Migrant Labour, S.A. — General

1990 — 1992
Jobseekers flood SA despite its economic plight

By JENNIFER GRIFFIN

Witness Majiya, 23, needed work. But when he arrived in SA from Zimbabwe, he found fewer opportunities than his compatriots had promised.

"They said you could get any job you want," said Majiya, who has a matric. But the best Majiya could do was get a low-paying job at an apartment complex as a security guard, which also provides him with tiny living quarters on the roof.

The sinking SA economy, now in its fourth year of recession, is causing job losses at an alarming rate and the labour force can no longer absorb school leavers, much less people arriving from neighbouring states in search of work.

"The chances of a local person getting a job are one in 10. The chances for a foreign worker is almost nil," said Cosatu spokesman Neil Coleman.

Majiya is one of the lucky few to find a job. Between 1960 and 1965, 80,9 percent of SA blacks seeking work were absorbed into the formal sector, according to SA's Development Bank. Twenty-five years later, as 892 600 enter the workforce annually, only 33 000 new jobs are available.

Until recently South African gold mines, farms and factories employed thousands of workers from bordering states where job opportunities were limited. Now the gold mines are retrenching about 2 000 workers a month.

Such retrenchments affect surrounding countries. Some 45 percent of Lesotho's gross domestic product comes from the remittances of migrant workers, according to Francois Viruly, senior economist for the South African Chamber of Mines.

A miner's work is difficult, but, for some, at least it is a job. The work space is cramped, hot and deep underground. The wages are low, between R800 and R1 500 a month, and workers must live away from home in single-sex migrant hostels.

Most unemployed South Africans are unwilling to do that kind of work even though the Chamber of Mines has tried recruiting in the townships. Forty percent of South Africa's gold miners continue to come from other countries, a 20 percent decrease from before 1975.

"Cutbacks in the mining industry have reduced the employment available to non South Africans," said Keith Lockwood, an economist for the South African Chamber of Business.

"Since the end of the first quarter of 1989 -- the beginning of the current downturn -- 300 000 people have lost their jobs."

Poor performance in the agricultural sector caused SA's gross domestic product to fall by 5,7 percent in the third quarter of this year. Suffering the worst drought this century, more than 5 000 farmers are expected to sell-up by the end of the year, according to a survey published in a local paper.

More workers will lose their jobs. Already 70 000 farm workers have been dismissed.

With no jobs on the farms, between one and three-million people could migrate to Johannesburg and other cities in a desperate search for jobs that don't exist.

In Alexandra township, north of Johannesburg, 60 percent of the residents are at present unemployed. Male hostel dwellers remain pitted against community residents and continue their battle against the 350 000-strong community.

Over 12 000 people in Alexandra are now dependent on food handouts from local church groups. Since February this year, over 500 women and children line up at the women's migrant hostel to receive small packets of food filled with peanut butter and soya beans. Many of the men have either been retrenched or killed in the past 18 months.

Unlike before, the migrant workers who settle in the township can no longer find jobs in the city. More than 3 400 businesses have declared themselves insolvent in the past two-and-a-half years. Liquidations escalated to 1 387 in the first seven months of 1992. Foreign investment is down by 35 percent this year, according to the Reserve Bank.

Despite the country's growing problems, Majiya says he will stay in SA. "I need the work," he said.
MIGRANT LABOUR
ALTHOUGH the mines are still the largest employer of foreign migrants, the number of foreigners employed has declined dramatically in recent years, according to a forthcoming book, Apartheid's Hostages Foreign Migrants in South Africa, by University of Natal economist Alan Whiteside.

Whereas, in 1972, for example, 78 percent of workers employed at mines affiliated to the Chamber of Mines were foreigners; today black South Africans make up 60 percent of the total workforce of 550,000 on chamber mines.
Labour brokers in spotlight over 'poaching'

GRAHAM RUSHTON

IN A bid to impose tighter control over labour brokers in the construction industry, a monitoring body has been formed under the auspices of the Constructional Engineering Association (CEA).

It will be known as the SA Labour Services Association (Salsa).

CEA executive director Rees Schnetz said several labour brokers have been abusing the shortage of skilled labour in the construction industry.

"They lure staff from permanent and secure employment by offering substantially higher rates of pay. They re-recruit staff from site to site on a merry-go-round system," he said.

Schnetz hopes to combat these inflationary practices by urging brokers to join Salsa and by encouraging companies to deal only with Salsa brokers.

"One immediate result of the establishment of Salsa has taken place at the Mossel Bay offshore project where labour broker practices were brought into line with both ours and the CEA's guidelines," Industrial Manpower Recruitment's Manuel Marques said.

Schnetz stressed Salsa had no intention of forcing brokers out of the market.
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UNION MAN TIPPED FOR AGRICULTURE MINISTER
WINDHOEK — National Agricultural Union of Namibia president Andreas Mouton is a possible candidate for the post of Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development.
Up to now there has been speculation that Janus de Wet, chairman of the white right-wing action Christian National party and a member of the 72-member Constituent Assembly, is in line for the post.
Mouton, 43, who farms north of Otjiwarongo, has not played any active role in politics.
The National Agricultural Union of Namibia is an apolitical body.
Mouton contributed greatly to the formulation of the union's proposed agricultural policy which was presented to all the political parties represented in the November elections.
Fifteen shadow ministers have been appointed to various posts by Swapo president Sam Nujoma in a shadow Cabinet which has been working on reviewing job descriptions and drafting budget requirements in administrative departments.
No Minister of Agriculture has yet been appointed to the shadow Cabinet.
Windhoek's pro-Swape daily newspaper, The Namibian, has said that the portfolio of agriculture is believed to be earmarked for a "white" Afrikaans-speaking Namibian.
Mouton said he knew nothing of his possible appointment and did not wash to comment. — ICNS.

Pilot 'provoked race incident'

MICHAEL HARTNACK
HARARE — A "white racist pilot" working for Air Zimbabwe was alleged to have provoked an incident at London's Gatwick airport last week when police and civil aviation authorities demanded to see an all-black air crew's flying licences.
Capt Alex Makanda and co-pilot Eric Mutava were preparing for homeward take-off in the airline's new RH600 Boeing 767-200 flagship when it was boarded by two policemen and an official. It was the first check Makanda had been subjected to in 12 years of flying.
The Herald reported an exchange of notes between UK and Zimbabwean civil aviation authorities about the incident, which was regarded here as a racial insult sparked by an "unhappy white pilot."

NDS loaded with more companies

MFLANIF SERGEANT

NATAL
Policy of reversing black flow a 'failure'

Staff Reporter

THE government's original reason for introducing its decentralisation policies-to limit or reverse the flow of black people to the metropolitan areas—had failed, a panel of experts has concluded in a secret report.

Although it was calculated that about 300,000 jobs had been associated with the Regional Industrial Development Programme (RIDP) between 1985 and 1987, this "pales into insignificance compared to the scale of the dominant urbanisation processes," they said.

The panel, which was appointed by the Development Council of Ministers representing the South African and homeland governments, completed the report in December 1988 and handed it to the governments early last year, but it has not yet been published.

It said that on the part of the South African government the redirection of metropolitan migration was in the past a key aspect of the decentralisation policy, with an underlying concern about the prospect of "excessive urbanisation".

The report said that "unlike the earlier approach, the present urbanisation strategy of the South African government accepts the inevitability of the urbanisation process and is clearly not aimed at diverting metropolitan migration at all costs."

The queue of potential metropolitan migrants and their households was much larger than the line of migrants that might conceivably be diverted to industrial development locations.

In 1980 about 13.5% of the urban population was accommodated at the 56 development points and in 1985 only 2 million people, 14.5%, were accommodated at these points.
Migrant labour not happy ever after

Housing for families is more expensive

Bold plans made by various local authorities to change their character had come to nothing and talks and plans remained just that.

Most hostel dwellers earn low wages so the possibility of them raising bonds to buy houses for family living was out of question.

"We have no alternative but to remain here as we can't afford higher rent in townships or in a high-rise building in the city centre," says one inmate quoted in the book.

The immediate alternative to scrapping the hostels is upgrading them.

Hostels

In the PWV area alone there are about 243 000 people in 130 hostels scattered around 24 townships.

The book does not say anything new or suggest radical alternatives. It is a collection of data that should prove very useful to anyone interested in the migrancy debate beyond the cliches of "demolish" and "close hostels."

It is a book worth having.

Title: MIGRANCY AFTER INFLUX CONTROL
Author: Ahmed Jooma
Publisher: Institute of Race Relations
Price: R27.50 (VAT included)
Reviewer: Mathatha Tseku
THE repeal of influx control laws in 1986 was hailed as a major step towards ending apartheid because migratory labour systems had been used to effectively limit the movement of black people.

But, since the repeal of the laws, what has happened to migrants? Have all the people who were forced by law to stay in hostels now brought their families along and are they living happily ever after?

These are the questions that author Ahmed Jooma poses and tries to answer.

In a book that traces the origin and motives of the migratory labour system, Jooma finds that business, especially mining house conglomerates, embraced the principle of migrancy because it gave them power over the workers who had to depend on employers' housing and feeding schemes for survival.

He argues that the growth of the labour movement in the country and the constant criticism of the principle, led to the watershed decision to do away with legalised single sex accommodation in mines and major factories.

Mining houses, however, did not dismantle the hostels, as we all know, and Jooma argues that there were two reasons for that.

Compounds

One was that management resisted attempts to build family homes because they would lose control over the workers which they had while workers stayed in compounds. The second was that housing for families was more expensive.

A third point which Jooma doesn't emphasise with much enthusiasm is that some workers prefer to stay in hostels and take housing loans which enable them to build houses in their own home areas.

The latter enjoys support from both trade union federations, Cosatu and Nactu. Although the unions and political organisations such as the ANC, Azapo and PAC have called for the scrapping of the migrant system, they all acknowledge it is going to be a long process and that compounds are going to be around for a while.

The cornerstone of the migratory system has been the long grey buildings - the hostels which are common in all townships.

Their involvement in the violence sweeping black areas has made them a target of concern for ending the violence.

People have always maintained, says Jooma, that the hostels were an eyesore.
R296.6-m to upgrade hostels

The government was making R296.6-million available for the conversion and upgrading of hostels, Minister of Local Government and National Housing, Leon Wessels, said this week.
Recruiting of foreign labourers questioned

The Department of Home Affairs had been instructed to conduct an in-depth investigation into the recruitment of foreign workers, the Deputy Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Dr Piet Welgemoed, said in Parliament yesterday.

Replying on behalf of the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Gene Louw, to a question from Mr Lewellyn Landers (LP Durban Suburbs), he said the investigation would be carried out in cooperation with the Department of Manpower.

Policy was that local workers should be given preference when recruiting took place, and practices that jeopardised this would not be tolerated.

The government itself was not involved in foreign recruitment, he said, merely giving contracts to private concerns which then recruited labour.

But Mr Landers said the government was involved "because it issues visas and work permits." — Sapa
Electric fence has killed 94 - SACC

THE electric fence erected on the Mozambique border by the South African Government to keep out illegal immigrants had caused the deaths of 94 people between 1986 and 1989, the South African Council of Churches said yesterday.

The SACC national conference, meeting in Cape Town this week, split into three commissions yesterday to discuss various departmental reports.

The commissions are those of Church and Mission, Education and Development and Justice and Service.

In the Justice and Service commission, under the section dealing with refugees, the question of the 63km-long electric fence was raised by the Rev Sol Jacob, director of refugees ministries.

He said in his report that calls in September 1989 by the SACC for the fence to be switched off "have been unheeded by the authorities".

"Renewed efforts need to be undertaken by the churches to have the electricity to the fence switched off and there should be a campaign to have the fence dismantled," he added.

The fence continued to be a concern as it was activated by an electric voltage of 3 500 volts and had caused the recorded deaths of 94 people between 1986 and 1989, he said.

Most refugees escaping into South Africa were "rural people fleeing from the atrocities committed by Rensamo".

These refugees - some 250 000 from Mozambique alone - were registered as "illegal aliens" by the Government and about 1 500 were deported each month.

The churches needed to "approach the South African Government and request them to accord refugee status to the refugees in South Africa and to halt all deportations," he said.

The SACC refugee programme was currently catering for more than 197 000 refugees in six areas bordering Mozambique and as far west as Wintermth, Jacob revealed.

-Sapa.
Hostels may be family homes
Numsa to provide R1-billion

By PATRICK MAFAFO

THE National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (Numsa) is prepared, subject to government guarantees, to pledge up to R1-billion from its provident and pension fund to convert hostels into family homes and to build affordable houses for blacks.

In a document given to the Mass Democratic Movement, Numsa proposes that the project should be handled by the ANC/Cosatu/SACP alliance.

Numsa general secretary Moses Mayekiso said the draft proposal was being studied by affiliates and should be finalised by the end of the month.

He said the hostels would be converted because they were not fit for human accommodation. "Violence will be endemic as long as they exist. They are health hazards and split families."

To finance the development Numsa proposes:

- A trust fund to be controlled by the alliance and the government,
- Cosatu and its affiliates, mainly Numsa, put up close to R1-billion when the amount is guaranteed by the government,
- The Independent Trust Fund and the government each contribute R1-billion, and
- A consortium of building societies and finance houses under the possible leadership of the SA Perm building society together provide R1-billion.

The proposal provides for houses for sale to families and to individuals, and houses for rent.

Mayekiso said once the proposals had been finalised the next step would be a meeting between the alliance and the State President. He hoped for action in the second quarter of next year.

It is proposed that a joint committee be established by the end of this month to develop the project. At regional level a sub-committee of local authorities and civic associations is proposed to handle the project.

According to statistics from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the housing backlog in cities is close to two million units. In addition, 320 000 units a year will have to be provided to house the urban population by the year 2000.

According to the latest Central Statistical Service figures, only 11 000 black housing units were built last year.
OPINION

Anti-apartheid forces face a tactical dilemma, reports Political Editor John Patten

Confrontation v co-operation

Nov. 1990

The interesting thing about the R4 billion Numsa-Costa- tu-ANC-SACP housing plan announced last week — to replace urban township single-sex hostels — is that it is aimed at stabilising society rather than mobilising resistance through obstructive action.

It is the echo of the growing international dilemma over whether retention of sanctions on South Africa will help or hinder the removal of the last vestiges of apartheid — a puzzle that is drawing various answers.

It is a tricky calculation to make, to decide when to jump off the destruction bandwagon (while gaining maximum effect from it) to get aboard the reconstruction bandwagon (and gain maximum political benefit from it).

Inevitably, with President de Klerk's effort to normalise South Africa through full democratisation, the question is arising both abroad and inside the ranks of disfranchised anti-apartheid groups as to how much longer sanctions and resistance will be effective, popular and capable of being defended as justifiable. Mr de Klerk has done a good job in persuading South Africans and the world of his sincerity.

If the joint Numsa-Costa-ANC-SACP hostel replacement proposal, which would eliminate a major flashpoint in black township politics, is a sign of the pendulum beginning to swing towards accepting Mr de Klerk's bona fides and starting to work with him, then it may also be a sign of growing discussion within the ANC over tactics.

Up to now, ANC Deputy-President Nelson Mandela has been consistent and emphatic in calling for intensification of the struggle and of punitive sanctions, both of which are designed to speed the dismantling of apartheid systems by destructive destabilisation.

Radical groups associated with the ANC have also just launched a series of protest demonstrations aimed at the collapse of the black town council system, but also at forcing a confrontation with security forces, thereby increasing the administrative problems of Mr de Klerk's government while also heightening dissatisfaction over rough-tough security action against protesters.

Already these demonstrations, coupled with the unsatisfactory Harma findings on killings and the Government's over-eagerness to draw a curtain over that nasty past, have combined to make the De Klerk administration look less clean and less sincere about righting the wrongs of the old order than at any time this year.

So, destructive action has its value in political tactics. If pressed all further into rising unrest and a fractured economy (already weak from recession), the effect could be a damaging delay in getting real constitutional negotiations started. The effect could be to place the Government in a much weaker bargaining position at the negotiation table when the parties eventually get there.

Put this way, it would seem the ANC would have important things to gain by continuing with disruptive tactics, but the calculation is not so simple.

While rising anger, urban chaos, violent clashes and growing poverty and unemployment are likely to increase the political solidarity of blacks behind the ANC, thus increasing its prospects of eventually taking over government (with minimum give and maximum take) as the dominant political force, it also sharply increases the likelihood that the country would be in a state of near-collapse by the time the ANC got to power.

Problems of governing in such circumstances would be enormous: Instability would be endemic. International confidence in South Africa's ability to overcome its problems and realise its economic potential would be shattered, leaving South Africa with little investment or loan aid to rely on. That is hardly the way any party would want to come to power, nor any way to ensure it would have any hold on power once gaining it.

The dilemma of when to make the tactical switch from confrontation to co-operation is not a new one. In the last couple of decades, coloured politicians most notably have wrestled with it as they sought to win political rights and equality.

They agreed to serve on the old Coloured Representative Council, then eventually refused to pass the budget — forcing the Government to do so for them. They finally walked out, destroying the council as a plank of government.

They returned under the trammel system, having gained much political ground through their confrontation tactics, but over the next few years returned to confrontation to break apartheid. Effectively, the coloured parliamentary opposition combined with the armed struggle of banned groups and with international sanctions to force the Government's realisation that apartheid had to go.

Fortunately, Mr de Klerk took over at that time, changing the whole mood dramatically in a few months, and putting a question mark very boldly behind all obstructive action. For the first time the Nationalist government has found itself ahead of the game, a position Mr de Klerk has not yet relinquished.

If he can keep his credibility in the face of provocation, can avoid damaging incidents through skilful political parrying, and can keep reform rolling, there is a chance he can persuade the world to come off the fence on his side by abandoning sanctions.

He could also encourage further moves towards co-operation from within the ANC front, provided he can show the rank-and-file black population there is something palpable in it for them. Until that can be demonstrated, however, the ANC will be wary of abandoning confrontation for fear of losing support to the PAC. Black grievances make a powerful political weapon.

The Government's first year of reform is running out, soon to be overtaken by the holiday season, but the pressure will be back in the New Year. The coming parliamentary session will be important in what it delivers in the way of removing the Group Areas Act, and also in what Budget redistribution it demonstrates.

Both these matters could be vital in affecting the ANC's attitude to entering formal negotiations with any enthusiasm, a matter that will come to a head mid-year when it holds its first democratic congress since it was banned more than 30 years ago.
Over 50,000 sent home

A total of 53,418 illegal aliens, most of them citizens of Mozambique and Zimbabwe, were returned to their countries of origin last year, the Department of Home Affairs said in its annual report tabled in Parliament yesterday.

"At the request of the governments concerned, no steps are taken against these illegals. They are issued with provisional permits until they can return (to their homes)" — Sapa.
Squatters 'receiving top priority'

The major problems facing migrants were the disintegration of their social structure and a shortage of housing and employment opportunities, according to the annual report of the Department of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing tabled in Parliament yesterday.

These were the conclusions of research by the department on black urbanisation and migratory tendencies.

Rapid urbanisation had led to an increase in squatting and backyard occupancy. To counteract this, land was being identified to help the orderly settlement of the newly urbanised.

To date, about 106,000 ha of land had been identified and approved for this purpose.

An amount of R48 million had been budgeted for land last year, especially to provide for the needs of the lowest paid.

The squatter problem was enjoying highest priority and, since the concept of informal housing was now generally accepted, large numbers of homeless people could be settled on plots with basic services.

The report says the South African Housing Advisory Council has been directed to prepare a national housing policy and strategy. The council is also devoting attention to interest rates, State funds for housing, the involvement of financial institutions in housing for lower-income groups, housing subsidies and high-density housing.

Strategies have also been formulated and approved for dealing with street children, unemployed black women, and care for the black aged and disabled — Sapa
HARARE — ANC international affairs head Thabo Mbeki has suggested that a future SA could be "inward-looking" and might discourage migrant labour.

Speaking at the Institute of Directors conference in Harare, Mbeki said it was vital to boost SA's economic growth in view of its economic problems and unemployment.

A new SA would be forced to deal with internal problems and would, therefore, tend to be "inward-looking", he said.

"The tendency would be to try to discourage migration from Mozambique, for example," he said.

Mbeki said he did not personally subscribe to this approach, because SA needed to play a constructive role in the region, but he acknowledged this view existed.

Mbeki agreed with other speakers at the conference who said great demands would be made on a new government to prioritise the needs of its own population.

Migrant labour might be affected by an inward-looking approach, but he repeated he did not think this would be the correct approach.

It was vital that SA should have balanced, regional economic development.

Sounding an optimistic note, Mbeki told the conference SA's transformation could be achieved this year.

He proposed that planning for SA's re-integration begin immediately to overcome the inward-looking tendency.

Regional organisations should be studying the implications of SA's integration into the region because if it were left to market forces alone SA would dominate the region, which could create tensions.

Mbeki said he was aware that transport and electricity organisations were discussing regional issues, and suggested that other organisations follow suit.
Govt clampdown on illegal immigrants

THE Home Affairs Department is to clamp down on illegal immigrants
Under the new aliens control Act, which comes into force on October 1, immigration officers will be allowed to enter private premises without warning, and penalties for people harbouring illegal aliens will be increased, Home Affairs director-general Piet Coyn said yesterday.

The maximum penalty for harbouring an alien is now five years in prison.

Colyn said the measures were being introduced to protect the local workforce "in view of the enormous unemployment problem in the country".

He said the main aim of the Act was to put greater emphasis on the internal control of all aliens.

Under the Act, the provision of tuition and training and the conduct of any business or profession by an illegal alien are specifically forbidden, as is employing an illegal immigrant.

Under current legislation, all aliens are required to obtain work or residence permits before taking up employment in SA.

Last year 786 illegal aliens were convicted. This year, up to the end of July, there were 930 convictions.

Home Affairs said it was not possible to estimate the number of illegal aliens in SA, but tens of thousands of Mozambicans had crossed the border into SA in the past few years.

Relief agencies earlier this year estimated there were more than 20,000 Mozambican refugees in kNqwanz, which was not subject to SA immigration laws.
SA 'harsh
on illegals'
Star Africa Service

HARARE - The Zimbabwe government has complained to Pretoria over alleged harsh treatment accorded people who cross into South Africa illegally.

The People's Voice newspaper quotes Justice Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa as saying complaints had been lodged with the SA Government over accounts by "border jumpers" that they had been held in harsh conditions for one or two months in prison before being deported back to Zimbabwe.

The Minister also expressed concern at overcrowding of the prison on the Zimbabwean side at Beit Bridge where border jumpers were either fined or imprisoned for 56 days on their return from South Africa.

He said drought and economic hardships had led to an increased number of Zimbabweans trying to cross into South Africa.
Home is where this hearty brew is ...

Migrant workers say only 'umqombothi' can quench their thirst — for friendship and for home, Sabata Ngcai reports.

Only where there are migrant workers is the bitter-sour taste of umqombothi to be found. "Township residents come to the migrant labour hostels to share the traditional Xhosa beer because this is the only place it is brewed," says hostel dweller Mr Jackson Phelemhlwem.

The heady, comforting beverage is welcomed in townships and the usual tensions and differences between migrants and locals are forgotten for a while as the two groups slake their thirst on umqombothi after a weekend.

And only this beer can make a hostel dweller far from his rural area feel at home.

"Umqombothi is brewed because we — the people from rural areas — are used to it and feel at home when we drink it," says Phelemhlwem.

The beer is the life blood of Xhosa tradition and to abandon it, or to brown upon those who drink it, would be to betray one's ancestors and fall prey to bad luck.

"In our tradition a man who does not brew beer in his household is not a man at all," says Phelemhlwem.

But migrant labourer Mr Elliot Mase contests this, saying that when the beer is brewed in the townships it loses its dignity because it is brewed to make money.

"Traditionally, the beer was brewed only when a customary ritual was performed."

The beer is also brewed when someone dreams about a request from ancestors.

"It is our belief that when Xhosa people dream about our ancestors, we must brew beer and ask people to come and drink, without asking for payment. Then the ancestors will be appeased," says Mase.

"And when a son attends circumcision school the beer is brewed to rejoice with the community.

"But now the beer has become a commodity in the urban areas because women there brew the beer for sale," he says disdainfully.

Each person or community has its own method of making the brew. Ms Nozolile Mdodana described how she went about making her beer.

"We take some unmilled maize meal, a large amount of malt and a small quantity of cold water.

"Hot water is added and the liquid is left for 20 to 30 minutes to ferment. More cold water is added to half fill the container. The next morning I take the liquid that has separated from the mixture — which is by then sour — and boil it.

"The boiled liquid is added to the mixture. The porridge is left to cool, poured into a container and left to foam for a few days.

"Then we strain the beer with an oblong traditional strainer made of a grass-like material."

Mr Police Hengu says that although the beer is usually brewed by women, men are the ones who decide how it should be consumed.

One woman who brews and sells umqombothi defends the sale of the beer.

"In the rural areas it is traditionally not for sale, but as we have to buy every ingredient in the townships, we are forced to sell it."

But she admits that it "must be the fastest selling commodity" in the townships.

A can (about two litres) of the beer sells for R2.20, half this amount costs R1.10.

"Migrant workers say beer and brandy alone cannot quench their thirst. So they asked the women to brew umqombothi," says the woman.

DRINKING IN TRADITION: The task of brewing 'umqombothi' falls on Xhosa women. The men, meanwhile, drink deep and enjoy the camaraderie.

Photo Yunos Mohamed
Clarity on contentious issue expected

Minister to be witness regarding single-sex dwellings expected:

By Ismail Lagardien
Political Correspondent

The Minister of Local Government and National Housing, Mr Leon Wessels, will give evidence before the Goldstone Commission today.

Wessels is expected to report to Mr Justice Richard Goldstone on the progress the Government has made about the upgrading, phasing out or closing down of single-sex hostels.

Goldstone expects Wessels also to give some clarity on "specific issues which Government considers ought to be inquired into by the Commission to enable it to facilitate the resolution of the conflict surrounding the hostels".

Wessels said housing is intertwined with national political developments in the country and that a solution to the almost critical housing shortage has to be discussed at the broadest level.

He explained that housing in South Africa is affected by constraints, uncertain political situation, rampant poverty, unemployment, violence and uncertainty, boycotts, and limited financial resources and unrealistic expectations.
President’s Council plans for flood to the cities

EIGHT in 10 black people — 28 million — are likely to be living in urban areas by early next century, according to a report by the President’s Council.

This would be a massive increase from the present 56 percent.

The report, tabled this week in Cape Town during a debate on urbanisation strategy, acknowledges that squatting and related problems are by far the most pressing matters in devising urbanisation strategy.

It says squatter settlements are here to stay and should be planned in an orderly way.

Demands

President’s Council chairman Dr Wilie van Niekerk described the report as a “source document” that could be used for further discussion, like the De Loo Report on housing strategy.

The report is to be referred to President FW de Klerk.

The ANC, PAC and Azapo were invited to contribute to the report but did not respond.

The report, by the President’s Council Committee for Economic Affairs, says a large percentage of the expected 26-million migrants will move to towns and cities from rural areas.

It emphasises that migrants must be helped to come to terms with urban life and its demands.

The committee’s recommendations include:

- Because of large-scale unemployment, the labour movement’s co-operation should be gained in creating work opportunities and guarding against such impediments as excessive wage demands.

- Mixed land use should be allowed in buildings along middle and higher-order streets of suitable new residential townships. This would enable families to run acceptable small businesses at street level while they used the floors above as living quarters.

- Formal and informal small business development should be stimulated to enable large numbers of people to enter the free market system.

- Ways must be found to help newcomers improve their economic situation with dignity and the report recommends that every effort be made to supply small businesses, whether formal or informal, with the facilities they need to ply their trade — such as space, water and electricity.

- Ways must be found to help newcomers improve their economic position with dignity.

- Deregulation should be continued.

- A competent authority such as the department of Mineral and Energy Affairs should encourage the development of affordable wind and solar power for households.

- Because urban housing needs exceed formal financial resources, the potential of “stokvels” or savings clubs should be investigated.

- Mini-gardens with a water source should be made available to households that want to grow vegetables and fruit.

- Special areas should be demarcated in towns and cities for unlicensed use by informal traders.

The report also recommends that attention be given to:

- The possibility of launching a countrywide organisation that would train unemployed urban youths and use them in urban development projects, preferably in their own communities.

- Training programmes for urban government councillors and staff.

- The survival of rural towns that are becoming depopulated.

- The possibility of establishing small towns for farm workers.
MIGRANT LABOUR, S.A. - CAPE
1993
"The death camp" to be upgraded

THE KwaZakhele hostel in Port Elizabeth where four inmates have died in the past 10 days will be upgraded immediately by the Cape Provincial Administration.

This was announced last week in a joint statement by the CPA, the Port Elizabeth People's Civic Organisation (Pepeco) and the ANC after the parties held urgent meetings to discuss the deaths of the hostel dwellers.

The squalid conditions at the hostel were revealed last week when three of the victims died of unspecified illnesses.
Angolan refugees are 'slipping into SA ports'

CAPE TOWN — Angolan refugees are using small ports along the Cape coast to slip into the country illegally, Cape Nature Conservation's chief director Johan Neethling has said.

Neethling said he had received reports that about 30 Angolans had entered the country illegally at Hout Bay recently.

He said the police water wing could play an important role in combating illegal entries.

Angolan peace talks resumed in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, yesterday on a pessimistic note as a Unita leader accused the government of being out for revenge and of using humanitarian aid as a weapon in negotiations.

Unita delegate Jorge Valentim said before entering yesterday's meeting he was not hopeful a ceasefire agreement would be reached anytime soon.

He said the UN must try to accelerate talks as such a move could lead to a collapse in negotiations.

The government's apparent refusal to negotiate dimmed hopes of a resolution to the conflict.

The negotiations suffered a setback late on Wednesday when a government representative said it would not accept "peace at any price" but wanted a fair and lasting peace. "We must find an absolute consensus," said Gen Hugo Carneiro.

He said "fundamental differences" remained between the government and Unita on Press freedom, the withdrawal of Unita forces from current positions and power-sharing terms for Unita.

Yesterday Valentim some of the issues the two sides disagreed upon were over humanitarian aid and the formation of a new national army. He said the government had indicated it would allow humanitarian aid to proceed only after a political accord was signed and zones occupied by Unita were reclaimed.

The government wanted to include in a new army 120,000 to 200,000 of its soldiers against only 5,000 to 8,000 Unita followers.

A 1991 protocol prepared by the three observer countries — the US, Portugal and Russia — called for the army to be divided equally in numbers between government and Unita troops. — Sapa-APP
Industry should build houses

University of Cape Town academic Dr Mamphela Ramphele offers a solution to the migrant workers’ hostel problem in her latest book, launched last week.

SABATA NGCAI reports:

While a lot has been written about the appalling living conditions in migrant labour hostels, no one has yet been able to come up with an adequate solution.

Many researchers have suggested that hostels be converted into family units. They maintain that this would enable the migrant labourers to stay with their families and have access to privacy.

Researchers have suggested that the government foot the bill for hostel upgrading. But the government appears to be dragging its feet on the matter while the situation is deteriorating.

However, University of Cape Town anthropology lecturer, Dr Mamphela Ramphele, seems to offer a solution to the problem.

She conducted intensive research into the life of residents in Cape Town migrant labour hostels for her recently launched book: “A Bed Called Home”.

She wrote about the limited space migrant labourers occupied in hostels, to the extent that they had to confine themselves to bed for hours in most cases.

“What I mean is that while we are householders, they are bedholders,” Ramphele said.

“It’s not a real bed, but a tiny plank bed, which sleeps a man, his wife and children.”

Her book concentrates on the life of residents in Langa, Nyanga and Gugulethu hostels.

She said township residents were ill-equipped to deal with the influx of people from the homelands. This had resulted in one family occupying one “bed”.

It is “a sustained, relentless attack on their dignity”, said Ramphele.

The dehumanisation of people had led to violence in other parts of the country.

While emphasising that she was not shifting the blame for this dehumanisation from the government, she said township people had contributed to dehumanising migrant labourers.

“They treat hostel dwellers with disrespect by calling them ‘amaqaba’ (iliterates) and ‘amagohile’ (migrant labourers),” Ramphele said.

The limited space had resulted in a lack of privacy, which forced migrant labourers to create curtain walls around their beds to get limited privacy.

It was not unusual to find more than 30 migrant labourers in one hall, divided into bedrooms, and forced to share one shower and one toilet, she said.

In many instances people left for work without having washed properly.

Ramphele said the solution was a systematic programme of addressing the critical problem of housing in South Africa.

She said the National Housing Forum (NHF) should demand money from big industries, which the migrant labourers were helping to enrich, to donate money to build proper houses for their employees.

“We know the resources of the National Housing Forum are limited... it should approach the mining and industrial magnates of this world and tell them to contribute toward the well-being of their employees.”

She said the NHF should argue that the mines and industries had benefited from migrant labour and were therefore morally obliged to help migrant labourers.

The NHF should also emphasise to the private sector that “other employees in your companies have benefited from your wealth in the form of housing subsidies and loans to build decent houses”.

Ramphele said when the private sector donated money for upgrading, they should regard it as “an investment for a stable future”.

She emphasised the private sector had treated workers a chance to accumulate wealth by failing to build decent houses for them.

Ramphele accused the private sector of accommodating African employees in halls and cheaply-built houses in order to save more for themselves.

“They (the employees) are the creators of wealth and therefore they should be taken into consideration and be put at the top of the agenda,” she said.

Ramphele said it was frustrating for a migrant labourer to go to an employer’s plush house in Bishopscourt or Rondebosch and come home to “an impoverished, dehumanising hall”.

Migrant labour hostels have no recreational facilities and many of the residents spend their leisure time drinking.

Ramphele insisted that the hostels problem should be addressed from its roots.

She said there was a tendency on the part of decision-makers to ignore the hostels and earmark only the townships for development.

Ramphele warned this was a big mistake that could lead to “conflict and instability”.

“If there is no stability, there is no economic growth,” she insisted.
Life’s a bed if you are a black hostel dweller

A BED CALLED HOME, by Mampelha Ramphele (David Phillip, R49,95)

IN THIS valuable study based on personal research at migrant labour hostel in Cape Town’s Langa, Nyanga and Gugulethu townships from 1986 to 1988, UCT vice-chancellor Mampelha Ramphele probes the relation between limited space — physical, intellectual and ideological — and the coping skills developed by the migrants and their dependants.

The book’s basic assumption is that “acceptance of the reality of living in single sex hostels involves a choice between economic survival and the assertion of one’s right to respect and dignity.”

Her methodology was participatory research which involved observing the hostel dwellers’ lives and through the presence of an outsider, such as herself, questioning the nature of their relations through discussions.

This approach — although perhaps not quite successful — is linked to Ramphele’s concern to empower community by giving individuals the ability to “assume greater control over their lives.”

Anthropologists, she says, are in a position to influence future policy formulation because of their ability to “study the particular in the context of general social relations.” Critical scholarship is an integral part of empowering the marginalised communities.

The book’s title relates to the traditional system of allocating a bed space to black males once they arrive for work in the city. “One’s very identity and legal existence depend on one’s attachment to a bed,” writes Ramphele.

Families share bunks at a hostel.

An average of 2,8 people (but sometimes up to 10) share a bed such as a space. In light of SA’s critical housing shortage blacks are dependent on this “bed space” when seeking urban employment opportunities.

Ramphele explores the interaction between males, between men and women and family relations.

The formalised sleeping arrangement in the hostels she visited already reflected strategies — such as the man and his wife sharing a bed, the youngest child sleep in the bed, younger female relations are accommodated between beds and boys and other male relatives sleep in the common room.

Although women have lived in hostels since the 1950s and increasingly found themselves in the abolition of with men are characterised by subordination, of labour which means women do most of the employees.

Hostel dwellers justify the unequal gender relations by referring to “traditional” which also legitimises the hierarchical structure of relationships.

Children, she found, had a closer interaction much more involved in their daily social interaction and more spontaneous than would be the case in a traditional household.

The book does not try to explain the root causes of the clashes between hostel dwellers and the hostel environment. However, Ramphele’s findings on spatially and psychologically highlight its underlying causes.

Although the research in the western Cape has been conducted in the same area would also apply to the PWV area.

Ramphele concludes that live in anonymity and yet hostel dwellers have “lived” to township residents and the wider SA community.

The perceived discrimination from the side of township residents in terms of economic activities and recreation space has added to tensions which came to the fore in the violent clashes between the two sides.

According to Ramphele, the crucial difference is that although living conditions in the townships, and especially the informal settlements, are not necessarily better residents there live with family and relatives whereas the hostel dwellers share their space with strangers.

Communal relations are based on what Ramphele calls “economy of affection” involving reciprocal obligations between the hostel dweller and other members of his family.

Conformity and the recognition of dispute settlement through hierarchical structures usually involving older men (ibonbo or beaded men) were other coping strategies.

The limited intellectual and ideological space has led, according to the author, to the emergence of a siege mentality used to “fortify hostel dwellers against the hostile environment in which they find themselves.”

So far there is only one group, the western Cape-based and Cosatu-linked Hostel Dwellers’ Association, which has tried to forge links to the broader “liberation movement” despite the difficulty of transcending hierarchical hostel relationships.

Ramphele concludes that empowerment is the only long-term solution to the problem. However, she says “South Africans may yet have to pay a high price for the long-term consequences of the profound human degradation visited on hostel dwellers over the years.”
WHAT does the hill-side settlement of Imizamo Yethu in Hout Bay and the northern plains of Namibia have in common? Both are homes of Ovambo communities.

Although many Ovambo have lived and worked in Hout Bay for over a decade, some have still not been able to get work permits.

Those with permits are employed in Hout Bay harbour by companies like Irvine and Johnson, while those who haven't are employed on privately-owned boats at exploitative wages.

Department of Home Affairs spokesperson Mr Neal du Bois says that all Ovambo it "catches without work-permits, will be sent back to Namibia."

This approach is justifiable in terms of the law, but it ignores the fact that these Ovambo are not simply illegal immigrants.

Mr Charlmagne Mguga, Hout Bay ANC Youth League member, says his organisation believes the Ovambo are an integral part of the community. "There are about 150 Ovambo living here with us. Most of them were a part of the community even before we moved up here," Mguga says.

"They were involved in our struggle to get this land. In December 1990, one of the Ovambo was killed in a struggle with the police around the land issue. "How then can Home Affairs say that these people are not part of our community?"

"In those days many of the Ovambo stayed on the boats, but since we got land here they want to be able to have homes too. Most have local wives or girlfriends and want to be able to buy plots and settle down."

"When they were living on the boats and working here, Home Affairs didn't seem to mind them. It's only since they've started to settle in that the trouble started. "It's crazy, even those with work permits and South African ID books are having difficulties buying plots and houses in Imizamo Yethu — the camp administrator refuses them permission, saying they don't belong here."

Mguga refuted Home Affairs' argument that Ovambo were depriving South Africans of work by accepting lower salaries. "It's not a question of them depriving others of work, but rather of them being exploited," he said. "We are starting to mobilise to try and improve their working conditions."

Despite pressure from Home Affairs, the Ovambo are becoming more involved in the community. "At a recent ANC meeting a number of Ovambo were elected onto the executive committee. Finally they can voice their opinions in the broader community," Mguga comments.

Many Ovambo have more humble objectives than leadership positions in the ANC. All they want is to be left to live their lives at Imizamo Yethu.

Mr Festus Ndali arrived in 1987. He works as a fisherman and has a work permit. "I have two children in Namibia, but am not married. Maybe one day I will get married here. Whatever happens, I don't ever want to leave. This is my home now," Ndali says. "Mr Ntsikelelo Idlali has been in Hout Bay since 1990. "We are happy here as there is work. In Namibia, because they are restructuring the economy, it is difficult to find work. "I have come here looking for work and stay illegally because if they apply for passports and work permits they are arrested."

"It seems to us that it is far easier to get a work permit if you're white, look at how many Eastern Europeans are coming to South Africa. We have as much right to be here as they do."

"Oupa" is an 87-year-old Damara who has lived in South Africa since 1946. "I know all the people here, I don't know Ovambo or Xhosa, I just know people," he said. "You can't say they're Ovambo and send them away, they're part of our community. We have here Xhosa, Zulu, coloured and Ovambo. We've worked hard over the years to create a peaceful community and we don't want Home Affairs or anyone, to try and disrupt it."

BY SHANNON N E I L L
Hostel dwellers have long been on the tense margins of township life. This is now set to change in Cape Town.

SABATA NGCAI reports.

The start of work last week to upgrade migrant labour hostels in Western Cape townships has signaled an end to a miserable hostel life.

Foundations were laid last week in the Overberg for the hostels, a move expected to begin in Springfield and Nyanga hostels in the next few weeks.

The jubilant and hopeful hostel dwellers are satisfied with the new development. They describe their life in the hostels as "disgusting and abhorrent."

Before the work started, the driving forces of the council set up information offices to ensure a continuous flow of information between themselves and the hostel community.

Known as the development committees, these bodies comprise the Cape Province Administration, the Local Government, the Cape Province Administration, and the Cape Town Council.

According to the committee, the first phase of the development will provide 500 family units and a combination of newly-constructed hostels. The construction work began by erecting temporary units to accommodate hotel dwellers before their hostels can be upgraded.

The cost of the project is estimated at approximately R107 million.

The National Housing Commission allocated the money for the development work.

The amount of the R130 million allocated by the government for the upgrading of hostels around the country.

Committee members are optimistic that either the Housing Board or a new regional government will provide money for the upgrading of hostels around the country.

The initial stage of the first phase will see the construction of 50 demonstration units in Nyanga and Kuilfontein, which are expected to be completed by next year.

The units will enable people to choose the options they think will best suit their needs.

According to committee member Mr. William du Toit, the committee has not decided whether the units will be sold or rented when completed.

The dilapidated migrant labour hostels were built in the early 1960s, and they are either state owned or privately owned.

In each hostel room there are between four to eight people staying in it.

Each room in the two or three-bedroom hostel block is supposed to have two beds, but the influx of labourers has made the quarters more and more crowded.

The hostel dwellers were already experiencing problems like sharing one sink, one cold water shower and one tap. The situation got even worse when the number of residents increased.

Hostel dwellers also complained that their money was made worse by those residents who sold liquor in the hostel. The situation brought us more people who added to the congestion.

One of the problems singled out as the most frustrating in hostel life was the lack of space and lack of privacy.

"I have only one bed, but there is only space for one more," says Mr. Patrick Labula. He stays with three others in a room with a window.

Labula said if he had to bring a sick family member to consult with a doctor in Cape Town, he had to arrange for alternative accommodation to suit the needs of the family.

Mrs. Nolwamile Nolani, a hostel dweller who stays with her husband in Lebong said her main problem was the lack of space.

She said the one cold water shower outside the hostel is usually used by men, and women have to wash in the dormitory. "It's difficult to wash because there are always people around."

"I have to wait until all the people have gone to work before I can wash myself," she said.

Nyakasana, who stays with three more people, said every man had to take turns and go home to see his family.

He said he would be better when the hostels are upgraded because it would enable every man to stay with his family.

The township residents have long complained that the hostels are inadequate. They are given unhygienic and unsanitary living arrangements (migrant labourers).

While there are hopes the hostel dwellers will lead a normal life, it is also expected that their dignity will be restored.
City's migrants stay on the move

DALE KNEEN
Weekend Argus Reporter

Researchers have established there is a "circulatory movement" of people between Cape Town and the Ciskei and Transkei.

Increases in Cape Town's population are more likely to be linked to the birthrate than to an influx of people from rural areas.

Many of the people living in the relatively new townships mushrooming on the outskirts of the city have been living in the city for months or years.

Lots of them also leave the city and return to their birthplaces and most keep a home and children in the Ciskei or Transkei.

The trend is similar to that of executives moving the headquarters of their businesses to Cape Town from the Reef.

The executives are prompted to make the move because they perceive Cape Town as being less violent than the Witwatersrand.

Ironically, it's the violence in Cape Town which is "making some of the Ciskeians and Transkeians move back home."*

Poorer people setting in the city, however, find life more difficult as jobs are scarce, which means poverty and crime increase.

It's these insecurities which have made people who have moved to Cape Town from the Ciskei view the city as a temporary stop-over and thus they retain their home and some business activity in their place of birth.

Vanessa Watson, director of the urban problems research unit at the University of Cape Town, said there was a constant "circulatory" movement of people between Cape Town and the Ciskei and Transkei.

"There's an assumption made that people are uprooting themselves in the rural areas, but this is not the case," she said. "They get two bases going and move between them."*"Life in Cape Town for these people is precarious. It's difficult for them to get stable employment, housing and schooling for their children. The violence is also a big factor."

Ms Watson said these people often left their children in the Ciskei or Transkei while they made their money in Cape Town. With this money they would start businesses back home.

Because of the circulatory migration, it was difficult accurately to determine the number of people coming to Cape Town.

Estimates of the current African population in Cape Town vary between 500,000 and one million.

New shacks being erected in relatively new townships like Khayelitsha do not necessarily indicate more people are moving to the city. They are most often people who have been living in older townships like Guguletu.

"When people move to Cape Town from rural areas they usually network with family or friends who live in the older townships. Once they are settled, they move to places like Khayelitsha," Ms Watson said.

"New shacks are also being built by people wanting more space or by adult children marrying and moving out of their parents' homes. The increased number of people is a natural population trend."* Assistant director of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce Albert Schoutemaker said job opportunities would be created only with an economic upturn, but this was dependent on business confidence which was influenced by political developments.

"Economists have been predicting an upswing for the past three years. If there is a political settlement soon, there should be an upswing by the middle of next year."
CP plans to get blacks out of mines

Paulus says blacks will get out of mines

Cape Town — The CP Government yesterday announced that it would run them out of the industry. Mr. Arme, Industry Officer for the CP, told Parliament the CP Government would run them out of the mines. He added that the mines would be closed to Africans. He said that blacks were being driven out of the mines and black mineworkers were not being trained to work in the mines. The mines were being run by whites and Africans were being forced to work in dangerous conditions such as Monthe and Zimbini.

Paulus said this was the result of a planned strategy to remove blacks from the mines and black mineworkers were not being trained to work in the mines. The mines were being run by whites and Africans were being forced to work in dangerous conditions such as Monthe and Zimbini.
‘Immigrant flood a threat to SA’

Staff Reporter

The flood of skilled and unskilled black immigrants into South Africa from African states poses a threat to the economy and will have a major impact on every local businessman, the former editor of Valtikland newspaper, Harald Pakendorf, warned yesterday.

He said that although there were no statistics to show the number of people coming from the rest of Africa, available figures indicated that 43 000 illegal immigrants from Mozambique were sent back last year. He asked how many more came from the other states.

“Not only are there hundreds of thousands of refugees flooding the labour market, contributing to crime, drug smuggling and threatening finite resources, but the present pattern of contract labour may be affected.

“Moreover, the beginning of a brain drain from Africa into the country is discernible. The effect all this will have on business, politics, regional co-operation and the daily lives of every citizen needs to be addressed,” he said.

Pakendorf, along with the SA Institute of International Affairs, is organising a one-day seminar on migration at the institute’s offices on Thursday, May 6.

Speakers will include Enos Mabuza, former chief minister of KwaNdwane, a senior official from the Department of Home Affairs, a representative of the ANC and a speaker from Natal University’s Centre for Southern African Studies.

People who wish to attend can contact Heather Hart at (011) 339-2021.
Battle to stop the flow of illegal aliens

Policemen working for the Aliens Control Unit are fighting a difficult battle to stem the tide of illegal immigrants pouring into South Africa, a report by CYRIL MADLALA, Weekend Argus Correspondent.

There are estimated to be more than a million illegal immigrants on the Reef alone. And Sergeant Willem Lottering, head of the Aliens Control Unit (ACU), said the unit’s efforts were “like pouring water through a sieve.”

This year, the cost of deporting illegal immigrants is certain to top the hefty R3,5-million, which the Department of Home Affairs spent on this activity during 1992.

In the first nine months of 1993, 63191 people were deported as illegal aliens. At this rate, deportations will probably exceed the 1992 figure of 82 567.

Over five years the number of illegal aliens deported has increased by 87 percent.

The supposed honeypot of the Witwatersrand is the goal of most who enter South Africa illegally to seek work. Most of the aliens are from war-ravaged Mozambique (74 percent) and drought-stricken Zimbabwe (15 percent).

In scenes reminiscent of the old apartheid days, yellow vans manned by squads of plainclothes policemen patrol the streets, arresting people for failing to produce identity books proving that they are South Africans.

The ACU policemen rely on subtle methods to identify suspects. They ask seemingly innocuous questions like the geographical details of the area their suspect purports to come from in South Africa.

Some policemen have learned to recognize Mozambicans and Zimbabweans just by their looks. The aliens’ accent, language and manner are all giveaways.

“They have no passports, having just jumped over the border. Others have expired residence or work permits,” says Sgt Lottering.

According to Sgt Lottering, a network of informers is crucial in apprehending suspects. Some of whom possess forged South African identity documents.

Others are picked up in the street by the seven-man unit in curvexes.

They are taken to a police station, where a file is opened, and then to an immigration officer at Home Affairs in Market Street.

The authorities are so overburdened that, in order to expedite repatriation, suspects are no longer being charged with violating immigration laws. The authorities just keep files.

The old pass law courts in Market Street now house the Department of Home Affairs. It is here that illegal immigrants get a taste of what life was like for black people in the “old” South Africa. Just as pass law offenders were “endorsed out,” illegal aliens are issued with repatriation orders after it has been established from records if suspects are South Africans or not.

If it is proved that they are not South Africans, they are detained in prison while awaiting repatriation. Those with forged documents are charged with fraud and the law takes its normal course after which the immigrants are deported.

Sgt Lottering says a Mozambican could be arrested and repatriated within a week or two. But it takes more than a month with Zimbabweans because the Zimbabwean authorities insist on verifying nationality.

Illegal immigrants are kept away from common criminals in prison.

“We can keep only 500 of them at the Deep Kloof Prison. If we arrested more, there would be no room for criminals,” says Sgt Lottering.

In any case, he says, most eventually return to South Africa because, anywhere there are better job prospects. However, unscrupulous employers pay illegal immigrants less than stipulated minimum wages, exploiting the victims’ inability to take the matter up with the Department of Manpower.

In terms of the Aliens Control Act, any person who knowingly employs or assists an illegal immigrant is liable to a fine of R20 000 or five years in jail, or both.
Illegal aliens flood into SA

Refugees take jobs from local workers

Own Correspondent

Johannesburg — People are flooding into South Africa illegally from neighboring countries and authorities estimate that about 6,000 Mozambicans, Zimbabweans, Batswana and Swazis are being repatriated monthly.

Economists speculate that more than 800,000 illegal aliens are in South Africa and are contributing to the high unemployment.

The Home Affairs Department was unable to give statistics of the number of illegal aliens sent back last year, but a spokesman said more than 60,000 were repatriated in 1991.

Take work away

SAP and Home Affairs sources said the influx of aliens had increased in the past year and estimated that about 6,000 were being arrested and sent home each month, mainly to Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

An average of 200 people were being returned to Zimbabwe every day. Sometimes the figure was as high as 400 a day, police said.

SAP police liaison officer Warrant Officer Andy Pieke said the main problem with illegal aliens was their involvement in crime, and that they wanted to work away from SA citizens.

Because they were eager to find employment, the "economic refugees" were often taken advantage of by employers who paid very low wages, he said.

He said the refugees were employed mainly in the building and restaurant industries.

"By employing an illegal alien, employers do not have the burden of paying unemployment benefits, medical aid and pension funds," WO Pieke said.

He said the SAP's Alien Control Unit, working closely with immigration officials, operated in the main on information supplied by the public to arrest, detain and repatriate aliens.

"They are easily identifiable because they speak a different language." In 1991, new legislation widened the powers of immigration officers and to an extent shifted the emphasis from border control to internal control. The practicalities of South Africa's large border, with many uncontrolled crossing points and border posts necessitated wide-ranging internal control, a Home Affairs spokesman said.

If police decide to press charges, the penalties include a fine of R4,000 or 12 months' imprisonment for illegal aliens and R20,000 or five years' imprisonment for those aiding and abetting them.

More recently, an agreement had been reached between South Africa and Zimbabwe which streamlined the return of aliens to that country. It allowed South African authorities at Meduna to hand border-jumpers directly to Zimbabwean authorities at Beitbridge.

Previously, all those crossing the border illegally had to be taken to Johannesburg, identified as citizens by the Zimbabwean immigration and transported back to Beitbridge for deportation.

However, escorting aliens to their border posts and handing them to officials did not always solve the problem.

Thousands housed

"As soon as they have been dropped off across the border in their countries, they return to South Africa. It is an ongoing problem," police said.

Refugee camps set up on the South African side of the Mozambique border house many thousands of refugees.

A police spokesman pointed out that the SAP was not involved in repatriation, and those arrested were immediately handed into the custody of regional representatives of Home Affairs.
Sick and starving Africans set to flood SA in three years

By DE WET POTGIETER

The countries they flee are infested with cholera and a particularly virulent strain of malaria.

"The number of illegal immigrants fleeing to South Africa will double this year," predicted Col Bornman.

The arrest and repatriation of illegal immigrants in the past three years has cost the South African taxpayers more than R65-million.

An estimated 16 000 illegal immigrants are expected to be arrested this year.

The situation can only worsen, he said.

"The year 1996 will be the turning point when South Africa is expected to face the brunt of a growing health and economic crisis in southern African countries," he said.

"Somalia, Sudan, Zaire and Angola are reeled by lawlessness, civil strife and political chaos."

"In Zimbabwe, with its new economic growth and drought, Mr Mugabe faces political problems and in Zambia the government also fears a possible coup."

"The same situation is expected in Malawi when Dr Hastings Banda dies," said Col Bornman.

"The only two stable countries in the sub-Saharan region are Namibia and Botswana, Mozambique could erupt in another civil war at any time."

Col Bornman said the 1993 "cholera line" in the sub-Saharan region encompassed the areas north of Zimbabwe.

But the cholera line would move down to the South African border by 1996 as the economical and political crisis in these immediate neighbouring regions deteriorated.

Already countries as far south as Zimbabwe are experiencing cholera epidemics.

The disease was noticed in the Tongo-gara and Mozowe River Bridge refugee camps in Zimbabwe in November last year and spread to Chimanimani, Mwene, Mount Darwin, Rushinga, Bhiabra, Chiredzi and Bikita.

In January this year the cholera had reached Harare, Mashonaland and the Midlands.

It was discovered recently that the current malaria epidemic is resistant to medical treatment. Fifteen South African troops contracted the disease in the Pafuri area of the Kruger National Park. The majority of farm labourers east of Messiina are also infected by malaria.

According to the World Health Organisation, malaria infects 270 million people and kills two million every year — more than AIDS. Ninety percent of all these cases are found in Africa.
Angolan refugees are ‘slipping into SA ports’

CAPE TOWN — Angolan refugees are using small ports along the Cape coast to slip into the country illegally, Cape Nature Conservancy chief director Johan Neethling has said.

Neethling said he had received reports that about 80 Angolans had entered the country illegally at Hout Bay recently.

He said the police water wing could play an important role in combating illegal entries.

Angolan peace talks resumed in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, yesterday on a pessimistic note as a Unita leader accused the government of being out for revenge and of using humanitarian aid as a weapon in negotiations.

Unita delegate Jorge Valentin said before entering yesterday’s meeting he was not hopeful a ceasefire agreement would be reached anytime soon.

He said the UN must not try to accelerate talks as such a move could lead to a collapse in negotiations.

The government’s apparent refusal to negotiate dimmed hopes of a resolution to the conflict.

The negotiations suffered a setback late on Wednesday when a government representative said it would not accept “peace at any price” but wanted a fair and lasting peace “We must find an absolute consensus,” said Gen Inigo Carneiro.

He said “fundamental differences” remained between the government and Unita on Press freedom, the withdrawal of Unita forces from current positions and power-sharing terms for Unita.

Yesterday Valentin some of the issues the two sides disagreed upon were over humanitarian aid and the formation of a new national army. He said the government had indicated it would allow humanitarian aid to proceed only after a political accord was signed and zones occupied by Unita were reclaimed.

The government wanted to include in a new army 120 000 to 220 000 of its soldiers against only 3 000 to 4 000 Unita followers.

A 1991 protocol prepared by the three observer countries — the US, Portugal and Russia — called for the army to be divided equally in numbers between government and Unita troops. — Sapa-AFP.
4.1-m displaced persons

South Africa has the second highest number of internally displaced persons in the world. According to Hussain Solomon, of the Centre for Southern African Studies at the University of the Western Cape, Sudan has the highest — 4.5 million — followed by SA with 4.1 million. The reason for the high figure was drought, forced removals by the Government, political violence and the migrant worker system — Sapa.
Migrants: SA has second highest number in world

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa has the second highest number of migrants in the world, according to University of the Western Cape academic Mr Hussein Solomon.

He said Sudan has 4.5 million displaced people and South Africa 4.1 million.

The drought, forced removals, political violence and the migrant labour system contributed to the problem, Mr Solomon told a conference on migration in Johannesburg on Thursday.
Medical aid covers sangomas

THE Ok Bazaars will recognize traditional healers in forms of medical and insurance payments. The deal concluded with the South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers’ Union (Sacuwu) yesterday.

It will give employees one week’s compassionate leave, funeral assistance, and an increased laundry allowance. Staff who are no longer fit for their dispositions on HP payments in arrears.

Sacuwu negotiated a minimum salary of R380 a month for permanent workers and two-thirds of this for part-time workers. Permanent workers won increases of R124 a month, backdated to April 7.
More illegal aliens entering country

PRETORIA — Illegal immigrants from adjoining countries are infiltrating SA at an unprecedented rate in a bid to escape intensified unemployment and poverty in their own countries.

A record number of them were repatriated in the first four months of the year, the Home Affairs Department said.

The total of more than 27,000 people repatriated in the first quarter was made up of 193 from Botswana, 1,722 from Lesotho, 66 from Malawi, 337 from Swaziland, 3,700 from Zimbabwe and 21,016 from Mozambique.

A Home Affairs spokesman said the hunt for "illegals" was continuing, with department inspectors and police regularly demanding employment records from SA companies.

So far this year, eight companies have been prosecuted for employing illegal immigrants.

Last year a record number of 22,553 illegals were repatriated — 61,210 from Mozambique alone — compared with 61,345 in 1991.

The spokesman said a major problem was the number of repatriated illegals who returned within days of being sent home.

Last year more than 11,000 returnees were identified.
Thrust into conflict by society

By ZB Molefe

Theirs is a dark and painful world in which they are made to feel powerless and alienated. Simply being a 'hostel-dweller' means that they are automatically placed on the wrong side of the "us and them" attitude held by the surrounding township communities.

This sombre world of hotel inmates is starkly patrolled by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) in a recently released report "Communities in Isolation: Perspectives on Hostels in South Africa." But the hostels under the spotlight are the primitive hovels originally woven by the architects of apartheid.

The HSRC is describing hostels in the 1990s - those dark residential areas which have been thrust to the forefront of the township violence - as "inhumane." Men, women and children have suddenly found themselves part of the real world reality. Some of these recent hostel residents are not there by choice. They are refugees from SA's gross socio-economic realities in general and violence in particular.

This week the Central Methodist Mission's Hostel Peace Initiative officials Ntssoa Mphahlele and Thokoza Tshabangu warned that recent conflicts in the East Rand's Kathlabo and Thokoza communities are typical of what is happening nationwide.

They said: "We are deeply saddened by actions that seem to aggravate relations between hostel residents and the township residents, undermining the fact that we are all one people."

"We urge our leaders, especially in the hostels and in the township communities to use every opportunity to find ways that will lead to an atmosphere conducive to tolerance and freedom."

The report was presented last week to Justice Richard Goldstone of the Goldstone Commission.

Judge Goldstone said: "Apart from the violence, which is the direct consequence of the conflict, there are many other human and practical problems linked to hostels in South Africa."

"There are diverse views, perceptions and theories concerning those problems. It is only through knowledge of the relevant facts and full consultation with all interested parties that just and practical solutions will be found."

"The report states: 'Hostel residents have not been accepted as part of the surrounding community. They feel disregarded, that they are not treated like human beings, but rather like animals without any rights.'

The presence, or absence, of facilities such as these at hostels were so poor as to be fit only for animals."

"The report is edited by HSRC research specialist Anthony Minaar, and contains contributions by 13 experts, who include University of Natal senior research fellow Paulina Zulu and Theodoro Schulte, a senior field worker."

Another message which comes out strongly in the report is that it is the burden and responsibility of political leaders to ensure that a commitment to political tolerance prevails in SA.

"This cannot be brought about by security forces. Township and hostel leaders should hold joint meetings and give public assurances of good neighbourliness and peaceful co-existence," suggests the report.

The media does not escape the scrutiny of the report. In fact, the report argues that the media should be more sensitive and strategic in its reporting because "by too readily naming alleged participants in the conflict political and ethnic labels, they merely exacerbate tensions and rumour-mongering." A cold look at the issues is required, says the report, because without a comprehensive understanding of the underlying causes of the problem, the media will continue to report and interpret events in new ways, with new content and new meanings.

This leads to media hype. Consider newspaper headlines in which hostels are depicted as "death factories, breeding grounds of violence, fortresses of fear, hostels of hate." The report points out that in fact, contrary to the report, hostel residents themselves felt that they were being unfairly judged by the media, which often substituted "factual accountability by sensationalism and nationalism.

The report ends on a note which must be explored by all who are desperate for a peaceful and democratic South Africa.

It says solutions to the problems highlighted in the report will have little chance of success if programmes geared to addressing them do not have the support of the communities involved.

"Without this involvement, any attempt to resolve the hostel problem stands little chance of success," adds the report which contains 26 far-reaching recommendations. The report is available from the HSRC, P.O. Box 134, Pretoria 0001, at R110.
'Heavy-footed' swoop on aliens

Johan Schronen
Crime Reporter

Police and home affairs officials allegedly left a "trail of destruction" in at least one boarding house today during a pre-dawn swoop on illegal immigrants.

Police backed up seven immigration and aliens control inspectors in the two-hour raid on boarding houses in Cape Town and at Table Bay harbour. But the swoop netted only one suspect.

Residents of Carnival Court in Long Street said they woke up about 4am when "a tornado" of police and officials barged into rooms after shattering the safety glass entrance door.

The manager, Brian Lavita, said "heavy-footed" police kicked down door after door as they went down the passages.

"They knocked but gave the sleeping occupants no chance to open.

"Door locks were smashed and wood panels were cracked. One of my tenants was hysterical when she woke up to find seven men barging into her dark room."

A senior inspector at aliens control, Andre Farrel, said several boarding houses had been raided but only one illegal immigrant had been found. He would be deported.
Home Affairs to crack down on illegal aliens

JOHANNESBURG. — Employers face prosecution if they hire illegal immigrants, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi has warned.

Speaking at a Johannesburg Press briefing yesterday, Chief Buthelezi said department of justice officials were being given more powers to issue summons.

He appealed for information on the employment of illegal immigrants.

According to Home Affairs statistics, 44 226 illegal immigrants were repatriated in 1993 and 98 800 in 1993.

Between January 1 and September 30 this year the department recorded 57 333 illegal immigrants, mostly from Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Lesotho.

Chief Buthelezi said the government had given mixed signals on how to treat illegal immigrants.

He was perturbed by statements by some cabinet ministers that aliens should be treated leniently because other governments had accepted South African exiles.

He said South Africa should not forget the sanctuary given to South African exiles and it was bound to reciprocate, but this should not be used as a pretext for turning a blind eye to illegal aliens.

"There is no way we will allow the clandestine entry of people who then apply for citizenship. Those people should go back home and apply."

Chief Buthelezi drew a distinction between illegal immigrants and refugees.

Refugees were dealt with under regulations set by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

He denied his department was xenophobic. South African workers felt threatened by illegal aliens, he said.

Referring to South Africa's high unemployment rate, Chief Buthelezi said illegal aliens undermined the government's reconstruction and development programme aim of providing more jobs for South Africans.

The department of home affairs was considering reinstating visa requirements for some countries, charging visa fees and penalising airlines transporting prospective immigrants without documents.

Illegal immigrants are prosecuted under the 1991 Aliens Control Act which provides for fines of up to R40 000 and prison sentences of up to two years. — Sapa.
Reprive for Zim workers

PIETERSBURG

Farmers in the Northern Transvaal have received the go-ahead to employ Zimbabwean labourers for at least another six months pending a review of the 'permit system' by the South African and Zimbabwean governments, Mr Flip Nel, Soutpansberg district agricultural chairman of the manpower committee, said on Friday.

"We are waiting for an official statement by the Home Affairs Minister, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi. But yes we have received the go-ahead to employ Zimbabwes for at least the next six months,"...
HARARE - Zimbabwe and South Africa are holding top-level talks to decide the fate of thousands of Zimbabweans illegally working in South Africa, an official in Zimbabwe's Department of Immigration Control said yesterday.

The unnamed official told the Ziana news agency that talks are being held at ministerial level to resolve the issue. - Sapa
MORE than 40,000 illegal aliens had been repatriated from South Africa in the past four months, the Home Affairs Department was reported to have said yesterday. A spokesman for the department said about 30,000 of these had been Mozambicans. There are about two million illegal aliens in South Africa.
Mines oppose end
to migrant labour

PHASING out of migrant labour for the mining industry — as proposed in the ANC draft minerals policy document — "would have catastrophic consequences for the mining industry and for regional stability," a Chamber of Mines spokesman said.

Migrant labour makes up 48.8% of total labour on chamber-member gold mines, a total of 283,681 workers at October. Migrant workers come from Lesotho, Mozambique, Botswana, and Swaziland.

In Lesotho, remittances of miners make up 55% of the GDP, and in Mozambique about 20%. About 76,000 workers come from Lesotho and 40,000 from Mozambique.

The chamber spokesman said that each miner supported seven to 10 dependents, meaning the SA mining industry supported up to 2.8-million people in neighbouring countries.

One source said that phasing out of legal migratory work would see a flood of desperate work seekers pouring over SA’s borders illegally.

He said also it was not easy to find SA workers prepared to work down the mines.

The ANC document states that "the concomitant negative effects of the phasing out of migrant labour" on neighbouring countries should be ameliorated by entering into joint discussions with them.

The chamber spokesman said if migrant labourers suddenly had to be replaced, the mining industry "in training just to bring new workers to basic levels of competency"

A NUM spokesman said the union did not have a problem with the system of migrant labour, only with its implementation. He believed workers should be allowed to live with their families. He said migrant workers made up a large proportion of NUM membership.

Meanwhile, the chamber reported in its latest newsletter that a settling of conditions on chamber mines during the September quarter saw an increase in productivity over the June quarter valued at R660.21/kg.

It said the increased productivity was not unexpected, given the reduction in output during the June quarter as a result of disruptions related to the election.

But a price undersupply amounting to R666.61/kg meant mines were left with only a R32.60/kg gain in unit working profit.

The newsletter said the improvement in productivity was linked to the increase in tons produced following the weak June quarter.
Illegal immigrants to be 'humanely resettled'

THOUSANDS of illegal immigrants in South Africa will be "sensitively" resettled, according to Deputy Home Affairs Minister Penuell Maduna.

He said his department was working on a policy to ensure humane treatment of the hundreds of thousands of mainly Mozambican illegal aliens who had settled in South Africa since the 1970s.

"We will take proper action in deporting people. But we also have to be sensitive and approach it in a manner as humanely as possible," he told a news conference.

"We are alive to the problems of refugees, having been refugees ourselves."

Local representative of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees Kallu Kalumuya said 2,000 Mozambican refugees had returned home since January and a further 100,000 were due to be repatriated this year.

But, he said, there were about 500,000 Mozambicans who were not officially registered as refugees — Reuter.
DP slams ANC on migrant policy

DAVID BREIER
Weekend Argus Political Staff

AFRICAN National Congress policy to discourage skilled immigrants from developed countries is being bitterly criticized as a blow to development prospects for the new South Africa.

The ANC's threat to limit skilled and wealthy immigrants from mostly white countries will cut off the infusion of new skills and capital into the country, the Democratic Party warns.

The proposed clampdown on skilled and wealthy immigrants will do nothing to address the mass movement of illegal immigrants who slip over the border from neighbouring countries such as Mozambique and take jobs from unemployed South Africans, the DP says.

This week leading ANC member Kader Asmal who is Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, said South Africa could not afford immigrants from European and North American countries taking management positions which should be filled by South Africans. However, he said such immigrants would still be able to work at universities.

Dr Asmal maintained immigration policy in the past had been race-based and that the new immigration policy would be open, democratic and transparent.

The new Minister of Home Affairs who will have the responsibility for immigration is Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, but he failed to respond to inquiries this week on his approach to the issue.

The ANC's new immigration policy threatens South Africa as the government aims to limit immigrants from developed countries while huge numbers of "illegals" pour over the border from neighbouring countries.

DP spokesman on home affairs Dene Smuts said "The real problem is illegal immigration from Mozambique and other neighbouring countries.

She said millions of illegal immigrants from these countries took jobs which would otherwise have been taken by unemployed South Africans. She said it also cost the taxpayer millions to repatriate these illegal immigrants who were found.

"Our priority is to get the economy going again and for that we are going to need help to build the economy. She said the government has controlling immigration and in recent years had ensured that most immigrants had skills or capital that were needed in the country.

"The test for immigrants should be whether they will bring in skills and assets that will create jobs. We cannot have a situation in which people from neighbouring countries come in to take jobs," she said.

President Mandela said this week that South Africa did not want to deprive neighbouring countries of skilled workers.

"The Argus" 28/15/94
Wilson slams mines' migrant labour system

JACQUIE GOLING

The migrant labour system was used by the Chamber of Mines to keep wage rates low, reduce the accountability of mining houses and obscure or hide mining health and safety issues, SA Labour Development Research Unit head Prof Francis Wilson said yesterday.

Testifying on behalf of the NUM at the commission of inquiry into mine health and safety, Wilson said there was a need for fundamental change within the industry "to remove some of apartheid's consequences".

Wilson said the migrant labour system created wealth in urban SA and poverty in rural areas from which labour was drawn.

The system left workers divided as labour units and family people, and the mainly single sex hostels contributed to this.

The Chamber of Mines, however, argued that the industry was constrained and that the majority of workers would opt for single sex hostels rather than family quarters if given the choice.

It added that Wilson's submissions were not clear as to whether the state or the industry should bear responsibility for workers' social conditions, and asked for clarity on this issue.

The chamber also said the migrant labour system was not confined to SA mines, but was practised elsewhere in the world.

Wilson argued that the migrant labour system was shaped and supported by pass laws and the colour bar, with the colour bar limiting job prospects and preventing workers from providing feedback in the areas of health and safety.

He said the commission had an important role to play in establishing structures that promoted better health and safety for workers, within the context of workers being within family units.

Wilson said the current situation created a stable workforce for the mine managers, but workers were denied the benefits of a stable social life.
2 million illegally in SA

By BARRY STREEK, Political Staff

It was conservatively estimated that there were two million illegal immigrants in South Africa, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Aziz Pahad, said last night.

His statement, made in Parliament at the end of the debate on the Foreign Affairs Vote, came after the Minister of Home Affairs, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, disclosed that 80,926 Mozambicans were deported last year and another 28,696 in the first six months of this year.

Chief Buthelezi also said 96,515 citizens of African countries were repatriated in 1996 and 38,264 from January to June this year.

Mr Pahad said it was clear that South Africa had to have an immigration policy, although the government would avoid any tendency towards xenophobia.
‘Illegals’ pass 2m-mark

Political Staff

IT was estimated that there were more than two million illegal immigrants in South Africa, who would cost the state more than R221m this year. Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday.

And, he warned, this had "awesome" implications for the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

Speaking during the debate on the President’s budget, he said that statistics revealed that 300,713 aliens had been repatriated between 1988 and 1993.

"If these statistics are as reliable as estimates, illegal immigrants from Mozambique in 1994 will exceed the total number of aliens repatriated over the past five years," Chief Buthelezi said.

"Aliens with false papers are penetrating the job market. They will be absorbing unacceptable proportions of housing subsidies. They will be adding to the difficulties we will be experiencing in health care," he warned.
Army called out to stem tide of illegal immigrants

TOS WENTZEL, Staff Reporter

MORE than 130,000 illegal immigrants have been given marching orders — and the army has been called out to halt a flood of tens of thousands of others.

The deluge of illegal aliens has become one of the country's biggest headaches. Special steps will also be taken to stem the flow of illegals from the Far East, Eastern Europe and South America. An increasing number are entering the country on visitors' visas. They then try to stay permanently.

There are moves to have work permits for aliens issued only at foreign missions of South Africa. Thousands of inquiries about immigration to South Africa are received each week.

Latest figures from the Department of Home Affairs show 132,779 illegal aliens were sent home in 18 months to the end of June — 99,996 of them from Mozambique.

They also came from Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Malawi, Swaziland, Lesotho, Nigeria, Zaire, Senegal and Ghana.

Officials maintain this is only the tip of the iceberg. Many more have entered and blended in with local communities, especially in rural areas of the Eastern and Northern Transvaal.

According to Minister of Home Affairs Mangosuthu Buthelezi, there could be up to two million illegal aliens in the country, taking much-needed jobs from South Africans.

Stronger steps may have to be taken against employers of such labour.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Aziz Pahad has named illegal immigration as one of the country's biggest problems. He said it would be to the country's detriment not to take note.

The marginalisation of Africa by the outside world and low economic growth in other parts of the continent made South Africa, after its political transformation and with relatively good infrastructure, an attractive country for immigrants.

South Africa would have to co-operate in developing other Southern African countries. Without growth in neighbouring regions it would not be able to avoid the problem of illegal immigrants.

Announcing the deployment of troops to curb the influx, SA National Defence Force chief Georg Meiring said Defence Minister Joe Modise had ordered troops to be used indefinitely.

"The national defence force will be used along all of South Africa's international borders including the coastline, especially with a view to curbing the flow of illegals," General Meiring said.

Another defence force spokesman said the flow of aliens had become "a situation of some concern" and the force faced "a huge task."

The defence force and police had for some time patrolled the borders — especially the border with Mozambique.

The army has foot patrols as well as soldiers on bicycles in the Kruger Park.
Army 'can’t stop immigrants' 

Weekend Argus: Political Correspondent (200)

THE defence force and senior politicians have rejected the idea of massing troops on the border to keep out illegal immigrants.

The proposal to line South Africa's long borders with soldiers was mooted in past weeks because of rising fears that a flood of 'illegals' would worsen unemployment and drug trafficking problems.

National defence force communications chief Gert Opperman said the idea would cost a fortune in money and labour ARG19/9/94.

Deployment along the borders would 'seriously impede' other defence force operations, he said.

General Constand Viljoen, Freedom Front leader and former defence force chief, said army border control would be a waste of money.

He said efforts should be made to assist neighbouring countries to improve agricultural and economic prospects, lessening the impulse for illegals to flood into South Africa.

Chairman of the parliamentary joint standing committee on defence, Tony Yengeni agreed.

"We need long-term strategies to deal with this problem. Our co-operation in developing other countries in southern Africa will in fact, in the long term, address the problem."
Refugees ‘look for a life’ in Cape Town

LIBBY PEACOCK
Health Reporter

FIGHTING in and around his home town in southern Angola forced Binalad Dembos to flee across the border to Namibia.

He eventually ended up in Cape Town.

A friendly man in his early 20s, Mr Dembos, who arrived here two months ago, has so far failed to find the job and prosperity he was hoping South Africa would offer him.

Instead he is living in a dilapidated, disused church in Woodstock — without any sanitation or facilities — with about 100 other refugees, mostly from Angola but also from as far away as Rwanda, Burundi and Somalia.

Speaking in broken English, Mr Dembos told of his sadness after he left behind family and friends in the confusion of the fighting at home.

“I was running across the border to Namibia, but it was no good. I crossed the border again and came here. I am looking for my life,” he said.

Today Western Cape Health and Social Service minister Ebrahim Rasool and a delegation from the Cape Town Refugee Forum met Mr Dembos during a tour of refugee havens.

These include the Woodstock church, a mosque in Claremont and The Ark near Lakeside.

Mr Rasool said refugees often came to South Africa with the “mistaken assumption” that South Africa was the “land of milk and honey.”

“I have been having with the Cape Town Refugee Forum over the past two months. The tendency is often to be reactionist and treat them (refugees) as aliens. These are real people living in utter despair.”

He said the frontline states had made enormous sacrifices in the past, accepting South African exiles with open arms. South Africa owed a debt to these neighbouring states.

Issues that had to be tackled were the legal status of refugees and their immediate needs.

Job prospects were diminished by the absence of legal status — their six-month permits from the government merely registered them and were not equivalent to “green cards”, identity documents or passports.

Most refugees were living off soup kitchens.

“...there are instances where refugees have been exploited enormously. Employers have preferred them because they can pay them an absolute minimum.”

Mr Rasool said sanitary problems would have to be dealt with, possibly in conjunction with the city council, and health facilities would have to be established for refugees, even if it meant a mobile clinic.

He said “I don’t agree that we shouldn’t help them in order to discourage them from coming. The reality is that they’re here.

“The most difficult issue is that of accommodation in the context of general homelessness. The state cannot afford to privilege certain groups.”

Father Michael Lapshley, of the Cape Town Refugee Forum, said there were about 500 refugees in Cape Town and more were arriving at the rate of about 10 or 20 a week.

These people were seeking political asylum and were “in limbo”. The process of dealing with them had to “be speeded up and made transparent.”

In the meantime, Mr Dembos and friends like Dias Francisco — who has been in South Africa for one month and has been job-hunting to no avail — live off charity, dreaming of a better life.
Aliens face deportation

CT 21/9/94

Staff Reporter

The Western Cape is to clamp down on places employing illegal immigrants. About 200 were arrested in Johannesburg where more than 400 illegal aliens, mostly hawkers, were arrested this week when police and the Department of Home Affairs raided the central business district. On-site inspections would be held as part of the campaign, a Western Cape Home Affairs spokesman said.

At least 451 men and women were arrested and were being held in Johannesburg pending their deportation from the country, an official said. Illegal immigrants posed "a serious threat" especially to the unemployed, and his department planned to take strict action against people giving them work.
SA May Use Green Card.

Equipment for Cash
Photographic Cameras and
Your Used
We Will Buy

IMES
ELDRU LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Premier says aliens welcome
Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — PWV premier Tokyo Sexwale has lashed out at the racism implicit in calls for the government to stop the flow of illegal aliens into SA from other African countries.

He said all Africans were welcome in SA. “People are arriving all the time from Eastern Europe, the Far East and China but nobody says they must be stopped.”

The UNHCR said South Africans needed to be educated not to oppose foreigners coming to South Africa.
Mbeki takes a soft line on influx

JOHANNESBURG—Deputy President Thabo Mbeki yesterday took a soft line on migrants flocking into South Africa, telling church leaders the government understood why this influx was occurring.

Addressing a South African Council of Churches conference on regional security, Mr. Mbeki said the right conditions should be created in the sub-region for migrants to want to return home.

Mr. Mbeki said people were developing "a kind of hostility" towards migrants, but added South Africans should not forget many of their own people had enjoyed the hospitality of other countries. —SAPA
HARARE.—Zimbabwe has appealed to South Africa to halt mass expulsions of Zimbabweans living in the country illegally.

South Africa has already expelled 10,000 Zimbabweans this year.

Zimbabwean Deputy Industry Minister Simon Moyo said the implications of the deportations were “frightening” because of a lack of job prospects at home.

There are an estimated 300,000 Zimbabweans in South Africa, many of them believed to have fraudulently acquired residence or work permits.

"Zimbabwe is faced with a very serious problem as these people come back," said Mr Moyo.

"That is why I appeal to them not to carry out the deportations overnight but to do it in phases."

The South African authorities have made it clear that they also have a huge unemployment problem and that growing resentment of foreigners among ordinary South Africans has forced them to act against illegal immigrants. — Sapa-AFP.
Equal treatment for all illegal aliens — minister

PRETORIA — Minister of Home Affairs Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday his department did not repatriate illegal immigrants according to the colour of their skins and that aliens from Africa were not dealt with differently to those from other parts of the world.

He was responding to a statement by the ANC PWV region that there were also white illegal immigrants, especially those from Eastern Europe whose permits had expired years ago.

Chief Buthelezi said there was no discrimination in the repatriation process — Sapa
Move to allow Zim workers to stay on

PIETERSBURG

Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi may extend farmers' permits to employ migrant labourers from Zimbabwe.

After consultations it was decided that Chief-Buthelezi should be asked to extend the existing concession, which expires on December 31.

-Sapa
PIETERSBURG. — The Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) wants Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi to extend permits for farmers employing Zimbabwean migrant workers.

TAU president Mr Dries Brouwer said yesterday an urgent meeting had been requested with Chief Buthelezi after an appeal last month to extend the concession beyond December 31 received no response.

About 200 farmers in the Limpopo valley and former Venda homeland employ 8,000 Zimbabweans. Farmers needed labour in peak season. Efforts to recruit locally did not succeed. — Sapa
MIGRANT LABOUR, SA. — GENERAL

1987

JANUARY — DECEMBER
NUM: 'All mineworkers should stay',

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) says all Mozambican mineworkers should be allowed to continue working in South Africa.

It was reacting to the Government's decision to allow about 30,000 of an estimated 66,000 Mozambican mineworkers to remain in the country.

The NUM partially welcomed the Government's decision, but the union's Press officer, Mr Marcel Golding, said "We believe that all Mozambican workers should be given the right to continue working in South Africa because over the years they have contributed to the national wealth of this country."

Mining bosses, facing the prospect of huge retraining and recruiting costs, were anxious to keep as many as possible.
System that leads to bloody conflict

But the NUM has come along and seriously challenged these very satisfactions that have made it possible for mining companies to maintain their domination and make profits.

The Spamer case is just one

workers according to language groups and should remove the migrant labour system to enable workers to live with their families.

Management should disarm the emergency legislation that was used as security personnel against black colleagues during strikes. In response, Anglo, Gold Fields and De Beers denied involvement in any anti-NUM activity. Spokesmen for both Anglo and De Beers said the NUM had failed to produce evidence of any such management activity. All three companies said they were committed to freedom in industrial association.

An Anglo spokesman and the company agreed with the NUM that the migrant labour system was a problem. "We are on record as saying we have moved away from the migrant labour system and towards a situation where all of our employees live with their families near to their place of employment. As a company we are working actively towards that goal. We are also looking at how the number of people involved in the attendant industry is going to be reduced once our objective has been achieved," said the spokesman.

as living conditions in hostels were up to 16 men often had to share as one host. The conditions in the hostels were the fact that the workers live in the same hostels where many have been found to be violent. Dr. McNama, who has been collecting data over years, sees the situation in the mines as a conflict on South African mines.

Hostel fights tend to be sparked by issues such as theft, arguments over rationing, women or visitors who were unwelcome to other rooms and the like.

Dr. McNama believes that the problem is not just one of physical violence but also of the psychological effects of living in such conditions. He has found that even migrant workers who are relatively stable emotionally can be affected by the conditions in the hostels.

Systematic and frequent fights break out in many hostels, especially in the early mornings. The fighting is usually between two or more men, often involving knives or fists. The results can be serious, with some men left with scars or even fatal injuries.

The problem is not just one of physical violence but also of the psychological effects of living in such conditions. He has found that even migrant workers who are relatively stable emotionally can be affected by the conditions in the hostels.

In his book, "The Migration of People," Dr. McNama describes how the hostels are often the source of much of the violence on the mines. He notes how the close living conditions and the constant contact with others can lead to conflicts that can escalate into fights.

The book also discusses the impact of the hostels on the mental health of the workers. He notes how the constant exposure to violence and the lack of privacy can lead to feelings of depression and hopelessness.

The book concludes that more needs to be done to improve the conditions in the hostels and to address the root causes of the violence. It calls for more investment in the hostels and for more training of hostel staff to help prevent and resolve conflicts.

Some of the recommendations include:

- Improving the physical conditions of the hostels
- Providing better training for hostel staff
- Increasing the number of hostel staff
- Encouraging the use of non-violent conflict resolution techniques

Overall, the book provides a comprehensive look at the problem of violence in the hostels and provides a range of recommendations for how it can be addressed. It is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the issue of migrant labour and the impact it has on the mental health of workers.
Miners support Freedom Charter

Johannesburg.—At a celebration of opposition to apartheid on Saturday, more than 15,000 black miners packed into Soweto's tiny Jabulani Stadium.

The miners gave their support for the National Union of Mineworkers endorsement of the Freedom Charter and the NUM's threatened seizure of the mines if the system of migrant labour and single-sex tribally segregated hostels was not ended.

The rally was a dramatic finale to the annual congress of the 360,000-strong NUM. It went ahead without interference from the police or army.

The rally signalled the endorsement of a congress decision to put the union into a more explicit anti-apartheid position.

Applause greeted the announcement of the decision to seize control of the mines if mine bosses did not agree immediately to begin negotiating an end to migrant labour.

On Thursday the union voted to begin preparations for a national strike if, as a run-up to these negotiations, mine bosses did not hand over control of single-sex tribally segregated hostels to the union, and elected hostel supervisors.

This vote follow months of mine faction fighting, which the union maintains is encouraged by mine managers to weaken the union's fast-growing support. — Sapa
Pass law repeal 'increases' problems

Staff Reporter

THE repeal of pass laws in 1986 has not resulted in a decrease in the need for advice offices, according to Black Sash workers who gathered at the 1987 national conference in Rondebosch.

According to a report from the Johannesburg office of the Black Sash, "citizens of the Transkei/Bophuthatswana/Venda/Ciskei homelands — representing a third of the black population — are now in a much worse position" than they were before these laws were repealed.

Apart from the millions who are not eligible to regain South African citizenship, (the Sash estimates over seven million people), the organization cited cases where the Restitution of South African Citizenship Act of July 1986 had not brought citizenship to certain people although they fulfilled the legal requirements.

An example mentioned was that of a Tswana man whose two sons born in Johannesburg were told they could not have citizenship rights in South Africa by the Department of Home Affairs, because "President Mangope does not want them to have it!"

This the Black Sash observed was "a common complaint."

Another complaint was that officials were filling in the address of an individual's family in the "homelands" rather than his residence address in South Africa.

The Act allows for "foreign" TBVC citizens who can prove permanent residence in South Africa to apply for citizenship, which thus exempts them from Influx Control under the Aliens Act.

However, the Western Cape branch observed that the definition of permanent residence was not clear, had not yet been clarified in court and was therefore subject to administrative discretion.

A Western Cape Sash organizer, Mr. Sue Joynt, said that in Cape Town almost the entire black community was deemed to be Transkeian or Ciskeian and these people were thus "technically aliens." They were therefore restricted in their movements unless they qualified for an identity document or restoration of citizenship.

Furthermore, the Black Sash pointed out that applying for new pass books "was meant to sound very easy" but problems were now emerging.

In February this year there were a spate of complaints countrywide that old people could not apply for their pensions until they had a new ID book. The explanation given was that the computer could not longer cope with the old digit ID numbers.
Migrant labour in SA is as old as our mining industry. Major employers agree with the NUM that change is necessary—but since not all migrants have SA citizenship, many structural defects in the system have to be sorted out first.

Migrant labour reform has been called for by NUM leader Joseph Mathunjwa, who suggested that it would be better to control numbers instead of trying to eradicate them. The NUM says that the government should recognize the rights of foreign workers and provide them with better working conditions.

The South African government has been criticized for its policies towards foreign workers, particularly those from neighboring countries. The government has been accused of exploiting these workers and not providing them with adequate protections.

The NUM believes that the government should work with foreign workers to create a system that benefits both parties. They argue that foreign workers are an important part of the South African economy and should be treated fairly.

The NUM has called for the government to implement reforms that would protect the rights of foreign workers, including better working conditions, better pay, and greater job security. They have also called for the government to work with foreign workers to create a system that benefits both parties.

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taken without due regard for the interests of employers.

In October last year it decided to halt new recruitment of labour from Mozambique, those already in employment would not be allowed back on completion of their contracts. This was a response to a landmine explosion near the Mozambique border in which six South African soldiers were injured.

Government's action, Manpower Minister Piette de Plessis explained at the time, had to be seen against the fact that the African National Congress and South African Communist Party used Mozambique as a base from which to operate against the Republic. No country in the world, Du Plessis said, could allow virtually free access to its labour market, and, on the other hand, permit its security to be undermined by a country which benefited from job opportunities in SA.

The move wrecked talks that were taking place between SA and Mozambique, flowing from the Nkomati Accord, to amend their existing labour agreement which had been negotiated with the Portuguese colonial administration in 1966.

The declaration also shocked the mining industry, for Mozambicans are among its most skilled black workers. Just how much they are needed was reflected in government's subsequent about-face on the issue. In January it was reported that concessions had been made for certain categories of Mozambican workers to be allowed to continue working in the mines. New recruitment, however, remains a no-no.

Also affected by government's October declaration was the agricultural sector in the eastern Transvaal, which employs large numbers of Mozambicans. After representations from worried farmers, a reprieve was announced. Mozambicans were given until November 30 last year to apply for temporary work permits. According to Home Affairs, 12,871 permits were issued, valid until November 30 this year. The farmers must then employ other workers.

Notwithstanding these experiences, it is clear that for government the leverage it has over SA's neighbours as a consequence of the migrant labour system will remain a key factor in regional politics.

With unemployment in SA rising, the other important leg of government strategy on foreign migrants is to root out those who are working in SA illegally. Here we get into a real numbers game. Government estimates that there are 1.3m illegals. Whitehead reckons that at most there is half that.

Whatever the true figure, government is serious about its campaign. Last year, according to Home Affairs officials, 32,216 foreign illegals were deported to their countries of origin. Of these the vast majority — 19,801 — were Mozambicans. In 1985 Mozambicans constituted 17,532 of the 28,479 illegals who were deported. Many of those government calls illegals are refugees from Mozambique — not workers who are picked up in the Kruger National Park. Primarily many also cross back into SA at the first opportunity.

The campaign against illegal aliens is, however, becoming more organised. On September 30 last year Home Affairs circulated a letter to 190,000 employers pointing out that it is an offence to employ illegal aliens. The letter describes in detail how employers can determine whether their workers are legally employed and asks them to advise the department about how many foreigners they employ.

Home Affairs plans to train 400 inspectors who will visit places of employment to check up on illegals. Appropriately, most of these people were formerly employed to administer the influx control regulations. Home Affairs officials, however, are adamant that illegals will not be picked up by the scruff of their necks and thrown out.

"Employers will be given the opportunity to apply for a work permit for these people if they fit our criteria, they will be allowed to stay in SA," a senior official told the FM. He would not, however, say what the criteria are. But even if Home Affairs is unable to find the illegals, there is always the possibility that the police will pick them up.

So much for government. What of the mining industry? As the major employer of foreign labour it shoulders much of the criticism levelled against the migrant labour system.

Nowhere has this been expressed more forcefully than in a resolution adopted two weeks ago at the congress of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

Condemning the migrant labour system as a "gross violation of human rights" which has destroyed the family life of black workers, NUM is demanding that employers should make a clear statement of intent to dismantle the migrant labour system and the single-sex compounds for black miners within a "reasonable specified time." It has also recommended by March 30, the union intends to declare a dispute as the first step towards a national strike.

At the time of writing the demands had not been formally served on the Chamber of Mines, and its industrial relations adviser, John Liebenberg, declined to respond to them saying it is not practice to negotiate in the media.

But Peter Gush, chairman of Anglo American's gold and uranium division, made some points in a statement he released last week. Gush said Anglo has become increasingly concerned about the detrimental effects of the migrant labour system and the system of hostel accommodation.

Anglo's ultimate objective, he said, is to give its employees, should they so choose, the opportunity of owning their own homes and living with their families in a normal society.

Nias Steenkamp, director of human resources at Anglo, responded this way: "Gencor is opposed to a system that makes it impossible for men to live with their families and is committed to providing family housing as extensively as possible. We would certainly want to involve the NUM in developing our approach. The NUM is clearly on record as being against grievances and grievances are best resolved through negotiation. We might not find it easy to agree in all respects, but that does not mean one should not talk."

Says Gencor's director of human resources (mining), Adriaan du Plessis "Gencor is considering a new housing philosophy for employees. The intention is to have workers with their families as much as possible and less as persons living in single quarters."

But he stresses that hostels on the mines will not disappear completely. A certain percentage of the workforce will be single, and initially some workers will be hesitant about moving their families into black townships. "Gencor has had an ongoing programme of upgrading its hostels and is at present making alterations to decrease room densities. The objective is to improve the quality of single quarters, " says Du Plessis.

Spokesmen for Rand Mines and Gold Fields also expressed support for the idea of
MONETARY TARGETING

Still the flavour of the year?

A year after SA, following many other countries, set its first money supply growth target, range it is tempting to suggest that the exercise proved meaningless, as M3 consistently fell well short of target.

In the long run, growth in money supply must equal real growth plus the rate of inflation — what the London Financial Times calls "the rate at which real GDP grows and has long urged the UK to adopt as a policy target."

The 16%-20% target aimed for 4% growth and a 12%-16% GDP deflator mix, but we got higher inflation and undershot growth.

The economy, it is now revealed, grew by a real 4.2% between the fourth quarters of 1985 and 1986 (not quite 1% for calendar 1986), while the GDP deflator was 15.6% year-on-year inflation in December, as measured by the CPI, was 18.1%, the deflator for calendar 1986 was 16.2%.

The reason reported money supply fell short, and didn't relate to growth and inflation, is an unprecedented increase in velocity of circulation (V) — the ratio of money to GDP, in which money changes hands.

Computing V by money as a proportion of nominal GDP (M3) since 1980 (a fair year to start, as the beginning of the present market-orientated exchange rates has ranged from a 6.4% decline to an increase of 4% quarterly or from a 9.9% fall to 8% growth on an annual basis.

Reserve Bank Governor Gerhard de Kock notes that V increased 7.6% in the 12 months from the fourth quarter of 1985, because of disinflation — replacing bank credit by the issuance of credit extended directly by primary lenders to borrowers — and the flow of money into the stock market.

"This is a typical development when real interest rates are not high enough to attract deposits," he says. "Taking V into account, M3 actually grew an average 18.4% in the fourth quarter of 1986 compared to 1985. This is well within the target range." Indeed, as the graph shows, if money supply is adjusted for V, it fell within the target range virtually throughout the year.

In reducing the target range of M3 growth — broadest of the four aggregates — to 14%-18% between the fourth quarter of 1986 and that quarter of 1987, the Reserve Bank is hoping for 4% real growth over this period (3% for calendar 1987) and by implication a 12%-14% rise in prices measured by the Bank's GDP deflator.

The Bank — and the De Kock Commission, on whose recommendation targeting was introduced — argues that targeting helps control inflation, some advance notice of the likely stance of monetary policy which as a result of the saving, spending and lending decisions and is a 'yardstick against which performance can be judged'.

The Commission and the authorities subsequently talked of a flexible and low-inflation approach, emphasizing that they are "not recommending a rigid and undermining money rule" that implies leaving interest and exchange rates completely free to find their own levels at all times. Monetary targeting is a means to an end, not an end in itself; once a target is accepted by government, it is a useful discipline.

While some doubt the Bank's ability to hold money supply growth within its target range, hardline monetarists on the other hand question the degree of commitment to targeting. What, they ask, is the use of targets if you are not serious about sticking to them?

"Rigid targets would probably be unattainable. But flexible targets are like Hamlet without the Prince, Chicago without the Loop, like monetarist without a predictable quantity of money," wrote veteran economist Ludwig Lachmann in the SA Journal of Economics (SAJE) in March 1986.

But the Bank argues that money supply cannot effectively be controlled because it is influenced by many internal and external factors, not least demand for money and the gold price. In the same issue of the SAJE, American academic Basil Moore and Stellenbosch University's Ben Smit emphasize that the Commission "failed to appreciate that the stock of credit money is not necessarily, and at the same time, both demand-determined and credit-driven".

Barclays' former economist Johan Cloete draws a similar distinction between transactions demand for money and demand for money.

"It may, of course, be that targeting will only really be tested when M3 shows signs of overshooting. Under-shooting is usual; but when there is overshooting, and government has to adopt a more restrictive policy (like pushing interest rates up) will it do so? De Kock argues that once money supply targets are agreed, government will find it easier to resist pressure to print money."

Talk about V rekindles a fierce theoretical debate. Its volatility also raises the question of whether V too should be targeted — though this may simply not be possible in practice.

The Commission and monetarists consider money supply growth as a strong influence on the price level. According to the Quantity Theory of Money, the supply of money (M) multiplied by V equals the price level (P) times the amount of final transactions (T) — or MV=PT.

Even die-hard monetarists concede that South African inflation is today of a cost-push nature, unusual in being largely driven by exchange-rate changes. But some — including the Bank — hold that this is only a temporary phenomenon whatever the causes of rising prices, in the long run they cannot be funded if the supply of money is held rigidly constant.

Finally, there is debate about which of the Bank's four money definitions to target: M1(A), M1, M2 or M3. The M2 is the broadest, comprising cash and virtually all deposits with banks, building societies, and the Post Office (The Post
20 000 admit to being illegal immigrants

Dispatch Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Nearly 20 000 people detained in South Africa last year as illegal immigrants admitted they were illegally in the country, the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, said yesterday.

He said 19 966 people admitted they were illegal immigrants, 17 975 of them immediately after detention.

Mr Vlok, who was replying to a question which was tabled in Parliament by Mr Tiaan van der Merwe (FFP, Green Point) said the people detained as suspected illegal immigrants came from Swaziland, Turkey, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Transkei, Lesotho, Germany, Portugal, Botswana, Malawi and Zambia.

They were detained at 97 police stations throughout South Africa.

Mr Vlok also said 638 suspected illegal immigrants and 631 prohibited persons were being detained at 63 different police stations at the end of February this year.

They were being detained in terms of the Admission of Persons to the Republic Regulation Act and the Aliens Act.
STORM OVER 'RACIST' REMARK

Threat to paint white woman black sparks strike

By ALINAH DUBE

BLACK workers at a Pretoria electronics firm have been on strike for a week demanding the dismissal of a white employee who threatened to paint another white employee with black paint because of her friendliness to black workers.

The company has refused to fire the woman who sparked off the strike and said her service record did not warrant expulsion.

The Electrical and Allied Workers Trade Union of South Africa (EAWTUSA) has taken up the matter and declared a dispute with the company's management. They said the woman who made the remarks was "racist".

A union official, Mr Philip Mndau, said the striking Tedelex employees have been issued with an ultimatum to return to work today or face expulsion. He said management threatened to hire new employees if the strike continued today.

He said members of his union have vowed to continue striking until the company has addressed itself to their problems.

None of the company officials could be reached for comment but Mr A Javen, a manager, told the Sowetan on Friday that the newspaper had nothing to do with the matter.

THE first official contact with the British Foreign Office took place in London on March 3 when Mr Kay Princedgas, Mr Charles Humfrey and an assistant head of the Southern African Department of the British and Commonwealth Office, invited Ahmed Gora Ebrahim, secretary for foreign affairs of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania for exploratory talks.

The Foreign Office met the PAC delegation following a decision by the British Government to establish formal contact with the liberation movement.

Leaving the talks the two delegations explained each other's views on the situation inside southern Africa.

Both sides agreed to meet again in the near future at a higher level. Mr Vusi Nomololo, PAC representative in the United Kingdom, was also present.

Labour system under fire

The migrant labour system came under scathing attack from various speakers at the SA Railways and Harbours Workers Union rally held in Johannesburg yesterday.

More than 800 railway workers attending the rally resolved to fight for the abolition of "the evil system which has separated black workers from their families for many years".

Speakers at the meeting, held at Cosatu House, condemned the detention of Sathwu members in the South African Transport Services, discrimination against black workers, low wages paid in the railways "improper food" served to workers at SATS-owned compounds.

Sathwu members also resolved to stop work if detention of more union members occurred. They also resolved to fight for the control of the railway compounds.

One worker told the meeting that SATS employees earned as little as R480 a month "after 20 years service".

National Union of Mineworkers assistant general secretary, Mr Marcel Golding said his union has resolved to take control of hostels in its attempt "to destroy the migrant labour system."

Maki aiming high

A SCHOOLGIRL with high ambitions is Miss Maki Hlongwane from Moletsane township, Soweto, who has set her sights on a modelling career. Maki (20) is a matric student at Moletsane Secondary School.
THE campaign to repatriate a maximum of the estimated 1.8-million "illegal" foreign blacks was speeding up, Home Affairs' Department director-general Gerrie van Zyl said yesterday.

Between September last year and the end of January, 11365 had been discovered and repatriated. Of that number, 7796 were from Mozambique, 2121 from Botswana, 848 from Zimbabwe and a combined total of 260 a month from Lesotho, Swaziland and Malawi.

Van Zyl said in January inspectors had visited more than 3000 companies to scrutinise employment registers in the search of illegally employed foreign blacks.

About 350 aliens were discovered and 124 prosecuted. Six employers were prosecuted for employing black workers illegally. Van Zyl said that part of the campaign was just getting off the ground and would be intensified in the months ahead.

Inspectors had checked the documentation of 9000 black workers in January. The department had warned 190000 employers by circular last October that inspectors would be visiting workplaces to check on Aliens Act contraventions.
Publications Act

405 Mr S S Van der Merwe asked the Minister of Home Affairs (1) How many items were declared undesirable in 1986 in terms of section 47 (2) (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f), respectively, of the Publications Act, No 42 of 1974.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publications or Objects</th>
<th>Films</th>
<th>Public Entertainment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Section 47 (2) (a)</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 47 (2) (b)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 47 (2) (c)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 47 (2) (d)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 47 (2) (e)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 47 (2) (f)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) Whether any appeals have been lodged against decisions to declare any such items undesirable, if so, how many cases in respect of each of the categories referred to in section 47 (2) of the said Act (a) had been (i) upheld and (ii) dismissed and (b) were still pending as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

Yes, 11 persons

All these persons entered illegally into the Eastern Transvaal area from Mozambique with the aim to search for a better refuge. Control over these aliens resort with the Department of Internal Affairs who are responsible for their further handling. I am therefore not prepared to supply further answers to the question.

Johannesburg North: telephone services/private post boxes

414 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Communications whether any applications for (a) telephone or repatriated, if so, (a) to which country and (b) when was each (i) deported and/or (ii) repatriated?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS

Yes, 272 as at 31 December 1986, (i) and (ii). In addition to applications that are met on demand on a continuous basis where telephone numbers and cable leads are available, service will be provided as follows to waiting applicants in the areas indicated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exchange area</th>
<th>Number of waiting applicants</th>
<th>When services are to be provided</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bramley</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>Within the next 3 months as cable works are completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(includes the suburbs of Eltonhill, Winston Ridge, Kentview and Birdham)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosebank</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>Within the next 3 months as cable works are completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(includes the suburbs of Fairway, Illovo, Melrose, Melrose North, Melrose Estate, Birdhaven, Dunkeld, Dunfield West, Parktown North, Parkhurst and Craigfall Park)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randburg</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Within the next 3 months as cable works are completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(includes the suburb of Craigfall)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linden</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Within the next 3 months as cable works are completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(includes the suburbs of Victory Park, Pietermaritzburg, Pienaar Park, Blaauwburg and Beaconfield Estate)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Yes, 20 as at 13 February 1987,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birmah Park Post Office</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Additional private boxes cannot unfortunately be provided as the structure of 29/187.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Work-seekers

**384 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower**

How many Black males and females, respectively, were registered as work-seekers in the White areas of the Republic in each month of 1986?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>48608</td>
<td>23553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>42317</td>
<td>18842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>36301</td>
<td>15154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>40029</td>
<td>16223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>39036</td>
<td>15878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>39704</td>
<td>15710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>39815</td>
<td>13599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>31754</td>
<td>10121</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

Male and Female Blacks registered as workseekers in White Areas during 1986 are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>50542</td>
<td>26881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>81198</td>
<td>44323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>64356</td>
<td>33361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>58835</td>
<td>29176</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Work-seekers

**385 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower**

How many males and females, respectively, had been registered at labour bureaux as work-seekers in terms of the Guidance and Placement Act, No 62 of 1981, as at the end of each specified month in 1986?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>22911</td>
<td>15743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>11796</td>
<td>6299</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>29904</td>
<td>16621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>10532</td>
<td>6687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>13481</td>
<td>6903</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>3461</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>13481</td>
<td>6903</td>
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<td>August</td>
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</tbody>
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## The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

**Firm figures for 1986 are as follows**

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>31754</td>
<td>10121</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Industrial accidents

**387 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower**

(1) How many workmen in each race group (a) suffered permanent disablement and (b) died as a result of injuries sustained at work in the last specified year for which figures are available.

(2) How many industrial accidents occurred in the Republic in that year (b) what amount was paid out by the Accident Fund in respect of such accidents and (c) what was the total period for which persons injured in such accidents were absent from work in that year.

## The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

### Trade Unions

| (2) (a) | 26859 |
| (b)    | R84620822 |
| (c)    | 3297180 man days |

Note: The latest available figures are for 1984

### Trade Unions

**388 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower**

How many registered trade unions confined their membership to (a) White, (b) Coloured/Asian and (c) Black persons as at the latest specified date for which figures are available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(2) (a)</th>
<th>(b)</th>
<th>(c)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Industrial accidents

**387 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower**

(1) How many workmen in each race group (a) suffered permanent disablement and (b) died as a result of injuries sustained at work in the last specified year for which figures are available.

(2) How many industrial accidents occurred in the Republic in that year (b) what amount was paid out by the Accident Fund in respect of such accidents and (c) what was the total period for which persons injured in such accidents were absent from work in that year.

### The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

#### Trade Unions

- **1984**: Details not available.

#### Trade Unions

- **1985**: Details not available.

#### Industrial accidents

- **1986**: Details not available.
Detainees: allowances

436 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Law and Order:
(1) Whether he has received any representations for payment of allowances to detainees held under the internal security Act, No 74 of 1982, in 1986, if so, how many;
(2) whether any of these persons were granted allowances, if not, why not, if so, how many;
(3) whether any allowances are being paid to detainees, if so, (a) to whom and (b) what total amount had been so paid as at the latest specified date for which figures are available.

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(1) No
(2) Fall away
(3) No

(a) and (b) Fall away

Repatriated workers

437 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Home Affairs:
(1) How many Black workers from (a) Zimbabwe, (b) Lesotho, (c) Swaziland, (d) Botswana and (e) Mozambique were repatriated in 1986;
(2) how many of these workers in each category had been granted exemption from repatriation on the ground of long service as at the latest specified date for which figures are available.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(1) Separate statistics in respect of Black}

workers who are removed, are not being kept. The total number of Black persons who were removed during 1986 are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Zimbabwe</td>
<td>2,543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Lesotho</td>
<td>2,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Swaziland</td>
<td>674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Botswana</td>
<td>7,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) Mozambique</td>
<td>19,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>32,188</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) (a) Zimbabwe 188
(b) Lesotho None
(c) Swaziland None
(d) Botswana None
(e) Mozambique 1,672

Total 1,860

Soweto

439 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:
(1) How many housing schemes are at present being developed in Soweto by the (a) State and (b) private sector;
(2) (a) when (i) were such schemes initiated and (ii) is it envisaged that they will be completed and (b) how many housing units are involved in each case;
(3) whether any housing schemes for lower-income groups are under construction in Soweto, if so, (a) (i) how many and (ii) how many units are involved in each case and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished.

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

(1) None
(2) 4 schemes

(2) (a) (i) 1985
(ii) ±1988
(b) Dhlamini 226 units
Pimville 609 units
Orlando West 191 units
Protea 2,000 units

Total 3,226 units

Family housing units

440 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:
(1) (a) How many family housing units were built in 1986 in each national state by (i) the national state authority, (ii) private owners and (iii) the South African Government and (b) what was the total amount spent by each in respect of each national state,
(2) whether there is a shortage of housing units in any national state, if so, how many units are required in respect of each national state,
(3) whether any family housing units are being built in the national states at present by (a) the national state authority, (b) private owners and (c) the South African Government, if not, why not, if so, (i) how many units are being built by each in each national state and (ii) when are they due to be completed in each case.

(1) (a) (i) 292 units (b) (i) 292 units
(b) (1) 292 units (2) (1987-01-31) units (3) (1987-01-31) units
Phiri 191 units
Soweto 191 units

Total 674 units

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID

(1) (a) Lebowa Unknown Unknown 105
KwaZulu Unknown Unknown 1,235
Gazankulu Unknown Unknown 524
South African Development Trust Land Unknown Unknown 633
(b) Lebowa Unknown Unknown R2,492,000
KwaZulu Unknown Unknown R4,245,000
Gazankulu Unknown Unknown R2,312,000
South African Development Trust Land Unknown Unknown R3,742,000

Total 161,344

(2) Yes. It is not possible to give a completely accurate figure as the shortage of housing also depends on the actual demand. It is estimated that the shortage in terms of units is as follows:

South African Development Trust Land 70,314
Total 161,344

Lebowa 11,073
Qwaqwa 481
KwaZulu 61,468
KwaNqwa 1,439
KwaNdebele 1,314
Gazankulu 4,255

(3) (a) Yes
(b) Yes
(c) No
In the beautiful Elgin Valley, they live a nightmare

By VUYO BAVUMA

A COMMUNITY of migrant workers has a dream to match the picturesque hills of picturesque Elgin.

Workers at the Mondi sawmills want a decent village to replace the shanty dwellings where they live in squalid conditions.

And a Mondi spokesman says the hostel needs upgrading.

Some workers told SOUTH they were allowed to stay with their families only at weekends.

‘Home’ to the workers, all members of the Paper, Wood and Allied Workers Union (PWAWU), is a squatter camp of seven rooms with cement floors and no ceilings. In the centre of each room is a fireplace which serves as a toilet.

Each room accommodates about 10 workers. There's no ventilation and in the summer, the rooms are stifling.

The rooms are poorly finished. Cupboards are used as wardrobes. Bedding is strewn about the rooms and some workers hang theirs on the beds.

Electricity is used to light the rooms, but there are no plugs for appliances.

Cooking facilities consist of pots on the open fire. The walls of the “kitchen” are greasy and smoky. Sometimes, for a change, the workers cook on fireplaces they build outside the building.

Abandoned toilets are shabby.

Bathroom windows are broken, there are no curtains and no privacy. Most of the toilets are damaged and pipes leak.

The community tries to organise sporting events on a recreational basis. Meetings are held regularly to discuss issues vital to its welfare.

Fines are imposed on those who transgress community rules. The money is used to buy meat for the community.

Women are only allowed to visit the hostels at weekends. (Below) Workers prepare food outdoors because of inadequate cooking facilities.

Mondi's statement

We are aware that there is a pressing need to improve the quality of life of all our employees and Mondi is particular about the quality of life that company-owned staff housing at the mills needs to be upgraded.

This year the company has spent over R100,000 on upgrading the kitchen and bathroom facilities at the hostel and additional spending is now being asked of the workers.

Last year about R10,000 was spent on salaries and the hostel accommodation is part of the package, process all in accordance with national agreements.

While the company feels it impossible to accommodate families in the hostel, Mondi is considering the establishment of a special arrangement to make it easier for people to live at home or in the hostel.

There are still those children living there and every effort is being made to reunite them with their mothers.

And in spite of the gloomy conditions and their spartan existence, the migrants do their best to cheer up their lives.

Weekends are for parties and a bit of socialising. Near the factory gate is a lounge room with a black and white television set where workers gather in the evening.

A worker said a representative from Mondi’s welfare organisation, Mr P Vloosen, spoke about the “farcical” conditions at the hostel.

Mr Vloosen referred to Mondi’s statement about the “landmark case” at the hostel.

Mr John Mortimer, regional manager of Mondi’s Sawmills (Coastal Region) said the following statement.

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It feels human, says miner

FOR the first time in years, migrant mineworker Judas Ngwenya felt like a human being.

Ngwenya, a worker from Lekazi in the kaNgwane “homeland”, had moved his young wife into his hostel.

“What type of law is it that prevents a man from living with his wife and children?” he asked.

For more than 100 years, he said, migrant mineworkers had been made to believe they were not human. Now he and over 2,000 mineworkers at the Landau Mine have “since realised” that they are human.

“It is that realisation that has made me bring my wife into the hostel and live with her like any other human being is allowed to do.”

But it has not been easy for him to do.

Even before his colleagues decided to challenge the “evil migrant labour system”, he had brought his wife nearer to his place of employment.

By SefaKO NYAKA

He had just paid a hefty dowry (he would not disclose how much) for his wife, Fikile Mahlaba.

He sought and found her employment on a neighbouring farm. He could sleep on the farm, but at his own risk, he said. The farmer would deny he had granted permission for Ngwenya to live with Fikile on his land.

On more than one occasion Ngwenya had had to pay a R200 admission of guilt fine after police raided the farm and found him there.

“It is for this reason that when the mine management announced they would not provide food for my wife I felt it was better than the R200 fine.”

A Mr Wigley from the Chamber of Mines called a meeting of shaft stewards on Monday last week and asked them to wait for six months before bringing their wives to the mines.

Management has accused the stewards of stage-managing the issue and has stated that should any violence erupt on the mine, the blame will be put squarely on the shoulders of the stewards.

Whether the government and mineowners will tell Ngwenya what type of government separates man and wife remains to be seen.

But so far, said Ngwenya jokingly, “Since my wife moved in I have never been late for work.”
Inspectors round up 'illegals'

553 workers to be deported after new raids

IN THE continuing crackdown on illegal workers, Department of Home Affairs inspectors have ordered removal of 553 people from SA.

This is possibly just the beginning of the department's renewed campaign, at a time of rising unemployment, to rid the country of an estimated 1,3-million people working here illegally.

Circulars were sent to 190,000 employers in October warning them inspectors would be visiting work premises and reminding them of the provisions of the Aliens Act. Contraventions of the Act can result in fines of up to R5,000 or two years' jail.

To date, about 103,000 employers have acknowledged receipt of the letters.

The department said yesterday the foreigners who were ordered to leave had been located through inspection of premises by immigration officers in centres where the department had offices.

DIANNA GAMES

A total of 32,216 illegal workers were sent from SA to neighbouring states in 1986, the department said.

They were from: Mozambique (19,081); Botswana (7,289); Lesotho (2,596); Zimbabwe (2,538); Swaziland (671); Malawi (35); Tanzania (3); Zaire (2); and Zambia (1).

In the last two months of 1986, about 5,000 illegals were deported to Mozambique.

It is reported about 300 illegal workers cross into SA from Mozambique each month.

Ten people were deported from SA in terms of Section 45 of the Admission of Persons to the Republic Act, where their removal was deemed by the Minister of Home Affairs to be in the public interest. The Minister does not have to give reasons for their deportation.

More than 200 people convicted of criminal offences were evicted under the Act in 1986.
Defiant miners move wives into hostels

By SEFako NYAKA

MIGRANT miner workers at several Anglo American Corporation-controlled coal mines in the Eastern Transvaal have confronted the migrant labour system head on: they have unilaterally moved their wives or girlfriends into the single-sex hostels.

The move — done in defiance of mine management — is the first such public action following the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) pledge at their recent annual conference to “take control” of the compounds and dismantle the migrant labour system.

It creates an acute dilemma for mine management, who have repeatedly stated their opposition to the single-sex compound system but have been accused by the union of dragging their feet in changing it.

Now management will either have to turn a blind eye to the defiance — thus acknowledging that miners have at least partial control of the compounds — or throw the wives out, discrediting their claims to support the concept of mixed hostels.

The “occupation” of the hostels is likely to test Anglo’s liberal policy and utterances, according to a NUM representative.

The “occupation” of the Anglo American Collieries (Amcoal) mine hostels started last weekend at Landau, Bank, Kriel and Goedehoop Collieries in the Witbank-Middelburg area.

It looks like an everyday gathering of friends, but it’s actually an act of defiance. Musawenkosi Motsi was one of the first miners to bring his girlfriend, Beauty Ngubane, into a single-sex hostel. George Mbukwana looks on.

Attempts by senior officials from the Chamber of Mines and mine management to stop the occupation of the hostels have been unsuccessful.

Workers have ignored a circular sent to their wives from mine management warning them that their presence constitutes trespass.

“I would like you to know that I do not condone your presence in the hostel single accommodation as I believe it will lead to complications from other occupants of the hostel,” the circular from mine manager AP Bugden warned.

The circular added that the facilities and food provided by the mine were “for our employees only and you will not be treated like a lady.”

There has been no attempt to stop women from obtaining food from the kitchen, although some workers have been purchasing cooked food from outside the mines.

There were none of the usual security officers or “indunas” at the gates and no special

P.T.O.
Miners defy ‘no wives’ rulings

From PAGE 1

spread of similar action to their mines; might put pressure on the government to provide more land for the building of houses and the abolishing of influx control laws, even where these affect workers from neighbouring countries or the "homelands".

The move is also bound to unify workers around the common issue of being denied the right of a decent family life. Homosexuality and prostitution have flourished in the single-sex hostels.

Mineworkers have in the past paid dearly, sometimes with their lives, for the favours of the few women on neighbouring farms and villages.

Yesterday, Amcual representative Mark Smith admitted that "a small number of employees’ wives spent the weekend in the collieries’ hostel accommodation."

The majority had returned to their homes, he said.

Management was presently discussing the issue with union representatives. Until agreement had been reached, "we can't comment further on the issue," Smith said.

NUM representative Marcel Golding said yesterday the occupation is the first step "in the fight to bring an end to the migrant labour system and hostel life.

The occupation has been disciplined and co-ordinated and new communal rules governing living arrangements have been established, he said.

"passes" were needed for a Weekly Mail team to proceed into the hostels and into the rooms.

The occupation of the hostels will lead to unrestricted movement of visitors into and out of the hostels.

The much-resented "indunas", who in the past have rigorously screened every visitor, have either joined the union or have turned a blind eye to events.

At Landau near Witbank this week several workers and their wives were found watching television in the hostel bar or lounges of their rooms.

There have been no reports of violence resulting from the presence of women, despite management's concern about "unpleasant scenes" in the bar, men and women were drinking together and chatting.

The decision to occupy the hostels was taken at a regional meeting of the NUM three weeks ago.

Soon after the NUM conference, adopted the resolution to dismantle the migratory labour system, Anglo said it was concerned about the detrimental effects of the migrant labour system and the consequent hostal system of accommodation.

Anglo representative, Peter Gush, said it was the ultimate objective of the company to give employees the opportunity of owning their own homes and living with their families in a normal society should they so choose.

He said the success of such a venture would depend on the availability of land for procurement, the speed of procurement and the provision of infrastructure.

What workers might now be looking for from Anglo is a clear statement on how long it would take them to provide family houses for those of its employees who need it.

Other mining houses, fearing the
Council slates govt urbanization policy

By BARRY SBECK
Political Staff

The government's new urbanization strategies could lead to a disrupted labour force in Cape Town and increasing unemployment, leading to human hardship and local political unrest, Cape Town City Council warned yesterday.

Commenting on the government's White Paper on Urbanization, it also said that over 90% of all black people in the Western Cape were by definition citizens of Ciskei or Transkei and two-thirds were likely to remain "technical aliens, unable to work freely or demand access to the benefits of citizenship".

"The implications for the city's economic, social and political future are critical," the council said.

The council's assessment, which was signed by the City Planner, Mr D S Jack, and prepared in conjunction with its corporate management team, concluded that the labour force in Cape Town would increase by 176,000 between 1985 and 1990 and this meant that 133 new job opportunities were needed in Greater Cape Town every day.

The anticipated increase in the labour force excluded the current number of unemployed people.

"Provision of housing must be almost double the existing supply by the year 2000 if squatting and overcrowding are to be overcome and new people to be accommodated," said the council.

But without the prospect of significant commercial and industrial development, "Cape Town's long-term financial viability will be at great risk. Already, substantial cutbacks have been forced in the city's current annual budget."

However, the government's strategies in the White Paper aimed to constrain development in metropolitan areas, including Cape Town, and foster expensive and inefficient decentralized development.

The White Paper stated that the legislation which controlled the entry, residence, employment and removal of foreigners should be strictly applied.

At present "over 95%" of all blacks in the Western Cape were citizens of Ciskei or Transkei but 65%, two out of every three blacks in Cape Town, were by definition "illegal aliens with no right to be in the Republic."

"Their employment is illegal unless the employer can show that no South African citizen is available to fulfil the job, making employers liable for substantial fines and substandard work conditions."

"If the government actually implements its new legislation, the impact on Greater Cape Town -- its people, employers and economy -- could be significant in terms of a disrupted labour force and increased unemployment leading to human hardship and local political unrest," the council said.

(Report by Barry Sbeck, 123 St George's Drive, Cape Town)
Migrant workers

Aids threat to SA?

Press rapped for Aids story

WASHINGTON. — The first congresswoman known to have died from Aids wanted the nation to know how he died, but his wish has touched off a debate that angry friends fear will overshadow his real legacy.

Congressman Mr Stewart McKinney was a compassionate crusader for the poor during his 17-year House career, and that was acknowledged during the outpourings of affection and sorrow for the popular Connecticut Republican.

But amid the condolences were two attacks on the Washington Post for reporting that Mr McKinney may have contracted Aids through homosexual contacts rather than the 1979 blood transfusions cited by his doctor.

"Here's another example of a person whose contribution will not be remembered. He'll be defined by what a couple of reporters decided to write about what they say they discovered from some undisclosed sources in town," Senator Christopher Dodd, a Democrat from Connecticut, said in the Senate.

Noting Mr McKinney's long and distinguished service on the District of Columbia Committee, Mr Dodd complained: "Were they (the Post) paying attention to him because of that contribution? No. Rather, the question was whether or not he might be gay." — Sapa-AP

OWN CORRESPONDENT

LONDON. — A report by a major world charity claims that South Africa is facing a widespread epidemic of Aids among its black population.

And at least one South African Aids expert believes the report has identified a major risk of the spread of the virus which causes the deadly disease.

The document by War on Want, to be published today, claims that although Central African countries are at present most seriously affected, one of the most vulnerable countries in the future is South Africa.

This, says the report, is because of the migration of black workers.

The report says that Aids, from Zambia and Zimbabwe, is likely to spread into Angola and Mozambique and southwards in South Africa.

Entitled "Aids Proposals for Action", the report said cities such as Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Pretoria would "undoubtedly provide large reservoirs of the virus".

It adds "As migrant workers travel, it (the Aids virus) will be disseminated throughout the country."

The charity recommends international co-operation in coping with the problem of Aids, with developed countries contributing a major share of assistance to those without the resources to tackle the threat adequately.

Professor Walter Becker, a leading South African researcher on the Aids virus, said yesterday that the scenario painted by the report was possible — "the formula for the spread of the virus by migrant labourers exists, as long as nothing is done to prevent it happening."

"There is a definite danger in this but that danger has been recognised and the State health authorities have taken definite positive preventive steps to avoid the further spread of the virus into the South African population."

"However, this is a very difficult problem — such preventive action takes time to implement and control measures cannot be introduced overnight."

The testing of migrant labourers for the presence of antibodies to the Aids virus, particularly those working on South African mines, has already been undertaken by the health authorities, including the SA Institute of Medical Research.

Although blanket testing has not yet been undertaken for all migrant labourers, it has been instituted for mine workers from "high-risk" countries such as Malawi.

One screening programme showed that roughly 4% of Malawians working on SA mines were carriers of the virus, a much higher figure than those for Mozambicans and workers from other neighbouring states.
Five miners die from Aids

Five mineworkers have died of Aids and another four have contracted the disease in the past three months, a spokesman for the Chamber of Mines said today.

One of the affected men is in hospital, another is on leave and the other two are back at work. Two of the dead were repatriated before they died, the Chamber said.

"Almost 700,000 people are employed on South African mines and in its efforts to minimise the spread of Aids, the industry is conducting an energetic, internationally-accepted educational and counselling campaign among its workforce," it said.

There had been no significant increase in the number of mineworkers carrying the Aids virus.

The industry had spent R750,000 taking blood samples from more than 300,000 employees of all races. A study completed in mid-1988 revealed that approximately 800 mineworkers might be carriers. More than 700 of them were from central Africa.

It was concluded that the mining environment, where many live in single-sex hostels, had not contributed to the spread of the disease but it was recognised that about 0.08 percent of mineworkers were carriers.

In consultation with the best available medical and labour sources, the chamber had adopted a specific policy towards the disease.

- It was decided that repatriation of carriers would not be the correct way to control the incidence and spread of Aids.
- No known carriers of Aids would be engaged to work on the mines. All new recruits from Aids-prevalent areas would be screened before being signed on.
- All patients suffering from sexually transmitted diseases, a high risk group, would be tested on a routine basis.
- All employees found to be Aids carriers would be clinically assessed and counselled and those fit to work would not be discharged.
- Clinically healthy virus carriers who returned home between contracts would not have their disease used as a pretext for ending their contracts.
- Only when infected employees were clinically unfit to continue working would their services be terminated. They would then be repatriated on medical grounds.

A Chamber spokesman said: "Having concluded that repatriation of infected miners is unlikely to have a significant impact on the spread of the disease in South Africa, we have chosen the compassionate route."
Migrant system decried

JOHANNESBURG. It is increasingly evident that the migratory labour system has become untenable, says Anglo American Coal Corporation (Amcoal) chairman Graham Boustred said yesterday.

"In view of this, Amcoal's housing policy is being reviewed to determine the best way in which employees can be given the opportunity of living with their families near their place of work," he says.

"To make meaningful progress in this area, it is essential that all constraints limiting the number of black employees permitted to live with their families on or adjacent to mine property be removed.

Boustred says Amcoal continues to give emphasis to increasing the numbers of blacks under training."
JCI building ‘new concept’ migrant hostels

By Finance Staff

New concepts in the design of migrant labour hostels on gold mines, with the emphasis on their convertibility to married quarters, have been developed at the JCI-managed H J Joel Mine, near Virginia in the Orange Free State.

According to JCI, the migrant labour system has invariably been characterised by overcrowded and inferior accommodation. The company says its objective is to move towards a stable workforce which will have the freedom to live at or near the mines with their families.

It is implementing home ownership and housing allowance schemes for housing close to the mine. However, the company says it will be a long time before the majority of employees are accommodated in that way, and it therefore envisages providing single accommodation for many years.

The new HJ Joel single quarters comprises four villages of about 400 residents accommodated in 29 blocks. Each block consists of four units housing 16 men (or eight seniors), and each unit has its own lounge including TV and beverage counter, ablutions, laundry and outdoor living area.

Each bedroom accommodates two men — but one in the case of seniors, who make up about 13 percent of the complement. Design has been particularly directed towards future conversion of the units into family accommodation, if the need arises.

Other features of the new quarters are toilet and ablution facilities located within the units, modern kitchen and dining facilities, a community hall, tavern, shopping centre, clinic and sports facilities.

JCI says that in the complex it has tried to reduce the numbers accommodated per room and to upgrade the standard of accommodation, with the emphasis on offering privacy.

Project management of the design and construction of the complex was done by Anglo American Property Services, and R41 million has been budgeted for it.
JOHANNESBURG Consolidated Investment company has opened an ultra-modern R41 million hostel complex which will house 1600 mineworkers in the Free State.

The hostel complex was unveiled at a roof-wetting ceremony at the H J Joel Gold Mine near Welkom at the weekend. Miners will live two to a room and each flat complex will house 64 miners.

The hostel complex will also have a shopping complex, a tavern, a community hall and a clinic.

JCI chairman, Mr Gordon Waddell, said the complex had provided the opportunity to create something different from the accommodation “provided in our mines in the past”.

Mr Waddell said his company would like to have stable workforces on its mines and to be in the position to offer employees the choice and freedom to live with their families on or near to the mines.
Rand Mines plan to house workers

ONE of South Africa's leading mining houses, Rand Mines, is at an advanced stage in developing a programme to enable more of its black workers to live with their families in their own homes - either on its mines or in nearby towns.

The chairman of Rand Mines, Mr Danny Watt, said a key and novel facet will be home ownership on an increasing scale.

"It is in this important aspect that the new programme differs from the previous practice of providing homes on a rental basis. We want our employees, both black and white, to have the opportunity to own their homes," Mr Watt said.

Problems

He said this move is prompted by the group's concern for the problems which the migratory labour system is causing - both for employers and employees. Efforts to find realistic alternatives to the migratory labour system should be encouraged and speeded up.

"The settlement of employees in permanent family housing," Mr Watt said, "is an essential step towards creating a stable community and work for all South Africans.

"We are encouraging active participation of employees and their representatives in formulating housing schemes which will assist in achieving the solutions we seek."

Restrictions

He said Rand Mines has for many years been opposed, and remains opposed, to restrictions which compel an employee to live apart from his family during periods of employment.

The disruption of family life, the instability of labour resulting from the migratory labour system, and the requirement that workers live on a single basis in mine hostels, ran completely counter to the group's philosophy, to its values and to business interests.
SOUTH AFRICA repatriated more than 60,000 illegal blacks during 1985 and 1986, according to the Department of Home Affairs. Since letters were sent to 190,000 employers in October last year warning them to get rid of unregistered aliens, 17,358 have been sent back to their home countries.

Prices up 526%

MAPUTO. — Mozambique's Agriculture Ministry yesterday announced increases of as much as 526% in the consumer prices of beef, veal, pork, chicken and eggs.

More diplomats expelled

LONDON. — Britain yesterday ordered Iran to withdraw two of its 18 diplomats from London, deepening the two-week-old crisis in relations between the two countries.

Five-billionth birth
Calling quits to migrant labour is in management's interests too

A variety of pressures have built up within the migrant labour system, with the cumulative effect of making it unworkable ... from any perspective. By WILMOT JAMES, a UCT sociologist, presently writing a book on mining in South Africa.

There are strong reasons why mining houses might heed the call of the National Union of Mineworkers for an end to migrant labour — and they are not necessarily the same as the NUM's.

At its annual congress this year the National Union of Mineworkers likened the century-old system of labour migration to "slave labour conditions" and denounced it as the cause of the "break-up of family life and relationships and the destruction of workers' lives in the concentration-camp style single sex hostel".

Last year Cyril Ramaphosa, secretary general of the NUM, argued to a parliamentary standing committee that labour migration is an obstacle to the upgrading of skills and career prospects of black miners.

The NUM called for an end to the system of labour migration and threatened to take strike action if no significant progress was made on the issue.

Some of the mining houses are not entirely unsympathetic to the stance of the NUM. The Anglo American Corporation, probably the most advanced in thinking through the issue, essentially agreed in the joint Anglo-NUM report on mine violence that migrant labour is an archaic and divisive social institution.

The Employment Bureau of Africa (TEBA), the recruiting arm of the Chamber of Mines, recently conceded that the industry will end in 10 to 15 years, and that a stabilised and permanently settled black workforce is the future of mining and will inevitably become a reality.

However while there is some consensus on the principle, there is considerable difference of opinion on how to dismantle the system of labour migration and over what period of time. The NUM says now. Mining industry representatives say over a long period of time, and certainly not within a decade.

Pressure building up in the system of labour migration over the last decade form the background to the views of those in the mining industry who wish to see the system ended.

One source of pressure is the decline in the number of workers from Mozambique and Malawi. Last year Mozambique supplied 17,000 black miners to the industry (about 10 per cent of the total labour force in Chamber-affiliated mines). But as a result of the government's October directive last year banning all labour from Mozambique, the industry expects that this labour source will gradually decline. Since the immediate withdrawal of Mozambican labour would seriously affect Rand Mines, Anglovaal and JCI, groups with the largest concentration of Mozambican labour, the Chamber of Mines bargained a modest withdrawal with the government to allow the gradual phasing out of workers from that country.

Although so much pressure was put on Malawi, the industry also expects the phasing out of Malawian workers, who currently make up five per cent of the total mine workforce. Another source of pressure is government policy encouraging the employment of domestic over foreign workers. Traditionally the government has been torn between the Department of Foreign Affairs, which encourages foreign employment as a bargaining chip with SADCC countries, and the Department of Manpower and Development Aid, which seeks to relieve black unemployment inside South Africa.

With the virtual collapse of the Nkomati Accord and with sanctions a fait accompli, Foreign Affairs' position on the issue is considerably weaker. The result has been direct pressure by the government on the Chamber of Mines to favour South African workers and to employ as many as possible from the "homelands".

Lesotho, which actually counts as a domestic supply area, is not subject to these political considerations, although the government can and has used that country's dependence to ensure that it stays in line. Lesotho sends about 110,000 of its nationals to the mines, mostly to Anglo-American's Free State mines.

A third pressure is the proposed elimination of the racial clauses of the Mines and Works Act. Once that colonial era pill is removed, an important reason for the continuation of the migrant labour system falls away.

The traditional argument is that as long as the colour bar protects the jobs of (some) white miners, and as long as they are paid wages above the market value, the mining industry is compelled to search for cheap migrant labour.

If new legislation is enacted, it is expected that it will provide indirect protection to the white miners. And with the new mood of the government and the presence of Arno Pauly's客家 Mine Workers' Union in parliament, it is not clear whether legislation abolishing the colour bar will be passed at all.

As the mining industry sees it, though, it is just a matter of time before the very last piece of legislated job reservation is removed from the statute books.

A fourth pressure is the NUM itself. Bargaining the end of the migrant labour system is a high priority for the union.

What makes it difficult, however, is that half the union's members are foreign and the unions would be loath to lose them. Many of these workers are highly skilled and in senior positions.

If an end to migrant labour could mean one of two things. It could mean no migrant labour at all, in which case the NUM would lose all its foreign members. Or it could mean that voluntary migrant continuity, in which case migrant labour would in effect continue alongside the development of a permanently settled workforce.

This second scenario has the potential to divide workers, though a great deal depends on how the NUM would respond to the challenge of sustaining unity among workers with some differing interests.

There are these good reasons why the mining industry might plan to abandon migrant labour. But it would take a major, irreversible push, and a lot of resources to give the industry the time to set up a new permanent labour force. All we have now is a lot of talk.
Only scaffolding of apartheid has changed

By SUE JOYNT

When a building is under construction, scaffolding is erected around it. When that building is complete and the scaffolding is dismantled, the building does not fall down. So too with the abolition of influx control.

It is generally believed that the abolition of influx control constitutes a fundamental change in overall government policy vis-à-vis blacks. On the contrary, we in the Black Sash believe that the Abolition of Influx Control Act, taken together with the urbanization policy spelt out in the government’s white paper of April 1986, is merely a redefining of more socially acceptable terms of the under- or outsider in the government’s game plan for maintaining its position of dominance for as long as possible.

In reality, the abolition of influx control applies to South African citizens only. It has no bearing on the freedom of movement or job opportunities of citizens of Transkei, Ciskei, Bophuthatswana or Venda except those whose permanent residence in South Africa is recognized by the government. As with Section 10 rights under the now repealed Urban Areas Act, the onus of proof is on the applicant.

There are some 24 million Africans in “greater South Africa”, about 15 million of them are still South African citizens because their designated homeland has not taken independence.

The remaining 9 million were stripped of their South African citizenship when their homelands were given independence. Of these, the Minister of Home Affairs reckons 1.754 million will have their South African citizenship restored and will consequently benefit from the abolition of influx control. The rest remain aliens, subject to the provisions of the Aliens Act.

While they will be able to enter South Africa and remain for up to 14 days without needing a permit (how are the authorities going to police that?) they may not remain or take up employment unless they have a work permit, which will only be granted if there is no South African or permanent resident available for the particular job.

This sounds remarkably like a revised version of the old coloured Labour Preference policy. The penalties for employing an illegal alien (which have been drawn to the attention of all employers through Dept of Home Affairs memos and letters) are a fine not exceeding R3 000 or 2 years imprisonment.

The illegal alien can be deported or sentenced to R600 or 6 months and then still deported.

On the day the Abolition of Influx Control Bill was tabled, a group of women was arrested on trespass charges in a men’s hostel in an area where there is no family accommodation. They were arrested at 4am and had all been processed through the court and were in prison or had paid R30 fines by the afternoon of that same day. There was no possibility of legal defence being arranged for them.

This has happened in the Western Cape, to our knowledge, on three more occasions since then.

It is not possible to distinguish illegal aliens by looking at them so the new “freedom of movement” for black South Africans will potentially be infringed by the constant necessity to identify themselves when called upon to do so. Talk of this aspect of identification being the same for all race groups is a nonsense. Whites are never asked to show proof that they are South African citizens or permanent residents.

It is quite clear that not only is the building of apartheid still standing but the scaffolding, minus perhaps some of its planks, is still firmly in place. The anger, hurt and destruction of families that this system of controls has brought about lies at the root of many of the problem being experienced in our country.

This is clearly borne out by the evidence being led in mitigation of sentence in the present trial of ANC activists in the Cape Town Supreme Court.

[Sue Joynt is a member of the Western Cape Regional Council of the Black Sash]
Gush warns on labour relations

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — It would be a tragedy if the labour relations system were jeopardized by irresponsible behaviour.

"by individuals associated with any of the parties involved," Chamber of Mines president Peter Gush said at the chamber's AGM yesterday.

"Here," he said, "I include the State, whose role should be supportive of the industrial relations system."

He referred to "shades of differences in philosophy and practice" between the major mining groups in their approach to the National Union of Mineworkers, but said all are committed to the current system as the only way to the peaceful resolution of conflict.

Gush said that the chamber's recruiting arm, Teba, paid out R501,3m last year in the form of deferred pay, remittances and savings and benefit payments.

This, together with amounts sent home by mineworkers, represented a major benefit to the less developed areas of the region, he said.

General Mining Union Corp Ltd's executive director of human resources and public affairs, T I Steenkamp, will succeed Gush as president of the chamber. — Sapa-Reuters
Most 'illegals' Mozambicans

OWN CORRESPONDENT

PRETORIA. — "Illegal" blacks from surrounding countries are being repatriated from South Africa at a rate of about 2,500 a month.

What is not known, however, is how many of them infiltrate back into South Africa to escape the harsh economic conditions in their home countries — particularly Mozambique.

By far the largest number of illegals are being sent back to Mozambique, a Home Affairs Department spokesman said yesterday. In the first five months of this year, of the 12,405 repatriated, 8,691 were Mozambicans, 1,188 Zimbabweans, 1,145 Basothos, 837 Batswanas, 515 Swazis and 29 Malawians.

Last year, of the more than 33,000 repatriated, 19,081 were from Mozambique, 7,289 were from Botswana, 2,538 from Zimbabwe and 2,596 from Lesotho.

The pattern was similar in 1985 when 17,532 Mozambicans were repatriated.

The spokesman said inspectors were scrutinizing labour forces for illegal foreign workers.
Chamber to move on Aids

Johannesburg. — The Chamber of Mines is expected to release soon a new policy on the handling of Aids in the mining industry.

The chamber has come under extreme pressure from government to repatriate all Aids carriers and to cease recruiting from areas — particularly Malawi — where the disease is prevalent, since the matter was raised in Parliament last month by the Conservative Party.

The chamber has been discussing the issue at the highest levels within its structures and, according to a spokesman, has been involved in ongoing discussions with the Department of Health.

Present chamber policy is clinically to assess and counsel carriers. Their services would be terminated only when they were clinically unfit to work.

In addition, it is chamber policy to screen potential new employees from Aids-prevalent areas.

The spokesman says the chamber does not have any new data on the prevalence of Aids in the industry since a study in August, based on 300,000 blood tests, which showed that about 800 workers may be carriers. Of those, 760 were from Central Africa.
The government is to take steps to repatriate foreign workers infected with AIDS or those who carry the virus.

The move will mainly affect migrant mine workers who, the government believes, account for the majority of carriers in the country.

In the House of Assembly yesterday, Minister of National Health Dr. Willie van Niekerk said steps were being taken to provide for the dismissal and repatriation of foreign workers found to have AIDS to carry the disease.

He said workers from high risk countries living in South Africa who had the disease or were carrying it needed special attention and the matter had been discussed with other government departments and the Chamber of Mines.

Van Niekerk said his department had already prepared draft measures in terms of the health laws which provided for the identification of any contagious disease — which, by definition, included AIDS. These measures also provided for the isolation and compulsory treatment of sufferers and carriers of the disease.

Official government figures for AIDS do not include those given out at a conference sponsored recently in Johannesburg by the SA Blood Transfusion Services. At that meeting, Dr. Maurice Shapero said he believed from his tests and blood samples that there were 15,000 'black', AIDS carriers, apart from those on the mines.

Although the chamber had no comment to make yesterday, its president, Naas Steenkamp, said earlier in the week that mine workers with the virus could possibly be "resettled" in their own communities.

He was reported as saying it had been recognised during talks with the government that there may be a need to resettle within their own communities people who might prove a hazard to the communities they were in.

National Union of Mineworkers representative Marcel Golding told the _Weekly Mail_ yesterday that the NUM had consistently said the way to tackle AIDS was to care for and counsel the victims, not repatriate them.

"In any event, the decision on whether or not to go home should be made by the miner and his family, and the victim should receive compensation from the mine," Golding said.

He also said the incidence of AIDS involved "more than miners and repatriating them was not the answer."

Our cure for migrants' AIDS: Kindly go home

By PAT SIDLEY

Crisis in South Africa: The government is planning to repatriate foreign workers infected with AIDS or those who carry the virus.
Carriers of Aids to be deported

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Foreign workers in SA found to be carrying the Aids virus are to be repatriated, and workers recruited from Central Africa to work in SA are to be tested for the virus before being accepted into the country.

This is the basis of an announcement made in Parliament yesterday by Health Minister Dr Willie van Niekerk, who said steps were being taken to provide legislation to implement these moves.

Dr Van Niekerk said Aids infection had reached “worrying proportions” in Central Africa and the government had offered its help to Malawi — at present the largest source of SA’s foreign labour — to prevent the disease spreading there.

Draft measures in terms of SA’s health laws, which provided for the identification of any contagious diseases, had already been prepared.

Aliens Act

Home Affairs Director General Mr Gerrie van Zyl said regulations in terms of the Aliens Act, whereby people infected with an “unwanted” disease could be deported, had to be extended. HIV infection is to join cholera and other diseases on the list within the next week, he said.

The measures also provide for the isolation and compulsory treatment of sufferers and carriers of the disease. This was not to quarantine them but to isolate them from other infections, he said.

Infected workers would be isolated to prevent their being infected with other diseases.

The government had considered subjecting all tourists to Aids tests but this was found to be impractical.

Control

Mr Naas Steenkamp, president of the Chamber of Mines, which identified through a major testing programme hundreds of foreign mineworkers carrying the virus, said the mining industry accepted that government had a duty to control the spread of infectious diseases in SA.

He said the chamber and the health authorities had for some time discussed the problem of Aids carriers among mine employees and the desirability of counselling them and retaining them in employment.

Because the mining industry was the only one which had established the extent of the problem in its workforce, it was now being made to appear as if that industry was the only problem area.

The National Union of Mineworkers said the remedy was not repatriation but counselling and medical treatment. The decision to return home was one for the worker, it said.
Fears of ‘witchhunts’ over move on migrants

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Fears of "witchhunts" have been expressed following the decision by the Government to repatriate foreign workers who have AIDS or are carriers of the disease.

There are more than a million registered foreign workers from neighbouring states and self-governing "homelands" in South Africa, with thousands more working illegally.

The general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, Mr Marcel Golding, said today the solution to the AIDS problem did not lie in the repatriation of migrant workers but in providing them with proper counselling and medical facilities.

"The question of whether a worker should return home should be decided by him and his family. Migrant workers are being used as a scapegoat. The problem is not limited to them only," he said.

The decision has been condemned as discriminatory by trade union spokesmen, and cautiously "noted" by the Chamber of Mines.

Discriminatory

The general secretary of the National Council of Trade Unions, Mr Phrosaw Camay, said the Government's proposal was discriminatory because it appeared to be aimed only at workers from African countries.

"There is a responsibility on the Government to give affect-
SA Aids tests for foreign workers

Own Correspondent

All foreigners seeking work in South Africa, including those from the US and Europe, will have to be tested for the Aids virus, a Health Department spokesman said yesterday.

Dr George Watermeyer said the legislation, drawn up in its final form and soon to be made law, was not intended to be discriminatory.

It is not clear whether the proposed repatriation of workers will include those from the TBVC countries or the about 800 miners found to be carrying the virus after the Chamber of Mines conducted extensive testing last year.

Dr Watermeyer said details of the government approach would be made public only after the legislation was gazetted.

Government’s move on the matter was precipitated by the “international approach” to the problem which included increasingly severe steps to prevent the spread of the virus.

South Africa was not leading the way in repatriating infected foreign workers, Dr Watermeyer said. And the move was not aimed specifically at the mining industry. All employers with foreign workers would have to test them.

Talks with the Chamber of Mines on the matter had not been a confrontation with government.

While government has put pressure on the mining industry by its directive last year banning labour from Mozambique, no such pressure has so far been exerted regarding Malawian workers.
JOHANNESBURG — Nine cases of Aids — five of which resulted in deaths — had been diagnosed among workers in the mining industry, the Chamber of Mines said in a statement at the weekend.

The chamber was reacting to a newspaper report alleging 1,000 cases among the 750,000 miners.

The chamber said 900 miners had been identified as carriers and were being counselled to prevent them from passing on the disease.
Family housing for black miners

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Four more mining groups yesterday indicated they had initiated plans for family housing units for black employees.

This follows Monday’s announcement by Anglo American that 24,000 homes would be built at four locations in the next three years.

JCI personnel division GM Barry Louw said the group was planning a similar scheme.

The company was negotiating the purchase of land near Randfontein, and had entered into surety agreements with a number of building societies and the Standard Bank.

He said it was too early to give further details.

Rand Mines appears to be taking a more “hands-off” approach.

Initial moves are being made by its coal division, particularly its open cast mines which employ relatively small numbers of skilled workers.

Gencor said yesterday it is actively investigating methods of providing family housing on a larger scale, but it was too early to make an announcement.

Anglovaal, too, said it was working on a housing scheme aimed at lower paid employees, but no further details could be made available at this stage.

A Gold Fields spokesman said the group did not have any such project.

The NUM, which called for the dismantling of the migrant labour and hostel system at its annual conference last March, was yesterday formulating a response to these developments.
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Aids: Repatriation soon to be gazetted

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Government legislation to provide for the repatriation of foreign workers infected with the AIDS virus is due to be gazetted this week, according to the Department of Home Affairs.

The new regulations will be an amended version of the 1972 Admission of Persons to the Republic Act, which allows for the repatriation of foreigners carrying certain diseases, including cholera.

AIDS is to be added to the list.

The measures will affect mostly blacks employed on the mines. About 1,000 miners are known to be carrying the virus and at present the Chamber of Mines is screening all foreign miners.

All foreigners seeking work in South Africa will be screened for the virus, but this will not affect visitors to the Republic.

Details of how the exercise will be carried out and when it is likely to begin have not yet been made public.

The Malawian consul-general in Johannesburg, Mr. K. J. Naama, said it had had no official notification from the government on the move and could not comment on the situation.

Malawians have been identified as the highest proportion of carriers.
Conversion of 'single' hostels is 'still policy'

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

The government's policy of phasing out single-sex hostels and turning them into family housing units had not changed, the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, said yesterday.

He also said that none of the single-quarter hostels in Langa, Nyanga and Guguletu in Cape Town had been converted into family units since last year because funds were "not available."

Mr Heunis, who was replying to a question tabled in Parliament by Mr Peter Soal (PPP, Johannesburg North), was asked whether the policy of his department regarding the construction and utilization of single-quarter hostel accommodation had changed since May 6 last year.

He replied "No — but the government is prepared to consider well-motivated applications on merit."

On May 6 last year, Mr Heunis said his department did "not consider conditions in the single-quarter accommodation to be satisfactory."

"As a result of the impending repeal of the influx control system it is envisaged that all single quarters in the townships will eventually be altered into family units and that employers who insist on housing employees in single quarters will be requested to erect hostels themselves."

However, the Cape Provincial Administration recently announced that the single-sex hostels at Lwandile, near Somerset West and Strand, would be upgraded at a cost of R3.7m and that families at Lwandile would be rehoused at Khayelitsha and Mheleni.

Mr Heunis yesterday said the hostels at Langa, Guguletu and Nyanga would be converted into family units "as soon as funds can be made available."

At present 650 single-quarter hostel units were being used in these townships, Mr Heunis said.
Aids regulations delayed.

PRETORIA. — Regulations providing for the repatriation of foreign workers found to be carrying the Aids virus would not be published in this week's Government Gazette, a spokesman for the Department of Home Affairs said yesterday. The regulations were due to be published two weeks ago but were delayed.
Migrant workers earned a total of R9407-m in 1985.

According to details of a research report published in Pretoria by Unisa's Bureau of Market Research, their cash expenditure amounted to R8,926 million in that year.

Although these single households represented only 29 percent of all blacks in South Africa's metropolitan areas, their income made up 59 percent of the total income and their cash expenditure 54 percent of the total spent by blacks in these areas.

"Black single households, most of whom are migrant labourers, are financially independent."

Hostel residents made up 62 percent of the category, domestic servants and gardeners living on white premises, 20 percent, people living or lodging with other blacks 12 percent and those who lived on business and government premises the remaining six percent.

The BMR said about 75 percent of these people were men, one-third of whom were 30 to 39-years-old.

Generally speaking, the level of education was "not very high" and more than 33 percent had had no schooling or less than six years formal education. "Qualifications were particularly low among domestic servants, gardeners and hostel residents."

The average annual income of black single households in the PWV areas in 1985 was R4,715, while it was put at R4,368 in other metropolitan areas.

Hostel residents had the highest average income of R5,226 as opposed to domestic servants and gardeners, who earned R2,474 per year.

**Category**

Of the latter category, 41 percent of income represented payment in kind, being mainly free accommodation, food and working clothes.

"In 1985 mining was the sector of employment that paid the highest salaries to black male single households (R5,269) followed by manufacturing (R5,696)."

The BMR noted black single households in metropolitan areas made a major contribution to the income of their dependents' living elsewhere.

"In 1985 they sent an estimated R489 million in cash to their dependents and saved a further R191 million, most of which was probably also taken home to their families."

Much of the R412 million they spent on furniture and household equipment probably included expenditure on these items sent to their families.

Other main expenditure items included food (R1,362 million), clothing and footwear (R429 million), transport (R357 million), housing (R241 million), insurance and funds (R271 million) and alcoholic beverages (R229 million).

Hostel residents accounted for 71 percent of domestic servants and gardeners for 10 percent of cash expenditure.

"Black hostel residents spend relatively the most on alcoholic beverages and cigarettes, while those living with other blacks spend relatively the most on housing, personal care and recreation, entertainment and sports."

"Domestic servants and gardeners spend relatively the most on education, probably on their children's education in particular, while those living on business and government premises spend relatively the most on holidays."

Sapa
MOZAMBIQUE had created an African "Berlin Wall" along its borders to keep its people out of South Africa, the Defence Minister, General Magnus Malan, said yesterday.

Addressing a group of American businessmen, Gen Malan denied that South Africa had a deliberate destabilization policy for the region and said neighbouring states would struggle to survive without co-operation with South Africa.

"Providing jobs for hundreds of thousands of black workers seeking work, food and security they could not find in their own countries, was one example. "So much so that Mozambique plants landmines and personnel mines on the border with us to try to keep their people out of South Africa," a sort of African Berlin Wall.

"South Africa is, quite frankly, indispensable to Southern Africa."

"We are the regional superpower of Southern Africa."

The propaganda campaign against South Africa had gone on for so long and was so well orchestrated, that almost any lie about this country would be believed, he said.

General Malan also:
- Accused the Soviet Union, Cuba and other communist countries of destabilizing and raping Africa.
- Warned neighbouring states to adhere to the "ground rules of good-neighbourliness or bear the consequences".
- Described Zimbabwean Prime Minister Mr Robert Mugabe as a foolish hypocrite.
- Praised UNITA leader Dr Jonas Savimbi and promised continued aid for him.
- In their propaganda campaign against South Africa, countries in the region told "blatant lies" about South Africa.
PRETORIA — The number of foreign blacks illegally working in SA is gradually being thinned out by a Home Affairs Department campaign launched earlier this year, but there are still thousands undetected.

The department's inspectorate has visited almost 89 000 employers since February, scrutinising employment registers and employee documents.

Home Affairs director-general Gerrie van Zyl said 10% of the holders of nearly 300 000 documents scrutinised had been found to be working in the country illegally.

During the year, 63 employers were prosecuted and fines ranging up to R2 000 were imposed.

200 from UK

There were also admission of guilt fines for knowingly employing workers illegally.

Of the 29 000 deported, more than 10 000 — or about 1 000 a month — were Mozambicans.

Among the 29 000 were 200 UK citizens working in SA without the necessary authority.

Van Zyl said the campaign to trace illegals had been successful and would be continued into the New Year.

He was unable to confirm an estimate made last year that there were 1.3-million foreign blacks illegally in SA.

He added that, in addition to illegal blacks still in SA, there were about 50 000 "temporarily documented" people in Gazankula, the vast majority of them Mozambicans. They would be sent back as soon as conditions made this possible.
Migrants’ only time with their families

In the summer swelter of a dusty Item station, South Africa’s black migrant workers await the trains that will take them home, in many cases for the first time since last Christmas.

They are gold miners, domestic servants, gardeners and construction workers, drawn to the industrial capital of Southern Africa by the promise of jobs.

They come from Mozambique, Malawi, Lesotho, the black South African homelands and dozens of isolated rural villages where a life of poverty seemed inevitable.

South Africa's economy has provided them with jobs, but for many the price has been steep. "I haven't seen my wife or kids, let alone a child, in a year," said Mr. Tony Diasman, a gold miner from Mozambique, "every time I see my children, they've grown so much I hardly recognize them."

Mr. Diasman said the other passengers were waiting for trains that go to places few while South Africans have been home, and on the border with Mozambique. The usual practice is to keep the luggage in a single trunk.

When a train departs, a woman balances three large bags on her head and rushes to join her fellow passengers on the platform.

Ms. Claudiye Moloko, 26, was traveling to Lesotho for her annual two-week vacation. She has spent the last 10 weeks living in a shanty town on the rooftop of a Johannesburg apartment building where her work as a domestic servant.

Ms. Moloko says she prefers the cramped accommodation to the lengthy daily commute to and from the black township of Soweto. "I wanted to buy my niece some dolls and dresses, but I only have enough money to buy sweets," she said before departing.

Next to the crowded station where she was sitting, a much larger terminal for first-class passengers is almost empty.

The terminal now is open to passengers of all races with first-class tickets, but due to economic and health reasons, most blacks use the same terminal they did in the days of strict segregation.

The terminal for first-class passengers is lined with shops, restaurants, automatic banking machines, and garden fountains where Christmas songs play softly on the sound system.

Just outside, a busy street market thrives, with many people buying gifts—straw hats, wooden handbags, sugar cubes.

Mr. Marcus James, also looking to buy his parents a gift before returning to Soweto, "I like the excitement of Johannesburg, but I miss my family and friends," he said.

THE Weekend Today remembers journalists around the country who are in detention.

• Zwelizile Sithole.

Quoted: I wanted to buy my niece some dolls and dresses, but I only have enough money to buy sweets.

Quoted: Every time I see my children, they've grown so much I hardly recognize them.
For migrants, home is far away

IN THE summer swelter of a dusty lit station, SA’s black migrant workers await the trains which will take them home, in many cases for the first time since last Christmas.

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“I haven’t seen my wife or kids in a year,” said Tony Dlamini, 33, a gold miner from Mozambique. “Every time I see my children, they’ve grown so much I hardly recognise them.”

More than 95% of SA’s 600 000 miners are migrants, living in all-male hostels on mining company property for 11 months each year. Many sleep in bunk-bed dormitories, keeping their belongings in a single trunk.

Dlamini said the three-week miners’ strike in August had cut into his savings, but he had enough left to buy new clothes for his family for Christmas.

Dlamini and the other passengers were waiting for trains that go to places few white South Africans ever visit. Komatipoort, the border post with Mozambique, Maseru and Umtata are among the more popular Christmas destinations.

The passenger terminal is a long, narrow sandstone structure. Inside, it has drab brown and green tile walls. The only decorations are billboards advertising beer and chocolate bars. There is no ornamentation to suggest Christmas is near.

... There are not enough benches. Many people are sprawled on the floor on colourful blankets. Women in flowing African-print dresses set out homemade lunches, while others breast-feed their children.

Small boys play soccer with an empty soft-drink can, a cacophony of radios play too loudly, impromptu card games are played.

When a train departure is announced, a woman balancing three large bags on her head dashes for the designated platform.

Gladys Mokobi, 29, was travelling to Lesotho for her annual two-week holiday. She has spent the last 50 weeks living in a storage shed on the rooftop of a Johannesburg block of flats where she works as a maid.

She says she prefers the cramped accommodation to the lengthy daily commuting to and from Soweto.

“I wanted to buy my nieces some dolls and dresses, but I have only enough money to buy sweets,” she said before departing.

Next to the crowded station where she was waiting, a much larger terminal for first-class passengers is almost empty.

The terminal now is open to passengers of all races with first-class tickets. But owing to economics and habit, most blacks use the same terminal they did in the days of strict segregation.

The terminal for first-class passengers is lined with shops, restaurants, automatic banking machines, indoor gardens and fountains. Christmas songs play softly on the sound system. It lacks nothing but passengers.

Just outside, a busy street-market thrives, with many people buying last-minute Christmas gifts — straw hats, woven handbags, sunglasses.

Marcus James, 21, was looking for a gift to buy his parents before returning to Transkei.

He has lived with his brother and sister in Soweto for the past year, working as a construction worker.

“I like the excitement of Johannesburg, but I miss my family and friends,” he said. “I came here for the work and I guess that’s why I’ll stay.” — Sapa-AP
Migrant Workers

1998
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.

Thirday, and flowing from this, their illegal status is not necessarily migrants, but only competitive advantage. Many are arguably competitive because they are skilled, productive and experienced. Many are also skillful in and across sectors. This affords them considerable employment flexibility and mobility.

In the surveys referred to earlier, many migrants reported that the unemployment rates of their countries of origin are regarded as exploited.

Alternatively an argument could be made that legalising the status of foreign workers would open up the tax base, making more money available to the state for social services.

A broader political and social response to cross-border migrants is therefore not simply a luxury which might satisfy moronic rights concerns at considerable cost to the economy. It may well contribute to a broad national employment for South Africans. This has prompted a reduction in official statistics which record foreign workers as a threat. It might also prompt a reduction in the tensions which produce incidents, such as that in which eight foreign nationals were being killed.

The failure to extend legal status to cross-border migrants enhances their attractiveness to employers, thus achieving what South Africans fear most.

The failure to extend legal status to cross-border migrants enhances their attractiveness to employers, thus achieving what South Africans fear most.

Conversely, the less in demand their skills are, the more competitive are the conditions of the labor market, the more likely they are to achieve legal status, and the less likely they are to be exploited.

The failure to extend legal status to cross-border migrants achieves precisely the opposite effect by lowering their labor force participation in the economy, their pay and conditions, making labor more attractive to employers.

Regularizing the status of migrant workers would create a competitive advantage for employers.

Secondly, if not self-employed, many economic migrants work as temporary or contract workers. Certain sectors, such as construction, need a large labor force that requires constant movement. However, migrants are not paid the same wage rates, or allowed the same working conditions.

The conclusion that 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 labor 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.

The principal legislation governing immigration, the Aliens Control Act, makes no provision for this category of migrants. While in SA, they have come here to work and plan to stay only as long as they need to do so.

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Mines' local hiring is up

MASERU 7/12/95

South African gold mines are increasingly recruiting local labour before workers from neighbouring countries, the Employment Bureau of Africa announced yesterday. According to statistics released by the bureau, the number of Basotho mineworkers dropped from 89,940 in 1993 to 38,076 in 1994.

Sapa
Malawi to knock at SA’s door

MALAWI’S first democratic leader meets President Mandela tomorrow. Like his Mozambican counterpart who came to SA last week he will place a controversial item on the agenda: seeking jobs for his people in SA.

Duncan Guy of the Star Foreign Service interviewed President Muluzi in Blantyre.

Feasible

Muluzi, in an interview at Sangika Palace, the luxury hilltop residence he inherited from Banda, said he had already asked Mandela to allow Malawians into SA.

"It’s a matter I raised in Tunis (at the Organisation of African Unity summit). We’ll have to see, if it’s feasible. If not, there’s no way we can force South Africa to do it. But if they have the means to create a few hundred jobs for Malawians, why not?"

Muluzi’s "why not?" is going to be a ticklish problem for Mandela. The request is unlikely to be "met with enthusiasm by SA, itself under the whip of huge unemployment and with an increasingly xenophobic attitude towards foreigners."

But the request reflects the high expectations that SA’s neighbours have of its perceived wealth — expectations that have to be gently rebuffed without undermining efforts to build greater regional co-operation.

Since coming to power after Muluzi’s first multiparty election in May, the greatest challenge for Muluzi’s debt-strapped government has been his poverty alleviation programme, an equivalent of SA’s Reconstruction and Development Programme.

Most of Malawi’s 9 million people live in glaring poverty, with drought, a devaluing currency and an increase in the price of maize not helping matters. It also has a high birth rate.

Critics say the new government’s poverty alleviation programme seems to have been restricted to conferences and workshops. But Muluzi stressed that it’s still early days.

His formula to create jobs involves encouraging investment: "The potential is there. The government is moving away from running parastatals because we are going to be in the business of having private companies."

Muluzi said he favoured liberal cross-border movement as a way to improve trade in southern Africa.
Bid to control foreign workers

By RAY HARTLEY
Parliamentary Correspondent.

COSATU has called for a quota system to control the number of migrant workers entering South Africa.

The federation wants the issue discussed at a summit of regional governments and trade unions.

COSATU spokesman Neil Coleman said: "One does not want to say that no foreigners should take certain jobs, but we need a degree of planning and stability."

A resolution adopted at the federation's International Policy Conference in Johannesburg yesterday said the summit should also:

- Review historic contract migrant labour arrangements among South Africa, Lesotho, Mozambique, Botswana and Swaziland; and
- Develop a strategy to deal with the mobility of skilled labour in the countries.

While noting the role of African countries in "the struggle", the resolution also referred to "the duty of all governments to provide work for their own citizens".
Solidarity to be sought with foreign unions

COSATU would attempt to establish solidarity with labour movements in southeast Asia and other developing countries to prevent unfair competition and ensure SA's competitiveness by increasing wages in these countries, general secretary Sam Shilowa said at the weekend.

At Cosatu's three day International Policy Conference, Shilowa said the formulation of an international policy which assisted in heightening unionisation and strengthening "South-South links" was crucial to ensure SA was not faced with further unemployment. "In this way, we will avoid being caught in the bosses' competition war."

 Renee Grawitzky

The signing of the Gatt agreement in April last year required SA to deregulate its economy and reduce tariff protection, which would bring about "direct competition from manufactured products coming from countries whose competitive edge is exploitation of workers, low wages and union bashing", Shilowa said.

Celia Mather of the International Resource and Information Group, in her paper on global competition or international solidarity, said international solidarity should take second place to national concerns "Cosatu should concentrate on ensuring the competitiveness of the national economy by improving productivity."

Stemming from the Gatt agreement, the inclusion of a social clause in international trade agreements was introduced for discussion at the International Labour Organisation's conference last year.

Cosatu calls for controls in use of migrant labour

Cosatu President John Gummo has accused employers in the mining industry of trying to destroy the NUM by promoting xenophobia and conflict between local and migrant workers.

At Cosatu's three-day international policy conference at the weekend he said "irresponsible forces" in the country have been trying to whip up xenophobia around the issue of labour migration. "The demon of xenophobia has been used worldwide to divide workers, to exploit migrants and to undermine trade union unity."

However, the conference decided to call for a quota on the number of foreign workers in SA.

Cosatu's Neil Coleman said the inflow of migrants and refugees had to be regulated and controlled. "One does not want to say that no foreigners should take certain jobs, but we need a degree of planning and stability," Gummo said at a meeting of Southern African states to develop a programme to allow for integrated economic development and the raising of living standards of all and to discuss migration.

The federation noted that certain employers exploited illegal migrant workers by paying sub-minimum wages which "undermines gains made by organised labour".

Other resolutions adopted included calls to scrap the Alien Act and commence a process of upgrading and developing the skills of migrant workers. Fair and proper control of migrant workers into host countries should be achieved.
The Minister of Foreign Affairs

(1) The Minister of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the conduct of all international relations and the exercise of the sovereign rights and powers of the State in the field of international relations. He is also responsible for the promotion of international cooperation and for the protection and promotion of the honour and interests of the State.

(2) The Minister of Foreign Affairs is also responsible for the conduct of the State's internal and economic affairs, and for the promotion of national unity and economic development.

(3) The Minister of Foreign Affairs is authorized to sign international agreements and to enter into commitments on behalf of the State.

(4) The Minister of Foreign Affairs is also responsible for the conduct of all matters relating to the foreign service, including the appointment of ambassadors, consuls, and other diplomatic personnel.

(5) The Minister of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the conduct of all matters relating to the promotion of peace and security, and for the maintenance of international law and order.

(6) The Minister of Foreign Affairs is also responsible for the conduct of all matters relating to the promotion of human rights and the protection of the State's citizens abroad.

(7) The Minister of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the conduct of all matters relating to the promotion of the State's interests in international organizations and institutions.

(8) The Minister of Foreign Affairs is also responsible for the conduct of all matters relating to the promotion of the State's cooperation with other States and with international organizations and institutions.

(9) The Minister of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the conduct of all matters relating to the promotion of the State's interests in the field of trade and commerce.

(10) The Minister of Foreign Affairs is also responsible for the conduct of all matters relating to the promotion of the State's interests in the field of education and culture.
Watchdog announces new rules to protect private pension funds' members

The Financial Services Board has announced new regulations to ensure private pension funds and those administered by the life industry give members full details of their membership and benefits. The regulations will become effective on July 1 next year.

The change in rules follows soul-searching within the industry about the way in which many employers have encouraged employees to change from defined benefit to defined contribution funds without explaining the consequences. The new rules will ensure members are given details of any change in retirement funding and that they are advised to take independent advice.

Information will be provided in an explanatory pamphlet on a particular fund as well as a benefit statement — Bruce Cameron

Helmut Kohl to visit: Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, will pay a six-day official visit to South Africa at the invitation of President Nelson Mandela. Kohl, accompanied by businessmen and politicians, arrives on September 9. He will meet Mandela and deputy presidents Thabo Mbeki and FW de Klerk and will address Parliament
Union to take migrants' status to court

Theo Rawana (200) 18/10/95 (X)

The National Union of Mineworkers has said it will challenge the Aliens Control Act in the Constitutional Court because its provision that migrant workers are entitled to permanent status after five years is not observed when it comes to black workers.

NUM president James Motlatsi said his union had been told by government officials and black migrant workers living in the local elections as well as the national elections.

"This is a scandal and racist," Motlatsi said. "We are tired of trying to press upon the Home Affairs Minister the importance of this issue. We are now instructing our lawyers to take the case to the Constitutional Court."
NUM considers enforcing migrant workers

Walter Sisulu...
Migrant miners to get residency

JOHANNESBURG: President Nelson Mandela had agreed to grant residency permits to 90 000 migrant miners, ending discriminatory practices that favoured whites, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) said yesterday.

"This is a great victory for the NUM and for migrant workers," union president Mr James Motlanati said.

"At long last the black workers who have produced the wealth of this country and have for generations died in the mines are to be treated as equals with white workers.

The agreement had been reached in negotiations with Mr Mandela and other government officials on Monday, the union said.

It provides for migrant mineworkers to be issued with identification documents and permanent residency status.

This would allow them to participate freely in the political activity of South Africa, the NUM statement said. — Reuters
About 80 000 migrant miners, from neighbouring states, are to be granted permanent residence in South Africa following an agreement between miners and the Government at the weekend.

And the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has requested that the local government elections be postponed in some areas to allow mine workers time to register.

Deputy Home Affairs Minister Penuel Maphutha said on Saturday that migrant workers who had lived in South Africa since before June 1994 would be given permanent residence, reported Sapa.

Union president James Moleka said: "We are seeing the removal of one of the cornerstones of apartheid and the migrant labour system."

NUM spokesman Judith Weymont said thousands of migrant miners who had lived in South Africa since June 13, 1994, had been allowed to vote in last year's general election. The union now believed this meant they also had a right to vote in Wednesday's local government elections.

"They were being prevented from doing so because the ministry of home affairs had not automatically processed the workers' temporary IDs and 'voting cards' to ensure that they obtained permanent residence," she said.

She said the ministry and mining houses would begin to facilitate the process of registering the migrant workers, for applications for permanent residence in South Africa from today. NUM would organize miners rallies in Welkom and Kuruman today to discuss the issue," she said.
Migrants’ residence may hit home states

Renee Grawitzky

SOUTHERN African countries supplying labour to SA’s mining industry were set to lose about R1bn in revenue if migrant mine workers who applied were granted permanent SA residence.

Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday that this decision should not be taken lightly as it had far-reaching implications for the Southern African region.

Buthelezi said it would affect not only the future of the deferred pay system — which constituted the bulk of the GDP of countries such as Lesotho — but also on whether these mine workers would wish to bring their families with them to live in SA.

Compulsory deferred pay agreements existed between the SA government, Lesotho and Mozambique, which provided that a percentage of mine workers’ wages was deposited in their countries of origin.

These governments used the interest to finance social development projects. Mine workers were able to reclaim this portion of their wages only once their contracts — normally valid for 12-month periods — had expired.

Industry sources claimed that migrant workers would find it attractive to apply for permanent residency so they would no longer be obligated to pay out a portion of their wages — which could only be reclaimed after one year.

A foreign affairs ministry spokesman said that meetings would be pursued on a bilateral basis with the countries affected.

Buthelezi said mine workers who voted in last year’s election could apply for permanent residence.

He said each case would be treated on its own merits and “we are not saying that we will reject applications” of workers who had been in the country for five years.

The National Union of Mineworkers said if government decided on the cut-off date of June 13 1986, it would challenge this decision in court.

Buthelezi denied allegations that his department had “dragged its heels” on the processing of temporary identity documents and voting cards — granted to mineworkers last year in order to vote.

NUM president James Motlatsi addressed rallies in Welkom and Klerksdorp yesterday, where he advised mine workers of government’s decision.

He said mine workers who voted last year were entitled to apply for permanent residency.

He said it was the responsibility of mineworkers as members of various political parties to request that they postpone the elections.

Makgoba sends decision to lawyers.
Maputo scam: System 'needs review'

PRETORIA: An agreement under which South Africa pays indemnities to expatriate miners through the Mozambican Labour Ministry needs urgent review, says Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha.

His announcement yesterday follows allegations of a scam in which the Mozambican government and corrupt officials have pocketed insurance and pensions owed to the country's nationals. Insurance investigators recently uncovered massive irregularities in the payment of death and disability pensions to about 1,000 families in Mozambique.

The alleged corruption was exposed when relatives of eight Mozambicans killed at the Vaal Reefs mine reported they had not received their insurance payouts.

The issue would have to be taken up with the Mozambican government, Mr Botha said, adding he would consult Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Alfred Nzo. — Sapa