



INFLUX CONTROL

PACSA FACTSHEET

14

ALAN PATON CENTRE UKZ-N-6

INFLUX CONTROL

The influx control system exists to regulate the movement of Black people in South Africa and has operated in one form or other since 1760. At present numerous regulations, laws and statutory bodies maintain this system. Setting aside the mass of legislation that governs the lives of Black people, it is the labour bureaux in urban and rural areas which control the system and link the supply of labour with the demand for labour. The following table indicates the results of the rigorous application of the laws.

ARRESTS AND PROSECUTIONS UNDER PASS LAWS

	<u>Main Urban Areas</u>		
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Male	101184	80433	91126
Female	25023	28066	32331
Total	126207	108499	123457



WORK SEEKERS - EDENDALE. Photo: Ack. Natal Witness.

THE ORDERLY MOVEMENT AND SETTLEMENT OF BLACK PERSONS BILL

This draft Bill, which appeared during the last few days of this year's Parliamentary session and was referred to a select committee, is horrendous in its implications.

Recent indications are that the Bill in its present form may be withdrawn (partly because it has provoked so much adverse comment). If withdrawn, it is likely to be put forward again in perhaps a slightly more "respectable" guise. In any case this present draft Bill indicates clearly the Government's intention.

Aspects of the Bill

- * The most insidious aspect is Clause 52 - this gives the Minister the power to alter, nullify or apply the proposed law as he sees fit. Cynics might be excused for suggesting that all the Minister need promulgate is a one-clause law!
- * The Bill describes who may 'stay' in an urban area. Basically the Bill allows what it terms 'Permanent Urban Residents' and those Blacks authorised (i.e. have a permit) to stay in an urban area.
- * Because of the penalties involved it is likely that we will all take on the role of the police.

PACSA

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PERMANENT URBAN RESIDENTS (PURS)

These will be Black South African citizens and citizens of 'independent' homelands who

- own fixed property, under the 99 year lease scheme, in an urban area,
- are authorised in terms of Section 10 (1) (a) or 10 (1) (b) of the Urban Areas Act – i.e. those who have lived in one town continuously since birth, or who have been continuously and legally resident in one town for 15 years, or who have been continuously registered in one job in one town for 10 years.
- are South African citizens who have been lawfully resident in an urban area for a continuous period of at least 10 years – but such people must apply for PUR status,
- are people who were born in an urban area to PUR parents (i.e. both parents must be PURS). Many people will be excluded from this provision, e.g. illegitimate children whose father's position is unknown; children of PUR mothers whose husbands are migrant workers,
- are dependants of a PUR. A dependant is a wife or unmarried child, or parent or grandparent or disabled adult child who cannot work.

AUTHORISED PEOPLE

Black people not falling into any of the PUR categories may only be in an urban area between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. if they have a permit. Such people will include:

- Visitors: They can stay in town overnight if they obtain a permit immediately on arrival, permission for which will depend on availability of accommodation. No one can have a visitor's permit for more than a total of 14 days in any one year.
- People in Hospital or Staying in a Hotel.
- Night-shift Workers: Such workers can be in town overnight if they have a permit to be in the job.
- Registered Workers or Workseekers: Such people must also have a permit to stay in town at night. A permit will not be given to a worker or workseeker if the authority thinks they can commute daily to and from their "homeland."

APPLICATION

This system will require constant inspection by the authorities of places of employment and black and white households during the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. when only authorised people are allowed to be in urban areas.

Clause 40 (1) enables inspectors and police to enter any premises at any time without warrant or notice to question anyone on the premises and to seek information about any person who is resident, or accommodated or employed on the premises.

The efficiency of influx control will be facilitated by people who refuse to give unauthorised people accommodation overnight, i.e. householders in black and white suburbs. The penalty is R500 or 6 months plus R20 for every day during which the offence continues. The penalty that 'illegal' people will incur for being in an urban area overnight will be a fine of R500 or 6 months.

CONSEQUENCES

People living in the rural areas ('homeland' or white) are trapped in poverty and this will force them to leave these areas and move to the towns – it happened earlier this century in South Africa to poor whites (it happens in all parts of the world), it has continued to this day and will go on.

The only way they can legally obtain employment is by registering at the labour bureau in their 'homeland' areas, and thousands of workers all over the country continue to wait – and wait . . . while families face poverty, malnutrition and even death. (see earlier factsheets).

COMMENT:

The proposed legislation closes the door almost entirely to any further urbanisation and, if passed in its present form, can become the most efficient form of influx control South Africa has ever experienced..

*"Our Lord was crucified outside the walls of the city.
Are we now to go on taking an active part in his Crucifixion?"*

'S. Duncan'.

Objections to this legislation can be sent to the Minister concerned – Dr. P. Koornhof – at P.O. Box 15, Cape Town, 8000, or your local M.P. and local newspaper editor.

Booklets giving more information are: "*Christians and Apartheid*", an SACC Information paper and "*You and the New Pass Laws*", a Black Sash publication. They are both available from the PACSA office.