bertus van Heerden said yesterday.

However, this was to be expected as last year had been an extremely good farming year — this year was nonetheless 2% better than the average third-quarter contributions to GDP over the past seven years.

Van Heerden said due to the seasonality of farming, comparisons should not be made between

sequential quarters as no meaningful conclusions could be drawn this way. It was more appropriate to compare the corresponding quarters within each year.

"The main reason for agriculture's poorer performance during the third quarter of 1997 was due to lower output of field crops. The livestock sector's performance was only marginally lower, while horticulture showed some growth.

"SA farming is characterised by seasonality in production. Agriculture performs better in the second quarter of each year than in others because most of the field crops are harvested and delivered during this time."

Van Heerden said the only years in which the contribution to

GDP had not been the highest in the second quarter since 1990, was in 1991 and 1995 when deliveries of summer grains were late.

Meanwhile, the National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) warned wheat farmers that the latest indications were that the El Niño phenomenon could last until winter.

Nampo chairman Japie Grobler said: "For wheat farmers in summer rainfall areas this is bad news because of the anticipated limited soil moisture content during planting time."

He said farmers should plant only in areas with a high soil moisture content, not plant too early, avoid large capital expenditure and refrain from overfertilising.

'Emigration drops 24% in year to July'

DURING July this year, the number of self-declared emigrants was 636, a 24% drop compared with July last year, and 329 of these emigrants were economically active, the Central Statistical Service said yesterday.

The number of professionals, semiprofessionals and technicians who reported in July that they were emigrating was 144.

Immigrants to SA in July in the same category numbered 60.

Documented immigrants in July numbered 412, a 10% increase over last year's July figure.

The leading source countries of immigrants in July were the UK (14%), India (8%), Germany (5%), Taiwan (4%), Lesotho (3%), the US (3%) and Zimbabwe (3%).

The leading destination countries for self-declared emigrants were the UK (27%), New Zealand (16%), the US (12%), Australia (11%), Namibia (7%) and Canada (5%).

The trend in the ratio of documented immigrants to self-declared emigrants showed that since 1993, when the number of emigrants exceeded the number of immigrants, their number had never again exceeded the number of self-declared emigrants.

The gap narrowed in the second half of 1994 and again in the last quarter of last year. — Sapa-INet.

US's Polar Air applies to fly freight to SA

Simon Barber

WASHINGTON — California-based Polar Air Cargo is seeking clearance from the US transportation department to operate thrice-weekly all-freight flights between New York and Johannesburg via points in Europe and Africa, starting in the New Year.

No US cargo carrier is providing a service between the US and SA, although the recently adopted US-SA aviation treaty allows US carriers to run up to four round trips a week. Southern Air Transport, which origi-

nally had rights to the route, abandoned them in February.

Polar claims to rank among the top five all-cargo airlines in the world.

Kevin Montgomery, Polar vice-president, said his company was seeking to avoid the problem of empty northbound flights by serving other African cities as well as Johannesburg, and routing the flights via Polar's Amsterdam hub. Each round trip will stop at Cairo, Nairobi and Harare en route to and from Johannesburg, with additional stops at Entebbe/Kampala and Addis Ababa once a week.



Molope Foods Limited

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)
(Registration number 95/00511/06)
("Molope")

Cautionary announcement

As indicated in the Molope Pre-listing statement, Molope is currently involved in negotiations to acquire a number of additional businesses. These negotiations are now at an advanced stage, which if successfully concluded, may have an effect on the price at which Molope shares trade on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

Accordingly, shareholders are advised to exercise caution when dealing in their Molope shares until a further announcement is made.

Johannesburg
19 November 1997

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INCE



Learning again Richard Dennyssen learns how to eat again. He is a Comradie Hospital patient who is slowly rebuilding his life with the help of occupational therapy.

No jobs in so our occupational therapists take off overseas

We may not want young graduates, but others do



HEALTH REPORTER

Most of the 71 newly-qualified occupational therapists in the Western Cape will leave South Africa next year, not because they want to, but because there are no jobs for them here.

The situation is the same for physio-therapists.

Budget cuts in the Western Cape Health Department have resulted in posts being frozen when people leave.

In June, all frozen posts were abolished, leaving many hospitals with greatly diminished support staff. And, with further cuts looming, the situation is not likely to improve.

Graduates looking for jobs say there is nothing available.

The province has no occupational therapy or physiotherapy posts available, even for students who have bursaries and are required to work to pay back them back.

"I have no option but to go overseas," said a University of the Western Cape graduate who asked not to be named.

"I have to pay back a R25 000 bank loan and there are no jobs here for me."

There is a worldwide trend towards prevention and rehabilita-

tion in health care and occupational therapy is a rapidly growing and recognised service in other countries where there is a great demand for South African-trained therapists.

The loss of therapists represents a significant brain drain and loss of investment as each student is subsidised by the Government.

Ruth Watson, head of occupational therapy at the University of Cape Town said there were now fewer than half the 150 posts in the Western Cape as there were 18 months ago.

"It's disappointing. Students are trained to work in South Africa and fit in with the new health plan. Yet the only way for them to get employment is to leave the country," said Professor Watson.

That, however, is not an option for another graduate, who has a provincial bursary.

"Province has said they don't know what to do with us. They may have to defer our bursaries. It's such a let-down."

"I'm prepared to work in a rural setting, but when they open clinics they employ doctors and nurses and regard that as adequate health care. That's the medical model, the old way of doing things."

"We have a preventative role. Our focus is rehabilitation, we can provide that and save a lot on disability grants," she said.

Few people, including the medical establishment, understand the vital role occupational therapists play in the health team, students say.

"People expect holistic treatment at hospitals," said a student.

"They may have their health restored there, but without the skills to cope when they go home they become dependent on others. That's our job, to help them function to their full potential."

"We don't use fancy equipment, people are our resources. We adapt according to what the environment

provides people with. We don't tell people what to do, we empower them, that's what primary health care is all about."

A UCT student who is staying in Cape Town because she is getting married said she had searched "high and low" for a job.

"But there are no jobs with the provincial administration, there are no jobs at special schools and nothing in the private sector. Comradie Hospital said there might be posts later next year, but there are scores of applicants," she said.

"I did part of my training in Manteberg at the Community Counselling and Training Centre. I was working in the youth programme at schools, identifying children with learning disabilities and teaching life skills. The teachers were very excited by our programme."

At least 10 of her 19 classmates were going overseas, she said.

"They're excited, it's fun, it's travel, it's work experience and the biggest factor is that it's a good income."

People did intend to come back, if there were jobs.

Jocelyn de Jongh, head of occupa-

tional therapy at the University of the Western Cape, said some students might find jobs in other provinces.

But there were eight universities in South Africa which trained occupational therapists.

Private practice is also not an option for new graduates. These jobs usually go to therapists who have worked overseas and returned with work experience.

Should universities be training fewer students?

Susan Beukes, head of Stellenbosch University occupational therapy department, said no.

"There is such a need for occupational therapy in the community and things change so quickly."

"If they change for the better, we won't have enough occupational therapists."

Students also provide a much-needed service during their practical training.

Professor Watson said "Our concern is for people with disabilities who are among the disadvantaged in our country."

"They had begun to be given services and now these services are being withdrawn."

ART 10/12/97

Aliens study debunks bad reputation of illegals in SA

BD 22/12/97

(236)

Deborah Fine

ASSUMPTIONS that illegal foreigners in SA act as a drain on the country's limited resources and exacerbate high unemployment levels have been challenged in a report released by the Centre for Policy Studies.

The report was based on an intensive study, carried out mainly in Johannesburg's inner city between November last year and June this year, on the role played by "illegal immigrants" in SA's economy.

Forty-four foreigners, mainly Zimbabweans, were interviewed, as well as migrants from Malawi, Ghana, Zaire, Zambia, Nigeria, Kenya, Jamaica, Mozambique and Rwanda.

The report said many foreigners described as "illegal immigrants" were migrants working in SA illegally but with no intention of settling here permanently or bringing their families to join them.

The dependants of many migrants remained in their countries of origin and made no demands on SA's education, health and other social services. It was thus important to distin-

guish between "illegal immigrants" and "illegal workers".

The report also challenged assumptions that many black foreigners were uneducated, illiterate and unskilled. Most of the respondents interviewed were multiskilled and active mainly in the construction, catering, domestic, trading and informal-trading sectors.

Their versatility and adaptability had enabled them to take advantage of a wide range of employment opportunities. Many were self employed, believing the common belief that they had "stolen" jobs from South Africans.

It appeared that many migrants in the formal sector, whether legal or illegal, had tax deducted from their salaries, contributed towards group or private medical aids, pension or provident funds and made unemployment insurance-fund payments. This finding questioned the belief that migrants used state services for which they did not pay.

The report challenged as "spurious" the notion that migrants sent most of their wages home, draining the SA economy of revenue. Although most migrants did send remittances

home, the vast majority appeared to spend a far greater proportion of their earnings on commodities purchased in SA and then sent home.

This included clothes, electronic goods, groceries, toiletries, furniture, electrical appliances, car parts and toys. Goods were often sent home for resale, stimulating a demand for SA goods and facilitating informal links between SA and other countries.

The report said migrants constituted a considerable domestic consumer market, paying value-added tax on goods and services and indirectly creating employment opportunities.

In addition, migrants' demand for local and transboundary transportation had greatly benefited SA's transport industry, especially taxis and trains. The increased demand had, in turn, created a demand for other services such as food and drink, ticket sellers and luggage packers.

Instead of portraying migrants merely as a security threat, immigration policies should undertake a "paradigm shift" so that they are perceived rather as a potential development resource, the report said.

Need for education to counteract xenophobia — report

BY RYAN CRESSWELL

There is an urgent need for a broad-based education programme to counteract rising levels of hatred of foreigners in South Africa, according to a Centre for Policy Studies report on migrants in Johannesburg.

In a report called "Strangers truer than fiction: the social and economic impact of migrants on the Johannesburg inner city", the CPS says poor, homeless and unemployed South Africans are no longer able to blame an unrepresentative government for their ills and are therefore shifting the blame to foreigners.

Researchers Maxine Reitzes, Zico Tameela and Paul Thulare

found that both legal and illegal immigrants are subjected to a range of exploitative practices and human rights abuses, both by corrupt government officials, most notably in the Department of Home Affairs and the security forces. They were also exploited by private citizens who took advantage of them as tenants, workers, political pawns, and soft targets for criminal activity.

The study found that this abuse could exacerbate xenophobic conflicts, the ghettoisation of foreign communities and the withdrawal of

their financial and political compliance.

The report — put together after interviews with 44 migrants from all over sub-Saharan Africa and Jamaica and other research — said current immigration policies seemed to be unenforceable and failed to accommodate the category of "migrants", into which most Johannesburg foreigners fell.

Immigration policy should change from portraying migrants as a security threat to perceiving them as a development resource and from formulating and attempting to implement policies of exclusion and control to developing a

rights-based policy of migration management.

The study found that international criminal syndicates are increasingly penetrating South Africa, but members of the syndicates are professional criminals and it does not follow that all undocumented foreigners are criminals.

The researchers discovered that many foreigners commuted regularly between South Africa and their home countries and did not want to settle in South Africa. This meant they made no claims on social services but spent most of their earnings on commodities which they sent home.

Some foreigners contributed

a range of skills to the market and saw themselves as making an economic contribution which many South Africans could not make because they were victims of "Bantu education", the report said.

The study also pointed out that a preliminary investigation by the aliens investigation unit of the police has led to the arrest of 15 home affairs officials, 10 of whom had already been found guilty of corruption.

The unit is investigating a further 750 cases of corruption by home affairs officials involving R13-million.

Ray 30/12/97

(236)

Call to curb

hatred of

foreigners

Many exploited

ART 20/12/97

(236)

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg – There is an urgent need for a broad-based education programme to counteract rising levels of hatred for foreigners in South Africa, according to a Centre for Policy Studies report on migrants in Johannesburg.

The report, entitled *Strangers Truer Than Fiction. the social and economic impact of migrants on the Johannesburg inner city*, says poor, homeless and unemployed South Africans are no longer able to blame an unrepresentative Government for their ills and are turning on foreigners.

Researchers Maxine Reitzes, Zico Tamela and Paul Thulare found that legal and illegal immigrants were both subjected to a range of exploitative practices and human rights abuses, including by corrupt Government officials, notably in the Department of Home Affairs and the security forces.

They also were exploited by private citizens, who took advantage of them as tenants, workers, political pawns and soft targets for criminal activity.

The study found that this abuse could exacerbate xenophobic conflicts and the ghettoisation of foreign communities.

The report – put together after interviews with 44 migrants from all over sub-Saharan Africa and Jamaica – said immigration policies seemed to be unenforceable. They also failed to accommodate the category of “migrants”, into which most Johannesburg foreigners fell.

The report said immigration policy should be based on human rights and change from portraying migrants as a security threat to perceiving them as a development resource. The study found that although international criminal syndicates were increasingly penetrating South Africa, not all undocumented foreigners could be considered criminals.

The researchers discovered that many foreigners commuted regularly between South Africa and their homes and did not wish to settle here. This meant they made no claims on social services, but spent most of their earnings on commodities which they sent home.

Some foreigners contributed a range of skills to the economy that many South Africans were unable to because they were victims of “Bantu education”.

The study also pointed out that 15 home affairs officials had been arrested, of whom 10 already had been found guilty of corruption. Another 750 cases of corruption by home affairs officials – involving R13-million – were being investigated.

Reports suggest it is possible to buy a South African identity book from officials. It also has been alleged that many legal foreigners have had their documents destroyed or confiscated by corrupt police, who then sold them back to their original owners or illegal immigrants.

Xenophobia on the rise among poor — report

Deborah Fine

NO LONGER able to blame an illegitimate government for their woes, SA's poor and unemployed appeared to be shifting the blame to foreigners, which had resulted in increasing levels of xenophobia, a report by the Centre for Policy Studies said.

The report, which was based on an intensive eight-month study to investigate the social and economic impact of migrants in the Johannesburg inner city, said the xenophobia appeared to be a post-1994 election phenomenon.

It said that the xenophobia was caused largely by perceptions that illegal migrant workers were responsible for the country's high unemployment levels.

Finding that many migrant workers were often multiskilled and versatile, the centre conceded that migrants did have a competitive advantage over lo-

cal workers, and may, in some instances, displace them.

However, it was not the employment of illegal workers as such which created competition between foreigners and locals, but rather employment practices in relation to foreigners which depressed wages and working conditions for all employees, both local and migrant.

The insecure and legally unprotected status of undocumented migrants rendered them vulnerable to exploitative employment practices, which were made more so because many migrants felt compelled to accept any possible means of earning a livelihood, regardless of the employment conditions they encountered.

Often forced to accept substandard working conditions or remain unemployed, migrants were prepared to work long hours for subminimum wages, with no benefits and no legal

recourse when their rights were abused — thus ensuring their employers large profits.

Many of the migrants interviewed during the study cited local workers' intolerance towards competition, jealousy regarding skills, poor work ethics, high wage demands and inflated socioeconomic expectations as some of the causes of the xenophobia.

They said that many SA workers were unemployed because they expected "white collar jobs" and were not prepared to do "low jobs which they think are cheap and dirty".

They said that government's inability to create jobs was also contributing to the xenophobia.

The centre said that while there were laws in place which imposed heavy penalties for the use of illegal labour, such sanctions were often not enforced, not only because of a lack of capacity in government departments,

but also because corrupt officials colluded with employers in exploiting foreign workers.

Thus no new policies or laws would be effective unless corruption was eliminated and the officials charged with implementing the sanctions had the necessary political will to do so.

The centre said that there was an urgent need to address xenophobia through extensive education programmes, particularly because the forthcoming 1999 general elections could tempt politicians to capitalise on the increasing trend for short-term political gain.

Conceding that migrants' skills could be "helpful" to SA's economy, trade union officials had suggested that government make arrangements with other countries in the region to bring immigrants to SA in an "orderly" manner to impart their skills to the local workforce.

BD 20/12/97 (236)

No Renaissance if 'brain drain' continues

drain

CT 12/1/98 (236)

GRAHAM LINSCOTT

RED lights should be flashing, alarm bells ringing. When Onderstepoort is unable to supply veterinary vaccines because so many of its top scientists have emigrated, we have a gigantic blip on the radar screen.

It's bad enough that it could cause a severe milk shortage. But it's an even more disturbing indicator that South Africa's First World scientific sector is beginning to wane.

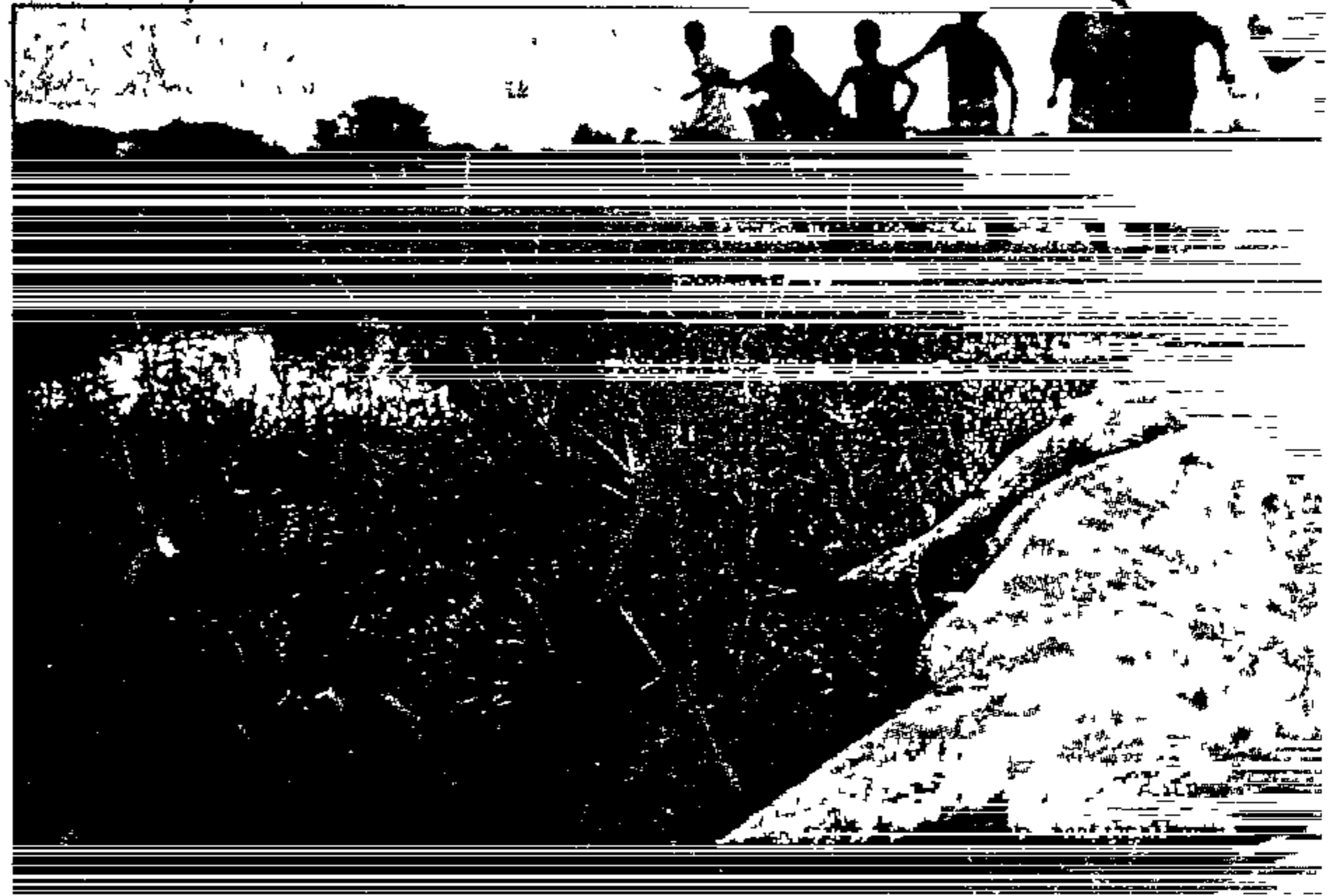
The Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute, founded in 1908, is a world class centre of excellence that reaches out into the rest of Africa and into the world beyond. Research is combined with teaching (through the University of Pretoria) and development, marketing and distribution of vaccines and medicines.

It is an outpost of First World expertise in a continent of Third World needs. Yet, being concerned with veterinary science, it directly addresses many of those needs. Nothing like it exists anywhere else in Africa. Bovine ephemeral fever, lumpy skin disease, heart water, gall sickness, foot and mouth disease and lung disease generally do not feature prominently in the political discourse. But unless they are effectively countered, we can forget about the African Renaissance. It will not happen in the midst of pestilence and famine.

Being a research institute set up in Africa to deal with African problems, Onderstepoort was a natural point of reference for colonial agricultural officers throughout the continent. But a mutually rewarding relationship ended as the policy of apartheid ran into independence from colonial rule. That impasse was resolved in 1994. Onderstepoort is once again poised to play its leading role in solving the practical problems of life on this continent. Except that its highly qualified scientists are now leaving in significant numbers.

Why? They are being offered much better salaries overseas — mainly in Britain and the United States — and the opportunity to work among the world's best (though if Britain and America want them so much, the Onderstepoort men can't be too bad themselves).

But that always was the case. Another factor obviously influencing emigration is political uncertainty, rampant crime and uneasiness over the future of school education. (As intellectuals, scientists are par-



FAMINE AND PESTILENCE: Onderstepoort is poised to play a leading role in solving the problems that are leaving in significant numbers and there can be no African Renaissance in the midst of pestilence and famine. A mysterious disease recently caused scores of Kenyans, Somalis and their livestock to bleed to

ticularly concerned about schooling for their children). The decision to emigrate is generally based on a combination of factors. The "brain drain" in general is a very serious matter, not addressed by the juvenile chorus of "Good riddance!" and "Let the softies go!" that so inevitably accompanies talk of emigration (as it did in the Nat era and in UDI Rhodesia as well).

South Africa has paid billions to develop these levels of expertise and probably never have they been more vitally needed as the country struggles to lift itself out of the past and play the leading role in

Africa that it should.

Yet we have in the country First World agencies scooping up the best-quality scientists who were (insanely) paid vast salaries a time their skills were never more needed. At a World Fisheries Conference in Durban, the South African and Australian scientists were like a house on fire. No wonder — it was a reunion. Half the Aussies were South Africans who did all their study and research in the country, then left (snapped up) by their own salary funding for further research

Home Affairs chaos as senior officials quit

(236)

BLACKMAN NGORO
STAFF REPORTER

Ten percent of senior and experienced staff at the Department of Home Affairs have taken severance packages, throwing the department's operations into chaos.

Statistics provided by the department show that out of about 8 000 employees

from the lowest level right up to the director general - 873 have left

These include a chief director, directors and assistant directors

Home Affairs spokesman Hennie Meyer said "It has affected our department. The fact that people are leaving is not the problem

"The problem is that they are very experienced people and that there is a public ser-

vice moratorium on hiring new staff

"What this means is that once someone takes a severance package, the post stays vacant"

Inexperience among personnel in the department is being blamed for snarl-ups

In particular, the handling of refugees, which is crucial to South Africa's image abroad, is suffering

The United Nations High Commission

ARLT 12 11 98

for Refugees has been brought in to provide training in the field. More than 100 Home Affairs officials have already gone through the training programme to try and remedy the drain of skills

Adding to the difficulty of department officials is the fact that no domestic legislation for refugees exists in South Africa

The department has said a draft bill on refugees is being drawn up

Official SA figures hide Nigerian influx

SLOW business in the past three years has forced Jude Orji, a 23-year-old vehicle spare parts trader in Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital, to take what he considers the most important decision of his life, to sell up and move to SA.

"I hear SA is very much like Europe, business is moving there and their currency is strong," he says in justification of his decision to take up street trading in Johannesburg.

"I want to work there for two or three years, save some money which I can put back into my business back home or develop some line of business which may take me to and fro."

Orji is one of a new generation of Nigerian emigrants who see SA as something of an El Dorado and have begun flocking there in search of success.

Two broad categories of Nigerian emigrants to SA have become discernible. One group comprises largely unskilled youths seeking menial jobs and employment in street trading, such as Orji, while a second group comprises highly skilled professionals seeking better financial rewards for their skills.

Nigerians began to emigrate en masse from the mid-1980s with the onset of an economic crisis following a steep fall in oil prices that slashed annual export earnings for the country

Nigerian emigrants are targeting SA which many perceive as a new El Dorado, writes Dulue Mbachui in Lagos

from around \$30bn a year to less than \$10bn a year. Their desire to emigrate intensified when the economic crisis was compounded by a political crisis following the annulment of democratic elections in 1993.

The early destinations of most Nigerians had been Europe and the US, but with the end of apartheid in 1994 and the start of black majority rule, SA, with the biggest and strongest economy in Africa, became another attractive destination.

Official SA figures do not correctly reflect the tide of Nigerians moving into the country. Out of 4 500 Nigerians applying for visitor's visas from January 1996 to October 1997, 3 478 were successful. Between January 1996 and July 1997 100 applications for permanent residence were granted to Nigerians, while 12 were rejected.

Yet by some accounts every other family in Africa's most populous country of 104-million people has at least one SA-based relative. Those who entered SA legally are mainly qualified professionals, including medical professionals, engineers and academics, who,

(236) PD 20/1/98

faced with poor pay at home, have taken up more rewarding job offers down south.

Some have become very successful in SA, such as the writer Kole Omotosho (who, apart from teaching at the University of Western Cape, has also become a well-known face in SA as an advertiser of mobile phones) and Prof Adelani Ogunrinde, deputy head of the University of the Witwatersrand.

A Nigerian academic bound for a university in Zululand in January says: "One attraction of teaching in SA is the knowledge that the country is not being run by a bunch of military despots who view all academics as potential subversives."

For him good pay is also an important factor but comes second to his chances of finding job satisfaction.

However, most Nigerian migrants to SA are unskilled or low-skilled. Obtaining visas in Nigeria is usually difficult if not impossible for them, so most find their way into SA as illegal aliens via third countries or by using forged travel documents.

"It is easier to enter SA with a Ghanaian, Ivorian, Gambian,

Kenyan or Zimbabwean passport than with a Nigerian passport," explains Peter Oganba, an unemployed university graduate. He is trying to raise about 150 000 naira (\$2 000) to pay a fixer to provide him with travel documents to enter SA.

Many are not ruling out even more desperate means, such as stowing away in ships or travelling overland. Last September, three Nigerian stowaways discovered aboard a Durban-bound ship during a stop-over in Equatorial Guinea, were handed over to the Nigerian mission there. Such discoveries are no longer uncommon.

Ohwole Ogunde plans to travel through Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique — the same route his elder brother travelled three years before, arriving in SA three months after leaving Nigeria. "When I get there I will do everything possible to make money except killing and stealing," Ogunde said.

For the illegal migrants involvement with criminal rings seems inevitable. Many Nigerian criminal rings involved in drugs, frauds and passport racketeering are believed to have expanded to SA as part of networks linking up their counterparts in Europe, southeast Asia, North America and South America.



Ordinary Nigerians are looking to

(236) (236)

SA teachers offered R145 000 in UK

ET(BR)6/2/98

FRANK NXUMALO

LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg — Poorly paid South African teachers are easy prey for British recruitment consultancies offering R145 000 for a 39-week working year

Junior teachers are paid about R36 000 in South Africa

LHR Education, a British education recruitment consultancy, will offer high salary packages when it launches a nationwide "work and travel"

recruitment drive in South Africa at the end of this month.

It said successful applicants could expect to earn about R145 000 a year "This makes travelling very feasible in terms of the European geography and their financial situation"

Paul Howells, LHR's managing director, said the drive had come as a result of "an acute shortage" of primary and secondary school teachers in the UK.

Stringent measures to block illegals

Sowetan 13/2/98 (236)

SOUTH Africa's unemployment crisis meant that the Ministry of Home Affairs would ensure that foreign workers would no longer be allowed to be employed in positions that could be filled by locals, Minister of Home Affairs Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday.

More stringent controls had been adopted resulting in the onus being placed on employers to ensure that their foreign recruits held valid work permits at all times, he told a press briefing.

He acknowledged that there was a need for skilled professionals who possessed knowledge and experience not readily available in South Africa.

However, they should only be encouraged to come to South Africa "to impart specialised knowledge and skills to local co-workers".

To ensure that jobs were offered to South Africans first, the Home Affairs Ministry would in future thoroughly scrutinise all official employment contracts offered to foreigners, Buthelezi said. —Sapa

Control over foreign workers tightened

Star 13/2/98 236

Cape Town - South Africa's unemployment crisis meant his department would ensure that foreign workers would no longer be allowed to be employed in positions which could be offered to locals, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday

More stringent controls had been adopted, resulting in the onus being placed on employers to ensure that their foreign re-

cruits held valid work permits at all times, he told a press briefing

He acknowledged there was a need for skilled professionals who possessed knowledge and experience not readily available in SA. But they should only be encouraged to come to SA "to impart specialised knowledge and expertise by upgrading the skills of local co-workers, with a view to their

eventually replacing them"

To ensure that jobs were offered to South Africans first, the department would in future thoroughly scrutinise official employment contracts offered to foreigners, Buthelezi said

"The South African public should also assist us by refraining from any acts which could encourage illegal immigrants from obtaining employment," he said - Sapa

Buthelezi confronts alien hordes with

CLIVE SAWYER
PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

If Mangosuthu Buthelezi was a defence minister facing an invading army on South Africa's borders, he would want to know their strength and be assured he had the budget to keep them at bay

But as Minister of Home Affairs he has a mission much more difficult keeping out the hundreds of thousands of aliens whose tactics in turning themselves into instant South Africans range from stealth to overstaying visas

Chief Buthelezi has admitted that the Government cannot say, not even to the nearest million, how many aliens there are in South Africa illegally

"After all, these people, by their nature, do not want to be found. "And, our resources and systems for enumerating people are limited"

Estimates range from 500 000, according to preliminary census results, to 4.1 million, the maximum estimate of the Human Sciences Research Council

Chief Buthelezi does know how much the influx of aliens is costing repatriations alone cost about R210-million

The defence force estimates that

each "illegal" caught at the border costs them R4 000

But even these figures do not include the unquantified costs of feeding and accommodating them, as well as medical bills and labour costs

Those who manage to get South African identity documents mean lifelong new burdens for taxpayers, who must fund housing, education, welfare and health

Chief Buthelezi has also warned that bogus South Africans could get housing subsidies, jobs and scholarships, as well as having a direct impact on the political process by voting.

He says there are "increasing reports" linking aliens to crimes like

prostitution, drug abuse, money laundering, trade in counterfeit goods and car hijacking for cross-border markets

"It is not surprising there is in the country growing resentment to most foreigners," he says

Most aliens deported or repatriated came from southern Africa, mainly Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Lesotho, while thousands of people from the United Kingdom, Germany, France, United States, the Netherlands and India overstayed their visas last year

Chief Buthelezi outlined to an audience of journalists and diplomats what was being done to defuse the economic and political time bomb

Steps included

- New legislation to tighten up regulations for late registrations of birth, aimed at preventing illegals fraudulently getting identity documents and passports, is to be put to Parliament this year
- The Home Affairs Department not making visa exemptions available to countries "generally regarded as problematic to South Africa" (Chief Buthelezi declined to name these, saying it would "not be diplomatic" to do so)
- Foreign workers being denied employment in positions that could be offered to citizens

More stringent controls had been adopted to put the burden on employ-

ers to ensure that foreign recruits had valid work permits

Chief Buthelezi said foreign, skilled professionals should be allowed into South Africa only to impart their skills to locals

To return to the analogy of Chief Buthelezi as defence minister, the measures sounded a sparse ration of shields in the face of an advancing horde, or what he termed a "deluge" of illegals

But it is not an issue that can be solved by a display of latter-day Krugdadigheid

Chief Buthelezi concedes, with evident frustration, that South Africa lacks the capacity to police its "porous" borders

There is the deeper political sensitivity that the Government is vehemently opposed to any hint of xenophobia

This is more than a question of policy, with South Africa bound by its constitution to honour international law and convention on the treatment of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees

In the end, it means the solution to the problem does not lie solely in refining the bureaucracy of birth certificates or strong-arming people away from our borders

It lies in a holistic economic solution that will take more than just the efforts of a single Government ministry

(236)
MRT 16/2/98
meagre forces

Thugs driving out expertise

NEIL LURSEN
Washington Letter

LAST year, 671 South Africans received notification from US immigration authorities that they were among 55 000 people around the world whose entries in the annual Green Card lottery were successful

This year, there is likely to be a similar result. Computers in the state of New Hampshire are selecting, at random, among the estimated seven-million people who entered during the mail-in period last November.

The successful ones will be notified by post in May or June, say officials of the US State Department. "Don't call us," they implore, "We'll call you."

They add that there will be yet another lottery sometime after August for those who did not make it this time. Announcements will appear in the press.

No regional or country breakdown is available at this stage for the latest lottery, known as DV-99 (the DV stands for diversity) because the cards will be issued in terms of the 1999 fiscal year.

But it is known that many South Africans of all races entered in the hope of a little plastic ID card which allows them to live and work permanently in America.

With Africa getting the lion's share of the 55 000 available cards — a total of 21 409 to be shared by all countries in Africa with no individual country allowed to receive more than 3 850 — there is a fair chance that about 700 or so South Africans will again receive letters from the US government later this year.

This letter will contain instructions on what to do if they want to complete the process of getting the cards (It includes details of a health test, the provision of information about the applicant, the payment of visa fees and so forth).

Obviously, for the 671 South Africans who did receive such letters last year, there were 671 different reasons for wanting to go to the enormous trouble and uncertainty of uprooting and moving to the other side of the planet and starting all over again. For a few it may simply be

ANALYSIS

The cost of crime in SA is far more than the value of stolen property and even the loss of lives. Add the loss of desperately-needed skills and knowledge.

wanderlust — an irresistible urge to work and experience daily living in foreign countries and a treble dose of the impulse we all have to drive down a new highway every day.

That's understandable, and you can forget about doing it without a green card in America. The Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) enforces the law thoroughly and very firmly.

For a tiny handful who come here, the reason for moving appears to be an attraction to their concept of America's glamorous lifestyle as portrayed in Hollywood movies and on TV. But this is often a perception which does not match reality. Life in America can be tough — especially on a modest income.

Some come to America because it gives them an opportunity to function at the very highest levels of their chosen field — whether it be science, medicine or computer technology.

South Africans have reached promi-



The expertise of nearly 700 South Africans was lost to the US last year.

nence in these and other areas — a tremendous gain for America and a major loss for their homeland.

In California's Silicon Valley, home of the international computer industry, in leading hospitals and clinics, in university and commercial laboratories, you will hear South African accents — in some cases giving the orders.

In many cases, such people are awarded green cards on the basis of their special abilities and they do not have to depend on the lotteries.

But, judging from the stories that circulate in the South African expatriate community in North America, a large number seek to come here out of fear — fear of violent crime and the inability of the police to control it, and fear of social turmoil if efforts to close the white-black privilege gap result only in poverty for all.

One hears from recent white arrivals that, even while they agree affirmative action is necessary to correct the sins of apartheid, they left to find a new life

because they feared their own kids would have a difficult time of it in the future because of their race.

There is fear of an inevitable decline in health services and education standards as the rand is stretched as far as possible to provide for those who were deprived in the past.

But fear of rampant and violent crime does appear to be the prime reason for pulling up stakes and moving out. A recent social of multiracial South Africans here heard from one of those present how her elderly parents were brutally thrown to the ground and robbed at gunpoint in Johannesburg.

One of the most frightening aspects of the episode was that nobody seemed to find it especially surprising or out of the ordinary.

The police response when the victims went to the station the next day was that they should consider themselves lucky they were not shot.

Another at the same gathering told how both her brother and her brother-in-law had been violently carjacked in Gauteng. Again, the victims were among the lucky ones — they were not killed.

Such accounts are common when South Africans get together, a depressing form of social glue which joins them in a shared sad experience and, perhaps, helps them feel a bit better about leaving when they know that the skills and resources they have brought to America are urgently needed back home.

Clearly, their explanations are not going to win them much sympathy at home — either from their peers, who have chosen to stay and deal with the difficulties of change, or from those who point out that they were forced to live with crime and deprivation all their lives.

But it does show, equally clearly, that the cost of crime in South Africa is far more than just the value of stolen property or even the tragic loss of lives.

You can add the immeasurable loss of skills and knowledge from a country which needs all it can get.

Every time a criminal thug commits an act of violence in South Africa, he is helping to drive away people who are desperately needed at home.

Dealing with migration

ONE OF THE MORE contentious areas of the Government's policy making – the control and management of migrants and illegal immigrants – now has the help of an international agency

Last November South Africa joined the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), an inter-governmental body that monitors people's movements, provides assistance where necessary – as in the instance of exiles who returned to South Africa – and advises members

This week IOM director-general James Purcell was in the country to meet Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi and policy makers to discuss how South Africa could collaborate with other governments

Purcell said "Migration is a complex issue – it involves a range of things, including that of the sovereignty of a state. Where we have successes, we like to promote the plan and replicate them"

Technical expertise to help analyse the problems and needs of a country, training for officials and advice on policy are some of the help the IOM is offering this Government

While the Government was still discussing the mechanisms it will put in place to deal with migrants, Purcell said, the current debate was a "great opportunity" for policy makers to devise a system that will fill in South Africa's labour market gaps.

The IOM distinguishes between refugees fleeing from persecution or for humanitarian reasons and migrants who are temporarily displaced or mostly move for economic reasons

In sub-Saharan Africa, although there have been conflicts – like those of Rwanda and Burundi – a large proportion of the movement is within the continent for economic reasons

While South Africa has historically been a source of employment for migrant workers in the region, the number of people moving here has increased significantly since 1990 after the liberation movements were unbanned and the political changes started

South Africa has a "pressing problem", said Purcell "Your Government has to take into account the interdependence of its neighbours and the important role it plays in the region"

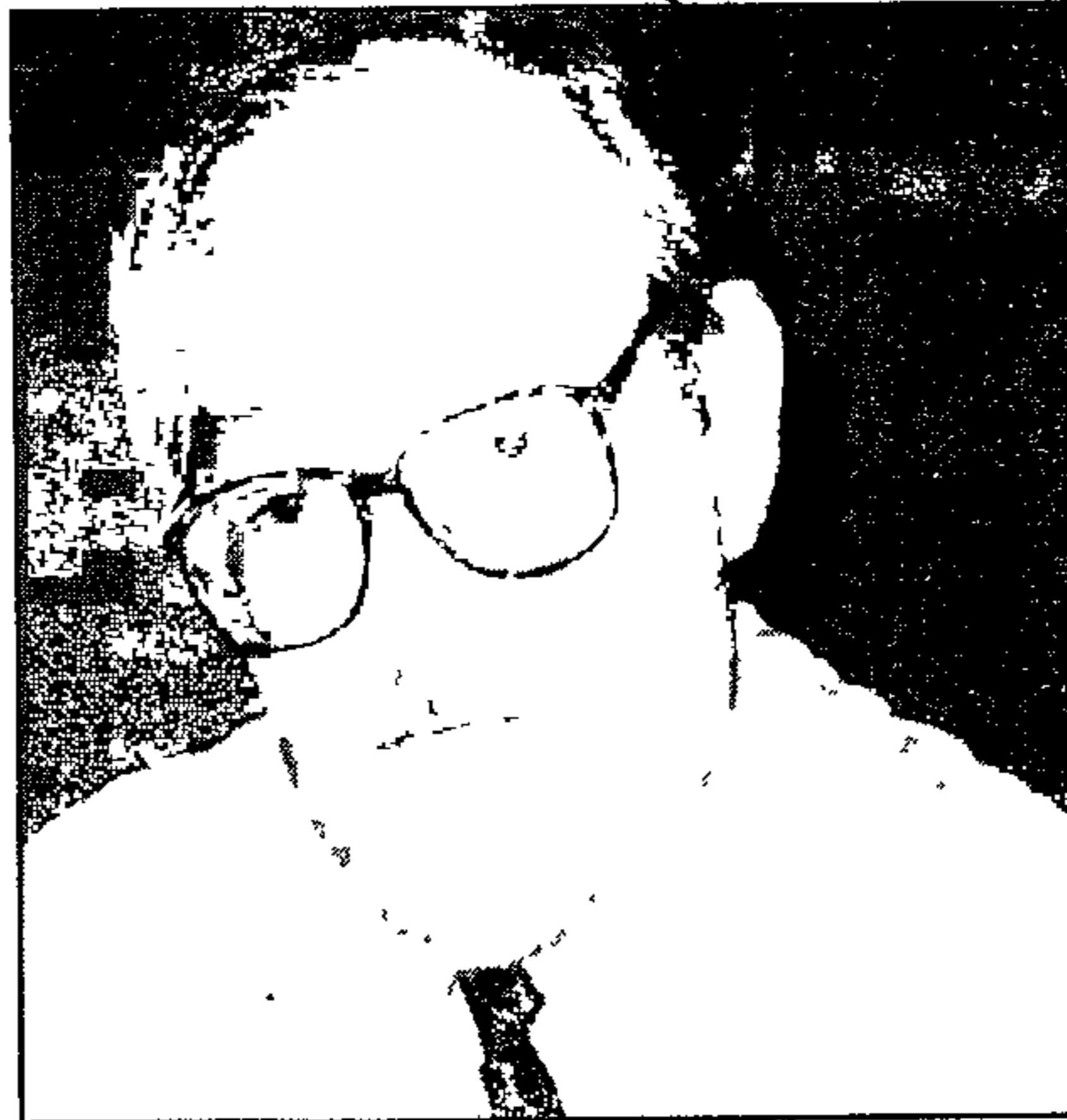
He said as a leader with one of the stronger economies in the Southern African Development Community, South Africa was bound to attract large-scale economic immigrants

However, when formulating policy, this Government also has to consider the country's need for more skilled people and balance that with whatever controls it puts in place

The only way to address the growing xeno-

phobia among local people against fellow African immigrants is to address the issues directly and do away with wild speculation, he said

South Africa is at present getting ready to cope with a very delicate problem. **Sharon Chetty** considers the latest moves... (236) Sowetan 27/2/98



IOM director-general James Purcell.

PIC SHARON CHETTY

phobia among local people against fellow African immigrants is to address the issues directly and do away with wild speculation, he said

"You need to know exactly how many immigrants there are and if they are indeed taking away jobs from locals," said Purcell

Whether or not the commonly held perception that foreigners and illegal immigrants are responsible for the rising crime rate was true would only be known if accurate data were available, he said

"This is a period of structural and economic adjustment for South Africa and when there are such radical changes people are uncertain and look around for someone to blame," he said

Although SA became an official member of the IOM only three months ago, the organisation has been working with locals for several years

It was instrumental in helping exiles of the liberation movements return and, through a special project in 1992 and 1993, facilitated the return of professionals living abroad

Together with the United Nations, it has also assisted thousands of Mozambican refugees to return to their homeland

The "brain drain" from the continent was a

real phenomenon, said Purcell, and through special programmes they hoped to reverse the human resource imbalances suffered in some countries

The IOM currently helps African expatriates living in South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia and Swaziland to return to their homes to take up jobs that they are qualified for

Most of the returnees are Ugandans, Zambians and Zimbabweans

Similarly, Rwandese nationals who fled to Southern Africa to escape the civil war are now being helped to return home

Purcell also said the increased emigration of South African professionals since 1993 can only be stemmed if the Government can convince the young and newly skilled that this is a country of opportunity and growth

He said "Maybe there should be incentives to stay or return – the Government should perhaps make it easy for professionals to start up here again if they want to"

To get a clearer understanding of migration here, the IOM will soon set up an information unit to monitor patterns and provide greater assistance to migrants

In the 25 years Purcell has worked in the field, he has seen some changes in the patterns of people's movements

In the '90s, while there are fewer wars, there is greater migration for economic reasons. In Europe there was also a great deal of movement when the former Soviet Union broke up

Purcell said the involvement of the IOM and other world bodies like the UN High Commissioner for Refugees ensured there was a smooth movement of people

There are large flows out of China and the recent crises in the South East Asian economies is bound to result in many skilled people moving out of that region

Job-seekers still move from Latin America to the North and while there are a substantial number of skilled Africans living around the world, a lot of the movement is intra-continental

Millennium bug bites SA computer wizards

Skills shortage as experts go abroad

ARG 28/2/98 (236)

PAUL OLIVIER

Computer experts are leaving South Africa in droves as foreign governments and businesses scramble to ensure their computers beat the millennium bug.

The situation could develop into a crisis as South Africa's information technology personnel, generally accepted as among the most versatile in the computer world, are lured away.

Their skills are vital to prevent chaos in the year 2000 as computer programmes have to be adjusted in time. But, South Africa could be left high and dry.

This warning from the industry comes in the wake of a European Commission assessment that "too little is being done to prevent an international millennium bug crisis" which could leave the world R6 000-billion poorer and even endanger lives.

The commission said: "The overall level of actual preparation appears to be insufficient, in spite of the substantial risk of disruption to businesses as well as public services." Computers are exposed to a potentially huge problem at the turn of the century.

In the 1970s and 1980s, computer software writers saved what was then valuable space by abbreviating years to two digits - such as 97 or 85 - knowing that this could cause mayhem in 2000.

Computers will be unable to make sense of the double zero and crash or start churning out erroneous data.

With the fast-moving nature of the world of information technology, there was a widely-held belief that this problem would cease to exist years before 2000.

But this assumption was false and companies around the world are now scurrying to fix the matter.

Some analysts are predicting a catastrophic loss of life from aircraft crashes, exploding chemical plants and even with

nuclear missiles going awry.

The potential impact on consumers could include damage to personal and financial records, the miscalculation of transactions having an impact on savings, bank accounts, mortgages, errors in invoicing for services and errors on payrolls.

The study of information technology has been incorporated in various university degrees in South Africa - apparently one of the few places in the world where it could form part of a BSc, BCom or BA degree, as well as in technikon diplomas.

More than 30% of all graduates from the University of Cape Town's computer science

'Most countries face a critical shortage of skilled information technology workers'

department are reported to have left South Africa last year as Microsoft started stepping up recruitment to fill 200 000 vacant information technology positions in the US.

Microsoft warns in a report that the lack of skilled information technology workers represents a huge problem for world governments and businesses that rely on their information technology infrastructures to function effectively and stay competitive.

"Most countries face a critical shortage of skilled information technology workers, a shortage estimated at 190 000 in the United States alone," the report states.

Microsoft estimates that for the 13 000 Microsoft-certified "solution providers" there are more than 41 000 positions available worldwide.

Peter Weeks, project manager of Millen-

ium 2000 at the Nedcor group, said: "It is worrying that we are losing our skilled information technology personnel to better offers from overseas."

"One cannot blame the young people for leaving, but I am afraid some organisations could be badly bitten."

In South Africa, the Cabinet has approved the establishment of a Section 21 company to spearhead the Government's drive to ensure that all its computer systems are compliant with year 2000 requirements.

The National Co-ordinating Committee on Y2K, as the millennium 2000 phenomenon is known, has been converted into the Section 21 company and is chaired by President Mandela and convened by Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting Jay Naidoo.

Ferosa Thomas, senior general manager of the telecommunications policy of the Department of Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting, said: "The Government is committed to turn South Africa into a knowledge, economy and information society, and for that several initiatives have been put into place."

In the year 2000 draft discussion document, the department warns that the onus to ensure that equipment has been made compliant, as well as paying for the conversions, remains the task of individual organisations and not the state.

As far as business goes, a lot of ground has still to be covered to bring South Africa on a par with the rest of the world, said Mike Bergen, a Y2K expert.

"In South Africa the larger corporations might be able to meet the deadline of year 2000 but most medium and small companies are lagging behind."

"They could have problems because skilled resources are becoming scarce and very expensive due to the worldwide demand," said Mr Bergen.

NUMBER LEAVING DOUBLES IN SEVEN MONTHS

More teachers emigrating

PT 4/3/98

(276)

FIGURES RELEASED by Central Statistical Services show that 50 to 60 teachers are leaving the country every month to work abroad Education Writer **TROYE LUND** reports

EVERY day, from January 1994 until August last year, a South African teacher left the country to take up a job at a school overseas.

Over the past seven months these figures have doubled Central Statistical Services figures show that 50 to 60 teachers are leaving every month.

Mr Bheki Khumalo, spokesperson for Education Minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu, said nothing could be done to stop people pursuing their careers overseas.

Regarding warnings that the most experienced teachers were leaving, Khumalo said, "We have a number of teacher development programmes in place.

"We will ensure that we have a pool of highly skilled teachers, especially in science, maths and technology."

The department was sure that once the present rationalisation

process was complete and the provincial education departments were debt-free, a large pool of highly skilled and experienced teachers would have been developed.

Most of the 1 300 teachers who emigrated between 1994 and August last year are in New Zealand.

But, now that studies have shown that British schools will be short of 6 000 teachers by the year 2000, British recruitment agencies have mounted a major campaign to poach the best South African teachers.

Western Cape Council of Teachers (WCCOT) spokesperson Mr Mike Reeler said teachers were leaving the country as "a direct result of the uncertainty that has been caused by the central government and the inept way in which provinces have handled rationalisation and financing."

"Those who are not experienced or any good will let all this

inept management wash over them. It is the cream that are going."

Ms Chammane Young, a South African teacher who has been working in New Zealand for two years, said, "South African teachers are sought after in New Zealand because they work so hard. Teachers are really appreciated there and rewarded for qualifications."

The pay is not the main thing that makes New Zealand attractive. Although on the exchange rate the New Zealand salary is about R30 000 more, the cost of living there is much higher.

The real advantage of teaching in New Zealand is the small classes, says Young.

Her classes range from five to 15 pupils and she is not expected to do any extra-mural activities or contribute to the administration and management of the school.

Because 3 300 temporary teachers, as well as cleaning and maintenance staff, have been axed in the Western Cape, most teachers, principals and deputy principals are teaching without free periods.

On top of this, they are expected to help administer and manage the school and supervise extra-mural activities.

"I decided to go because one cannot be efficient or do one's job properly in South Africa. So many staff have been lost and the workloads are massive," Young said.

Teachers who have applied to New Zealand teacher recruitment agencies said effective teaching in South Africa had become "impossible".

One who asked not to be identified because she is still working at a city school said, "Teachers in South Africa are unbelievably demoralised and depressed. I cannot take this uncertainty and work under the impossible workloads for no money."

"I feel continually under threat that some law is going to be changed to get me out of the system," she said.

"I love teaching. It is the only thing I know how to do. I live it and breathe it, and I am going to a country where that is appreciated."



PACKING FOR PARADISE: Chammane Young left South Africa two years ago to teach in New Zealand, where, she says, teachers are appreciated and rewarded for their qualifications. Compared with South Africa, New Zealand is a teacher's paradise, she says. **PICTURE: GARTH STEAD**



Brain drain doubles over seven months

Star 4/3/98

BY TROYE LUND

Cape Town - Every day of the week from January 1994 until August last year, a South African teacher was on a plane out of South Africa to take up a position in an overseas school.

But over the past seven months these figures have doubled, and between 50 and 60 teachers are leaving every month, Central Statistical Service figures show.

Bheki Khumalo, the spokesman for Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu, said that nothing

could be done to stop people pursuing their careers overseas.

To concerns that the teachers who were leaving were the most experienced, he said. "We have a number of teacher-development programmes in place."

"We will ensure that we have a pool of highly skilled teachers, especially in the fields of science, maths and technology."

Many of the 1 250 teachers who immigrated between 1994 and August last year are in New Zealand.

(236)



LEON LESTRADE

Jazz meister: Klaus Pusch – trumpeter, composer, lawyer and entrepreneur – and his wife are creating a home in Cape Town

Gauteng grit loses out to the taste of the Cape's sweet life

(236) ARG 6/3/98

Hugh von Zahn is a more than contented "emigré"

While he has no illusions about the tumultuous dynamism of Gauteng as an economic centre and arguably the country's most bracing metropolis, the combination of opportunity and the more secure and fulfilling lifestyle offered by the Cape has met his private and professional needs.

A restaurateur, Mr Von Zahn moved from Gauteng to the Cape with partner Rudi Minnaar in the early 1990s to tackle the challenge of launching a new V&A Waterfront establishment.

"There was an opportunity down here at a time when Capetonians were not particularly bullish about the Waterfront. We took the gap and it has worked for us."

Today, their interests extend well beyond their restaurant Morton's on the Wharf.

What makes the Von Zahn/Minnaar partnership typical of newcomers to the Cape is not only their skill and experience, but their having both the capital and boldness to seek out and exploit an opportunity.

"The kinds of people moving down need not only to be able to afford to move, but to see opportunities," says Mr Von Zahn.

"It's not just a question of moving to another job in Cape Town, and you don't have the security that goes with



Bullish: Hugh von Zahn

that. Over the years, I think it amounts to a significant transfer of entrepreneurial skill."

Increasingly, he believes, professionals with "portable skills" are moving to the Cape, especially, although not only, in the service and hospitality sectors.

"Several of my friends have moved down. In some cases, their professional lives have hardly altered – they can do everything from here, using the latest technology."

Many smaller companies, agencies and consultancies are moving to the Cape "because they can."

The decision to move is invariably a response to the crime-related dangers of Gauteng and the stress that goes with it.

But switching to the Cape is not painless.

"The biggest shock," Mr Von Zahn says, "is the property prices, the value you get for your money."

Whereas R1-million "will buy you a good house in Gauteng, you will battle to find the equivalent in the (southern suburbs) 'green belt' for the same price. That comes as a shock."

The Cape's overriding attraction is its lifestyle, determined largely by the combination of environmental beauty and greater safety.

"The quality of my life has changed entirely. Security was a big concern in Gauteng, but here there is just not the same level of paranoia," says Mr Von Zahn.

Although Cape Town is more "laid-back" than Gauteng, economic growth and a mushrooming tourism industry are injecting more vigour into the marketplace – and drawing a steady influx of entrepreneurial expertise.

SPECIAL REPORT: MIGRANTS

The Grape Trek: we're

New arrivals bring new, dynamic spirit to city

There was a time when the brightest talents were nothing if they were not tested in the heady, gold driven helter skelter of "the Reef"

Johannesburg was the teeming centre of capital, prosperous, hectic, the prime destination of those with drive and high hopes. Cape Town, then, was decidedly provincial - charmingly demure in its breezy contentment, but economically unchallenging, even unpromising.

Careers - especially in business - were not forged in the shadow of the mountain, it was not a place to cut big deals, and it certainly was not a draw to international investors on any significant scale. Not even the majority African population could get a foot in the Cape's door - influx control kept it tightly shut.

In some senses things have not changed as much as Capetonians may wish to think.

There is little doubt that, for all its terriers, Gauteng remains the powerhouse of the economy, and politically more influential than Cape Town.

But some things have changed. The collapse of influx control in the 1980s quickened the Peninsula's metropolitan metamorphosis, reinvigorating socio-political planning.

But it was the political transition in the first half of the 1990s that did most to instil optimism, and a sense of opportunity, in the Cape.

Growing tourism, the expansion of the Waterfront and, latterly, the Olympic bid, have helped to lift Cape Town's profile and open new economic avenues.

Where clothing and agriculture were once the mainstay of the regional economy, tourism and an ever expanding service sector are emerging as the new investment leaders, reinforced by growth in the movie and advertising industry.

Along with the rural poor looking for jobs and a better life, have come foreigners looking for sun and fun and investment opportunities, and scores of others in business and the professions. As a sum, it is a fresh mix of skills, tastes, and money.

Today, the Mother City is more steely, more cosmopolitan, more dynamic. The problems are bigger, and more complex, too. Crime syndicates have taken root, infrastructural demands have grown.

But, despite the absence of manufacturing - or corporate relocations - on anything like a big scale, the

INSIDE STORY

An exodus to the Cape from Gauteng and elsewhere in South Africa, and steady immigration from abroad, are invigorating the Peninsula's economy through an injection of skills and investment, better equipping the region to meet the demands of continuing, although declining, urbanisation from the rural Eastern Cape. Special Writer MICHAEL MORRIS investigates. Additional reporting by Carol Campbell and Moses Mackay, graphics by Bob Gneron and layout by Melissa Stocks.



region's more diversified economy is stable, and growing.

It is much less afflicted by the grim crime that accounts for much of the paranoia and discomfort of Gauteng, and it still has the mountain, the beaches and that air of breezy contentment so coveted by escapees from the rat race.

The Cape's allure, combined with advances in technology which have lessened the importance of location, have made the Peninsula a viable option for people with capital, portable skills, and a willingness to make a go of a fresh challenge.

There's even a term for the latter day exodus - "semigration" - and it represents a significant social and economic phenomenon.

Indeed, for many, the Peninsula is like another country.

There is a politically pejorative interpretation in some quarters that (white) Gauteng or Durban departees are flocking to the new South Africa's only Nationalist

enclave in the Western Cape all the better to secure themselves against the irresistible tide of change sweeping the rest of the country.

Indeed, Cape Town is the least African of the country's metropolitan centres, but the reversal of the pattern of the past has less to do with political alienation than life-style. The newcomers are not fearful, far from being a heap "victims" of change, but talented, energetic people in the A and B income group who have the money to pay the premium - lower salaries, higher property prices - and the entrepreneurial spirit to exploit opportunity.

It is chiefly for this reason that, far from being a growing burden, the flow of newcomers is regarded as a positive infusion.

David Bridgman, head of the Western Cape's economic development agency Wesgro, notes that while there is "little reliable, measurable information" on migration to the Cape, "it is clear that lifting of

influx control and the broader population movements have changed the way the Western Cape works."

In fact, Cape Town has become a great deal more "African" in the past 10 years than it has ever been.

Influx control staunchly urbanisation, but once it was lifted, the movement from country to city became a flood, chiefly between 1985 and 1990. It continues, but the rate is declining.

Actually, the most compelling truth about Cape Town's urbanisation challenge is that nobody can put a figure on it.

Without equivocation, Stellenbosch town planner Bertie van Zyl says "If anyone gives you figures on the number of new arrivals in the Peninsula, they are lying."

It is puzzling that one of the most significant determinants of Cape Town's socio-political fate is shrouded in such uncertainty, especially since this information has a direct bearing on every facet of city life.

As it happens, Stellenbosch University's sociology department is engaged in a study on migration for the Cape Metropolitan Council, but the results are expected only later in the year. Yet there is no reason to believe there is anything like a mounting crisis.

All indicators suggest that urbanisation peaked towards the end of the 1980s, and has slackened steadily since. Dr Van Zyl cautions that "there is simply not sufficient research to indicate accurately what the movements of people are." But he adds "Having said that, it is not my impression that there is a great influx into the metropolitan area."

The fact is that the rural poor of the Eastern Cape are not unaware of the reality that life is not plain sailing for newcomers.

As town planner Larry Aberman puts it "People are rational. They will not come if there are no jobs and no money, and the word goes back (to family and friends at home in the Eastern Cape) very quickly."

Wolfgang Thomas of Wesgro agrees "There is a popular misconception that because of unemployment at home and the prospect of

opportunities in the Western Cape, Africans living in the Eastern Cape are swarming to the Peninsula. But it's really only those who can make it who come."

Taken as a sum, the movement of wealthy as well as poorer people into the Cape, has "contributed to a resurgence of growth," says Wesgro's Dr Bridgman.

The Cape's more "stable, sensible" economy is not a place to make a quick buck.

That, says Dr Thomas, means there is a weeding out process, so "we tend to get the best entrepreneurs" from elsewhere.

Newcomers are making their mark in catering and hospitality, restaurants, advertising, film, fashion and modelling, even wine farming and a wide range of tourism related activity.

The additional pressure on land and services is countered by the positive consequences of greater economic activity.

The most immediate impact is felt, obviously, in the furniture removal and property sectors, with both reporting sustained movement to the Cape.

The bigger - demographic - picture suggests that urbanisation among all groups is declining, but Mr Aberman makes the point that "substantial (black) migration will continue for the foreseeable future."

The picture is muddied, partly because there is considerable evidence of "circulation" between the metro area and the rural areas, still regarded by many as "home."

But he believes it would be a mistake to assume that the Eastern Cape "will remain a mess forever."

"Politically, it's a key area for the ANC, and it's reasonable to say the Eastern Cape government will succeed to a greater degree."

The major growth factor, he argues, is the natural growth of the settled population, significantly enlarged by the heavy pace of migration in the late 1980s.

As the millennium approaches, the Peninsula has its fair share of challenges, but the flow of skills, investment and cosmopolitanism stands it in better stead than any other centre in the country.

'Today, the Mother City is more steely, more cosmopolitan, more dynamic'

ECONOMIC PROFILE

WESTERN CAPE

- Unemployment rate 22%
Expected to drop to 11,8 percent by 2015
- National average 33%
- Personal income per capita R14 000
National average R2 200 (1995)
- Economic growth rate 3,2%
At least one percent higher than national rate
- Contribution to taxation 15,7%



GREAT CAPE HOMES RUSH

R150-m summer property sales go to newcomers

Newcomers to Cape Town have spent a staggering R150-million on property here in just two months - almost 90% of the summer's house sales - as the Grape Trek, the exodus to the Cape from Gauteng and elsewhere, continues.

Arrivals from Gauteng and other parts accounted for 42% of Cape Town property sales revenue in December and January, running to R70 million, according to the Property Price Ranger produced by Cape Property Services.

Foreign buyers accounted for a whopping 46% (R80-million) of these, most were from the UK (52%) and Germany (30%).

Although these figures represent the year-end peak, estate agents and furniture removal companies say the pace of new arrivals has shown no sign of slackening. For every removal van going to Gauteng,

STILL REPORT



MICHAEL MORRIS

three or four come to the Cape end of the year.

Business is usually most intense at the end of the year.

While Gauteng remains the powerhouse of the economy, high crime and the accompanying stress are driving scores of families south to the safer, more pleasant environment of the Peninsula.

Most newcomers are in the A and B income groups, and can afford to cushion

the effect of higher property prices and lower salaries. Many executives with careers in Gauteng are settling their families in the Cape and commuting weekly.

There is a fear that many of the houses bought by foreigners could end up being little more than summer holiday pads and that the character of some of Cape Town's most sought-after suburbs could be changing for good. But the influx amounts mostly to an infusion of capital and skills that is boosting the Western Cape economy.

Urbanisation, chiefly from the Eastern Cape, is continuing too, but at a much slower pace than a decade ago. People come for jobs and the prospect of better education and services.

Cape Town is also earning increasing attention from a growing number of immigrants attracted by the sun and sea, cultural



vibrancy, a simpler alternative to big-city life in Europe and a favourable exchange rate. For African migrants, the Cape offers opportunities only dreamed of.

André Slootweg, Cape Town branch manager of removal group Frasers International, says that "there has been a steady flow" of

THE GRAPE ESCAPE

An exodus to the Cape from Gauteng and elsewhere in South Africa, and steady immigration from abroad, are invigorating the Peninsula's economy. Find out how in our special report on pages 8 and 9

business. People are "taking their time finding houses in our over-priced market, and are putting their possessions in storage, and renting accommodation. All our stores are filled to capacity."

He reports a three-to-one ratio in truckloads between Gauteng and Cape Town,

with sustained demand in Johannesburg. Tony Hall of Pickfords and Johan Maras of Shuttard Van Lanes agree.

All three said newcomers were looking increasingly at such areas as Somerset West, Stellenbosch and Durbanville to set new homes.

Samuel Seeff, managing director of Seeff Property Services, believes that "people are looking for property across the broader metropolitan area, partly to get greater value for their money, but also to have a small neighbourhood style - bigger gardens, wide roads - to what they have been used to."

Pam Golding's Cape regional director Roger Gallagher, says while the flow has been sustained, the pace has slowed slightly over the past year. "It's marginal - while between 11 and 15% of sales used to be from Gauteng clients, it's nearer 8-10% now."

Chain reaction

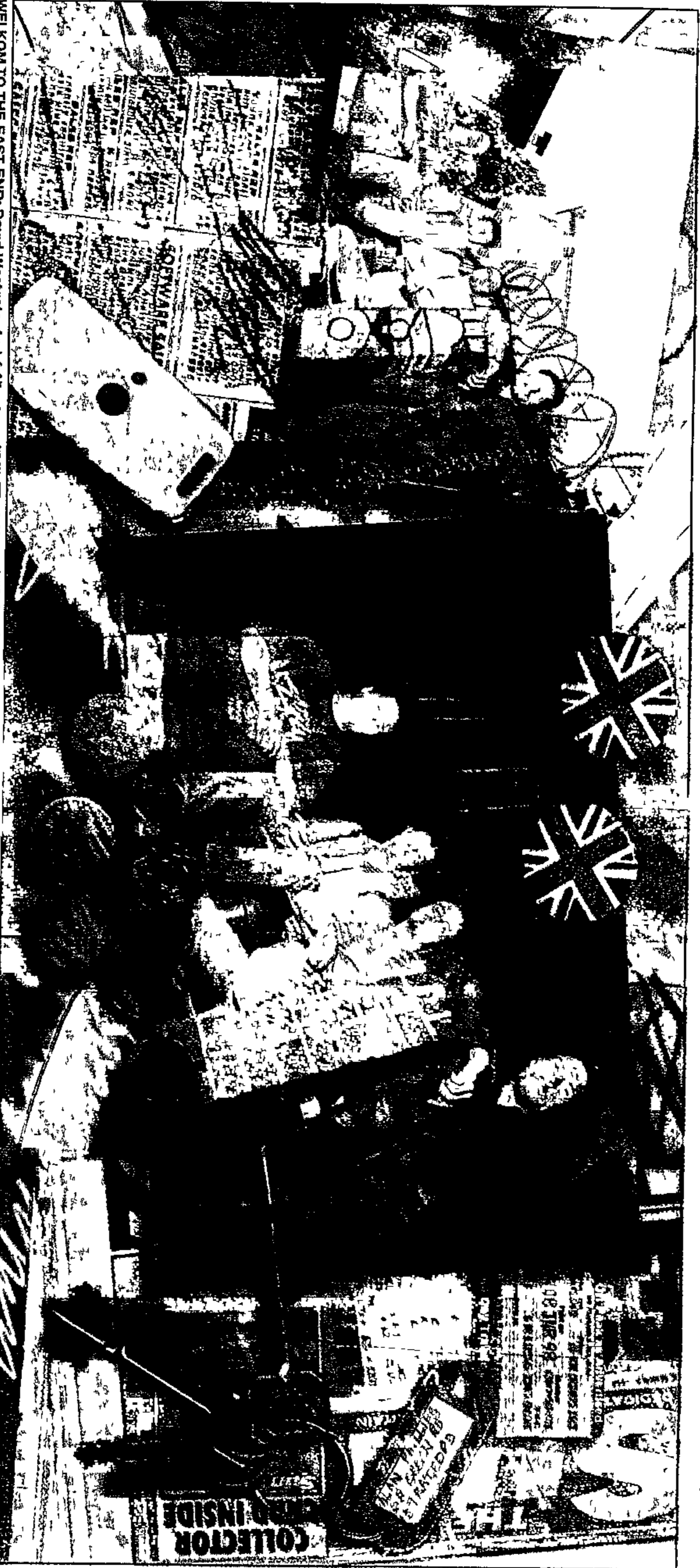


It's a wave haircraze chief Calhoun

The new trekkers

Young South Africans, disillusioned with life at home, are starting again from scratch in London. ANDREW TRENCH reports

(236) ST 8/3/98



Graphic: SHAHIN IRWIN

LAN PHILLIPS works 15 hours a day in a brewery just to be able to live in one of London's poorest areas. But it is better than living in South Africa he says.

The 24-year-old from Welkom is one of hundreds of young white South Africans who have come to regard their country as a dead end — with affirmative action limiting their prospects and crime threatening their safety.

Given a choice between staying or starting anew, he moved. "I prefer the way of life here. It is an easy place to get a job and a reasonable salary. It is not good back home," he says.

The greener pasture he and a significant number of young South Africans have found turns out to be Stratford, in east London.

A far cry from the tourist postcard London of Big Ben and Piccadilly Circus, Stratford is not as green as you would expect.

A gritty, working-class neighbourhood, its grey rows of concrete council housing factories and warehouses are as bleak as the most rundown parts of central Johannesburg without the sunshine.

But it is in this largely immigrant community, where in some streets Asians and Africans outnumber native Britons, that a wave of South Africans is laying the foundations of a new expatriate community.

Phillips stays in a cramped house with his Australian fiancée and four fellow South Africans. Back in Welkom, he worked as a salesman for an engineering company but "halfway through the month I was broke."

This, combined with his views on affirmative action, spurred him to leave.

"I see affirmative action as reverse discrimination," he says. "Mandela said there would be equal opportunities for all but getting a job is down to the colour of your skin — again."

South Africans are still a small minority in Stratford, but their numbers are growing enough for them to stick out.

In a 1991 census of Britain, 192 South Africans were registered in the area. While there are no recent figures, local estate agents report a rapid rise.

Estate agent Adrian Cohen estimates the number of South Africans clients seen by his business has, over the past year, risen from none to more than 40 a month.

Significantly, he says, most are looking for long-term rentals of two to three years, suggesting they are not just travellers but people looking to set up homes and establish careers in Britain.

If the estate agents are right, the South African immigrant community in the area has easily tripled in the past year.

Home Office figures show 238,000 South Africans were admitted to Britain in 1996.

WELKOM TO THE EAST END: David Westgate, André Alberts and Mike Phillips, finding a refuge in bleakest London from the new South Africa's crime and affirmative action

although it is not clear how many planned to settle permanently. Businessmen in Stratford have welcomed the new arrivals.

"They seem to work hard and pay the rent on time. I've never had a bad experience," says an estate agent, Chris Webb.

South Africans have embraced the work ethic that often characterises immigrants struggling to set up new lives.

Phillips is a typical example. Until recently, he worked 76 hours a week lifting crates at a brewery for about £340 (about R2,700) a week.

His housemate David Westgate 20 also from Welkom, puts in similar hours as a network specialist in an internet café for about £220 (about R1,760) a week. Recently he worked one shift of 27 hours.

Their dedication has not gone unnoticed. Robert Irving, a pub manager who has employed a number of South Africans expressed his admiration.

"They work harder than most. I've had guys putting in overtime without even asking to be paid more and I don't think I've

heard one of them complain. They're good with the regulars. Everyone seems to like South Africans around here — not like those other immigrants we've got," he says.

Irving's last remark is not uncommon among locals. "A bloke said to me it was strange to find a white South African living in Stratford," recalls Mike Phillips, Alan's 26-year-old brother.

With their country part of the Commonwealth again, young South Africans are granted working visas. Those with British

grandparents can apply for four-year visas. From there, it's an easy step to residency.

Being white and English-speaking helps them settle in, and with unemployment below five percent, work is easy to find.

"In South Africa I would have to take whatever job I could find. It would have to be a job for most of my life. Here you can change jobs as you like," says Mike, a chef at the internet café where Westgate works.

But while work may be easy to come by, the South Africans have had to accept a dramatic

dive in their living standard. The cramped terrace where the Phillips brothers stay costs them £160 (about R1,280) a month each, including bills. Takeaway containers litter kitchen surfaces — a sign of the amount of time spent at home.

It's a far cry from suburban Welkom. "It's the worst place I've lived in," admits Westgate. "But it all comes down to the way of life. It is easy to get by."

Whiling away time off at a local pub, Westgate and his housemates reflect on life back home.

Mike recalls the moment when he realised South Africa had changed. "I saw a white woman and her child begging on the street corner. I could not believe it — but it had to happen some time."

For South Africans who cite crime among their reasons for leaving home, it is ironic that so many end up in Stratford — one of London's toughest areas.

In January 1,119 serious crimes were reported in the area, including 465 thefts of cars or from cars, 61 incidents of violence and two rapes.

There were no murders and bodies behind the dumpster, admits Alan. "But I have never picked up trouble and I am always on the lookout. You have got to be cautious."

So why stay? "It's probably a bit selfish but we want to stay where we are enjoying ourselves," says Westgate. "Back home there is too much violence."

Says Alan, "South Africa will always be my home but I can't see a future there now. I'll give it 10 to 15 years."

The Cape of new h

(276) Star 11/3/9

There was a time when the brightest talents were nothing if they were not tested in the heady, gold driven helter skelter of 'the Reef' Johannesburg was the teeming centre of capital prosperous hectic, the prime destination of those with drive and high hopes Cape Town then, was decidedly provincial - charmingly demure in its breezy contentment, but economically unchallenging, even unpromising

Careers - especially in business - were not forged in the shadow of the mountain, it was not a place to cut big deals and it was certainly not a draw to international investors and entrepreneurs on any significant scale Not even the majority African population could get a foot in the Cape's door - influx control kept it tightly shut

In some senses, things have not changed as much as Capetownians may wish to think

There is little doubt that for all its terrors, Gauteng remains the powerhouse of the economy, and politically more influential than Cape Town

But some things have changed in Cape Town

The collapse - and then withdrawal - of influx control in the 1980s quickened the Peninsula's metropolitan metamorphosis, reinvigorating socio-political planning, and boosting the workforce

But it was the political transition - and the post apartheid re-exposure of South Africa to the world - in the first half of the 1990s that did most to instill optimism, and a sense of opportunity, in the Cape

Growing tourism, the expansion of the Waterfront, and, latterly, the Olympic bid, have, among other things, helped to lift Cape Town's profile and open new economic avenues

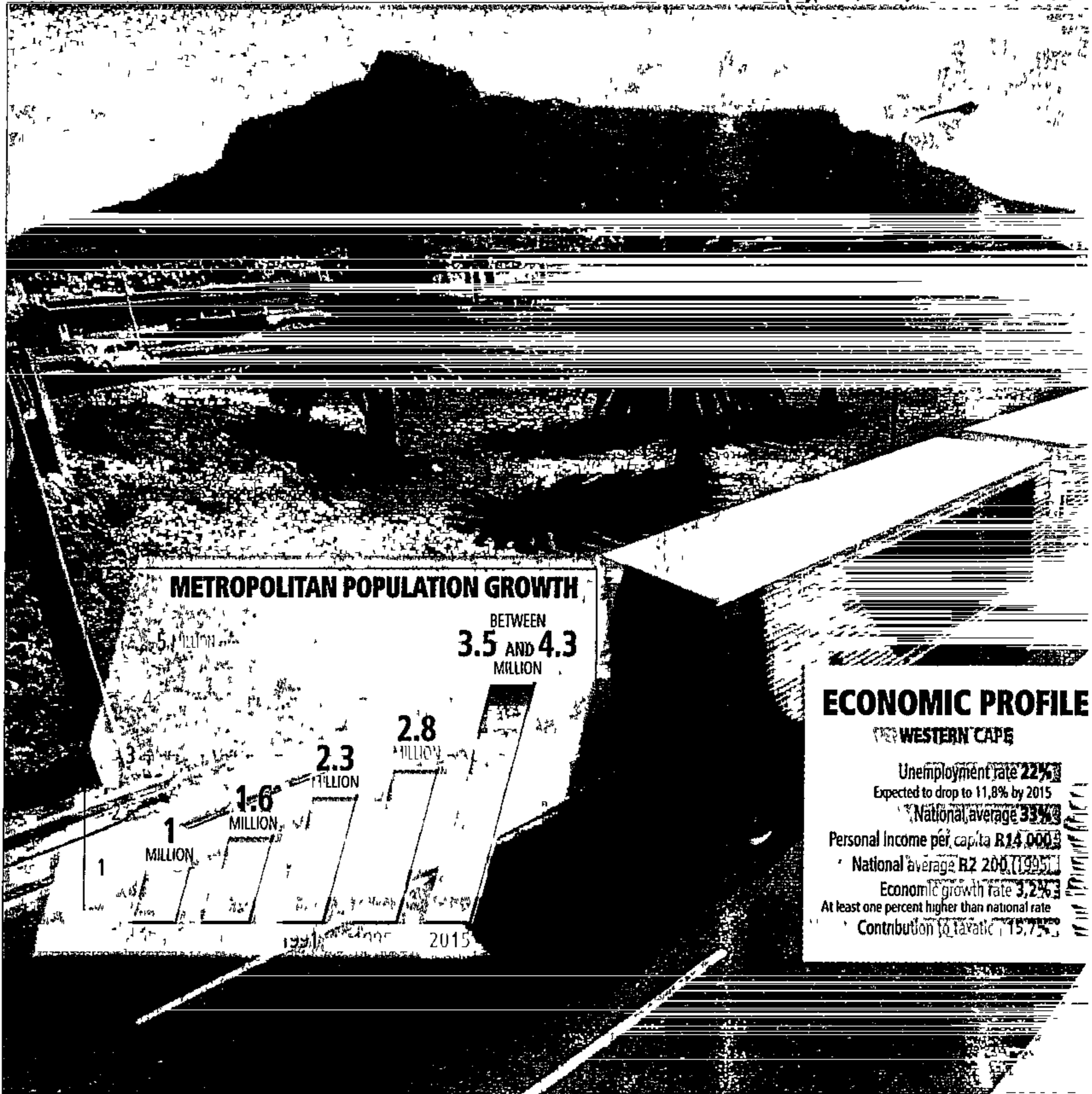
Where clothing and agriculture were once the mainstay of the regional economy, tourism and an ever-expanding service sector are emerging as the new investment leaders, reinforced by growth in the movie and advertising industry, and all that goes with it

Along with the rural poor looking for jobs and a better life, have come foreigners looking for sun and fun and investment opportunities, and scores of others in business and the professions, from Gauteng, the Free State and Natal as a sum, it is a fresh mix of skills, tastes, and money

Today, the Mother City is more steely, more cosmopolitan, more dynamic The problems are bigger, and more complex too Crime syndicates have taken root, infrastructural demands have grown

But, despite the absence of manufacturing - or corporate relocations - on anything like a big scale, the region's more diversified economy is stable, and growing

It is much less afflicted by the grim crime that accounts for much of the paranoia and discomfort of Gauteng, and it



On the move every day... another removal truck arrives in the Mother City with the belongings of a migrant Gauteng family

A 'semigration' to Cape Town from Gauteng and elsewhere in SA, and steady immigration from the Peninsula economy through an injection of new skills and investment, writes Mi...

still has the mountain, the beaches, the pockets of alluring neo-Californian hedonism, and that air of breezy contentment so coveted by escapees from the rat race.

The Cape's allure, combined with advances in technology which have lessened the importance of location as a factor of business efficiency, have made the Peninsula a viable option for people with capital, portable skills, and a willingness to make a go of a fresh challenge.

There's even a term for the latterday exodus - "semigration" - and it represents a significant social and economic phenomenon

Indeed, for many, the Peninsula

is like another country

There is a politically pejorative interpretation in some quarters that (white) Gauteng or Durban or Bloemfontein departees are flocking to the new South Africa's only Nationalist enclave in the Western Cape all the better to secure themselves against the irresistible tide of change sweeping the rest of the country

Indeed, Cape Town is the least "African" of the country's metropolitan centres, but the reversal of the pattern of the past has less to do with political alienation than lifestyle.

The newcomers are not fearful, bottom of the heap "victims" of change, but talented,

energetic people in the A and B income group who have the money to pay the premium - lower salaries, higher property prices - and the entrepreneurial spirit to exploit opportunity.

It is chiefly for this reason that, far from being a growing burden, the flow of newcomers is regarded as a positive infusion. Dr David Bridgman, head of the Western Cape's economic development agency Wesgro, notes that while there is "little reliable, measurable information" on migration to the Cape, "it is clear that lifting of influx control and the broader population movements have changed the way the Western Cape works"

In fact, Cape Town has become a great deal more "African" in the past 10 years than it has ever been

Influx control stanchied urbanisation, but once it was lifted, the movement from country to city became a flood, chiefly between 1985 and 1990 It continues, but the rate is declining. Actually, the most compelling truth about Cape Town's urbanisation challenge is that nobody can put a figure on it.

Without equivocation, Stellenbosch town planner Bertie van Zyl says "If anyone gives you figures on the number of new arrivals in the Peninsula, they are lying"

It is puzzling that one of Cape Town's most significant socio-political problems is shrouded in such uncertainty, especially since urbanisation has a direct bearing on every vital facet of city life from budgeting and land use, housing, health and education

As it happens, the University's sociology department is engaged in a study of migration for the Cape Metropolitan Council, and the results are expected later in the year

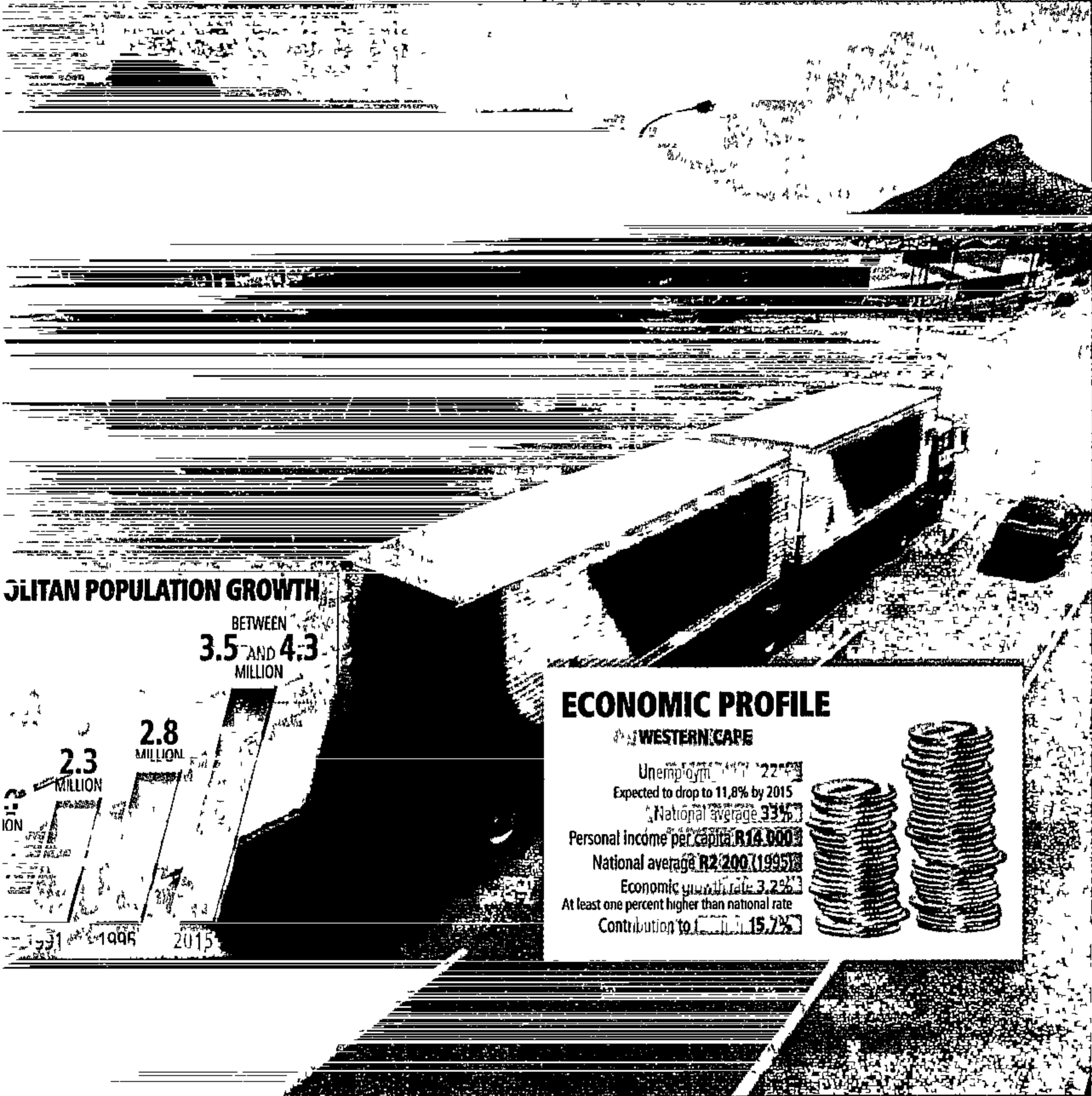
Yet, even in the absence of certainty, there is no reason to believe there is anything but a mounting crisis

Contrary to fearful

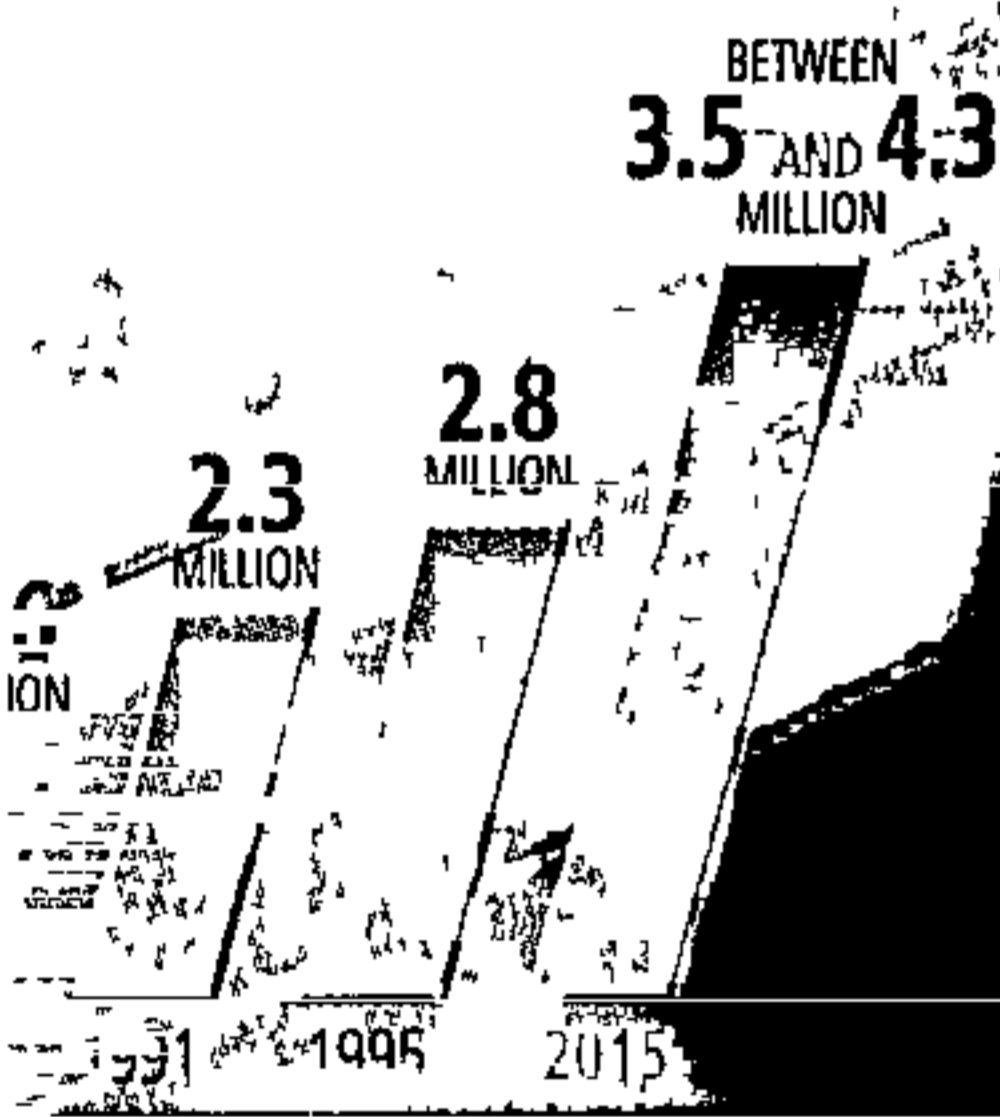
Cape of new hope

(236) Star 11/3/98

GRAPHIC AND PICTURES CAPE ARGUS



GLITAN POPULATION GROWTH



ECONOMIC PROFILE

WESTERN CAPE

- Unemployment: 22.5%
- Expected to drop to 11.8% by 2015
- National average: 33%
- Personal income per capita: R14 000
- National average: R22 200 (1995)
- Economic growth rate: 3.2%
- At least one percent higher than national rate
- Contribution to: 15.7%



Truck arrives in the Mother City with the belongings of a migrant Gauteng family

The Town from Gauteng and elsewhere in SA, and steady immigration from abroad, are invigorating the economy through an injection of new skills and investment, writes Michael Morris

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It is puzzling that one of the most significant determinants of Cape Town's socio-political fate is shrouded in such uncertainty, especially since this information has a direct bearing on every vital facet of city life, from budgeting and planning to land use, housing, health and education
 As it happens, Stellenbosch University's sociology department is engaged in a study on migration for the Cape Metropolitan Council, and the results are expected later in the year
 Yet, even in the absence of certainty, there is no reason to believe there is anything like a mounting crisis

perceptions, all indicators suggest that urbanisation peaked towards the end of the 1980s, and has slackened steadily since.
 Like others in the field, Van Zyl cautions that "there is simply not sufficient research to indicate accurately what the movements of people are"
 But he adds "Having said that, it is not my impression that there is any great influx into the metropolitan area, certainly nothing that one could describe as abnormal"
 The fact is that the rural poor of the Eastern Cape are not unaware of the reality that life is not plain sailing for newcomers, especially since they

little prospect of getting a job quickly, and are not assured of even reasonably adequate accommodation

As town planner Larry Aberman puts it "People are rational They will not come if there are no jobs and no money and the word goes back very quickly"

Dr Wolfgang Thomas of Wesgro agrees "Life in Khayelitsha is not easy and there are no easy openings into the economy

There is a popular misconception that because of unemployment at home and the prospect of opportunities in the Western Cape, Africans living in the Eastern Cape are swarming to the Peninsula But it's really only those who can make it who come

Taken as a sum, the movement of wealthy as well as poorer people into the Cape has "contributed to a resurgence of growth", says Bridgman

The Cape's more "stable sensible" economy is not a place to make a quick buck

That, says Thomas, means there is a "weeding out process" so that we tend to get the best entrepreneurs" from elsewhere

Newcomers are making their mark in catering and hospitality, restaurants, advertising, film, fashion and modeling, even wine farming, and a wide range of tourism related activity Professionals making a new go of things in the Cape include lawyers and doctors, engineers and architects

The additional pressure on land and services is countered by the positive consequences of greater economic activity

The most immediate impact is felt in the furniture removal and property sectors, with both reporting sustained movement to the Cape from elsewhere

The bigger - demographic - picture suggests that urbanisation among all groups is declining, but Aberman has made the point that "substantial (black) migration will continue for the foreseeable future"

The picture is muddled somewhat, partly because there is considerable evidence of "circulation" between the metro area and the rural areas still regarded by many as "home"

It is also clear that the rate of migration will continue to be affected by the contrast in economic opportunities and social conditions between Cape Town and the Eastern Cape

But he believes it would be a mistake to assume that the Eastern Cape "will remain a mess forever"

"Politically, it's a key area for the ANC and it's reasonable to say the Eastern Cape government will succeed to a greater degree."

As the millennium approaches the Peninsula has its fair share of problems and challenges, but the flow of skill, investment and cosmopolitanism stands it in better stead than any other metropolitan centre in the country

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ned

Pierre Uys asked officials to investi-
gate the possibility of installing a

Gaba had been suspended from coun-
cil functions which involved liquor

Aussies targeting SA skills

FOREIGN SERVICE

(236)

ART 17/13/98

emphasis on skilled migration.

Melbourne - South Africa will be one of the main targets if a new immigration direction gaining considerable support in Australia becomes government policy.

The move, which would concentrate heavily on skilled migrants, has the backing of influential politicians and an important section of the media.

One of its main proponents is Victoria Premier Jeff Kennett, who warns that Australia risks social upheaval and losing control of its destiny unless there is greater

He has called for an annual increase of 50 000 people, who must be able to contribute heavily towards Australia's self-sustainment by bringing a range of skills with them.

He was given qualified support by federal Minister of Immigration Phillip Ruddock, who acknowledged that business and industry groups had validly argued that diminishing job opportunities could only be arrested by increased migration.

Migrants would have to be highly skilled with good English so that they could immediately enter the labour market in leadership positions

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Brain-drain continues: Emigration continues to drain South Africa's dwindling pool of key specialist skills and top management staff, a recent labour trends survey said. The FSA-Contact 1997/98 survey also found that crime, falling standards of living and affirmative action were some of the major factors for the emigration. FSA-Contact said yesterday that 11% of top management, six percent of middle management and five percent of key specialist staff who resigned from their jobs last year did so to emigrate

CT 17/3/98

Middle managers are still fleeing SA

FRANK NXUMALO

LABOUR EDITOR

Johannesburg — Emigration continued to drain South Africa's dwindling pool of middle management and other key personnel, FSA-Contact, the human resources consultancy, said yesterday

FSA-Contact said its 1997-98 special survey on wage movements and labour trends involved a cross-section of companies and non-profit organisations of all sizes

It showed that 11 percent of top management personnel, 6 percent of middle management and 5 percent of key specialist staff who resigned in 1997 did so to emigrate

Organisations expected "this

situation to continue in 1998", the survey said

Kris Crawford, FSA-Contact's national sales manager, said 85 percent of organisations questioned, compared with 71 percent last year, expected key specialist staff to be "scarce" or "very scarce" in coming months. Some 72 percent compared with 56 percent last year had the same expectations of management candidates

"The situation with middle management personnel appears to be only slightly better, with 53 percent predicting suitable candidates at this level will be 'scarce' or 'very scarce'," she said.

She said computer programmers, geologists, financial managers, directors of research, development managers, product

lite managers and senior academics were among those who resigned to emigrate

"Some 96 percent of all employees who emigrated blamed crime for their decision," she said. "Falling standards in education were cited by 84 percent while 82 percent attributed their decision to violence. Declining standards in living and health were cited by 55 percent and 51 percent respectively

"In addition, a lack of confidence in the government, affirmative action policies and better employment opportunities abroad were also cited as reasons for emigration"

Crawford said the UK remained the most popular destination for emigrants, closely followed by Australia and the US

ET (PR) 17/3/98 (236)

Medunsa seen as a priority medical school

Pledge that none of eight institutions will be closed, and call for Wits to be penalised over emigration

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Star 17/3/98 (97)

By JOVIAL RAINTAO
Cape Town

The Government has no intention of closing any of South Africa's eight medical schools and was in particular looking at ways of strengthening the position of the Medical University of South Africa (Medunsa), whose subsidy has been cut by R13-million.

Medunsa's subsidy was cut along with that of the University of Transkei, which was reduced by 8,4%, from R113-million to R100-million.

In a response to a query from ANC MP Adelaide Tambo, Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba, the deputy director-general in the Department of Health, told Parliament's health committee that efforts were being made to strengthen Medunsa, which had produced the highest number of black doctors in South Africa.

Ntsaluba said a task team had been set up, with the Gauteng health department, the Department of Education and the Northern Province health department, to find ways of helping the institution.

"As a starting point, the minister (of Health Dr Nkosazana Zuma) has committed herself to supporting Medunsa to enable it to continue making its invaluable

contribution. The task team will look at the state of affairs at Medunsa with a view to strengthening the institution. It will look at how Medunsa's outreach programme, which is currently focused in the Pietersburg/Mankweng region, can be strengthened. These are genuine attempts to respond to Medunsa's problems.

"There is no intention to downgrade Medunsa," Ntsaluba stressed.

ANC MP Dr Essop Jassat suggested that in the light of

**Only 3 000
of 22 000
SA doctors
are black**

reports that half the students who qualified at Wits University left the country after graduation, the Government should consider shifting more resources to fund students who remained in South Africa. Institutions such as Medunsa should be considered, he said.

Wits' subsidy had been increased from R274-million to R319-million, Jassat said.

Medical schools with a low or non-existent intake of black students could face penalties which might include the reduction of state

subsidies, the Department of Health has warned.

Ntsaluba told the health committee that the Government was unhappy about the number of black medical graduates produced by South Africa's eight medical schools.

"The pace (of admission) is not fast enough. When you look at the admissions, instead of improving they're getting worse," Ntsaluba said.

Of the 22 000 medical doctors in South Africa, only 3 000 were black, he added.

Responding to questions from ANC MP Francinah Baloyi and Jassat, Ntsaluba said discussions were being held with the Department of Education, which issues the subsidies, to ensure institutions received subsidies congruent with their outcomes in terms of national policy and priority.

"There will be very clear and coherent links between a subsidy given to the institution and their output in terms of the national objective.

"There must be recognition and commitment to national priorities," he said.

Ntsaluba did not respond to questions on whether the Government would consider introducing a quota system as a way of forcing medical schools to increase their intake of black pupils.

Brain drain on the increase in SA

By Shadrack Mashalaba

SOUTH Africa could soon find itself with a skills shortage if the emigration of top and middle management personnel as well as key specialist staff continues unabated.

A special survey for 1997-98 on Salary and Wage Movements and Labour Trends released this week by FSA Contact found that 11 percent of top management personnel, six percent of middle management and five percent of key specialist staff who resigned their jobs during 1997, did so to emigrate.

According to survey results, organisations continue to experience a scarcity of competent personnel in these categories and they expect this situation to deteriorate in 1998.

The organisation's survey was car-

ried out over a cross-section of companies and non-profit organisations from across the economic spectrum

FSA national sales manager Kris Crawford said 85 percent of organisations quizzed (compared with 71 percent in last year's survey) expect key specialist staff to be "scarce" or "very scarce" in the months ahead while 72 percent (56 percent in last year's survey) believe the same will apply to top management candidates.

Crime to blame

"The situation with middle management personnel appears to be slightly better, with 53 percent predicting that suitable candidates at this level will be 'scarce' or 'very scarce'," she said.

Heading the list of employees who resigned to emigrate are computer pro-

grammers, financial managers and directors, geologists, research development managers, product line managers and senior academics.

"Some 96 percent of all employees who emigrated blamed crime for their decision. Falling standards in education was cited by 84 percent while 82 percent attributed their decision to 'violence'. Declining standards and health were cited by 55 percent and 51 percent respectively.

"In addition, a lack of confidence in the Government, affirmative action policies and better employment opportunities abroad were also cited as reasons for emigration," said Crawford.

The survey found that the most popular destinations for emigrants are the United Kingdom, Australia, United States, New Zealand, Canada and Israel.

Powerman 19/3/98

(236)

Foreigners find pastures greener in Cape Town

But SA's differing policies confuse many

ANDREA WEISS

While emigration lawyers are commonplace in South Africa, Cape Town immigration lawyer Gary Eisenberg is one of a kind, advising foreigners wanting to settle here

Mr Eisenberg's interest in promoting immigration to South Africa was influenced by his background.

His Russian grandfather, who was a rabbi, came to South Africa "stone broke" with his father, who was then four years old

"I am committed as an attorney, but I'm also committed as a human being, to see that justice is done

"Although these people are foreigners, they have rights and desires and they can make a contribution to this country," said Mr Eisenberg

Most of his clientele are German, French, English and Bulgarian, although he has had some Africans seeking permanent residence rather than refugee status

Mr Eisenberg says most of the 4 000 temporary residence applications handed in to the Department of Home Affairs in Pretoria last December are for the Cape

He says his clients come to South Africa for a variety of reasons, ranging from a desire to escape high taxes in their own country, or to take advantage of the relatively cheap property prices and good climate

An increase in unemployment in Europe, especially in places like Germany and the favourable exchange rate, also play a role

An expert in international trade and finance, Mr Eisenberg specialises in helping people wade through a maze of regulations, which, he says, are less than user-friendly, at the



One of a kind: Gary Eisenberg

Department of Home Affairs

Recently, he addressed an international gathering of immigration lawyers in London, on international business migration to South Africa.

The lawyers present were members of an immigration and nationality law committee of the International Bar Association.

Mr Eisenberg says that South Africa's economic and immigration policies appear to be at odds with each other: the former are inviting people to invest money in this country and the latter are giving the message that while their assets are welcome, they aren't

"There is an arrogance in South Africa that we want the money, but not the people. Many of my clients say this is the impression they have gained," he says

This is in contrast to countries

such as Australia where large investors and highly qualified people are welcome to immigrate

In Canada, prospective immigrants are given a promise of permanent residency, and even citizenship, if they invest money in that country

Mr Eisenberg initially wanted to study plastic surgery. He went to the United States on a bursary to study for a BA degree, with pre medical subjects, but during his studies chose to specialise in law

He studied at the Tulane Law School in New Orleans, specialising in international trade and finance. He worked in New Orleans for a few years before returning to Cape Town in 1991.

However, he battled for several years before the laws changed to accommodate returning exiles, and his law degree was recognised after he did articles and a few additional subjects

During this time, Mr Eisenberg linked up with international finance and trade specialist Lawrence Miller, working at the law firm Miller Gruss Katz & Traub

After helping an international artist get permanent residence in South Africa, he became increasingly involved in helping people get residency and work permits

A year ago, Mr Eisenberg decided to start his own business, going into what he describes as "virgin territory". When he left the law firm, he had only R8 000 in his bank account.

"I was very frightened," he recalls

But, luck was on his side and one of the first cases he dealt with was a high-profile extradition attempt by the Irish authorities

He got a court order allowing his client to leave South Africa under his

own recognisances and to give himself up without a police escort, which was what he wanted.

Mr Eisenberg says English immigrants are generally retired and come to Cape Town for the good weather and cheap property. They also have transferable pensions and can enjoy a far better quality of life on their pounds when converted to rands

The French come to Cape Town for similar reasons, with a desire to get away from the French tax authorities, whose vigilance he describes as "virulent"

There are now between 600 to 800 French families in Cape Town and the city has a French Chamber of Commerce

Bulgarians, who also make up a large portion of his clientele, mostly come to this country with sophisticated technical skills and the desire to escape the political chaos in Bulgaria

There is a South African embassy in Sofia and links between the African National Congress and Bulgaria are strong, dating to the days of the apartheid struggle

He describes his German clients as "incredibly motivated and committed". They bring "big bucks" and "big business"

They come here to work, invest and establish their own businesses while enjoying Cape Town's lifestyle

"They also prefer to work in a freer economic environment which they feel South Africa has to offer them," he says

But, the policy driving investment in South Africa isn't the same as the policy driving migration

"There is a chasm of thought. They have missed each other somewhere like strangers in the night. That is a problem," says Mr Eisenberg

ARG 21/3/98

(236)



Fellow Africans can help us

(236) CP 29/3/98

■ From Page 17

also enormously enriched by many immigrants, in the social sciences and humanities

The US has also raided the former Soviet Union for their excellent scientists and mathematicians.

And they became a great nation, towering above other nations of the world, albeit containing within itself the unwanted African community, now called African-Americans, who carried the stigma of having once been slaves

The rulers of Israel invite Jews from the rest of the world for the political aim of building a great nation, although Black Jews are not yet treated as the equals of white Jews.

In the process Israel benefitted enormously from the numerous skills of the immigrants

The key point is development
Development creates wealth and with it less tension amidst the inhabitants of any country

Where there is no development space shrinks By that I mean occupations and wealth becomes the preserve of only the few

With underdevelopment comes conflict, first between locals and then against foreigners

The rulers of white nations have been wise enough to seek talent and skills from anywhere in the world

□ We Africans need to learn this lesson from these leaders of White nations but also to go one step fur-

ther by creating wealth and occupation, i e, space, for everyone in society

That includes local and immigrant, white and black, so that tension, spite, hatred, or conflict can be all but eliminated once and for all

□ A remarkable feature of development in India today is that a very large bulk of development investment and talent going into India is from the Indian diaspora distributed in the US and Europe

Likewise, the largest bulk of investment funds and talents going into the developing Asian Tiger nations is from the Asian diaspora as well.

What is even more striking is that China, in spite of her communist ideology, is also seeking out its own diaspora

Why are we Africans so stupid then? Why should we not also work to mobilize the investment funds and talents available in the African diaspora for development purposes?

Minister Nkosazana Zuma has been wise enough to garner the medical health and medical talent of Cuba to bolster medical services in South Africa so we should do the same regarding the material and intellectual wealth of the African-American community in the US

This then is the main principle we should all adopt. If we do so, we can all become winners

Plan to enlist expertise of SA professionals abroad

STAFF REPORTER

South African professionals living abroad - including thousands of graduates from the universities of Cape Town and Stellenbosch - will soon be asked to give some of their expertise back to this country.

They will be asked to join a network through which they will be able to feed back professional knowledge and skills to help develop South Africa's economy.

The professionals, while remaining overseas in their adoptive countries, will use the network to give valuable advice and guidance to local projects.

The network is being set up by a newly-formed organisation - the South African Network of Skills Abroad (Sansa) - based at the University of Cape Town

It is a joint venture between UCT's science and technology policy research centre and the French Institute for Scientific Research and Development through Co-operation.

To measure just how far-flung South African intellectuals are,

ARG 30/3/98
David Kaplan from the University of Cape Town and Jean-Baptiste Meyer of the French institute collected data from the alumni associations of five major South African universities - Cape Town, Witwatersrand, Natal, Rhodes and Stellenbosch

Although the universities are all historically white and not representative of the diversity of the population, it was found they had the largest alumni abroad.

The data they collected revealed that 28% of UCT's contactable doctoral students were living overseas, mostly in Australia, the United States and Britain

They discovered that 43% of contactable medical graduates, 30% of commerce doctorates, 27% of education doctorates and 26% of science doctorates from UCT were living overseas.

"Indications are that there are many South Africans located abroad who are potentially keen to make a contribution to South Africa's development," said Professor Kaplan.

Dr Meyer added that the number of South Africans who had left

(213) (236)
was probably about three times more than records showed

Many of the emigrants were highly qualified and the "diaspora option" was a way of getting their skills back to South Africa

"To bring back the person would be expensive ... through the diaspora option the person stays where he is, but gets connected to many people in his country of origin," he said.

The system had worked for Colombia, where many professionals had helped with the development of their home country

He believed a similar system - properly established and maintained by Sansa - could be of great benefit to South Africa

Professor Kaplan said the universities canvassed could contact about 42% of their graduates overseas

"It might be possible to contact another 19%. So, I think we could get hold of about 60% of all South Africans living abroad"

"If we got even a 5% response, we would have a network of 1 500 people. That would give us a viable network"

45 directors left SA last year

MADELEINE VAN NIEKERK

THE Institute of Directors in Southern Africa lost 45 of its 1 500 members last year due to emigration

"Most of these directors were involved in the information technology industry and aged between 45 and 55. They have gone, in order of preference, to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Britain," said Richard Wilkinson, executive director of the institute

Solly Tucker, who has been re-elected chairman of the institute said: "We have lost grievously through emigration. Fortunately, fresh blood has made good our numbers. However, the institute has fared very much better than similar organisations, which have sustained substantial declines in mem-

ber numbers."

He called for greater diversity in the institute's membership, especially for more blacks and women.

Antony Ball, a cofounder and director of Capital Partners and guest speaker at the institute's annual general meeting on Friday, said investors who combed the world for investment opportunities were starting to regain interest in SA as they found "the shake-up of corporate ownership in SA very positive, as opposed to the stranglehold on ownership five years ago.

"SA has the twelfth-largest stock exchange in the world, on a par with Singapore and probably the best screen-trading system in the world," he said. "SA accounts for 80% of southern Africa's gross domestic product"

(236)

MD 15/6/98

GRITTING YOUR TEETH AT THE TECHIES?

Management vs IT quandary

A widening gulf between business needs and IT support department goals since the early Nineties is resulting in friction and conflict

In many instances IT departments have been slow to change their management philosophies since

the move from a centralised, mainframe-based computing architecture, where everything is managed centrally, to a distributed, client/server infrastructure, where computing is decentralised

Enterprise service management company Foster-Melliar MD Patrick Evans says there is an urgent need for the IT infrastructure to be run under a new management philosophy. If not, conflict between business and IT will grow. "In IT you tend to manage the technology according to what vendors tell you," Evans says. "As a result, there is always a conflict between what business says it needs and what IT says it can provide."

Vendors supplying disparate technology are making companies' IT infrastructures complex and difficult to manage. "Back in the mainframe-centric world it was less complex and your vendor taught you how to manage it because you typically only had one vendor," he says.

Major SA corporations are grappling with these challenges. Evans says it is imperative that IT's management philosophy is refocused around business needs. "Today, vendors are coming up with different solutions to IT management. But let's not forget that IT is part of a bigger business with defined goals."

"IT Service Management", or ITSM, is a solution to the conflict, Evans says.

The ITSM approach was developed in the late Eighties at the Centre for Computing & Telecommunications Agency, a UK government institution whose mandate was to make computing easier for government and State-owned companies.

Today, ITSM deals with all of the dif-

ferent aspects of managing IT, integrating technology, people and the management process around a common strategy.

As part of the process of reuniting business and IT, internal processes need to be rebuilt and re-examined, says Evans. Too often, companies choose to outsource IT work because of poor internal processes. "It is often dressed up as a cost-containing

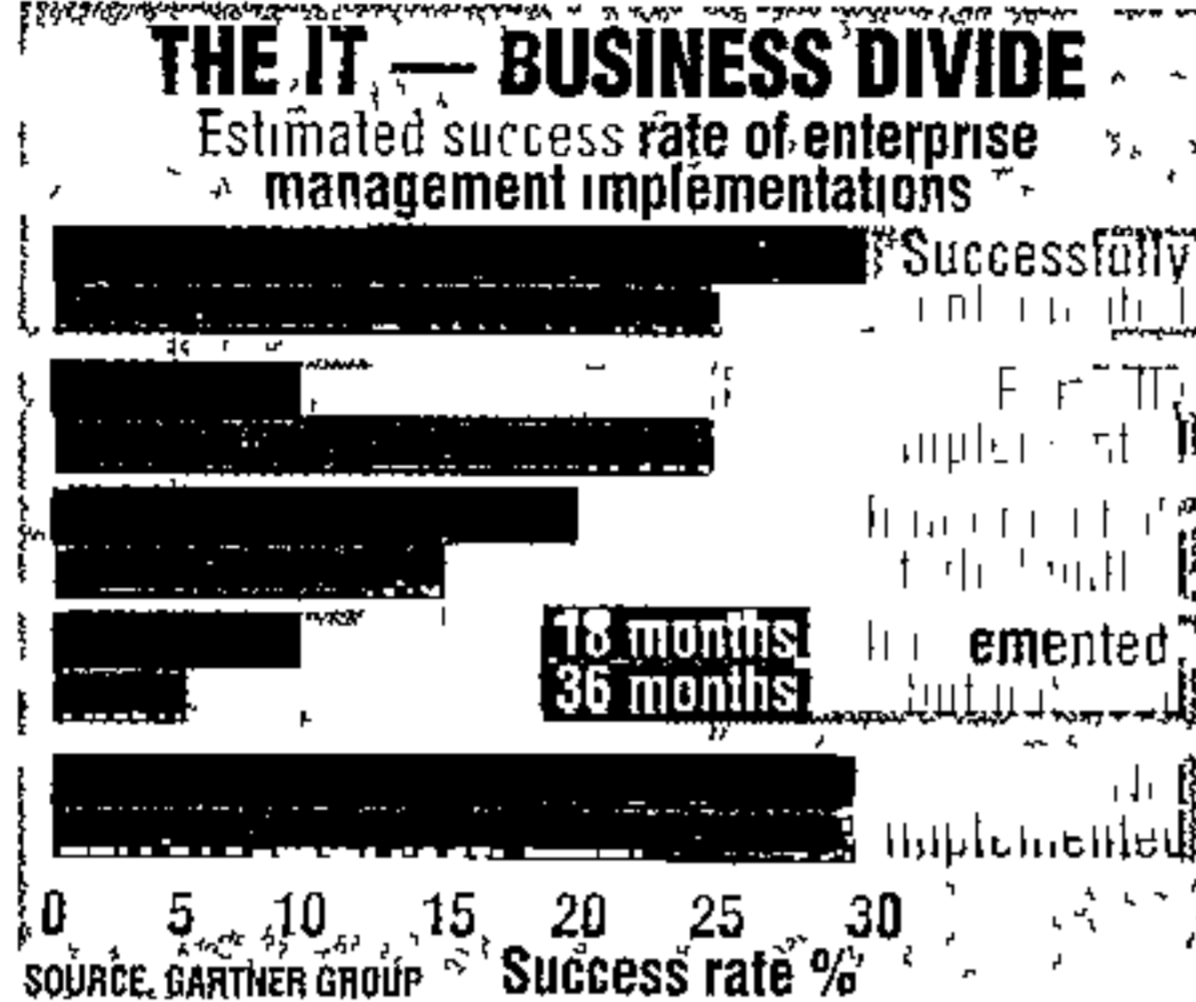
exercise, and it's a drastic step for a company to take. Often businesses eventually throw up their hands in frustration, and outsource it. But they are often giving away the keys to the kingdom."

Though Evans believes there is a role for specialist outsourcing in ITSM, a

knee-jerk reaction can cause long-term damage. "To deliver value to your business, your outsourcer would have to understand your business intimately."

Foster-Melliar provides training and implementation services in ITSM and has expanded its services to the US and Europe.

Duncan McLeod



SKILLS EXODUS BITES DEEPER

SA needs IT immigrants

Retaining IT staff is going to become even harder. With the already acute IT skills shortage — worsened by the approaching "year 2000" deadline — even young programmers with less than a year's experience are being lured away by lucrative local and overseas contracts.

"The practice of head-hunting is becoming increasingly unethical," says Jill Hamlyn, MD of Rivonia-based IT recruitment firm The People Business. "Many head-hunters are aggressively encouraging staff to break their contracts."

She adds that both programmers and the companies they work for are being taken for

a ride by "greedy" recruitment agencies who maintain a veil of secrecy on their mark-ups. Some clients are being charged almost three times the amount the contractor earns.

"A 150% mark-up is immoral," says Hamlyn. "An agency can run successfully on margins of 15%-20%. Both the client and the contractor should insist on knowing the recruitment company's mark-up."

She warns that the contracting industry is in danger of being dismissed as over-priced and not offering value. "There was a time when contractors represented the top 25% of IT professionals. Now inexperienced programmers and analysts are being thrown into projects beyond their abilities. They are using contracting to artificially boost their earnings."

The bonanza could be short-lived, SA companies are starting to follow the example of overseas competitors by contracting out projects to countries like India, where world-class skills are available at affordable prices. Improvements in Internet technologies will make it even easier to outsource projects.

Hamlyn adds that young job-hoppers are in danger of not learning business skills they would need to progress in the long term.

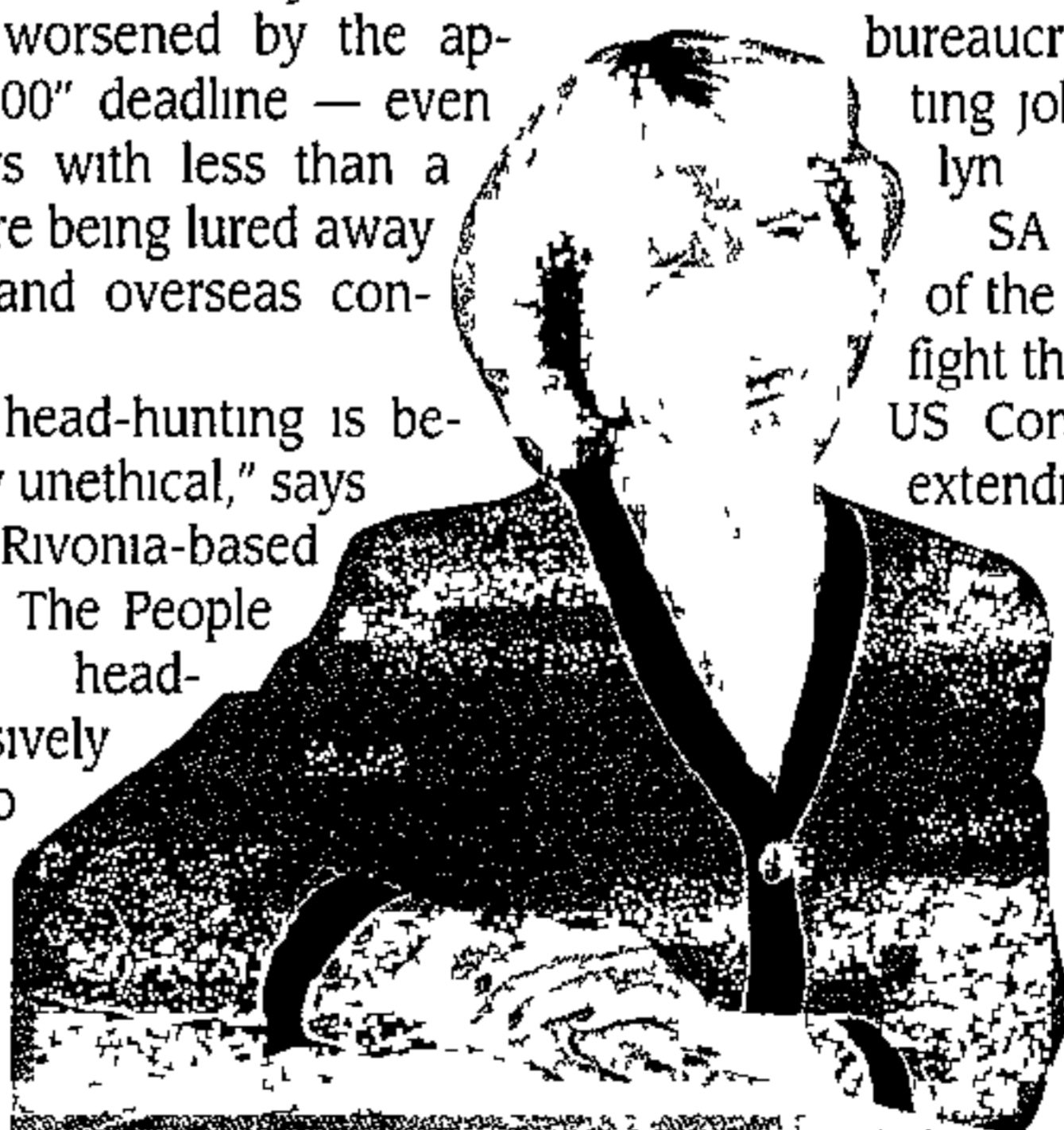
"A young contractor earning R130/hour often forgets to plan for the long term," says The People Business account manager Jon Deere-Jones. He adds that contractors lured overseas often don't take into account the high costs of living overseas.

With one in four emigrants believed to be an IT expert, government should do more to encourage overseas computer professionals to work in SA on short-term contracts. It must urgently streamline the bureaucracy involved in getting job permits, says Hamlyn.

SA could take a leaf out of the US's book. In a bid to fight the millennium bug, the US Congress is considering extending the number of green cards it issues from 64 000 to 88 000.

Another option is to increase training. One large bank has resorted to an innovative solution: training retrenched teachers to become computer programmers.

Marna Bidoli



Jill Hamlyn slams unethical head-hunters

Black brain-drain hits 'racist'

Lagging transformation sparks exodus of top

MPHOENLE MAGEZA
STAFF REPORTER

Black professionals are leaving Cape Town – or not bothering to seek work here – because, they say, the city is racist and its transformation is lagging. The Western Cape branch of the

Black Management Forum, the largest association of black professionals in the region and which represents mainly senior management, has lost 50% of its members to Gauteng in the past two years and the figure is rising. Placement agencies report the loss of the best black professionals and the

Human Sciences Research Council confirms that most black graduates do not seek employment here. Black professionals say transformation is not sufficiently advanced in the Western Cape and cite lack of opportunity in the workplace and racism in the entire social fabric as key disincentives for staying

Nadia Mason, who owns a placement agency, acknowledges that transformation is moving a lot slower in the Western Cape than in other areas and believes some employers are deliberately impeding the process of transformation. "The truth is that black managers are still being blocked because of the

colour of their skin," she said. Dynamic Resources Consultants director Mshwabile Maxula says the trend has a lot to do with Western Cape employers not encouraging black empowerment programmes. Black Management Forum executive director Trevor Harbard says his organisation tries to discourage

professionals to Gauteng

(226) ARS 20/5/98

members from leaving the Western Cape because the province needs them more than any other province. "The black brain drain seems not to concern anyone right now, so we try to offer them networking opportunities, as these are very limited due to the small numbers of black professionals here"

Tlami Mshwane, 27, who is in the finance industry and has been in Cape Town for the past six months, wants to leave as soon as possible because "Cape Town is not friendly to blacks. The message that we are not wanted is clear yet subtle."

Is it the unfairlest Cape? Page 11

Western Cape

Black brain drain: is it the unfairer Cape?

Professionals face isolation, racism

APPROXIMATE
MAGAZINE

SPECIAL REPORT



(296)
AR4 20/5/98

HANNES THORP

In the changing political and economic landscape of post-apartheid South Africa, black African professionals are taking the lead and paving the way for other able-bodied, determined and innovative individuals in empowering themselves.

In Gauteng a vibrancy is in the air that is unmistakably flowing from this process of transformation.

Anyone can be someone. "It is the American Dream", Africanised.

Most provinces have reported a similar form of transformation - every province except the Western Cape.

As many white people migrate to the Cape, black professionals are leaving in bitterness, and unofficial racial segregation continues in the Western Cape.

The Cape's black brain drain has caused shock waves amongst professionals, such as members of the Black Management Forum who point out that highly skilled and literate black professionals are essential to a healthy economy and a vibrant political establishment.

Tlani Mushwane says that as an outsider arriving in Cape Town he expected a particular relationship between the races, which he finds non-existent.

"One expects a particular brand of young black professional who is vibrant, assertive, and a go-getter, and it's not there. The few that are like that are usually not from here."

Lanse Mwanza is a manager at an oil company and is thinking very seriously of moving back to his native Johannesburg. "It seems that the National Party may win in the Western Cape elections again. If that happens I am definitely leaving because there will be no hope for a black person here."

Many of these professionals miss the social settings where they can meet like-minded people and engage in constructive projects. They also emphasise that socialising in the townships does not help further their careers, as there are few networking opportunities. Their social lives are therefore very limited.

"Here I feel like I am living in a vacuum when one goes to Johannesburg one really feels one is being left behind. For instance there are several empowerment consortia

turns in Gauteng, and there is not a single one in Cape Town," says Mwanza.

Phindi Mabena, who is in her early 30s and one of the few black female accountants in the country, left Cape Town in 1997.

"I found the Cape to be like some kind of England. A lot of us ended up forming small cliques as a comfort zone in order to deal with all the harshness."

Sonwabile Magueta, director of Dynamic Resources Consultants, confirms the trend. "The reason black professionals leave is because they feel stagnated and know that they are missing many opportunities in Gauteng."

They come to Cape Town because companies here make a lot of promises and they feel that it may be a good career move. Unfortunately, when they get here, they hit a glass-ceiling very quickly and leave. In Gauteng, it is the other way round. The opportunity actually grows."

Namla Jwayi, a consultant from Contact Personnel, says many employers ask for black candidates as a token gesture.

"First they will ask for a black person and in the same breath they will say that it doesn't matter if we don't find one. We always suggest they give the ones who have a lot of potential a chance and train and develop them to their needs, but they are never keen to do so and keep playing games."

Nadia Mason, who owns a personnel agency also acknowledges that even when successful applicants have been placed sometimes the process goes wrong in the workplace where black professionals may face racism.

Jean Kallenga, a planning analyst, confirms this. He recently resigned from a job at an oil company and is planning to move to Gauteng.

"It is not easy to be a black professional in

The reason black professionals leave is because they feel stagnated!

Looking to greener pastures? young black professionals, from left Jean Kallenga, Sonwabile Magueta and Namla Jwayi, who say their future job prospects in Cape Town are not bright.

Cape Town because one's future is not bright. Employers here frustrate you on purpose and then turn around and complain of a lack of eligible black managers. In my case, they downgraded my job as soon as I had accepted their offer and made me a trainee when I was fully operational."

The solution to the problem is complex. "If the politics of the Western Cape change, then there is hope. The political change will lead to all the other things, like black assertiveness and more transformation," says Mushwane. "At the moment there is a 'white chicken race', with whites moving here on the basis of the crime rate. That is just on the surface because crime is colour blind. It affects everyone, so why is it only a particular group that is moving?"

He says that black people could join hands, their input could never be ignored. Nadia Mason says the chances of black and coloured people seeing eye to eye are slim. This issue is closely tied up with the

employment situation. "There is a lot of tension between the races here because the entire process of transformation is being incorrectly communicated. Coloured people feel threatened by African professionals because once more in history, they have to wait to get into managerial positions."

"The Western Cape is historically a coloured preference area, so most coloured people do not think that they are included in affirmative action. The catch here is that coloured people's jobs are not under threat because they outnumber black Africans in the corporate office working class."

Mason says that by creating and maintaining animosity between the two racial groups the political outcome will always be the same - in favour of the National Party. Trevor Harbard adds that the Black Management Forum's concern with Parliament moving from Cape Town is closely tied to this trend. "Parliament should stay in the Cape

because the Cape will be poorer culturally without it. It is only during parliamentary sessions that there is an influx of black people in the Cape, and they bring the ambience of Africa with them. Parliament's moving will remove that positive influence."

Mushwane disagrees and encourages Parliament's move to Pretoria. "The people who don't support the national Government's efforts are the ones that are reaping its benefits. I think that Parliament should move to a place where the people appreciate the national Government's efforts."

While many black professionals are considering leaving Cape Town, there are those who feel it is worth staying. Most of them are the ones who have no choice because of work commitments.

Luzelle Cassimjee, who owns a travel agency, says blacks need to get together and make it happen. In a way, there is no one to blame except us. I mean there must be a way to pick up this place."

Shado Twala, a prominent radio personality, is also of the strong conviction that black professionals should stay and fight for what is theirs. "There are so many graduates who move from Cape Town and they are the ones who go and make waves in other areas. Why don't they stay to change the status quo here?"

Whatever side of the debate one is on, it is acknowledged by most black professionals that a continuation of this trend will haunt the Western Cape. Consider this exchange with David Edgar from Mare Novel and Associates, one of several personnel agencies contacted by the Cape Argus. When asked whether the agency had had any feedback from black professionals about their stay in Cape Town he replied: "No, there is no problem. Are your black placements happy with their jobs? Yes, very happy. How many have you placed? One

CAPE ARGUS ISSUES

The whites who emigrate are ingrates

Their fellow South Africans survived crime, poverty and poor schooling

TREVOR OOSTERWIK
Lecturer in History, University of the Western Cape

It has been reported that about 80 000 people have permanently left the shores of South Africa since the 1994 election.

And the main concern about this wholesale flight of white people, many of whom received their education and primary social care in this country, is the loss of skills and economic viability.

Sunday Argus (June 21) provided the following reasons for this disturbing reality: "Many of those who have left, or who are planning to leave soon, said they were fleeing the high crime rate, the lack of safety and security, a perceived drop in education standards, deteriorating health care and affirmative action."

All of the many reasons provided for wanting to leave are certainly real and acceptable.

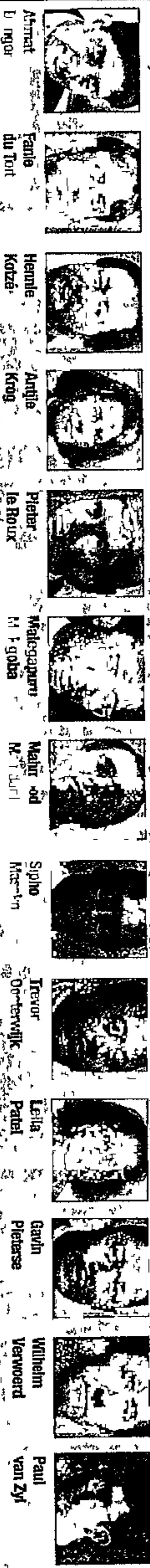
I also worry about the state of affairs for all of us ordinary people.

All communities in South Africa are concerned, and speak about it in the taxis and trains. But it is not a new experience for black South Africans.

In fact, I grew up with crime being my daily reality. I have taken part in gang activities and was a junior member of a rather large and very violent gang.

More than 70% of my childhood friends were killed in gang-related activities, have become drug addicts (some of my own brothers have become victims of this curse) or are still serving prison sentences for criminal activities.

Murder, rape, gang violence and general crime have had a influential impact on all of



The people who will put you wise to the ways of the world...

The Cape Argus today launches its panel of contributing editors with the accompanying article by Trevor Oosterwilk.

He is joined by an array of academics, theologians, writers, business people and other experts who will express their views on current and controversial issues.

Most of the articles will appear on this page and will be written by panel members, either on their own initiative or at the invitation of the Cape Argus.

The panel is part of our ongoing efforts to produce a better newspaper and raise the level of debate on our opinion/editorial pages.

Readers are invited to respond to our contributions on our letter page.

The panelists are:

- Ahrant Unger, Lecturer in History, University of the Western Cape
- Franke du Toit, Lecturer in History, University of the Western Cape
- Henrie Kotze, Lecturer in History, University of the Western Cape
- Anthe Kroger, Lecturer in History, University of the Western Cape
- Pieter le Roux, Lecturer in History, University of the Western Cape
- Magesapu M. Goba, Lecturer in History, University of the Western Cape
- Mairi M. du Toit, Lecturer in History, University of the Western Cape
- Spho Mestrin, Lecturer in History, University of the Western Cape
- Trevor Oosterwilk, Lecturer in History, University of the Western Cape
- Leila Patel, Lecturer in History, University of the Western Cape
- Gavin Pieterse, Lecturer in History, University of the Western Cape
- Wilhelm Verwoerd, Lecturer in History, University of the Western Cape
- Paul van Zyl, Lecturer in History, University of the Western Cape

us on the Cape Flats

All of the other problems mentioned as determinant in the decision to emigrate, were a natural or normal part of our daily life. We had had education, virtually no health care and grew up in abject poverty.

While I certainly agree that all people (or individuals), white or black, have the right to decide to refuse to live under those very debilitating circumstances, I was extremely disturbed by the way these white people were dealing with them.

I cannot accept that running away is the best solution in the interest of all the people of this country.

I felt so perturbed by what I thought was white ingratitude that I wanted to shout to all of these white people who wanted to run away, to go "Please, leave, go, we might be better off without you trying to hold our whole society ransom with your threats."

While I certainly agree that all people (or individuals), white or black, have the right to decide to refuse to live under those very debilitating circumstances, I was extremely disturbed by the way these white people were dealing with them.

I cannot accept that running away is the best solution in the interest of all the people of this country.

one which we cannot and will not entertain.

This is our country, we have struggled hard and long to free ourselves from white domination.

The moment of equality, freedom and democracy is holding out infinite possibilities for us as a previously oppressed people. We will overcome this moment of the madness of crime.

A very important implication of wanting to pursue the option of emigration is that it suggests to black people that white people do not see or accept South Africa as belonging to them.

They seem to have no commitment to cor-

recting the injustices of the past in which they have been implicated.

To varying degrees, all white people must accept culpability: the madness of the new South Africa is also their problem. This is not to deny responsibility. I agree we cannot continue to blame apartheid for all our problems, we need to be critical about our contributions and see the balm in our own eyes.

But from our perspective, there is a mindset among many white people that seems to suggest that April 1994 represented the end of their responsibility for the past.

I believe it is this unacceptable approach to the new South Africa that is at the root of

white fears and reaction

In the end, I think that many white people are incapable of changing their thinking, but I do hope that those who have made the change will engage their white compatriots in discussion about these problems.

The future of all our people needs all its people, black and white, to give their best in the interest of everyone.

To those white people who do not wish to change, I say "If you are unable to be part of the African renaissance, feel free to leave and I hope you will find peace of mind and prosperity wherever you might go."

"Goodbye"

Immigration policies 'too soft'

Business Day Reporter

ALMOST two-thirds of all South Africans believe the government's immigration policies regarding foreigners working and living in SA are too soft, according to a survey conducted for Business Day by AC-Nielson-MRA (Market Research Africa).

The report was compiled from a sample of 2 502 respondents representing almost the entire population, including foreigners and South Africans, according to MRA spokesman Brian Cullors, same illegal immigrants.

The sample, representing 92% of urban adults, was questioned about views on SA's immigration policy. Strong opposition to the regulations came from all population groups. Coloured respondents, particularly, were outspoken on the issue, with 79%

believing immigration to SA was too easy. They were followed by Indians (77%) and whites (71%), while almost 62% of blacks thought the same.

According to the survey, only 17% of the population thought the immigration laws were adequate, while just 16% said they were too strict. Blacks were three times as likely as other groups to believe the policies were too harsh, with 22% taking this stand, compared to 8% of Indians, 7% of whites and only 5% of coloureds.

When analysed by language, the strongest critics of SA's immigration laws were Afrikaans speakers, eight out of 10 of whom said they were too soft.

An interesting feature of the survey was that 21% of respondents earning less than R2 000 a month believed the immigration regime was too strict, compared to substan-

tially smaller percentages in higher income categories. While poorer people may be expected to feel more threatened than most, Cullors felt this surprising result could reflect the opinions of a significant number of aliens already in their ranks.

"The results show a prevailing xenophobia in SA towards immigrants, which sits uneasily with the country's re-admission into the international community and its new role as a key member of the Southern African Development Community," said Cullors. "Widespread publicity about escaping drug and related crime problems, many of them said to be associated with illegal immigrants, could be fuelling anti-foreigner sentiment."

Media reports suggest as many as 4-million illegal immigrants are living in SA. Last year the government drafted a

SURVEY

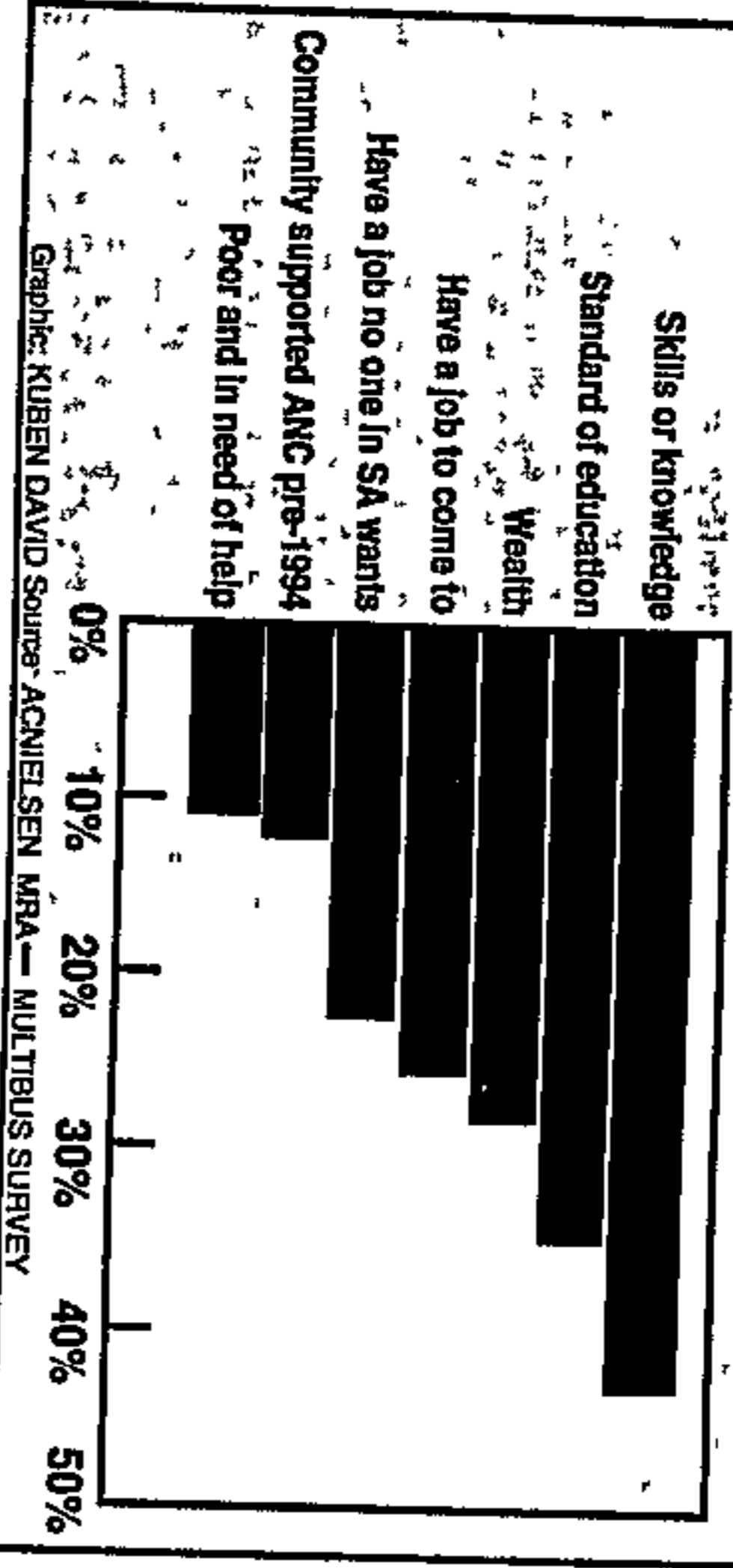
PTA in paper to revise the country's immigration dispensation which has come under attack for being unworkable and likely to perpetuate the migrant labour problem.

Respondents were asked whether they felt immigrants threatened the job security of the household's breadwinner. Almost 75% of the people questioned feared this could happen. Blacks were most likely to say jobs were threatened, at 80%, followed by Indians and coloureds, but only about half the white respondents regarded job-seeking immigrants as a threat.

Turning to factors that could make South Africans more accepting of immigrants, he said it was noticeable that "skills or knowledge" were regarded as important criteria for admission by more people (43%) than those who regarded "education" as important (34%).

What makes immigrants acceptable?

Percentages supporting various qualifying criteria



Homesick South Africans come up with a lekker idea

star 4/7/98 (236)

As the rand bungee-jumps to new depths against the world's major currencies, there may be those who are once again pondering the inevitable question: To leave or not to leave. But one thing's for sure - you'll miss more than Mrs Ball's chutney if you do emigrate **TRISH BEAVER** reports

Homesick South Africans have given a new slant to an old saying "The grass may be greener on the other side, but always remember that the grass back home in SA is dagga"

South Africans who have relocated abroad can count on being asked one frequent question "So is your dope really as good as they say?"

A little embellishment about its potency would probably push up the price a few pounds per bank bag and at R10 to the pound we need a lot of embellishment - in fact we need a national marketing strategy

But the things most missed by South Africans abroad are not our dagga, Mrs Ball's chutney, biltong, Castle Lager or Marie biscuits - most missed is our queer sense of humour and our even queerer lingua franca

One homesick South African in the United States started a website for other homesick South Africans and found that what ex-Safs (South Africans) most desired was a pal to speak the lingo with

If our language were a recipe we'd be a mix between a lemon meringue pie, tomato bredie and a samoosa with a touch of chakalaka for flavour.

Neil Lurssen, a former South African journalist, started Main Street South Africa with fellow journalist David Braun in 1996. The site was regularly updated with local news, gossip and news of ex-South Africans living in the States

But possibly the site's most popular segment was the section involving our sacred language, which Lurssen's son Adrian aptly named "Cyberbraai".

Here the words used by South Africans at home are treasured and nurtured and recorded for posterity. Lurssen compiled an extensive list of words with a truly South African flavour and gave their meanings so that his American friends could understand.

A completely "normal" telephone conversation between two South Africans probably sounds, to the average Yank, like a cricket match translated into Czech

For example, when friends get together to arrange a braai, it would go something like this

"Howzit man?"

"Fine, listen, shall we check you okes later for some chow, what about a braai?"

"Ja, that sounds lekker, we'll pop in after the rugby with some dops to celebrate the Boks winning"

"That depends on who creams who, hey?"

"Voertsek - of course we'll win. I'll tell my missus to bring the skottel and some wors. When should we pitch?"

It's a mixture of words from Dutch, Cape Malay and several African languages

"Ag, just rock up when you feel like it"

"Okay, see you guys just now"

Translated for an American it would be "A friend of mine is coming around for a barbecue after the ball game"

Lurssen's idea began after he noticed that South African English was considered a hilarious peculiarity. He asked for feedback from other South Africans in the States and got an enormous response.

He said "South Africans have a strange way of unilaterally adopting words from other languages that have a nice descriptive ring to them. It is a uniquely bonding language that can pull at the heart strings. Our local supermarket now stocks Marmite and rooibos tea but what I most miss are the little things

"I miss grilled kingklip, Namaqualand in the spring, rambles up Table Mountain and of course Marie biscuits. You can survive without these things but they have especially nostalgic connotations"

He and other ex-Saf friends watched Bafana Bafana's progress with disappointment in the World Cup and he

■ has noticed the rand's plunge without the local dismay

Lurssen noted in his newsletter that *The New York Times* made a mention of the compilation of the latest South African English dictionary.

The reviewer said "South African English has a flavour all of its own. Its accents can be as diverse a bunch of drawls as those found in New York to Louisiana Cajun to American Samoan. Its vocabulary is a mixture of words from Dutch, Malay and several African languages which make it quite different from any former jewel of the British Empire."

Lurssen's Cyberbraai site is currently on hold until he can generate advertising to support it. But before the site became dormant he had added the following words to his list: Madiba, babbelaas and boykie

Lurssen says ex-South Africans make a special effort to get together and one such group is fondly known as Ema (Ex-Pats In North America). There are other similar websites in Australia and Canada for homesick ex-Safs to tune into via the Internet, and no doubt the e-mail messages are encoded in our own particular way

"Hey Boet, have you checked the rand?"

"Ema!"

"Bet you the blokes back home are suffering. Now they're in deep kak."

"Ag shame!"

"Ja, well, no, fine."

(296) ST 19/7/98

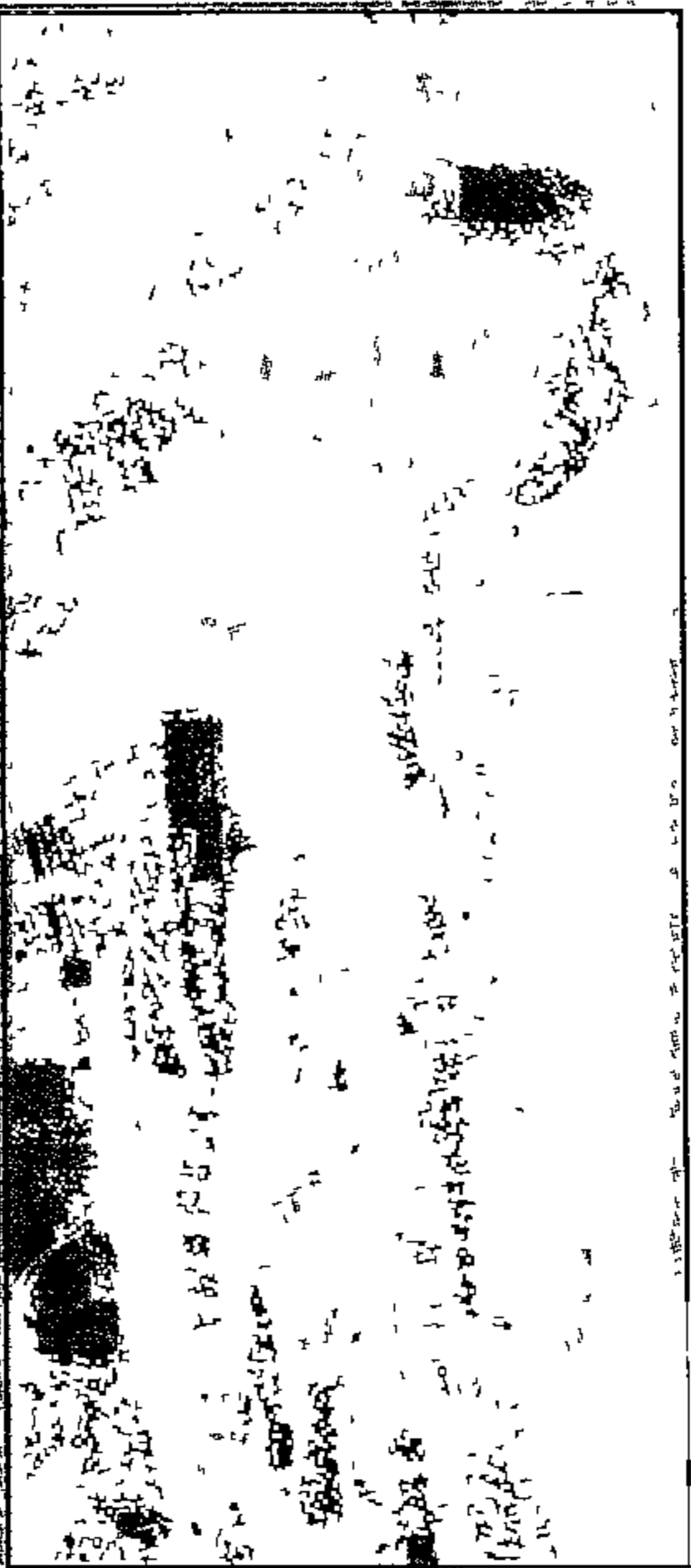
The green, green grass of Prospects of a better life outweigh the uncertainties for thousands of immig

They left their countries to escape economic difficulty, to ensure a good education for their children, to find better-paid jobs and to get married. Their chosen destination? South Africa. In 1996, 5 407 people, many of them professionals, went through the tough, costly immigration process and moved here, according to the Central Statistical Service. These airport-based figures exclude the thousands who enter overland. Immigrants do not come here with rose-tinted glasses. They are aware of our problems but accept the challenges that lie ahead. **JANET HEARD** speaks to four people who have chosen South Africa as home

■ **ALEXANDER POPLAVSKI**
Ukraine

SCIENCE graduate Alexander Poplavski, 27, was not short of emigration options when he became disillusioned with the economic climate in Odessa four years ago. Germany and Canada had granted approval, yet he chose Cape Town.

Today Poplavski is a permanent resident in South Africa and product manager at an Internet company at the Waterfront. He plans to buy a property after he sells his home in Odessa, where property prices have plummeted. So has the economy. This decade Ukrainians have been faced with four-digit hyperinflation, so to him a 10 percent inflation rate is "brilliant"

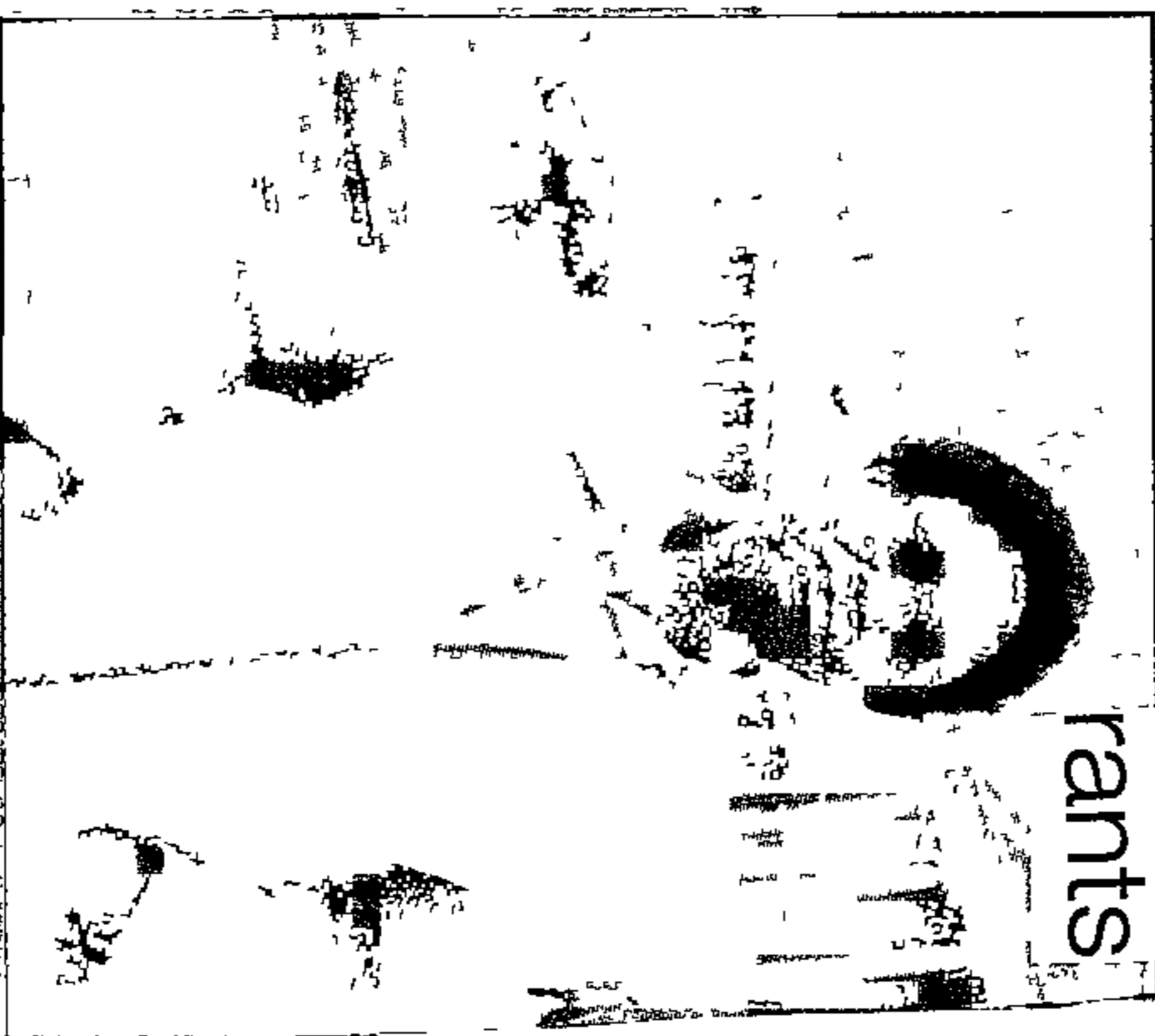


HARDSHIP AWEIGH: Ukrainian Alexander Poplavski feels comfortably at home in Cape Town
Pictures: TERRY SHEAN

South Africans will be amazed, but Poplavski finds that the financial insecurity and crime here do not compare with the frightening situation at home. "Before 1990 (when the Soviet Union dissolved) it was safe, but

not anymore. Here I don't feel threatened at night, whether in Camps Bay or Mitchell's Plain. Poplavski is, nevertheless, realistic. "There are problems and the government is new and inexperienced, but I bet it will

improve. If Mandela's policies continue, we have a great future," he says. His message to pessimists: "If you don't like it here, go somewhere else. Don't be negative around me. I want to make the most of it."



EDUCATION IS THE KEY: Loveness Kaunda came to ensure her children would be educated
Picture

Head-hunting booms as accountants leave

Madeleine van Niekerk

(236)

THREE-quarters of the chartered accountants who qualified recently are expected to leave SA, says Graham Burnside, MD of Grey Appointments.

He was commenting after the announcement last week of the results of this year's qualifying examinations set by the Public Accountants' and Auditors' Board.

"We have been speaking to a lot of candidates and our research has shown that 75% of this year's qualifying chartered accountants (CAs) will go and work overseas."

As a result of the brain drain, head-hunting was booming as local companies went after the fewer and fewer good candidates, he said.

"Most of the CA candidates for this year were interviewed in February and March by companies, before they qualified. The companies will take them on whether they pass or fail. Many of the blue chip companies have widened their parameters and will accept candidates with a lesser qualification."

Graham Terry, deputy CE at the SA Institute of Chartered Accountants, said the Institute did not have statistics on how many CAs were leaving SA.

BD 217198

SA teachers queueing up to head for foreign classrooms

Recruitment agencies flooded with queries

South African teachers are scrambling for posts overseas, where they are in demand and highly paid.

Teacher recruitment agencies say they have been flooded with queries by teachers who want to go overseas as they cannot get work here or have lost their jobs.

Schools in Europe, especially Britain, recruit foreigners as temporary substitute, or "locum", teachers and since South Africa's re-entry to the Commonwealth, local teachers qualify.

Heather Dutton-Brown, of Masterlock Recruitment's education division in South Africa, said more than 200 teachers had asked about temporary posts in Britain since December. Only 60 met all the requirements and found posts.

Ms Dutton-Brown said consul-



ANDREA BOTHA
EDUCATION REPORTER

tants representing British teaching agencies had mushroomed in South Africa and were snapping up disgruntled teachers to keep up with the demand for classroom staff in Britain.

South African teachers were popular because they were hard-working and knew how to work with children from different cultures and a variety of backgrounds.

Ms Dutton-Brown said most applicants were graduates who could not find jobs. Teachers who had taken voluntary severance packages were the second biggest category, but not all qualified for visas.

Karen Gambin of Timeplan, the biggest teacher recruitment agency in London, confirmed that South African teachers were eager to work overseas.

"We get hundreds of inquiries a month from South African teachers who want to go to the UK," she said. South African teachers had a "refreshing touch" and "energy and enthusiasm" and were therefore popular, she said.

A teacher who wants to work overseas must have a recognised qualification, work permit clearance and a clean police record.

Applicants under 28 are automatically eligible for work permits, but those older must have British or European Union passports to get working holiday visas for up to four years.

Teachers are paid about £16 000 a year (about R160 000). Temporary teachers have to pay British taxes but can reclaim some of these if they are eligible.

The agencies warned that because of the demand for South African teachers, numerous recruitment companies had sprung up which were not above board and charged fees for their services, unlike the reputable companies.

Masterlock is giving free lectures in the Western Cape - at the Welington College of Education today and at Stellenbosch University's education faculty tomorrow.



Finding a place of refuge

From PAGE 5

MHG 3/17-6/8/98 (236)

"Companies fear they may be employing someone who will be deported so it is important that refugees are capacitated to help themselves. The thrust of our office is to enable people to get on their feet by using their skills and to integrate refugees into the community through their abilities

"They are often highly skilled technical people such as architects and engineers. The government brought in Cuban doctors when there were already Ethiopian, Zairean and Angolan doctors — also Cuban-trained — in this country who could have been utilised.

"South Africans should stop bemoaning the skills shortage and find a way of using refugees as a social and economic resource to the benefit of the country. They should be given a chance."

The desk runs an English project where classes are taught by refugees who were English teachers in their home countries. Being able to speak the language helps them to integrate and makes them less of a target for harassment.

Other income-deriving projects include art workshops, sewing and hairdressing. Informal crèches are run to amuse the children while the

parents work or learn. The help desk even assists people with typing curriculum vitae.

Lawyers for Human Rights's refugee and immigrant work ranges from research and education to human-rights monitoring.

James Schneider, refugee-rights project co-ordinator, says the NGO lobbies the government and institutions and works to transform perceptions of refugees at the political and decision-making level.

It publishes a quarterly magazine, *Botshabelo*, which helps to put people in touch with immigration policy and opinion. It monitors the conditions under which illegal immigrants are held at detention centres to ensure that the inmates are not treated inhumanely. It responds to their concerns, processes applications and appeals and generally ensures that immigrants are protected and that their rights are upheld.

As part of its education programme, the NGO targeted the South African Police Service and has trained police to interact with non-citizens in a dignified manner which ensures their human rights are not infringed upon.

Much of the NGO's research work and legal expertise has gone into formulating a draft refugee Bill,



Helping hand: The Catholic Diocese of Johannesburg runs art workshops and other training projects to help refugees get back on their feet. PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL VELASCO

the first legislation in South Africa regarding this matter. According to Schneider, this Bill, due to be tabled before Parliament in September this year, is flawed.

"The administrative structure dealing with refugees needs to be independent from the government and insulated from political pressure, but this is not guaranteed in the Bill. Nor

is there a guarantee that refugees will be given the right to work and to have access to education," he says.

Another NGO active in refugee work in Gauteng is the Trauma Clinic, run by the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation. The multi-disciplinary clinic team comprises a psychiatrist, psychiatric nurses and social workers,

who counsel emotionally traumatised refugees and teach them how to deal with their experiences.

The NGO is also involved with women's groups and children. Marivic Garcia, a social worker at the Trauma Clinic, says "It is the NGOs and private organisations who are doing all the work of helping refugees, not the government."

Finding a place of refuge

Lorraine Pace

W

hen South Africa switched the electric fences surrounding its borders from "lethal"

to "detect" mode in the mid-1990s, the country was ill-prepared for the 500 000 refugees who poured into the "promised" land

There was no legislation or policy governing the rights of refugees or any formal structure capable of dealing with them. And far from finding themselves in a place of refuge, they met with a xenophobic response from the public who saw these people as taking work away from locals while using up valuable resources

The government's involvement with foreigners has also not been welcoming. Minister of Home Affairs Mangosuthu Buthelezi has been reported as saying that "Illegals pose a serious threat to the country."

Home Affairs activities could be summarised as using Section 41 permits with which refugees are entitled to remain in the country, or detaining and deporting these same people should they be caught without their papers on their person. Were it not for NGOs

states, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Sister Aine Hughes, who heads the diocese's refugee help desk, says one of the critical issues facing foreigners, and especially refugees, is a shortage of accommodation.

Where in other countries refugees are held in camps, in South Africa they become part of the urban environment. "Accommodation is almost impossible to get as people

are reluctant to let refugees rent

"One of the problems facing refugees is that their status is temporary for so long, taking as much as three years for an outcome on an application. We provide housing for nine families — that is, one family in every room. I'm not proud of that but we have no other option," says Hughes

The diocese hopes to obtain

premises in Hillbrow that will enable it to provide transitional housing, skills training, production workshops and retail outlets under one roof.

"Our long-term vision is to create self-sustaining villages outside Johannesburg. We encourage people to work in groups as it creates support structures allowing them to share skills and income," Hughes adds.

To PAGE 8

Sister Aine Hughes: Encouraging people to create support structures. PHOTO: PAUL VELASCO



looking out for these unwelcome immigrants, refugees in South Africa would have neither legal and social counselling, nor material support.

Some 50 NGOs who make up the Refugee Forum, such as Lawyers for Human Rights, have been helping refugees gain employment in their first few months in this country. This basic right, which enables people to rebuild their lives, was only awarded to refugees by the government in the past six months after NGOs effectively lobbied the government to change its policy

The type of work done by the various NGOs and refugee groups making up the Refugee Forum — based in Gauteng, Durban, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth — are as diverse as the organisations themselves.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for example, is effective at producing and disseminating information and consulting the government regarding policy. Some, such as the Pretoria Muslim Trust, do grassroots work, but assist Muslims only

Others, such as the Japanese Volunteer Core and the Catholic Diocese of Johannesburg, help any person in need

The diocese deals with people from 18 African countries, as well as from Russia, China, the Balkan

(236) Mt G 317-6/8/98

P.T.O.

Finding a place of refuge

From PAGE 5

"Companies fear they may be employing someone who will be deported so it is important that refugees are capacitated to help themselves. The thrust of our office is to enable people to get on their feet by using their skills and to integrate refugees into the community through their abilities.

"They are often highly skilled technical people such as architects and engineers. The government brought in Cuban doctors when there were already Ethiopian, Zairean and Angolan doctors — also Cuban-trained — in this country who could have been utilised.

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SA loses top legal brain to Holland

CARMEL RICKARD

(236)
ST 30/8/98

SOUTH Africa has "failed" one of the country's greatest legal academics, Wits law professor John Dugard, according to Constitutional Court Judge Albie Sachs.

Dugard leaves the country this week to take up a top law post in Holland. Among those who paid tribute to him during a farewell function at Wits on Wednesday were Judge Sachs and Chief Justice Ismail Mahomed, who gave Dugard much of the credit for preparing the radical change from parliamentary to constitutional sovereignty under the new political dispensation.

Judge Sachs said Dugard was one of the top two or three international law experts in the world. His departure was a blow to the country, particularly now that it was playing an important role in international affairs.

The country needed someone like Dugard, said Judge Sachs, and should have created a special institute where he could have offered his opinions and trained future specialists in international law.

It is widely believed in legal circles that Dugard has been treated shabbily by the authorities and that he has not been given the recognition he deserves.

He was interviewed for a post in the Constitutional Court but was not offered an appointment, although many lawyers held the view that he was "the pre-eminently outstanding candidate among the legal academics considered for the post." He was also short-listed for a post on the Human Rights Commission, but again he was not offered a position.

In his glowing tribute, Judge Mahomed said Dugard had subjected unjust and immoral laws to trenchant attack, "inspired by a magnificent combination of deep scholarship and moral passion", and had played a crucial role at the Codesa talks.

Dugard takes up his new post as head of the department of public international law at the University of Leiden — viewed by some as the top international law post in the world — on September 7.

He told the Sunday Times he was sad to be leaving South Africa.

"However, I have been offered a very important chair at one of the world's leading universities, next to The Hague, which is the modern capital of international law. This will give me an opportunity to pursue my principal area of interest and expertise. I am not severing my ties with South Africa. I have been appointed professor emeritus at Wits and will maintain close links with that university. I intend returning here after my five-year contract ends, and I will continue to serve as the South African member of the United Nations International Law Commission, which meets in Geneva for three months each year."

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74% with skills want to quit SA

Biggest survey of its kind finds crime is the main reason top and middle managers wish to emigrate

ANDREW GILL

THOUSANDS of highly qualified South Africans of all races are considering leaving the country, many for good, because of spiralling crime and violence, a comprehensive survey has found.

The biggest study of its kind in South Africa — conducted in March through a questionnaire in The Sunday Times's Business Times Appointments section — found that 74 percent of those who responded are considering emigrating.

Of those surveyed and in jobs, only two percent are unskilled, nearly 20 percent are self-employed and a further 60 per-

cent are drawn from professional and management jobs. As a result, the survey does not represent the demographics of the country but indicates the attitudes to emigration of one of its scarcest resources — skilled and well-qualified workers.

Over 80 percent of the 11 000 respondents had obtained post-matric qualifications.

Just over half those considering leaving, 20 percent of whom are business owners or partners, 20 percent in middle management and over 10 percent in top management, said they would emigrate permanently.

The major reason for considering leaving is crime, according to 62 percent of respondents, with children and education coming in a distant second at 19

percent a better quality of life at 15 percent, and 14 percent for better prospects.

A relatively low 10 percent said they had no faith in the government and were concerned about the deteriorating economy and affirmative action.

Consultants say the survey underlines a growing emigration trend among top businessmen and women.

Martin Westcott, managing director of PE Corporate Services, says the trend has been growing steadily and companies are increasingly finding there are not enough skilled people left to fill the gaps.

His firm found that in the second half of 1997, 19 percent of executive staff turnover in South Africa was due to emigration,

meaning that one in five executives leaving a company were also leaving the country.

Broken down, the survey's figures show that only a slightly lower percentage of black respondents are considering leaving the country, although three-quarters of these would do so for study purposes.

Ten percent of the survey's black respondents said they were considering permanent emigration. As with the overall survey, crime was the biggest reason for considering leaving among blacks, but at a much lower 33 percent. The next biggest reason was better prospects and opportunities (26 percent).

Meanwhile Sapa quoted President Nelson Mandela as saying that real South Africans would

not run away from the high levels of crime.

Speaking in Mauritius yesterday, Mandela said: "We are convinced that real South Africans are being sorted out in the process (and) are saying 'This is my country, I am not going to run away from the troubles in my country'."

However, Mandela acknowledged that crime levels were unacceptable.

ANDREW TRENCH writes that Britain is the most favoured destination for South African emigrants. Between 1996 and the end of last month, 6 922 South Africans left to settle in Britain, according to that country's consulate-general in Pretoria.

Britain issued 8 500 working-holiday visas to South Africans

under the age of 27 last year, another 14 000 this year, and estimates that another 23 000 could be issued in the coming year.

These visas have been available since the country returned to the Commonwealth in 1994. They are meant to allow young people to do casual work in Britain while travelling, but are often used as a back-door means to gain permanent entry.

British officials estimate that between three and seven percent of the 450 000 to 750 000 people living in South Africa who qualify for a British passport are planning to leave too.

Australia remains a favoured new home for South Africans. Between 1994 and 1995, 2 792 South Africans left for Australia. In 1996 this rose to 3 190, and by the end

of June last year a further 3 211 had left. "There has been an increase but it does not qualify as a dramatic increase," said a senior official at the Australian High Commission. The South African component of Australia's immigration grants from around the world ranged from between 3.2 to 3.7 percent of the total.

"It gives us no particular joy to take migrants from a country in the infancy of democracy we studiously avoid promoting migration," the official said.

The US Embassy in Pretoria says 3 971 South Africans emigrated to the US between 1994 and 1997. The number has been slowly declining, from 1 403 in 1994 to 1 205 in 1997. Up to August this year, a further 665 South Africans had been given

permission to relocate.

Permanent departures from Canada are increasing.

In 1996 there were 1 500 South African immigrants while in 1997 there were 1 800, a spokesman for the Canadian High Commission said. They were mainly professionals, with a high proportion from information technology-related fields.

The New Zealand High Commission was unable to provide figures for South African leavers for New Zealand. However, the Central Statistical Services say 1 278 South Africans left for New Zealand in 1997, compared with 1 266 in 1996 and 939 in 1995.

Its most recent figures show 9 708 South African emigrants in 1996, up on the previous year figure of 8 725.

'At least we'll be under the same southern skies'

CHAI G JACOBS

ON THURSDAY night the Schultz family became one of a growing number of South African families who have decided to travel over 11 000km to start a new life in Australia.

Louise Schultz from Cape Town didn't seem upset to be leaving the familiarity of her home to start afresh in a country famed for its wide open



HEADING DOWN UNDER Louise Schultz and her children, Dean and Candice, get ready to embark on a new life in Australia

Picture: LORI WASELCHUK

Doctors, sick of SA's ills, pack up and go

LAURICE TATZ (236)

ST (M) 719 9198

LOOKING for a South African doctor? Try London, Los Angeles, Adelaide, Sydney or Toronto.

According to Central Statistical Services, 497 doctors, specialists and dentists emigrated from South Africa between 1994 and the end of last year. And this number only accounts for those who emigrated officially. Figures for this year are not yet available.

Professor Dave Morrell, chairman of the committee for full-time practice at the South African Medical Association, says: "The loss of even one South African doctor to another country is of serious concern. [They] are highly regarded abroad and are usually offered excellent opportunities."

Professor Max Price, dean of the university's medical school, says that before 1975, only 16 percent of Wits graduates emigrated. But the numbers increased greatly after the student-led upheavals of 1976, jumping to 57 percent in the '70s, before easing back to 45 percent in the '80s and 35 percent in the '90s. Most of the doctors emigrated to the US or Commonwealth countries.

An article published earlier this year entitled "Wits medical graduates: Where are they now?", co-authored by Price, Professor Graham Mitchell and Dr Renay Weiner, notes there was a thin when young white men left South Africa to avoid military service, and that graduates who left in the '70s and '80s are in least likely to return.

Other reasons for emigration, the article notes, are that in order for doctor to keep up to date with their work they often have to have lengthy exposure to research and clinical development elsewhere. The availability of research and clinical resources overseas has also been an incentive for emigration.

Morrell says: "The opportunity to pursue better career opportunities elsewhere, uncertainties regarding transformation processes and a general spirit of feeling unwanted and unappreciated appear to be major consistent reasons among doctors for reconsidering their professional futures."

Other reasons, he says, are increasing violence, the deteriorating conditions in training hospitals, the moratorium on new appointments in the public sector, and the withdrawal of incentives like limited private practice for public service doctors.

spaces and summer flies
What mattered most for her was that her children, Candice, 6, and Dean, 3, would have the freedom to grow up without the fear of crime and violence

Her husband, who works in the information technology industry, left for Australia in April after being offered a job

"My husband has found a home for us in St Ives, which I understand is a nice area," she said

St Ives is a suburb on Sydney's affluent North Shore where many Jewish South Africans settled in the mid-'80s. It will now become the Schultz family's neighbourhood

Shultz said she disliked being asked what her expectations were of life in Australia

"We think it'll be easier to adapt to another country in the southern hemisphere — at least we'll be under the same southern skies," she said

Unlike other South Africans who are thinking of emigrating, Schultz said she wasn't worried about missing biltong, Five Roses tea or Bar One chocolates

"I don't even like Mrs Ball's chutney," she said, when told that Australian supermarkets now stock the local relish

Ahead of Schultz and her children at the Qantas check-in point, Howard and Lorraine Phillips and their children, Michelle, 10, and Timothy, 8, are heading for New Zealand for a "look and see"

Lorraine said the family wanted to "spy out the land for a month"

With the tightening of Australia's immigration policy, many South Africans are emigrating to New Zealand with the intention of relocating to Australia through a loophole which allows New Zealanders to live and work in Australia without residence permits

Howard, a consultant, said "I want my children to be able to play in the street. We just can't relax here. We'll be able to do that in Auckland"

Fortune seekers go East

Professionals find the greenbacks are greener in Taiwan

BOBBY JORDAN

(236)
MOST go in search of economic salvation. Professionals from Cape Town or Johannesburg, they trade in their blue-sky heritage for bigger salaries in the Far East

Many believe it's too risky to settle in South Africa, plagued as it is by the volatile rand, soaring interest rates and the spectre of recession

By contrast, they say, Taiwan offers a relative employment bonanza and its economy remains buoyant despite global jitters. Add to that the absence of violent crime and an embryonic democratic government eagerly brown-nosing the international business community and it's easy to see why South Africans are settling there in droves

Anthony Lawrance, editor of Taiwan's biggest English daily newspaper, the China News, moved to Hong Kong shortly before South Africa's historic 1994 elections and was later lured to Taiwan by a lucrative job. He earns five times more than he would at home

Business in the East is the "big story" of the moment, he says. "It's a fascinating time to be here"

Despite the recent tumbling of Asian markets, job-hopping is still a national pastime, with abundant economic opportunities, he says

Taiwan's success is based largely



GOOD NEWS: China News editor Anthony Lawrance says he earns five times more in Taiwan than he would in South Africa. Picture: BOBBY JORDAN

on the diversity of small and medium enterprises, which make up nearly 90 percent of total business activity. "Here people get on with their own jobs. In South Africa there's a culture of dependency"

Some jobs are considered much easier to find in Taiwan

Vacant teaching posts take up metres every day in Taiwanese newspapers, testimony to its continuing modernisation surge

Maritzburg-born Anna-tia Bambus, who struggled to find a teaching post in Cape Town two years ago and now finds herself at an American school on Taiwan's east coast, says "I had nothing to lose when I came out here"

"They offered me four times as

much as I had been earning, plus free accommodation and food

"I knew nothing about Taiwan — I bought the *Lonely Planet* guidebook to find out about it

"My first impression was just chaos — everything was higgledy-piggledy, a mass of taxis roaring around, lots and lots of buildings. But before long I really got to love it. I enjoy the difference. People are polite. If I go out at night I feel totally safe," Bambus says

Her biggest adjustments were to the heat, the insects and the language barrier

"The exchange rate is working very well for me. I can save up for a house in South Africa. I'd never be able to do that back home"

Studies shatter myth of parasitic immigrants

CHRIS BARRON

(236)
ST 13/9/98
CONTRARY to popular myth, most immigrant traders don't see South Africa as the land of milk and honey, aren't interested in staying permanently, and have no desire to bring their children here — let alone get them into local schools

A number of studies conducted for the Southern African Migration Project have found the immigrants aren't desperate no-hopers here to suck our economy dry, but have

stable families and often businesses back home. Most are small entrepreneurs, and many from neighbouring countries are here to trade and move on, not to squat

They employ South Africans — 227 job opportunities had been created by the 70 traders interviewed in one study — but often somewhat reluctantly, seeing them as lazy and more trouble than they're worth

"They don't want to work hard and they expect to get paid a lot," says a restaurateur from Lesotho in a survey done by Professor Christian Rogerson of Wits University

A study by Sally Peberdy and Jonathan Crush found most immigrants don't want to educate their children here as they don't want them to become "tsotsis". Others say they're afraid their children will "get bad habits in school" or that "it's too dangerous"

Far from immigrants causing most of the crime in South Africa, most gave crime as the reason they didn't want to stay here longer than necessary. In Ghana, says a trader in indigenous crafts, "you can leave doors open at night — you don't need a panic button"

'There's no place like my lovely South Africa'

JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

GIGI Rom and her family returned to South Africa in 1994 after having spent 15 years in England — and she has never once regretted it

"I would never want to live anywhere else in the world,"

Rom, 39, from Athol, north of Johannesburg, said this week

She sold a magnificent country house in Cheshire earlier this year and severed all ties with the life her family had overseas

"It is not like I am completely blind to the things going on in our country. We have a bit of a Mickey Mouse economy and it is dangerous," she said

Rom said she would also not allow her daughter, who is 15 years old, the amount of freedom she may have given her before leaving South Africa years ago, but she would not have done that in the UK either

"Criminal elements are all over. Dirty old men, killer hijackers — they are all an equally big threat to the safety and well-

being of my family

"At least things are getting better. Even Telkom comes out to fix my phone these days. It has been a while since we have seen that kind of efficiency in South Africa," she said

Rom said South Africa was her home. "I open the windows in the morning and see a blue sky and a patch of sun," she said

PETER is a Zimbabwean who came to South Africa in the mid-'80s and became an activist. He was harassed and detained with the best of them, won high office in a local civic organisation and fondly believed he was a fully paid-up member of the new democracy. He was wrong.

A few days ago he went to a restaurant in Johannesburg with Zimbabwean friends. The black owner came over and warned them to keep their voices down. Their foreign accents might cause trouble with his black clientele.

A Nigerian woman with impressive qualifications from the London School of Economics is denied one job after another because she is a black foreigner.

A top West African academic has made one black South African friend after 15 years in this country. His attempts at friendship have been spurned by local blacks, who make no bones about the fact that he is not wanted — not because he is a foreigner, but because he is a black foreigner. "It trickles into every conversation," he says.

Xenophobia doesn't have to be as brutal as last week's incident where two Senegalese and a Mozambican were killed by local immigrant-bashers, and at upper levels it seldom is.

But speak to members of the black elite who have settled here from other countries in Africa, and the story repeated over and over is one of exclusion, hostility, ostracism and denigration.

The way they tell it, post-apartheid South Africans are seen as the biggest racists on the continent. The only thing different is that now it is not white on black, but black on black.

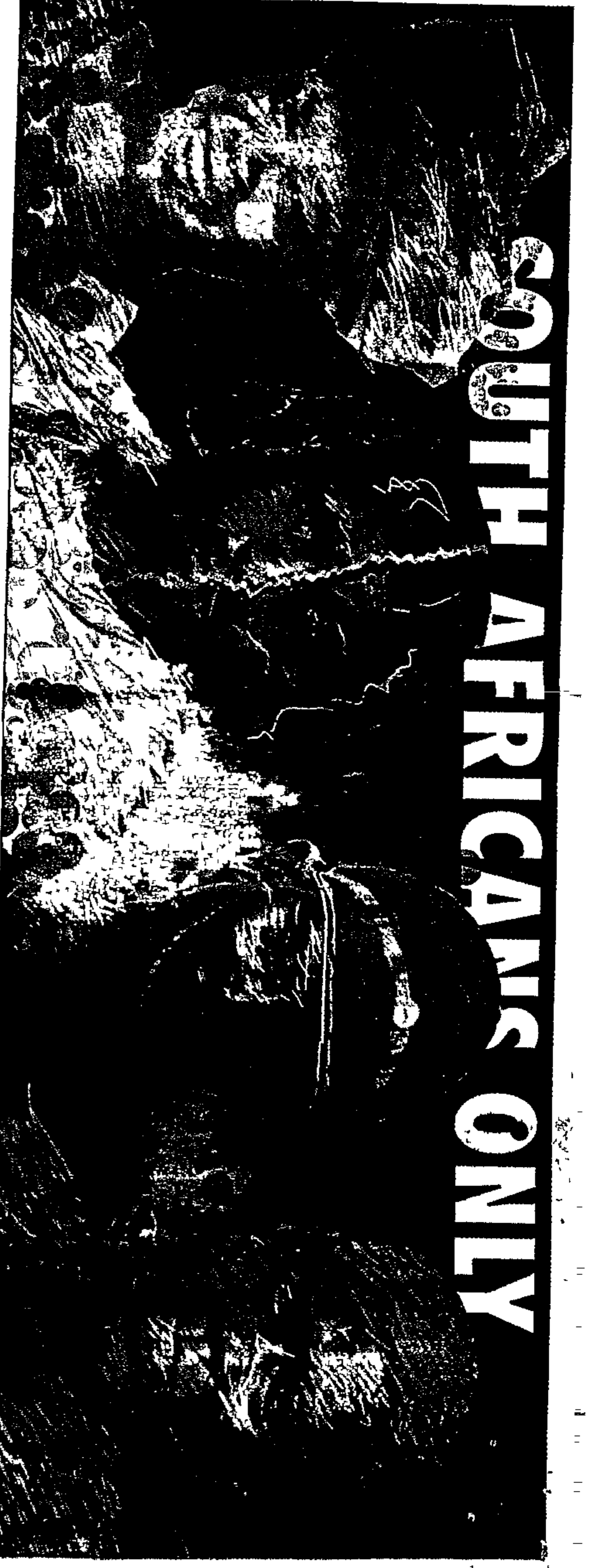
The arrival of democracy may have given us a Constitution that sanctifies the notion of human rights, but any expectation that this would be extended to those from across our borders, or that the struggle had created a pan-Africanist consciousness has been brutally contradicted.

The black South African elite wear the flowing robes of West Africa, supposedly to symbolise transcontinental unity and emphasise African brotherhood. They talk about African remembrance in tones which suggest that South Africa is in the vanguard.

But this is a sham, say Africans trying to make homes here. The truth is that we like to be part of Africa as long as Africa does not try to become part of us.

Professor Ade Ogurninade of Nigeria is the deputy vice-chancellor of Wits University. Nobody has tried to throw him from a moving train, but his experience of the anti-foreigner virus has been no less real for that.

After a year in this country his attempts to get a residence permit have left him with nothing but an unpleasant taste in the



SOUTH AFRICANS ONLY

Meet SA's strange new 'racists'

Foreigners are fine — as long as they're not black, CHRIS BARRON discovers

Graphic: SHAWN IRWIN

mouth. His wife, who has an economics degree and a master's degree in industrial relations and personnel management from the London School of Economics and 20 years' experience, including a multinational corporation, has not managed to find a job.

"One would have thought this kind of person would have been snapped up," says Ogurninade. Instead she has been cold-shouted and he believes he knows why.

"Some employers have been blunt. Initial interest evaporates when her accent is heard. Then it's 'Oh, we thought you were South African,' before she is shown the door."

At first Ogurninade tries to state his concerns diplomatically. "Xenophobia? Yes, in a general sense you feel it. People sometimes say things I try to rationalise and live with it." But beneath this veneer of politeness there are glimpses of anger.

"There is no doubt xenophobia is more pronounced here

than in other countries. I have lived in people are rude to me because I am black, not only because I am a foreigner. For an African to experience this in an African country is peculiar.

People here talk of African renaissance but there is no way one can rationalise what happens here in terms of African renaissance. In West Africa we have a tradition of warmth to foreigners. I find it disconcerting that the same warmth is not experienced here.

Another top university academic from West Africa — like many others he will speak only on condition of anonymity — says that after 15 years in the country he has only one black South African friend. "As blacks we have suffered double discrimination. First from the whites, now from our own brothers. Those we worked with during apartheid are now trying to marginalise us. It is so bad we keep to ourselves."

in law from Unisa, and has practised since 1970. She has a post-graduate diploma in industrial relations and in 1990 became the first black female manager at the head office of a leading bank.

Since then she has had only one further promotion while younger African blacks pass her all the time. "I, a person blocking her are not whites, they're the new black elite. She has now left the bank in disgust."

What hurts is not the discrimination and the slights *per se*, but the fact that they come from fellow blacks.

"This attitude is coming from our brother black South Africans," observes her husband. "A white guy will respect you for what you are, if you can deliver. A black guy will not countenance you. He does not welcome your involvement. We are excluded socially. We don't interact at all. We are not encouraged to interact. You are made to know you are not one of them."

That this anti-African xenophobia happens in a country that sounds off about the African renaissance is raised unflinchingly.

"The African renaissance is a sham here," says another West African. "South Africa with its economic power is in a position to lead it, but intellectually, in terms of belief and attitude, there is no such thing. South Africa's attitude to Africa is shortsighted and hegemonic. It is not qualified to lead Africa."

Adding insult to injury is the perceived ingratitude of a country whose exiles found succour and scholarships in the very African states whose citizens are now treated as lepers.

Studies have suggested that those from further north are more likely to be targeted than people from neighbouring states. This may be so, but says Peter, "we have our Zimbabwean origins thrown at us all the time. People have used us to get to the top, now they're discarding us. We were good enough when

fighting alongside them. Nobody said to us, only South Africans can be involved. But when the struggle was won membership was not for foreigners."

As in Europe, xenophobia here finds fertile ground in mass unemployment. The accusations are that "they" take our jobs, "they" use our facilities, "they" don't pay taxes, in short, "they" are part of the reason liberation has not led to prosperity.

Studies have shown the charges to be baseless. At the bottom end of the scale most foreigners are here for short spells. The money they make is spent on goods which are taken home to sell. Most of them are here legally, they pay rent, they pay indirect taxes in the form of VAT.

Many of them provide employment for South Africans.

They do not bring their children because they don't want them to turn into "tsotsis".

At the upper end of the scale are those like an economist from central Africa, who started a con-

suming company that provides jobs for 14 South African blacks at salaries ranging from R11 000 a month upwards.

He knows all about xenophobia. While in Germany he was refused service in a restaurant because he was black. Recently, in Johannesburg, he was refused service in a Chinese restaurant for the same reason. He believes the offending Chinese owner dared treat him like that because of his foreign accent, although after seven years in South Africa he is a citizen.

He thinks it is monstrous that he should be targeted by "brother Africans" while whites from Britain, "who probably have less right to be here than I do", are not. At his level the hostility is fuelled by jealousy, he believes, rather than competition for jobs.

"Black South Africans don't want to see other blacks doing better than them. But South Africa cannot be competitive if its people are jealous of other people's success."

What of those who should lead us out of this morass? To give them credit, Cosatu bosses have tried to steer through enlightened policies on immigrants, but they've been shouted down by shop stewards. Their response has been to fudge the issue rather than tackle it.

A motor manufacturer was pressurised by union members to get rid of a newly hired Zambian, yet they made no fuss about an Australian and a Scot hired at the same time.

Politicians have unwittingly exacerbated popular xenophobic tendencies by talking up nationhood and emphasising national identity.

They've had to do this in the interests of integration and minimising racial and class conflict, but the flip side has been to create a fatal divide between "us" and "them", those who belong and those who don't.

Those who do, says Peter bluntly, "are very skilled in castrating others' images."

Chicken-ruin scorn ignites fury

Nov 14/9/98

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Real South Africans
are being sorted
out - Mandela

By EDOUR JAVIVA

President Nelson Mandela's criticism of those leaving South Africa because of crime attracted sharp responses from several political parties yesterday.

Mandela said at the opening ceremony of the Southern African Development Community summit in Mauritius that wealthy South Africans tended to have two things in common - their skin colour and a growing conviction that violent crime does not happen only to other people.

He poured scorn on the crisis of conscience troubling young, mainly white South Africans who fear their future lies beyond the country of their birth. "We are convinced that the real South Africans are being sorted out in this process," Mandela told reporters during a state visit to Mauritius.

"They are saying: I am not going to run away from my country. I am going to stay and serve my country."

Mandela also pinpointed the "uncomfortable truth that fear over crime is mainly a white preoccupation - fomented by a white-owned press - while the black and coloured communities had always felt (they were) victims of violence."

"What is happening now with liberation is that criminals have also been liberated to move into white areas," Mandela said.

But DP spokesperson Douglas Gibson said: "The Government should make South Africa a safe place for its citizens rather than a scorn those emigrating because of crime."

He added that the Government "should reassure all South Africans that it is coming to grips with crime and



End of term .. President Nelson Mandela, outgoing SADC president, listens to a question at a press conference with Mauritian Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam, who takes over the post.

need not fear becoming statistics themselves.

"The fact that many people are concerned about crime should be a matter for concern rather than for scorn."

United Democratic Movement deputy national secretary Annelize van Wyk criticised Mandela for his "simplistic comments" which are racially based.

"It is not only whites who are concerned about crime. Research has shown there is a common agenda among South Africans - crime and job creation - and they don't feel comfortable with crime."

But ANC spokesperson Thabo Masebe said his organisation endorsed Mandela's statement and called on all South Africans to join the fight against crime. "The Govern-

ment is committed to eradicating crime, and the ANC urges all South Africans to join the fight against crime. Nobody benefits from crime."

PAC president Stanley Mogoba was critical of people leaving the country because they thought conditions in Africa were horrible. He said they had lived under worse conditions during apartheid, but had not emigrated.

"We need to work together to end crime. The Government is not doing enough and neither are citizens. Crime must be tackled by all - South Africans."

Jilli Kilian, National Party spokesperson, said: "It is extremely irresponsible and ludicrous for the president to measure patriotism in terms of the willingness of people to

be subjected to criminality." She said the continued exodus of skilled and highly educated professionals was resulting in enormous losses for the economy.

South African Communist Party deputy general secretary Jeremy Cronin said: "People emigrating are usually professionals and whites who benefited under apartheid."

He also asked all South Africans to develop the country and join the fight against crime.

Cosatu deputy general secretary Zwelinzima 'Vavi' said of those leaving the country: "Their actions are motivated by an attitude of discomfort. They must leave now rather than engulf the country with their attitude."

Mandela blast 'won't halt exodus from SA'

Emigration rising, experts say

ART 15/9/98

CHANTEL ERFORT
STAFF REPORTER

President Mandela's blistering attack on South Africans leaving the country is unlikely to halt the flow of emigrants.

This is the view of an emigration consultant, who said he did not expect the president's remarks to affect his business adversely.

According to the Central Statistical Service, last year 10 079 people left the country, most of them with skills and at least three years of tertiary education.

The figure includes official emigrants and those going to live overseas but not necessarily for good.

Actual emigration numbers are difficult to estimate, because many people leaving the country travel on British or European passports.

At least 20% of South Africans travel on British passports and an estimated 10% on other foreign passports.

Emigration figures for this year

are not yet available, but moving companies and emigration agents confirm that numbers are on the rise.

Adrian Schultz of Econo Freight shipping company reported that his company had arranged 320 shipments overseas from South Africa since January. "These shipments were made up of full containers for people taking all their household goods, including vehicles," he said.

"Of these shipments, 25% went to Britain, 20% to New Zealand, 15% to Australia and the rest to Canada, the United States and Europe."

Ian Macleod, an emigration consultant for New Zealand, estimated that last year about 4 200 South Africans emigrated to New Zealand and more were going this year.

Figures show that since the beginning of the year, for every four families emigrating, only one family is immigrating to South Africa.

Another destination increasingly popular with South African emigrants is Canada.

Although crime is one of the key

factors which prompt people to leave, emigrants and emigration agents said other reasons included:

- A perceived decline in educational standards

- Soaring interest rates and declining standards of living

- A perceived lack of opportunity for white graduates

- Concern that economic growth is not matching population growth

Mat Garvey of Four Corners Emigration told Cape Argus that in the 18 months his consultancy had been in operation, it had dealt with more than 50 families including people with a wide range of qualifications.

Referring to the president's speech in Mauritius at the weekend, he said: "Of the families I've dealt with, most of them are white South Africans, but I have also dealt with a number of coloured families from Cape Town who are wanting to leave the country."

He said he did not expect the summit speech to affect his business adversely.

ANC hits at opposition in 'runaways' row

Johannesburg - The African National Congress has accused opposition parties of misrepresenting President Mandela's comments on crime during the summit in Mauritius.

"The Democratic Party and the National Party chose to misrepresent the president's remarks to serve their narrow political interests," said the ANC in a statement.

Reports from the summit quoted Mr Mandela as saying fear about crime was a mainly white pre-occupation. He also apparently criticised

young, mainly white South Africans who thought their future lay outside their country of birth.

The ANC statement said Mr Mandela, in fact, was calling on patriotic South Africans to join the Government in its campaign to eradicate crime and contribute to reconstruction, instead of running away.

"Not only has the ANC-led Government declared crime the No 1 enemy of the people, but it is already turning the tide against criminals through the National Crime Prevention Strategy."

Tabling a motion in the National Assembly yesterday in response to Mr Mandela's comments, Democratic Party leader Tony Leon said a recent Institute for Democracy in South Africa (Idasa) poll had shown that public concern about crime was second only to concern about job creation. It was also the fastest-growing concern among all South Africans, irrespective of race or income.

He urged Mr Mandela to retract his statement and "to commit his government to acknowledging and solving the problem of crime" - Sapa



Levy emigration tax, says Mogoba

(226)
Cape Town - Pan Africanist Congress president Stanley Mogoba yesterday suggested that South African emigrants should be forced to pay a development tax before "fleeing" the country.

He was speaking in the National Assembly during debate on the Further Education and Training Bill, and in the wake of a recent survey that 74% of highly qualified South Africans of all races were considering leaving the country because of crime and violence.

"Perhaps those who are fleeing the country with their training and expertise should be made to pay a development tax of 10 to 20% before (leaving) this ship which has brought them so far, and which they think is infested with criminals," Mogoba said. "If we all left this wonderful country to criminals, they would have no difficulty in following us to our destination," he said. - Sapa

86/6/19/198
Sapa

GONE

Now SA exports teachers to Kuwait

CHANTEL ERFORT

STAFF REPORTER

ARG 16/9/98 (276)

South Africa is exporting trained and experienced teachers to Kuwait.

Last night, the first "consignment" - 15 teachers aged between 22 and 63 - left Cape Town for new jobs in the desert cities of Rumaihyea and Kuwait City.

They will earn double what they earned here - between R7 000 and R10 000 a month - pay no tax, live in subsidised accommodation and get petrol for next to nothing.

South Africa is also desperately in need of teachers, but mainly in remote rural areas where there is little or no accommodation and where salaries are far lower than the enticing numbers being offered in the oil-rich Gulf state.

The South Africans will teach in private schools from 7.30am until 2 10pm and do two hours' extra-mural teaching each week in subjects of their choice.

Former teacher Robert Howard, whose company Eduplace found the teachers their new jobs, said he was confident more South Africans would be snapped up once their reputation for hard work and good humour was established.

"There are no jobs for teachers here. One of those who left last night was a temporary teacher for 15 years before she was axed last December. She has been walking the streets looking for work ever since."

He said it was the first time South African teachers had been "exported" to Kuwait and many more were expected to follow.

"Another two will fly from Cape Town this Sunday and two more from Johannesburg next week."

The teachers will live in furnished flats and for the first month they will be ferried around by their new colleagues until they get their bearings. The 15 were all unemployed or received severance packages.

losing human resources which can contribute to development
PHOTOGRAPH
ZOE SELSKY



Losing the middle class

(236) MTG 18-24/9/98

Ferial Haffajee

Emigration lawyer Hilhard Kassel is laughing all the way to the bank. He jokes that the only reason he stays in South Africa is because his skill in helping people to leave is in such demand.

Based in Johannesburg's northern suburbs, the bespectacled lawyer is at the cutting edge of the migratory wave — his client list is expanding and of late it is being fuelled by fear.

Many people come to him after being hijacked or robbed — many are professionals or graduates or own businesses. Many are not white.

"The decreasing rand has given a new impetus," he says, adding that often his clients fear that the cost of emigrating will in three years time be beyond their pockets.

Lawyers fees, landing rights and the containers which carry your possessions over the seas must be paid for in hard currencies.

The brain drain. The chicken run. Call it what you like, the migration of skills from South Africa is growing — and with it, the country's tax base is being eroded at a time when we can scarcely afford it.

Business is feeling the pinch. The crunch is felt in information technology and finance. "To hire a young chartered accountant is difficult because they're all in London," says one executive.

The skills lost are not easily replaced and what is happening instead, the executive adds, is that "everybody's chasing a smaller and smaller pool of highly qualified young South Africans who are getting more and more expensive."

Skills can't be imported either, because South African companies can't afford the dollar-based salaries which IT specialists, investment managers and chartered accountants can command in this global economy.

Skilled South Africans are joining a conti-

mental drift. Many African countries have for decades been denuded of their skills base in the same way. There are more doctors from Sierra Leone practising in Chicago than in the entire West African state.

In South Africa, legend has it that there are more Zimbabwean and Nigerian engineers working at Telkom than the full complement employed in their countries.

And soon, there could be more South African doctors living in California than in Cape Town — local studies have shown that almost 500 doctors have left in the past three years.

"Most African countries have failed to institutionalise and therefore destroyed their skills base," says Kole Omotoso, a Nigerian academic and author living in South Africa. "A doctor friend of mine left Nigeria because he couldn't get oxygen for his patient."

A nuclear physicist left because although he could import all the equipment he needed, it was rendered useless with the regular electricity and water cuts Nigerians live with.

When the state fails in this way, it is those with skills — a middle class if you like — who pack up and leave.

What's left behind is the elite and a massive underclass with no prospect of employment. The poor cannot depend on the state. They return to stokvels (in the absence of banking systems), sangomas (where there's no health care) and subsistence farming (because the only way to eat is to grow your own food). The *wabenzis* in turn fly in the best food, jet out for foreign health care and buy private security.

It is a scary picture. But one which is not nearly on South Africa's horizons, believes Omotoso. He says the government should bid those who want to go "*Wasalaam*" — go in peace (although this week the message has been more good riddance from President Nelson Mandela).

This country has an infrastructure, a banking system and a thriving private sector which can be developed and expanded. "Most African countries don't offer those alternatives. You can only work in the public sector," Omotoso says.

To avoid the trap of the two-class state, many contemporary economists believe that a middle class must be carefully nurtured. Although anathema to many on the left, this middle class of teachers, clerks and foremen at the lower levels, and professionals like doctors, accountants and lawyers at the upper rungs, is what keeps a country going.

Says Omotoso "It's the middle class that contributes to the state and demands that the state works. The salvation of South Africa will be the middle class."

Vincent Williams of the South African Migration Project in Cape Town is putting the finishing touches on a survey which will assess the extent of the damage of the brain drain in Southern Africa. "It's not just about capital flight. Countries are losing human resources which can contribute to development."

In the long term, the loss of skills must be countered by training. In the short term, South Africa must buy those skills by offering tax incentives to foreign workers or by attracting businesses in similar ways, says Williams.

But with the levels of xenophobia growing across all spheres of society, tax breaks for foreign workers are not going to be an easy achievement. Director of the Government Communication and Information Service Joel Netshitenzhe believes the exodus is likely to reach its ceiling and adds that many government departments are looking at new ways of retaining skills.

He adds that "in a free world of high mobility, you cannot stop people seeking lucrative offers elsewhere."

NEW

Brain drain accelerates as over 10 000 exit last year

ET (PR) 18/9/98 (231)

AUDREY D'ANGELO

Cape Town — The brain drain increased last year, with a widening gap between the number of qualified emigrants and immigrants with similar qualifications, according to figures issued by the Central Statistical Service (CSS) yesterday

The figures show that more than 10 000 South Africans emigrated last year, compared with 4 532 immigrants

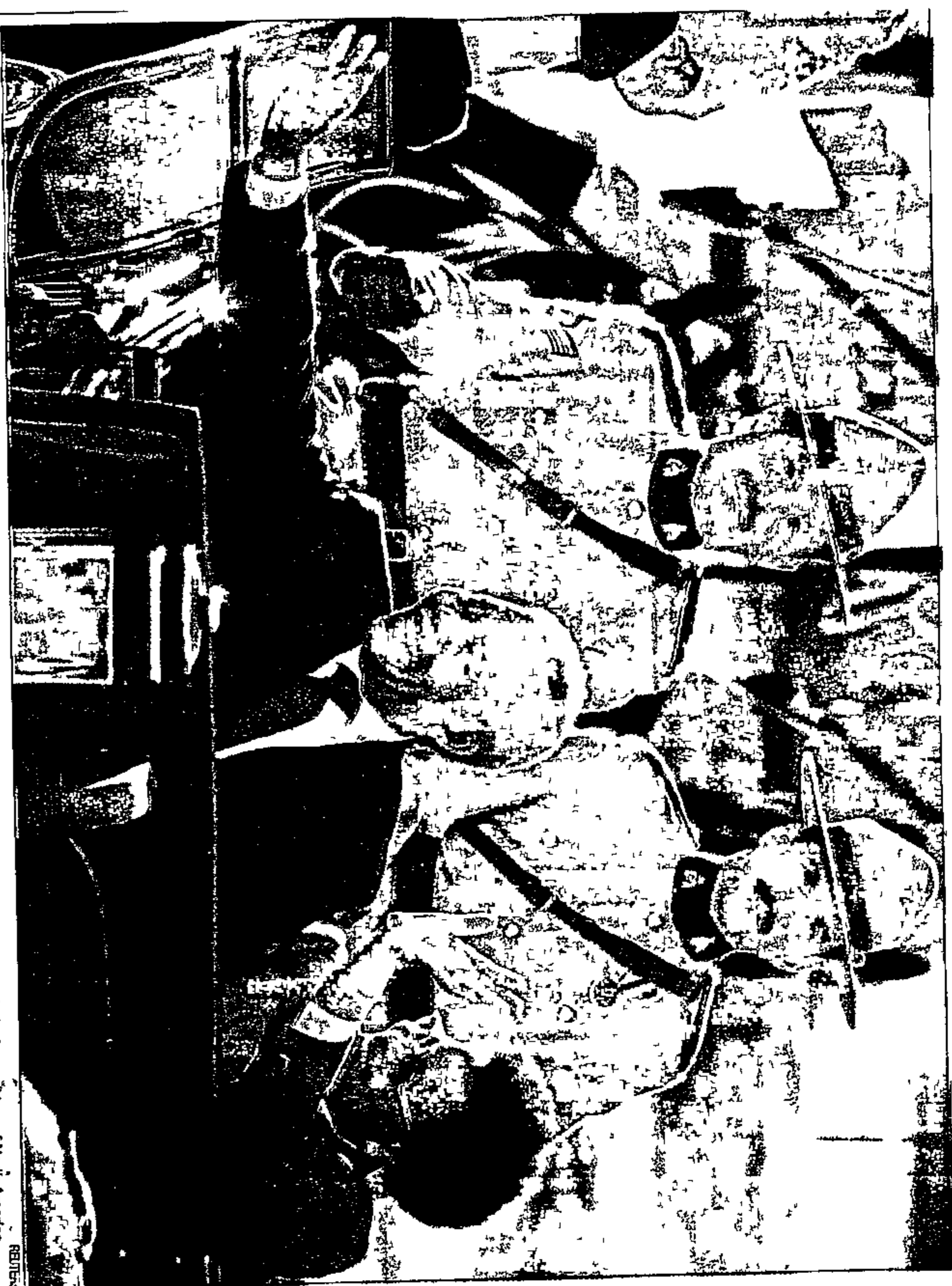
It said the official net loss, through emigration that was not matched by the number of immigrants, had widened by 51,5 per cent between 1995 and 1997. Of the emigrants, 5 574 were

economically active. Of these 2 177 were professionals, semi-professionals or technicians. Of the immigrants, 1 766 were economically active and only 607 were professionals, semi-professionals or technicians

The number of foreign visitors to South Africa rose by 9,7 percent in December, the figures show. Of

these 86,9 percent were on holiday and 6,4 percent on business. The greatest number came from the UK (25,1 percent), followed by Germany (14,5 percent), the US (9,5 percent) and the Netherlands (5,4 percent)

The total trading revenue of hotels rose by R18,2 million, or 4,8 percent, to R393,7 million



Wave them goodbye President Mandela and Grace Machel arrive at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. Mr. Mandela is on a state visit to Canada as part of a farewell tour of North America.

Madiba to get Canada's highest award

RICH MANKINDO
FOREIGN SERVICE

Ottawa - President Mandela today starts a two-day state visit to Canada to strengthen South African-Canadian relations before he retires.

It's a 'thank you' tour. It's 'let's bring business closer together,' said Canadian foreign affairs spokesman Sean Rowan. "And it's a formal good bye."

While in Canada, President Mandela will be awarded the Order of Canada - the first time that a foreigner has been named for the nation's highest award.

On his arrival here today President Mandela was accorded all the trappings for a head of state, including a red carpet welcome and guard of honour flanked by Governor General Romeo LeBlanc.

President Mandela is being accompanied by Finance Minister Trevor Manuel, Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma and Deputy Safety and Security Minister Joe Mathews.

"Canada is honoured by President Mandela's visit," the Canadian government said in a statement.

"He is a living symbol of the two historic movements that have defined the 20th century - equality and democracy."

"His time here will give Canada a chance to applaud his extraordinary and inspirational role in South Africa's peaceful transition from apartheid to democracy."

We also look forward to discussing new opportunities for expanding our bilateral relationship with the president, the statement added.

South African High Commissioner to Canada Billy Modise said Mr. Mandela would thank the nation for its help in bringing about democracy in South Africa.

Mr. Modise said the visit could see Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien leading a large "Team Canada"

trade mission to South Africa.

This would mean South Africa would be "bumped" by Canadian government and business leaders and the media.

While in Canada today and tomorrow, the Mr. Mandela will address the Canadian parliament, sign bilateral agreements with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi.

Tomorrow, Mr. Mandela is to attend an event at the Toronto Skydome to launch the Canadian Friends of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund.

Mandela fires new salvo on SA exodus

'It's good riddance'

RICH MANKINDO
FOREIGN SERVICE

Washington - President Mandela says he does not regret criticising those leaving South Africa because of crime and, as far as he is concerned, their departure is "good riddance."

Standing by the statement he made at the opening ceremony of the South African Development Community summit in Mauritius, a clearly agitated Mr. Mandela yesterday poured scorn on those who were emulating because of crime.

"I do not have to apologise let them go, because, in that process, real South Africans are being sorted out. The real South Africans are those who are saying, 'This is our country, we will die in our country, we will work with other South Africans black and white to ensure that we will solve our problems'."

Mr. Mandela spoke to journalists

after receiving the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor America can bestow on a civilian a few hours before travelling to Canada for a two-day state visit.

"The real South Africans remaining in South Africa work to unite the country, to spread spirit of reconciliation to deliver basic services to our people."

"This is being done by big small businesses, English Africans speaking, because regard South Africa as their country. Those who do not have the country patriotism to stay in their let them go."

"We will die in our country and will work in our country. Those stay are the real South African their first loyalty is to the country," said Mr. Mandela.

"Those who do not have color and patriotism, let them go added, thumping his fist on the table for emphasis.

Medal 'a fitting tribute'

FOREIGN SERVICE

Washington - Accepting the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honour the United States can bestow on a civilian, President Mandela said the award was a fitting tribute to US-South Africa relations and his country's achievements over the past 4 1/2 years.

"The award with which you honour me today is an expression of the common humanity that binds us, one person to another, nation to nation, and people of the north to

people of the south," he said flanked by US President Clinton and lawmakers at a ceremony at a rotunda at Capitol Hill, the site of US lawmakers.

"I receive it with pride, as a symbol of partnership for peace, liberty and equity as we enter new millennium," he added.

Mr. Mandela is in Canada where he will address the Canadian Parliament, launch the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and address an investment conference before returning tomorrow.

Good riddance, Mandela tells those who want

(236) BD 25/9/98

WASHINGTON — President Nelson Mandela on Wednesday renewed his attack on South Africans who leave their country because of rampant crime, condemning them as unpatriotic.

"Those who have not got the courage and the patriotism to remain in their country — let them go!" Mandela declared at the end of a visit to Washington. "It is good riddance!"

He said that, in the process, it would establish who was a "real South African."

Mandela first attacked the many South Africans who are choosing to leave in the face of a wave of violent crime in a speech to the Southern African Development Community on September 13 in Mauritius. He said fear of crime was mainly a white preoccupation fomented by a mainly white-owned press, whereas previously black and coloured areas had been the main victims of violent crimes.

He drew criticism from some quarters, including newspaper editorials and

opposition parties.

Mandela said on Wednesday, "Those who say that this is our country, we will die in our country. We will work with other South Africans black and white to ensure that our country solves these problems," these were the "real South Africans."

"The real South Africans are remaining in the country," Mandela said.

Mandela thanked Canadians on Wednesday for their support in the fight

against apartheid.

Without that support, he said on his arrival at Government House at the start of a two-day visit, South Africans would only have won freedom through bloodshed and bitterness, the Canadian Press reported. "It gives me a great deal of pleasure to come and thank the people of Canada directly for the enormous assistance they have given us."

Canada and SA signed three agreements yesterday to increase co-operation

in trade, sports and criminal matters. The agreements were signed in the presence of Mandela and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

The two countries plan two separate treaties on extradition and legal assistance. One would facilitate the extradition of fugitives from SA to Canada and vice versa; the other would allow each country's law enforcement agencies to collect evidence in the other country. — Reuter, Sapa.



President Nelson Mandela and his wife, Graca Machel, wave to the crowd during a welcoming ceremony in Ottawa, Canada yesterday. Mandela is on a three-day state visit to Canada.

Picture: AFP

to
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Brain drain not a crisis — yet

(236)

EMIGRATION SURVEY

By ANDREW GILL

A HIGH proportion of skilled South Africans have considered emigration but few are actually likely to pack their bags, a survey has found

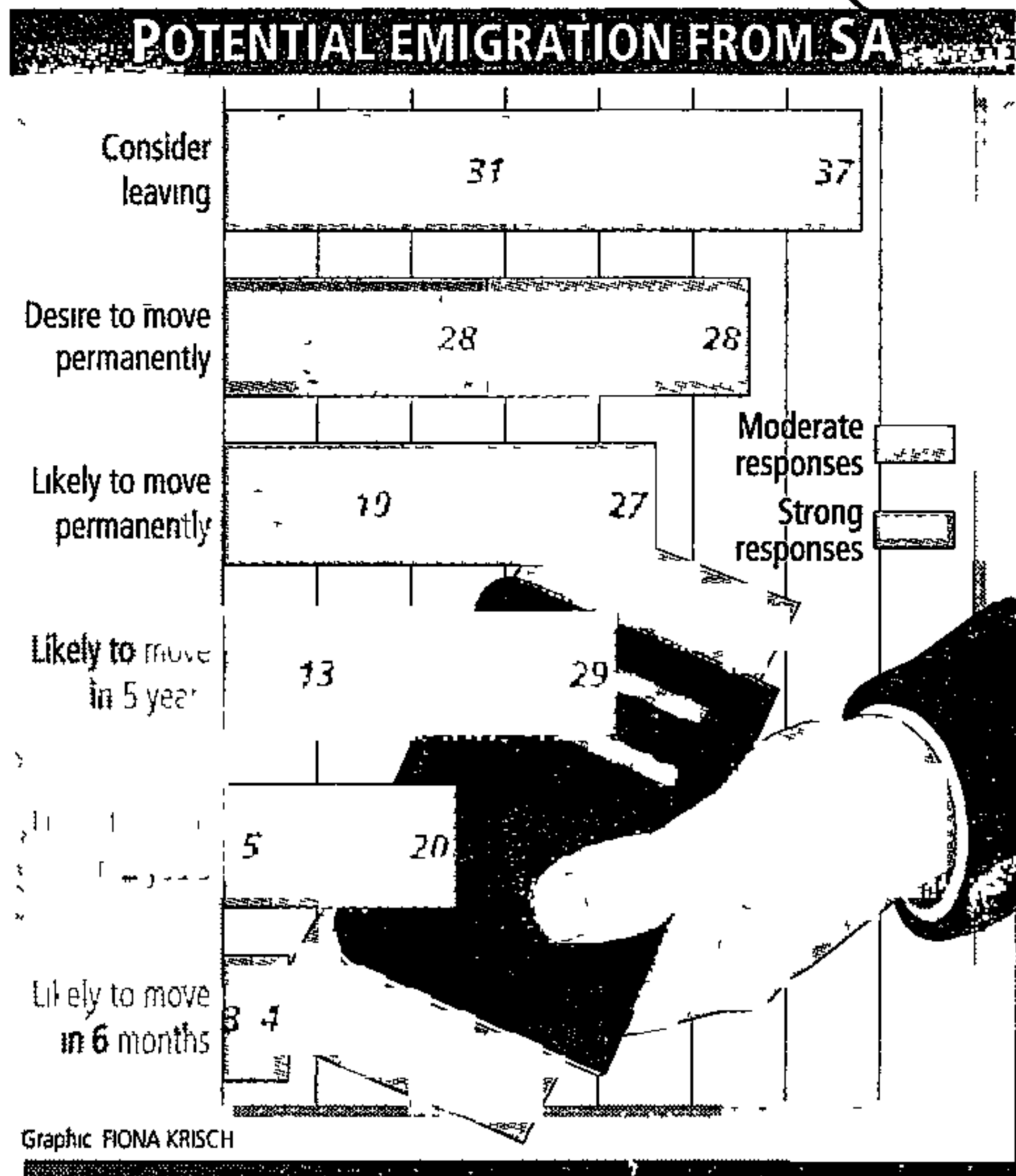
The survey, conducted by Idasa, found a large number (68%) of skilled people had given consideration to emigration, correlating with a recent Sunday Times survey which found that 74% of skilled South Africans had considered leaving

But Idasa's survey, commissioned by the Southern African Migration Project (SAMP), went further and found that a far smaller 38% said they had given it a "great deal of thought", and the probability of them acting on this is even lower

"The preliminary findings show that while skilled emigration presents a real challenge, it is highly doubtful that the country is in danger of losing a majority of its skilled sector," says Bob Mattes, manager of Idasa's Public Opinion Service

The results are based on a representative, random sample of 725 skilled South Africans interviewed by phone between June and August. They hold a matric and at least a diploma or degree, and are economically active, says Idasa project coordinator Wayne Richmond

The survey found 28% of respondents had a strong desire



ST (PT) 27/9/98

to leave, and 19% said they were very likely to emigrate. Yet those who expressed both a strong desire to leave and said it was very likely was only 16%.

The numbers dropped further when placed in a specified time period. The survey said 3% were "very likely" to leave in the next

six months, and 5% in the next two years. A higher 13% said it was "very likely" they would leave in the next five years.

This longer period also suggests it may be possible to address people's concerns in the short to medium term.

When the responses are as-

sembled to create a reliable index that measures a skilled person's probability of emigration, only 2% have a "very high" probability of leaving SA in the next two to five years, but 26% have a "high" emigration probability, while 28% rank as moderate.

The survey finds that potential emigration from SA does not just amount to "white flight". Skilled whites are not much more likely to leave than skilled blacks, and there is virtually no difference in the probability of emigration between white Afrikaner and white English-speaking skilled South Africans. Idasa says results show only a modest correlation between indicators of one's patriotism or national identity, and one's willingness to leave the country.

"It is certainly not the case that those who are most likely to leave are 'unpatriotic'. On the contrary, 68% of those with 'high emigration potential' still agree that they have a strong desire to help build South Africa," says Mattes.

"The picture is not of an unpatriotic, ungrateful group unprepared to serve their country." Rather, the picture is more of a group of people with the means to do so leaving under duress.

"While these preliminary findings challenge much of the current hype and vitriolic debate on skilled emigration, they should nonetheless be seen as a warning of possible trends."

Mass exodus unlikely

(296) CT 1/10/98

PRISCILLA SINGH

THE Institute for Democracy in South Africa (Idasa) has released preliminary findings of a survey on skilled emigrants from South Africa in an attempt to moderate the panic created by a recent newspaper report

Two weeks ago the *Sunday Times* published the results of its own emigration survey, saying "74% of skilled South Africans are ready to quit the country".

Idasa's survey, conducted between June and August, revealed that 2% of their sample have a "very high" probability of leaving South Africa in the next two to five years, 26% have a "high" emigration probability and 28% a "moderate" probability.

While these were not insignificant results, they were very differ-

ent from the 74% suggested by the newspaper, an Idasa official said

Commissioned by the Southern African Migration Project (Samp) and conducted by Idasa's Public Opinion Service, the survey shows that while "skilled emigration" presents a challenge, it is highly doubtful that the country will lose most of its skilled sector

Samp project manager Vincent Williams commented "The picture that emerges from these preliminary findings is not one of an unpatriotic, ungrateful group unprepared to serve their country. Rather, the picture is more one of a group of people with the means to do so leaving under duress"

He said migration was a global phenomenon. While there was "paranoia" that it was higher in SA than elsewhere, it was "not unusual for people to be on the move"

Melanie Peters examines the extent of the 'chicken-run' from the bc and what motivates those packing for greener pastures

Counting the cost of th

Emigration for whatever reason - the soaring crime, the battered economy or the drop in education standards - is real. But while the debate on the justification for leaving the country rages on, the Government is faced with staving off a lapse into economic devastation, as witnessed in many post independence African countries.

The "brain drain migration" has received a lot of attention. A recent survey indicated that a damning 74% of South Africa's skilled labour force were considering emigrating.

President Nelson Mandela has also fuelled the debate by lambasting the migrant flock, calling their actions "cowardly". He also told them "go and good riddance the real South Africans are remaining in South Africa". But those words were a far cry from the speeches made in the early days of his inauguration, when he pleaded with skilled workers to stay "because you can't transform the country without people who have skills and training".

The loss of already scarce skills through emigration is an increasingly serious concern in South Africa, and costs the economy R2,5-billion a year. That figure was calculated in a 500-page study by PE Corporate Services, which indicated that emigration had escalated alarmingly as a cause of executive turnover in South African companies during the past 18 months.

A survey conducted in the study indicated that "traditionally, emigration accounted for less than 5% of reasons for turnover, but this percentage has increased to 10% during the first half of the 1990s to more than 15% during the past 18 months".

"The calculated cost of replacing an executive or other skilled employees is between 30% and 35% of an employee's annual employment costs".

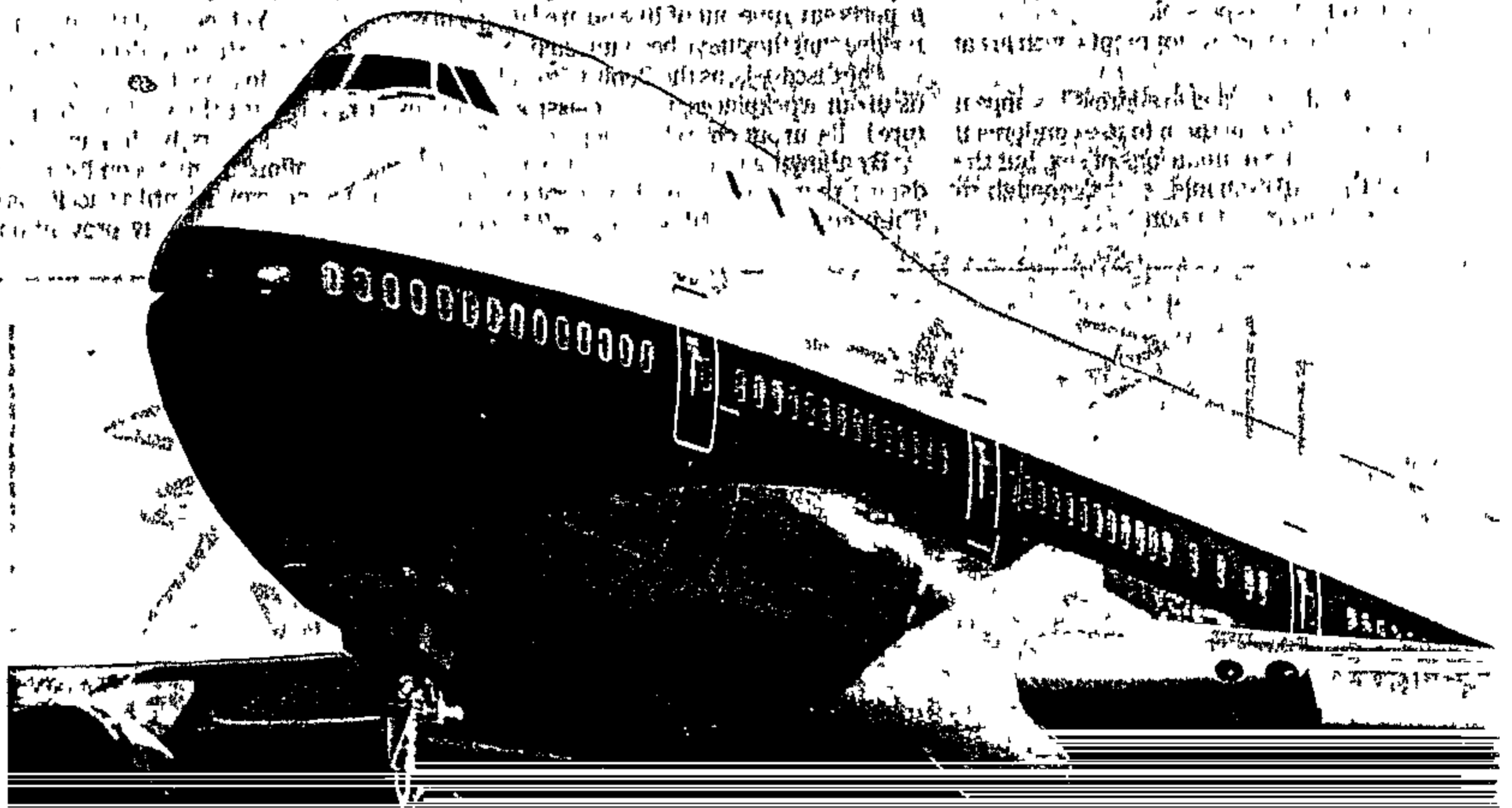
That cost takes into account the cost of replacing the employee, including separation and severance pay, the cost of recruitment, selection and replacement of an employee, and the cost of the new incumbent acquiring skills, knowledge and expertise required for the job.

Martin Westcott, the director of PE Corporate Services said "Associated with these costs is the loss of efficiency, including any errors made, during this period of change".

"Turnover of skilled staff in South Africa in terms on these reasons costs the economy about R2,5-billion annually".

The survey showed that the sectors worst affected by emigration were financial, accounting and information technology (27%), senior and middle management (22%), specialists (20%), and skilled artisans and operatives (14%).

Mr Westcott said the turnover of IT professionals was about 18% a year, or almost twice the national average of 10%. That trend was giving rise to crisis reactions among organisations unable to handle strategic information processing needs, he said.



'A free heart and a safe future for my ch

"I might have to make sacrifices, but at least I will be free at heart," says Fikile Nkwanyana, who is emigrating to England at the end of the month.

The 39-year-old mother of two, a senior tutor at Durban's Addington Nursing College, is willing to brave England's cold and gloomy weather for a better and more secure future for her children, Chanty, 14, and Khwazi, 5.

"Sometimes I lie awake at night worrying about our future. What would happen to my children if I was hijacked or shot during a mugging?" she asks, shaking her head.

While nothing has happened to her family yet, she does not want to tempt fate.

"There is no respect for human life," she says, referring to the murder of a nun, Sister

Theodelin Schreck of Holy Childhood Convent in Eshowe, KwaZulu Natal, two months ago.

"My daughter used to go to that school. If they don't have respect for religious people, who are you or I?"

"Crime is not the only reason for my decision. Standards in health and education are dropping and child abuse is rife. If someone criminal raped my child, the thought of maintaining him in prison is just too much, but he would probably be let out on the president's next birthday. I would not be able to live with myself."

"I am responsible for my children and need to protect them as much as I can," Ms Nkwanyana, who has been in the

nursing profession for 16 years, says she studied hard and invested many years and much money in her education.

"I would like to be more progressive. Civil servants are badly paid. I live from hand to mouth, and the way the rand is at the moment the situation can only get worse."

In response to President Nelson Mandela's scathing attack on emigrants, whom he described as "cowardly", Ms Nkwanyana says that if wanting the basic rights of security, safety and prosperity makes her a coward, "then I am one".

The most recent figures from the Central Statistical Services show that, from 1994 to 1997, 37 614 professional, semi-professional and technical people left South

Africa, while 20 972 immigrants entered the country during the same period. That means that there was a deficit of 16 642 skilled workers.

High on South African emigrants' "greener pastures" list during the four-year period were Europe (13 321), Australia and New Zealand (10 918), North and South America (6 625), Africa (4 546) and Asia (1 277).

According to Andrew Kerr of the Network for Emigration, the most popular destinations this year are Australia, New Zealand and United States. Canada is also picking up.

"The police make up to 150 to 200 clearances a day. My company puts through 30 to 40 families a month," he said. Mr Kerr said a reason often cited by

"These trends are substantiated on staff shortages in South Africa, with organisations experiencing increasing skill shortages from 8% to 51% over the past five years," he said.

Econometrix's Dr Azar Jammine said the emigration problem was distressing. He calculated that an average of 800 people left every month, and an average of 10 000 people left every year.

"If one believes that for every

skilled person, employment is created for 10 unskilled people, then we are looking at further serious destruction to our economy with a sharp rise in unemployment. There will be a loss of 100 000 jobs.

"Furthermore, this will lead to an increase in salaries for those with skills, further bloating the gap between rich and poor."

A survey conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) questioned the perception that

"whites were the only people wanting to emigrate in search of greener pastures".

The national survey looked at who wanted to leave and the reasons.

In the case of the African respondents among whom unemployment is high, the HSRC found that 49% of the 54% respondents who were economically inactive considered emigrating, illustrating the view that "to work in a foreign country is better than being without work in your

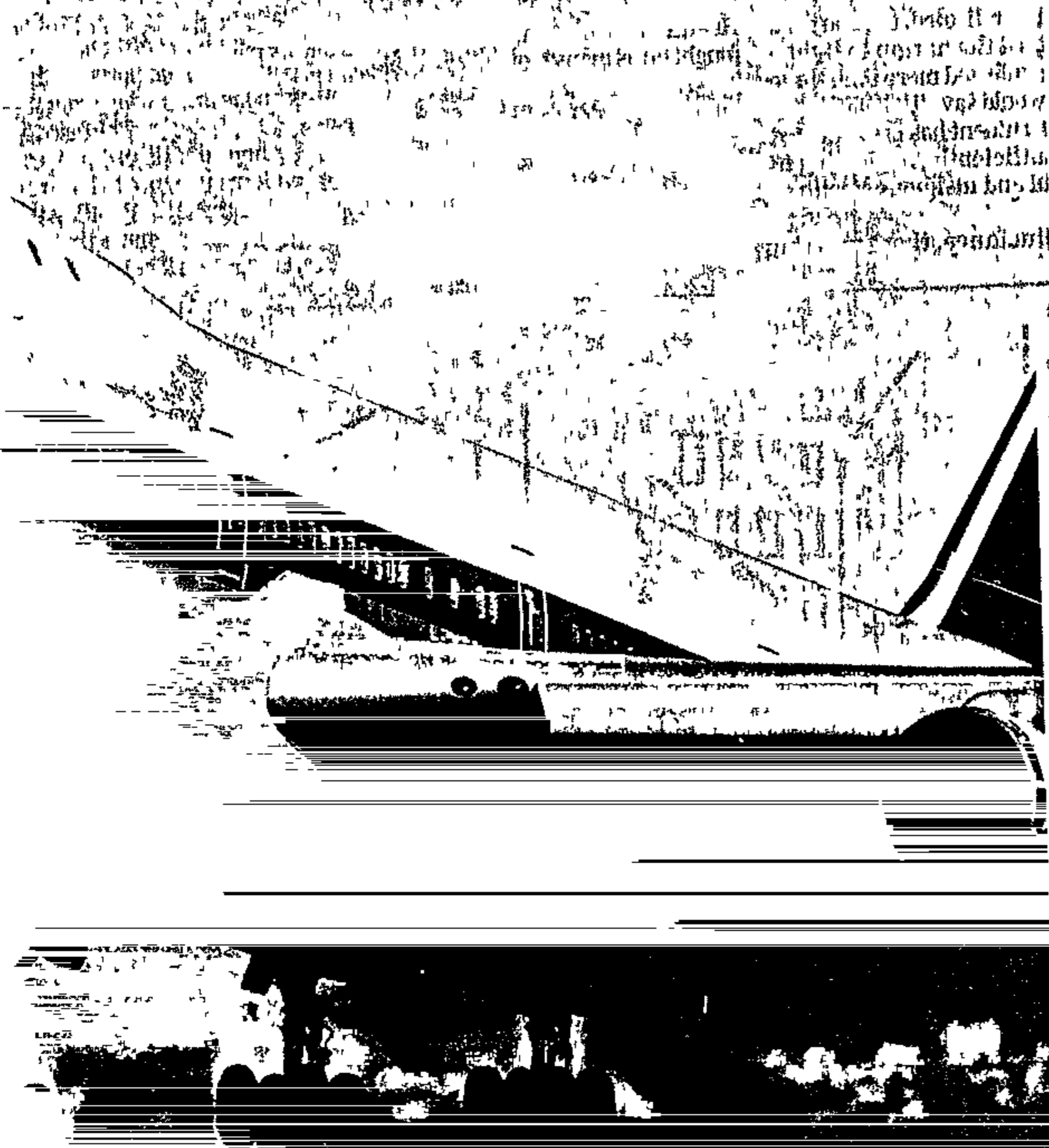
own country".

Further investigations into respondents' perceptions of the economy found that 57% thought that the economy would worsen. More than half of the respondents who were considering emigration felt that their quality of life had deteriorated under the new Government, and would continue to fall in the future.

Furthermore, 83% of white, 60% of Indian, 50% of coloured and 41% of

ent of the 'chicken-run' from the beloved country, those packing for greener pastures

(776) ARG 10/10/98
cost of the exodus



a safe future for my children'

nursing profession for 16 years, says she studied hard and invested many years and much money in her education.
 "I would like to be more progressive. Civil servants are badly paid. I live from hand to mouth, and the way the rand is at the moment the situation can only get worse."
 In response to President Nelson Mandela's scathing attack on emigrants, whom he described as "cowardly", Ms Nkwanyana says that if wanting the basic rights of security, safety and prosperity makes her a coward, "then I am one".
 The most recent figures from the Central Statistical Services show that, from 1994 to 1997, 37 614 professional, semi-professional and technical people left South

Africa, while 20 972 immigrants entered the country during the same period. That means that there was a deficit of 16 642 skilled workers.
 High on South African emigrants' "greener pastures" list during the four-year period were Europe (13 321), Australia and New Zealand (10 918), North and South America (6 625), Africa (4 546) and Asia (1 277).
 According to Andrew Kerr of the Network for Emigration, the most popular destinations this year are Australia, New Zealand and United States. Canada is also picking up.
 "The police make up to 150 to 200 clearances a day. My company puts through 30 to 40 families a month," he said.
 Mr Kerr said a reason often cited by

emigrating families was that they were concerned that the country was not conducive to family life. They felt their children's future was at stake as the standard of education was dropping and crime was high.
 "It's not normal to carry a gun around on a permanent basis," he said.
 Another reason given was the falling rand. Others feared that things would only get worse once Mr Mandela's term in office ended, he said.
 "The perception that only white people are leaving is incorrect," he said.
 "In Durban 70% of our clients are Indian and our African clientele is growing fast. At the moment it is about 10%."

violence (10%)

The respondents' political perceptions were also analysed by the HSRC. Nearly three quarters of African respondents supported the Government's goals, while only a quarter of the white respondents held the same view.

According to the survey, 66% of Africans, 27% of coloureds, 12% of Indians and 9% of whites were satisfied with the political situation in the country.

Using these considerations, the HSRC created an index to measure the legitimacy of the Government. Most African respondents who wanted to emigrate felt very positive towards the Government (80%), while 49% of coloureds, 33% of Indians and 15% of whites felt the same way.

The HSRC's Ian Hirschfeld said the statistics clearly revealed that a great many South Africans were considering emigration.

For African people, the lack of jobs appeared to be the main reason. For the other races, crime and the lack of control by the Government over crime, and, in a certain measure, dissatisfaction with the way South Africa was being governed, were their main reasons for considering emigration.

Examining the "exodus" from post independent states on the African continent, Dr Gary Baines of Rhodes University said the most striking example was Algeria, which obtained its independence from France in 1962 and saw the Front de Liberation Nationale's rise to power. Following the savage and protracted war of independence (1954-62), which climaxed with atrocities by the rightwing Organisation Armée Secrète, there was a mass exodus of *pieds noirs* (white settlers) who feared reprisals from native Algerians. It was estimated that 90% of the 1 million Europeans fled Algeria immediately before and after independence.

Dr Baines said "There were similar exoduses from the former Portuguese colonies of Angola and Mozambique. Many of the departing whites destroyed what they could not take with them."

"But perhaps the post independent emigration of whites from Zimbabwe is closest in nature to the South African case. In this case, emigration has been gradual and incremental," said Dr Baines.

He said the reasons for emigration were fear of reprisals and fear of what life would be like under a black majority government. But it was possibly easier for French Algerians and Portuguese Angolans and Portuguese Mozambicans to leave because they still had strong links and still identified with their mother countries.

Financial considerations clearly played a part in their decisions, said Dr Baines.

"For some it was a case of cutting their losses and starting anew rather than being prepared to give the newly independent states a chance to establish economic stability and policy directions."

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 In the case of the African respondents among whom unemployment is high, the HSRC found that 49% of the 54% respondents who were economically inactive considered emigrating, illustrating the view that "to work in a foreign country is better than being without work in your

own country".
 Further investigations into respondents' perceptions of the economy found that 57% thought that the economy would worsen. More than half of the respondents who were considering emigration felt that their quality of life had deteriorated under the new Government, and would continue to fall in the future.
 Furthermore, 83% of white, 60% of Indian, 50% of coloured and 41% of

African respondents disapproved of the way the Government was handling the economy.

Examining the respondents' main reasons for considering emigration, the HSRC found that employment topped the list among African respondents (50%), while crime was the main factor for whites (54%), Indians (45%) and coloureds (38%).

Other concerns high on the list were the economy (75%), education (20%), housing (19%) and political

Exodus costing economy dearly

Star 10/10/98 (236)

Statistics show all race groups are considering emigrating

BY MELANIE PETERS

Emigration for whatever reasons - spiralling crime, the battered economy or a drop in education standards - is real. But while the charged debate on its justification rages on, the crux lies in the government staving off a lapse into economic devastation, as seen in the history of post-independence African countries.

The "brain drain migration" has received considerable attention, with a recent survey indicating that a damning 74% of South Africa's skilled labour force are considering emigrating.

President Nelson Mandela has fuelled the debate by lambasting the migrant flock, deeming their actions cowardly.

The loss of already scarce skills through emigration is an increasingly serious concern within SA, and costs the economy around R250-million annually.

Replacement

This figure was calculated recently in a 500-page study by P-E Corporate Services, indicating that emigration had escalated alarmingly as a cause of executive turnover in particular in South African companies during the past 18 months.

A study in the survey found "The calculated costs of replacing an executive or other skilled employees is between 30 and 35% of an employee's annual employment costs."

P-E Corporate Services' director Martin Westcott said "Total turnover of skilled staff in SA calculated on the above reasons costs the economy about R2,5-billion annually."

The survey showed that the areas worst affected by emigration are financial, accounting and information technology staff (27%), senior and middle management (22%), specialist and professional staff skills (20%), and skilled artisans and operatives (14%).

Econometrix's Dr Azar Jammime said the problem was quite dis-

trressing when looking at statistics. He calculated that an average of 800 people were leaving a month, and an average of 10 000 a year. "If one believes that for every skilled person, employment is created for 10 unskilled people, that means there will be a loss of 100 000 jobs."

A survey conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council across SA's racial groupings questioned the perception that whites were the only people wanting to emigrate.

The national survey looked at who wants to leave, and the reasons. In the case of the African respondents among whom unemployment is high, the HSRC found that 49% of the 54% respondents who were economically inactive considered emigrating, illustrating the view that "to work in a foreign country is bet-



IT'S DISTRESSING Econometrix's Dr Azar Jammime

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Examining the respondents' main concerns for considering emigration, the HSRC found that employment was the main concern among African respondents (50%), while crime was the main factor for white (54%), Indian (45%) and coloured respondents (38%). Other concerns high on the list were the economy

(75%), education (20%), housing (19%) and political violence (10%).

The respondents' political perception was also analysed by the HSRC - nearly three-quarters of African respondents supported the government's goals, while only a quarter of the white respondents held the same view.

As for satisfaction with the political situation, 66% of African, 27% of coloured, 12% of Indian and 9% of white respondents expressed satisfaction.

Most African respondents who wanted to emigrate felt very positive towards the government (80%), while 49% of coloured, 33% of Indian and 15% of white respondents felt the same way.

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Savage war

Examining the exodus from post-independent states on the African continent, Dr Gary Baines of Rhodes University said the most striking example was Algeria, which obtained its independence from France in 1962 and saw the Front de Liberation Nationale's rise to power. Following a savage and protracted war of independence (1954-62), there was a mass exodus of white settlers who feared reprisals from native Algerians.

"But perhaps the post-independent emigration of whites from Zimbabwe is closest in nature to the South African case. In this case, emigration has been gradual and incremental," said Baines.

In the above examples, the reasons for emigrating were fear of reprisals and what life would be like under a black majority government. But it was possibly also easier for French Algerians to leave because they still had strong links with and still identified with their respective mother countries. Financial considerations clearly played a part in their decisions, Baines added.

Migrant workers add to SA's economic growth

The issue of migrant workers has exacerbated xenophobic tensions in SA, but, argues Maxine Reitzes, legalising migrant workers would reduce rather than enhance competition for local jobs

(236) ~~236~~ RD 10/11/98

THE killing of three foreigners earlier this year by South Africans who accused them of stealing jobs highlights the urgent need to examine some of the assumptions about cross-border migrants which dominate the perceptions of legislators and citizens alike. This has assumed new urgency in the wake of the jobs summit.

As the killings show, attitudes to foreigners among many South Africans are dominated by perceptions that their presence holds great costs and few benefits for society. However, these assumptions are largely untested.

Findings from research into immigrants' socioeconomic effect conducted by the Centre for Policy Studies from November 1996 to February this year, challenge the assumptions which prompt some citizens to violently repel immigrants, and legislators to impose curbs on their right to live and work here.

The findings contradict the claim that immigrants deprive locals of jobs. Firstly, many "immigrants" are in fact migrants, with no intention of settling in SA; they have come here to work and plan to stay only as long as they need to do so.

The principal legislation governing immigration, the Aliens Control Act, makes no provision for this category. This is significant as migrants have a different social and economic effect to immigrants. Foreigners who settle permanently are more likely to have their dependants with them and to make claims on social services; the dependants of many migrants remain in their countries of origin and make no such claims.

However, migrants make a significant contribution as consumers, increasing the demand for goods and services and thereby indirectly creating employment opportunities.

Secondly, if not self-employed, many economic migrants work as temporary or contract workers. Certain sectors, such as construction, depend heavily on this form of labour. Historically, certain sectors need for temporary foreign labour was acknowledged, mining and agriculture have enjoyed privileged access to a migrant labour system.

However, post-apartheid SA lacks a comprehensive and sustainable foreign workers' regime which would offer legal employment to short-term migrants. Far from deterring migration — or preventing the undercutting of wage rates — this failure to regulate instead of seeking to outlaw temporary migration, encourages the exploitation of economic migrants. Their illegal status makes them vulnerable, ensuring that they offer themselves to employers at a lower wages than locals.

The lack of a legal framework is not the only factor responsible for the exploitation of economic migrants. The requirements of the labour market are also a contributing factor. The more in demand the skills and experience of migrant workers are, the more likely they are to achieve legal status, and the less likely they are to be exploited.

Conversely, the less in demand their skills are, the more competitive certain sectors of the labour market become, increasing the possibility of exploitation.

The failure to extend legal status to cross-border migrants achieves precisely the effect feared by those who see them as a drain on jobs: it depresses their pay and conditions, making their labour more attractive to employers.

Regularising the status of migrant labour and creating legal equality among all workers might undermine the sole competitive advantage of il-



The failure to extend legal status to cross-border migrants enhances their attractiveness to employers, thus achieving what South Africans fear most.

legal workers. For example, it would formally exclude those desperate enough to work below standards enforced by wage boards and industrial council agreements.

It might also act as a disincentive to migrate, as illegal foreign workers' favoured status as prospective employees would be lost. It is possible that an unintended consequence of allowing foreigners

temporary or contract work might be a reduction in minimum pay and conditions.

It could be argued, however, that if this happened it would indicate that current minimums are artificially high and that wage levels would then reflect the balance of labour supply and demand in the relevant industry. In this case, the wages paid to economic migrants would reflect

the requirements of the labour market rather than exploitation. However, it is not possible to establish how many foreign workers are employed in lower-wage sectors, and whether their numbers would increase dramatically if their right to work was recognised. Therefore it cannot be assumed that legalising cross-border migration would in reality depress minimum pay and conditions.

If this change in policy also prompted a reduction in official statements which portray foreign migrants as a threat, it might also prompt a reduction of the tensions which produce incidents, such as that which recently ended with people being killed.

Maxine Reitzes is a researcher with the Centre for Policy Studies.

Thirdly, and flowing from this, their illegal status is not necessarily migrants' only competitive advantage. Many are arguably competitive because they are skilled in productive activities. Many are also multi-skilled within and across sectors. This affords them considerable employment flexibility and mobility.

In the surveys referred to earlier, many migrants criticised South Africans for harbouring unrealistic expectations of wages and working conditions, as well as for lacking a work ethic. This suggests that, relative to employment conditions back home, they did not necessarily regard themselves as exploited.

In sum, the research indicates that the presence of cross-border migrants holds benefits for the SA economy, and that introduction of a temporary workers' regime would enhance these gains.

If a migrant labour regime which makes foreign labour available to all sectors of the economy is instituted, its nature and conditions would require careful consideration. It might enforce the granting of civil rights associated with legal status.

Alternatively, an argument could be made that legalising the status of foreign migrants would broaden the tax base, making more money available to the state for social services.

A more accommodating policy and legal response to cross-border migrants is therefore not simply a luxury which might assuage human rights concerns at considerable cost to the economy. It may well contribute to economic growth, and employment for South Africans.

If this change in policy also prompted a reduction in official statements which portray foreign migrants as a threat, it might also prompt a reduction of the tensions which produce incidents, such as that which recently ended with people being killed.

One-fifth of CAs live and work overseas

Madeleine van Niekerk

ALMOST one-fifth of SA chartered accountants are living and working overseas and up to 80% of these may have emigrated permanently.

Of a total of 17 591 SA chartered accountants (CAs) belonging to the SA Institute of Chartered Accountants (Saica), 3 297 are absentee members — living and working overseas. The institute could not say whether the accountants overseas had emigrated because "they do not tell us". All SA

CAs are members of Saica.

However, Niel Calle, a partner at recruitment company Tasa World-wide, said all the CAs who left the country were probably planning to leave permanently, although about 20% of those who left SA would return. Saica said some CAs left SA to experience working overseas for one or two years before returning. It said that over the past five years, the number of absentee members had increased each year.

The most popular destinations

were the UK (with 1 197 absentee members), followed by Australia (534), the US (395) and Canada (259).

Saica said a far greater number of accountants was needed in SA if the economy was to grow at a rate which would provide sufficient employment, and Saica was addressing this.

The institute said it had repositioned itself to broaden entry and in so doing make the accountancy profession more accessible.

Fundamental to the repositioning was the implementation of a new

structure which consisted of two associate colleges — the College of General Accountants and the College of Accounting Technicians — in addition to the existing College of Chartered Accountants.

A second element was the fact that it is now possible to earn the CA (SA) designation through other routes.

SAICA is also conducting a number of equity-development initiatives which are designed to promote accountancy as a career among black pupils and students

Foreigners fear for their lives in SA

By MAX MARX

MORE than 30 innocent refugees and asylum-seekers were brutally murdered in South Africa in the past two years, simply because they looked different

Others who fled political, ethnic and religious persecution in their own countries live in fear of their lives

These disturbing facts were brought to the attention of delegates at the Roll Back Xenophobia workshops held in Johannesburg this week to hammer out a national plan of action for combatting xenophobia in South Africa in 1999. The national plan will be launched by the National Consortium on Refugee Affairs (NCRA) on December 10, the day the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is celebrated

The Deputy Regional Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Mengesha Kebede, told delegates victims of xenophobia were running out of time

"Foreigners are beaten up, threatened and robbed simply because they look different.

"Children are shouted at in the streets

and told they do not belong here and should go home"

He said refugees and asylum-seekers had a right to be in the country but were soft targets for xenophobia without effective protection from law enforcement officers

David McDonald, project manager of the Southern African Migration Project (SAMP), said migrants who were in South Africa to work, study or for other purposes increasingly experienced harassment and intolerance

He said a recent study showed that the most common xenophobic stereotypes that South Africans held of migrants of African origin were that they brought disease and crime to the country and were a threat to the social and fiscal stability of South Africa

McDonald said these stereotypes were perpetuated by the mainstream media and that data from a recent survey among 500 African migrants challenged these perceptions

"Our survey has shown that migrants and potential migrants are relatively well educated, had jobs or have jobs in their home country, have family

and home responsibilities, prefer their home country to South Africa, and don't want to stay here permanently"

McDonald said stereotypes needed to be challenged through a public education campaign

He added that there was a need for political leadership to make xenophobia a public issue, and he emphasised the need for a responsible media.

"There is a migration base in South Africa which justifies a managed approach to cross-border migration, refugees and asylum-seekers

"It's not the kind of chaos that the media would like to represent"

The Human Rights Commission recently held a consultative workshop on xenophobia where it adopted a document known as the Braamfontein statement

The statement called for South Africa to send out a strong message that irrational prejudice and hostility towards non-nationals was unacceptable and that criminal behaviour towards foreigners would not be tolerated in a democratic society

■ See Page 28

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CP 22/11/98

African foreigners terrorised

Tangeni Kumpadhi

(236)

MTG 18-23/12/1988

A band of robbers and killers is terrorising African immigrants in Johannesburg in what appears to be a systematic elimination of the foreign nationals.

The latest casualty was Djo Ongonga Okamba from Brazzaville, the capital of Congo. He was shot dead last week, days before he was to leave for his home town.

Two other murders of French-speaking Africans in the past few months have been confirmed, but members of the French-speaking community talk of at least six more killings of immigrants from Senegal, Cameroon and Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Okamba's murder has prompted the Congolese embassy to write a letter of concern to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After being flooded with pleas for protection by Congolese nationals, the embassy took up the matter with the police in Yeoville, east of the city centre, to get to the bottom of the case.

A witness to Okamba's murder said he was gunned down by a man known as "Coloured." The witness and friends of Okamba said Coloured has shot dead two other immigrants. They said the man accused of shooting Okamba is freely roaming the streets of Yeoville two weeks after the incident.

Okamba's friends and other foreigners complain police fail to act against Coloured and other killers. The violence against the foreigners is often carried out with impunity as authorities ignore complaints from outsiders. Okamba is one of the latest victims of the an-

tagonistic South African attitude towards Africans from other countries on the continent.

In September, three hawkers from Senegal and Mozambique were killed on a train in Pretoria by people coming from a march to protest against foreigners taking their jobs.

Okamba left Brazzaville two years ago to ply his football skills in South Africa. He did not make it in soccer, so he became a hawker in Cape Town.

This year, 25-year-old Okamba planned to leave South Africa to try his luck at soccer in France. His mother had invited him to spend Christmas with the family in Congo before going to France. She bought him a one-way ticket from Johannesburg to Brazzaville.

On Friday December 4, Okamba took a bus from Cape Town to Johannesburg, from where he would have flown to Brazzaville. By Sunday, around 8 pm, Okamba was lying dead on a street in Yeoville. He had gone to telephone a friend in Cape Town. The witness to the shooting said Okamba was returning to his friends' Yeoville flat when he was confronted on the street by Coloured.

The witness claims he heard Okamba say: "What's the problem? I don't know you."

Coloured then drew a gun and shot Okamba "through the heart", the witness said. When police arrived at the scene the witness said he told them who the suspect was and where to find him.

Johannesburg police representatives Mark Reynolds said the witness to Okamba's shooting is too scared to come forward and identify the killer for police. Reynolds said police are working through the Con-



Victim of xenophobia: Djo Ongonga Okamba (centre) from Brazzaville, Congo, was shot dead on the streets of Yeoville just days before he was due to return home.

golese embassy to "meet him (the witness) on neutral ground" because he refused to go to the police station.

The witness told the *Mail & Guardian* he is afraid the police might "betray" him and reveal his identity to Coloured.

A close friend of Okamba, Ghislahn Omberowa, said: "The same guy has killed a Zairian and an Ethiopian in the same street, but he has never been arrested. We know the killer, we know where he stays, and the police have been told about him but they do nothing."

The day after killing Okamba, Coloured boasted to another Congolese he shot and killed a Nigerian, said Omberowa.

"He obviously thought Djo was a Nigerian but he also told a South African friend of ours that he hates foreigners and he will continue killing us," Omberowa said.

He added that Coloured usually stands at a street corner next to his apartment in Yeoville, stopping African immigrants and searching them for money.

"He is not alone — they are three or four," Omberowa said. Reynolds said three foreigners had been killed in Yeoville this year. He denied

that police have been informed about the identity of the suspect. Reynolds could not say whether the motive for the killings is xenophobia. "Unfortunately these things surface from time to time," he said.

The head of the murder and robbery unit in Hillbrow, Captain Ken Oldwadge, confirmed the killing of African foreigners, particularly from "up north".

"We do have such incidents, and they are quite frequent," Oldwadge said. "Contrary to public opinion, suspects are arrested from time to time."

Immigrants said as many as 10 senseless killings have been committed this year in Berea, Hillbrow and Yeoville. Police were unable to confirm the figures. Oldwadge said most murders in Hillbrow are drug-related.

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Innovation can stop brain drain

BD 26/11/98

(236)

SA is vulnerable to losing highly skilled employees

Madeleine van Niekerk

SA COMPANIES had to consider creative salary packages to stop skilled staff seeking more money abroad, according to Mike Olivier, CE of Sibson & Co, an international corporate remuneration company

The global labour market was very competitive, with highly skilled individuals in great demand worldwide, Olivier said. Labour was becoming increasingly mobile, as witnessed by the ease with which SA chartered accountants obtained positions overseas

"SA executives need to take positive steps to make working in the SA market place an attractive prospect if they wish to hold on to well-qualified, highly skilled employees," he said

"SA is extremely vulnerable to the brain drain phenomenon because of the relative weakness of the rand in the international market as well as the belief many individuals hold that the quality of life is better in other countries.

"The risks are higher in SA, so the return has to be more attractive. Even if employers can not control social factors, they do have a variety of options when it comes to structuring creative packages which will help them retain top staff.

"An incentivised financial package is important because many top earners believe they will earn more overseas. However, research has proven that managers can also positively influence staff by providing a stimulating, positive work environment, career growth opportunities and a transparent and ethical company structure.

"Factoring in all these elements for a total reward approach to employee remuneration and recognition provides long-term benefits such as low staff turnover," said Olivier

Large firms had the financial reserves and the international networks required to give young SA graduates valuable international working experience while still offering a package that would entice them back to SA

"If large firms made provision for rotating talented individuals and exposing them to international markets, the experience gained by their employees would add to the business's bottom line. It would encourage companies to invest in their human capital

"Ultimately, it costs substantially more to lose, recruit and train new members of staff than to invest significantly in rewards which will retain talented, highly qualified people," said Olivier

Brake is on to illegal immigr

Star 8/15/99 (23)

Affirmative action in immigration is a central component of the recently released White Paper on International Migration. It is to be effected by encouraging the employment of South Africans in preference to foreigners.

This proposal is one of a package intended to retain the focus on controlling who enters the country, by shifting enforcement from borders to internal agencies. The white paper recommends the establishment of an immigration service, with the responsibility of monitoring and investigating the influx of foreigners.

The immigration service need not be a new and separate structure, but could be located within the existing Home Affairs Department under a new but autonomous portfolio.

In order to facilitate easier entry into the country, all foreigners who are not prohibited persons will be granted an entry permit for three months, with the possibility of a once-off renewal. The granting of such a permit is conditional on the applicant holding a visa, or upon production of a return ticket or its equivalent, or financial guarantees.

Another central theme of the white paper is to encourage voluntary repatriation, and discourage future immigration, by reducing the "pull" factors - People believe that foreigners have vast job opportunities.

The white paper's policy instrument designed to reduce employment opportunities for foreigners is to make them "more administratively inconvenient or costly or troublesome" for the employer than their local counterparts.

It proposes that this be done in two ways: one is to discourage the employment of illegal foreign workers, another is to discourage

White paper is designed to reduce employment opportunities by making them more inconvenient

the employment of legal foreign workers.

To achieve the former, the white paper proposes that employers who harbour unauthorised foreign workers should be fined in excess of what they save through failing to comply with minimum labour standards.

Such legislation already exists in terms of the Aliens Control Act, but evidence suggests a lack of political will among officials to enforce it. Employers often co-operate with officials in the implementation of the legislation, to their own advantage: they report illegal workers on payday. The employers are not fined because they have voluntarily reported these workers, and the workers are not paid.

International experience suggests that employers respond to the increased risk of incurring a costly fine for employing illegal workers by passing the cost of that risk on to all their employees. Wages are further reduced and working conditions deteriorate, depressing conditions in the industry as a whole. And in sectors such as construction, which are increasingly dependent on short term, temporary workers, labour is often subcontracted and not unionised, and unable to resist such practices.

To discourage legal employment of foreign workers, the white paper suggests that all workers be subjected to minimum labour standards, collective bargaining agreements and taxation, to prevent employers from saving on cheap and exploitable foreign labour.

The paper argues that foreigners employed under such conditions would "by definition" be necessary for the country's economic growth, and would be granted the right to remain.

However, it advocates an additional policy



Government trying to make it much harder to er

of charging employers who employ foreign workers, even if there are no South African citizens or permanent residents available to fill particular positions.

Prospective employers of a foreign worker will be obliged to obtain certification from the Department of Labour that the conditions of employment are not below the applicable collective bargaining agreement or other labour standards. The employer will also need to certify that the qualifications of the foreigner are equivalent to those that would be required of a South African in terms of the South African Qualification Authority.

The employer would then have to pay a portion of the employee's salary, as prescribed by legislation, into a national training fund, established for the training of South Africans. The white paper argues that "in this system, employers will be hiring foreigners at a higher cost than that at which they could hire equally trained South Africans and will be contributing towards the training of their compatriots. In this system, any foreigner so employed will be needed and employed only for as long as a South African

It may seem a good idea but the policy is flawed and may undermine fragile regional economies, argues **MAXINE REITZES**, a senior researcher with the Centre for Policy Studies

is not available for that position and the financial incentive is there for the employer to shift from a foreigner to a South African."

The paper also suggests that the percentage which employers have to pay for employing foreign workers can be adjusted in response to changes in the supply and demand of certain skills: the higher the demand and lower the supply, the less employers will have to pay and vice-versa.

However, this policy is internally contradictory. Were the proposal merely to charge the employers more for voluntarily choosing foreign labour in preference to available and appropriately skilled and experienced local labour, it might act as an incentive for employers to give preference to South Africans. However, given that employers, faced with no alternative but to employ foreign labour, are still subject to incurring

an additional labour cost, the policy amounts to penalising employers for seeking out what may, in some cases, be the only available, or the best and most productive, employees.

This is tantamount to interfering in free-market dynamics of supply and demand, as it imposes an additional supply side cost on the demand for certain skills. It undermines the principle of fair and equal competition. It also implies that all workers, provided that they have the required qualifications, are equally desirable as employees, and equally productive. This is not always the case.

Employers may respond by employing underqualified or inappropriately skilled South Africans, which could reduce productivity and production standards, rendering certain ventures locally and internationally uncompetitive.

The white paper argues that "there is a

Plans on to curb immigrants

Star 8/15/99 (236)

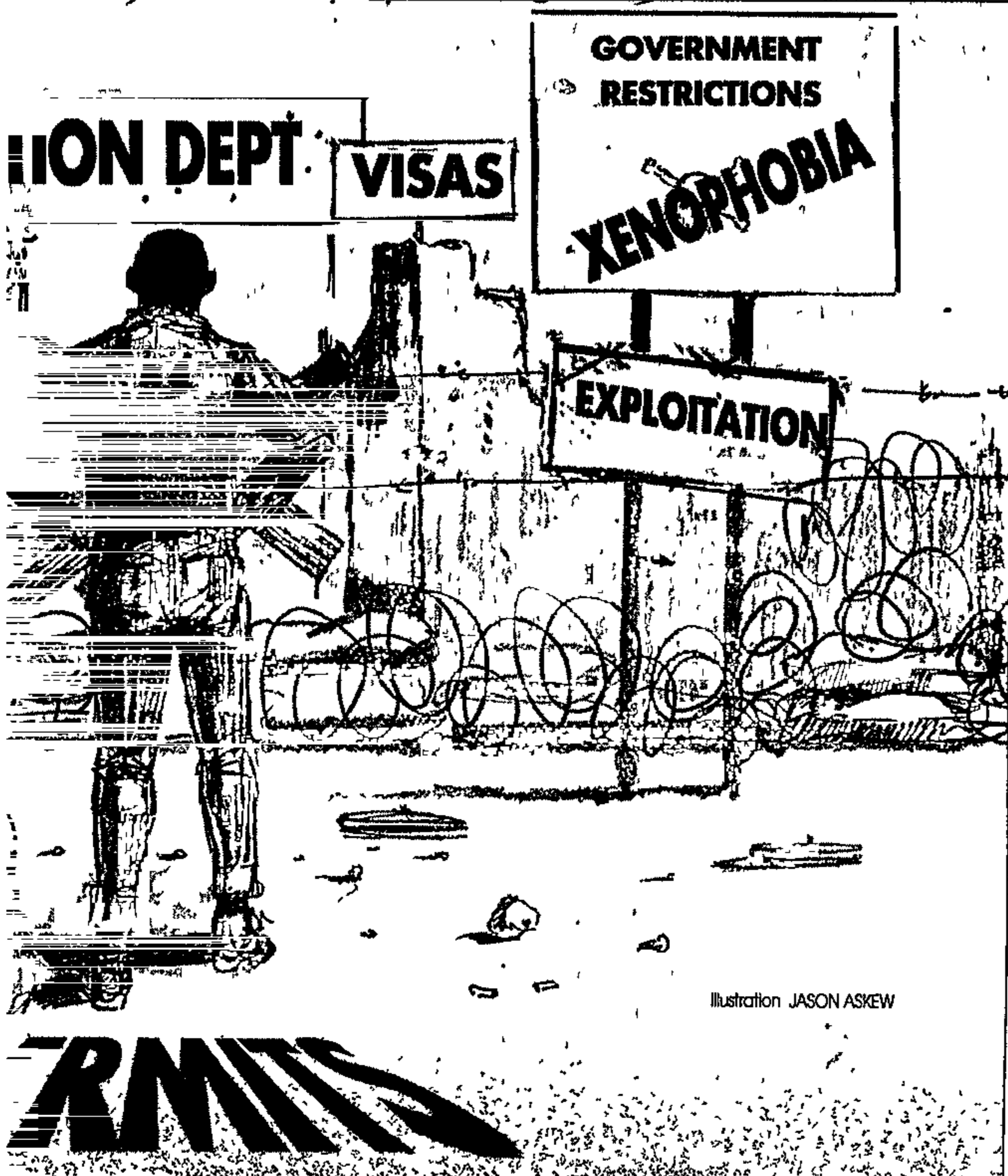


Illustration JASON ASKEW

Plans to make it much harder to employ foreigners

A good idea but the policy is flawed and may damage regional economies, argues MAXINE [Name], a researcher with the Centre for Policy Studies

that position and the there for the employer - to a South African - that the percentage - to pay for employing be adjusted in response and demand of the demand and - employers will have is internally contra - merely to charge voluntarily choosing - to available and and experienced local as an incentive for preference to South given that employers, native but to employ in subject to incurring

an additional labour cost, the policy amounts to penalising employers for seeking out what may, in some cases, be the only available, or the best and most productive, employees This is tantamount to interfering in free-market dynamics of supply and demand, as it imposes an additional supply side cost on the demand for certain skills It undermines the principle of fair and equal competition It also implies that all workers, provided that they have the required qualifications, are equally desirable as employees, and equally productive. This is not always the case. Employers may respond by employing underqualified or inappropriately skilled South Africans, which could reduce productivity and production standards, rendering certain ventures locally and internationally uncompetitive. The white paper argues that "there is a

legitimate concern that if qualified foreigners are easily available, employers might choose to hire them rather than training South Africans for the jobs" The issue of compulsory training has been debated with reference to the Skills Levy Act, in terms of which employers have to provide a percentage of total payroll for skills training Its detractors argue that this further limits access to an increasingly inflexible and over regulated labour market, indirectly increases labour costs, obstructs investment and job creation, and acts as a disincentive to labour intensive industries. Another possible danger of introducing this policy is that it could be used as an agent of xenophobia the more xenophobic society becomes, the more the prescribed contribution towards the training fund could be increased It could also instil a mercenary attitude in foreign workers, who might be reluctant to invest in this country if they are denied job security and expect to be replaced when a South African becomes available for the job In an attempt to address this issue, the

white paper suggests that after five years of temporary legal employment, a foreigner may become a permanent resident, provided that he or she has an offer of permanent employment. In other words, foreigners are obliged to "work" their way into such status. This argument assumes that a South African replacement cannot be found during those five years, and condemns foreigners to five years of insecurity.

Alternatively, foreigners can apply for permanent residence without having worked for five years within the country, but the approval of such applications would be limited by a quota determined by the National Economic and Development and Labour Council on a sectoral basis, and require proof from the employer that no South African was available for the job

The stress on training South Africans to make them more employable is also referred to foreign investors, who, the paper argues, must "undertake to train a certain number of people" when seeking permission to reside in South Africa Investors not prepared to do so will be lost to the country and its economy

None of these proposals is able to manage employment in the informal sector, which is where many foreign workers are concentrated. Possibly in an attempt to address this, the white paper recommends that provisions should also be made to accommodate for eigners who are self-employed The amount of money they bring in "should exceed what is required for them to live on and should be sufficient to constitute the basis for a business capable of participating in economic growth and producing job opportunities"

It is not clear how the amount of money necessary for a person to live is to be determined, for how long; nor how it is possible to

Employers may respond by hiring less qualified locals, thus harming productivity and the economy

compute the amount necessary to create employment opportunities before the business is functional

Another labour issue which the white paper attempts to address is the extent to which existing immigration policy grants the mining and agricultural sectors privileged access to foreign labour

It proposes the introduction of corporate work permits, which may be negotiated between the immigration service and domestic employers and foreign investors who administer the allocated number of employees The permit will accommodate the labour needs of foreign investors who provide for job opportunities and/or training for citizens, seasonal workers, industries that can't find local labour; and industries authorised through consultations with the Department of Labour to rely, or continue to rely, on foreign labour

However, the white paper also suggests that all sectors, including mining, should focus increasingly on employing and training South Africans, and decrease their dependence on foreign workers

Workers' countries of origin are also dependent on South African industries providing employment for workers which their own economies cannot absorb. They are also dependent on the deferred pay that is deducted from the workers' wages and invested in their home countries to generate interest, which is supposedly used for domestic development projects The enforced reduction of the employment of foreign miners might generate resistance from their home countries, which would have to be addressed Enforcement of this measure without consultation could further undermine already fragile regional economies

BY INVITATION

Kathleen Newland

(236) FM 21/5/99

WRONG APPROACH TO IMMIGRATION CONTROL

SA needs a new immigration system, but not the one that is outlined in the White Paper on International Migration presented to the Minister of Home Affairs on March 31

The White Paper proposes creating an elaborate and cumbersome system which, to run well, would require bureaucratic resources the country does not have. Poorly run, it would be arbitrary, inconsistent, economically damaging and open to abuse and corruption. Even if it ran like a top, however, it would carry high social and economic costs while doing little to address the problem of illegal immigration at its roots.

The White Paper's approach to immigration control is schizophrenic at the core. It acknowledges the superiority of market forces in meeting labour market needs, but weighs employers down with bureaucratic requirements that defeat the purpose of fast and flexible response to skills gaps.

Work permits would be issued only after consultation between the proposed new Immigration Service (located in Home Affairs) and the Labour Department, and after certification that the jobs could not be filled by SA workers. If the US experience with a similar system is any guide, by the time this process was complete business would have been slowed or lost.

The White Paper also proposes a tax (a mandatory contribution to a national training fund) on the employment of foreign workers. This makes little economic sense. Either the workers are needed — in which case employers shouldn't be penalised for hiring them — or they are not, in which case they shouldn't be hired at all.

Moreover, international experience with national training funds is discouraging, the cost per job-seeker placed tends to be high, and the training is often out of synch with labour market needs. It is optimistic to expect government to be nimble enough to anticipate the needs of the future. Ap-

prenticeship systems based in industries and unions have a far better record.

The White Paper proposes to issue work permits to businesses and allow them to administer them. But tying workers through their work permits to a particular employer is an invitation to substandard treatment, or at least remarkable docility. A worker whose immigration status is tied to his or her employer is surely less likely to act up — especially if the employer is, as the White Paper recommends, "responsible for the compliance and repatriation of aliens".

Some of the enforcement proposals are truly chilling. To compensate for the department's lack of enforcement capacity, the White Paper would make SA communities "responsible for co-operating with internal policing actions to ensure that illegal immigrants are not attracted to SA". The chosen instruments are not confined to workplace enforcement. In addition, public servants would be required

to demand proof of citizenship before providing services and to report the undocumented illegal immigrants would be detected through their need for health care, their children's education, their trust in their neighbours.

The proposal would turn every teacher, public health worker, employee of a public utility and such into an immigration official primed to turn in suspicious aliens. This is no way to foster a client-friendly public service. Nor is the requirement that every South African be prepared to prove his or her legitimacy in the course of every encounter with public institutions likely to foster an open climate of trust between the citizenry and the State.

Jobs are the dominant attraction for migrants. Public services may be a fringe benefit, but driving people away from them will not remove the main attraction. Rather it will ensure that the illegal alien population is less skilled and therefore less able to make a positive contribution to SA,

more cowed and therefore willing to compete in the labour market on terms even more disadvantageous to citizens, and more of a public health danger as undocumented aliens avoid basic health care such as immunisations and prenatal care.

Legislators should take care not to create an intrusive system with far higher cost than benefits, which makes suspicion and antipathy the driving forces behind enforcement.

SA needs a system that not only punishes illegal immigrants and their employers, but addresses the root causes of their action.

Is the supply of qualified SA labour inadequate? Then offer training incentives to unions and employers, and direct resources to the educational system. Temporary employment of foreign workers may be needed to plug the gap.

Are there sectoral, seasonal or regional labour shortages? Deploy measures to increase labour mobility.

Do the wages or working conditions demanded by citizens threaten to make businesses uncompetitive? Help them to raise productivity and otherwise adjust to the realities of the market — and accept that some will not make it. They should not survive by paying substandard wages, or they will continually act as a drag on national economic progress.

Do employers simply prefer to employ foreign workers because they are cheaper and more docile? Too bad. If they cannot persuade government of their legitimate need to hire immigrant labour, they will have to come to terms with the local labour market or face the full force of the law. A relatively simple and functional system of workplace enforcement based on fair and transparent immigration laws is needed in the meantime.

Only sustained efforts will realign the labour market to meet SA's economic needs, and meanwhile immigrant workers can and should be allowed to help to paper over the cracks. There is no magic solution, not even a crackdown on illegal immigration. ■

□ Kathleen Newland is a senior associate and co-director of the International Migration Policy Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.



The White Paper weighs employers down with bureaucratic requirements

LUCRATIVE PACKAGES LURE LOCALS TO UK

Exodus leaves cavity in SA dentistry

ACCORDING to the South African Dental Association, about 2 000 of the 4 200 dentists registered here are also registered in the United Kingdom. **HENRIETTE GELDENHUY**s reports.

THE exodus of local dentists to the United Kingdom is picking up pace, with hundreds of them accepting lucrative offers. Large corporate dental firms such as Dr James Hull and Associates, Whitecross Dental Care and Integrated Dental Holdings, are competing to employ South Africans.

This year 107 South African dentists joined Hull's company following a "massive" recruitment drive in all the major cities in South Africa, according to *The Probe*, an independent dental journal in Britain.

Seventeen dentists arrived in Britain in March, 60 arrived during the past two months and at least another 30 will pack their bags and join the firm later this year.

Hull, whose firm owns more than 50 practices in the UK, told *The Probe* that the response in Cape Town was so over-

whelming that he had held a second presentation in the city.

The British General Dental Council said more South Africans than any other nationality emigrated to Britain last year — 200. Denis Waters, a former dentist who recruits dentists on behalf of Locumlink, an agency that places dentists in national health system practices, said South African dentists working in the UK cleared an average of £4 000 (R40 000) a month. Whitecross Dental Care, which is currently recruiting dentists in Cape Town, offers dentists up to £4 200 a month, and associates £7 500.

On Friday night, Whitecross held a presentation at the luxurious The Bay hotel in Camps Bay. About 30 local dentists, men and women, attended. Most were between 25 and 50, but there were also quite a few grey-haired

dentists, possibly over 60.

Whitecross directors treated the dentists to snacks and drinks, showed them slides and a video and advised them on how to transfer assets and buy property in the UK.

One director, Paul Mendelsohn, told those who attended "You are well-respected, English people like you. You can afford to be choosy and should be".

Interviewed after the presentation, another Whitecross director, Steve Moulder, explained there was a shortage of dentists in the UK. Years ago several dental colleges which used to train between 100 and 200 dentists each year, had closed. Now there was a boom in dentistry, and not nearly enough dentists to meet the huge demand.

A survey conducted among 300 South African dentists working in the UK, published in the *South African Dental Journal*, found that crime and violence, followed by a lack of profitability for dentistry in South Africa were their main reasons for leaving.

Political uncertainty and poor and irregular payment by medical schemes were also high on the list.

They complained of being paid "pathetic" medical aid rates here — a third of what they felt they should earn — and of forking out so much more for imported dental equipment because of the rand's fall against the dollar and the pound.

They're also in a millennium rush to get to the UK because at the end of the year 2000, those outside the European Union will be forced to write costly entrance examinations before being allowed to work as dentists in the UK.

A Milnerton dentist who is leaving for the UK in six weeks' time, said: "Finding work there is as easy as making a decision."

A Bellville dentist, who is on his way to the UK, said established dentists, not just graduates, were leaving. "Previously they stayed for two years and came back. They're not coming back any more." He said he knew six other dentists in the northern suburbs who were

in the process of moving to the UK.

"Very few dentists here are not considering emigration. The country is losing out badly. It costs the taxpayer R200 000 to train a dentist," he said.

Gus Millner, head of Millner Dental Suppliers in Parow, said: "Unfortunately, we are losing quality people. The overall standard of dentistry is probably lower. The brain drain at the moment is bigger than in 1976, 1985 or 1993. But on the positive side, remaining dentists will have more work."

J T Barnard, executive director of the South African Dental Association, said 2 000 of the 4 200 dentists registered here were also registered in the UK and 700 to 800 were now working in there.

"We are losing a lot of good people. But on the other hand, it's a compliment for us. Our dentists are known worldwide for their excellent training."

One city dentist who is leaving for the UK next month said "We've lost a large chunk of our workforce in a short time. Anywhere else in the world, it would have been considered a crisis."

Ducking as the pawpaw hits the fan

Gary Young talks to South Africans who are thinking of moving to greener pastures

MtG 28/5 | -3/6/99 (276)

At the entrance to the Sandton library, John Gambarana is doing a roaring trade in fear

With the help of an overhead projector and a few corny jokes the emigration consultant has taken just one hour to craft a psychological narrative that starts with resentment and ends with his 100-strong, mostly white audience dreaming of a better life somewhere else

They came thinking they wanted to leave the country, now they are queuing up to put a down payment on a consultation so they can find out how

"I just want to know what my options are," said one middle-aged man who refused to give his name. "It's not just about getting a better job. I've got two small kids and there's no saying what kind of future they are going to have in this country, and I want to live to see them grow up. The way violence and crime are going here you never know"

With the country's second democratic election less than a week away talk, principally among the white community, has returned to the subject of emigration. But while newspaper headlines threaten an imminent exodus, official figures show a 7% drop in the numbers leaving the country in 1993 compared with 1992

"There is no consistent trend of people leaving the country," says Vincent Williams, the project manager of the Southern African Migratory

Project. "Some years more people leave than others, but there has been no significant increase overall."

But the number of those who responded to a newspaper advert for the International Migration Alliance lecture suggests that the prospect of starting a more stable and prosperous life in another country remains popular.

Gambarana has worked them in gently surrounded by flags of the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand, he talks about the weather.

Vancouver and Perth have climates that are not dissimilar to Cape Town. True, Montreal is cold and London is dreary, but people get used to it.

And those who stay soon sniff out their compatriots. The South African community in Auckland has a newsletter called *Afrikaans*, Vancouver has one hour of public television in Afrikaans a week.

But peppered in between the picture-postcard slides and weather charts comes the gradual confirmation of the disquietment many feel at the changes that have taken place over the past decade.

Holding up a book called *When Mandela Goes* Gambarana implores them to get a copy. "People, this book is a wake-up call," he says. "The bad news is the pawpaw's really going to hit the fan. The good news is the fan probably won't be working." Five years after South Africa

emerged from its pariah status and established a democracy, the number of those eager to leave is still climbing.

Like the audience in Sandton, most, but by no means all, are white. A considerable number of Indians and coloureds from the Cape are also looking to move abroad.

"Our research showed that the number of people who would leave the country if they had the opportunity was evenly spread across the races," says Williams. "It's just that more whites have the opportunity"

But as policies of black empowerment help create a small black professional class, they too are contemplating leaving. "I don't want to leave but I think there are more chances for me in America or Canada," said Sipho Mandlani, a black computer programmer. "I don't want to go for ever but just to see if I could make it over there and then come back with better experience."

A growing number are also Afrikaners—who once prided themselves on their determination to stay in a country which they insisted belonged to them as much as it does to the black population.

"Sixty-eight per cent of my client base is Afrikaans-speaking," boasts Gambarana.

The main reasons given are the high crime rate and escalating violence, according to one recent report. Others include falling living standards, health and education, affirmative action policies and better employment opportunities abroad.

The vast majority heads for Europe, followed by Australia, North America and New Zealand. The pre-



Up and left Newspaper headlines threaten an imminent exodus, but official figures show a 7% drop in the number of people leaving the country. PHOTOGRAPH: ZOE ZELSKY

emigration is unclear since 20% of white South Africans travel on British passports, roughly 10% have other foreign passports and many simply slip out of the country without officially declaring that they are leaving it.

It is not the numbers but the calibre of those who are leaving that is worrying the government, which is trying to rebuild the economy. More than half of those leaving are economically active and more than half of those are professional, semi-professional or managerial. Their departure not only depletes the pool of skilled labour but forces up the wages of those who stay thus adding to already existing inequalities.

Last year President Nelson Mandela delivered a blistering attack on those abandoning the country rather than staying to help build the nation. But while many have left, the threat of a mass exodus which hovered over the 1994 election has failed to materialise, suggesting that talk of "white flight" is more of a pre-election moral panic than a long-term threat to the nation's economy.

Protest over work permits

(276)

BD 7/6/99

Foreign commerce chambers take govt to task

Jonny Steinberg

SEVERAL foreign chambers of commerce plan to protest to the incoming home affairs minister about the growing number of highly skilled expatriates who are being refused permits to work in SA

Chamber spokesmen representing some of SA's largest foreign investors, including US, European, Dutch and German companies, say they have been inundated with complaints from member companies across a broad spectrum of industries following the home affairs department's refusal to grant visas to foreign recruits

"We are not talking of people who can be replaced by South Africans," a German chamber of commerce spokesman said on Friday "In many cases we are talking of vital staff without whom new ventures simply cannot take off Until now we have managed the situation on an ad hoc basis A member company will phone the chamber, and we will pull strings in home affairs But there are simply too many complaints to do it that way We have to sit down with home affairs to iron out whatever systemic problems there may be"

Home affairs spokesman Hennie Meyer said the department rejected all allegations, and would respond only on specific cases "Our policy is to grant foreigners work permits only when there are no South Africans available to do the same job, but we are obviously very sensitive to the needs of foreign investors We always get advice from SA's commercial chambers before making a crucial decision"

European chamber of commerce vice-chairman Paul van den Brink said the problem was not with home affairs' immigration policy but with its faulty implementation

"Many starting companies need special skills immediately, skills not available in SA," he said "Home affairs is simply not applying its own policy"

American Chamber of Commerce executive director Luanne Grant said several foreign chambers had agreed to band together and approach home affairs

"We do not want to go there antagonistically," Grant said "We will go with a constructive, problem-solving approach, but we must act soon At our last board meeting, three member companies from diverse industries all complained that personnel with specialised, scarce skills were refused work permits The time has come to act"

This year, the cabinet gave the go-ahead for a new immigration control policy which its authors claimed would be more flexible in controlling entry to SA The hallmark of the proposed policy is its reliance on market forces, rather than administrative fiat, to determine which skills are needed in SA

"The new policy will enable employers to hire foreigners when they need them, and this will not be determined by government but by market forces," Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said in April

"Employers will be required to pay a fee for each alien employed The fees will be collected into a fund to be used for training our nationals so as to reduce dependence on foreign skills Thus only aliens who are really needed will be employed, and only for as long as they are needed"

Under the proposed law, the immigration service would allocate corporate visas to domestic companies for a specific number of foreign workers on the basis of skills needs The visas would be administered by the companies themselves

BD 10/16/99

Work permit nightmare

THE increasing difficulty companies are experiencing in obtaining work permits for highly skilled expatriates could lead to a slowdown in foreign investment and skills transfer, says Yael Shafir, an expert in international trade and immigration at law firm Webber Wentzel Bowens

She says the department of home affairs needs to take drastic action to staff the department adequately

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Shafir, who represents many multinational companies which are trying to arrange work permits for senior executives, management consultants and specialists, offers the following advice to foreign companies seeking work permits for staff

- When applying at an SA embassy, ask embassy staff to fax the application (at your own cost, if necessary) rather than send it by diplomatic bag, and
- Make sure the application is well motivated, giving an indication of the company's interests in SA, how many local people it employs, and details of its training programmes

Provide details of the applicant's qualifications and suitability for the post, including testimonials from satisfied clients and previous employers, and follow up with the SA embassy in question and the home affairs department in Pretoria

The 'kwerekwere' problem is out of hand - but the real problem is in our minds, writes Simba Makunike



In the recent run up to South Africa's second general elections early this month Federal Alliance leader Louw Luyt appeared on SABC's AMZDAY

True to form, he made a number of startling revelations. His overview of the African National Congress' first five years in office was even more startling.

Before 1994, South Africa was like a western country, but after only five years the ANC has reduced it to an African country.

This statement reflected the stereotyped perception which local people have of black foreigners as uncultured, backward, poor and glib.

South Africans' feelings of being overcrowded by foreigners are understandable. Xenophobia is not confined to SA. All countries have a distrust of foreigners who "invade" them, lured by the prospect of jobs, better salaries and a better standard of living denied them by sagging economies back home.

But the exceptionally high prevalence of the problem in SA makes it stand head and shoulders above its African neighbours.

True, when the jobs and better lives sought fail to materialise, some foreigners resort to crime, prostitution and drug peddling.

But others have stuck it out, working twice as hard to make a living. It is sad that both types of foreigners have been painted with one brush.

Often this distrust and dislike manifests itself in bizarre and tragic incidents. For example, three Senegalese nationals died after being thrown in front of an on-coming train just outside Pretoria on September 3, 1998.

Another Senegalese national died when he allegedly slipped from a balcony window in the presence of police officers. Five Mozambican nationals were beaten to death by vigilante groups in Ivory Park on the North Rand after they were found guilty by a kangaroo court.

Fairly recently a South African national who looked and walked like a foreigner was mugged and robbed in Yeoville, Johannesburg.

His mugger's apology was "they had morning apologies profusely - they had mistaken him for a kwerekwere".

Local gangs are patrolling the suburbs of Hillbrow, Yeoville and Berea hunting for and robbing foreigners.

Beatings, muggings, blackmail, lewd jokes and scorn are regular occurrences in most foreigners' lives.

Statements like, "They brought AIDS to SA", Johannesburg was a very clean town before the foreigners came", or "They are only here to take our women", are very common.

Some of the statements, like "nearly percent of all crime in Gauteng is committed by them", are more damaging. Not only does this kind of statement absolve locals of crime, it fuels xenophobia and violence against foreigners.

Surprisingly the cases that appear in court and the convictions arising from them in Gauteng seem to paint a different picture.

In a country grappling to find solutions to crime, political killings, farm murders, unemployment, prostitution, a phenomenal rise in HIV infections, drugs and other social ills, foreigners have become easy scapegoats.

More puzzling is the perception by most South Africans that only black people are illegal immigrants.

Xenophobia against foreigners seems to be a new and subtle kind of black-on-black violence.

White who hold dual citizenship or are foreign nationals are spared the trouble. Come the black man from Africa and all hell breaks loose.

A flight engineer, legally in SA and one of the few black people with avionics qualifications, was refused a job with a well known parastatal recently. He was told that he could not get the job because he was not a South African citizen.

Yet, ironically the parastatal employs a lot of white foreigners.

If you are white you are an expatriate, if you are black you can only be a "kwerekwere" or a "grigamba".

A story is told of how a South African black man was walking in central Johannesburg with a white visitor from Canada. A policeman approached the South African man and asked for his identity documents while the white foreigner was left to go.

The South African Human Rights Commission, in a report on the arrest and detention of foreigners in SA clearly tabulated the abuses and human rights violations suffered by foreigners and dark skinned South Africans. They are beaten up, extorted and sexually abused.

For its efforts, the SAHRC was criticised by the law enforcement agencies - a case of crushing the murmur because it is showing plimply on the face.

The stereotyped perception South Africans have of their African colleagues was deliberately instilled in them during apartheid when the National Party led government sought to stop the wave of nationalism sweeping across the continent.

Only the negative things about Africa were highlighted and information deliberately censored.

A colleague, Phomolang Mokoena aptly put it when he said, "The problem is that we do not know anything about African countries like Angola, Mozambique and others except for the wars taking place

THE SUNDAY DEBATE

Strangers in our midst -

do we eject or embrace?

Illegal immigrants are a menace to this country. It's not about being xenophobic, writes Zingisa Mkhuma



THE problem with most of us is that we are too nice, to put it mildly. We try too hard to be politically correct. We have outdone yesterday's liberals by far when it comes to hypocrisy.

Only a few people are willing to take the bull by the horns when it comes to the issue of immigrants, legal or illegal, for that matter.

We whisper in our little corners, because we do not want to risk being seen to be "xenophobic", as some of these aliens believe.

I will say it and be damned. Illegal immigrants are a menace to this country, when it comes to empowerment, housing, water, health and education. We cannot afford to maintain them. In its 1996 report, The Human Sciences Research Council estimated the number of illegal immigrants to be between 2,5 to 4,1 million. And the numbers are increasing.

A study of unemployment by the SA Institute of Race Relations found that unemployment was increasing at 2 percent a year and could reach 43 percent by the year 2006. Does this figure include or exclude illegal immigrants? Whichever it is, dealing with this problem requires resources that we do not have.

Illegal immigrants compete with our hawkers on the streets. Without any licences they peddle their wares freely, without fear. Local consumers support them by buying their fruit and vegetables. From what I see in Rokeby Street, Yeoville people don't look at faces before buying; they look at the merchandise.

Now they have even started working as car park attendants at shopping malls. I would challenge South African hawkers to take their melles and vegetables and just move next door, to Harare. Peddle your wares at the corner of Robert Magabe and Samora Machel Drive. These guys will have you behind bars faster than you can shout "mbelisi".

Will the local media and residents cry "xenophobia"? I doubt, instead they will be helping the police nail you. This is what is to be expected from law abiding citizens of any country. Yet when South Africans complain about the lack of resources to maintain both local people and illegal immigrants, we are accused of being xenophobic.

Then there is the issue of skills. Nowhere else in the world will unskilled labour be allowed into a country just because some of these countries played host to our political refugees during the apartheid years does not mean that people can just come and expect us to roll out the red carpet.

Our government has done its bit to make amends to our neighbours for the damage done by the previous regime. Our tax money has been given out to countries such as Mozambique, Lesotho and Angola as some form of reparation.

Our army has been used in peacekeeping and rescue missions all over the continent. We have outdone ourselves in trying to pay back our neighbours for what they did for us in the past.

Still we cannot run away from some cold facts. Yes it is true, South Africans fear losing their jobs to immigrants legal or illegal, black or white. This has got nothing to do with xenophobia.

Our people put this government in place because they had certain expectations - empowerment and access to health and other services.

It is my opinion that our people have been tolerant of the situation. Yes, there have been a few incidents where foreigners have been attacked. There is no doubt that the law will deal accordingly with these criminals.

People say we use "derogatory" names for foreigners. Everywhere I have been in this continent, one word or another has been used to highlight the fact that I was a foreigner in that country. Is this xenophobic? No it isn't. The fact is, I am not Swazi, Mosotho, Tanzanian nor am I Zimbabwean, so why should I squeal when I am called "Lithelile" or "Mkhumbisi".

What is comforting though is that this issue of immigrants is being addressed at government level. Home Affairs has come up with a White Paper on International Migration and they aim to tighten screws to ensure that only people with certain skills in demand but not available in this country will be recruited. The onus would be on the prospective employer to prove that the skill required outside is not available locally.

There is no excuse for instance, for employing foreign nurses, teachers, police, security guards, cleaners, DJs or even journalists, for that matter. Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelez told Enterprise Development Forum members that some immigrants use fraudulent documents or apply for late registration of birth. "These acts threaten South African security, undermine the impartiality and image of the civil service, increase corruption and undermine our democracy. Others just stay and hope not to be caught."

"Some people come into the country illegally and then apply for asylum while on the other hand, others whose temporary residence permits have expired also apply for asylum to prevent repatriation. Others marry South Africans in the hope of acquiring legal status here. When we want to remove spouses who are often here illegally, we are blamed for breaking up families." And accused of being "xenophobic" too, I would add.

Zingisa Mkhuma is Managing Editor of Enterprise magazine

WORLDWIDE BRAIN DRAIN

SA not the only victim (276)

PM 25/6/99
The concept of a "brain drain" is not unique to SA. Since the Sixties, the flow of highly educated people has formed part of the debate between the predominantly rich, industrialised northern hemisphere countries and the less affluent south.

The implications are far-reaching. For one thing, investment in education in a developing country may not lead to faster economic growth if a large number of educated people leave the country.

And efforts to reduce skills shortages through better educational opportunities "may be largely futile unless measures are taken to offset existing incentives for highly educated people to emigrate", say the International Monetary Fund's Enrica Detragiache and the US Bureau of Labor Statistics' William Carrington.

Their research is based on a study of 61 countries — about 70% of the developing world's population. They don't have figures on the drain from the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe, but "casual evidence suggests that it is substantial".

The US data show that the US attracts mainly skilled migrants — only about 500 000 immigrants out of 7m had less than a secondary education. That group, admit the authors, could be underestimated if the immigrants are illegal.

The biggest migrant group to the US (3,7m out of the 7m identified in the study) are secondary educated, from other north American countries including central America and the Caribbean. The second biggest group (1,5m) are highly educated people from Asia and the Pacific.

The drain from Africa is small, but highly

skilled. Of 128 000 migrants, 95 000 were classified as "highly educated". The biggest drain from Africa to the US is from Egypt, Ghana and SA, with more than 60% of immigrants from those countries having a tertiary education.

SA is the second-biggest loser in Africa, according to the study. It has lost almost 25% of its graduates to the US. But Gambia has lost almost 60%.

The worst loser in South America was Guyana. Almost 80% of graduates have left for the US. El Salvador and Jamaica have both lost well over 60%. Elsewhere, Iran has lost 15% and Taiwan about 9%.

Statistics for the other Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD) countries suggest Ghana has lost 26% of its highly educated people to the OECD and SA has lost roughly 8%.

Most of the south-north brain drain goes to the US, except Jamaica, which has lost 77% of its tertiary educated and 33% of its high-school graduates to the UK.

These numbers suggest — unsurprisingly — "that in several developing countries the outflow of highly educated individuals is a phenomenon policymakers cannot ignore". ■

(236). Educated seeking to leave SA, poll shows

ST (87) 11/7/99

By THABO KOBOKANE
BRAIN DRAIN

AN ALARMINGLY high proportion of well-educated South Africans are likely to emigrate, according to a survey just released.

The World Competitiveness Yearbook, put together by Swiss-based business school IMD, reports in this week's Economist magazine that in a rating of countries where well-educated people are likely to remain, SA comes 42nd out of a list of 47.

This is the same position assigned to SA in the organisation's international competitiveness report last year — just five places above Russia, which has the worst brain drain owing to its economic turmoil.

According to the survey (see chart), less than two in 10 well-educated South Africans are likely to stay. Most, given the chance, will emigrate.

The report cites SA's inability to spread economic development to a wider section of the nation as one reason respondents give for wanting to leave. "Despite some excellent world-calibre enterprises, unemployment reaches around 30%. Violence remains an unresolved issue, forcing companies to relocate activities outside traditional business centres."

The survey confirms emigration trends uncovered by other surveys. A recent Idrasa survey found that up

to 68% of skilled people had thought of emigration.

A Business Times survey shows that 74% of Appointments readers — generally well-educated — have considered emigrating.

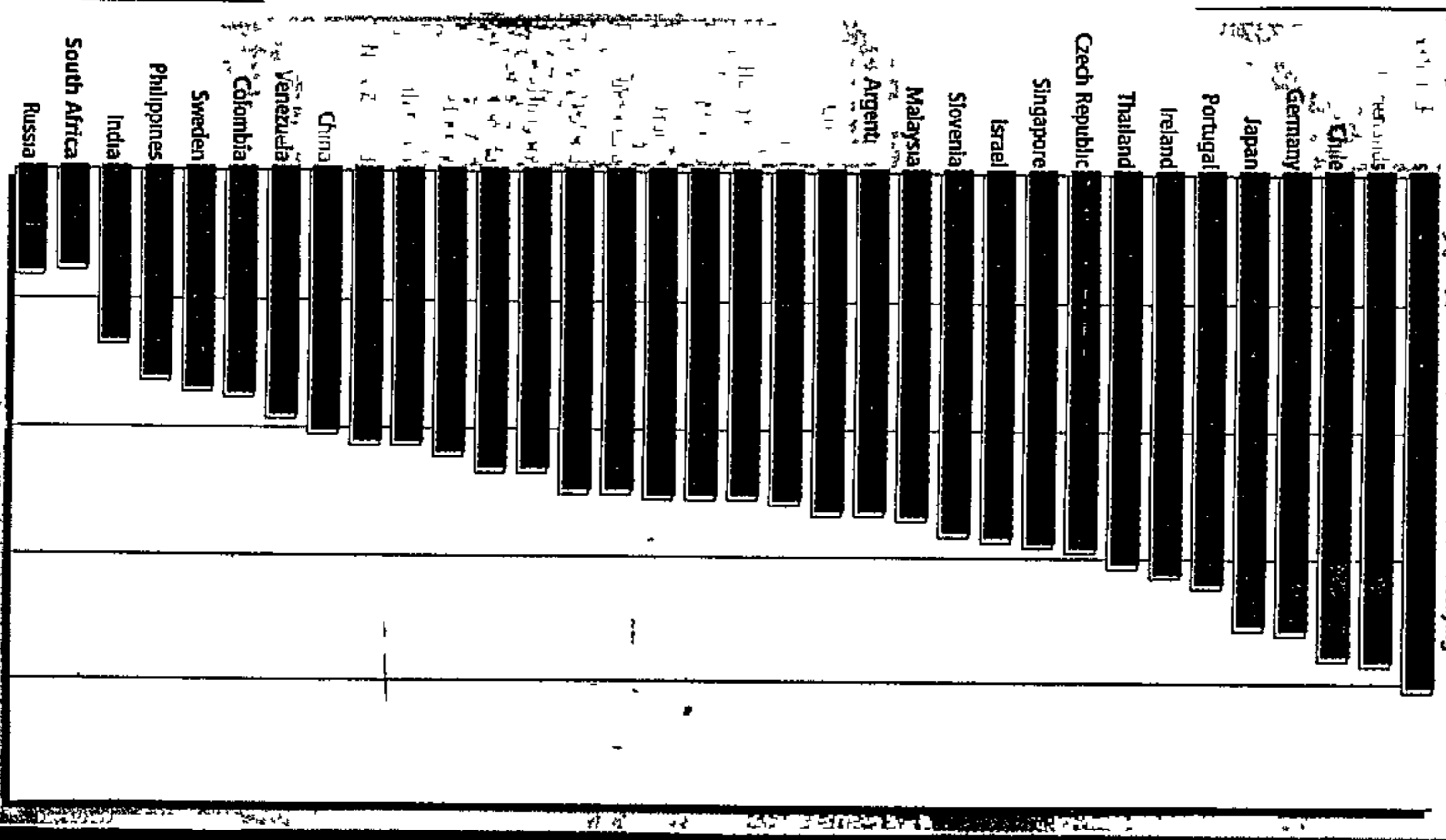
Economist's senior economist Tony Twine says the survey confirms the "rifeness of emigration" by skilled people, a phenomenon which most people say has been understated. "It bears out what people have been saying for years," he says.

Twine says it reflects the "semi-migration" trend — people who leave the country on the pretext of going on holiday, but do not return.

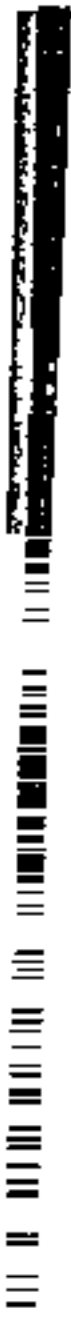
According to the survey, most well-educated people in the US, Netherlands, Germany and Japan are likely to stay in their countries — unlike those living in India, Columbia, Philippines and Venezuela.

Though developing countries often suffer a brain drain of skilled workers to richer countries, Chile bucks these trends just about eight in 10 well-educated Chileans are likely to stay compared with rich Sweden where only between one and two highly skilled people are likely to do so.

BRAIN DRAIN
ranked by likelihood of the well-educated staying*



Graphic: HONIA KIRSCH



By Sharon Chetty

A global network of professionals is working towards spreading their skills to address the development needs of most parts of the world.

Now through the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) their services have been extended to South Africa to help deal with the local backlog in social development.

Although the UNV like other UN agencies was established in 1994 in Pretoria, their work here is not widely known and not many South African professionals are part of this global network.

However an effort is being made to raise the UNV's profile and to become more involved with local groups says programme officer Diana Naburn-Koikha.

For Naburn-Koikha South Africa presents a range of challenges since literally every sector needs help.

But since the entire system has been undergoing transformation over the past five years outsiders have not always been able easily to slot into the scheme despite their eagerness to contribute to the changes.

To date perhaps the most significant project the UNV has been involved in was the placement of 15 doctors in Northern Province of which nine remain in service.

The doctors came to South Africa at the request of the Government. But despite support from the Health Ministry for such a scheme it has still been bogged down by bureaucracy.

The request for the doctors was made in 1995 and more than 200 volunteers were willing to come to this country. But because the red tape took so much time to sort out, only 15 posts were eventually filled and only nine doctors stayed on for a second year.

This project was meant to be a pilot and was expected to be replicated in other rural areas, but for now the project looks as if it is going to take a while to become widespread.

A large part of our time has been spent on dealing with the bureaucracy and having to sort out the paperwork to get the doctors registered admitted Naburn-Koikha.

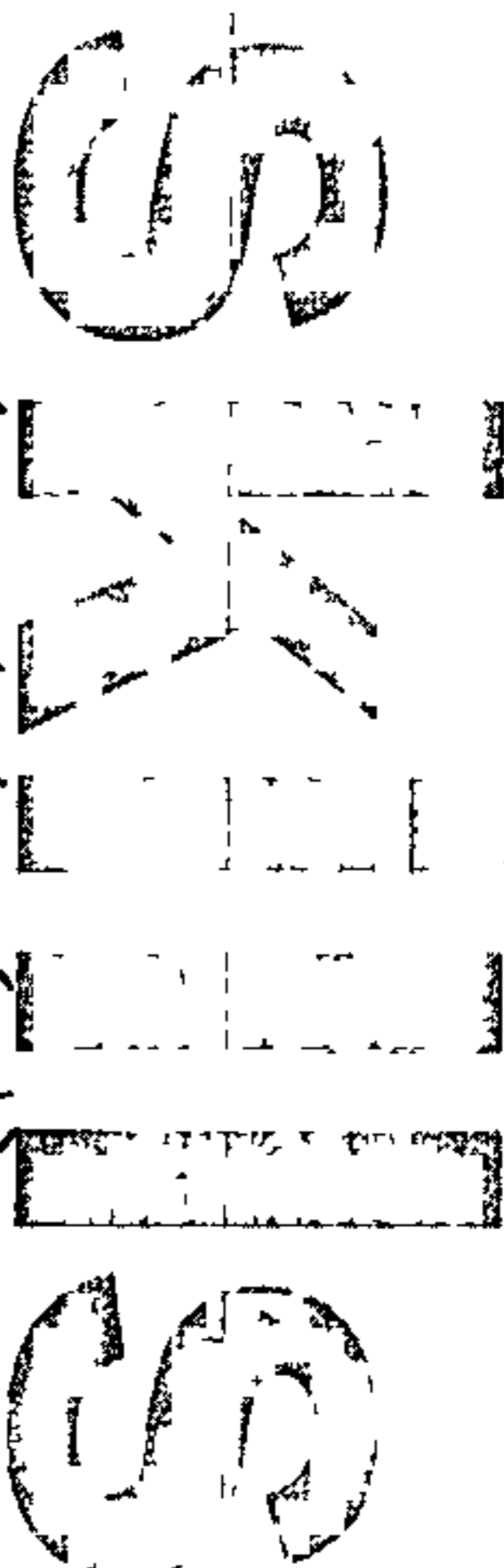
The doctors are here only on short stints and have to apply for work permits like any other foreign trained medics.

But new rules of the Health Professionals Councils (previously the South African Medical and Dental Council) have sometimes excluded entire categories of people like Asians.

They have also at times required an examination of their curricula, which then excludes a wide range of volunteers.

While at first the HPC stipulated that no doc-

UN volunteers spread their



Southern 21/7/99 (23b)



GRAASHUIK-10 NHELAPPO

country is not short of doctors the problem is that too many of them prefer the private sector and do not want to work in the badly resourced rural areas - provide a stark example of why South Africa needs to work in partnership with agencies like the UNV.

The majority of UNV recruits (about 80 percent) are from the developing world and thus have the relevant experience.

An important part of a volunteer's task is to work closely with local people to train them so that capacity is built and they do not leave huge gaps when their contracts expire.

Besides healthcare UN volunteers can be found in literally any profession. They have a data base listing people in 115 categories - although for obvious reasons most work is done in agriculture health education vocational training industry transport and population control.

There are many services on offer. If necessary a highly skilled information technology professional can fly in to assist the Government for two weeks.

only while former exiles are helped to resettle in their home countries through placement in professional positions.

Naburn-Koikha says that projects dealing with violence against women are being assisted in South Africa and there are many programmes devised and run by local people which receive their support.

Volunteers worked with Statistics SA during the first post-1994 population census count and 10 South Africans have been sent to East Timor to monitor and observe elections there.

The Johannesburg Metro Council has asked for a specialist in urban planning and professionals working with gender health and youth have also been requested.

While UNV's work is well known in the rest of the world and they regularly attract applications from a variety of professionals the same has not yet happened in South Africa.

Naburn-Koikha says that while everywhere in South Africa there is evidence of local people being involved in development projects (often the unskilled and barely educated) there appears to be a definite need to get more professionals involved.

"We realise that a lot more advocacy is needed. Once we become more established and better known, we expect people will come to us with specific requests and we will know in which areas to concentrate."

United Nations Volunteers can be contacted at (012) 338-5300

tors could be recruited from the Southern African Development Community countries to avoid a brain drain of our neighbours the rule was then extended to all of Africa and then to expatriate Africans, even if they had been living abroad for decades.

HPC spokeswoman Louise Emerson says that there has been a moratorium on the registration of foreign-trained doctors since September 1995.

A new registration system is being developed and the new rules still have to be promulgated in

Parliament, Emerson explains. Strict restrictions on recruiting people from the continent are being applied so as 'not to deprive other countries of much-needed expertise', she says.

Emerson says that there is still provision for limited registration which allows for doctors to work only in provincial hospitals but that full registration which will allow a doctor to work anywhere, even the private sector is being limited.

The inequities in the healthcare system - this

ET 4/10/99 (236)

Protection for foreign spouses

STAFF WRITER

FOREIGN spouses of South Africans, at risk of deportation while their applications for permanent residence are processed, have been granted protection by the Cape High Court

Last week all Department of Home Affairs offices received a directive to obey an order by Acting Judge Belinda van Heerden — pending the outcome of a Constitutional Court hearing — that temporary residence permits be granted to foreign spouses of South African citizens

The judgment on September 21 concerned three applications by South African citizens married to foreigners: Rahim Dawood, a watchmaker, who married a Thai national; Nazila Shalabi, married to an Egyptian national, Ahmed Talaat Shalab, and Maureen

Thomas, married to a Briton

After the landmark ruling, the *Cape Times* was inundated with phone calls from couples who claimed Home Affairs was not complying with the court order

Acting Judge Van Heerden ordered the director-general to issue a temporary residence permit to any foreign non-resident spouse of a South African citizen and to extend it when necessary until the spouse had applied for immigration

In the case of foreign spouses whose temporary residence permits had expired, the director-general was ordered to extend the permits until the spouses had submitted their applications for immigration and the regional Immigration Selection Board had reached a decision

The Department of Home Affairs' requirement that foreign

spouses deposit a non-refundable fee of R7 750 (later increased to R10 020) before it would process an application for immigration was found by Acting Judge Van Heerden to be invalid and unconstitutional. Home Affairs was given three months to correct this regulation

The judge also declared invalid and unconstitutional Section 25 (9b) of the Aliens Control Act. This section requires a foreign national spouse who is in South Africa illegally to return to his or her country of origin and apply for a permanent residence permit from there. Parliament was given one year to amend the legislation

William Kerfoot, of the Legal Resources Centre, which brought two of the applications, said fears that the judgment would "open the floodgates to illegal immigrants" were unfounded.

(236) ET (BR) 4/10/99

Brain drain worse than feared

JOHN FRASER

Johannesburg — South Africa's brain drain is far worse than shown in official government figures and is costing the country dearly in terms of lost production and capital, new research by the Development Policy Research Unit of the University of Cape Town reveals

David Kaplan, Jean-Baptiste Meyer and Mercy Brown, the authors of the research report published last week in *Trade and Industry Monitor*, compiled their data by looking at figures on the immigration of South Africans to the UK, the US, Australia, Canada and New Zealand

These five countries together account for three quarters of all South African emigrants

In the nine years from 1989 to 1997, 233 609 South Africans arrived in these countries, a far higher figure than the official government emigration figure of 82,811 for the same period

The researchers concluded

the official government figures underestimated the true scale of the brain drain by two-thirds

The study also highlights the high proportion of emigrants who take their skills as well as their household effects out of the country "It is evident that a significant brain drain is under way," the study warned

"Even pre-1994, South Africa experienced a substantial new emigration of professionals," the report concluded

"The brain drain has been increasing. Post 1994, the annual emigration of professionals was 56 percent higher than for 1989-1994

"The problem is not solely one of high emigration. Immigration is falling and it is historically unprecedented for South Africa to have such limited immigration of professionals"

The research concluded that between one-eighth and one-fifth of South Africans with tertiary educations now resided abroad

"The major cost to the country

is in lost production and the export of human capital in the form of education, training and experience," the study warned

Emigration of graduates lowered gross domestic product by 0,37 percent a year, it said. In 1997, R67,8 billion of investment in human capital abandoned the country

"Almost R11 billion left the country in 1994-97," the report said. The consequent shortage of skilled labour brought another cost to the country: higher wage bills

"This is particularly true for internationally mobile occupations like information technology, where emigration is a significant factor in keeping the labour market tight and wages high.

"With the costs of replacing an executive or other skilled employee at some 30-35 percent of annual employment costs, staff turnover consequent upon emigration is calculated to cost the economy a further R2,5 billion a year," the report added

Call for laws to stop SA 'brain drain'

DIAGNOSIS (23b)
HEALTH WATCH

Medical Research Council president Molegappu William Makgoba has appealed to Parliament to draft new laws to protect the country's "intellectual property", and so help ensure the growth of South Africa's economy in the 21st century.

Appealing to the parliamentary portfolio committee on health to drive a process to develop intellectual property laws for the country, Dr Makgoba said too much skill and knowledge, often paid for with public money was leaving the country.

Dr Makgoba was speaking at a press conference yesterday during which he handed a copy of the council's annual report to Abe Nkomo chairman of Parliament's portfolio committee on health.

"Millions of rands of public money is devoted to research in this country.

"In spite of the fact that intellectual property is the way in which countries make money, there is nothing to determine what actually happens to the intellectual property of that research here," he said.

Anyone doing research courtesy of public funds given to universities and science councils could make a discovery that could earn a lot of money.

But at the point where they no longer needed to be funded they could simply decide to go and set up their own company in another country.

Then they go off and make money with the base knowledge gained via public money in South Africa. But South Africa gets nothing back.

The country should have a framework to ensure that in cases where research was funded by public money the country should benefit.

Dr Makgoba said South Africa should look to Canada which was formulating laws to make sure that when it invested money in research Canada would reap some benefit.

"Canada was funding lots of people from countries like Israel and the United States, and then finding that when people could spin some money from their findings, they left Canada and went home to set up their own companies.

"They want to try to restrict this practice with new laws."

Dr Makgoba said although Parliament had to be aware that "money for this country is going to come out of intellectual property".

Highlights from the annual report included:

■ The MRC is coordinating a South African AIDS vaccine initiative to develop and implement an affordable accessible vaccine against HIV. By mid 2000 it expects to start clinical trials both here and in the United States. Trials will last three years.

■ Studies of the iodine content in South Africa's table salt found that instead of the national requirement of 90%, only 62% of households had table salt with adequate iodine to prevent and control iodine deficiency which can lead to goitres.

■ A study on inner-city decay which confirmed the "deception of mankind" that moving to cities from rural areas meant people would be getting sophisticated, modern accommodation. Instead the reality was hazardous living conditions - extreme over crowding, crumbling buildings, lack of safety and inadequate waste collection.

Landmark ruling on foreign spouses

ET 22/9/99

(23b)

THE Cape High Court yesterday affirmed the right of South Africans to live in their country with the partner of their choice.

This was made clear in a far-reaching judgment by Acting Justice Belinda van Heerden in three applications by South African citizens who are married to foreigners.

Rahim Dawood, a watchmaker, fell in love and married a Thai national. They have one child, a daughter.

The Department of Home Affairs required him to pay a non-refundable fee of R7 750 for it to process an application for an immigration permit.

When repeated attempts failed and his wife was in danger of being deported, he brought a class action on behalf of people described as "all persons permanently resident in South Africa who are married to alien spouses" against the Minister of Home Affairs, the department's director-general and the Minister of Finance.

An Egyptian national, Ahmed Talat Shalabi, who was recruited by fast food chain McDonald's to train staff, married a South African woman, Nazila Shalabi. They have one child.

The Department of Home Affairs refused him a temporary permit to allow him to remain inside South Africa while his application for permanent residence was being processed.

Maureen Thomas married her British husband Colin in 1994. The department refused to process his application for a permanent residence permit when he could not afford the R7 750 application fee.

Yesterday Judge Van Heerden declared amendments to the Aliens Control Regulations, which last year prescribed a fee of R7 750 and this year R10 020, "invalid and inconsistent with the Constitution".

The minister has three months to correct the regulations.

The judge also declared invalid and inconsistent with the Constitution section 25 (9b) of the Aliens Control Act. This section requires that a foreign national spouse illegally in South Africa, must return to his or her country of origin and apply for a permanent residence permit from there, no matter how long this may take.

The director-general was ordered to issue temporary residence permits to any alien non-resident spouses of South African citizens where they have not been issued with such a permit until they have submitted an application for an immigration permit.

Where the validity of temporary residence permits of foreign nationals married to South Africans has expired, the director-general was ordered likewise to extend the validity of the permits until the regional immigration selection board has made a decision.

Judge Van Heerden said the Bill of Rights must be interpreted so as to afford protection of what she would regard as the very least as being one of the "core elements" of "the institution of marriage and family life" - namely the right of spouses to live together.

The right to human dignity has been described by the Constitutional Court as one of the most important rights in the Bill of Rights.

The prescribed fee "unfinged or threatened the right to human dignity" of South African permanent residents and their foreign national spouses.

The constitutionality of section 25 (9b) of the Aliens Control Act also fell foul of the section 10 constitutional right to human dignity of South African permanent residents who are married to alien non-resident spouses, and the spouses themselves. - Staff Writer

Ministers discuss work permit problem

Farouk Chothia

CAPE TOWN — Trade and Industry Minister Alec Erwin held talks with Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi in Pretoria yesterday in an attempt to hammer out problems over the issuing of work permits to foreign investors.

The meeting follows growing concern in government circles that the home affairs department is a stumbling block to attracting investments as it is turning down applications for work permits. President Thabo Mbeki conceded last week that there was a problem, saying many cases had been brought to government's attention.

Democratic Party MP Richard Pillay said he had learnt from home affairs of-

ficials that there was a backlog of 4 000 applications from businesses.

Chinese-owned textile company Norvelle Spinners has threatened to relocate from Cape Town to Mozambique after home affairs officials indicated that the work permit of the company's managing director would not be renewed. A Chinese banker was reportedly refused a visa recently.

It is understood the American Chamber of Commerce has been pushing for the trade and industry department to become involved in vetting applications of potential investors. Western Cape economic affairs MEC Mark Wiley said his provincial counterparts were concerned about the attitude of home affairs officials. Norvelle Spinners want-

ed to disinvest not because of labour laws, but home affairs red tape, he said.

A government official said that both Buthelezi and Erwin were committed to finding solutions. A large part of the problem could lie in a shortage of skilled personnel who knew how to assess applications.

Mbeki said that Buthelezi was "horrified" when he learnt of applications having been refused.

Pillay said there was a serious shortage of skills. He knew of a foreign businessman who disclosed that he had £1,2m Home Affairs officials translated the amount to R2 500. In another case a businessman's application was delayed because officials battled to come to grips with the business plan submitted.

236

BD 311199

Buthelezi and Erwin in pledge to tackle logjam of work permits for foreigners

CLIVE SAWYER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The two ministers, accompanied by senior officials met in Pretoria yesterday.

Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Trade and Industry Minister Alec Erwin have committed themselves to clearing blockages in the handling of work permit applications for foreigners which, Parliament has been told, are hampering investment and job creation.

Last week Henrie Bester, Western Cape minister for economic affairs and tourism, told the National Council of Provinces that a major investment by an international textile firm was in jeopardy because of stumbling blocks put in the way by Home Affairs officials.

Backlogs in applications are reportedly running into the thousands. President Thabo Mbeki responding to Mr Bester admitted there was a problem and promised to ensure the issue was resolved.

Chief Buthelezi and his deputy Lindiwe Sisulu had been "horrified" when earlier complaints about how the handling of work permits was blocking investment were reported to them, Mr Mbeki told the NCOP.

Earlier this week the SA Chamber of Business (Sacob) asked for a meeting with Chief Buthelezi to discuss immigration and work permit problems.

Sacob chief executive Kevin Wakeford said the saga of problems in regard to these issues was having a potentially devastating long term effect on South Africa's image abroad.

In its annual report to Parliament this year, the Department of Home Affairs outlined its official approach to immigration and to the issuing of work permits.

The department said it encouraged immigration applications from Indian nationalists and entrepreneurs who wanted to relocate existing businesses or set up in new businesses in South Africa.

"This is especially in the areas of import replacement, the processing of South Africa's raw materials, the development of a more dynamic export sector, the creation of job opportunities and the training of South African workers in special skills."

Applications by financially independent people were welcomed provided the economy would benefit.

As for recruitment, the department was "not directly involved in an active immigration drive."

Where shortages existed, normal practice was that employers would recruit abroad independently.

Last year, the department approved 11 207 renewals of work permits from foreigners already in the country.

10 828 applications for work permits from outside the country and 113 applications for work-seeker's permits.

Only foreigners with highly specialised skills and expertise were led with work permits.

"These permits are of a temporary nature to train South African citizens and permanent residents to eventually take over the positions of foreigners," the department said.

ARL
3/11/99 (236)

Why we hate South Africa ...

m+G 29/10 - 4/11/99

(236)

**Tham Moyo
and Christine
Chiweshe-Adewal**
CROSSFIRE

Although these statistics on violence against women might appear grim, thank God this happens in a country like ours where we have very good laws and a very good Constitution. I shudder to think what would happen if this were in some other African country.

Famous last words by one Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Bridgette Mabandla at the Zimbabwe International Book Fair Harare 1999.

Many of those present were shocked that such words could come from such a highly placed official at an international public gathering. But those of us who have lived here for the past few years were not shocked at all.

It was the usual arrogance with which we have been treated by many South Africans from before we set foot here when we tried to get visas and work permits.

We are two Zimbabweans, temporarily working in South Africa. We use the word "temporarily" to indicate that we shall be going back home at the end of our contracts.

Having read the piece in your edition last week ("The Yankees of Africa", October 22 to 28), and after many months of seething in each other's lounges or over the phone, we have enough anger to put pen to paper.

We have been at the coalface of South African ill treatment, arrogance and ignorance about the continent.

We hate South Africa for inviting us for tea and then telling us we are not wanted at the table.

We came to this country after being head hunted. One of us was literally asked by an international agency if he would be interested to come and work with a new institution and "help them set up and develop their programmes".

This is a fact that we like throwing at our colleagues at work and to the South African police when they dare stop us on the road, as they love doing once or twice a week.

We like to tell this to secretaries and security guards, who often say to us, "Oh, we saw the paper yesterday. Things are really bad in your country. Aren't you glad you are here?" or the others who speak very loudly within earshot, "These foreigners who just came to South Africa."

Yes, we are glad to be here, being paid in foreign currency, living in the lap of luxury and being able to remit money back to our families. But we were not starving before we came here. We are educated, skilled and we came here to work.

Yes, there is poverty across the Limpopo. Yes, there are fewer jobs there than in South Africa right now, but we have come to fill "vacancies", and take up opportunities.

Interestingly, white people who come into South Africa are not seen as taking locals' jobs. Australians, Americans or even white Zimbabweans or Kenyans are welcomed with open arms, because they are seen as businesspeople bringing in so-called investment.

We find it ironic that while we are stopped by black South African police on the road, while our work permits are scrutinised five times at the airport and at Beit Bridge, whites

are literally waved past. What we find most painful is the treatment and attitude we get from black South Africans.

We hate South Africa for the way in which some of its citizens speak about the rest of the continent. Yes, South Africa has a good Constitution, good laws, and some very good examples of democratic practice. But we dare to say that some of the so-called democracy is on paper. On the ground, its black citizens are still as poor as those in Kano, Naivasha, Mutoko or Dakar. People do not eat good constitutions or laws on paper.

We are sick and tired of hearing South Africans shudder. "Oh God, Robert Mugabe is really terrible. How can he say that about homosexuals?" We dare to suggest that the sentiments Mugabe and Yoweri Museveni have publicly expressed are held by a very large percentage of South Africans on the streets of Durban or in the village in Matatiele.

While we vehemently oppose the things that these men have said and done, South Africans should acknowledge that the same attitudes are held by significant numbers of their own leaders and ordinary citizens.

We have sat in workshops in rural areas and in townships where South African citizens publicly challenged then president Nelson Mandela to dare come and tell them to stop beating their wives. It happens in a village in Malawi, it happens here. Yet the picture that some South Africans would like to present is that the rest of us are so backward and do not know how to live democratically.

We hate the way in which South Africans think that they can learn nothing from the rest of the continent, and many say so in so many words.

We have sat in workshops where South Africans literally silence us with their disdain for what we consider to be our achievements, and our struggles.

We may not have achieved much, but we have fought, we have organised and we continue to struggle. The struggle for democracy was not invented in South Africa. Neither was it perfected here — as some South Africans would have us believe.

We hate the way in which the new kid on the block is made to look as if it is the one that has come to save us all. Witness the way in which

Zambian President Frederick Chiluba's efforts at solving the Democratic Republic of Congo crisis and other African leaders' attempts at helping in the Libyan crisis have been unacknowledged by the South African press and leadership.

In Shona we call what South Africa did in these two cases "vava mucheka dzafa", meaning "the ones who come to skin an animal that is already dead".

The only thing other countries in Africa appear good for, it seems, are to serve as examples of all that is bad and is to be avoided. Hence various African leaders are treated as mere buffoons at best, and, at worst, bogeymen.

Perhaps, just like an abused woman (a phenomenon you all would be familiar with), we resent neighbours who stand on top of their huts and denounce my abusive husband. Abusive he may be and I would call him all manner of names, but I will not let you say it on my behalf. I would equally resent it, knowing, too, that your own husband is not as loving as he appears. Yes, he may not exactly have broken your hand yet, but hey we are watching, he has started to twist your fingers.

South African papers do not report anything that is positive about the continent. They say nothing about the fact that you can go and have coffee at night in Accra without being mugged, raped or killed, that they have roads and



Democracy on paper while South Africa may have a very good Constitution, black citizens are still as poor as those in Kano, Naivasha, Mutoko or Dakar. PHOTO. RUTH MOTAU

schools that work in Mali, or that, in its first five years of independence, Zimbabwe achieved such high volume (and quality) delivery in its education system as compared to all the years of colonialism.

The fact is that the majority of this workforce that South Africa has been poaching from Zimbabwe is the result of Mugabe's policy of free (and good) education and of Mugabe's free health care policy.

We are proud of that legacy today, and we equally hate him for what he has done in the past 10 years. South Africa has not done half of what we did in our first five years, and we can say so very boldly.

Little mention is made of some of the achievements that we have seen in our countries. Granted, some of these achievements have paled under the current gloom and doom. But, in typically white, Western fashion, the problems besetting the continent tend to be presented as the fault of the bad (dare we add native) leaders, the backward peoples and their lack of (paper) democracy.

At a personal level, we shudder at the arrogance (underlain by ignorance mostly) of the average South African we have met here.

On a recent trip to Zimbabwe, our fellow travellers from South Africa said loudly how they were really upset about travelling on "the bad roads to Africa", how they were going to be "sick with all that dust and the beggars that we will see and have to deal with. I hope the hotels will be decent. Oh, I hope the water and electricity will be working well. Maybe we should buy food at Checkers in Pietersburg just to be safe."

They did not bother to ask us all these elementary things. Let alone be a bit sensitive. After all, they were going to Africa. It was only two days after arriving, having travelled on tarred roads throughout and staying at The Meikles, where everything worked like magic, that one of them said "So we are now in Harare?" I could not help saying "No

sweetie, this is heaven, we have died and arrived there."

But, of course, they had come prepared for the worst, so heaven was not going to go with out criticism. They did not understand why a BP garage in Samora Machel Avenue could not take their credit card for petrol. Why their cell phones did not automatically work in Harare and why they could not just use the rand on the streets to buy crafts.

They complained endlessly about the service at the hotel, about how slow the banks were, and so on. Yes, these are comments made by a few ignorant people, you might say, but this is what we hate. The

arrogance, the insensitivity, the behaviour, as if some neighbouring countries are colonies of South Africa and, of course, the ignorance.

While five years ago we could buy the argument that South Africa had been isolated from the rest of the continent and did not know much about us, we now believe that South Africa does not want to know, and does not want to learn.

Even the most ignorant American from Idaho whom we have met never said such things.

We hate the way in which South Africa wants to present itself as being at the top of the "league table". In spite of the blemishes and spots on our various countries, we always console ourselves that at least back home we can go to sleep safe and sound and wake up the next morning.

Even if our houses get broken into, all we will lose are stereos and televisions. We will not be killed in the process.

We come from communities where people still care about each other and look out for each other. And most importantly we do not have to live with racism and tolerate it. With our "cracked pavements" (as Maureen Isaacson wrote in *The Sunday Independent* recently) and our beggars on the streets, we struggle, we love and laugh in this our continent, which we are happy to call home.

**We were not starving
before we came here.
We are educated, skilled.
We came here to work**

Erwin vows to speed up process for work permits

(236) CJ (M) 18/11/99
LYNDA LOXTON & JOHN FRASER

Cape Town - Long delays in the processing of work permits for skilled foreigners should soon be a thing of the past, Alec Erwin, the trade and industry minister, told the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) yesterday.

He said after numerous complaints about home affairs officials delaying or refusing applications, his department had established a link with the department and Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the minister of home affairs, had made a commitment to help speed up the processing of applications.

"(The department will) work with us and others to move the process out of the quagmire that it got itself into," Erwin said.

It was clear that home affairs officials did not always understand the need for specialised and highly skilled staff in certain key industries, especially when those skills were geared to the export market.

The NCOP also ratified trade agreements with the European Union (EU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), which had been passed by the national assembly on Tuesday.

Erwin said he had still not received any official and unambiguous notification from the EU that the row over wines and spirits would not hold up the implementation of the agreement on January 1. But as far as he was concerned, it was on track.

The 15 EU ambassadors were locked in talks in Brussels last night to discuss the row with Pretoria. Negotiations between the two sides over a wines and spirits accord are deadlocked, but a number of EU countries, led by Britain, Denmark and Finland, are battling to ensure that the problems over alcohol labels do not hold up the accord.

"As there is not going to be a deal on wines and spirits before the end of this year, most EU states are keen to prevent a hold-up of the trade package," said an EU diplomat.

Erwin said the Northern Cape would probably be one of the beneficiaries of the agreement, partly because of its agricultural focus.

Farmers move to greener pastures

Other African countries are luring southern agriculturists

Chaire Pickard-Cambridge

SEVERAL groups of SA and Zimbabwean farmers are searching for greener pastures in the rest of Africa, while others have already settled in Mozambique and Zambia.

Their personal reasons for moving often differ but most believe that Mozambique, Zambia and in some cases Uganda offer attractive environments for foreign investors.

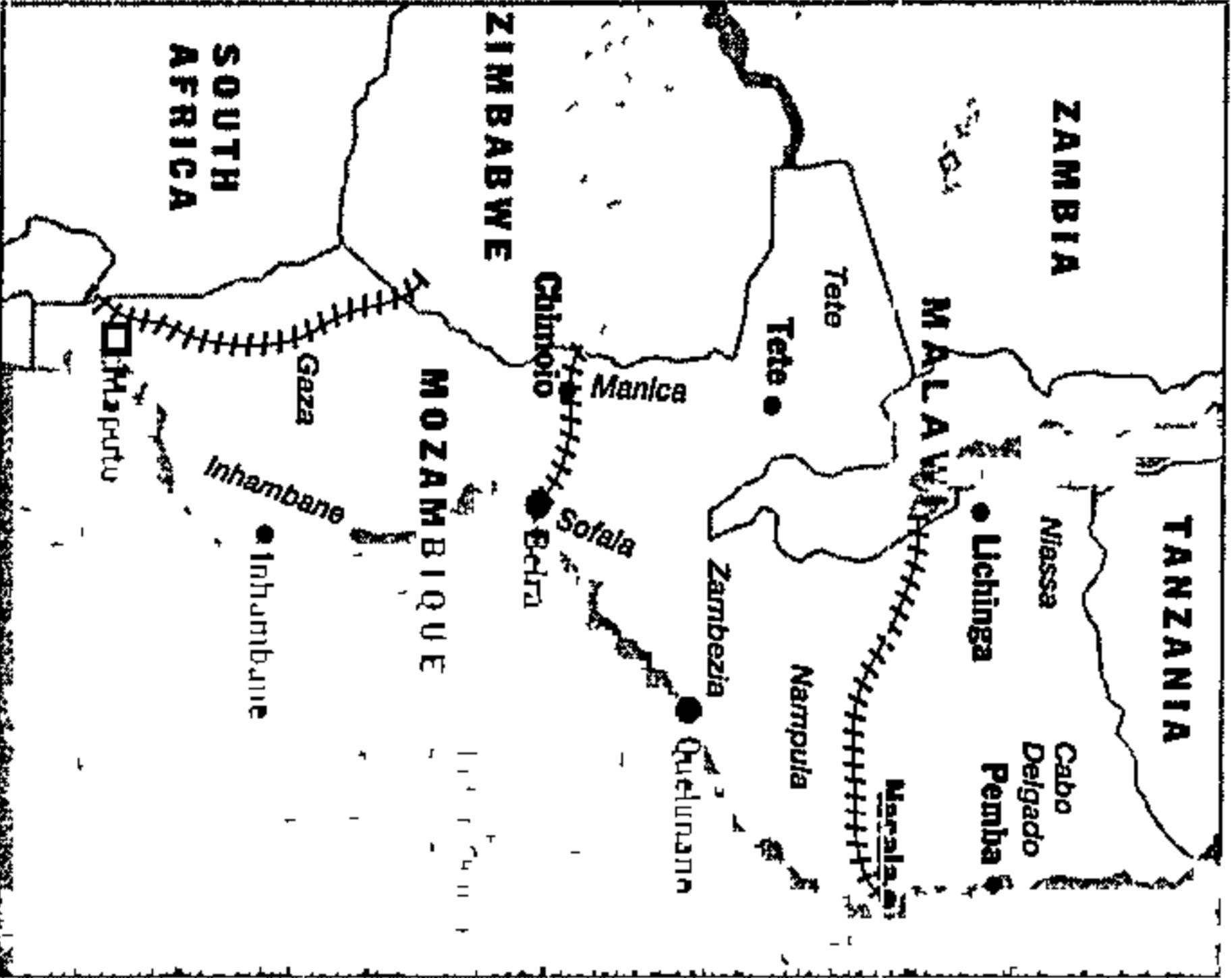
In Zimbabwe, farmers associations have been concerned about policy uncertainty on land while SA concerns include droughts, poor farming conditions and a pending land tax.

The most high-profile move involved SA farmers who went to Mozambique's remote Niassa Province, which borders on Tanzania and Malawi, two years ago. This pilot project, financed with seed capital from the governments of SA and Mozambique, appears fairly stable despite encountering initial problems.

Hannes Saueremann, the Niassa project manager, says 15 Mozambican farmers and eight out of the 10 SA farmers are still part of the training and development project in Lichinga.

Two of the 10 SA farmers who were unhappy with conditions in Niassa moved last month to Chimio in Mozambique's Manica province, where more than 100 Zimbabwean farmers are also negotiating to settle.

About 925ha of land was planted at the Niassa project over the past season realising a combined income of R2,5m. The poor railway network forces the Niassa farmers to use trucks to transport their crops which are



(the chamber's) shares in trust for the SDM and by June the farmers must be organised into a single entity to take over the shares," says Saueremann.

The chamber and the Mozambican government struggled to reach agreement on the structure and shareholding of the SDM. The project was also complicated by interpersonal and institutional problems that appear to have been largely resolved.

The SDM has been reduced to an operational unit in Lichinga. Saueremann, who is based at the Development Bank of Southern Africa in Midrand, says the chamber did not dump the farmers. "The pilot phase is complete, but we are still assisting them and trying to finance their production needs through their own development corporation."

The Maputo government is looking for another equity partner to finance the farmers and their development corporation. Meanwhile, the chamber's chairman, Dries Bruwer, says there are many SA farmers interested in Uganda who have been working closely with President Yoweri Museveni. The chamber is offering them support if they need it. However, it is understood that financing structures are still the main obstacle facing entry into Uganda.

Bruwer claims that as many as 400 SA farmers are believed to have settled across Zambia over the past few years. "Some were assisted by the chamber when they negotiated the purchase of land which had to be done first through chiefs and then through

the government. A number of farmers from Mpumalanga found conditions for growing maize much better in Zambia." A group of more than 100 Zimbabwean farmers hope to move to Manica province in Mozambique next year, although negotiations are still in progress. They are understood to be planning mixed farming.

Manica is less remote than Niassa and shares a long border with Zimbabwe. The farmers could also benefit from proximity to the Beira Corridor and to Mutare in Zimbabwe.

While SA farmers tend to be upbeat about prospects in the rest of Africa, conditions can prove untenable. For instance, SA farmers under the umbrella of an agricultural development organisation Sadeco, moved to Brazzaville-Congo about two years ago. There were initial reports of remarkable crops, but farmers had to be airlifted out after the outbreak of civil war between rival militias.

Saueremann is pragmatic about the difficulties to be faced. "We learnt a lot from the pilot project near Lichinga. There were problems at the border post and with the lack of infrastructure and telecommunications. But the most essential requirement was local community support. Luckily the governor of Niassa province supported the farmers wholeheartedly, although pending elections will be another factor to consider."

He believes the project has left its mark on Lichinga. "The inflation of wages has turned the town around and the new economic activity has resulted in the revamping of the airport."

sold to Malawi Grain Milling and SA's V & M milling company. The Pretoria-based SA Chamber for Agricultural Development in Africa, which was involved in settling the Niassa farmers withdrew from the joint

project known as SDM recently. All the funding (the chamber) channelled has been paid and project assets and the farmers' loan book were transferred to the SDM last month. The Mozambique government is holding

Rwanda accuses Kabila of rearming his forces

Dealing with migrants

AS BORDERS all over the world open up, the pressure of migration is being felt by every country, and in Africa the issue is made more complex by the numerous internal conflicts on the continent

Getting African governments to be more organised and sensitive to migrants is one of the priorities of the newly appointed deputy director-general of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Ndioro Ndiaye

The first African to hold a senior post in the 48-year-old inter-governmental body, Senegalese-born Ndiaye says the continent is "not really dealing with the migration issue", and her mission will be to talk to each and every government to convince them of the urgent need to make migration a priority

Of the 71 IOM members, only 14 are African and a further 14 are among the 50 observers

Ndiaye says it is important that African countries see the benefit of becoming part of a global structure that is trying to manage migration, since the movement of people is inevitable

In South Africa she was scheduled to meet with Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi, senior departmental and Foreign Affairs officials, local United Nations representatives and the ambassadors and high commissioners of other Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries

She will also discuss the link between migration and Aids with Transport Minister Dullah Omar and the representative of UNAids

Ndiaye says that African leaders have to realise that "in 2000 we will miss the train if we don't involve migration at a political and cultural level"

"It is the duty of African leaders to start caring about migration. Only then can they work at reversing the brain drain"

A major project of the IOM since 1983 has been to convince skilled African migrants to return to their countries

She says the project has been successful in Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia. And with funding from the World Bank and African Development Bank, a bigger project will soon target almost all African countries, including South Africa

Through working with regional structures like the SADC, the IOM helps with training and technical cooperation

For example, border guards and civil servants are trained to distinguish between a refugee and a migrant, and are made sensitive to the needs of the different categories of people moving between countries

Language training is also offered and the different security needs are assessed and catered for specifically

At times, they attempt to inform potential

As world borders open up the issue of migration is getting more complex – especially in Africa. **Sharon Chetty** explains why

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15/12/99



Questions around migration must be tackled by all governments, says Ndioro Ndiaye of the International Organisation for Migration.

migrants of the crime situation in a country or perhaps the unemployment rate, so people know what to expect

"Providing information is an important part of our work – we are able to make people aware of where they are going and also to help officials in a government understand where people are coming from"

While at present international attention is focussed on the movement of people in the wake of major conflicts like those in Kosovo, East Timor and parts of the Russian Federation, it is nevertheless important that all governments have a policy on migration, Ndiaye says

And in Africa, despite the continuing conflicts, people are also constantly moving across borders for economic reasons and governments have to be prepared to deal with this

"I will try my best (to bring more African governments on board) and talking to the

leaders will be the first step

"I hope they will realise they will have to offer an economic chance to people"

Ndiaye says her message is simple. While it is accepted that migrants have to be catered for, countries will be overwhelmed by illegal immigrants unless the proper structures are put in place

She has found the South African Government "very sensitive and also very aware" of the issues, and the country also contributes to the international debate through the Organisation of African Unity and a Geneva-based committee that deals with humanitarian aspects of migration

Ndiaye says it is vital for governments to become more coordinated on migration issues to be able to deal with problems like the trafficking in women and children and the spread of diseases across borders

"It's no use for a government to ignore these questions, since no country will be left untouched"

Ndiaye, a medical doctor who was the first African woman to specialise in odontology and stomatology, twice served as a minister in the Senegalese government

She also contributed to the 1990 UN Children's Fund World Summit for Children, chaired the Fifth Regional Conference of African Women and contributed to the preparation for the UN Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995

After her extensive experience in politics, she is convinced that ignorance is the biggest stumbling block against progress on issues like migration

"There is ignorance throughout the world. It comes from lack of understanding and education and makes people reluctant to tackle the big questions like migration"

Part of the IOM's aim is to encourage governments and tertiary institutions to include studies on migration as part of the curricula

While she concedes that in countries like South Africa the issue is relatively new and therefore the debate can at times be muddled, she believes it is still important that the issue is visible

"In all countries the matter can be new, but it is still the responsibility of the governments to put it on the agenda," she says

Fed-up nurses joining brain drain in droves

Star 16/1/99

(236)

By ELLIOTT SYLVESTER

In the last three months of 1998 about 150 nurses tendered applications to leave South Africa to take up positions in foreign countries.

Medi-link International, a British-based nursing placement agency, successfully placed more than 200 local nurses in positions in the UK last year and reports up to 30 inquiries a week.

Later this month a further 48 local nurses will leave for Britain to tend to the sick and suffering battling under the strain of a rampant flu virus laying hundreds low

More and more South African nurses are selling their services on the international market for more lucrative compensation. The Britain-bound nurses were offered salaries of up to R160 000 a year when they were recruited in November.

Because of their strong, stable currencies, Britain, along with Saudi Arabia and the United States, have become the most popular foreign destinations for SA nurses.

"It is a matter of seeking greener pastures," says Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa deputy director in charge of industrial relations, Thembi Mngomezulu. "Our nurses are trained to the highest standards and can compete competently at an international level."

One such nurse seeking better working conditions is 40-year-old Kedibone Moromoholo. The Pimville, Soweto, single mother of two is hoping a position in Saudi Arabia will be the answer to her financial predicament. "Many nurses can't cope with what we are earning now," she says. Her potential Saudi Arabian employers would pay the casualty-ward nurse between R12 000 and R16 000 a month - four times her current salary

Other benefits include no taxation, accommodation on arrival as well as fully paid travel costs if she wishes to visit her two sons, who will remain behind. With the promise of little or no language barrier and a short orientation programme, as well as a bonus on completion of her contract, there is very little to hold Moromoholo back.

Having completed her training at

Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in 1983, she has more than 15 years of nursing experience but very little to show for it. "We (nurses) thought that after the new dispensation we would be better recognised and rewarded for our efforts but have received absolutely nothing."

Adding to the frustration of constantly working long hours, coupled with a high stress level, is the limited room for upward mobility. "When a staff member retires or dies, her post is frozen, blocking our way to promotion," she says.

But even when promotions are awarded, the pay increase is negligible, which further fuels Moromoholo's desire to leave the country. "My plan is to work in Saudi Arabia and come back in two or three years when I have saved up enough money," she says.

According to Mngomezulu, these plans don't always pan out as expected. "Many nurses decide to stay overseas, and if the local conditions of employment do not improve, I think more of them will be doing it."

Although South Africa now has one of the world's most progressive constitutions and labour relations acts, nurses still need a balanced level of protection concerning employment security and working conditions.

Speculating on further emigrations, Mngomezulu says the private sector will not suffer because of the high degree of competition. The public sector, however, where nurses are dependent on taxpayers, could, in the

long run feel the effects.

"Not so," says Khangelani Hlongwane, spokesperson for Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma. "There is no threat to our health services if nurses are leaving to work overseas," he says. "Nursing is a very mobile profession in a fluid world and there is nothing alarming about them leaving," he adds, saying that concern was raised only because South Africans were for the first time discovering foreign job prospects.

But with large-scale recruiting, such as the international job fair scheduled for late February for placements in, for example, Britain's St Mary's teaching hospital, nurses will be hard pressed not to opt for a system that rewards them appropriately for their invaluable service.



LURED BY MONEY: Kedibone Moromoholo is leaving to work in Saudi Arabia

Permit issue divides industry

Lobbyists want to ease skills shortage by helping foreign IT experts to enter SA

Reports by
Lesley Stones

THE issue of whether more information technology experts should be allowed into SA has placed two leading industry associations in opposing corners.

The Computer Society of SA is hoping to increase the import of skills by asking the home affairs department to consult it when assessing work permit applications. But the Information Technology Association fears that relaxing or speeding up the process may erode standards and see foreigners take jobs which could be filled by locals.

The society has no influence when home affairs decides who qualifies for a permit. But the skills shortage means it could be an invaluable help in identifying much-needed workers, says vice-president Christopher Guy.

In Australia, the government consults the Australian Computer Society when it considers immigration applications. If the society says a candidate is suitably qualified, extra points are awarded,

raising his chance of gaining residence. Approval by the society carries a lot of weight for potential immigrants, says Guy.

A similar process should be implemented here, the society believes. "We are looking at how we can become an authority on judging whether people are suitably qualified. We would like to receive details of the applicants, their qualifications and experience." The society will lobby home affairs to adopt this policy.

It has only just become active on this issue as it had not realised how difficult it was for skilled foreigners to enter SA. "We knew there was a skills shortage but we were not aware that it was very difficult to get into the country."

Companies wanting to recruit foreign staff must prove that the job has been extensively advertised, and that no local applicants have the necessary skills. The candidate must lodge an application from abroad, and cannot enter SA until the permit is approved. That process can take many months.

Cape Town immigration lawyer Gary Eisenberg is also agitat-

ing for the laws to be reviewed.

He suggests that short-term permits are issued to bring in staff for one-off projects which are common in the IT industry. Companies often won contracts to design and install technology within a short time-frame, and could lose the deal if they could not quickly import foreign staff.

Eisenberg has submitted documents to home affairs to highlight the skills shortage and to propose a fast-track procedure.

The lobbyists argue keeping out technicians is denying local black workers the chance to learn new skills. Stuart Cohen of recruitment firm the Bryan Hattingh Group, says without foreigners to fill the gaps where skills are not available locally, the skills pool will not be enriched or enlarged.

That argument is dismissed by IT Association president Adrian Schofield as an easy answer to the greater problem of setting up effective technology training programmes.

He says the association is unlikely to draft a formal policy on work permits since increasing the

number of immigrants risked damaging the prospects for SA workers. "While we have a great deal of sympathy for companies wanting to fill positions we also take note of government's plans for skills development. We should be promoting local growth rather than taking the short-term solution of bringing people in."

The work permit process took a long time, but ensured that only qualified people were accepted. Speeding it up could cut corners, says Schofield. "SA gets an enormous number of applications from people in other African countries who want a better standard of living. Their qualifications may not be what they appear to be and once they are in it is very difficult to get them out."

If foreigners are needed to transfer skills to local workers, he argues, companies can bring people in on a business visa with no right to residence.

"We have enormous skills here and if we could stop people from wanting to leave the country we could go a long way to solving the skills shortage."

(183) (236)
ED 21/1/99



SA losing 100 doctors a year to emigration

By Mokgadi Pela

BETWEEN 70 and 100 doctors emigrate from South Africa every year as the country's brain drain continues

According to Statistics South Africa, 369 general practitioners and specialists have left since 1994.

An article in the latest issue of the *South African Medical Journal* shows that these figures are based on departures recorded at the country's three international airports. The figure is widely acknowledged to be an underestimate as many emigrate "unofficially".

Director of the Science and Technology Policy Research Centre at the

University of Cape Town Professor David Kaplan, who has looked at the immigration records of Britain and Canada, estimates that the real figures are probably double the official ones.

According to the *South African Journal of Science*, a recent study of the whereabouts of Wits medical graduates by Dr Renay Weiner, professors Graham Mitchell and Mr Max Price, found that in the past 35 years, just over 2 000 Wits-trained doctors had left the country.

There is also evidence that the number has increased significantly since the 1970s. It peaked with 57 percent of graduates of that decade now living overseas, compared with 45 per-

cent of graduates from the 1960s.

In another study, Kaplan found that 43 percent of the University of Cape Town's contactable graduates in medicine are overseas.

Professor Dave Morell, chairman of South African Medical Association's full time practice committee, describes the loss of expertise to migration as "tragic" - not only because the resources invested in training are benefiting someone else but also because of the doctors' familiarity with local conditions.

Meanwhile, the Foundation for Research Development Directorate for Science and Technology Policy estimates that more than 570 000 people have left the country since 1945.

26/1/99
Sewer

(236)

MANY developing countries are losing their highly educated people which means that pouring money into education may not have the desired effect — faster growth.

So says an IMF report released this week on the global brain drain. It found that an alarming 8% of SA's educated professionals have left the country to settle in the US. The study does not give data for SA immigration to the rest of the developed world.

In the most extensive study ever done, IMF researchers William Carrington, an economist at the US Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington, and Enrica Detragiache, an economist in the Commodities and Special Issues Division of the IMF's Research Department, set out to quantify the extent of the brain drain and determine which countries are most affected by it.

They also looked at the extent of migration, by level of education to the US and other OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries.

Perhaps the oldest question in economics is why some countries are rich while others are poor. Economic theory has emphasised that differences in the educational levels of the population are an important part of the answer and that improved schooling opportunities should raise incomes in developing countries.

Yet, while there is little doubt that highly educated workers in many developing countries are scarce, it is also true that many scientists, engineers, physicians and other professionals from developing countries work in Canada, the United States and Western Europe.

This phenomenon was noticed as early as the 1960s and has been a contentious issue in the North-South debate ever since, the report says. The researchers found that migration to the US

How the SA educated trickle from the country

IMF says many are now in the US, writes CHARMAIN NAIDOO from New York (236) ST (97) 118 199

accounted for 54.3% of total migration from developing countries.

Three African countries accounted for the largest migration rate of highly educated people to the US: Ghana, 26%; SA, more than 8%, and Egypt, 2.5%. More than 60% of these immigrants have tertiary education. Total immigration from Africa is small, the researchers say.

"It is noteworthy, however, that immigrants from Africa consist primarily of highly educated individuals (about 95 000 of 128 000 migrants)."

The researchers said "More research is needed to evaluate the impact of the brain drain on source economies and on worldwide welfare, as well as the reasons for such migration."

They said OECD immigration policies tend to favour the better-educated, which may explain why the educational composition of total migration is skewed toward the better educated but cannot explain why so many skilled workers are willing to leave developing countries.

"Wage differentials may be part of the explanation, but this raises the question of what accounts for such differentials. Differences in the quality of life, educational opportunities for chil-

dren and job security may also play a role, as may the desire to interact with a broader group of similarly skilled colleagues.

Another important issue is the extent to which the benefits of education acquired by citizens of developing countries are externalities that individuals cannot be expected to take into account when making their private decisions.

"Our research also indicates several ways in which estimates of the brain drain could be improved using existing data.

"The first would be to use census information for other large immigrant receiving countries, such as Australia, Canada, France and Germany. Together with the US, these four countries account for about 93% of total migratory flows to OECD countries, so the resulting figures would be a very good approximation of the total.

"Another promising direction for future research would be to try to obtain, from census data or other sources, more detailed information about the occupational categories of highly skilled migrants. There are no accurate records of how many South Africans live in the US. Estimates range from 100 000 to 250 000

We don't want you, bureaucrats tell doctor

NATALIE KAMMIES (236) ST (97) 118 199

AN INTERN doctor at Cape Town's Groote Schuur hospital who has been living in the country for 17 years has been told by the government that her services are not wanted because she is not a SA citizen.

Dr Shirley Jena, who was born in the UK and emigrated to Ciskei from Botswana in 1982, has been caught up in a bureaucratic web created by the demise of the country's homelands.

Jena, 25, has spent most of her life in South Africa and believes that by law she became a citizen by naturalisation, but she has been told she may not work here.

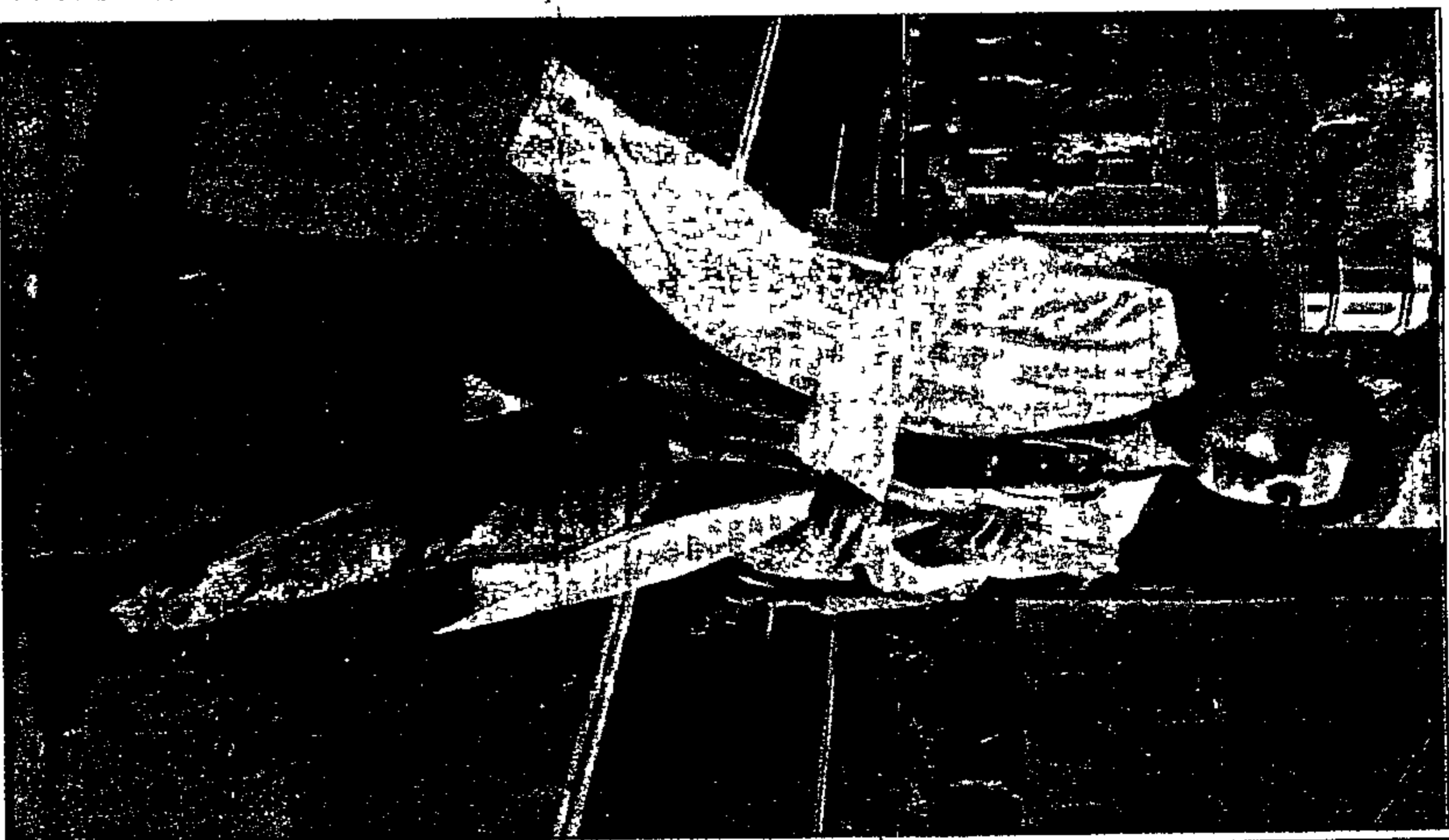
After arriving in Ciskei with her family in 1982, Jena completed her schooling in Port Elizabeth and her Ph D at Medunsa in Pretoria.

She began working at Groote Schuur in March but has since been told that she cannot be paid because she does not have a SA identity document or a working permit.

But Jena believes that her Ciskeian citizenship she obtained when she was 17 entitles her to South African citizenship. In 1991 her parents received Ciskeian citizenship. A year later Jena was issued with a Preliminary Travelling Certificate by the Department of Internal Affairs and Return in Ciskei which stated that she was also a Ciskeian citizen.

She said she produced this document when she applied to study medicine at the Medical University of Southern Africa and was accepted. But, in her fifth year of study, she received a letter from the university saying she was not a South African citizen and did not have a study permit.

"I just felt it. No-one pestered me and I kept on studying." When she applied for a South African identity document last year so that she could seek a student loan, Home Affairs said in a letter that "according to available information Ms Jena is not a South African citizen and has no claim to South African citizenship."



UNWANTED- Shirley Jena, who has been living in South Africa for 17 years, says she should be allowed to work in the country as a doctor. Picture JACK LESTRADE

has been unable to pay her study debts and fears she may be blacklisted. Doctor Dennis Adams, senior medical superintendent at Groote Schuur, said the hospital was "extremely sympathetic" to Jena's situation but "our hands are tied".

Manasse Makwela, communications officer at Home Affairs' head office in Pretoria said "It's not a general matter. There are some specifics to do with this case and one can only comment after getting all the facts." Jena, who is engaged, said all she wanted was to do her job. "I'd like the country to recognise that I have a good service to offer and to allow me to do it."

He does supervision in the es but he through and better

Bid to raise accountants' numbers

Emigration takes heavy toll among professionals, writes Madeleine van Niekerk

THE SA Institute of Chartered Accountants (Saiqa) has recruited more than 1 000 candidates to its two associate colleges this year to achieve its objective of producing 3 000 black chartered accountants (CAs) by 2005, says Will Coates, the institute's marketing director.

The recruits will attend the Associate Accounting Technicians and Associate General Accountants colleges.

Chartered accountants are still leaving SA to work overseas although at a slower rate than before. Of 18 041 CAs belonging to Saiqa, 3 546 or almost a fifth, are absentee members.

The number of absentee members have increased slightly from seven months ago. At the end of last month the number of CAs affiliated to Saiqa was 18 041, up from 17 591 seven months ago. The absentee membership in that time increased to 3 546 from 3 297.

"The trend is not noticeably worse, but is slowly getting worse. The percentage of absentee members to the total membership creeps up every time you look at it. The rate of increase has slowed down but the percentage of absentees of the total is slowly increasing," said Saiqa MD Ken Kockler.

At the end of 1997 the absentee membership was 17%. By the end of last year it had increased to 19% and it now stands at 20%.

The most popular destinations are still the UK (with 1 371), followed by Australia (570) and the US (428). The number in Canada declined to 252 from 259.

Marius Khoury, MD of the Premier Personnel Agency, says the accounting and information technology (IT) professions are most affected by emigration. He said about 10% of emigrant candidates apply to work overseas for the two-year working vacation allowed by Commonwealth agreements. About 10% emigrate as a result of their access to European Union citizenship. Some stay longer than the two years allowed, obtain work permits and then decide on their future.

Accountants between the ages of 24 and 27 were most likely to leave and choose the UK and EU countries, with some opting for Australia. Australia did not have the Commonwealth working visa arrangement and relocation was more difficult. Khoury said IT professionals owing to the demand for Y2K skills opted to leave. Khoury said they mostly chose the UK, Europe, Australia and if allowed the US.

Reasons for leaving ranged from the strength of the British pound coupled with the demand for skills to the high levels of crime in SA.

SA professionals are returning but the percentages are unknown. The numbers are however drawn from those whose working vacations have expired and not those who have emigrated.

"I am told by many South Africans in London that life is tough and it is expensive to live in the UK," said Khoury. South Africans returning were not being offered premium salary packages as most of the work undertaken was seen as "hours worked and not experience gained". In many cases returning candidates were paid at the going rate of newly qualified professionals.

TODAY

Rainfall

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Weather

- Thundershowers
- Cloudy
- Sunny/Warm
- Snow

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06/12

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Auckland	04 14	clear	Havana
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Buenos Aires	03 14	partly cloudy	Los An
Cairo	24 34	clear	Madrid
Dhaka	26 28	rain	Moscow
Dubai	32 47	clear	Nairobi

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101

Brain drain saps skills but increases linkages abroad

A survey of migrants shows SA is more likely than most countries to lose well educated people to the developed world, write David Kaplan and Jean-Baptiste Meyer

IT IS widely recognised that official data, compiled by Statistics SA, undercount the number of people emigrating. The fact is that hitherto, there has been no hard data. Recently acquired figures on SA immigrants recorded by the five major recipient countries who collectively account for three-quarters of permanent arrivals from SA emigration — the UK, US, Australia, Canada and New Zealand — suggest that 233 609 South Africans emigrated between 1989 and 1997. This compares with the official Statistics SA figure of 82 811.

Of particular significance is the occupational structure of emigrants — especially the numbers in the professions or with high-level technical skills.

Here the data is much more piecemeal. For Australia occupational breakdown is limited, for the US it is available for some years only while for the UK no occupational breakdown is available.

Nevertheless, using the data available, likely estimates are possible.

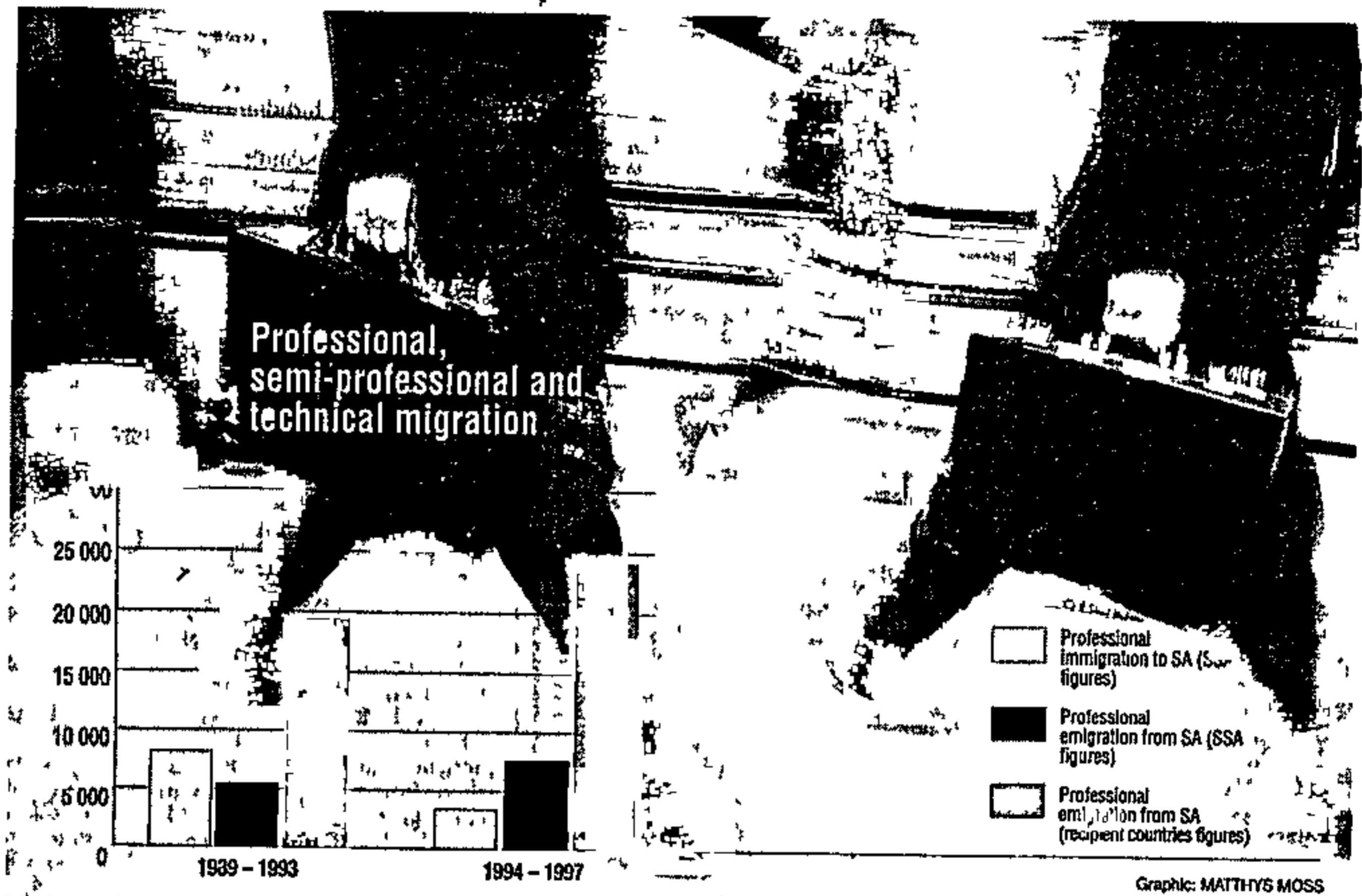
The chart shows the estimated number of SA emigrants who would be characterised as professional, or having high-level technical skills.

It should be noted that a number of other skilled categories, such as managers, are not included. The chart also shows the numbers of immigrants into SA categorised by Statistics SA as professional, semi-professional and technical, on the assumption that the body's recording of immigrants is likely to be reasonably accurate.

It is evident that a significant brain drain is under way. A total of 24 196 professionals emigrated from SA in the period 1994-1997. The number of professionals emigrating is significantly understated. Statistics SA has captured only a marginally higher percentage of professional (and total) emigrants post-1994 in comparison with the pre-1994 period.

The brain drain is not a recent phenomenon. Even pre-1994 SA experienced a substantial net emigration of professionals. The brain drain has been increasing. Post-1994 the annual emigration of professionals was 56% higher than for 1989-1994.

The problem is not solely one of high emigration. Immigration is falling and it is historically unprecedented for SA to have such a limited influx of professionals as at the present. While there is significant



Graphic: MATTHYS MOSS

variation among the different professions. It is likely that between one eighth and one fifth of South Africans with tertiary education now reside abroad.

For two countries, Canada and New Zealand, we have a more detailed, consistent and up-to-date occupational breakdown of SA emigrants. Data for these countries show a number of other salient features:

- The number of professionals emigrating from SA increased massively in 1993, prior to the 1994 election. This was because of an increase in total emigration, but also because the proportion of professionals among emigrants has been increasing;

- While the numbers of professionals emigrating have declined significantly from this peak, last year's data show that the numbers remain high by historical standards;

- In comparison with other countries very high proportions of SA emigrants are professionals. The same is true of emigrants to the US. The US data for 1996 show that the proportion of emigrants categorised as professional and skilled was similar, for example, to Canada. More than 77% of SA migrants to the US have a tertiary education, and

- For some categories of professionals emigration may be

especially high at certain times. For example, in 1994 366 SA immigrants into Canada were designated to be in the occupational category natural sciences, engineering and mathematics.

High rates of professional emigration are likely to continue. A recent international survey of the well educated found that the likelihood of them remaining was lower for SA than for any other country except Russia, which was marginally lower.

The major cost to the country is in lost production and the export of human capital in the form of education, training and experience. A recent detailed study estimated that the emigration of graduates was lowering gross domestic product by 0,37% a year and that R67,8bn of investment in human capital left SA in 1997.

These estimates may be too high since the authors appear to have overestimated the number of emigrants. Nevertheless, the high proportion of skilled and professional people in the emigrating population makes these costs significant.

Emigration also results in the export of real and financial assets. If we assume that each emigrant gives rise to an outflow of R100 000 — given the number of high-earning emi-

grants this is possibly a conservative estimate — almost R11bn left the country between 1994 and 1997. This excludes physical assets.

A further cost to the country is in terms of the increased cost of skilled and professional labour as a result of emigration leading to a decrease in supply. This is particularly true for internationally mobile occupations such as information technology where high rates of emigration are a significant factor in keeping the labour market tight and wages high.

Emigration has become a significant factor in the high turnover of skilled, professional and managerial occupations.

According to a recent study, emigration accounts for about 15% of turnover, as opposed to traditionally less than 5%.

With the costs of replacing an executive or other skilled employee at 30% to 35% of annual employment costs, staff turnover consequent upon emigration is calculated to cost the economy a further R2,5bn a year.

Higher labour costs and lower productivity for the skilled and professionals further undermine our competitiveness. Emigration also makes it more difficult to secure equity objectives through reducing income differentials.

Surprisingly, there may be some potentially important gains from emigration. Some emigrants do, of course, return — frequently with new skills and contacts.

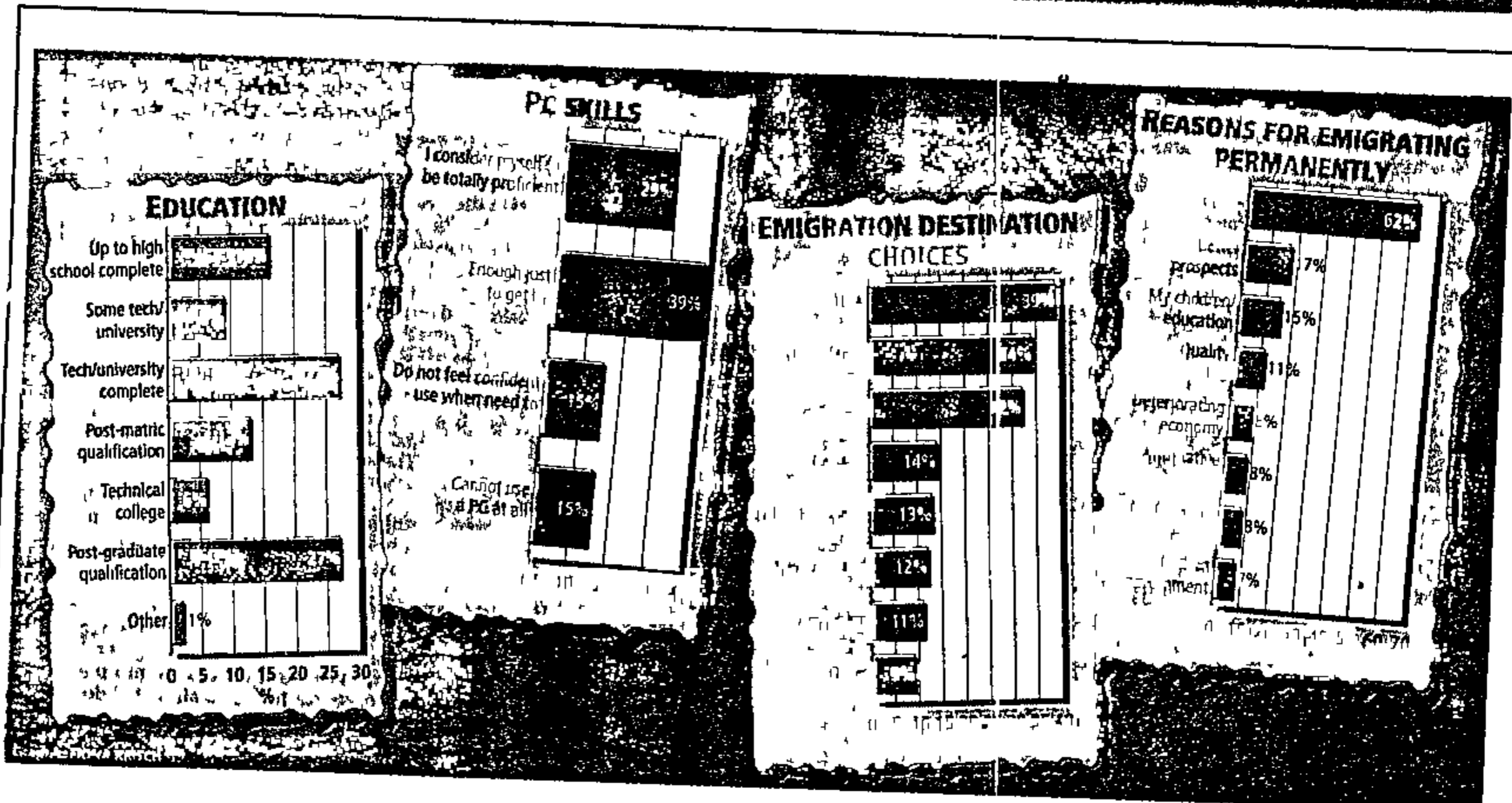
In a globalised world temporary emigration is often necessary to professional development. Emigrants frequently retain links with their "home" country which can be very important for tourism and trade and research collaboration.

Partially building upon these linkages, a recent initiative seeks to build an electronic network for skilled South Africans now located abroad who wish to make a contribution to local developments.

The SA Network of Skills Abroad has attracted more than 1 750 members active in a wide range of fields, from academic and business to cultural. It is hoped South Africans will use this network to develop and enhance contacts with those abroad and, in a variety of ways, make use of their expertise and contacts.

SA has a large and skilled diaspora. We may regret it, but we must learn to make use of it.

□ Kaplan directs the development policy research unit at the University of Cape Town and Meyer is a project director of SA Network of Skills Abroad.



ST (BT) 12/13/2000

Crime still rattles SA's skilled

Survey also shows growing awareness of need for training, writes JANETTE BENNETT

A SURVEY of Sunday Times readers has found that crime remains a major issue which could push them to consider emigrating in the future. The Work-in-Life survey, first conducted in March 1998, also highlights a growing awareness of the need for skills training, particularly computer literacy. The survey's finding on emigration shows that the percentage of respondents — mostly highly skilled — who would look at leaving the country is still disturbingly high although it is declining. A large majority — 71% — would consider leaving the country for a variety of reasons. The first survey showed that 74% of respondents would consider leaving South Africa if they had the chance. The US, followed by the UK, has overtaken Australia as the chosen destination for emigration. Australia is named by 32% of readers, compared with

46% in 1998. The US is preferred by 39% (34%), and the UK by 34% (30%). Some 22% of surveyed readers would consider emigrating for study purposes, and 34% — against 38% in 1998 — would consider leaving the country permanently. It found black respondents were more likely to consider leaving for study purposes, and white respondents permanently. Of those who would leave SA permanently, 20% are business owners or partners, 20% are in management positions, and 17% are professionals or academics. As in 1998, crime, cited by 62% of respondents considering emigrating permanently, emerges as the major factor fu-

elling emigration decisions. Other factors put forward include better prospects (17%), children/education (15%) and quality of life (11%). Over the past year, 34% of respondents gained basic PC skills, 23% trained in advanced PC skills, 35% advanced their management skills, and 25% gained general business skills. It's worrying, however, that 16% say they gained no new skills at all over the past year. Almost 60% use a personal computer as part of their work, and perceived competence in this area is improving. 29% now consider themselves to be totally PC proficient, compared with 26% previously. On the flip side, 15% do not feel confident on a computer

and use it only when needed, and 15% can not use a PC at all. In total 44% of respondents have access to the Internet, either at work or home — a leap from the previous 39%. The survey analysed the first 7 000 responses to a questionnaire included in Business Times late last year. Its findings are not representative of the total SA population, or even the total Sunday Times readership. However, it is a reliable indication of the situation and outlook of SA's highly skilled people. Respondents are ambitious, hard-working and well-educated. Some 85% are working either full- or part-time, 18% are self-employed. Long working hours appear

to be the norm. Respondents worked an average of 43.4 hours or 5.2 days a week — but then 87% will work extra hours to further their careers. Most have tertiary education qualifications. 27% have a post-graduate qualification, 27% have completed a technical or university course. Respondents generally are loyal to their employers and have clocked up long services. Almost half have been working for 20 or more years and almost 30% have been working for their current employers for five to 15 years. Many, however, would move. 76% say they will relocate if a job offered is attractive enough, and 56% say they will move from company to company to further their careers. Almost 75% feel secure in their current jobs. Those who feel insecure point to retrenchments taking place (31%), shrinking industry sectors (26%), restructuring (42%), and affirmative action (17%).

Skilled IT staff exodus looming

BD 08/1/99 (236)

A SURVEY into local information technology wages has unearthed a potential timebomb — 48% of skilled professionals are considering emigrating within two years.

Research by on-line publication ITWeb found that 21% of respondents were highly likely to emigrate and 26% somewhat likely to do so. Only 25% of information technology staff are absolutely committed to staying in SA, and a further 12% are undecided.

Sadly, the skills SA is in danger of losing are those in most demand: 27% of likely émigrés are information technology consultants, 19% network administrators, 19% programmers, and 16% engineers. A whopping 70% are aged 20-25.

Evidence that the brain drain will worsen was backed up by the respondents' predictable concerns about political instability, crime, and poor educational prospects for their children.

Editor-in-chief Ranka Jovanovic said while government could not prevent people taking attractive career opportunities, it could become proactive by investing more in information technology education and making it easier for skilled foreigners to obtain work permits.

"One of the most controversial findings was that a high percentage of respondents said they were satisfied with their compensation, and yet a high percentage was likely to leave the country," she said. "It seems just paying them higher salaries won't stop the brain drain."

Enormous discrepancies were shown in information technology wages, with some professionals earning R900 000 and others earning just R24 000 a year. The average basic annual salary was reported as R130 671, with benefits bringing the average package to R152 397.

The survey found 59% of respondents were satisfied with their pay, but said non-monetary issues like a challenging job and good working atmosphere made a major difference to job satisfaction. Even so, 54% believed their salaries were poor, below average or average.

Meanwhile, an article in the Sydney Morning Herald shows the brain drain is not only affecting SA. While many SA technicians are heading down under, Australia needs them to fill in the gaps left by its own information technology professionals, who are heading for the US and Britain.

The global merry-go-round of information technology staff is likely to intensify in the run-up to the year 2000 crisis, when extra staff will be needed just to keep existing systems running.

EMIGRATION

(236)

CRIME FEARS ADD MOMENTUM TO SKILLS FLIGHT

FM 29/1/99

Shortage of IT personnel now critical as immigration blocked

The upward trend in emigration persisted last year, and with crime showing little sign of abating and a recession looming, more people are likely to join the run in the coming year

In 1997-1998 about 3% of low-level workers, 11% of skilled workers and 14% of executives who resigned did so because of emigration, according to the P-E Corporate Services Salary Survey, which covers 750 organisations employing 1.5m people

This is a marked increase over 1995-1996, when only 2% of low-level workers, 5% of skilled workers and 7.5% of executives cited emigration as their reason for resigning

The fact that total staff turnover increased from 8% to 10% over the same period shows that the skills drain is gaining momentum

"The main reasons for emigration remain rooted in concerns about safety and security and declining standards of essential

services," says P-E Corporate Services MD Martin Westcott "The added threat of job insecurity and possible retrenchment will tip the scales in favour of emigration for many executives considering this option"

Institute of Chartered Accountants deputy CEO Graham Terry says another 300 CAs left SA last year, raising the number of institute members who live overseas from 18% in 1997 to 19% (or 3 365 people) in 1998 Most of these have emigrated permanently

The biggest worry, says Terry, is the high number of newly articulated CAs who are heading abroad One large auditing firm reveals that it typically loses 90% of trainee

CAs shortly after they qualify and as many as three-quarters of these emigrate

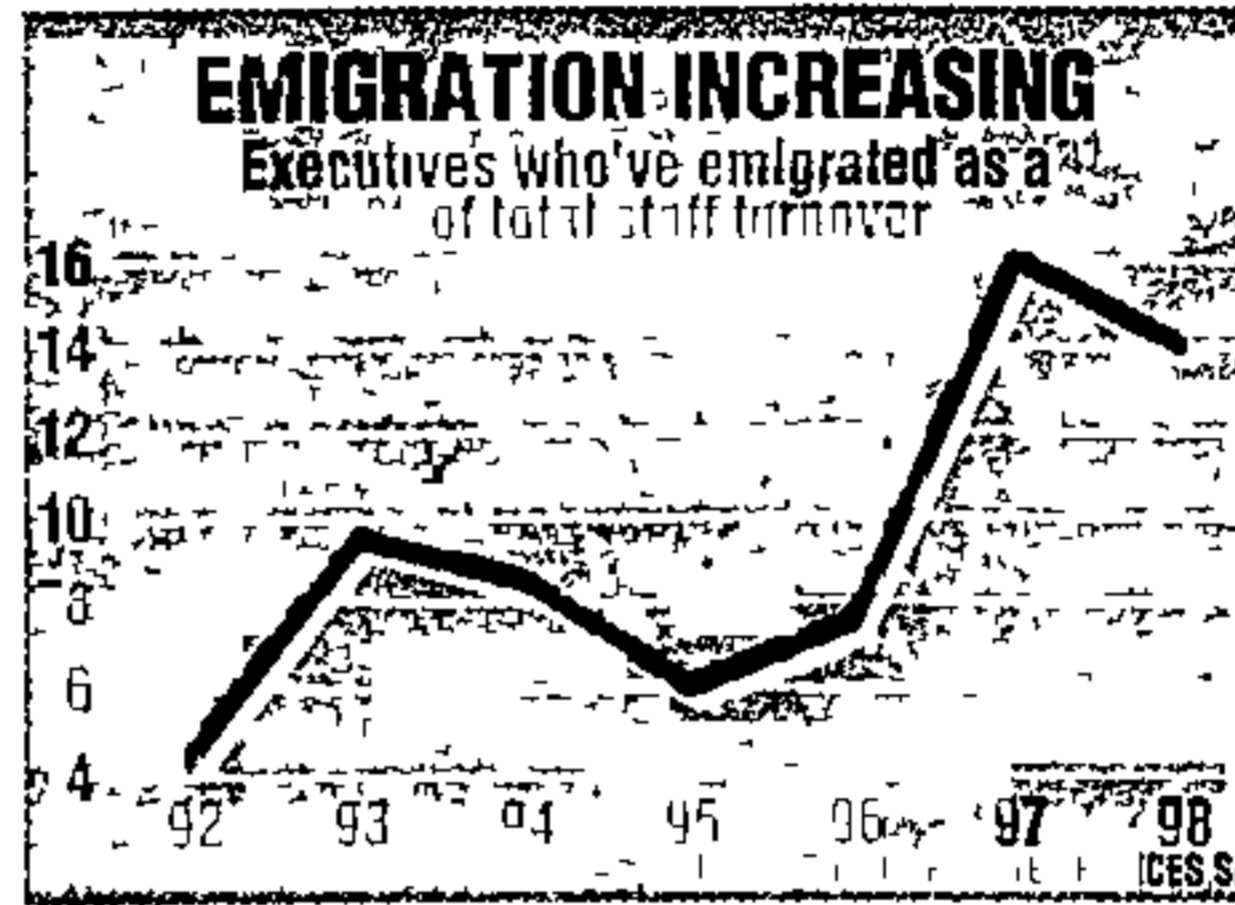
The number of temporary residence entry clearances granted to South Africans by the UK has climbed from 7 850 in 1995 to 10 840 in 1997, which reflects the increasing number of graduates seeking one or two years' experience abroad For many this is the first step towards emigration

The Institute of Directors in Southern Africa lost 45 of its 1 500 members in 1997 to emigration Most were employed in the information technology (IT) sector and aged between 45 and 55 IT professionals account for 24% of total staff turnover in

SA, more than double the all-sector average of 10%

The Bryan Hattingh Group, an IT recruitment agency, accuses Home Affairs of worsening the shortage of IT personnel in SA by failing to relax its strict entry requirements for the sector

Company spokesman Stuart Cohen says it receives daily inquiries from highly skilled IT professionals from all over the world who are keen to work in SA but are daunted by the process of getting a work



permit The company has given up trying to place them all because it can take more than a year to convince Home Affairs that efforts to fill a post with a South African have failed

"The shortage of IT personnel in SA has reached a stage where there is limited transfer of technology skills," says Cohen He estimates that in the IT sector up to 40% of management, consulting and technology positions are vacant

Immigration lawyer Gary Eisenberg appeals to Home Affairs to make an exception for the IT sector, rather than apply immigration policy with a dead hand

Eisenberg says there has been an explosion of court cases against Home Affairs over the past year involving immigration policy and alleges that "Home Affairs' interpretation of some of the provisions is becoming more conservative and xenophobic"

Home Affairs could not be reached for comment

Every year since 1993 the number of SA emigrants has exceeded the number of immigrants According to Statistics SA, 5 212 self-declared emigrants left SA between January and July last year and 3 007 people immigrated here, resulting in a net loss of 2 205 people However, official statistics understate the extent of emigration by as much as three times because many people do not disclose that they are leaving for good

The official figures show that in the first eight months of 1997, 6 855 South Africans emigrated, including 375 engineers, 352 teachers and lecturers, 65 medical practitioners, 98 computer experts and auditors, and 30 farmers

They cited crime, deteriorating education and health-care standards, a failing justice system, unemployment, undemocratic and centralist tendencies of government, and racism, nepotism and corruption in the public service as their reasons for leaving

A recent survey by the Institute for Democracy in SA found that SA stands to lose about 35% of its doctors to emigration in the next five years, mainly because of fears about crime and the poor economy

Favourite destinations for South Africans include the UK, US, Australia and New Zealand In addition to being English-speaking countries, they are perceived as clean, friendly and relatively crime-free

"But any new society is far from easy," warns Westcott, speaking from New Zealand, where he is on holiday "Despite the large, established and growing immigrant SA societies in New Zealand and Australia, most families have needed at least two years to acclimatise fully Some never succeed"

Claire Bissekler

Fed-up cops seek work abroad

BY TWEET GAINSBOROUGH, WARING

Disillusioned and demoralised South African police members are being snapped up overseas, where they are highly regarded.

Emigration consultants told the *Saturday Star* they were handling a steady stream of applications and inquiries from SAPS members about emigration to Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Andy Kerr of Network Migration said: "We've had a consistent number of policemen and women coming to seminars on emigration. We see between six and 12 police force members a month for initial consultations about the prospects of going to Canada, New Zealand and Australia."

Kerr said all the police he had processed had been snapped up overseas.

"They are well respected overseas and those we have processed have found work either in the private sector or in the police service within a few days."

The main reason police members give his consultants for wanting to leave is frustration at affirmative action and reduced promotion prospects for whites.

Other reasons include corruption in the service and low pay for dangerous work.

Cape Town police captain John (not his real name) is 30, has one child, and is looking for a brighter future.

He opted for New Zealand and applied in 1996 to emigrate.

Fed-up policemen seek jobs abroad

From Page 1

Now he is completing the extra year of study to bring his qualifications in line with those required by the New Zealand police service.

"I enjoy police work, but do not see much chance for good promotion in South Africa."

"In my circle, my emigration is being seen as a test case - if all goes well, there will be an exodus," he said.

Mike Forman, a Cape Town emigration consultant, confirmed that inquiries from policemen had increased significantly over the past six

months, but stressed that placing them in New Zealand - a popular destination - was not always easy because they needed at least a three-year qualification that met New Zealand requirements.

He told the *Saturday Star* that, based on the number of inquiries he had received from policemen, he had written to the New Zealand minister of immigration asking for an exemption for South Africans because there were so many who could make a valuable contribution to New Zealand.

He said the New Zealand police had recently run a major

local recruitment campaign. According to SAPS headquarters in Pretoria, members of the police force have been resigning at a rate of 300-400 a month since the middle of last year. Many of these went into the private security sector.

SA's police national administration diploma is a three-year course through Technikon SA, done by correspondence, which is rated the equivalent of only two years' study in New Zealand. So South African policemen hoping for jobs there need to pass an additional four subjects through the technikon in order to be considered.

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Star 30/1/99

Star 30/1/99

POPULATION → MIGRATION

1998

NP lashes (236) at illegals

THE Government's unwillingness to act forcefully against illegal immigrants was further encouragement for people from foreign countries to descend on South Africa, where it seemed they could willy-nilly sponge on the assets of the country, the National Party said yesterday

NP home affairs spokesman Mr Frik van Deventer said growing demands by illegal foreigners on financial, health, social and housing assistance - and the success they were achieving, be it through bribery or forged documents - were a serious threat to the legitimate demands of South African citizens - Sapa

Southern
6/1/98

'Co-opt African immigrants to build a new SA'

Samuel Pan 6/1/98

Nigerian small traders' efforts go a long way towards boosting SA's economy, claims writer

By Nzerem Austin

LIVING IN FOREIGN LANDS is universally accepted and unavoidable, especially with improvements in science and technology turning the world into a global village

This is recognised by the United Nations, which allows free movement of people from one country to another, albeit subject to the prevailing laws of the host land as incorporated in one of the UN's various charters

One way or another, a country needs assistance — be it for the exchange of technology or manpower or in times of emergency from wars, economic problems or natural disasters

Illegal activities

They engage in various odd jobs such as shoe-making, cutting hair and selling fruit along the roads. Some of them are even forced into illegal activities, which they otherwise abhor but for their instinct to survive

Yet what worries Nigerians here most is not their inability to secure well-paid jobs despite their qualifications, nor the non-granting of full refugee status, but the brutality meted out to them by the police

The Nigerian immigrant is a constant target of the entire security network in South Africa. They always have tales of woe — whether it be at airports or on the streets of Johannesburg

political problems, and these are forcing its nationals to seek refuge in foreign countries, including South Africa. The Nigerian political turmoil dates back to 1993

A presidential election — conducted on June 12, 1993 to restore democracy in Nigeria — was cancelled by the military. This reduced Nigeria to a pariah nation

The election was free and fair, as observed by international election monitors, and was won by Bashorun Moshood K Abiola, a southerner

But, despite the popular acclaim which heralded the outcome of the election as hope for a new Nigeria, the election was annulled. This resulted in months of violent demonstrations by thousands of protesters

A lame-duck interim government was consti-

It is not an overstatement to claim that the South African security network is being overstretched by their efforts to crack down on these immigrants, thereby creating lapses in other areas of crime prevention

Legitimate livelihood

There is a general impression that every Nigerian here is either a drug peddler or engaged in one fraudulent activity or another despite his professional training

Recently there was a crackdown on street hawkers in Johannesburg. These are people who in their own way engage in a legitimate source of livelihood, but whose faults are that they are more competitive than local citizens



Flashback ... local street vendors marching in Johannesburg in protest against foreign hawkers.

tuted, but was quickly dismantled by General Sani Abacha to satisfy the Hausa-Fulani oligarchy. During his bid to claim his mandate, Abiola was arrested and is still in jail

The press was muzzled, human rights activists were either imprisoned, forced into exile and in some cases killed. Names that come to mind are those of Ken Saro-Wiwa, Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka, Anthony Enahoro, Gabriel Obi and Senator Ralph Obioha

All these are people who have made their mark in their various areas of human endeavour, and they are mostly from the southern part of Nigeria. Few northerners seek refugee status in foreign lands as they presently control both political and economic power

Talking to a cross-section of Nigerians in South Africa, one observes a feeling of disillusionment, disappointment and sometimes a betrayal of the trust which they had when they set out for South Africa in their moment of agony

They had expected to be accorded a sense of respect owing to the hopelessness of the situation in their home country. But the reality is different, there is a lot of hostility towards Nigerians

They were granted asylum status without any financial assistance or accommodation, so the average Nigerian is left to provide for himself the basic necessities of life — food, shelter and so on

There is no source of employment for many of them even though most of them are professionals and their status permits them to work in South Africa. Menial jobs are their only source of survival

By engaging in this kind of small trading, the efforts of these Nigerians are going a long way towards boosting the economy of the host country. The money so earned is re-invested in the economy through taxation and transport and accommodation costs

Nigerians and other nationalities in South Africa should be co-opted in efforts to build a formidable "New South Africa"

(The writer is a member of the Nigeria Institute of Management in Johannesburg)

Immigrants face SA's wrath

By Gumnisi Mutume

BURUNDIAN national Jean (not his real name) has spent the last three years in South Africa doing nothing.

"For years I have been living in Hillbrow without being able to contact my family as I wait for Home Affairs to grant me asylum, as a refugee," says the 26-year-old man. He would have loved to continue his psychology studies, which he was forced to drop when he left his strifed-

torn country. But with no job, no welfare and no refugee status, he can only pray that another day goes by without being arrested.

Being arrested is what he fears most. He says a friend, also from Burundi, was arrested in Cape Town not long ago and beaten up by the police.

South Africa's hazy legislation on refugees and immigrants has created a situation where everyone is thrown into the same basket.

"In this country there is ambiguity about who is an illegal immigrant, a refugee or a criminal. They are all put together as criminals," says Emmanuel Kamugisha of the Methodist Ministry for Refugees.

Asylum seekers branded as criminals

"Many refugees are forced into a situation where they have to decide to stay in this country as destitutes or go back to their countries and face the persecution they are running away from."

People flocking to South Africa as a haven to escape human rights violations, political persecution or for greener economic pastures is a new phenomenon in this country.

Specific law

"Before 1994 South Africa had no specific law to deal with refugees. The Department of Home Affairs resorts to the Aliens Control Act - designed to deal with general migration," says Tumelo Ntshwane, a legal counsellor with the Red Cross in South Africa.

The Government refused to recognise asylum seekers from Mozambique and Angola who flooded into the country before 1994 as refugees.

In 1991, it enacted the Aliens Control Act which had a high level of ministerial discretion, lack of accountability for administrative decisions, and little due process for those who failed to satisfy officials of their legal status.

Under the Aliens Control Amendment Act of 1995, some of the legislation's more unacceptable features were removed, but many of its clauses would probably not withstand a test of constitutionality. Due to a wave of xenophobia that has hit the country since it joined the international community, refugees are

lumped into the same boat as illegal immigrants.

Estimates of the number of illegal immigrants in South Africa range from 800 000 to as high as eight million.

According to Paula (not his real name) from the former Zaure, many refugees are afraid to report violent crimes against them and are hurried away as illegal immigrants when they attempt to seek medical attention.

Detention camp

They are also afraid to report to the police when their children are abused or when they lose their documents, because "you are bundled into a waiting van and taken to a detention camp to be deported as an illegal immigrant".

"If South Africa and the UNHCR (the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) do not want to keep us here, I think they should be honest and tell us to go," said Paula - *Sippa-IPS*

Aliens to be sent home

(236)

WATERVAL BOVTER. -- More than 100 Mozambican immigrants would be repatriated today after Mpumalanga police arrested 84 illegal aliens on a train to Gauteng, a Waterval Boer police spokesman yesterday.

Sgt Raymond Mammal said 24 more illegal Mozambicans were arrested in the Waterval Boer area on Monday night. Additional arrests were made in Lydenburg, Dullstroom and Polokwane. He said 84 of the illegal immigrants were arrested on a train bound for Gauteng on Sunday. Underberg police boarded the train at the Ngodwana railway station near Isidipont. Mammal said

He said 32 of the illegal Mozambicans were women who boarded the train in Kapaunbe near Mafikeng.

BB 21/1/98

Dozens drown crossing border

Star 15/11/98 (236)
Harare - Another 29 would-be border jumpers are feared to have drowned at the weekend after they took the assurances of a religious "prophet" that it was safe for them to ford the swollen Limpopo river from Zimbabwe into South Africa.

Beitbridge police spokesman Chief Inspector Helmand Shoko said the group was believed to have been swept away when they stepped into the crocodile-infested river, after the prophet had knelt on the banks in prayer for divine guidance to guarantee their safety.

This brings to 36 the number of people who have illegally tried to cross the border and were believed to have drowned at the weekend.

Shoko said all were believed to have paid up to Z\$500 (R130)

to bogus guides claiming to know a safe way across the Limpopo.

The body of one of the group of 29 was recovered, half-eaten by crocodiles.

Shoko said police were looking for conmen who led the border-crossers to the river, and planned to bring charges of extortion against the suspects.

The first group of four Zimbabweans attempted the crossing at about midnight on Sunday, but only one survived, managing to struggle back to the river bank. They were followed from the identical spot near Beitbridge by the 29, none of whom was known to have survived. Four Mozambicans tried again on Monday night but were also believed to have drowned. - Sapa

Paraguay: 'The poor man's option'

(236)

MTG 16-22/1/98

(236)

Alan Gignoux explains why 30 families prefer uneasy exile to post-apartheid South Africa

'Most people are here because they thought South Africa was going to burn. I am here because it did not," said a newcomer to South Africa's 30 family community in Caaguazu, eastern Paraguay.

"De Klerk sold out his country," we did not even give them a fight," it is better that my grandchildren are Paraguayan," are some of the comments from the more conservative members of this new exile community.

For some of them, racism played a part in their decision to leave South Africa — but so did crime, economic factors and concern about the future of their families. Most of them have not succeeded in their adopted country. Most merely survive and some, after bad business deals, have had to leave Paraguay penniless.

In 1978, on a visit to South Africa, then Paraguayan leader General Alfredo Stroessner was impressed by the success of South African farmers. The Paraguayan agricultural sector was in a slump, and Stroessner invited South African farmers to settle in his country and help to revive it.

Caaguazu, situated halfway between Brazil and Paraguay's capital Asuncion, has much in common with Africa. Uncultivated land is thick with bush, similar to the Northern Cape. Its cultivated rolling green fields could pass for KwaZulu Natal.

"It is a hard land to succeed in. You need a lot of start up capital and hard work in order to make it. And once you have paid your \$700/ha, the land is yours forever. Resale is impossible," said Hannes van der Walt, an adventurous farmer.

Van der Walt had been making a living in South Africa turning around unprofitable farms and selling them at a profit when he heard about Paraguay. A portly man with tanned, leathery skin testifying to his rugged life, he saw a new challenge — an opportunity not to be missed.

Six years ago, they went to Paraguay. Van der Walt, his wife Stella and son Phillip immediately set to work to clear the untouched bush and build a family home. In South Africa, they had grown vegetables but without enough rainfall in Caaguazu to make that viable, they decided to raise cattle.

Last year they were joined by their daughter Charmaine and son-in-law Robert who are expecting their first child. A city slicker, Robert is now responsible for rounding up cattle on horseback for slaughter. He also has to assist in their slaughter.

Van der Walt was not only lured by adventure but also by low taxation and high interest rates. "How can you beat 10% taxes and interest rates given by Paraguayan banks at 26% per annum?"

With an emigration allowance of R250 000, few can afford to live even modestly without working. Most have to start a business of some sort, as jobs are practically non-existent.

It was crime that impelled Jacs Kruger to leave his family farm in Heidelberg. He began looking for some-



Family album: Stella van der Walt (with her son Phillip, top) and her husband Hannes (bottom right) raise cattle in Paraguay. Their son-in-law Robert (centre left) and his wife Charmaine joined them last year. The Kruger family (centre right) came to Paraguay to escape crime. Jacs Kruger hope to provide a better future for his son Johan (bottom left) on his cattle farm near Caaguazu.

where to settle after surviving an attack which left a bullet lodged in his father-in-law's head. Kruger could not qualify to emigrate to Canada or Australia, so he decided to come to Paraguay and raise dairy cattle.

Crime is virtually non-existent in his adopted country. He has no bars on his windows and his dogs are pets, not protectors. The last murder in Caaguazu was more than two years ago and in the three years Kruger has been there he has lost only four cows, fewer than he would lose in a month in South Africa.

Kruger's main problem is distri-

bution. Only a dirt road leads to his farm and pasteurisation facilities do not exist. He survives by selling milk door-to-door. "I want a better future for my children where they can walk the streets without fear and not have to feel guilty about the past," he said.

Heinie Zietsman has a container in his backyard full of Simba chips and doughnuts, all that's left of his failed attempt to open a store in Caaguazu. He's a dairy farmer now.

Zietsman's advice to newcomers: "Visit two or three times before making the final decision. Sit for six months before making any business

decisions. Watch what is going on around you — and before you leave South Africa, learn Spanish."

One of the first arrivals in Caaguazu were the Spannenberg family. Eleven years ago, tired of the weather in England and not ready to move back to South Africa, they were looking for another challenge. After watching a Paraguayan promotional film, they decided to come and see for themselves. The Copelands sawmill on the main road, Ruta Siete, was the challenge they found. Today they export furniture components to the US.

Johan Spannenberg's only com-

plaint is a lack of commitment to quality. "Paraguayans do not see quality as important. This is a problem for the North American market where quality is everything. And technology is many years behind. Sometimes the telephones don't work."

The Spannenbergs' son is a Paraguayan drag car champion, and married to a local woman.

The Hamilton family came to Paraguay with a dream of starting an ostrich farm, chalets and a crocodile farm. They have had to settle for ownership of the Apache restaurant. Business is slow, but a small profit can be made.

"You cannot become rich here, but if you want to live in peace and tranquillity, Paraguay is an ideal place," said John Hamilton. They have a half Paraguayan grandchild and another on the way.

Las Palmas Hotel sits just off Ruta Siete. In his previous life, owner Johan Strauss was a carpet sales man in Randburg. At his other hotel down the road, used by locals for illicit relationships, business is booming. On any given day by 11am more than 20 couples have passed through Strauss's doors, paying \$25 for an hour of discretion.

Four years ago, realising they would not qualify for emigration to Canada, Strauss and his family arrived in Paraguay. As Strauss puts it, "It's the poor man's option."

The recipe for success for Strauss and the Spannenbergs is to do something the Paraguayans cannot do. Don't try to compete with Paraguayans, their margins are too low. And don't open a business that attracts people with disposable income — there are very few of them.

Unlike other ethnic communities across the world, the South Africans in Paraguay are far from unified. In some instances, they have even tried to sabotage each other. South Africans have been known to sell stolen cars to other South Africans, knowing full well that if the police found the car, it would be confiscated.

However, efforts have been made to build some sort of community. The Afrikaanse Protestantse Kerk was established but bickering and jealousy soon thinned out the congregation. One church member was asked to leave because he had a Paraguayan girlfriend. As he so eloquently put it, "I do not need to go through Bloemfontein to reach God."

The next generation will be the ones that truly prosper. Strauss's children speak Spanish and some Guarani, the local Indian language. Eventually South Africa and Afrikaans will be only a memory.

Most people have cut their ties and have made Paraguay home. A few receive newspaper cuttings from relatives and even fewer return to South Africa for the occasional visit. Not one of them went to Argentina when the South African rugby squad played there last year.

Most want South Africa to prosper and respect President Nelson Mandela. However, they do not want to be part of the rainbow nation, preferring to deal with the corruption, lack of infrastructure and cultural differences in Paraguay. Most just want to enjoy the peaceful life here.

Their mark has been made. As one taxi driver commented, "We Paraguayans need to learn to work the way the South Africans do."

Home affairs takes steps to curb aliens

CT 10/3/98

(236)

THE influx of refugees into South Africa and the subsequent asylum applications were matters that demanded special attention, home affairs director-general Albert Mokoena said yesterday.

Briefing the National Council of Provinces' social services committee, he said the section of his department that handled asylum applications had been streamlined and its staff increased

Training of staff on refugee issues was being carried out with the assistance of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

"As a result, existing backlogs can now be addressed and have already substantially been reduced," said Mokoena

The Refugee Affairs Appeal Board had been increased from one to two

members, to better address the needs of asylum seekers, he said

The department had also drafted a working document on a new refugee policy for South Africa.

Mokoena said a task team would be appointed to finalise a policy proposal for a draft refugee Bill, which would be tabled in Parliament later this year — Sapa

Illegals' exploit system with ease

(236)

ET 13/2/98

THE ESTIMATED number of illegal immigrants ranges from 500 000 to 1 million — with many side-stepping bureaucratic procedure with relative ease. **PHENDILE NGUBANE** reports on what is being done about it.



ILLEGAL immigrants from various countries are extremely well-versed in South Africa's cumbersome bureaucratic procedures and sidestep them with ease, judging by the number who arrive and survive every year. Legislation does not appear to be enough to contain the problem.

This is evident in the number of illegal aliens who acquire South African identity documents and passports by means of fraudulent late registration of births, a problem the Department of Home Affairs has to this point been unable to control.

The enactment of new migration control legislation in 1995 has also been unable to deal with aliens, some of whom brave crocodile-infested rivers and marauding lions to flee poverty-stricken Mozambique, the country originating most illegal crossings.

Minister of Home Affairs Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi has admitted that the abuse of the system was serious. "If illegal immigrants are able to obtain identity documents and other South African papers they could become eligible for housing subsidies, jobs, scholarships. They could also vote whilst not qualifying to do so."

So clever and well-calculated are the measures used to beat the government and ensure South African citizenship, they are generally successful.

The minister admits too, that there is growing resentment by South Africans, contributing to increased signs of xenophobia.

Dr Buthelezi says his department is, however, taking steps to control birth registrations more stringently to combat fraudulent acquisition of identity documents.

Draft legislation to empower the minister to prescribe, by regulation, measures to control registrations is being prepared for submission during the current session of Parliament.

But this alone will not go far enough to address the problem of

aliens flocking into the country, and will merely ensure that those already inside remain illegal.

Government has to spend an annual R210 million tracing illegal immigrants, keeping them in holding facilities and repatriating them. The cost is said to exclude food, accommodation expenses, medical bills and manpower costs to the state.

And yet no strong programme seems to be in place to control their influx. The estimated number of illegal immigrants in the country ranges from 500 000 to 4 million.

"Our long porous borders are too costly to police effectively, however, the adoption of the collective approach to border control in which various government departments and other role players are involved is beginning to have a positive impact on this situation."

According to Buthelezi, the Department of Home Affairs is receiving increasing reports of positive correlations between illegal migration and crimes like prostitution, drug abuse, money laundering, sale of counterfeit goods, illegal movement of arms and car hijacking destined for cross-border markets.

The problem faced by the country does not only involve illegal aliens from the African continent, but extends to countries such as Germany, US, UK, Netherlands and India.

Home Affairs believe that data collection on the number of aliens, together with the use of forecasting, modelling and extrapolation methods will give them an idea of the numbers they are dealing with — which will influence policies and strategies for dealing with the problem.

"Having good labour market data will also help various departments and other parties to determine needs."

With such data, Foreign Affairs could assist in disseminating information abroad, whilst Home Affairs deals systematically and on an informed basis with job applications received and in developing policy.

Some progress is being said to be made with the Home Affairs National Identification System (HANIS) which will help the department to implement an automated finger print identification system (AFIS) and an identity card (IDC) which, if compared to the existing ID books, should be very difficult to forge.

South Africa may well find itself facing the prospect of US-style amnesties where long-term illegals are granted residence and citizenship just to clear the backlog of cases.

Illegal immigration a huge drain on the economy, says Buthelezi.

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Star 13/2/98

Cape Town - It was not surprising there was a growing resentment towards most foreigners in South Africa, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday

The Government was receiving increasing reports of "positive correlations" between illegal immigration and crimes such as prostitution, drug abuse, money laundering, sale of counterfeit goods, illegal arms trafficking, and car hijackings for cross-border markets, he said

Since 1990, deportations and repatriations - involving 54 and 102 countries respectively - had increased

In 1990 they had totalled 293, two years later the figure stood at 83 109, skyrocketing to 157 695 in 1995 and to 181 230 a year later.

Financial resources used for tracing illegal immigrants, keeping them in holding facilities and then repatriating them was an onerous strain on the country, Buthelezi added

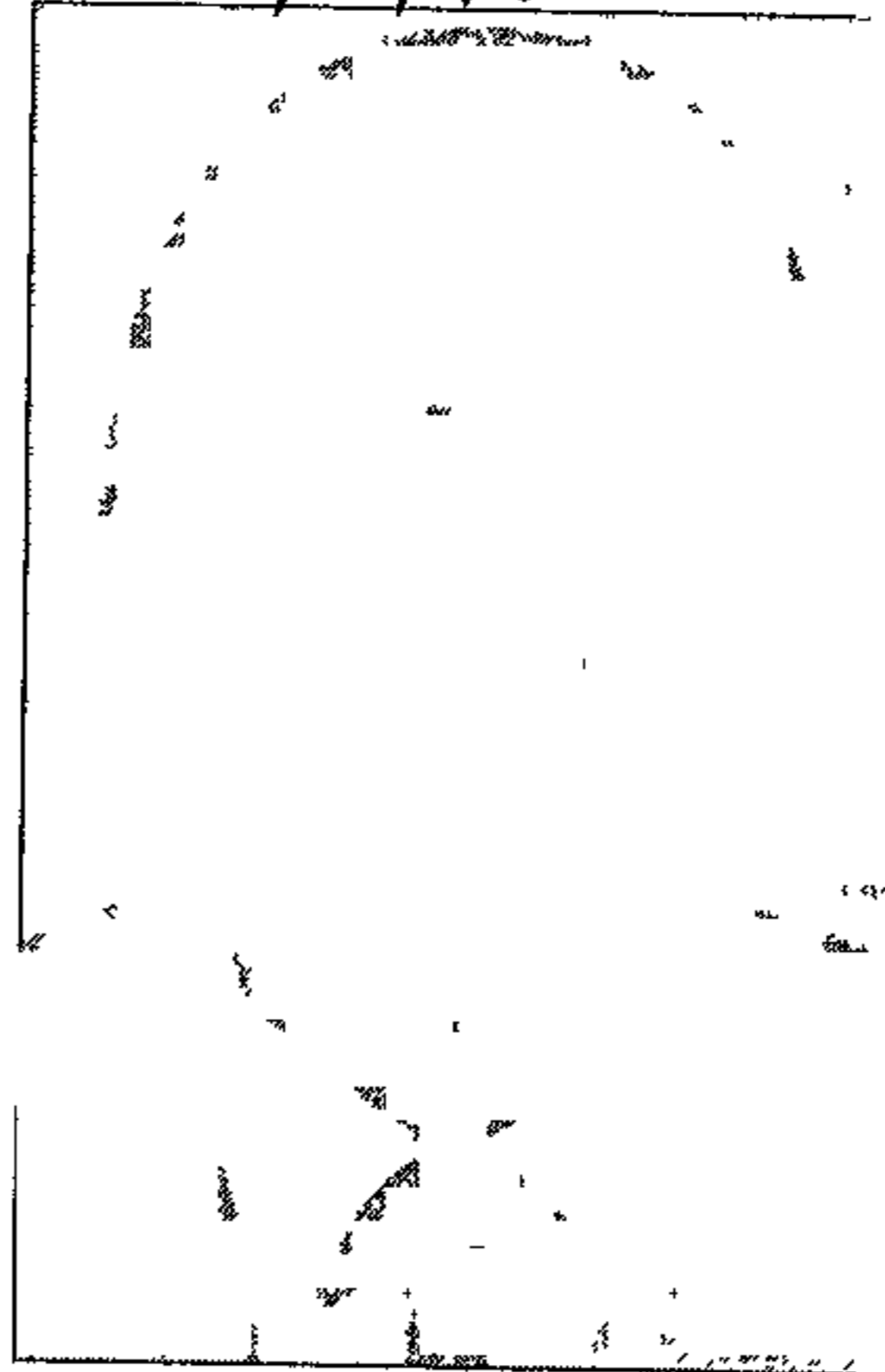
About R210-million was spent annually on repatriations, which excluded hidden costs such as feeding, accommodation and manpower

The South African National Defence Force, for example, had calculated that each illegal alien caught at the border cost it R4 000.

"The cost of spending so much resources on non-developmental activities is high for the country. One can almost say these are wasted resources"

The negative impact on housing, education, welfare, health facilities and the job market should also not be forgotten, Buthelezi said

If illegal aliens were able to obtain identity documents and other South African papers, they would also become eligible for housing subsidies, jobs and scholarships



"Wasted resources" ... Buthelezi

They could even end up voting, although not qualified to do so

"With the above impact it is not surprising that there is in the country growing resentment to most foreigners," he said

Just as South Africa was coming to grips on how to meet its people's needs and to develop, it faced a deluge of migrants, mainly illegal aliens.

Although most of the illegal aliens deported or repatriated were from southern Africa, there were also large numbers of other people from elsewhere in the world.

For example, 6 420 people from the UK had transgressed their temporary residence status in 1997, followed by 6 011 Germans, 2 494 French, 2 256 Americans, 2 068 Dutch and 1 247 Indians, Buthelezi said. - Sapa

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MOVE ⁽²⁰⁸⁾ to bar ⁽¹⁵³⁴⁾ foreign traders

By Saint Molakeng

EFFORTS are being made to bar foreign hawkers from the streets of Johannesburg while an international body has called for greater tolerance towards them.

The Greater Johannesburg Hawkers Planning Committee (GJHPC) is angry over alleged statements by local representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that foreign hawkers be allowed to do business on city streets because they struggle to make a living.

A meeting in Johannesburg last week between the two parties to thrash out the contentious issue of foreign hawkers ended in deadlock.

The UNHCR delegation was made up of Mr Bruno Geddo, Miss Victoria Stofile and Mrs Lois Williams, while the GJHPC was represented by chairman Mr Mannetjies Solomon and some members of the committee.

Disagreement arose when the UNHCR reiterated a statement made by Home Affairs director-general Mr AS Mokoena last year that "asylum seekers" be permitted to take up any employment, including hawking.

The official said this attitude was based on the fact that South Africa had "humanitarian obligations" to refugees.

Solomon countered yesterday: "Immigrants can be allowed into the country but they should stay off our pavements."

He complained that foreigners already outnumbered local hawkers.

Solomon said the hawkers' committee had initiated a campaign urging South Africans to boycott goods sold by foreigner traders.

The committee would put pressure on Government to stop the activities of foreign hawkers.

Southern 18/2/98

Aliens posing as refugees threaten 'massive crime explosion', says top cop

KAREN JACKMAN

Durban - Aliens entering South Africa pretending to be political refugees are one of the most sinister threats to law and order, says Piet Meyer, head of the police squad fighting organised crime in KwaZulu Natal.

Senior Superintendent Meyer and detectives at Point Road station in Durban have called for an urgent review of the screening of asylum seekers by the Home Affairs Department.

"During the past year in particular we have seen a huge influx of Nigerians to Durban. We believe the crack cocaine syndicates are controlled by them," said Superintendent Meyer.

Nigerian syndicates were also believed to be master-minding fraud and white-collar crimes.

"We are fighting a losing battle here and we need to make a stand to keep them out of the country to stop a massive crime explosion."

He said Nigerian crime rings had entrenched themselves as lawless syndicates, taking over blocks of flats. "I have lost count of the hundreds of people arrested for drug-related crimes, and they all have temporary residence permits saying they are political asylum-seekers."

Police have piles of charge sheets implicating Nigerians classified as asylum-seekers charged with drug crimes.

Cases take months to come to court while the accused are granted bail and abscond "like ghosts in the night" before the trial date, Superintendent Meyer said. "We cannot trace them because they have no fixed address or ID. They move around South Africa freely, leave the country and come back to apply for asylum under a new name."

He said Home Affairs officials were not screening asylum applicants adequately, despite his appeals for them to tighten up.

Applicants are given temporary residence through Home Affairs, at no cost, which allows them to live and work in the country for three months. The period is renewed every three months for an indefinite period.

They do not need documentation to prove their identity and applications can take years to process. Home Affairs says it has 2 338 Nigerian asylum-seekers in South Africa. Only two have been recognised as refugees since 1993.

According to Home Affairs, the asylum procedure, which applies to any foreigner, has been carried out in terms of the international principles covered by the 1951 United Nations Convention, the 1967 OAU Protocol on the Status of Refugees and the 1969 AU Convention on the Specific Problems of Refugees in Africa. South Africa became a signatory in 1993.

Mr Thlonelang, in charge of refugees at the Home Affairs Department in Pretoria, said the screening of refugees was inadequate.

"Officials do in-depth interviews with an applicant before he is given temporary residence as an asylum applicant. Some of them have documents and some do not, but our officials are knowledgeable about the countries they come from, so will soon know if someone is genuine or not."

Mr Thlonelang said there could be abusers of the system, "but we will weed them out."

He said political asylum-seekers could be deported to their home countries if convicted of serious crimes, which included drug-dealing.

In Nigeria the punishment for crimes involving cocaine and LSD is life imprisonment. Several years ago drug-peddling in Nigeria carried the death penalty by public execution.

Adamu Abbas, Nigeria's acting consul general in Johannesburg, said his government was "very concerned" with the reported criminal activity of Nigerians.

"But there are also an appreciable percentage of Nigerians living in South Africa who are professionals contributing to the development of South Africa," he said.

AK/28/12/98

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CSS to announce final results of Census '96 in April

ROY COKAYNE

Pretoria — The final results of Census '96 would be released in April with a variance of not more than 2 percent up or down on the preliminary results, Pahl Lehohla, the chief director of demography at the Central Statistical Service (CSS), said last week.

The preliminary results of Census '96 estimated South Africa's population at 37,9 million, but the figure was 10 per-

cent lower than the then-estimated 42 million inhabitants.

Lehohla said the possible 2 percent adjustment would affect all economic indicators. If the variance was upwards, it would have a deflating effect. But if it was downwards, it would lead to an improvement in economic indicators.

Lehohla expressed confidence that the final results would be an accurate reflection of the population of South Africa. "The sample used for the

preliminary results was drawn from the same administrative source as the final results.

"We have already checked the final figures for three provinces — the Northern Cape, Free State and Gauteng — and the undercount for these three provinces were all within the confidence limit we indicated at the announcement of the preliminary results.

"We therefore do not expect any surprises in the final results," Lehohla said.

He also said a large number of studies had confirmed the findings of the preliminary results.

These included a study of the Durban metropolitan area's population, four separate studies that confirmed the census estimates of the population of Soweto and many other studies like the South African Labour Development Research Unit-World Bank study of 1993.

Lehohla attributed the significantly lower-than-expected

population to two key, interrelated factors — the higher-than-expected urbanisation and, as a consequence, a lower-than-previous-estimated fertility rate.

Lehohla said the original budget for the census was R365 million, but it finally worked out to R400 million.

He said "The final census results would be a welcome empirical indication, after decades of speculation, of the size and composition of the South African population."

ET/BR) 22/2/98 (236)

'Farmhands' raked in by cops

CP 22/2/98

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By HANGWANI MULAUDZI

NORTHERN Province police have been accused of double standards by a trade union after they arrested several farmhands they say were illegal immigrants but failed to charge the Messina farmer who had employed them.

But the police deny the charge - saying the men were Zimbabwe nationals without work permits and that they couldn't charge the farmer because he had unwittingly employed them.

Trade Union of South African Authorities's (TUSAA) general secretary, Nakedi Mogale, said the actions of the police indicated that racial discrimination "was still rife in the Northern Province".

She said the police arrested the men, claiming they were illegal immigrants and were working in the country without permits

"According to the Immigration

Act anyone found using illegal immigrants should be charged, appear in court and be penalised.

"In this case the owner was also supposed to be arrested together with our TUSAA members ... but he was not charged," said Mogale.

She said the farmer had not been arrested because he was white but the labourers were black.

"This is racial discrimination. Now where is the law in this country?" said Mogale.

Police spokesman Superintendent Frans Mojapelo said they had arrested a group of eleven labourers - mainly from neighbouring Zimbabwe.

Mojapelo said four of the arrested farmhands were found with "false South African identity documents" and have since been repatriated to Zimbabwe.

He said the remaining seven were still in custody pending investigations by Home Affairs as to

whether the documents they were carrying were valid or not.

Mojapelo confirmed that the farmer was not arrested for employing illegal immigrants.

The farmer had told police he employed them as they had South African "documents".

The farmer said he was unaware that their documents were false, Mojapelo said.

However, Mogale was adamant the farmhands in custody were "legitimate South Africans" but were being held because they were black

□ She said the union had taken a resolution to stage a protest march on Thursday against the "unlawful racial discrimination of white police officers against blacks" in the province and against farm workers in particular

□ The seven farmhands appeared in the Messina Magistrate's Court this week and their case has been remanded to next month.

Hospitality and brotherhood waning

Refugees are finding their lot in life harder outside their homelands than they did inside them, but many have nothing to go back to, writes Lily Rose Adhiambo in Nairobi

IT IS becoming increasingly difficult for refugees to find a place of safety beyond the borders of their homeland

"In many parts of the world, people who have taken refuge in another country have been harassed, attacked and forced to go home against their will," according to a biennial report on refugee issues

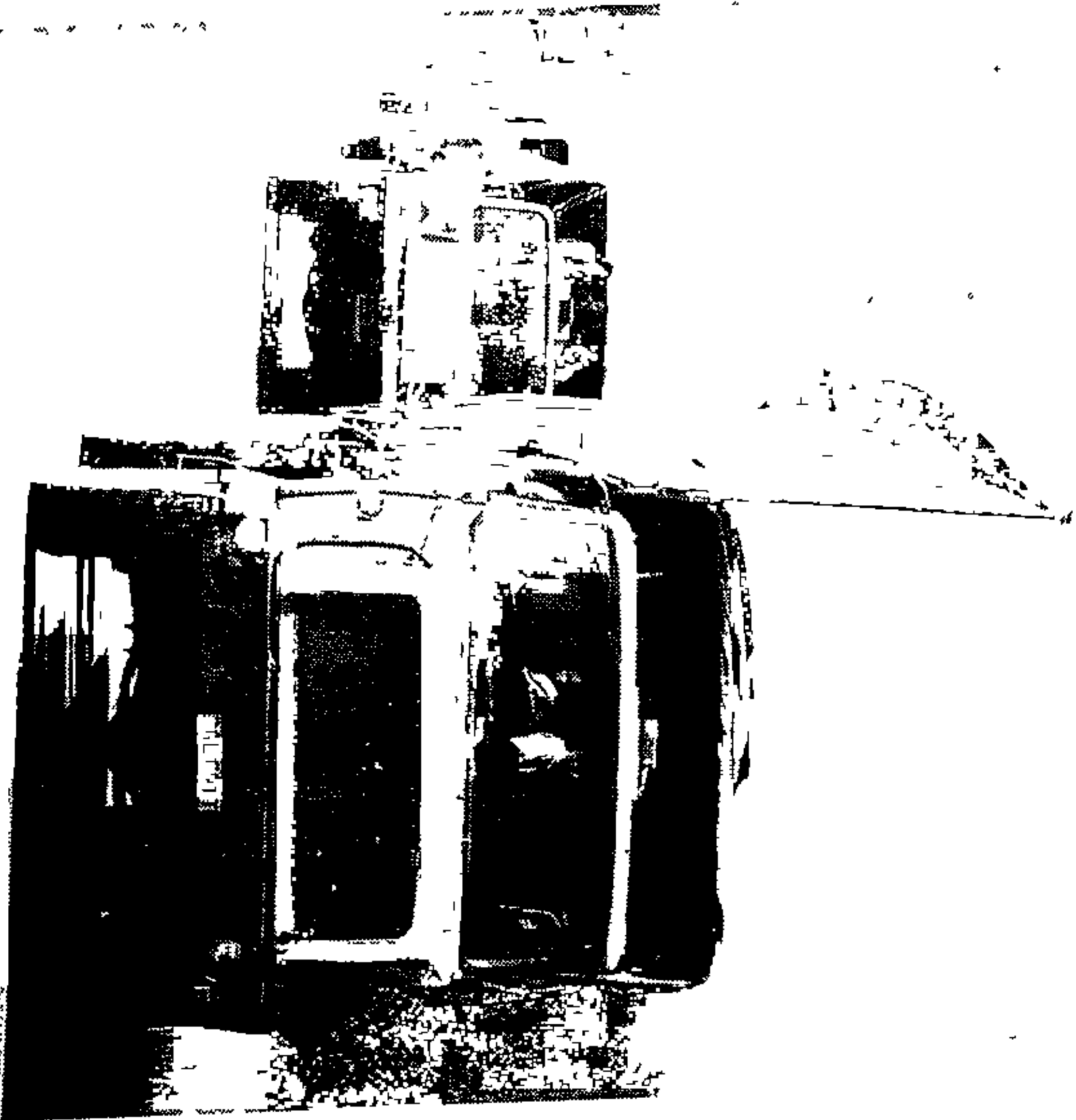
Governments worldwide are increasingly slamming the door in the faces of those seeking asylum, regarding them as political, social or economic threats, according to a report called 'The State of the World's Refugees: A Humanitarian Agenda'

Rich and poor nations are united in their determination not to accept refugees, the report says. Asylum seekers have been labelled "bogus" even when they have escaped from situations of armed conflict.

In some regions, refugees have been pushed from country to country, fleeing fighting or attack

However, their safety during asylum is under greater threat, with more assaults on refugee camps, the rape of refugee women and the forced recruitment of men and boys

Donors are emphasising "quick fix" solutions compelling the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to embark on repatriation which is neither strictly voluntary nor safe, accord-



The UN plays an important role in the repatriation of refugees
Millions of people are being returned to nations still suffering conflict and instability with no guarantee they may not have to flee again

BD 4/3/98
"Every country is pressing for refugees to go back to their respective countries, but some are not ready for this, or have nowhere to go; it is making UNHCR think in terms of the world community coming up with legal procedures to cater for such cases," High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata said.

Ogata, who has been touring Africa to talk with leaders of nine countries and Organisation of African Unity (OAU) secretary-general Salim Ahmed Salim, noted that the lack of confidence and suspicion among governments was stalling the process of finding a solution to the region's refugees problem in the region.

Governments in Africa's great lakes region are engaged in accusations and counter-accusations of host countries being used as military training grounds.

The refugee scenario is thus enshrouded in the mistrust between governments, allegations of military activities and security threats to host countries. The humanitarian face and obligation of the host countries has waned.

"People should be given proper treatment, regardless of whether they are refugees or not," Ogata said.

Countries have blamed refugees for outbreaks of diseases such as cholera. Refugees have been blamed, too, for looting or

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banditry and have been labelled a threat to security. They are treated with a degree of contempt and viewed as a nuisance to the host country.

This kind of response is completely unlike the African tradition of open-door hospitality and brotherhood.

One of the factors behind this reaction is that resources are scarce and poverty is rampant, making host countries unable to maintain their level of hospitality. "It is time for the UNHCR and leaders to discuss matters of common interest, to listen to concerns of governments in trying to solve refugee problems," Ogata said.

As refugee numbers drop, the number of internally displaced people continue to rise. Unlike refugees, this lot often have no access to international assistance, they are not protected by international refugee law.

The international community expects aid agencies to solve the complex humanitarian problems. But there are no clear solutions for most of the refugees in a great many countries.

"However proficiently such agencies are managed and coordinated, they cannot bring civil wars to an end, obligate states to respect the human rights of their citizens or bring a halt to the deliberate displacement of civilian populations," Ogata said — Sapa-DPA.

Human rights abuses still widespread

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M+G 20-26/3/98

Marion Edmunds

One of the world's most respected human rights watchdogs has accused the South African government of committing serious human rights abuses against illegal immigrants, in a damning report that draws parallels with the apartheid regime's treatment of blacks

The Human Rights Watch report is the first significant attack from an international agency on the African National Congress government's human rights record, and is certain to embarrass Minister of Home Affairs, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and his Cabinet colleagues

"Now that the tables are turned, it is shameful to see how hostile South Africans have become to today's migrants and refugees who are in need. In light of South Africa's demonstrated commitment to the advancement of human rights and its leadership role in the Southern African region, we expect them to do better than this," the watchdog says

Its 50-page document — which guns for Buthelezi and his officials — unveils a litany of human rights abuses, describing the horrific conditions under which non-South Africans are detained, their humiliation at the hands of the authorities, and the xenophobia they confront in society

The group's evidence is drawn from exhaustive research, including interviews with refugees, foreigners, NGOs, politicians, officials and human rights commissioners

The Human Rights Watch accuses home affairs of deliberately stalling the reform of laws governing refugees and migration. Despite public knowledge of atrocities against foreigners, the government has been reluctant to reform its approach. This is partly because of political sensitivity over foreigners' rights in a society battling unemployment, poverty and crime

The report also highlights alleged abuses at Lindela, a private deportation centre owned by ANC Women's League members in Krugersdorp

"The officials' attitude is very aggressive and hostile. The inmates' names were shouted out at them and they are expected to act in concert with the commands from the officials. The situation is reminiscent of the old pass law offices or some military barracks," the report says, quoting the Human Rights Commission

The report cites, amongst many examples of abuse at Lindela, the story of a Lesotho man, Qoane Motlemo (23), who claimed to have been viciously beaten by Lindela guards

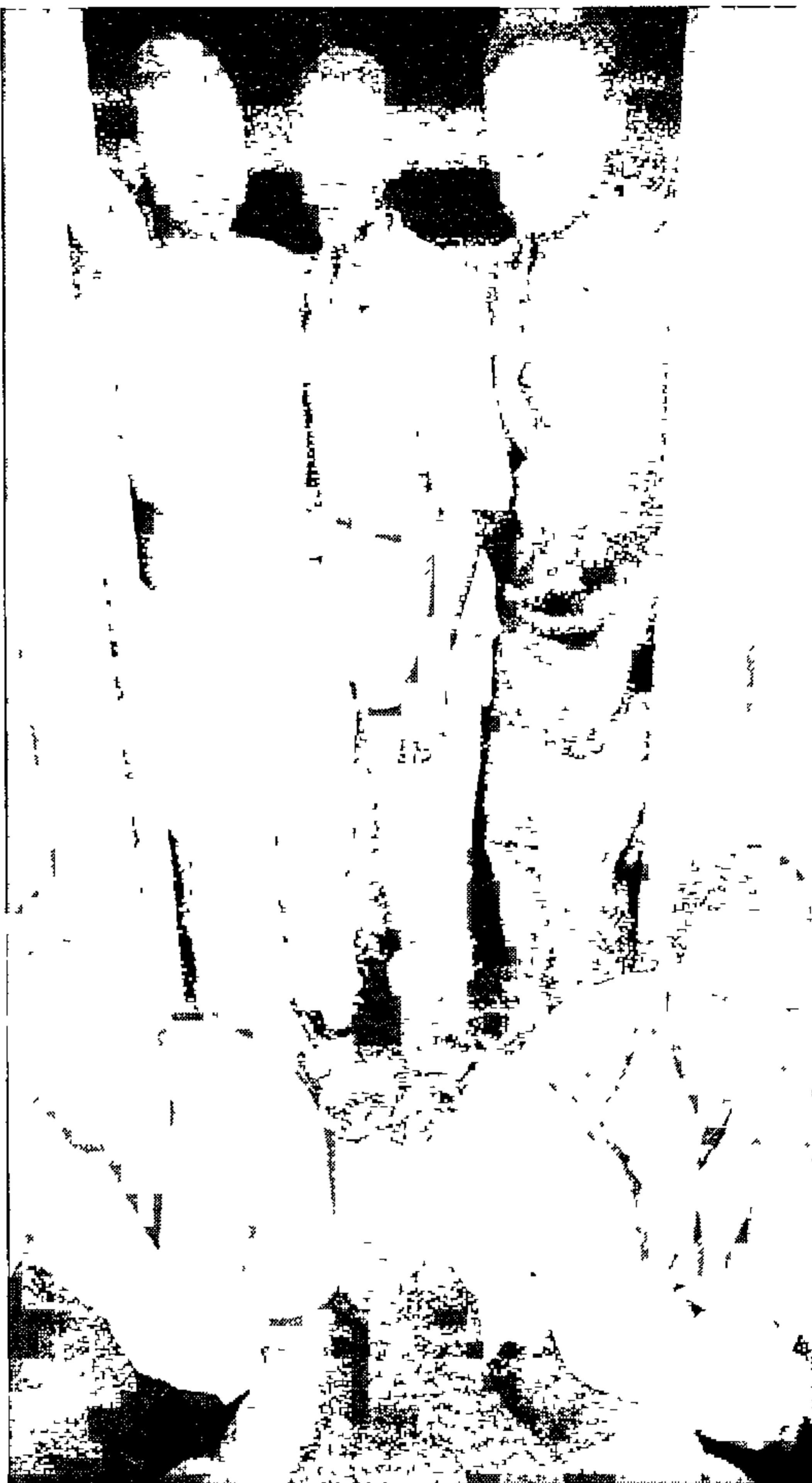
"I was locked into a room by myself. Yesterday three men entered the room. I was handcuffed and my leg was tied to a bed. One man started beating me. He punched me in the face and kicked me in the bladder. Later, I was urinating blood. My jaw was swollen. After beating me up, they left me handcuffed. They beat me from 10am and they beat me until 5pm, changing the people who beat me," he said

The report alleges Motlemo was visibly in pain during the interview and was taken to a doctor

The report also documents corruption by policemen and home affairs officials, who are said to demand bribes to process paperwork as a matter of course

"Home affairs is the worst place in South Africa. It is a real factory of money. If you don't give them money, you don't get refugee status," says a Nigerian hawkler in the report.

There is further criticism of home affairs officials' methods of identifying foreigners when they round people up. For example, officials use superficial marks such as inoculation scars to judge the origin of foreigners, and rely on news-clips



Marking time: Inmates of Lindela deportation centre are humiliated, shouted at and sometimes beaten. PHOTO: OSCAR G

from CNN to assess the political stability of the countries from which they fled. A fifth of "illegal aliens" rounded up are legal residents, who have been illegally detained by zealous officials

South African farmers and employees are also exposed in the report for exploiting immigrant labour. It describes instances in which employees arrange for immigrants to be deported, just days before they ought to receive their monthly salaries

The Human Rights Watch criticises political leaders' attitude to black African foreigners, saying white undocumented migrants are not targeted for abuse in the same way

"The climate of xenophobia in South Africa and the common in-

flammatory remarks of politicians against migrants foster the official abuses described in this report. Migrants are erroneously perceived as responsible for rising crime and as a serious threat to South Africa's socio-economic well-being," it says

"Our interviews suggest that some police, army and home affairs officials feel that they are serving their country's interest by abusing undocumented migrants, as this is likely to guarantee that the migrants will not return anytime soon to South Africa"

Yet the migrants do return, each time risking their belongings, their well-being and in some instances their lives to get to South Africa to escape starvation or political persecution in neighbouring countries

Mobutu men fail to get refugee status

Ann Eveleth

Government lawyers this week secured their first victory in a series of legal battles over the fate of three allies of the late Zairean dictator Mobutu Sese Seko on Tuesday rejected a bid by Mobutu's former national police commander, General Kpama Baramoto, defence minister Mudima Mavua and special army commander General Ngbale Nzimbi to be declared political refugees

MHG 20 - 26/3/98
The Department of Home Affairs usually decides on refugee status, but the men asked the court to take over this function because they said the department had clearly already decided to deport them

Immigration officials arrested the men in December when they returned from a trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo where they met opponents of new ruler, Laurent Kabila, to consider whether to join armed resistance against him. The men, who claim they refused to join the resistance, were released in mid-January

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They will now have to submit reasons to the refugee affairs committee of home affairs backing their claim to be political refugees. In terms of international protocols accepted by South Africa, the committee may refuse them recognition only if they are found to have "committed a serious non-political crime outside South Africa prior to their arrival, carried or smuggled arms or ammunition into South Africa, or if they are social or economic refugees".

In another development, a senior represen-

tative in South Africa of Kabila's main opponent, the Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), Dr Nakeya Kimwana, said this week that he hoped the men would return to the Congo to join a revolt against Kabila

UDPS leader Etienne Tshisekedi, currently under house arrest, was Mobutu's main opponent before Kabila's whirlwind revolution in late 1996. But Kimwana, through daily attendance of the court proceedings, has demonstrated an extraordinarily close relationship with the Mobutu generals. His comments follow UDPS threats to change from political opposition to more violent means.

It resurrects the possibility that supporters of Tshisekedi may be moving towards a military alliance with Mobutu's former elite

Govts stop free passage

86/13/98
Sowetan 26/3/98

DECADES-OLD co-operation between South Africa and Zimbabwe at the Beitbridge border post has been withdrawn in a major row between the two countries, a Zimbabwean daily reported yesterday

The state-controlled *Herald* newspaper quoted unnamed officials yesterday as saying immigration, customs and police officers on both sides of the Limpopo River, which separates the two countries, would no longer travel freely without documentation

Free entry for officials on either side has speeded up official business at the crowded frontier post, the biggest gateway linking the two countries

It was also critical for police pursuing criminals and for the repatriation of thousands of illegal immigrants seeking a better life in South Africa

For the first time since the border post opened in 1929, officials will have to produce passports

"That mutual understanding no longer exists," an official said

No confirmation from the Zimbabwean department of immigration was immediately available

The newspaper alleged that SA first withdrew the right of free passage for officials from Zimbabwe

In retaliation, Zimbabwe imposed the same restrictions on SA

SA police transporting truckloads of Zimbabwean border jumpers were allegedly sent back for full documentation, the newspaper said

According to the official: "They must have passports and certificates of repatriation for every border jumper" - Sapa

Rights report deemed inaccurate

BO 26/3/98

(236)

2472

CAPE TOWN — Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi and his deputy Lindiwe Sisulu questioned the contents yesterday of a Human Rights Watch report on the treatment of illegal immigrants in SA.

Briefing the National Assembly's home affairs committee, Buthelezi said the report did not reflect the department's main activities and highlighted isolated incidents. It also contained many inaccuracies.

The report, compiled by the New York-based watchdog group, also accused the government of serious human rights violations against illegal immigrants, and cites the conditions in which non-South Africans are detained, humiliation by the authorities and xenophobia as the main problems facing illegal aliens in the country.

Buthelezi said such

problems were not new, but the department was involved in a process of transformation and they were receiving attention.

In many cases remedial action had already been taken or was in the process of being taken.

However, it was preposterous to suggest that the department had to provide five-star treatment to illegal aliens while more than 50% of South Africans lived below the poverty line.

Sisulu said the methodology used by the group was doubtful, and there had been no attempt to be objective.

The group had made no attempt to interview Buthelezi, herself, home affairs officials, members of the committee, or even top police officials.

She questioned the timing of the report's release — a day before US President Bill Clinton was due to arrive in SA.

The group was using Clinton's visit to raise its own profile, she said.

Sisulu said that she had been in exile for half her life, dealing extensively with human rights groups, but she had never heard of Human Rights Watch before.

The problems of refugees in SA were being attended to and she was in constant contact with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on the issue. However, many illegals did not qualify as refugees and abused the system.

The department intended to launch its white paper on refugees on June 20 this year — Africa Human Rights Day — and legislation would follow to address the problem.

Buthelezi also rejected allegations in the report that policy formulation on the issue was being delayed — Sapa

Employers of illegal aliens face crackdown

Cape builder gets R120 000 fine

LINDSAY BARNES AND BEAUREGARD TROMP
STAFF REPORTERS

A Somerset West building contractor has been fined R120 000 or 20 years' jail, half suspended, for employing 40 illegal immigrants.

The case, in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court yesterday, marked the start of a new crackdown on employers of illegal immigrants in the province, said Dirk Boshoff, patrol immigration officer for the Western Cape Department of Home Affairs.

Johannes Zeelie, who employed the workers on the Holiday Inn construction site at the Foreshore, was convicted of 120 charges under the Aliens Control Act. He will also have to pay the costs, estimated at R200 000, of detaining and repatriating the 40

Mozambicans he employed.

Mr Zeelie said today that the sentence was ridiculous, but he would not be appealing.

Mr Boshoff said it did not help the department to take illegal immigrants to court. "From now on we will be targeting employers and will take all cases we get to court," he said.

"A fine of R1 000 (per alien employed illegally) is nothing to a building contractor. In this specific case we won the battle."

He estimated that the cost to the country of detaining and repatriating aliens was R2,5-million last year.

The Western Cape, which apparently spends hundreds of thousands of rands on illegal immigrants each month, had already overspent its budget for the 1997/98 financial year.

Jurie de Wet, chief of immigration

services for the Western Cape Department of Home Affairs, said this case was the first of such magnitude.

He said he believed Mr Zeelie's sentence was reasonable as the influx of illegal immigrants was causing major problems. Aliens affected the unemployment rate, increased crime and placed a severe burden on infrastructure.

In 1994 more than 12 000 illegal aliens were arrested on serious crime charges such as rape and murder.

Mr Boshoff estimated that 45% of construction workers in Gauteng were illegal immigrants, mostly from Mozambique, who were hired as cheap labour and effectively took the jobs of South Africans.

While the Western Cape did not suffer to quite the same extent, the problem was increasing.

(236)
ARG 24/3/98

The hatred that plagues South Africa

By Joe Mdhlela

GROSS human rights abuses against "undocumented migrants" are on the increase in South Africa despite the fact that South Africa is a democratic state, a report released today claims

In what it describes as an "alarming rise in xenophobia in South Africa", the Human Rights Watch graphically sketches attacks, both physical and emotional, on foreigners who seek political and economic refugee status in the country

The report states that despite the advent of democracy in South Africa in 1994, the country's record of human rights violations against foreigners leaves much to be desired

The report states "Foreigners have largely failed to benefit from these developments (of democracy and *ubuntu*) and remain subject to serious abuse"

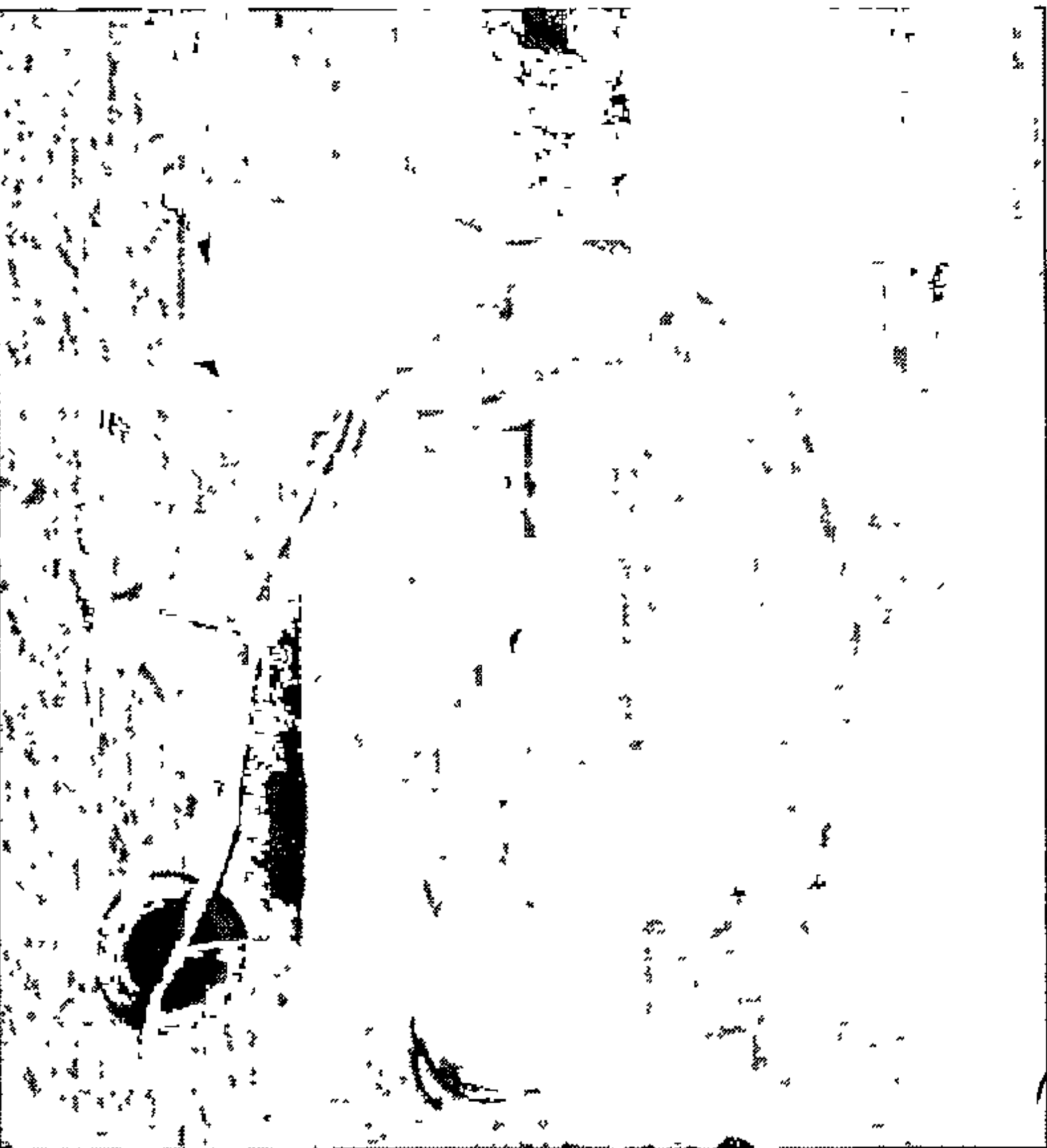
Standing accused of these abuses, and other excesses, are home affairs officials, the police, army, farmers and politicians who together in different ways take advantage of migrants whom they often refer to as "illegal aliens"

Young labourers, some as young as 14 years, have described how they have been abused by farmers and forcibly kept on white-owned farms without proper accommodation

"We were regularly beaten in an effort to make us work harder," a young labourer told the Human Rights Watch group

They claimed they were detained for two weeks by farmers and were paid R5 each for their labour during that period.

The report also claims police use unscientific methods such as complexion, accent, or inoculation marks, to



The plight of Mozambican refugees in Giyana is mirrored in this picture.

PIC ANTONIO MUCHAVE

determine "suspected undocumented migrants"

Expressing serious concern about this state of affairs, the report says "South Africa has been deporting an increasing number of migrants each year since 1994, and reaching close to two million people in 1997"

This despite the hand of friendship African countries extended to South African exiles during the dark apartheid years

The African countries opened their doors to South African migrants, exiles and refugees and paid a heavy economic price for hosting them

subjected to vile language and rough handling as she was transferred from one police station to another in Cape Town"

The report also records the brutal killing of a Burundi refugee, Jean-Pierre Kanyangwa, who was beaten up while in police custody in Cape Town

"Kanyangwa was arrested by police in Cape Town at about 11 am on June 1 1997 and was brought to the Ministry of Home Affairs at about 2pm the same day in a bad condition

He was suffering from stomach pains, had urinated in his pants and reportedly told a fellow Burundian he had been beaten by the police

"The police sergeant who brought Kanyangwa to the offices of the Ministry of Home Affairs refused to take him to hospital, saying it was now a refugee problem, and left

"Kanyangwa died from a ruptured spleen on his way to the hospital," states the report

Turning to the abuse heaped on street hawkers or vendors, the report says "Local hawkers attempt to clean the streets of foreigners During repeated violent protests in Johannesburg, local traders and ordinary criminals have brutally beaten foreign hawkers and stolen their goods"

The report says police simply turn a blind eye and do "very little" in response to their complaints about harassment

Because of the lack of police protection, hundreds of foreign hawkers have had to abandon their trade after repeated attacks and looting incidents in which police simply shrug their shoulders "as if nothing had happened"

The "ethnic cleansing" or purging of Malawian, Zimbabwean and Mozambican immigrants had been a

common feature in the township of Alexandra, near Johannesburg, three years ago Several detainees have complained about serious human rights abuses in the Lindela illegal immigrants holding facility

During our December 4 1997 visit Human Rights Watch uncovered troubling evidence of a series of incidents implicating Lindela personnel," the report says and suggests that

● The government should take steps to bring South African immigration law in the line with internationally recognised human rights norms and the South African Constitution,

● Members of the Government including ministers, should publicly condemn the harassment of foreigners,

● South Africa should ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its protocols, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and bring domestic law and practice into conformity with these treaties,

● South Africa should sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and bring domestic law and practice into conformity with these treaties, and

● South Africa should sign and ratify the International Labour Organisation Convention concerning migration for employment

Perhaps with these recommendations South Africans will learn that it is immoral and dehumanising to refer to foreigners as *makwerekwere*, and that they, too, are deserving of the human dignity South Africans want for themselves

'SA ill-treating aliens, refugees' (236)

Sowetan 26/3/98

By Joe Mdhlela

SEVERAL South African agencies, including police, the army and the Ministry of Home Affairs, played a major role in the abuse of immigrants, a report by the Human Rights Watch said today

The report titled *Prohibited Person, Abuse of Undocumented Migrants*, chronicled serious human rights violations experienced by immigrants seeking refugee status in the country

The agencies implicated in the hostility towards the immigrants included the South

African Police Service, South African National Defence Force and the Home Affairs Ministry

"Most South African police stations play a contributory role in tracking down and arresting undocumented migrants during their ordinary duties

"In urban centres with large numbers of undocumented migrants (foreigners), such as Johannesburg, arrest records suggest that tracking down undocumented migrants is one of the major occupations of many police officers," the report said

The report revealed that when police

announced last June that they arrested 11 916 suspects in crime swoops 'a closer reading revealed that 5 776 of those arrested were foreigners (undocumented migrants)"

The report said it was easier to track down and arrest foreigners than hardened criminals

Although Home Affairs has still to acquaint itself with the report, it said its job was hamstrung by a lack of resources

Ministry spokesman Mr Manase Makwela said he was aware of problems of corruption

"Where we are presented with firm proof of corruption, we will deal with the culprits"

● See page 13



Unwelcome visitors - illegals are at the receiving end of numerous abuses from the authorities and SA citizens, a report by the international Human Rights Watch claims.

SA shows illegal aliens the door

Vegetables lay strewn across the streets, nervous foreign traders hid in entrances of city buildings as a group of vigilante hawkers brandishing sticks ransacked the city centre. This was the scene during attacks on foreign hawkers in Johannesburg in August last year.

The hawkers justified their actions by saying this was necessary to rid the city streets of foreign traders who compete with them.

Human Rights Watch, an international human rights agency, however, maintains that the attacks were a function of unreasonable fear and growing xenophobia which is developing in this country.

A Human Rights Watch report says that despite strides towards the establishment of a democratic, human rights-centred society in South Africa, these principles are not always extended to foreigners - especially black foreigners.

"For foreigners living in South Africa today, life continues to be fraught with difficulties disturbingly similar to those faced by black South Africans under the influx control system.

"South Africa has become in increasingly xenophobic in recent years, with a large percentage of South Africans perceiving foreigners - especially, almost exclusively, black foreigners - as a direct threat to their future economic wellbeing and as responsible for the troubling rise in violent crime in South Africa," the report states.

Human Rights Watch maintains that the dimension of the problem has been magnified by politicians "who invoke the highest estimates in order to suggest a state of crisis with regard to the presence of of migrants into South Africa."

For example, in his introductory speech to Parliament, Minister of Home Affairs Mangosuthu Buthelezi said "If we as South Africans are going to compete for scarce resources with millions of aliens who are pouring into South Africa, then we can bid goodbye to our Reconstruction and Development Programme."

Human Rights Watch estimates the number of illegal immigrants at between 500 000 and 1.5 million and by January 1998 South Africa had received 38 143 asylum applications.

The report says while deportation of illegal immigrants has steadily increased, the figures are not reliable to use to estimate the numbers of illegal immigrants in the country because many migrants who are deported return almost immediately to South Africa.

Deportation has increased from 44 225 in 1988 to 96 600 in 1993 to 180 713 in 1996 with the majority of the deportees being from Mozambique. The 1997 deportation figures are lower, with 176 351 people deported including 146 284 Mozambicans and 21 673 Zimbabweans.

But deportation is considered a "relatively routine, albeit unpleasant part of working and residing in South Africa", Human Rights Watch has found.

The illegal immigrants are particularly vulnerable.

Although the Aliens Control Act provides a mechanism for the prosecution of employers who employ illegal immigrants, there is evidence of few prosecutions. This gives employers tremendous power over them and illegal immigrants often "accept employment whatever the payment, risk, physical demand or working hours involved" and this prevents them from approaching the authorities for redress of grievances.

Illegal immigrants' arrests are also used to swell arrest statistics of the South African Police Service, Human Rights Watch said.

Arbitrary criteria are often used to identify illegal immigrants. The report says that members of the SAPS internal tracing units identify

the country," and that the immigrants were taking away jobs from the local population, Bouckaert said.

Human Rights Watch estimates there are only between 500 000 and 1.5 million illegal immigrants in the country.

The organisation recommends that the Aliens Control Act be reformed so that it meets with international standards and the South African constitution. Furthermore South Africa needs to develop legislation which covers the refugee determination procedures.

Other recommendations include:

- Immigration laws should be brought into line with internationally recognised norms.
- Members of Government should condemn harassment or attacks on foreigners in public.
- South Africa should sign and ratify various covenants and conventions dealing with civil rights including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers.
- The Government should develop an independent process for determining refugee status.
- Immigration laws should be brought into line with internationally recognised norms.
- Members of Government should condemn harassment or attacks on foreigners in public.
- South Africa should sign and ratify various covenants and conventions dealing with civil rights including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers.
- The Government should develop an independent process for determining refugee status.
- Immediate steps should be taken to end pervasive corruption in the handling of illegal immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees by the Home Affairs department, the SAPS and the SA National Defence Force.
- Detention conditions for illegal immigrants and asylum seekers should conform with international and domestic standards including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Country's migration policy needs revamp, says human rights watchdog

Xenophobic changes to the migration policy in South Africa are recommended by an international human rights agency after a study conducted by the group found an alarming rise in xenophobia in the country.

Human Rights Watch researcher Peter Bouckaert said the problem could be solved provided that there was strong "political leadership to speak out about the abuses against aliens and a will by the police to act against the perpetrators."

"Xenophobia is based on the notion that there is a huge (illegal immigrant) problem in the country," and that the immigrants were taking away jobs from the local population, Bouckaert said.

Human Rights Watch estimates there are only between 500 000 and 1.5 million illegal immigrants in the country.

The organisation recommends that the Aliens Control Act be reformed so that it meets with international standards and the South African constitution. Furthermore South Africa needs to develop legislation which covers the refugee determination procedures.

Other recommendations include:

231/27/3/98

beaten by the police during his arrest, the report claimed.

"Interviews and research conducted by Human Rights Watch suggest high levels of corruption in the refugee determination process, especially in the Johannesburg/Pretoria area.

"Almost without fail, asylum seekers and refugees interviewed in the Johannesburg/Pretoria region mentioned to us that they were asked for a bribe or a 'fee' when they approached Home Affairs for documents. The apparent bribery incidents took a few familiar forms. Persons were often asked for a 'cold-drunk' after approaching officials, or they were promised an earlier interview for a 'fee', or they were approached by one of the translators who offered a speedy resolution of their application for a 'fee'.

Also applications, in the absence of refugee legislation are determined under an ad-hoc set of procedures. This results in arbitrary decisions being made without full investigation of the circumstances.

It appears that a number of asylum applications are turned down because standing committee members feel that the countries in question are stable and do not generate refugees," the report states.

"Without legislative reform, it will be difficult to address the problems and abuses under the current system as many of these stem from fundamental deficiencies in the current legislation," the document concludes.

COMMENT

Black foreigners ill-treated

(236)

CP 29/3/98

THE REPORT on the opposite page about the treatment meted out to fellow Africans seeking refugee in this country shames all black South Africans.

Fellow Africans, people who just less than a decade ago hosted us in our thousands as refugees from apartheid, are now victims of our brutality.

Black and white officials of the Department of Home Affairs, police members as well as members of the South African National Defence Force, hound, arrest, physically assault and steal from these poor and helpless people.

That white policemen, soldiers and farmers derive pleasure in beating these refugees, asylum-seekers or illegal immigrants – call them what you will – does not come as any surprise.

South African farmworkers are still subjected to some of the most inhumane treatment at the hands of white farmers.

They are under-paid, ill-treated and evicted from the farms once they are no longer of any use to the farmers.

If they could do this to their compatriots, it is to be expected that they will behave even worse to foreign blacks, whom they consider no better than chattel slaves.

It is a crying shame that black South Africans are taking advantage of the plight of these people to also steal from them, physically abuse and hound them on the streets of Johannesburg.

It is not enough that we black South Africans – and note, not our fellow white countrymen – routinely insult them by calling them makwerekwere.

But the main villain in this tragedy is our very own African National Congress.

Whether they like it or not, these brutalities are committed in her

name.

The police and Home Affairs officials arresting these people are doing so in the name of the government of the day.

The ANC government can protest to high heaven but the fact is that they are not doing enough – if anything – to bring an end to this state of affairs.

Mozambique was reduced to grinding poverty by apartheid South Africa because the Frelimo leadership expressed – in word and deed – solidarity with black South Africans.

The country provided refuge for members of our liberation movement.

They also helped to train cadres of Umkhonto we Sizwe and generally supported our liberation cause at international forums.

In retaliation for this, PW Botha's military machine destroyed Mozambique's roads and transport infrastructure, its industrial base was ruined, the countryside was laid to waste and Renamo bandits supported by Pretoria killed, raped, pillaged and plundered.

Renamo and the South African Defence Force left Mozambique a country in ruins.

Thousands of peasants were driven out from their villages by Renamo while much of the countryside was heavily mined – so much so that peasants could no longer eke out a living from it.

When liberation came south of the Limpopo, it was only logical that thousands of Mozambicans would track down southwards to seek employment on our farms and other industrial sectors.

It was inevitable that many of them would come without proper documents.

It is these people and others like them from countries like Zimbabwe, Lesotho and as far afield as Tanzania

and Nigeria who are being victimised.

Even foreigners with proper documents which show that they are seeking asylum or that their applications are still being processed and even those merely here for medical treatment are arrested willy-nilly.

We are not blind to the realities of South Africa.

Although the country is the richest on the continent, millions of her citizens are unemployed, thousands are without homes and the country does not have enough resources to cater for all her people.

Therefore, it is understandable that the government will embark on measures to control the influx of economic refugees as well as those fleeing political persecution from their countries.

But, it is not acceptable that these refugees and asylum seekers should be subjected to inhumane and slave-like conditions on our farms, in the industrial sectors and in our many detention centres.

Black South Africans know the hardships brought about by the pass system.

How man, wife and child were separated. How our people were at the mercy of Home Affairs officials who could endorse them out of the cities at a whim.

We should be the last to wish these evils on anyone.

Yet today, black foreigners are subjected to the same hardships while whites without proper documents are allowed to roam free.

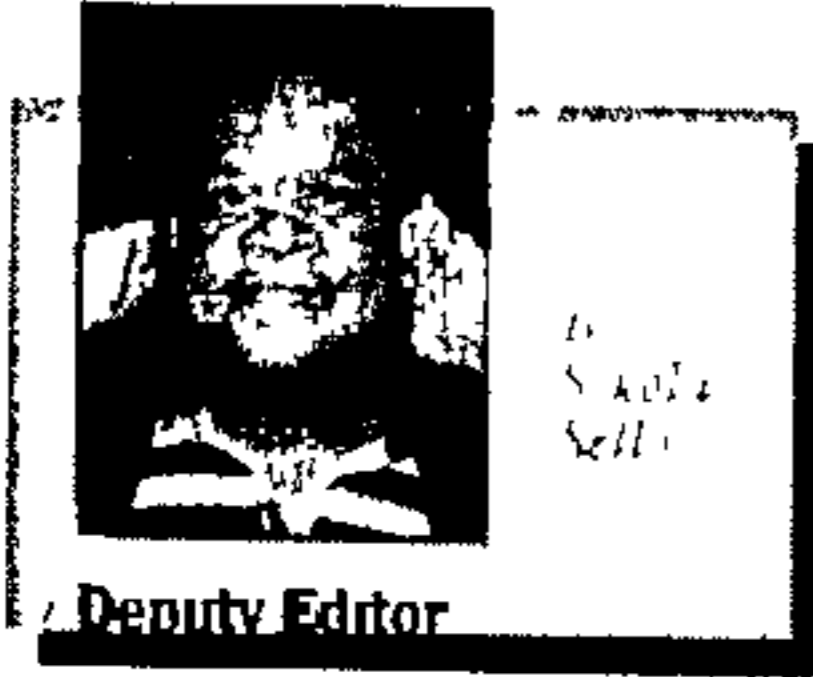
These incidents shame all black South Africans.

We pride ourselves in having one of the most enlightened constitutions in the world

If this constitution cannot protect these people, it is not worth the paper on which it is written.

Aliens suffering under n

CP 29/3/98 (236)



Deputy Editor

The average South African citizen, as well as police and officials, are all guilty of a xenophobia which leads to frightening abuses against foreigners, says a report by Human Rights Watch.

Despite a liberal abuses against f

A REPORT compiled by an international human rights body Human Rights Watch - has dealt a damning indictment against the African National Congress led government regarding the ill treatment of Africans seeking economic and political refuge in South Africa

The report, which was released this week by the New York based human rights body, tells in vivid and often horrifying detail how blacks seeking refuge in South Africa are treated in the most degrading manner

The report tells how these men and women and in some cases children are subjected to ill treatment and abuse on the farms, in prisons and in workplaces and while eking out a living as street vendors

It tells of how they are hounded in the streets and where they work, of the bad conditions they are kept under in detention centres

It also tells of how they are deported, almost like head of cattle, to countries like Mozambique and Zimbabwe

Those ill-treating them are locals (in many cases blacks), black and white policemen and members of the defence force, prisoners and prison officials, black and white government officials, and farmers

In some cases they are exposed to living conditions comparable to slavery

The refugees are subjected to verbal abuse, they are robbed of their possessions and regularly assaulted - in some cases very seriously

Farmers assault their immigrant workers as a matter of routine

One of their favourite practises is to have these illegals working on their farms until month end and, instead of paying them, they then call the police and have them arrested for being in the country illegally

Although HRW does not level any accusation against the ANC, the fact that the incidents of abuse occurred under the rule of President Nelson Mandela is damning enough to the ruling party

In a rather tragic turn of events, the majority of those who are now victims of ill-treatment at the hands of South Africans are citizens from countries which gave the ANC and other liberation movements refuge during the struggle against apartheid

These are refugees from Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Tanzania as well as Nigeria Mozambique in particular has been reduced to a state of extreme poverty because of its support for South Africa's liberation cause

The ill treatment of asylum-seeking Africans at the hands of the locals, the police and other law enforcement authorities has been widely documented

But the latest report is more detailed and exposes the humiliation, pain, suffering and abuse of the illegals seeking refuge in South Africa

Can South Africa continue to pride itself about having one of the most liberal constitutions in the world when government officials treat refugees or illegal immigrants so callously?

If our human rights oriented constitution cannot protect these war ravaged

people from Mozambique, what good is such a document

South Africa is a signatory to several international conventions on the treatment of refugees and is expected to conform to their requirements

The report, titled *Prohibited Persons, Abuse of Undocumented Migrants, Asylum-Seekers and Refugees in South Africa*, is a damning indictment of the ANC-led government

While the report delivers a damning account of how individual South Africans and groups like Achib, the hawkers' umbrella body, often abuse the so-called illegal immigrants, what emerges is that the authorities, be they police, members of the security forces or Home Affairs officials, are in the main largely responsible for the ill treatment of these foreigners

The HRW highlights another disturbing factor about the South African refugee problem

Almost all of those harassed, hounded and arrested are overwhelmingly Africans, with a few others of Indian and Pakistani extraction

Whites, even those whose visas have expired are never or rarely arrested

It is not only the arrest of these refugees or asylum seekers which is a matter of concern to HRW, but also the arbitrary methods used to detain those suspected of being foreigners

Some of the methods used to determine whether one is South African have echoes of the apartheid era and include the following

- A focus on inoculation marks and the colour of one's skin
- Some are said to be "too dark to be South African"
- Others are said to have a foreign look
- There are also ridiculous claims that some walk like foreigners

Given the ridiculous reasons for the detentions, it is little wonder that a number of South Africans also fall victim to these thugs claiming to be police

What is a complexion too dark to be South African?

How many children of South Africans were born in exile and may have these inoculation marks

How many Mozambicans have proper documents entitling them to reside in South Africa?

Such is the determination of South Africa to keep away black illegal immigrants from Mozambique that there is a semi-permanent unit of the army stationed near the border with our northern neighbour

The harassment of vendors who sell anything from fruit and vegetables, belts, curios,

streets Achib has organised lootings disguised as marches against them

According to the report, on many occasions when the hawkers are arrested by officials seeking bribes, their wares are left unattended, incurring further losses

One of the ironies about the plight of the illegal immigrants is that one of the most notorious detention centres is Lindela on the West Rand, which is owned by some powerful members of the ANC

The report abounds with tales of how Department of Home Affairs officials harass people at Lindela to get bribes

Guards at the centre are also accused of repeated assaults on the detainees

These allegations have been made too often and it reflects poorly on the government and the ANC leadership that nothing seems to have been done to correct

women's bags and running shoes is a common sight in Johannesburg

the situation at Lindela Such is the scale of corruption at Lindela, the report claims, that the chief migration officer for CapeTown checks of its own to make sure that sent to the detention centre were released without its permission

Human Rights Watch contends the state of xenophobia in South Africa the common inflammatory politicians against migrants also the official abuse contained in the

Organisations like the South African Institute for Race Relations and the African Catholic Bishops Conference have also questioned some of the actions levelled against illegals, like that they are responsible for crimes drug dealing and theft and that they taking jobs from the locals

The Institute has also questioned of the reported official claims about numbers of illegals

Apart from physical violence against asylum seekers, other forms of abuse include keeping them in cells with



under new apartheid

Despite a liberal constitution, human rights abuses against foreigners are widespread

women's bags and running shoes is a common sight in Johannesburg

the situation at Lindela.

Such is the scale of corruption at Lindela, the report claims, that the chief immigration officer for Cape Town used checks of its own to make sure that those sent to the detention centre were not released without its permission.

Human Rights Watch contends the climate of xenophobia in South Africa and the common inflammatory remarks of politicians against migrants also fosters the official abuse contained in the report.

Organisations like the South African Institute for Race Relations and the South African Catholic Bishops Conference have also questioned some of the allegations levelled against illegals, like claims that they are responsible for crimes like drug dealing and theft and that they are taking jobs from the locals.

The institute has also questioned some of the reported official claims about the numbers of illegals.

Apart from physical violence against asylum seekers, other forms of abuse include keeping them in cells with hardened

criminals who also steal their possessions like watches and whatever personal effects they have. This is common at jails like Pollsmoor where they are exposed to gangsters from the Cape Flats.

Detained asylum seekers are often held under unhygienic conditions, given food of poor quality and rarely given medical treatment whenever they are sick - all echoes of how black prisoners in South Africa were treated in the apartheid days.

Another concern raised by the report is the manner in which the illegals are put on trains to Mozambique or Zimbabwe.

It is most degrading and could only be compared with Nazi atrocities.

An example of how they are herded into coaches

"We are made to run to the train fast, so we don't see the station. We are made to squat with our heads between our legs. The police sjambok us on the train to make sure we keep our heads down."

They ask us if we have money, and they beat us all the way to Ressano Garcia. It takes us a long time, about ten hours. We

have to sit like that the whole time.

It gets very painful and limbs get swollen. Many people are bleeding, many people become unconscious. The police just laugh."

It is said the reason for the brutalities is to deter them from returning to South Africa again.

The question is why the government is allowing this brutality to go on.

Claims that they are not aware of what is happening are another echo of the Nazi concentration camps.

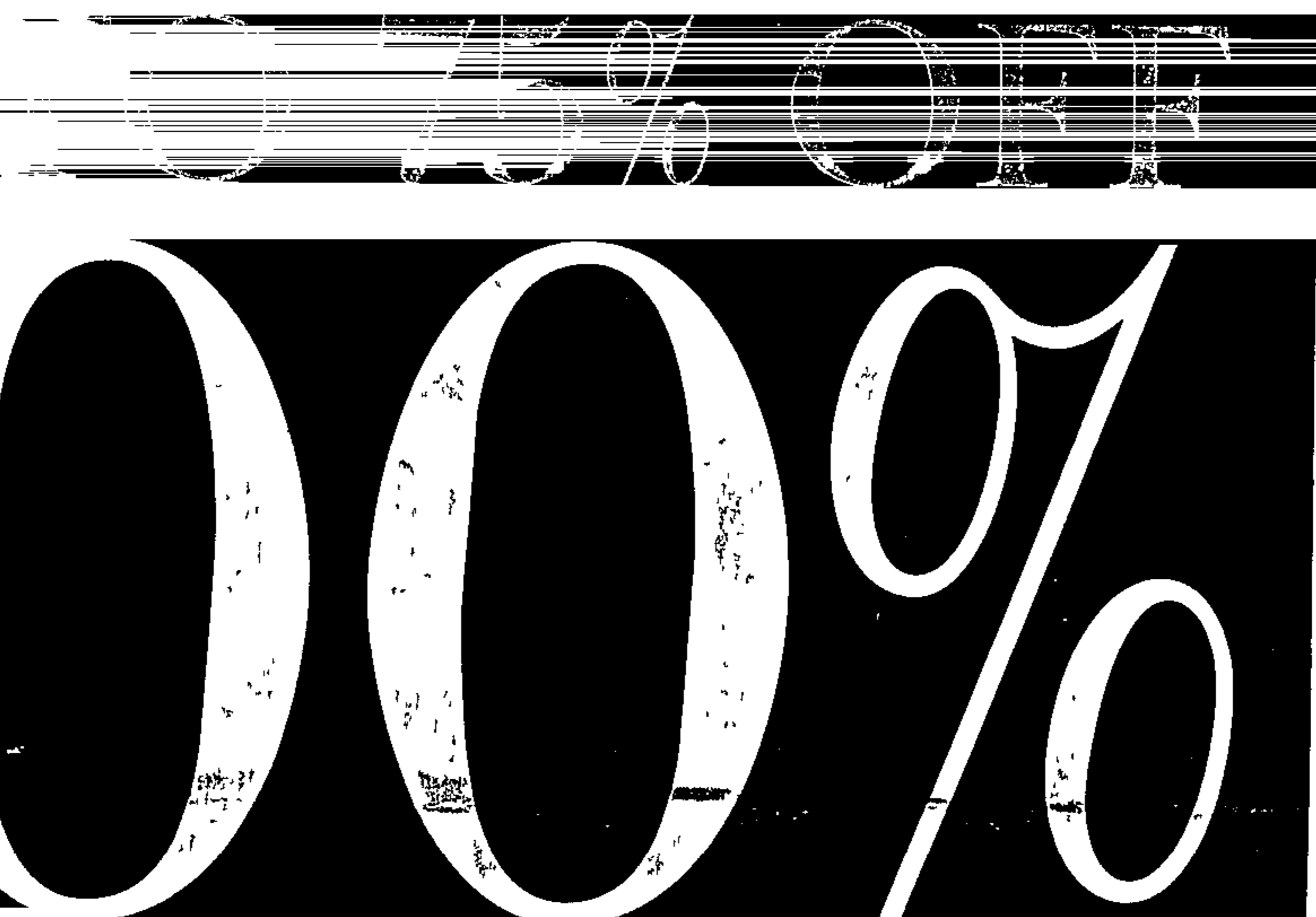
Asylum seekers who want to have their papers processed and the detainees who want to be released must buy the officials a "soft drink" - a euphemism for a bribe.

This is the same way Home Affairs clerks operated in the apartheid days.

If you wanted to have your pass fixed or wanted to avoid being "endorsed out" of the cities you had to grease their palms.

Apartheid may be dead for us but it is a reality for Africans from beyond our borders who are only guilty of trying to survive in this country.

lootings disguised them
report, on many occasions
are arrested by
their wares are
further losses
about the plight of the
that one of the most
centres is Lindela on
is owned by some
of the ANC
with tales of how
Affairs officials have
to get bribes
are also accused of
the detainees
have been made too
poorly on the govern-
leadership that no-
been done to correct



you had a swell time in the US of A!
and therefore trigger the formation of thrombosis
"Platelets are small particles in

SA farmers planting in Mozambique

JOSE TEMBE

(236) (BR) 31/3/98

(170) (SIS)

Maputo — Aires Aly, the governor of Mozambique's northern province of Niassa, said yesterday more than 450 peasants were now working with South African farmers in the districts of Majune and Sanga, under the Mosagrius agricultural programme between the two countries

Aly, who was attending a meeting in Maputo between provincial governors and officials of the ministry of state administration, denied claims that the people of Niassa were

hostile towards the South Africans.

According to the Mozambican News Agency, the governor described the relations between the South African farmers and the local peasantry as "excellent"

Last year there were reports of land disputes when some of the South Africans started occupying land before the area for Mosagrius had been demarcated. There were also claims of poor labour relations between the South African farmers and the Mozambicans they were hiring

But, according to Aly, there

are now about 250 local peasants working with the South Africans in Majune and a further 200 in Sanga. "They have never complained about anything," he said. There are now 16 South Africans farming in Niassa

Aly said the Mosagrius farms were cultivating 1 500 hectares with tobacco, maize, sunflower, soya, groundnuts and beans

But he said the government would also like them to invest in grain, to help alleviate the hunger still experienced in parts of Niassa province. — Independent Foreign Service

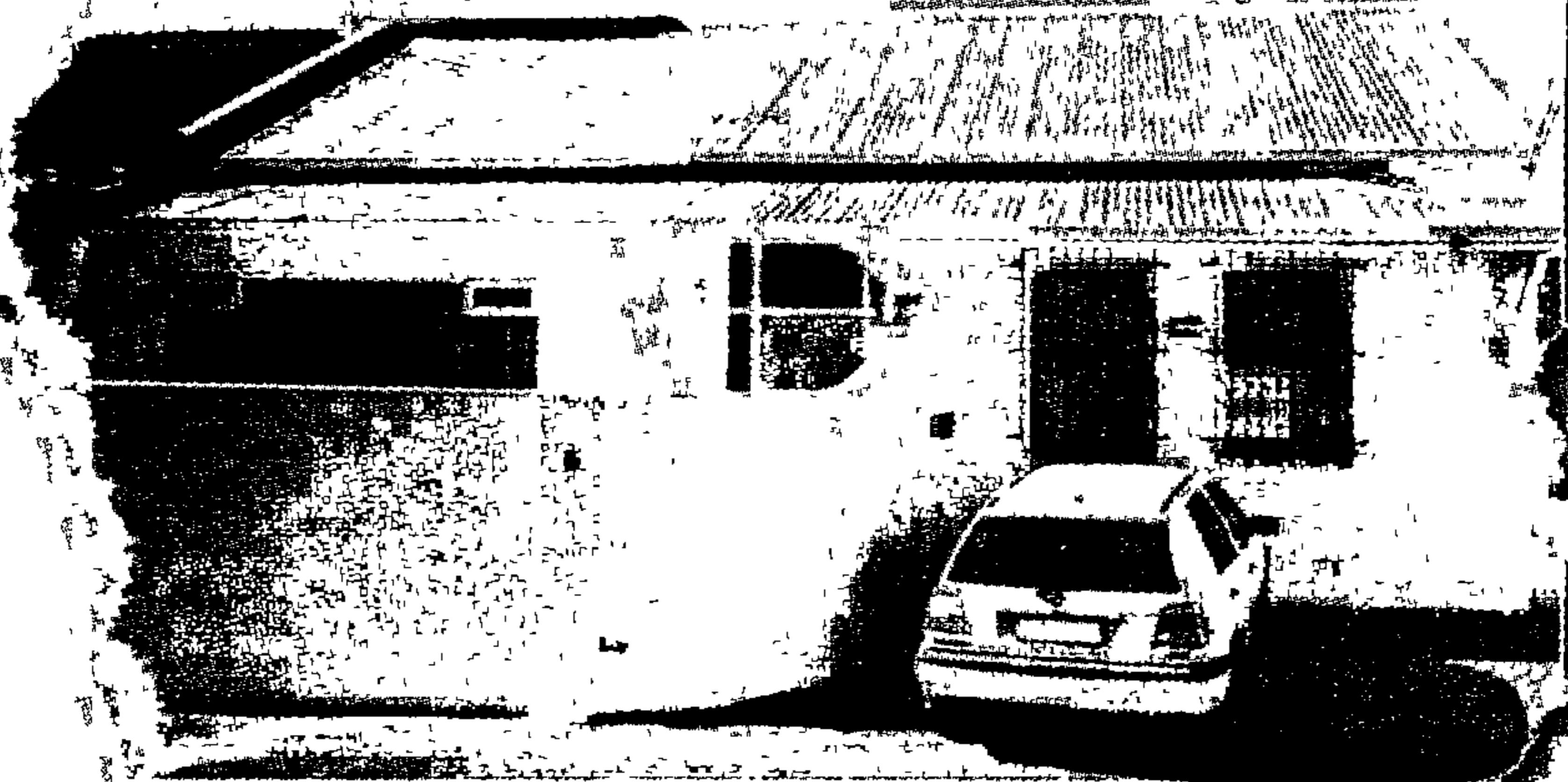
**Contractor fined
R120 000 for (236)
hiring aliens**

80-2413/98
A SOMERSET West building contractor was fined R120 000 or 20 years' jail by the Cape Town Magistrate's Court yesterday for employing illegal immigrants, the home affairs department said.

JG Zeelie was convicted on 120 charges in terms of the Aliens Control Act. Of his fine, R60 000 or 10 years was suspended for five years.

The department said he also had to pay about R200 000 for the cost of detaining and repatriating the Mozambicans. t
b

GREEN POINT



IMMACULATE CHELSEA LIVING - R595 000.

Superbly renovated compact home with excellent finishes offering large lounge dining room, family room, three bedrooms, two bathrooms (mes), front and back patios plus off street parking for two cars. Enquiries Area House Specialist

Costly comfort ... when buying a house in Cape Town, you are also paying for living close to The Mountain.

The Grape Escape pushes Cape property sales through the roof

Star 11/3/98 (236)

South Africans bought more than 40% of Cape properties sold in two months

By **MICHAEL MORRIS**
Cape Town

Newcomers have spent a staggering R150-million on city property in two months - almost 90% of the summer's house sales - as the Grape Escape, the exodus from Gauteng and elsewhere, continues.

South Africans from Gauteng and elsewhere accounted for 42% of all property sales during December and January, running to R70-million, according to the Property Price Ranger produced by Cape Property Services

Overseas buyers accounted for a whacking 46% (R80-million).

Of these, most were from the United Kingdom (52%) and Germany (30%)

While these figures represent the year-end peak, estate agents and furniture removal companies say the pace of new arrivals has shown no sign of slackening.

For every removal van going to Gauteng, there are three or four to the Cape. Business is usually most intense at the end of the year.

While Gauteng remains the powerhouse of the economy, high

crime, and the stress that goes with it, is driving scores of families south to the safer, more pleasant environment of the Cape Peninsula.

Most newcomers are in the A and B income group, and have the wherewithal to cushion the effect of higher property costs and lower salaries. Many executives with Gauteng-based careers are settling their families in the Cape, and commuting to and from work every week.

Some fear many of the homes bought by foreigners end up being little more than summer

holiday pads, and that there is a risk the character of some of the Cape's most sought-after suburbs is changing for good. But the influx from Johannesburg, Durban and other centres amounts to an infusion of capital and skills that is boosting the Western Cape economy.

Urbanisation, chiefly from the Eastern Cape, is continuing too, but at a much slower pace than a decade ago. People come for jobs, and the prospect of better education and services.

The Cape's rosier prospects, underpinned by the rapid expansion

Stuttaford Van Lines has also been filling back-loads with commercial freight, according to director Johan Marais.

He says demand has been so high that Gauteng branches have had to bring more trucks into service.

All three note that newcomers are looking increasingly to areas such as Somerset West, Stellenbosch and Durbanville to set up new homes.

Samuel Seeff, managing director of Seeff property services, believes "people are looking for property across

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Urbanisation, chiefly from the Eastern Cape, is continuing too, but at a much slower pace than a decade ago. People come for jobs, and the prospect of better education and services.

The Cape's rosier prospects, underpinned by the rapid expansion of the tourism industry, is the chief reason why an increasing number of South Africans are heading south.

Andre Slotweg, Cape Town branch manager of Frasers International, says "there has been a steady flow" with most business at the month-end and year-end.

He notes that people are "taking their time finding a house in our over-priced market, and are putting their possessions in storage, and renting accommodation. All our stores are filled to capacity."

He reports a three-to-one ratio in truckloads between Gauteng and Cape Town, with sustained demand in Johannesburg.

"I have run a vehicle empty to Johannesburg and they have simply absorbed the cost. That's how great the demand is."

Pickfords' operations manager, Tony Hall, says there was a "big surge" over summer, with four trucks coming from Gauteng a week for every truck going north.

"It is a very competitive business, with everyone battling to find back-loads. In some cases we have been able to find commercial back-

Stuttaford Van Lines has also been filling back-loads with commercial freight, according to director Johan Marais.

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All three note that newcomers are looking increasingly to areas such as Somerset West, Stellenbosch and Durbanville to set up new homes

Samuel Seeff, managing director of Seeff property services, believes "people are looking for property across the broader metropolitan area, partly to get greater value for money, but also to have a similar neighbourhood style – bigger gardens, wider roads – to what they have been used to"

He says the exodus to the Cape "is definitely continuing ... not just from Gauteng, but from around the country"

"People come down to the Cape for their summer holidays and they like it a lot and decide that they would really like to live here. Increasingly, they are acting on that."

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Gallagher also believes there has been "a healthy correction in the pricing of property"

"Speculative activity in the run-up to the Olympic decision last year tended to distort the market. There has been a bit too much steam in the market, but it's cooled a bit now."

► Cape of new hope

Page 13

Designed first and foremost to give you a rousingly good ride, the 406 soaks up bumps and whisks you through bends with such precision that it's simply breathtaking. In fact, you'll step out of the Peugeot 406 feeling totally elated.

This superb performance is due to the expertise of Peugeot's chassis specialist, Jean Baudin, awarded Engineer of the Year* for exceptional technology.

Sporting the finest European styling, the terrific 406 has advanced the art of the car. It's spacious, cosseting and refined with all the luxury and safety you could expect. And when it comes to your own and safety, it is predictably perfect. Even under the most extreme conditions. Add to that a 4-sensor braking system (except Si), driver's airbag, side-impact protection and a host of additional safety features as standard.

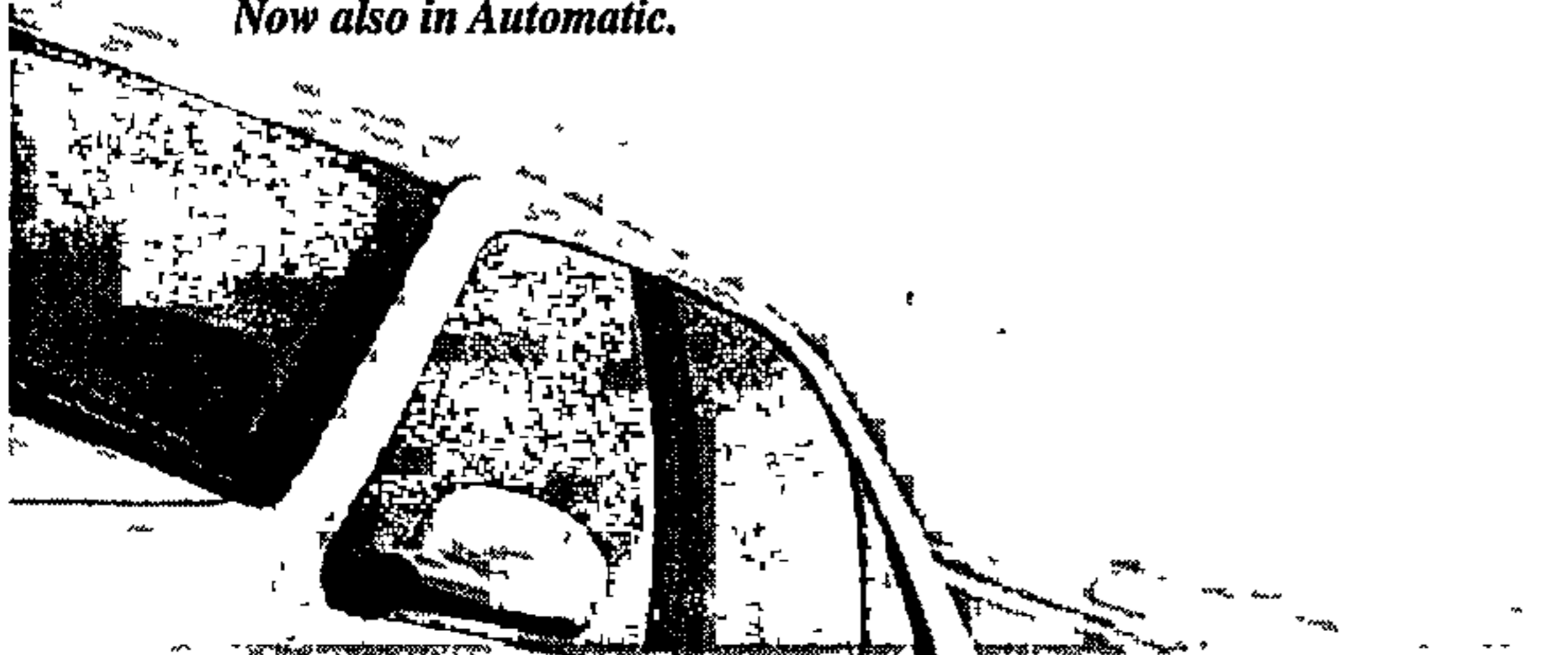
The 406's awesome ability is rousingly more affordable than you expect. So if you would rather be inspired than intimidated, come and explore the dynamics of the fully imported Peugeot 406. Once discovered, you'll never settle for anything less invigorating.

Magazine Dec 1996)

► The Peugeot 406 Si, SLI, STi and Estate. And the sensational 4-door 3-litre 24-valve V6

Starting at R114 850

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By MICHAEL MORRIS
Cape Town

Newcomers have spent a staggering R150-million on city property in two months - almost 90% of the summer's house sales - as the Grape Escape, the exodus from Gauteng and elsewhere, continues

South Africans from Gauteng and elsewhere accounted for 42% of all property sales during December and January, running to R70-million, according to the Property Price Ranger produced by Cape Property Services

Overseas buyers accounted for a whacking 46% (R80-million)

Of these, most were from the United Kingdom (52%) and Germany (30%)

While these figures represent the year-end peak, estate agents and furniture removal companies say the pace of new arrivals has shown no sign of slackening.

For every removal van going to Gauteng, there are three or four to the Cape. Business is usually most intense at the end of the year.

While Gauteng remains the powerhouse of the economy, high

crime, and the stress that goes with it, is driving scores of families south to the safer, more pleasant environment of the Cape Peninsula

Most newcomers are in the A and B income group, and have the wherewithal to cushion the effect of higher property costs and lower salaries. Many executives with Gauteng-based careers are settling their families in the Cape, and commuting to and from work every week.

Some fear many of the homes bought by foreigners end up being little more than summer

holiday pads, and that there is a risk the character of some of the Cape's most sought-after suburbs is changing for good. But the influx from Johannesburg, Durban and other centres amounts to an infusion of capital and skills that is boosting the Western Cape economy

Urbanisation, chiefly from the Eastern Cape, is continuing too, but at a much slower pace than a decade ago. People come for jobs, and the prospect of better education and services

The Cape's rosier prospects, underpinned by the rapid expansion of the tourism industry, is the chief reason why an increasing number of South Africans are heading south

Andre Slootweg, Cape Town branch manager of Frasers International, says "there has been a steady flow" with most business at the month-end and year-end.

He notes that people are "taking their time finding a house in our over-priced market, and are putting their possessions in storage, and renting accommodation. All our stores are filled to capacity."

He reports a three-to-one ratio in truckloads between Gauteng and Cape Town, with sustained demand in Johannesburg.

"I have run a vehicle empty to Johannesburg and they have simply absorbed the cost. That's how great the demand is"

Pickfords' operations manager, Tony Hall, says there was a "big surge" over summer, with four trucks coming from Gauteng a week for every truck going north.

"It is a very competitive business, with everyone battling to find back-loads. In some cases we have been able to find commercial back-loads."

Stuttaford Van Lines has also been filling back-loads with commercial freight, according to director Johan Marais

He says demand has been so high that Gauteng branches have had to bring more trucks into service

All three note that newcomers are looking increasingly to areas such as Somerset West, Stellenbosch and Durbanville to set up new homes

Samuel Seeff, managing director of Seeff property services, believes "people are looking for property across the broader metropolitan area, partly to get greater value for money, but also to have a similar neighbourhood style - bigger gardens, wider roads - to what they have been used to."

He says the exodus to the Cape "is definitely continuing .. not just from Gauteng, but from around the country".

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"Speculative activity in the run-up to the Olympic decision last year tended to distort the market. There has been a bit too much steam in the market, but it's cooled a bit now."

► Cape of new hope

Costly comfort ... when buying a house in Cape Town, you are also paying for living close to The Mountain.

The Grape Escape pushes Cape property sales through the roof

Star 11/3/98 (236)

South Africans bought more than 40% of Cape properties sold in two months

New breed of 'migrant worker' takes to skies

Richard Stevens is probably a fairly typical case study. His lifestyle reflects one of the two main responses to the push-pull social and economic forces that define the relationship between Gauteng and Cape Town.

There are those who choose to relocate to the Peninsula, and can there are those, like Stevens who compromise.

If Cape Town is his home, where his heart is, and his family, Johannesburg is his workplace. He is a corporate migrant, commuting weekly to Johannesburg to pursue a career in the engine room of the South African economy.

He is, in a sense, responding to the same impulse as those who settle permanently in Cape Town. The desirability of the Peninsula as a home base, a safer, nicer environment for his family.

Matching his family's interests with his own was the predicament Stevens confronted two years ago.

The corporate communications director for SpoorNet had little choice on where to set up his office. Gauteng it had to be. However, like an appreciable number in similar - essentially

executive - circumstances, he commutes weekly, while his wife and three of his four children live in Cape Town.

"Just try to get on a flight to Gauteng on Sunday night or Monday morning - it's impossible. That's us going to work. I often joke that we've become the new migrant workers!"

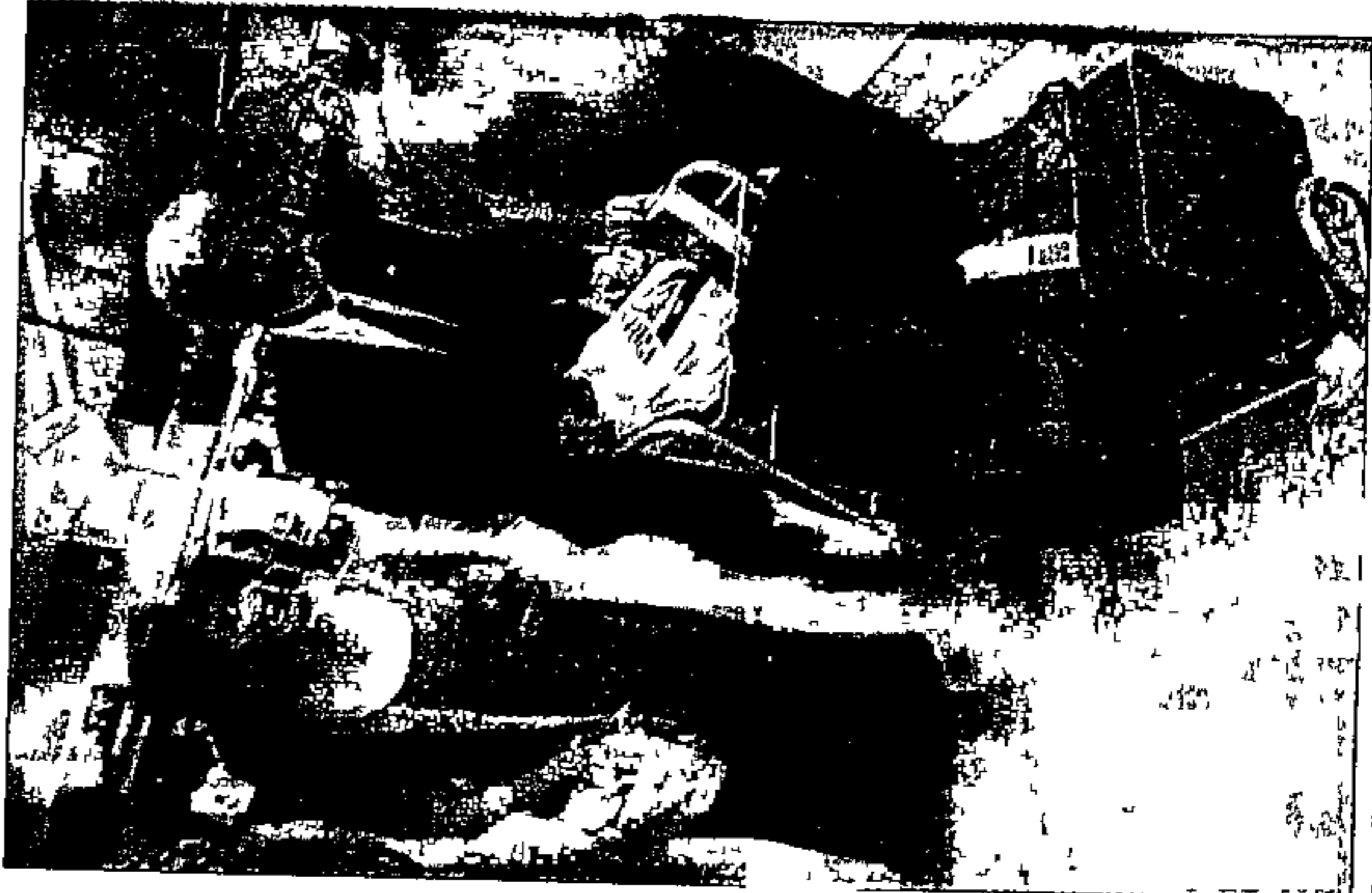
He adds "It's quite tedious, but when you weigh up the interests of the family's well being against your career interests, commuting is sometimes the only way to go."

There is no doubt in his mind that Cape Town is safer.

"Whatever the Government says about declining crime, the way ordinary people experience it on the street is different. I am sure in some cases there's a political element to it (people moving to Cape Town), in the sense that Cape Town is seen as a safe haven."

"But, you know, I was down there for a breakfast meeting, and to be able to walk to the hotel from the station is something you simply cannot do in Johannesburg."

That said, he emphasises Cape Town had only a fraction of the economic or political significance of Johannesburg.



Travelling man Dr Richard Stevens, home from Johannesburg, but only for the weekend.

Hijacked into a new life - a top research team



Brian drain ..
Helgaard
Raubenheimer at
Stellenbosch
University with
members of the
inorganic chemistry
research team he
brought from Rand
Afrikaans University

When Helgaard Raubenheimer felt the cold barrel of a gun pressed to his temple - and heard the words "We want your car" - he knew he had reached a pivotal moment in his life.

For one of South Africa's leading scientists, the hijacking was the last straw, one of a string of incidents that made him reassess his life in Johannesburg and opt for a new opportunity down south.

In fact, his potentially fatal encounter played a significant part in the move of an entire section of Rand Afrikaans University's chemistry department to the Stellenbosch campus.

Professor Raubenheimer, then head of chemistry at RAU, brought with him to the Cape the staff of the inorganic chemistry division, including a researcher, a lecturer, five German post-doctoral fellows and five post-graduate students.

He believes the universities of Stellenbosch and Cape Town are attracting the best students in the country, providing new talent to their departments.

Another factor influencing the move was that a growing number of international scientists was getting cold feet about joining the Johannesburg unit because they were "afraid" of gun toting criminals.

"In this field one has to keep in touch with colleagues overseas, and if they won't visit you or attend conferences in your area because they are afraid of crime, you are in trouble," he said.

Several foreign scientists have already expressed eagerness to visit the new unit, which started work last month.

The team's work involves creating chemical compounds which can be used to turn a raw material into valuable and sought after new substances.

The Matieland administration is overjoyed at the arrival of the internationally acclaimed scientists, but, for the

unit, there are tough times ahead. Success depends on years of research, but could lead to multi-million-rand industries capable of creating hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Politicians, however, want instant results.

"This means funding is hard to find, especially on the scale needed by a synthetic chemistry unit where one piece of essential equipment can cost more than a million rand."

"The solution is for universities to work together and share resources," he says.

One of the projects the unit is working on is to find a practical use for gold outside the

jewellery industry. "If we turn gold metal into even more valuable, sought-after materials, imagine how high we could push its price," he speculates.

He describes much of the work of the team as "blue sky" research, because it involves years of trying, changing, hoping and, eventually, tailoring a useful catalyst.

"The field is highly competitive and is the sort of work for which someone can win the Nobel Prize," he notes, warning that "if local scientists don't keep abreast of international developments, our major industries will soon be overtaken by overseas competitors."

nyisana has a lingering pectation of a rosier future

(236)

ear-old Nosiyamcela has yet to get her new home - but this makes little as she prepares for life in a school in the heart of Khayelitsha

Primary School in a far cry from the bedroom in rural Ngqamane home in the former Eastern Cape.

is different, and has getting used to, but it's and offers wider opportunities

yamcela, a new world

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ear-old father, Zuzekile

Manyisana, was dismissed from his job as a Gauteng miner 10 years ago. His life was over

After 13 years at the rock face of the gold industry, he was left with few options in a shrinking job market

He was unhappy about life as a hostel-dweller and realised that, being illiterate, it would be difficult finding a job in Gauteng.

Like hundreds of laid-off black miners, he headed south to the Western Cape

Mr Manyisana and his wife, Nosakele, were born in Ngqamane, Transkei

They have lived in a shack in Site B, Khayelitsha, since 1988 - and until last year their children lived in the Eastern Cape

It was tough in the beginning. Mr Manyisana spent two years looking for work before finding a job in 1990 as a night-shift operator in Bellville

Nosakele also wanted to work to help the family, but her husband refused

"My husband is the kind of person who doesn't want his wife to work," she says

But Mr Manyisana fell ill last year and the couple could no longer afford to send money back to their children in the Eastern Cape. They decided to bring them to Cape Town.

"Our children had no one - no adult - to look after them because we were here," says Mrs Manyisana

"We worried about them and felt it would be better to live as a family unit in the Mother City"

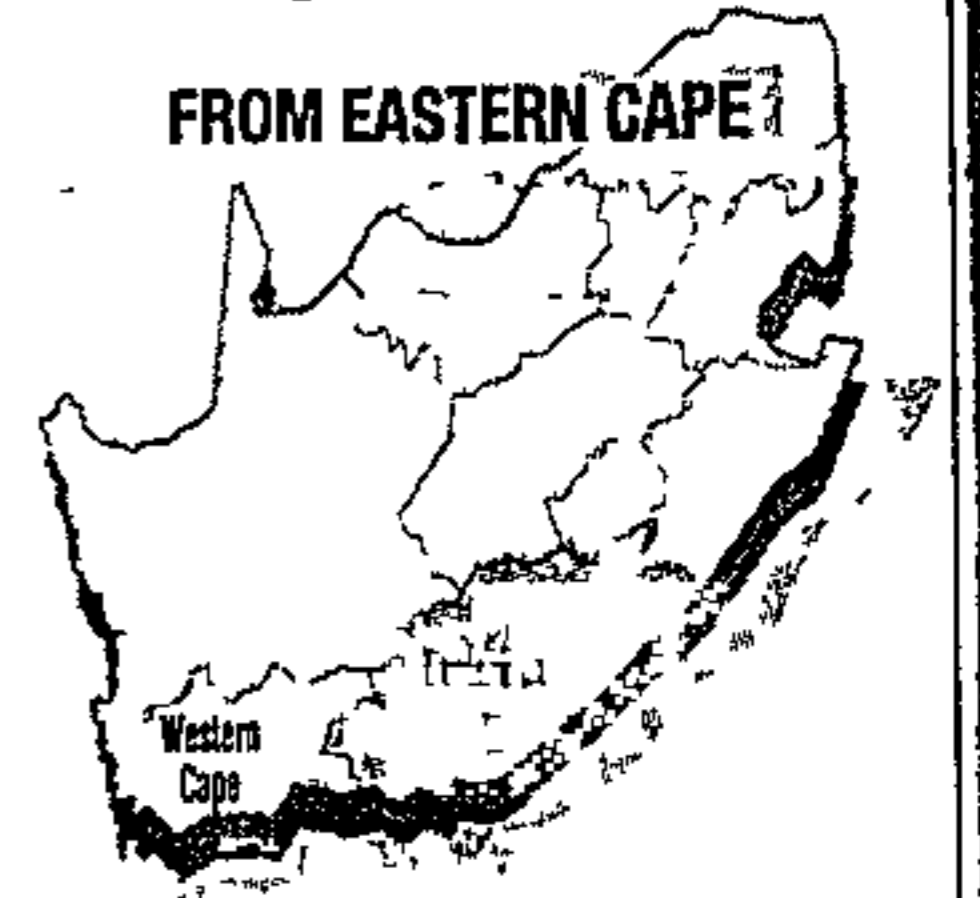
Mr Manyisana was also anxious that his children be given a decent education

There was a perception that the standard of education in the Peninsula was higher than at schools in rural areas

While the Manyisanas - like many other migrant families - are careful not to sever their rural roots, the Cape's opportunities and standards of service remain compelling attractions.

POPULATION SHIFTS

FROM EASTERN CAPE



There are no accurate figures, but surveys indicate migration patterns from the Eastern Cape along the following lines

100,000
between 1980 and 1985

125,000
between 1985 and 1990

105,000
between 1990 and 1995

•Other research suggests migration between 1986 and 1990 was 50 percent higher than in the next five year period to 1995



Manyisana has a lingering expectation of a rosier future

236

Fourteen-year-old Nosiyamcela Manyisana has yet to get her new school uniform - but this makes little difference as she prepares for life at her new school in the heart of sprawling Khayelitsha

Khwezi Primary School in Khayelitsha is a far cry from the Grade 7 schoolroom in rural Ngqanakhwe, her home in the former Transkei until this year

City life is different, and has taken some getting used to, but it's stimulating and offers wider opportunities

For Nosiyamcela, a new world has opened.

Like scores of other newcomers to the Peninsula, she is a symbol of the quest for knowledge and fulfilment that underpins the flow of people from the hills and hamlets of the countryside to the metropolis

Nosiyamcela and her brother and three sisters may never have found their way to the Western Cape had it not been for her parents' struggles

Her 44-year-old father, Zuzekile

Manyisana, was dismissed from his job as a Gauteng miner 10 years ago. His life was over.

After 13 years at the rock face of the gold industry, he was left with few options in a shrinking job market

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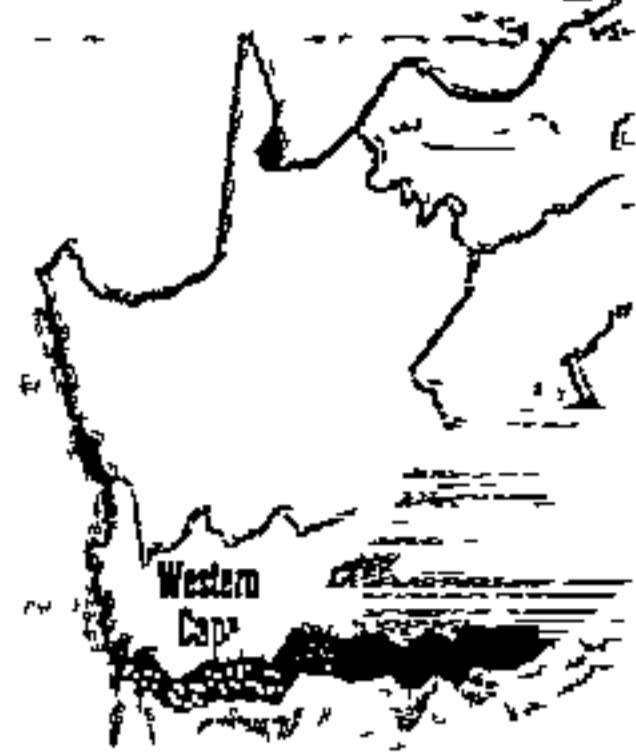
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POPULAR SHIFT

FROM EAST



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Flood of illegal aliens 'a myth'

KARIN SCHIMKE
POLITICAL WRITER

(236)
ET 27/4/98

IMMIGRATION from neighbouring countries has gained media attention in the past four years, but the percentage of illegal immigration is not as high as has been believed.

This is the finding of an extensive survey carried out by the Southern African Migration Project (Samp) and intended to contribute to immigration policy reform.

The survey covered a large number of people of different races, ages, sex and education levels in Mozambique, Lesotho and Zimbabwe

It found that many of the "truths" about immigration are myths.

One of the myths the survey has exploded is that people come from neighbouring countries in search of jobs and to use health and social services in South Africa. The survey found that people come here for other, less complex, reasons: To visit friends and relatives, to shop and for holidays

It has also been thought that most people cross the borders illegally. The survey has found that most — 90% — come by car, bus or train and pass through the formal immigration posts at borders. Also, 89% have official passports and 72% the appropriate South African visas

The researchers hope their findings will contribute "to a more humane and rational immigration process in South Africa .. (and) challenge some of the problematic stereotypes that plague the South African immigration system".

S.A., still denying rights

LAST WEEK City Press ran an article about the treatment of illegal immigrants compiled by a United States based human rights organisation, following this up with an editorial comment condemning it.

The article and the comment seem to have touched a raw nerve among certain readers of our newspaper.

One reader said City Press was encouraging foreigners to regard South Africa as a free-for-all.

This reader - a former exile and Umkhonto we Sizwe cadre no less (he claims), went on to accuse City Press of irresponsible journalism by creating uncalled-for anti ANC feelings, among other things.

I pointed out to this gentleman from somewhere in Durban - he did not offer his name - that the main thrust of the article was neither to apportion the blame unfairly on the ANC nor to encourage illegal immigration to South Africa.

What really got me worried was the fact that this particular caller was highly articulate and sounded very intelligent.

How he could have misread our editorial comment to mean that it was encouraging illegal immigrants to flock to this country beats me.

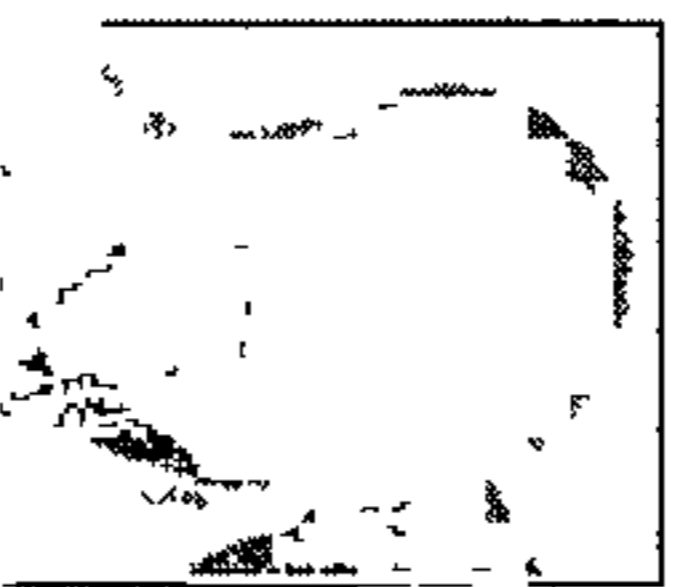
As a former exile one would have expected him to be more sympathetic to refugees whether legal or not, from a war ravaged country like Mozambique in particular.

I found this lacking and I was distressed.

He was emphatic that, contrary to what our editorial comment stated, Mozambique did not provide training (for military purposes) for MK, which argument I considered splitting hairs.

But I was not prepared for what followed later. He implied that Samora Machel and

Refugees do not deserve to be treated inhumanly



(236) CP 5/4/98

Another View

By Sekola Sello
Deputy Editor

Frelimo ditched the cause of the liberation struggle when he signed the Nkomati Peace Accord.

The following day I heard on radio the Minister for Public Service and Administration, Zola Skweyiya, also laying into those who allegedly encourage illegal immigrants to flock to South Africa.

I do not know whether Skweyiya's outburst - for that is what it was - was based on the findings of the New York-based Human Rights Watch and the subsequent newspaper reports, especially the so-called black media, which were critical of government's treatment of the illegals.

The Human Rights Watch report does not by any stretch of the imagination encourage people to flock to South Africa to seek refuge.

What it does is merely to highlight the ill-treatment of asylum seekers. It also asks South Africa, as a

signatory to international agreements on the treatment of refugees, to abide by the provisions of those agreements.

Nothing less and nothing more. The media has also highlighted the plight of these asylum-seekers and has pointed out that our government - which is principally the ANC - should be more sympathetic to the refugees.

Saying this does not mean that when TV and radio personality Tich Matanzake has his South African citizenship he should not be deported.

The laws of this country must take their course.

If asylum-seekers are found to have committed criminal offences outside South Africa, or even in this country, this also disqualifies them from being resident here and they must be sent packing.

But, what cannot be accepted is the regular assault on these asylum-seekers, as so often happens at

detention centres like Lindela on the West Rand. Subjecting them to slave like working conditions, as is the case on many farms in Mpumalanga and the Northern Province, is also unacceptable.

Stealing their meagre possessions and asking them for bribes is what galls, and this behaviour cannot be justified under any circumstances.

These things reflect poorly on our government. How can our leaders walk tall among their counterparts on the continent if South Africa ill-treats illegals in the manner it does?

It is also a crying shame that it is largely Africans who are subjected to ill-treatment by members of the South African Police Services, the South African National Defence Force and officials of the Department of Home Affairs.

Why is it that white immigrants, including those from the Far East, are not hounded like the poor Mozambicans, Nigerians, Somalis and Tanzanians?

It is incidents like these - where whites are treated differently - which lead to critics of our government making disparaging remarks about our President being the token head of a white government.

Journalists - particularly black journalists - cannot pretend that these things are not happening.

Government must do something about the ill-treatment of these illegals.

If political leaders like Skweyiya can react so emotionally to this issue, what hope is there that ordinary South Africans will treat these asylum-seekers with respect and not harass them, as is the case at the moment?

It is a frightening development when enlightened people like Skweyiya and the gentleman from Durban can show this type of intolerance against illegals



Illegal alien in top government job

Star 7/4/98 (236)

Secretary to Mpumalanga provincial law adviser admits to carrying fraudulent identity book

SAPA
Nelspruit

The Mpumalanga provincial government has initiated disciplinary proceedings against a secretary to the provincial law adviser, after she admitted in court last week that she was an illegal immigrant and had used a fraudulent identity book to obtain her job.

African Eye News Service reports Gugu Precious Nkambule was transferred to the law office from the Public Service Commission in Pretoria eight months ago.

She pleaded guilty to charges of fraudulently obtaining a fake identity book and passport when

she appeared in court last week.

She has yet to plead on a second charge of using the fake documents to secure work with the government – and to go on official foreign trips for the government.

Nkambule was arrested after a disgruntled colleague tipped them off that an illegal immigrant was working in the province's central services department.

Nkambule admitted that she entered South Africa from Swaziland in 1994 with the intention of remaining illegally in the country.

She said she received her fake ID and passport from an as yet unnamed home affairs official.

Police testified that the official was believed to be part of a wider fake ID syndicate and was about to be arrested.

Nkambule has been issued a special temporary permit to remain in South Africa for the duration of her hearing and is on R2 000 bail.

She will continue to work in the province's legal office until she is sentenced.

"Gugu came to us immediately after this thing blew up and has been very open about it to us."

"We applied for the temporary permit and will be reviewing the situation once the court delivers a verdict," provincial state law advisor Lomius Saayman said.

Angry hawkers smash foreigners' stalls

By VUKILE POKWANA

HIS face was a mirror of fear and disillusionment as he attempted in broken English to stop local hawkers from ransacking his fruit and vegetable stall

"Make me Make me," he shouted, apparently trying to say "leave me alone," when some of his wares scattered on the pavement as the mob pounced

This was the scene in a Jozi street this week as local hawkers attempted to "clean up" pavements where illegal immigrants ply their trade

The local hawkers say no one would travel 10 000km just to sell on the pavements

"We need doctors, engineers, scientists and other professionals to help rebuild our country, not small-time business operators

"The pavements should be reserved for South Africans, considering the fact that 80 percent of the hawkers are women," said Mannelies Solomon, the chairman of the Greater Johannesburg Hawkers Planning Committee

"We were harrassed by the previous government and now that we think all is well, the government is bringing these people in

"We are not against foreigners, but they must not encroach on our territory

"We are trying to make ends meet

"There is a huge unemployment rate in the country and South Afri-



FREE MARKET... It is business as usual as hawkers display their goods at peak-hour. But the serene atmosphere was disturbed this week when stalls belonging to foreigners were attacked ■ Pic: MIKE MZILENI

cans must be the first to benefit in a small or micro-business," said Solomon

A sense of helplessness was on the faces of the people from the north of the Limpopo as they watched the locals removing immigrants from the pavements

Some of these hawkers, from as far afield as Zimbabwe, Zambia, Zaire, Uganda, Ivory Coast and Asia, have been trading on the pavements of Johannesburg for the past three years

One who calls himself Theophilous says he braved the voracious lions of the Kruger National Park to gain entry into South Africa, and now this

"I came here because my country has nothing to offer. All the resources have been saturated and I think there is hope for me here in South Africa. Now black people are

turning against us. This is sad but we will resist them

"Shortly there will be more black on black violence if the government does not intervene," he said

A hawker called Thabiso Ndlovu, a Pedi operating an open-air barber shop, told City Press: "These people are removing us so as to allow their friends to use the spaces we have booked on the pavements

"What about our families? How am I going to pay rent? These things lead people to commit crime"

The immigrants argue that South Africa is an integral part of Africa

"Where have you seen Africans illegal on their own soil? South Africans are xenophobic. We understand the damage that apartheid has caused to their brains. We hope that they will one day realise the dream of sharing equally with the whole of Africa"

Asked to comment, a spokesman at the Department of Home Affairs said some of the immigrants who are hawkers were asylum-seekers who were issued with permits in terms of Section 41 of the Aliens Control Act, 1991, which legalises their stay in the country

"The immigrants may seek employment, and can be allowed to study in South Africa, pending the outcome of their asylum applications," said a statement from the Department of Home Affairs

The statement continued "The Department of Home Affairs does not issue immigration or work permits to foreigners permitting them to become informal traders. As such, foreigners who enter the hawking trade with immigration or work permits issued to them for employment other than hawking, do so illegally"

AVIEN W 10 GOT AWAY

Home Affairs director helps free Nigerian with 'fake' ID

BY JIMMY SEEPE

25 26 JUL 78

A REGIONAL director in the Department of Home Affairs this week helped to secure the freedom of a Nigerian arrested by police on suspicion of possessing a fraudulently obtained South African identity document.

The Nigerian is also being investigated by the South African Narcotics Bureau (Sanab) on matters not related to the identity document. His treatment contrasts sharply with that meted out to popular radio and TV personality Tlch Mastaz, who was recently deported to Zimbabwe for providing false information when he applied for a South African ID.

The Home Affairs regional director, Georgia Ndlovu, allegedly told the police who had arrested the suspect that they "had no business confiscating his documents and arresting him". Sanab investigators said they were angry that the suspect was released while investigations against him were continuing. On Thursday they had tried to block his release.

However, it is alleged their efforts were thwarted when Ndlovu signed a sworn statement before Randburg Magistrate's Court prosecutor, Andrew Changwe, undertaking that the Nigerian would avail himself to the Department of Home Affairs, if necessary.

Sanab members who were investigating the suspect on an unrelated matter, stumbled across various identity documents at his post house in Johannesburg's northern suburbs. He was found with a South African identity document in which he uses the name Christopher Ineka Mkhethi.

"Mkhethi" was also found with a Namibian passport, on which his name is given as Christopher Ndlovu - while his Nigerian passport bears the name Kingsley Ohilo.

The suspect, who has a strong Nigerian accent, first claimed to be a South African citizen, but when pressed by investigators, later admitted he was a Nigerian national.

A Sanab investigating officer, who requested that his name be withheld because of other cases he is involved in, told City Press he had felt humiliated when the Home Affairs director, Ndlovu, demanded that he return the identity documents to the suspect.

The Sanab investigator said he found it strange that an hour after confiscating the suspect's documents, he was called by Home Affairs.

Three days after the confiscation of the documents, the suspect is understood to have gone to Pretoria to urgently apply for a South African passport to travel to Taiwan.

When investigators asked him why he was applying for the passport in Pretoria instead of Johannesburg, he is understood to have told them that he only dealt with senior officials.

Prosecutor Andrew Chanke told City Press that he withdrew the case because the police and Home Affairs failed to agree about it. Chanke said he did not want to see a situation where two government departments were at loggerheads and had a conflict of interest about the case. He said he had told officials from both departments to sort out their differences outside court before the case could be taken further.

Now that the case has been withdrawn, police investigators are worried that they might lose an important case which they had built up. They are now required to return all documents seized from the suspect.

One of the investigators told City Press "It is personally demoralising to see a case you built get thrown out of court because a senior official in one of the government departments comes to the suspect's defence."

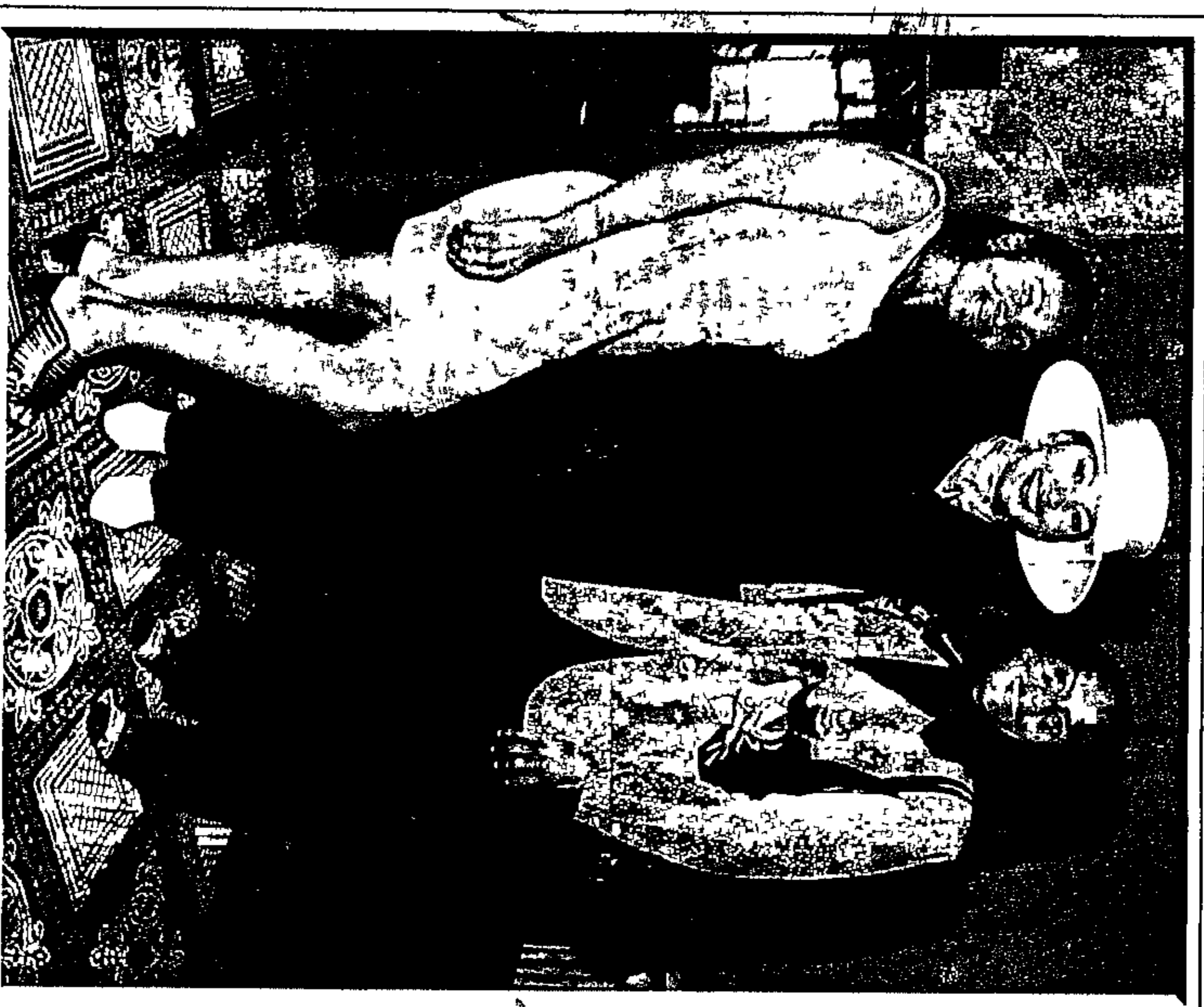
The Sanab investigators have already briefed their immediate superiors and prepared a report for the attention of the SAP's national commissioner, George Fiyaz.

They hope Fiyaz will take the matter up with Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi and relevant senior officials in the Home Affairs department.

Home Affairs spokesperson, Manase Makwela, told City Press that the department was aware of the case, but had still not received a full report from Ndlovu.

Makwela described the allegations as serious and said it was strange that the police were being hampered in their investigation. "We have good relations with the police on these matters. A full statement will only be made once we have received Ndlovu's briefing."

Efforts by City Press to speak to Ndlovu drew a blank.



PREMIER ATTRACTION... Beauty, high fashion and fun were the order of the day at yesterday's top Premier's Cup race meeting at the Turfontein Race Course, Johannesburg. Adding sparkle to the occasion were Valenta Nkosi (left), TV presenter Augustine Masilela and Tselo Mogashoa. Pic: TLADI KHUJELE

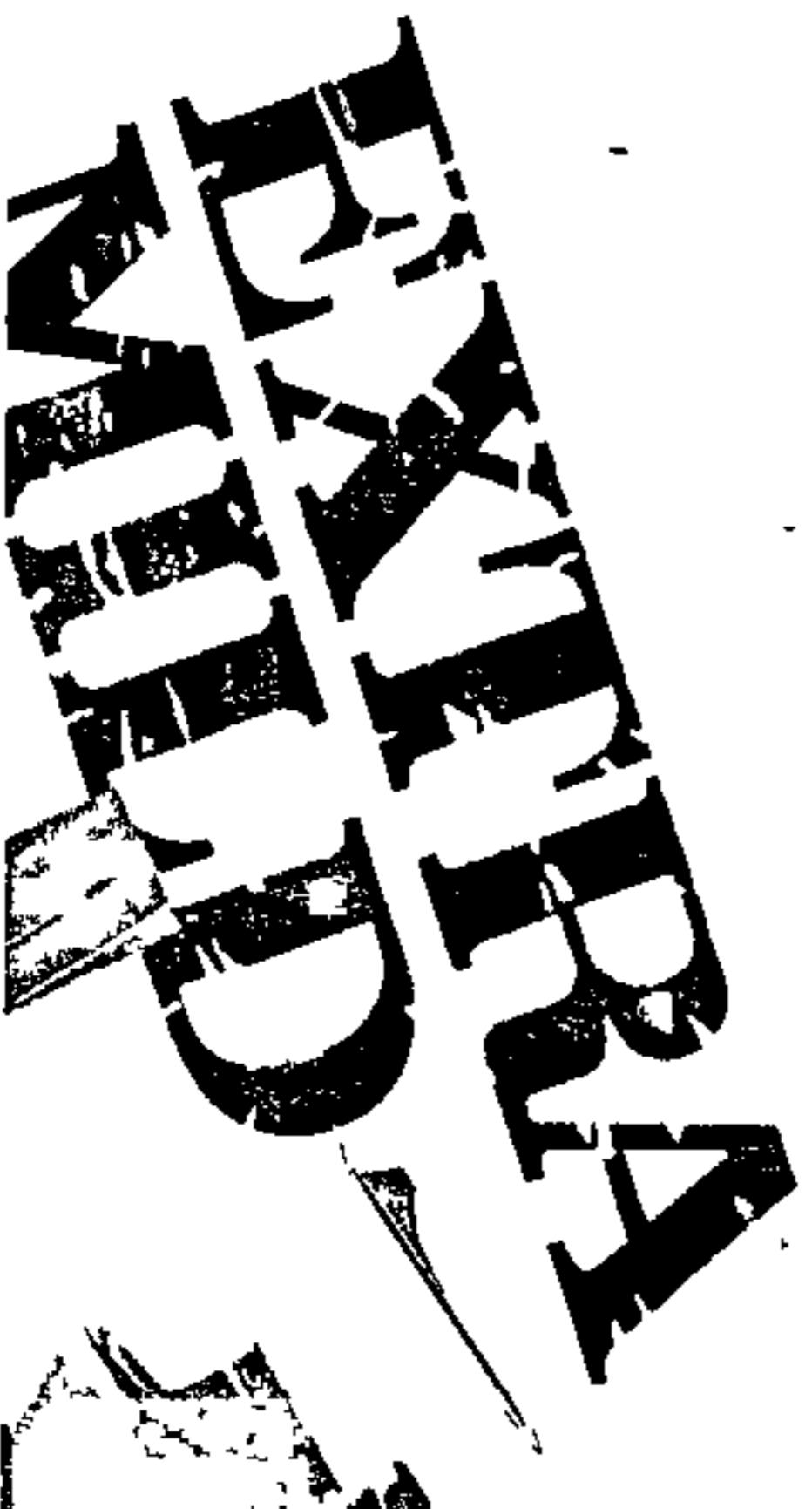
ONLINE

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DANGER: SMOKING CAUSES HEART DISEASE

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Bulk of Mozambican refugees want to remain in South Africa

(236)

Foundation hopes to find middle way to pressing problem of 300 000 people

By TYRONE SEALE
London

There are some 300 000 Mozambican former refugees who live in South Africa. Most want to remain for good, while about 30% want to go home.

This is the finding of Refugadio, a foundation founded and supported by the Dutch Refugee Council and the Africa-European Institute.

Refugadio, at the request of the Africa-European Institute and European Parliamentarians for Africa (Awepa), has launched a four-year project to support Mozambican former refugees of the conflict in that country, fuelled by a destabilisation campaign by successive apartheid governments.

The project was launched in London last week by its patron, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who said the refugees should not be regarded as statistics.

"We are dealing with people, with God's children," he told an Awepa seminar at Westminster. He said that, while the former refugees were entitled to human rights, the reality was that they were being exploited as cheap labour and were living in horrendous circumstances.

Around 300 000 Mozambican former refugees live in the rural eastern and northern border area, having fled the provinces of Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane in their own land.

Most cultivate grain and vegetables on small plots allocated by South African traditional chiefs.

Most families have mem-

bers who work on farms and in shops or mines while others try to earn an income by producing beer and other self-made products such as textiles and baskets.

The Catholic Bishop of Witbank, the Right Rev Mogale Nkhumishe, said many Mozambican families were unable to return to their own country because of a lack of jobs and essential services there.

While the shortage of jobs in rural areas on the South African side of the border occasionally led to conflict between the former refugees and South Africans, it was also true that a large number of Mozambicans and South Africans in the affected area shared tribal origins and were blood relatives.

He said that, among the violations of rights to which Mozambicans were frequently subjected, were arrests and repatriation, often just before the refugees were to be paid for work done for various employers.

Nkhumishe said he suspected that, in certain cases, police and employers might be colluding to rob hardworking Mozambicans of income to which they were fully entitled.

The Refugadio project will last four years during which its backers aim to secure a legal status for the former refugees.

Between 1993 and 1996, 63 000 refugees returned to Mozambique from South

Africa. Most of the 1.8 million refugees who had established themselves in Malawi, which had a domestic population of 8 million, have returned to Mozambique.

In South Africa's case, the Refugadio project has been bolstered by a promise by the Home Affairs Department that the Government wishes to solve the problems of the Mozambican former refugees by legalising their status or supporting a voluntary return to Mozambique.

Refugadio hopes to stimulate local development initiatives in Mozambique to increase the success of the reintegration of former refugees into their future communities.

Refugadio also hopes to establish a rehabilitation plan for former refugees who wish to settle in SA permanently.

This year, the project will concentrate on the opening of a period during which the Mozambican former refugees will be able to apply for legal status, and on the voluntary return of 5 000 former Mozambicans who choose not to wait for a legal status.

Next year the programme will start with a rehabilitation programme in South Africa while in the next two years the rehabilitation programmes on both sides of the border will be incorporated into long-term development plans in both countries.

Star 28/4/98

Few jobs here and even fewer there ...

Archbishop Tutu said that xenophobia among South Africans living alongside the Mozambican former refugees would remain a reality as long as unemployment remained at current levels. But, he added, South Africans had to come to terms with the fact that, across the world, people tended to migrate to places where they thought they had better chances of making a living.

Fernando Fazenda, national director of Mozambique's department for refugees said his government was in regular contact with the SA High Commission in Maputo to promote the reintegration of former refugees.

To this end, the South African Government had already provided technical and financial support for small-scale farming in the areas in Mozambique which had originally produced refugees.

However, in the long term, private and public investment had to be mobilised to create sufficient job opportunities in agriculture in Mozambique.

Awepa president Jan Nico Scholten said that in the first, R2-million phase of the Refugadio project, mobile units would visit the 300 000 former refugees to establish exactly how many would be applying for legal status in SA and how many would prefer to return.

Scholten, a senator in the Dutch parliament, said Europe could learn from the hospitality Mozambique's neighbours had extended to refugees from that country - Star Foreign Service.

Sowetan 30/4/98
**Foreigners
 have rights
 too - Sasco**

By Claire Keeton
 Feature Writer

ON THE same day Johannesburg hawkers took to the streets recently to chase away foreigners students from the South African Students Congress (Sasco) organised a workshop in Pretoria on refugees rights.

The University of South Africa's Sasco branch combined forces with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) last Friday to raise awareness of refugee rights among students.

The workshop took place against a background of increasing hostility by South Africans towards migrants.

'South Africans hold fairly negative opinions about foreigners and favour a very restrictive migration and immigration policy' according to a survey by the Southern African Migration Project (Samp) and the Institute for a Democratic South Africa (Idasa) last year.

South Africans are often ignorant of the distinctions between migrants and conflate all categories into one.

Economic migrants and refugees are two different groups. Bruno Geddo from the UNHCR's South African office told the Pretoria workshop.

Economic migrants are moving voluntarily while refugees are not. They are forced to move because their lives are under constant threat and instead of protecting them their own state is persecuting them. They have lost everything.

By December 31 1997 South Africa had received over 38 000 applications for asylum, at a rate of about 1 500 a month.

Most of these were submitted by economic migrants struggling for survival many from Mozambique.

The Department of Home Affairs processed 10 645 of the applications leaving a backlog of 27 500.

Geddo said there are only about 6 000 refugees in South Africa com-

pared to about half a million in Tanzania.

South Africa can and must reconcile the interests of South Africans with a few thousand refugees.

South Africa has an obligation to do this since it signed and ratified key conventions governing the rights of refugees in 1996 the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees the 1967 Protocol and the 1969 Organisation of African Unity Convention relating to refugees.

Yet one quarter of the public want a 'total prohibition of migration or immigration', the Samp Idasa survey found.

A total of 62 percent favoured some form of regulated policy with 17 percent wanting migration policy tied to the availability of jobs and 45 percent wanting strict limits placed on migration or immigration.

Strong contrast

In contrast less than five percent of people from Zimbabwe Lesotho and southern Mozambique called for a prohibition of migration into their countries.

Thirteen percent of those surveyed said it was 'very likely' that they would go and live in South Africa for a short period (up to two years) and only six percent said they would move to South Africa permanently.

Most respondents saw South Africa as having better job opportunities, but a worse place to raise their families.

They saw their home countries as safer and offering them better access to land, water and housing.

Unisa-Sasco chairperson Aubrey Langa said the idea of a refugees' workshop came from Sasco's commitment to international cooperation among students.

'This is one of Sasco's aims - to establish relations with students from other countries. South Africa cannot be seen in isolation as we are part of a global village' he said.

'Sasco observed the problems



Flashback Refugees wait at the Mhinga camp for United Nations transport back to Mozambique

experienced by other countries and the extent to which that affects their students. We wanted to look at how we can contribute to their welfare.'

Langa was frank that Sasco's work would start with 'the conscientisation of its own membership.'

'We need to engage all students, particularly our own, and our communities in the townships about refugee rights,' he said.

A survey by Hussein Solomon and Dr Charl Schutte on 'myths and migration in 1996' discovered that anti-illegal immigrant sentiments increased as educational qualifications increased unlike in Europe.

The question 'Whether the influx of illegal immigrants is a good or bad thing?' was answered negatively by 81 percent of those with a higher than grade 12 education compared to 59 percent of the respondents with no schooling.

A racial analysis showed that 93 percent of whites thought the influx was bad, compared to 55 percent of black people.

Over 80 percent of Afrikaans and English speakers responded negatively to the question, while Sesotho and Setswana groups were the most tolerant with over 20 percent viewing migration favourably.

Solomon, from the Institute for Security Studies, defended his methodology to Sasco students saying race and language were significant in South Africa.

The survey included 2 200 respondents interviewed across the country in the language of their choice.

A provincial analysis was revealing with Gauteng - a province which attracts many migrants - being one of the least xenophobic provinces.

Fifty six percent of respondents from Gauteng and North West were opposed to migration, 24 percent less than in the Western Cape (80 percent opposed it).

A party based analysis indicated that more supporters of the African National Congress (60 percent) responded negatively to the question than Inkatha Freedom Party supporters (49 percent) despite leadership positions to the contrary.

The hundred or so Sasco members at the workshop committed themselves to implementing a human rights culture for refugees at campus level, as well as more broadly.

Understanding

'We must ensure that students from outside the country are integrated into the university system and receive funding and all other student benefits,' Langa said.

On a regional level we want to engage with students from countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

We want to look at exchanges with a view to developing a better understanding of their situation.'

Solomon criticised a recent SADC

decision to split its development section from SADC's public sector policing which includes migration.

'Every week, 270 000 children die from poverty and malnutrition (but) we talk about voluntary migration. I would rather die quickly from a bullet than slowly from the ravages of poverty,' he said.

This comment highlights the painful choices confronting many 'illegal aliens', about a thousand of whom are presently being held in the Lindela Repatriation Centre near Krugersdorp.

Centre for Applied Legal Studies lawyer Jonathan Klaaren said the people confined there were those awaiting removal from South Africa and those whose status was still being investigated by the Department of Home Affairs.

It is the only detention facility under the department and the legal limit for detention there is 30 days.

Klaaren, however, said during a visit last week he found people who had been held for over two months.

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) was investigating these problems many of which were raised in a SAHRC report last October and a Human Rights Watch report last month.

Sasco's refugee programme may not have mass support, but it is certainly a proactive step towards building a human rights culture for all in South Africa.

Same-sex couples challenge SA-residence laws

By RONALD MORRIS

Cape Town – Six lesbian and gay couples have taken the minister of home affairs to the Cape High Court over his decision not to renew or to grant exemptions for permanent-residence rights to their foreign-born, same-sex partners

They are supported in their application by the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality and the Commission for Gender Equality.

The applicants are Sven Patrik Alberding, a German citizen and the partner of Clint Tatchell, Fiona Watson, a British citizen and partner of Lucinda Shingsby, Malcolm North, a British national, partner of Steven le Grange, Franck Joly from France and the partner of Hilton Kaplan, Linda Aoudia, a French citizen and partner of

Christine Hazebroucq; and Argyris Argyrou, a Cypriot and the partner of Jacobus De Wet Steyn

In papers, convener of the coalition Abdurrazack "Zackie" Achmat said the application had been brought on behalf of gay, lesbian and transgender individuals and couples in South Africa who were directly affected by the restrictions contained in section 25 (5) of the Aliens Control Act.

According to the act, a regional committee of the Department of Home Affairs may authorise an immigration permit when the spouse or the dependent child of a South African is permanently and lawfully resident in the country

Achmat said the department's interpretation of "spouses" excluded same-sex life partners of South African citizens

By treating these relationships differently from those of married

(236)
couples or customary unions, Home Affairs "stigmatises and devalues them as having less worth, dignity and familial relationship than the groups recognised by the challenged provision", he said

"Recognition of same-sex relationships in the administration of the Aliens Control Act will eradicate unfair legal restrictions against lesbian and gay people and assist in removing the stigma and prejudice associated with the lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities."

On Wednesday, Argyrou and De Wet Steyn brought an urgent application for an order directing Aubrey Mokoena, director-general of home affairs, to renew Argyrou's temporary-residence permit to remain in SA until the review proceedings are finalised. Argyris' tourist visa was about to expire and he risked being deported.

Star 28/4/98

SIX COUPLES IN COURT BATTLE

Gays seek right to stay for foreign partners

THE DEPARTMENT of Home Affairs' interpretation of "spouses" discriminates against same-sex partners in committed relationships, the Cape High Court has heard. Justice Writer **RONALD MORRIS** reports

SIX lesbian and gay couples have taken the Minister of Home Affairs to the Cape High Court over his decision not to grant permanent residence to their foreign-born same-sex partners

They are supported in their application by the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality and the Commission for Gender Equality

The applicants are Mr Sven Patrik Alberding, a German and the partner of Mr Clint Tatchell, Ms Fiona Watson, a British national and partner of Ms Lucinda Slingsby; Mr Malcolm North, a British national and partner of Mr Steven le Grange, Mr Franck Joly, a French national and the partner of Mr Hilton Kaplan, Ms Linda Aoudia, a French national and the partner of Ms Christine Hazebroucq, and Mr Argyris Argyrou, a Cypriot and the partner of Mr Jacobus de Wet Steyn

In papers Mr Abdurrazack "Zackie" Achmat, convener of the coalition, said the application was on behalf of gay, lesbian and trans-gendered individuals and couples in South Africa who were denied equal protection and benefit under the law

They were affected directly by the unfair restrictions of section 25 (5) of the Aliens Control Act, he said. In terms of this section, a regional committee of the Department of Home Affairs may authorise an immigration permit for an applicant whose spouse or dependent child is permanently and lawfully resident in South Africa

Achmat said the department's interpre-

tation of "spouses" excluded same-sex life partners of South African citizens, even though these partnerships were abiding, serious and of long-standing

The non-recognition of their relationships undermined the dignity and self-esteem of lesbian and gay couples who were so excluded

In treating their relationships differently from those of married couples or customary unions, the Department of Home Affairs "stigmatises and demeans them as having less worth, dignity and familial relationship than the groups recognised"

In applying the Aliens Control Act, the recognition of same-sex relationships would eradicate unfair legal restrictions on lesbian and gay people. It would also help to remove the stigma and prejudice associated with the lesbian, bisexual and trans-gendered communities.

It was in the public interest that laws that were inconsistent with the Constitution be declared unconstitutional and invalid

Giving details of correspondence with the Department of Home Affairs, Achmat said the coalition had been told exemp-

tions had been granted in several cases and that the Minister of Home Affairs was "satisfied that special circumstances" exist

In January the director-general of Home Affairs, Mr Aubrey Mokoena, refused exemptions to foreign nationals in same-sex relationships. In a letter, he said that in view of the "steady flow of applications", it could hardly be argued that "special circumstances" existed

This reason, Achmat said, was so unreasonable as to amount to a failure by Mokoena to apply his mind

There was no reasonable benefit to the state in denying the foreign partners of same-sex couples temporary residence exemptions

The blanket refusal to do so would inflict unnecessary hardship and indignity on the applicants and on other South African gays and lesbians, Achmat said

"The failure of the Aliens Control Act to recognise committed same-sex relationships is inhumane (and) causes

hardship and unacceptable emotional and psychological stress for the individuals in a manner that is inconsistent with a society based on human dignity, equality and freedom."

Argyrou and Steyn applied urgently last week for an order directing Mokoena to renew Argyrou's temporary residence permit until the review proceedings had been finalised. Argyris' tourist visa was about to expire and he risked being deported

The failure of the Aliens Control Act to recognise committed same-sex relationships is inhumane (and) causes stress ... that is inconsistent with a society based on human dignity, equality and freedom

Deportation sword hangs over family ⁽²³⁶⁾

More than 50 Chinese families could face similar predicament
ST 26/4/98 (cm)

AYESHA ISMAIL

A CHINESE family who were granted permanent residence five years ago are now facing deportation after their permits were withdrawn by the Department of Home Affairs

Kevin Lai, his wife Susan and two daughters who have settled in Cape Town, have been informed that they had lost their right to permanent residence because they had not come here within the six-month validity period

Susan Lai claims more than 50 Chinese families living in Cape Town could face a similar predicament as they entered South Africa in the same way

According to a Home Affairs spokesman, while Susan Lai had entered the country within the validity period, she had not done so for the purpose of permanent residence

Disputing this, the Lais said they had followed the correct procedure in terms of the advice given to them by their agent

They applied for permanent residence permits in May 1992. With the help of an agent based in Pretoria, they filled in documents that cost them R10 000

Speaking from their Platteklouf home, Susan Lai said she was surprised when they were informed during June 1992 that their application had been provisionally approved pending a deposit of R250 000

The Lais promptly transferred about R270 000 to a South African bank

"Obviously we were unprepared at the time as we were unable to relocate at such short notice," Lai said

"Our immigration agent told us we had five years after approval to settle in South Africa on condition that we visit the country frequently"

Susan Lai visited South Africa in September 1992 but her hus-



DEJECTED: The Lai family faces deportation. They are (from left, back) Susan Lai, her mother Yim Leung and Kevin Lai. In front are Pui Shan and Pui Chee
Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

band stayed behind to look after their Hong Kong business and her elderly mother

She again visited South Africa in February 1995, and in August she brought her daughters and bought a Cape Town property

Their household goods were shipped out and her daughters

were enrolled at a local school

However, when she applied in 1996 for her mother to be allowed to join them, that application was rejected

Her husband closed his business and came to Cape Town in February last year, while his mother-in-law, Yim Leung, 80, is

here on a visitor's permit

Susan Lai has appealed to Home Affairs to reconsider their position in the light of them selling their property in Hong Kong and abandoning their business to settle here. They would otherwise have wasted hundreds of thousands of rands, she said

Regional rescue plan breaks new ground

THE prospect of growing numbers of SA farmers moving deeper into Africa would only a few years ago have kindled fears of a second "great trek" with its message of conflict and domination.

However, a pointer to the changing economic and political landscape is the co-operation developing in such ventures between the SA Chamber for Agricultural Development in Africa (Sacada) and the governments of SA and recipient countries.

This time round SA's government is backing the ventures into the interior, while neighbouring governments are pinpointing where SA farmers are needed.

Sacada established with President Nelson Mandela's backing in 1995 to help stimulate the regional economy, resettled about 15 farmers in Mozambique last year. They are export orientated and each employs about 100 people in the northern province of Manassa, which the Mozambican government wanted developed.

Sacada simultaneously provides training for Mozambican farmers in subsistence and commercial agriculture and gives marketing and technical help. It operates only at the invitation of other governments and receives management fees to cover costs.

Progress on the Mozambican project — which was launched as joint venture SDM with R15m grants from both the SA and Mozambican governments — has sparked the interest of another 20 African governments. They have asked Sacada to operate in selected parts of their countries and its next step will be to settle up to 400 SA farmers in Zambia.

Sacada president Dries Bruwer said the initiative could be traced to 1994, when organised agriculture approached President Nelson Mandela about the millions of illegal immigrants moving into SA and particularly the number of Mozambican squatters on Free State and Mpumalanga farms.

"We said organised agriculture was forced to start getting involved in upgrading the neighbouring states' economies. We had the expertise and offered to get involved," he said.

The cabinet agreed that a regional rescue plan was needed. Agriculture was deemed to be the first building block, with Mozambique needing urgent attention.

Mandela asked Bruwer, then Transvaal Agricultural Union president, Free State Agricultural Union president Piet Gous and Gen Constand Viljoen to go to Mozambique in 1995, where plans

The resettlement of SA farmers across borders is an indication of the increasing co-operation between SA and its neighbours, writes Claire Pickard-Cambridge

NO 22/14/98

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were explored with Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano. Sacada was launched the same year and board members include Mpumalanga premier Mathews Phosa, who took on the job at Mandela's behest. Phosa, who facilitates political liaisons, enthusiastically about the contribution these projects can make to "economic reconciliation" in the region.

The Mozambican SDM project was launched in 1996 when a training farm was set up in Manassa province. SDM's production fund provides soft loans to SA and local farmers in the project.

Bruwer said the SA government could not commit such funds again and Sacada is helping to manage the seed capital in a self-generating manner.

Varied legal systems and requests from governments necessitate flexibility from Sacada. For instance, land in Mozambique can be obtained only on 50-year leasehold and Sacada's farmers are on land held in SDM's name.

In Zambia SA farmers can buy state-owned farm land themselves. Here Sacada is negotiating land acquisition and holding talks with donors and banks to facilitate financing. The Zambian government, in turn, may allow reduced taxed rates and provide incentives for clearing land and installing infrastructure.

Farmers need to be adaptable because labour laws differ vastly from country to country and tribal custom is a consideration.

Bruwer said that in Manassa province where chiefs have jurisdiction over locals, some SA farmers had to pay wages via the chief who laid on the workers. Here

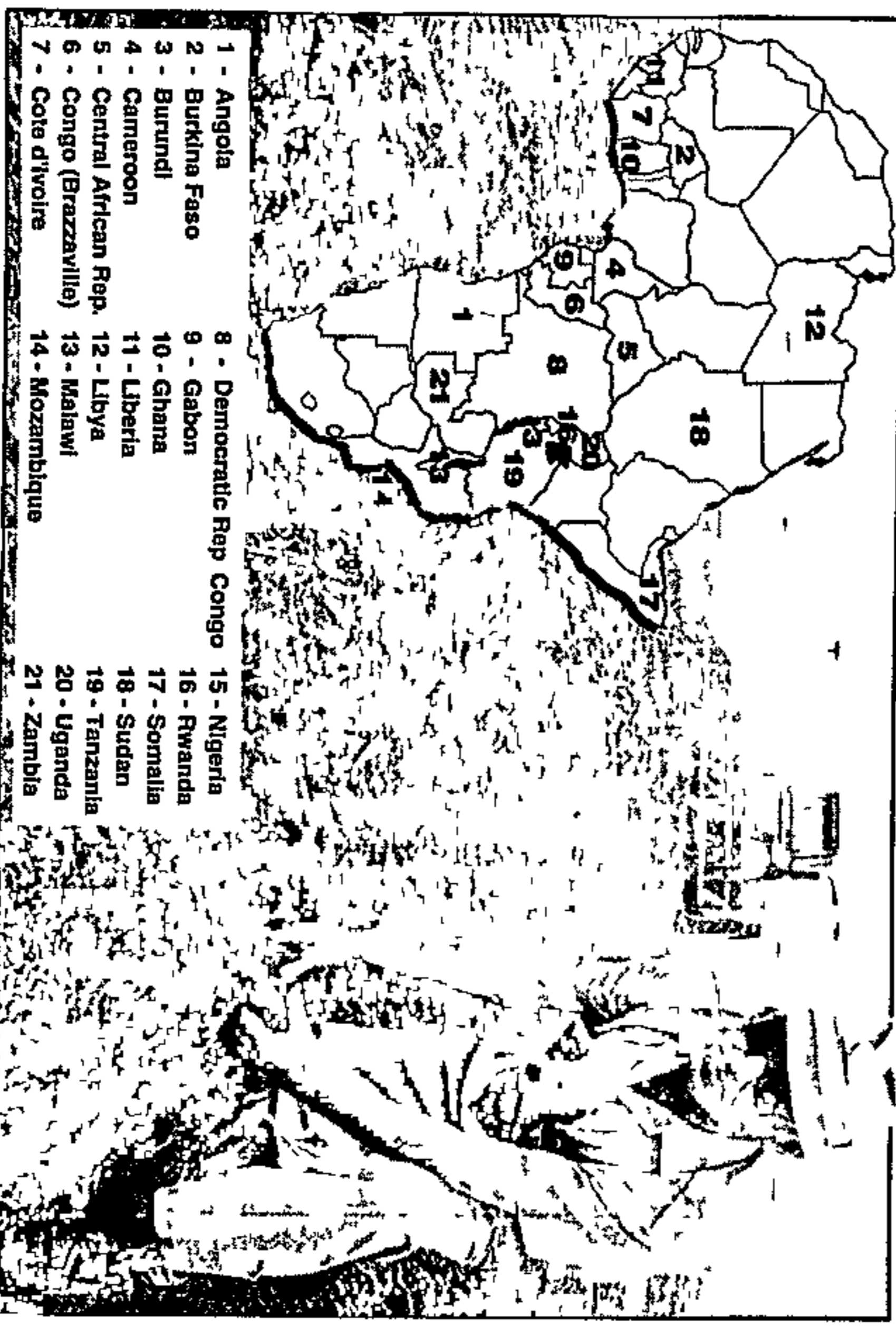
Sacada advises farmers to approach the local chief to discipline or replace an unsuitable worker. He claims the situation is not as complex as it seems — "a farmer gets to know how chiefs are likely to deal with matters".

Once the Zambian project has been launched Sacada is keen to turn to Uganda, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo, which wants food produced near its mines in Shaba province.

Others which have approached Sacada are Angola, Malawi, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, Somalia, Brazzaville-Congo, Gabon, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Liberia, Cameroon, Nigeria and Libya.

However, Sacada aims to move farmers into an area only if it is deemed politically stable. An unrelated private SA devel-

States wanting Sacada's help to develop agriculture



Graphic: KAREN MOOLMAN

opment company, Sadelco, has first-hand experience of Congo-Brazzaville's civil war which erupted in the middle of last year. Sadelco pioneered the resettlement of about 25 SA farmers in the country three years earlier and had to airlift several back to SA. Sadelco executive chairman Johan van der Westhuizen said their programme — which involved crop production, agro processing, agricultural research and the training of locals — was back on track.

Sadelco holds a 60% stake in an agro-industries project and the Congolese government holds 40%. Sadelco also has farmers in Madagascar, Guinea and Burkina Faso.

Another possible pitfall for export-orientated farmers will be inadequate transport networks. Bruwer counters that one reason Sacada has earmarked Mozambique, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo as initial targets is that an extensive rail network, including the Tazara and Benguela railway lines, exists in the band across central Africa. "We believe there are enough rail upgrading plans afoot for farmers to market properly in future."

Even though the new wave of SA pioneers may be linked to positive development ventures, locals inevitably wonder whether SA investment will prove a double-edged sword, they know they need investment but fear that South Africans will gain inordinate influence in the economy.

The Zambia Investment Centre, which needs to facilitate the sale of state farms, maintains it has had a largely positive experience of SA farmers. And centre head Bwalya Ngandu said peasant farmers were not unduly threatened by land sales because "we are careful to ensure peasants are not removed from the land".

However, the Zambian press reported allegations last year that an SA farmer had beaten a worker to death and police were reluctant to press charges. No clarity was forthcoming on what may have been an isolated incident.

Johann Wingard, Sacada's vice-president, said individual SA farmers already in Zambia had no links with Sacada. Questioned about Sacada's ap-

proach to a member who offends the local community, Wingard explained that Sacada wanted to send 16 to 18 farmers as a community which would have its own district agricultural association to deal with problems. "They will discipline themselves. We will give them guidelines and ensure they understand the Zambian government's terms."

However, he acknowledged that Sacada would have less influence over these private farmers than it had in Mozambique, where the hand was in SDM's name. One of SDM's conditions is that funding and support can be withdrawn from a farmer who seriously offends the community.

Bruwer is forthright on the matter. "If a farmer is under Sacada's umbrella we will not allow racist or bad treatment of labourers — in Mozambique we had one chap who was controversial and pushed his staff too far. We warned him not to handle workers that way."

Phosa said some observers initially thought resettlement projects had overtones of another "great trek". But he believes a fresh perspective is appropriate — the one adopted by African governments which realised the South Africans had good intentions which needed to be utilised.

"People must decide whether they are going to be prisoners of the past or want to forge a new future. The involvement of SA farmers is essential for progress in the region."

Food security was critical and SA had the expertise. Reconciliation should have practical effects — "instead of transporting R4 ploughshares", Phosa said.

Bruwer said the eventual settlement of about 2,000 export-orientated farmers in different but strategic parts of Africa was a clean break from the past. "The difference is that we are working closely with foreign governments and the local communities."

He stressed that southern Africa was opening up and farmers were businessmen who also needed to spend their investments. Sacada's selection criteria for SA farmers are that they need to be experienced in large-scale commercial agriculture and have access to some of their own funds. Most are making decisions based on business principles and building communities around them will have economic spinoffs. As Wingard pointed out, "Our economic border is no longer the Limpopo River — there are unbelievable opportunities out there."

Chamber to settle 400 farmers in Zambia

Claire Pickard-Cambridge

20/4/98
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THE SA Chamber for Agricultural Development in Africa (Sacada) is negotiating with the Zambian government to buy state land on which about 400 large-scale SA farmers will be settled.

Sacada was established with President Nelson Mandela's backing in 1995 to help stimulate the regional economy. It began settling export-oriented SA farmers in Mozambique the following year, by forming a joint venture with the Mozambicans, SDM, which was funded by both governments.

Leasehold rights were negotiated and soft loans provided through SDM. Sacada provided technical and marketing help to SA and local farmers. It also helped train locals in subsistence and commercial farming and plans to establish agro-processing activities.

Dries Bruwer, Sacada president and former Transvaal Agricultural Union head, said the success of the Mozambican project had resulted in 20 African countries asking Sacada to implement similar programmes in their countries. He said Sacada, which channelled farmers only under the ambit of government-to-government agreements, would probably next relocate farmers to Uganda, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Angola, Malawi, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire were also on the list.

He said government and Sacada saw the schemes as the start of a rescue plan for the region which needed reliable food supplies, job opportunities and export earnings. This could help curb the flood of an estimated 8-million illegal immigrants into SA.

Some SA farmers had already moved to Zambia over the past few

years. However, they did not do so though Sacada. The Zambia Investment Centre confirmed that it had invited Sacada to bring SA farmers into the country.

Sacada vice-president Johann Wingard said he would go to Lusaka this month to negotiate the purchase of 200 000ha of prime agricultural land on state farms. However, in Zambia SA farmers would buy the land in their own names. Sacada was in discussions with donor agencies and banks to acquire funding for them. Sacada, a non-profit organisation, covers its costs by charging a management fee.

Mpumalanga premier and Sacada board member Mathews Phosa said in Mozambique's case the project had been a socioeconomic upliftment programme with each country supplying half the funds. In Zambia's case settlement would be commercially driven.



East meets north-eastern suburbs. Diners drink tea and talk at one of the restaurants in the 'Chinatown' area of Derrick Avenue, Cyrildene. PHOTOGRAPH. RUTH MOTAU

The Asian invasion of Cyrildene

MG 9-16/4/98

(236)



Lizeka Mda

CITY LIMITS

Drive east along Marcia Avenue towards Bruma Lake. At the intersection of Derrick Avenue, turn left and blink. You could be forgiven for thinking you had been transported to China.

The Chinese signs jump at you from both sides of the street. Apart from the video shop, the fast food chicken outlet, and a couple of others that have been there for years, the rest of the stores are new and Chinese.

The middle-class suburb of Cyrildene, with its large houses of face brick and tiled roofs, has experienced a transformation over the past 15 months. And nowhere is this transformation more evident than on the commercial Derrick Avenue. It's already being called the new Chinatown.

The original Chinatown has always been at the bottom of Commissioner Street, near John Vorster Square. With the flight of business from the city, and many patrons of Chinatown's restaurants seeking refuge in the upmarket suburbs of the north, perhaps it was inevitable that Chinatown would also look north.

On Derrick Avenue, where once there were a hairdresser, a pizza parlour, a property agent, a hamburger outlet and a delicatessen, now there is a supermarket, two electronics shops and many restaurants, and they are all Chinese.

Across the street, similar changes have taken place, as they have on most of the properties all the way up to Friedland Avenue, at the north end of Derrick.

The majority of these establishments do not make any bones about the clientele they are catering for. If you cannot read Mandarin you have to go to the door in many instances to even know what's inside. Often you will come against security gates and a buzzer you have to press to be let in. Or not.

"No work!" may be shouted through the security grill, until you explain that you are not looking for employment. Most of the owners speak very little English and it can take a five-

person collaboration to be understood.

It is so with Li Lizing Hai, the proprietor of the North China Dumpling restaurant who has a very limited English vocabulary. The restaurant is empty on this Friday afternoon and Li is enjoying green tea with four friends.

"It's been empty like this all day," says Li. "Who knows, maybe Chinese people feel like rice or noodles on Friday."

His restaurant is little more than a narrow passage that can barely accommodate five formica tables and tiny plastic bar stools that wouldn't do well with indigenous backsides. Li laughs and points to a tiny sixth table. "How do you like my office?"

He does not see the big deal about not having English on his sign. "It says dumpling," he shrugs. "North China Dumpling."

But the menu is in Chinese and English. Advertised as today's specials are dumpling regulars like pork and garlic chives, pork and coriander, pork and celery, pork and Chinese cabbage, and variations with beef, lamb and seafood.

Lovers of Chinese cuisine are spoiled for choice on Derrick Avenue. There are 13 restaurants on the street, serving food cooked in various regional styles — Hong Kong, Taiwanese, Korean and the different regions of mainland China.

The interiors are uniformly stark, and the furnishings the barest formica and plastic. The shabbiness and the often cramped circumstances sometimes fall short of licensing regulations.

"You can't use the same standard for European and Chinese restaurants," says Steven Ma of the Shi Chuan Chinese Restaurant. "The health inspector complains about too much oil, but that's the way Chinese food is prepared!"

Derek Bruce, an inspector in the city's Trade Licence Department, is inclined to agree. "The traders here are prepared to trade in very small shops," he says. "Maybe they are used to such cramped circumstances back home. But the food is good and their target market is their own people. So I think the department should relax some of the laws, like insisting that a kitchen be 16m².

"We haven't been rejecting licences out

right. We ask for improvements like bringing in an extractor to improve the kitchen."

Patrons can count on good food, if nothing else. Steven and Maria Ma have been serving Szechuan province-style food for about eight months, in what they believe to be the first Szechuan restaurant in Johannesburg, perhaps the whole of South Africa. As proof, Steven Ma brings out a list of Chinese restaurants compiled by the South African Chinese Restaurant and Catering Association, and indeed the Shi Chuan Chinese Restaurant on Derrick Avenue is the only one on the list.

His patrons — 60% of whom he says are not Chinese — come from the farthest corners of Gauteng, and at the weekend when it's busy, they can wait up to an hour for a table.

"I tell them to go and eat at another restaurant," he says, "and they say they will wait for this food. They can't get it anywhere else. They tell me it's delicious."

"In mainland China, Szechuan food is number one," he explains. All the cooks, including Maria Ma, are from the Szechuan province in the south west of China, but Steven Ma comes from Beijing.

The Mas came to South Africa five-and-a-half years ago, leaving their two sons, now seven and 11, with grandparents. Until last year they ran a shop near the Carlton Centre selling

jewellery, crystal and shoes. Business was not good.

"Johannesburg town is dangerous," he says. "On Saturday after you close the shop, you can't sleep nice because the town is empty. You come back on Monday and everything is broken."

Ma says he knows many people in Commissioner Street who want to move to Derrick Avenue. Such talk makes the non-Chinese storeowners nervous. Zorro, of the Portuguese-style chicken outlet, Carioca, has been watching the Chinese inflow with a leery eye. He has seen Chinese people buy buildings around him and then kick out tenants. For now his landlord is not selling. But who knows how long Zorro will hold out. Already he feels his business is suffering.

With all the restaurants, none of which have parking on the premises, everyone relies

on the municipal parking on the street. Passing customers who just want to grab take-away chicken at Zorro's shop are not prepared to park kilometres away.

Still, he is moving with the times and has a copy of his menu in Chinese, even though the only Chinese people who venture in are teenagers, for chicken burgers, and very rarely at that.

Perhaps as an indication that this is the new home of Chinese culture in Johannesburg, there are other stores catering for other needs — a jeweller, a couple of seafood merchants, a travel agent, two bottle stores, an acupuncturist, a beauty parlour, a tearoom, a 'Chinese doctor', a curio shop and five supermarkets. Even some houses along Marcia Avenue are sprouting Chinese signs.

Chinese people have lived in Johannesburg for more than 100 years. In the past 10 years there has been an influx from Singapore and Hong Kong, while more recently, immigrants have come from mainland China.

No one knows exactly how many Chinese there are in South Africa. The *Overseas Chinese Gazette*, a daily newspaper that has been published out of Johannesburg since 1931, estimates that there are 20 000, while the three-year old *China Express* says the figure is between 30 000 and 40 000.

The *Gazette* sells 2 000 copies from Tuesday to Saturday while the *Express* sells 4 500 twice a week. Some of the papers go to subscribers in neighbouring countries.

Andrew Huang, the *Gazette's* director, says the paper covers socio-political issues, international news, local community news, news from Hong Kong, mainland China and Taiwan, entertainment and sports.

"We may have different political systems," he says, "but we are the same. And wherever Chinese people go you will find a Chinatown."

This new Chinatown in Cyrildene is well placed, just up the road from the tourist hordes that flock to Bruma Lake and the shoppers' paradise, Eastgate.

At Da Sung Hung supermarket, a man pops in to buy the *Gazette* and the *Express* on his way home.

"People who live in Soweto read the *Sowetan*," he quips. "Chinese people read Chinese papers. You see?"

Very clearly

Home Affairs faces urgent plea over expelled journalist

STAFF REPORTER

Lawyers acting on behalf of Zimbabwean-born *Sunday Independent* journalist Newton Kanhema are planning to bring an urgent application compelling Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi to allow him to re-enter the country unhindered.

The department has been given until noon on Monday to submit a written assurance to the offices of Kanhema's lawyers or face an urgent court application compelling Home Affairs to guarantee Kanhema the right to freely re-enter the country.

This follows the granting of an interdict with costs in the Johannesburg High Court this week prohibiting the minister from deporting Kanhema's wife Jean Kasiyamhuru to Zimbabwe. The department was pushing for Kasiyamhuru's deportation despite granting the couple a re-entry visa earlier this year.

Acting Judge A J Hoffman found Kasiyamhuru's deportation had not been properly delegated to officials of the Department of Home Affairs. He also pronounced that the decision to deport her had not been made properly.

In his judgment, Judge Hoffman further said Kasiyamhuru's right to be heard had simply been denied by the department. Her right to residence in SA did not piggyback on the corresponding right of her husband, he said.

He added that the decision taken by the department had simply been taken on the

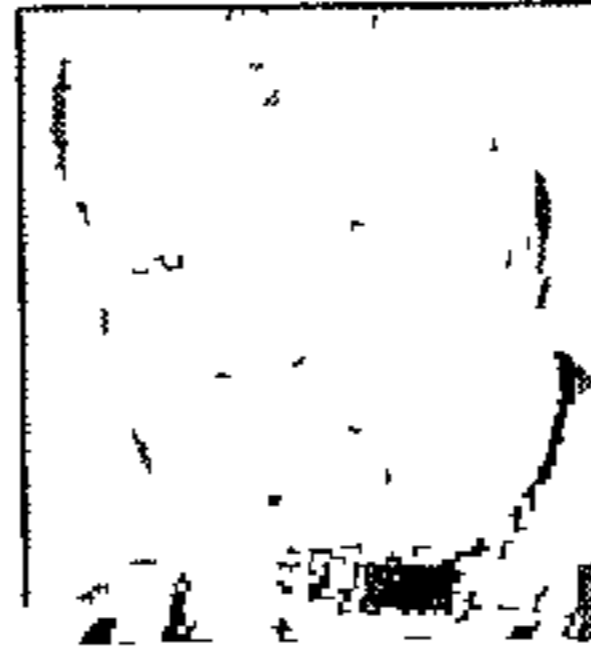
show 27/5/98 (236)
"say-so" of a department official who had failed to apply his mind to the case

Independent Newspapers' Ivan Fallon welcomed the High Court decision stopping the deportation order. "Whatever the merits of the case against Kanhema and his wife, the act of expelling a senior journalist from the country inevitably has implication for press freedom and the image of South Africa in the international community, where Kanhema's plight has received widespread publicity."

Kanhema, who has been on sabbatical at Emory University in Atlanta in the US for the past four months, is scheduled to return to SA on Tuesday. He won the CNN-sponsored African Journalist of the Year Award in March and was awarded a Knight Fellowship at Stanford University in the US.

The Home Affairs Department gave him and his wife three weeks to leave the country, following "a discrepancy" in his original application for an SA permanent residence permit. Industry observers noted that the order was a result of a series of outspoken articles deemed too critical of the present government.

Responding to repeated allegations that Kanhema, and by implication his wife, are guilty of fraud in their application for permanent residence, Fallon said: "This is a matter which should be tested through a proper constitutional process the South African courts, who alone can rule on allegations of criminal misconduct."



NEWTON KANHEMA

7 Home Affairs directors told to resign or be fired

By JIMMY SEEPE (236)

CP 24/5/99
SEVEN regional directors in the Department of Home Affairs were last week informed that their services were no longer required in their current portfolios in a major shakeup undertaken by the department, City Press has learned.

The seven directors were issued with the letters after the department assessed and evaluated their performance and found that they could not be entrusted with their work.

And in what appears to be a matter of political coincidence, all the seven directors are in ANC controlled provinces.

The department has given the seven directors several options - take a voluntary severance package, an early retirement or face the chop.

The seven are directors from Gauteng East, Northern Cape, Mpumalanga, Northern Province, Eastern Cape, North West and the Free State.

The department has retained three regional directors from its 10 regions. Those remaining are from Gauteng West, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape.

The news greeted the regional directors as the Home Affairs department embarks on a major restructuring plan to make it competitive and more efficient in the coming years.

It is understood that the seven directors also failed evaluations and interviews which assessed them as to whether they can become com-

patible with new challenges.

Home Affairs spokesperson, Manase Makwela, confirmed that the department had issued the seven regional directors letters informing them that they had been declared redundant.

Makwela said the department took the decision after an in-depth analysis of their strategic focus and objectives which necessitated that a major restructuring takes place.

He said the restructuring of the department had resulted in some posts being abolished, others created and some redefined with significant changes of focus and outputs.

Makwela said all regional directors were given a chance to reapply for redefined posts.

"The regional directors who have been found unsuitable at the interviews still have the opportunity for employment in other posts within the department and in the public service at large," he said.

Makwela said the decision to render the regional directors redundant was not based on any investigation the department could have or is undertaking against any of them.

Makwela, when asked why all those who have been declared redundant are all in ANC controlled provinces, said it was just a matter of coincidence.

"Politics did not play a part when the regional directors were evaluated," he said. "We evaluated everyone according to his or her competence in the job and not according to political affiliation. It was just a coincidence that the people happened to be in ANC provinces."

Illegal immigrant 'bought new SA passport for thousands'

A Chinese national appeared briefly in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court yesterday morning charged with the illegal possession of a South African passport that he apparently bought for R123 000.

Wen-Yu Chang (43) was arrested at a Pretoria hotel on Tuesday night by members of the aliens investigations unit. He entered the country with the illegal passport last week.

The document found in his possession was the new green South African passport, introduced by the Department of Home Affairs a few months ago and which was supposed to be tamper-proof.

According to investigating officer Captain Blackie Swart, the passport was not falsified.

Chang had filled in his particulars on a genuine passport, which was stolen from the

state printers before being delivered to the department.

It was apparently part of a batch of more than 20 blank passports issued in this way.

Swart said police have recovered three such illegal passports and know of another 17 that have been issued.

"We are working with Interpol and the Chinese Embassy to locate the holders of the other passports."

"Chang is the third Chinese national arrested this year," he said.

Chang was arrested at the Courtyard hotel when he failed to pay his bill of R4 000.

Chang said he entered South Africa to see if the passport could be used and planned to stay only a few days.

The other Chinese caught for the offence have been deported, Swart said - Sapa

(236) Star 15/6/98

Deported DJ 'got what he deserved'

(236)

PRISCILLA SINGH

ET 2/4/98

THERE is nothing sinister about the deportation of 5FM disc jockey Tich Mataz.

This is according to Home Affairs spokesperson Manasi Makwela, who said Mataz had supplied a fraudulent ID book to the department after applying for a passport to attend the Africa Cup of Nations tournament in Burkina Faso earlier this year.

His information did not tally with the department's records and further investigations revealed that he had lied on his application for a permanent residence, claiming that he was born in Johannesburg.

Makwela said the department had been further outraged that, a day after Mataz was deported to Zimbabwe, he obtained a visitor's visa to re-enter South Africa and lied on that form that he had never been removed from South Africa before.

"How can we accept such blatant lies and then expect to be lenient or turn a blind eye to someone like that just because he is a high profile person. We know people abuse the system with backdoor tactics and put other South Africans at a disadvantage, but we cannot accept this anymore, and that is why we have formed an anti-corruption team for such cases," Makwela said.

Meanwhile, 5FM station manager Anthony Duke has been working flat out to get Mataz back into South Africa. He said the station had been inundated with letters, e-mails and phone calls from listeners who were annoyed that Home Affairs would choose to "leave the drug dealers alone and target a radio disc jockey".

● Home Affairs has established a toll-free line for queries, recommendations and problems experienced with the department. The number to call is 0800-601-190.

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Employers of illegals feel the heat

AKW 15/5/88

(23b)

Aliens using the full gamut of tricks to evade the law and remain in the country, says minister

By JOYAL RANTAO
Cape Town

The Government has warned that it would deal ruthlessly with people who harboured and employed illegal aliens.

Opening a debate on the home affairs budget vote, Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi told Parliament that a total of 110 450 employers were investigated last year.

Of these, 121 employers were apprehended and paid admission of guilt fines, while 74 employers were prosecuted and sentenced to fines ranging between R600 and R1 000 for employing illegal aliens.

He said one employer in Cape Town was fined R120 000 or 20 years in jail for aiding, abetting and harbouring 40 illegal Mozambicans.

Buthelezi said that last year, 355 767 documents were scrutinised and 243 689 illegal aliens traced.

The Home Affairs Department, in conjunction with the police, repatriated a total of 176 351 illegal aliens last year. A total of 850 people convicted of crimes were deported.

Buthelezi raised concerns about tricks used by illegal immigrants to evade the law.

"It's a concern that more aliens who do not qualify for immigration permits in their own right now apply for such permits in the category of a spouse, after their marriage to a South African citizen or permanent resident.

"This matter is being extensively investigated to find ways and means of combating the abuse," Buthelezi said.

He also said the Govern-



Buthelezi ... going to get tough on illegal workers.

ment would pull out all the stops to ensure that the estimated 2,5 million South Africans without identity books received them in time for

next year's general elections.

Buthelezi assured Parliament that staff at all regional home affairs offices would work overtime and engage in community outreach programmes to ensure that identity documents were issued.

Temporary staff would also be appointed. The minister said additional supplies of material involved in the preparation of identity documents had been ordered.

"We're doubling our efforts to ensure that identity documents are issued timely," he said.

"The identity document campaign consists of a publicity campaign to make prospective voters aware of this requirement, as well as the improvement of services in the department's network of offices.

"Mobile units are being used to augment services in areas where there are no offices of the department.

"The overall message being conveyed through this campaign is that of encouragement to citizens to apply for 'identity' documents," Buthelezi said.

The minister also told Parliament that his department had come under extreme pressure from companies whose tenders for the R55-million contract for a new identity book system had been rejected.

He said he had been approached by two ambassadors as well as an academic on behalf of such companies.

Buthelezi also said the total number of people who immigrated to South Africa had dropped from 5 407 in 1986 to 4 532 last year.

Home Affairs criticised over three issues

May 13/5/98

(236)

By JOVIAL RANTAO
Political Correspondent

Cape Town – The Department of Home Affairs came under attack from Parliament's home affairs committee yesterday for a lack of transparency, discriminatory deportation of illegal immigrants and tardiness in removing unconstitutional legislation from the statute books.

In its report to Parliament, the committee, chaired by Desmond Lockey (ANC), said there was complete lack of transparency in the process to evaluate tenders for the R55,5-million Home Affairs National Identification System. "Hanis is a high-cost, high-risk and high-profile project. It's of the utmost importance that all relevant tenderers should be objectively assessed

in order to ensure that we acquire technology that can serve our country well for 20 years or more," the committee said in its report.

On March 28, committee members met Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and his deputy Lindiwe Sisulu to express their concern at the lack of information regarding the tender process.

The committee was unhappy that the State Tender Board was not represented on the Hanis evaluation board committees while officials in other user departments, such as welfare and health, served on the committees.

On the deportation of illegal immigrants, the committee was concerned that immigrants from neighbouring states, in particular Mozambique, were being discrimi-

nated against by the Government.

"There is a disproportionately high rate of deportations of blacks, Mozambicans in particular, when compared with visitors from countries such as the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States, who violate our immigration laws."

The committee called for progress with the tabling of a white paper on international migration and refugees.

The committee also expressed its unhappiness at the failure by Home Affairs to remove the Marriage Act of 1961, which contradicted fundamental human rights as stipulated in the constitution.

The department added that about 2,5 million citizens did not have the barcoded identity documents required for next year's election.

TENDER PROCESS QUESTIONED

Lack of transparency at Home Affairs slated

ET 13/5/98

(236)

THE GOVERNMENT has been accused of discriminating against African illegal immigrants.

JOVIAL RANTAO reports

THE Department of Home Affairs has come under strong attack from Parliament's Home Affairs Committee for lack of transparency, discriminatory deportation of illegal immigrants and slow progress in removing unconstitutional legislation from the statute books.

In its report to Parliament, the committee, chaired by ANC MP Mr Desmond Lockey, said there was complete lack of transparency in the process to evaluate tenders for the R55,5-million Home Affairs National Identification System (HANIS)

"HANIS is a high-cost, high-risk and high-profile project. It's of the utmost importance that all relevant tenderers should be objectively assessed to ensure that we acquire technology that can serve our country well for the next 20 years or more."

It said the complete lack of transparency in respect of evaluation criteria, points allocated to tenderers, tender price, qualifications of the expert evaluators and weight attached to the automated fingerprint information system, system integration and ID card was a matter of grave concern to the committee.

"The committee wishes to report that it is not in a position to perform its oversight function because of lack of transparency in the HANIS tender evaluation process. The committee does not subscribe to the view that transparency in regard to the above matter could in any way jeopardise the tender evaluation or the evaluators," it said in its report.

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progress with the tabling of a White Paper on international migration and refugees.

The committee also expressed its unhappiness at the failure of the Department of Home Affairs to remove the Marriage Act of 1961 which was in contradiction to fundamental human rights as stipulated in the constitution.

"The committee wishes to express its strong dismay at the lack of progress with the introduction of a new Marriage Bill that will encapsulate all the rights for all our citizens."

According to the department, an estimated 2,5 million South Africans were not in possession of bar-coded identity documents required for next year's general elections.



Hard day's night: Some deportees aren't allowed to collect any personal belongings or inform their families

Illegal rampages by home affairs

Mukoni T Ratshitanga

Police and home affairs officials in Mpumalanga and the Northern Province are deporting large numbers of former Mozambican refugees despite a 1996 Cabinet resolution that gave them citizenship, according to reports from the provinces

Last week 120 former refugees were arrested in Giyani while traveling to work, says Nicola Johnston of the University of the Witwatersrand's Refugee Research Programme

"They were ultimately deported, despite the fact that they have been residing in the country for the past 15 years. None were granted the right to collect any personal belongings from their homes or inform their families they were being deported. And, as with the majority of such cases, they have nothing to return to in Mozambique"

The Ministry of Home Affairs has yet to implement a 1996 Cabinet resolution which gave permanent citizenship to Mozambican residents in South Africa who did not return to their country before the 1994 elections

The parliamentary portfolio com-

mittee on home affairs this week raised concerns about the delay "The committee is concerned that after one year and five months, there is no progress in implementing the Cabinet decision. We call on the ministry to implement the decision without delay," said the committee's statement

Hatlani Sibanyoni of the Kubonakale Human Rights and Justice Centre says deportations are rife in Mpumalanga

Three weeks ago, Sibanyoni helped save Shadrack Mujovu from deportation after police denied his South African identity document was proof he is a South African. Home affairs officials in Witbank also wanted more proof, including the IDs of Mujovu's parents, exemption notices and his original Mozambican ID

Another recipient of Sibanyoni's help was a six-month-old baby whose mother was arrested on her way to a shop. Although the woman did not have a South African ID, she has been in South Africa for seven years

Police kept her baby from her for five days. She was deported to Mozambique three weeks ago, leaving behind two children aged six and 12 years

Both Sibanyoni and Johnston say police and border officials are tearing up IDs belonging to former refugees

Other reports tell of farmers who employ Mozambicans calling in the authorities to arrest them before pay day

There are tales of extortion by tribal authorities in the Nkomazi area, who demand up to R500 for access to a permanent stand on which to build a house. "Refugees say those who don't pay this sum are subjected to raids by the army, which arrests them and deports them," Johnston says.

"They say they are asked to give money, usually in the range of R200 and R300, so as not to be deported"

"We have also received complaints about extortion by certain home affairs offices in the Nkomazi area, where officials apparently require R20 to R50 for checking progress on ID applications"

"In the Bushbuckridge district, R10 has been charged for taking fingerprints. There are accounts of people being asked to pay R300 to R500 for their IDs — whether these were official IDs is not clear. Such allegations were denied by the offices implicated"

MTG 15-21/5/98 (236)

Most of 6 770 emigrants went to UK and Oz

BY CLIVE SAWYER

Cape Town - A total of 6 770 South Africans emigrated last year, with Australasia and the United Kingdom remaining the most popular new homes.

Of those who left the country, 1 092 moved to other African countries.

This number included 522 who went to Namibia, 141 to Botswana, 170 to Zimbabwe and 41 to Mauritius.

The figures were released in Parliament yesterday by Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Those who chose Europe included 1 044 who went to the United Kingdom, 131 to Germany, 75 to the Netherlands and 66 to Switzerland.

Emigrants to Asia included 40 who went to Saudi Arabia, 56 to the United Arab Emirates and 19 to Hong Kong. Eighty-five people emigrated to Israel.

Of the 1 324 who went to North America, 782 went to the United States and 513 to Canada.

Australia attracted 1 373 immigrants and New Zealand drew another 1 124.

The figures revealed that no one showed interest in going to the Democratic Republic of the Congo or Algeria.

Other countries which failed to attract South Africans included Bulgaria, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Syria, Venezuela and Cuba.

(286)
8/5/98

SA farmers turning tracts of Mozambique greener

From 22/5/98 (236)

By RAFAEL BIE
Star Foreign Service

Maputo - The South African farmers who ventured to settle in the northern Niassa province last year under the Mozagrius scheme are bringing a "green revolution" of sorts to that isolated part of Mozambique.

Mozagrius chairman, Antonio Muacorica, says that in just one year of operation, the group of farmers who joined hands with a group 10 local farmers have more than doubled the yields of maize per hectare.

The average yield before the "boers" introduced modern farming methods to the area was 1,3 tons per hectare. Muacorica claims

that in the 1996/97 season the average yield in the farms under the project had risen to three tons.

Other crops such as millet, wheat, sugar beans and soya also showed improvement in yields.

The farmers have already earned foreign exchange for Mozambique as part of the crops were exported to neighbouring Malawi which earned the country \$110 000 (about R560 000).

The group of farmers was selected from a pool of 200 Mozambicans and 50 South Africans. Each farmer was allocated 1500ha and seed capital to the tune of R50 000 at commercial interest rates. So far total investment in the project stands at

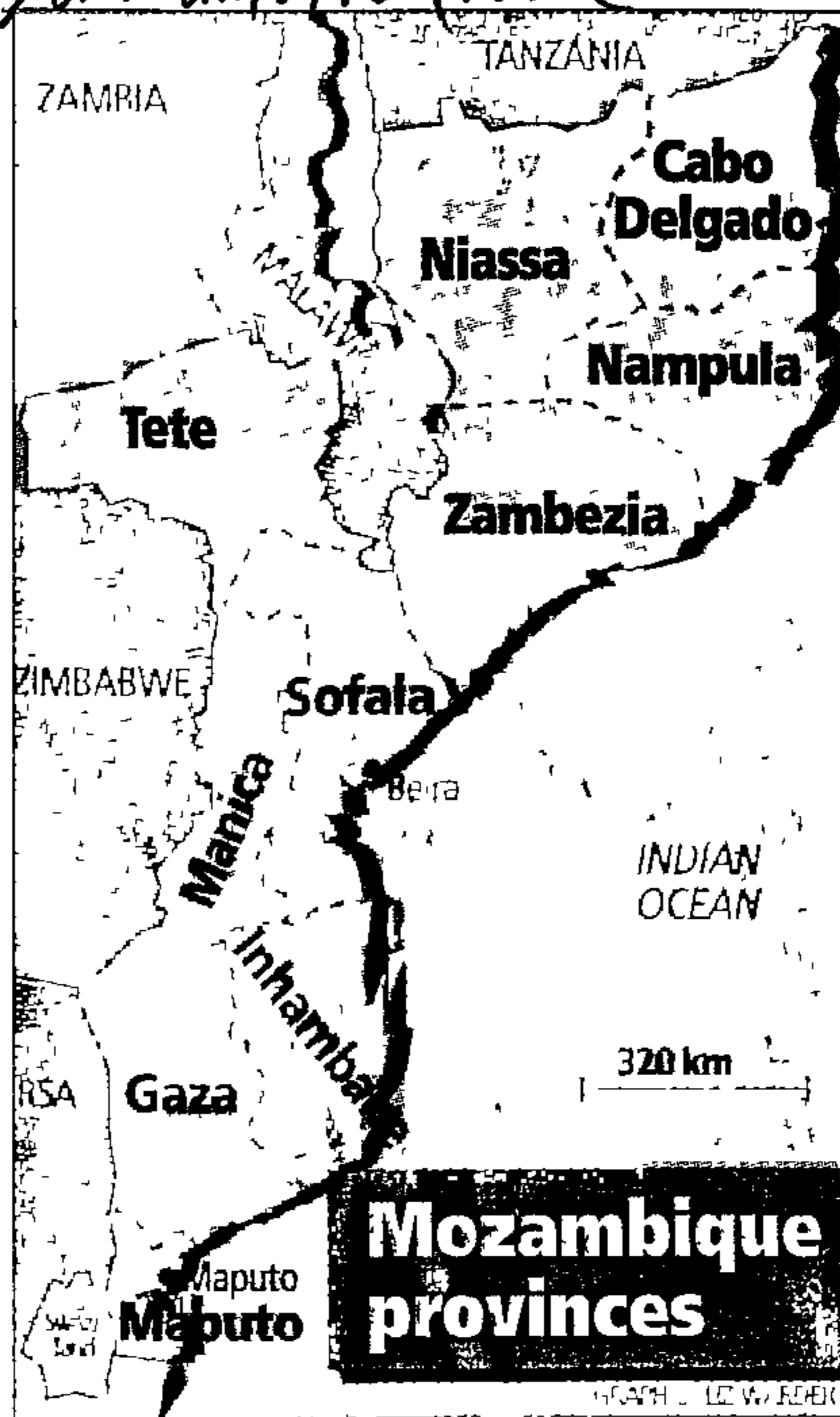
around R1,3-million.

The government has allocated 220 000ha for the project of which 160 000ha have already been identified.

The farmers have also brought employment and development that is likely to revive the economy of the vast and sparsely populated province with about 12 million hectares of arable land - a third of Mozambique's arable land.

According to Muacorica each farmer employs about 50 people.

The next stage of the project will be its extension to the central provinces of Sofala and Manica and to the southern provinces of Inhambane and Gaza.



Rights advocate in row over work permit

Home Affairs denies victimisation

BLACKMAN NGORO
STAFF REPORTER

A British citizen is at the centre of a row between the Department of Home Affairs and Lawyers for Human Rights over his work permit, which has not been renewed.

In spite of Jeff Handmaker obtaining a court order restraining the department from arresting or deporting him, the department insisted he was not entitled to work here.

He has since left for the Netherlands but hopes to return later in the year to deliver several lectures for a course in refugee law at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Home Affairs refused to renew his permit several months ago on the grounds that his work - refugee rights advocacy - could be done by South Africans.

Mr Handmaker had been working in South Africa for two years for the Lawyers for Human Rights refugee rights project.

When he continued working after obtaining the court order, an official of the department called Lawyers for Human Rights national director Vinodh Jaichand to tell him Mr Handmaker was working illegally.

But Mr Handmaker said there was no one in South Africa who had precisely his expertise.

Mr Handmaker has been invited to teach refugee rights at Wits University next year as no Gauteng lawyer specialises in that discipline.

Mr Handmaker believes there is a link between the refusal to renew his work permit and his contribution to a report highly critical of home affairs' handling of refugees and asylum seekers. The report was published by US-based Human Rights Watch.

(296)
Peter Takirambudde, executive director of the Africa division of Human Rights Watch said at the time "During the apartheid era many African countries opened their doors to South African migrants, exiles and refugees.

"Now the tables are turned it is shameful to see how hostile South Africans have become to today's migrants and refugees."

Mr Jaichand said the cancellation of Mr Handmaker's work permit had had a negative impact on the work of non-government organisations in South Africa.

Dr Jaichand said he would meet Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi to discuss Mr Handmaker.

The department confirmed that Mr Handmaker's application to renew his work permit had not been approved. It denied that Mr Handmaker was being victimised.

AKG 18/6/98

Illegal immigrants 'have to bribe police'

(276)

Hawkers form body to protect them from
being forced to pay to escape deportation

By RAPULE TABANE

Albert Khoza, an illegal Mozambican immigrant, makes money from selling beers and audio speakers, and from repairing radios in Diepkloof informal settlement.

But, he says, little of the profit he makes goes into his pocket because he has to bribe the police to avoid deportation. He claims that on two separate occasions this year he paid R350 and R600 respectively to save his skin.

He is one of a group of residents at the settlement who have formed the Black Poor People Rights Fighter, an organisation which represents both South Africans and immigrants who feel they are ill-treated by police.

The hawkers claim police extract bribes from them by threatening to deport them because they are illegal immigrants. They further allege that the police sometimes arrest them and then help themselves to the wares they sell.

France Musi claims that on one occasion he used all his money to pay a

Stary 18/6/98
bribe after being arrested by police who later dumped him in Langlaagte, some kilometres from his home.

The group's leader, Thomas Sibuyi, said they were feeling helpless because they could not trust the police.

"It's useless to report police to the police. We want to be recognised as human beings as well," he said.

"I am not against being arrested, but the way they do it is the problem. They must deport us if they do it, not demand bribes. And to balance, if they arrest Shangaans, they must also arrest other illegal people such as the Chinese. Police in South Africa are like dogs, biting innocent people instead of thieves," Sibuyi added.

Captain Richard Luvhengo of the Soweto police encouraged victims to note the names of the policemen involved and to lay charges of bribery against them.

"There are many policemen who are on suspension or facing charges because of bribery. We definitely take disciplinary steps against such policemen," he said.

M+G 26/6-2/7/98

Atomic man is an 'alien'

(236)

Mail & Guardian reporters

One of South Africa's top nuclear scientists has been given two weeks to leave the country after the Department of Home Affairs accused him of fraudulently obtaining citizenship

Marcel Dube, who has lived for many years in Zimbabwe, was appointed executive general manager (technical services) at the Atomic Energy Corporation (AEC) in 1996. He was the organisation's most senior black official and the only black member of the AEC board.

Last week the Department of Home Affairs ordered him to leave South Africa within 14 days, after declaring him in breach of the Aliens Control Act.

Dube's expulsion raises serious doubts about the security around South Africa's nuclear programme — all employees are supposed to be subjected to an intelligence clearance before being appointed.

A former senior AEC official, Mojalefa Murphy, said "The AEC is the custodian of the inventory of nuclear bomb-grade enriched uranium. It is also the nation's technical agency for the administration of nuclear safeguards."

"Owing to the national and international security obligations, a top-secret clearance by the National Intelligence Agency is mandatory for AEC personnel, particularly at top management level."

Dube's lawyer, Howard Belling, said this week he was filing an urgent high court application against the minister of home affairs to contest the expulsion order. Belling said home affairs had come to some "hasty decisions" based on information that Dube had false documents, was not born in South Africa and was not entitled to citizenship.

Belling said Dube had been back in South Africa since 1995, but his birth had never been registered. He said the application was likely to be filed on Thursday afternoon, after the *Mail & Guardian* went to press.

The AEC last week denied Dube was being deported, claiming he had taken three weeks' leave to "sort out a number of questions regarding his citizenship" — an explanation repeated by Dube, who said there were simply a few technical errors in his file at home affairs. This week Dube referred all queries to his lawyer.

However, the home affairs department this



Dubious Dube: Marcel Dube, executive general manager (technical services) at the Atomic Energy Corporation, has been told to leave South Africa within two weeks

week confirmed Dube had been given two weeks to leave the country after violating the Aliens Control Act. The department would not elaborate.

It is understood Dube applied for a work permit to South Africa in 1996, but was refused because he had overstayed his visitor's visa. He nevertheless later gained full citizenship and his job at the AEC.

It is unclear how Dube managed to sail through AEC security clearance with false papers.

AEC chief Waldo Stumpf this week said Dube had slotted in very well at the AEC, and was helping to change the organisation's culture. "There is no tension in the organisation about his appointment," Stumpf said.

Stumpf said he doesn't know the details of Dube's home affairs problems, other than that Dube had requested leave to attend to some problems about his citizenship.

"When he joined two years ago he said he was a South African citizen," Stumpf said, adding that Dube had received security clearance.

But Murphy, who claims he is better qual-

ified than Dube but was turned down for promotion at the AEC, said he warned Stumpf that Dube was not a South African citizen.

After being suspended from his position as executive general manager (corporate external relations), Murphy and Stumpf agreed to a mediation process conducted by Professor Johan le Roux of Rand Afrikaans University.

"I said at the mediation meeting that one of the issues I was unhappy about at the AEC was the fact that they had employed a non-South African in a key post," Murphy said.

"When Le Roux asked Stumpf to clarify this, he said he was not an intelligence agent and could not investigate his staff because he was not an intelligence agent and his staff had constitutional rights."

The AEC recently had another brush with home affairs when police raided it and pounced on Chinese workers who had been secretly working on dismantling parts of the country's nuclear fuel programme to take back to China.

Director General of Home Affairs Albert Mokoena had to apologise to 40 Chinese nuclear technicians, who had valid business permits.

In search of peace, he found hell

Antonio Djamderwani is facing deportation to Angola - all because he didn't follow procedure

DI CAELERS

He came south in search of peace, freedom and a better life, instead Angolan refugee Antonio Djamderwani landed in another hellhole - the awaiting trial cells at Pollsmoor prison.

His story is not unique. Thousands of refugees in South Africa face the same fate: deportation back to the horrors they fled in their home countries.

Today is Africa Refugee Day and South Africa is preparing new legislation that will close the door on widespread abuse by economic migrants of the asylum process. But the new laws will probably not help Mr Djamderwani - he has already been condemned to return to Angola.

He sits staring straight ahead. His voice is an even monotone as he recounts how his hopes for a new life were dashed. He did not follow the correct procedure to secure his refugee status and now he faces deportation.

The thought of returning to Angola leaves him too traumatised for words. Finally he manages "I don't know what I will do if they send me back. Can you help me?"

He speaks in broken English. His mother tongue is Portuguese and he has to use an "interpreter", a young Mozambican who shares his cell.

There is nothing left for Mr Djamderwani, 32, in Angola. His parents are dead - his father was killed in the war and his mother died after she fell ill - and his only sister lives in Portugal.

"They wanted to force me to join the army and I was afraid of dying." Mr Djamderwani would almost certainly have been a candidate for refugee status in South Africa if he had followed the right channels. On arriving in the country, he should have contacted the Department of Home Affairs immediately and filed in the appropriate "Section 41" document.

But, unfamiliar with the procedure, he went to look for work in the Transkei when he arrived from Namibia six months ago. There are no Home Affairs offices in the Transkei so Mr Djamderwani still



HOMEWARD BOUND Angolan Antonio Djamderwani is likely to be sent back to his war-torn country. He has tried to get legal aid but 'they're always too busy'. Picture ANDREW INGRAM

had no papers when he arrived in Cape Town three months later. He was arrested three months ago and has been in Pollsmoor ever since. He says he has tried to get legal aid but 'they are always too busy'.

Mr Djamderwani is one of 46 refugees jailed at Pollsmoor. They are locked in overcrowded cells with South African prisoners awaiting trial for anything from murder to housebreaking. His cell is filled to capacity - there

are not enough double bunks to go around. At night those without beds sleep on the floor.

Earlier in the visiting room, the refugees clamoured to tell their stories.

The situation grew tense as many realised they would not have the opportunity to be interviewed independently. They tried talking to the Home Affairs officials in the room or with prison guards, whoever would listen.

Finally, they were sent back to the cells where they are shut up all day, except for short exercise periods.

They eat dinner at about 3pm before they are locked up for the long night.

Not all the refugees are genuine exiles who have fled human-rights abuses in their home countries, and it is these people abusing the asylum process that South Africa's new refugee law intends to weed out. They are usually economic migrants who come to South Africa in search of jobs. Other refugees held at

Pollsmoor have also been found guilty of crimes and have paid fines or done time in jail, but are now being held pending the outcome of their applications for permanent refugee status in South Africa.

If their applications are turned down, they have 30 days to leave the country, said Dirk Boshoff, the Home Affairs immigration control officer in the Western Cape. On Thursday, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi released a new draft refugee white

paper, which was published in the Government Gazette yesterday. If enacted, it will streamline the refugee eligibility process from three or four years to just six months, and allow refugees to get formal identity documents as soon as their status is confirmed.

Bea Abraham, chairperson of the Cape Town Refugees' Forum, said the current lengthy asylum process meant economic migrants who entered South Africa claiming to be refugees knew that

years before their cases would be assessed and they were "found out".

Dr Buthelezi said at the launch of the draft white paper that the economic migrants should not be able to use the refugee determination process to obtain residence employment or to avoid the consequences of the law concerning illegal migration.

Refugees were individuals who, "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality or membership of a particular social group or political opinion had left their home countries, the minister added.

Mr Boshoff said his department was searching for 1 300 illegal immigrants who had disappeared in the Western Cape since 1994. Between 100 and 150 people were deported from Cape Town each month in Gauteng, the figure was about double. Most migrants searching for jobs come from Malawi, Namibia and Mozambique.

"It is easy to apply for political asylum in South Africa, so when we come across people who have been here for a year and still don't have papers of any sort, we have to question their motives," he said.

According to Deputy Home Affairs Minister Lindiwe Sisulu, 7 676 people have been granted asylum since 1994 and 13 934 applications are being considered.

The draft white paper says that if a large group of refugees enters South Africa because of a crisis in another country, the minister should be empowered to grant refugee status on a group basis.

The paper says refugees should not be prosecuted because they entered South Africa illegally, provided they present themselves without delay to the authorities and show good cause for their presence. Ms Abraham said more information should be made available to refugees at points of entry into the country.

She said there was not yet sufficient information at borders compared with the comprehensive information available at Home Affairs offices in the country. A refugee bill is expected to go before Parliament when it recon-

AKG 20/6/98 (27b)

White paper on refugees is launched

Stephané Bothma

PRETORIA — SA would not allow victims of environmental disasters, poverty and other social or economic hardships to obtain refugee status in the country, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday.

Launching the draft refugee white paper, Buthelezi said SA did not accept that economic migrants should be able to use the refugee determination process to obtain residence, employment, the opportunity to carry out business or to avoid the consequences of the law concerning illegal immigration.

"This is presently happening and I trust that once the final stage of implementing international asylum principles has been formalised and our refugee legislation enacted, it will combat the abuse of the asylum system and assist genuine refugees," he said.

SA had since 1994 granted asylum to 7 676 refugees while 13 934 applications were under consideration. Buthelezi warned that refugees should not be confused with illegal aliens

BD 19/6/98 (236)
"Refugee refers to a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality or membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country."

The white paper, drafted by a refugee affairs task team under the chairmanship of home affairs chief director, Athie Tredoux, was part of a process of establishing a formal system of refugee protection in the country, he said. To date, refugee issues were managed on an ad-hoc basis in terms of the Aliens Control Act.

According to Deputy Home Affairs Minister Landiwe Sisulu, the present system entitled migrants to live and work in SA for a period pending the processing of their applications for refugee status. "A great number of people regarded this as a very useful avenue of entry into SA," she said.

The white paper is based on two considerations. These are the fulfil-

ment of international and constitutional obligations on the one hand and state and national interests and priorities on the other.

"The most important national priorities concern migration-control objectives, law and order, concerns about gun running, drug trafficking and racketeering, money laundering and international crime syndicates, various other aspects of national and state security, social and economic interests as well as bilateral, regional and international relations," the paper said.

The two main policy positions of government, according to the white paper, were the granting of asylum to refugees and their protection in SA territory as a fundamental matter of human rights protection.

Government would provide asylum and refugee protection to people who had lost this in their countries of origin and were forced to flee to or remain in SA for reasons and circumstances recognised in international refugee and human rights law as giving rise to the need for international protection

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The second position was that government did not consider the refugee protection regime to be an alternative way to obtain permanent immigration to SA. It did not consider refugee protection to be the door for those who wished to enter the country because of expectations of opportunities for a better life or a brighter future.

The task team recommended that a functional entity be established within the home affairs department to deal with refugee status determination.

The entity should be separate from the body which dealt with immigration matters and should be familiar with the realities of human rights protection. It should also be able to communicate across cultural and other divides and be insulated from political interference.

The paper stated that government would secure full legal protection for refugees. This included not returning refugees to countries where they risked persecution as well as protection from prosecution on account of their illegal entry into SA.

Buthelezi to unveil first law on refugees

Africa watching the move closely (276)

DI CAELERS
SPECIAL WRITER

ARG 18/6/98

A draft white paper setting the stage for South Africa's first refugee law will be unveiled today by Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

The draft, timed to coincide with Africa Refugee Week, will be published in the Government Gazette tomorrow, ahead of Africa Refugee Day on Saturday, and the Cabinet is expected to be asked to approve it within three months.

Non-government organisations have applauded a Department of Home Affairs commitment to swift completion of the process. The department wants a bill for Parliament to consider when it reconvenes in September.

The NGOs say the proposed

refugee legislation, being watched closely by the rest of Africa, is "a huge achievement" for South Africa, which will address shortcomings in the present situation.

Of particular interest are

■ Proposals to streamline eligibility procedures, so cutting down on widespread abuse and corruption

■ Plans to issue formal identity documents to refugees immediately their status is confirmed

In Cape Town alone there are about 9 000 refugees and although most have been in South Africa for as long as three years, only about 3 000 have been granted asylum, according to Bea Abrahams, chairwoman of the Cape Town Refugees' Forum.

"Our asylum process is an exceptionally long one. In most other countries it takes from six weeks to three months for one's status to be deter-

mined - but in South Africa most people find themselves waiting for up to three years."

This allowed for widespread abuse of the system, Ms Abrahams said.

Economic migrants who entered South Africa claiming to be refugees fleeing human rights abuses knew they had several years before their cases would be assessed and they were "found out". The situation also resulted in insecurity for genuine refugees, compromising their ability to start new lives here.

Bruno Geddo, senior regional protection officer of the UN High Commission for Refugees, said the proposal for "fully-fledged" identity documents for refugees was particularly significant as it would enable people to become economically productive.

No place to hide, page 14

'Few arrested aliens involved in crime'

Jonny Steinberg

(236)

BD 18/6/98

ONE in three people arrested by Johannesburg police last month was an illegal immigrant, but only a small number of those were arrested for involvement in crime, according to police figures released yesterday

While there was no statistical evidence about the re-entry of deported people into SA, anecdotal evidence also suggests that many of them were back in SA before long

In contrast to the high proportion of illegal immigrants, those arrested for armed robbery, hijacking, murder and attempted murder accounted for 7,7% of Johannesburg's arrests

While records were not available for previous months, May's figures were

broadly representative of the composition of Johannesburg, SA Police Services spokesman Mark Reynolds said

It appeared that illegal immigrants were targeted by police regardless of any involvement in criminal activities

"Special operations conducted by the aliens investigations unit do not account for most arrests of illegal immigrants. Most are picked up in the normal course of operations. They are the easiest arrests to make"

Arrested illegal immigrants were handed over to the home affairs department for deportation, Reynolds said

According to Idasa's Migrant Project manager Vincent Williams, SA deported 606 176 people between 1994 and 1997 at the cost of R210m a year

"Many of the people we spoke to

boarded taxis returning to SA the very day they were deported back to Mozambique," Williams said

A random survey among 190 residents of a Mozambican village last year found that 107 had been deported from SA during the 1990s, 24 of them more than once

"This is a classic revolving door syndrome. An enormous amount of money is being spent on a process which is clearly not working," Williams said

Centre for Policy Studies' Maxine Reitzes said the policy of mass deportation was futile. "You cannot liberalise trade and investment and not expect people to follow. We need a serious policy shift. Migrants should be seen as a development resource to be managed, not as a security problem," she said

Refugees find no place to hide in Cape Town

(236) AKA 18/6/98

But SA may have a change of heart

INSIDESTORY

In Africa Refugee Week, there is still no welcome mat for refugees in South Africa - a country whose apartheid exiles depended on such shelter elsewhere. But a draft white paper on official policy towards refugees, released today, gives hope that doors will begin to open. Special Writer DI CAEJERS reports



Cape Town's 9 000 refugees have been greeted mostly with anger and suspicion in the townships when they try to set up new homes. They are seen as unfair competition in a depressed economy where jobs are hard to find. In reality, they have fled serious human rights abuses in other African countries, many arriving with the only clothes they are wearing, separated from their families and sometimes even their children, thinking primarily of their safety rather than their economic upliftment.

Most are urban rather than rural refugees who have left behind jobs, homes and money in the bank. They would not be standing in job queues in South Africa if they had not been forced to flee for their lives.

Attention is focused this week, Africa Refugee Week, on refugees throughout South Africa. And Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi has chosen today to release a draft white paper that, by September, promises to be a new, official refugee policy for the country.

The draft white paper will be published in the Government Gazette tomorrow. A bill is expected to be ready to go before Parliament within three months.

Raising public awareness is one of the main areas of focus in the draft white paper, according to Lee Anne de la Hunt, director of the University of Cape Town's legal aid clinic and one of the members of the team commissioned to draft the white paper. She says the team was aware of growing levels of intolerance against foreigners, who were seen to be competing for scarce resources.

"People need to be made aware of the difference between someone here because of serious human rights abuses in their home countries and those who come to South Africa to improve themselves economically."

The new draft white paper has its beginnings in a green paper on international migration, published by the

last year, which contained a chapter on refugees. From that, it became apparent that separate refugee legislation was essential.

Ms De la Hunt says the task team, in the draft white paper, endorses the need for a refugee bill which will:

- Give effect to the South African Government's international legal obligations to refugees
- Allow for a fair and systematic procedure to decide who will get protection and help
- Set out the rights and obligations of asylum seekers and refugees
- Provide for lasting solutions

The task team included two home affairs officials and four representatives of non-government organisations, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Lawyers for Human Rights.

They were guided by international conventions ratified by South Africa in 1996: the 1951 UN Convention relating to the status of refugees, the 1967 protocol and the 1969 OAU Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa.

Broadly, the UN definition of refugee status includes those at risk of serious human rights violations in their home countries, with a heightened risk on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group.

The OAU definition also includes those compelled to leave their home countries because of external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order.

Ms De la Hunt says they also considered South Africa's constitution and international refugee law.

Bea Abrahams, chairwoman of the Cape Town Refugees' Forum, is looking forward to a refugee law which she hopes will eliminate the situation in which Department of Home Affairs policy is often interpreted differently from region to region.



Taking shelter - refugee children at Catholic Welfare and Development's refugee project in Philippolis smile shyly for the camera. Their mothers refused to be photographed, or to let their children's names be used, for fear of retribution.

the asylum process, which is a long one at present.

In most other countries, it takes between six weeks and three months for a refugee's status to be determined. In South Africa, it can take up to three years.

Of the 9 000 refugees in Cape Town, only about a third have been granted asylum.

"This situation creates insecurity and emotional instability and compounds the refugees' ability to go out and look for work or for schools for their children," says Ms Abrahams.

Refugees who enter South Africa first get a Section 41 document from

of the refugee forums - there are also forums in Durban, Port Elizabeth, Johannesburg and Pretoria - or other NGOs.

There they get help in the form of food, clothing and emergency accommodation.

Then, they wait. Some must renew their permits every three months, others every six months.

She expects this situation to be streamlined if Parliament accepts the recommendation in the draft white paper for a separate body, within the Department of Home Affairs, to administer refugee status determination.

Of the refugees in Cape Town Ms

Abrahams says, 98% are from other African countries.

The numbers of refugees entering South Africa from African countries has remained stable during the past four years.

Most, 60%, are from Angola with the second largest group from Somalia. Next biggest groups are refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi.

Smaller percentages come from Sierra Leone, Cameroon and Nigeria. A survey at the end of 1995 to assess educational needs found more than 80% of refugees surveyed had a minimum 12 years of schooling. And 20% had either completed or started tertiary education.

Most refugees here are men between the ages of 18 and 35 although Ms Abrahams says they are starting to see an increasing number of women.

"In terms of African patterns, the men go out and establish the safety and security before they are joined by the women and children."

Most are also urban refugees unlike the situation in other parts of Africa, where there are large movements of rural refugees.

It was to offer a safe haven to women and children, the most vulnerable of the refugees, that Catholic Welfare and Development started its Philippolis transit house, home at present to 27 women and 45 children.

Poppie Huna, the project coordinator, said the need for the women and children to be kept safe while the men searched for jobs and new homes.

They have set up a creche at the project to care for smaller children so their mothers too could search for jobs. Older children go to schools in nearby Hanover Park. Ms Huna said it was difficult for the refugees to set up new lives. Most sought advice from fellow countrymen. When they left the transit house they often set up home with another refugee family to maintain some sense of their home countries and the ill-effects had left behind.

LOOKING NORTH

Congo needs South African farmers

(236) CT (BR) 3/6/98

ROSS HERBERT

Desperate for assistance in reviving its largely agricultural economy, the Democratic Republic of Congo is hoping South African farmers will rescue the country's once thriving commercial plantations

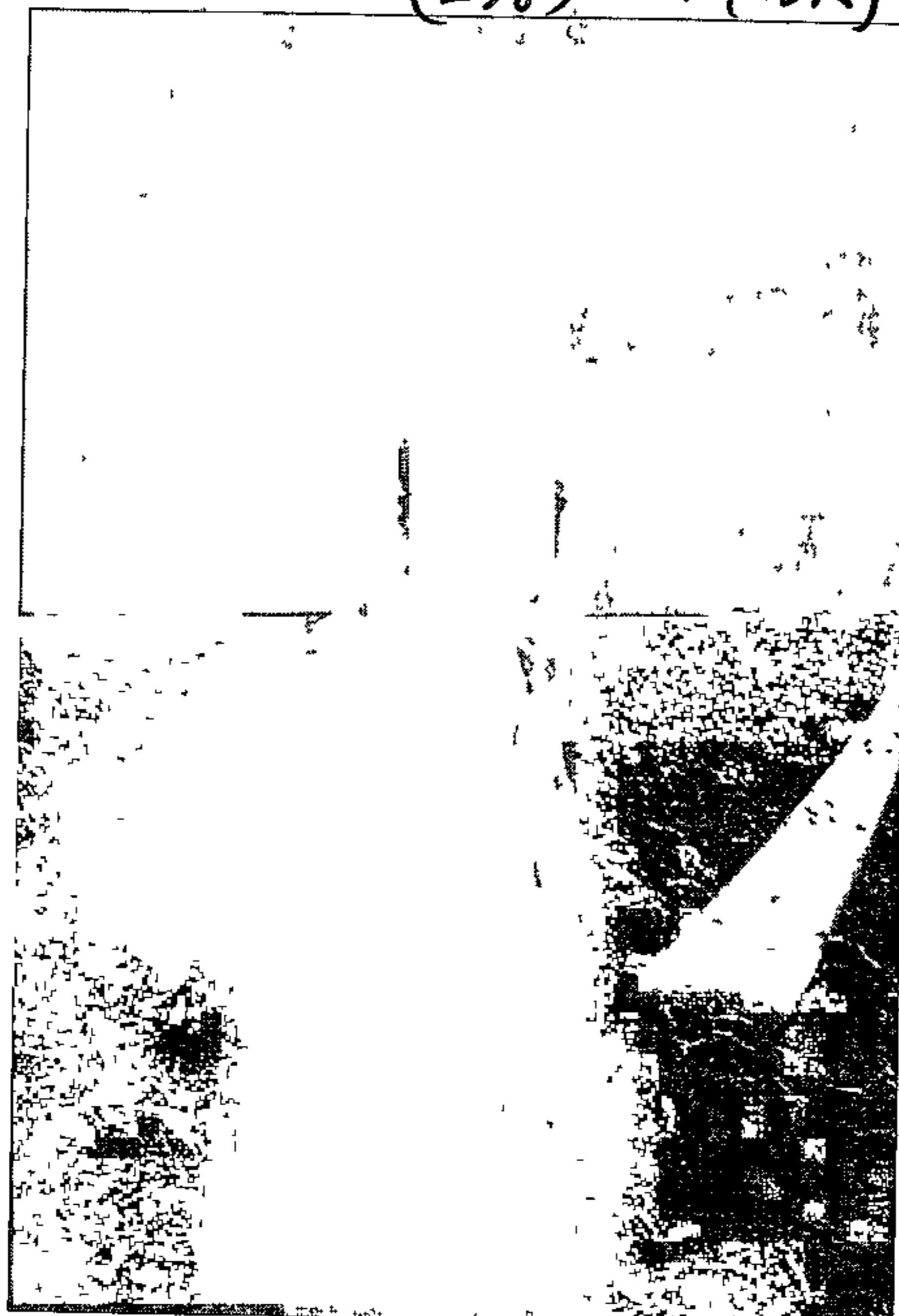
"We really need South African farmers," Mawampanga Mwana Nangathe, the Congolese minister of agriculture, pleaded in an interview with the foreign service in Kinshasa last month

Mawampanga, the former finance minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo, said the moment was particularly ripe for South Africans because disputes over human rights and debt repayment had so far kept lenders and non-mining investors away

However, the key question potential investors must ask was whether need was the same thing as readiness. Mawampanga said he was preparing a list of all available plantations and commercial farms as well as areas potentially suited to agricultural development. He said he hoped to invite a delegation of South African farmers to evaluate the properties

Starved of investment for decades under the kleptocratic rule of Mobutu Sese Seko, Congo is desperately in need of outside help, but South Africans have so far expressed doubt, despite the potential in Congo and increasing Congolese interest in South Africa as a source of investment

"There are beautiful farms. But we would be very stupid going there without the right conditions," said Dries Bruwer, the president of the South African Chamber for Agriculture and Development in Africa. The chamber is working to settle South African farmers in a number of



African countries including 15 farmers already settled in northern Mozambique

Bruwer met Mawampanga and said farmers were looking for clearer investment guarantees, secure tenure for at least 20 years and greater political stability in Congo

The list of precautions for potential investors remains long, despite Mawampanga's assurances to do everything he can to smooth the way for investors

Casting a dark shadow on Mawampanga's hopes is the disaster that struck South African farmers in the other Congo, the Republic of Congo, which lies north across the Congo river. Although they invested in a country that at the time seemed far more democratic and stable than President

Laurent Kabila's, presidential elections sparked a civil war. As the tide of fighting turned, their neighbours and workers suddenly turned and looted all the South African farms

In Kabila's Congo, clear laws have not yet been promulgated. A new investment code, land and labour laws are not yet complete. One reason is the complicated and unstable nature of decision-making in Kabila's government

Foreign investors must first reach agreement with the agriculture ministry. The inter-ministerial committee — composed of every economy-related ministry — must agree next. Finally, Kabila himself must approve major deals

Congo suggests investors take on Congolese partners, and Kabila places a strong but

ill-defined demand that investors contribute to the social and infrastructural reconstruction of the country. This leads ministers to inquire into every aspect of proposed investments before granting approval.

In the past year, Kabila has shown his willingness to abrogate contracts he believes were tainted by corruption. Last week he ordered the arrest of several ministers suspected of corruption, which raises the question of whether deals struck with tainted ministers can be later reopened

Then there is the issue of who has rights to land, a question that can bring in provincial and city governments as well as traditional leaders. The country's land register, or cadaster as it is locally known, is in poor shape, according to Mawampanga, leaving investors vulnerable to dubious counter claims

Like many African nations, Congo recognises both land claims made in the official cadaster as well as traditional occupancy, usually controlled by a local chief. Before a commercial farm can be secure, an investor would have to ensure that no one formally or informally lays claim to the land

Agriculture is heavily dependent on machinery and large quantities of inputs, but Congo's roads remain in horrendous shape. Even its most economically vital road link between the seaport of Matadi and Kinshasa is impassable in a two-wheel-drive sedan

The Congolese government also has a fuzzy process whereby occupants of land and buildings can be ousted if earlier owners can show they lost the property owing to past corruption. Since Kabila took power, foreigners report the process has been used corruptly to oust them from homes they have occupied for years — Independent Foreign Service

Chinese man blames computer error for deportation threat

By ELLIOTT SYLVESTER

A *Saturday Star* investigation has averted possible deportation for a Chinese family who were declared illegal after an alleged Department of Home Affairs error.

The investigation into the status of the Jie family could still hold devastating consequences for the family of four, as well as the local workers they employ in their Johannesburg textile factory

Their fate will be decided by the Department of Home Affairs in two weeks, but for now a heavy cloud hangs over Gong Wen Jie who continues work at the factory he started from scratch three years ago

He stands to lose everything he worked for, and is powerless to do anything but

wait for a verdict

Threats of deportation and closure of his successful factory came as a result of what Jie calls, "a computer mistake".

The 31-year-old Shanghai native emigrated to South Africa in 1991 from China. After three years spent gaining job experience he started his own company, New Dragon Textiles

The nightmare began when Jie went to the Department of Home Affairs last year to renew his residence permit before it expired. The Ferreirasdorp Department of Home Affairs stamp in his passport said his residency would lapse in November 1997. Jie remembers the shock of being told: "Sorry, but you are an illegal resident". Thinking there was some mistake, he

urged the clerk to recheck the computer. The explanation given to Jie was that the residency stamp on his passport was incorrect. It was cancelled and "Endorsed in Error" was written in.

But just whose error was it?

Home Affairs declined to give a definite answer and stated that a decision would be made pending the investigation

Jie has three children, all of whom were born at Johannesburg Hospital and although he has been here for seven years, he still does not qualify for citizenship

Gia Diun Yun, a close friend and interpreter for Jie, said the family have already hired a lawyer. "Our lawyer said we will win but we don't really want to go to court," said Yun.

(236) SPW 6/6/98

High-profile figures among thousands ordered to quit SA

Star 30/6/98

(236)

BY MELANIE-ANN FERIS

At least 50 000 illegal aliens, including high-profile businessmen and entertainers, have been deported from South Africa this year

Marcel Dube, executive general manager of the Atomic Energy Corporation, is the latest to be shown the door

Dube has been given 14 days to leave the country after being declared in breach of the country's Aliens Control Act. He was scheduled to leave the country on Friday, but the time period has been extended by an-

other week following an appeal brought against the expulsion order by his lawyers

The AEC said Dube was still on its payroll but was away on leave to sort out his citizenship documents.

Among those deported was Zimbabwean Tich Mataz, a top radio disc jockey and former presenter of the popular television programme *Woza Weekend*. He was forced to leave after the discovery in March that he had fraudulently obtained a South African identity document.

Hennie Meyer, spokesman

for the Department of Home Affairs, said on Friday that they were not deliberately seeking out high-profile figures for deportation, but that their names had surfaced during the general course of investigations into illegal aliens living in the country

Since the beginning of the year, 39 855 Mozambicans and 7 466 Zimbabweans have been deported from South Africa. Statistics released by the department show that the number of repatriations has steadily been increasing from 82 575 in 1992 to 176 351 last year

Chinese family ordered to leave

(236)
AYESHA ISMAIL

ST(CM) 12/7/98

HOME Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Parliament's home affairs committee chairman Desmond Lockey are at loggerheads over a decision to order a Chinese family to leave Cape Town.

The permanent residence permits issued to Sui Fun Lai, her husband Chi Keung Lai and their two daughters have been revoked.

They have lived here for three years and have been given until Wednesday to leave the country.

But Buthelezi and his director-general may have based their instruction on the wrong sections of the Aliens Control Act.

"It appears that the decision was made in terms of Section 30(2)(f) of the Aliens Control Act of 1991," Lockey wrote to Buthelezi.

"This section applies only to that category of persons who are granted immigration permits (and) do not enter South Africa for the purpose of permanent residence."

"There is absolutely no evidence that suggests that the family never entered the country for permanent residence."

"I wish to point out that the permit granted to the family did not contain a proviso that their entry into South Africa within the six-month period must be for the purpose of permanent residence or settlement."

The notice issued by the South African consulate general in Hong Kong had also failed to state this proviso.

Appealing to Buthelezi to reconsider his decision, Lockey said the family would experience enormous hardship and financial ruin if they had to leave South Africa at this stage or fight a long legal battle to keep their permanent residence status.

The family applied for permanent residence while living in Hong Kong in 1992.

They said they were surprised when they were notified a month later that their application had been approved.

Sui Lai made a number of visits to Cape Town to look for a home and a school for her two daughters. She settled here with them in 1995.

Her household goods were shipped to Cape Town and her daughters enrolled at a school.

Her husband joined them in Cape Town last year after he had sold their property and closed his business.

Their attorney, Robert de Rooy, said an urgent application for a temporary permit would be heard in the Cape High Court on Wednesday.

A temporary permit would enable the family to stay pending the determination of an appeal to Home Affairs to change its decision.

Anti-abortion groups plot next move

Taryn Lamberti

ANTI-ABORTION campaigners are to meet this week to consider appealing against a Pretoria High Court decision protecting women's right to abortion on demand.

Thus follows Friday's High Court ruling against an application by the Christian Lawyers' Association, Christians for Truth and the United Christian Action Group to declare as unconstitutional the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act — a 1996 law that gives women the right to abortion.

Pretoria attorney Deon de Bruyn,

who represents the Christian groups, said the parties needed time to consult on whether to appeal against the judgment in the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court of Appeal in Bloemfontein or before a full bench of the High Court. The three groups would meet this week to decide the next step.

If the Christian organisations were to appeal against the judgment, it could take up to a year to be heard, sources said. If the appeal was successful, the Christian groups would be entitled to launch a trial, in which they would argue that legalised abortion violates the constitutionally enshrined

right to life. It could take up to a year for a trial date to be set.

"If we appeal and are successful, we will be back where we started. The whole process could take a few years," De Bruyn said.

Cathi Albertyn of the commission on gender equality said public perception of abortion would become "normalised" once the act had been in place for a long time.

The setback suffered by the Christian groups in their bid to overturn the legislation meant the act would have been in place for longer if and when it faced its next possible court challenge.

MD 12/17/98 (236)

Albertyn said that before abortion was legalised it was largely seen as criminal and advocated only by a "radical feminist minority". Society's acceptance of abortion would grow once the law took effect.

Cheryl Damon from the Reproductive Rights Alliance said that 26 406 abortions were performed in SA from February last year to December. She said this year's figures, which had not yet been released, would be similar.

Pro-abortion groups hailed Friday's judgment as a victory for women, while Doctors for Life called the decision "a blow to sound science".

LAIS' ORDEAL MAY NOT BE OVER

Allowed to stay by 'administrative blunder'

(336)

CT 16/9/98

"STARTLING" BEHAVIOUR by the Department of Home Affairs has cost taxpayers dearly, and disrupted the lives of immigrants **JUDITH SOAL** reports

THE Lai family was welcomed with open arms when they applied for residence in South Africa in 1992.

They were one of perhaps a 100 families who moved here from Taiwan and Hong Kong, each investing at least R250 000 in the country, encouraged by the then-National Party government and a business community eager for foreign funds.

It took a while for the Laits to wind up their affairs in Hong Kong, and they moved here permanently in 1995. Since then they have bought a house, put their teenage daughters in school, started a small business and settled in well.

When Sui Lai's father died, the family applied for a permit for her mother, Yim Lzuing, to join them, as the 80-year-old had no one to look after her in Hong Kong. Suddenly things started to go horribly wrong.

The Department of Home Affairs reviewed the Laits' file, noticed that they had not taken up permanent residence within six months of being granted it in 1992, and declared the residence permit invalid.

"They sent us a letter giving us a month to leave the country," Lai said yesterday.

"I was worried, especially for my daughter, who is in matric. She is a prefect and her life is here, all our lives are here, we didn't know what to do."

The Laits were ordered to leave the country by yesterday. An urgent interdict to challenge the order was to be heard the same day.

Then, on Tuesday, they were told they could stay after all. The department suddenly declared the family's residence permits "valid

and of full force and effect."

The Laits were rejoicing yesterday, but a little bewildered about why they had been put through this ordeal in the first place.

They were also concerned for the 70 families in their community who fear receiving a similar letter from Home Affairs.

"These families had children in schools, businesses and houses in their home countries," said attorney Robert de Rooy, who has represented several immigrants in similar circumstances.

"They didn't realise they had to stay here permanently for the first six months. So they came here, got the permit, then went back to wrap up their affairs. Often it took a while to move here, they didn't know this would jeopardise their future."

A highly placed source in Home Affairs said yesterday that the Laits had been allowed to stay because of an "administrative blunder" by the department.

The minister had apparently written to the family saying their permits would be cancelled, but the cancellation had not taken place.

The source said other families' files would be reviewed "as and when they came up." He could not guarantee that the Laits would be left in peace.

The Laits story follows closely on a *Cape Times* report this week about partners of gay and lesbian South Africans who are taking the department to court for not granting them the same rights as heterosexual partners. The National Gay and Lesbian Coalition points out that this is against the Constitution.

What has angered lawyers is that although their challenge to the immigration law will be heard



RELIEVED - (From left) Sui Lai, Yim Lzuing and Chi Lai celebrate Home Affairs' decision to let them stay in South Africa. **PICTURE: THEMBINIKOSI DWANISA**

In court in December, the department continues to refuse gay and lesbian partners permission to stay until the matter is cleared up.

"We have had to go to court several times to get extensions for people involved in that case, or for others who are named in the papers," said De Rooy. "It would save much time and money if they could give these people an exemption until the court makes a decision."

Then there is the bid by Home Affairs to expel journalist Newton

Kanhema and his wife Jean Kaszamburu.

When the case came to court, Justice Guy Hoffman called the department's behaviour "flawed". He stated Chief Director of Legal Advisory Services Attle Tredoux, saying Tredoux "did not apply his mind properly" his decision is bad in law.

All of these cases have bounced between lawyers, officials, administrators and courts, gathering costs as they go. All of them, it seems,

could have been avoided. Tredoux explained the sudden increase in court cases as "a symptom of transition."

"Things have changed and we do make mistakes sometimes," he said. "But there are bound to be more challenges because of the Constitution."

"In the old days, the minister could decide at his discretion on immigration cases. Then the applicants could only challenge the process, not the merits of the case.

"Now, with the present Constitution, applicants can also ask the court to decide on whether their rights have been violated."

Yet in none of these cases — but the challenge by the Coalition of Gays and Lesbians that has yet to be heard — have the merits of the case even been debated. The department has fallen down because their procedures have been flawed. Not only flawed, according to Judge Hoffman, but "nothing short of startling."

New Zealand won't turn away SA 'refugee' - for now (236)

FOREIGN SERVICE

Wellington - New Zealand will not put its ports of entry on alert should Cheryl Kennedy, a South African, decide to flee across the Tasman Sea from Australia.

Ms Kennedy, claiming to be a victim of racism and crime in South Africa, recently lost her 12-month battle to start a new life as a refugee in Australia.

It was reported here this week that Ms Kennedy and her two children, Camille, 10, and Giselie, 8, from

Johannesburg, might fly on to New Zealand to apply for refugee status.

But Ian Smith, the national spokesman for the New Zealand Immigration Service, said the service would not alert ports of entry to Ms Kennedy's possible arrival.

"That is, unless we are advised by Australian officials to be on the lookout

"Otherwise, we'll simply wait and see if she arrives and if she lodges an application," Mr Smith said.

Theoretically, there is nothing preventing Ms Kennedy from repeating

her Australian odyssey and in New Zealand. She arrived in Australia on a tourist visa and then lodged a refugee status application for permanent residence.

Ms Kennedy insists she will not live in South Africa again.

Should she try to apply for refugee status in New Zealand, it is likely to buy her at least six months, as this country also has a protracted system of appeals and tribunals.

However, given the extraordinarily long delays in the review of some cases, the government has recently

taken steps to speed up the process.

Though New Zealand has accommodated a substantial number of refugees, notably from war-torn Somalia, Sri Lanka and Iraq, refugee status is not easily granted, and the general feeling is that if Ms Kennedy seeks asylum status here, her application will follow the same route as in Australia - a thick dossier eventually stamped "rejected".

Mr Smith said the New Zealand Immigration Service would not speculate further on the issue, as it was policy not to comment on individual cases.

FILE 18/7/98

City immigration officers are broke

Airport officials in rage over loss of production bonus

CHANTEL ENFORT
STAFF REPORTER

Immigration officials at Cape Town International Airport are angry over a Department of Home Affairs' decision to halt payment of production bonuses.

The salary cuts have meant that many are struggling to keep their heads above water. In some cases workers have taken a cut of R2 500 a month.

One official, who did not want to be named, said "After my payments for my house have been deducted from my salary, I come home with R100. I can't even remember when last I paid my phone bill or electricity."

For the past 22 years the bonuses have been paid to immigration officials, who do not get overtime pay. Now they are adamant that it cannot just be taken away without some other form of compensation for their after-hours work.

Violet Abrahams, Labour



HANNES THWART

Raw deal: immigration officials at Cape Town Airport are demanding a living wage

representative for the officials, said "When you give something to someone for so long, there's a sort of permanency to it. You can't just take it away with no explanation." The staffers claimed they were told they would get overtime pay if

they lost their production bonuses, but this has so far turned out to be an empty promise. They said they were eligible for the production bonus only if they did not take leave. Because immigration officials have to be on duty

when international flights arrive, staff are forced to work irregular hours. Should a flight be delayed, they have to wait for it.

They say they routinely work a six-day week, and work an average of 25 hours overtime a month. Another official, who also did not want to be named, said she now used her single day off a week to seek extra work to supplement her income.

She said the cuts had affected her so badly her car was repossessed when she couldn't keep up with the monthly instalments. She has even considered selling her house.

She said the first she heard of the decision to waive the production bonus was two weeks after it had been done.

"Our chief immigration officer verbally informed us of the cut. We received nothing in writing."

But Home Affairs spokesperson Hennie Meyer said "The implementation of this decision, taken in 1998, was brought to the

attention of the trade unions and employees involved." The disgruntled workers took the issue to the Public and Allied Workers Union of South Africa (PAWUSA).

But, two months after the cuts were implemented, the workers have still made no progress.

Management has offered the staff a package in terms of which they work a 40-hour week and get a night allowance for any hours worked after 6pm or before 6am.

But the night allowance is calculated at only R1.33 an hour overtime, and the workers have rejected the offer.

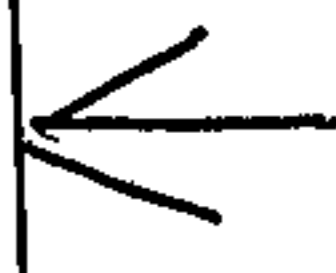
A senior immigration official was told by his bosses that if he went to the media, he would "have to face the consequences."

The official, who does not want his name disclosed, was also told that "no one is irreplaceable."

Other than to say the workers had been informed of the cut in good time, the department declined to comment on the immigration officers' allegations.

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AR 6/16/98





SUNNY SKIES: Briton Deborah Herd, who is building a new life in South Africa with her fiancé

■ **LOVENESS KAUNDA**
Malawi

EIGHT years ago, Kaunda, a linguistics lecturer at the University of Malawi, faced a crossroads. Her marriage had collapsed and she had to ensure her five children received a quality education.

She decided to leave Malawi after realising her children would be excluded from university because of a quota system that favoured certain ethnic groups. Armed with a PhD in linguistics, Kaunda took a one-year contract at the University of Lesotho. After that she applied for a post at the University of Cape Town.

Kaunda arrived in the Mother City in September 1990 with three children, while the other two completed their studies at the University of Lesotho.

Her timing was fortuitous because schools here started opening to all races in 1991.

Her only real problem is that she does not speak Xhosa, which has made it difficult to integrate fully into Cape Town. It also at first created problems for her children.

A linguistics lecturer in the physics department at the University of Cape Town, Kaunda is involved in a bridging programme enabling students to do a science degree in four years instead of three.

At the age of 50, Kaunda has achieved her goal to provide the best education for her children.

She has dedicated her life to education — for herself, her family and other South Africans. For her, the key to the future lies in education.

■ **YOSPON NANICHARGORN**
Thailand

NANICHARGORN, 41, left the traffic fumes and congestion of Bangkok five years ago to become a chef at Cape Town's first Thai restaurant. He has not looked back.

"My boss, who is from Hong Kong, came to Thailand and found me. I jumped at the opportunity. I thought it would be an interesting experience to introduce Thai food to South Africans," he says.

Nanichargorn is head chef at Sukhothai and a newer establishment,

■ **DEBORAH HERD: Britain**

IF YOU had told this anti-apartheid journalist five years ago that she would fall in love with a white South African and settle here — let alone visit the country — she would have thought you were crazy.

Yet she is marrying a South African in September and plans to build a future here.

At the end of 1994, Herd left her well-paid job at the Evening Standard newspaper in London to work in Hong Kong. "Although it was far from what I expected, I met a man and we decided to get married. We both had British passports and could go back to England, but he is passionately South African and wanted to be part of the new South Africa."

Herd, 33, first visited South Africa last December with fiancé Robert Houwing, 34, also a journalist.

She believes in having a positive attitude and, although she is worried about violent crime and the weak rand, she said no country was perfect.

"Besides the beauty of the country, I think it is great to be in a new democracy where there is an optimism and a spirit that doesn't exist elsewhere."

She has already shifted allegiances and supported South Africa over England in a recent Test match. "I am still British, but I am committed to this country. We have bought a house in Vredehoek (in Cape Town) and I plan to set up a business. I want to be part of SA."

Her one disappointment has been the lack of integration in Cape Town. "But once I start working, I hope I will meet a broader cross-section of people."



WORLD'S MY OYSTER: Nanichargorn, whose skills as a chef helped him to escape Bangkok

the Happy Wok. Like many immigrants, he has been seduced by the city's beauty and has enjoyed getting to know a different culture.

He thanks his mother for his culinary skill. From her he learnt a style of cooking that has spread across the world. His marketable skill enabled him to work in Saudi Arabia and Germany.

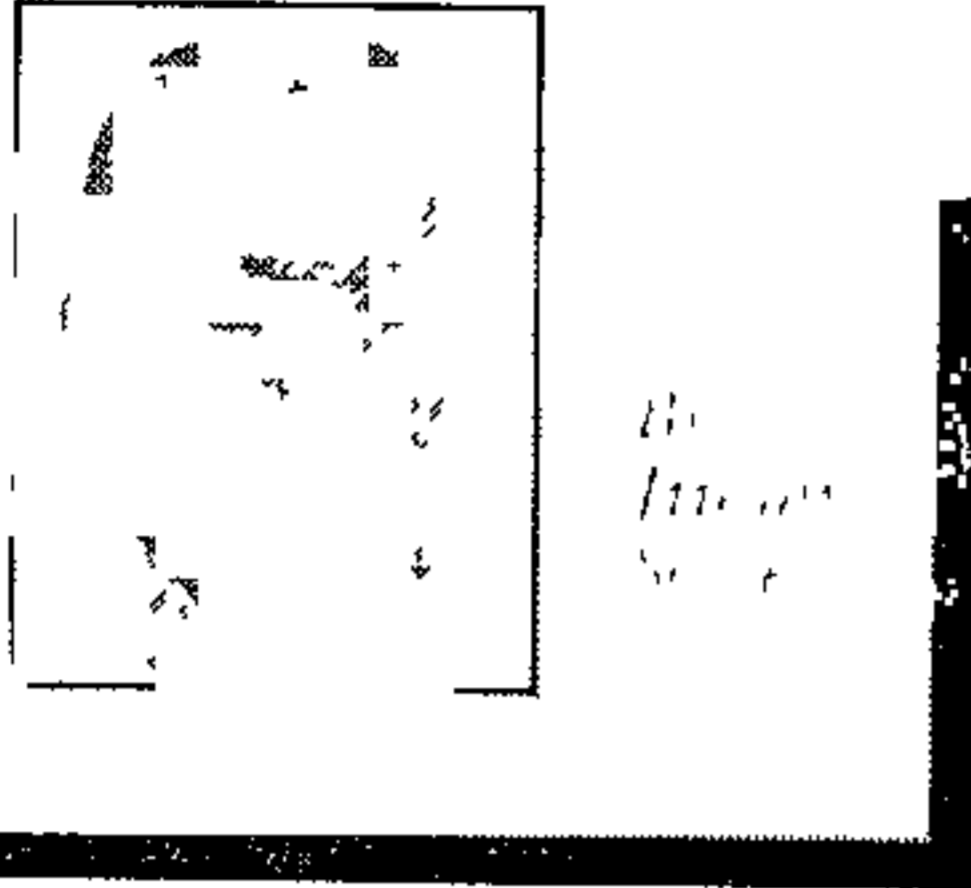
"It is a lot harder financially in Bangkok than South Africa. People work long hours for low pay. Also, in Bangkok I had to travel two hours through the dense pollution to get to work," says Nanichargorn, who lives a stone's throw from his work, in Gardens.

Home Affairs ID probe nabs four senior clerks

CP 5/7/98

(236)

Suspects alleged to have sold documents to illegal aliens



A SIX-month long internal investigation and surveillance at three regional offices of the Department of Home Affairs, has resulted in four employees, two of them senior clerks, being apprehended

They are being held on suspicion of involvement in a fraudulent identity and passport scam

The arrests were made after an investigation by the department's anti-corruption unit

They follow Home Affairs minister, Mangosutho Buthelezi's statement that the department

would be taking a tough stance to prevent corrupt practices by officials involved in the issuing of passports and identification documents

The four officials were arrested at the Johannesburg, Roodepoort and Soweto regional offices

In the past few months, allegations of a huge identification document scam at various offices of the department have been made, leading to the police arresting several illegal immigrants with fraudulent passports and IDs

Nigerian citizens, some of whom allegedly control the major drug trade in the streets of Johannesburg and other parts of the country, have been found in possession of fraudulent South African passports and identification documents

Senior clerks Thomson Phiri and Marijke Barnard were arrested at the Home Affairs department offices at Johannesburg and Roodepoort respectively

The arrest of Phiri and Barnard are said to be the first in the past year of senior employees suspected

of involvement in the passport and identification document scam

Both employees have already appeared in court

Phiri has been held in custody since June 24 while Barnard is out on bail

Phiri is said to have worked in the Population Registry Section where he is alleged to have assisted illegal aliens in acquiring South African IDs through late registration of births.

Barnard, who was in charge of the passport and ID section at the Roodepoort offices, is alleged to have stolen money paid in as fees for passport applications amounting to R9 000

Department spokesperson, Manase Makwela, told City Press this week that the arrests follow a intensive investigation by the department's anti-corruption unit

A rather relieved Makwela said the arrests were "in line with the department's commitment to improved service delivery and its intention to ensure a spotlessly clean administration at all levels of the Department of Home Affairs"

Prisoner shot as naked illegal immigrants riot in cells

By **MIRANGWA XABA**
Crime Reporter

Police shot and seriously injured an inmate when naked illegal immigrants awaiting deportation ran amok at the Kempton Park police holding cells at the weekend.

The illegal immigrants, described by police as "aggressive", had been involved in a riot since Friday night. Matters finally came to a head on Saturday morning when the inmate was shot in the

stomach during a scuffle with police.

The policeman who shot the inmate claimed it was in self-defence as the naked prisoners were assaulting the police.

Police said the suspects, who were arrested more than a month ago and were due to be deported, started causing a commotion on Friday night.

Spokesman Inspector Marcia Haveman said the prisoners, stripped naked and soaked their

clothes in faeces after breaking down the cell toilet

They urinated on their soiled clothes before throwing them at other inmates and police officers.

They also apparently set fire to the cell's blankets and linen and damaged the cell walls, which they scratched with broken pieces from the damaged toilet. They sang loudly as they roared.

"Police could not calm the situation down until Saturday morning as these prisoners were very ag-

RAW 13/7/98

gressive

(236) "The police officer who went to investigate the situation fired a single shot after he was attacked by a prisoner as he opened the cell," she said.

The injured prisoner is being treated at the Thembusa hospital, where his condition is said to be serious but stable.

Haveman said charges of malicious damage to property, assault on a police official and arson had been laid against the prisoners.

SA faces refugee flood from Angola

SADC fears slide back to war

CHARLES PHAHLANE
PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

(236)

ARG 29/7/98

Renewed fighting in Angola, which has displaced more than 200 000 people over the past week, is expected to worsen refugee problems in southern Africa.

This warning from Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad comes hard on the heels of fears at the Southern African Development Community summit that Angola is headed for a return to all-out war.

The heads of state communiqué issued at the summit in Swakopmund last night lashed Unita leader Jonas Savimbi, saying his renewal of hostilities was a declaration of war.

In Cape Town, Mr Pahad said refugees were fleeing to Zambia and other countries adjacent to Angola and this would have a "domino effect" on South Africa.

The only solution to Angola's problems was a replacement for the United Nations special envoy to

Angola, Aloune Blondin Beye, who died in an air crash.

Mr Pahad called on Unita to abide by the Lusaka peace accord, which called for the demobilisation of Unita troops. Every time a deadline for demobilisation approached, Unita came up with "excuses" not to proceed.

South Africa was at present not in touch with Mr Savimbi, who was in hiding in the bush.

A new UN envoy would be able to re-establish contact with Dr Savimbi and facilitate communication between him and the Angolan government, Mr Pahad said.

The renewed violence worsened with the massacre last week of 215 people in the diamond-mining village of Bula, about 400km east of Luanda.

Peace talks have stalled and Unita has gone on the offensive in the past few months, seizing control of more than 50 towns and villages.

Unita claimed that areas handed back to the Angolan government under the Lusaka protocol were

being "misused" by the government. So it had launched a campaign to reclaim them, Mr Pahad said.

The thinking in some government circles was that a military offensive should be launched against Unita. But this could lead to guerrilla war and would be counter-productive to the recovery of Angola.

Yesterday's SADC statement also demanded that Mr Savimbi return to Luanda to play a constructive role in the reconstruction and development of Angola, the Independent Foreign Service reports from Swakopmund.

The SADC communiqué - which did not detail any plan of action - called on the international community for urgent help in efforts to implement the Lusaka peace deal.

President Sam Nujoma, also at the summit, rejected claims that Namibia intended to allow the Angolan government to launch air and ground strikes on Mr Savimbi's troops from Katima Mulilo at the north-eastern tip of Namibia.

ANGOLA SLIDING INTO CIVIL WAR

SA fears flood of
refugees — Modise

ET 28/7/98 (236)

JOHANNESBURG: Angola is verging on war but diplomats have come up with little more than expressions of concern. **ROSS HERBERT** and **NORMAN CHANDLER** report.

government's control

The diplomatic options are two. Try to persuade Unita to honour the peace agreement or let the Angolan government carry through its recent threats to attack Unita if it does not comply with the Lusaka accords.

The problem is little real dialogue is under way and the UN has been immobilised since the death last month of its special representative to Angola, Alioune Blondin Beye.

Observers say both sides are making preparation for war. Unita and the government continue to enforce conscription and to fortify their positions.

On Sunday, Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe president and head of the SADC security organ, said existing mechanisms were clearly failing in Angola and that a solution would have to come through the OAU and the UN.

Modise said South Africa might eventually participate in a UN peacekeeping operation, but ruled out involvement in a mission that required troops to enforce peace when neither party was committed to peace.

Decisions on Angola remain the province of the UN Security Council but the key players, the US, Portugal and Russia, have shown little willingness to engage in Angola. The UN mandate in Angola expires on August 15.

ANGOLA has been plagued by increasingly violent and well-orchestrated attacks across the country by the opposition Unita movement and unless action is taken quickly the country will steadily slide into civil war, observers say.

Already an estimated 150 000 people have been driven from their homes by fighting and thousands have fled into neighbouring Congo and Zambia.

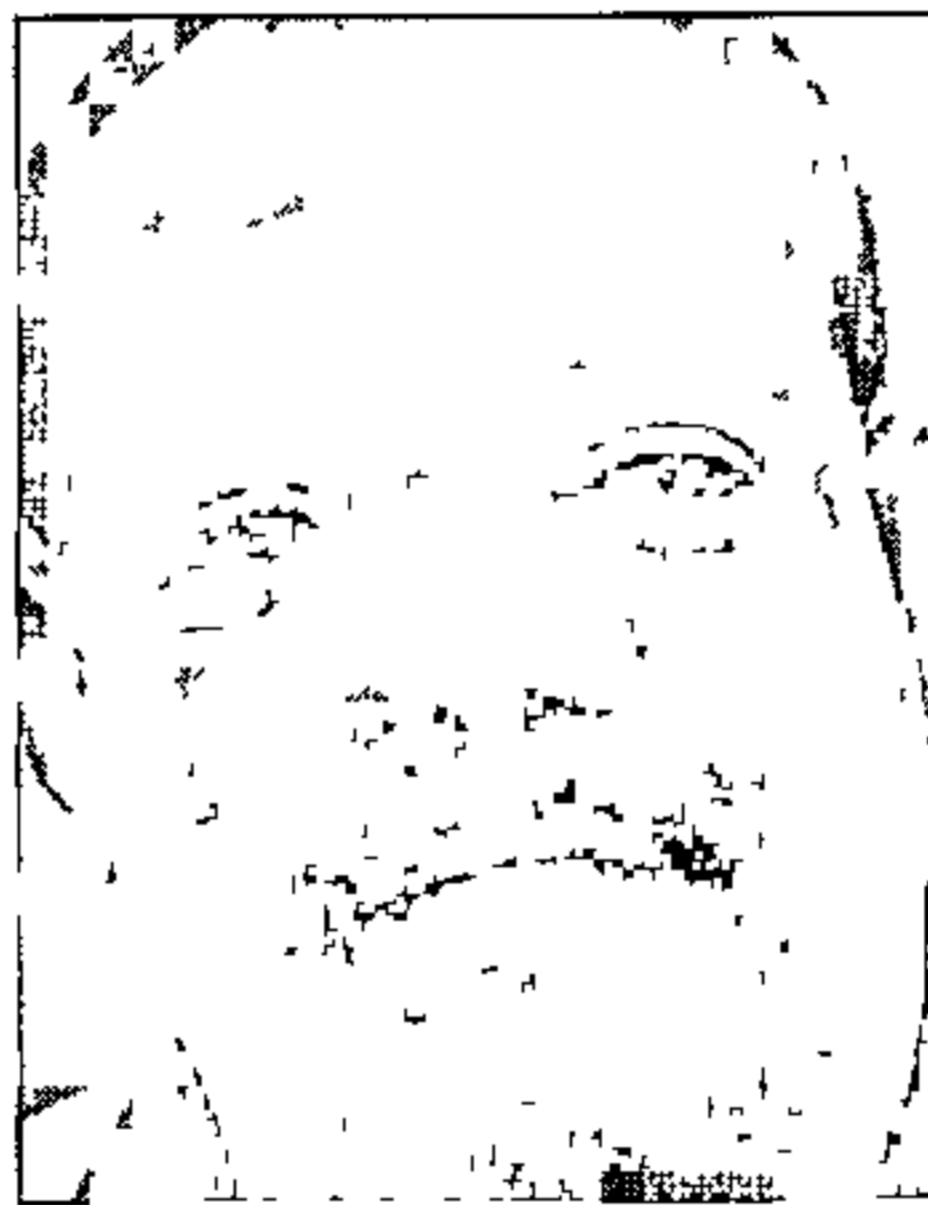
The Angolan government has declared today a national day of mourning for the 215 victims of the massacre that took place in Mussuku, in the diamond-rich province of Lunde Norte last week.

The government blamed Unita for the massacre, while the rebel movement blamed the attack on bandits and mercenaries operating in the diamond fields.

"We are hoping and praying that war does not break out," South African Defence Minister Joe Modise said yesterday.

"If it does, the whole region will be affected and we still have the taste of what happened in Mozambique in the past."

Modise said he was particularly concerned about refugees from Angola flooding into South Africa,



'NOT UNITA': Jonas Savimbi

saying there were over 2 million refugees here already from countries such as Angola, Somalia, Zambia, Burundi and Ethiopia.

The United Nations has imposed sanctions on Unita, backed by South Africa, for failing to live up to its commitments to demobilise and turn over its territory to government administration.

However, Unita accuses government forces of abusing its officials and supporters in areas surrendered and of failing to grant shares to Unita in diamond mining operations after it ceded the mines to the

SA immigration act leaves foreign workers out in the cold

The problem of migrants has introduced new policy challenges for government, argues Maxine Reitzes

BD 1017198 (236)



Many workers fall outside the law, but they should not be treated as illegals

THE presence of temporary migrants must be accepted as a permanent feature of SA society. Attempts to implement more stringent controls have been unsuccessful, resulting in a waste of financial and human resources.

Migration to SA is an inevitable function of the migrant labour system in mining and agriculture, the increasing economic integration of the region, cultural and ethnic affinities that span international borders, the liberalisation of trade and investment opportunities in the region, and economic inequalities between SA and other countries.

However, many foreigners are not authorised to be here as by definition they fall outside the law. This is because the principal act that governs immigration does not provide appropriately for their legal entry. Migrants require short-term, temporary residence in SA. They continually commute between the places they define as "home" in their countries of origin and in SA.

They are subject to the sanctions of the Aliens Control Act, but fall beyond the protective reach of the law. They are therefore vulnerable to a range of abusive and exploitative practices.

Accepting the presence of foreign migrants creates a number of governance challenges. The first is for the national government and home affairs department to devise a more appropriate and enforceable policy for managing and regulating migration. This should be informed by a desire to protect the rights of migrants and to view them as a development resource rather than a security threat.

However, the permanent presence of foreign migrants presents a bigger and more immediate

challenge to national and provincial departments directly affected by their presence, such as the departments of health, education, housing, social welfare, labour, and safety and security.

There is a need for far greater co-operation between the home affairs department and these departments. For example, one of the proposals made by the green paper on international immigration is to grant emergency health care to unauthorised migrants, and education to their children.

The relevant departments were not consulted.

The policy framework has not taken the perspectives of provincial departments and local governments into account or offered them guidelines for addressing this challenge. Provincial and local officials tend to abdicate responsibility and to perceive this as an issue for over which home affairs has sole jurisdiction.

Thus, in its 1998/9 fiscal review, Gauteng's Finance department states that a number of per-

formance indicators would be higher "if one were to remove the impact of migration (legal and illegal)", and that "increasing migration to Gauteng in line with increased illegals, may neutralise anticipated growth."

Also, there is no sign of inter-provincial co-ordination of responses to migration and many officials seem to be misinformed about migration policy.

The following incidents illustrate this. In June 1996, the greater

Springs, Nigel and Brakpan transitional local councils declared that "foreigners in [an] East Rand informal settlement will not be considered for proper housing when about 2 000 sites are developed". A Brakpan council spokesman complained later that migrants from neighbouring councils were erecting shacks "without permission from councilors or government officials".

As long as councils and departments fail to house them, migrants will continue to develop al-

ternative survival strategies. In January 1996 the district director of education for Randfontein, Billy Motara, said schools were unable to plan for an increase of pupils resulting from "an influx of about 30 000 families into his district because of changed laws granting citizenship to foreign miners". However the "mine workers' amnesty" did not grant residence to mine workers' children. Motara was obviously ill informed. This is not to suggest that there was no influx of immigrant children, however it did not result from a change in policy.

In the continuing budget dispute between the health departments of Mpumalanga and Gauteng, Mpumalanga premier Mathebs Phosa argued that his province's health department treated many immigrants from Mozambique (and did not request funds from the Mozambican government). Therefore Gauteng's health department should not complain about receiving referrals from Mpumalanga.

It is necessary for all three spheres of government to collaborate on policy in response to the presence and needs of foreign migrants and on allocating human and financial resources.

Ultimately, foreign migrants pose the challenge to decision-makers to critically assess the existing range of social and economic policies and identify genuine causes of weaknesses without automatically shifting the blame on to "illegal immigrants". This is more likely to result in the formulation of appropriate, cost-effective, enforceable and sustainable policies, for both foreigners and citizens.

□ Reitzes is a researcher with the Centre for Policy Studies

Drive to counter influx of illegals

(236)
Nelspruit - The SA National Defence Force is embarking on a drive to intensify security along Mpumalanga's borders with neighbouring countries in a bid to counter the illegal influx of foreigners into the province.

SANDF spokesman Lize Pienaar said yesterday that troops were conducting operational patrols and road-blocks in order to arrest illegal immigrants from Mozambique and Swaziland, as well as local culprits involved in dagga trafficking and various other crimes.

She said commandos

Nov 21 7 198
had arrested 416 illegal border-crossers, including 55 women and 19 children, during operational patrols in the past two weeks. They were to be repatriated to their native countries.

Most of the illegal immigrants had been arrested in areas such as Managa, Mbuzini, Kwamhlanga and Machadodorp.

Pienaar added that success in arresting illegal immigrants had resulted from the use of a fence alarm device that transmitted warnings to the commando substations about intruders moving into South Africa - African Eye News Service

Court to decide fate of 'aliens'

BD 27/8/98 (236)

Stephané Bothma.

PRETORIA — The high court will decide on Friday whether a top Atomic Nuclear Agency executive, alleged to be a Zimbabwean citizen who fraudulently obtained SA citizenship, will be allowed to remain in the country.

Marcel Dube, executive general manager for technical services at the agency, has brought an application prohibiting the home affairs department from deporting him, pending the outcome of a review of the department's decision to kick him and his son Prinsloo, out of the country.

Dube and his son were last month ordered by home affairs to leave the country on the grounds that he had breached the Aliens Control Act. However, the order was held over pending the outcome of the court proceedings.

Dube denied strongly in court papers that he was a Zimbabwean citizen. He claimed he was born in Soweto on September 22 1955, but that his birth was not registered. He said he left SA with his family in the 1960s.

Dube said in court papers he ap-

plied for a work permit on his Zimbabwean passport, but this was refused.

He received his SA identity document a few days later, but this was issued with a photograph of someone else. In the meantime, Dube was issued with a temporary identity document on the basis that he had applied for an SA passport.

After he started work at the Atomic Energy Corporation at Pelindaba, Dube was contacted by home affairs and questioned about his citizenship, the court heard.

Dube said he was told he was an illegal alien, and was given 14 days to leave the country. He claimed to have been questioned in an aggressive manner by a home affairs alien control section official about why his family had left SA for Zimbabwe in the 1960s.

Dube, a civil construction engineer, obtained his degree at a US university, returning to SA in 1995 to seek work.

Included in Dube's court bid to remain in SA are many supporting affidavits and letters, including those from his parents and a detailed family tree to back his claim he was SA-born.

VICIOUS ASSAULTS

Refugees die in our city of hate

(236)

CT 6/8/98

THE 27th AFRICAN refugee or asylum-seeker to be murdered in Cape Town in the past 18 months was buried this week. Jesu Back Fana Miguell's body was found on a train 10 days ago. He had been stabbed to death. Special Assignments Team **ROGER FRIEDMAN** and **BENNY GOOL** report

MOST African refugees and asylum-seekers find Cape Town a terribly inhospitable place. Despised by xenophobic black residents and discriminated against in the job market, they end up living in the most squalid conditions. They are taunted, viciously assaulted and murdered.

Registered refugees and asylum seekers — who have left their home countries because they fear persecution for their race, religion or nationality, or who have been forced to leave — should not be confused with economic migrants fleeing economic hardship.

The former are in South Africa legally, economic migrants are here illegally.

There are about 9 000 refugees and asylum-seekers living in the Western Cape.

Because South Africa has ratified United Nations, Organisation of African Unity and other international conventions on refugees, the country is obliged to accept people who qualify for refugee status.

Later this year, Parliament is scheduled to pass a refugee act, which is now circulating in the form of a White Paper. The act will regulate the state's response to refugees and asylum seekers and lay the framework for the establishment of statutory bodies to process applications.

Some of the provisions would improve the lot of asylum-seekers, such as the proposal that successful applicants be issued with an identity document, instead of having to re-apply every three to six months for an Aliens Control Act permit.

But the new legislation will not change people's xenophobic attitudes.

Olusegun Abdulrasaq, a former police officer in Nigeria, now a fieldworker for the Cape Town Refugee Forum, believes the only answer to the problem is a sustained awareness campaign, "reaching all the way from the government to the person in the street."

"In 1997, a total of 22 refugees were killed, either by stabbing or by shooting. This year we have had another five or six refugees killed. We come across assault cases nearly every day. I would say we must have had 20 to 30 serious assault cases so far this year," he said.

But violence is only one aspect of the

ugly picture. "Eighty percent of refugees and asylum-seekers in the Western Cape have completed 12 years of schooling. Between 20—25% have tertiary qualifications. But they cannot find any work. The Section 41 permits we have stipulate we can work. But the permit is only granted for three to six months, which scares away employers," said Abdulrasaq.

His colleague, Johann Magerman, who works on the forum's education and skills training programme, said:

"We've had highly skilled people coming through our doors — economists, agronomists, aeronautical engineers, doctors, scientists, the lot. But they cannot get decent jobs here, if anything at all."

"The Aliens Control Act and the draft bill

both give self-sufficiency rights to refugees. For example, the right to earn a living or to study. But the reality is that they cannot get jobs, and therefore they cannot become part of the formal sector.

"So the conditions in which they live, for example at the Lower Crossroads camp, are very far from ideal. But once people come into that depressed situation it is extremely difficult for them to get out again. They cannot go home, and it is difficult for them to travel to another country to apply for refugee status," Magerman said.

Edmund Mugaragu, who arrived in Cape Town last

October from Rwanda with a chemistry degree, got a job as a security guard. He thought he was lucky to find a job at all, until last Sunday, when he was severely beaten, stabbed with bottles and slashed with a panga by a gang who did not like the fact that he was foreigner.

Mugaragu spoke to us from his hospital bed. "Before they started to beat me, the one who was holding a knife to my throat asked me where I was from. I told him I was from Rwanda. He said we were the same colour, but they did not like foreigners. I asked him why he wanted to kill me because we are not only the same colour — we have the same blood."

"The problem we have is from the black people, not from the coloured people or the whites. Even the people you work with say they don't like the *kweri kweri* (derogatory township slang for a black foreigner).

● See Page 13



BEATEN CLOSE TO DEATH
Edmund Mugaragu

Zealous cops net locals in blitz on illegals

ARG 29/8/98

LINDA DANIELS

Members of a special police unit have been interrogating people on Cape Town's streets in their zeal to catch illegal African immigrants - in some cases netting South African citizens

Cape Town student Madembe Muvhulawu, a Venda from the Northern Province, said the police unit had approached her as she alighted from a train at Cape Town station

They then tried to trap her into revealing that she was from another country, she said

Naude Hopper, an inspector with the unit, disclosed that the police used a process of "profiling" when identifying possible illegal immigrants.

"We are looking at the person's language, the way they carry themselves and the way they act," he said.

Inspector Hopper declined to reveal further profile details which interested the police. He said he did not want to tip off illegal immigrants who could take action to prevent being discovered.

Inspector Hopper said once a "profile" had been established, the person in question was asked to produce identification.

He said the police were legally entitled to ask anyone to produce their identity documents

Inspector Hopper emphasised the police were doing their job and were rendering a service to the South African public.

The police's increased vigilance follows growing public criticism of African immigrants who have arrived in South Africa in large numbers after fleeing their own countries because of war or economic reasons

Jason Coetzee, the co-ordinator of the Cape Town Refugee Forum, which helps people who have official refugee status, said there was a general problem of xenophobia in South Africa and that the police were not solely to blame.

"Xenophobia is running quite high and there have been cases of refugees who have died in police custody," he said

Describing her experience at the hands of the border police, Ms Muvhulawu said she and a friend,

Miriam Gondwe, were travelling by train to town when they unknowingly walked into a police blitz at the station.

They said a female police officer approached them and asked to see their identity documents

"Then she called an Inspector Ernest Kalushe, who greeted us in Xhosa, and I greeted back in English," Ms Muvhulawu said

Ms Muvhulawu, who is Venda-speaking and Ms Gondwe, who is from Malawi, do not understand Xhosa.

"He asked me where I was from and I told him I was from Venda," Ms Muvhulawu said

She said Inspector Kalushe accused her of lying and said that her surname sounded Shona and that she came from Zimbabwe

The two women said the policeman insisted there was no such

place as Venda and asked Ms Muvhulawu when Venda gained independence. (In fact, the one-time independent homeland of Venda lost its independence in 1994, when it was reincorporated into South Africa.)

Inspector Kalushe even demanded that Ms Muvhulawu tell him who the president of Venda was, she told Saturday Argus.

According to both women, Inspector Kalushe was "abusive".

Ms Gondwe said that when she told him to stop being abusive, he responded by saying: "Voetsek wena! Who the hell do you think you are?"

Ms Gondwe said she complained about the verbal abuse to the female police officer, who allegedly said: "I don't see anything wrong with it. He's doing his job."

The women said Inspector Kalushe then arrested Ms Muvhulawu

But Inspector Kalushe denied the women's version of events.

"I told her, 'Come, lady, let's sort this thing out' I didn't question them. I just asked her to come with me to the office"

Inspector Hopper, who was also at the scene at the time, said: "Kalushe was never abusive and she (Ms Muvhulawu) was never arrested"

"In a blitz operation we just approach people. We could have stopped in excess of 200 people that day," Inspector Hopper said.

We are looking at a person's language and the way they act'

Asylum-seekers live in fear of xenophobic South Africans

(206) cT6/S/98

"It is not right for any human being to live like this, even criminals," an asylum-seeker told Special Assignments Team ROGER FRIEDMAN and BENNY GOOL in Lower Crossroads.

ABOUT 80 men live in atrocious conditions in a decrepit small factory in Lower Crossroads. Refugees and asylum-seekers from Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Chad and the Democratic Republic of Congo, they sleep two or three to a bed and share a single toilet and shower.

Beds line the walls. Those who cannot squeeze on to a bed make do with a piece of carpet laid down in the middle of the room. The sleeping chamber is separated from the "ablution block" by a spray-painter's shop. Access to the toilet is through a hole in the wall. Cooking is done outside. The community has two large pots which are used to heat water for washing during the day and to prepare the communal dinner from 6pm each evening.

These are not illegal aliens or criminals. They have permits entitling them to be in South Africa, and permission to live in the factory.

"I am from Rwanda and have been here for about six months," said 27-year-old Suleyman, a member of the residents committee. Suleyman is not his real name, he spoke to us on condition of anonymity.

"I was a journalist in my home country, and have a journalism certificate. But now that I am in South Africa I have nothing to do. I have tried to look for work, and the department of labour has no records, but I have been offered nothing.

"Between 10 and 15 members of our community are working, though none of them have permanent jobs. We share whatever we can get. The people say we are taking their jobs, but that cannot be true because as you can see we are not working."

Asked about the xenophobic



FORLORN He cannot find a job so he must continue to stay with about 80 other refugees and asylum-seekers in a disused factory in Lower Crossroads.

perception that most African foreigners in South Africa are involved in crime, Suleyman said. "Those who are drug dealers and criminals do not stay in places like these. They stay in luxury apartments or hotels, and lead easier lives. Most of them are in the country illegally."

"It is true that the local people do not like us. Even the police offi-

cers who come here call us *kwere-kwere*, which is a degrading word. They would not call white foreigners *kwere-kwere*. We don't have problems with our immediate neighbours, here, unless there is a quarrel or a misunderstanding. We are all men here, so when we find a girl sometimes there are problems."

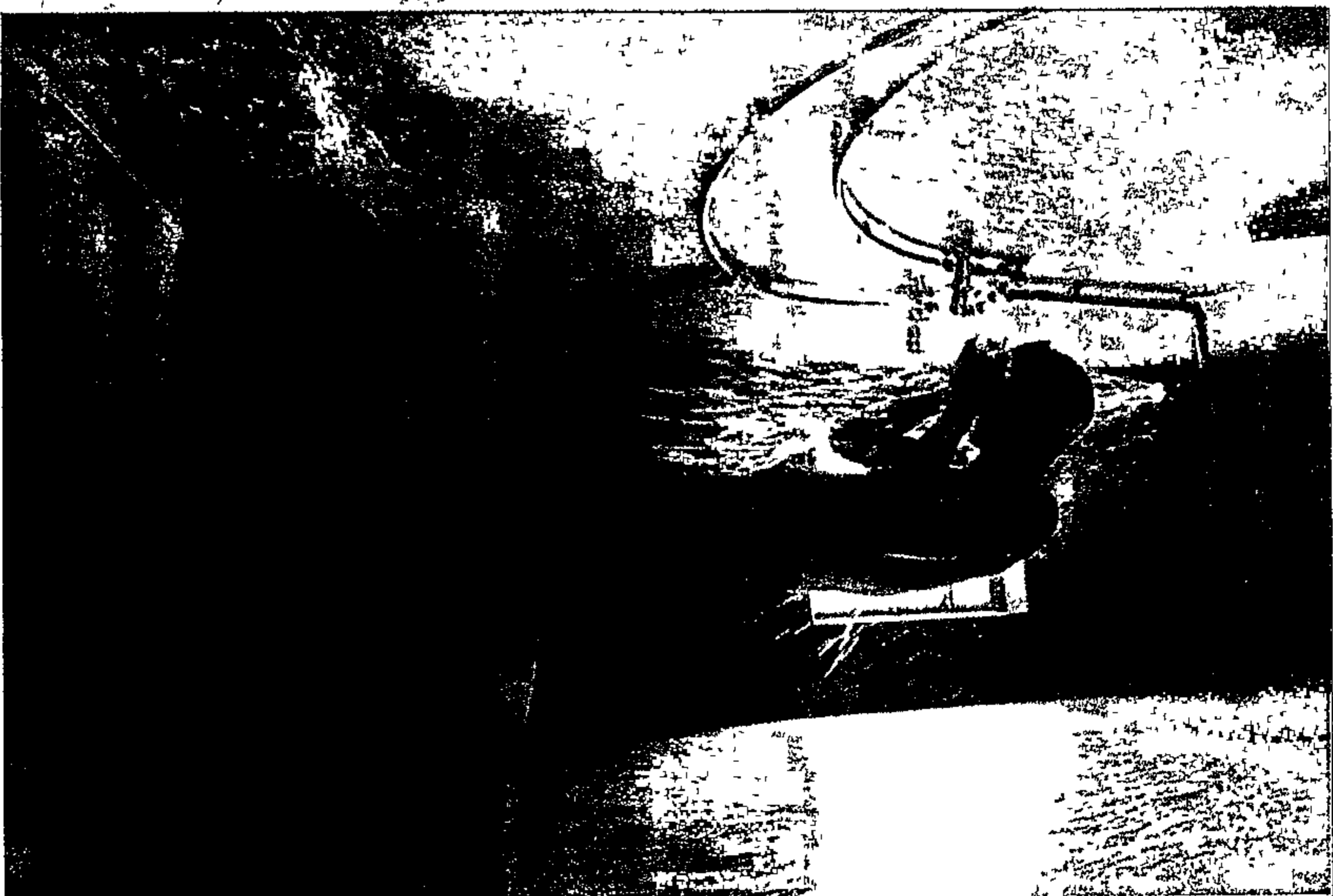
"Xenophobia has always been

our biggest problem. We have to be careful. For example, when we are wanting to come home by train from Cape Town we cannot catch the number 94 train. This train is bad for foreigners."

"Most of the people who use that train are not kind to foreigners. Most of them are black people from Khayelitsha and they hate to

hear foreign languages. So we must use the number 95 train."

"It is not right for us to live like this. It is not right for any human being to live like this, even criminals. Many people here discuss going to other countries, but don't really have many alternatives. I have left my wife and two children in Swaziland. I cannot bring her



PERSONAL-HYGIENE. During the day, when the pots are not being used to cook the daily meal, they are used to boil water for a hot shower.

into this situation."

Asked to describe the facility, he said: "We call it a camp, but as you can see it is not a camp. We cannot call it a house. I don't know what to call it."

By comparison, Philipp House, the facility for women and children refugees and asylum-seekers run by the Catholic Welfare and

Development Project almost qualifies for resort status.

The Catholic Welfare and Development Project is a member organisation of the Cape Town Refugee Forum.

The forum runs a number of separate programmes, one of which sets as far as possible to emergency accommodation

requirements.

The idea at Philipp House is that it should be used as a bridging facility, to allow newly-arrived refugees and asylum seekers a temporary base from which to start rebuilding their lives.

There are also refugee committees living in Muizenberg and Khayelitsha.

Man fights for citizenship

MR Marcel Dube, executive general manager of technical services of the Atomic Energy Corporation, will hear tomorrow if he is to be deported

Dube yesterday applied for an interim interdict to stop his deportation, pending a review application to have the order overturned and to declare him a South African citizen

His application was opposed by Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi and the assistant director of alien control, Mr Willem Vorster, who are named as respondents

Dube claimed in an affidavit that Vorster had taken the attitude that he was lying and even went so far as to ask him how much he had paid for an iden-

(236) *Sowetan* 27/8/98
tity document he had obtained earlier, suggesting that he had been party to corruption

He denied that he was a Zimbabwean who had fraudulently obtained identity documents.

He said the confusion over his nationality arose because his birth was not registered in South Africa and his family left the country in the 1960s

Not registered

Dube claimed he was born in Soweto on September 22 1955, although his birth was not registered

It was said in court yesterday that Dube had also claimed to have been born in Mtubatuba, KwaZulu-Natal

His son, who is now a second-year mechanical engineering student at the University of Cape Town, was born out of wedlock in Zimbabwe in 1978

Dube claimed he and his son were entitled to South African citizenship and attached several supporting affidavits and letters, including those from his parents, and a list of the family tree to support his claim

Dube's counsel argued that he needed time to fully prove his South African citizenship, and was entitled to an interim interdict as the immigration authorities' actions and attitude towards him had been biased and unfair - *Sapa*

SA tourism and emigration to (236) New Zealand 'increasing steadily'

Madeline van Niekerk

11/8/98
A TOTAL of 14 000 South Africans visited New Zealand last year and the number was increasing steadily, Murray McCully, New Zealand's minister of tourism, housing and sport, said at the weekend.

McCully said the figure had already increased 10% this year. "We are optimistic we will see rapid tourism growth in the next two to three years we are targeting 25 000 to 30 000 SA visitors in the next three years' time."

The minister and a high-profile tourism delegation of 17 are in SA on a week-long visit to launch New Zealand as a tourist destination for South Afri-

cans. The visit coincides with the All Blacks rugby tour which will kick off with a game against the Springboks on Saturday.

The New Zealand delegation will be talking about the country's prospects for tourism at a provincial and national level and will meet SA sporting, tourism and housing ministers.

"We have seen a steady growth in tourism off a very low base. The number of South Africans visiting relatives who have emigrated to New Zealand is also increasing. We are looking to build on this. The prospects for two-way tourism are enormous."

McCully said New Zealand was a favourable destination for South Africans, especially with European and North America destinations becoming more expensive for South Africans as a result of the depreciation of the rand.

The New Zealand dollar has depreciated by a third after the Asian crisis and therefore makes it a less expensive destination for South Africans than North America or Europe.

He said SA and New Zealand had a keen rugby connection, "a special sporting association".

"We will see a rapid growth in tourism as a result of selling tourist packages around the Super 12 and trinations series."

McCully said that Air New Zealand had a loose relationship with SA Airways and expressed the hope that this relationship would be expanded.

He said that South Africans last year were the second biggest group emigrating to New Zealand. The biggest immigrant grouping came from Hong Kong and Korea.

New Zealand has a net growth of between 30 000 and 35 000 emigrants a year and it is under the target at the moment.

"The country is relatively open for emigrants at this stage," McCully said.

McCully said the trade relationship between the two countries was thin with two-way commodity trade of approximately R200m a year which New Zealand would like to see increased.

foreigners are finding living and working in South Africa more and more dangerous

not taking our jobs

Angolans who make their way to the Cape translate into jobs in the security industry, often as nightwatchmen or casual security guards. Pedro is one such guard employed on a casual basis by shop owners during the day and a nightclub after dark. He has survived one stabbing incident and looks forward to going home — a trip he undertakes at least once a year.

In Johannesburg, immigrants have been working in the service industries for years. They jealously guard their turf of suburban jobs like gardening and domestic work. Often a Malawian son will replace a retiring father as the master of a lush northern suburban garden.

The new wave of immigrants who came to the golden city after 1990 are largely entrepreneurs who own their own businesses. The South African Migration Project interviewed 70 immigrant entrepreneurs active in small business in the inner city of Johannesburg — still the most pop-

ular destination for migrants.

Far from taking jobs from South Africans, these business people were found to create between two and four jobs each and at least half their employees were South Africans. They also invested most of their profits in South Africa.

The migrants who came from Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries and other African states were mostly active in retail and service industries selling curios, ethnic clothes, food and music, as well as running car repair and panel beating shops, restaurants, nightclubs, cafes and import export. The migrants were mostly young single males who were prepared to work an average of 64 hours a week spread over six days.

Those who came from further afield than the SADC countries often had links with international trade networks stretching from West Africa to Canada, the United States and Europe. They were also better

educated and had more start up capital than SADC migrants, who mostly began their businesses with money earned while employed elsewhere in South Africa.

The project's Sally Peberdy found that nine out of 10 entered the country at formal border points and three-quarters had a visa — but this was usually a visitor's visa, denying them the right to trade. Seven out of 10 did not regard South Africa as home and did not want to live here permanently or bring their families here.

Half of all African traders and more than three quarters of traders from the SADC countries invested most of their profits in South Africa, buying goods to sell elsewhere in the region.

At the huge hangar like Jumbo wholesale store in Johannesburg, the Indian owners are laughing all the way to the bank. They run a foreign exchange desk for their clients, who spend an average of R2 000 to

R3 000 between four and eight times a year on electronics, appliances, clothes, shoes, household goods and foodstuffs — the very products South African and SADC policy wants to see exported.

Not all migrant traders work and live in the city centre. Some, particularly Mozambicans and Zimbabweans, sell fresh produce or work as mechanics in surrounding townships, where they rent garages from township residents or live in shacks.

But migrants are not just self-employed traders. Many sell the only thing they possess — their labour. South Africa has since the last century employed migrant labour from neighbouring states, and during the Nineties this regulated system largely gave way to unregulated and often subcontracted systems, with employers attracted by the potential of cheap labour.

Mozambicans easily blend with local populations, given a common Shangaan identity. But illegal work

ers in rural areas, especially women and children, are vulnerable to exploitation. This has led to a strong lobby for the law to recognise migrant workers from SADC countries.

The South African Police Service has on occasion said a migrant enters the country illegally every 10 minutes and that there are eight million undocumented immigrants in the country — two estimates which Southern African migration expert Professor Jonathan Crush points out are both contradictory and ludicrous.

Much of the research has concentrated on African migrants, but Minister of Home Affairs Manguthu Buthelezi has pointed out that illegal migrants come to South Africa from most countries in the world.

Thousands of people are living here illegally from European countries, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and China. They come to Gauteng often via elaborate people-smuggling routes. These migrants are then often employed by countrymen or relatives already in South Africa, usually trading in electronic goods, so-called grey goods or the food industry.

Many are prepared to work long hours in order to earn money towards their next journey — a one way ticket to Canada or the US.

Too much competition for locals

236 Evidence wa ka Ngobeni

Competition for jobs and money lies at the heart of many black South Africans' hatred of foreigners — particularly those who come here from other African countries.

Easily two thirds of people interviewed by the *Mail & Guardian* this week said they did not want the government to allow foreigners to live and work in this country.

Last week threatening placards denouncing foreigners were found in a Pretoria-Johannesburg tram after two Senegalese nationals and a Mozambican were killed, allegedly by a group of South Africans accusing them of "stealing jobs" in the country.

Raymond Lukhozi (26) said he hates both African and overseas foreigners. "These people come here to take work opportunities from South Africans."

He said foreigners come to the country with "high qualifications" and are given jobs at "South Africans' expense".

"We have people roaming on the streets with degrees, but they do not get jobs because companies have given jobs to foreigners."

South African Police Service representative Captain Francois Grobbelaar said the police have established that there are more cases of hawkers attacking foreigners now than in the past four years. He said hawkers claim they assault foreigners because foreigners come into the country illegally and take their customers.

A Tembisa hawker selling cigarettes at Johannesburg station, Joseph Moloto (24), has been unemployed for six years and hates for-



Hawker hatred. Marchers took to the streets of Johannesburg this week to protest against the fining of hawkers, but the real target of their anger was foreign traders. PHOTOGRAPH: PHILIP OTTO

MTG 11-17/9/98

eigners. He said he had been a farm labourer where he saw foreigners "making life difficult for South Africans".

"They come to the country to work as cheap labour and they do not challenge employers or even join unions," he said.

"When we demanded that the farmers pay us for overtime, they [foreigners] walked away and pretended nothing was happening and the farmers said we are lazy compared to these guys because when we went on strike, they continued working."

Moloto said he and friends at tempted to kill foreigners on the farms but failed because, "These guys have guns and they are skilled. That is why they come to the country by foot from as far as Mozambique and Zimbabwe."

A hawker in central Johannesburg, Maria Zulu (36), calls foreigners "makwerekwere". Zulu's hatred of foreigners stems from rivalry over the clothing trade on the streets.

"These people are taking our customers," she said. "They do not price their clothes like we do. These people are not co-operating with us, their prices are lower and many people buy their clothes. We are supporting families, they do not care because they just need money for food."

Zulu's friend, Jane Makelane, says "When you tell them you do not like what they are doing, they threaten to kill you and flee to their country."

Many believe most foreigners in South Africa are involved in criminal activities and want the government to send them back home.

Jonas Hlongwane (27) claimed for-

eigners are used by taxi owners to kill people. "I hate these people, because they take our jobs," the former taxi driver, now unemployed, said.

Hlongwane said he lived in hiding for a year because of death threats from alleged assassins and has since quit the taxi industry.

"I was a driver in Soweto, and many of these foreigners were hired by some guys, whom I will not name, to kill us. They will even kill passengers because they do not care for our citizens," he claimed.

There were some dissenting voices — for example, Mike Zondi (32), who said he does not dislike foreigners provided they do not work at lower wages than South Africans would. "These people should not be denied access or be killed in our country, but they should be clear policy guiding them," he said.

'Foreigners, go home'

Evidence wa ka Ngobeni

Foreigners selling goods on the streets of Johannesburg were chased off the pavements on Wednesday by South African hawkers.

Some foreigners packed up for the day when a 2 000-strong march, organised by the Greater Johannesburg Hawkers' Planning Committee, took to the streets. Those who continued trading were ordered to stop.

One of them pleaded with the marchers, saying "I am trying to make a living here."

Local hawkers are demanding that all foreigners leave the country. The placard-carrying hawkers shouted, "Phansi nge makwerekwere [Zulu for "Down with foreigners"]".

Hillbrow hawker Samuel Tsherndu (49) said "These people are taking our customers in our own country and we do not want them to run their businesses."

The alleged reason for the march was fines, ranging from R50 to R4 000, issued by Johannesburg city council officials to hawkers for trading within 5m of intersections. The hawkers claimed traffic officials confiscated their goods as well. But the march was more about foreigners than fines.

A foreigner who did not want to be named said, "Yes, I fear for my life. These guys told us not to sell today, so I am just waiting and I will start with my business when they leave."

The hawkers' committee representative, Manneljie Solomon, claimed foreigners bribe traffic officials and are never fined.

"These people do not have identity documents, so how do you expect the traffic official to fine them? With our hawkers they take addresses and identity numbers," he said.

"We do not want to victimise them [foreigners]. They should leave us alone and go back home."

Fuelled by grinding joblessness and the legacies of this country, xenophobia is increasing and

Immigrants are creating work —

(236) M+G 11-17/9/98

Chiara Carter and Ferial Haffajee

South Africa has become a world in one country in more ways than tourism pundits could ever have predicted

The boundaries of state are becoming less important as waves of migrants seek a better life

Complex trade networks, energetic enterprise and entrepreneurial dreams are the stock-in trade for the millions of migrant traders and labourers who throng South African city streets. Malawians control Johannesburg's suburban gardening, Moroccans run Cape Town's bouncer circuits, Nigerians control the cocaine trade and nobody can fashion a piece of kente cloth like a Ghanaian tailor sitting in the shade of a Yeoville tree

Much of the hysteria about illegal immigrants flooding the country to flee their own poor living condi-

tions, taking jobs and resources from South Africans, is nothing more than exaggeration and myth. It is fuelled by grinding joblessness and the legacies of this country.

Many immigrants are better educated than South Africans, with greater savvy and training in the world of business. Zimbabweans, for example, are taught craft making and marketing at school — that's why they dominate South African markets.

Immigrant trade networks expand to provide jobs for South Africans — they feed our wholesale industries and contribute handsomely to the gross domestic product.

"Immigration is by no means a chaotic and disorganised process," says Vincent Williams of the South African Migration Project in Cape Town. From their home countries migrants identify new markets. They plan their trips, bring their own money and immediately find their brethren.

Those from Southern Africa often use public transport to get here and Africans from further afield have been known to make month-long car trips from Somalia and Morocco in jalopies that just about make the journey south.

Once in South Africa, a network will provide shelter — a couch in a house filled with 20 people, food and a job in a field they have made their own through decades of practice.

And with the Gauteng market already well served by immigrants, Cape Town is a lucrative new market for immigrant communities. Long Street's faintly seedy flats and hotels have long been a first stop for newcomers to Cape Town. Recently the area has taken on an African flavour.

It is home to migrants from other Southern African states, West

Africa, Angola, Congo, Liberia and even faraway Somalia and Rwanda.

Population estimates vary. Official statistics put the number of illegal immigrants at 500 000, while the Human Sciences Research Council says there are between 2.5-million and 4.1-million people living here illegally.

Immigrant trade networks feed our wholesale industries and contribute handsomely to the gross domestic product

Mostly young men, Long Street's newcomers live four or five to a flat and earn a living by trading, providing services such as hairdressing or working in the security industry.

Greenmarket Square, a tourist attraction in the city centre, has local handicraft stalls jostling alongside trestles piled with crafts produced elsewhere in Africa and sold by Malawian, Zimbabwean, Zambian, Namibian and West African traders.

Some of these traders employ

compatriots or locals to assist in business. They use their earnings to purchase local goods which they then sell on the way home, while stocking up on goods to trade — a complex network extending across Southern Africa and in some cases still further. It is a trade network which historians say has operated in various forms in West and Central Africa for centuries.

Ahmed is a Somali refugee who trades on Adderley Street. Like many other traders he buys much of his wares at a wholesale dealer in nearby Woodstock. Through pooling resources with two relatives, he was able to put up more initial capital to buy stock than many of the local traders who sell goods near taxi ranks and stations.

Giving some of the Somalis an initial advantage over people from other countries is the assistance often given on arrival by Muslim organisations.

The war experiences of some

Migrant networks

Over years, migrants craft economic and social networks which they operate and guard zealously. Here are the major networks in South Africa:

Labourers

Mines: Southern African Development Community (SADC) residents. Notably from Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland.

Farms: Men, women and children from Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Gardeners: Malawians and Zimbabweans who work mostly in Johannesburg's suburbs.

Domestic workers: Malawi, Swaziland.

Construction: SADC residents.

Entrepreneurs and artisans

Servicing migrant communities: West Africans said they focused on ethnic business providing for Francophone customers. Many Mozambican traders supply the local Mozambican population.

Craft: Zimbabweans, Malawians, Swazis.

Grey goods (including hi-fis, TVs, computers and cellphones): Indians, Pakistanis, Hausa.

Cigarettes, sweets: Somalis.

Knock-offs (cheap imitations of labelled goods): Taiwanese.

Other businesses run by migrants include hairdressing salons, car repair businesses, African clothing shops and import-export businesses.

Shadow economies

Cocaine/other drugs: Nigerians, Moroccans.

Sharkfin/perlemoen poaching: Taiwanese.

Satellite, cellphone and land line tele-shops (usually run from houses): Nigerians, Indians, Pakistanis.

Passport rackets: Congolese.

Prostitution: Mozambican women from Nampula province in the north, Zimbabwean women and eastern Europeans.



Choose your style: Many of the street barbers are foreigners who offer a choice of exotic styles. PHOTOGRAPH: NADINE HUTTON

New Bill for asylum applications

M+G 11-17/9/98 (236)

Chiara Carter

A refugee Bill about to be tabled in Parliament will provide for the processing of applications for asylum within three to six months.

The Bill, which is being certified by the state law advisers, is based on a draft White Paper completed earlier this year. Migrants and refugees to South Africa have fallen under the provisions of the Aliens Control Act — legislation that was initially motivated by a wish to exclude Jews fleeing the Nazis in Europe.

The Bill aims on the one hand to

bring the country in line with its international and constitutional obligations, and on the other to meet state and national concerns which are said to include migration control and law and order, as well as concerns over crimes such as gun running, drug trafficking, money laundering and crime syndicates.

The Bill is likely to propose that refugees apply to a refugee receiving officer who passes on the application to a refugee determination officer who in turn gives the applicant an oral hearing before making a decision.

A standing committee would review the matter and an appeal board

hear appeals. The process is expected to take six months, but the Bill is likely to provide for fast tracking in the case of applications suspected to be fraudulent.

The Bill is also likely to provide for measures including setting up reception centres if there is a mass influx of refugees.

Once the Bill is tabled it will be discussed and refined by parliamentary committees next year.

Discussion is likely to focus on ensuring the Bill meets South Africa's constitutional and international obligations as well as the cost implications of the measures

and how they fit with migration policy.

Issues likely to be debated by parliamentarians include the degree to which officials are impartial or linked to either the department or the ministry in terms of who appoints them and under what conditions they can be dismissed.

There is also likely to be discussion about the degree of subjectivity allowed to refugee receiving officers as well as the need to protect the rights of children and to ensure that those whom the authorities decide are not refugees are treated humanely.

Other concerns are likely to include that the hearings are conducted in a language applicants understand and that confidentiality is respected.

Refugee decree

(276) Jan 25/9/98

The South African government has declared a "state of disaster" in the districts of Ladybrand, Ficksburg, Wepener, Fouriesburg, Zastron and Clocolan in the Free State because of the influx of refugees from Lesotho.

The number of Lesotho refugees in South Africa is now estimated at 4 000 and a larger influx of refugees is expected soon.

Bordering South African towns may not have the ability and capacity to keep up with the influx of people, according to the Ministry of Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development, which expects that "a prolonged stay of refugees will be inevitable". - Staff Reporter

Influx of illegal immigrants in Pretoria area

By PHALANE MOTALE
Crime Reporter

The number of illegal immigrants living in Pretoria has rocketed in the past six months, according to police.

At least 2 343 illegal aliens were arrested in Pretoria between March and August, with the highest number of arrests in a single month being 590 in June.

Captain Morné van Wyk, Pretoria police spokesperson, said the influx of aliens into Pretoria was due largely to a shortage of cheap accommodation

in Johannesburg

"Many of them are from southern and central Africa. They have now established themselves in the northern suburbs of GaRankuwa, Winterveldt, Mabopane and So-shanguve because accommodation there is cheaper," he said

He appealed to communities to help in locating them because aliens investigation unit members were already known among the foreigners, making arrests difficult.

"Police battle to trace illegal immigrants as they move, quite frequently looking for cheap accommodation and work"

8/21/98 (236)
"They (illegal aliens) are already overcrowded and known to police in Johannesburg, and are moving to Pretoria for a fresh start," said Van Wyk.

Minister of Home Affairs Mangosuthu Buthelezi has said the Government would shift its emphasis from removing illegal immigrants to imposing severe penalties on those providing employment for them

He warned that the Aliens Control Act made provision for fines of up to R40 000 and prison sentences of up to two years for those employing illegal aliens

Worst of refugee crisis over for SA border towns

Kevin O'Grady

(236)

BD 30/9/98



A worker helps clear fire-damaged appliances and equipment from Fahhidias Cash & Carry in central Maseru yesterday. The supermarket was one of dozens destroyed in rioting.
Picture BRETTLEOFF

THE refugee situation in SA's border towns with Lesotho had stabilised as fears of an exodus following last week's rioting and gun battles in and around Maseru subsided, aid workers said yesterday.

By yesterday afternoon there were about 700 refugees in Ladybrand, which bore the brunt of the influx after last week's fighting. At its height, there were about 1 300 displaced Basotho seeking refuge in the small town about 20km from Maseru.

Most of the refugees, who are mainly women and children, are being housed at the Manyatsing community hall on the outskirts of Ladybrand.

The Salvation Army's Andrew Moholagae, who is co-ordinating assistance at the centre, said the worst of the crisis was over and that sufficient food was being donated to provide two meals a day to adults and three for children. "It's not easy, but we are managing," he said.

Although there had been a slight reduction in the number of refugees, the constant ebb and flow across the border was making it difficult to assess whether Basotho had begun returning home en masse.

An SA Red Cross worker, who asked not to be named, said aid organisations' main concern was that returning refugees would

discover food shortages in Maseru and return to SA in the knowledge that they would be fed.

Meanwhile, Lesotho Defence Force soldiers, some of whom waged battles against SA National Defence Force (SANDF) and Botswana Defence Force troops at army bases around Maseru last week, continued to report to headquarters in Maseru with their weapons yesterday.

Yesterday morning, hundreds of Lesotho troops were streaming into their badly damaged Makoanyane base — the scene of a two-day battle against SANDF soldiers last week.

Dustin Chick reports that the SANDF denied reports yesterday that it had lied about the number of its fatalities during operation in Lesotho.

The defence force said the official death toll stood at nine.

At the same time, the United Democratic Movement (UDM) called for a commission of inquiry into the events in Lesotho. UDM president Bantu Holomisa said the inquiry should probe the circumstances which led to the killing of SA troops, the role played by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's office in the appointment of the Langa Commission, as well as what was done with the commission's findings before they were handed to the Lesotho people.

SA'S SLAVE TRADE

Cops uncover scheme where immigrants are sold into labour

By CHARLES MCGALE

A SLAVE trade is being operated in South Africa by smuggling illegal immigrants into the country and selling them as cheap labourers to farmers and sweat shops.

Police confirmed this when they raided a shack in Dennilton in Mpumalanga last Monday and found 18 hungry Mozambicans locked in a windowless room with a cement floor.

It is believed that a crime syndicate similar to those operating in East Asia - where men and women are taken to foreign countries and forced to work in sweat shops, so called because the aliens have to work long hours for slave wages - has now reared its ugly head in South Africa.

Similar rackets operate in the United States, where Mexicans and Chinese are smuggled into the country to work in sweat shops.

Police found the 18 unfed Mozambicans sitting in the dark on old car tyres or sleeping on the bare cement floor in their own faeces and urine as there were no toilet facilities.

Acting on information, Captain Wolle Prinsloo and his men broke open the lock at midnight to get into the corrugated iron-roofed shack. The scruffy, dirty men were suffering from dehydration. It must have been unbearably hot during the day, even though it is still early spring. They had received no food for two days.

A man and woman suspected of being their jailers have been arrested.

As the police took the 18 bewildered and blinking illegals out into the fresh air, one of them told the police they were grateful for being rescued, even if they were deported.

The men told the police that they were not allowed to go out of the shack at all - and that if they tried to run away they would be shot.

The men said they were picked up in Mozambique on the pretext that there was work awaiting them in South Africa. They were driven through the night in a truck to Dennilton, where



LITTLE SHACK OF HORROR... This dark hell-hole is where 18 Mozambican men eager to start a life in South Africa were locked up, cramped together without food, toilet - or sunshine

■ Pic: GEORGE MASHINI

they were forced into the tiny shack - measuring about 8 m by 4 m - and locked up.

The men were ordered to pay R450 for their freedom - or wait until employment was found for them. If they paid up, they would have to find their way into the country.

Acting provincial commissioner of the police in Mpumalanga, Captain Denn Alberts, said that the services of illegal immigrants were offered to would-be employers.

"If employment is found, the slave has to pay over part of his wages to the slave master, if he does not get his title the illegal is assaulted and taken back to Mozambique," he said.

The police are investigating claims that some of the men were driven to farmers who were offered their labour.

A person who lives close to the shack told City Press: "People are brought from Mozambique and sold in places as far away as Benoni. This is common knowledge around here."

City Press spoke to some of the men in detention.

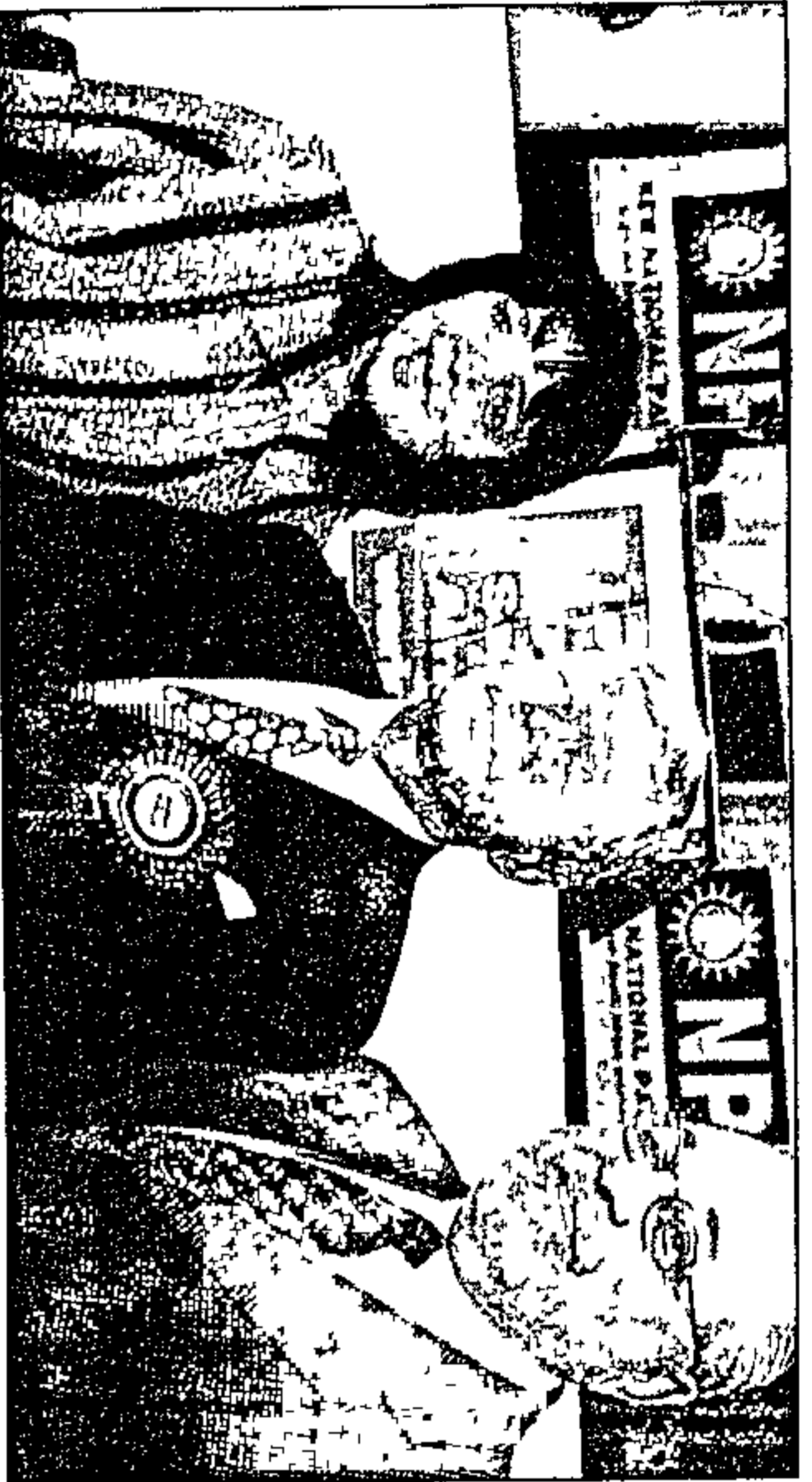
Their spirits were broken. Sitting on the concrete floor of their police cell, their faces lit up with anticipation when the door was flung open.

Most could not speak a South African language. The few who knew Shangaan or Zulu offered to speak on behalf of their mates.

"Please, please my African brother, take us to court. We are ready to go to court, or anywhere! We are begging you, please. We were happy when we were brought here, but it seems we are still in a similar situation," one said, fighting back tears.

However, they insisted that they were South African and said they had only asked for a lift from a man who drove them into South Africa.

Sergeant Ian Polley of the Internal Tracing Unit in Witbank said the 18 men would have to remain in custody while police decide whether to charge them or repatriate them.



WELCOME - Premier Gerald Morkel with his new cabinet members, Heidelberg councillor Freda Adams and former Cape Town mayor Leon Markowitz, at the NNP congress

PICTURE: MUWAHIED SAFODIEN

Morkel claims 'tide' of immigrants leads to crime

CHRIS BATEMAN

A "TIDE" of 5.5 million illegal immigrants into South Africa has directly led to a 14% increase in crime in the Western Cape, while the cost of corruption nationally has soared to three times that of SA's police budget.

So stated newly elected Western Cape New National Party chairman Premier Gerald Morkel in his first speech as leader to his party's fifth annual regional congress at the Goodwood Civic Centre yesterday.

It emerged at the congress that the NNP is budgeting R4 million for its election campaign next year. It claims to have increased paid-up regional membership from 56 000 in 1994 to 86 770 today.

Speaking to more than 400 delegates from across the province, Morkel

claimed that a massive growth in illegal immigrants was contributing directly to crime, with the Western Cape suffering a 14% crime increase because of it.

"We cannot tolerate people who come here and use the scarce resources which our province so badly needs," he added.

Morkel reserved his most scathing attack on the ANC for its proposals to change South Africa's liquor laws to make it illegal for private wine farms to sell liquor on their premises.

This would wreck tourism on the local wine routes and cost 100 000 Western Cape jobs.

The ANC wants to hijack exclusive provincial powers and steam-roller the legislation through parliament, he said.

"What tourists will want to visit our

wine routes if he can't even taste a glass of wine or buy a case? It's this kind of action that forces you to ask whether the ANC government means well with the Western Cape."

Morkel promised that he would take the government to the Constitutional Court should the amended liquor legislation go through.

He appealed to delegates to help rid the province of corruption, which he said had grown nationally to cost the country R36 billion in just four years since the ANC came to power.

He compared this to the national police budget of between R11 billion and R12 billion.

Morkel scoffed at the "laughable" latest Markhor polls, which show support for the NNP at 30%, saying their poll in the Western Cape was based on having canvassed just 498 people.

He boasted that his NNP-led regional government had produced the country's only provincial constitution, rationalised its departments down from 15 to eight and outperformed all other provinces.

"We are expendable to the ANC because we are not an ANC province and they simply do not have the political will to help us fight crime."

Morkel cited the private-sector-led Rent-a-Cop scheme as a success. It has reduced Cape Town city centre crime by 36%, said Morkel, who expressed frustration at central government's "unwillingness" to help fund crime-busting local operations such as Operation Recoil on the Cape Flats.

The congress enters its final day today with the election of senior party officials, panel discussions and motions for the provincial legislature

Information on illegal aliens unit pouring in

(236)
Star 11/9/98
Information is pouring in following the arrest of nine policemen in connection with alleged corruption within the illegal aliens unit.

Inspector Merleen von Caues of the anti-corruption unit said a sergeant who had previously worked for the illegal aliens unit had come forward with more information regarding irregularities

"We also received over a 100 calls from immigrants who said they were happy that police had finally acted."

Von Caues said Superintendent Janneman van Wyk, who was leading the investigations, would personally interview each of the people who called yesterday.

Regarding more arrests, Von Caues said they believed a 10th policeman from the illegal aliens unit who they were seeking was avoiding them.

She added they were also looking for another five men and could make arrests soon

Yesterday the nine members of the illegal aliens unit arrested on Wednesday were issued with letters of pending suspension

Von Caues said Captain Gerhardus Dirk "Blackie" Swart (29), once acting commander of the unit, and his co-accused, Inspector Aubrey Fullerton Greef (31), Sergeant Shane Nel (28), Sergeant Lazarus Mashigo (31), Constable Collin Mondledi (36) and Sergeant Kenny Moremi, had been given time to appeal against their pending suspensions.

The only civilian arrested, André Manser, deputy manager of the Home Affairs Immigration Department, was put on compulsory leave yesterday. -
Pretoria Correspondent

Young children flee to SA as refugee numbers rise rapidly

ARIS CORRESPONDENT AND SABA

Johannesburg - The Free State provincial government and the South African Red Cross have set up a joint disaster management operation to feed and find shelter for about 1 700 Lesotho refugees in Ladybrand.

The children fled their homes and linked up with adults on the road as fighting between supporters of the governing Lesotho Congress for Democracy and anti-government supporters has spread to villages and towns in remote areas.

Refugee numbers are expected to swell at the weekend as sporadic fighting and looting continues. Private organisations such as Operation Hunger said today they had offered to help care for the refugees.

Minister of Welfare Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi visited refugee camps at Ladybrand yesterday for an on-the-spot assessment of their needs. According to military and Ladybrand community spokesmen, many of the children - who arrived with only the clothes they had on - were not sure where their families were.

Dr Philip Erasmus, manager of the SA Red Cross air mercy services said they were assessing the needs of the refugees.

Mrs Fraser Moleketi said the plight of refugees streaming across the border was serious but the situation had not yet reached crisis proportions. She was accompanied by Free State Premier Iry Matsape-Casaburri and Home Affairs Deputy Minister Lindiwe Sisulu, arrived at Ladybrand yesterday to assess the social impact of the influx of refugees. The refugees were placed at different centres in the town. The Chinese group was accommodated by fellow Chinese living in Ladybrand.

The 600 refugees crammed at the Humeleng centre at Menyatswing township yesterday called for help from the South African community. "We are stranded, desperate and we need food, blankets and medicine said an elderly woman.

Local rescue operations spokesman Alfred Kent said the South African National Defence Force had provided tents and 600 blankets, as well as food parcels for refugees.

Ladybrand mayor Sello Ntsepe said the refugees included about 400 people from China and India. About 100 Britons have also left Lesotho.



Putting the boot in in this sequence captured from television footage, an unidentified South African soldier kicks an unknown looter in Maseru. Scenes like this were flashed around the world, but the SANDF has denied that its soldiers were undisciplined.

'clashes with looters,' Troops ordered to shoot on sight

MORNING CHANDLER
DERRICK CORRESPONDENT

Pretoria - The TV images the world saw of South African soldiers kicking and beating Basotho civilians were of altercations between looters and soldiers trying to stop them stealing, says the defence force.

Joint operations directorate spokeswoman Laverne Machane said, "There is no question of a breakdown in discipline among the troops."

She said the footage of people being kicked and beaten, shown on national television this week, was of looters who had fought soldiers, sometimes barehanded, while

stealing from stores and buildings.

South African and Botswana soldiers patrolling Maseru were ordered to shoot on sight after a third day of looting in the smoking ruins of the city's main business area yesterday.

Millions of rands has been lost to unchecked looting and burning of buildings in Maseru.

Government offices, the magistrate's court, banks, shopping centres, the post office and others have been reduced to rubble, their contents either stolen or set on fire.

Looting has also taken place at Matikeng in the south and at Butha Buthe in the north. The troops will now concentrate on reinstating law and order to

enable the Lesotho government to again administer the country.

A start has been made already on reinstating police stations, including one at Butha Buthe which had been occupied by rebels.

The number of soldiers killed in the military intervention now stands at 66 - eight from the combined forces and 58 Lesotho Defence Force rebels.

An indefinite 60m-rand curfew was imposed on Maseru yesterday in terms of a status of forces agreement applied under South African law forbidding looting and plundering.

The legislation makes these criminal offences and looters run the risk of being shot if looting or even if they are on the streets during curfew.



Searching SANDF troops search Lesotho citizens after mobs looted, burned and wrecked offices and shops in downtown Maseru.

Test of our humanity

THESE passages (see box) represent the anguish that many refugees face having left their country of origin. Yet the treatment they receive in exile may also be harsh. In South Africa the treatment refugees face is often part of a larger issue "xenophobia", a fear of what is foreign, or the "foreigner problem". This problem was brought into focus by the recent triple murder on a crowded Pretoria-Johannesburg train of three Senegalese nationals (one was initially reported to be Mozambican).

Sadly, these murders are not an unusual event. Indeed, groups monitoring attacks on non-nationals have reported a sharp rise of violent xenophobia-motivated attacks this year.

The responses to the murders have varied. Some have condemned the event outright. Some have distanced themselves from the attack while stating they understand the frustrations motivating those responsible.

The difference is between those who see xenophobic attacks as an unjustified and perhaps misguided response to economic pressures, and those who believe that non-nationals are at least partly responsible for these violent attacks by their mere presence in the country.

In our view, South Africa is grappling not only with economic pressures but also with xenophobia.

While the violent response on the Pretoria train is not constructive, national legislation being introduced in Parliament is – and should be supported.

The foreigner problem and its relative racism are of course not unique to South Africa. Xenophobia and racism in post-World War II Europe, and the failed response to Jews and others who had attempted to flee Nazi atrocities, caused the international community finally to address the foreigner problem collectively.

In 1951 a treaty, the UN Convention relating to the status of refugees, was enacted. In 1969 the countries of Africa did the same with the OAU Convention, governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa.

These conventions are a set of minimum standards designed to ensure that those fleeing human rights violations and who have genuine need of refuge will not be denied it.

The conventions do not apply to persons seeking access to a country purely to better their economic prospects.

South Africa officially accepted the notion of granting refuge, only in the spirit of the conventions, in 1994. The previous government had not thought this issue important.

A common perception now is that South Africa has been forced to open its doors to masses of refugees from across the continent – and further afield.

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One of the tasks facing the Government is the passing of sensible laws governing refugees in South Africa, write **James Schneider** and **Jonathan Klaaren**.

**‘... and let my brothers
know I walk the streets of
exile; clutching their bullets
in my soul’**

from *The Graveyard* also has *Teeth* by
Syl Cheney-Coker

**‘There are tears in exile;
Where our hopes have
fled’**

from a poem by Guinness Ohazuruik

Yet as recently as December last year, fewer than 40 000 people had applied for refugee status in South Africa. This reality clashes with the alarmist pronouncements of the "hordes" and "masses" – sometimes said to number three to five million – occasionally made by the media or politicians to be threatening the country.

The real number of refugees in South Africa is relatively small. Kenya, Tanzania and even Malawi have, for example, accommodated numbers higher than one million on a prolonged basis.

Over the past few months officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs and non-governmental representatives have completed a draft Refugees Bill.

The Bill has been approved by Cabinet and is being presented to the portfolio committee on home affairs this week before being passed into law by November.

This Bill is not perfect. The drafting process initially seemed to represent a strong and positive endorsement of the humanitarian principles embodied in the international conventions.

However, monitors watching the progress of the Bill over the past few months have seen the tensions between the adoption of a distinct humanitarian-based approach to refugee movements and broader restrictionist migration goals play themselves out in its various drafts.

A number of key issues that will only finally be resolved in Parliament include the following:

● All agree that the system set up to determine the veracity of refugee claims needs to be an efficient one, otherwise unscrupulous individuals realising they may gain temporary legal status in the country for several years, may take advantage of the procedure while real refugees face prolonged insecurity.

● The system also needs to be a fair one. Fairness includes the idea that decisions should be based on objective criteria related to individual need rather than the government's political relations with a given country or its domestic concerns from year to year.

This system should be independent of other branches of government to help guarantee insulation from political pressures, and many see this as critical to the system's credibility. And a face-to-face hearing is needed for a claim to be fairly presented by an asylum-seeker and assessed by a trained official.

● The rights and obligations of refugees and asylum-seekers are another key area of the Bill. There are many positive aspects of the Bill in this area, with work and study rights guaranteed to recognised refugees.

However, service providers working with refugees are alarmed at the lack of a guarantee for asylum-seekers in this regard.

Already unable to meet the demand for basics such as food and accommodation from asylum-seekers unable to find work or self-employment, they believe the situation will reach crisis point if asylum-seekers are denied the right to legally work and then prosecuted in terms of pass law-type offence provisions, and

● A final area of concern is that the notion of refugee protection must allow for an environment in which a refugee can rebuild life with a sense of security and dignity.

At some point, when certain conditions are met, a recognised refugee should have the ability to apply for permanent resettlement in South Africa.

The test is now one for Parliament and for the citizens it represents.

The passage of humane national refugee legislation this year will be a critical litmus test of how far South Africa is going towards its African renaissance and towards building a culture based on tolerance and respect for others.

(James Schneider is from the Refugee Rights Project of Lawyers for Human Rights, and Jonathan Klaaren from the Centre for Applied Legal Studies and Wits University Law Faculty.)

Border policing for illegals takes budget blows (236)

The 26 units deployed now reduced to 10

Star 21/9/98
By RAPHAEL BANDA

Budget cuts in the defence force have drastically reduced its capacity to police the country's borders, but military authorities say the crackdown against illegal border crossers has not slowed down.

The success rate of operations on the Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Botswana, and Namibian borders has gone up by 15%, according to defence force spokesperson Lieutenant-Colonel Laverne Machiné

She said border patrols had netted 35 383 people entering the country illegally this year, compared with 29 351 last year

But while intensive monitoring of the borders by helicopter and ground forces had helped control the influx, Machiné said that "many still get through"

The deployment of troops on the borders has decreased as a result of budgetary constraints. Prior to budget cuts the SANDF deployed 26 companies on border control duties. They now can only deploy 10, she said.

The Mozambique and Zimbabwe borders are classified top priority, followed by Lesotho and Swaziland. Botswana and Namibia have no full-time forces deployed along their borders with South Africa due to the budget cuts. Currently the SANDF spends about R1,7-million a year to maintain border controls.

Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi has said the high unemployment rate in the country necessitated a tightening up of immigration control. A task team is in place to implement controls.

According to Machiné about 5 000 illegal border crossers were apprehended by troops last month,

the majority in Mpumalanga and the Northern Province.

Last year South Africa repatriated about 180 000 illegal immigrants. Home Affairs calculates the illegals cost the country R200-million a year to police. At least 50 000 people have already been deported since January.

Gauteng Premier Mathole Moshekga spoke out publicly against the anti-foreigner phobia sweeping the country in the wake of the recent killing of three Africans during a rampage by a mob on a Pretoria tram.

"There should be no room in our lives for xenophobia. We stand, after all, in Africa. How can we play God and denounce our fellow Africans," he told the meeting.

Home Affairs said there was nothing it could do to stop attacks on foreigners, it could only hope that communities would become more tolerant.

"We can simply make an appeal to people to be more tolerant. We are hoping gradually to create a sense of tolerance in the community," department spokesperson Hennie Meyer said.

Senegalese hawker Jokge Mbayi sells his wares in central Johannesburg.

"I told my parents that I was going to South Africa to try and get a job. This place is hard. I had no choice but to start selling bags," he said, adding he lives in a flat in Berea with seven other people from his home country.

"If things don't change, I am going back."

On Monday last week the authorities launched the first of several public hearings in the process of drafting a white paper on immigration policy. This should be finalised by year-end.

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Don't blame others for joblessness, says SACP

It was diversionary and xenophobic to blame unemployment on the influx of foreigners, the SA Communist Party said in a statement yesterday condemning the killing of three foreigners on a train between Pretoria and Johannesburg on Thursday.

"To unleash popular frustrations against the poor of other countries is a dangerous and diversionary ploy," the SACP said. Unemployment was the most serious crisis affecting society, but it was not caused by the influx of poor working people from neighbouring countries.

"The present turmoil in the Great Lakes region should remind us of how dangerous xenophobic mobilisation can be" - Sapa

SAW 5/9/98

SA's refugee bill flies in face of international law, says UN man

BLACKMAN NGORO
STAFF REPORTER

The draft Refugee Bill before the parliamentary committee on home affairs is said to contravene certain international conventions to which South Africa is a signatory.

Nicholas Bwakira of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Southern Africa said the bill circumscribed refugees' rights.

"We are concerned that its contents may conflict with the state's international and constitutional obligations to refugees," he said.

"There is a strong competition in the draft bill between a refugee rights-based approach and what you might call a law-enforcement approach."

While praising the open approach taken by the Government during its

ARG 18/9/98 (236)
consultation process on the bill, he said he wondered how much of the input received would be included in the final draft.

"For instance, there is a proposal to give the home affairs minister the right to appeal against a decision of the board granting asylum. That is a Government body. How can a minister appeal against a decision by a committee he has empowered to make those decisions?"

Mr Bwakira said any intention to expel refugees was in contravention of international law. "Refugee law allows for the removal of refugees under only very strict conditions, where there is a threat to (the) internal security of a country.

"The draft does not appear to secure the rights of an applicant to appear before this board or committee and present his case

"Refugee legislation is human rights-oriented. This draft contains important provisions on these lines, which at the same time are compromised by the criminal approach towards the enforcement of the refugee law," said Mr Bwakira.

Human Rights Commissioner Barney Pitso said his organisation had recommended a humane, just and speedy determination process owned by the Government and driven by it for the process to have integrity and independence.

"What we are talking about is not just policy, but integrating asylum seekers into the fabric of South Africa society. The state must do more than just provide asylum."

He said he proposed to reproach the political leadership for turning a blind eye to the attacks on foreign nationals with refugee status.

OPINION

Workers are right to protect jobs

The uninformed preach about xenophobia, writes Mondli Makhanya

LAST WRITES



At first they were just the subject of ridicule, the butt of jokes. South Africans, long cloistered behind the apartheid curtain, were quite amused and bemused by those first waves of immigrants who poured over our borders in the early 90s.

Locals called the newcomers *makwerekwe*, *magrumba* and a variety of other choice names which denoted the strangeness of the arrivals. Few really saw immigrants as a threat and there was a general feeling that immigrants would only be here temporarily.

But attitudes changed when the trickle grew into a flood after the 1994 elections. Civil and economic instability in some parts of the continent sent hundreds of thousands speeding southwards, in search of that postcard image of the Hill-brow tower protruding above the Johannesburg skyline.

This influx obviously put severe pressure on social services, the job market and entrepreneurial opportunities.

It was at that point that immigrants ceased being objects of curiosity and became the subjects of derision and animosity. Last week that animosity turned ugly when three foreigners were brutally killed by a mob returning from a protest in Pretoria against unemployment.

Predictably and justifiably there has been much condemnation of the attack, with many decrying what they see as a slide towards violent xenophobia in South Africa. But it is simplistic to equate the actions of the unemployed and hawkers' organisations to those of xenophobic skinheads in European countries. The sentiments and motivations of South Africans towards foreigners are very different from those of the skinheads.

The primary driving force behind the treatment of foreigners by skinheads is racism and a fear of being swamped, while the outbursts of anti-foreigner anger in this country are motivated solely by economic considerations. Much of the criticism of the alleged

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xenophobia in this country has come from academics in ivory towers or other comfortable locations very distant from the poverty which the working classes face every day. Very little effort is made to understand the situation from the perspective of South African working class people who feel the impact of immigration firsthand.

Instead researchers and so-called experts regurgitate studies done elsewhere in the world that say immigration, no matter how uncontrolled, is good for the economy because newcomers start their own businesses and create jobs. There is usually very flimsy evidence to support these claims and it often seems conclusions are reached before research is done.

While this argument may make sense in the lofty world of economic theory and in university sociology departments, it does not hold water in the real world. The hawker in central Johannesburg sees the foreign trader only as an invader of his pavement space, providing unfair competition for his goods. And he has every right to feel so, seeing that the profit mar-

gan at his vegetable stall is usually paper thin.

The argument will not make sense to the unskilled worker who has to compete for a menial job with a foreigner so desperate for work he will accept exploitation and will not even consider unionisation.

It does not even make sense to employed workers, who, through their unions, have for decades been striving for reasonable standards of workplace rights and do not want these eroded by foreign entrants willing to forgo them. These are people at the survival level of society and the mildest change in economic conditions affects them first.

How do we avert the growing violent reaction by working-class citizens to the perceived threat to what little stake they have in society?

The first step would obviously be to stop patronising them by portraying their concerns as irrational and misguided. The concerns of the under-classes about

being marginalised further should be recognised as real.

But the anger which forces hawkers and unemployed workers to take the law into their hands could be tempered if government agencies performed their duties. If street trading in Johannesburg was managed better by the council and local traders given priority, then a large chunk of hawkers' grievances would be dealt with. Attempts by hawkers to get councils to manage street trade have been ignored, prompting the rampages through the inner city characterised by many as misguided xenophobic attacks.

Authorities could also tighten up the monitoring of businesses which maximise profit by employing exploitable illegal immigrants. The authorities need to implement existing laws to protect the interests of South African citizens, especially those at the bottom of the economic rung who are most vulnerable to the vagaries of the modern global village. That at least will give them the knowledge that they have not been left to defend their own interests.

Illegal aliens unit police in court over blackmail, theft and exploiting prostitutes

By Mike Masipa
AND OWN CORRESPONDENT

Nearly half of the Pretoria-based SAPS illegal aliens unit were arrested on corruption-related charges yesterday. And police say they expect another five arrests soon.

Those arrested include former acting head of the unit Captain Gerhardus "Blackie" Swart and senior Home Affairs

Department immigration official André Manser

Others held on charges including theft, blackmail, corruption and defeating the ends of justice are Inspector Aubrey Greeff, sergeants Kenny-Mo-reme, Lucas Tshabalala, Nico Fourie, Laurus Mashigo and Shabe Nel, and constables Colin Monaledi and William Mahleka

Director Stefan Grobler,

head of the police anti-corruption unit, said the investigation, dubbed Operation Cruiser, began in December.

Grobler claimed the men had accepted sexual favours or thousands of rands in bribes from illegal immigrants trying to avoid arrest or deportation.

Some of the accused had exploited prostitutes from the Far East by having sex with them. Others had accepted bribes of

between R1 000 and R5 000.

Superintendent Janneman van Wyk, the leader of the investigation, said the men worked mainly with aliens from the Far East and Nigeria.

The accused appeared in the Pretoria Regional Court yesterday and were granted bail of between R500 and R1 000. The trial was postponed to November 2.

Swart once claimed to have "travelled the world" while ac-

companying foreign prostitutes back to their countries. The women are usually deported in batches and most airlines require the presence of a policeman or home affairs official during the journey.

Anyone with information or who dealt with the suspects can telephone Van Wyk on (012) 421-0778 or 083-626-9128, or Captain Hannes Smith on (012) 421-0780 or 082-579-4385.

Fear of crime and competition fuels xenophobia

SOUTH Africans have three most common fears that lead to an increased feeling of xenophobia – the fear of crime, economic competition and disease – a study on xenophobia, and migration in the country has revealed.

Speaking at a consultative conference on xenophobia organised by the South African Human Rights Commission in Johannesburg yesterday, Mr Paul Graham said these fears,

whether rational or not, should be taken seriously

Graham is an executive at the Institute for a Democracy Alternative South Africa

"They have the potential to result in abusive and violent behaviour towards foreigners," Graham said

Referring to initial findings in a survey by the Southern African Migration Project, Graham said 48 percent

of respondents feared immigrants were involved in crime, while 32 percent felt they were a threat to jobs. A third of respondents feared diseases such as HIV-Aids from foreigners

He said a quarter of South Africans wanted a total prohibition while 45 percent wanted strict limits on people from other countries. Only six percent were in favour of freedom of entry

"I want to make use of the informa-

tion collected by the project to suggest there is indeed an increasingly generalised antipathy towards foreigners."

This antipathy was largely driven by second-hand information and limited personal experience

"However, it remains possible to prevent this antipathy from entrenching itself in personal and group behaviour which is violent or abusive," he said

Yesterday's workshop followed a

Source: *Paul Graham* 16/10/98

recent spate of attacks on foreigners, including the killing of three foreigners in Pretoria last month after a mob accused them of stealing jobs

HRC chairman Dr Barney Pitso said xenophobia was a violation of human rights. "Fear and hostility towards foreigners is not acceptable, under any circumstances. But we need to ensure that the root-cause of xenophobia is addressed" – *Sapa*

10 members of illegal aliens unit in court

ET 10/9/98 (236)

PRETORIA: Ten members of the Illegal Aliens Investigation Unit, including its acting commander, Blackie Swart, appeared in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court yesterday on charges of theft and corruption.

There are only 24 members in the unit.

Captain Swart, Inspector Aubrey Graaf, 31, sergeants Kenny Moreme, 36, L S Chabalala, 37, N G Fourie, 33, L Mashigo, 31, and S Nel appeared with constables C T Monaledi, 31, J C Maluleke, 35, and an immigration official, Andre Manser, 37.

They were granted bail ranging from R500 to R1 000 and their trial was postponed to November 2 for further investigation.

They were also ordered not to communicate with any of the illegal immigrants involved in the case. They were not asked to plead.

National anti-corruption unit commander, Stefan Grobler, said the 10 had been arrested in an early-morning raid.

Grobler said charges of bribery, defeating the ends of justice, fraud, corruption and the use of state vehicles without permission would be preferred.

Some of the accused were alleged to have had sex in return for releasing Thai prostitutes detained for illegally entering the country.

"It will have a detrimental effect on the functioning of the unit," Grobler said. More arrests were expected.

Manser was arrested for allegedly issuing temporary permits to illegal immigrants and forging admission-of-guilt notices.

Grobler said Swart, Greef, Moreme, Mashigo, Nel and Monaledi would be suspended with full pay until the investigations were completed. The rest, who were facing lesser charges, would be transferred to other units.

"One of the worst things a policeman can do is to prey on defenceless people," Grobler said, adding that some of the charges relate to the theft of clothes during police raids.

Yesterday's swoop was the culmination of a special anti-corruption investigation, code named Operation Crusier, that started in December last year, Grobler said. — Sapa

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New trade boom in SA

WITH the flood of drugs and other illicit trade that infiltrates South Africa's borders comes the more sinister dimension to illegal migration, trafficking in humans, another of the problems with which authorities have to deal

Although relatively new to this country and continent, the modern-day slave trade is a big problem in other parts of the world

While there have always been large numbers of people attempting to move countries for a multitude of reasons, aspirant migrants are now being exploited by organised syndicates who "buy" their servitude in return for passage to another country, primarily the United States (US)

South Africa and the rest of the continent are now transit points to the US, says Phyllis Coven, an attache at the US consulate in Johannesburg

Coven is part of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) which recently launched a global project to get governments and different agencies working together on the issue

In the post Cold-War era, the trafficking has grown and became a new big business, she says

While there has always been movement of people from the East and Latin America to the US, the disintegration of the Soviet Union and break down of the Berlin Wall has led to Eastern Europeans now joining the flow

"For the smugglers, it is very profitable they don't have to take care of their human cargo there's no need for safety precautions

"At the same time, it's really dangerous for the people they are moving about"

The INS investigations have found that desperate people, say in a village in China, may be made to fork out a fee in the region of \$35 000 (about R210 000) each for passage West

In many instances, a villager would have a mere fraction of the sum and once indebted to the trader, would be forced to work in sweatshops almost indefinitely, assuming of course, that he managed to safely reach the US or Canada

Back home, members of his family may enslave themselves to the trader as well, and spend most of their lives working to pay him off

While one young person may go in search of "the Great American Dream" his family may be left to slowly diminish, labouring under the belief that he'll make good and send for them

More worrying is the movement of women and children, who often end up working in the sex industry

The long term devastation is also not quantified For example, women prostitutes from Thailand may be deported, taking back with them sexually transmitted diseases

Although Coven says that such a subject may

With the slave trade flourishing in the post-Cold War era, Africa is increasingly being used as a transit point to the US writes **Sharon Chetty** (236)



Illegal migrants are being exploited increasingly by organised crime syndicates involved in human trafficking.

be a "very unifying issue for governments", they are still far from being in control of the problem The US approach has been to deal with the problem at its source or while people are in transit

Over the past few years, they have managed to apprehend people on 20 to 30 boats (including two off the African coast) en route to the US, although it is believed that there may be anything from 50 to 300 transporting human cargo around the world at any time

Global reach

The INS' new campaign, called Operation Global Reach, will, for the first time have US criminal investigators and intelligence analysts based in countries which are the source of the trafficking or which are on the transit route

At the same time, the INS teams will train law enforcement and airline officials in identifying fraudulent documents and work with different governments towards the prosecution of traffickers

Coven has been in South Africa for a little more than six weeks During that time, she has known of at least 80 people who have been apprehended and who might not only be illegal immigrants, but also fall into the web of human trafficking

"There has been a good working relationship with the SA authorities," she says

Besides the attraction of South Africa for migrants from the rest of the continent, it is also a convenient transit point from the East

According to Coven, the migrants go from here to the Cape Verde Island, from where they cross the Atlantic Ocean to the US

The treacherous journey around the world can sometimes last for years People are transported in crude conditions and death from illness is not unusual

But still, people chase a dream and the cycle continues There are no figures on people who travel illegally or on the syndicates who control the trade

The local chapter of the International Organisation for Migration, a non-governmental organisation that keeps abreast of such issues, was unable to quantify the problem in Africa

Head of Mission in Pretoria, Joshua Ogina, said that the trafficking in humans was a relatively new phenomenon in Southern Africa

About a year ago, he had tried organising a seminar on the matter, and there was very little or no interest shown

"A year later, the issue is taking shape," he says

Although historically the US has been the country of immigrants, they have only been tackling the problem in a holistic way for the past five years, admits Coven

One of the methods used has been an information campaign in Latin American countries, the largest source of migrants to the US

"Safe, legal and orderly migration" is their motto and Coven says that since migration is a natural phenomenon, "good practices" can be put into place

CAPE 'exodus' has Western Cape stretched to limit

BLACKMAN NGORO
STAFF REPORTER

Every month thousands of new shacks go up in informal settlements in and around towns in the Western Cape, including Cape Town, according to an official in the provincial welfare department responsible for squatter camps.

The inspector said although he and his colleagues counted the mushrooming shacks, there was no way of determining the number of people who lived in them.

Another official, from the provincial housing department, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed there was "a flood" of people pouring into the Western Cape, most from the Eastern Cape.

Acting director-general of health and social services in the Western Cape Virginia Petersen said the influx put additional pressure on the welfare budget "in terms of social security as well as the need for more welfare services."



Waiting It's a long while to a meal and a job for this man who basks in the sun in the meantime

HANNES THWART

"Influx happens because people are looking for jobs. Job creation and economic development for people to generate some income where they live would go a long way towards limiting the influx of people to the Western Cape," she said.

In an interview ahead of the National Non-Governmental Organisation Coalition's awareness week next week, the organisation's programmes director Jacqui Boule called on the Government to commit more resources to the rural areas.

"We should create jobs and more jobs for the people who are flooding into the cities in search of work."

Neither the provincial Department of Social Services nor the national Department of Home Affairs has done conclusive studies of the

'No jobs and no mercy just because we're not coloured'

BLACKMAN NGORO
STAFF REPORTER

Rural Eastern Cape people want a piece of the financial cake in Cape Town are living out broken dreams on pavements and in drain pipes.

M Oka Kidwell, a former Butterworth farmer, says employers in Cape Town - a former coloured

labour preference area - still resist employing Africans.

"This worries us. The white employers ask us 'Why don't you tell Mandela to give you a job?'"

Mr Kidwell, 46, lives on the street with dozens of others, trusting in their numbers for security.

Other street dwellers lost their jobs when their companies folded. Vusi Mkhize, 34, found a home on

the streets after the security company for which he worked closed down.

"I'm from Johannesburg, born in Soweto. I haven't had a job since 1996."

Most of the street people make a living collecting cardboard boxes and selling them to paper companies.

They also live on handouts. Usually they are found huddled around supermarkets where they offer to

push trolleys for shoppers, paint, do plumbing - anything for daily bread.

Markson Simon, 30, says he thinks it is better to be in Cape Town than Keiskammahok from where he comes.

"My parents are unemployed. They are subsistence farmers. I have seven siblings and there wasn't anything to eat. So, I came to Cape Town in 1987 to

trend and could not say how many people were coming to Cape Town and other urban areas.

Earlier this year, the housing waiting list in Cape Town's municipalities was estimated to be more than 200 000.

With elections looming, unemployment is likely to be top of the agenda as political parties jostle for support.

But the possibility of jobs will remain a mirage for many as short-term solutions evade politicians.

African National Congress MP for Crossroads Mnyamezele "Nyami" Boo said "The Cape Town city council has to do something about the situation and find these people accommodation."

He denied claims of a deliberate effort by political parties to attract people to the cities to capture their votes. "Some of these people coming into the towns would have been thrown off farms after seasonal employment and with nowhere to go they come to the city hoping for jobs," Mr Boo said.

look for a job. But I haven't had one permanent job at all."

How do they view their future? Mr Kidwell is forthright.

"When you are suffering, you will commit a crime. That's why the crime is so high."

"People are still streaming from the Eastern Cape, but they will find nothing here. No jobs and no mercy because we are not coloureds."

Mob kills 3 'job-stealing' foreigners

Nov 4/9/98
(236)

Unemployed marchers vent rage on Mozambican, Senegalese

PRETORIA CORRESPONDENT
AND SAPA

Police cannot find a single witness who saw an angry mob sjambokking and chasing three foreigners through a train to their deaths yesterday.

Terrified eyewitnesses refused to give statements, police said this morning, so no charges have been laid against attackers who killed the men during the angry rampage by unemployed protesters on a Pretoria-Johannesburg train yesterday afternoon.

An inquest docket has been opened after the deaths of the three who were trying to escape the angry mob.

It is believed the attackers were returning from a protest march against unemployment when they killed the men they accused of stealing jobs.

Police confirmed that two men from Senegal and a Mozambican died in the incident.

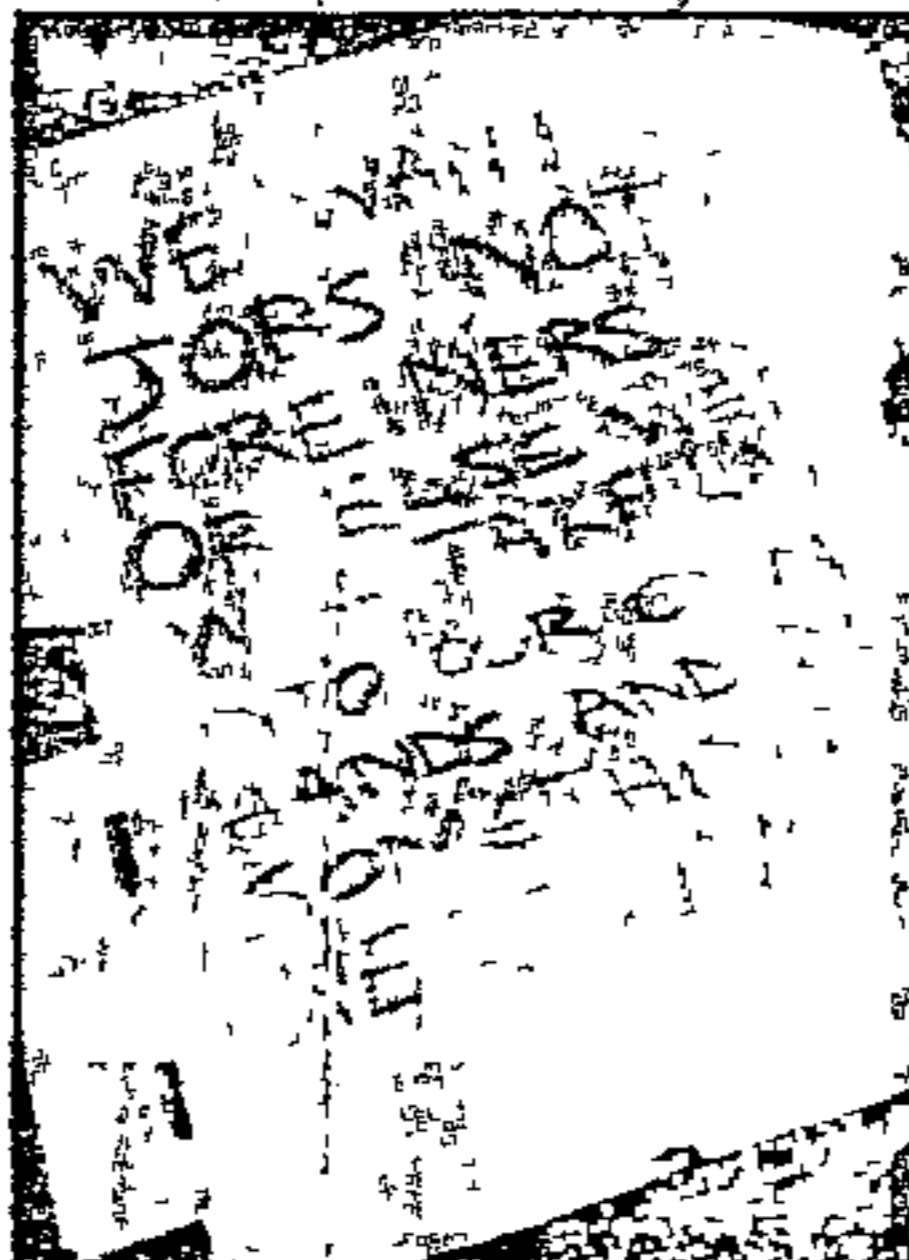
One man was thrown from a train window and hit by an oncoming train, while the others were electrocuted when they tried to escape by climbing on to the roof of the train.

The deaths occurred outside Irene station, south of Pretoria, at about 4.30pm.

Captain Morne van Wyk, police spokesperson for Pretoria, said the inquest could lead to murder dockets "if evidence comes to light", but no witnesses have given statements.

"At this stage we have three deaths. No eyewitnesses have come forward to report exactly what happened," Van Wyk said.

A man who had been on the platform when the train arrived at Irene station, spoke to The Star. He said smoke was billowing from the two badly burnt bodies on the Metrorail train



Jobs not foreigners ... a poster (above) that was brandished by the protesters. Firemen remove one of the electrocuted bodies from the train (below).



roof as it entered the station.

Rescue workers had to cut the electric powerlines to reach the bodies.

Police sifted through the charred wallet of one victim to identify him as commuters silently watched.

Afterwards, the platform was littered with discarded

posters which read: "We want jobs, not foreiners (sic), or else we will take the law into our own hands and do something negative (sic)" and "Away with poverty, forward with jobs".

The marches against unemployment, to the Pretoria head offices of the departments of labour and home affairs, were organised by a group calling itself the Unemployed Masses of South Africa.

Sam Mashobuko told The Star everybody on the station platform thought the train was on fire because of the smoke, but the truth emerged as passengers disembarked.

According to Mashobuko, the marchers started a fight with three foreign men, accusing them of stealing jobs from South Africans.

The mob allegedly sjambokked the men and chased them through the train. He said the men, apparently in their early 30s, had been selling clothes

Van Wyk said: "The man on the track and one on the roof had the same surname. We suspect they could be brothers."

Train conductor Lesley Thibile said: "I jumped off the train and saw people burning on top. The cables carry 3000 watts of electricity"

Thibile said many passengers had been toyi-toying when they boarded the train.

Pretoria Metrorail spokesperson Margaret Dingalo said 20 trains were stranded between Pretoria and Johannesburg while police removed the bodies. The electricity lines between Irene and Pinedean had to be cut to get the bodies off the roof.

About 30 trains were delayed for two and a half hours, Dingalo said, stranding thousands of commuters

Normal services resumed at 6.30pm.

Foreigners killed on commuter train

By Mokgadi Pela

(236)
Two men were electrocuted and another run over by a train yesterday in what is believed to have been an attack on foreigners at Irene railway station, near Pretoria

Although police could not confirm claims that the attacks were aimed at foreigners, they said a banner found at the scene read "We don't want illegal immigrants to take our jobs"

Police spokesman Captain Morne

van Wyk said one of the victims had either jumped or had been thrown from a moving train. Two of the dead were from Senegal, West Africa, the third from Mozambique

The two men were apparently electrocuted by overhead wires when they tried to escape their attackers by climbing onto the roof of a train on the platform. The incident occurred during the afternoon peak rush hour.

Police have opened an inquest docket. Van Wyk said "We have not

4/9/98
made any arrests as yet as there were no witnesses to the incident."

He said the dead men were in their early 30s

The deaths caused a major delay to mainline trains. The power had to be cut off to allow the bodies to be removed from the scene

In a related incident, a train was set alight at Mears station in the same area by angry commuters following the delay caused by the deaths of the three men.

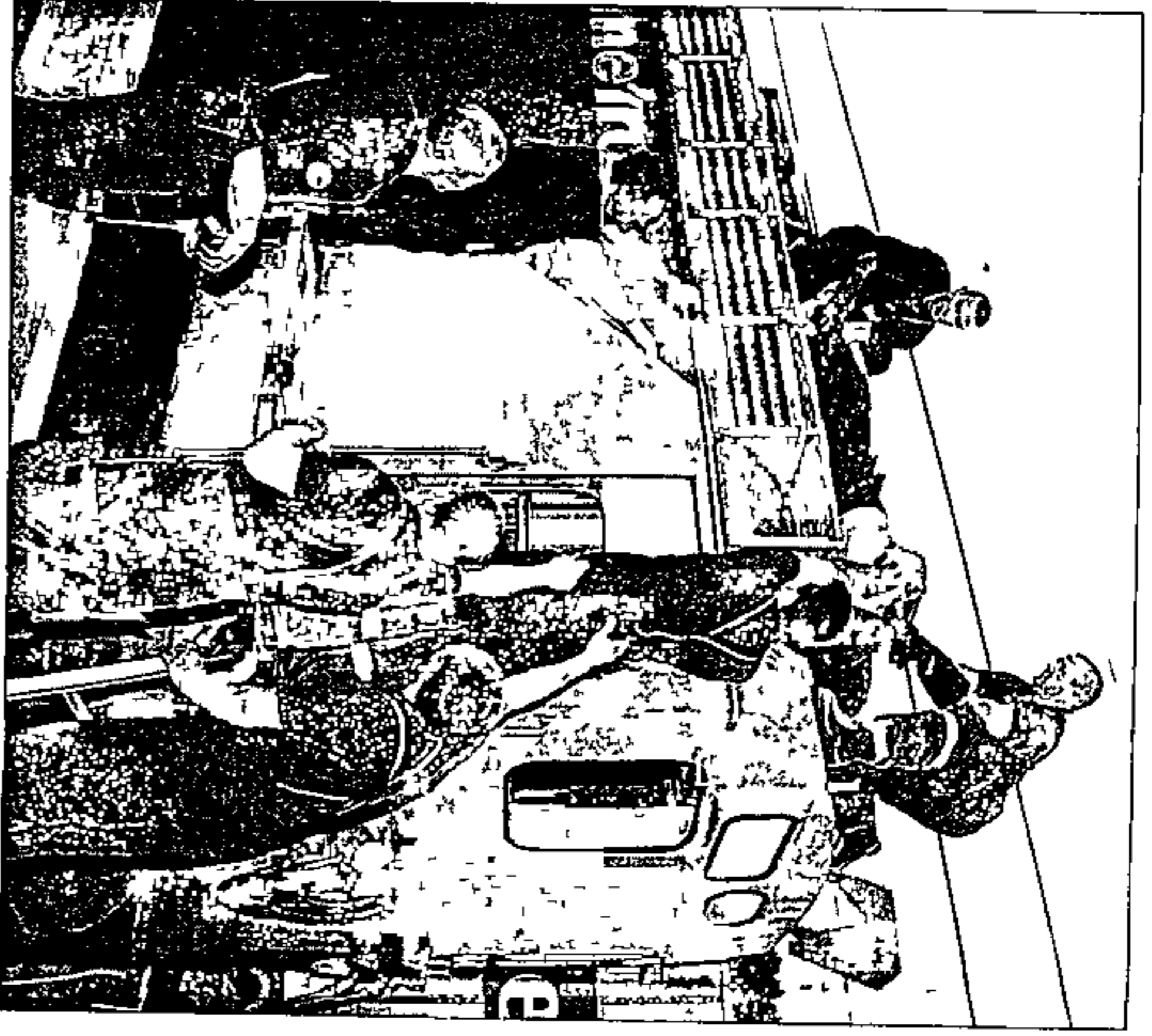
IN BRIEF

Jobless mob goes on death rampage

ARCT 4/9/98 (A36)

Protesters kill foreigners in train after Pretoria march

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT AND SAPA

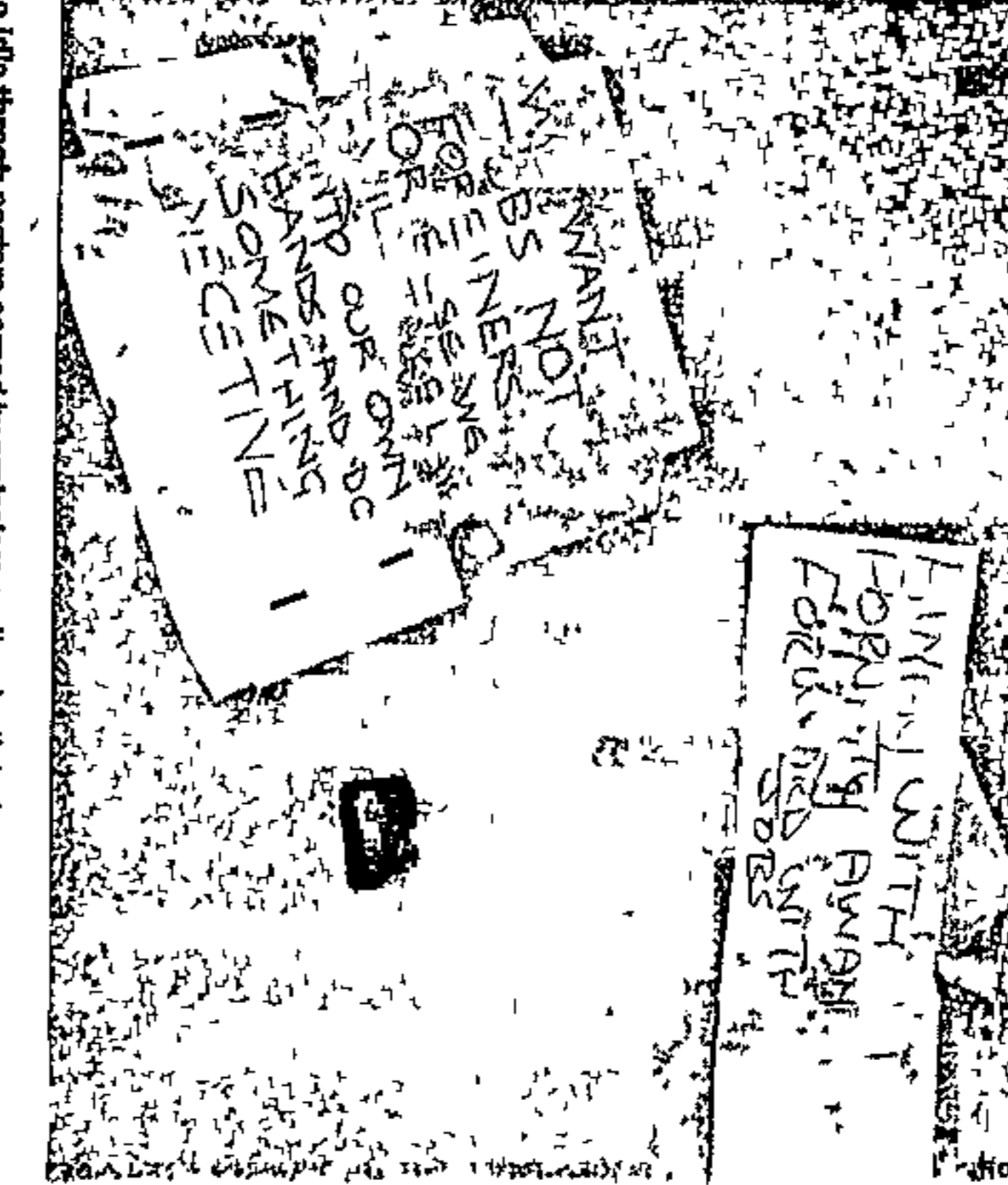


ETIENNE CREUX
Railway rage. Metrorail workers remove the bodies of foreigners from a Gauteng train

Johannesburg - An angry mob, travelling by train from Pretoria to Johannesburg after a protest march against unemployment, killed three foreign men whom they accused of stealing their jobs. Police confirmed that two men from Senegal and a Mozambican died in yesterday's incident, which was accompanied by an outpouring of protest against foreigners "taking South Africans' jobs".

One of the men was thrown from a train window and was hit by an oncoming train, while the other two were electrocuted when they tried to escape by climbing on to the roof of the train. The deaths occurred outside Irene station, south of Pretoria, at about 4.30pm. Witnesses said smoke billowed from the two badly burnt bodies on the top of the Metrorail train as it entered the station. Rescue workers had to cut the elec-

tric power lines to reach the bodies. Police sifted through the charred wallet of one of the victims to identify him as hundreds of commuters stood silently watching. Afterwards, the platform was littered with discarded posters which read "We want jobs, not foreigners, or else we will take the law into our own hands and do something negative" and "Away with poverty, forward with jobs". The protest against unemployment, which took the form of marches to the Pretoria head offices of the departments of labour and home affairs, was organised by a group calling itself the Unemployed Masses of South Africa. A witness, Sam Mashobuko, said the marchers started a fight with three foreign men and accused them of stealing jobs from South Africans. "The mob allegedly stambokked the men and chased them through the train. He said the dead men, apparently all in their early 30s, had been selling clothes



No idle threat: posters carried by protesters on the death train

A police spokesman confirmed that two of the men were from Senegal and the other was from Mozambique. "The man on the track and one on the roof had the same surname. We suspect they could be brothers," the spokesman said. Train conductor Lesley Thibille said "I jumped off the train and saw people burning on top. "The cables carry 3 000 watts of electricity". Mr Thibille said many passengers had been toy-totting when they boarded the train. Pretoria Metrorail spokeswoman Margaret Dingalo said 20 trains were stranded along the central line between Pretoria and Johannesburg during the peak commuter hour while police removed the bodies. Trains were delayed for two and a half hours and about 50 trains were affected, Ms Dingalo said. Thousands of commuters were stranded at stations along the route. Normal services resumed at 6.30pm.

Train deaths: police to quiz protest leader

SAP 7/9/98

(236)

STAFF REPORTER

Police were expected to question the president of the Unemployed Masses of South Africa (Umsa) today in connection with the killing of three foreigners on a Pretoria-Johannesburg train last week.

Two Senegalese nationals and a Mozambican were killed on a train in Irene near Pretoria on Thursday after a mob accused them of stealing jobs from South Africans.

Two of the victims were electrocuted by overhead wires when they tried to escape the mob by climbing on the roof of the train. A third man fell or was thrown from a window and run over by an oncoming train.

Threatening placards denouncing foreigners were found in the train used by members of Umsa, who were returning from a march on the Pretoria offices of the departments of labour and home affairs.

Umsa president Godfrey Debeila was quoted in a Sunday newspaper as saying the three had "brought it on themselves by their allegedly provocative behaviour towards Umsa members".

Police spokesperson Captain Morné van Wyk said yesterday there had not been much progress in the investigation despite media reports that witnesses saw a mob whipping the three men on the train.

The killing of the three foreigners has highlighted growing xenophobia in South Africa, and condemnations poured in from various organisations at the weekend.

Human rights commissioner Jody Kollapen said the problem was also prevalent in certain state departments and that the muted public reaction to the killings was almost a "subtle justification".

■ Sapa reports that research by Christian Rogerson, professor of geography and environmental studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, has contradicted popular opinion.

It shows that Johannesburg-based small, medium and micro enterprises owned by African immigrants are creating jobs for South Africans.

South Africans were found to constitute about half of the workforce at such businesses.

SA gets tough on refugees

CLIVE SAWYER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

(236)

ARG 13/11/98

The Government will take a tough line against chancers trying to use new refugee laws to put down roots in South Africa.

The Refugees Bill, the first legislation of its kind in this country, gives effect to South Africa's obligations in international law and the rights in the 1996 constitution

The bill completed its parliamentary passage yesterday, when it earned a unanimous nod from all delegates to the National Council of Provinces.

Deputy Home Affairs Minister Lindiwe Sisulu said in debate on the bill that of the more than 47 000 people who had applied for refugee status in South Africa since 1994, only about 7 000 had been admitted.

Applications had come from citizens of 107 countries, but only those from nine of these countries had been approved

People had exploited the application process to try to stay in the country, which was why the bill set up mechanisms to prevent this sort of abuse.

In the meantime, there was a backlog of about 26 000 cases, higher than in many other countries.

Responding to criticism that the Government was admitting refugees in return for the shelter given to African National Congress members during the apartheid years, Ms Sisulu said this was untrue, and that refugee status was accorded in terms of international conventions

Refugees had a right to sanctuary and to be treated with dignity, she said

Call to educate SA over foreigners

ARG 16/10/98 (236)

Johannesburg – A conference on xenophobia here called for a public awareness campaign to educate South Africans about the problem and its effects.

South African Human Rights Commission chairman Dr Barney Pityana said yesterday one of the aims of such a campaign would be to educate people on the rights of non-nationals

In this regard Dr Pityana said Government should be involved, particularly in the training of relevant officials dealing with non-nationals

The conference, which took place yesterday, was called after the killing

of three foreigners on a train in Pretoria by a mob who accused them of stealing South Africans' jobs

The train killings were not isolated and numerous reports were received from foreigners complaining of abuse and violence against them, Dr Pityana said

The problem was serious and still growing, he added

"Except for involving government, we would also like to see South African embassies abroad getting involved in the campaign to educate foreigners. In the long term South Africa cannot see itself in isolation from the rest of the region"

Dr Pityana said the region needed to be stabilised in order to create job opportunities, and in so doing prevent many foreigners from coming to South Africa to find employment.

"South Africa as part of the Southern African Development Community should play its part to stabilise the region," Dr Pityana said.

The conference adopted a draft declaration stating there should be a co-ordinated approach to address xenophobia and its manifestations

There should be rights-based policies and legislation to address this problem and their application should be without discrimination – Sapa

Warning to immigration applicants

Political Staff

THE Department of Home Affairs in Soweto has warned prospective immigrants against unscrupulous agents who charged them exorbitantly and used other unsavoury methods, including bribery, for forged documents

The department's communications sub-directorate said yesterday that immigration agents would in future have to commit themselves to a code of conduct or face cancellation

of their registration (236) the registration/licence being revoked," the department said

It said it had requested all immigration agents to notify its director-general in writing, on or before October 31, about their commitment to the provisions of the immigration agents code of conduct that came into operation on September 1

"Failure to make this notification within the stipulated time will result in the assumption that an immigration agent is not willing to abide by the new regulations

This unwillingness would result in

It said further that the code of conduct was aimed at eradicating "unprofessional methods used by some agents to obtain immigration permits for their clients, such as bribery and submission of forged documentation"

"It is important to note that all services rendered by agents can be rendered by the Department of Home Affairs to members of the public free of charge"

236)
01/10/98
Secretary

Refugees in

SA will have the law on their side

ARG 31/10/98

(236)

Bill in line with United Nations policy

ESTELLE RANDALL
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Amid growing anti-foreigner sentiment in South Africa, Parliament is scheduled to pass legislation granting improved rights for refugees.

A recent study by the Southern African Migration Project found xenophobia in South Africa was on the increase. That was mainly because of rumours and the stereotyping of foreigners.

According to the study, only 6% of South Africans favour people from other countries entering South Africa freely. Twenty-five percent want a total ban and 45% want to limit entry.

In March, Human Rights Watch, an international human rights monitoring and lobby group, published a damning report alleging human rights abuse in South Africa affecting foreigners from Africa applying for refugee status.

The report also criticised the Department of Home Affairs for stalling on new laws to reform South Africa's approach to refugees and migration.

The Refugees Bill, which was approved by Parliament's Home Affairs committee this week and will be debated by the National Assembly on Thursday, tries to address some of the concerns raised by Human Rights Watch and other groups such as Amnesty International, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Human Rights Commission.

An important new provision in the bill is that asylum seekers whose applications for refugee status have been rejected be given written reasons for the rejection within 14 days.

The bill seeks to bring South Africa's refugee law in line with

United Nations' conventions and protocols on refugees, the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Organisation of African Unity's 1969 convention governing specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa.

Desmond Lockey, the chair of Parliament's Home Affairs committee, was careful to draw a distinction between refugees - about 49 000, according to the Department of Home Affairs - and illegal immigrants, estimated at anything between 2,5 million to eight million.

The bill places a general prohibition on expelling asylum seekers if the expulsion will result in them being persecuted or their lives, physical safety and freedom being threatened.

It defines refugees as people who have fled their country fearing persecution because of their race, tribe, religion, nationality, political opinion or their membership of a particular social group.

People who flee their country because of war or events that seriously disturb or disrupt public order would also qualify for refugee status.

Foreigners who have committed crimes against humanity, crimes against peace or war crimes are not eligible for refugee status.

People who have committed non-political crimes that would be punishable by imprisonment in South Africa if committed here are also not eligible.

The new law aims to speed up the processing of refugee applications.

Currently only about 10 000 of 49 000 applications have been approved, said Mr Lockey.

The Home Affairs Department's Hennie Meyer said any foreigner seeking refugee status was required to fill in an applica-

tion form at a Home Affairs office.

The form is forwarded to Home Affairs' main refugee committee in Johannesburg or a smaller unit in Pretoria.

Unsuccessful applicants can appeal to a one-person appeal committee.

"People applying for refugee status are issued with permits that legalise their stay in South Africa," Mr Meyer said, "but it can take up to two years before an application is approved."

According to the bill, the approval process for refugee status should not exceed six months. The appeal procedure should not take longer than three months.

Applications for asylum must be made within 14 days of entry into South Africa.

Asylum seekers can only be removed from South Africa on the grounds of national security or public order.

Those who contravene South African law will be liable to a fine or imprisonment of not more than five years. However, they will not be regarded as prohibited persons in terms of the Aliens Act and removed from the country.

The bill establishes several structures to determine refugee status of foreigners seeking asylum. Refugee Reception Offices will conduct preliminary interviews with asylum seekers and make recommendations about an asylum seeker's eligibility.

A Standing Committee for Refugee Affairs will confirm or set aside decisions of the refugee offices. The committee must have at least one member who has a law qualification.

Asylum seekers can appeal to a Refugee Appeal Board if their application is rejected. The board must also have at least one person qualified in law.

Govt to get tough on illegals

28/10/98
Sawetlan

By Ido Lekota

THE Government is set to tighten the screws on illegal immigrants who are abusing the system by applying for refugee status to avoid deportation.

Yesterday Parliament heard that backlogs in the current refugee determination system had led to abuse by immigrants who lodged fraudulent applications.

The illegal immigrants were, for example, taking advantage of the fact that while awaiting the outcome of their applications, applicants were granted permits that allowed them to work.

It is estimated that about 40 000 applications for refugee status were outstanding since 1994.

The Refugee Bill introduced in Parliament yesterday aims to redress the situation by establishing a credible system of determining the refugee status of applicants. The Bill also puts in place a system of fast-tracking the determination process.

The Bill also does not allow illegal immigrants who come to South Africa to look for jobs to apply for refugee status.

It proposes a three-tier structure for determining the status of the applicant.

In terms of the proposal, the applicants' preliminary interview would be conducted by specially-trained refugee receiving officers. The applicants would then be interviewed by the status determination officer based on the files prepared by the receiving officer.

According to the Bill, the Minister of Home Affairs has the power to — by decree — declare a group of people as refugees.

This would apply in instances where people flee from their country of their birth en masse because of civil war or invasion by a foreign military force.

Greater refugee rights sought

By ESTELLE RANDALL

(236)

Jan 31/10/98

Cape Town - Amid growing anti-foreigner sentiment in South Africa, Parliament is due to approve a new bill, the Refugees Bill, granting improved rights for refugees.

An important new provision is that asylum seekers who have their applications for refugee status rejected must be given written reasons within 14 days.

The bill seeks to bring SA's refugee law in line with United Nations conventions and protocols on refugees, the UN Universal Dec-

laration of Human Rights and the 1969 Organisation of African Unity Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa

The bill places a general prohibition on expelling asylum seekers if this would result in their being persecuted or their lives, physical safety and freedom threatened. The new law also aims to speed up the processing of applications

The bill establishes several structures to determine refugee status of foreigners seeking asylum. These include refugee reception offices and a committee for refugee affairs.

Farmers find Zambia a home from home

By WINNIE GRAHAM

The South African farmers who trekked to Zambia more than four years ago are counting their blessings

They may have taken a chance when they sold their possessions in South Africa to move north of the Limpopo but now, they say, "we sleep safely in our beds here"

Dave Marais, Jan Steenkamp and Flip Badenhorst, who farm in the Sinazongwe area of Zambia, are deeply concerned about the number of farmers being murdered in South Africa

Star 30/10/98 (236)
They claim the trend is not new, that attacks in recent years have merely intensified - and now receive more publicity

Possibly because they have heard what is happening in South Africa, they have adjusted more readily to life in rural Zambia and have no regrets about leaving the country of their birth

"Here our houses stay unlocked at night," Marais said.

I met the three men by chance on a recent visit to Zambia when our small plane landed on their farm. They are part of a group of about 20 who have settled on farmland on the northern side

of Lake Kariba

Marais, Steenkamp and Badenhorst, who run a 2 500ha irrigated property under a 99-year lease agreement, say they have been treated fairly by the government but that there are no farming support structures in place no one to help dispose of crops, no marketers to help sell, no government assistance and poor roads.

Despite difficulties, they are successfully growing and selling winter grains, millet, maize, sorghum, paprika and cotton.

"We have to do it all ourselves. It's been good experience," Marais said.

Bid to end SA red tape that breaks families' hearts

CLIVE SAWYER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT



Parliament's home affairs portfolio committee is to take up the cause of foreign spouses of South Africans who face heartbreaking separations at the hands of government officials. At the same time, political pressure is mounting for a complete rewrite of the Aliens Control Act to while militating against marriages of convenience.

Committee chairman Desmond Lockey confirmed serious problems were being encountered by foreign spouses of South Africans.

Department of Home Affairs officials seemed to believe the existing act gave them wide discretion to rule on individual cases.

“Our interpretation is that unless applications are being made with the intent to fraudulently circumvent the act, the constitution and the right to dignity it leaves the Department of Home Affairs no choice,” Mr Lockey said.

Immigration to South Africa is controlled through a complex and relatively unaccountable system of committees. Legislators have been waiting for some time for a white paper on the way ahead for immigration policy and law. This is causing frustration across party lines, because the current act, inherited from the pre-1994 regime, acts against the right of South Africans to marry whomever they choose - and live with them in this country without hindrance.

Democratic Party MP Dene Smuts shares the frustration of others who have been confronted with the trauma of those whose marriages are cleaved apart by bureaucrats. Like Mr Lockey, she has files of those who have appealed to MPs to help them through the costly, mystifying and often futile process of trying to keep a family together in the face of deportation orders for which no reasons are given.

At a meeting of the committee next week, Ms Smuts is to ask for a moratorium on deportations of foreign spouses until the new immigration policy and legislation are finalised. “We have a problem with marriages of convenience, but we cannot deny South Africans their rights to marry who they please.” In one case, Suneta Schreiner of Potchefstroom said she and her German-born husband Wadim faced financial ruin and said her health was declining after what should have been a love story which transcended two continents became entangled in red tape. The couple, who married after a series of visits to each other's countries, were shocked when Wadim's applications to stay was refused, his deportation was ordered, and Home Affairs refused to tell the couple's attorneys why. Similar anguish is found in the tale of Lisa Givath of Sea Point, who married Israeli citizen Amir Ben Yehuda, and went through the elaborate rituals of obtaining detaining documentation to support his application for permanent residence. In a series of encounters with Home Affairs, they were told to pay an application fee of R12 000 - a sum more than double the fee asked when the application process began - with no guarantee of the application being approved. In a third case, United States citizen Louisa Potter, who has been married to a South African for six years and runs an advertising design business in Cape Town, faces deportation should her business permit renewal not be approved. She fell foul of petty bureaucracy during a brief US visit.

Huge slave trade racket targets South Africa

Syndicates use Johannesburg as clearing house for human cargoes

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg - International syndicates are using South Africa as a transit point for a huge slave trade between developing countries and Europe, the United States and Canada.

According to police and immigration authorities in South Africa and the US, the main sources of this human cargo are China, India, Middle Eastern countries, former Eastern bloc countries and famine ravaged African countries.

A detective from a South African police unit investigating the trade said migrants from foreign countries such as India were being lured to a number of "transit countries", including South Africa, "with stories of money and jobs - land-of-milk-and-honey stuff" - in the Western world.

He said aliens had to pay for air tickets and were then helped into South Africa, entering either at Johannesburg International Airport or landing in neighbouring countries and "jumping the fence".

Once in South Africa criminal agents provided the migrants with accommodation and documentation before they moved on to the next destination - where they had to pay off their debt.

The victims were forced into prostitution, drug dealing or other criminal activity or ended up as virtual slaves in factories to pay off their debt.

The trade is said to number hundreds of thousands of people in transit or in captivity at any one time.

Phyllis Coven, who heads the new US Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) branch in Johannesburg, said that since 1994 South African travel documents had been used increasingly by alien smugglers, illegal migrants, fraudulent document vendors and corrupt officials.

Ms Coven has been based in Johannesburg for four months, and her primary concern is to prevent illegal migration to the US and North America.

Her office is among the newest of 40 INS branches around the world working to combat the smuggling of aliens.

"Some smugglers use boats which they pack with people who spend months - sometimes more than a year - in inhumane conditions while they are transported to China Town (New York) where they are then held in virtual slavery until their debt is paid off if they even live that long," Ms Coven said.

She said inadequate food and sanitation was common on ships which weaved from port to port around Africa to avoid contravening open-sea regulations.

According to a report by an inter-agency working group, including Interpol, the South Africa Home Affairs Ministry and police, and the

INS, hundreds of thousands of illegal migrants are being moved by international smuggling syndicates from their countries of origin to Western Europe and United States, with the floating population at various stages in the pipeline.

The human trade syndicates have identified Johannesburg as a convenient centre to obtain fraudulent documentation. They are taking advantage of the fact that South Africa also has direct flight and shipping routes to most countries in the developed world.

South Africa is also regarded as one of the countries in the developing world whose citizens do not try to enter other countries illegally in significant numbers, enabling syndicates to evade suspicion at ports of entry in destination countries.

Trading in human cargo earns smugglers billions of dollars in annual profits, as illegal migrants duped into life-threatening scams pay anything from a few hundred dollars to China's standard \$35 000 fee for resident status in North America and Europe.

The police aliens investigation unit has sources posted on the borders at airports and inland to crack down on illegal migration.

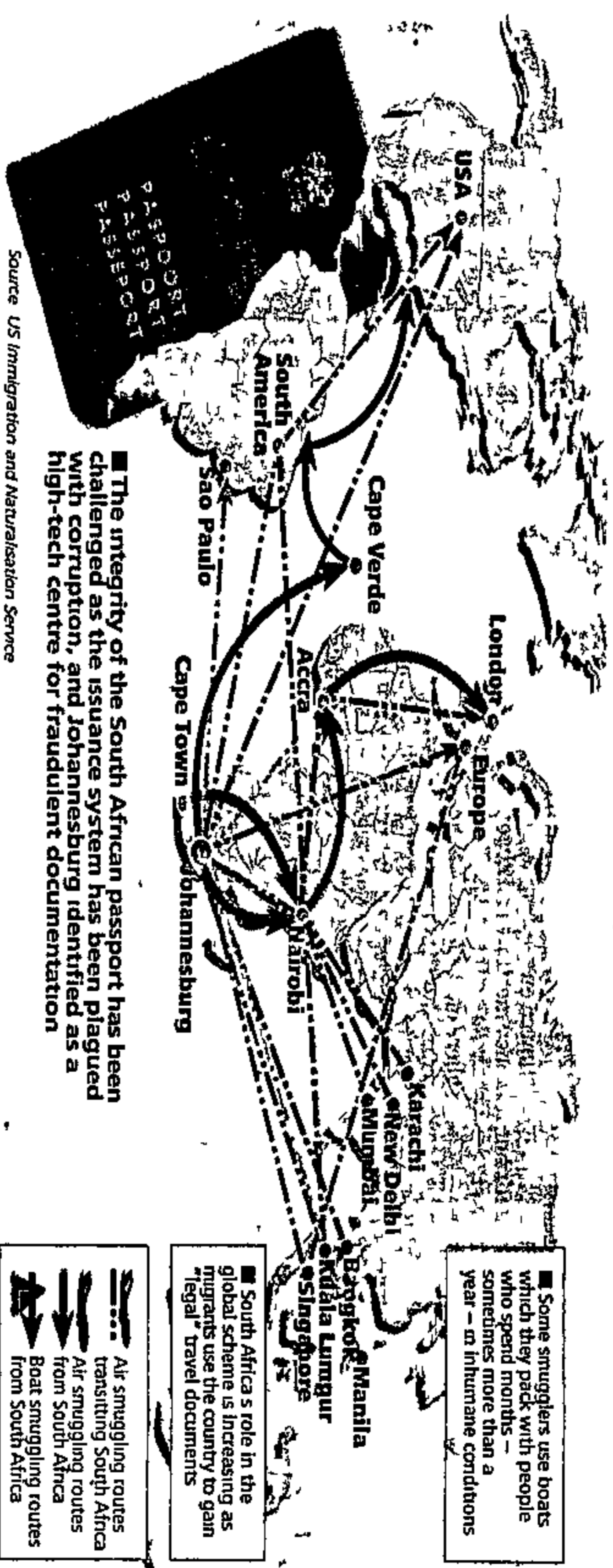
A detective from the unit, who asked not to be named because of the "sensitive" nature of his work, said: "Human smugglers operate from agencies all over the world.

"There's big money in it for them and they run international operations."

He said he had 1 200 illegal applications for South African travel documents on his desk, intercepted at a single Home Affairs office in the past six months.

Willelm Vorsler of Home Affairs said while his department worked with the police and Interpol, its role was limited to dealing with illegal aliens and those believed to be aiding and abetting them.

In March, two Home Affairs officials were arrested for running a false passport and ID racket and last year another 12 were charged with helping foreign nationals to obtain documents fraudulently.



Source: US Immigration and Naturalisation Service

(236) Akasa/10/98

ANALYSIS

Census provides clearer picture of SA

PD 21/10/98 (236)

IN OCTOBER 1996, the people of SA were counted as equal citizens of a democracy, using the same method to count everyone. The release of the results of the count from Census '96 is an important event in SA. Information on the country as a whole, on each province and on cities, towns, villages and other small areas of the country will now be available to enable national, provincial and local governments to plan for the future. The population census will also enable the private sector to know more about the lifestyles of the people of the country, and how to target their markets.

Census '96 will also serve as a baseline to measure change in people's life circumstances over time. For example, SA will be able to know whether or not incomes and education levels have improved, and whether access to housing and facilities such as clean water, electricity and telephones has changed.

While it is important to know that on the night of 9/10 October 1996 there were 40,58-million people in SA, it is also important to know about their life circumstances. The far-ranging questions that were asked in Census '96 tell us how the people of SA live.

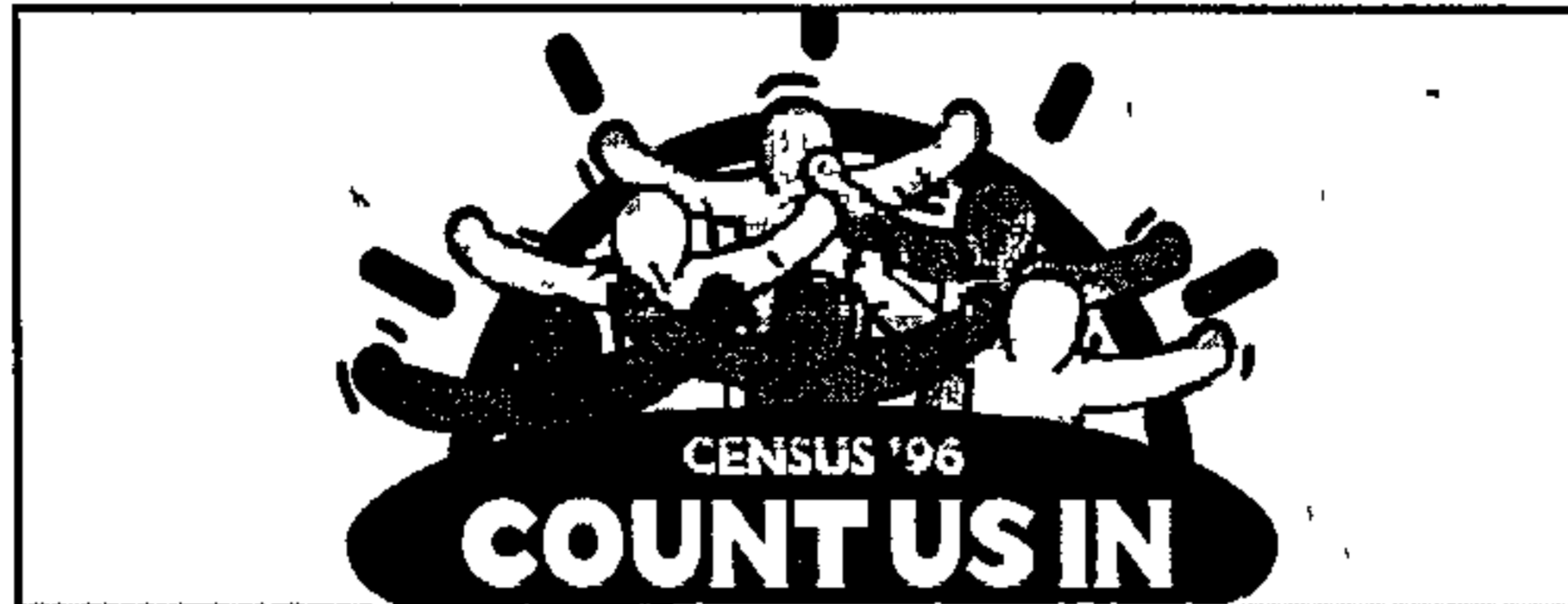
Provincial breakdowns are necessary to determine where spending on development is most needed. Census '96 enabled Statistics SA to analyse the country, province by province. The province with most people in 1996 was KwaZulu-Natal, with 8,4-million. The second largest was Gauteng with 7,3-million, and then Eastern Cape with 6,3-million. The province with fewest people, that is 800 000, was the Northern Cape, even though it is the largest province in area, covering 362 000km².

The process of urbanisation can also aid planning, and details of urban dwellers are available in Census '96. More than half the population (54%) were living in urban areas at the time of the census. The most urbanised province was Gauteng (97%), while the least urbanised was the Northern Province (11%).

In order to address the oppression and disadvantages of the past, population group remains a necessary classification variable. This variable was asked in Census '96, but it was based on self-classification, rather than on the legal definition used in the apartheid classification of the past.

More than three quarters of people counted on census night (77%) classified themselves as African, just more

The final figures for the 1996 census were released yesterday. Mark Orkin and Ros Hirschowitz of Statistics SA explain the importance of the figures



Province	Population		
	Census count*	% under count	Adjusted count
Eastern Cape	5 636 408	10,6	6 302 525
Free State	2 403 009	8,8	2 633 505
Gauteng	6 614 205	10,0	7 348 423
KwaZulu-Natal	7 338 554	12,8	8 417 021
Mpumalanga	2 518 065	10,1	2 800 711
Northern Cape	709 348	15,6	840 321
Northern Province	4 375 560	11,3	4 929 368
North West	3 040 607	9,4	3 354 825
Western Cape	3 612 835	8,7	3 956 875
South Africa	36 246 591	10,7	40 583 574

*All numbers given are adjusted by the Post Enumeration Survey and rounded to whole numbers. The totals may therefore differ slightly.

Graphic: RUBY-GAY CAETANO Source: STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA

than one in ten (11%) classified themselves as white, and just under one in ten (9%) coloured. The Indian/Asian population was smallest at 3%.

Equal respect for the languages of all citizens was recognised in Census '96. People could answer the census questionnaire in the language of their choice. The most common first home language was isiZulu, spoken by 23% of people, followed by isiXhosa, 18%. Those speaking Afrikaans as their first home language numbered 14%, and 9% in the case of English.

Investment in human resource de-

velopment starts with education and using the census for better planning for the improving access to education is now possible. Almost one in every five (19%) people aged 20 years or more had never attended school, while only 6% have post-school qualifications.

The province with the highest proportion of people who have not attended school (37%) is Northern Province, while the Western Cape has the lowest proportion (7%).

Census '96 enables planners to measure the extent of poverty in the country, and how this issue is being

addressed. Incomes in SA tend, overall, to be low, since 26% of employed people were earning R500 or less per month in October 1996.

The type of work which people were doing was also asked. Stats SA found 30% of the employed population were in elementary occupations like domestic work and street sweeping, while 22% were in management, professional, semiprofessional and technical jobs.

Census '96 also enables us to determine the extent of inequality in the country, not only in terms of incomes, but also in terms of living conditions and life circumstances. On census night, about one in every six (18%) households were living in traditional dwellings, and another one in every six (17%) living in shacks, while 63% were living in formal houses, flats or rooms.

Electricity for lighting was available to 58% of households, while 29% were still using candles, and 13% paraffin. For cooking, 47% of households were using electricity, 23% wood, 22% paraffin, and 3% were using coal. Fewer than half of SA households (45%) had a tap inside the dwelling.

Another first for Stats SA and Census '96 is the parallel development of a geographical information system.

A wide range of census products is being planned. Free products of a more general nature will be widely distributed in print form to libraries, schools, community and business organisations, trade unions and government departments, countrywide.

Electronically, they will be made available on the Internet. They will also be made available to the public from Stats SA head office and provincial offices. Those of a more technical nature will be made available directly from Stats SA head office.

For those requiring a set of tables to describe their particular community, local area, village, suburb, transitional local authority, district council or province, a set of standard tables, or community profiles, can be made available on request.

For people wishing to do their own tables, a product using cutting-edge technology, called community profiles data base with geographical information system is being prepared. It is based on small area mapping technology, which enables the user to add demographic and other census information to maps, using point and click technology on a personal computer.



Perspective on emigration needed, especially by

The DP squealed about threats to investment under apartheid, but no more, writes Kader Asmal

DP
198

The "gattol syndrome" is not the attitude of the broad mass of South Africans, but of a well-off minority, not a few of them with offshore investments, who will stop at nothing to damage the country's reputation and investment rating.

Newspaper polls of South Africans' intentions can be notoriously flawed. Only days after a Sunday paper claimed a large number of people were considering emigration, the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa released a more scientific poll which showed a less alarming picture.

It is fairly normal if the gifted of any society consider moving from one country to another. It happens almost everywhere, and, with the global village we

now live in, this should not be a surprise. This is not to make light of genuine considerations that might influence some to emigrate, but let us keep the matter in perspective. And there is no justification for giving the country you are leaving, which has nurtured you - often from birth - a parting kick in the pants by decrying its efforts at democratisation and reconstruction as you go.

There is a tendency, artificially, to play up crime and the alleged brain drain, partly because some political parties are so negative, but also because newspapers deal in headlines, sometimes making individual events seem like tidal waves.

When newspapers like the *Economic* must look at South Africa, the myopic,

gloom and doom that one so often finds inside South Africa is absent. For instance, in "The Economist, World in Figures, 1999" (quoted in the Sunday Argus of October 1998), we are seen to be a relatively successful emerging country, not the crime centre of the world.

Yet some political leaders who should know better remain bent on destroying the new political order.

At a business meeting, a person who aspires to be Leader of the Opposition, Democratic Party leader Tony Leon, remarked "The outside world sees South Africa as composed of two separate entities. On the one hand it sees the samity figure of Nelson Mandela, on the other it sees African decay. You honour Mandela, but you would not dream of investing your money in South Africa."

Whatever their intention, such re-

marks harm our country's investment and credit rating internationally. Leon knows economic growth is vital to creating wealth to provide health services, water, housing, etc.

Even with apartheid at its height, when Reagan was forced by Congress to take strong measures against Pretoria, the DP, in earlier forms, refused to do anything that may harm investment. And yet its leader does this today, in a democratic environment.

It is the prerogative of the DP to elect its own leader. It is not his obsession with free market economics which will bring ruin to South Africa. Way-out positions and personal obsessions can be fairly quaint, as Screaming Lord Sutch of the Raving Loony Party has shown in

successive elections in the UK. But Leon's free-wheeling and maladroitness on fundamental aspects of our statehood can be seriously questioned.

He (Leon) is still operating as a white overlord. Yet, it is ironic that, in the week he evokes such thoughts, our delegation led by Trevor Manuel to annual World Bank and IMF meetings emerge as a key factor in moves to refashion the world monetary and financial order.

Let us by all means differ, and differ powerfully, on issues of the day. But let us not go out to destroy the consensus, the social contract, on which our democratic statehood depends.

■ *An edited speech by Professor Kader Asmal, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, delivered yesterday at a breakfast meeting of the SA-Netherlands Chamber of Commerce in Johannesburg.*

Thousands of youths stream into SA in search of better life

(236) 130 9/10/92

BULAWAYO — The drift to SA by Zimbabwe youths in search of jobs has become a problem for education authorities in Matabeleland. Each year thousands of children as young as 12 drop out of school and move south.

Regional director of education for Matabeleland South province, Glory Makwati, said as of August more than 3 000 children left school and most were believed to have trekked south.

"I can confirm that schools in Matabeleland South in particular are losing many students every year because of the SA fever," Makwati said.

"Although we are the smallest province in terms of population density, we have always recorded the highest number of school drop-outs every year and I must be quick to point out that it is because of the Egoli-mama which since time immemorial has always gripped the province."

Johannesburg is known in Matabeleland region as Egoli, which means a place of gold.

Every year SA and Botswana deport large numbers of Zimbabweans staying illegally in the countries. As of July this year 9 000 Zimbabweans who had illegally settled in SA were deported with an average of 150 being ejected every day.

Matabeleland South resident Christopher Ncube said the youth had lost all hope of ever securing employment because of economic hardship in the country, a result of Western-backed economic reforms that have seen the Zimbabwe dollar continuing to fall against all major currencies, triggering high interest and high inflation rates.

Ncube said once a child left for SA he was likely to influence other children. "When children notice goodies brought by their relatives from either SA or Botswana, they immediately lose interest in school and prefer to go and grab these riches." He said that perennial droughts in the region were also to blame. — Sapa.

Human rights body to co-host conference on xenophobia (236)

ND 8/10/98
three foreigners travelling on a train between Johannesburg and Pretoria had highlighted the seriousness of xenophobia as a human rights problem facing the country, he said
The commission, with its co-

host, the Johannesburg metropolitan council, would convene to seek a common, effective, co-ordinated and lasting approach to the problem

Consultations had made it clear that "although much was

being done, there was a lack of co-ordination and sharing of information", Pityana said

The conference would aim to discuss ways to show good neighbourliness to people entering the country

"It is recognised that the issue is complex, but that is no excuse for doing nothing. The strategies for dealing with the phenomenon will also be multiple and complex" — Sapa

Unfair to see 'illegals' as the job-snatchers

Survey shows most are hard-working

(236)
ARLT 5/10/98

Reports about the presence and role of foreigners in South Africa are increasing in number and, interestingly, some of them have sought to explore the positive contribution of the new arrivals

This is substantially different from alarmist reports about "the influx of millions of illegal immigrants" that we saw not long ago

Not that such alarmist reporting has come to an end, however. It is tragic that it took the killing of two Senegalese and a Mozambican on the Johannesburg-Pretoria Metrorail line to generate this kind of interest in, and reporting about, the role of foreigners in South Africa.

If popular perceptions are anything to go by, then particularly black migrants and immigrants are entering South Africa illegally in their millions, taking away jobs, depressing wages and engaging in all sorts of criminal and other unsavoury activities

Given these perceptions, it is perhaps not surprising that South Africans hold very negative views about foreigners - views which are not just reflected in unsubstantiated statements about the negative impact they have on South African society, but are also manifested in violence, even against those who are in South Africa legally

One would, therefore, assume that South Africans have substantial contact and interaction with foreigners, which may explain these negative attitudes

"Not so", reports Idasa's Public Opinion Services project. Based on the results of a national survey in June/July 1997, 60% of 3 500 respondents said they had no direct experience of interacting or contact with foreigners in South Africa, 20% said they had "hardly any" experience and 15% said "some"

Only 4% said they had "a great deal" of contact with people from other countries in Southern Africa, who were living here

When asked to name the top three problems facing the country which the Government ought to address, one percent of the respondents mentioned immigration or migration

However, when prompted for their views on official policy towards migrants, 25% were in favour of a total prohibition of migration or immigration, 62% expressed a preference for some form of managed or regulated policy, and only 6% favoured a totally liberal policy with no restrictions

These findings suggest that migration and immigration are, in fact, not such a major public issues as we are often led to believe

Secondly, they point to the fact that, without much knowledge or experience of migrants and immigrants, South Africans choose to believe the worst about foreigners, ascribed to a fear of the unknown, or

INSIDE STORY

Immigrants from African countries are often labelled as 'won't works' and as taking work from South Africans, but a recent survey shows that popular perceptions are wrong, writes VINCENT WILLIAMS

xenophobia as it is more commonly referred to

These xenophobic tendencies are made worse by equally ill informed statements about the numbers and impact of migrants and immigrants in South Africa

If the "official" statistics are to be believed, we have anything between 2.5 million and 4.1 million illegal immigrants and migrants (referred to as illegal aliens) in South Africa

These figures were determined on the basis of work done by the Human Sciences Research Council and are regularly quoted in official speeches

It needs to be pointed out that there is, in fact, no reliable and accurate method to determine the number of people in the country illegally

While it is true that some numbers are available (mainly of people who have over stayed their legal permits or have been deported), the term illegal alien refers mainly to people who supposedly jump fences, swim rivers and sneak through the Kruger National Park to get to South Africa

After taking such extraordinary measures to get here undetected, it is not likely that they are going to announce their presence

Therefore, attempts to determine the number in the country illegally are at best speculative

If presented as fact, as has been done in the past, it is blatantly misleading and downright mischievous

In May 1998, the Southern African Migration Project (SAMP), which does research into cross-border migration in Southern Africa, released a report which fundamentally challenges the most common myths and stereotypes associated with migrants

Based on 2 300 interviews conducted in Lesotho, Zimbabwe and the southern part of Mozambique, the report deals with the attitudes towards, experiences with and future plans around migrating or immigrating to South Africa of citizens of those countries

Contrary to the belief that millions of people are jumping the borders and using whatever means to get into and live in South Africa, SAMP reports that well over 90% of people interviewed who had been to South Africa had crossed the border

at formal border posts using proper transportation (buses, cars and trains)

Of these, 89% had official passports from their home countries and 72% had the appropriate visas to enter South Africa.

When asked about wanting to live in South Africa, two thirds of the respondents said "not at all" and 12% said "not much"

While acknowledging that job opportunities, health care and the cost of living were better in South Africa, the majority also said that they preferred their home country

Contrary to popular opinion that migrants come to South Africa only in search of job opportunities, many of those interviewed also spoke about entering South Africa to visit family and friends, to do shopping, to buy or trade goods and for holiday purposes

Arguably, the most common complaint against migrants is that they "take away jobs and opportunities"

In two separate studies commissioned by SAMP, the first on small, medium and micro enterprises (SMME's) and the second on cross-border trading and the informal sector, this perception is challenged.

Among the 70 SMME's interviewed, there existed a total of 227 job opportunities. Of these, 104 were occupied by South Africans - nearly 50% of the total.

Similarly, the study on cross-border trading and the informal sector shows that more than 20% of foreign traders employ South Africans in their business operations

Combined the three studies also negate the image of migrants as illiterate, poor, destitute people who make no contribution to South Africa's economic development

In terms of education, most respondents in the three surveys reported having attained levels of secondary education, with some having had university, including post graduate, education.

As for the perception that they make no contribution to the South African economy, it is significant to note that the majority of foreign entrepreneurs interviewed said that they used their own savings (from previous jobs in South Africa), or that their start up capital came from outside South Africa, through other business interests

Many of the non Southern African Development Countries SMME's were also linked to similar business, not only in the home country but also elsewhere, suggesting extended migrant networks which are utilised to assist in the start-up and functioning of their business enterprises in South Africa

The activities of people involved in cross border trading and the informal sector, while difficult to calculate with certainty, also contribute to what appears to be a vibrant import export market between South Africa and particularly SADC states

Not only do 70% of them import goods (curios, wood and stone carvings) which are not readily available in South Africa, but they also buy electronics, appliances, household goods and so on, which they take back to their home countries

Most traders also prefer to invest their profits in purchasing more stock or to expand their businesses, rather than send the money home

More than half of the respondents said that they spent between 40% and 50% of their earnings inside South Africa to pay for rent, goods, food and services

These research findings are significant since based on them, a new picture of migrants and immigrants in South Africa begins to emerge

There are some who would argue that this research was conducted by "academics in their ivory towers" who have no first-hand experience of the impact of migrants and immigrants on the resident population.

They imply that the findings are perhaps not as valid as claimed. This kind of reasoning, however, is tantamount to throwing out the proverbial baby with the bath water

Instead of engaging with the content of the findings, attention is focused on those who report on it - a typical case of shooting the messenger rather than paying attention to the message

There is merit in the argument that in terms of jobs, education, health, welfare and other opportunities and social services, South Africans should not be disadvantaged because preference is given to migrants and immigrants

To conclude, however, that migrants and immigrants are responsible for the hardships experienced by South Africans is simply not true

Using migrants and immigrants as scapegoats fails to deal with the real causes of the problem, and fails to take into account the fact that people from neighbouring states have been migrating and immigrating to South Africa for many, many years

It is this attitude - the need to blame someone or some group without looking at and dealing with the causes of our problems - that leads to the kind of violent action that we saw against hawkers in Johannesburg last year, and the recent killings on the train

Developing negative attitudes towards people, and treating them in a different way because they happen to be foreigners, is not consistent with our emerging democratic and human rights culture

South Africans are all familiar with discrimination, prejudice and misdirected feelings of fear

We therefore all have a responsibility to make sure that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past

■ Vincent Williams is manager of Idasa's Southern African Migration Project

'Without much knowledge of migrants, South Africans choose to believe the worst'

'A majority of foreign entrepreneurs said they used their own savings for starting-up capital'

Eight suffocated illegal aliens identified (236)

POLICE in Zimbabwe have released the names of eight of the 18 illegal immigrants who suffocated in a container truck on Wednesday while en route to SA

Eighteen bodies and two survivors were found in Botswana's Tlokweng village, 20km from Gaborone, after they were dumped by the truck driver.

The photographs are being displayed at the Bulawayo police station's criminal investigation department so that members of the public can assist in identifying the remaining bodies.

So far, the victims identified are Mqapelisi Ndhlovu, 32, from Nyamandlovu; Ackim Ndlovu from Plumtree; Zenzo Honest Ncube, 30, from Insiza; Betty Ndlovu, 29, from Matobo; George Makweld, 59, from Bulawayo; Julius Ncube, 47, from Gwanda; Bhekuzulu Ncube, 20, from Mpopoma suburb; and Christopher Sibanda, 23.

Relatives of the eight corroborated their identities and confirmed that they were among people who left for SA on Monday.

Police from Botswana, Zimbabwe and SA have launched a joint operation to locate the missing

driver and his accomplices.

Zimbabwean police said yesterday they had particulars of both the driver and the owners of the truck company, and that they had launched a massive manhunt for other members of the crossborder syndicate who had gone into hiding.

One of the suspected members of the syndicate spoke to police on Saturday and was assisting the police with their investigations. — Sapa



'Be nice to immigrants'

Court rules that Home Affairs officials are bound by the Constitution to treat illegal aliens as fairly as citizens

CARMEL RICKARD

IMMIGRATION officials, long regarded as a law unto themselves, have been told in a landmark High Court judgment that they are bound to follow the Constitution and must treat aliens as fairly as they do citizens.

The ruling was made by Durban High Court judge Ken Mthiyane, who had been asked to intervene in the case of an illegal immigrant from Ghana, Jonathan Tettey, after officials told him to leave the country.

Until now, it was widely believed that the Department of Home Affairs had an almost unfettered discretion when they decided who would be granted residence permits and who would be refused them.

However, Judge Mthiyane held that the Constitution's guarantee of the right to fair administrative procedures also applied to people regarded as aliens. He wrote "Every individual who

comes before the courts in this country, whether high or low, rich or poor, alien or local, is entitled to enjoy the benefits flowing from the supremacy of the Constitution."

A number of previous cases have held that the state had an absolute and exclusive discretion as to whether to allow foreign nationals into its territory. However, Judge Mthiyane said that even if the Aliens Control Act gave the minister wide discretion in dealing with aliens, this discretion had to be exercised constitutionally.

He said he could find nothing in the Constitution to support the idea that an official was entitled to treat an alien differently to a citizen.

Previous judgments which suggested that an alien applying for residence had no rights and that the minister had an absolute discretion to decide whether to grant an application for residence "do not reflect the law as it exists under the Constitution", Judge Mthiyane ruled. Lawyers said the judge's ruling would

send a message to the powerful Department of Home Affairs that its decisions would be closely scrutinised by the court to see whether it had acted fairly. But it also gave immediate relief to Tettey and his new family.

Tettey entered South Africa illegally in 1993, along with 45 other aliens. He married a local woman and they have a son. He found work as a machinist soon after his arrival and, using what Judge Mthiyane called "irregular means", began trying to organise the official papers he needed to stay on.

When he became aware that home affairs officials were investigating illegal foreigners, he handed himself over and told his story.

During these discussions he was asked to help the investigation into the officials from whom he had bought his "irregular papers". Since then he has given evidence in court and some of the corrupt officials have been convicted.

Subsequently, all his efforts to acquire permanent residence by legal means have failed, despite the help he

gave the department and his family commitments in South Africa.

The judge also referred to a home affairs policy document which indicated that aliens like Tettey would be given a chance to legalise their status, while those married to South Africans could apply for permanent residence and had a good chance of it being granted.

In view of all these facts, the judge stopped the authorities from throwing Tettey out of the country. He can now stay in South Africa until his case has been decided fairly. The judge also broke new ground when he ordered the authorities to give full reasons for their decision on whether to grant Tettey a temporary residence permit.

Tettey's lawyer, Ranjit Pursotam of Durban's Legal Resources Centre, said he was delighted by Judge Mthiyane's decision and that Tettey's case would also benefit others at the mercy of immigration officials. "It is important that officials of the Department of Home Affairs realise that the Constitution applies to them as well," he said.

ST 25/10/98

International manhunt

after 18 die

SPURRED by the prospect of a better life in South Africa, millions of foreigners have flocked here illegally from poorer neighbouring countries. It appears some have fallen victim to unscrupulous operators. **MATTHEW BURBIDGE** reports. (236)

An international manhunt is underway following the discovery near Gaborone, Botswana, of the bodies of 18 people believed to be Zimbabweans who were being illegally transported to South Africa.

The 18 are believed to have suffocated in a windowless truck that left Zimbabwe on Monday. The driver apparently then dumped the bodies and fled in his truck.

The grisly discovery was made on Wednesday by an elderly couple who were walking

through the veld between Modipane village and the Tlokweng border post, about 5km south-west of Gaborone.

The couple stumbled on the bodies of 17 men and one woman, scattered in short bushes and grass close to the edge of the road.

Eight of the dead have been identified as Zimbabweans. Some had Zimbabwean passports and others had identity documents. Their passports had not been stamped by Zimbabwe or Botswana border officials, indicating they entered the country illegally.

The discovery initially baffled police because the dead had no injuries.

"We couldn't see any external injuries — there were no signs that they had been killed in this country we are not used to seeing so many dead bodies — it was a great shock," Botswana Police Service area commander Sonny Mogojwa said.

The mystery was solved when two survivors, a man and a woman from Zimbabwe, turned up at a police station and claimed they had been travelling in the back of a truck with an enclosed canopy from Bulawayo to Gaborone. They said they had been heading for South Africa and had left Bulawayo on Monday. The two, who are in police custody, have offered to assist in the case.

Police spokesperson Christopher Mbulawa said it appeared the travellers had fallen asleep on the back of the truck and 18 had suffocated. "They (the survivors) don't know what happened along the way, but they found themselves in the bush on Tuesday night with 18 dead people," he said.

Mbulawa said Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa were now co-operating in their search for the driver and establishing the circumstances surrounding the deaths.

The bodies are being kept in the Gaborone police mortuary and post mortems will be carried out in the next few days.

No relatives of the dead have made contact with police yet, but police are liaising with their counterparts, through Interpol, in Zimbabwe

Hennie Meyer, South African Home Affairs spokesperson, said that according to estimates from a Human Sciences Research Council study, there are between 2.5 million and 4.1 million illegal immigrants in South Africa at any time.

He said 90% of the illegal immigrants were from Mozambique, but a large number also came from Zimbabwe.

The huge influx of foreigners was spurred by the socio-economic disparity between South Africa and its neighbours.

Director of admissions and aliens control in the Department of Foreign Affairs, Christie Shraivesande, said the movement into the country was caused by factors such as better job opportunities, health care, housing, wel-

fare, general standards of living and education in South Africa than in neighbouring countries. He said 80 000 illegal aliens were removed from the country last year but a large percentage had returned.

A conference on border control and the illegal movement of people into South Africa held in June suggested that steps be taken to control people entering the country illegally by making access to the benefits they seek harder.

South Africa has since 1996 signed three international convention protocols on refugees.

Since 1994 more than 7 500 immigrants have been granted official status, with another 13 934 applications being processed.

Slave-trading syndicates target SA

(296) Star 22/10/98

Victims of modern trade in human beings are forced into prostitution and other criminal acts to pay their debts to unscrupulous merchants

By GILL GIFFORD
Crime Reporter

International syndicates are using South Africa as a transit point for slave trade between developing countries and Europe, the United States and Canada.

According to police and immigration authorities in South Africa and the United States, the main sources of this human cargo are China, India, Middle Eastern bloc countries and former Eastern bloc countries and famine-ravaged African countries.

A detective from a South African police unit investigating the trade said migrants from countries such as India were being lured to a number of "transit countries", including South Africa, "with stores of money and jobs, land-of-milk-and-honey stuff" in the Western world.

He said aliens had to pay for air tickets and were then helped into South Africa, entering either at Johannesburg International Airport or landing in neighbouring countries and "jumping the fence".

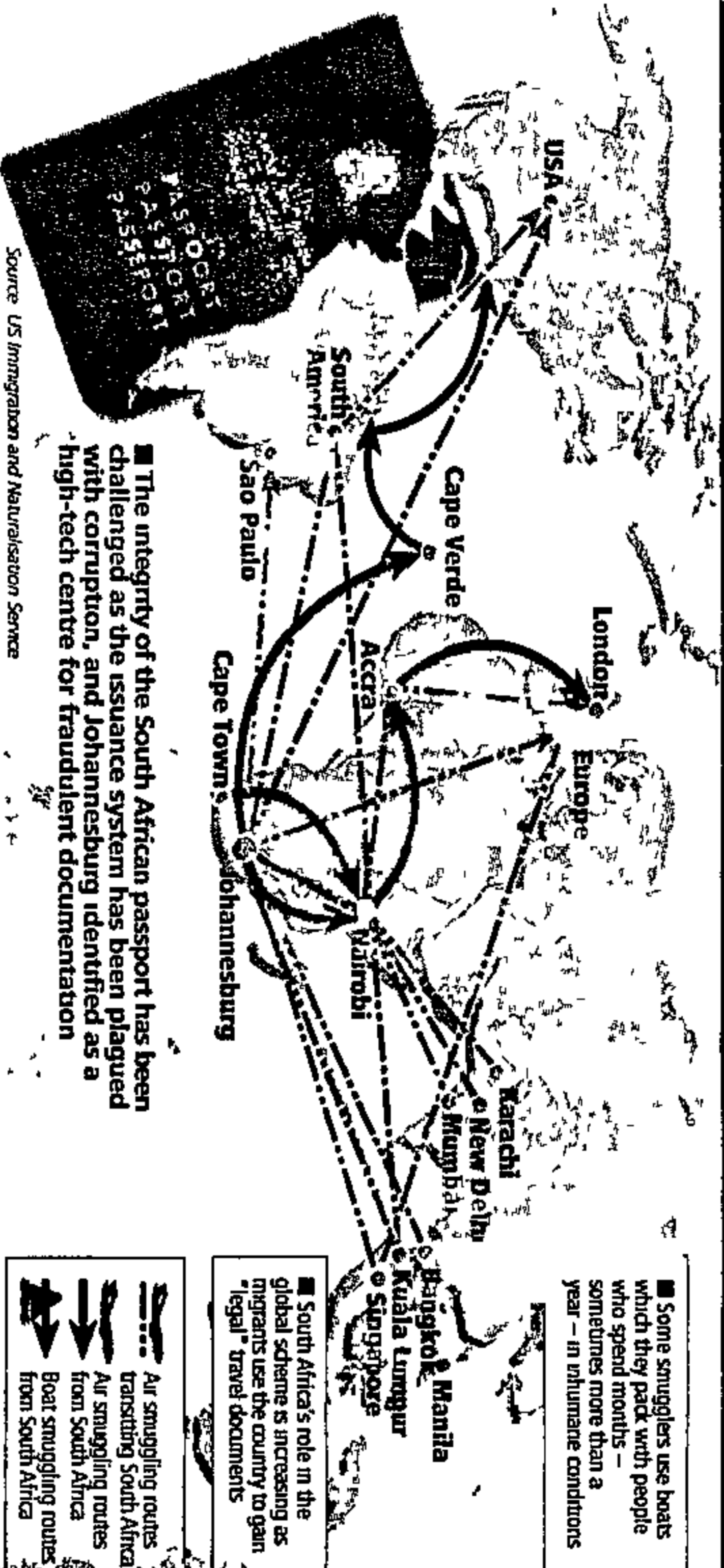
Once in South Africa, criminal agents provided the migrants with accommodation and documentation before they moved on to the next destination, where they had to pay off their debt.

The victims were either forced into prostitution, drug dealing or other criminal activities or ended up as virtual slave labour in factories to pay off their debt.

The trade is seen to number hundreds of thousands of people in transit or in captivity at any one time.

Phyllis Coven, who heads the recently established US Immigration and Naturalisation (INS) branch in Johannesburg,

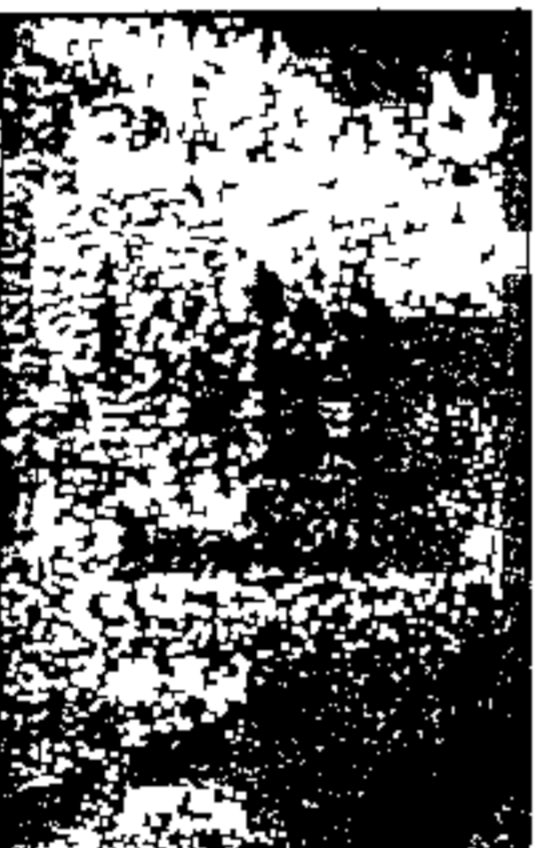
Global Routes of Misery



The integrity of the South African passport has been challenged as the issuance system has been plagued with corruption, and Johannesburg identified as a high-tech centre for fraudulent documentation

Source: US Immigration and Naturalisation Service

JAN 1993, WEST PACIFIC, AUTHORITIES UNCOVER ONE OF THE BIGGEST SMUGGLING VENTURES



said South African travel documents had, since 1994, been used illicitly by alien smugglers, illegal migrants, fraudulent document vendors and corrupt officials.

Coven has been based in Johannesburg for four months. Her primary concern is to prevent illegal migration to the US and North America.

Coven's office is among the newest of 40 INS branches

around the world working to combat smuggling. "Some smugglers use boats which they park with people who spend months - sometimes more than a year - in inhumane conditions while they are transported to Chinatown (New York) where they are then held in virtual slavery until their debt is paid off, if they live that long," Coven said.

Sanitation were common on ships that weaved from port to port around Africa to avoid confronting open sea regulations. According to a report by an inter-agency working group including Interpol, South African Home Affairs and police, and the INS - hundreds of thousands of illegal migrants are currently being moved by international smuggling syndicates from their countries of

origin to western Europe and the United States. The human trade syndicates have identified Johannesburg as a convenient centre to obtain fraudulent documentation. They are taking advantage of the fact that South Africa also has direct flight and shipping routes to most countries in the developed world. South Africa is regarded as one of the countries in the developing

GRAPHIC: JIGNASA DIAR

world whose citizens do not try to enter other countries illegally in significant numbers, enabling syndicates to evade suspicion at ports of entry into the destination countries.

Trading in human cargo earns smugglers billions of dollars in annual profits. Illegal migrants duped into life-threatening scams pay anything from a few hundred dollars to China's standard \$35,000 fee for resident status in North America and Europe.

The SAPS's aliens investigation unit has sources posted on the borders, at airports and inland to crack down on illegal migration.

A detective from the unit, who asked not to be named because of the sensitive nature of his work, said: "Human smugglers operate from agencies all over the world. There's big money in it for them."

He said he had 1,200 illegal applications for South African travel documents on his desk, intercepted at a single Home Affairs office in the past six months.

Willem Vorster of Home Affairs said while his department worked with the SAPS, and Interpol, its role was limited to dealing with illegal aliens and those believed to be aiding and abetting them.

In March, two Home Affairs officials were arrested for turning a false passport and ID hacker. Last year, another 12 were charged with helping foreign nationals to obtain documents fraudulently.

Thousands of blank, unissued South African passports were reported stolen from 11 passport offices between 1995 and 1997.

INS authorities are aware of several popular trafficking routes and common methods used

Fly now, apply later

By GILL GIFFORD
Crime Reporter

In the first nine months of the year, 244 illegal migrants have been caught by SAA security officials who have intercepted them at Johannesburg International Airport.

Security chief Johan Piek said the airline had "a whole system" in place to trap those attempting to enter or leave SA on false travel documents.

He said a common ploy used by people wanting citizenship status in another country was to destroy their travel documents on the plane or flush them down the toilet. "When they arrive at Heathrow or wherever they walk in with no documents and ask for asylum. Then

because they have no passport the country cannot send them back anywhere and they are forced to give the person citizenship."

Piek said it was considered the airline's responsibility when this happened, and SAA had been fined R1.5-million from January to September for passengers who had done this.

"And if they have a passport we are expected to fly them back here - so we lose and pay all the way," said Piek.

He said that while the total number of people with fraudulent passports caught trying to leave Johannesburg on international flights was not known, the figure "must be unbelievable".

"I know for a fact that other airlines all have the same problem," he added.

Immigration 'scam': Senior officials held

(296) ~~CP~~ CP 18/10/98

A SPECIAL Anti-Corruption Unit in the Home Affairs Department has arrested two senior employees of the department and an administrative clerk on fraud allegations involving illegal Taiwanese families.

They are Umtata regional office head Nikiwe Tanda and Umtata chief immigration officer Nelson Hlengwe, who are charged with accepting bribes of money and liquor for getting Taiwanese families permanent residence.

The arrest of the two senior officials follows the arrest of nine policemen and a senior director of Home Affairs two months ago in connection with corruption, fraud, theft, and defeating the ends of justice.

The Home Affairs investigation unit, headed by a small sub-unit led by Joel Phala, has arrested several other senior officials on allegations involving Nigerians, and various

other foreign nationals.

The Taiwanese families from whom money was allegedly extorted gave themselves up to the authorities after the arrest of the policemen and Home Affairs officials.

Home Affairs spokesperson Manase Makwela told City Press that Tanda, and Makalane were arrested following allegations that they had received money and jewellery from illegal immigrants.

Makwela said the third official, Nelson Hlengwe, allegedly received money and liquor from the same illegal immigrants for speeding up

their applications for permanent residence.

The three officials were granted bail of R5 000 each in the Umtata regional court. The case was postponed to November 23.

Makwela said the unit was investigating whether there was more corruption in the Umtata office.

The nine policemen arrested two months ago were all members of the illegal aliens investigation unit, whose duties were to arrest illegal immigrants including women working in brothels. Some of them allegedly accepted sexual favours from illegal immigrants trying to

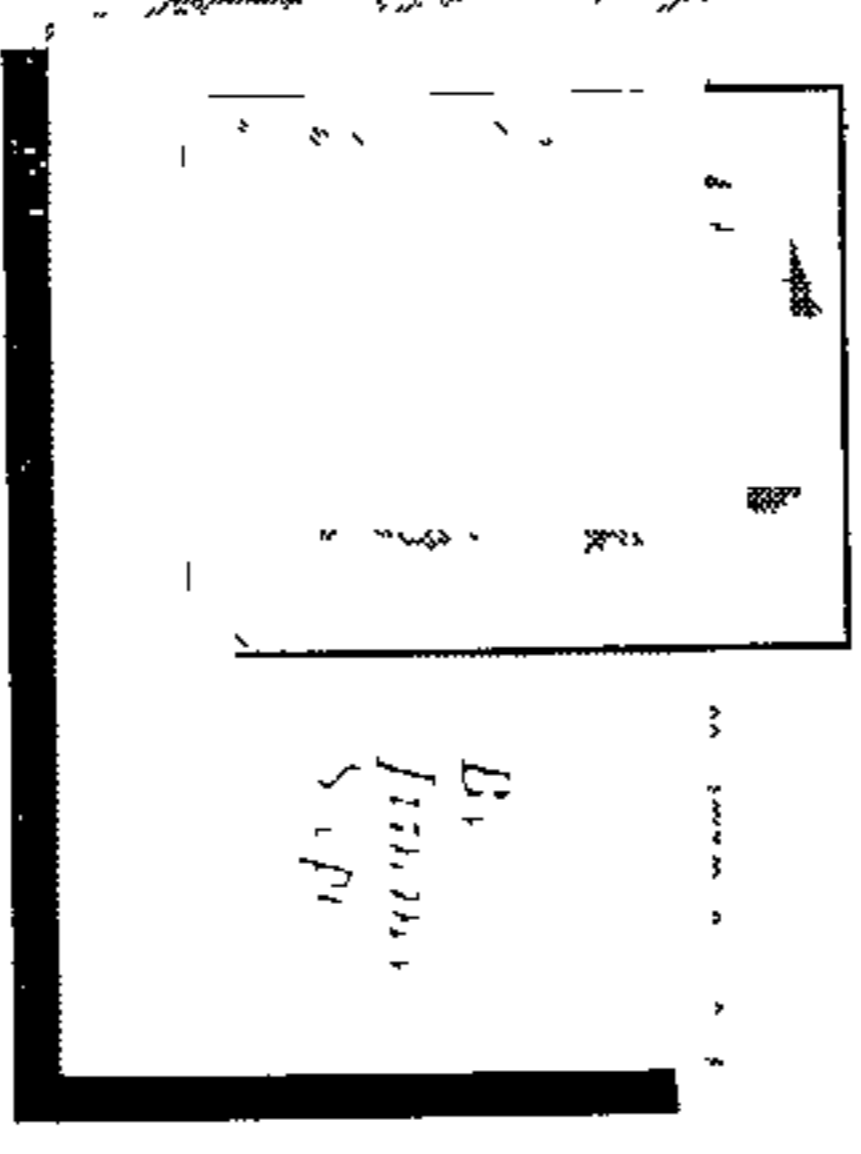
avoid arrest and deportation.

The Home Affairs official and the nine policemen, including former acting unit commander Captain Blackie Swart, appeared in the Pretoria Regional Court and were granted bail of between R1 000 and R5 000.

Members of a small Free State community are up in arms at Taiwanese businessmen who opened up a clothing factory on an abandoned mine shaft four years ago.

Employees at the factory accuse the Taiwanese of trying to re-invent apartheid in the area. They say the businessmen are paying slave wages.

However, the businessmen have rejected the allegations, saying they have a healthy relationship with their workers. They claim most people appreciate the financial contribution they have made to the area by providing jobs for the rural population.



'Increased feeling of xenophobia' in SA

(236) 80 16/10/98

THE three most common fears leading to an increased feeling of xenophobia among South Africans were the fear of crime, economic competition and disease, a study on xenophobia and migration in SA has found.

Paul Graham, an executive at the Institute for Democracy in SA, said at a one-day conference on xenophobia in Johannesburg organised by the SA Human Rights Commission yesterday, that these fears, whether rational or not, should be taken seriously.

"They have the potential to result in abusive and violent be-

haviour towards foreigners," Graham said. Referring to initial findings in a survey by the Southern African Migration Project, Graham said 48% of respondents feared immigrants were involved in crime, while 32% felt they were a threat to jobs. Nearly a third of respondents feared diseases such as HIV/AIDs from foreigners.

Graham said a quarter of South Africans wanted a total prohibition and another 45% wanted strict limits on people from other countries coming into SA.

Only 6% were in favour of freedom of entry.

"I want to make use of the information collected by the project to suggest there is an increasingly generalised antipathy towards non-South Africans." This antipathy was largely driven by second-hand information and limited personal experience, he said.

He warned that the issue of xenophobia needed to be addressed as it cut to the heart of public issues such as crime, jobs and housing. Failure to address it in policy, legislation and state practice would have consequences for the country's human rights reputation — Sapa.



CT 1/10/98 (236)

Suit challenges immigrant law

A CAPE Town watchmaker who fell in love with and married a Thai national is living on a knife edge because according to South African immigration laws, she may have to leave the country

Now Rahim Dawood has turned to the High Court to be able to remain in the land of his birth with his wife Khahattha who is pregnant.

He has brought a class action on behalf of people described as "All persons permanently and lawfully resident in South Africa who are married to alien spouses" against the Minister of Home Affairs, the director-general and the Minister of Finance.

He wants the court to declare a R7 750 fee for immigration permit applications unconstitutional

Dawood said he is unable to pay the non-refundable processing fee of R7 750 so that his wife can apply for an SA immigration permit.

Dawood has already deposited R5 831 with Home Affairs for the purposes of repatriation of his wife in the event that it ever becomes

necessary for her to leave

It therefore came as a shock when he was told in May this year that his wife had to pay R7 750 in order to apply for an immigration permit

The fee that his wife must pay to live with him violates his constitutional rights to human dignity, equality and freedom.

His right to remain in South Africa is also violated by the prescribed fee and if he is not able nor willing to pay money to ensure his wife lawfully lives with him, he will have to leave the country

"The prescribed fee is reminiscent of the kinds of violations of family life produced by the pass laws or the institutionalised migrant labour system.

"It also reminds me of the prohibitions on free choice of marriage partners imposed by laws such as the Prohibition on Mixed Marriages Act," Dawood said.

The processing and finalisation of his wife's application for an immigration permit will take at least six months after the director-general has received and submitted her application.

The director general refuses to submit his wife's application to the regional committee of the Immigration Selection Board without the prescribed fee.

"We feel unsettled with this state of uncertainty," Dawood said

"We feel as if there is a word hanging over our heads. We may have to separate, which is intolerable. We are extremely anxious

and want this situation of uncertainty to come to an end as quickly as possible," Dawood said

Anton Katz, instructed by William Kerfoot of the Legal Resources Centre, act for the Thomas couple. Jan Heuns, SC, and Rudy van Rooyen, instructed by the state attorney, appear for Home Affairs

"The prescribed fee is reminiscent of the kinds of violations of family life under the pass laws"

Not as hostile as

African migrant workers can expect a hand of friendship and undersi-

By MAXINE REITZES

Is xenophobia among South Africans increasing? This question has been raised publicly by the recent train killing of three foreigners in Gauteng. The attack was neither a novel nor an isolated incident.

Foreigners in South Africa, both legal and undocumented, have been subjected to a variety of physical attacks, human rights abuses, and corrupt practices by both citizens and state officials.

Nor do the attacks in themselves indicate that fear or hatred of foreigners is increasing among the citizenry. The perpetrators were, after all, only a small minority whose attitudes are not necessarily consistent with those of most citizens.

It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to establish an attitudinal barometer of the extent of xenophobia. But a recent study of black migrants from elsewhere in Africa by the Centre for Policy Studies suggests that hostility to foreigners, while clearly a serious problem with potential to prompt further violent incidents, may not be as universal as media reaction to the train killings suggested.

And this in turn implies that attempts by the society's decision- and policy-makers to reverse xenophobic attitudes have at least a reasonable prospect of success.

A range of variables influences the ways in which South Africans and foreigners perceive one another. According to our research, migrants believe that South Africans are more hostile towards them in the workplace - the site of economic competition - and in political organisations.

Three general perceptions emerged concerning relationships between foreigners and South Africans in the workplace. Migrants in higher- and very low-income jobs experienced less hostility from South Africans; black South African workers tend to be more xenophobic than their white co-workers, and xenophobia is largely justified by the pervasive perception that foreigners are responsible for high levels of unemployment. Also, the apparently high level is a post-1994 election phenomenon.

While the majority of the respondents did not share accommodation with South Africans - a factor which may make them more clearly identifiable as "outsiders" to their South African neighbours - they claimed not to experience any hostility from these neighbours.

An interesting exception was a minority of Mozambicans who have integrated with a Tsonga community in Pimville, Soweto, with whom they share a common language and culture. This suggests that cultural and linguistic affinities transcend national differences. Similarly, in North West province, where residents often share a common language, culture and history with "foreigners" from Botswana, relations between locals and migrants from the neighbouring state are more relaxed.

In Gauteng as well as North West, many migrants, despite living separately from



South Africans, attend church with them. Some play sport with them or are enthusiastic supporters of local soccer teams, attending matches with local friends. As one respondent suggested, this facilitates greater tolerance. And a significant minority of foreigners also reported belonging to the ANC, indicating both a willingness to integrate into the society and, perhaps, a degree of acceptance.

There is a pervasive perception among foreigners of an increase in xenophobia since 1994. Many support the claim of one interviewee that "during apartheid the relationship was much better, as we were fighting a common enemy." This, of course, suggests that tension or hostility are not innate - they are rather a fairly recent phenomenon - a change from hostility to tolerance may be as possible as the reverse path has been during the past few years. Indeed, some migrants believe this is already occurring.

Research also revealed regional

variations in foreigners' perceptions of South Africans' attitudes to them: there appears to be relatively less xenophobia in all contexts in North West than in Gauteng.

There also seems to be less xenophobia in rural than in urban areas in North West, and higher concentrations of foreigners living in rural communities than in urban centres. Many locals in the rural communities acknowledge their reliance on both local and foreign miners for income, both in the form of remittances and spending.

Some foreigners, both in Gauteng and North West, although expressing concern about xenophobia, had never personally experienced it: on the contrary, some considered South Africans friendly and helpful, and knew of marriages between foreigners and locals. This implies that, in some cases at least, hostility to immigrants may be expressed in generalised stereotyping rather than in relations between or reactions to individuals.

Or, to put it more simply, some South

Africans may react to foreigners' presence while foreigners themselves.

Certainly, foreigners necessarily concluded are innately hostile to

Thus some interviewees of the Government of North West either because it had high expectations and South Africans a scapegoat, or because they were regularly and directly being responsible for the country's social and economic problems.

Others accused South Africans of sending migrants home by white people and Africans to break up the country, which they (the interviewees) believed was the cause of the country's problems.

Perhaps more interestingly, interviewees were more likely to express negative attitudes, and South Africans were more likely to say that xenophobia was a

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perceptions of to them there ap- xenophobia in all in Gauteng. less xenophobia in North West, of foreigners than in urban rural commu- reliance on both and spending in Gauteng and less concern personally ex- some consid- and helpful, in some cases may be ex- or reactions to some South

Africans may react to the idea of foreigners' presence while relating well to the foreigners themselves. Certainly, foreign migrants have not necessarily concluded that South Africans are innately hostile to them. Thus some interviewees accused the Government of encouraging xenophobia, either because it had created unrealistic expectations and South Africans now needed a scapegoat, or because some politicians regularly and directly accuse foreigners of being responsible for many of the country's social and economic ills. Others accused the media of misrepresenting migrants, because they are "owned by white people and they do not want Africans to break the cultural barriers which they (the owners) have created" Perhaps more surprisingly, some interviewees were understanding of xenophobic attitudes, and sympathetic towards South Africans despite them. They argued that xenophobia was a legacy of apartheid

which had isolated the majority of South Africans from the rest of the continent and the world, making them suspicious of foreigners and subjecting them to economic deprivation which, for many, had not improved. Others noted that xenophobia is an increasingly global trend and not unique to South Africa. Some even rejected the suggestion that South Africa should open its borders to all: a few respondents suggested that a policy to control the influx of people be formulated in consultation with other southern African countries from which migrants originate. Some respondents suggested that, although current legislation and attitudes seemed to contradict the African Renaissance, migration policy was necessary. These responses do not imply that xenophobia is a relatively minor and localised problem. Responses confirmed the findings of several surveys which indicate that hostility to foreigners is widespread. But they do suggest that these attitudes

may be more uneven, more qualified - and thus more changeable - than many decision-makers may believe. The train killings are of course a stark reminder of the need to seek to combat xenophobia. As a range of commentators and public figures have acknowledged, violence - and even negative sentiments - directed at foreigners undermine South Africans' stated commitment to an African Renaissance (where they are directed at persons from elsewhere on the continent); complicate diplomatic relations with other states; and add to the growing perception here and abroad that many South Africans consider themselves above the law, and that violence is seen as a legitimate and appropriate solution to political and economic problems. But the research evidence suggests that South Africa's leaders - not only in government, but also in the media and other areas of public life - are not necessarily fighting an irresistible tide of public sentiment if they seek to prevent similar incidents of this sort by encouraging a more tolerant attitude to foreigners. Not only do leaders bear a responsibility to discourage expressions of anger or hostility towards foreigners, they may well be better placed to achieve success than analyses of the killings suggested. This point takes on added weight if we consider the possibility - consistent with the research evidence presented here - that general stereotyping of foreigners stems from assumptions about their effect on South African society - such as the claim that they steal jobs, which ostensibly prompted the train attacks - are not necessarily accurate but which are often advanced by opinion-formers. A more accurate description of foreigners' role here - and a growing body of research is now available which offers more reliable information on the impact of foreign migrants - may prompt a substantial decline in hostility towards them. Given this, it could be argued that the response to the train killings was a lost opportunity. While several political parties and much of the media condemned the attacks, some key institutions were silent: there was no statement from the Government in general or, more importantly, from the Ministry of Home Affairs, which is charged with immigration control and therefore has an added responsibility to ensure that its policies and actions are not understood as a sanction for verbal or physical attacks on foreigners. Equally, or more importantly, while reaction to the killings did prompt heightened attention to xenophobia in the media, it did not produce a sustained response which sought to prevent further incidents of this sort. The evidence presented here suggests that such a response would not face insurmountable obstacles, and that opinion leaders do not necessarily have to fear public outrage if they advocate more tolerant attitudes to foreigners. ■ Maxine Reitzes is a policy analyst with the

New goal is to reverse SA's t

Human Rights Commission set to tackle ra

(236) (957)

MICHAEL MORRIS



SPECIAL WRITER

To have a face as dark as Bournville chocolate, or a hesitant, melodious foreignness in your voice, is enough in democratic South Africa to mark you as an outsider, and possibly a target of abuse

Somalis, Moroccans, Nigerians, Zaireans, Zimbabweans, Mozambicans - the list goes on - have all sensed this dread of the "other", the dark sentiment, ironically, on which apartheid was founded

Since 1994, it has emerged that just as South Africa was breaking out of the insularity of the apartheid years and extending fraternal commerce with the continent, many of its newly enfranchised citizens are taking refuge in the small minded protectionism of the past - to keep outsiders out

It has become so prevalent that the Greek term for it - xenophobia - is used almost as much in the national debate as the terminology of race. And with good reason

In March the Human Rights Watch in New York fingered South Africa for serious human rights abuses in its handling of immigration

It criticised the Government for failing to reform legislation on refugees and migration, and cited instances of gross abuse

Just last month, three foreigners were killed while trading on a train between Johannesburg and Pretoria

This tragic instance of brutal envy has prompted a conference in Johannesburg tomorrow, which the Human Rights Commission hopes will set the scene for a more purposeful approach to xenophobia and racism

Nobody knows for sure how many illegal immigrants live in South Africa - figures range from 2,5 million to just over 4 million

But it is clear that mounting intolerance of foreigners is not restricted to illegal aliens. A recent poll suggested that more than 60% of South Africans (of all colours) felt immigration policy was too lax

The main reasons were a fear of jobs being taken and concerns associated with crime and trade in drugs

Ironically, most of the sentiment against immigrants tends to be directed towards those who are black, not white

An analyst noted there "appears to



Barney Pityana: we say to aliens, legal or not: if you want protection the commission is here for you

be a prevailing xenophobia which sits uneasily with the country's re-admission into the international community and its new role as a key member of the Southern African Development Community"

Human Rights Commission chairperson Barney Pityana is blunt about it "The integrity of South Africa is at stake here. We cannot afford to live in isolation from the rest of our neighbours - the politics of globalisation will not allow it"

So, dealing with xenophobia is an "urgent" priority, and a critical factor in inculcating confidence in SA

"We hope tomorrow's conference will send an unambiguous message: violations of human rights will not be tolerated, criminality is no answer to the problems South Africans suffer, and the law must be upheld"

He has no illusions about the contest for jobs and success between South Africans and its neighbours

"Most of the foreigners are entrepreneurs. They trade, they make a success. And so, often, our people just haven't got that go-getting mentality"

The answer was not merely a shift in immigration policy



Joy amid misery: refugees living in a Woodstock church make the most of a precarious existence. A

"What we are looking for is a comprehensive, coordinated strategy. What's got to happen is that police, immigration authorities, departments of labour and trade and industry, local licensing authorities, and ourselves must work together in dealing not just with the symptoms, but with what lies behind them"

"The strategy must deal with the root causes of xenophobia and racism through education, more effective

protection for those legally resident here, tackling corruption in the immigration service and police, fair and effective policy for licensing traders and hawkers, and promoting job-creation programmes and skills development schemes for the unemployed

"The root causes must be addressed even as we take steps to protect the rights of foreigners in our midst," says Dr Pityana

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Se SA's tide of xenophobia

et to tackle racism aimed at foreigners

(236) (257) ARG 14/10/98



Helen Suzman: I suppose I have become a bit cynical about the ability to implement clauses in the Bill of Rights

Woodstock church make the most of a precarious existence A recent poll found that 60% of South Africans felt immigration laws were too lax

protection for those legally resident here, tackling corruption in the immigration service and police, fair and effective policy for licensing traders and hawkers, and promoting job creation programmes and skills development schemes for the unemployed

"The root causes must be addressed even as we take steps to protect the rights of foreigners in our midst," says Dr Pityana

He adds: "We say to aliens, whether they are legal or not if you want protection, the commission is here for you"

"Police and immigration authorities have the responsibility to apply immigration law, but, however complex and difficult, we insist there must be due process"

To critics, the role, capacity and even the relevance of the Human Rights Commission is not beyond

question, perhaps especially since the announcement last week of veteran human rights campaigner Helen Suzman's resignation.

Each, in a way, represents an opposite pole of the commission the one a feisty liberation activist, the other a feisty liberal

They have differed sharply on many things - not least the Government's controversial "equity" legislation, intended as a core element of

social rights in South Africa, but clearly with major consequences for individual rights

Both acknowledge the disputes without embarrassment

To emphasise his meaning, Dr Pityana says "We are genuinely sorry that Helen is going she has been an important part of the commission"

Mrs Suzman says some disagreements have troubled her, but that "there's nothing dramatic in this. I have had no tearing row with any one" What she does feel is that "I suppose I have become a bit cynical" about the ability to implement some clauses in the Bill of Rights Someone younger should take over " But she has no doubts about the human rights mission in South Africa

For his part, Dr Pityana is confident that with the more than doubling of its budget the commission is better placed to get work done

While countering racism has, at least, the popular backing of most South Africans, the more difficult test probably lies in rolling back the tide of xenophobia. The risk is that as long as it's prevalent, it will be a tempting political rallying point

Polish doctor was 'harassed into suicide'

Association accuses Home Affairs and hospital managements of pressure and unfair treatment

By Angus Thom
Health Reporter

Foreign doctors have accused the Department of Home Affairs of harassing a Polish doctor to the point where he committed suicide in a Johannesburg hospital.

Dr Chris Zaposki's body was found in an operating theatre at South Rand Hospital on Tuesday. Dr Safdar Malick, chairperson of the Foreign Qualified Doctors' Association, said Zaposki had inhaled Halothane, a gas used for anaesthetic.

"He has been under mental stress for quite some time, primar-

ily due to treatment handed out by Home Affairs," Malick claimed.

Zaposki, a Polish doctor who has been practising in the country for six years, was allegedly arrested last year after being called out of theatre where he was operating.

He was held for three days and deported, said Malick. Zaposki later returned when his wife, a South African, arranged "temporary papers".

Malick demanded an end "to the persistent attitude of torture" towards foreign doctors.

"A doctor phoned me this morning and told me he had applied for an extension on his work permit 11

months ago in January. He is still waiting for a reply."

Malick said most foreign doctors were being harassed and treated unfairly by hospital man-

'Held for three days and then deported ...'

agement and the Department of Home Affairs.

"Chris's death was an expression of helplessness and frustration, a feeling shared by many doctors," Malick added.

He said he failed to understand

the attitude in the light of the fact that we are helping to alleviate this disaster in the health sector."

Kennie Meyer, Home Affairs spokesperson, denied that they treated foreign doctors any differently to other foreigners.

We are guided by the Department of Health on the issuing of work permits to doctors," he said.

Meyer said the Home Affairs department would determine whether there were any South Africans available to do the job or whether South Africans could be trained to do it, before issuing a work permit.

"We don't harass foreign doctors," he added.

Zaposki was working in the obstetrics and gynaecology section at the time of his death.

Louise Emerton, spokesperson for the Interim Medical and Dental Council, said they used to register foreign doctors for one year, and for another three years when they re-applied.

"There has been a moratorium on the registration of foreign doctors since 1995," she added.

Emerton said the council registered foreign doctors from all parts of the world, except those qualified in the Dominican Republic.

Doctors were expected to pass a medical council exam before registration.

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Settling into Africa

(236)

Sowetan 12/11/98

SOUTH Africa was for centuries one of Europe's most popular destinations. When the British colonial government set aside £50 000 to ship thousands of what came to be known as the 1820 Settlers to populate the recently expropriated lands in the Eastern Cape, it was just the continuation of a tale that began two centuries earlier with the Dutch.

The publication in 1858 of *Settler's Guide to the Cape of Good Hope and Colony of Natal* was just one of a number of strategies used to advertise South Africa in Europe.

One Francis Carey Slater could still write as recently as 1954 in his *Settler's Heritage* 'I am a South African, descended on both sides from the British Settlers of 1820

"There has been a notable contribution to South Africa's population - most of them were lured hither by roseate pictures of a sunny southern land flowing, of course, with the inevitable milk and honey'

This description contrasts very sharply with the picture painted recently by a weekend newspaper. (An) emigration lawyer is laughing all the way to the bank.

"He jokes that the only reason he stays in South Africa is because his skill in helping people to leave is in such demand. His client list is expanding and of late it is being fuelled by fear"

This situation is confirmed by figures released by the Central Statistical Service. The number of self-declared emigrants exceeded that of documented immigrants from 1993 for the first time, at least, in our country's recent history.

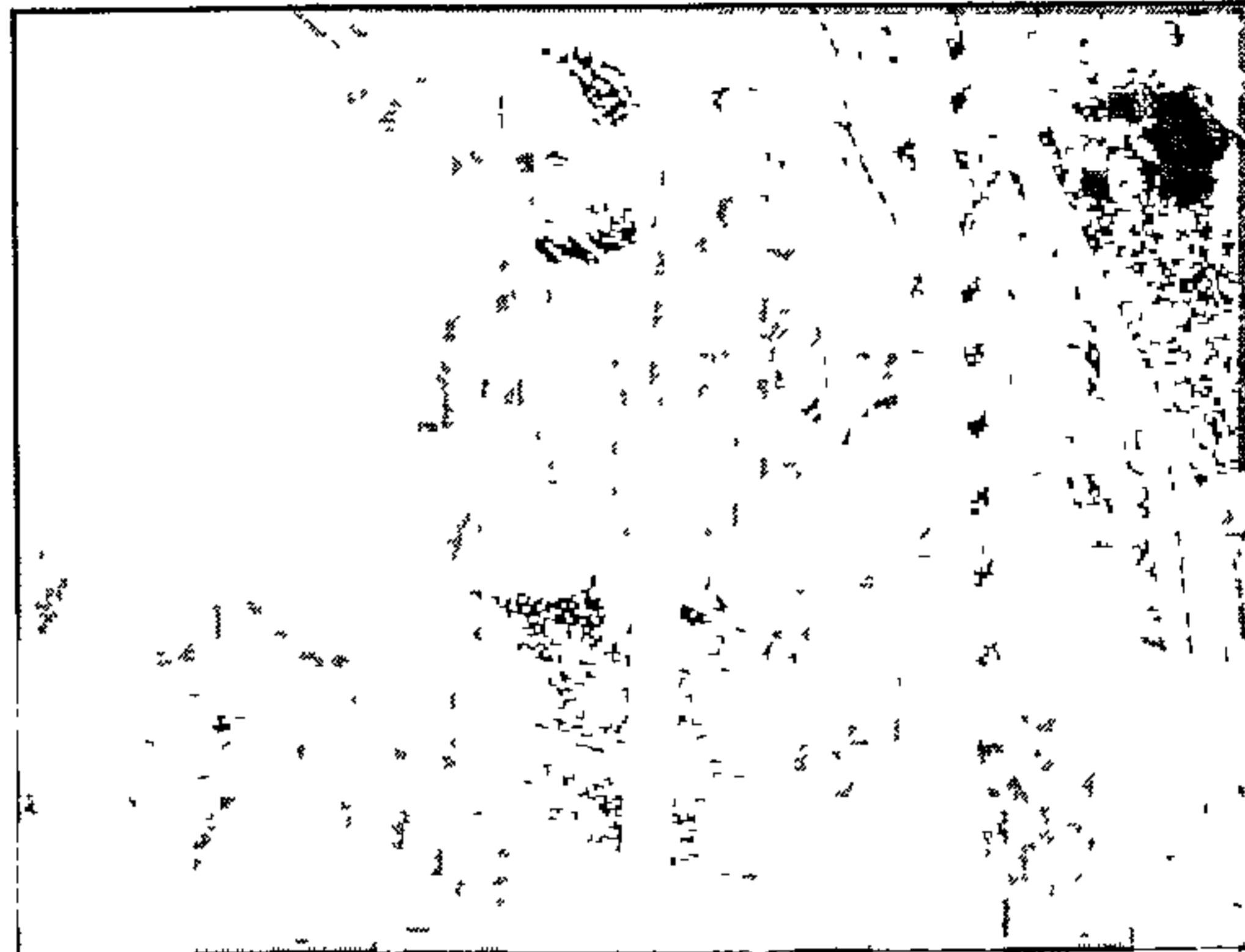
This net loss to our country continued, increasing by 51,5 percent between 1995 and 1997. Figures released for the first two months of this year suggest the continuation of this trend, with 1 213 and 688 self-declared emigrants leaving the country in January and February respectively, as opposed to 346 (January) and 449 (February) documented immigrants.

The reasons given for this exodus are well known, with crime and violence topping the list. The Government is being told to act decisively against these social ills to curb this loss of our people to the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States.

But what we are going through is not new to our country nor to the continent itself. Our emigration-immigration figures have historically been responsive to political developments.

Our country suffered net losses in 1950, 1960, 1977-78 and 1986-87. In the 1950s increasing mass resistance to apartheid resulted in the declaration of a state of emergency and the banning of the African National Congress and Pan Africanist Congress in 1960.

In the face of escalating emigration figures, white compatriots must come to terms with living in South Africa and all that it entails, writes **Eddy Maloka**



Emigrants blame crime as their main reason for leaving South Africa. Here is a farmer with his guard dog behind the electric fence that surrounds his farm house outside Schweizer-Reneke.

The mid-1970s are well remembered for the resistance of our youth, and the mid-1980s as years of a series of states of emergency which were declared in response to a 'people's war'.

The acceleration of emigration since 1993 was without doubt a response to the 1994 elections and the coming to power of the first representative government.

For somebody new to this planet it may be difficult to understand why a democratically elected government should lead to the exodus of a section of our population.

But a look at other cases in Africa will explain his paradox. Many Rhodesians, just like their Portuguese counterparts in Angola and Mozambique half a decade earlier, came to South Africa where apartheid guaranteed them the minority privileges they used to enjoy in their countries before liberation.

Now, with South Africa under a black majority government, the exodus begins again.

The thinking that crime is the cause of emigration is the result of the failure to transcend perception. History has shown that there is a tendency in post-settler societies that are dominated by the indigenous population for a section of whites to refuse to indigenise and rather opt for emigration to countries where white supremacy is still intact.

The reasons given for emigration vary from fear of "communists" and "terrorists" in Zim-

babwe and Mozambique to crime in our case. All these reasons are nothing more than mere catalysts.

And emigration, just like immigration, can be encouraged by the business it creates for others. Land speculators and shipping companies were among those laughing all the way to the banks in 19th century South Africa.

Today, lawyers and removal companies are among

those making a profit out of the lucrative emigration business, removal costs for an emigrating family can be between R25 000 and R40 000.

But what we are dealing with here is not just individuals taking their bags to seek fortunes elsewhere, we are dealing with a social movement whose history can be traced to the years when Europe exported its surplus population to the New World and other colonies.

That most of our emigrants opt for the countries mentioned earlier is no accident.

What these countries have in common (with the exception of the UK, which is "home") is a settler population arriving in a sparsely populated country and exterminating the indigenous people to claim the land for itself.

In settler societies where extermination could not work because of the numerical superiority of the indigenous people, the tendency is for liberation to be followed by the exodus of a section of the white populace.

The challenge is for our white compatriots to look ahead and forget double nationality. They must indigenise, be South Africans.

There is no future in going around the globe looking for lands and people to dominate and riches to expropriate. Seriously speaking, no patriot leaves his-her country because there are car hijackers prowling the streets!

(Dr Maloka is a special adviser in the Gauteng Premier's Office.)

Path of true love does not run true for

LYNNE RIPPENMAR
STAFF REPORTER

(296)

Foreigners married to South Africans are having a tough time getting permission to live and work here because of a confusing tangle of red tape.

Among the obstacles they face are paying a fee of R7 750 to apply for permanent residence, getting police clearance from their home countries if they wish to apply for a work permit, and sometimes waiting months for legal guidance from the Department of Home Affairs

Also, according to Cape Town immigration lawyer Gary Eisenberg, offices around the country and abroad interpret the department's directives differently, making it difficult, even for lawyers, to understand immigration policy requirements

He said the result was people were packing up and leaving

If a foreigner enters this country with a work permit and with their spouse, the spouse is allowed to apply for a work permit while they are in South Africa, but a foreigner married to a South African has to leave the country and apply for a work permit

ARL 26/11/98

from his or her own country

About 260 immigration-related cases have passed through Mr Eisenberg's office since he began specialising in this field in March 1997.

In 1996, foreigners married to South Africans and applying for permanent residency had to pay a fee of R5 580. In March 1997, an amendment to that regulation exempted spouses married to South Africans from paying the permanent residence fee, which by then had risen to R7 130. This year, the figure was increased to R7 750 and was once more made compulsory for foreign spouses

Mr Eisenberg was told the reason for this was that so many people were coming into the country, marrying South Africans and applying for permanent residence, and many of these unions were suspected to be marriages of convenience

Mr Eisenberg said: "The reintroduction of the fee was to stop people abusing the system"

But he added that the rules had never been clear "The same rules are applied very differently by home affairs officials in Caledon, Soweto or London, causing enormous confusion at times. These so-called 'rules' do not

have the status of laws. They are policy guidelines"

Other delays facing permanent residence applicants include

■ Applications made to the national police intelligence agency for clearances from their home countries which can take months

■ Asking the Pretoria head office for help on immigration guidelines which can also take months

■ Waiting for legal advice from the legal services division of home affairs

While foreign applicants wait, employment opportunities are filled

by other job-seekers. Mr Eisenberg said employers were unwilling to wait six to 10 months for an employee to get clearance

While Section 26 of the Alien's Control Act, amended on July 1 1996, states that a foreigner coming to South Africa with a work permit may bring his or her spouse along, and obtain a work permit for the spouse, an amendment has not been made for South Africans marrying foreigners

"It's an absolute case of discrimination," said Mr Eisenberg. He did not understand how the plight of South Africans could have

been ignored. "I don't think Parliament took the act seriously, or thought of it in a visionary way, and these problems were never anticipated"

"We have a system which is almost 100% non-transparent, where even attorneys who deal with these matters on a daily basis do not know the rules

"The department is running into great trouble. It is exhausting its credibility"

■ In spite of repeated requests, the Department of Home Affairs did not reply to our request for a comment

Foreign partners

Aliens seen as criminals

(276)
of 29/11/98

Soon after the fall of apartheid and the celebrated establishment of democracy, South Africa became host to an overwhelming influx of displaced people from all over Africa and indeed, the world, rushing towards better lives, safety and protection

Their welfare has become more critical of late as more and more African states encounter internal and regional conflicts

The arrival of a wave of people has doubtless placed great strain on scarce resources and social services that seem inadequate even to meet the needs of black South Africans now looking to improve their lives after the deprivations of the past

The consequent need to balance the interests of a largely destitute citizenry with those of aliens, notwithstanding their status in law, has brought such pressure on the government that any call for fairness sounds too charitable to interests to be more important than those of aliens

We are therefore noticing a hardening rather than a softening of government policy and attitudes towards "illegal immigrants", under which category African refugees fall by default

Thus, the problem facing these foreigners in their daily lives comes from their nationality as much as any other factor

Currently an effort is being made to make life increasingly difficult for them in the small hope that this will encourage them to leave while discouraging further aliens from entering

SA's reputation is being tainted by xenophobia

Attacks on immigrants could be passing flare-ups, but could well be indicative of a widespread fault in our society, writes

GUINNESS OHAZURUIKE of the Human Rights Institute.

workshop titled *Rollback Xenobia in 1999* was organised by the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) and members of the National Consortium on Refugee Affairs (NCRA)

The objective of this workshop, which was held last week at Sunninghill in Johannesburg, was to form a plan against xenophobia

Interestingly, the police, Home Affairs officials, the media, and organisations such as the Unemployed Masses of South Africa participated in the workshop.

Addressing the workshop, NCRA chairman Jody Kollapen said: "Xenophobia is a human rights issue because it challenges South Africa's commitment to fairness and justice as enshrined in the democratic constitution"

Pretoria, the human rights fraternity, the media, the government and the public downplayed the issue

Why has xenophobia become an agenda enjoying formidable consensus? Well, it takes exceptional moral rectitude and courage to recognise injustice done to one so helpless as a refugee

To fight xenophobia one must root out its causes

Facts show the prejudice against foreigners is based on misinformation, often triggered by fear and selfishness

There is a belief that foreigners take scarce jobs away from locals

But at the moment no reliable statistics show that aliens are given jobs at the expense of locals

The overriding issue is whether xenophobic outbursts are passing flare-ups stimulated by unfortunate but temporary economic conditions or whether they are only the most recent manifestations of a long-standing vicious streak in South Africans

If it is the first, then the problem is law enforcement and punishment

But if it is the latter, the new democratic order faces a challenge that law enforcement alone cannot meet, for an entire warped culture cannot be thrown in jail

Apart from faceless members of the elite, those actually perpetrating these attacks are, as one might guess, young, unemployed, less educated males who are disappointed with the slow pace of transformation and are disillusioned with the current political institutions that have failed to deliver.

One hopes that the cost of transformation will lessen soon, thereby taking some of the sting out of the decline that has affected those most vulnerable and most likely to see foreigners as a threat

Migrant women: a blessing, not a threat

By MAX MARX

(236)

A NEW report by the Southern African Migration Project (SAMP) suggests that female migration to South Africa, instead of being a threat, can in many instances benefit the South African economy and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region as a whole.

It suggests that female migrants who come to South Africa to trade and shop should be encouraged as they make a positive contribution to the economy.

The pattern of "to-and-fro" migration practised by Southern African women could serve to facilitate positive socio-economic changes in both South Africa and their home countries.

The report says allowing women freer temporary access to South Africa will encourage the exchange of goods, services and ideas, factors that drive development.

The report argues there is little to suggest that a more open migration policy will result in an unmanageable influx of women (or men) into the country. Female migration to South Africa could help reduce inequalities in the region and empower women to become agents of development.

Entitled *Women on the Move: Gender and Cross-Border Migration to South Africa*, the report examined experiences of women migrants from Lesotho, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia.

It concluded that men and women migrate to South Africa for very different reasons. Men migrate primarily to work, while women migrate for social, economic and personal reasons. These include the buying of food, medicine, clothing and school supplies, the selling of handicrafts, and to visit friends and relatives working in South Africa. Very few women come to work or to seek work.

The report also challenges the com-

mon stereotype of the migrant as an unskilled, illiterate, irresponsible, young single male. Research indicates that female migrants tend to be older, married, and better educated than their male counterparts.

They make more frequent and shorter visits than men, and many travel to visit male family members.

The report suggests policy should be formulated in terms of partners, families and households.

It argues that as motives for migration arise out of social and economic forces in their home countries and recipient countries, any

sound migration policy has to be linked to regional socio-economic development.

The report also argues that competition between foreign informal sector traders and South Africans must surely be part of the movement towards freer trade in the SADC region.

The place where unwanted people wait

'Illegal aliens' complain of bribery

By MAX MARX



SLOW MOVING. Gaining access to Lindela Repatriation Centre near Krugersdorp is a slow process. Many of these people are first-time visitors who have come to see arrested relatives and friends awaiting repatriation. Many of them who had been queuing in the hot sun for a long time, were turned away at 11.45 am after being told visiting hours were over. Visiting hours end at 12 pm. Pic: MAX MARX

THE Human Rights Commission (HRC) will soon release a report on its investigation into the treatment of undocumented migrants, referred to as illegal aliens by the authorities.

The investigation into the arrest, detention and deportation of undocumented migrants was instituted because of complaints that they included legitimate South African citizens and foreigners with valid entry permits.

The Commission interviewed 150 detainees at Lindela Repatriation Centre near Krugersdorp about their arrests and whether they were given the opportunity to prove their legal status by the arresting officer.

Allegations of bribery and corruption were also investigated by the HRC. Commissioner Jody Kollapen told City Press many allegations of bribery and corruption against police and detention centre officials were made by those interviewed.

He said the extent to which bribery and corruption

were a problem in South Africa was highlighted by the recent arrest of several officers in the police aliens unit.

"Bribery and corruption undermine efforts to develop a proper migration policy. The best policies don't work when there are corrupt officers who simply bypass the provisions of the law, or accept bribes to ignore the presence of undocumented migrants," he said.

"Our country has a major migration problem and failure to properly regulate migrants leads to xenophobia."

The HRC investigation followed a report

seekers, and refugees in South Africa in 1996 and 1997. This report and Kollapen's October 1997 report highlighted arbitrary arrests of undocumented migrants.

The reports revealed that suspected undocumented migrants were often identified as such by unreliable means such as complexion, accents and innoculations, and that many of those arrested were South African citizens or legal residents who often spent some time in detention trying to convince officials of their legitimate status.

Lindela Repatriation Centre, the largest detention centre for undocumented migrants in South Africa, featured prominently in the reports.

Kollapen reported that many detainees at Lindela complained of bribery demands by officials, including bribes for false documents, postponement of deportation and even the use of the centre's telephone.

Danny Mansell, director of Dyanambu Operations, the company which manages Lindela, confirmed that Lindela had been plagued by bribery and that some of Lindela's staff and Home Affairs officials had been caught taking bribes.

He said allegations that detainees were forced to pay R50 to make a telephone call, were only fed one meal a day and were not allowed to accept food brought to them by visiting relatives and friends were untrue.

"Inmates are allowed to make one free phone call upon their arrival. There are also numerous public telephones at their disposal. Inmates get fed twice a day, at breakfast time and in the early afternoon. I cannot see why anyone would refuse detainees food from their relatives," he said.

City Press conducted its own investigation at Lindela last week. City Press reporter Sibusiso Ngomane interviewed a number of detainees and a staff member inside the facility. Two women detainees alleged that officials offered them money for sexual favours.

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Ngomane also interviewed a man who said he was arrested because the arresting police officer thought his skin was too black for him to be a South African.

Allegations of the wrongful arrest of South African citizens, and foreigners

pays Dyanambu Operations R24,95 a day for each detainee at Lindela. This cost taxpayers R416 640,05 a day for the 16 699 detainees who should never have been at the facility.

Mansell said the mistaken arrest and subsequent detention of South African citizens were less frequent these days. "We have been working with Home Affairs and the South African Police Services to eliminate this problem. When the police bring a person to Lindela now, they bring an affidavit with them stating that the detainee failed to produce identification despite being given the opportunity to do so."

Statistics from Dyanambu of those released between January and October 1997 and for the same period in 1998, do reflect a drop in the number of releases.

The total number released during this period in 1997 was 10 239, 15,8 percent of the 64 776 admitted - compared with 4 196 released in 1998, which was 7,9 percent of 52 890 detained between January and October 1998.

These statistics show an 18-percent decrease in the number of detainees held at Lindela from January to October 1998 compared with the same period in 1997 and a 69 percent decrease in the number released in the same period in 1998.

According to the HRW report, several inmates claimed they had been assaulted by security personnel at Lindela.

A staff member at Lindela confirmed these allegations, telling Ngomane that incidences of assault were rife at Lindela because detainees usually resist deportation.

Mansell denied allegations of assault on detainees by Lindela staff. He said police sometimes brought people in with injuries such as bullet wounds or dog bites and added that fights sometimes broke out between inmates, forcing guards to intervene.

Peter Leon, leader of the Democratic Party in Gauteng, said allegations brought to his attention two weeks ago had prompted him to formally ask the HRC to conduct further investigations into Lindela.

"Lindela is a festering sore. It's a disgrace that such conditions have been allowed to continue. They hardly reflect well on our supposed human rights culture," he said.

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"Our country has a major migration problem and failure to properly regulate migrants leads to xenophobia."

The HRC investigation followed a report called "Prohibited Persons" released in March 1998 by the Human Rights Watch (HRW). The report featured the findings of a HRW investigation into the treatment of undocumented migrants, asylum

seekers, and refugees in South Africa in 1996 and 1997. This report and Kollapen's October 1997 report highlighted arbitrary arrests of undocumented migrants.

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Ngomane also interviewed a man who said he was arrested because the arresting police officer thought his skin was too black for him to be a South African.

Allegations of the wrongful arrest of South African citizens and foreigners who were in the country legally are borne out by statistics from Dyambu Operations which show that between August 1996 when Lindela opened and October 1998, 16 699 of 142 644 people detained at Lindela were released and 124 857 were repatriated.

At least some of the nearly 17 000 people released were South African citizens or lawful residents.

The Department of Home Affairs

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"Lindela is a festering sore. It's a disgrace that such conditions have been allowed to continue. They hardly reflect well on our supposed human rights culture," he said.

HRW reported that South Africa had been deporting an increasing number of people annually since 1995 and that the Department of Home Affairs repatriated 176 351 undocumented migrants in 1997.

This figure was verified by the Department of Home Affairs, who could not tell City Press what the repatriation of undocumented migrants costs South Africa annually.

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OP 22/11/98

Campaign to tackle xenophobia

Chiara Carter

A campaign to fight xenophobia and raise awareness about refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants is to be launched next month.

The campaign is part of a three-year strategy drawn up by a consultant commissioned by the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR). It is being spearheaded by the National Consultative Forum on Refugee Affairs and includes the UNHCR, the Human Rights Commission, Lawyers for Human Rights and refugee forums in the provinces.

Chair of the Western Cape forum and member of the national forum Bea Abrahams said they were alarmed at the "rising sweep of xenophobia" in the past year, during which about 50 refugees had been killed countrywide.

The campaign aims to target government departments such as home affairs, health, welfare and correctional services as well as influencing policy-makers.

Workshops, information brochures and a media campaign are some of the ways the group hopes to raise public awareness.

MHG 27/11-3/12/98
(276)

Illegals abused at camp – claim

By S'BUSISO NGOMANE

(276)
ALLEGATIONS of corruption and bribery were this week made to City Press by detainees at the Lindela Repatriation Centre, where illegal immigrants are kept in transit before being deported.

Their claims come in the wake of an investigation into the patterns of arrest, detention and deportation of illegal immigrants by the Human Rights Commission, which interviewed about 150 Lindelani inmates.

Inmates at Lindela, situated in a dusty area next to Krugersdorp, alleged they were sexually harassed and assaulted by security staff.

Mendi Mnyathi, a Zimbabwean, told City Press how she had, more than once, endured "unwelcome" sexual advances from a security guard whom she would not identify for fear of reprisals.

"I have endured unbridled insults and have had food thrown in my face simply because I refused to have sex with him."

She also claimed male security staff had unlimited daytime access to the women's living quarters and infringed on their privacy.

Sinikiwe Msimang, a Zimbabwean who claims to have a South African work permit, supported Mnyathi's claim.

"The guard asked me for sex in return for my early release, an offer which I steadfastly refused. Afterwards, his general conduct towards me was, to put it mildly, appalling," she said.

"I was arrested even though I had a valid work permit with me, and I am likely to be deported without the authenticity of my document having been established," Msimang said.

Jones Mlalazi, who claims to be a South African with a valid identity document, said he was arrested because he was "too dark to be a South African."

"Unfortunately I did not have my ID with me on that fateful day, so the police used my complexion as a standard to determine that I was not a South African," Mlalazi

said.

He was not deported – swift action by Home Affairs verified his birthright.

When City Press visited Lindela, Mlalazi's father was there to fetch him.

We witnessed security personnel insulting families waiting in the hot sun to see detained relatives.

A Lindela staff member said "isolated incidents" of assault did occur when detainees resisted arrest. He denied excessive force was used.

"These people will do almost anything to avoid deportation, so we sometimes have to use justifiable force," he said.

Danny Mansell, director of Dyambu Operations, the company which manages Lindela, said claims of sexual misconduct by security staff had been brought to his attention. But it was difficult to take any action as the alleged victims were loathe to come forward to give evidence against the alleged perpetrators.

■ Also See Page 28

~~CP~~ CP 22/11/95

Refugees Bill speeds up asylum procedures

Ann Eveleth
IN THE ACT

Civilian victims of the latest series of conflicts afflicting Southern Africa will welcome the news that South Africa's first-ever Refugees Bill is rapidly traversing the corridors of power. More than three decades after anti-colonial and civil wars first engulfed the region — creating large numbers of refugees — the Ministry of Home Affairs has finally put its money where its mouth is.

South Africa is a signatory to two United Nations conventions and one Organisation of African Unity convention on the rights of refugees. But the Refugees Bill, introduced in the National Assembly by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, in early November, is our first piece of legislation to give effect to these conventions. The Bill seeks to speed up the process of determining an applicant's refugee status, in order to extend rights to confirmed refugees sooner, and to prevent long-term abuse of the system by non-refugees. South Africa adopted a refugee determination system in 1994, but many applications have taken up to three years to

process. Since that date, nearly 48 000 asylum seekers have applied for refugee status in South Africa, but fewer than 8 000 have received recognition. The Bill sets clear guidelines, in keeping with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees guidelines, for determining the status of an asylum seeker. It also spells out when an applicant will not qualify, and when his or her status can be revoked. The Bill also sets a clear procedure for asylum seekers to follow. A refugee reception officer will interview an applicant and prepare a dossier on them. This will be handed to a refugee status

determination officer, who will make the first determination of eligibility. The applicant may appeal an adverse decision through the Standing Committee for Refugee Affairs, followed by the Refugee Appeal Board and then a court of law. The standing committee and appeal board will also monitor favourable recommendations by the determination officer. Decisions should not take longer than six months, with provision for an accelerated three month process for "manifestly founded and manifestly unfounded, abusive and fraudulent claims". A worrying aspect of the Bill is that all members of both the standing committee and the appeal board are appointed by the minister. They are expected to be "un-biased and independent", but they must also provide a system of checks and balances on the process.

MG 13-19/11/98

(236)



294 nabbed coming into

SA illegally

(236) ARG 25/6/98

Nelspruit - Defence Force border patrols in the Kruger National Park have arrested 294 people entering the country from Mozambique illegally in the past month.

Defence Force spokeswoman Lize Pienaar said Mpumalanga commandos had had a string of successes in curbing the tide of people flooding into South Africa.

"Our unit in the Ermelo area, 111 South African Infantry Battalion, arrested 2 673 in a space of two months from March to April," she said.

Two more commando units recently had been deployed on the Kruger Park's eastern border with Mozambique to stop illegal crossings.

And, added Ms Pienaar: "Our commandos have collaborated with the police in recovering stolen goods" - Sapa

Mending our fences

Source: 4/11/98

THE journey to South Africa has always been hazardous for migrants. In the old days most people made the long journey on foot.

They braved wild animals, crocodile-infested rivers and ruthless labour recruiters who forced them into hard labour on the potato farms in places like Bethal.

Later they came by road and rail and air, but even that was not without danger.

Who can forget the tragic plane crash in 1972 in Botswana when 74 miners were killed on their way back to Malawi from South Africa?

The Malawian government was so furious that it recalled all 120 000 Malawian miners from South Africa.

Today we have stories of Mozambicans being eaten by lions in the Kruger National Park and the death and dumping by the roadside of 18 Zimbabwean migrants in Botswana.

The journey has never been without risks, but people have always come and there have always been other unscrupulous people anxious to profit from their vulnerability.

Naturally the South African media have quickly jumped to all the obvious – yet erroneous – conclusions about the deaths in Botswana.

These people were supposedly poverty-stricken “illegal immigrants” on their way to South Africa. They were supposedly part of a vast cross-border smuggling operation that brings millions to South Africa each year.

Many people here think they were coming to South Africa to stay and they would take jobs from locals and take part in criminal activities.

So who were these unfortunate migrants and what were they up to? The inquest and murder trial will hopefully clarify exactly what happened and why.

It may also clear up various mysteries such as why, if these were “illegal immigrants”, a number of them were carrying passports.

A recent study of Zimbabwean migrants, conducted by the Southern African Migration Project, provides considerable insights into the behaviour and motives of people like this.

The study surveyed a national sample of Zimbabweans for information about their past migration and attitudes towards immigration to South Africa. The results were surprising.

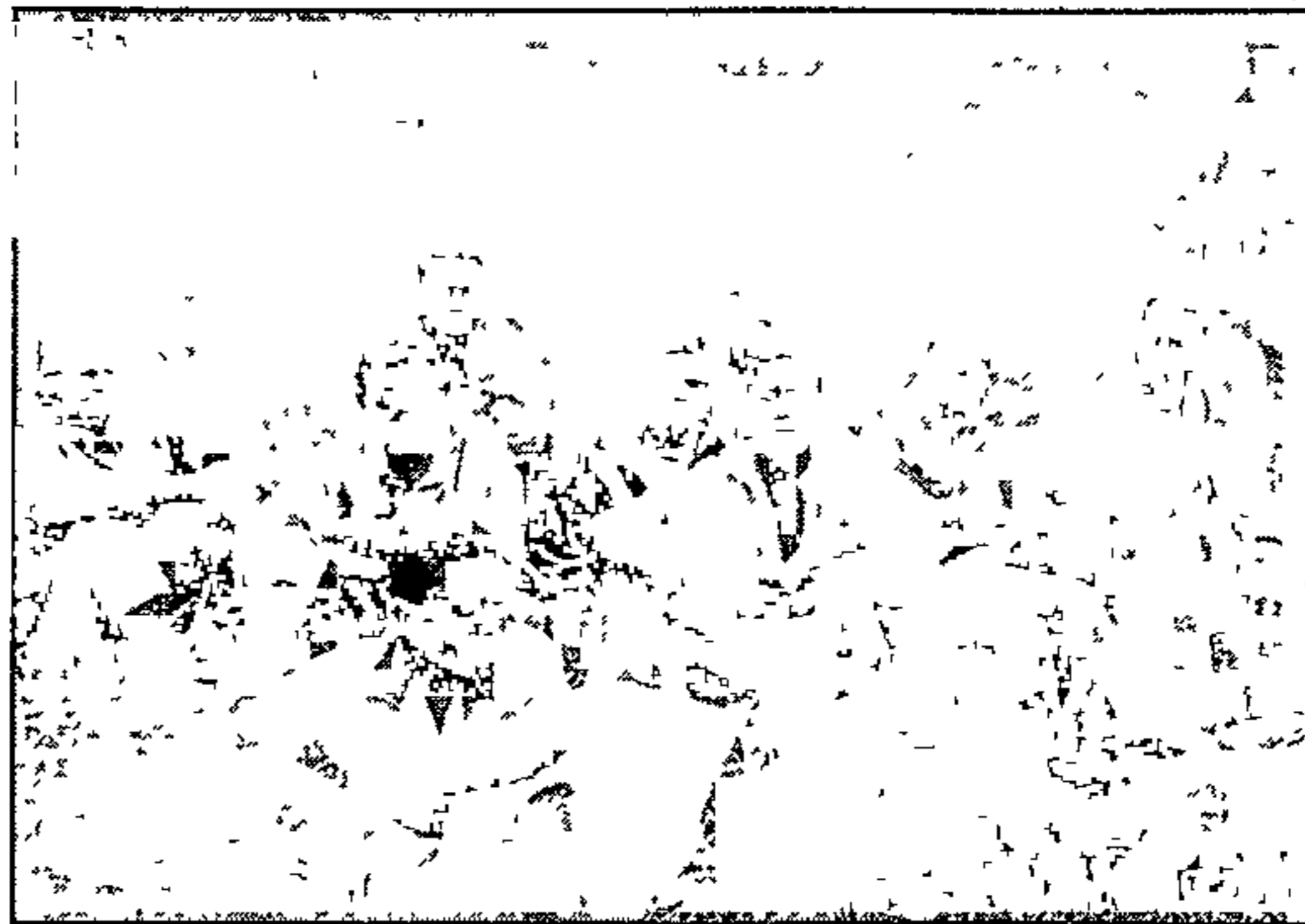
Contrary to the stereotype that Zimbabwean migration to South Africa is a new thing, the survey discovered that a quarter of Zimbabwean adults have already been to South Africa.

What's more, 25 percent have parents and 24 percent have grandparents who have been to South Africa. This suggests that the movement of ordinary people between the two countries is longstanding and relatively consistent.

Another common stereotype in South Africa

Many South Africans would be surprised to learn the real facts behind the so-called influx of ‘illegals’ into our country, writes **Jonathan Crush**

(236)



Flashback . . . illegal immigrants from Mozambique waiting to be repatriated. The Ministry of Home Affairs has appointed a team to draft a new migration policy which will allow controlled temporary legal access to South Africa.

is that all migrants are young, single, poorly educated males. The survey found that nearly 40 percent of the migrants were women, a quarter were over 45 years old, 73 percent were married, 42 percent had jobs in Zimbabwe and over half had been to high school, with six percent having been to university.

South Africans tend to assume that all migrants want to come and stay in their country. However, on their last visit, 71 percent of the Zimbabweans stayed for less than a month and only seven percent for more than a year.

Only a tiny minority, six per cent, said they would try to move permanently to South Africa.

The South African media also assumes that all Zimbabweans in South Africa are illegal immigrants who scrambled under the fence or waded across the Limpopo.

In fact, 89 percent of the migrants obtained a passport and 72 percent a visa before they came. The vast majority came by bus or taxi and through proper border posts.

What about the jobs issue? Aren't they taking them from South Africans?

In fact, only 29 percent of migrants had come to work or look for work. Many of the others came to buy and sell goods (21 percent), shop (21 percent) and visit family and friends (13 percent).

We also know that while some Zimbabweans might be taking jobs, others are creating them. One survey of traders and small entrepreneurs found that these enterprises are actually making jobs for South Africans.

The other point that emerged is that most

Zimbabweans don't like South Africa that much and would prefer to stay at home if they could.

This doesn't mean that there aren't some people desperate to get to South Africa who will take risks and put their lives in the hands of unscrupulous profiteers and body smugglers.

It is just that they are only a tiny proportion of the flow of people backwards and forwards between South Africa and Zimbabwe. What should be done about this?

Certainly smuggling and trafficking in people are internationally recognised crimes. The South African Government must work with its Southern African Development Community neighbours to act firmly and stop this scourge from spreading.

But smuggling is usually a symptom of a more fundamental problem and houses need to be put in order first to clear this up.

The first house is the Zimbabwean economy. The pressures to come to South Africa, legally or illegally, will continue to grow unless and until Zimbabwe can halt and reverse its downward economic spiral.

The second house is South Africa's. The department of home affairs has appointed a long-awaited team to draft a new migration policy for South Africa which will allow for a policy of controlled temporary legal access to South Africa.

The sooner this task is complete, the better it will be for all South Africans and their neighbours to the north.

(Dr Crush is director of the Southern African Migration Project.)

Consortium plans to tackle people's fear of foreigners

By MAX MARX

THE NATIONAL Consortium on Refugee Affairs will launch a national plan of action on December 10 to fight xenophobia in South Africa.

The programme, expected to run over a number of years, includes the setting up of working groups to combat fear of foreign traders and workers in the informal sector, safety and security, the media, and the role of education.

Diverse stakeholders like government departments, civil institutions, and others are to participate in the working groups, which will have their own set objectives.

The group charged with safety and security, for example, could possibly tackle issues of improving policing methods and skills training of the force to handle the problem better.

Refugees and asylum seekers could be integrated into community-police forums where they could participate in and work with local communities. The consortium also expects to identify other problematic areas such as access to health care, housing and employment.

Consortium chairperson Jody Kollapen (pictured) said South Africa needed to send out a strong message that irrational prejudice and hostility toward non-nationals was unacceptable.



Horror tale of detention — and escape by bribery

By MAX MARX

AN undocumented migrant, who was arrested and detained at Lindela Repatriation Centre three weeks ago and was to be repatriated two weeks ago, is free after a Lindela Security guard who accompanied detainees to Park station in Johannesburg took a bribe from her.

The woman did not want City Press to publish her name for fear for her safety if she is re-arrested and sent back to Lindela. We shall call her Lindwe. This is her story.

"I was arrested for being an illegal immigrant and taken to a local police station. I was held for four days before being taken to Lindela — which is guarded by security guards who are not accountable to anyone.

"Unless you happen to have a few hundred rands on you when you are arrested you will not survive in Lindela. The guards demand cold-drinks and cigarettes from male detainees. If they don't have the money to buy these items, the guards beat them unmercifully. The continuous beatings of the male detainees is one of the most upsetting things about being at Lindela.

"Detainees are hopelessly underfed. We were fed a cup of soup which was like filthy dishwasher and

given a stale piece of bread. In the afternoon we received a bowl of mie meal and another cup of this disgusting liquid.

"I had to ask permission to use the public telephones. Sometimes my request was refused and at other times I had to pay the security guard R50 to use the phone.

"Sleeping on a bed with filthy blankets was also a nightmare. The showers do not work.

"A week later I was taken to Park station to be deported by train. I managed to bribe one of the Lindela security guards with R100 to let me go.

As it got closer to departure time, the bribe price went down to R80 and then as low as R50.

"One of the Park station security guards said he would take me out if I paid him R10 he would escort me out of the station. I gave him R10. He took me about 10 metres and then ran away."

Danny Mansell, the director of Dyambu Operations, the company which manages Lindela, said he could not follow up or comment on the allegations if they were not supported by dates, times and names.

"The people who are making these allegations should lodge a formal complaint with the police so that we can follow it up and proper legal action can be taken," he said.

CP 29/11/98

How SA can address the foreigners problem

A 'legal' immigrant provides a solution

By CHARLES MOGALE

THE South African government can continue to spend R210 million annually to repatriate illegal immigrants

It can continue to spend R4 000 on each illegal caught at the border while making a hopelessly futile attempt to stem the influx into South Africa

Or, it can consider the ideas of Abilio Muianga, himself a Mozambican who is now "legal" in South Africa

Muianga (66) has compiled a report on his suggestions, which he hopes to present to the government for consideration

"First," says Muianga, "I concede that South Africa has a problem with foreigners. When I lived in Mozambique, we had South African refugees living with us. They were not a problem. One other reason is that the South Africans were looked after by the United Nations and host governments

"So they did not sell in the streets, get involved in crime syndicates, or take our jobs. It is not so with my people living in South Africa. They, and other foreigners from all over the world who come here, are a problem everybody can see. But we can solve that problem."

Home Affairs estimates that about four million immigrants are in South Africa illegally, but Muianga believes the number must be much higher

"Arresting a couple of people here and there and deporting them is draining the economy. The R200 million wasted on that is a lot of money. Is it not time to apply minds to a more workable plan to turn a bad situation into a win-win one?"

This is how task teams of 10 people each are formed in the major metropolitan areas which have the "illegals problem". The teams are to consist of people from various professional persuasions, and be assigned to identify land, preferably unused government land and farms, where co-operatives can be set up

The task teams are to be retained only for a limited period until the co-operatives are set up, and paid not

more than R200 each a day.

"If the government pays them that, it will cost less than R20 000 for 10 days," Muianga says

As soon as the land is secured, illegal immigrants will be invited to come and register to ply their trade.

"You know we have very highly skilled and qualified people among these. Each co-operative will produce goods according to the skills of the people there and the facilities available," Muianga says

"The centres must never be deemed to be detention or concentration camps. They must give the people the incentive to come forward and work. They (foreigners) came into this country claiming they want work, so when they are caught they should be taken to the centres and given work."

That way, he says, illegals will add value to South Africa

"Right now it is very easy to recruit illegals into syndicates because of their situation. I am not calling for an end to policing the borders, or the repatriation of foreigners. But South Africa is deluding itself if it thinks that it will ever solve the problem that way. Bigger countries such as Germany and the US, which have more resources, fail to keep illegal foreigners out. They are here - now they should be put to better use than being allowed to cause problems," he says

Muianga came to the country in 1986 and started business in Brakpan on the East Rand

Last June the businesses were vandalised in broad daylight "while my neighbours just looked on. They said *ba ya lilungisa iShangaan* (They are fixing the Shangaan)"

He is not bitter, though. He wants to start afresh, and this time help other foreigners and the South African public in general

"I can safely say 90 percent of people who come here illegally do so because they want jobs. There are not even enough jobs here for locals and people who are here legally. That is why they are attracted to practices that fall foul of the laws," Muianga says

Although he "understands" the xenophobia of South Africans, he



AMBITIOUS... Abilio Muianga says "illegals say they want to work, so let them work and save money" **■ Pic: ANDRIES MCINEKA**

fails to understand why people from Lesotho and Botswana seem acceptable when Mozambicans are "unwanted"

"It is a fact that about three quarters of the illegals in this country are from Mozambique. Last year 173 000 illegals were deported. Of these, 140 000 - more than three quarters - were from Mozambique. In the mid-1980s (first lady) Graça Machel tried to put in place a simi-

lar project to the one I am suggesting in Mozambique. It was foiled by civil war."

Muianga was this week desperately trying to contact Machel to help him introduce the idea to the "relevant" authorities

Muianga's idea might be dismissed as pie in the sky. But at least it is an idea brought forward where governmental minds seem frozen or unwilling to function.

Corrupt officials deport local people too

By PETA KROST

One man, born and bred in South Africa, was almost sent to Mozambique - and his is not an isolated case

RA 12/12/198

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Being born black and South African is no guarantee that you won't be locked up as a foreigner and deported. Xenophobia in South Africa takes some startling twists.

If you are too black or your cheekbones too high, or you just happen to anger the wrong policeman or Department of Home Affairs official, you could land yourself behind bars with deportation papers.

Such was the experience of Charles Chauke, born and bred in Gyanu in Northern Province - and whose home language is Tsonga, an indigenous South African tongue. He happens to be very striking-looking, with a darker than average skin and high cheekbones.

He was stripped of his identity document on November 16 and thrown into a cell as an illegal alien for two days, awaiting deportation to Mozambique - a country in which this 27-year-old had never set foot.

He was sent to Lindela, a private detention centre in which many illegal immigrants are held until they are deported. There, Chauke said, he met two other South African men in the same situation as him.

"They were definitely Sowetans, from Dobsorville - it was so obvious. They were the only ones I met; I can't tell you how many other locals there were awaiting deportation," he said.

Chauke was informed that he was to be deported. He believes if his employer had not intervened, he would have been dumped over the border in Mozambique.

Home affairs spokesperson Henrie Meyer said he was aware that "this kind of thing was happening".

He said it was usually enforced by corrupt home affairs or police officials for extortion. He explained that, according to the Aliens Control Act, it was legal to arrest anyone on a "mere suspicion" that he or she might be an illegal alien.

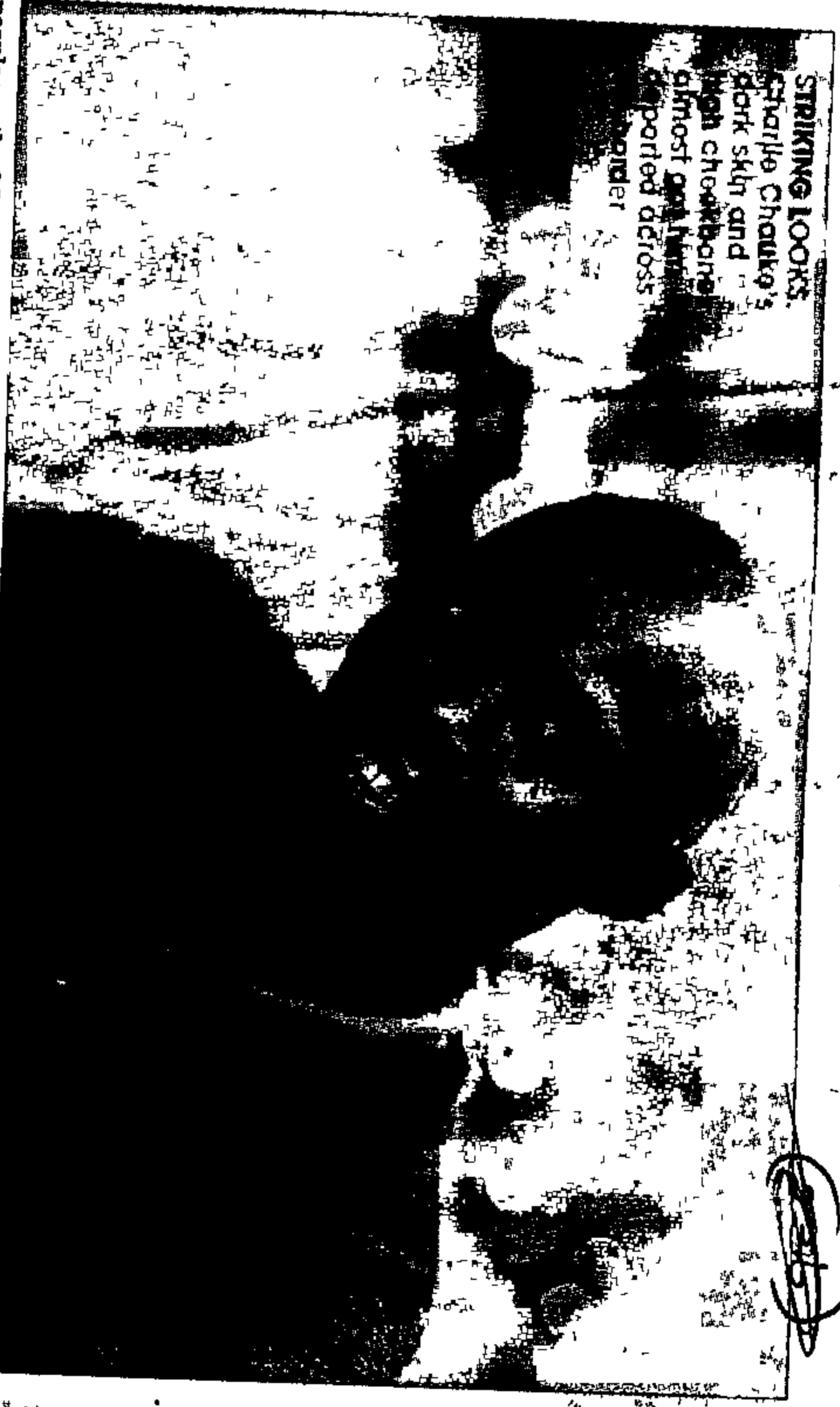
A special task team had done substantial research and were writing a report which would lead to changes in the immigration laws.

"This kind of problem will probably be stopped with the new laws," Meyer explained.

However, for Chauke and others, these laws may be too late. Chauke worked on local farms in Gyanu until he decided to move to Gauteng in 1990 to find a better job.

He lives in Alexandra. On November 16 he was visiting a friend in Tembisa when he was stopped by police. "They asked for my passport and I said I don't use one, but I gave them my ID book," he told the *Saturday Star*. "The white officer accepted it and gave it back to me, but then a black man asked for my ID and grabbed my arm and tugged at my sleeve to see my arm. I told him it was not necessary to be so rough - he just had to ask me and I would show him. He said I talk too much and that I must come to the station. When I tried to speak, the black policeman said he would not speak to me, I was too clever."

Chauke was shoved into a police van and taken to Kempton Park police station. "They never checked anything. They did not even look for marks on my body (booster injection scars are in different places on



STRIKING LOOKS. Charles Chauke's dark skin and high cheekbones almost got him deported across border

people north of South Africa), nor did they check what language I spoke. They simply said I was going to Mozambique. I heard two people arguing about sending me to Lindela, but nobody would listen to me."

The next day he was given a repatriation certificate with just his name and "Mozambique" filled in. The rest was left blank.

"The next morning, before I was taken to Lindela, a policeman said I should give him my cellphone as it would be no use to me in Mozambique. Another said I was crazy - I had money on me, so why was I letting them send me to Lindela? - but I

said it was my money and I was South African, so they could not deport me."

But by the following morning, when he was issued with a removal warrant, with his fingerprints, stamped by the Department of Home Affairs and told he was leaving that day, he believed he would be dumped over the border, never to be seen again.

He managed to get hold of one of his employers, Claudia Frazier, who called Kempton Park police to find out what was going on. She was told they knew by the mark on Chauke's arm that he was Mozambican. "I asked what that proved, and the policeman

said 'What's proof?' she said. She contacted the Gauteng safety and security ministry, which ran a check, discovered that Chauke was genuinely South African, and organised, through the West Rand police, to have Chauke released within half an hour. Almost two weeks later, Frazier managed to get Chauke's identity document back from Kempton Park police station.

"I was helpless, they took away my human and constitutional rights - I had not control at all," Chauke said this week. "I couldn't fight, it would have made things worse for me. What about those people who did not

have anyone to help them? I was worried as I had no way to stop them dumping me in a strange land."

Meyer said he did not believe Chauke would have been deported because "they can't just dump people in other countries - they would first have had to check with their embassy that he was a citizen of that country". From time to time he had got wind of stories similar to this.

Keenya Millard, adviser to Gauteng Safety and Security MEC Paul Mashatile, said she had dealt with a similar case a while back, when the man arrested was refused permission to go home to get his identity book and was expected to pay R500 if he was released. She could not say if this was a frequent occurrence. "This is clearly a problem of corrupt police and home affairs officials who use this to extort money," she said.

Ian Robertson, also of Gauteng's safety and security ministry, said he would welcome an investigation, adding: "It is part of a broader problem." West Rand police commissioner Erns Waltherbe said the onus in such a case was on the arrested man to prove he was South African. "It smacks of corruption," he said. "The problem is that people are arrested, agree to pay a bribe and then don't report it. It could be that they are being rounded up and made to pay."

The only way to deal with the matter was for people to report these cases to the police's anti-corruption units.

M C Moodhar of the SA Human Rights Commission referred to this incident as "racism of the highest order" and offered to take up the case with the Home Affairs Department and the police, as he saw it as "clearly an unlawful arrest".

Focus on refugees 'burden'

Asylum seekers face stricter controls

By MAX MARX

STRICTER government policies and practices regarding refugees and asylum seekers are emerging in Southern Africa

This was the message from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) Director of Southern African Operations, Nicolas Bwakura, who addressed delegates at a symposium on Challenges to the Institution of Asylum Seekers and Refugee Protection in Southern Africa in Pretoria last week

The symposium follows the recent approval of South Africa's Refugee Bill by the National Assembly

According to a Sapa report, the bill stipulates that a refugee, once recognised, enjoys full legal protection and basic rights, including the entitlement to work

Bwakura said the UNHCR was concerned that more and more countries were refusing to entertain asylum-seekers from countries with which they do not share borders, no

matter what the merits of their claims may be.

"More and more countries are insisting upon quarantining refugees and asylum-seekers in camps, regardless of the fact that the numbers might be relatively small and containable in the urban centres"

He added that successive refugee crises in Southern Africa and elsewhere had fostered an increasing perception of refugees as an economic, social, environmental and political burden and that countries perceived the rights of refugees as a threat to State interests

"Inward-looking trends and policies can be seen and felt everywhere. The political overtones characterised by many refugee situations have often turned refugees into instruments of foreign policy, around which states pursue their national interests"

"States argue that the obligations falling upon them to provide asylum and protection to refugees cannot be reconciled with what they hold to be far more critical - State and national priorities."

He said regional conflicts had produced mass refugee outflows in

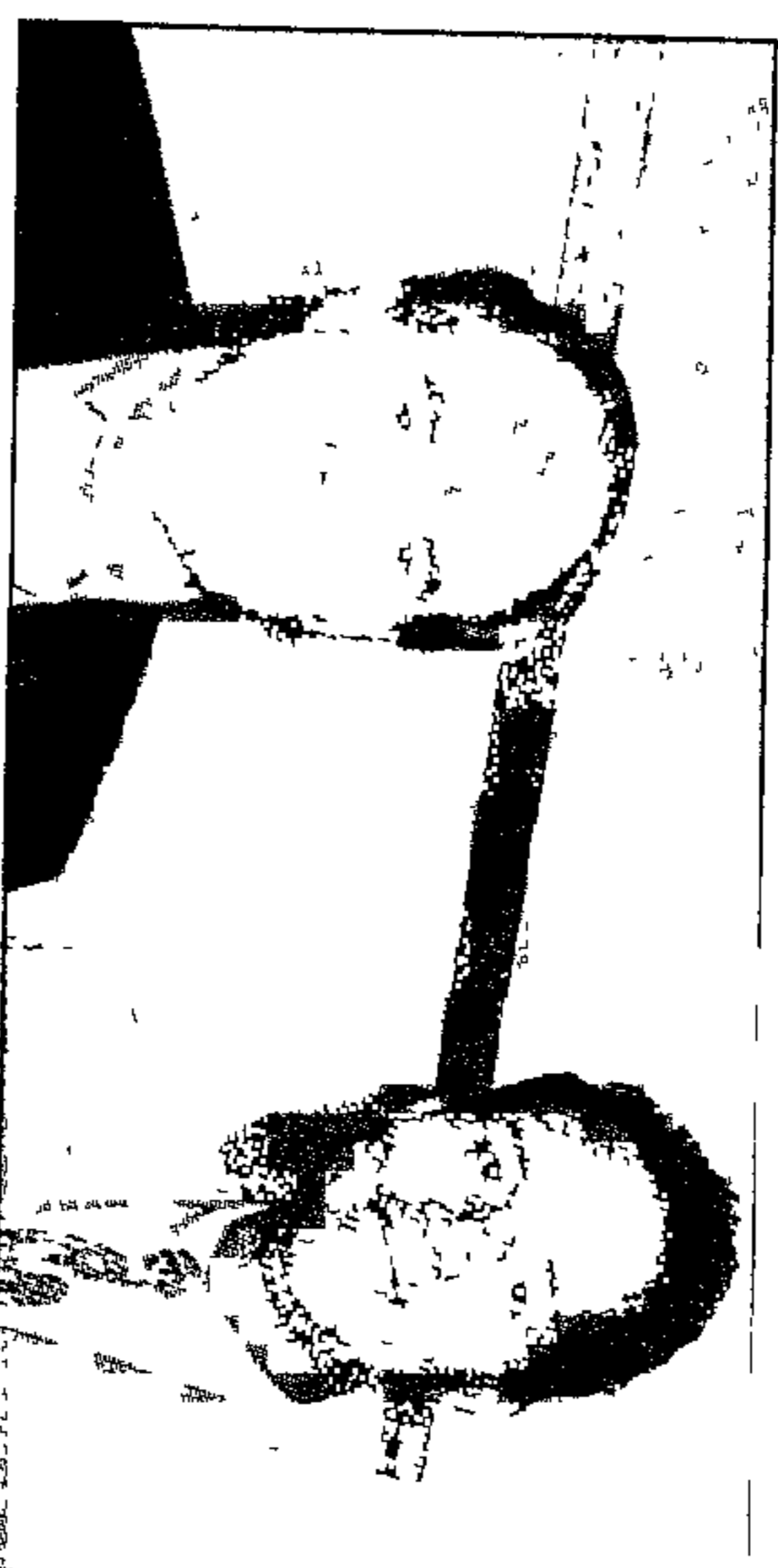
the Great Lakes region in the 1990s and had seen refugees being made part of local, bilateral, regional and international power struggles

Bwakura said that while Southern Africa had relatively few asylum-seekers and refugees, they still faced intolerance, resistance and treatment falling short of the standards mandated by international human rights and refugee law

"A priority of the UNHCR is to strengthen its co-operation with the South African Development Community so as to put in place national and regional mechanisms, policies and legislations that will reconcile refugee protection and State interests," he said

Among the concerns of delegates at the symposium was a perception that conflicts in the region would result in a refugee crisis, and that this perception may result in the implementation of harsher refugee policies

UNHCR's Geneva-based director of International Protection, Dennis McNamara, told City Press the government's draft Refugee Bill had taken many of the UNHCR's concerns and recommendations into



SEEKING SOLUTIONS ... United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) Geneva-based Director of International Protection, Dennis McNamara (left) and UNHCR's senior external relations officer for Southern Africa, Yusuuf Hassan

account. He said while the bill had done well to meet international standards it was silent on basic entitlements to education, health and other assistance measures

He said there had also been directives (not in the bill) from Home Affairs about the need for refugees to renew their permits every three months and report back to their original registration point to do so. This was problematic, he said, as

not all refugees could go back to their point of entry

He added there had also been talk about designating some countries as non-refugee producing

"This is a problem area because even the best countries may at some time produce refugees," he said

More than 47 000 people have applied for refugee status in South Africa since 1994

POPULATION - MIGRATION
1999

Govt to unveil new policy on migrants

By Claire Keeton

THE Government's proposals on immigration and citizenship are expected to be presented to the Cabinet this week in a White Paper on international migration

The Government proposed a fundamental transformation of the old laws around migration in the Green Paper on migration presented to Cabinet in May of 1997

"The existing legislation was aimed at keeping people out, with exceptions for the people allowed in. But, the Green Paper turned that around by drafting an immigration policy which would facilitate the movement of people," the project manager of the Southern African Migration Project, Mr Vincent Williams said yesterday

He said now the focus was on managing the flow of people across the border

"The Green Paper proposed a management-oriented rather than a control-oriented process"

Williams said it focused on migration policy as a tool of development

and was rights-oriented

"It made provision for a managed migrant labour system negotiated with neighbouring states, employers and employee organisations

"It recognised migration as a regional issue and it takes into account the context of countries around us that are poorer than we are," said Williams

Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and his department never had an official response to the Green Paper, but they organised public hearings around the key proposals last year - in preparation for developing the White Paper

Williams said "No one has any idea what is in there, other than the task team responsible for drafting it"

Task team member Professor Wilmot James said the contents would be made public when the White Paper was passed on to Parliament

Chairman of the Home Affairs portfolio committee Mr Des Lockey said yesterday that he had not seen the White Paper and would be interested to see how it compared to the Green Paper

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How far



Deported woman fights back

(236)

Sowetan 11/2/99
A BRITISH woman who came to South Africa to work at the Alexandra Health Centre in Johannesburg in 1997 but was deported last week after the cancellation of her work permit, will apply tomorrow for a High Court interdict to be allowed back into the country with Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi footing the bill.

Esmee Sargeant in papers before court claimed Buthelezi had ignored both letters requesting a stay in her deportation, pending representations concerning her work permit and court papers of a pending application about her deportation that were served on a Home Affairs official two days before she was forced to leave the country.

In papers before court it was claimed Sargeant was not even allowed a telephone call after being escorted to Johannesburg International Airport and that her deportation was irregular, unlawful and unconstitutional.

She now wants a court order allowing her to lawfully enter and stay in South Africa, pending a decision by the court on her application to restrain Buthelezi from withdrawing her work permit until the final outcome of review.

Sargeant wants the court to order Buthelezi to pay her travelling costs back to South Africa from London, failing which she wants him to show cause within seven days why he should not be committed for contempt of court.

Her application followed earlier remarks by Judge S J Mynhardt that there seemed to be a *prima facie* case of contempt against the department for deporting Sargeant, while court papers had already been served.

Sargeant said in an affidavit she initially applied for an advertised position as a director of the Alexandra Clinic, but Catherine Mvelase was appointed in that position and she was instead appointed as deputy director of finance and administration.

Because of a lot of unpleasantness from Mvelase and certain union members who were unhappy about her appointment because the position was never advertised, her title was later changed to finance and administrative manager.

Sargeant said she was subjected to victimisation and unpleasantness at the clinic and was told to leave the country - Sapa

Brain drain continues to deplete SA

(236)

CT (BOR) 12/2/99

AUDREY D'ANGELO

Cape Town — The brain drain from South Africa continued in September, according to figures released yesterday by Statistics South Africa

The figures showed that official emigrants from South Africa totalled 466 in September and

6 353 in the first nine months of the year

This compared with 350 legal immigrants in September and 3 741 in the first nine months of the year, for a net loss of 2 612

The figures also showed a 0,4 percent rise in overseas visitors to South Africa from the same month in 1997

But visitors from other parts of Africa fell 13 percent

The UK remained the main source of overseas visitors, providing 20,7 percent, followed by Germany with 13 percent, the US with 11 percent, Holland with 7,2 percent, France with 4,2 percent, Portugal with 2,4 percent and Italy with 2 percent.

CARMEL RICKARD

Gay couples clinch landmark court victory

THANKS to a landmark Cape Town High Court decision this week, same-sex couples now have the same rights as married spouses to live and work in South Africa if one of the partners is an immigrant and the other a citizen.

But while the six couples who initiated the action will be celebrating their newfound security, officials of the Department of Home Affairs, chastised by the court for the unacceptable way they handled the case, will be licking their wounds.

The problem arose because the law

dealing with immigration gives a special deal to a would-be immigrant who is married to a South African, making the process of immigration far easier.

According to the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality, this section of the law should be scrapped, because the Constitution outlaws discrimination against anyone on the grounds of sexual orientation. They argued that since same-sex couples are not entitled to marry, they were unfairly barred from the benefits of this law.

Three high court judges, Dennis Da-

vis, Johan Comrade and Jolyon Knoll, ruled on Friday that the law did discriminate against same-sex couples and was unconstitutional. Their ruling must now be considered by the Constitutional Court before it becomes effective.

In the meantime, the government has been given notice by the court that if the Constitutional Court agrees that the section is unconstitutional, it will have a year to change the law.

The good news for same-sex couples, however, is that the court has ruled that they qualify for the benefits of married

couples under a section dealing with "special circumstances." This means that gay and lesbian couples, previously kept apart by the law on immigration, will now be able to live in South Africa without fear that immigration officials might throw them out.

The case also raised the question of couples married under religious rites not recognised by the government—for example, Hindu and Muslim couples—as well as the position of heterosexual couples who have not married. They are not entitled to the benefits which are

automatic for couples whose marriages are recognised.

An official of the Gender Commission said the rights of these couples not recognised by the law would be raised when this week's judgment came before the Constitutional Court.

In their joint decision, the three judges said the law failed to satisfy the demand of the Constitution that diversity of identity should be respected and protected. It preferred certain forms of "life partnership" over others, granted legal recognition to certain styles of life,

and confirmed the legal rejection of others. The law perpetuated "patterns of discriminatory stereotyping and prejudice", and there was no evidence before the court to suggest that this breach of the guarantee against discrimination "could possibly be justified".

Referring to the behaviour of the minister of home affairs and the Department of Home Affairs, the court pointed out that for more than seven months they had failed to file court papers. When their legal representatives arrived on the due date, they said they had instructions to have the case postponed.

The court, which refused to postpone the case, slammed the "tardy" behaviour of the minister.

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Low salaries prompt nurses to leave for greener pastures

More than 100 off to the UK this month

TWEET GAINSBOROUGH-WARING

Nurses are leaving South Africa in their droves even though some private hospitals in the cities are offering them better salaries than the embattled government hospitals.

A newly qualified registered nurse can expect to earn R47 612 a year in a State hospital, less than a third of what they could earn overseas

A registered nurse working in a plush private hospital in Cape Town told Saturday Argus why she and many of her colleagues are leaving.

"Money is the major motive for most"

The 34-year-old nurse has been working for five years since qualifying

"Last year I bought a flat and, by renting out the second room, I just managed to cover the bond"

However, with the huge increase in interest rates, her life has become a matter of grim survival she holds down two jobs to pay a bond and has no disposable cash and little free time

In the United Arab Emirates she would probably earn double her salary, with accommodation thrown in. Her only costs would be food and entertainment

She said South African nurses were not sufficiently compensated

for the level of responsibility they carried and for their long working hours

Joanne Murray, placement consultants of O' Grady Peyton in Somerset West, told Saturday Argus that this month she was sending 128 newly qualified nurses to the United Kingdom.

Ms Murray said once the nurses had completed three months post-graduate work in the UK, they would probably stay overseas to find employment. The nurses had been unable to get jobs in South Africa because posts had been frozen

She said nurses from the private sector looking for overseas employment usually opted for the Middle East where the pay was better than in South Africa

A Cape Town nursing placement consultant said she was getting about 50 inquiries a month from nurses wanting to work overseas

"Their main reasons for leaving are wanting to travel and see the world, to gain experience at international level, to earn more money and to emigrate," she said

She said South Africa's poor economic state and rising crime were also given as reasons for leaving. Many nurses were also battling to find permanent positions as many posts had been frozen

She said nurses could expect to earn between R150 000 and R180 000 a year overseas

"South African qualifications are recognised in the UK, but nurses must first register with the UK Nursing Council before they can practise" That could take up to three months and cost about R1 260

The strong and stable currencies of Saudi Arabia, the UK and the United States have made these the most popular destinations for South African nurses

In addition to a salaries up to four times higher than in South Africa, nurses going to Saudi Arabia get other benefits, such as not having to pay tax, free accommodation on arrival and paid travel costs

The Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa said nurses were leaving South Africa because of the financial incentives abroad and because they wanted to gain experience before settling down

The organisation said the "downsizing" of the public service, the introduction of severance packages and freezing of posts had created an opportunity for nurses to leave

It would continue to negotiate for better salaries and conditions for nurses in South Africa to improve morale and attract nurses "back home"



(5) SATURDAY ARGUS 6/2/99

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CREATING JOBS

SA migrants flourish in Australia — survey

ET 4/2/99 (276)

MELBOURNE: SA's loss has been Australia's gain as successful migrants Down Under create thousands of jobs and generate foreign exchange for their new homeland, reports **LINDSEY ARKLEY**, Independent Foreign Service.

SOUTH AFRICAN businessmen who have migrated to Australia since the 1994 election have generally been successful, according to an Australian government study released yesterday.

People who have used a special "business migration" category to go to Australia since mid-1994, including many South Africans, have created 7 700 jobs and generated about R1,2 billion in exports, the report says.

To qualify as a business migrant, applicants must satisfy Australian authorities they have been successful as owners or managers of a business in which they have had at least 10% equity. The value of this or other business interests must amount to at least R1 million.

Under a points-based system, English-language skills and age group are also taken into account, and applicants must agree to try to start a business in Australia within three years of arrival.

In the 12 months to the end of June, 1995, South Africa was the second biggest source country for 441 business migrants to Australia, comprising one-fifth of the total, just behind those from Hong Kong.

In the following 12 months, there were 905 business migrants,

but South Africans comprised only eight percent of the total, with bigger proportions from Hong Kong, Indonesia and Taiwan.

By the middle of last year, three-quarters of the South Africans who arrived in 1994-95 were engaged in business.

Of the South Africans who arrived in 1995-96, the figure was only just over half — but almost all the rest had convinced the Australian authorities they had made a genuine attempt to start a business, or would do so.

The number of South African business migrants whose visas had been cancelled for not complying with business engagement requirements was "not more than five" since 1992, an Immigration Department official said yesterday.

"Compared with business migrants from elsewhere, the South Africans tend to take longer to make their permanent move after the visa is granted, and therefore take longer to start a business here," he said.

"Quite often they come here for a relatively short time, get their visas validated, then go back to South Africa for a time to tidy up their business interests and other matters.

"As the survey shows, those granted visas in 1994-95 had a

much higher business engagement rate in Australia than those from 1995-96, so it just tends to take the South Africans a bit longer to come here and set up, that's all."

The survey has also shown a marked difference in the industry sector in which business migrants from South Africa become involved in Australia, compared with those from the other major source countries.

Well over half of those from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Indonesia had become engaged in import/export businesses, but a much smaller proportion of South African business migrants had become involved in wholesale trading.

Higher proportions of the South Africans were involved in sectors such as manufacturing, property development, business services and retail trade.

In a statement issued with the report, the Australian Immigration Minister, Phillip Ruddock, said the results were "very positive".

"The government has been determined to deliver a properly structured migration programme, with an appropriate emphasis on the skills and capital needed to grow the economy," he said.

"It is particularly pleasing to see that the two intakes of business migrants surveyed have not only established new businesses, but have developed new links with international markets, particularly our important trade partner of South-East Asia."

BONNY SCHOONAKKER: London

A BRITISH hospital, struggling to cope with too many patients and too few qualified staff to treat them, has in desperation turned to South Africa's nursing profession for help.

Under an unprecedented recruitment strategy, the Royal Sussex County Hospital, in Elm Grove, Brighton, has signed up 27 new graduates from nursing colleges in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth, the first time a hospital in Britain has hired foreigners on such a scale.

Stuart Welling, head of the Brighton Health Care NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, told journalists this week that the drastic measure had become necessary because Royal Sussex had fallen behind in its attempts to shorten the lists of patients waiting for treatment.

In Brighton alone, 9 659 people were waiting for surgery last December, a mere fraction of the 1 173 518 patients on the national waiting list, according to figures provided this week by Britain's Department of Health.

But, reported the town's newspaper, the Evening Argus, hope had been found in the form of a batch of South African nurses.

After a two-week induction to Brighton, Britain and the National Health Service, the first members of the South African contingent — 17 women and two men — will start work tomorrow with a three-month course to qualify them for UK Central Council registration, their entry ticket into Britain's nursing profession.

Another eight, more experienced nurses from South Africa,

Britain lures SA nurses

ST 14/2/99

Young graduates leave Africa to aid overburdened hospitals

(236)

(95)

would start a few months later and plans were being made to recruit even more after that, a spokesman for the trust said.

And just in case the 19 South Africans were in any doubt as to how pleased the people of Brighton were to see them, Frank Tonks, the city's mayor, hosted a welcoming tea party in their honour on Thursday at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton's most famous landmark. Even more delighted by their arrival was Baroness Emerton, the chair of the Brighton trust, who felt her job might have been on the line if she had not undertaken "this rather non-traditional method of recruitment".

The South African nurses' response to the trust's advertisements placed in South African nursing journals comes at a time when Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, is under pressure to honour the Labour government's commitment to

hire more nurses, doctors and other staff to reduce waiting lists. The South African nurses also begin their careers in Britain just in time to benefit from the 12 percent pay rise for newly qualified nurses announced two weeks ago.

But most of the 19 nurses, who can expect a take-home monthly salary of £804 (about R8 000) after completing their registration, say money or the need to find a job were not the main reasons they came to Britain.

"It's an opportunity to travel, to get job experience outside of South Africa," said Kim Awood, 22, a graduate of the Carinus Nursing College in Cape Town.

Denny Peacock, 22, a graduate of Durban's Addington College of Nursing, was one of the few to say she had found it difficult to find work in SA, telling a local journalist that "it's quite hard to get a job in the South African health service at the moment".

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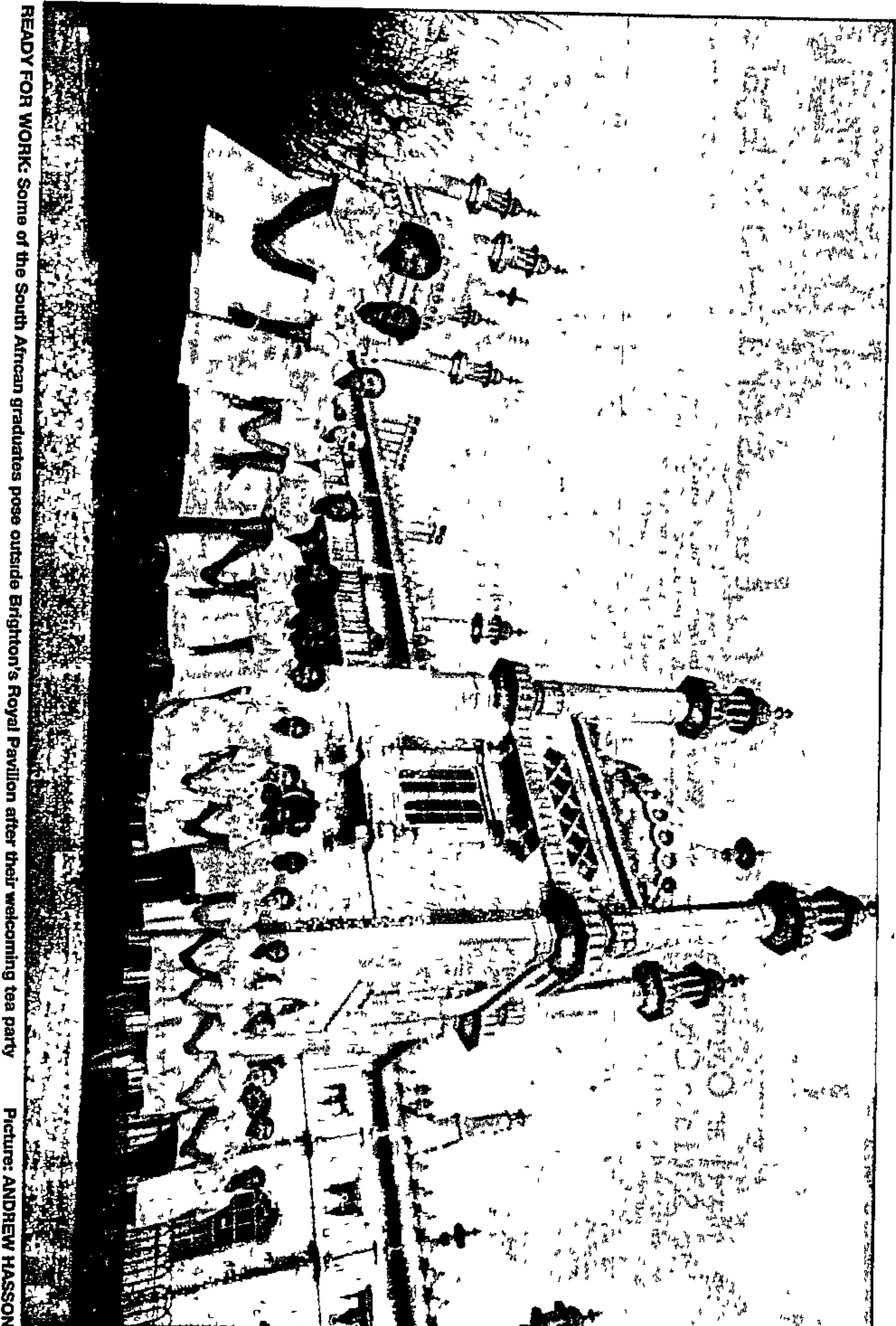
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READY FOR WORK: Some of the South African graduates pose outside Brighton's Royal Pavilion after their welcoming tea party. Picture: ANDREW HASSON

PERMANENT RESIDENCE FOR PARTNERS

(236)

CT 15/2/99

Gays win court ruling

FRIDAY'S court victory for gay rights could lead to a change in the law, putting gay and lesbian couples on par with heterosexuals in the eyes of the Home Affairs office. **PRISCILLA SINGH** reports.

THE Department of Home Affairs has scuttled to the Cabinet for guidance following the landmark court victory for same-sex couples to enjoy the same living and working rights as married spouses in South Africa

Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Lindiwe Sisulu said that because of the far-reaching implications of the successful legal challenge by the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality (NCGLE), the department had sought the guidance of the Cabinet on how to deal with the issue

"The Cabinet decided that the department should avoid taking interim remedial action and was to defend the action brought against it by the coalition

"The department will study the judgment handed down by the Cape High

Court on Friday, approach the Cabinet for its guidance and thereafter make its decision known," she said

The NCGLE took the Department of Home Affairs to court after it failed to recognise the rights of same-sex couples, especially if one of the partners was a foreigner. They were threatened with deportation and visitation permits were not renewed in some instances.

The NCGLE argued that since same-sex couples are not allowed to marry, they were unfairly barred from the benefits of the immigration law, which gives a special deal to a would-be immigrant who is married to a South African, making the immigration process easier

The judges ruled that this law was discriminatory to same-sex couples

The ruling must be considered by the Constitutional Court before it becomes effective, and if it agrees, Home Affairs

must change the law within a year

Sisulu pointed out that the Department was "actively pursuing a law reform programme to bring all legislation and regulations in line with the Constitution"

As part of this programme, the Department requested the Law Commission to conduct a wide-ranging review of the Marriage Act

A separate investigation focusing on the legal consequences of "homosexual and heterosexual domestic partnership" was also being conducted by the Commission

"It is the policy of the department not to deal with matters of status in an ad hoc manner, but to follow an holistic approach, with clear policy guidelines

"The department will continue working with the SA Law Commission to effect the required legislation as a matter of urgency," Sisulu said

She added that the Department had also concluded its White Paper on Migration and would be making it public this week

South

Africans pull

their weight

down under

Many SA immigrants are earning more than their Australian counterparts, writes JANETTE BENNETT

SOUTH AFRICA is losing the cream of its working people — who are thriving down under, outpacing their Australian counterparts in terms of career advancement and earnings.

This is indicated by the work of Dr Alan Simon, a South African now living and working in Melbourne, Australia. He is an associate professor at the Department of Management at Monash University's Faculty of Business and Economics.

Simon is back in SA to take up a three-month teaching assignment at the University of the Witwatersrand Graduate School of Business, where he was responsible for the school's doctoral programme before leaving the country 12 years ago.

He stresses that his surveys are not scientifically valid. The results, he says, are tentative. However it does give a good indication of how South Africans are doing in their new country. Simon sent out questionnaires to 450 SA families living throughout Australia. He received 125 replies, mostly from the Melbourne area. According to the last Australian census figures, there are around 65 000 South Africans living in Australia.

Simon was surprised at his findings. "I didn't expect South

Africans to be so highly qualified nor to be doing quite so well. I still had the perception that they would be doing better if they had stayed in SA."

On average, survey respondents earn A\$105 000 a year, significantly more than the average Australian, who earns A\$38 000 a year.

Taking into account the exchange rate (R1 is worth around 25 Australian cents) and cost-of-living adjustments, these South Africans would need to be making around R400 000 a year in SA for their earnings to be equivalent.

Survey respondents on the whole are highly qualified in their fields. Around 26% have masters degrees, MBAs or PhDs. If you consider that the national average for most countries is that less than 1% will have such qualifications, you can form an idea of the value of these people.

Another 29% have at least a bachelor's degree, and 29% are professionals like doctors, lawyers and accountants. Less than 3% of respondents have less than a matriculation certificate, but these are likely to be entrepreneurs.

Many of the respondents have high-powered jobs. Most of them are company executives, professionals and senior managers. Also among their



CITY OF OPPORTUNITY ... former South Africans are making a good living in Melbourne

ranks are judges and university lecturers.

An interesting finding is that most respondents have stable family lives. An overwhelming 93% are married. Most own their homes. Although house prices are much higher in Australia than in SA, homes are affordable because mortgage bond rates are around 6.5% (fixed rates are as low as 4.5%) against SA's current 21%.

Most respondents (63%) have been living in Australia for more than 10 years, which means they left SA during the apartheid years.

However, as Simon points out, waves of new arrivals are continuing. "The key issues, for them, are crime and security in SA."

He adds, "I've tried very hard to find poor or unqualified South Africans living in Australia. I can't."

That, perhaps, is not sur-

prising. Australia's coalition government applies a strong, rigid points system to immigration. This means they can handpick from prospective immigrants to gain the skills which are most economically useful for the country.

Their gain is our loss. "I think that this survey points out is that SA is losing the people it can least afford to, economically and politically, and will continue to do so until crime and security are effectively addressed," Simon says.

The Business Times Work-in-Life survey last year showed that 79% of 10 000 Appointments readers would consider emigrating. Crime and violence was given as the reason by 62% of respondents, and Australia was cited as the favoured destination by 46%.

It seems as if the grass really is greener down under. But could there be a downside?

"Many South Africans complain of being homesick — after all, Africa does own your soul. And they come back, to visit, as often as possible," Simon says. He is a good example he has visited SA 12 times in 12 years.

"They also speak of a humbling experience. They find the Australian workplace more competitive than anything they have known."

Simon warns that people who go to Australia without jobs are taking a real risk — it takes time and hard work to be a big earner. And he cautions prospective immigrants to weigh up what it means to leave their friends and family.

Then there are the almost stereotypical clashes. Australians see South Africans as pushy and arrogant, while South Africans are frustrated at Australians' laddish attitude. "But they work it out."

Sowing the seeds of xenophobia

M+G 12/18/2/99

Farmers on South Africa's northern border are dispossessing their South African workers and trucking in Zimbabweans, who are willing to work for R5 a day. **Ann Eveleth reports**

Maswiri Boerdery director Andries Fourie is the quintessential old style farmer. Khaki clad and drunk with the power he exerts over the 400 South African farmworkers he dismissed last year and about 600 Zimbabwean farmworkers he trucked across the border to replace them, Fourie brooks no opposition.

He doesn't believe the 900 black people living on his Northern Province farm in Tshipise — a stone's throw from the Beit Bridge border post with Zimbabwe — have the right to speak to outsiders without his permission.

He had never heard of the European Union before this week. And he doesn't believe his workers have the right to join a union to press for increases to their R335 monthly wage.

"I'm not answering any of your questions. You are going to answer my questions," he declared as he tried to force an EU led delegation, accompanied by the *Mail & Guardian*, to leave the farm during a meeting with his sacked workers on Monday.

Fourie is embroiled in a Labour Court battle with the workers he dismissed last year after they joined the Trade Union of South African Authority (TUSAA) in a bid to improve their working and living conditions.

He was also criticised this week by the Human Rights Commission for the "cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment" meted out with his knowledge to a former worker.

This week Fourie detained representatives of the EU Foundation for Human Rights, the National Land Committee (NLC), the Nkuzi Development Association and the M&G after a visit to the produce sheds where he houses his Zimbabwean workforce in squalid conditions.

"We pick oranges in the fields from 6am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday," says Bangai Shengiwa, a 25-year-old woman who got a job at the border post last March by paying about R5 to a border official for a permit. "People come from as far away as Harare to get jobs at the border. The farmer brings you across in his truck the first time, but after that you have to pay your own way back," she adds.

Shengiwa lives in a filthy 4m² cement shed with 19 other women who, like her, left their families behind in Zimbabwe to search for a better life in South Africa. She is embarrassed to open the tiny blackened pot on a tiny twig fire in front of her room. "I don't want you to see how badly we are living," she says. The pot is less than half full with the mopane worms the workers collect for food.

"Most of the time we only have *funa* [a thin soup] and cabbage. The last time I had meat was in

Zimbabwe," adds Shengiwa.

Some of the men, like Leonard Tachie (47), live in crowded cement rooms like Shengiwa's. But most sleep in the dirt that lines the floor of the two aluminium sheds once used to store molasses and other produce. Four big pots cook the porridge they will eat for days. "You get another R45 a month for food if you don't eat the farm food," says Tachie.

"People volunteer for this work when the agent comes to Zimbabwe because they say there are good wages of R500 a month and good accommodation. Only when you arrive here things are very different," he adds.

Tachie says fights are common between his fellow Zimbabwean workers and the South African workers that used to do their jobs. The two groups live on separate parts of Fourie's extensive farm. Shengiwa says she knows the South Africans used to work there, but explains, "We came here for the jobs because we are very poor."

Back on the other side of the farm, where the sacked South African workers await the outcome of their Labour Court application and a land restitution claim for a large part of the farm where some families have lived for generations, the tempers are rising against the Zimbabweans.

"The Zimbabweans are taking our jobs and we should fight. They have left their country and come here, so we don't feel any pity for them," says Thomas Tobo (26).

"They better get these jobs while the South Africans are working. We voted for this government, but they only gave rights to the Zimbabweans, not to us," says another man.

Nkuzi Development Association fieldworker Shirami Shirinda says most farms in the Tshipise/Messina district use Zimbabwean farm workers.

A Human Rights Commission report on alleged violations of farm workers' rights in the district released this week estimates that at least 45% of Messina's mainly black population of 27 000 is unemployed. The only work in the area is found on the large citrus and tomato farms owned mainly by white farmers.

But the Zimbabweans are not illegal immigrants. They proudly display their work permits, mostly for six months and often renewed. A sticker on the permits bears the name of a Maswiri labour broker, Bertus Schutte.

Northern Province home affairs regional director Victor Mabunda says the permits are issued in terms of a long standing agreement between the governments of South Africa and Zimbabwe. "It might happen that some of



Replaced: Azwitamsi Kwinda and her colleagues were fired after they joined a union. PHOTO: ANN EVELETH

our officials are abusing their power [by rubber stamping applications], and if we know of cases like that we will investigate. But if there is an agreement, we cannot change the policy," he said.

Nobody seems to have a copy of this agreement, but Beit Bridge immigration officer Erika Nuller says between 2 000 and 3 000 Zimbabwean farmworkers are granted visas each month on this basis.

The Agricultural Employers Organisation (AEO) says the agreement — forged by the apartheid regime — was due to end last year, but it managed to convince the government to extend it to January 31 and are now negotiating for a further extension. Many of the current workers at Maswiri are legal until April.

The AEO says the farmers need the agreement because "South African workers do not want to work."

Immigration seems to accept this argument. Although Nuller says there are no efforts made to ensure local labour cannot fill the jobs, she explains that "we all know the farmers say the South African workers don't want to work. Especially at places like Messina, people ask for exorbitant amounts just to pick tomatoes," she says.

But Nkuzi Development Association policy co-ordinator Edward Lahiff says South African workers simply want a decent wage. "The farmers are pitching their wages so low — between R5 and R9 a day — because they know they can get Zimbabwean labour. Such a wage only came about with the large

pool of unemployed labour that this agreement made available. It is not a market wage. These farmers are producing oranges for export.

"Now that South African workers have rights, the farmers are saying 'We want to keep the old system by using a super-exploited labour pool from Zimbabwe,'" adds Lahiff.

Azwitamsi Kwinda (40) is adamant that Fourie fired her and her colleagues "because this farmer doesn't like the unions. We wanted the union because life was difficult on the farm and because now the law is allowing people to join unions. He formed another union and told us to join that one. Some people joined because it only cost R5, but the rest of us stayed with TUSAA. Then he made a list of the people from TUSAA and said we are too dark so we must be Zimbabwean. He called the police and 11 of us were arrested," she says.

Kwinda — the appointed representative of the group — says the unionised workers tried to discuss this with Fourie for a week. "Fourie refused to speak to us. Then he promised to give us R50 and R100 later. He paid us R50 one month and we never saw it again."

The workers went on strike and Fourie dismissed them. Then he marked their houses for eviction, but Nkuzi averted this plan by informing him of the Extension of Security of Tenure Act. But the workers have had no money for almost a year.

"I started working when I was not even able to carry five litres of water, packing boxes for oranges," says Kwinda. "Our average salary was R335 per month and sometimes he would only pay after six weeks. We worked from 7am to 5pm Monday to Saturday. Now we have nothing," she adds.

Northern Province Department of Labour director Pinky Mayesela says the province had not been informed of the agreement that apparently allowed Fourie to replace Kwinda and her colleagues. Most foreign work permits are vetted with the department, but this has not happened in this case.

"We have a very high rate of unemployment in the Northern Province and we would prefer to give preference to unemployed South Africans. If there is an agreement, maybe the balance can be struck on a quota system until that agreement runs out. But we have plenty of internal farm labour here."

"We have queues and queues of people looking for work. Not only must they be employed, but they must work under decent conditions in terms of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act," adds Mayesela.

The visit to the Maswiri Boerdery was sponsored by the European Union Foundation for Human Rights as part of a R2 million project conducted by the NLC, the Legal Resources Centre and the Centre for Applied Legal Studies to implement the 1997 Extension of Security of Tenure Act.

Home affairs blames bogus asylum seekers

Linda Ensor

NO 8/2/99 (236)

CAPE TOWN — The home affairs department had been forced to adopt counteractive measures to prevent the “alarming” abuse of asylum by refugees and asylum seekers, a spokesman said at the weekend

Responding to criticism by lawyers and human rights groups about the tough stance adopted by the department, the spokesman said that, for instance, the sale of temporary permits to aliens had reached such alarming proportions that it had been necessary to take action

To deal with asylum seekers who then claimed that their permits had been lost or stolen and applied for another, the department had issued a directive saying that new ones would not be issued unless the loss or theft was reported to the police

Another ploy by asylum seekers, the spokesman said, was to deliberately avoid receipt of their letters of rejection by extending their section 41 permits at offices other than the one at which they originally applied

As the department was unable to communicate the outcome of their application to them, it now required that they remain in the magisterial district where they originally applied until their application was finalised

Critics described this ruling as onerous as asylum seekers usually had to leave these areas to seek work

Finally, the department said it was wary of marriages of convenience and held the view that marriage to a SA citizen or permanent resident did not automatically confer a right to live or reside in SA

“We want to point out that the granting of asylum is purely a humanitarian act and not an alternative way of obtaining work permits and permanent residence in SA. Aliens who want to get permanent residence in SA must use the right channels and not the asylum procedure”

Fearful Rwandan refugee tells of attack by taxi drivers

By **EDDIE JAVIVA**

SPW 23/2/99 (226)

A Rwandan refugee living in South Africa believes he was beaten up by minibus taxi drivers at the weekend because he is a foreigner, and said the attack had left him fearing for his life.

Tony Baruwani (28), a Hutu who fled war-ravaged Rwanda, yesterday recounted what he said was an unprovoked attack on him. He has been granted refugee status until August 22 this year.

Baruwani sustained cuts on his right ear and face, a swollen hand and bruises to the body.

He said the ordeal started at 7pm when he went to a Yeoville shop to buy cigarettes. "As I was about to leave, three guys stood at the door, blocking my way. I pushed one of them aside, but they became aggressive."

"They chased me, calling me *ikwerekuere* (foreigner), as I ran back to the shop. The owner asked the guys to leave and I wanted to phone the police. He discouraged me from contacting the cops because he feared for his safety."

"About 30 minutes later I left the shop, but the guys pounced on me. I sought refuge in a hair salon, but the owner was petrified."

"He told me that these guys would come into his shop and steal his stock, and he asked me to leave. The guys dragged me out and they punched and kicked me all over the body."

"I also lost my wallet during the attack," he said, adding that he phoned the flying squad, but nobody responded.

"I am scared to walk around Yeoville. It seems foreigners are being singled out by certain individuals."

"I have been battling to find employment and now I have to put up with stereotype South Africans who don't want us. I have nowhere to go and I want to stay here permanently," he added.

Yeoville police station commander Superintendent James Radingoane said he was not aware of the attack.

"Any attack on individuals must be condemned in the strongest terms and I would like to warn the troublemakers that police will take strong action against them. These people are human beings and they should be treated with utmost respect. We will take strong action against the culprits."

"I have telephoned Mr Baruwani to come to the station to lay charges. We will then investigate the matter. We urge Yeoville residents to report any crime to the police."

Baruwani, who left war-ravaged Rwanda for the Democratic Republic of Congo and finally South Africa, denied that he was attacked after insulting the drivers. He said he had only pushed one of them aside when they blocked his way.

A taxi driver, who spoke on condition of anonymity, rejected the claim that the Rwandan had been targeted as part of a campaign against foreigners.

"We are not aware of any attacks on foreigners and it is not true that we are terrorising them," he said.

cause he is a foreigner

Genocide suspects 'using SA as base for crime'

(236) / Star 23/2/99

Rwanda's ambassador warns that drug and gun-running operations are being organised from here by people responsible for massacres of ethnic Tutsis in 1994

By SYBRAND MOSTERT
AND ROSS HERBERT
Star Foreign Service

South Africa has become the main base of operations for Rwandan genocide suspects who use the country for drug and gun-running operations because of lax immigration and anti-crime enforcement, Rwanda's ambassador said yesterday.

He was speaking in response to the weekend arrest and deportation of a suspect wanted by the international genocide tribunal in Arusha, Tanzania.

A Rwandan government spokesperson in Pretoria said his government would ask South Africa to go through the list of refugees in this country "with a fine tooth comb" to weed out any fugitives, and to discuss extradition. An SA Government spokesperson said they would welcome Rwandan input and assist in any way they could.

Ignace Bagilishema, the former mayor of Mabanza, was arrested in Pretoria with false travel documents and was reportedly flown by United Nations officials to Arusha on Saturday.

During the government-organised genocide against Tutsis in April 1994, Bagilishema allegedly ordered the round-up and killing of ethnic Tutsis, and ordered Hutu people to wear banana leaves to avoid being confused with Tutsis destined for genocide.

Bagilishema is also being accused of consenting to plans to kill all Tutsis in the prefecture of Kibuye and ordering minority Tutsis into a Roman Catholic church and a stadium, where he knew they would be targets for the slaughter.

"This should be an eye-opener for the South African Government that 'genocidaires' are using this country as a base," said ambassador Ben Karenzi. "There is a continuous flow of criminal genocide elements in this country. We have clear evidence they are involved with arms and drugs trafficking in this country," he said.

He declined to estimate the number of Rwandans in question but said there was a large number. But a Rwandan government spokesperson said they suspected that about 300 Rwandans who took part in the genocide were

“
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Government**
”

hiding in SA, and that many had access to SA identity documents.

The Department of Home Affairs declined to comment on the arrest or the ambassador's assertion that SA is being used for drug and gun-running against Rwanda.

"Everyone knows that in general, one way or another, people can come through illegally. At this stage, the department does not want to comment," said Home Affairs spokesperson Manase Makwela.

Last year, Rwanda had expressed its concern to senior officials in the South African

Government over the presence of genocide suspects and supporters of the ongoing Hutu insurgency against the present Tutsi dominated government.

During meetings, South African officials "have always been positive and indicated that they would follow up, but really we have not seen any substantial action", Karenzi said.

Foreign Affairs spokesperson Marco Boni said "There is absolutely no suggestion that South Africa is providing refuge to these people in any way. We are aware of the Rwandan government's concerns and we are doing our level best to assist them," he said.

Karenzi said the rise in criminal activity followed a crackdown this year on Rwandan genocide suspects in Kenya, which had previously allowed former Rwandan government officials to move freely. "Since Kenya cracked down on them, South Africa has become their main base because of lax immigration and crime rules."

Bagilishema handed himself over to UN personnel on Thursday. He was apparently carrying a temporary SA passport in another name, and was flown out of the country to Arusha, Tanzania, for trial.

According to the embassy spokesperson there are about 2 000 Rwandan refugees living in Cape Town.

One of the Rwandan citizens the Rwandan government would like to interview is now a lecturer at a college in the Western Cape.

Police also intercepted a Rwandan passport posted to a Kraaifontein address recently. The recipient, a medical doctor, is mentioned in human rights reports as being guilty of abuses.

'Aliens' beware: It's the men in grey

Home Affairs has become notorious for its unjust treatment of people, writes CARMEL RICKARD

ST 28/2/99 (236)

WHO can blame Esmee Sargeant for wondering whether she had landed in Nazi Germany rather than South Africa?

One afternoon last month Sargeant, a British woman working as a financial administrator in a Johannesburg clinic, was alone at home when a knock on the door began a nightmare ordeal.

Unknown officials, who had driven up in two police vans, said she was under arrest. Her papers were not in order and she was to be deported immediately. They said they needed no warrant to arrest her because they were acting on the orders of the Director-General of the Department of Home Affairs, Albert Mokoena.

Sargeant was driven around in the back of a police van for an hour "like a criminal", and, despite the rights guaranteed in the Constitution, she was refused permission to make even a single phone call — with quick footwork she made it to a call box at the airport, but her deporters ripped the phone from her hand as she was depositing coins in the slot.

Sargeant arrived in midwinter London still wearing summer clothes — although her deporters had agreed to let her take a jacket. She had no funds and nowhere to go as her flat there had been let.

In a subsequent statement she has spoken of feeling utterly humiliated by the whole experience and says her good name has been sullied.

Alerted to her plight by a call from London, her SA lawyers, Bloch, Gross and Associates, immediately brought a court action against the Department of Home Affairs for her return.

Judge Fanle Mynhardt, who presided in the Pretoria High

Court, was outraged by what he heard. As an indication of the court's displeasure he awarded punitive damages at the highest scale possible against the department, and he ordered that Sargeant be flown back at the department's expense.

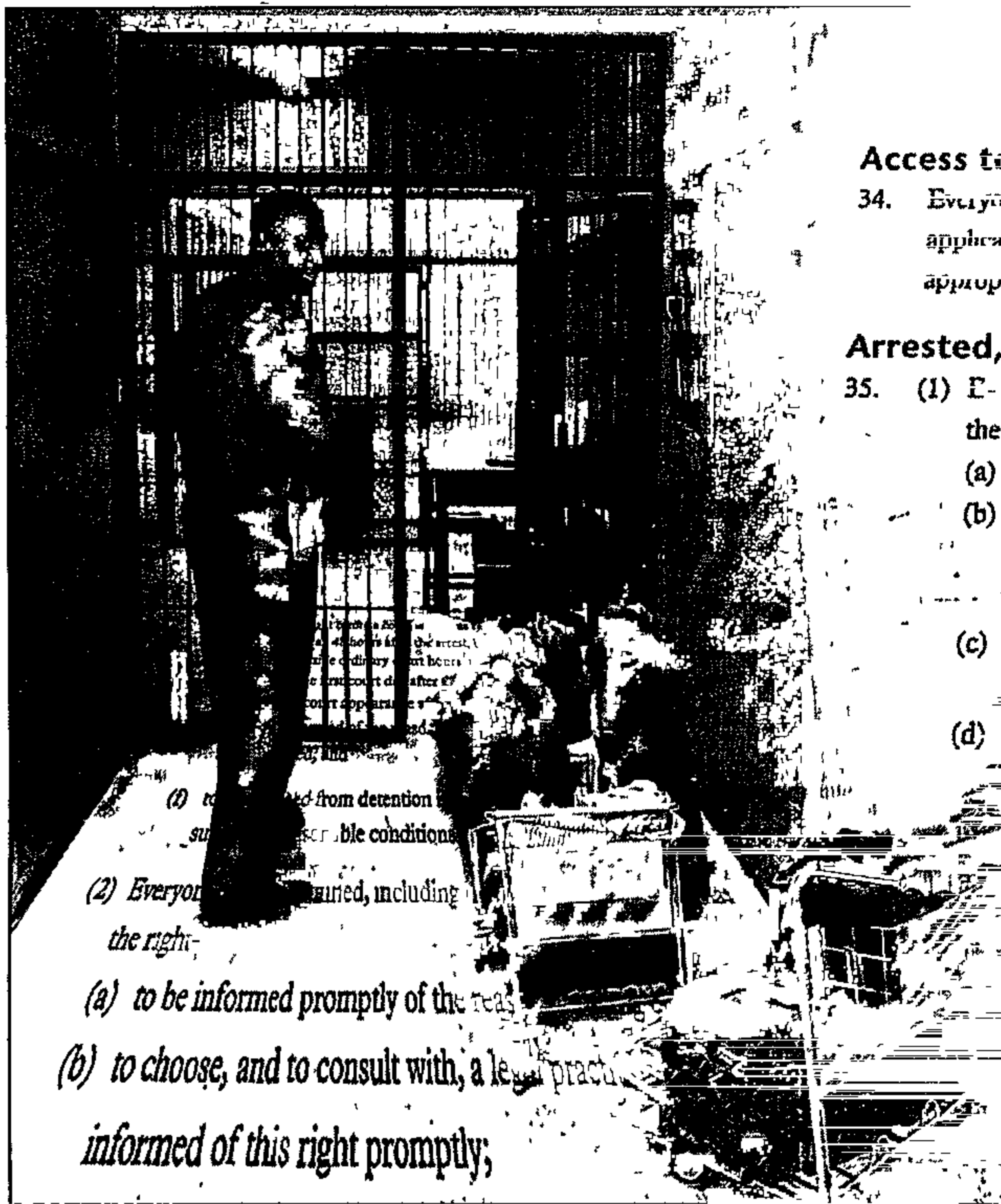
The judge was particularly concerned that she was deported just four days before the start of a court case dealing with the status of her work permit. She had shown the officials who arrested her the papers proving that the case was about to start. But according to Sargeant they told her "Sorry, but Home Affairs doesn't take much notice of these things."

Perhaps the judge felt he would help them begin to "take notice", because he has ordered several officials responsible for her deportation to appear before him and explain why they should not be jailed for contempt of court.

Sargeant's ordeal is far from unique — officials of the Department of Home Affairs have developed quite a name for the illegal or unjust treatment they mete out to people.

But few can have been treated with quite the injustice experienced by carpet factory worker Eddie Johnson. He was in the bathroom early one morning when he was arrested on immigration charges.

That was August 1994. For the next four months he was held in detention. In December that year he was charged with four counts under the Aliens Control Act, found guilty on one charge



and given a suspended sentence. Before he could leave the courtroom, however, he was again detained and spent the whole of 1995 in holding cells as an illegal alien.

Finally, in January 1996, he was released on the order of the court. He had spent a total of 16 months in detention, and, according to Johnson, he was told by officials that he would spend the rest of his life in jail until he told them "the truth" about where he came from.

He says he is a South African. They say they think he is lying.

Judge Dyalin Chetty of the Cape Town High Court found that immigration officials had acted outside the law in detaining Johnson, had violated his constitutional rights and had acted in a "grossly unreasonable" way.

Until just three or four years ago, however, the court might have taken a very different approach. Judges routinely declared that immigration officials had such a wide discretion that they could virtually do as they liked in relation to would-be immigrants, and some judges even suggested that the Constitution made no difference to the situation.

But a series of judgments since 1996 shows a distinct change in the thinking of the courts about the exercise of power by immigration officials.

One of the strongest warnings so far came from Judge Ken Mthiyane. In dealing with the case of an illegal immigrant, he said he could find nothing in the Constitution to suggest that officials taking administrative decisions about would-be immigrants or asylum-seekers were entitled to treat these "aliens" any differently from a citizen.

"Every individual who comes before the courts in this country," he said, "whether high or low, rich or poor, alien or local, is entitled to enjoy the benefits of the Constitution."

However, some immigration officials and top Home Affairs bureaucrats still seem not to have got Judge Mthiyane's message, and cases contesting official action as illegal, unreasonable, unconstitutional or unjust still come regularly to court.

The problem is far wider than questionable decisions and practices aimed at keeping out refugees and asylum-seekers. The department's bizarre decisions — or lack of them — also affect the economy by hampering investment and formal job creation.

Foreign experts in a variety of fields, who could fill the brain drain gap or train and employ South Africans, are often treated worse than the average mur-

der accused applying for bail. Lawyers acting for potential investors say their clients often fare no better, facing suspicion, harassment, unreasonable demands and endless delays when they try to obtain permits.

Even judges have been made aware of the anomaly, like Judge Piet van der Walt, who heard the case of two highly qualified foreign lawyers brought to South Africa to train other lawyers — ironically, in refugee law. Home Affairs staff refused to renew their permits and wanted to throw both out.

The judge said it made no sense to him the two were funded by overseas donors and were no drain on the local taxpayer. They were no one else in the country with their expertise and, once their course was com-

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Rwanda genocide suspects hide out in SA

ROSS HERBERT
and SYBRAND MOSTERT

LAX immigration laws have made South Africa the main base of operations for Rwandan genocide suspects, Rwandan ambassador Ben Karezi said yesterday.

Karezi was responding to the weekend arrest and deportation of a suspect wanted by the international genocide tribunal in Arusha, Tanzania.

Ignace Baglishema, the former mayor of Mabanza, was arrested in Pretoria with false travel documents and reportedly flown to Arusha by United Nations officials

on Saturday.

During the government-organised genocide against Tutsis in 1994, Baglishema allegedly ordered the round-up and killing of ethnic Tutsis, and ordered Hutu people to wear banana leaves to avoid being confused with Tutsis destined for slaughter.

"This should be an eye-opener for the South African government that killers are using this country as a base," said Karezi.

He declined to estimate the number of Rwandans in question, but said it was large.

"There is a continuous flow of criminal genocide elements in this

country. We have clear evidence they are involved with arms and drugs trafficking (here)," he said.

The department of Home Affairs declined to comment on the arrest or the ambassador's assertion that SA is being used for drug and gun-running against Rwanda because of its lax immigration and anti-crime enforcement.

But Foreign Affairs spokesperson Marco Boni said "There is absolutely no suggestion that SA is providing refuge to these people in any way."

"We are aware of the Rwandan government's concerns and we are doing our level best to assist them."

Last year, Rwanda expressed its concern to senior officials in the SA government over the presence of genocide suspects and supporters of the ongoing Hutu insurgency against the present Tutsi-dominated government.

SA officials had "always been positive and indicated that they would follow up, but really we have not seen any substantial action", Karezi said.

He claimed the rise in criminal activity follows a crackdown this year on Rwandan genocide suspects in Kenya, which had previously allowed former Rwandan officials to move freely

"Since Kenya cracked down on them, SA has become their main base because of lax immigration and crime rules," he said.

According to the embassy spokesperson there are about 2 000 Rwandan refugees living in Cape Town.

Police recently intercepted a Rwandan passport posted to a medical doctor in Kraaifontein.

The recipient is mentioned in human rights reports as being guilty of abuses.

Another Rwandan citizen the Rwandan government would like to interview is now a lecturer at a college in the Western Cape.

Local ballet dancers angry over permits for foreigners

State Theatre management accused of intransigence and still living in the apartheid era for 'bypassing agreement with committee'

By EDDIE JAVIYA

South African ballet dancers have accused the Department of Home Affairs of giving preferential treatment to overseas ballet dancers, while at the same time strictly applying immigration laws to foreign soccer nationals.

The Consultative Committee, an organisation of employees and employers in the ballet industry, said the State Theatre had connived with the department to issue work permits to overseas dancers without consulting the committee.

Committee chairperson Rod Stewart said foreign entertainers entered the country without his committee's knowledge.

"We have an arrangement with State Theatre that overseas artists will only perform in this country after we have scrutinised their contracts.

"It seems the department and the State Theatre have found ways of bypassing the arrangement. We request the department investigate the

matter and take action against culprits.

"As a committee we represent local dancers and a signed contract must be submitted to us before a foreign dancer can enter the country.

"We must first check if there is no South African who can perform before giving the go-ahead. We stress that overseas performers must hold workshops to help the locals.

"But these dancers have entered the country and left immediately after their performances without holding workshops. It seems that the State Theatre has found a way of bypassing the arrangement.

"We have been trying to resolve this problem, but the State Theatre is not interested. We have asked the director-general of Home Af-

fairs, Albert Mokoena, to investigate the granting of work permits for these dancers. We are not trying to prevent overseas performers from coming to South Africa,

but we want them to help locals," he said.

General secretary of the Performing Arts Workers' Equity (Pawe), Japan Mthembu, accused the State Theatre

management of intransigence and still living in the apartheid era.

"We have been trying to create a healthy working relationship with the State Theatre and the artists, but the management is intransigent. They don't want to discuss the issue of work permits with us. They import dancers without consulting us and are using the taxpayers' money as they please.

"They are not interested

in development and local artists are not benefiting from the state funds," he said.

State Theatre chief executive Alan Joseph denied that overseas artists performed in South Africa without work permits. He said he dealt with Home Affairs and had no business with the committee.

"We do everything above board and those who have information about artists performing without valid permits must come up with facts. I cannot respond to unsubstantiated allegations. The committee must ask Home Affairs why the contracts are not sent to them. Overseas artists are sent home after their performances," he said.

Home Affairs director-general Albert Mokoena said the department would investigate the granting of work permits. "The matter is receiving urgent attention. Further correspondence will be forwarded to you (the committee) soon," he said in letter.

Artists are sent home after they perform

(276)

Strangers in a strange land

(236)

sowetan 19/4/99

By Pumla Rulasho

THE word 'refugee' has become synonymous with human rights violations. People become refugees because their fundamental human rights are threatened or violated in their country of origin and the government is unable or unwilling to protect them.

The Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), whose mandate is to protect refugees, has always recognised the important link between refugees and the respect for and protection of human rights.

The cycle in the life of a refugee, which begins with displacement and ends with a durable solution, illustrates how human rights violations produce refugees.

The root cause of displacement is usually created by the violations of human rights in the country of origin, when national governments are unable or unwilling to provide protection for their own citizens.

Such violations may arise from persecution or discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, gender, religion, nationality or membership of a particular social group or political opinion. Where there is competition for scarce resources or a breakdown of law and order, individuals and groups will resort to extreme means of expression and self help, usually through violence, to pursue their perceived interests.

If the root cause of refugee displacement is to be effectively addressed, promoting respect for the whole range of human rights must be the starting point.

Flight, the second stage in the cycle refugees undergo, is also their most vulnerable. Flight from persecution to protection and support for human rights is usually fraught with difficulties because refugees have left their country of origin but have not yet reached safety in the country of asylum.

Refugees are exposed to dangers associated with unstable circumstances such as lack of food and shelter, as well as possible human rights violations in the state they may be trying to enter.

Women and children are particularly at risk often suffering sexual abuse and exploitation to gain safe passage or access to asylum. This may be the time when families can become separated by war and conflict.

At the point of asylum, the third stage of the cycle, refugees are entitled to have their basic human rights protected and respected by the country where they have sought and obtained asylum.

Having lost the protection of their country of origin, refugees are not like ordinary citizens and therefore enjoy specific rights arising from their peculiar situation.

These include the right not to be sent back to a country where their life, physical safety or freedom would be in danger; the right of access to a procedure to determine whether they are refugees, the right not to be penalised for entering a country illegally, the right to identity and travel documents and the right to pursue the unity of the family.

Besides these specific rights, refugees - as any human being - enjoy basic human rights and fundamental freedoms such as the right to non-discrimination, the right to life, liberty and security of the person, the right to equality before the law and access to courts of law, freedom from torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, freedom of thought, conscience or religion, freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention.

Since refugees in a country of asylum are the most vulnerable and marginalised, the protection of their basic human rights is crucial at all times to enable them to live in safety, dignity and stability.



Illegal aliens incarcerated at John Vorster Square cells awaiting extradition back to their own countries

PIC PICTURENET

In the fourth stage of the cycle, durable solutions come full circle to the reason that is the root cause of displacement. A durable solution is dependent on a commitment to re-establishing an effective human rights culture in the refugees' country of origin.

Repatriation activities, such as returnee monitoring, are guided and informed by basic human rights standards, and enable the UNHCR to ensure the safe reintegration of refugees returning home.

Even in the absence of such mechanisms, refugees, wherever they are, are still entitled to respect of their fundamental human rights by the governments of their country of origin.

South Africans, like many people the world over, are resentful and suspicious, particularly of black foreigners in their midst. A difficult economic situation and high levels of unemployment contribute to the growing intolerance towards foreigners in this country.

The UNHCR is fully aware of and does not take lightly the difficulties faced by South Africans in accommodating refugees.

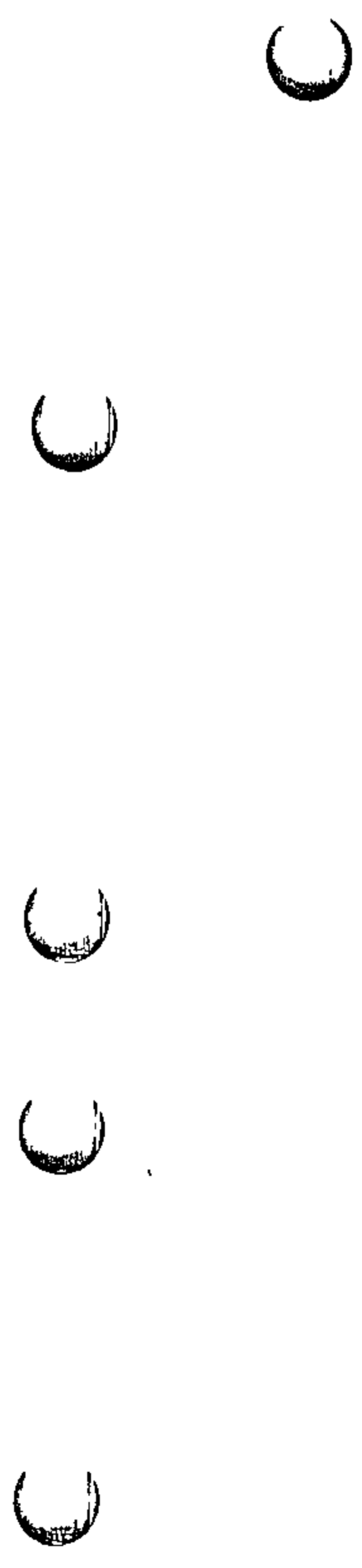
As part of the re-entry into the international arena, South Africa acceded to the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol and 1969 Organisation of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa.

This means in effect that South Africa has pledged to abide by its international obligation of protecting and assisting refugees. The UNHCR is here to assist the South African Government to carry out this crucial humanitarian task in favour of people who have nowhere else to go to save their lives.

South Africa has made remarkable strides since sowing the seeds of a human rights-based culture four years ago. The challenge for its people is to continue putting this into practice irrespective of colour, creed, race or ethnic or national origin. (This article was written on behalf of the Regional Office of Southern Africa of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Pretoria.)

Women and children are particularly at risk, often suffering sexual abuse

South Africans are resentful and suspicious of black foreigners in their midst



Current Affairs

IMMIGRATION

PM 16/4/99

A DEPARTMENT COMING APART
AT THE SEAMS

(236)

Administrative chaos could render new policy worthless

The Department of Home Affairs runs a crippled administration that will be unable to implement the new White Paper on International Migration

This is the opinion of immigration lawyers and experts as well as opposition MPs

Attorney Gary Eisenberg says the real problem facing SA's efforts to streamline its immigration policy is not the legal framework but the administrative breakdown of the department "Give us any rules you like, but run your department efficiently," he pleads "The department operates in a crippled fashion and is one of the few with absolutely no credibility"

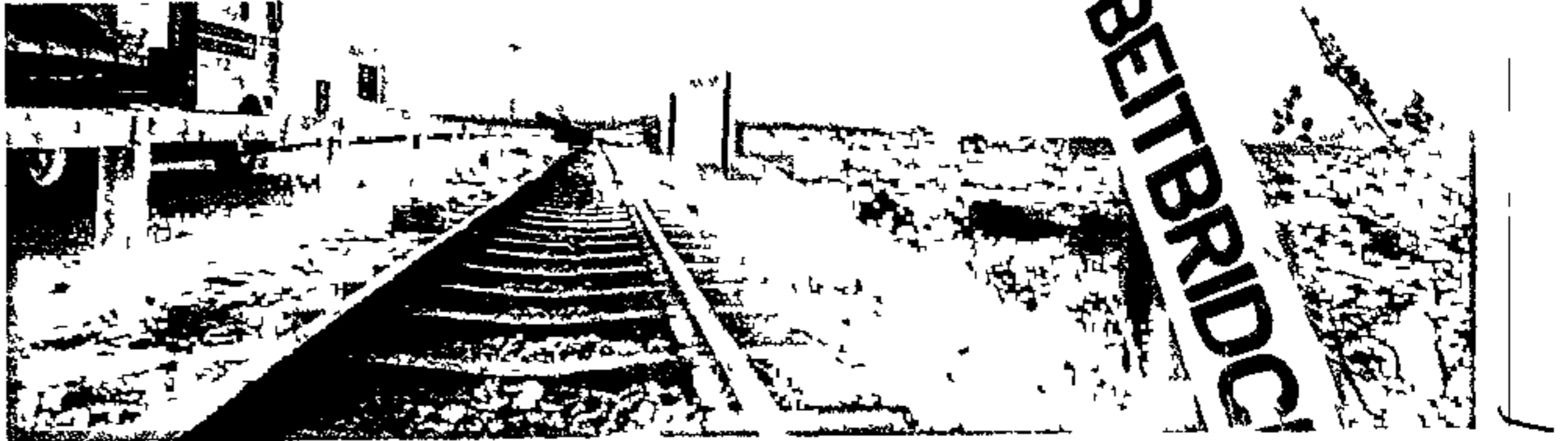
His comments come after the release of a White Paper that acknowledges SA is losing the battle against illegal immigration and proposes a radical overhaul of the current system

The White Paper (widely seen as the

IMMIGRATION BLUEPRINT

Key points of new policy

- *Renewable three months' free entry for all except prohibited persons
- *Greater latitude for the entry of tourists, traders and businessmen
- *A shift from border control to community and workplace inspection
- *The onus of checking and reporting status of workers/pupils and customers to rest with government agencies, employers and schools.
- *Stricter sanctions against employers



work of Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi's special adviser, constitutional expert Mario Ambrosini) recognises the futility of attempting to police SA's 7 000 km of borders and of relying on deportation to repatriate SA's 3m-5m illegal "aliens" It says it would take 25-30 years merely to deport existing illegal immigrants, and that SA does not have the

The creation of an immigration court and immigration security force

- *Immigration selection boards will be dismantled
- *Permanent residence for all temporary legal workers after five years
- *Foreigners won't have to apply for entry permits from their home countries
- *Homosexuals in long-term relationships may be regarded as spouses for the granting of permanent residence permits.
- *Employers will find it more costly and bureaucratic to import skilled foreign labour
- *Spouses of those with SA citizenship will be entitled to permanent residence

billions the US has spent policing a small segment (37 km) of its border with Mexico

The upshot is a policy that aims to make it unattractive for people to reside in SA illegally by shifting law enforcement away from border control to community and workplace inspections

The White Paper is more flexible in allowing people to enter SA but more stringent in enforcing their conditions of stay once they are here

It relies on government agencies, employers and society in general to identify and report illegal aliens, but so uneasy are the authors about the xenophobic backlash this could unleash that they propose a "10-year sunset clause" to this activity

New National Party home affairs spokesman Coetzee Bester is unimpressed by the policy because, he says, it makes it easier for illegal immigrants to enter SA but allows no time to educate the population to prevent a surge in xenophobia

"We would like to see a hard stance on illegal migration, while making it easier for those specific skills the economy needs to enter SA," he says

The policy — which pays lip service to the need to attract foreign investment and promote economic growth — intends to make it less bureaucratic but more costly for employers to import skilled foreigners

A CASE STUDY

DEAF TO GENTLE
APPEALS

A tragic waste best describes the withdrawal from SA of a R35m investment by a SA businessman because Home Affairs refused to grant his American wife (a qualified health practitioner) permanent residence

In anger and frustration after a year of fruitless appeals to the department, Charl Gentle, a SA citizen, has decided to sue government for discrimination, duress and loss of income

Last month, Gentle decided to throw in the towel. But, out of curiosity, he telephoned Home Affairs to find out the latest status of his application

"My file was receiving 'urgent attention' until yesterday, when the ceil-

ing collapsed on top of it," he wrote in an e-mail to DP MP Dene Smuts, who had championed his case "They had a cleaning crew in there trying to save what they could but the wet debris was causing a problem

"One of the ladies actually started crying to me out of sheer hopelessness I really feel sorry for them because these people take the brunt for the ignorance of their senior staff"

In a letter of disgust to the department, Gentle points out that the Constitution states that the spouse of a South African qualifies automatically for permanent resident status

"This is no way to treat a citizen of your country who returned after 12 years abroad," writes Gentle in his final letter to the department "I left this country because of apartheid. Now I'm leaving against my will again, because of anarchy and ignorance" Claire Bisseker

If anything, the process will be more bureaucratic because in future the immigration service will issue corporate work permits for foreign labour only after con-

sultation with the Department of Labour

Moreover, to ensure that companies recruit labour externally only when no equivalent skills exist in SA, employers will have

P.T.O

to pay a portion of each foreign worker's salary into a training fund for locals

"The problem is that SA is bleeding from the loss of skills and capital, but the document does nothing about attracting foreign investment," says Eisenberg "In fact, it discourages the hiring of foreigners even when no equivalent skills are available in SA, because not only is the process of obtaining certification for foreign workers made more cumbersome, but the employer is taxed on top of it "

On the other hand, it does allow companies that obtain permission to import a number of foreign workers to take over the administration of their permits and visas and responsibility for their repatriation

Another refreshing note is the drafters' recognition that only the market knows which skills are required, when and for how long On this basis they have jettisoned the idea of a points system proposed in the Green Paper which, they say, has often proved ineffective, even in countries with sophisticated information infrastructures

But, as Eisenberg points out, what the policy lacks is an objective immigration system and transparency in the rules that apply. The advantage of a points system is that it sets out objective criteria

Heeding growing complaints about the arbitrariness of immigration selection boards' decisions, the authors suggest they be scrapped in favour of a new regulatory agency, the Immigration Service, which, it says, will administer objective criteria and be subject to judicial review

As the policy fails to spell out these objective criteria, it is not at all clear how the new Immigration Service will avoid the mistakes of its predecessor, especially as the White Paper allows the department many points of discretion

DP home affairs spokesman Dene Smuts says the document contains the admission that SA has no regulations stipulating the criteria for permanent residence "The regulations have never been written or promulgated and the immigration selection boards have failed to fill vacancies, so there's no control over the process It's no wonder things are falling apart "

But Smuts also welcomes much in the "bold and lucid" document, especially its ability to face reality, accept the role of market forces and conceive of the new immigration service as a flexible, semi-autonomous regulatory authority staffed by a broad range of experts, including business people "There are also plenty of sops to labour and a xenophobic public We will have to scrutinise it carefully as a committee and listen to all sides "

This effort might be fruitless, however, unless the department gets its act together

Claire Bissek

Co-operation needed to control aliens

The new white paper on migration is a creative solution to a major problem, writes Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi (276) 0019/4/99

THE white paper on international migration was recently approved by the cabinet after receiving inputs from many of my colleagues. It is the last major policy document of the government of national unity, and it may be seen as completing a monumental effort in which most of the pre-existing policies and legislation have been reformulated.

Despite being the last of its kind, I feel that this white paper is somehow a new breed of what I hope will become the policy formulation of the next government. It not only changes policies, but reforms the administrative structures intended to administer them and the way government operates, even though, in a limited sphere, it marks a new approach to governance based on pragmatism, lateral thinking, reliance on the positive forces of the free market and a co-operation of our communities.

The document takes cognisance of the many failures of the present system. A migration policy, which relies exclusively on the possibility of sealing off our borders, will not succeed. At the present rate, it would take decades to deport all illegal aliens. SA will continue to attract illegal immigrants. Stricter sanctions on employers will not help if they are not enforced consistently and widely. For this reason, the white paper shifts emphasis away from border control to community and workplace inspections and intergovernmental co-operation. It gets immigration officials out from behind their desks and into the communities.

Ideally, one would need to move government to community level in many fields. Communities could be assisted by teams, delivering preventive policing, migration inspection, labour inspection and welfare assistance in communities and workplaces.

To free administrative resources, the white paper suggests simplifying procedures and reduces the role of government. For instance, it relies on community and market dynamics. If aliens could not find a livelihood, fewer would illegally migrate to SA. If their labour were not cheaper they would not be hired illegally. If all labour laws and collective bargaining agreements were applied, employers would not have an incentive to employ foreign labour, unless it was needed because of its added value of skills. These truths can be the basis of policy.

Therefore, the white paper suggests that by reducing the distorting factors in the labour market, which stem from illegal practices, foreigners who are employed would, by definition, be those needed to foster our economic growth. Accordingly, the new policy will enable employers to hire foreigners when they need them and this need will not be determined by government, but by mar-

ket forces. It is difficult for government to determine how many plumbers or nuclear scientists our economy needs.

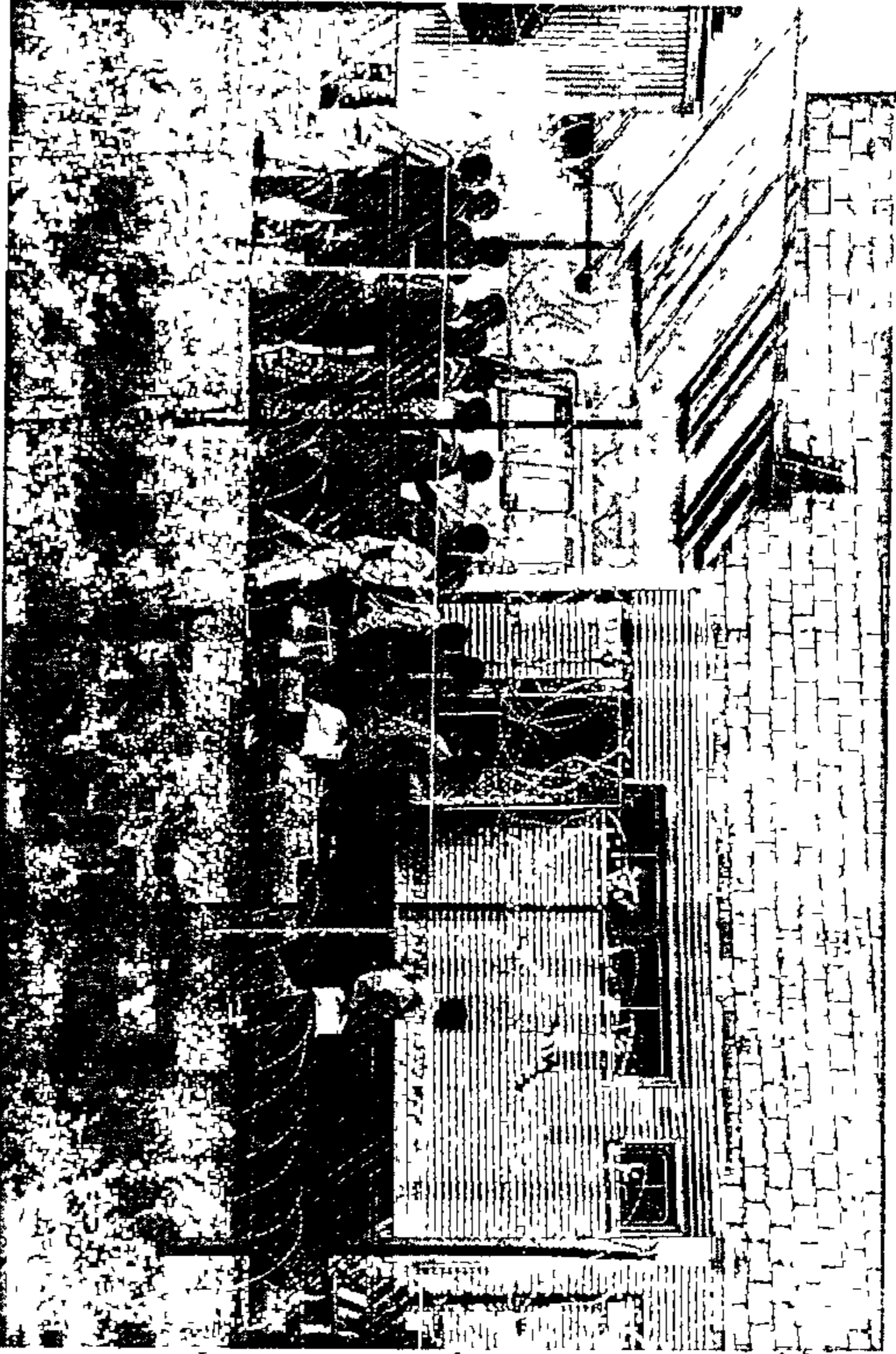
Employers will be required to pay a fee for each alien employed and like periodic returns that also certify the alien is not employed below the standards set by law and collective agreements for our nationals. The fees will be collected into a fund to be used for training our nationals so as to reduce dependence on foreign skills. Thus, only aliens who are really needed will be employed and only for as long as they are needed, for SA labour would remain cheaper.

The white paper restructures the present administrative functions of migration control into a separate regulatory agency with functional autonomy, the Immigration Service, under the control of a minister. The service will apply objective parameters to allow people to enter or work in SA, but will also have the power to negotiate special conditions to pursue its statutory goals and to keep the regulatory door, which controls migration, more or less ajar for instance by increasing or decreasing the fees for foreign labour provided — with the required five-year notice, however.

The regulatory and negotiating nature of the service enables it to administer corporate work permits to be issued by an employer for a set number of employees, the identity of whom can vary over time. This corporate permit will have a negotiated fee for all the employees, which may be replaced by an approved training programme for our nationals conducted by the employer. Corporate permits would be available for industries that traditionally rely on foreign labour, but also for other industries. The matter will be handled by the service in co-ordination with the labour department and the social partners.

In terms of the white paper, all migration procedures are streamlined. People will not need to apply from outside the country. The Immigration Selection Board will be scrapped and the need for high application fees eliminated. Clear criteria will apply for temporary permits that exceed three months. Wherever possible, these permits will be handed by the entities receiving the aliens, such as schools, hospitals or other branches of government administering exchange programmes. This is a first attempt to privatise administrative functions under the control of the department of government responsible for them.

The simplification of procedures also provides that for all stays shorter than three months, the door be opened for all those who provide sufficient evidence of their intention to leave the country, such as a return ticket or a financial guarantee. However, these people cannot conduct dependent



The white paper on international migration recently approved by the cabinet shifts emphasis away from border control to community and workplace inspections and intergovernmental co-operation

work. This will expedite the entry of tourists, businessmen and many other classes of people who, in the past, have complained about the difficulty of obtaining visas. Visas will continue to be available for those who cannot provide such guarantees.

The service's regulatory powers will adjust this system to needs and concerns as they arise. As a regulatory agency, the service will be able to shape the immigration system as required within the parameters of the statute. Its regulatory functions are centred on a migration review board, which will include the social partners and relevant stakeholders.

Permanent residence will be available for spouses of citizens, investors and people of exceptional skills or extraordinary qualifications, and also for those with an offer of per-

manent employment, accompanied by an independent certification that none of our nationals is available to fill that position. Alternatively, people can work their way into permanent residence. Those who have been temporarily employed for five years, and whose employers have paid the prescribed fees for that period, will be eligible for permanent residence. If their skills have been proven to be needed for such a long period, they are deemed desirable people.

The white paper gives real teeth to law enforcement expediting procedures that designs a system that proves that the strictest compliance with the constitutional guarantees to which aliens are rightly entitled is consistent with effective law enforcement. It provides for separate migration courts and rapidly moving judicial,

rather than administrative procedures.

Enforcement is also based on the co-operation of other branches of government, which will be required to conduct routine checks of nationality whenever rendering their services or conducting their functions. This is the first step in realising that administrative functions in the information age cannot be self-contained, and may easily interface and co-operate with one another.

The co-operation of communities, employers and other entities is required to make enforcement effective. Undoubtedly, this will impose some social cost on communities, but we must accept that if we are serious about solving the problem of illegal migration within the parameters of a rights-based culture, we must all contribute towards the solution.

(236) *Southern* 19/11/99 Foreigners not to blame for our woes

DESPITE important advances since the first democratic election in 1994, too many South Africans still suffer under the terrible twin curses of unemployment and crime

As the election campaign rolls on, leaders of various political parties have attempted to capitalise on this suffering by blaming our problems on the soft treatment of foreigners and our country's commitment to upholding human rights

They argue that human rights supporters are criminal-friendly intellectuals too removed from the people's suffering to understand their needs

Many others echo these views. Basing their opinion on rumour, not fact, they claim that most foreigners in South Africa are job-stealing criminals. They insist that if we could just stop being soft on foreigners, South Africans would enjoy the spoils of jobs and peace

Against this backdrop, the South African Human Rights Commission (HRC) released a report in March on the treatment of suspected illegal migrants in South Africa

The report uncovered widespread human rights violations during arrest and detention, based on evidence gathered from interviews with 149 detainees at the Lindela Repatriation Centre in Krugersdorp in 1998

The HRC recognises the need for the Government to regulate immigration. This report, however, provides compelling evidence of the unnecessary and unlawful suffering that current enforcement procedures are exacting on foreigners and South Africans alike. Police officers, soldiers and officials from the Department of Home

This article, written on behalf of the Human Rights Commission, says respect for human rights will lead to a prosperous South Africa.

Affairs engage in widespread extortion and bribery

They pick up people randomly. They destroy or ignore valid identification documents. They house suspected illegal migrants in unpleasant, and sometimes harsh, conditions

Far from reacting with outrage, many South Africans have welcomed the news that "someone is giving these foreigners what they deserve"

Respecting their human rights will only lead to them getting away or coming back, they say. Only if we make them suffer enough when they are here will they decide not to return

This notion that suspending the human rights of foreign migrants will help South Africans is wrong for three fundamental reasons

First, the arbitrary nature of arrests reported in the HRC study shows that many South Africans are caught in the immigration-control web. South Africans (especially those with darker skin) often get picked up as illegal aliens and find themselves subjected to the same treatment as people from other countries

Trying to preserve the rights of South Africans while suspending rights for foreigners is simply impossible

Second, supporting the brutal treatment of anyone in South Africa will only increase the breakdown of law and order. The Bill of Rights does not exist solely to protect criminals and foreigners

Instead it establishes the only basis on which we can build a safe, prosperous country in South Africa – the respect and protection of all people

Finally, history teaches us well that oppression begins with the persecution of the weak and powerless

In 1994, South Africans adopted the Constitution with its Bill of Rights so we would no longer have to live in a society where we could be beaten by policemen who demanded pass books, sentenced by courts that did not administer fair trials or expelled from our homes because of how we looked or sounded

If we are willing to suspend the Constitution for foreigners, we will provide the open door through which these ghosts of apartheid can return and take hold once more

After more than 300 years of colonialism and war, the southern Africa region suffers under poverty, inequality and instability. Many illegal migrants are fleeing conditions so bad in their home countries that no policy can deter their attempts to enter South Africa

In the long-term, then, only regional stability and economic growth will stem this flow of migrants. In the short-term, we must face the inevitable problem of illegal immigration with reason and fact, not rhetoric and fallacy

Blaming outsiders for a society's problem is a tired old song in South Africa and the rest of the world. It is far



Human Rights Commission chairman Dr Barney Pitso Moseneke ... the HRC released a report recently on the treatment of suspected illegal migrants in South Africa.

easier to complain about the job-stealing Zimbabweans or the thieving Nigerians than it is to offer realistic solutions to complex problems like unemployment and crime

The HRC supports the Government's right to control immigration and to monitor its borders. We seek to eradicate the crime and unemployment that prevent millions of South Africans from enjoying their human rights. But we do so with the historical

understanding that suspending the human rights of vulnerable minorities merely distracts people from demanding real solutions by providing a hateful outlet for their frustration

Respecting human rights and the rule of law – for all people regardless of the colour of their skin or the place of their birth – is the best chance we have of building the peaceful, prosperous country we all envision in our dreams

● See Page 11

Many of city's 14 000 refugee population hungry, homeless

CT 16/4/99
MISCHA DE BRUIJN

MANY of the estimated 14 000 refugees in Cape Town live in desperate conditions, without food or proper accommodation

Cape Town Refugee Forum representatives said this yesterday at the organisation's annual general meeting and celebration of its fifth anniversary

The forum, a non-government organisation launched in 1994 to help refugees in South Africa, aims to improve their conditions and fight xenophobia. It consists of 10 employees and several volunteers and is funded mainly by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The forum, along with other organisations, lobbies the government to handle refugees more humanely. Some parts of the Refugee Act are unacceptable as they stand, William Kerfoot of the Legal Resources

Centre told the meeting

He explained that, until recently, asylum-seekers who arrived in Pietersburg and decided to move to Cape Town discovered they had to return to Pietersburg every three months to report to the authorities

According to Kerfoot, the government regularly labels countries as safe when they are not safe at all. "On the same day that Kabila invaded Zaire, Home Affairs declared that Zaire was safe," he said

However, the biggest battle the forum fights is that against xenophobia. The organisation has recorded 22 murders of refugees since June last year, and there have been many cases of victimisation.

Last year Pedro Lembo, from Angola, was pushed out of a moving train near Muizenberg station, and Edmond Mugaragu, from Burundi, was stabbed by a group of people near Guguletu

By Khathu Mamballa

YOUNG Karen Dzimba braved the crocodile-infested Limpopo River when he crossed to Me sina in search of greener pastures. Like many illegal immigrants from Zimbabwe, he found a job on a farm.

He and two fellow Zimbabweans were offered R120 a month, which they accepted. They toiled for a whole month but at the end of February — when they were supposed to be paid — the white farmer refused to pay them.

He told them to work for another month before they would get their wages. A dispute erupted when they demanded their money.

The farmer, angered by the "cheeky" Zimbabweans, allegedly fetched a rifle from his house and started shooting at the three workers. A bullet allegedly hit Dzimba in his hand.

Dzimba, bleeding profusely, walked for more than 15km to the Waterpoort police station to report the incident. The police took him to Siloam Hospital, where he was admitted.

A few days after he was discharged, he disappeared and possibly returned home. Waterpoort police said they could not continue with the case as the complainant could not be traced.

But his story is not an isolated one. Shirami Shirinda, a fieldworker of the Nkunzi Development Association, a non-governmental organisation championing the rights of farmworkers in Northern Province, told *Sowetan* of another case.

Illegal farmworkers treated like slaves

Sowetan 29/4/99

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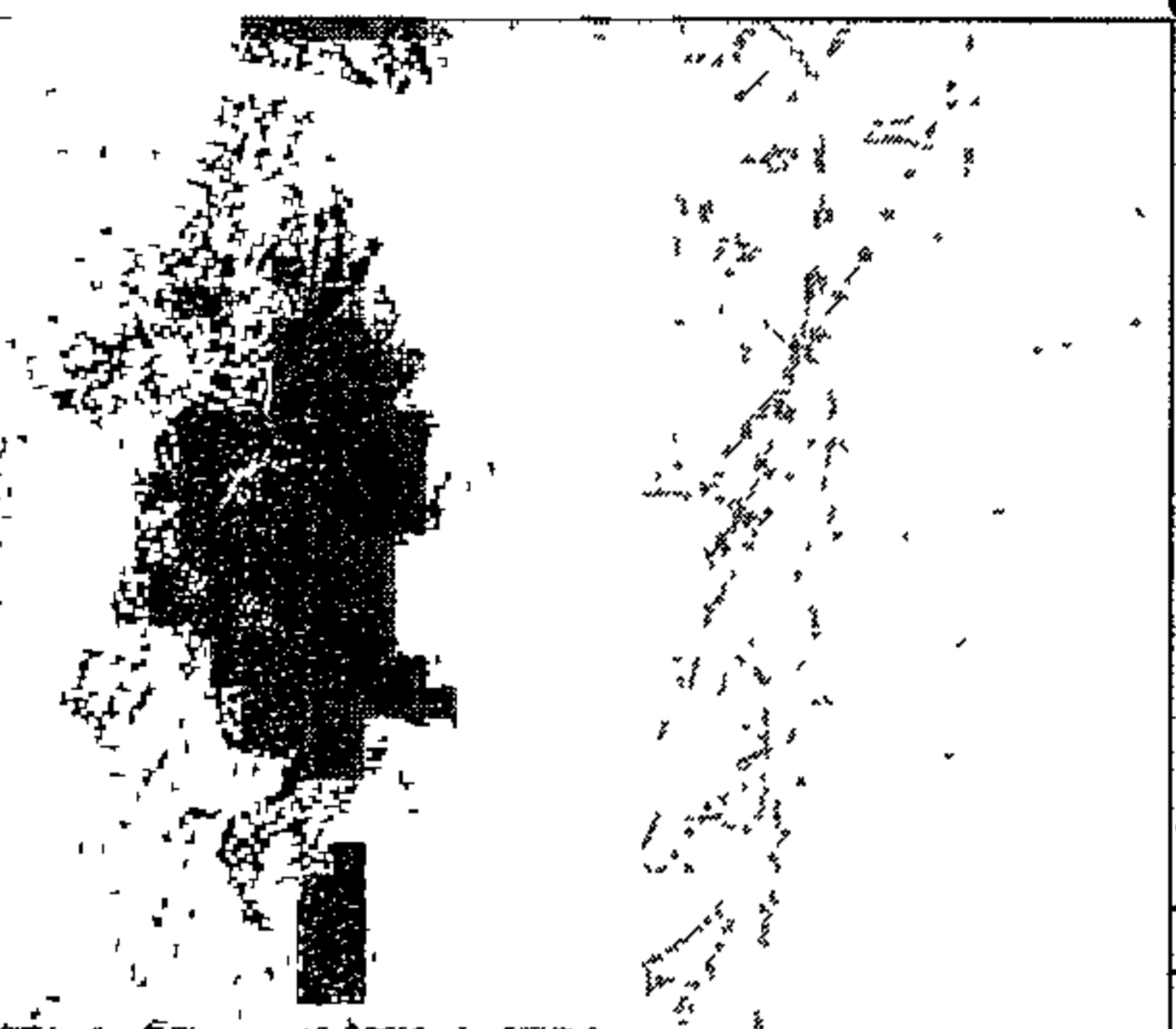
They were recruited near the border by a white farmer and promised jobs. Twelve of them worked on a farm in February without any pay. At the end of that month, they were told to leave the farm.

They went to the police but were told the police could not act as the workers were involved in a labour dispute and not a criminal matter.

"I came to know about the case because a contact at the police station telephoned me, asking if I couldn't help them," said Shirinda.

"The problem was that the Zimbabwean immigrants were not particularly keen on our following up the matter since they were in the country illegally. They did not want to be arrested."

According to Shirinda, the same farmer collected another group of six from the border at the beginning of March — and then fired them on March 30, again without any payment. "The six women were beaten up before they were fired. They said their work permits were destroyed by the



Illegal immigrants in South Africa are often paid low wages by farmers or not at all.

farmer who wanted to criminalise their presence in the country, said Shirinda. "The six slept in the bush before being found by a policeman a day later. He took them to the police station and the police called me. We intervened and managed to

force the farmer to pay them their wages that varied from R134 to R174. We then advised them to go back to Zimbabwe."

These are some of the dozens of cases involving the exploitation of near-desperate immigrants by farmers along the border. Shirinda warned that the inhumane treatment of immigrants could breed deep hatred towards the farming community, which could explode into a bloody conflict. "Exploitation is not in the interest of anybody and should not be allowed," he said.

These sentiments were echoed by Northern Province Premier Ngoako Ramathodi. He recently related the story told to him by a policeman after a farmer and his wife were murdered in Naboomspruit last month.

Ramathodi quoted the policeman as saying, "In 90 percent of the cases the attackers (on farms) are workers or local people. A farmer will tell me 'This man has been with me for 30 years. He takes my kids to school. How could he do this to me?'"

"And I think to myself: 'You have been paying him R120 and a sack of mealies a month. How can he support a family on that? He is starving and he thinks you are stinking rich.'"

"Zimbabwean women come across the border to pick tomatoes. They get 30c for every crate they pick. That is slavery. That is asking for trouble."

The Trade Union of South African Authorities has repeatedly maintained that farmers preferred foreign labour because local people did not want to accept wages as low as R100 a month.

Department of Labour spokeswoman Manoko Matlala said one of the main reasons for the termination of an agreement that allowed farmers to use labour from Zimbabwe was because of the lower wages paid to immigrants.

"Unemployment in this country, particularly in Northern Province, is very high and local people should be given a chance to work," she said.

However, Ria van der Merwe, an executive member of the Northern Transvaal Agricultural Union, challenged those accusing farmers of exploiting their workers to produce proof.

She added, "Zimbabweans work harder than the local people. It is not true that we pay them less money. There are no local people who are prepared to work on the farms."

Van der Merwe insisted that farmers looked after their workers well, and that they provided them with housing, water, food, transport and medical assistance.



'OUTRAGEOUS BEHAVIOUR'

Attacks on foreigners increasing — UN report

PRETORIA: A report released by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees says foreigners are increasingly falling victim to attacks and "outrageous xenophobic behaviour".

XENOPHOBIA is on the rise in post-apartheid South Africa, with a growing number foreigners being brutally attacked and killed, the United Nations refugee agency said yesterday.

"In the past two years, more than 30 innocent refugees and asylum seekers have been killed, simply because they were foreigners," said a report released by the deputy regional representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mengesha Kibede.

The report cited the deaths of two Mozambicans and a Senegalese on a train here last September when a mob accused them of stealing jobs from South Africans.

Two of the victims were electrocuted by overhead wires while trying to escape by climbing onto the roof of the train. The third was thrown out of a window and was hit by a train.

The report was co-authored with the South African Human Rights Commission and the National Consortium on Refugee Affairs. It was released at the launch by the UN agency and non-government organisations of a public awareness campaign against xenophobia.

"Increasingly, persons perceived as foreigners fall victim to hostile attacks and otherwise outrageous, xenophobic behaviour," the report says.

David McDonald of the Southern African Migration Project told the news conference that xenophobia was mainly fuelled by a belief that immigrants were taking scarce jobs and were responsible for rising crime and disease.

South Africa has shed 500 000 jobs in the first five years of democratic rule, pushing unemployment to around 30%.

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McDonald argued that "many migrants were victims of crime and not perpetrators of crime in South Africa". He said up to 23% of foreigners in South Africa were assaulted and another 42% robbed.

"Extortion and abuse at the hands of some sections of police and civil servants and discrimination in areas of education, health and labour markets are but examples of institutions and segments of society where xenophobia manifests itself," the report says.

Some experts have argued that xenophobia is a legacy of apartheid, which isolated South Africans from the rest of the continent and the world, making them suspicious of foreigners.

Official government statistics show that up to four million immigrants, mostly from neighbouring Mozambique and Zimbabwe, live in the country.

Officials at the Department of Home Affairs said they were handling asylum applications at the rate of 1 500 a month — Reuter

ET 29/4/99



Baqwa criticises Buthelezi over Mokoena's leave

Linda Ensor (236)

CAPE TOWN — Public Protector Selby Baqwa has criticised Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi for failing to suspend his director-general, Albert Mokoena, in the face of evidence that he was involved in corruption.

Instead, the minister had given him "special leave" pending the outcome of an investigation into allegations.

Baqwa said yesterday that this sent out a wrong message — that special circumstances existed when government officials were suspected of corruption. He had not lightly suggested suspension, but did so on the basis of a sufficient suspicion of guilt. He felt it important that his investigation be given credibility.

Baqwa interviewed Mokoena for four hours last week to test his version of the allegations of corruption and found it did not "hold water in key respects". This information was conveyed to Buthelezi in Friday's preliminary report, which requested that Mokoena be suspended so that witnesses in the department could feel free to talk.

Baqwa believed Buthelezi's granting of special leave to Mokoena was unlawful in that he had failed to follow proper procedures.

Mokoena is accused of using government facilities to operate his private professional basketball team, Mecer Soweto Panthers, and of owning and managing it without state approval.

He is also alleged to have irregularly secured work permits and citizenship documents for foreign players in the team, of using government vehicles for private use and of asking a company with an existing home affairs contract to sponsor his team.

Baqwa said his investigation would go beyond Mokoena's activities and probe other claims about the department, including alleged fraudulent issue of residence documents by the department's Harrison Street office in Johannesburg.

Letters Mokoena wrote which resulted in three Zambian basketball players getting identity documents were written to the Harrison Street office. "It is possible there is one single conspiracy. This needs to be investigated," Baqwa said.

His report will be handed to national director of public prosecutions Bulelani Ngcuka today for criminal investigation. Interest by the commissioner of police in the case had been directed to Ngcuka's office, Baqwa said.

Xenophobia in SA 'on the rise'

PRETORIA — Xenophobia is on the rise in post-apartheid SA, with a growing number of brutal attacks and killings of foreigners, the United Nations (UN) refugee agency said yesterday.

"In the past two years, more than 30 innocent refugees and asylum seekers have been brutally killed, simply because they were foreigners," said a report released by deputy regional representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mengesha Kabebe.

The report was co-authored with the SA Human Rights Commission and the National Consortium on Refugee Affairs. It was released at the launch of a public awareness campaign against xenophobia by the high commissioner and nongovernmental organisations.

David McDonald of the Southern African Migration Project said xenophobia was mainly fuelled by a belief that immigrants were taking scarce jobs and were responsible for rising crime and disease.

He argued that "many migrants were victims of crime and not perpetrators of crime in SA".

Up to 23% of foreigners in SA were assaulted and another 42% robbed. —Reuter

(236) BD 29/4/99

Home Affairs boss probed by Baqwa

(236)

By RAPHAEL BANDA

69/7/1999

Home Affairs director-general Albert Mokoena was questioned extensively by Public Protector Selby Baqwa and his investigators yesterday on allegations made against him and other officials in the department.

Mokoena, who faces allegations which include illegally obtaining South African identity documents for two Zambian members of his own basketball team, emerged from the session after four hours, according to Baqwa's spokesperson Nicole Teichmann.

Mokoena also stands accused of having run the basketball team from his office.

Teichmann said Mokoena had provided a great deal of information on allegations of maladministration in the department, possible fraud and bribery, and possible breaches of the civil service's rules and code of conduct.

Teichmann added that signs had emerged that the identity document scandal extended beyond the Harrison and Market street (Johannesburg) offices of the department, where it was uncovered recently.

The public protector's office

**Mokoena
accused of
providing
false IDs**

would weigh the facts and take a decision within 48 hours on what course of action to take in the light of the new information, as well as information already in investigators' hands.

"It seems the situation is extending and growing," Teichmann said about the extent of the alleged corruption and fraud within the Home Affairs Department.

She could not immediately furnish information on the number of officials under investigation.

The public protector is also investigating the possibility of unlawful overtime payouts to officials, and the possibility of conflict of interest involving the officials.

Opposition political parties have demanded that Mokoena be suspended pending the outcome of the investigation against him, but Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi has brushed the calls aside.

Buthelezi has said the inquiry into Mokoena's activities would verify the existence of "the alleged facts, whether they indeed contravene law and regulations, and whether Mr Mokoena carries any personal responsibility for them."

Illegal aliens spark concern

BD 19/4/99

(23b)

Immigrants flock to SA, writes Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — There is growing anxiety in SA's Chinese community over the increasing number of illegal Chinese immigrants entering SA since full diplomatic ties were established with the People's Republic of China.

A senior member of the community said there was concern that illegal immigration to SA from the world's most populous country, and associated crimes such as prostitution and smuggling, were getting worse.

He said South African Chinese and those granted citizenship were being blamed for the actions of the immigrants.

This was particularly bad in the Western Cape where illegal Chinese immigrants are heavily involved in the smuggling of perlemoen.

He said it was common knowledge in the Chinese community that the illegal immigrants used a neighbouring country as a transit destination before slipping into SA illegally.

Another senior member of the Chinese community said the immigrants were pouring into SA "in their thousands" and that it cost SA a lot of money to repatriate them back to China.

This was confirmed by Insp Johann Fourie, of the SA Police Service's (SAPS) aliens investigation unit, who said the tactic used by the immigrants was to travel by air to SA via Johannesburg, but to list Maseru, Mbabane or Maputo as their final destination.

After reaching their destination, they

buy false identity documents and passports and use these to enter SA by road.

They are not recorded in the computers of home affairs officials in customs control because they first enter the country in transit.

Fourie said the immigrants were also abusing the Southern African Development Community exemptions given to nationals from SA's neighbours who can prove that they have lived in SA for a specified period or are involved in a relationship with a South African citizen.

Fourie said the immigrants used false passports from SA's neighbours and forged documents to prove that they qualified for the exemptions.

He said the aliens investigation unit was co-operating with the Chinese embassy. There were no statistics available on the number of illegal Chinese immigrants in SA, but Fourie said there could be thousands.

A spokesman for the Chinese embassy, Zongyao Lee, said Chinese diplomats based in SA helped local authorities with the repatriation of illegal immigrants to China.

Lee said it was difficult to say how many illegal Chinese immigrants were in SA because their identities and location only become known once they have been arrested by the SAPS.

Meanwhile, the home affairs department said there had been no increase in the number of Chinese people deported for being in the country illegally.

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Heath unit to probe border officials

by Kevin O'Grady

(296)

THE Heath special investigating unit has been authorised to probe claims that government officials and police have been involved in the wrongful admission of people, cars and goods through SA's borders.

A proclamation by President Nelson Mandela in the Government Gazette gives the unit, headed by Judge Willem Heath, the go-ahead to probe the allegations against officials of the home affairs department, the SA Revenue Service and the SA Police Service.

The proclamation said allegations had also been received that officials from these bodies failed to act in terms of appropriate legislation against offenders at ports of entry in the Northern Province.

It was alleged that officials failed to collect and irregularly collected fees from people passing through the borders and also wrongfully charged commission.

The unlawful and irregular storing of vehicles and goods in customs control areas and state warehouses by officials would also be probed.

In a separate proclamation Mandela authorised the unit to investigate claims that the "agriculture department and/or the Land and Agricultural Bank of SA" issued directives on the use of drought relief funds by agricultural co-operatives that contravened cabinet guidelines.

The unit would also probe allegations that co-operatives irregularly charged interest on farmers' debts and adjusted interest rates on the debts.

DB 19/4/99

HIGHPOINT, Hillbrow — once at the centre of Johannesburg's nightlife, now at the centre of Africa. From Lagos to Addis Ababa, Hillbrow has become the first port of call for sub-Saharan Africa's political and economic refugees.

At Highpoint — a shopping complex and high-rise block of flats — the large, paved piazza which links Hillbrow's two main streets has, like Piccadilly Circus or Trafalgar Square, always made a good meeting point

On the wooden benches outside the supermarket some Ethiopians and Congolese hang out alongside the local bad boys, who shuffle around with their "sporties" — the soft round-brimmed hats muggers seem to like — pulled down over their brows

On a noticeboard nearby, adverts for cheap accommodation are plentiful "I'm looking for two people to occupy the dining-room at Highpoint See Oscar"

"Looking for three people or two couples to share a large bedroom," reads another

Outside on the street, a restaurant has changed nationality from Greek to Angolan The squash club has become a school The sex-by-the-minute peepshow is still there, however, as is The Summit Club, an old striptease venue

On the pavement, it has got a lot more crowded, with people selling watches, bags, vegetables, beads and make-up

On the very edge of the curb, Geddy — dark, slight and 25 — has set up his stall selling onions and potatoes in the country for only one week, Geddy — all the way from Burundi — has already become part of the pavement economy

Further down the street, in a rundown hotel once part of a big national chain, Janet Muelgta, also 25, runs an Ethiopian restaurant from the lobby

Although she came to South Africa three years ago to go to Bible college, she never found a school, she says, and now serves traditional soups and stews with *injara*, a traditional type of pancake

Most foreigners stick together in their national groups, and this hotel, which also houses an Ethiopian church, is a popular centre for Ethiopians But the relaxed atmosphere and the presence of lots of locals is an encouraging sign that South Africans, who have in a short time become famous for their xenophobia, will become more tolerant as they become part of the continental melting pot

It is also a positive sign that, even with an election only six weeks away, most explicit expressions of xenophobia have been confined to those on the fringes — Louis Luyt's Federal Alliance and the conservative lobby group the Unemployed Masses of South Africa

Despite these glimmers of hope, South Africans are xenophobic to "a disturbing" extent, say the UN High Commission on Refugees and the South African Human Rights Commission.

The horrifying attack on three foreigners aboard a train by people returning from an anti-government protest against unemployment in September was a frightening illustration of just how xenophobic South Africans are The foreigners — two Senegalese and a Mozambican — were chased through a carriage before one was thrown out of a window and hit by an oncoming train and the other two were electrocuted by overhead wires when they tried to climb onto the roof to escape

Last Saturday, according to Amnesty International, a Burundian asylum seeker was attacked in a bar while out with a friend and his South African girlfriend After chasing him from

the bar, three white men beat him to death

Apart from South Africa's isolation from the continent, which all commentators and foreigners agree is a major cause of xenophobia, there are also other hidden social processes — such as rising unemployment and crime — that were unrelated to but began at about the same time as the influx of foreigners

These help to explain why xenophobia is so bad

Among the prevalent beliefs South Africans hold about foreigners are that "they have stolen our jobs", are responsible for rising crime and use up public resources

So, have foreigners taken the jobs of South Africans?

"There are foreigners doing work that South Africans could do," says Human Rights commissioner Jody Kollapen. A good example, says Kollapen, is farming.

According to Kobus Kleynhans of the SA Agricultural Union, farmers can employ Zimbabweans for six times less — they accept as little as R6 or R9 a day, he says. "For every rand we pay here, they pay six times less on the other side of the fence."

Besides agriculture, foreign workers are also prevalent in other industries where labour conditions are insecure catering and hotels, construction, domestic work and shops.

1999 ELECTION ESSAY

The rainbow

South Africa has become the melting pot of Africa since 1994. The influx of foreigners has brought with it a...

ST 18/4/99

seems, will have to have permission from local government before arriving in South Africa to trade It is an unrealistic requirement, say council officials, as councils are ill-equipped to do immigration work

These traders add value to tourist areas and have generally encouraged the growth of entrepreneurial skills previously dormant in South Africa

Bones Skhulu, general secretary of the SA Commercial Catering and Allied Workers' Union, says "You will often see that foreigners do things people here never think of doing, such as cutting hair at pavement stalls People used to look down on that"

But it is on the pavements that the problem of xenophobia is often found, says Pumla Rulashe of the UN High Commission

"People trying to set up little businesses often get attacked and have all their things removed They seldom say anything because they're scared"

Are foreigners responsible for the rising levels of crime?

Kollapen recently found a newsletter from the Parkview police station, which claimed that 98 percent of robberies and rapes in the area were committed by illegal aliens from Mozambique and Zimbabwe

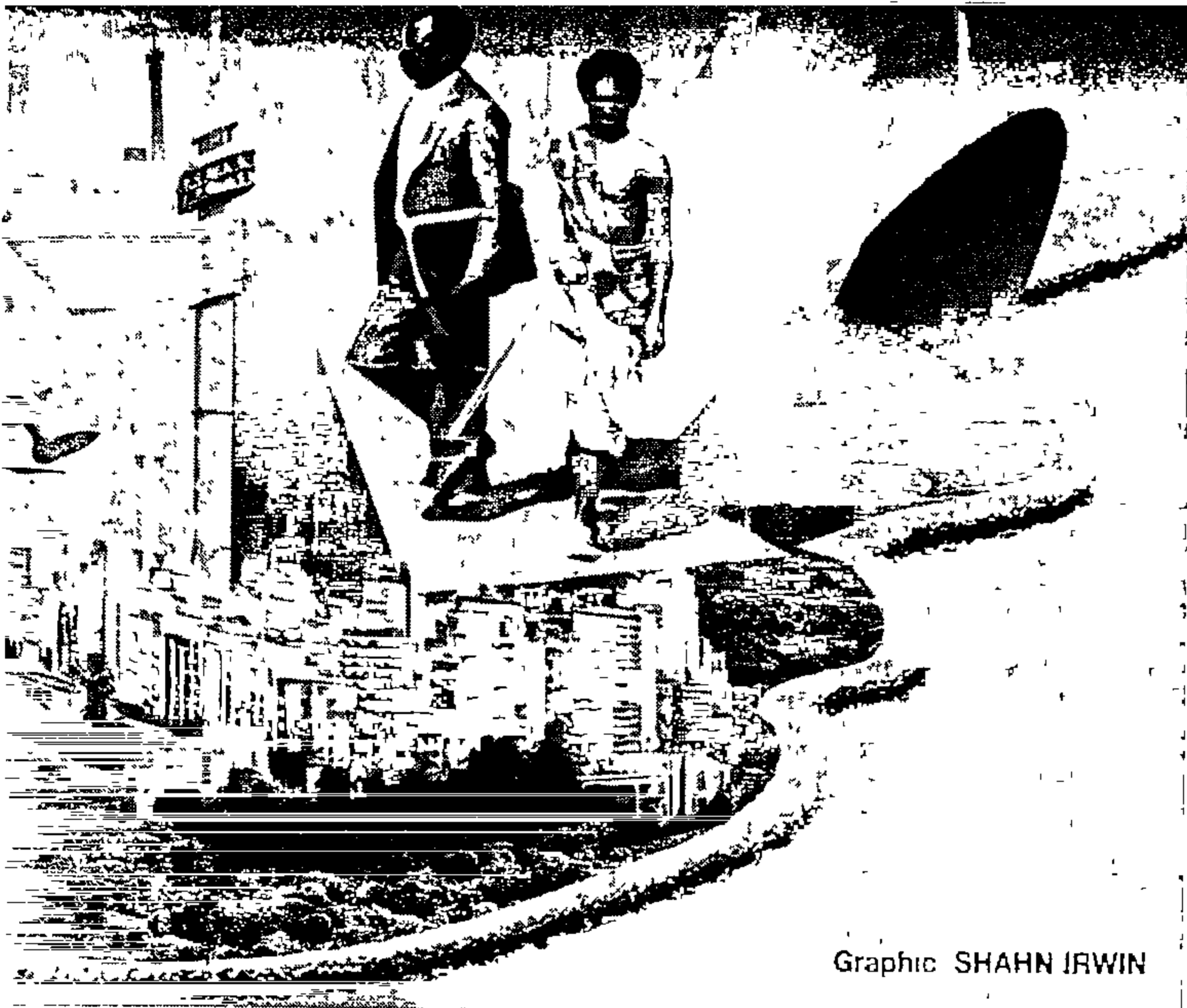
Similarly, a report in a Gauteng weekly paper recently quoted statistics supplied by the Brixton Murder and Robbery

Squad, which said bank robberies babweans

The Parkview concerned conceded port was not accounting questioned by the Brixton police to their stats

But Chris de Korte's crime analysis for a doubtful In the crimes committed, not arrested and it who committed Where suspects are statistics show that of serious crimes der, rape and 0,1 and 0,2 percent are Zimbabwean can in the case of





Graphic SHAHN IRWIN

Alienation

Since 1994 and, as CAROL PATON reports, it with it a rising tide of xenophobia

18/4/99

Squad, which said 60 percent of bank robberies involved Zimbabweans

The Parkview officer concerned conceded that her report was not accurate after being questioned by Kollapen, but the Brixton police are sticking to their stats.

But Chris de Kock, the head of crime analysis for the police, is doubtful. In the vast majority of crimes committed, suspects are not arrested and it is not known who committed the crime. Where suspects are arrested, statistics show that, in the case of serious crimes such as murder, rape and burglary, between 0,1 and 0,2 percent of suspects are Zimbabwean and Mozambican. In the case of bank rob-

beries, where there are fewer incidents and arrests are higher, 3,8 percent are Zimbabwean

De Kock concedes that his statistics may not be accurate. Often the citizenship of suspects is not recorded or is lied about. He also suspects that Brixton detectives — who deal with areas such as Hillbrow, where foreigners are prevalent — may often guess at a suspect's nationality

"But even if the figure was multiplied by 10, it is a drop in the ocean. I cannot see that foreigners are involved in crime in a way that is disproportionate to their numbers"

With an estimated seven million foreigners in the country (about 14 percent of the pop-

ulation), one might expect them to be involved in at least 14 percent of the crime, but this is not the case, he says.

But two streets away from Muluegta's Ethiopian restaurant is a scene which helps explain some of these perceptions.

It's the Nigerian part of town and, while other parts of Hillbrow may be busy, this street is teeming. At The Sands hotel — widely believed to be the centre of illicit drug dealing — young black men line the pavements, others sit in cars. The street is crowded with dealers and prostitutes, the music loud. People move constantly in and out of the hotel doors.

Skhulu and his comrades,

who often stay at a hotel across the road during union conferences, have been mugged here three times — something which he says will, ironically, force them to take their business out of town — like the white businesses they have criticised

Thirdly, do foreigners use up scarce public resources?

This is a question impossible to answer, say government officials. In Gauteng, where the number of illegals is highest, the use of health services is "probably a drop in ocean", says department spokesman Popo Maja. A far more serious problem is the use of provincial services by people from neighbouring provinces, for which Gauteng must reluctantly foot the bill

In schools, no records of nationality are asked for or kept, but official policy says illegals cannot attend schools. In the future, if the policy proposed in the White Paper becomes law, education and health public servants will be compelled to report illegals

Reitzes believes that because many foreigners are migrants and not settlers, they do not bring families with them and make little use of public facilities. The proposed policy aims to make it easier for skilled foreigners to work in South Africa and more difficult for unskilled people to stay and find work.

But enforcing this policy, which will require employers to pay a government levy for each foreigner they employ, will depend on the creation of a new Immigration Service, at a time when government's stated aims are to reduce the civil service and cut personnel costs

If the service is unable to enforce this policy, then the ability of foreigners — who under the new policy will find it easier to enter South Africa legally — to undercut locals by accepting lower wages will remain.

At the same time, the policy may encourage xenophobia — although this is against its stated aim — by requiring South Africans to identify themselves more frequently and by encouraging communities, trade unions and public servants to inform the Immigration Service of illegal foreigners

The employment of foreign immigrants — both legal and illegal — can be expected to continue. And without a concerted effort at education, xenophobia will continue to flourish, particularly among those people who have found themselves pushed into the margins of society, such as the unemployed and the homeless

Buthelezi backs home affairs chief

90 13/4/99

(236)

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi and his deputy, Lindiwe Sisulu, rose to the defence of embattled home affairs director-general Albert Mokoena yesterday, saying they would not suspend him while a government inquiry was under way.

"Mokoena is one of the highest-ranking officials of the state and is to be accorded the benefit of the doubt," Buthelezi and Sisulu said in a joint statement.

They were reacting to the latest allegations of wrongdoing by Mokoena, published by the Sunday Times, in a saga that began three weeks ago.

The newspaper charged at the weekend that Mokoena "was running a private basketball team from his government office in Pretoria in breach of the Public Service Act".

According to the Sunday Times, "Mokoena has three foreign players in his basketball team (Mecer Soweto Panthers) who are illegally registered as SA citizens".

He allegedly helped two of the foreign players to acquire SA identity books illegally.

Mokoena refused last week to answer the newspaper's questions relating to the players.

Buthelezi and Sisulu said yesterday that the minister had asked Mokoena "to respond in writing and in detail to each of the allegations published", despite the fact that Buthelezi had "received a general written denial from Mokoena two weeks ago".

According to a source, Buthelezi and Mokoena were expected to meet face-to-face in Pretoria today to discuss the allegations.

Buthelezi and Sisulu said that Mokoena had proved himself "to be a hard-working, reliable and dedicated civil servant... especially in respect of the challenge of producing the best possible elections (on June 2) under our circumstances".

A government investigation of the Sunday Times allegations is being conducted by the public service department, following a request by Buthelezi to the "responsible minister" — Public Service and Administration Minister Zola Skweyiya.

Buthelezi said he would announce the findings when he received them and would "take action if and when any corroborated fact of substance emerges".

It should also be noted, Buthelezi and Sisulu said, that Mokoena had written to the minister requesting "an independent investigation... and is fully co-operating".

The public protector's office last week conducted its own preliminary investigation of the matter.

A decision on what action, if any, it will take is expected soon.

The New National Party and Democratic Party have demanded Mokoena's immediate suspension as well as a criminal investigation.

However, Buthelezi and Sisulu said: "It would be unconscionable that anyone be suspended merely on the basis of a request from newspapers."

It was government's responsibility to investigate allegations, as it was doing in this case, but it would be irresponsible if it acted "merely on the basis of a trial by the media".

"In fact, it has happened too often that in analysing allegations, the media puts together unrelated circumstances, without the required... causality and culpability, or does not report the underlying facts correctly," Buthelezi and Sisulu said.

The government inquiry should "cover the full range of allegations made", and would verify whether Mokoena had contravened any laws or regulations and, if so, whether he could be held personally responsible.

Only if the allegations contained "prima facie substance" would the possibility of any action against Mokoena be considered, Buthelezi and Sisulu said.

According to the Sunday Times, Mokoena allegedly used state vehicles to ferry his basketball players to and from games. Gauteng home affairs officials gave the newspaper a list of registration numbers of vehicles "regularly used" by Mokoena in contravention of the Public Service Act.

The newspaper also said a player who defected from Mokoena's team claimed that the home affairs director-general had threatened to deport him if he played for a rival team and told him that his life would be in danger if he spilt the beans about their dealings.

Policy revamp on migrants (236)

SD 7/4/99

White paper focuses on meeting skills needs

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — Cabinet has given the go ahead for a new alien and immigration control policy which is more flexible in controlling people's entry into SA, but enforces stricter conditions of stay

At the heart of the proposed policy is a reliance on market forces to determine which skills are needed in SA.

The white paper on international migration also recognises the many shortcomings of the present system, which is based on maximum government control over foreigners

Increasingly employers wanting to recruit foreigners, and foreigners wanting to enter SA, have expressed dissatisfaction over officials' arbitrary decisions. At the same time, government has been forced to recognise that deportation of illegal immigrants has not worked, as it has realised it cannot seal SA's borders

The policy paper therefore proposes a radical overhaul of the system

Unveiling the white paper last week, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said it represented "an earnest effort to provide answers to many problems associated with international migration". The product of a specialist task team's year of study, it recommends scrapping the discredited Immigration Selection Board in favour of "objective criteria" administered by a regulatory agency to be known as the Immigration Service

This is intended to enable businesses to recruit foreign workers on condition that they pay predetermined sums into a skills training fund for SA workers

Linked to this is a proposal for government not to interfere in determining how many foreigners, or what skills, are needed in the labour market. Market forces will determine that

The paper's drafters are confident that the new immigration scheme will lead to a radical reduction in the number of illegal immigrants found in work places

Officials who will, as a result of the implementation of the new policy, be relieved of "paperwork and border control" will be transferred to "community inspectorates" which will police workplaces, communities and schools

The thinking is that by targeting these areas, SA will eventually become unattractive to illegal immigrants

The paper accepts the difficulty of forcibly repatriating the estimated 5-million illegal immigrants in SA, encouraging "voluntary departure" instead

The paper proposes dividing foreigners into two broad camps: workers and the rest, which includes tourists and businessmen. While workers fall under community inspectorates, tourists and businessmen will be eligible for once-renewable three-month entry permits

The immigration service will be empowered to negotiate corporate visas, to be given to domestic companies for a specified number of foreign workers on the basis of skills needs and administered by the companies themselves

For example, if a company negotiates 20 foreign worker permits and pays a specified sum into the training fund, it can issue them as it wishes as long as it has no more than 20 foreign workers. It takes responsibility for the eventual repatriation of its foreign workers

In future visitors from countries specified in regulations will not be required to obtain visas beforehand if they provide proof at the port of entry of a return air ticket or other prescribed guarantees

Those entering across SA's land borders must possess visas or travel documents issued by an SA diplomatic mission. Alternatively, at all points of entry, people may enter on the basis of a credit card procedure. An official "will swipe any major credit card to request authorisation for a prescribed amount which will be debited or automatically refunded once the visitor exits the country... this amount will be equal to the per unit overall cost to find and deport an illegal alien"

PARTNERS...

Minister of Home Affairs, Mangosuthu Buthelezi with Winnie Madikizela-Mandela also a member of the team who helped produce the White Paper

■ Pic: GEORGE MASHININI



Home Affairs tables strategy on international migration

CP 4/4/99
By MOIPONE KOMANE

SOUTH Africa's Home Affairs Department has tabled a white paper on a long term strategy to manage international migration.

The report was unveiled by Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi and African National Congress Women's League president Winnie Madikizela-Mandela who helped in the drafting of the white paper.

"This white paper acknowledges the limitations of the means and resources available to meet the expectations of the public for a properly regulated migration system," Buthelezi said.

He said that if properly implemented, the proposals may provide a solution to the many problems experienced by communities in respect of the present system of migration.

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"It will also create a more efficient and effective system of cultural, social and economic exchanges with other countries of the world, and will promote economic growth and tourism," he said.

It would also enable South Africa to achieve maximum control under the present circumstances over international migration.

The strategies proposed in dealing with illegal immigrants include the control of illegal immigrants and the creation of a cost effective and manageable system to achieve the desired results.

Buthelezi said the new strategies needed to receive a phased-in legislative implementation. He said the white paper had a realistic approach to the legislative and administrative shortcomings of the present system of alien control and the manage-

ment of international migration.

"It suggests a comprehensive strategy to reclassify the different categories of aliens who may enter the country on a temporary basis and those who may qualify for permanent residence. It also outlines a manageable system to administer the new classification in order to free existing capacity," said Buthelezi.

Pending finalisation of the implementation process, Home Affairs will focus its attention on developing specific ideas and proposals to deal with some of the most urgent issues, which are:

- * Lack of proper control of border crossing by illegal aliens from neighbouring countries.

- * Lack of an orderly repatriation framework for the illegals who return back soon after their deportation.

- * The xenophobia against foreigners living here legally.

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White paper aims to curb illegal migrants

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Star 3/4/99

A special security service should be set up to curtail illegal immigration, according to the White Paper on International Migration released in Pretoria this week.

Launching it, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said this move might be the solution to the country's migration problems.

Illegal aliens compete for scarce resources and jobs with millions of South Africans living in poverty, the paper says

Many of them are involved in crime, weakening the state by corrupting officials and fraudulently acquiring documents

"The best way to prevent further illegal immigration is to create in South Africa an environment which does not offer them the opportunities of employment and free available public services which they cannot find in their own countries."

Members of the proposed alien security service should be trained to conduct investigations, and the

body should have its own intelligence unit

Other proposals in the document include the creation of an immigration court, and minimum mandatory penalties for those employing and harbouring illegal aliens

For foreigners legally in the country, the paper provides for measures to discourage their employment. Employers should be compelled to pay a ratio of the alien's salary into a national fund for training South Africans.

The paper favours leniency for non-citizen spouses of South Africans. They should be granted permanent residence permits, which should apply to civil and customary marriages, common-law marriages and long-term homosexual relationships.

People to be barred from SA include those with infectious diseases or criminal records, citizens of certain countries, those previously deported, and members of criminal or terrorist organisations - Sapa

Govt sees emigrants as unpatriotic racists

As a row rages over giving South Africans abroad the right to vote, Heribert Adam argues in favour of it

BS9/4/99

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While prisoners are able to cast their vote in this year's elections, South Africans living abroad will not.

DENYING the vote to South Africans living abroad is not only a legal or constitutional issue. Long-term political costs of severing psychological bonds between the motherland and the substantial SA diaspora are overlooked.

At least five times more South Africans live permanently abroad than have officially declared their emigration, judging from the stated country of origin of new residents in the UK or Canada.

Most retain their SA passports fondly. Increased emigration of some of the country's best minds and skills has been widely recognised as a tragic loss to a struggling economy. It is the risk-takers, the self-confident, imaginative spirits, the younger, better educated professional classes with specialised expertise that enrich Canada and Australia but deprive SA of their training.

The wealthy beneficiaries of the "brain drain" should be requested to reimburse some education costs of each SA doctor or accountant admitted to the overseas profession, just as Pretoria could compensate Zim-

babwe or Nigeria for the exodus of skills to the southern tip of Africa.

President Mandela's flippanant "good riddance" suggests that most emigrants are unpatriotic racists.

On the contrary, most are apolitical technicians seeking career chances for themselves or their children abroad.

Disillusionment with crime or perceived better opportunities overseas where the currency appreciates often combine with a lasting nostalgia for the landscape of childhood.

Mandela also suggested that most would return after they realised how well SA was doing. Return they do in most cases — but for a holiday and rarely for good.

The longer emigrants are gone, the surer they are lost for the country.

Yet interest in SA political developments is high in the diaspora. It is only overshadowed by obsession for home rugby, soccer and cricket.

The expatriates in Sydney or Toronto keep up with political news, particularly negative ones, if only to justify to themselves

their ambivalent decision to leave.

Majority sympathies of emigrants undoubtedly lie with the critics of the African National Congress.

Most SA emigrants are white and Indian, with Jewish professionals overrepresented, and blacks hardly visible.

Were emigrants allowed to vote, the government obviously would receive a much smaller share of support in this group than locally. Hence, cutting citizens abroad off the voters roll benefits the ruling party.

Yet likely voters' preferences do not justify depriving citizens of their rights. This calculation may be a short-sighted victory for party politics but a long-term loss for the country as a whole.

Denying the vote sends the clear message, we no longer need you, we do not care about you, you have politically disenfranchised yourself by not being here.

The opposite should be communicated. "Your voting is an opportunity to show your support for our fledgling democracy. We appreciate your commitment and interest

wherever you live. Perhaps you may also come back and invest in the home you know so well."

Similar to university fundraisers that keep track of their alumni all over the world, SA missions could use voting to establish a register of interested South Africans abroad who could be mobilised for other support.

Voting is an opportunity to renew and affirm the fragile ties to the country of origin. Strengthening these bonds should be the goal of government policy.

All western democracies allow their nationals abroad a postal vote. The right of citizens to influence the government of their country of origin is taken for granted.

Nobody would dare do what SA does to its permanent residents abroad, let alone its temporary absentees from home. SA restricts the most basic democratic right to vote to local immobiles.

□ Adam is a visiting professor at the Graduate School of Business at the University of Cape Town.

against SA man's Thai wife

CT 13/14/99 (236)

High Court hears challenge to 'discrimination'

RONALD MORRIS

A NON-REFUNDABLE R7 500 fee for an immigration permit for the foreign-born spouse of a South African citizen has been justified by the Department of Home Affairs as a measure to stop "marriages of convenience."

That fee, which has since been increased to R10 020, is the subject of a Cape High Court challenge in a class action by a South African man, Rahim Dawood, and his Thai-born wife, Khahattha, which started in October last year

The respondents are Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi, director-general Albert Mokoena and Finance Minister Trevor Manuel

The couple was married at the Home Affairs offices in Cape Town on October 27, 1997

Khahattha is in possession of a temporary residence permit which expires in June and will not be renewed by Home Affairs unless they have received an application for an immigration permit, together with a fee of R7 750

The Dawoods contend that the fee unjustifiably violates the South African spouse's right to

dignity, equality and freedom of movement

On October 18, 1996, Buthelezi made the first amendment to the Aliens Control Regulations which exempted certain persons from the fee for an immigration permit

All applicants who were the spouse of a person permanently resident in South Africa were exempted from the fee

Dawood and his wife contend that the reason for the exemption was because it was recognised that it was unfair and unconstitutional to impose the fee on the class of person exempted

On March 30 last year, Buthelezi introduced a fifth amendment which altered the fees payable for a variety of certificates and permits

The fee for immigration permits was then increased to R7 750 and the exemption granted to foreign-born spouses was removed

Anton Katz, for the plaintiffs, argued before Acting Justice Belinda van Heerden that the Immigration Control Act recognises that it is appropriate that spouses of South African citizens and permanent residents are accorded preferential treatment. This shows the importance

means who cannot afford the trip abroad "

Katz said that many unemployed and poor persons lawfully and permanently resident in South Africa simply could not live together with their spouses in South Africa. This unfairly discriminated on the basis of wealth

"Poor people may not exercise their fundamental right to marry and cohabit, but rich persons can, simply because the respondents levy this hefty fee. Poor persons are being unfairly discriminated against," Katz said

The hearing continues

of the marital relationship in the eyes of the law

Katz said the requirement that applications for immigration permits be made abroad often caused considerable hardship

"A would-be-immigrant has to apply from abroad, and a foreigner in South Africa on a temporary residence permit who wishes to become a permanent resident must return to his/her state, apply from there and then await the outcome

"This requirement causes considerable hardship at best and will often pose an insurmountable obstacle, particularly to those of modest

Home Affairs gets

tough on Russian love

SA men keen on Slavic brides face jungle of red tape

(276) AR 17/14/99

WILLEM STEENKAMP

When is a love affair true love and when is it merely a bluff?

It's a question that has occupied the minds of romantic novelists for centuries. Now South African civil servants are trying to find the answer to the age-old debate.

Foreign nationals applying for South African citizenship after marrying South Africans must prove to the officials that they are deeply in love and not marrying simply to secure citizenship.

The Department of Home Affairs said this week people who married South Africans did not automatically qualify for permanent residence and, ultimately, citizenship.

"In such cases, immigration permit applications are scrutinised to determine whether a marriage of convenience is involved," said the department's Manasse Makwela.

"If Home Affairs officials established that couples were marrying simply to secure citizenship and if such marriages were annulled within a short time, the foreigners were removed from the country."

Earlier this year Saturday Argus reported that thousands of Russian women were keen to marry South African men.

The women, who complained they were sick and tired of "vodka-swilling" Russian men and the poor economic prospects in their country,

promised in advertisements on the Internet and in local newspapers that they would make ideal wives for South African men.

Quite a few local men took them at their word and "imported" their brides-to-be.

However, it seems that some of the Russian beauties who convinced South African men to pay their fares to this country did not keep their side of the bargain.

They simply disappeared into the cities to make it on their own, leaving several men a lot poorer - and unwell.

Many of these women became ladies of the night, offering their Russian "wares" at high prices.

Now the Department of Home Affairs is clamping down on foreigners who enter the country "under false pretences."

"We know that aliens enter the country under false pretences," Mr Makwela said.

"We are also aware that some women turn to illegal activities in cases where women become involved in illegal activities (such as prostitution) they are declared prohibited persons under the Aliens Control Act and will be removed to their country of origin."

Micky Rathbone, the owner of Euroclub, an organisation that helps South African men make contact with Russian sweethearts, said many of the Slavic women and South African men were indeed in

love, but it was becoming extremely difficult for these women to convince Home Affairs that they wanted to get married for reasons other than to secure South African citizenship.

"The Department of Home Affairs has told me on more than one occasion that they need proof that these couples are indeed deeply in love. They insist on proof that the couples have known each other for a reasonable time and have visited each other more than once."

"According to the department, Russian or other foreign women cannot simply come to South Africa, get married and become citizens. They must come here and visit their husbands-to-be or the men must visit them in their country," said Ms Rathbone.

"Then there has to be a follow-up visit and only after that will officials consider issuing a temporary residence permit. Only after another two years of marital bliss will the foreigner obtain South African citizenship."

Ms Rathbone said South African men were becoming fed up with local women, saying they were difficult to please and very materialistic.

"Russian women on the other hand are hardworking, warmhearted and loving, and that is why several South African men have married Russian women. These men are highly satisfied and happy with their new wives."

"But there has definitely been a

clampdown on these visits and marriages to Russian women in particular."

"The red tape one has to go through at the Department of Home Affairs to bring these women to South Africa is mind boggling," said Ms Rathbone.

"You have to buy return tickets, give the department copies of your bank statements, a list of your assets and also pay a deposit of about R10 000, which you lose if a woman does not return to her country within the specified period."

"Only if you supply proof that there has been a long-term relationship between yourself and your foreign sweetheart, involving more than one visit, will authorities be convinced that it is not a marriage of convenience," Ms Rathbone said.

A local businessman, who asked not to be named, said he had been battling for more than eight months to get a visa for his Russian girlfriend.

"This woman has two degrees, is a beautiful person, holds down an excellent job in Russia and is keen to come and visit. We have been writing to each other and I dearly want to meet her face to face."

"But I simply cannot get approval from the Department of Home Affairs," he said.

He is considering flying to Russia to meet his "Svadhans" face-to-face. "I will not give up. I believe this is the woman for me," he said.

The Euro Year of Goodwill... Options... Directory... Window... Help...

Home Affairs... Slavic Brides... Dating... SA and Russian Love...

 ID# 2604 Name: Nantia 27/16 cm R. Russian CIS Residing in South Africa Available for marriage	 ID# 3101 Name: Spring 20/166 cm R. Russian CIS Residing in South Africa Available for marriage	 ID# 3188 Name: Vinita 16/165 cm R. Russian CIS Residing in South Africa Available for marriage	 ID# 3273 Name: Julia 16/168 cm R. Russian CIS Residing in South Africa Available for marriage	 ID# 5172 Name: Janyia 26/167 cm R. Uzbekistan Residing in South Africa Available for marriage	 ID# 6202 Name: Hena 16/167 cm R. Ukraine Residing in South Africa Available for marriage
 ID# 6615 Name: Hong 17/176 cm R. Moldova Residing in South Africa Available for marriage	 ID# 6737 Name: N. N. Hanks 26/172 cm R. Russian CIS Residing in South Africa Available for marriage	 ID# 7069 Name: Olga 26/164 cm R. Russian CIS Residing in South Africa Available for marriage	 ID# 8379 Name: I. Yuba 26/159 cm R. Kazakhstan Residing in South Africa Available for marriage	 ID# 8576 Name: Anatalia 27/175 cm R. Russian CIS Residing in South Africa Available for marriage	 ID# 8604 Name: Olga 26/176 cm R. Ukraine Residing in South Africa Available for marriage
 ID# 8859 Name: Fabiana 26/164 cm R. Russian CIS Residing in South Africa Available for marriage	 ID# 9126 Name: I. B. B. B. B. 26/165 cm R. Belarus Residing in South Africa Available for marriage	 ID# 9228 Name: N. K. K. K. K. 27/164 cm R. Russian CIS Residing in South Africa Available for marriage	 ID# 9488 Name: Natalia 26/155 cm R. Russian CIS Residing in South Africa Available for marriage	 ID# 9547 Name: Aisa 26/170 cm R. Kazakhstan Residing in South Africa Available for marriage	 ID# 9729 Name: Svetlana 27/167 cm R. Belarus Residing in South Africa Available for marriage

LOVE SITE an example of one of the Internet sites advertising Russian women seeking partners

Web of knowledge set to bring skills back

The effects of the brain drain from SA can be curbed by online initiatives, writes Adam Gordon

DURING the next few months the leadership baton will change hands in SA, creating the environment for a new era to handle one of the country's oldest and trickiest problems the brain drain

On a recent visit to SA, I was faced with two inescapable observations first that even after the end of conscription the exodus of skilled people from SA is significant, for whatever variety of reasons. Second, the "chicken run" remains a heated and much-debated issue, with associated mistrust and name-calling

President Nelson Mandela, with his famous "good riddance" and "let them go" remarks last September, has, if anything, reinvigorated the view that those who leave are traitors, while real South Africans stay. Of course, temporary and permanent migrants continue to point to their right to choose and make the best possible life for themselves, escape crime and so on

Yet what is curious in all this is that the basic thinking about emigration has not changed. It is still seen as "drive the emigrant to the airport, wave bye-bye, as the person disappears into the mist, taking away precious taxpayer-paid-for education and skills."

However this 20th century model of exile is crumbling fast, and is an absolutely useless guide to the future. Two things are pushing it. One is advances in information and communications technology, the other is growth of the knowledge economy

Advances in digital communications are already clear. The basic shape of the future is easily seen in 10, or perhaps 15 years, information technology will be at the point where real-time text, image, audio and video communication between individuals and groups across the globe will be fast and cheap

As data platforms converge all communications devices will seamlessly access the vast online world, where much of life, work, and play will occur

To get a grip on this future it is crucial to look past the current maddening "drip, drip" slowness of the internet and forward to fibreoptic and satellite-enabled bandwidth-rich internet televideo that will connect societies and infrastructures built on old realities of distance

As face-to-face meetings around virtual "desks" become routine, it will be of trivial importance where each cybercommuter actually lives on the planet

Fast broadband communications meshes with the rise in importance of knowledge work. Now, with automation and computerisation doing much of the drudge work, the value of labour is primarily in knowhow and expertise. It is in ability to design buildings, or decode formulas, or interpret balance sheets and so forth

SA is short of skilled and professional labour, which of course makes a loss of educated emigrants more acute. Yet the good news is that it is precisely the knowledge skill sets that travel well online. The educated skills that leave on a plane easily return on a fibreoptic line

To make this happen we need a change of policy. We need to stop bellyaching and finger-pointing about brain drain. It is unstoppable. Even if conditions in SA were perfect, educated professionals would still be mobile, as are professionals from all countries these days

Rather, we should be busy with a co-ordinated government and industry response to provide a network of online forums, web sites, and media and technical capability to attract and channel the skills and energy of South Africans abroad back into the local economy

Whatever shape it finally takes, we need now, in the national interest, to start making a clear and comprehensive cyber re-entry forum for South Africans abroad. So when we need specialised skills, we can find people, and they can find us, and pulling together the best team of people from wherever they are becomes a reality

Let us be clear we are not talking about expatriates giving locals a handout in some bleeding-heart charity scheme. If people telecommute and work in SA's economy they get paid — and presumably pay taxes — just as if they had come in for a day's work from down the street

Of course there will be unintended emigrants. Paying work will, however, attract the right people. Also, most South Africans have a sentimental attachment to their homeland on which no price can be put

Telework skeptics like to point out virtual work is a nonstarter as people find they really have to meet, shake hands, eyeball each other and go out for beers. True. Now and then people will surely need to travel to meet and greet

Yet indications are much of the real work can and will be done in teams, with people telecommuting from home towns or home offices. Under such conditions we may find the brain drain is not such a drastic loss. In fact, the flip side is true. Once supercommunications channels are in place, having an expatriate community will be to a state's advantage

South Africans abroad will bring in a mix of foreign skills, experience and contacts. In the same way that global Chinese expatriates are participating in China's renewal, and the Jewish diaspora remains a significant source of support for Israel's economy, South Africans abroad, when properly included, will be a great resource for this great country

Gordon is a business futures strategy consultant in Washington

SA loses billions in taxes as brain drain continues

Reneé Grawitzky

GOVERNMENT lost R8,4bn of potential income tax as a result of emigration by graduates and professionals between 1994 and 1997, says a University of SA Graduate School of Business Leadership study

The study, compiled by Reinhold Joubert, associate professor of economics, concludes that the costs of emigration may not appear drastic in a single year, but "if the trend continues it will have a drastic result on SA" in the long run "Emigration is like syrup running from a spoon. If it starts to run, it is difficult to stop"

The study estimates that graduates and professionals, contributing 1,5% of gross domestic product (GDP), emigrated in the three years to 1997. The study is based on the work of Nobel prize-winning economist Gary Becker, who developed the human capital model, which is used to explain the reasons why people choose, for example, to study further, resort to crime or emigrate

While exchange controls existed in

SA, "human capital was the most excessive loss of capital"

Joubert and Fourie say the average graduates in 1997 had the potential to contribute R7,4m over their working lives to the economy

They calculate that the brain drain in the four years under review cost the SA economy R285bn in potential contributions to overall GDP over the working lives of graduates who emigrated in that time

SA was regarded as an immigration country until 1994, but has become an emigration country. Factors in the change include crime, expectations of economic growth and potential earnings and the promulgation of the Employment Equity Act

The researchers say emigration is a rational response to the act, which is aimed at making the workplace representative of the racial balance of the population as quickly as possible

Assuming constant 3% employment growth, it would take 40 years to "reach a natural shift in human capital where all graduates represented the population composition"

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BD 28 [4] 99

SA still behind farming venture in Mozambique

PAUL FAUVET

Maputo - Trevor Manuel, the finance minister, has said that the South African government remained committed to the troubled Mosagrus agricultural project

The project has attracted a small number of South African commercial farmers who are settling in the northern Mozambican province of Niassa

Manuel met last week with Tomas Salomao, his Mozambique counterpart.

He said Pascoal Mocumbi, the Mozambican prime minister, would meet soon with Thabo Mbeki, the deputy president, to discuss ways of taking the cash-strapped project forward.

The Mosagrus Development Corporation (SDM) is a joint venture between the Mozambican government and the South African Chamber for Agricultural Development in Africa (Sacada)

Both sides have two representatives on the SDM board. The initial capital for the company was supposed to be \$1 million,

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half coming from each partner

The Mozambicans complain that they have put up their \$500 000 in full but that Sacada has given no sign of a similar commitment

Carlos Agostinho do Rosario, the Mozambican agriculture minister, said if Sacada was not interested, then Mozambique would look for a different South African partner.

The stalled tariff negotiations for electricity from the Cahora Bassa dam hydro-electric plant were also discussed

The dam's major client should be Eskom, but because of a dispute over the tariff, Eskom is currently not purchasing Cahora Bassa power.

No decision was reached as Portugal, the third party involved, holds over 80 percent of the shares in HCB, the Cahora Bassa operating company.

HCB wants a 50 percent increase in the tariff to help pay off its debts to the Portuguese treasury Eskom, however, insists on the lower tariff - *Independent*

Foreign Service

CT (MR) 28/4/99

(236)

Illegal aliens: Keep SA for South Africans, says Van Schalkwyk

CT 19/5/99

KOMATIPOORT: South African taxpayers cough up at least R1,25 billion every year to provide illegal aliens with basic services such as schooling, water and medical care, NNP leader Marthinus van Schalkwyk said yesterday.

Millions more are spent on repatriating those caught, he said, with further losses incurred by the aliens' contribution to the spread of HIV, job losses and criminality.

During a visit to Komatipoort, near the border between SA and Mozambique, Van Schalkwyk told reporters this money could have been used to build at least 40 000 houses or 14 000 classrooms.

"Illegal immigration is a problem that places a huge burden on the poor, the unemployed and each and every taxpayer," he said.

Illegal aliens in SA are thought to number between 2,5 million and as much as eight million — or one fifth of the population.

Colonel Hein Visser, officer commanding of Group 33, which is responsible for border control based in Nelspruit, said nearly 30 000 would-be immigrants were arrested trying to cross the border between Komatipoort and Josefsdal last year. So far this year 7 423 have been arrested.

Van Schalkwyk said political stability and socio-economic upliftment in the entire Southern African region are the only long-term solution to the problem of illegal immigration. "In the meantime, however, a tougher government with the political will to keep SA for South Africans is the only answer."

The NNP's proposed solutions include heavy fines to those employing illegal aliens, eliminating fraud, corruption and bribery at border posts, and improving the capacity of the police and intelligence units to identify illegal immigration hotspots — Sapa

OFFICIAL!

PROBE BACKS SUNDAY TIMES:
HOME AFFAIRS DG SHOULD
FACE SIX CRIMINAL CHARGES

Mokoena is dodgy

MZILIKAZI WA AFRIKA
(296)
ST 9/5/99

A GOVERNMENT probe into disgraced Home Affairs Director-General, Albert Mokoena, has backed a Sunday Times investigation by recommending that he face at least six criminal charges for misconduct and misusing state property.

The Public Service and Administration office is to recommend to Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi that Mokoena be officially suspended and charged three weeks ago, the Public Protector also called for his suspension.

The report by Public Service and Administration Deputy Director-General Mpmi Sikhosana is to be handed to Buthelezi on Tuesday. Sikhosana said it would also be given to President Nelson Mandela. He confirmed that allegations made by the Sunday Times against Mokoena "proved to be true".

Sikhosana refused to comment on the findings of the report, but the Sunday Times has established that, among other things, it recommends Mokoena be charged for:

- Performing remunerative work outside the public service without permission from the Department of Public Service and Administration or Buthelezi,
- Misusing state property and government facilities for private business, and
- Misconduct in approaching a computer company for sponsorship for his basketball team while the company had a contract with Home Affairs.

Investigations into other possible charges are continuing.

The Public Service and Administration report followed a Sunday Times investigation which found that Mokoena was running a basketball team from his office, that he misused state property and that foreign players in his team were granted South African citizenship shortly after he took up his post at Home Affairs.

Meanwhile, a dispute has broken out over whether Mokoena's absence from office will affect the June 2 election. The Independent Electoral Commission yesterday questioned a claim by Buthelezi that the department might not be able to deliver outstanding bar-coded ID books if Mokoena was not reinstated.

Shortly before the Public Protector, Selby Bagwa, recommended three weeks ago that the director-general be suspended, Buthelezi sent Mokoena on "special leave", barring him from Home Affairs buildings. But during a radio interview this week, Buthelezi said he was worried about the election because he was concerned about whether the department would be able to deliver outstanding bar-coded IDs by Saturday, as promised, without Mokoena.

Buthelezi said in the interview on Radio 702 "I met with Sikhosana, who is doing the inquiry, and he told me that he was now just writing the report, and I was wondering in view of that fact whether Mr Mokoena's leave could not be withdrawn".

He said Mokoena had been given special leave so that he could not interfere with the inquiry. Because the report was already being written and Sikhosana was no longer quizzing people, there was no reason why Mokoena should not be back at work because he had a very special assignment. Buthelezi said that in the light of the fact that the election was only 25 days away, he was very anxious.

"I had a long meeting with Dr Lindiwe Sisulu [Deputy Home Affairs Minister] and two other senior officials on this matter, and in Cabinet today [Wednesday] there was a very long, long discussion about it and there is a lot of anxiety as a result of the fact that Mr Mokoena is not there," he said.

But IEC chief electoral officer Mandla Mchunu said yesterday he could not understand why Buthelezi wanted Mokoena back. "What Mokoena is needed for I do not know. His acting director-general can do the job and he has the same powers," he said. "Buthelezi must explain what Mokoena's role is in the election."

By yesterday afternoon Buthelezi had failed to respond to a list of questions faxed by the Sunday Times to his office on Friday night.

Mokoena's secretary, Sonja Beukes, was summoned on Friday to the Public Protector's office after she allegedly tried to interfere with some of the witnesses in the investigation.

With nothing to lose, they're drawn by bright lights

236) *RAV 8/5/99*

It is strange to see motorcyclists in military uniform driving into town with a passenger on the back - the passenger has no helmet and is in fact not a passenger, he's a prisoner. The camouflaged South African National Defence Force soldiers wear white helmets. They have automatic weapons strapped to their backs.

Their passengers usually have nothing save a small knapsack with a few clothes, a look of fatigue, mud on their shoes and an unwashed look about them as they sigh at having been arrested for crossing the border illegally.

Zimbabweans have crept across the border in their thousands, hoping that on the other side of the banks of the ankle-deep and crocodile-infested Limpopo River there will be a rand-earning job that will save them from dire poverty.

When they get caught, they're not too perturbed - they know that next time they run the gauntlet through the mopane and baobab bush of the far north of Northern Province, they must simply not get caught again.

Many are found walking through the scrub bushveld at night, like startled rabbits in the glare of a patrol vehicle's lights. Some have been known to catch a ride into Johannesburg by hanging precariously on the roof of a train for the 500km journey.

The border-hoppers caught in the afternoon will spend a night in police cells. The rest will be handed over to the Zimbabwe police at Beit Bridge, across the Limpopo 12km away the same day they are caught.

"We used to charge them and fine them R50 before deporting them," says Messina police spokesperson Sergeant Johan Boshoff. "But considering the time it takes to do the paperwork and the cost in manpower, it's not worth the money."

Messina police arrested more than 3,000 border-hoppers in January, July and August last year when the numbers were highest. The monthly average was 683. The figure for January to March this year is 2,346.

"From October to December there's a decrease in people crossing illegally into South Africa because it's nearing Christmas and they want to be with their families. In January it picks up again because they are looking for work and money. Then they go down until March, when it goes up again because people come to South Africa to get

in South Africa. "I passed Standard 9 but I have never been able to find a job," he laments.

Unlike most, he did not consider going to Johannesburg.

"I just hoped to get work in Messina. I have a wife and three children to feed in Zimbabwe and I have lost everything I planted in my fields to birds."

He's not sure what will happen to him once he is handed over to Zimbabwean police.

"I'll probably have to pay a fine. If I have no money I'll sit in jail for a few months."

He is not sure that President Robert Mugabe's demise would be Zimbabwe's economic answer. He simply shrugs his shoulders and says that all he can think about is trying to find work in South Africa.

Illegals are willing to risk life and limb by crawling through holes in the fences that line the border.

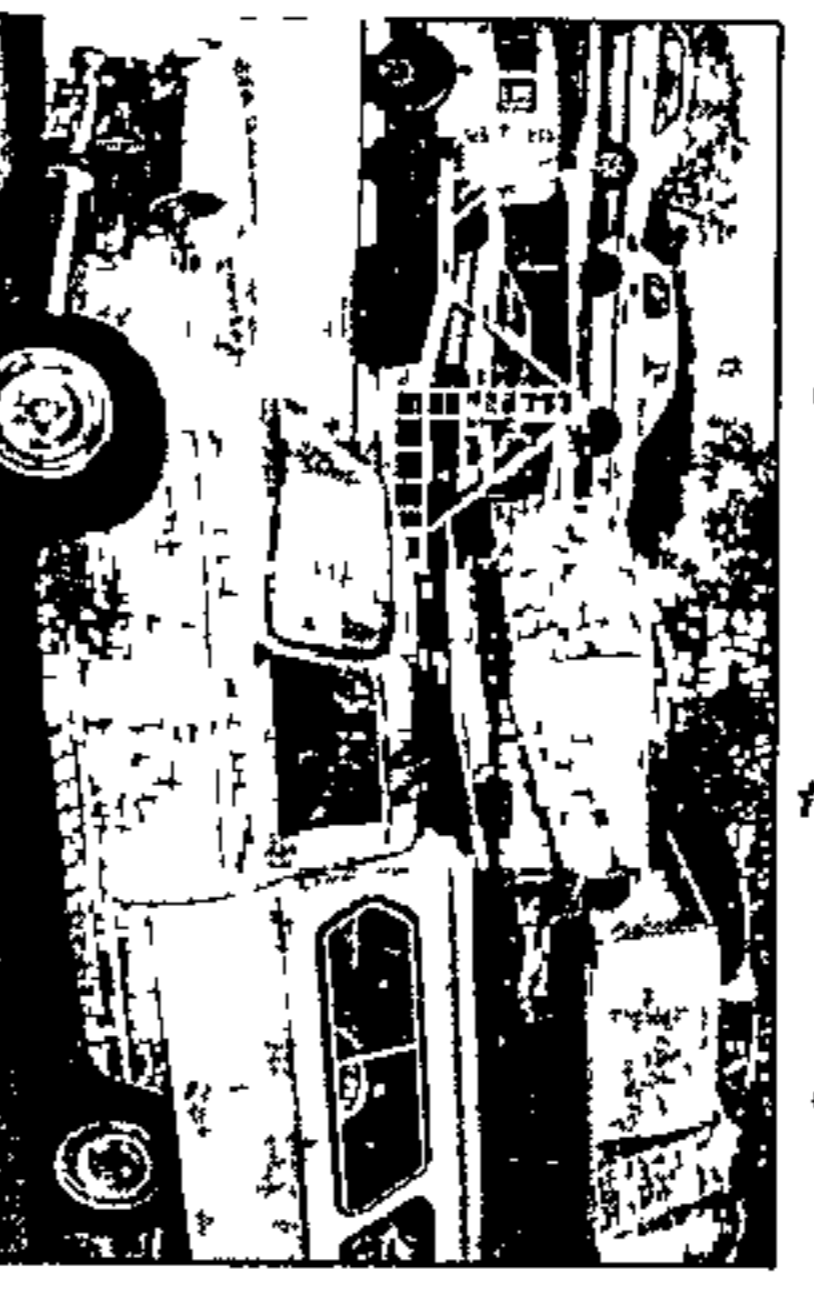
The once-electrified fences are no longer switched on. There are three fences to deter the illegals, and the middle one is razor-wired.



GOING HOME Illegal immigrants are issued deportation orders and then returned to Zimbabwe where they'll simply try again.

But the more pressing problem are the crocodiles that unofficially patrol the waters of the Limpopo, particularly where the water is dammed by a low wall near Beit Bridge.

Boshoff says some illegals drown when crossing while the river is in flood, and others are attacked and eaten by crocodiles.



WEIGHED DOWN Formed (in the background) and informal trade meet and cross paths at the border.

money for the Easter weekend," says Boshoff.

The arrested illegals sit in a courtyard shaded by fig trees at the police station. Some are on benches, others sit on the thick roots. Their demeanour is one of quiet acceptance. Police clerks fill out deportation forms, then they're loaded up for the ride back home.

Amos Kwinda (27) says he jumped the fence that same morning in desperation to get work

Most of these unfortunates are actually decent people coming to South Africa because of economic circumstances in Zimbabwe.

"We do have some cases of Zimbabwean people breaking into houses near the border, like hunting camps and during the off season when they are empty," says Boshoff. "But there are others who cross the border legally to trade and take advantage of the cheaper South African goods. In Messina, hawkers are popular, and are welcomed with open arms."

They collectively spend millions of rands every month and have become an important source of revenue for the town's business sector.

The one-horse town is increasingly becoming a bazaar of formal and informal shops aimed at serving hawkers from across the Limpopo.

Wholesalers are forward in their sales pitches, and their signs read, "Zim hawkers world" and "Zimbabweans welcome".

Messina's town council is unable to provide a count of exactly how much money comes in from the traders. But wholesale traders such as brothers Jayson and Mike Rana estimate the Zimbabweans contribute about 30% of the town's revenue, particularly since the closure of five copper mines.

The trading boom has sprung up over the past 10 years as the cost of living in

cutting ties with the World Bank.

Since the Zimbabwe hawker boom, new businesses have gravitated towards Messina, intent on cashing in on the market. Some are Pakistanis, who have come via Zimbabwe or Johannesburg.

While many hawkers simply hop over the border to Messina for shopping, many arrive in the town having been on selling sprees throughout South Africa - door to door, on pavements, at flea markets - peddling arts and crafts.

Messina becomes their last-stop shopping mall as they jump off the trains, rands in hand. One of the Spoornet trains which runs between Johannesburg and Messina has officially been named the "Dolly" in recognition of the crocheted wears Zimbabwean women produce on board.

For the traders' convenience, the third class train used to cross the Limpopo River and ease the congestion at the border, but last year Zimbabwe's shortage of customs and immigration officials forced the service to operate only from Messina.

"We have to come down and sell because we need to help our husbands earn money. Life has become very expensive in Zimbabwe," says Rlopa Mangoro while boarding the "Dolly" for Johannesburg, from where she'll go to Nelspruit, where she sells her clothes. On her way home, after earning R2,000 if it's a good month, she'll get off at Messina, stock up and head home.

But as xenophobia mounts in South African cities, there is no clear distinction made between those who crawl in illegally and those who come with official papers.

South Africa's status as the economic powerhouse of Africa is a bright light attracting those who have nothing to lose.

Jayson Rana points out: "A lot of people are building their own houses in Zimbabwe, so building materials are popular too."

Their stores deliver goods over the border, but they don't accept payment in Zimbabwean currency, which has devalued by 65% over the past 18 months - and might not be set to improve as Minister of Commerce and Industry Nathan Shamuyarira makes "up yours" statements about Zimbabwe

cutting ties with the World Bank.

Since the Zimbabwe hawker boom, new businesses have gravitated towards Messina, intent on cashing in on the market. Some are Pakistanis, who have come via Zimbabwe or Johannesburg.

Migrants cast in a new light

Survey finds many of them are not impoverished, illiterate or parasites

By THEMBISILE MAKGALEMELE

Many migrants to South Africa from neighbouring countries - both legal and illegal - don't plan to make this country their home.

The finding of research just completed by the Southern African Migration Project (Samp) provides a very different profile of African immigration from the stereotypical image of the impoverished, illiterate and parasitic alien.

The majority of migrants interviewed by Samp came from SA's closest neighbours - Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. And most of them see South Africa as a better country in terms of job opportunities, but they still have strong links with their home country and said they did not intend to settle here.

Respondents said they

of the Basotho said they travelled home at least once a year, while only 23% of Ivorians, 10% of Nigerians and 6% of the Senegalese travelled home at least once a year.

A total of 93% of those interviewed claimed to be in the country officially and 73% have at least some secondary school education, while 22% have some tertiary education.

Contrary to previous claims that migrants are here to take jobs from South Africans, the Samp survey reported that of those interviewed, 52% said they came for various "non-economic reasons" and only 48% of respondents gave income-related reasons for being in the country.

As far as incomes were concerned, 46% of those interviewed said they were earning less than R1 000 a month, 18% more than R3 000 a month and just 5% earned more than R7 000 a month.

While 51% said that, overall, conditions were better here than in their home countries - with basic services like education, water, healthcare and economic opportunities clearly deemed better - 28% reckoned they were worse off.

A total of 55% of the migrants were satisfied with life in South Africa, but 45% were either neutral or unsatisfied, and considered



JUST PASSING THROUGH: Contrary to popular belief, many migrants don't want to live in South Africa permanently. Photograph: DUNCAN GUY

would rather raise a family in their home country, where there is access to basic resources and where freedom, peace and democracy are deemed to be good or better than in South Africa.

In the sample, 88% said they planned to stay for only six months and few migrants have considered settling in South Africa permanently because they have responsibilities in their home country.

In the survey, 90% said they owned a house in their home country, 42% were either the head of the household or the spouse of the head, and 49% were either married or cohabiting. And the overwhelming majority of those who were married were married to a national of their home country.

While 50% travelled home at least once a year, more frequent trips were made by migrants from neighbouring countries. Responses showed that 77% of Zimbabweans, 86% of Mozambicans and 89%

crime, lack of safety and xenophobia to be the worst aspects of living in South Africa. Many of the immigrants complained that xenophobic sentiments were growing at an alarming rate.

According to the report, there were disturbing responses in reported treatment by black South Africans, the police and the government.

Criminalisation of migrants as a result of media stereotyping, and difficulties in obtaining official documentation, have led to serious human rights abuses of foreigners by the police, immigration authorities and the public, the report added.

A majority of Basotho intend to stay in the country permanently, expect full economic and political rights while in South Africa and would like to see a much freer movement across the border. Basotho felt more comfortable in the country than any other group, the survey found.

Namibian refugees get asylum

(236) ET 13/7/99

GABORONE: Botswana has granted asylum to 2 232 Namibians who are seeking secession of the Caprivi Strip from Namibia. They took refuge in Botswana late last year claiming they were being persecuted by Namibia's armed forces.

A statement from the office of President Festus Mogae said yesterday that the number includes 15 of the group's leaders. Two of these leaders were accepted by Denmark.

The leaders were given asylum in February but, mindful of its relations with Namibia, Botswana made their refugee status conditional on their being settled outside the country.

"Botswana has taken the decision in accordance with its obligation as a signatory to international and regional covenants governing refugees," the statement said.

Namibia is a signatory to the same refugee conventions.

Botswana said it is committed to the principle of voluntary repatriation as a lasting solution to the problem and will collaborate with Namibia to that end.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) regional director Meshake Kabede said he believes the men will face the wrath of the Namibian government if they go back. "I do not doubt they will be persecuted in one form or another."

The UNHCR approached the US, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the Scandinavian countries to take them. Denmark earlier accepted Meshake Muyongo and Chief Boniface Mamil.

The organisation is still negotiating to find countries to take the remaining 13, but Kabede is confident they will find homes — "not in the same country, or together, but in one of the five areas we have approached," he said.

Botswana wants those who remain to opt for voluntary repatriation. Under the convention on refugees, they cannot be sent home without their consent.

Namibian President Sam Nujoma has said the Caprivi secessionists would be welcome to return home.

"They left Namibia because they had been misled by failed politicians," he said — Sapa

BB 31/5/99

Buthelezi denies delay in suspension

(236)

QUEENSTOWN — Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi denies suggestions that he is delaying suspending his controversial director-general Albert Mokoena.

He said yesterday that he had received an instruction from President Nelson Mandela that Mokoena be suspended and charged with misconduct only on Friday evening.

Mandela's instruction followed a report by deputy director-general of the public service Mpumi Sikhosana urging that Mokoena face counts of misconduct for owning and managing a basketball team without permission, the misuse of state vehicles, not dealing effectively with state funds and conflict of interest.

In reaction, the New National Party said Buthelezi's "loyalty" to Mokoena was puzzling and that he owed the public an explanation.

"He also owes the large numbers of voters a public apology for his department's bungling with the processing of identity books," the party said.

The Freedom Front welcomed the fact that, according to news reports, steps would be taken against Mokoena.

"The only way to root out maladministration, irregularities and corruption is by mercilessly and consistently acting against those who make themselves guilty of it," the Freedom Front said.

Sadly, the party said, there had not been consistent action from the African National Congress (ANC) government in this regard.

"The ANC for example still refuses to act against the minister of health, Nkosazana Zuma, in spite of mismanagement that has occurred under her."

"Instead of acting against her, the ANC has rather rewarded her with the third place on its candidate list" — Sapa

Kevin O'Grady

KOMATIPPOORT — Steps had to be taken to stem the flow of illegal immigrants across SA's porous borders, New National Party leader Marthinus van Schalkwyk said yesterday during a visit to SA's border with Mozambique.

Van Schalkwyk visited one of eight control rooms along a 62km electric fence that forms part of the border between Mpumalanga and Mozambique and was briefed by Col Hein Visser of the SA National Defence Force on efforts to catch and deport illegal aliens.

Visser said 7 423 illegal aliens had been arrested in the area so far this year, compared

NNP calls for tighter borders

with last year's 29 481 and 27 591 in 1997. Of those arrested this year, 40 had been in possession of illegal weapons and 300 were involved in the drug trade, Visser said.

He said that the fence carried only a 12-volt current and, when crossed, triggered an alarm in one of the control rooms to which SANDF members reacted.

The fence could be set to carry a lethal current, but this could be authorised only by Parliament. The fence did, however, serve as

an early warning system.

Van Schalkwyk said official estimates that there were 2,5-million illegal immigrants in SA meant a cost to the taxpayer of R1,25bn a year for the provision of medical services, education, electricity and water, as well as other basic services.

This amount, which excluded indirect costs such as those associated with the spreading of HIV/AIDS, could be used to build 40 000 houses or 14 000 classrooms.

He proposed several steps to reduce the number of people entering and living in SA illegally. These included more effective border controls, empowering the SANDF to maintain the systems that were in place and handing down heavy fines to people who employed illegal immigrants.

The NNP also wanted the introduction of technology to track illegal immigrants and believed steps should be taken against corruption, fraud and bribery at SA's border posts.

SA should also encourage and support development in neighbouring countries through Southern African Development Community structures, Van Schalkwyk said.

BD 19/5/99 (236)

EMIGRATION

Australia is by far SA's best colonisation effort

(237b)

CF (NR) 26/5/99

DAVID GLEASON

Australia has long been South Africa's most successful effort at colonisation. South Africans of all colours and persuasions - but mostly whites - continue to pour into the continent, and then go on to carve out for themselves positions of respect, prominence and wealth.

The official statistics show the extent of South African immigration. The Australian government believes that from 1990 to 1997 18 320 South Africans took up residency. That's an average of 2 230 a year, ranging from 1 000 in 1993 to 3 710 in 1997.

These numbers take no account of the steady drift in emigration from South Africa which began in the late 1970s and accelerated through the 1980s. And, as it turns out, 1998 proved a bonza year for Australia - it harvested another 4 770 of this country's brightest and best.

Why do so many South Africans see Australia as the natural repository of their dreams? The truth is, many South African immigrants to Australia do reasonably well, but are not mega rich. Most are lawyers, accountants and professionals. They would expect to earn high in the middle in-

come range, but nothing that would classify them as super-earning studs. In any event, it's well proven that most immigrants tend to outperform wherever they end up - they are driven by the urgent need to succeed.

The classic example is the success achieved by Chinese migrants around Asia compared with their compatriots in China. Similarly, Indians in India are poor, but elsewhere (here, for example) they are entrepreneurial and largely successful. In Israel, living standards are said to be pretty ordinary but elsewhere Jews stand out as unusually successful communities.

No one knows quite why migration should produce so many success stories. In fact, quite simple factors may account for the phenomenon. Perhaps the go-getting types migrate, leaving plodders behind. Alternatively, perhaps by separating themselves from the family and friendship safety net migrants appreciate there is no alternative to hard work.

Australia's success in recent years less substantially in its willingness in the mid 1980s to grasp the nettle of financial deregulation. Accepting the recommendations of its Campbell Commission, Australia floated its currency, removed exchange controls, al-



lowed entry to foreign banks, steadily reduced tariff barriers and started labour market deregulation.

The low crime rate is a feature attractive to South Africans. A single murder in Perth, for example, sets the city abuzz by its collective ears. Run South African crime numbers past

Australians, and they mutter darkly into their Foster's.

Australia's tax as a proportion of gross domestic product is close to the average for affluent countries. What makes Australia different is the heavy emphasis on income tax, especially personal tax. The marginal rate above

A\$50 000 (R204 500) is 47 percent plus a Medicare levy of 1.5 percent. It is accompanied by a fantastically complex system of rebates, subsidies and others. Australians don't seem to mind this - they clearly feel they get good value for their tax dollars. There are now generational layers

In Australia of the descendants of South African migrants. The post-1961 wave who left South Africa after Sharpeville are now pretty well re-tired. Then followed the post-Soweto wave of 1976 who generalising again, seem to have made little impact.

Then there's the post 1986 wave, the fellows who by and large, now occupy the big jobs. Finally, there's the post 1994-elections wave, mainly in their 30s, who won't rise to prominence until after the century turns.

A list of the most successful South African migrants is unlikely ever to be complete and, in any event, would attract a litany of complaints about arbitrary exclusions. But it's worth naming a few.

Harold Shapiro, for example, formerly with JSE broker Pollak Fremantle, is now managing director of what is probably Australia's second largest independently owned broker-age. And he goes into that country's financial history for creating 52 Australian double millionaires.

In 1994, angered by the Australian Stock Exchange's decision to demutualise and pay out \$25 000 in cash to each member, Shapiro organised a revolt, secured the necessary support to block the proposal and eventually

forced the exchange to issue each member with 166 000 shares. These now trade at \$14.40 each.

But it is also true South African migrants are a pretty selective bunch, and it isn't at all obvious that they've been more successful in Australia than they would have been in this country. The pity is that they chose to leave and create wealth elsewhere.

Neil Gambol, formerly of Rhodes University, is now chief executive officer of the Sydney Casino (seriously, that's his name), Bruce Colman, chief investment officer at Colonial Mutual and reportedly on \$50 000 a year, is a South African migrant.

Neville Miles, previously with UAL, headed Ort Minnett's corporate finance operation and played a major role in some important deals such as Seven Network, Fairfax and Australian Consolidated Press.

David Stern, among the more successful younger entrepreneurs, has sold a substantial stake in Comtech, his hi-tech company to Didata. Steven Eckowitz started Farmanz, his own fertiliser company, which is now entrenched in Australia's top 500 unlisted companies.

The list goes on a roll call of missed opportunities for the land of their birth.

Report lifts lid on 'alien' scam

By James Schneider

DO you remember me Mr James? I didn't but it turned out I'd spoken to the young man a few months previously. He had telephoned our office from Lindela South Africa's detention centre for "illegal aliens" awaiting deportation.

Someone he met there had passed on our number. Since arriving from war-ravaged Sudan he had been trying to make a claim for asylum - a right South Africa granted frequently just after rejoining the international community.

However, along with a significant number of others like him the young man was now denied this opportunity. Instead he had been apprehended by police officers and brought to Lindela for "removal". Furthermore, the immigration officials at Lindela had somehow missed him again.

It was an easy case, I took down his name and called up one of the senior immigration officers at Lindela that I knew. We chatted and he assured me that a mistake had been made and the detainee would be given a chance to apply for asylum.

Now, here was the same young man again, sitting in my office. He had troubles with Home Affairs again! Someone else, somewhere in the long procedure he had to go through to apply for asylum wanted money again. A year ago when I sat down with two colleagues, one from Wits University and one from the Human Rights Commission, anecdotes like this were already too common.

Unfortunately no-one at Home Affairs was taking the stories seriously. We decided we just had to see how people were being arrested and deported who weren't supposed to be. The report with our findings was released on Friday by the South African Human Rights Commission (HRC) after a year's research. The findings were entitled *Illegal? Report on the Arrest and Detention of Persons in terms of the Aliens Control Act*.

What we found wasn't just that people who claimed to be refugees

Everything is not okay here. We are not treated like people

- L D (Interview #92)

were being wrongly arrested and deported. In fact what we found was a system of immigration enforcement, rife with corruption and abuse. We found a system that gives so few guidelines and so much discretion to individual officers that it not only allows but perhaps engenders a system of immigration control which is fundamentally biased against dark-skinned, black Africans - refugees or not.

Even more alarming is that the net entraps South Africans as well. Right now, all that the current law requires in order to start the deportation process is that a police officer "suspects on reasonable grounds" that a person is a non-citizen. Once that suspicion crops up, an officer can stop people and require them to convince him or her that they are legally resident in the country.

In legal jargon that's called "reverse onus". So, if you get stopped on the street you have to prove that you are allowed to be in South Africa - either as a citizen or as someone with a valid visa or as a genuine refugee. We found that sometimes even valid ID documents were insufficient evidence to convince the officer on the beat. Neither is the testimony of a South African family member, nor is fluency in a South African language.

Maybe these are some of the reasons that approximately one in ten of the people we interviewed at Lindela was a South African, arrested erroneously as an "illegal alien".

Human Dignity: Everyone has inherent dignity and the right to have their dignity respected and protected

- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 Chapter 2, Section 10

One of the problems is that even the police officer trying to fairly enforce the provisions of the Aliens Control Act - South Africa's rather moribund immigration legislation - doesn't have much to go on. The officers probably haven't received much training in the subtleties of enforcing immigration legislation. The Act itself doesn't tell anyone the magic formula about how to pick out an "alien" in a crowd.

That leaves most people with their own stereotypes about who is supposed to be here and who isn't. In the months of doing interviews at Lindela I never saw one white face in detention. There is another problem with the current system. All that discretion vested in the officer on the beat leaves a lot of room for abuse. We found that one in four people awaiting deportation had been asked to pay a bribe for their release but hadn't had enough money.

How many did have enough money? Apparently R50 to R200 often goes pretty far to convince some police and immigration officers that a person is as legal as they need to be. Maybe this also helps explain why we not only found so many South Africans wrongfully arrested as "illegals" and a very significant number of non-South Africans who had been arrested despite carrying valid ID documents.

The HRC report (by Jody Kollapen Jonathan Klaaren, Andrew Rens and myself) contains extensive findings and recommendations. The Department of



Illegal aliens under arrest at John Vorster Square in prison cells await extradition back to their own countries. Are suspected illegal immigrants treated fairly? PIC PICTURENET

Home Affairs has already given positive indications of their willingness to adopt many of these recommendations. This is a good sign because it will only be through cooperation and extensive efforts that the current faults in the system will be addressed. However, for the changes to be meaningful they have to be more than simply changes in the rate of wrongful arrest and detention.

I remember an older gentleman we interviewed in detention at Lindela. He'd been picked up by the police while painting a mural of flowers. When he asked them to allow him to fetch his passport they told him to "go to hell". He sat with great dignity on a

crooked chair during the interview, concerned that his work permit was going to run out while he sat in detention awaiting deportation. I thought to myself "This man has more than a right to finish painting his mural, to get his work permit back and not to be subjected to arbitrary arrest and detention." I wondered who had decided that this man didn't have a right to his own human dignity. I thought that that was the most important thing that was to be restored or injected into the system. I still think it is.

(The writer is a human rights lawyer and co-author of the report.)

Sauerhan 23/3/99

(236)

Human rights body calls for guidelines on arrest of aliens

Pearl Sebolao

BO 23/2/99 (296)

THE SA Human Rights Commission has called for the application of clear constitutional guidelines in the arrest of people suspected of being illegal immigrants

Releasing the findings of an investigation into the arrest and detention of people under the Aliens Control Act, the commission said SA authorities were going to extraordinary lengths in their execution of duties, often using arbitrary and unconstitutional methods

The study — which was conducted at the Lindela repatriation centre in Randfontein on the West Rand — found that people were being detained on suspicion of being aliens simply because of the colour of their skins and their accents

In all, 149 interviews were conducted with "suspects" awaiting repatriation at Lindela, as well as 40 of their friends and family members in April and May last year.

Jody Kollapen, the commissioner in charge of the study, said no white immigrants were detained there or at any other repatriation centre, despite the fact that there were white illegal immigrants in the country

"It seems the darker a person's skin, the greater the risk of him being arrested on suspicion of being an alien" Even black South Africans had become victims of these arbitrary criteria, Kollapen said

Of the 142 644 people detained at Lindela between August 1996 and October last year, more than 10% were eventually released because they were either SA citizens or legal residents

The commission has offered to work with the home affairs department in defining the guidelines for arrests, Kollapen said

The commission warned that growing hatred, and ignorance about the rights of refugees and migrants, was increasingly becoming a blight on SA's human rights record It said that in the majority of arrests, there were no reasonable grounds for suspecting that the person arrested was not a national

Kollapen said 15% of the detainees possessed valid identity documents

A significant number complained that arresting officers either destroyed or ignored the identification documents when they tried to prove their status, while 30% were not given a chance to prove their status

The study found numerous cases of ill-treatment of foreigners at detention centres The commission recommended that an independent inspector be appointed to visit Lindela and other detention centres regularly

At least 20% of those interviewed had been assaulted, while 75% were not informed of their right to make a phone call Detainees sometimes had to pay corrupt officials for access to a phone

In some cases, people were detained for lengthy periods without a charge being laid against them

The commission has also recommended that an anti-corruption unit speed up investigations into suspected corruption Police and officials at repatriation centres should be trained in the treatment of foreigners

The recommendations have been forwarded to the home affairs department as well as the Lindela repatriation centre

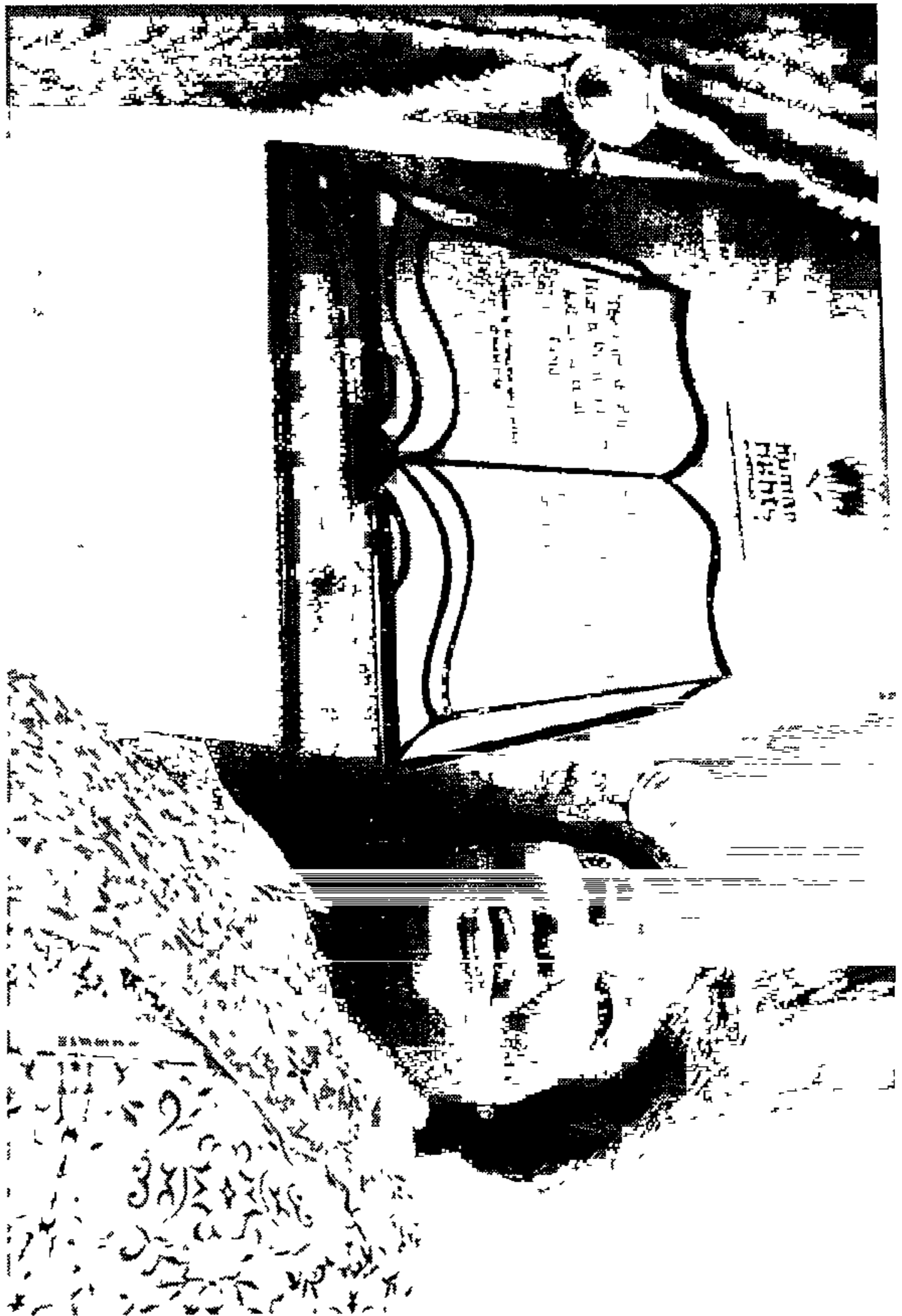
Meanwhile **Nomavenda Mathiane** reports that Deputy Arts and Culture Minister Brigitte Mabandla said yesterday that the commission's new human rights library would be an invaluable addition to SA's national library system

It would, she said, provide access to important human rights documents coming from both government and nongovernmental sources

She commended the commission for dedicating the library to the memory of Godfrey Pitje and Archie Gumede — two lawyers who fought for the rights of South Africans, and who themselves frequently faced bannings and detentions

Molly Pitje, widow of human rights lawyer Godfrey Pitje, unveils a plaque dedicated to the memory of her late husband, the activist and lawyer, Archie Gumede, at the human rights library in Johannesburg

Picture ANDY KATZ



R200 to jump off a moving train

Jonathan Ancer

(236)

When the train passed through Nel spruit, Kenneth Simango closed his eyes, took a deep breath and jumped. The Mozambican landed on the ground, bruised but unharmed

Simango (29) claims that while he was being transported from the controversial Lindela deportation centre in Krugersdorp back to Maputo, guards let him jump off the moving train after he paid them a R200 bribe

In 1991, Simango crept through the Kruger National Park into South Africa "In Mozambique," he explains, "the war between Frelimo and Renamo has left many in the country with out jobs. This was my chance to escape a life of poverty. I thought I was on my way to paradise"

Simango says that on February 15 he was walking from his shack in Alexandra to neighbouring Sandton to finish a painting job, when he was stopped by police. They identified him as a Mozambican by a mark on his arm from an initiation ritual

According to Simango, they asked to see his documents and when he explained that he did not have any, they shoved him in the back of a van and took him to Alexandra police station

In chains, he was transferred to the Lindela centre in Krugersdorp. The centre serves as a transit camp for captured illegal immigrants who are to be transported back home

He claims the guards at Lindela beat him "One officer hit me because he said he didn't like my face," says Simango. He alleges another guard told him that if he paid R50 he would be spared a second beating. He paid the money

Last week the Human Rights Commission (HRC) released a damning report detailing the corruption of officials and the ill treatment of inmates at Lindela. The report states that extortion and bribery are widespread among apprehending officers. It also states that there is inadequate nutrition and medical care and that staff subject inmates to degrading treatment.

Lindela representative Themba Snyman says it has been proposed that an independent ombudsman be appointed so that inmates can make their grievances known and action can be taken. Snyman says that whenever a guard is implicated in abusing inmates, disciplinary action is taken and there are cases where guards have been found guilty and dismissed

Simango was kept at Lindela for three days before he was "posted" back to Mozambique

"They took us like cattle into trucks from Lindela to the station," he says. Simango explains that when the Mozambicans boarded the train they were forced to sit "chafkop" on the bench until the train arrived in Maputo. 11 hours later — hunched forward, their head between their knees, clasping their hands together. He also claims that the guards walked past and whipped them

Simango claims that for a fee some of the illegal immigrants can escape deportation, albeit risking their lives in the process. The guards on the train charge the Mozambicans R200 to "escape". Once the immigrant has paid up, the guards open the train door and



The price of freedom. Kenneth Simango (left) escaped deportation to Mozambique by bribing the guards. Discomfort. Inmates are forced to sit 'chafkop' (above). PHOTOS: JANSIE KOTZE

mtg 26/3-1/4/99

he is allowed to exit the moving train. If you are scared to jump the police push you off — a service for which they do not charge

Simango claims he paid the bribe because in South Africa he had work, a home, a girlfriend and a child. In Mozambique he would starve. While he was waiting in line for his turn to "escape", Simango saw a man leap from the train. He heard a heavy thud and saw sparks. Simango is certain the man fell under the train and was crushed. He is surprised there are not reports of bodies found at the tracks

The HRC's Jody Collopy says he has not heard accusations of immigrants being thrown off trains, but that believes the levels of corruption uncovered at Lindela, and the fact that only 600 immigrants of 1 200 who board the train arrive at the destination, make this possible

Once the immigrants leave Lindela, members of the South African Police Service escort them back to their countries. According to the co-ordinator of cross border crimes, Superintendent Klopper, the police are aware of these allegations and, together with the Department of Home Affairs, have launched an investigation

The immigrants' desire to return to South Africa ensures that Lindela is never short of business. Simango says that the next time he is arrested, he will return to Mozambique and then re-enter South Africa rather than risk

his life jumping off a train

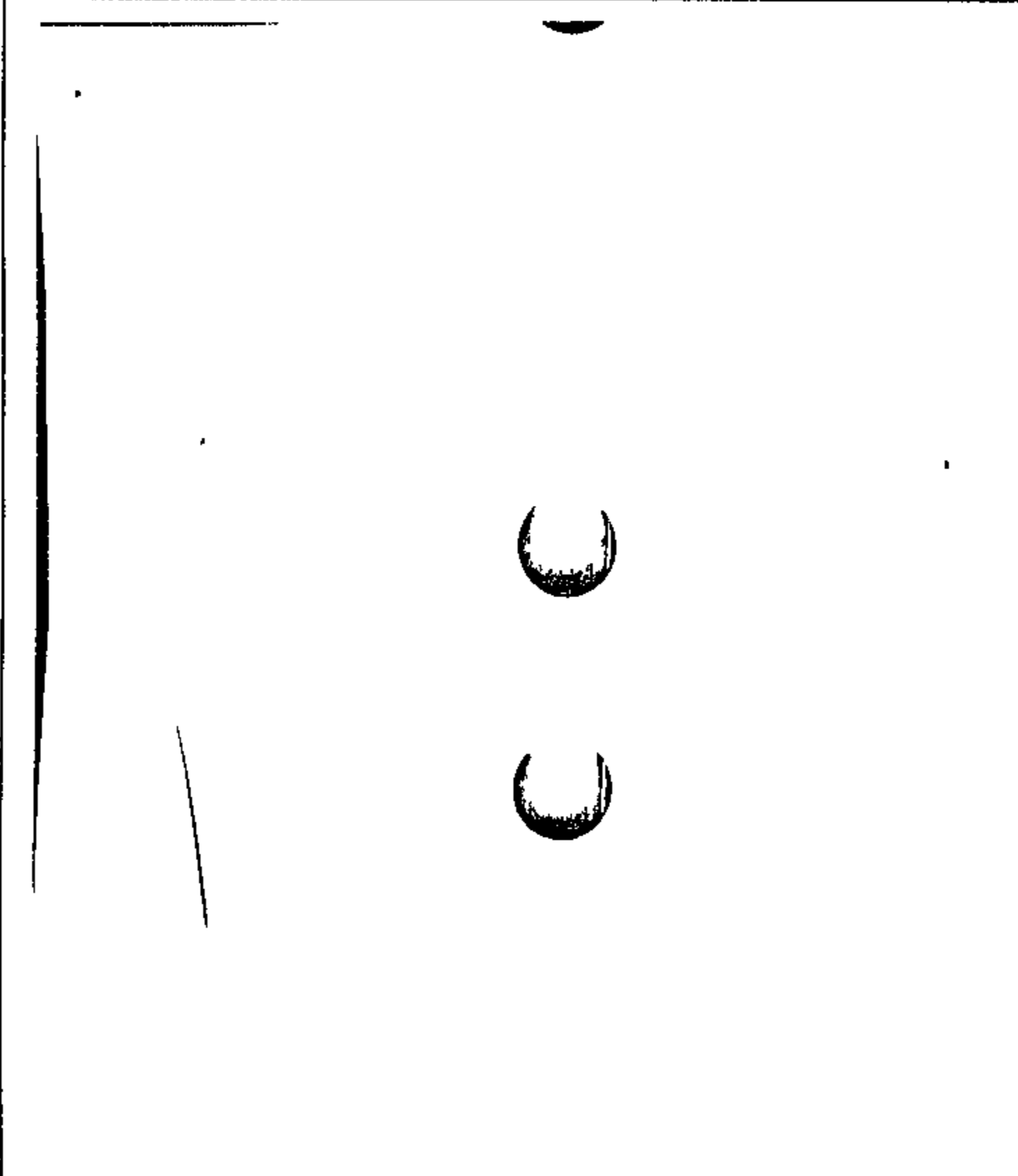
Domingo Hlongwane agrees. This 22 year old illegal immigrant was arrested at the end of February for the second time since he fled Mozambique in 1997. The first time he was deported to Mozambique he was penniless, but he managed to slip into the group that had paid the guards for their freedom

The second time he was too scared to fool the guards because he alleges that he witnessed a guard shoot an immigrant through the hand after he refused to sit "chafkop"

Hlongwane had only R20 with him on the train, but the guards decided to give him a discount. He claims the guards had boasted that they had had a profitable journey, netting R3 700 from the immigrants. He leapt off the train and injured his foot. It took him two days to limp home to Alexandra

"Most of the South African people are hostile to us," complains Hlongwane. "They call us *ikwerekwere* [a derogatory term for foreigners], they accuse us of taking their jobs, sleeping with their women, being responsible for crime and stealing their land"

"We're also abused by the people who employ us. When it comes to the end of the month, instead of paying us, they call the police and have us arrested. When the police take us, they steal our possessions. They say that when we came into the country we had nothing, so we must leave with nothing"





DISTURBING FINDINGS HRC chairperson Barnev Pityana

'Too dark' locals held with illegals

(236)

Spaw 20/3/99

Report tells of errors, abuse and bribery at holding camp

By THEMBISILE MAKGALEMELE

The Human Rights Commission says police and Department of Home Affairs officials are not only detaining aliens illegally but also seem to be targeting and discriminating against specific South African tribes - especially Vendas, Pedis and Shangaans from Northern Province

Official figures show that one in nine people picked up as illegals are later released

But many being detained at the Lindela repatriation camp near Krugersdorp are without recourse to prove their citizenship They are subjected to humiliating treatment and must resort to bribery in order to be released

In a damning report on xenophobia, the HRC says a certain percentage of apprehensions are carried out solely on the basis of appearance and nothing more

Barnev Pityana, chairperson of the commission, says it appears that the immigration system "does not operate as it should" Statistics in the report, covering 149 detainees as well as 40 of their friends and their families, who were all interviewed by the HRC last year, indicate what is described as a "grossly unacceptable rate of detention"

Those apprehended have to prove that they are South Africans by describing certain parts of the body in Zulu and Xhosa

And while at the camp they are subjected to ill treatment by officers, inadequate nutrition and medical care, interrupted sleep, degrading treatment and intimidation

There were no whites being held

'Too dark' locals held at detention camp with illegals

extortion and bribery are extremely widespread among apprehending officers

"When people are apprehended, the most common amount they said was charged was R50," said Schneider "As they move to other camps, the fee increases"

"Black people with very dark skin and those who did not know certain words in Xhosa or Zulu or spoke in a non-South African accent were at risk," said Schneider

Mathole Mthandazo, who claimed South African citizenship, also gave testimony She said she was walking from a spaza shop in Alexandra when a police van with one black and one white officer stopped her She said the white officer grabbed her and demanded her identity document

Without being given a chance to respond, she was pushed into the van and taken to Sentrengum police station. Nothing was asked about the whereabouts of her ID; instead she was locked up for two days without food or blankets

She was then driven to Leonville police station, and on the same day transferred to Lindela In order to prove she was a South African citizen, she was asked to explain certain Zulu proverbs, which she answered reasonably well But the interrogating officer refused to believe she was South African and is still languishing at the camp, the HRC says Nelsa Baloh testified that she was apprehended at Chris Hanu Baragwanath Hospital and also claimed SA citizenship She told the

commission that a police officer had asked for her ID, which she produced.

The officer then asked her to show him her arms He saw an inoculation mark on her left forearm and accused her of being Mozambican He then asked her the Zulu words for various parts of the body She replied correctly but the policeman said she was lying Growing hatred and ignorance about the rights and realities of refugees and migrants have become an "increasingly serious blight on South Africa's human rights record", the HRC added As a result, the commission and the National Consortium on Refugee Affairs are currently overseeing the implementation of a national plan to combat xenophobia

See Page 11

"It appears as though Shangaans, the Northern Province community, people with a darker skin and those with no South African accent are citizens most likely to be accused and/or detained for being in the country illegally," said James Schneider, who has worked with Lawyers for Human Rights' Refugee Rights Project He was involved in compiling the report

"There is a perception that darker people are not from South Africa"

From April to May last year, the Human Rights Commission team spent time at the Lindela camp

In the report, it is revealed that in most cases there were no reasonable grounds for an apprehending officer to suspect that a person was a non-national It also found out that

With many regional countries in crisis, SA is an attractive destination

236 Sphw 20/3/99

The management of labour migration in southern Africa is an issue which demands urgent attention. It poses a challenge particularly for South Africa, given the country's historical and contemporary economic and political role within the region.

As a result of the relatively advanced industrialisation of South Africa, migrant labour to this country became a cornerstone of regional interdependence. Foreign migrants seeking to fill specific labour needs have been catered for in the past by South African law and regulation, in principle, they still are.

Intergovernmental agreements with Lesotho, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique and Swaziland provided the means with foreign labour, and an exemption clause in the Aliens Control Act, allowing the minister of home affairs to grant prohibited people temporary permits, was used largely to afford the agricultural sector privileged access to migrant workers.

Foreign workers seeking employment in other sectors are subject to the Aliens Control Act, the principal legislation governing immigration to South Africa.

Recent regional and domestic developments within South Africa have resulted in new pressures and incentives to migrate.

Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe are implementing structural adjustment programmes, one of the consequences of which is retrenchment and unemployment, resulting in the growth of the informal sector and cross-border trade.

At the same time, relatively higher employment standards and wages in South Africa attract unemployed migrants. Not only those who are unskilled or semi-skilled migrate, skilled labour also gravitates towards labour markets in which incomes are higher.

Trade imbalances between South Africa and its neighbours - with the volume of trade largely in favour of South Africa - and restrictive import tariffs exacerbating this inequality, also have an indirect impact on migration. Where factories have closed because South Africa raised trade barriers against a particular country, retrenchments have ensued.

Increasing political destabilisation in Southern African Development Community states - secessionist movements in Namibia, civil war in Angola, mounting hostility towards organisations of civil society and the media in Zimbabwe constitutional and democratic crises in Lesotho and Swaziland, and conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo - could mean more migration to South Africa.

It is commonly assumed that South Africa's democratisation has encouraged immigration. Coupled with this is growing political pressure on South Africa from regional governments to liberalise its immigration policy.

The government has responded to domestic and regional demands in a number of ways. Domestic responses have ranged from short-term "once-off" interventions, such as the granting of amnesties to various categories of foreigners, to the amendment of existing legislation and the long-term formulation of new immigration policy.

In 1986, in response to a request from President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique for the granting of amnesty to Mozambican refugees, the Cabinet announced an exemption from the conditions of the Aliens Control Act to SADC citizens. It excluded contract workers and migrants who could not prove continuous residence from July 1 1991.

A second amnesty was granted to foreign migrant workers in terms of the Electoral Act, South Africa before June 13 1986, and were not prohibited persons in terms of the Aliens Control Act of 1991, were issued with temporary voters' cards and were permitted to participate in the 1994 general election.

In the run up to the 1995 local government elections, SAs National Union of Mineworkers demanded that the granting of its members' right to vote be repeated, and that they be granted permanent residence status. As a result of negotiations with Minister of Home Affairs Mangosuthu Buthelezi, his then-deputy Penneil Maduna and President Mandela, all those who had voted in the April 1994 election were granted such status, subject to their applications being received by March 31 1995 and to their proving they had been resident in SA since June 13 1986.

In contrast to these once-off interventions, which were arguably expedient responses to immediate political interests, the Aliens Control Act was amended in 1995 to strengthen immigration control and to a lesser degree, ensure that the act accorded with the Bill of Rights and the new constitution.

This act provides no appropriate legal means for migrants and employers in sectors other than mining and agriculture to access temporary work and contract labour. Because of the gaps in immigration and labour policy, the presence of many temporary migrant workers remains illegal.

The Green Paper on International Migration, released in May 1997, recommends a fundamental shift in the thinking which frames immigration policy in SA as a security issue. It advocates a rights based enforcement of a new policy, and argues that "immigration policy needs to be refocused as an issue of growth and development."

The green paper looks beyond domestic concerns, identifying the challenge of developing a policy which enhances "the country's integration into and competitiveness within the global economy" and furthers "the process of regional integration and development."

The process of development and integration, and recognises "that full popular participation in the process of building the region into a community is only possible where the citizens of the community enjoy freedom of movement of persons, namely visa free entry, residence and establishment in the territories of member states."

The first release of the draft protocol caused considerable controversy within SADC, and was temporarily shelved, largely

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WAITING ROOM Immigrants wait patiently at the Department of Home Affairs to find out if their applications for permanent residence in SA have been processed

ment within SADC."

SA, as a member of SADC, has also participated in the successive drafting of the Draft Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons in SADC. The first draft was released in March 1996, with subsequent drafts being released in January 1997 and May 1998.

The preamble to the protocol affirms SADC's "duty to promote the interdependence and integration of our national economies for the harmonious, balanced and equitable development of the region, as well as the need

The most recent version of the protocol calls for member states to review and amend their existing legislation for it to accord with the provisions of the protocol, but it lacks mechanisms for its enforcement, and privileges domestic legislation of member states. This raises the problem of implementation of the protocol and the compliance of member states.

In the light of its stated commitment to regional economic integration, the document is strangely silent on the issue of labour migration, except for stating that the provisions of the protocol shall not prohibit any member state from issuing employment permits.

SA is also involved in another set of regional development interventions which have an indirect impact on migration. One consists of the settlement of Afrikaner commercial farmers in Mozambique, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The project is supported by the South African government, and the main organisation behind it is the white-dominated South African Chamber for Agricultural Development in Africa, which is affiliated to the right-wing Freedom Front.

The primary stated objectives of the chamber are to ensure that South African agribusiness increases SA's food production and food security, develops the economies of host countries, creates jobs for the citizens of host states, thereby stemming illegal migration to South Africa, and transfers skills and technology to farmers of host countries.

Although its supporters defend its objectives, the project might be influenced by the perceptions of those who are relocating. Possibly fearful of the effects of decreasing government subsidies, the threat of land redistribution and increasing attempts to unionise farm labour, these white farmers could be refugees from the impact of democracy on SA.

Another initiative that is expected to create employment opportunities, with accompanying increased labour mobility, is the Maputo Corridor between SA and Mozambique. Current South African immigration policy is neither cost effective, sustainable nor appropriate for temporary migrants. An estimated R200-million a year is spent on the repatriation of "illegals", many of whom return. There is an endless displacement of people across borders, involving a massive waste of financial and human resources, and resulting in economic and social instability. One possible option for SADC is to explore

the development of a regional labour migration regime. In order to break with current policies of immigration control informed by a security paradigm, a policy of labour migration management ought to be based on the principles underlying the Green Paper on International Migration, namely human rights and economic development. Such a shift has a number of consequences:

- It would displace crime from the ambit of immigration policy and enforcement agencies.
- This is not to suggest that crime is not a crucial issue which SADC must address, but that it must be confronted directly, and not through migration policy.
- It would confront the circular argument against legalising the status of foreign workers - that because they are illegal, they are undercutting South Africans, therefore they must remain illegal. Regularising the status of migrant labour might undermine the sole competitive advantage of some illegal workers by formally excluding those prepared to work for sub-minimum wages under exploitative conditions.
- If a migrant labour regime were instituted within SADC, the nature and conditions of this regime would have to be debated and negotiated with all affected stakeholders. If legal status also brought the civic rights associated with it, this might include economic rights as well as entitlement to social services, which, some might argue, member states could ill afford.
- A contrary argument, however, suggests that it would broaden the tax base, making more money available to the regional economies for subsidising such services. And, if foreign workers contribute to these economies, they could be said to be entitled to welfare benefits.
- This debate must take into account the needs of migrants who, Centre for Policy Studies research suggests, make a different set of demands on the economy from permanent residents or immigrants. Current patterns indicate that many leave dependants behind in their countries of origin. If these dynamics continue, migrants' use of social services would be limited, entailing less cost-assumed.
- Responses to the South African networkers' amnesty noted above endorse this contention. A study by the Centre for Policy Studies also suggests that anti-foreigner sentiment is not universal nor undifferentiated, which implies that attempts by policymakers to reverse xenophobic attitudes have at least a reasonable prospect of success.

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SA to clamp down on illegal aliens

(236)

By Malcolm Ray

HOME Affairs Minister Mangosothu Buthelezi yesterday announced stringent measures to deal with illegal immigrants into South Africa

In his budget speech to the National Assembly, Buthelezi said a draft White Paper on international migration, currently under consideration by the Cabinet, and the Refugees Act (Act 130 of 1998), would go a long way towards curbing the influx of illegal immigrants into the country

He said it was no longer acceptable that a large number of refugees continued to seek asylum without having the relevant status to qualify "After discovering worrying trends among

refugees, the department launched an investigation into the residential status of all foreign citizens in South Africa

"The legislative measures are aimed at regulating refugee affairs in line with international standards and principles," he said

Illegal alien problem

Dismissing accusations that the new measures amounted to "xenophobia" Buthelezi said his department had adopted internationally accepted legal instruments to deal with the problem of illegal aliens

"One of the main objectives of government is to ensure that the socio-economic environment is conducive for South African citizens and permanent residents to find employment The

interests of our citizens and legal residents must be the first consideration. It is in view thereof that the department has adopted stringent policies," he said

To the ire of some opposition parties, Buthelezi said the illegal alien problem was "a wave that will engulf the country. The number of temporary residence transgressors increased during the period 1996/97 from 176 828 to 555 028"

He said his department's measures had ensured that during the period 1994 to 1998 the number of illegal immigrants removed from the country had increased from 90 692 a year to 181 286 a year

"We hope that by stepping up our regulation of immigrants, the problem will be eradicated," Buthelezi said

Newspaper 16/12/98

Threat to gay partnership rights Marais defends Cape's

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

(236)

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ARC 4/3/99

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

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Same-sex partners face a new court battle over access for foreign partners to permanent residence or South African citizenship.

Rulings by the Department of Home Affairs' immigrant selection committee have meant heartbreak and frustration for many couples

denied the chance to live legally together in South Africa.

Last year, assisted by the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality, several couples where one partner was South African and the other a foreigner gave evidence to Parliament's home affairs committee about the disruption to their relationships caused by the rulings. There was exultation earlier this

year when the Cape High Court granted new rights to same-sex partners to permanent residence or citizenship

But the Cabinet yesterday gave the go-ahead for an appeal by the Government, telling a news conference they believed the High Court judgment gave greater rights to same-sex couples than heterosexuals of differing nationality

Western Cape health MEC Peter Marais, stung by Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma's harsh criticism of the provincial government's decision to supply anti-AIDS drug AZT to HIV-positive pregnant women, says it was not intended to turn the issue into a political football "It was done to save lives," he said

Dr Zuma told the National Council of Provinces on Tuesday that the New NP-dominated Western Cape government had supplied the drug as a cheap means of buying votes

In a statement, Mr Marais said he had always maintained that AIDS should not become a party-political issue.

The Western Cape had embarked on an AZT trial in Khayelitsha in an

effort to lower the incidence of AIDS as well as raise the standard of health in the province

"This province has one of the lowest per capita incidences of AIDS and HIV which makes it most suitable for a trial of this nature."

The trial was part of an integrated AIDS programme. The programme included awareness campaigns and medical inter-

vention, said Mr Marais. "By this trial we aim to prove conclusively that the treatment of pregnant HIV-positive women with AZT is the most cost-effective method.

"And we hope that in doing so, the central government will see the wisdom of our ways," said Mr Marais.

Editorial comment, page 14

AZI campaign

Northern Province seeks German advice on aliens

(236) BD 8/3/99

John Dlodlu

A DELEGATION from Northern Province arrives in Germany today in a bid to foster ties with Saxony, a German state

The week-long mission, organised by the SA embassy in Bonn and sponsored by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, is led by Seth Nthai, MEC for safety and security in Northern Province

The visit will seek to promote closer co-operation between police services and learn from the German experience in fighting crime and controlling illegal aliens. Germany recently made headlines when it emerged that it was one of a number of European Union (EU) states pushing SA to agree to a clause in the EU-SA trade, development and co-operation agreement that will bind Pretoria to co-operate in controlling illegal aliens

Germany's immigration laws are regarded by some of its EU partners as being too lax. It has been under pressure to take a tougher line on the problem, so its

hard-line position at the EU-SA talks was seen by observers as signalling to its EU partners that it was taking a tougher approach on the problem

An SA diplomat said at the weekend that the state of Saxony — which shares borders with Poland and the former Czechoslovakia — could impart its experience to Northern Province on controlling illegal immigration

An SA foreign affairs department statement said "As the SA Police Service is an amalgamation of former police forces of the former homelands, (the) former (SA) police and nonstatutory forces, this visit will also provide an opportunity to learn from Saxony, which went through a similar process of amalgamation after German reunification in 1990"

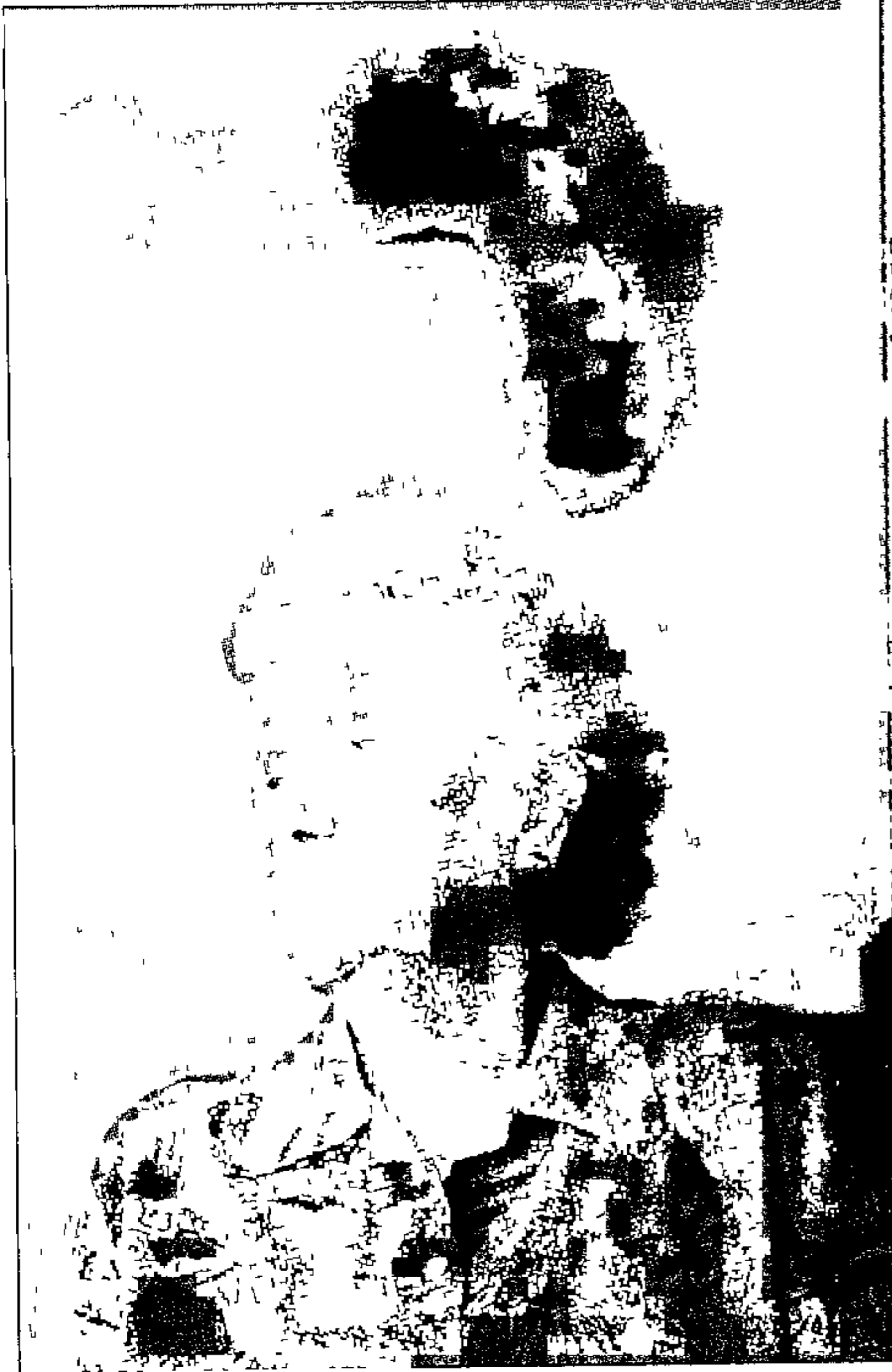
It is envisaged that an exchange programme of police experts will be organised to share German police expertise with Northern Province. The delegation will meet German federal and state government, and police service, officials

Widow may be booted out of SA after 26 years

STEVE LAWRENCE

BY BUNTY WEST

(236)



Unwanted ... Elizabeth Sutters, is an illegal alien, according to the Department of Home Affairs.

A 74-year-old Germiston widow, who has lived and worked in South Africa for the past 26 years, was told by the Department of Home Affairs this week that she might have to pack her bags and leave the country because she is an illegal alien

Elizabeth Sutters, who came to South Africa in 1973 with her husband Wilham, applied many times for permanent residence but never heard anything from the department

Her family, including a sister, her daughter Pamela and grandchildren, live in South Africa, and Wilham - who died in 1994 - is buried in Kempton Park cemetery

In 1996 she applied to go to Austria on holiday to see her other daughter, Hazel, and went to Home Affairs for permission to re-enter South Africa. She was given written confirmation that everything was in order

In January 1997 she was contacted by Home Affairs and asked to bring in all her paperwork. She complied and was told again that everything was in order, but the department would write to her within a few months

Despite numerous calls to the department, she heard nothing until Monday, when she was told to contact the director-general of Home Affairs, Albert

Mokoena, to plead her case to stay in South Africa

"I have worked in South Africa, paid my taxes, and owe no one a cent, yet in essence I am being told that I am a worthless person not fit to stay in the country. South Africa is my home, it's where my family lives," Sutters said

A Home Affairs official said a letter was sent to Sutters in 1980 inviting her to apply for permanent residence, but it

“**This is my home, it is where my family lives**”

was sent to the wrong address

"I had been applying for permanent residence since 1974, so I would have accepted the offer immediately. I believe the letter, which I only heard about recently, was sent to an address I had vacated several months earlier. No one in Home Affairs thought to mention the letter for all these years," Sutters said

Comment could not be obtained from the Germiston Home Affairs office

6415/101 Mrs

Ugandans roll out red carpet for settlers from SA

Michael Wakabi

KAMPALA — A group of SA farmers, thinking of tackling major farming ventures in Uganda, have met President Yoweri Museveni after touring the country.

A Ugandan official said the group, led by cattle breeder Hans Herbst, indicated they were eager to invest in sectors like coffee, sugar, dairy farming and animal husbandry. Herbst believed fertile Uganda could easily be turned into a bread basket for Africa.

Herbst could not be reached for comment in Uganda yesterday, but his family in SA said he was negotiating with the Ugandans.

The visit comes seven months after Agriculture Minister Derek Hanekom led a 23-strong trade and investment delegation to Uganda. His party, including official and private sector representatives, met businessmen and agriculture ministry officials.

Museveni said after the meeting that farming in Uganda could be a profitable business, but pro-

duction of crops was insufficient because local farmers lacked capital. Herbst, in turn, said Ugandans living near SA project areas would benefit from SA expertise and exposure to large-scale farming.

Since 1995, Uganda has passed a law that allows foreigners to obtain long-term leases on land. Central Uganda has large tracts of land suitable for ranching and breeding.

Officials said a government-owned sugar estate would be privatised in western Uganda. For-

eign investors, including South Africans, could bid for it when offers were sought.

Representatives from Uganda's investment authority who attended Museveni's meeting with the farmers, said SA had become the leading source of foreign direct investment in Uganda since the two countries signed a double taxation agreement in 1997.

This position is expected to be consolidated when the two countries sign an investment guarantee and promotion agreement soon.

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SA's top brains seek better life abroad

(236)

ARG 15/3/99

Johannesburg - Emigration continues to drain South Africa's dwindling pool of key specialists and managers, with the crime rate and violence the main reasons for leaving.

These were the latest findings of a survey on salary and wage movements and labour trends released today.

The survey, conducted by human resource consultants FSA-Contact, encompassed organisations of all sizes from across the economic spectrum with a total employee count of 55 276.

According to the report, the

overall average labour turnover among survey respondents was 14,3% for the review period, which was 1,1% higher than last year's survey.

Among the higher staff categories - including key specialist staff and top and middle management - resignations accounted for over 50% of turnover, with under 10% attributed to emigration.

Among artisans and lower skilled, hourly-rated employees, the largest turnover was employer instigated, with 48% attributed to redundancy and retrenchment and 9,6% attributed to dismissal.

The highest proportion of employees experiencing dismissal were non-unionised, lower-skilled workers, 14% of whom left their jobs while 9% of unionised worker turnover was attributed to dismissal.

FSA-Contact sales manager Kris Crawford said 6% of top managers who left their jobs during the year under review were dismissed, as were 5% of middle managers and general staff.

"But only 2% of skilled specialist staff turnover was the result of dismissals, possibly because of the dire shortage of personnel in this category."

Reasons given by those who resigned from their jobs to emigrate have not changed from last year's survey findings.

A total of 60% cited the crime rate while 47% gave violence as reasons for emigrating.

Falling living standards, health and education, company transfers, affirmative action policies and better employment opportunities abroad were also cited as reasons.

Most of those leaving, 38%, emigrated to the United States while 26% went to Britain, 19% to Australia, 9% to Canada and 5% to New Zealand - Sapa.

Govt plays hardball over sportsmen's permits

BD 16/7/99 (296)

Farouk Chothia

CAPE TOWN — The home affairs department had launched an investigation into the status of all foreign sportsmen in SA in order to establish whether they were in the country legally, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday

A trend had emerged in the sporting fraternity where players and coaches entered the country legally but then changed the purpose of their stay, or failed to timeously extend their work permits, he said during a budget vote in the National Assembly

The department had decided to look into the residential status of all sportsmen "plying their trade" in SA, Buthelezi said

Soccer players were likely to be most affected, observers said. There was suspicion that foreign players were signed up by local clubs without work permits

Buthelezi said from 1994 to last year, the number of illegal residents removed from SA increased from 90 692 a year to 181 286 a year

Government's responsibility was to provide jobs to SA's unemployed. Illegal immigrants took their jobs and worked for "peanuts", Buthelezi said

It was vital that employers, where possible, tried to recruit SA citizens. When "exceptionally well-qualified" foreigners had to be employed because of a shortage of skills, com-

panies should be committed to replacing them as soon as possible by training local talent, Buthelezi said

Democratic Party (DP) MP Dene Smuts was critical of the department's policy on permanent residence applications by foreigners married to SA citizens

The "miserably inadequate" Aliens Control Act required permanent residence to be granted to foreigners married to SA citizens for more than two years, when the marriage was not one of convenience

There were many couples appealing for help in the face of a "gross administrative injustice", she said

During the debate, rival MPs also clashed over government's insistence that only bar-coded identity documents be used in this year's election

In apparent reference to the failure of some minority race groups to meet the voting requirement, New National Party (NNP) MP Ben Bester said the African National Congress (ANC) was behaving like the "old NP, which disenfranchised coloured people"

Deputy Home Affairs Minister Lindiwe Sisulu said opposition parties questioned the department's capacity to timeously produce bar-coded identity documents

However, the capacity of opposition parties to mobilise their supporters to register was questionable

Skilled managers flee SA

Reneé Grawitzky BD 16/3/99 (236)

AN FSA-Contact client base survey has shown that the continued outflow of skills at senior management level was not only the result of crime and violence in the country, but could also be attributed to affirmative action

The survey — which did not represent a national picture — was conducted among companies across the economic spectrum with a total employee count of 55 276

It found that 9,7% of managers who left their jobs in the past year did so to emigrate

The survey also found that traditional reasons cited for emigration remained unchanged from last year and included crime, violence and falling living standards

However, other reasons mentioned included affirmative action policies, company transfers and better employment opportunities abroad.

FSA-Contact sales manager Kris Crawford said yesterday the overall average labour turnover among the companies surveyed was 14,3% — 1,1% higher than last year

At a senior management and specialist level, resignations accounted for 50% of turnover, of which less than 10% was attributed to emigration

Crawford said that 6% of top managers were dismissed and 5% of middle managers and staff

The US appeared to be the most favoured destination for managers emigrating, followed by the UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, the survey said

SA's brain drain continues ⁽²³⁶⁾

EMIGRATION continues to drain South Africa's already dwindling pool of key specialists and managers, with the crime rate and violence cited as among the main reasons for their leaving

These are the latest findings of a special survey on salary and wage movements and labour trends

The survey, conducted by human resource consultants FSA-Contact, encompassed organisations of all sizes across the economic spectrum with a total employee count of 55 276

According to the report the overall average labour turnover among survey respondents was 14,3 percent for the review period, which was 1,1 percent higher than last year's survey

Among the higher staff categories - including key, specialist staff and top and middle management - resignations

accounted for over 50 percent of turnover with just under 10 percent attributed to emigration

Among artisans and lower skilled, hourly rated employees, the largest turnover was employer instigated with 48 percent attributed to redundancy and retrenchment and 9,6 percent attributed to dismissal

The highest proportion of employees experiencing dismissal were non-unionised, lower skilled workers, 14 percent of whom left their jobs while nine percent of unionised worker turnover was attributed to dismissal

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6/13/91
warrens

Outdated law mires couples in an expensive nightmare

Star 20/3/99

236

Sacha Meyer and Lisa Givati have much in common, writes JOHN MACLENNAN. They are both young South Africans, they are both love the country and they are both married to foreigners. Now they have to choose between their loved ones and the beloved country.

Department of Home Affairs officials say they cannot have both. Their spouses are about to be deported in terms of an outdated law which is being applied without regard to their rights.

In the process of fighting for a future here, the two young couples - and many others who have fallen foul of the department - have found themselves mired in an expensive nightmare of red tape.

Besieged

They can prove they have done everything according to the rules, and have produced sheaves of supporting documents and besieged the department in attempts to obtain the blessing of bureaucracy. But they have received no satisfaction. The average reaction to yet another fax reads "The matter is receiving attention and a further letter will be addressed to you as soon as possible."

In some cases they have been given wrong information, been threatened with deportation, the

department has ignored factors which would qualify their spouses to become "legal", and they claim some of the officials have mounted a vendetta against them.

■ Sacha's husband Roberto left his home in Buenos Aires to marry her. He is studying engineering and has had many offers of jobs from firms that require fluent Spanish-speakers. However, his visa, which expires in June, doesn't enable him to work here.

Sacha, who has a month-old baby, has sent a letter to President Mandela. "Our lives here in this beautiful country have been shattered. And we have done nothing wrong. Incompetent and unreliable people in our immigration department have treated my husband like a criminal since the day he tried to apply for a visa extension. I can show you faxes of how people (officials) have lied to us. Not once have they taken into consideration that I am his wife and that our law states that he has every right to be here."

Roberto had to pay R4300 for a visa extension in June. A month later he was given two weeks to leave the country. The reason? "Confidential."

"Later, with my lawyer, we discovered that the real reason was because they decided we were married for convenience - without



CRUSHED: Sacha and Roberto Meyer's lives have been shattered. Sacha wrote to President Mandela in desperation.

any justification." Roberto was told they would both have to leave and apply for permanent residence from Argentina. Later the Meyers discovered that because he was married to a South African, Roberto could do so from

any Home Affairs office. ■ When Lisa Givati met Israeli Amur Ben Yehuda on a visit to Jerusalem, it was love at first sight. They married soon after and are now "settled" here. But their experience with Home Affairs has been a trial. They have borrowed about R7000 to pay various fees and three temporary holiday permits at R425 each. Home Affairs said Yehuda would have to apply for another temporary permit (the final one he would be granted) or for permanent residence.

But to be considered for permanent residence he has to put down a R4900 repatriation fee in case it isn't granted - and he doesn't have the money. He would like to work (he is a qualified construction project manager) but he can't obtain a work permit.

Lisa says: "I am devastated because I think this is the country that I was brought up in, and when you want to stay legally, people give you problems. It's almost as if my country has turned its back on me. It's shocking."

■ Charl Gentle is a South African who moved to this country two years ago after he was transferred here by his US employer. He needs to have his wife's residence permit approved before his children can be registered at school. "Her file was approved by Pretoria months ago, but our 'local executive board' (now disbanded) isn't around to make the final approval."

■ Andrew Smith's wife's parents live in England and have become frail and senile. When he applied to bring them to South Africa, he had to submit documents including proof of earnings, an undertaking to cover medical costs and proof of transferable funds. He had to submit another sponsorship application stating their state of dementia as well as an undertaking to provide them with care in their remaining years.

Incapable

The Smiths acquired power of attorney and R495000 was transferred. But Pretoria bureaucrats rejected the sponsorship application and say his parents-in-law have funds to apply for permanent residence in their own right - which they are incapable of doing.

A departmental spokesperson said spouses of South Africans shouldn't expect special treatment. The DP's Dene Smuts, however, noted that Mr Justice Dennis Davis made clear in the Cape High Court that, as the law stands, spouses do get special benefits. Smuts said she was being inundated with calls for help. "They should not need to, since they can be helped under the present law. Yet some applications for permanent residence aren't even being processed."

'Zimbabweans top list of violent criminals'

THE majority of violent criminals robbing banks and people at their homes in Greater Johannesburg were Zimbabwean and not South African, the Saturday Star has quoted top policemen as saying

Said Senior Superintendent Johan Steyn, commander of the Brixton murder and robbery unit: "We can definitely say that at least 60 percent of bank robberies are perpetrated by Zimbabweans

"In fact, it is even higher than that percentage if you look specifically at house robberies "

Steyn - whose unit investigates only the more violent house robberies and incidents where elderly people are involved - said he was working on the problem with Zimbabweans because of its magnitude

Human Rights Commissioner Jody Kollapen said he had difficulty in accepting the police version "If this was so, then court processes and press reporting of the courts would surely have revealed this by now "

Willie Steyn, a retired former acting head of the Brixton murder and

robbery unit, said that as many as 99 percent of the foreign African criminals the unit dealt with were Zimbabweans, with one percent Mozambican "Now perhaps there are more Mozambicans," he said

Another detective, Captain Piet Byleveldt, said that while the authorities may not agree with the detectives, "I know it is true because I am dealing with the investigations, and I also know how difficult it is to get these guys back from across the border when they can prove they are Zimbabweans " - Sapa

CP 28/3/99

(236)

Most violent crooks in SA are from Zimbabwe - police

Warning that false figures will fan hate for foreigners

PETA KROST

Top policemen revealed this week that the majority of violent criminals robbing banks and homes in Johannesburg were Zimbabwean - and not South African.

"We can definitely say at least 60% of bank robberies and serious house robberies are perpetrated by Zimbabweans," said the commander of the Brixton murder and robbery unit, Johan Steyn.

"In fact, it is higher than that percentage if you look specifically at house robberies."

Superintendent Steyn - whose unit investigates only the more violent house robberies and where elderly people are involved in the greater Johannesburg area - said he was working on the Zimbabwean "problem" at the moment because of its magnitude.

But Johannesburg police liaison officer Mark Reynolds said it was important to note that just because there were many Zimbabwean criminals, it did not mean all Zimbabweans in South Africa were criminals.

Human Rights Commissioner Jody Kollapen said he had difficulty in accepting the police claims

"If this was so, then court processes and press reporting of the courts would have revealed this by now"

Mr Kollapen said if the figures were exaggerated then it would

"feed into" political parties' attitudes. He added that he had recently tried to get such figures from the police but was told they did not keep them.

Well-respected detective and former acting head of the Brixton murder and robbery squad Willie Steyn said that as many as 99% of the foreign African criminals the unit dealt with were Zimbabweans, with just one percent Mozambican.

"Now I think there are more Mozambicans, but not many," said Mr Steyn, who has retired from the police.

"As I recall, 90% of criminals who break into homes, commit armed robbery and rape are Zimbabweans."

Another top detective, Piet Byleveldt, said that while the authorities might not agree with the detectives' "I know it to be true because I deal with the investigations and I also know how difficult it is to get these guys back from across the border when they prove they are Zimbabweans."

Jane from Operation Camelot - a consciousness-raising campaign about rape that was started by the parents of two young girls who were raped two years ago - said that five Zimbabwean men attacked her family. This gang has been linked officially by the police to 65 other crimes - including murder and rape - and unofficially to 250 cases in Johannesburg.

"Within three weeks, one of them had been arrested and the rest had returned to Zimbabwe," said Jane.

"We knew where they were because we have contact with the Zimbabwean minister of foreign affairs. Three of them were arrested and released in October 1997 after waiting months for the South African Government to repatriate them."

She explained that by January, one of these men had returned to Johannesburg and robbed the Taiwanese Embassy in Houghton where he was shot in the hand and arrested. Another man arrested initially on the Camelot rape case tried to escape and spent nine months recuperating at taxpayers' expense at the Garden City Clinic.

"I cannot see why they can't just walk across the border and bring these guys back to face their crimes," she said.

"It makes me sick that these criminals just come and go as they please and nobody seems to have the power to stop them."

While these allegations imply there are huge numbers of Zimbabwean criminals, there are actually only 309 Zimbabweans in jails in South Africa. Of these, 248 are convicted and the rest are awaiting trial, according to correctional services spokesperson Barry Eksteen.

"This is a large proportion of foreigners in South African jails," Mr Eksteen said.

However, the police say that the reason for the low numbers of convicted Zimbabweans is because the criminals escape back to the safety of their own country.

Centre for Policy Studies senior researcher Maxine Reitzes said the other side of the picture was that foreigners were clearly the victims.

After interviewing many people from other African countries who are living here she said: "These people are not disproportionately involved in crime but rather disproportionately victimised by police and criminals"

Ms Reitzes said that given their vulnerable status, local criminals considered people from neighbouring countries as soft targets.

"We have much anecdotal evidence to suggest that police turn a blind eye to crimes against foreigners and at worst actually participate in the crimes," she said.

"Criminals might report the presence of foreigners to police who then go in and arrest them, leaving the foreigners' homes open to theft. The police are alienating some of their potentially best allies."

The Zimbabwean High Commission's press secretary Morgan Dube would not comment.

"There is no way I would know if there was such a high number," said Mr Dube "How can they possibly know if all these criminals are indeed Zimbabweans? I have never heard of this before."

(236) (236) ARG 27/3/99

It's catch-22 heartbreak

AW 20/3/99

(276)

Foreign spouses forced to leave South Africa

By JOHN MACLENNAN

Talented young foreigners married to South Africans are caught in a heartbreak catch-22 situation and face deportation even though the law says they are fully qualified to live and work here

In at least one recent instance, the apparent chaos in the Department of Home Affairs has already been brought to the attention of President Mandela - to no avail

The Democratic Party demanded urgent action from Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi when his vote came up in Parliament this week

The Department of Home Affairs denies that foreign spouses have any special right to be in the country

Now some of them plan to camp outside Parliament - with their children born in the country - until the government takes notice of their plight

They are asking why the same restrictions don't apply to Graca Machel, the wife of the president, and why hundreds of thousands of illegals from neighbouring countries who have no special skills are tolerated.

The DP's home affairs spokesperson, Dene Smuts, has been unmandated with appeals for help, and describes the

situation as scandalous. If she gets no satisfaction she will approach the Human Rights Commission with the request that it launch a test case in court to get the department to abide by its own regulations. The departmental rulings are made in terms of the Aliens Control Act, which is to be replaced by new legislation soon.

These decisions may be completely irregular, says Smuts, because she has received reports that the special committees supposed to decide on permanent residence applications no longer exist.

Smuts said, "When a South African marries a foreigner, in terms of the law, that spouse should get permanent residence or an immigration permit if they have been married for two years and if the immigration committee does not suspect that it was a marriage of convenience."

"All MPs on the home affairs portfolio committee challenged the head of immigration, Dr P M Mathou, but the department still persists in interpreting the law to mean that no special dispensation applies to spouses of South Africans."

"The cases I have handled show there is absolute chaos in the department. Not only are they not sticking to the law, but it is being applied with wild inconsistency."

In some cases, said Smuts, she suspected there was racial animosity



STUNNED. Lisa and Amir Gvoni met in Jerusalem and decided to settle in South Africa. But their happiness was short-lived because Amir can't get a work permit. Lisa says she finds it shocking that her country has turned its back on her.



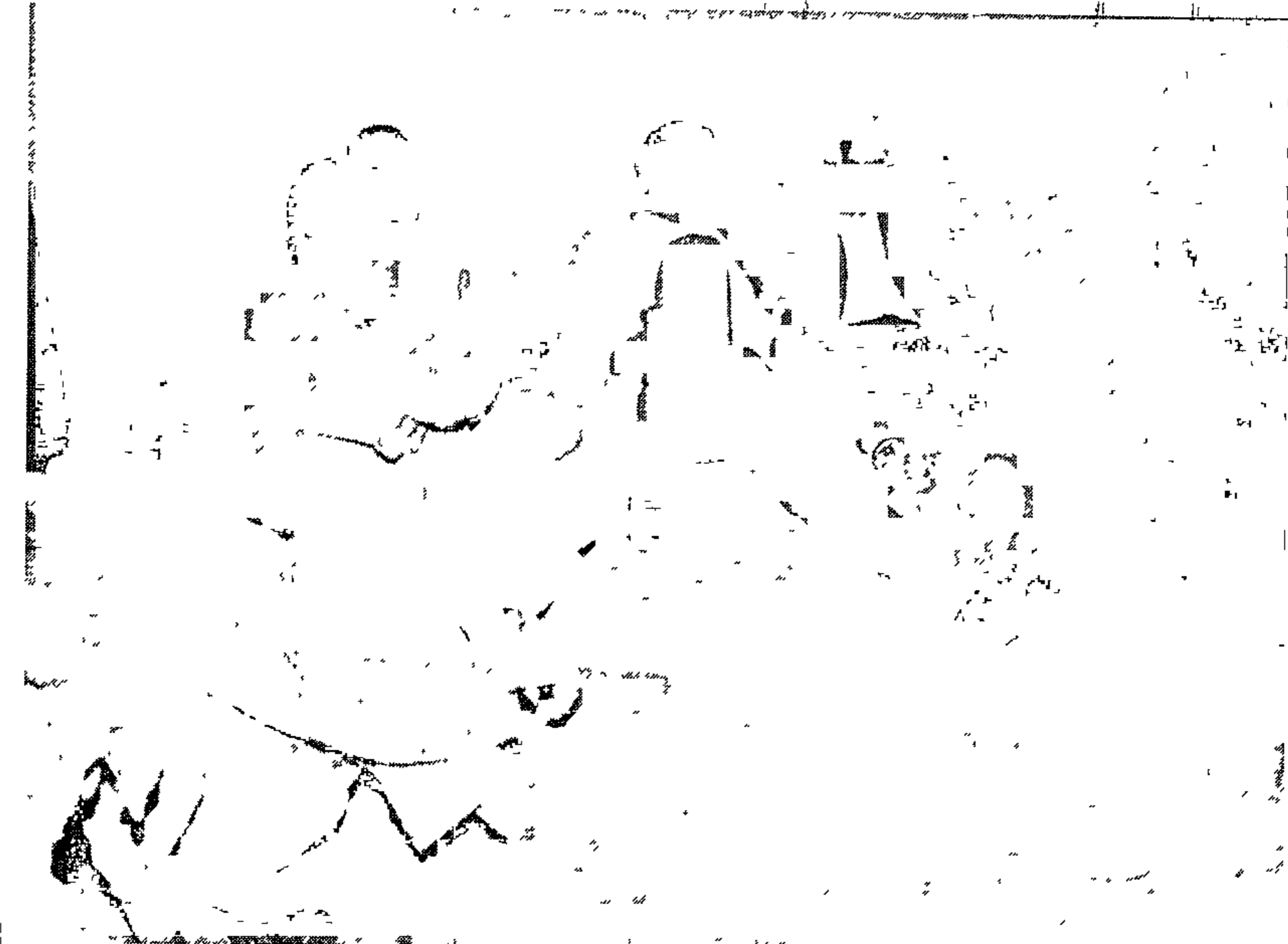
10.11.1999 (236)

clarity on migrants

Star 20/11/99



ALIEN INVASION At the end of the rainbow lies not a pot of gold but a pair of handcuffs, incarceration and a long train ride home for this illegal immigrant who was bust for entering South Africa illegally. Thousands try their luck every year and will live in any conditions such as the squatter (top left) while trying to find a way to make a living. But they invariably land up like these deportees (top right) in a camp before being shunted out of the country.



NO HOPE .. Despair and hopelessness were written all over the immigrants' faces when City Press sneaked into the cages they were held in at the Honeydew Police station

(236) CP 30/5/99

Police cell horror

WHEN City Press sneaked into one of the cages in which the Honeydew police hold illegal immigrants this week, a stale stench came from the dark containers. Blankets used by the detainees looked like they had not been washed for days and immigrants complained of bed bugs.

The immigrants all pleaded with City Press to contact other authorities to intervene so that they could be deported or sent to a transit camp.
□ See story on Page 1

NO DIGNITY .. Immigrants have no privacy when using the toilets in their cells, which leak urine and water onto the floors

Pictures: Siphon Maluka



Saturday Star was right on city crime figures

Star 22/5/99
By PETA KROST

Minister of Safety and Security Sydney Mufamadi and police management have confirmed a contentious *Saturday Star* report that a high number of serious crimes in Johannesburg are committed by Zimbabweans.

A Safety and Security Secretariat investigation has identified serious discrepancies between a specialist investigation unit figures and those in the police Crime Analysis Computer (CAS) system.

The police system did not pick up the severity of the problem.

However, Mufamadi cautioned the public not to use this as an excuse for xenophobia.

He said the number of foreigners committing crime was "just a fraction" compared with South African criminals committing crimes in other countries.

Mufamadi added that SA had become a favoured destination for organised crime, which did not respect borders.

"The solution is co-operation with other countries' authorities," he said.

While satisfied with the findings of the report, Mufamadi said it was "preliminary" and was a precursor to an even more intensive investigation.

Probe ordered

All this was initiated after a report in the *Saturday Star* in which the commander of the Brixton murder and robbery unit said that at least 60% of bank robberies and serious house robberies were perpetrated by Zimbabweans.

After seeing the report, Safety and Security Secretary Azhar Cachalia ordered an urgent investigation to validate this and other statements in the *Saturday Star* pointing to Zimbabweans being involved in serious crime in Johannesburg.

The Safety and Security Secretariat monitoring and analysis unit compiled a report on the findings which showed that, from a sample of 66 of some of the worst Brixton murder and robbery criminal cases, 43 Zimbabweans were arrested for the crimes.

The report was handed to both Mufamadi and national police commissioner George Rivaz.

Chris de Kock, national head of the police's Crime Information Analysis Centre, was consulted immediately after the *Saturday Star* article was published. He disagreed with the article, saying that according to the police's CAS system, there was a very low involvement of Zimbabweans in crime.

■ To Page 2

Zimbabweans indeed a major factor in crime

■ From Page 1

Yesterday, De Kock told the *Saturday Star* that, after seeing the secretariat's report, he had initiated a thorough monitoring on how data was input into the CAS system countrywide.

According to the secretariat's report, the disparity between CAS and Brixton figures arose because "Zimbabweans lie about their nationality when arrested, which, according to Brixton detectives, is a ploy to avoid deportation and/or bail opposition".

"It is clearly a human, not a system, problem," said De Kock. "The CAS system is recognised around the world as being very advanced and highly effective, but it is only as good as the input it is fed."

When a murder or bank robbery took place, the information was entered into the system accurately. But when people were arrested, months and sometimes years later, the police officers did not necessarily go back to the case on CAS with all the detailed information.

While Mark Shaw, head of the monitoring and analysis unit, accepted there were significant numbers of Zimbabwean criminals in Johannesburg and that this problem needed to be addressed, he cautioned that the report's figures were "an over-estimation", based only on arrests. He also noted that SA criminals far outnumbered any foreign criminals.



SYDNEY MUFAMADI:
Safety minister warns
against xenophobia

A disproportionate number of illegal foreigners lived in the Greater Johannesburg area covered by the Brixton police, he added.

The report said that, according to the detectives: "Zimbabweans are extremely

successful at committing bank robberies and other serious crimes as a result of their often having been trained in military tactics and techniques."

The detectives said one arrested suspect was found to have held the rank of captain in the Zimbabwean African National Union, and others were Zimbabwean African People's Union cadres.

The report stated that there were many Zimbabweans working as security officers for banks, who gained access to privileged information through security systems in order to plan robberies.

Another factor was that movement through the border between SA and Zimbabwe was easy.

De Kock explained that the economies of both Mozambique and Zimbabwe were in decline and that South African currency was freely usable there.

These foreign nationals, particularly the illegal ones, were also easily exploited by South Africans as they were unable to complain to the authorities.

Star 22/5/99

(236)

Mandela tells Buthelezi to suspend dodgy DG

ST 30/5/99 (236)
MZILIKAZI WA AFRIKA

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela has instructed the Minister of Home Affairs, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, to suspend his director-general, Albert Mokoena

The instruction, which also recommends that Mokoena be charged with eight counts of misconduct, was sent to Buthelezi on Wednesday

But by yesterday Buthelezi had still not suspended Mokoena

In a statement Buthelezi said "Having received the instructions of President Nelson Mandela, I will implement them to the letter together with the other recommendations made to ensure that the process moves forward in adherence with the law."

His delay in suspending his director-general contrasts with his past assurance to the Sunday Times that he would act immediately. He said "I will act promptly once the President directs me to act. If he says that Mokoena be suspended, I shall proceed to do so immediately."

Mokoena told the Sunday Times he had not been told of the suspension by Buthelezi

Mandela's decision to suspend Mokoena comes after a report by the Deputy Director-General of Public Service and Administration, Mpumi Sikhosana, who recommended he face the counts of misconduct for owning and managing a basketball team without permission, misuse of state vehicles, not dealing effectively with public funds and resources, and conflict of interest in asking a computer company to sponsor his team

CT 21/6/99 (236)

Share with refugees — Maduna

JOHANNESBURG: Having been a refugee himself for 10 years, the new Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Penuell Maduna, says he identifies with the plight of refugees

Speaking yesterday at the celebration of Africa Refugee Day at the Yeoville Recreation Centre here, where he was a special guest, Maduna said South Africans "have an obligation as a country to look after refugees"

"It is important for our people to share their bit with refugees. They are here out of sheer desperation. They need our assistance

"I was a refugee from 1980 to 1990, when I was in exile seeking refuge in many African countries, so I know how it feels," he said.

He said South Africans needed to realise that refugees were not here to steal their jobs. "They don't want to be here. They were

forced to come here because of political problems in their countries."

But Mengesha Kebede of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in South Africa, said the most serious challenge facing Africa was that of "hospitality fatigue" by refugee-hosting countries

Addressing the gathering, Kebede said "Those countries who have hosted refugees for a long time are experiencing strains caused by resource limitations"

However, he said celebrating Africa Refugee Day "provides us with an opportunity to review these challenges and to re-dedicate our efforts to overcome them"

"Refugees are created because of instability, conflict and absence of respect for human rights and the rule of law. Unfortunately the refugee phenomenon will remain

with us until humanity collectively addresses the root causes"

Most of the refugees interviewed at the event said, although it was difficult to adapt to living in South Africa, they were happy.

"Because of the problems in my country I had to leave and come here," said Rahma Abdullah, who fled Somalia three years ago. "It was difficult at the beginning but now I am happy and so is my family"

But for some, like Ethiopian Chernet Ongira, who has been in South Africa for the past three years, it has been a long and difficult road. "I can't say that things have changed much. When you are a refugee you encounter a lot of problems," Ongira said the celebration of Africa Refugee Day gave refugees an opportunity to show South Africans "that we are good people and we are not here to steal" — Sapa

A reason for mourning

sewetan 17/6/99

AS POLITICAL instability and armed conflict linger on in a number of African countries, the ensuing flow of refugees towards Southern Africa continues unabated

Since this region is perceived as an area of relative political and economical stability, the victims of persecution and conflict trickle southwards in search of peace and security

Refugees are the most vulnerable among the vulnerable, persons who have lost everything they had or stood for in their countries of origin because they had to run to save their lives

Refugees do not enjoy the legal and physical protection which we take for granted in our country, and depend on the goodwill and sympathy of the communities hosting them to rebuild their lives

Unfortunately the refugee problem is not new South Africa started experiencing it in recent years as a result of its opening up after decades of isolation

But the 1969 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa was adopted by the Organisation of Africa Unity (OAU) 30 years ago

This instrument introduced landmark new concepts in the development of international refugee law These concepts and the problems they were meant to address are as topical today as they were then

Every year June 20 marks the date of the entry into force of the 1969 OAU convention, and has been designated as Africa Refugee Day

However, if one thinks about it, this should be an occasion for mourning rather than celebrating Refugee movements are nothing but the barometer of human rights violations perpetrated around the world

The fact that they continue to this day means that there continues to be governments and people who cannot tolerate differences, be they of political opinion, religion, colour, ethnic group or nationality, and try to suppress them by resorting to violence or persecution of their perceived enemy

Another reason for mourning is that the OAU convention, which was hailed as a cornerstone in the development of the right of refugees in the name of African solidarity, is now challenged or disregarded in an increasing number of countries

Killing, rape, harassment, assault, abduction, forced military recruitment, expulsion and deportation are reported on an ever larger scale in a number of countries hosting significant numbers of refugees

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) whose mandate is renewed every five years because in an ideal world there would not be any refugees, is

Refugees are still flooding into Southern Africa and it is our duty to see that they are met with sympathy and goodwill, writes **Bruno Geddo**

(276)



An old man holding a baby takes shelter from the sun under a straw hut at a camp for displaced people in Saurimo, east of Luanda.

PIC AP

striving hard to try and improve this situation

Since refugees have lost the protection of their country of origin, the UNHCR is mandated by the international community to assist governments of host countries to provide international protection to them and seek lasting solutions to their plight

The ideal solution is of course voluntary return to the country of origin, where the refugee belongs But if that country is ravaged by war, return would be tantamount to death

Hence the other solution, local integration, becomes the only viable alternative

However, and this is the third reason for mourning, local integration has become an excruciating experience for many refugees It presupposes a positive interaction with the host community while in exile

But if the host community is fearful of diversity, or perceives refugees as unfairly competing with locals for scarce resources, they become a soft target for xenophobic attacks instead of receiving compassion and care

Unfortunately, many refugees have gone through this ordeal in South Africa, and 30 of them have been brutally killed in the last three years alone

On the other hand, there are also some signs of hope Refugees are survivors, determined and resourceful people who escaped death in often dramatic circumstances

In most cases, against all odds, they manage to survive out of sheer will and hard work, and make a positive contribution to the host community both in economic and human terms

South Africa's vibrant civil society, through the Regional Refugee Forums and the National Consortium for Refugee Affairs, gives them a helping hand, both with provision of emergency relief and public advocacy to counter xeno-

phobia

Another reason for hope is that last year South Africa adopted domestic refugee legislation to implement its obligations under the 1969 OAU convention and the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees

The fact that the passing of the 1998 South Africa Refugee Act drew consensus from a large spectrum of legislators and civil society is very encouraging

In fact, this is an acknowledgement that dealing with people who are forced to flee their countries is a matter of humanitarian obligations and international law, and not migration control under the 1991 Aliens Control Act

A final, but crucial, reason for hope is that South Africa is slowly but steadily fostering a strong human rights culture and learning to thrive on its splendid diversity

These processes are a source of inspiration for the rest of the world, and in due course refugees should be able to benefit from them Furthermore, South Africa is engaged in conflict prevention and resolution in various trouble spots, which in the long run is the only way to address the root causes of the refugee problem, and enable them to return home in safety and dignity

Meanwhile, African Refugee Day is a useful occasion to remind us of the plight of innocent victims whose driving force is to rebuild their shattered lives in exile

Thus, this is neither an occasion for mourning nor celebrating – just for committing ourselves to allow and enable refugees to lead a dignified and meaningful life in their host country

(This article was written on behalf of the UNHCR's Regional Office for Southern Africa in Pretoria)

SUNDAY DIGEST

(236) ST 20/6/99
Legal win for foreigners
seeking asylum in SA

THOUSANDS of foreign asylum-seekers given seven days to leave South Africa after officials cancelled their applications for asylum have won a reprieve. Faced with urgent court action, Department of Home Affairs officials have agreed to withdraw the exit notices and reinstate the applications

However, lawyers acting for several Senegalese asylum-seekers, who brought the legal challenge, said they feared that many of the others affected by the cancellation and subsequent reprieve — said to be between 3 000 and 4 000 people — may not have heard that they do not have to leave South Africa

Before the case got to court, the department suggested a settlement in terms of which it agreed to reinstate all cancelled applications and allow the application process to follow its normal course

Suspended Mokoena faces a new probe

Investigation into allegation that
DG defrauded IEC of R2m

MZILIKAZI WA AFRIKA

HOME Affairs Director-General Albert Mokoena has been suspended with full pay

He has 10 days to submit in writing an admission or denial on the eight charges of misconduct he faces, as stipulated in the Public Service Act

Meanwhile, another high-profile government investigation is probing allegations of fraud against Mokoena. The offices of the Public Protector and Public Prosecutor and the police Commercial Crime Unit have confirmed that they are investigating allegations that Mokoena

- Defrauded the Independent Electoral Commission of more than R2-million while he was the chief electoral officer for voter education during the 1994 election,

- Arranged for three of his Zambian-born basketball players to get "illegal South African citizenship and ID books", and

- Arranged for his housekeeper and gardener to be paid with taxpayers' money with Home Affairs salary cheques for more than eight months

Mario Oriani-Ambrosini, legal adviser to the Minister of Home Affairs, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, said Mokoena had been officially suspended with full

pay on Friday last week

Fink Haysom, President Nelson Mandela's legal adviser, said the President would appoint an official to preside over Mokoena's disciplinary hearing

This would happen only once Mandela had received Mokoena's written response, he said

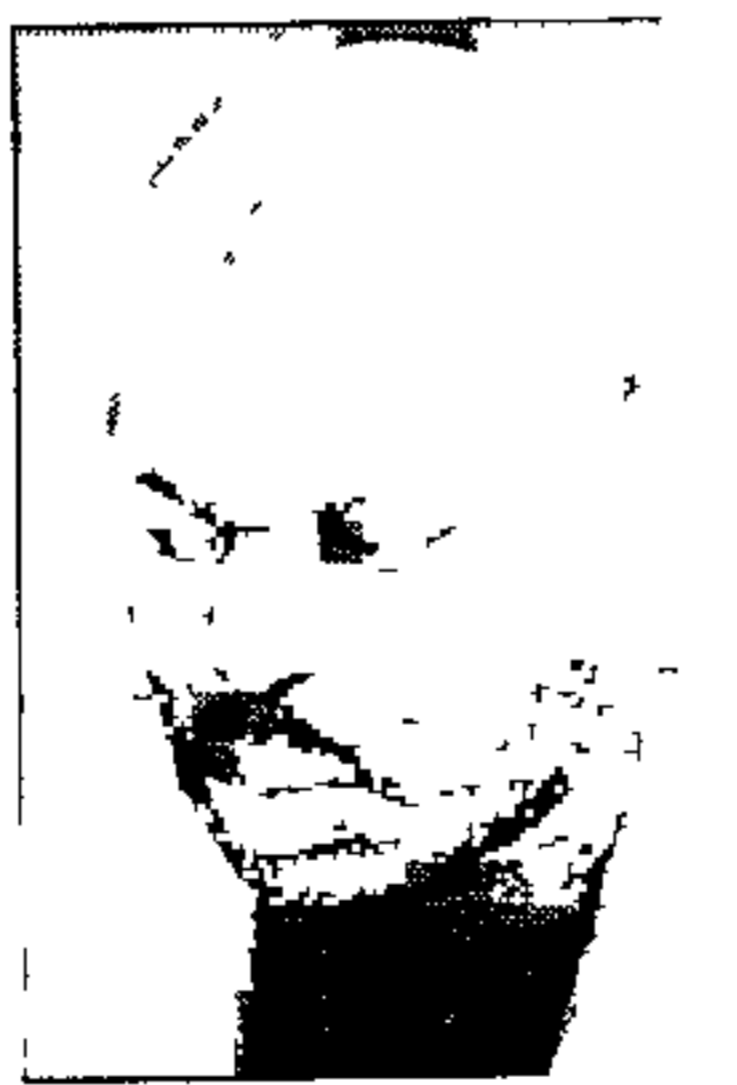
Public Service and Administration representative Chris van der Vyver said

"If the person charged is unable to admit or deny the charge within the period specified, he may apply in writing, specifying reasons, to the executing authority for postponement, who may extend the period for not more than 10 working days at a time"

An internal investigation by Public Service and Administration Deputy Director-General Mpumi Sikhosana recommended that Mokoena face eight charges of misconduct for owning and managing a basketball team without Buthelezi's permission, misusing state vehicles to

transport his team, not dealing with public funds effectively, a conflict of interest in approaching a computer company for a sponsorship for his team at a time when it had a contract with Home Affairs, and using the departmental telephone and fax numbers on his basketball team's web site

Neither Buthelezi nor Mokoena could be reached for comment



MOKOENA

ST 6/6/99

(236)

Immigrants have a crucial role to play in S Africa

(236) Sowetan 1/6/99

By Maxine Reitzes

ILLLEGAL immigrants in South Africa were the latest victims of political parties' scramble to attract votes in the run-up to tomorrow's elections

In an unlikely show of alliance politics, the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) and Freedom Alliance (FA), as well as the New National Party (NNP) and the United Democratic Movement (UDM), raised the spectre of the negative impact that foreigners are assumed to have on South Africa's economy and society

The election manifestos of the UDM and the Federal Alliance explicitly advocated stricter immigration controls

Images of the NNP's Marthinus van Schalkwyk walking along South Africa's borders and promising to seal them against illegal immigrants were flashed across our television screens

Members of the Unemployed Masses of South Africa enthusiastically supported the Democratic Party

The branding of foreigners as scapegoats for our society's ills, and the promises of stricter immigration controls were politically expedient, disingenuous and irresponsible

This could encourage xenophobia among South Africans which could escalate into violence against foreigners, with socially destabilising domestic consequences. They could also create diplomatic tensions within the region

Unfulfilled expectations of the implementation of more stringent immigration policies could further frustrate citizens, thus increasing resentment against foreigners

Resorting to anti-immigrant fear tactics could also prove to be short-sighted and ultimately not serve the interests of the parties concerned, as a long-term consequence could be the loss of the political support which they were intending to gain

Research conducted by the Centre for Policy Studies suggests that current immigration policies are unenforceable and therefore result in an enormous waste of financial, institutional and human resources

Thus parties could find themselves unable to deliver on their promises of enforcing even stricter controls, thereby undermining their own legitimacy and alienating large sections of their constituencies

One of the primary allegations made against foreigners is that because they are illegally employed, they compete unequally with South Africans for jobs, and deprive locals of economic opportunities

Other assumptions which were presented by parties as facts were that foreigners constituted a drain on the fiscus and a burden on social infrastructure as they did not pay taxes but utilise public services

They were also held responsible for the influx of diseases into the



country and for exacerbating an already high crime rate

All these claims were made in the face of a growing body of reliable research evidence, much of which suggests that, contrary to these pervasive beliefs, foreign migrants have a positive impact on the economy

Many are prepared to accept jobs which South Africans shun, and some entrepreneurs and artisans create employment opportunities, which, they claim, South Africans squander because of their unreasonably high wage expectations and their unwillingness to work as hard as foreigners do.

A case-by-case comparison of migrants' stated wages with wage board determinations and industrial council agreements revealed that the pay and often the conditions of those who are legal, adhere more closely to minimum standards

The failure to extend legal status to cross-border migrants therefore achieves precisely the effect feared by those who see them as a drain on jobs, it depresses their pay and conditions, making their labour more attractive to employers

And very often, it is employers of foreign labour who rob the fiscus, by withholding tax deductions which are made from unregistered workers' salaries.

Research findings also suggest that migrants, most of whom leave their dependents in their countries of origin, make minimal demands on public services.

Many also prefer to patronise private health care providers, as they deliver a superior service.

Furthermore, migrants constitute a considerable consumer market for goods and services on which they pay value added tax, thereby contributing to the fiscus

Their demand also stimulates supply, thereby indirectly creating job opportunities. Transportation is one example of an industry which has grown considerably as a result of migrants' demands

There also exists considerable evidence to suggest that foreigners

are disproportionately victims of crime, rather than perpetrators. Local criminals take advantage of the often vulnerable and insecure status of migrants and perceive them as soft targets.

Furthermore, many migrants contend that instead of being afforded police protection, they are very often victims of police corruption and collusion with criminal elements

The above evidence suggests that parties who made negative and largely unsubstantiated claims against foreigners, were misinforming and misleading the electorate

The anti-foreigner rhetoric of some parties also failed to accord with their broader ideological positions or with the interests of their members.

The PAC's attack on immigrants, many of whom are Africans, seemed to contradict its broader vision of pan-Africanism which is often characterised by a refusal to recognise colonial boundaries

The position of the FA was also ambiguous. Its manifesto alleged that "South Africa is increasingly being swamped by illegal immigrants", and advocated "a strict immigration policy"

However, consistent with its attempt to appeal to the white Afrikaner agricultural constituency, it also proposed that such a policy should take account of immigrants' ability to successfully enter employment in South

Africa in occupations where a shortage of "suitable manpower" was experienced

Reading between the lines, this suggests that, notwithstanding stricter control of immigrants, the agricultural sector would not lose its privileged access to cheap, and often illegal, migrant labour on which it largely depends

The FA also advocated "realistic" sub-Saharan development programmes

But evidence suggests that regional development is more likely to compel and facilitate migration, rather than inhibit it.

It is not possible to liberalise the flows of capital, trade and technology, and simultaneously inhibit population movements. Regional development is also in keeping with the vision of the Southern African Development Community of an integrated southern African economy which includes the Draft Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons

The real challenge for parties and the next South African Government is to acknowledge the realities of foreigners in our society, and to provide informed and responsible political leadership on immigration issues

(The author is a senior researcher at the Johannesburg-based Centre for Policy Studies)

‘This could encourage xenophobia among South Africans which could escalate into violence against foreigners’

Deportation looms for Legionnaire after arrest

JOHAN SCHRONEN
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

(236)

ARG 1/6/99

A French Foreign Legionnaire who deserted and fled to South Africa five years ago has been arrested in Cape Town after being declared an illegal alien.

Home Affairs officials are expected to charge a city security firm for employing the Rumanian after his temporary residency and work permit lapsed.

If convicted, the company would be liable for the man's repatriation costs, they said.

When police raided Julian Posa's room last Wednesday they found R150 000 in a safe and a seemingly valid South African licence for his Glock pistol.

A police spokesman said that under certain conditions foreigners living temporarily in South Africa could obtain a temporary gun permit.

Detectives are to investigate the issuing of the firearm licence, and Revenue Department officials will examine Mr Posa's tax position.

Mr Posa, 27, was arrested by Special Task Force investigator Piet Viljoen, who saw him driving in Richwood and followed him to Pinelands to apprehend him.

Home Affairs told Mr Posa in January that his bid for political asylum had been turned down.

He was about to be deported when the Special Task Team asked for a month's grace to question him about the bombings in the Waterfront and elsewhere in the Cape Peninsula.

On January 15, police told the Immigration Department Mr Posa had "failed to co-operate" and could be deported. Mr Posa then vanished.

Mozambicans' terror journey

18/6/99 (228) (236)

Police robbed, assaulted us

By LEO GAMA

"A JOURNEY by train" is normally a pleasant topic for primary school essays -- for Mozambican illegal immigrants it is a nightmare.

The immigrants transported back to their motherland every month claim they are treated harshly and abusively by SA police on the trains.

In the latest incident last week 40 immigrants claim they were assaulted and robbed on the train.

They told City Press this week that the days of slavery are "long past", and they must be treated like human beings.

The train is normally escorted by Home Affairs officials, but the officials say they are helpless and cannot protect the immigrants from abuse.

Home Affairs spokesman Manafe Makwela said from Pretoria that it was not his department's duty to see to it that illegal immigrants were protected on the train.

Policemen always guarded the trains until they reached their destinations, he said.

"We have a good working relationship with the police. I hope

they will give a better explanation as to what happens," Makwela said.

Last week police escorting immigrants to the Lebombo border post allegedly robbed about 40 of them of their belongings and R10 000 in cash on the journey from Johannesburg to Maputo.

Some were allegedly thrown out of the moving train after being assaulted. It is not known if they survived.

A few who managed to reach the border post laid charges of assault against the police at the Komatipoort police station. But the immigrants were promptly arrested and have been held there since Friday last week.

The immigrants have not seen their families for the past two weeks.

City Press visited them at the Komatipoort police station and found conditions there shocking.

A Captain Mabunda of Komatipoort police station confirmed that charges of assault and robbery had been laid by the immigrants against the police.

City Press found 37 of the illegal immigrants being held in a small cell with no toilet, no blankets and no decent food.

Captain Mabunda said the complainants were waiting to identify the police who had allegedly assaulted them.

The immigrants, unhappy with conditions at the police station, want to drop the charges and be released. They fear that some of them may get ill and die.

One of the deportees, Alfred Mabunda, said their treatment on the train was the worst he had been subjected to in his entire life.

He said they were harassed, assaulted and robbed without provoking anyone. He also claimed that some of his compatriots were thrown out of the moving train at night.

"We were coming from Johannesburg to Gasha when these policemen jumped into the train and started beating us with knobkerries. They assaulted us and robbed many of us of thousands of rands," he said.

Captain Mabunda said he could not release the immigrants until he got clearance from his head office.

Captain Piet Coete of the police, who escorted the train from Johannesburg, denied the immigrants had been assaulted and robbed.

'ILLEGAL ALIEN' TOLD TO GO

Thai chef fights for right to stay with wife

CT 14/6/99

(296)

A THAI CHEF, married to a Cape Town woman and facing deportation, has been told by Home Affairs to return home while his application for immigration is being processed.

A CAPE TOWN woman married to a Thai chef has asked the High Court for an order that would save her husband from arrest and deportation.

The Department of Home Affairs insists he is an illegal alien and should return to Thailand while awaiting the outcome of his application for permanent residence.

Tracey Allison Locke-Withojit, 38, and her husband Aphithak, have asked for an order preventing Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi and his director-general from arresting, detaining and deporting Withojit. Alternatively, they have asked the court to order the minister and director-general to renew Withojit's temporary work permit pending judgment in a test case.

They also want the court to order the minister and director-general to submit Withojit's application for immigration to the Western Cape Regional Committee of the Immigrants Selection Board.

The couple were married on February 28 last year.

Withojit, a qualified chef, arrived in South Africa in July

1995. He had a temporary work permit and was employed by Sukhothai Restaurant. The restaurant saw to his work permit throughout.

In September 1997, Withojit applied for permanent residence. He and Locke were told they could not apply until they were married and that, as Withojit was from "China", he needed a marriage clearance certificate.

The couple established that such a certificate was not necessary.

After they were married, they applied again for permanent residence and paid a non-refundable fee. They received a letter from Home Affairs saying the application could not be processed until the department had proof that Withojit did not have a wife in Thailand. Locke-Withojit's attorney gave Home Affairs an affidavit saying he had not married before.

In its reply on April 23, the department said Withojit was in South Africa illegally. He had to leave the country within 30 days and wait overseas for the result of his application for immigration.

Locke-Withojit's attorney asked

the department if Aphithak could remain in South Africa pending judgment in a test case involving several South Africans whose foreign spouses faced deportation. The department refused.

Locke-Withojit said the requirement that her husband return to Thailand was absurd and a gross violation of their common-law rights, their rights and the values enshrined in the Constitution.

Linda Lamprecht, a senior administrative officer in the department's temporary residence section, told the court Withojit had no right to remain in South Africa.

He had sought relief from the court on the grounds of a marriage certificate but, even if he was married to Locke-Withojit, this did not entitle him to remain in South Africa. A High Court judgment had made this clear in a similar case last year.

It was Withojit's responsibility alone to ensure that his work permit was valid at all times, Lamprecht said.

The matter was postponed to June 23 for a date to be set for a hearing. — Special Correspondent Anton Katz, instructed by Craig Schneider, appeared for the Withojits. Norman Arendse SC, instructed by the State Attorney, appeared for the minister and the director general.

Get out, says Home Affairs – but Moroccans plan to fight deportation

ARG 26/6/99

(236)

TASLIMA VILJOEN

A number of Moroccan immigrants in Cape Town face expulsion from South Africa after persistent allegations that Moroccans run protection rackets and sell drugs at city nightclubs

But the impending expulsions are not linked to crimes, the Department of Home Affairs has simply refused to extend their work permits

The South African wives of Moroccans and other north African and Arab expatriates plan to protest outside the Home Affairs offices on Monday, when their husbands will apply in court for extensions to their permits

Last year, several nightclubs were closed after owners alleged they had been forced to pay a Moroccan gang for "protection"

They said that Yuri "the Russian" Ulanitski, a Ukrainian, was the leader of the gang that terrorised nightclub owners who refused to pay protection money

Police have set up a special investigative unit to investigate nightclub violence and extortion rackets. The unit confirmed this week that Moroccans were involved in these rackets

But Moroccan citizens who say they are not involved in the rackets told Saturday Argus they were being hounded out of South Africa because of the allegations

They said not everyone called a Moroccan in South Africa was from Morocco. Some came from other north African countries or Jordan and Syria

The expatriates have briefed an attorney to fight for them to stay in South Africa

One man, who identified himself only as Mohamed, said his work permit had not been extended

He admitted immigrants from north African countries were involved in extor-

tion rackets, but they represented only a handful of the community. Some had already left South Africa for the United States

"Just because of a few rotten eggs, everybody from that part of the world living in Cape Town is classified as a member of the Moroccan mafia," he said

He added that since the allegations surfaced in 1996, not a single member of the Moroccan community had been found guilty of any crime

Mohamed said many immigrants had fled dictatorships at home to seek a better life

"I came to South Africa because I heard of democracy, something I never knew. But now I'm being discriminated against because of a few bad apples"

Mohamed said most members of the north African community in Cape Town had jobs as painters, builders and motor mechanics. Some had their own businesses

They were not drug dealers, he said. Neither were they taking jobs from South Africans. In most cases they provided employment

Another man, Abdullah, said a warrant was out for his arrest because his work permit had expired and Home Affairs had refused to grant him another extension

Abdullah, who is from Jordan, said he had a permanent job as a motor mechanic, had married a South African and bought a house in Ottery

He had settled in Cape Town but Home Affairs wanted to send him back to Jordan. He was on the run from the police, who would send him back if they found him, he said

Abdullah's wife, Shamielah, said the situation was very stressful. She said they were living in constant fear of being caught and were afraid to open the door

when someone knocked

She said it was unfair of the department to tell her husband, who had been in South Africa for five years, that he had to go back

The department had even asked her to go back to Jordan with him

She said her husband was an upstanding citizen who paid taxes

The allegations that Moroccans were involved in crime affected all Arabs, irrespective of where they came from

"I don't understand why people are still being classified and labelled in the new South Africa," she said. "I thought we had left apartheid behind in 1994"

Mohamed said north Africans were being discriminated against. Foreigners from Nigeria were not treated in the same way as those from Germany, he said

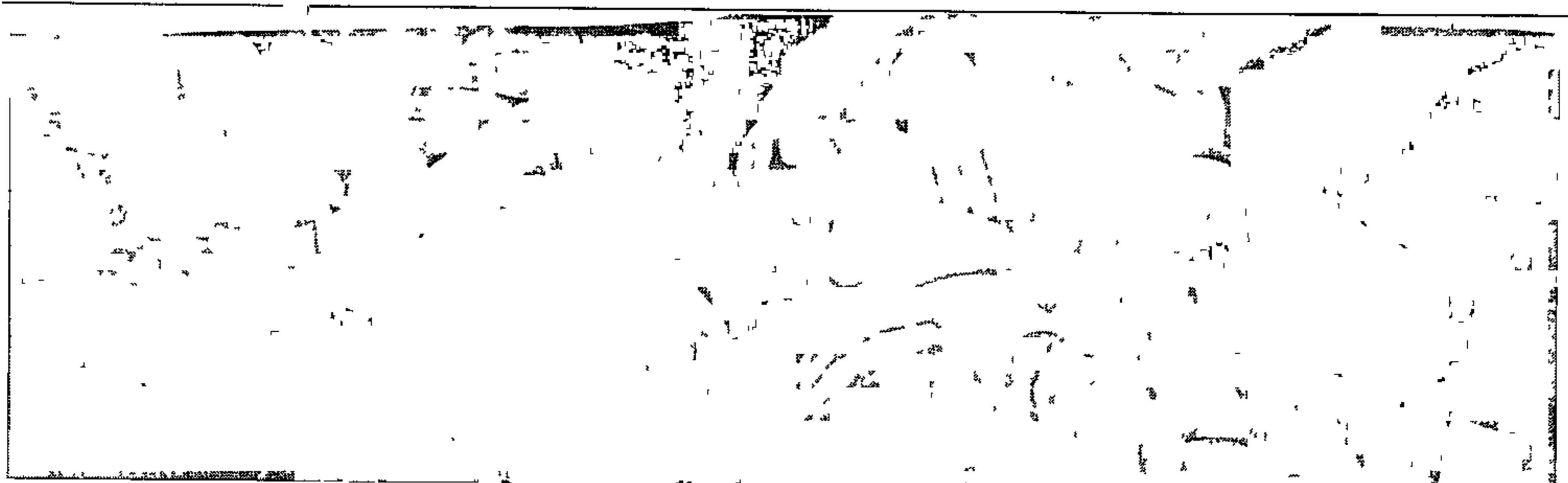
"Most of us came from dictatorships to look for a better life, but now we are being treated like animals instead of human beings," he said

A southern suburbs attorney acting for the community said Home Affairs had created the problem in 1994 when the borders were opened to everybody

The attorney, who did not want to be named, said north Africans had been granted refugee status and given work permits. Five years later it appeared Home Affairs wanted to correct its mistake by sending them back, irrespective of whether the immigrants had settled in Cape Town and started families

Home Affairs spokesman Mnası Makwela denied the department was systematically deporting north African immigrants. The department had reasons for refusing to renew work permits

Living in South Africa for five years did not alter their status, nor did their marriages to South Africans. In most cases, these were marriages of convenience, he said



HOMEWARD BOUND? Moroccan Abdullah Echall, centre, who says he would have to leave behind his wife and baby – he refused to give their names – if he was thrown out of South Africa

Picture: LEON LESTRADE



Parade

Pictures: WAYNE CONRADIE

Dishing up Lagos on a plate

R10 for a taste of Nigeria

JULIAN JACOBS

(236) ARG 5/16/99

Back home in Nigeria, Marcel Anyachor was a boxer. But in Cape Town he practises an entirely different skill, cooking food for fellow homesick expatriates

He is one of a growing number of refugees from war-torn West African countries who have come to Cape Town.

"I fled Nigeria because of its political instability, and came to Cape Town to look for a job," Mr Anyachor told Saturday Argus.

But the job prospects proved unpromising and he was forced to be innovative. So he set up a food stall at Cape Town station, where he started selling traditional West African food, mainly to fellow Nigerians longing for a taste of home.

Mr Anyachor's stall soon became popular and his business grew.

However, he was later told to vacate his stall at the station and he moved over the road to the Grand Parade near the bus terminus.

Mr Anyachor says he got the idea of setting up a restaurant when he was still a boxer in Nigeria.

"I loved cooking and, when I was in Italy, I always longed for home cooking. So when I came to Cape Town I just told myself to cook traditional food and give fellow West Africans a

home from home. A sort of little Lagos," he says.

His menu includes pap, meat, rice, bitter leaves, melon, dried fish and his very own special Nigerian sauce.

Several customers enter his restaurant - a makeshift tent - and sit down on plastic chairs around a table.

One of them orders in a West

African dialect and Marcel responds. He apologises to me and says the customer asked for a bowl of rice, pap and meat with his special sauce.

Three huge pots stand on two gas cookers inside the tent.

Two women wash and dry the dishes. Another makes pap in one of the three pots. She half bends over it and goes about her business quietly.

None of the tent's occupants speaks. The clatter of knives and forks is only thing



TREAT: boxer-turned-restaurantier Marcel Anyachor prepares lunch

that breaks the silence.

Marcel is ready to continue the interview.

He says he charges R10 a plate and R7 for half a plate.

"The menu differs from day to day basis - someday it's fish and pap and rice and another day it's meat and pap and rice," he said.

The fancy footwork learnt in his boxing days comes in handy as he dances around the table with bowls of rice and plates of food and runs to and fro to check the food in the pots.

Need to focus on the plight of SA refugees



PROTECTING REFUGEES ... Mengesha Kebede
Picture: Max Marx

(236) By MAX MARX

CP 13/6/99

THE crisis facing Africa's more than seven million refugees and displaced people should not go unnoticed as the world focuses its attention on the 850 000 refugees displaced by the Kosovo crisis, says United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) deputy regional representative Mengesha Kebede.

Kebede said while the UNHCR encouraged and supported the large number of South Africans that had contacted the UNHCR's Pretoria office to offer to adopt refugee children from Kosovo, he could not explain why no similar gestures were being made to assist equally needy refugees closer to home.

"As we celebrate Africa Refugee Day on June 20 and the 30th anniversary of the 1969 Organisation of African Unity Refugee Convention, it is an invitation to South Africans to take time to find out more about refugees and to remind citizens that refugees in South Africa do not enjoy the legal and physical protection South Africans take for granted."

He said the level of xenophobia in South Africa posed a grave danger to refugees in countries of asylum.

"The word 'kwerekwere' is bandied about and myths about foreigners taking South Africans' jobs leave them open to attack. In order to survive refugees need to make a living. No distinction is made between refugees and other legal or illegal foreigners."

In the past three years 53 000 asylum seekers have applied for refugee status in South Africa.

Of these, 22 000 applications have not as yet been processed while 8 200 asylum seekers have been granted refugee status.

'Slave trader tries to sell son to (276) his dad'

ST 18/7/99

MZILIKAZI WA AFRIKA

A MAN who has allegedly smuggled thousands of illegal immigrants into South Africa and sold them for cheap labour to farmers and businessmen has been arrested after he allegedly tried to sell a 15-year-old boy to his own father for R500.

The Sunday Times first exposed Amos Joseph Nkuna, a modern-day slave trader, in January this year after he beat up our reporter working under cover and held a gun to his head.

He was arrested after weeks on the run but was freed on a technicality — allowing him to continue his alleged trade.

But Nkuna slipped up last Friday when he allegedly tried to force a Mozambican father to buy his own son at a "bargain price".

A police spokesman, Sergeant Danie Smalberger, said "Nkuna allegedly came to the man's house with his son and tried to sell the boy. The man claims that he told Nkuna that he had only R100, but Nkuna insisted that R500 was a bargain price."

After the father failed to raise the cash, Nkuna allegedly left the house, in Embalenhle township, near Secunda in Mpuma-

langa, with the teenager. He said he would bring him back at the end of the month when the father could pay.

Smalberger said police stopped Nkuna as he was leaving the township.

Police found four illegal teenage immigrants in the car, who allegedly said that Nkuna had picked them up near the Lebombo border post on Friday. He was apparently on his way to sell them.

The car was also stolen, said Smalberger.

Police said the teenagers were among a large group of illegal immigrants allegedly lured from Mozambique into South Africa with promises either of jobs or delivery to relatives.

Police have not established how many illegals were recruited, but they have established that the first group arrived last Wednesday and were kept at safe houses near Komatipoort.

Nkuna and his brother, Rodgers Nkuna, 25, who was also in the car, appeared in the Evander Magistrate's Court in Mpumalanga on Monday on charges of kidnapping and harbouring illegal immigrants. They were not asked to plead and were refused bail.

Nkuna is due to go on trial next month in Springs on similar charges.



ANDREW INGRAM

March for love: South African wives and children of Moroccans protest outside Parliament against a plan to deport their men

Wives fight bid to deport Arabs

TARZAN MBITA
STAFF REPORTER

(236)
ARL 2/7/99
About 20 women, all married to Moroccan immigrants, braved pouring rain to march to Parliament to protest against plans to deport their husbands.

The women said yesterday they had been told by Home Affairs Department officials that their marriages were for the sake of convenience, a claim they disputed.

Waving placards reading: "We are not married for convenience" and "We have a right to love and be loved", the women handed a petition to Home Affairs spokesman Alwie van der Westhuizen.

One of their many grievances was that, if their husbands were

deported, they and their children would be left destitute.

A spokeswoman for the group, Patricia El-Ouardi of Woodstock, claimed anti-Arab sentiment was behind the department's attitude, and asked why did European immigrants did not suffer the same fate

The women said they were demanding permanent residence status for Arabs who had married South African citizens.

They also demanded their constitutional right to dignity be upheld.

Abdul Naidel, 31, a Moroccan married to a South African woman for four years, said that if his mother were to fall sick at home in Morocco, he would not be able to visit her as he would not be allowed back into South Africa

"We are not asking that much from the Government, just papers that would allow us to live in peace with our women and children.

"Even the Moroccan embassy won't help. They tell us to sort out our own problems," he said.

Mr Van der Westhuizen said the ministry understood the plight of the women, and promised to acknowledge receipt of the petition.

A spokesman for Home Affairs in Pretoria, Hennie Meyer, said the predicament of the affected women was unfortunate, but that marriage and children did not necessarily qualify anybody for permanent residence status.

He said the men should go back to their respective homelands and apply to re-enter South Africa

No visas for permanent residents

HOLDERS of permanent residence permits in SA no longer require re-entry visas when returning to the country from foreign trips, the home affairs department said yesterday.

This also applied to those with study, work-seeker and working permits, their dependants, and refugees, the department said in Pretoria

Asylum seekers whose applications are still being considered will, however, still require re-entry visas. — Sapa

(296)

BD 21/7/99

YA

Ambrosini retains his post and his passport

(236) M+G 16-27/7/99

Barry Streek

Dr Mario Ambrosini, the special adviser to Minister of Home Affairs Mangosuthu Buthelezi, is set to be reappointed to his highly paid position in contradiction of rules approved by the Cabinet

Cabinet policy specifies that only South African citizens may be appointed to the position of special adviser. Ambrosini, however, is not a South African and carries an American passport.

In a recent letter to the *Cape Times*, he said he was not required to leave South Africa to apply for extensions to his residence visa as he acquired his visa before this policy came into effect. Many other foreigners are obliged to leave the country before they can apply for exten-

sions to their visas.

Ambrosini, a constitutional lawyer, advised the Inkatha Freedom Party during the constitutional negotiations leading up to the 1994 interim Constitution and elections. After the elections, he was appointed a special adviser to Buthelezi.

It could not be ascertained whether Ambrosini's employment, or the extension of his contract, has been discussed by the Cabinet, but it was established this week that Ambrosini continues to be in office.

Ironically, one of his roles in his capacity as special adviser to Buthelezi has been to help draw up South Africa's immigration policies, which include an official policy that foreigners can only be appointed in to positions when there are no qualified South Africans to fill them.

(276) FM 23/7/99
AFRICA'S DISPLACED PEOPLE

SCATTERED IN THE STORMS

Worse off than refugees

Refugees have come to be known as the victims of wars. In fact they are the more fortunate ones. The real victims of wars, especially in Africa, are the so-called internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Unlike refugees, no-one is charged with looking after the interests of IDPs, who are often caught in the middle of conflicts between governments and rebels.

Governments tend to be reluctant to admit to the existence of IDPs because it reflects badly on the State. But they inflate refugee numbers in their country in the hope of securing more foreign aid.

Of the world's estimated 30m IDPs, 15m are in Africa — two for every refugee Africa's estimated 7m refugee population is one of the highest in the world.

"This is a category of forgotten people, the world has failed IDPs," says Nicholas

Bwakira of the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in Pretoria. "The UN has no agency to cater for them."

The UNHCR can only come to the aid of those classified as refugees, that is people who have left their countries for fear of persecution. Those who can't, usually women, children, the aged and infirm, are left to their own devices. It is they who suffer unspeakable violence at the hands of rebels such as those in Sierra Leone.

The war in Angola has left 400 000 people living as refugees in neighbouring countries. But a staggering 1.6m Angolans are internally displaced.

Burundi, with a population of 5m-6m, has 500 000 IDPs.

The war between Eritrea and Ethiopia has displaced about 400 000 people internally. The Democratic Republic of Congo has about 500 000 IDPs in various parts of the country controlled by different rebel groups.

The UNHCR's Mengesha Kebede says any aid agency trying to help IDPs has to contend with issues of national sovereignty. "If the IDPs are in rebel territory, you not only have to get permission

from the rebels to reach them, but from government, too, even though it doesn't have control of the area," he says.

"An IDP in Angola remains an Angolan, but if he crosses into Zambia or Botswana, he's welcomed by that government and becomes a refugee or exile. This means we can assist and protect him."

Some rebels or governments are known to have allowed aid agencies to come in only if they can get a share of the food supplies. Supplying food to such areas can be risky. Two World Food Programme planes taking supplies to IDPs were shot down by Unita in Angola earlier this year, killing all on board, including two South Africans.

FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

Internally displaced — 1.5m
Refugees — 7m (estimated)

Kebede says the situation in Africa is bad for IDPs because governments and people are reluctant to assist them. "It's easy for people in Africa to blame Europe, but what are we as Africans doing about IDPs?" he asks.

"Putting an end to wars in Africa is priority number one," says Bwakira. "There are too many suppliers of arms. But they supply us because we ask them."

Barney Mthombeni

Pakistanis on hunger strike to stay in SA

(236)

Johannesburg - About 75 members of Pakistan's Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) are on a 24-hour hunger strike in the gardens of the Union Buildings to protest against alleged atrocities committed against them in their home country.

A spokesman said the group, which planned to hold more protests next week, was seeking asylum from the South African government.

But their allegations have been strongly denied by the Pakistani government, while The Department of Home Affairs has already rejected four applications from MQM members for asylum. - Argus Correspondent

ARG 27/7/99

Immigrants victimised by aggressive locals

BY NHLANHLA NCACA

VOSLOORUS police on the East Rand have distanced themselves from the notorious Malamulela Social Movement following alleged criminal acts by the group during a raid for illegal immigrants in the township.

Malamulela members have harassed and robbed businessmen from Mozambique, charging they were in the country illegally and taking jobs and business opportunities from locals.

Their victims were ordered to produce IDs, passports and work permits before their properties were ransacked.

"They took everything and cleaned me out," said one shop owner.

Police allegedly stood by watching and failed to lift a finger during the raids, which started last week.

Items that were stolen included money, cellular phones, groceries, television sets and video machines.

A well-known local businessman, Wilson Siphso Sambu said he was shocked when a group of about 30 men claiming to be members of the

Malamulela ordered his workers to produce IDs.

"We have operated in this township for more than five years and this was the first time something like this has ever happened."

Another Mozambican national employed by a construction company in Vosloorus said when he could not produce an ID he was asked to pay a fine of R100.

"When I hesitated they threatened me," he said.

An eyewitness to one of the incidents, where a man was approached in Roets Drive opposite Dr Gqwede's surgery and asked to produce an ID, told City Press that before the victim could produce it the group of about 20 people started to manhandle him and snatched his watch, a gold chain, a cellular phone and his wallet before they ran away.

He said he recognised one of the men as a member of Malamulela.

Vosloorus police station commissioner, Captain DS Manyathela, confirmed that police were involved in some of the raids, but denied that police took part in robbing the victims.

He said the only criminal acts reported to him were the stolen cellular phone and construction site robbery which are being investigated.

Captain Manyathela said these allegations led to a meeting between the Vosloorus Community Policing Forum (CPF), police and the Malamulela Movement. He said these parties agreed that the Malamulela Movement should stop operating until further notice.

Manyathela stressed that it is the Malamulela group that approached the police initially. He said they informed the police of illegal immigrants in Vosloorus and so the police asked for their assistance in pin-pointing them.

"We reached an agreement that they will send five representatives who will accompany police when the raids are carried out."

"As it is now the Malamulela have breached the agreement and it has come to our attention that they sometimes conduct the raids themselves."

Mr James Nyuswa, who is a task force commander of the Malamulela Movement, denied allegations that his group was involved in

criminal acts during the raids. He said the only thing his group did was to raid the areas they knew to be owned by illegal immigrants and helped police to arrest most of them.

Asked why only business areas of Shangaan-speaking people were raided he said.

"The Shangaans here in Vosloorus make things very difficult for our community."

"They are the majority dwellers in the newly constructed Extension 28 area."

"How they managed to get houses without valid documents remains to be known," he said.

Nyuswa further claimed that the Mozambican nationals who had been granted official citizenship in Vosloorus were the first to be offered contracts whenever employment opportunities arose.

He said this made it difficult to find work for the locals and businessmen.

Nyuswa said nothing is going to stop them from getting rid of the alleged illegals in the township.

"We want all of them to be taken back to where they belong," he said.

CP 28/2/99

programme of action — Farouk, Othman

Illegals worked for government

NORTHERN Province police have launched an investigation after 50 illegal aliens arrested last week were found to be employed by the local government traditional affairs department

They were arrested in the towns of Dwarsloop, Thulamahashe and Mkhuhlu

Police spokesman Ronel Otto said they all possessed SA identity documents but were apparently Mozambican

Otto said the arrests came after an operation by members of the SA Police Service's internal tracing unit and the home affairs department — Sapa

BD 20/7/99

Home Affairs is hampered by fake papers, writes **Jean le May**

ARG 25/26/9/99 (236)

For sale: political asylum in SA

Almost 14 000 people, most of them from Africa, have applied for political asylum in the Western Cape since 1994. However, immigration authorities and the police are being hampered by the huge number of fraudulent documents in circulation, says Hennie Meyer of the Home Affairs Department.

This week Gauteng police uncovered a multimillion-rand scam in which "authentic" Home Affairs documents were being manufactured on a huge scale in a hairdressing salon.

Police said the alleged ringleader, a Nigerian called Oscar Duru, was operating a string of bogus businesses all over the country, including the Western Cape.

Mr Meyer said applicants for political asylum were given permits allowing them to get jobs and run businesses. This protected them from being arrested as illegal immigrants.

Many who have applied for asylum are running successful businesses, especially in the informal sector. In the Western Cape, some of the most efficient street market stallholders are immigrants from other African countries.

And some employers who employ immigrants legally, say they have good work ethics and, in some cases, exceptional skills.

However, their enterprise has made them unpopular with South Africans. And their immunity from arrest has caused friction between the police and Home Affairs officials.

A recent community police forum heard how Cape Town police raided a block of flats, most of whose residents were said to be "foreigners".

Acting on a tip-off about drug-dealing and receiving stolen property, police raided the flats and arrested a number of people as illegal immigrants. But most of them were released the next morning when Home Affairs officials confirmed they had applied for political asylum.

Home Affairs said political asylum applicants may have to wait up to two years because of the problems in checking whether they are genuine.

Countrywide, up to 60 000 people had applied for political asylum, just over half had been approved, said Mr Meyer.

People from 58 countries, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, had asked for political asylum.

Most applications came from Africa, with people from Angola, Nigeria, Somalia, the Democratic

Republic of the Congo, Somalia and Senegal topping the list. About 5 600 Indian citizens had applied for political, Mr Meyer said.

There was "an enormous problem" with illegal immigrants, he said. Estimates of the number of people in South Africa illegally were "between 2,5 million and 4,2 million".

Since 1995, almost 800 000 illegal immigrants had been repatriated, the majority of whom were from Mozambique.

"But we know there are thousands more of them walking around with forged permits from Home Affairs, which means that the police and immigration officials can't touch them."

Mr Meyer said South Africa had signed refugee agreements with the United Nations in 1950 and the Organisation of African Unity in 1967.

Until now, refugees had fallen under the Aliens Control Act, but a new Refugee Act will tighten up regulations and make the documents more difficult to forge, "although it is almost impossible to produce a forgery proof document these days".

Jurie de Wet, head of the Western Cape Home Affairs office, said people who applied for political asylum were given permits, issued under Section 41 of the Aliens Act, which protected them from arrest and deportation as illegal immigrants.

"The permits allow them to get jobs or run businesses. But they are not above the law. If they break the law they can be prosecuted."

Wilfred Baxter, refugee officer for Home Affairs in the Western Cape, said the provincial department had 4 500 applicants for political asylum on its books.

The applicants were asked to fill in a detailed questionnaire, were interviewed personally and fingerprinted.

"In most cases, it is extremely difficult to check up on them, although the United Nations High Commission for Refugees is a great help in verifying whether applicants genuinely need political asylum," he said.

The fingerprint screening process, hopefully "weeded out" people wanted by police in their countries of origin for non-political crimes.

Applications were then considered by special departmental committees.

"But this all takes time. People can walk around with Section 41 permits for as long as two years," Mr Baxter said.

People
are
walking
around
with
forged
permits

New immigration service on way in bid to head off illegal migrants

CLIVE SAWYER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ARL 1/9/99

(236)

The Department of Home Affairs is poised to begin setting up a new Immigration Service, a complex task it reckons may take five years.

The new service would signal a shift of emphasis towards "prevention and community involvement" to curb illegal immigration, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said at a briefing in Parliament yesterday.

"It will take time to bring about this transformation, which may keep us engaged throughout the term of this legislature," Chief Buthelezi said.

It would be a great success if the project was completed by 2004, but the ministry wanted to avoid excessive haste and lack of consultation.

Efforts to deal with migration and refugees were being co-ordinated with

the Ministry of Safety and Security and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The new Immigration Service flowed from recommendations in the white paper on migration.

The department was drafting a bill to implement this white paper, which would be published for comment after being approved by the Cabinet.

The new service was related to a restructuring of the department, aimed at eliminating shortcomings in service.

Chief Buthelezi said his department was understaffed and "stringent restrictions" prevented the creation of the additional 900 posts needed.

The restructuring of the department would mean strengthening administrative and decision-making capacity at regional level.

The greatest challenge was to correct the unequal distribution of services in the country.

At district level, there was a "paralysing" shortage of official transport, infrastructure and development, meaning that partnership with local government would have to be explored.

Municipal councils could be asked to help in registrations and maintaining data of births, marriages and deaths.

"In time, local government could be involved in the issuing of ID cards and (in) other civic affairs functions," Chief Buthelezi said.

The department was also to work with other departments to provide a one-stop service, for example, by combining Home Affairs mobile units with Department of Health mobile units.

Community organisations were to be recruited to mobilise supporters to apply for IDs and rectify personal particulars which, if inaccurate, could disqualify people from pension benefits.

Call to put migrants at bottom of housing list

TOM HOOD

(236)

ST(CM) 5/9/99

THE 50 000 migrants pouring into Cape squatter townships every year should go to the bottom of the housing list, Kent Morkel, chairman of the Cape Metropolitan Council's executive committee said on Friday.

Addressing a council information session on the new unicity, Morkel said the new council should ensure that the established community in the Cape received preference in the allocation of services and housing.

"With our limited budget, the 50 000 or so new migrants arriving in the CMC area each year will have to go to the bottom of the list of priorities."

Later, he told Cape Metro that 98 percent of the new migrants moved into townships.

"As chairman of the executive committee, I have a responsibility first towards people of all races in the Western Cape.

"Thousands of people in the coloured and black communities have

been waiting 10 years and still cannot get a home. We cannot render services to all new squatter camps. It is costing the taxpayers R200-million a year for debtors who do not pay for their services."

Saleem Mowzer, exco chairman, said that to say people in informal settlements should be placed at the end of the queue, meant that apartheid should be maintained.

"We must re-allocate services to poverty-stricken communities. Morkel is saying that the Western Cape should not allow black families to come here but he does not object to hundreds of white people also moving here."

The information session was attended by mayors, top politicians, officials, business, unions and others.

David Schmidt, who facilitated the restructuring of local government after the last local government elections in 1996, said the number of councils had been rationalised from 69 to seven, they had been democratised and consolidated, and real efforts had been made to address equity in the delivery of services.

Home Affairs chief should

ARL 9/9/99

resign, says inquiry report

(236)

Mokoena threatens court battle as Buthelezi gets findings

STAFF REPORTER

Pretoria - A disciplinary inquiry into the activities of suspended Home Affairs Director-General Albert Mokoena recommended he resign from office and be reprimanded.

Mr Mokoena says he is not averse to resigning. The report, which has not yet been made public, was yesterday handed to Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who said he would pass it on to President Mbeki for further action.

But Mr Mokoena broke silence over the report's findings in a strongly worded statement, issued by his attorney, slamming the report as "an unmitigated attack on his integrity, which affront goes beyond his life in public office."

He threatened to challenge the findings in court.

"Our client has had an opportunity to study the report of (presiding officer Puke) Maserumule and is, on proper advice, satisfied the report is replete with demonstrable and palpable misdirections of fact and law," said his attorney, Joe Nalane.

"For a presiding officer to say, 'Again, I reluctantly recommend a reprimand' must convey a sense that he would have wished for a sanction not warranted by the evidence before him," Mr Nalane said in the statement.

The hearing dealt with allegations that Mr Mokoena had misused state resources for private purposes. This followed a newspaper report that he was running a private basketball team, without permission, from his Home Affairs office.

The hearing involved eight counts of alleged misconduct.

Sources yesterday confirmed the hearing had recommended he face reprimand for a number of acts - including using departmental drivers to ferry his players - and suggested he leave the department.

Mr Nalane said his client was "not averse to tendering his resignation" in line with "the Government's pursuit of unimpeded public service excellence and delivery" and would be discussing this option with Chief Buthelezi.

Mr Maserumule's report was expected last week but was delayed when Public Protector Selby Bagwa submitted two additional charges of irregularities against Mr Mokoena. These arrived too late for inclusion in the hearing and will have to be dealt with separately.



Albert Mokoena: 'I'm not averse to resigning'

Mokoena quits after report indicates 'breach of trust'

BD 10/9/99

(236)

HOME Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi announced the resignation of director-general Albert Mokoena yesterday, the day after receiving a report on his misconduct probe.

However, Buthelezi said he would refer the letter of resignation to President Thabo Mbeki and Public Service and Administration Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi for a final decision. Until then, Mokoena remained suspended and would receive a salary.

Mokoena's resignation followed a probe prompted by revelations in The Sunday Times newspaper that he ran a basketball team and sought sponsorship for it using government facilities.

He allegedly also helped three Zambians obtain residence permits and identity documents to enable them to play in his team.

Buthelezi said Mokoena resigned before a decision could be taken on the findings into six allegations of misconduct.

The report recommended that Buthelezi direct Mokoena to resign.

He said the probe, chaired by Puke Maserumule, could not find sufficient corroboration to the major allegation by The Sunday Times relating to the illegal issuing of residence permits and ID documents to the three Zambians.

It absolved Mokoena from the charge of performing remunerative work outside his duties in the public service, relating to his ownership of a basketball team.

The probe, however, found him guilty of "a conflict of interest" for soliciting sponsorship from a computer company for the team.

He was also found guilty of using work facilities for private interests when he posted the department's telephone and fax numbers on his team's website.

"In respect of the two foregoing charges, the report indicates the recommendation of a reprimand has been made with reluc-

tance because a final warning would have been more appropriate for this type of misconduct, but it is not unfortunately provided for," Buthelezi said.

The report found Mokoena guilty of improperly using government vehicles without complying with certain requirements, including entries in a logbook.

On these allegations, mitigating circumstances were accepted and the reprimand was recommended.

Mokoena was also found guilty of arranging for members of the team to be transported in government vehicles from Durban to Maritzburg, causing two officials to perform private work outside official working times.

"In the light of the circumstances of this misconduct, the report indicated that Mokoena's conduct has been of such a nature that it constitutes a breach of the trust and confidence which underpins his employment relationship with me," Buthelezi said — Sapa

MZILIKAZI WA AFRIKA

Mokoena quits before he's pushed

President accepts resignation of 'Dodgy DG' found guilty of misconduct

(236)

ST 12/9/99



GUILTY: Albert Mokoena is no longer in charge of Home Affairs

Picture: ELIZABETH SELAKE

RESIDENT Thabo Mbeki yesterday accepted the resignation of Albert Mokoena, Director-General of Home Affairs, who was found guilty of misconduct after an eight-month investigation into his activities by the Sunday Times

Mokoena, who became known as the "Dodgy DG" quit before he could be told officially to leave after a Public Service and Administration Inquiry found him guilty of abusing departmental facilities

The Sunday Times began investigating Mokoena after exposing a fake ID racket being run from the Home Affairs office in Harrison Street, Johannesburg, early this year

At the time Mokoena condemned the newspaper, claiming its allegations were "lies, malicious and untruthful"

But within a week the Sunday Times was publishing new allegations that Mokoena had been running his Soweto

basketball team from his Pretoria head office, and that he had used state vehicles illegally to ferry players

He was also accused of soliciting sponsorship for his team from a company that had a contract with Home Affairs

called for and another round of controversy raged after Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Minister of Home Affairs, appointed Khulekani Sitele, the Commissioner of Correctional Services, to act as presiding officer

Sitele was the focus of an inquiry by Auditor-General, Henri Kluever

The Sunday Times exposed him and within merit awards totalling R109 292, which he repaid on Wednesday

On Tuesday, Puke Maserumule, a former Labour Court acting judge who headed the inquiry into Mokoena, released his report in which he recommended that Buthelezi direct Mokoena to resign

He found him guilty of conflict of interest after seeking sponsorship for his team from a company with an existing contract with the state vehicles, and

Directing that members of his basketball team be transported in state vehicles, causing two government officials to perform private work outside their official hours

Buthelezi said: "The report indicated that Mr Mokoena's conduct has been of such a nature that it constitutes a breach of trust and confidence which undermines his employment relationship with me. The report recommends that I direct

Mr Mokoena to resign from public office." Last week, the President also recommended that Mokoena should face two more charges of misconduct following allegations that Home Affairs paid the salaries of his gardener and domestic servant, and that he had failed to assess and recover state money stolen by an employee.

Police and the Public Prosecutor are still investigating Mokoena for allegedly defrauding the International Electoral Commission of more than R2-million and organising South African identity books for three of his team's Zambian-born basketball players

Nicolette Technman, Public Protector spokesman, said: "We have noted his resignation, but as far as we are concerned there are still many matters which need to be finalised, which go beyond the scope of his involvement."

Where to house the refugees?

Jonathan 18/10/99 (236)

By Claire Keeton
Feature Writer

THE Department of Home Affairs' proposal to confine asylum seekers in South Africa to "reception centres" is likely to worsen conditions for refugees

The current system of granting asylum to refugees is marred by inefficiency - with a backlog of 26 000 applications, which have not been reviewed - and corruption, as well as abuse by economic migrants

The department suggests that temporarily accommodating refugees in transit centres will expedite the processing of cases limit abuse and de-link the institution of asylum from economic migration

But members of the Human Rights Commission (HRC), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the National Consortium for Refugee Affairs claim to have exposed significant flaws in this proposal

Among their reservations is the danger that these centres could turn into detention camps and may exacerbate the already high levels of xenophobia in South Africa

Underlying these are practical concerns about the proposed location, the cost of accommodating asylum seekers under humanitarian conditions and the lack of capacity for Home Affairs to process applications swiftly

Moreover the Refugees Act, signed last December only makes provision for reception centres in the event of a mass influx of asylum seekers, not in the ordinary course of events

"They are for exceptional circumstances," says HRC commissioner Jody Kollapen

"If Parliament had wanted to allow reception centres to be established generally, they would have granted wide powers to Home Affairs and not specifically restricted them as they have done in the legislation

"People who have experience of similar centres in Africa feel they invariably become detention camps"

Pretoria-based UNHCR representative Mangesha Kebede agrees that this is a real threat, given the long delays at present in processing applications in South Africa

"If a person is detained and kept indefinitely at a centre, it stops being a reception centre and becomes a detention camp," he warns



Mozambican refugees in Northern Province wait for repatriation to their home country. The latest proposal by the Department of Home Affairs is to confine asylum seekers in South Africa to 'reception centres'

Human rights lawyers are, in fact, examining the constitutionality of the proposal and the conditions under which it is legal to curtail people's freedom of movement

From its viewpoint, the department argues that reception centres would allow it to provide "better humanitarian assistance to asylum seekers" Spokesman Tumi Moloi does, however, concede that "financial constraints" would be one of the potential problems

Kollapen explains that under the current system, asylum seekers are allowed to find employment and educate their children

"However," he says, "with the establishment of centres, the responsibility for the physical and other needs of asylum seekers falls exclusively on the state

"If someone is obliged to spend time in a centre, the state has an obligation to provide for their needs"

The Constitution protects the rights of all detained persons, including non-citizens, according to Jonathan Klaaren of Wits University's law faculty This includes, at state expense, "the provision of adequate accommodation, nutrition, reading material and medical treatment"

At the moment, non-government organisations (NGOs) - particularly city-based refugee forums, human rights and religious organisations - play a critical role in supporting asylum seekers

Kebede says "If reception centres were set up, NGOs and the refugee forums would need to be involved and endorse it

"At the end of the day, they are the

ones who follow up cases, not the Government or the UN"

Home Affairs has identified "hostility to the establishment of these facilities by NGOs and other stakeholders" as a potential obstacle in implementing the proposal

Apart from the expense of establishing centres and transport costs, there is another concern

If the centres are located, according to the proposal in Louis Trichardt and Kimberley - which are surrounded by impoverished rural areas - the services available to asylum seekers and not local people could lead to resentment

"Unemployment is high" in rural areas and people do not have proper services

"If people in centres have access to three meals a day and services like medical care and education, this could

heighten xenophobia," Kollapen says

He points out that the proposal is based on the unrealistic premise that it would take three to four months to process applications while the current experience is that it actually takes 24 to 36 months

During this time, asylum seekers would be confined to the centre with restricted movement

Even Sweden a country with formidable resources and a small number of refugees takes an average of nine months to deal with applications

Kebede says the tremendous backlog of cases in South Africa - which has about 1 000 new applications a month - has prompted the UNHCR to offer its assistance in screening and fast tracking cases

There are individual cases from countries like Ghana Nigeria, India and Pakistan which need attention while refugees from Angola and Somalia are almost automatically granted asylum

We do appreciate where the Government is coming from as it needs to challenge the tremendous abuse of the asylum system in South Africa Kebede says In principle we do understand, but we are not convinced that reception centres will have the desired result

Instead, he suggests that Home Affairs should revamp its structures and implement the provisions of the new Refugee Act

The department has not yet finalised regulations to enforce the act and expects to do this only by next year

Kebede says "Implementation of the new law would go a long way to address the problem It offers various ways to deal with abusive cases"

Members of the consortium support this approach allow the procedures under the new law to be implemented before pursuing other options

Meanwhile, the UNHCR is concerned that the refugee legislation will be implemented "in a vacuum" since there are no new laws yet to regulate migration

Although a White Paper on international migration was published in April migration is presently regulated by the apartheid-era Aliens Control Act

Kollapen observes "Corruption and inefficiency are deeply ingrained in the way Home Affairs functions If the purpose of the centres is to cut out corruption, we must rather deal with it directly"

Home Affairs 'Circus'

Stalling over foreigners' work permits puts multimillion-⁽⁷⁴⁸⁾rand investments in jeopardy

BOBBY JORDAN

(236) ST(CM) 3/10/99

A BUREAUCRATIC "circus" in the Department of Home Affairs is threatening to sabotage a R30-million investment deal in the Western Cape between South Africa and one of the world's leading airlines.

Luthansa had to scupper plans to expand its global teletales call centre at Cape Town International Airport in June because the department has turned down applications for work permits for several of its employees.

The move has outraged senior Department of Finance officials who have been battling to secure foreign investment. They say the deal is one of several multimillion-rand investments that are being jeopardised by Home Affairs administrative delays.

Minister of Trade and Industry Alec Erwin who was in Washington this week, declined to comment.

However, a senior government official, who asked not to be named, said the Minister had been asked to intervene because it was feared South Africa was losing hundreds of millions of rands.

The teletales centre employs 40 consultants who handle overflow calls from Luthansa's main call centre in Kassel, Germany. The company had planned to expand the centre to four times its size, employing 160 consultants by June 11. Sources say it may have to pull out of the deal, which is being negotiated in conjunction with Investment South Africa and the Western Cape Investment and Trade Promotion Agency (Wesgro).

According to documents in the possession of the Sunday Times, the Home Affairs Department had given Luthansa an assurance that work permits would be processed in time.

Luthansa was considering "cutting its losses" if the issue could not be resolved, the documents said. Several meetings had been held, but the department continued to reject the applications. It claimed the applicants' backgrounds and qualifications were not suitable. It also claimed:

- The applicants' skills and abilities were available in South Africa.
- Luthansa was dictating to the Department and

- German companies and churches had a reputation of abusing the immigration system in South Africa.

Wesgro's chief executive Peter Pullen said the delays were unnecessary and "problematic".

Luthansa was unable to bring in the technical experts it needed, he said.

In a statement this week, the managing director of the Luthansa call centre, Roman Zyriga, said: "During the recruitment stage, several successful candidates were based outside South Africa. Work permits for these candidates await authorisation."

The call centre in Cape Town (currently) represents an investment of more than R10-million and (1) plans to employ more than 160 consultants by the year 2000 more than 80 percent of the staff will be South African.

Another company, Hong Kong-based Novel Industries — which has invested more than R100-million in two factories in Atlantis and employs more than 240 people — is considering scaling down operations because of difficulties with work permits.

Novel has said it may reconsider its plan to invest another \$3-million (R18-million).

Numerous requests for comment have been directed in the past two weeks to the Department of Home Affairs' chief director for migration, Dr Patrick Matlou and director for migration Michael Thomeiang but none has been received.

Meanwhile, the country's top immigration lawyers have slated the department. They claim it has disintegrated in the wake of scandals around former director-general Albert Mokoena who has had to quit leaving a backlog of about 7 000 work permit applications and a dysfunctional system.

"We have a renegade public department — no matter what we do it remains unresponsive," said lawyer Gary Eisenberg.

"If a department is not answerable to the public then we have a national crisis."

Illegal immigrant agent arrested

(236)

By Jimmy Seepe
Political Correspondent

THE Home Affairs Department's anti-corruption unit has arrested an agent who specialises in "human trafficking" of illegal Asian immigrants into South Africa. The agent allegedly operated in Pretoria.

The busting of the racket comes as the South African Police Service arrested two Home Affairs officials in unrelated incidents for taking bribes in a "cash-for-freedom scheme" for illegal immigrants who were being transported out of the country by rail.

Yesterday the department confirmed that two officials, Mr BE Nong and Mr M Nesengane, were caught with loot taken from the illegal immigrants on a train transporting them out of the country.

They are suspected of having allowed close to 100 immigrants to jump off the train. An internal inquiry has now been launched by the department to determine the extent of their involvement in the scheme.

The two officials, sources in the department said, were making a mockery of Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi's "get tough" stance on illegal immigrants.

The department yesterday told *Sowetan* that the agent, who was arrested with 12 new recruits from Bangladesh - who are alleged to have paid between R10 000 to R15 000 to come to the country - was currently being held at the Valerija police station.

Home Affairs spokesperson Mr Manase Makwela said the agent and the illegal immigrants were arrested on Monday evening by the department's anti-corruption unit.

Makwela said the department was investigating various possibilities that the immigrants could have been brought to the country to be sold to "factories" to perform cheap labour.

"These illegal immigrants are said to have entered the country through Mozambique," he said.

Makwela said the department had launched another investigation to determine how many other illegal immigrants the agent might have

brought into the country. "The possibility that more illegal immigrants may have been smuggled into South Africa in this racket cannot be ruled out."

Sources in the department have meanwhile told *Sowetan* that the two Home Affairs officials had allegedly made counter-accusations against some of the police officers who had arrested them for their illegal activities.

It is alleged that they told department officials that some of the police officers who arrested them and pressed charges against them were also involved in the scheme.

The two were apparently arrested after they fell out of favour with some of the police officers who were dispatched by the police to oversee the repatriation of the illegals.

Makwela, however, said both Nong and Nesengane had not been suspended from their duties since they were arrested by the police.

They have been placed under the department's work supervision programme which allows them to perform office duties instead of escorting illegals out of the country.

Sowetan 10/10/89

Homeward-bound

MAG 1-7/10/99

(236)

Caught in a civil war, thousands of Mozambicans sought refuge in South Africa in the 1980s, writes Nicola Johnston

After nearly two decades in South Africa, a group of 250 former Mozambican refugees have recently been assisted to return to their former villages in Mozambique.

They became the first convoy of a group of 600 who crossed through Nwanetsi Gate in the Kruger National Park into Mozambique. This is a border concession which has been specially arranged between the Mpumalanga Department of Home Affairs and the Mozambican consulate in Nelspruit.

The refugees have been waiting to return to Mozambique since the inception last year of a pilot assisted return project run by the University of the Witwatersrand's refugee research programme (RRP).

Funds have now been secured to assist them to return with their few acquired possessions. Among this first group to be assisted is Chief Nyathi, one of the most powerful traditional leaders in the Gaza province.

He has been living as a refugee in South Africa for the past 15 years. With him he takes many followers who claim they cannot remain in South Africa if he returns to Mozambique.

For those returning, one of the main pull factors is access to land, which is so restricted in the former homeland areas where they are currently residing. "Before we came to this country we had never experienced having to pay money for tomatoes, we always grew our own. Here things are difficult. You need money

for everything," says Nyathi. Land is also important in terms of being where the ancestors are buried and therefore the place where people have a sense of belonging.

"We have been guests here for a long time now. It is time for us to go home. We've heard things are good that side now and the peace is lasting. They are crying for us to come home."

Despite a United Nations High Commission on Refugees initiative for voluntary repatriation between 1994 and 1995, many refugees did not take up the offer of assistance, because of uncertainty about the situation in Mozambique.

Some who returned to Mozambique with this initiative came back to South Africa, because they were unable to support themselves in their own country.

A recent survey conducted by the RRP shows that between 20% and 40% of the refugee population are still interested in returning to

Mozambique if they can get assistance with transport and some reintegration support.

The majority of them escaped to South Africa by walking through the Kruger National Park during the atrocities of civil war in their home country.

They were given shelter in the rural border communities of the Northern Province and Mpumalanga (former Gazankulu and Kangwane) during the 1980s.

The RRP estimates that there are about 220 000 Mozambican refugees still residing in the Northern Province and Mpumalanga, where they have been integrated into the local communities.

However, these communities are among the poorest of the poor. Their lack of formal status restricts their survival strategies. An average household of six must survive on about R120 a month.

In 1997/98 the RRP ran pilot assisted return projects which care-

fully monitored the reintegration of just less than 1 000 former Mozambican refugees.

The outcome of the project was generally positive. All of those assisted had remained in Mozambique. The majority got access to land and were more or less self-sufficient after the first harvest.

They had been assisted by relatives or friends in their former villages when they first arrived. Problems with access to water and health facilities remain, but 95% of the returnees interviewed were content at home.

"Life is good here. We were suffering that side. Look at me now. I am well and my store is full! The others must come and help us harvest!" said one of last year's returnees.

Nicola Johnston is the head of the Wits University refugee research programme which is based in Acornhoek, the Northern Province.



Going home The first of 600 Mozambican refugees returned to their home country recently after nearly two decades in South Africa. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE WITS REFUGEE RESEARCH PROGRAMME

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Economy takes a knock as SA emigration figures accelerate

ROBERT BRAND
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ART 14/10/99 (236)

Emigration from South Africa last year outstripped immigration for the third year running. Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said

The drain was most keenly felt in terms of economically active people. Chief Buthelezi said yesterday in a written reply to a Parliamentary question by Democratic Party MP Vinita Kalyan

A total of 6 433 people emigrated from South Africa last year, most of them to Europe, Australia/New Zealand and the Americas, Chief Buthelezi said. At the same time, only

4 371 immigrants were admitted, the largest proportion of whom from Europe

But only 1 920 of the immigrants were economically active, while 5 105 of emigrants were economically active, Chief Buthelezi said

The most popular destination for South Africans who emigrated last year was Australia, with 1 408 people choosing it as their destination. Next in line was the United Kingdom (1 236 emigrants), New Zealand (782) and the United States (767)

Most immigrants last year came from the United Kingdom (616), followed by Zimbabwe (300) and Germany (249)

Lufthansa work permit glitch smoothed over

IAN SHIFFMAN
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ART 14/10/99 (236)

Work permits have been issued to all but three of the German staff to work at the Lufthansa "call centre" that has been opened in Cape Town

Speaking at the opening of the call centre, Stefan Pichler, executive vice-president for Lufthansa sales, said there had been initial problems obtaining work permits for a small number of people

But meetings with officials from the Department of Home Affairs had cleared up some misunderstandings and Lufthansa had been assured that the permits would now be issued

The call centre, which went live in June, handles 2 500 calls a day and will operate from 8am to 11pm

Services include reservations, flight information, routing, telephone check in facilities and general information.

The centre serves the German market, and all calls are rerouted from Germany

Lufthansa will employ 180 people by the end of the year. Initially, the agents will be supervised by experienced staff from existing call centres. Eventually all staff will be hired locally

"The Cape Town centre will serve the German market and is a further vote of confidence the airline has in Cape Town as a major world destination," said Mr Pichler

By the end of this year, Lufthansa will have invested more than R10-million in South Africa, with further investment planned for the beginning of 2000

Cape Town was chosen in preference to other South African cities because its telecommunications structure is of the highest international standard and bilingual staff were readily available

The call centre is the result of a joint venture between Lufthansa, Investment South Africa and the Investor Human Resources Centre

Its chief function will be to support the Kassel call centre in Germany, as the number of calls received by clients with in Germany is increasing so rapidly that the Kassel base is becoming overloaded

Each call centre around the world receives calls from its own specific market, but Lufthansa's global call centre network means each centre will be able to support another during the night or at peak hours

The number of calls for Lufthansa via its seven global call centres has increased to more than 10 million a year, with sales generating more than R1 billion

The airline had increased seat availability by 30% on the Johannesburg-Cape Town route this year, Mr Pichler said

"The airline is promoting Cape Town as a major international destination and 70% of passengers flying to South Africa are non South Africans," he said

New laws to curb attacks on foreigners

AR 18/10/99

(236)

FIKILE-NTSIKELELO MOYA
STAFF REPORTER

Johannesburg - Human rights activists yesterday expressed the hope that proposed anti-discrimination laws will help to stem the tide of xenophobia sweeping South Africa, after a Malian businessman was shot dead at the weekend.

According to police spokesperson Inspector Mary Martins-Engelbrecht, hawker Mr Mary Magaffi had complained at a Johannesburg inner-city wholesaler on Saturday that he had not received a package for which he had paid. An argument ensued and a security guard allegedly shot 33-year-old Mr Magaffi 11 times, killing him instantly.

The guard has been arrested and is expected to appear in court on a charge of murder.

She said police were investigating claims by witnesses that they had seen a colleague of the security guard place a knife in Mr Magaffi's hand.

Lawyers for Human Rights director Dr Vinodh Jaichand said yesterday he hoped the new laws being drafted - which outlaw discrimination based on nationality, race, ethnic group or social origin - would counter xenophobia.

Dr Jaichand, pointing out that South Africa will for the first time celebrate Africa Human Rights Day on Thursday, said it should use the occasion to deal with the "new racism".

"It seems like we have a new kind of racism, where the previously disenfranchised are at the forefront of racism against those who are darker."

The African Charter on Human and People's Rights was ratified 13 years ago but this will be the first time that South Africa celebrates the occasion.

This week Africa celebrates the adoption of the African Charter on Human Rights and People's Rights,

The Yankees of Africa

Mozambique

Carlos Cardoso: The treatment inflicted by the South African state and many South African citizens on Mozambicans is unacceptable.

Every Thursday a train carrying Mozambican deportees from South Africa arrives at the border town of Ressano Garcia. Illegal immigrants, South Africa tells us.

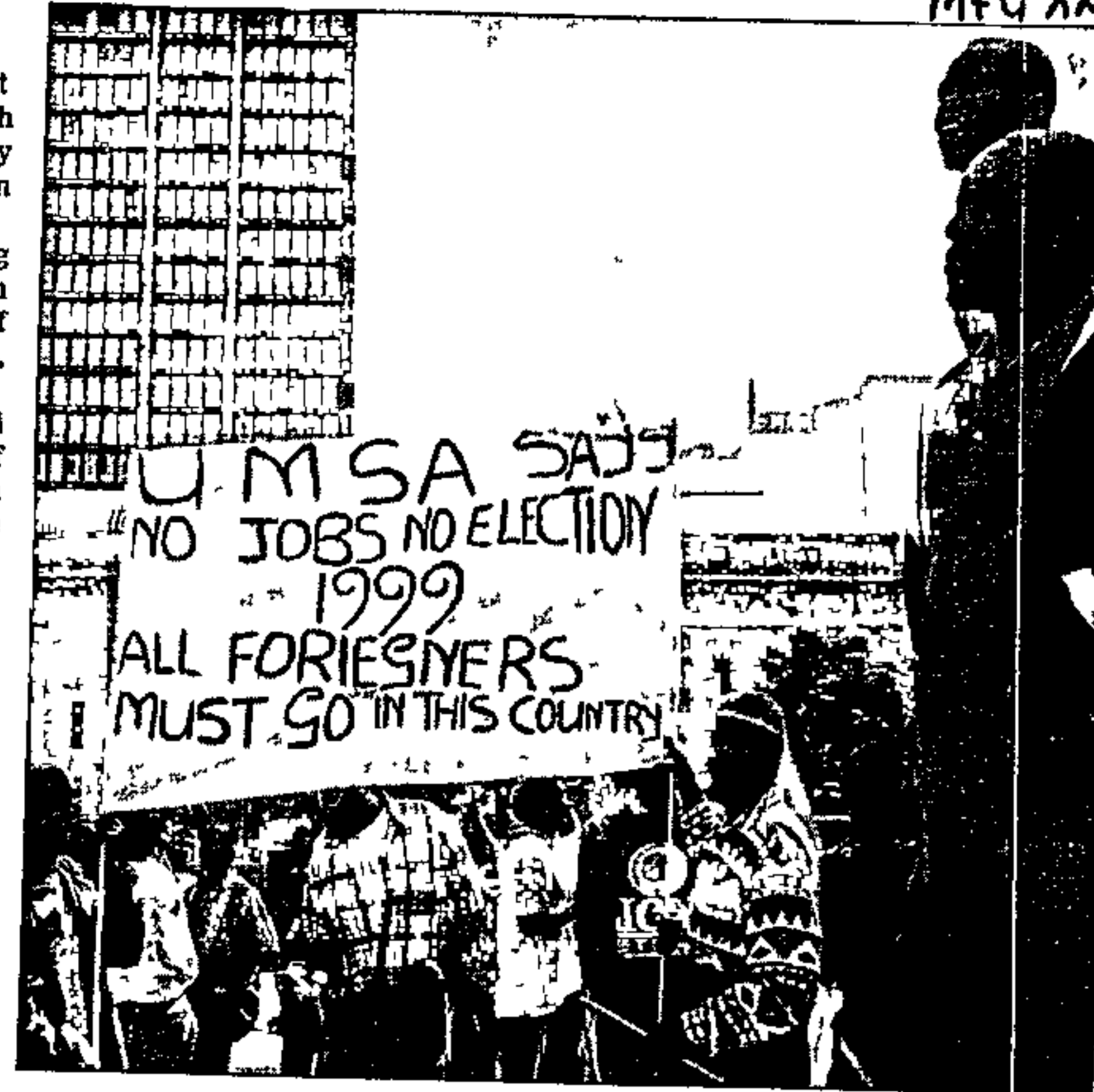
To be sure, many of them entered South Africa illegally. And most of them will be back on South African soil the next day brought in by the same authorities that expelled them. And so the business goes on.

But many are not illegal. They just didn't happen to have on them the proper piece of paper when they were stopped by police on some Pretoria street. And even if they are illegal immigrants, the police have no right to beat them, keep them in a concentration camp prior to deportation and steal all their belongings.

These are injustices as naked and shameful as those of the apartheid state. Every time a Mozambican is beaten up or insulted in South Africa for being a Mozambican it is as if Samora Machel is being slain all over again. This is not what the anti-apartheid struggle was all about.

Having clearly stated my protest, I must add that we in Mozambique must try to understand the feeling that many South Africans have that their country is being flooded by outsiders.

Xenophobia, however, is not the answer. The answer, quite simply, is



Foreigners be gone: The Unemployed Masses of South Africa marched to protest against foreigners in the country. Many South Africans accuse immigrants of taking jobs intended for locals. PHOTOGRAPH BY WATSON MCOTELI/PICTURENET

(236)

protesting his gay bashing pogrom. South African newspapers published cartoons mercilessly excoriating the Zimbabwean leader as a bigot. It wasn't what he had in mind.

Indeed, the way South Africa's post 1994 transformation has produced a paradigm of African governance sharply divergent from the narrow nationalist model fashioned by Zimbabwe's rulers in the 1980s is a source of endless irritation to Mugabe's mandarins. The emergence of a powerful South African civil society has encouraged and reinforced Zimbabwe's nascent civic sector. And democratic practice south of the border has provided an impetus to constitutional reform in Harare long resisted by Mugabe and his cabal.

Mugabe's impatience with what he sees as democratic licence, trade imperialism and regional ambitions that rival his own came to a head last year when he exchanged sharp words with then president Nelson Mandela over Zimbabwe's intervention in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Following the succession of Mbeki, there is optimism that relations across the Limpopo can be depersonalised. But tensions remain.

South Africa's dogged refusal to accord Harare most favoured nation trade status while flooding its market with exports remains a sore point. So does the unceremonious deportation of Zimbabweans who fall to get through the immigration net. Stories abound of mistreatment by South African police.

Resentment of South Africa is mirrored in reports in the official media which regularly characterise South African cities as the most dangerous places on Earth. The recent murder of a Zimbabwean diplomat in Johannesburg underlined perceptions of South Africa as a lawless society that appears unable — or indeed unwilling — to adopt the ruthless measures applied by the authorities in Zimbabwe, where murderers rarely escape the hangman's noose.

Despite this, for many Zimbabweans the streets of South African cities offer opportunities for informal trading that do not exist at home. In a period of severe economic hardship these openings keep many families fed. But they are poor compensation for the loss of Mozambique.

After nearly 10 years of defending the Frelimo government against South African sponsored insurgents before 1992, Zimbabwe has seen South Africa's rapacious exporters turn Mozambique into a captive market. Equally galling, South African travel agents are now marketing the Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe's primary tourist draw, as a South African destination!

Like Canada and the US and New Zealand and Australia, Zimbabwe's relationship with its much larger neighbour reflects the complexities of intimacy tinged with envy, fear and resentment.

At the political level, the incumbent class declines to accept South Africa's pretensions to regional leadership — a role Zimbabwe played until 1994. Trade union activists want the benefits of South African democ-

a regional environment of healthy national economies that will undo the feeling of claustrophobia which is pushing Southern Africans, and not just South Africans, towards enmity between neighbours.

So why does President Thabo Mbeki preach regional integration

on the one hand, while, on the other, Spoornet sabotages Mozambican harbours and railways through its price dumping on Malawian and Zimbabwean goods?

Why does a Maputo resident have to make a payment at a Nelspruit based travel agency if he or she wants to spend a few days at a beach resort in Inhambane province?

Why do the Mozambique and other Southern African Development Community (SADC) airlines complain about being treated with contempt by the board of South African Airways? Are we talking African National Congress regional integration practising PW Botha's constellation?

Translated into human rights why does South Africa complain of being invaded by Mozambicans and, at the same time, undermine the chances for jobs inside Mozambique?

To correct the impression that I may have only a one-sided view of our relationship, let me hasten to say that your big brother complex is only the other side of our small brother syndrome.

The National Party-like aspiration of regional domination that may haunt certain sectors of the ANC finds encouragement in the chronic kleptomendacity of much of the Maputo elite.

The combination of both is producing samples of monumental shortsightedness such as the Maputo corridor development project. Why so much money on that road? Why not a decent road from Maputo to the Rovuma River so as to make the production of the southern end of the region as price competitive in northern Mozambique and Tanzania as all the stuff coming in from Dubai?

Southern Africa has been for the better part of a century what one might truly call a region. Integration is a reality, not an objective. Ask Gene-

ral Magnus Malan where he and his security colleagues lost their grip on political power. It was thousands of kilometres to the north, in Cuito Cuanavale.

Ask the region what happened, back in 1975, when the militarist wing of Afrikanerdom decided it was time for BJ Vorster to go.

So, some people in the ANC may dream of South Africa being the United States of the SADC. There is a useless and expensive illusion for South Africa right now is at best marking time.

In more sombre moments, when I consider South Africa's crime rate, growing corruption, capital flight and general citizen depression, I ask myself whether South Africa will be the region's locomotive or a heavy burden on the SADC's snail paced train.

Am I being too pessimistic here? I certainly hope so. — Carlos Cardoso is editor of *Metcal*, a Maputo daily fax newspaper.

Zimbabwe

Den Wetherolls: South Africa is a deep disappointment to Zimbabwe's political aristocracy. They had confidently anticipated the post-apartheid state would be shaped in their own image with an overweening ruling party, an imperious presidency and a Constitution that counted for little.

The last thing they expected was a noisy democracy protecting the rights of all and entertaining different shades of opinion, including some Zimbabwe's rulers would rather not contemplate.

When President Robert Mugabe visited his newly liberated neighbour in 1995 he hoped to be received as a conquering hero — the man who delivered to South Africans their freedom. Instead he was besieged at Johannesburg airport by demonstrators

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but it seems South Africa is regarded by its neighbours as rapacious, imperialist and xenophobic



Deportees: Mozambicans feel the treatment of illegal immigrants by South Africa is unacceptable and that not all of those deported from the country each week are illegals. PHOTOGRAPH: OSCAR G

racy but not its quotas on textiles. Business people denounce a tariff regime they see as designed to unfairly limit competition. And ordinary Zimbabweans — particularly those from marginalised Matabeleland — see the country as the only job provider they know.

It's not a healthy formula for a relationship. But so long as the Limpopo remains a barrier between two contrasting political cultures and the terms of trade continue to be heavily skewed in South Africa's favour, the problems look set to persist. — *Iden Wetherell is deputy editor of the Zimbabwe Independent*

Zambia

Anthony Kunda: To many Zambians, the mention of South Africa stirs up feelings of admiration and aversion, almost in equal proportion.

On the one hand, there are people who praise South Africa as a magnificent economic powerhouse trying to spread economic benefits to backward Zambians.

Such people point to the changing infrastructure, especially in the capital, Lusaka, and other major towns, that has come about as a direct result of South African investment.

Others say South African investors are helping to set higher standards in business, and fostering a new work culture. Frydah Katebe, a sociologist, thinks it is good for Zambians, economically and socially.

"These people are changing local attitudes towards work. You see in the past, we have been used to malingering. But now people are learning to sweat it out for their money," Katebe explains.

Mulenga Chiwama, a chartered accountant, says South Africa is dominating the Southern African economies because of "their different work culture. Things have not changed the way things changed in many African countries after independence."

Although some people decry South Africa's growing economic dominance in Zambia, Chiwama argues that "in the long run, it will benefit, because some of those work ethics and profitability will rub on our economy."

She narrates how she bought an expensive, high class garment from Marks & Spencer, only to discover "when I got home that it was made in South Africa. I was impressed, I mean it shows how well they are doing things."

But Major Wezi Kaunda, a politician in the opposition United National Independence Party says South Africa's economic influence is creating resentment among some sections of the Zambian community, especially among industrialists and farmers.

Kaunda said people are beginning to perceive South Africa's economic domination as an attempt, albeit unintentionally, to create regional "economic bastions, where they can dump their finished products."

His contentions are not groundless as some South African chain stores in Zambia, such as Shoprite, import most of their merchandise from South Africa, even those that can be obtained locally.

Not surprisingly, there is "growing resentment that South African businesspeople are killing local jobs to create jobs in their country", Kaunda says. "It is even more ridiculous when Zambians are asked to import things like meat pies from Johannesburg."

It is difficult to determine the levels of resentment. However, Kaunda says "What is saddening is that the South African government does not seem aware of this growing resentment towards this kind of domination. Ultimately, this will work against them and Zambians alike."

Some argue that Zambians could come to hate South Africans the same way they hated the apartheid regime.

Disappointingly, though, with all its economic muscle, South Africa does not seem to be playing as influential a role in politics. Both Mbeki and his predecessor Mandela have largely shied away from commenting seriously on conflicts and misunderstandings in countries like Zambia, in the name of non interventionism.

Nevertheless, in terms of setting standards in democratic governance and observance of human rights,

South Africa is highly commended by many Zambians.

George Kunda, chair of the Law Association of Zambia, says "Nobody can take away from South Africa's achievements in this regard." The Constitution, Kunda said, is singularly worthy of emulation by many African countries for its broad based, liberal and unifying characteristics. "We could learn a lot, we who have had contentious and divisive constitutions," he says.

Alfred Zulu, a human rights activist, similarly points out that it is "hard to find a more liberal Constitution, even by Western standards, that grants rights to virtually every citizen."

Probably because of several years of isolation from the rest of the continent, there has been a tendency among some South Africans to think of themselves as not being part of Africa, and they will talk down at Africans in other countries almost in the white colonial master style.

There are stories of South African firms where Zambian employees are paid much less than their South African colleagues, something reminiscent of colonial times, under British rule.

It is not uncommon to hear a South African, black or white, talking to Zambians in terms of "you guys in Africa must learn to do things differently." Such people clearly think South Africa is not part of the continent. — *Anthony Kunda is a freelance journalist based in Lusaka*

Namibia

Tangeni Amupadhi: Although Namibia became independent 10 years ago, the nation remains economically and culturally a colony of South Africa — and most ordinary Namibians like it that way.

Namibia was colonised by white South Africa after World War I, and until 1990 was ruled as a province of its southern neighbour. While South Africa has relinquished political control over Namibia, economic and cul-

tural dominance is increasing.

Most Namibians envy South Africa and believe they can get better opportunities for personal development there than in their own country. Take Audrey Madison, a young receptionist in Windhoek, who says "If I get the opportunity I'll be on my way there to work and study."

Madison says South Africa offers huge opportunities for personal upliftment, and that she has always been treated "nicely" during her numerous visits to various parts of South Africa.

But more enlightened Namibians view South Africa's popularity with ordinary Namibians as neo-imperialism and arrogance. "South Africans who come here [to Namibia] think they come from a superior country that anything from South Africa is better," says Zoe Titus, a journalist who writes about entertainment and books. But she admits South Africa "dominates us in just every aspect."

"Of all the shows that have taken place here, Namibians have supported South African acts more than their own," says Titus. Where the music scene was once dominated by American artists, South Africa has taken control, particularly with kwaito music.

Namibians, like most South Africans, look down on other Africans. Although the anti-immigrant sentiments have not been translated into violent attacks, University of Namibia students, for example, are demanding that only Namibians compete in the university's beauty pageant after the crown was taken by a Zambian.

Strangely, South Africans do not get the same xenophobic reception that the majority of Namibians dish out to other Africans.

On the economic front, trade unionist Ranga Haikali says South Africa has failed to "stick to its commitment for regional integration" and has played a "dominant role that undermines regional economic integration."

"Their personal economic benefits are greater than regional benefits," says Haikali, "and that's not good for stability." Haikali believes South Africa should rein in its multinational conglomerates, which at times cause massive unemployment by abandoning one country for an

other in the Southern African region in search for cheap labour.

To counter the dominance, the Namibian government has for years refused to grant South African Breweries permission to set up a brewing plant. The government says it is protecting Namibian beer and jobs which could be lost as a result of competition from a bigger company.

Namibia has also complained that the Southern African Customs Union — the free trade agreement involving Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland — is benefiting South Africa more than other members. The majority of the Namibian economy is in the hands of South African businesses and, as part of the common monetary area, the Namibian dollar is pegged to the rand.

Namibia's pan-Africanists believe South Africa is out of touch with the rest of the continent.

"My experience with them [South Africans] is that they are very much ignorant of what is happening in the rest of Africa," says Benjamin Ugwanga, secretary of the Pan Africanist Centre in Namibia. "They don't know about Kwame Nkrumah or Julius Nyerere, they don't celebrate OAU [Organisation for African Unity] day. They talk about us in South Africa and them in Africa."

Ugwanga says Mbeki's "African renaissance" concept is "centred on neo-liberal ideas because it embraces globalisation and free market systems" which, if accepted without caution, could destroy small economies.

"South Africa should throw away the 'African renaissance' and get themselves involved with something stronger, which is Pan-Africanism," says Ugwanga. "My reservation [with the 'African renaissance'] comes in when South Africa wants to undermine the economic and political ability of other African countries. They want to take economic, political and intellectual leadership."

He says the "African renaissance" has the backing of Western countries and business but lacks the support of Africans. "They [South Africans] have an image problem, they are playing superpower," Ugwanga says. — *Tangeni Amupadhi is a reporter at The Namibian newspaper*

Mokoena backpedals and gets fired

Stephen Laufer
and René Grawitzky

PRESIDENT Thabo Mbeki has fired home affairs director-general Albert Mokoena after Mokoena withdrew a promise to resign that he made in response to misconduct findings against him.

At the same time, labour director-general Siphon Pityana and national intelligence co-ordinator Linda Mti have emerged as frontrunners to head government's foreign intelligence organisation, the SA Secret Service. It is believed that the service's current chief, Billy Masetla, will replace Mokoena at home affairs.

Mokoena, who still had a lengthy period of his five-year term to serve, is understood to have demanded to be paid out for the rest of his contract. His boss, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi, is also said to have argued that Mokoena should be given some sort of golden handshake for going quietly.

This could have cost government millions of rands in pay, benefits and pension rights. None of the directors-general to depart the public service before expiry of their contracts in the past five years were paid out in full, even if they did not depart under a cloud.

Mokoena initially offered to resign last month after a disciplinary inquiry headed by former Labour Court Judge Puke Maserumule said Buthelezi should order Mokoena to quit.

Maserumule found Mokoena guilty on several misconduct counts, including conflict of interest, private use of work facilities, improper use of state vehicles and use of government officials for private work. Mokoena is under criminal investigation relating to the

disappearance of R2m from the Independent Electoral Commission while he worked there. Police are also looking into how foreign members of his basketball team got SA identity documents.

Last week, when it was made clear that Mbeki would not budge on the payout, Mokoena apparently wrote to the president saying he withdrew his offer to resign. In response, Mokoena was fired last Wednesday, sources said.

According to them, Mokoena said he might appeal. This would require an appeal against Maserumule's findings, including the advice that he be told to resign.

Meanwhile, sources said senior labour department staff had been informed yesterday that Pityana would leave the department soon. They speculated that either of his deputies, Les Kettleidas and Rams Ramashua, could take over.

Home Affairs upset by MPs' intervention

MEMBERS of Parliament and heads of South Africa's foreign missions abroad often intervene with immigration decisions taken by officials of the Home Affairs Department hampering their job, an official said yesterday.

Acting Home Affairs director-general Dr Khulu Mbatha said his department often received requests from MPs via the Minister or Deputy Minister to make exceptions in terms of the Aliens Control Act to allow certain foreigners

some form of residential status.

Mbatha was addressing members of the Parliamentary portfolio committee on Home Affairs.

The officials then had to give priority to these cases while those people who had applied in time had to wait.

During 1999, 36 residential status inquiries had come from Parliament. In one case an official was more or less ordered to finalise an application.

When the official said she could lose

her job, the tone became aggressive and threatening, Mbatha said.

Janne Mornberg (ANC) did not play in this regard.

'We are always going to do that,' said Richard Sikakane (ANC). He said MPs could not ruin away those who sought their help.

Mbatha said heads of South Africa's foreign missions abroad sometimes demanded to take deci-

sions that ought to be taken by Home Affairs officials.

The Home Affairs officials' decisions were seldom incorrect but the interventions created more work for them and slowed delivery.

He said the problem had been taken up with foreign affairs, which was trying to show mission heads how their responsibilities differed from those of Home Affairs officials.

Also hampering the department's

work was illegal foreigners approaching the SA Human Rights Commission or the Public Protector to query decisions on their behalf, or when they approached the courts to overturn those decisions.

The department's budget for litigation had been exhausted within the first two months of the financial year, Mbatha said. Yet it had to defend the matters in court, or detrimental precedents could be created.

— Sapa

Sowetan 27/10/99

(236)

Home Affairs man 'stole' R300 000

By Jimmy Seepe
Political Correspondent

A REGIONAL head of the Department of Home Affairs, who is responsible for collecting and banking funds received from passport and identity-document applicants, is to appear in court tomorrow on theft and fraud charges

Mr Yingweni Abel Mboweni, the chief administration clerk in the department's regional office in Potgietersrus, was arrested by Home Affairs' anti-corruption unit and police following an eight-month investigation into the theft of almost R300 000

Mboweni is alleged to have siphoned off the funds over three years until he was detected early this year

He is expected to appear before the Potgietersrus Regional Court tomorrow

Mboweni court appearance comes barely a week after a parliamentary portfolio committee on Home Affairs raised concerns about

the rampant corruption within the department. The committee called for more action

Sources in the department told *Sowetan* yesterday that an internal audit revealed that Mboweni was primarily charged with receiving and banking state money

It is alleged that between August 1997 and May 1999, R288 915.13 collected from several offices under Mboweni's control could not be accounted for

The department's probe, started by anti-corruption investigator Mr Joas Phala, was launched after tip-offs from Mboweni's office and the head office in Pretoria

It is understood that Phala will now focus his investigation on other individuals who might have colluded with Mboweni

Documents in *Sowetan's* possession show transcripts of what is alleged to be proof of money received from the public between early 1997 and early this year, was allegedly not deposited into the bank account

Mboweni is also expected to face charges of defeating the ends of justice when he allegedly destroyed audit rolls to conceal the extent of his activities within the department

A report compiled by the department raised its frustration over the missing rolls

"The undermentioned cash-register audit roll could not be found during the audit

"Due to the fact that Mboweni was responsible for receiving the audit rolls with the cash, the internal audit (is) of the opinion that he destroyed the audit rolls"

Mboweni also stands accused of having personally misappropriated funds received from foreigners' registration applications

Last week, head of the anti-corruption unit Mr Rabone Moripe told Parliament that in the six months ended September, the unit charged 43 officials, 40 of whom were convicted. Three were cleared of the allegations.

He said the unit, with 10 staff members and a budget of R1 million, was currently investigating more than 220 other cases

SI(BT) 3110199 (236) (74B)

Immigration mess scares investors

HOME AFFAIRS
By SUE THOMAS

FOREIGN investors caught up in Home Affairs' worsening tangles of red tape have caught fright and are threatening to avoid the country, say investment agencies and investors.

It's so bad Trade Minister Alec Erwin wants a meeting with Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi on Tuesday to thrash out the problem.

Said the deputy CE of a major investment agency, who did not want to be named: "The problem's getting worse and it's putting off investors.

"The feedback we're getting is that it's going to be impossible for us to get work permits for our personnel in this country.

then we're not coming."

This week, a potential investor told him the visa issue was a deal killer. "What's the point of spending a fortune trying to attract investment when a government department is shirking its responsibilities?" he says.

Home Affairs spokesman Henrie Meyer says the department receives complaints about visas "from time to time but I'm not so sure it's any different in other countries."

Says an American Chamber of Commerce official. "It's getting

much worse. A backlog is piling up, they're understaffed and there's less and less motivation to do anything about it."

Businessmen from mainland China, encouraged by two high-profile trade visits to SA this year, are being stonewalled.

"The situation has become far-cical," says Martyn Davies of the Africa Asia Society. "A president of a Chinese bank with an office in SA was recently refused a visa to visit the country."

Home Affairs and government's investment agency, Investment South Africa, are supposed to work together in applying visas for investors, says Davies. Yet the department re-

cently issued a directive to SA missions to bypass Investment South Africa's input.

Davies says several Asian businessmen have complained that Home Affairs officials are demanding bribes but European and American chambers of commerce say they have received no reports of fraud.

Klaus Shuurman, head of the Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, says the biggest problem is bureaucracy.

European chambers of commerce, with the help of Home Affairs, are printing a pamphlet on how to apply for work permits — /Net Bridge

An express train to the border

Every week, South Africa deports hundreds of refugees **David Masunda reports**

Between January and September this year, 31 834 Zimbabweans were deported. Every week South Africa deports about 700 Zimbabweans. During the same period 74 771 Mozambicans took the express train to that country's border of Ressano Garcia.

Most are deported after anonymous tip offs to the South African authorities.

The numbers are growing in increasingly controversial as human rights organisations and activists accuse the South African government of encouraging xenophobia. One even likened the practice to Nazi Germany, when real Germans were encouraged to point out Jews. Among those deported in recent months — after a tip-off — were five middle managers and the entire catering department of Eskom. Those caught were all found to be Zimbabweans carrying fraudulent South African identities.

Willem Vorster who is in charge of the control of illegal immigrants into South Africa, explains 'We have so many people who phone us anonymously'.

Vorster is not perturbed about the accusations of xenophobia. He says it is for them to make it easy for the department to root out those masquerading as South Africans and taking the locals' jobs.

The South African government is also about to enact a new refugee Act, which is already under attack from sections of the media and human rights organisations. Many believe that those seeking refugee or political asylum in South Africa may now be sent back to the country of their first entry. For instance, a family escaping the fighting in Ethiopia may cross into Kenya first. If they try to leave Nairobi for Johannesburg, there may be a problem.

Vorster said the Act — which he says falls in line with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees policy — was meant to control people who moved to other countries before they first sought refuge in South Africa.

Many refugees and illegal immigrants in South Africa are currently held at the notorious Lindela Detention Centre near Krugersdorp which becomes home to thousands of Zimbabweans and Mozambicans before they are deported from Johannesburg.

The centre has been run by the Dyambu Trust on a three-year contract after Meritum Hostels won the tender to accommodate illegal immigrants before their deportation.

Lindela is part of a mine hostel that closed down and consists of separate accommodation for males and females. The male section is larger and can sometimes accommodate as many as 30 beds in one room.

Inmates tend to group according to their nationalities. There are rooms for Zimbabweans, Nigerians, Mozambicans, Ethiopians and so

forth. The majority of residents, though, are Mozambicans and Zimbabweans. There have sometimes been tensions between the different nationalities.

Said Vorster 'Lindela really represents a small community and you will have criminals in that community, but it will be in the same percentage as you will have in a normal community. So if you say there are 1 000 people, real criminals are a small percentage of the thousand'.

One of the most violent incidents at Lindela recently involved some Tanzanian 'thieves' who targeted Nigerians. War broke out. The Tanzanians had to be separated from the rest and accommodated in a notorious area — 'Room 33' — which inmates say is filthy and lacks basic necessities such as blankets and toilet paper.

Zimbabweans and Mozambicans do not stay long at Lindela. Every Tuesday, a train leaves Johannesburg with hundreds of Zimbabweans who are dropped at the border to be taken over by local authorities. A similar train takes Mozambicans every Wednesday to the border.

According to officials at Lindela the longest a Zimbabwean can stay at the centre is a week or two while they investigate their nationality. Vorster says it is very easy for his staff to pick out Zimbabweans.

Language is one of them, he said. But the department has been criticised for targeting darker skinned Africans as illegal immigrants. One South African journalist of a darker hue had to be rescued from Lindela just before he was to be shipped to Zimbabwe.

John Mlambo, a Zimbabwean detained at Lindela, said he had slipped into South Africa to avoid famine in his home area of Chipinge. He had lived in South Africa since 1996, playing cat and mouse with the police while selling vegetables in the streets of Hillbrow and Yeoville, before being caught without an identity document. He had already been told he would be deported soon.

A Malawian, Timothy Phiri, said he was arrested in Rosebank while selling some wares. Phiri says he is a veteran of Lindela. He has been there before. Although he was going to be deported soon, he promised he would be back in South Africa within a week.

It is much easier for Malawians to return to South Africa after being deported — what is called, in Department of Home Affairs jargon, the 'revolving door' problem — because Malawians do not need visas to visit South Africa.

Vorster says the 'revolving door' issue is not so much of a problem. What has become a real problem is the involvement of ruthless East Asian gangs who make millions from smuggling human cargo. The gangs — or Triads as they are known — are known to kill 'squealers' and bring in a lot of children and women for prostitution.



Refugees This family fled Mozambique in the mid-1980s, and like many other refugees faces the risk of deportation. PHOTO: GRAEME RODGERS

Another problem, says Vorster, are the Nigerian drug lords. He says some come to Lindela with wads of money, which easily tempts officials. There have been a number of 'escapes'. For the Zimbabweans and Mozam-

bicans, who are the usual residents of Lindela, the centre is no longer that bad. Veterans say officials no longer assault them. Their main complaint was that the food was inadequate and at times not well cooked.

They are allowed to phone home and can buy small luxuries such as bread, cold drinks and cigarettes from the kiosk. They roam freely around the complex during the day and are only locked up at night.

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Immigration dilemma

(236) Sametari 16/11/99

THE war in Angola has been described by analysts as "the world's worst war". Particularly devastating has been its human costs as hundreds of thousands of people have been killed, maimed, raped, exiled and displaced.

What started off as an anti-colonial struggle during the 1950s later became a regional and international war, with devastating consequences.

The defeat of the South African Defence Force at Cuito Cuanavale in 1988 and the elections in 1992 failed to return normality to Angola. Despite numerous peace initiatives, the civil war has all but intensified.

One of the worst effects of the 25-year-long civil war has been the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. An estimated 1,5 million Angolans are internally displaced.

United Nations High Commission on Refugees statistics indicate that Angola has produced about 300 000 refugees.

Many of these have sought refuge in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia. Almost one third fled after the upsurge in fighting between May 1998 and June 1999.

A large number of Angolans have also come to seek refuge in South Africa.

The Department of Home Affairs, which is responsible for the determination of refugee status, has received 6 056 asylum applications from Angolan citizens between 1994 and September 1999.

The overwhelming majority of these applicants comprise young men within the 18 to 35 age category. There have been less than 400 female applicants during the past five years.

During the process of refugee status determination, the standing committee on refugee affairs must distinguish between genuine refugees, economic migrants and international criminals.

This conforms with the provisions of the Refugee Act 1998, the 1951 UN Convention and 1967 Protocol relating to the status of refugees, as well as the 1969 Organisation of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa.

These instruments exclude from protection any person for whom there are serious reasons for considering that he/she has committed a crime against peace, a war crime, a crime against humanity or any serious non-political crime prior to the application for refugee status.

The nature of the refugee regime has unfortunately generated unintended consequences, such as the internationalisation of crime as unscrupulous elements attempt to use this institution in order to pursue crime.

Recently, the Department of Home Affairs –

Is the blatant disregard for South Africa's laws by foreigners a contributing factor to the xenophobia making itself felt, **Burton Joseph** asks



An Angolan boy sits on the wreckage of a car in the refugee camp of Cambambe 3, about 70 kilometres from Luanda.

PHOTO AFP

in conjunction with the National Intelligence Agency and the South African Police Service – uncovered a massive fraud racket among foreigners regarding asylum seekers' permits, late registration of birth and identity documents.

These documents confer citizenship on persons with all the accompanying rights and benefits. It has been ascertained that persons involved in this scam are in fact asylum seekers.

This is not an isolated incident. Evidence exists of the involvement of foreigners in mineral, vehicle, drug, counterfeit goods and human trafficking, financial and telecommunications fraud, and the theft and fabrication of government documents and stamps in order to legalise the illegal presence of some in South Africa.

For some reason crime committed by foreigners has been denied, and not condemned, by their representatives. This is defeatist and dangerous and discredits attempts to speak on their behalf.

The "roll back xenophobia" campaign – which is being spearheaded by the refugee consortia – attempts to reverse hostility towards foreign nationals.

The Department of Home Affairs has thrown its weight behind this commendable campaign, which deserves support from both the state and civil society.

However, it is unlikely to succeed unless it addresses simultaneously the crime conducted

by foreigners and their compliance with South Africa's domestic laws, including immigration laws.

Article 2 of the 1951 convention imposes on asylum seekers and refugees conformity with the laws and regulations of their host country, as well as conformity with measures necessary for the maintenance of public order.

Is the blatant disregard for South Africa's laws by foreigners a contributing factor to the xenophobia said to be rampant among us?

Compared to countries in the Great Lakes region, South Africa has received fewer refugees from Angola due to geography, the stability of neighbouring states such as Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe and potential communication problems.

The presence of Angolans in South Africa, though, should be perceived mainly in terms of our obligations as outlined in the relevant international conventions.

The humanitarian situation in Angola is in a state of crisis as fighting has disrupted essential services: only 32 percent have access to clean drinking water, 16 percent have access to adequate sanitation and the harvest is predicted to be extremely poor this year.

The overcrowded cities in the Malanje and Huambo provinces, which accommodates the majority of internally displaced persons, have become high-risk epidemic areas.

A 30-member UN mission has been accepted back into Angola following the closure of its operations during February. The government has restricted its operations to humanitarian, human rights and liaison functions. It faces a massive task in relief provision given the ongoing fighting and fact that most cities can be reached only by plane.

The UN Security Council, having authorised the mission on October 15, foresees a broader role for the mission in facilitating measures for peace in that country.

The war-weary people of Angola are crying out for peace. These cries must be heard since the war in that country can produce neither winners nor losers but only victims.

It is the interests of its citizens, the country and the continent that the conflict between warring parties in Angola be resolved speedily because the benefits of peace greatly outweigh the costs of war in that country.

(The writer is director of communications in the Department of Home Affairs. The article is written in his personal capacity.)

Stowaway flood hits SA

Influx of illegal aliens from Africa costs millions of rands and threatens to spiral out of control

BOBBY JORDAN

STOWAWAYS are flooding into South Africa and immigration officials are battling to cope with illegal aliens entering the country's commercial ports particularly Cape Town and Durban.

The influx was causing administrative bottlenecks and costing millions of rands — and could soon spiral out of control officials warned.

Most illegal aliens arrived aboard large cargo ships from East Africa, seeking work or political asylum in South Africa or further afield in Europe or America.

Ten were repatriated this week by Cape Town authorities and a further 18 are due to arrive in Durban harbour next week aboard a large timber ship the M V Diana. The vast majority were African — mostly from Tanzania, Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Western Cape immigration services chief Jurie De Wet said many resisted arrest and became aggressive when confronted by crews or port authorities.

"It's a big problem. They keep coming — sometimes we send a guy back three times," De Wet said.

One ship had to dock in Saldanha this week after the crew discovered three Congolese stowaways in the ship's hold who claimed they were on their way to join relatives in Belgium. They were handed over to immigration officials in Cape Town on Tuesday.

Government officials said this week they were considering chartering a 110-seater Tanzanian plane to return East African stowaways. Regular "return" flights were the only way to cope with the increasing influx — the previous method of sending them home by rail or on normal commercial aircraft was proving too expensive.

"One of the biggest problems is that there's not much security at the harbour in Dar es Salaam or Mombasa," said Durban immigration chief Edwin Chembayyan.

"This makes it easier for people to get aboard — we presume there's not much work there and that's why they're heading this way."

Durban Port officials had nabbed more than 100 stowaways over the past six months — excluding the 18 expected next week.

Stowaways often risked life and limb to stay hidden during their voyage — which took about a week from East Africa, Chembayyan said.

A man had died after hiding in a ship's chimney. A woman was found severely dehydrated inside an airlocked container.

Stowaways also risked being thrown overboard by crew; ship-owners have to pay thousands of rands for each stowaway handed over to port authorities and are li-

able for stiff penalties if they try to sneak them ashore.

Two Zairean castaways — rescued by fishermen near Kommetjie two years ago — made headlines when they told how crew aboard a Turkish ship had killed their friend by throwing him overboard. The crew had then forced them into a rowing boat and left them behind.

Some captains were also suspected of operating an informal "emigration" service — accepting bribes in return for safe passage.

De Wet said the Aliens Control Act allowed some stowaways from war-torn countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo to apply for refugee status — and thereby avoid repatriation.

South Africa was more "refugee-friendly" than other countries,

many of which did not allow stowaways to disembark at their ports.

He said officials seldom encountered SA stowaways trying to leave the country. "Sometimes we find a prostitute on a Chinese vessel, but it's very rare."

According to Andy Reid from Sea-Guard, a port security firm, many stowaways received valid documents from Home Affairs upon ar-

rest, but were unable to find work — and thus ended up hopping aboard another ship.

"A lot of them decide South Africa is not the promised land and try somewhere else — they go through the system over and over again."

Chembayyan said some were employed illegally as cheap labour to offload goods at Durban harbour before stowing away for Europe.

(236) ST(CM) 14/11/94

Rights groups slam 'xenophobic' official

(276)

A home affairs official has come under fire for comments made about foreigners
Ann Eveleth reports

Human rights groups working to protect refugee rights this week sharply criticised a senior Department of Home Affairs official for misrepresenting refugee law and dismissing the growing problem of xenophobia in a public speech.

Director of residence Michael Tshlamalang wields enormous power over the fate of refugees and other foreigners, as he presides over the sub directorates of refugee affairs, temporary residence and permanent residence.

As a senior department official, he may also be in line for promotion when the department moves towards restructuring in the aftermath of the corruption saga which led to the sacking of former director general Albert Mokoena.

Tshlamalang — a former exile — told refugees attending Africa Refugee Day celebrations in Yeoville in June that South Africa's "very, very liberal" application of its international obligation to accept refugees would soon be tempered by the new Refugee Act, that xenophobia is over reported by the media and usually amounts to little more than common crime, and that "it is not an insult to be called *amakwerekwere* [foreigners]"

The comments do not appear in the official version of Tshlamalang's speech, which was vetted by his superiors. But the *Mail & Guardian* obtained a videotape of the celebrations, which reveals that Tshlamalang diverted from his speech several times.

Human Rights Commissioner Jody Kollapen and Lawyers for Human Rights Refugee Rights project head Jacob van Garderen this week sharply criticised Tshlamalang's comments. Kollapen said they were a cause for "serious concern".

He said the comments were "inappropriate" in the context of Africa Refugee Day, the purpose of which was "to show solidarity and to commit ourselves to our national and international obligations to refugees".

Van Garderen said the comments were "an embarrassment", and added that "officials need to be held responsible for what they say".

Tshlamalang warned refugees that when the new Refugee Act came into effect later this year, it would mean that "if you flee from whatever country and you run to Germany and then you come to South Africa and you could have asked for asylum in Germany. If you come from anywhere else and you landed in Nairobi or Gaborone and you come to this country, I'm going to say, 'No, you landed in Botswana and you are not fleeing anything



Critical. Human Rights activist Jody Kollapen said Michael Tshlamalang's remarks were inappropriate. PHOTO: RUTH MOTAU

in Botswana and you could have asked for asylum in Botswana."

Kollapen said this was not a correct representation of the Refugee Act.

Tshlamalang's boss, chief director of migration Patrick Matlou, defended the statement, saying that although it was incorrectly drawn from the Refugee Act, it was "in line with the policy of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR]". The UNHCR declined to comment on the matter.

But refugee organisations say Tshlamalang's utterances do not reflect UN policy. The UNHCR policy is defined by a decision of its executive committee dealing with the question of "irregular movement". This is defined as someone who has registered as an asylum seeker in one country and then moves to another country. While such a person can be sent back to their first country of refuge, a refugee's place of asylum is otherwise considered to be the first country in which they registered as such.

Van Garderen said if South Africa wanted to make an exception to this, it would have to prove that it had agreements in place with other African countries to ensure that they would not send the refugees back to the country they had fled.

"I don't think that is possible, and it is unfair of South Africa to employ such a policy because it isolates us from asylum seekers and flies in the face of the notion of responsibility sharing for refugees. South Africa cannot build walls around its borders and keep refugees out," he said.

Kollapen said Tshlamalang had also "tried to justify the term *amakwerekwere*. And he tried to suggest that we are all equally vulnerable to crime and to play down

the fact that there have been incidents of xenophobic violence."

Tshlamalang told the gathering: "Somebody spoke about xenophobia. Me and half these South Africans are at risk daily. I may come back home and find my house has been ransacked and my wife and children have been raped and killed, my car taken, my stereo, everything. If it happens to a foreigner, the front page of a newspaper is going to say xenophobia. I'm a statistic. If you hijack Mr [UNHCR regional representative Kubede] Mangesha right now, it will be xenophobia."

Matlou said there were no statistics to support claims of widespread xenophobic violence, and that Tshlamalang was merely "putting xenophobia in context".

Van Garderen said it was "ridiculous" to deny that xenophobic violence exists. "Too many people have died for it to be coincidence," he said.

Joyce Tlou, assistant coordinator of the Lawyers for Human Rights Refugee Rights Project, also disputed Tshlamalang's defence of the term *amakwerekwere*. Tshlamalang claimed this was merely the name of a Shona clan that had been generalised to refer to all foreigners.

Tlou, a Zimbabwean, said "There is no Shona clan with this name. There is a clan named Makorakora, but it is not a derogatory name, so to suggest that this has been generalised to refer to foreigners is absurd."

Kollapen said efforts to trace the origins of the term did little to address the derogatory context in which it is now used. "Kaffir also had a different meaning to how it is used today, but that doesn't detract from the fact that it is now a racist term."

Tshlamalang was unavailable for comment.

Transnet units, such as rail operator Spoornet, port authority Portnet and pipeline company Petronet. These sub-

Transnet made a profit of R1,4bn payment to the pension fund led to a total loss of R426m

New legislation for work permits

Farouk Chothia

ED 4/11/99

(236)

CAPE TOWN — The home affairs department moved yesterday to quell the anger of foreign investors, saying that a draft bill envisaging the creation of a separate department to deal with all immigration issues was likely to be tabled in Parliament.

Home affairs has been criticised by political parties and foreign businessmen recently for bureaucratic snarls-ups that have led to work application permits being turned down.

Department spokesman Hennie Meyer said the draft bill proposed the creation of an immigration service department that would not be linked to the home affairs department.

Buthelezi said he "dare not deny" that many applicants were experiencing difficulties in obtaining work permits. However, he urged people to focus on finding solutions. "We need a new approach to migration control which will also involve the restructuring of certain administrative functions in my department," Buthelezi said.

His department was striving to become "more sensitive" towards attracting foreign investments and skilled people and speedily processing applications. Rather than making it difficult for people who could contribute to the growth of SA to gain permanent or temporary residence, his department should concentrate on combating the problem of illegal immigrants, he said. Meyer said the department had been battling to cope with work permit ap-

plications because of the granting of voluntary severance packages to staff. These posts were still vacant.

He said the proposal for the creation of an immigration service department was contained in a white paper drafted by the department. It was approved by the cabinet earlier this year.

He understood that both the white paper and the draft bill would be considered simultaneously by the National Assembly's home affairs portfolio committee during the current parliamentary session. However, he expected the bill to be passed only next year.

The draft bill envisaged a situation in which the new department would deal with all immigration issues, including the granting of visas to foreigners and considering work, study and residence permit applications.

Buthelezi said he was aware that the present legislative and regulatory framework administered by his department was "unsatisfactory and problematic". He had therefore spearheaded "fundamental transformation" and withstood pressure from "internal and external" groups. He said he hoped that the impasse over the position of the home affairs director-general would be overcome.

The cabinet decided recently to accept the resignation of director-general Albert Mokoena, but he subsequently withdrew the resignation. SA Secret Service head Billy Masetla is reportedly tipped to succeed Mokoena.

Comment: Page 19

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Groups say migration plan is a 'witch-hunt'

THE government's proposed migration policy has been branded a "witch-hunt" against foreigners that could have disastrous consequences, writes BOBBY JORDAN

Academic institutions said the new policy — outlined in the draft White Paper on International Migration — contained fatal flaws, such as a proposal to encourage ordinary citizens to report foreign-

ers they suspect of breaking immigration laws

At least two last-minute public submissions in response to the White Paper have objected to this proposal, claiming it will promote xenophobia and violent attacks on foreigners.

The closing date for submissions is the end of this month.

According to a report by the Institute for Democracy in SA — submitted by the Southern

African Migration Project — the draft White Paper was short-sighted and reflected a "narrow national interest"

According to the report: "If these proposals are converted into legislation, we can expect an increase in the harassment and mistreatment of foreigners, particularly blacks from Southern African Development Community and other African countries"

(236)

ST 7/11/99

'Hands-off' Buthelezi criticised

Opposition parties say the home affairs minister is out of touch, writes Farouk Chothia

PD 8/11/99

(236)

HOME Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi has been accused by opposition parties and the business sector of failing to come to grips with the problems bedeviling his department.

President Thabo Mbeki decided to retain Buthelezi in the home affairs portfolio after negotiations aimed at giving Buthelezi the deputy presidency collapsed. This meant that Mbeki was unable to elevate an African National Congress (ANC) member, possibly Home Affairs Deputy Minister Lindiwe Sisulu to a full ministry.

Mbeki now faces the challenge of nudging Buthelezi into paying greater attention to his portfolio. Without a well oiled home affairs department, SA's efforts to woo foreign investment, speed up economic integration in southern Africa and combat international crime syndicates will flounder.

Democratic Party (DP) MP Richard Pillay said "He (Buthelezi) does not seem to be a hands-on minister. We do not hear of him visiting home affairs offices to find out what's going on."

Significantly Mbeki has started applying pressure on Buthelezi, taking a backhanded swipe at him in the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) a fortnight ago after Western Cape economic affairs MEC and DP provincial leader Hennie Bester highlighted the difficulty Chinese-owned textile company Novelle Spinners was having in obtaining work permits.

Instead of dismissing Bester's views, the president acknowledged that the government had received similar complaints. When they were brought to Buthelezi's attention, he was "horrified" to hear of them, Mbeki said.

This was a telling comment, giving credence to the view that Buthelezi is out of touch with his department and that foreign businessmen often bypass him to complain to Mbeki or other ministers.

Pillay said 4 000 businessmen were awaiting approval for their work permit applications while investment SA estimated that investments worth R300m were being held up by red tape.

The criticism shows that Buthelezi has become totally isolated from the business sector. In the 1980s, businessmen held him in high esteem but this began to change in the early 1990s when the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) posed a threat to political stability. Now Buthelezi's policies are perceived as a threat to investment.

In an address at a conference hosted by the Centre for Development Enterprise in Johannesburg last week, Buthelezi acknowledged the white paper on international migration — approved by the cabinet in March — was not "good enough" to attract investment.

But he called on the public to rally behind the white paper. Buthelezi hinted that the white paper was facing resistance from within government. "There are countervailing pressures and even philosophies of government constantly at work to build a migration system shaped by principles different from those embraced in the white paper. Therefore it is important that we build a strong constituency around this policy document," Buthelezi said.

Pillay said the DP was opposed to the document's proposal that companies pay a special tax for each foreigner they employed.

"This will be a hindrance to attracting investments. The money is supposed to go into job training but we already have a dismal track record on that front," Pillay said.

Buthelezi defended the plan saying it would reduce SA's dependence on foreign labour while not "out of existence". The tax would also be a useful source of income for training the local workforce.

He said the government wanted to make it more difficult for illegal workers to be employed in SA.

For this reason, the white paper shifts the burden of administration of documented foreign workers partially to the employer, requiring a chartered accountant to certify that any relevant alien employee is hired on the same conditions as those which would apply in respect of our nationals," Buthelezi said.

Pillay said the plan concerned both businessmen and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs).

"My understanding is that even if a foreigner wants to come and work for a NGO, a tax will have to be paid. I can't see how NGOs will be able to afford it," Pillay said.

An ANC MP, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the drafting of the white paper was a complex process.

"This has been dragging on for the past two or three years. It has all kinds of ramifications. There are no easy answers," the MP said.

Buthelezi now wants to speed up the process suggesting that the cabinet release a draft bill as a discussion document. It would then be studied by the national assembly's home affairs portfolio committee in tandem with the white paper, before being passed by Parliament next year.

Buthelezi said the committee agreed with this suggestion. However, committee chairman Zoleka Capa denied this, saying the committee had already decided to hold public hearings on the white paper. It would now consider Buthelezi's proposal to look at the white paper and the draft bill simultaneously.

POLITICS

Move frees 40 detained aliens

(276)
Sowetan 12/11/99

By Claire Keeton

IN ITS first significant legal challenge to the Government, the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) took action yesterday against the Ministry of Home Affairs to compel it to release 40 immigrants from illegal detention.

Today the Johannesburg High Court will rule on the urgent application by the "SAHRC and 40 others" to the Minister of Home Affairs and Dyambu-Lindela Repatriation Centre, directing them to release the detainees immediately and pay their costs.

The African National Congress Women's League has a substantial interest in the Dyambu Trust, which owns Dyambu Centre.

The 40 immigrants have been held in detention without access to the courts for over 30 days, pending their removal from the country, in violation of the Aliens Control Act.

The act requires that Home Affairs does not detain any person for longer than 30 days without authorisation by a judge.

Home Affairs spokesman Mr Henne Meyer said yesterday that the department did not want to comment on the application. "We are completely in the dark at this stage," he said.

Commissioner Jody Kollapen said the SAHRC had decided to bring the application for two reasons. "We need to ensure there is compliance with the rule of law in a democratic society," he said.

Secondly, the SAHRC is responsible for monitoring human rights practices and needs to enforce them when necessary, according to Mr Kollapen.

In this instance ousted Home Affairs director-general Mr Albert Mokoena agreed in March to SAHRC recommendations to prevent illegal detentions, but the practice did not stop. In fact, in September the Lindela Repatriation Centre had records of 150 people who had been held for more than 30 days.

Mr Kollapen said "The commission's recommendations are not binding. When they are not complied with, we need to take action or it

undermines the commission and its role. It is important to be seen to enforce recommendations if need be."

For this reason there are two parts to the application, handed to the Johannesburg state attorney's office yesterday.

"Part A" is for the immediate release of the detainees from the Lindela Repatriation Centre on the West Rand, while "Part B" confronts the long-term problems with Lindela.

SAHRC attorney Mr Andrew Rens of the Wits Law Clinic said on December 14 the commission would apply for the second part of the motion.

It requires Home Affairs and Lindela, run by private security company Dyambu, to put in place the right procedures and capacity to prevent illegal detentions.

Dyambu is not exempt from the law because it is following orders from Home Affairs, he said.

"The right to liberty is a fundamental right, one of the cornerstones of the Constitution," said Mr Rens. "If Home Affairs does not have the capacity (to avoid prolonged detentions), they must create it."

Insisting on justice

(236)

A CHALLENGE by the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) to Home Affairs last Friday, and to other government departments earlier in the week, signals its determination to ensure human rights are observed

The commission successfully took Home Affairs to court on Friday to demand the urgent release of 40 detainees who were being held illegally

Last Tuesday the SAHRC announced it would also take legal action to compel uncooperative government departments to submit information on what measures they have taken to realise socio-economic rights

These decisive measures indicate the commission is prepared to take a stand against government departments that either ignore or abuse human rights, contrary to the Constitution

They also show why it is important for the commission, despite being a statutory body, to maintain its independence of the Government

The application against Home Affairs (and the private company Dyambu, which runs the Lindela Repatriation Centre, highlights the role of the commission in not only enforcing human rights but also justice

SAHRC commissioner Jody Kollapen said the application was necessary to ensure "compliance with the rule of law" He said it was important that the commission was seen to be monitoring and enforcing the implementation of human rights

In this case, Home Affairs gave the commission virtually no choice about how to proceed - the department repeatedly violated the rights of immigrants at the Lindela Repatriation Centre and then failed to implement SAHRC recommendations on how to prevent unlawful detention

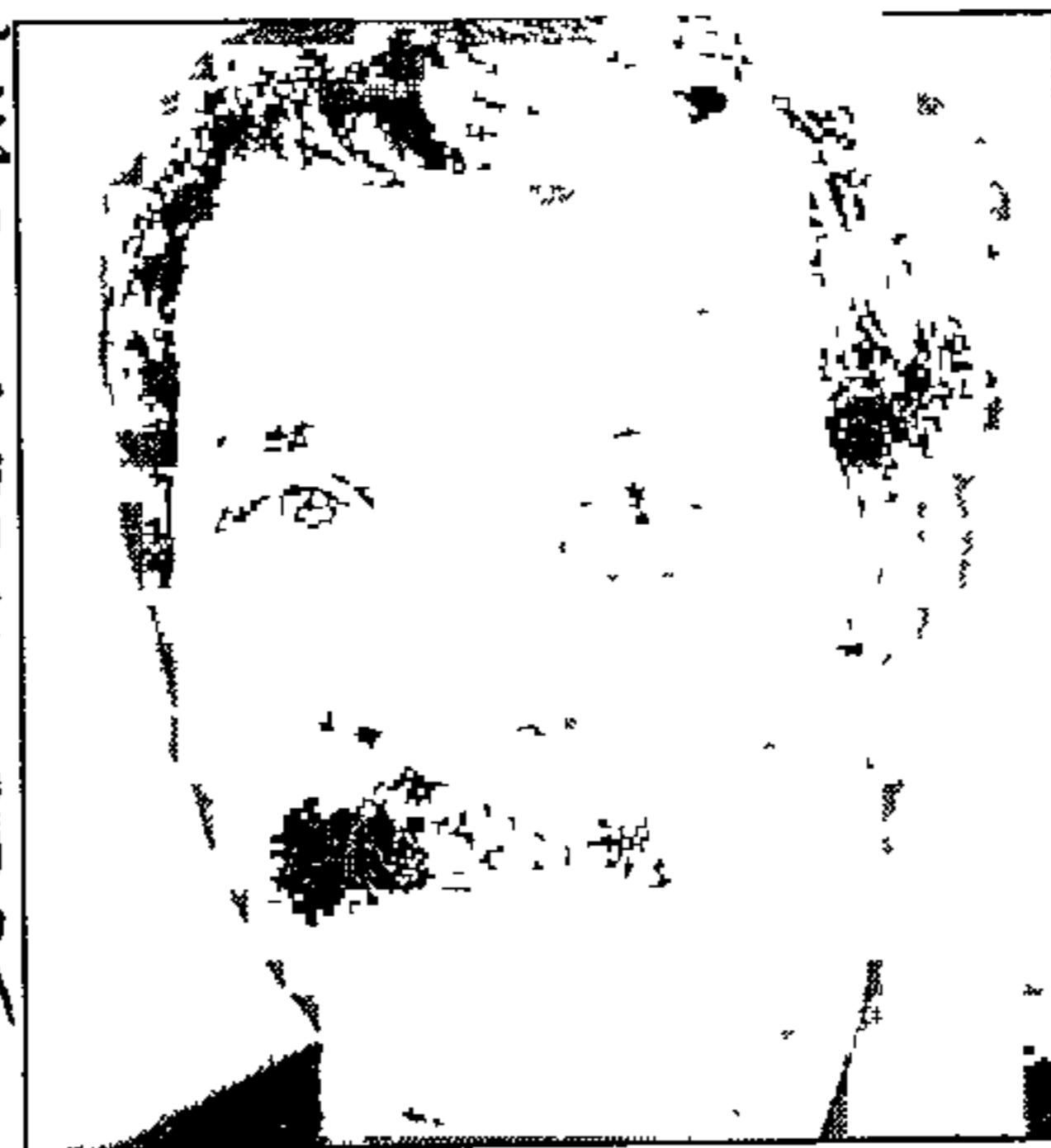
The illegal detention of people for more than 30 days at the Lindela Repatriation Centre on the West Rand was identified as a major problem by the SAHRC this year and recommendations were made to improve the situation

Yet last week Lindela was holding 40 detainees illegally Under the Aliens Control Act a person may only be detained for more than 30 days if their detention has been reviewed and approved by a judge

The list of detainees, named as "40 others" in the SAHRC application, showed that Edward Feze and Nhwa Celistine of Nigeria had been detained at Lindela since May 23 and June 10, respectively Many others were detained in September

Most of the detainees were from African countries - Zaire, Eritrea, Nigeria, Rwanda Congo, Ghana, Uganda, Mali, Ivory Coast, Burundi, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, Angola, Namibia and Malawi - while two were from Pakistan

The SAHRC shows its determination by taking Home Affairs to court to get the release of 40 detainees who were being held illegally, writes **Claire Keeton**



SAHRC commissioner Jody Kollapen ... the commission must be seen to be monitoring and enforcing the implementation of human rights.

Interestingly, the SAHRC report on "The Arrest and Detention of Persons in Terms of the Aliens Controls Act" (released in March) observed that no white immigrants had been held at Lindela, even though they too entered the country unlawfully

The study, based on 149 interviews conducted with detainees at Lindela and 40 of their friends or families, found that many people were detained because of their skin colour or accents

More than 10 percent of the 142 644 people detained at Lindela between August 1996 and October 1998 were either South African citizens or legal residents, and had to be released

"A significant number of persons interviewed had identification documents which were either destroyed or ignored or which they were prevented from fetching from home," the report stated

"There were widespread reported incidents of bribery or extortion during detention, as well as incidents of assault"

But the SAHRC noted "We are particularly pleased that both the Department of Home Affairs and the proprietors of the Lindela Repatriation Centre have reacted positively to the various recommendations made

"We do believe that collectively we can ensure the speedy implementation of the recommendations we have put forward

That was nearly eight months ago and there

was little progress until now

Instead of cooperating with the SAHRC and human rights lawyers from Wits University's Centre for Applied Legal Studies and Law Clinic to solve the problems, Home Affairs and the company which runs Lindela obstructed their work and even refused them access to the detainees

In support of the SAHRC's court application, a "history of the unlawful detention of foreign nationals at Lindela" was submitted

The unlawful detentions were known to have affected at least

- 25 foreigners in December 1997,
- 32 persons in April 1998,
- Another group in April,
- 102 people in September, and
- 23 people last month

In May 1998 Wits human rights lawyers Jonathan Klaaren and Andrew Rens raised the matter of unlawful detentions at Lindela in a letter to the then director-general of Home Affairs Albert Mokoena He replied that strict controls would be enforced to prevent unlawful detentions

This undertaking by Mokoena, which was reiterated in March, raised hopes which proved unfounded This is why the commission brought a unique, two-part application against Home Affairs and Dyambu-Lindela

The first part, which the court granted on Friday, was for the release of the 40 detainees The second part directs the respondents to put in place procedures by February 2000 to make sure no people are detained at Lindela for more than 30 days pending their removal from the country

"The SAHRC is insisting the right procedures and capacity are put in place (to prevent unlawful detentions)," said Rens, representing the commission "The right to liberty is fundamental"

Home Affairs spokesman Henne Meyers said he would prefer not to comment at this stage and attempts to reach Dyambu by Friday were unsuccessful

Rens said naming Dyambu as a respondent in the court case was significant as it forced the company (in which the African National Congress Women's League has a substantial interest) to comply with the law

"They are not entitled to hold people for more than 30 days no matter whether they have a contract with Home Affairs," said Rens

"They are running a private prison and they must accept responsibility for complying with the law and constitutional standards"

Declaring war on war

OUR experience in Africa this millennium was marked by slavery, imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism

War and civil strife, poverty and disease, corruption and maladministration and economic decay became the defining features of our continent

In particular, this century adversely affected the condition of African women

Women's experience in Africa was characterised by inequality in power and decision making at all levels, insufficient machinery to promote the advancement of women at all levels, a lack of awareness of women's rights, poverty, economic inequality, and unequal access to education, health and employment

Women were also the victims of violence and abuse and bear the brunt of armed conflict within and between states. It was out of this experience that we committed ourselves to an approach and mindset that will reverse the fortunes of Africa

President Thabo Mbeki has championed the resolution of the problems in Africa by Africans. The democratisation of Nigeria under president Olusegun Obasanjo and the current attempt to resolve the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo are examples of such efforts

We have also prioritised regional economic development in southern and eastern Africa. The Maputo development corridor, the Lubombo corridor and a five-year integrated regional development plan have been developed

In East Africa, the presidents of Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya met on November 30 and signed a treaty that lays the foundation for a common East African passport and flag, economic and ultimately monetary integration and joint infrastructure development

We believe that economically integrated and developed regions will make a significant contribution to the renewal and revival of our continent. These are but some of the steps we have taken to position ourselves for the next millennium

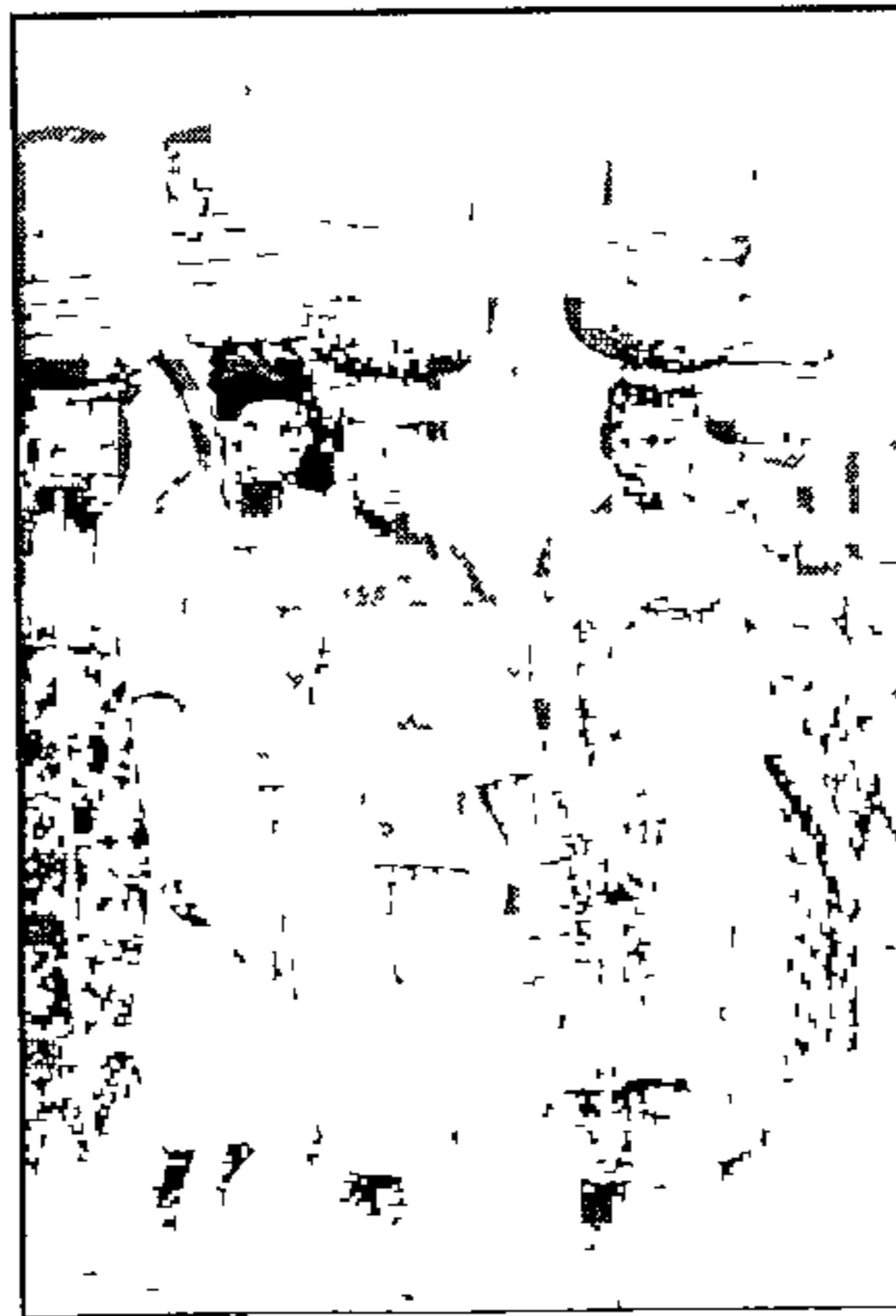
However, the wars and conflict on the battlefields of Africa have produced many refugees and internally displaced people. They have created many widows, orphans and amputees in Angola, Mozambique, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Sierra Leone

In the aftermath of war, we are faced with the challenge of reconstructing our countries from the ashes, reintegrating exiles, trauma counselling and general medical treatment

Women, who often end up as rape victims during war, have the added responsibility of sustaining the family, or what is left of it. The elimination of thousands of able-bodied persons who

South Africa is faced with the challenge of giving shelter to displaced people through the Refugees Act of 1998. **Lindiwe Sisulu** considers the issues

(236) Sowetan 16/12/99



Flashback ... Burundian women carry food to their shelters at the Myovozi refugee camp in northern Tanzania.

PHOTO REUTERS

should have been at the forefront of Africa's development has been immeasurable

We must declare war on war, rebuild the socio-economic infrastructure of states as well as its political and moral fabric

South Africa is in the process of implementing the Refugees Act of 1998, which provides for the reception of asylum seekers, the regulation of asylum applications, the recognition of refugee status, and the provision of the rights and obligations that emanate from such status

We are committed to establishing reception centres, which will accommodate asylum seekers for relatively short periods. The concept of refugee reception centres has generated all manner of fear, alarm and downright cynicism during the past few months

Yet reception centres are perceived by Government as a humane concept – as a means to receive and look after asylum seekers as we process their applications

Refugees leave their countries of origin in fear of their lives. They arrive in our country, usually with nothing but the clothes they are

wearing. We have certain obligations towards them and the only way we can provide for them is in a structured manner

Unfortunately, some people are determined to look for a spectre of evil behind the pronouncements and actions of the Government. We wonder why the worst must always be attributed to our intentions and our actions

We have been in discussions with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, and we have made our point very clear

We want to ensure that asylum seekers and refugees are provided with the necessary protection, shelter and basic facilities and also to protect the integrity of the refugee regime

We are proud of our formal asylum procedure, which we consider to be one of the best in the developing world

We intend to amend the Identification Act to allow the Minister of Home Affairs to issue identity documents to refugees. This is to ensure that the interaction between refugees and the public as well as private institutions are streamlined

Although the Refugees Act makes provision for South African identity documents to refugees, the Identification Act makes provision for issuing identity documents to citizens and permanent residents only

We want to rectify this omission. This, once again, highlights our commitment to the plight of refugees and our effort to make their experience as bearable as possible

It is the responsibility of all South Africans to protect the interests of asylum seekers and refugees and to assist the Government in achieving its objective

At the close of this millennium, we envisage a future of economic regeneration which is underpinned by democratic renewal, political accountability, mass mobilisation and the empowerment of our people, and women in particular, to play critical roles during the next millennium

This is a vision that we must turn into reality. We owe it to those who fought to rid Africa of the evils of colonialism and apartheid. We also owe it to ourselves and to future generations

(This is an edited version of a speech by Deputy Home Affairs Minister Lindiwe Sisulu at the 30th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity refugee convention in Johannesburg recently.)

AAU-13/12/99

(236)

Once he dreamed of greatness, now he is just a refugee who dreams of a job

Stepping into Gustave Bonkaka's back room in a flat in Matland is intimidating. The block is called Royal Flats in Royal Road, but there is just nothing regal about the room or its size.

The room, which he shares with a friend, is so small that Gustave has to stoop, and when he goes to "bed" a mattress on the floor - he barely fits.

There are no windows and ventilation. But Gustave, 38, and 1,93m tall, exudes a warmth that says "Welcome to my realm, brother".

As we shook hands, he smiled, exposing a set of teeth so well looked after that it was difficult to believe that tribalism and war have shattered his dreams of being the greatest athlete Africa has ever produced.

"This 'Gentle giant' from Congo Brazzaville, fluent in both Portuguese and French and computer literate, is a survivor. His achievements would leave most people green with envy."

Tall and lean, Gustave is a multi-talented sportsman. He played basketball in college in his country

between 1979 and 1982, and was so good that he was recruited to play for another club but a jealous coach prevented his transfer, thus ending a short and illustrious career.

Gustave switched codes and moved on to athletics, where he excelled in high jump.

The smile returns again as recounts his achievements in his chosen career. He said proudly "In my debut trial I jumped 1,90m easily."

Officials were so impressed, that he was awarded a scholarship by the

the 8th Spartakad Championship in Moscow, where he won a participant's national sports federation.

In 1983 he was invited to take part in Olympic preparatory games in Germany, and went on to take part in the University Games in Yugoslavia.

In 1988 Gustave took part in the Olympic preparatory games in Germany and France, astounding organisers by jumping 2,19m. But his hopes

of taking part in the Seoul Olympics were dashed when he was injured during training.

Between 1992 and 1996 he was a sports and physical education instructor at the Trois Glorieuses College in Brazzaville but the college was closed because of the civil war. He transferred to the Brazzaville Diplomatic School, but fierce fighting last December put an end to his dreams again, and for the last two months he has been a refugee in Cape Town, having left his elderly mother behind.

To his countrymen in Cape Town, Gustave is the ultimate hero, which is why they took him under their wing - but to other locals, he is just another refugee looked upon with scorn, based on ignorance and misconceptions.

"My dream is to continue to train youngsters in Cape Town, so that Africa can be counted among the best, and if that happens, I will be very happy."

If anybody can utilise Gustave's talents they can telephone Carolin Corn. Tel 082 690 1390 or 788-9888.

TARZAN MBITA



Staff Reporter

JUDGE CHASTISES HOME AFFAIRS

Victory for gays in immigration battle

(236)

ET 3/12/99

JUDITH SOAL

CAPE TOWN couple John Symmons and Brian Scott were celebrating last night

After a three-year court battle the Constitutional Court ruled yesterday that Symmons and Scott, like homosexual couples throughout South Africa, now have the same immigration rights as married couples

"We're delighted; this just shows that our Constitution works. It makes me proud of the country," said Symmons.

If the truth be told there was never any doubt about the outcome of the case

Gays and lesbians are guaranteed equality under the Constitution, so the law that allows the foreign wives or husbands of South African citizens but not the partners of gay and lesbian South Africans to apply for permanent residence was bound to be declared unconstitutional

Yet the Department of Home Affairs fought — and lost — the battle at every level

It came with a price

Judge Laurie Ackermann ruled that the department (read the taxpayer) cover all the costs of the case, thought to be in the region of R300 000.

Like every other judge who has heard this case, Ackermann chastised the department for what he called "widespread abuse of the legal system"

He also ruled that the relevant

clause of the Aliens Control Act be reworded rather than declared invalid — a first for the Constitutional Court. Now, where the act says that a "spouse" may apply for citizenship, the court decided that the words "or partner in a permanent same-sex life partnership" be added

The National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality, which has supported the court challenge, said the ruling would provide substantial relief to many same-sex couples

"People's lives have been in limbo for years, they haven't known if they will be able to stay here or not. We are overjoyed that this frivolous court case has at last been resolved," said the coalition's Evert Knoesen

He slammed the department for making the inevitable as costly and difficult as possible. "Even a fourth-year law student would have known from the beginning there was no merit in their case, but they still chose to pursue it"

The wording chosen by the court gives gay couples more status than unmarried heterosexual couples

"The thing is gays can't get married yet, even if they want to," said Knoesen. "We would support the legislation being opened to all couples"

He denied that it would be difficult to establish whether or not the relationship was permanent

"We know there are no guarantees in relationships, whether you

are married or not. The judgment states that there has to be an intention of permanence, which is just about what anyone can hope for anyway."

He said the Home Affairs Department had a procedure for investigating whether or not marriages of less than two years were bona fide

"They can just do the same for gay couples"

What about the criticism that married couples at least have a certificate to show they have been together for a while?

"I don't think it is impossible to establish that with unmarried couples. You can always get affidavits from neighbours and friends. There are many ways to separate the chancers from the bona fides," he said.

Home Affairs spokesperson Hennie Meyer admitted his department had "sort of" expected the ruling

"I can't really comment now because it is a 74-page judgment," he said. "Of course we will abide by it but I'm not sure how it will be implemented"

But Symmons and Scott weren't too concerned with the details last night

"We are just delighted we will be treated like any other couple," said Symmons. "We have opened a business here and until now everything has had to be in my name, which is quite a strain. Now Brian is about to be legal it can be more like a partnership again"

Gays celebrate court victory

ART 3/12/99

Ruling on citizenship rights for foreign partners welcomed

STAFF REPORTER

Foreign born partners in homosexual relationships must have the same rights as heterosexuals regarding access to citizenship of the country, the Constitutional Court ruled yesterday

The ruling was welcomed by gay rights campaigners who described it as an important step in the recognition of gay and lesbians relationships

Mr Justice Laurie Ackermann said the law as it stood fomented homophobia. The rights of equality and dignity were found to be closely related in the

present case and it was held that the section reinforced stereotypes of gays and lesbians

"This conveyed the message that gays and lesbians lack the inherent humanity to have their families and family lives in such same-sex relationships respected or protected and constituted an invasion of their privacy"

The ruling came after six gay couples the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality and the Gender Commission charged that the Home Affairs Department policy of denying partners in same sex relationships automatic permanent residence was unconstitutional

The policy, in terms of Aliens Control Act, allowed only heterosexual partners of South African citizens to apply for permanent residence

The court ruled that the law should be re-worded to include 'or partner in a permanent same sex life partnership'

The coalition hoped the ruling would mean the end of homosexual persecution by Home Affairs

The sad history of this case is that lesbian and gay couples have been harassed, detained and threatened with deportation for the past two years," said Zackie Achmat of the coalition

The Commission for Gender Equality said it hoped the ruling would force departments like Home Affairs to align their practices and policies to provisions made in the constitution

"Our constitution does not allow us to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, which is precisely what Home Affairs had been doing

"While we welcome the decision we believe the lengthy process was unnecessary as there should be processes in place to align department policies and practices to constitutional provisions," said Phumelele Ntombela Nzimande the commission's deputy chairwoman

(236)

Court rules in favour of gay, lesbian couples

(236)

samevan 3/12/99

THE foreign partners of gays and lesbians may from today apply for permanent residence on the same grounds as the spouses of heterosexual South Africans

In a decision handed down yesterday morning the Constitutional Court said Section 25(5) of the Aliens Control Act 96 of 1991 was unconstitutional

The section allowed the husbands and wives of South African citizens - but not the partners of gays and lesbians - to apply for permanent residence

Judge Laurie Ackermann, reading out extracts of a decision approved by all the judges, found in favour of the applicants and awarded costs against Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi Deputy Minister Lindwe

Sisulu and the former director general. The case was brought to the court in August by six couples the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality and the Commission for Gender Equality

Ackermann said the section unfairly discriminated on the grounds of sexual orientation

"Such unfair discrimination limits the equality right of such people and their right to dignity"

The section was not reasonable in an open, democratic society, he said. And in an unprecedented move the court ruled that instead of declaring the section invalid, it should simply be reworded. A phrase should be inserted in Section 25(5) which related to the rights of citizens' spouses to apply for

permanent residence. Ackermann said. Where the law referred to the citizen's spouse Ackermann said the words 'or partner in a same sex life partnership' should be added

At a press conference afterwards the coalition's spokesman Mr Zackie Achmat welcomed the judgment saying at least 30 couples would be affected by the court's decision

Coalition spokesman Mr Evert Knoesen said the group did not consider the judgment a particularly liberal step. It's a matter of justice not liberalism, he said

Achmat said he hoped the ruling would help the Government stop criminalising gays and lesbians. Home Affairs needed to show some respect for the law, he said - Sapa



Aliens act more lenient toward gay couples

(236)

BD 3/12/99

Bonfile Ngqiyaza

LESBIAN and gay couples in "permanent same-sex relationships" may now apply for permanent residential status and receive the special preference enjoyed by heterosexuals

The Constitutional Court ruled yesterday that the omission of "partners in permanent same-sex life partnerships", in a section of the Aliens Control Act, was inconsistent with the country's constitution

Instead of sending legislation back to Parliament, the court - for the first time since its inception - inserted words into a statute to remedy the unconstitutionality of a section

The court said the rights of equality and dignity were "closely related" in the case, holding that the section "reinforced harmful and hurtful stereotypes" of gays and lesbians

The court said as a result of representations made by one of the applicants in the case, the

home affairs department granted at least 13 temporary exemptions between April and November 1997

Yet in December 1997, the department changed its stance - refusing to grant exemptions to foreign same-sex partners of SA permanent residents

Gay and Lesbian Legal Advice Centre co-ordinator Evert Knoesen welcomed the ruling and said it reaffirmed the validity of the relationships of gay and lesbian couples

Knoesen said his organisation estimated that in the short term about 50 to 70 people would take advantage of the ruling and apply for SA citizenship

The gender equality commission said the acknowledgement by the court that marriage was only one form of life partnership was encouraging

Commission chairman Joyce Seroke said the ruling was "very promising" for the many women in SA who were in relationships not protected by the law

National identity system faces technical challenges

(236) BD 7/12/99

Smart card could save billions, writes Pamela Whitby

GOVERNMENT faces big challenges before the Home Affairs National Identity System (Hans) reaps the benefits that are expected to save the country R1bn a year from reduced public- and private-sector fraud

Not least is the challenge of providing the space to house the biggest government information technology system in SA to date. It is also the biggest implementation of a civilian automated fingerprint identification system (Afis) in the world.

Issues that still need to be resolved include scarce resources, careful planning, preparing for rapid technological advances and training.

High-level security is also required to ensure the technical specifications are kept a state secret. If these are revealed the system could be compromised.

The Hans contract, which was issued in 1997, was awarded in February to the Marple consortium amid allegations of incompetence and internal politicking. It was finally signed in November after months of talks on technical specifications.

"We had to fight over a number of finer points in order to protect the interests of the state. But this is quite normal in Afis contracts because there is a lot at stake," says home affairs chief director IT, Patrick Monyeki.

Members of the consortium include Dimension Data-owned Plessey, Japanese trading house Marubeni, systems integrator Unisys and NEC of Japan.

When the Hans tender was first issued the objective was to provide a two-dimensional barcode identity card, similar to the new drivers licence. But the project took a new turn.

Primarily, it remains a means

to positively verify civilian identity. This will be achieved by the Afis, which can classify, store and compare millions of fingerprint images by converting them into unique codes.

But Marple consortium subcontractor Polaroid, which was to produce the two-dimensional cards, has been ousted because of a government decision to issue a smart card instead. Since the initial tender did not call for smart cards, government had no choice but to issue a separate tender — or reissue Hans.

Thus, what started out as a R800m home affairs project has now become a significantly more expensive national challenge.

Smart-card technology, which is chip-based and, like a computer, able to process information, is more costly than its two-dimensional cousin. So why is government underwriting a project that could cost up to R2bn?

With the projected reduction in fraud, including false pension and unemployment claims, and forged identity books, the system will eventually pay for itself, says Unisys project manager for Hans, Art Bergesen.

In addition, information from a number of government departments including health, labour and welfare could be held on the card. "Instead of each department issuing a separate card there will now be one multipurpose card and one infrastructure that in the long term will reduce costs," says Monyeki.

Potential for a public-private partnership with banks, which could help finance the project, is also being investigated.

Governments worldwide are investigating the viability of mul-

tipurpose smart cards.

The SA card is still in the planning stages. Government initially hoped to issue voters with cards by the next election. This will not be possible.

Monyeki says "The challenges are mind-boggling."

The success or failure of the project will depend on the quality of the data. The contract provides that each set of fingerprints will be subject to a quality-excellence programme.

"Home affairs officials taking the fingerprints will be required to test the quality of each set before the customer leaves the building," he says. That will take training.

Other issues to be addressed include marketing, because if there is no public buy in, the project could fail.

Talks with the Malaysian government, which recently launched a multipurpose citizen card, should provide valuable input. The Malaysian project is almost identical to the one proposed by SA, says Monyeki.

Parliament is being kept up to date to ensure that when the time arrives adequate finances are available. Hans has cost and will continue to cost the state billions of rands.

Over time technology will require upgrading and maintenance and there will be support costs. However, it could also result in significant savings and skills transfer. This will depend on staff motivation, careful management and stringent planning.

Industry observers hope the issue of the R1bn smart-card contract next year escapes the controversy of its predecessor. If so, SA citizens could have the smartest card in their pockets within a decade.

Refugee crisis grows

(236)

THIRTY years after African leaders committed themselves to protecting and assisting refugees, the numbers have increased tenfold and the causes are nowhere near being resolved

The intractable conflicts in Africa, which continue to displace people were discussed at length at a commemorative conference this week to mark the 30th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity convention on refugees

At the discussion – that brought together representatives from governments United Nations organisations, the media, non-governmental organisations, academics, labour and the private sector from Southern Africa – the complexities of dealing with refugees were highlighted

And, as Nicolas Bwakira, regional director of the UN high commissioner for refugees (UNHCR) pointed out, the convention remained as relevant today as it was 30 years ago Africa has seven million of the world's 22 million refugees While the root causes of refugees remained 'complex and varied', there are as many problems for asylum seekers in host countries, he pointed out "These could range from the abuse of asylum, foreigner intolerance or asylum seekers arriving with arms"

The competition for resources posed dilemmas for many governments since on the one hand they tried to honour their international refugee obligations, while having to balance that with the needs of their own citizens

Bwakira said that while voluntary repatriation "in safety and dignity" would always be the most durable solution, in countries like Angola for example, it has been hampered by renewed conflict, recurring insecurity and threats of land-mined areas

"The complexity of the Angolan situation is exacerbated by new refugees mixing with old ones in exile – refugees who may have repatriated voluntarily or spontaneously, only to return to the camps because of prevailing or worsened situations"

The lack of or weak peace making or conflict resolution mechanisms and inadequate post-conflict confidence-building measures were other problems Bwakira highlighted

While there was no doubt that the strife on the continent first needs to be resolved before there can be any lasting solution to the refugee crisis – at least 15 countries have conflicts within their borders and several with their neighbours – there was increasingly a "lessening of solidarity" with refugees, said Jody Kollapen of the Human Rights Commission

Misguided perceptions about foreigners being involved in crime and corruption fuelled such xenophobia, he said Kollapen said that while there were campaigns to address the increasing xenophobia in South Africa, there

Thirty years after African leaders made a commitment to assist refugees, their numbers have increased and the causes remain unresolved, writes **Sharon Chetty**

Savnetan 10/12/99



Africa has seven million of the world's 22 million refugees. PHOTO AP

was still a need to understand why "ordinary" South Africans reacted so negatively and often violently to other Africans and not to immigrants of other races, notably from Europe

Dr Zonke Majodina, coordinator of forced migration studies at Wits University, questioned whether the xenophobia in South Africa was merely intolerance or if it could be categorised as "racial xenophobia" and be seen as a throwback to apartheid "when the darker you were, the more violent the system was against you"

How to deal with asylum seekers as opposed to those moving merely for economic reasons was a question posed by many participants

Shun Chetty of the International Organisation for Migration said it had to be acknowledged that people on the continent and from elsewhere were often forced to move, even across borders, as they could not earn livelihoods in their own countries "People moving

because they are starving is not a crime, but there is no international convention to deal with this," he pointed out

The need for civil society to get involved in education and to assist "the ordinary layman" to become more sensitive to asylum seekers was mentioned by Theodora Steele of the Congress of South African Trade Unions

Her union federation supported the protection of the rights of migrant workers and she said that there was now an urgent need for policies that allowed for skills sharing between countries without workers from one being threatened by another, especially in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region

A long-term goal would be for the SADC countries to harmonise their policies on asylum seekers so that no one country becomes "targeted", suggested Dr M Machele, the deputy director of refugee affairs at the Department of Foreign Affairs

In 30 years the challenges of dealing with refugees has been made more difficult since there are now more fears that there are those who abuse the asylum system and procedures

Dr D Chefeke a former special UNHCR envoy in the Great Lakes, admitted that there were also perpetrators of atrocities in the refugee camps housing those fleeing the genocide in Rwanda and Burundi, who were difficult to identify and flush out The need for the enforcement of international criminal law was also emphasised

As a way of highlighting, yet again, the need for African conflicts to be resolved, it was suggested that the UN Security Council be asked to debate the matter next month

Already debates are scheduled on Angola and the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo In a wide-ranging resolution, the conference also encouraged partnerships between governments, media, the private sector and civil society so as to be able to deal with conflicts and efforts to counter xenophobia

A tenfold increase in refugee numbers in 30 years is good reason to despair But as one participant pointed out "There is also growing respect for human rights on this continent There is now more open discussion about the conflicts than there has ever been before" Without doubt, no one wanted an assessment in another three decades – or even one – to show that there is still a refugee crisis

Immigration Official on Fraud Charges

MOSHIDI MOKWEA

Minister of Home Affairs

Mangosuthu Buthelezi recently

told a Sunday newspaper that

there had been no ministerial

control over the chaotic admin-

istration of migration visas since

June. "I have not had a director-

connection with the

International Airport connection with the

issuing of visas and work and residence permits to foreign nationals in exchange for money

"The official, who has been with the Immigration Office for 20 years, appeared in the Bellville Magistrate's Court yesterday. Charges of fraud and of contravening section 57 of the Aliens Control Act were put to him but he was not asked to plead. He was released on bail of R1 000.

According to Home Affairs investigators, the official is suspected of running a "mini-Department of Home Affairs" from his home.

They said foreigners — most of them from Taiwan, China, Turkey and the Philippines — wanting to visit, work or settle in South Africa had paid for visas or permits they needed.

On Friday, police swooped on the official's home in Parow, where they found documents and a Home Affairs ink stamp of the type used to endorse visas.

Home Affairs spokesperson Manage Makwela said yesterday that the official's arrest followed a two-year investigation by the department's corruption unit.

He had not been suspended. Makwela said, but because of the seriousness of the allegations Home Affairs was considering this step.

"The department was not bringing charges against anyone else, but investigations were continuing.

Home Affairs is struggling to clear a huge backlog of applications for visas and work and residence permits.

Another Home Affairs official, the department's regional director for Gauteng, Georgia Ndlovu, who had been suspended on similar allegations, was murdered three weeks ago.

Police are investigating whether her death was linked to her suspected role in the unlawful issuing of identity documents to Ngunens.

Makwela said the department did not tolerate corruption and its anti corruption and inspection units were doing everything in their power to stop it. The units were making routine and random inspections to ensure corruption was stamped out.

"The department is investigating any report that comes to its attention, no matter how small, because we feel this is the only way to ensure surveillance," Makwela said.

"We are encouraging people to come forward with any information that might help the department curb criminal activities and bring those responsible to book."

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21/14/18/19

Concern at teen pregnancy rate

By Charity Bhengu

ABOUT 35 percent of South African girls aged between 15 and 19 have had children, a study by the South African Demographic and Health Survey revealed yesterday

This is a major concern for health planners because it gives rise to unwanted children, who are often abandoned or given up for adoption, the study says

It found the fertility rate was lower in urban than in rural areas and higher, at 3,1 percent, among uneducated black women than among white women at 1,9 percent

The relatively low fertility rate in urban areas could be explained by contraception, which is used by 51 percent of sexually active young women, the study says

Dr Tom Leeuw, of the University of Venda in Thohoyandou said although there is an improved use of contraceptives among teenage girls, the majority use contraception only after the birth of their first child

"We should understand that some teenagers see the onset of menstruation as a time to demonstrate their fertility

"As to whom they have a child with is not important. Some will even say 'my sister has a child too'," said Leeuw

Research by the department of community health at Wits University found that while the health system provided access to safe and effective contraception for most women, it had failed to fulfil the particular needs of adolescents before their first pregnancy

"Better access to contraception will first require recognising the special needs of adolescents, including the skills necessary to negotiate with male partners," says Kathleen Kahn, a researcher at Wits

"It will then require providing them with appropriate, and culturally sensitive information on reproductive health, including contraception," she says

Another disadvantage of teen pregnancy was the frequency of high-risk behaviour such as unprotected sex, which could lead to HIV-Aids

13/12/89