

RECEIVED - 1 JUN 1978

THE BLACK SASH

56 Victory House,  
34 Harrison Street,  
JOHANNESBURG. 2001.  
22nd May 1978.

CIRCULAR NO. IO/1978.

CIRCULAR TO ALL REGIONS

Dear Everyone,

30 years of Nationalist Rule - Your logos were posted to the Chairman of each Region on Friday 19th, May and I hope they arrive in good time for you to organise their distribution before 31st May. Albany, Natal Midlands and Border should each receive 500, Natal Coastal 1500 and Cape Western 100. Cape Western are organising their own campaign and have drawn up their own pamphlet, hence the small number to them, as requested. The rest of the total of 8,500 are being retained for distribution in Johannesburg and Pretoria.

After much discussion Headquarters decided to print extra copies of the logo, rather than a pamphlet. We experienced great difficulty in devising a suitable pamphlet, which also met the requirements of our legal adviser, but subsequently we did draw up a handout which we have roneoed and which we intend distributing with the logo. Enclosed is a copy for you to duplicate and use as you wish. We shall be sending these handouts to the Press, together with the logos, and you may want to do the same. I have written an article for the Star on 30 years of Nationalist Rule, which I hope will be published. It is important to try to get as much publicity as possible for this 30-years campaign, for without it the whole operation has no real impact. I do hope you all manage a successful distribution, that your members are enthusiastic, and that you will once again enjoy the pleasure of visibly signifying your dissent - our long established methods being presently denied us.

The Fund-Raising Bill has raised its ugly new head - if anything uglier than the previous one. It still seems that it will be in order for us to raise funds through sales of goods, providing that they are contributed by members "by virtue of their membership", and all goods must be solicited on this basis. At present we do not intend to apply for a permit to become a "fund-raising organisation". It may still be necessary to convene a special National Conference in order to discuss the possible widening of our membership, but as there will probably be considerable delay in the administration of the Act it is just possible that the issue can be postponed until next year's Conference. In the meanwhile we propose trying to build up a nest egg as soon as possible, and suggest that you do the same.

Sheena is back and treating the revised "Memorandum on the Pass Laws and Influx Control" as a priority, as part of the New Foreigners campaign. It has been decided that this shall be a separate publication and not an issue of SASH, as was the previous one, and we shall have to find ways and means of financing this. It would be wonderful if we could find a few sponsors - quickly! Any ideas?

Please keep in touch with Headquarters. I would like to suggest that you write to me at least once a month - no matter how briefly - so that I know what you are doing and how you are getting on. I can then inform everyone else and we can all help each other,.

LOVE,

JOYCE.

Order sent to the Star for  
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With the Compliments of

Met Komplimente van

*Lyette*

**THE BLACK SASH**

**DIE SWART SERP**

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TEL. 23-1032  
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THE FUND RAISING BILL.

The Fund-Raising Bill, which has been read a first time in Parliament, appears to have caused very little furor, although it represents yet further inroads on the freedom of action of individuals and organisations which until now have enjoyed relative autonomy.

The Bill provides, inter alia, for the "Control of the collection of contributions from the public and the appointment of a Director of Fund-Raising". In terms of the Bill a "fund-raising organisation" means "any organisation in respect of which an authority has been granted in terms of section 4 of this Act"; and Section 4 provides that "the Director may, subject to the provisions of this Act, on application made in the prescribed manner by the management of an organisation intending to collect contributions, grant a written authority to such organisation to collect, subject to the prescribed conditions and such other conditions as may be specified in the authority, in the area so specified, contributions for the purposes so specified".

The Bill also provides that "No person shall collect contributions unless he is authorised thereto in terms of this Act and unless the collection takes place in accordance with the provisions of this Act". It goes on to say, "Any person or group of persons may, within the prescribed period and in the prescribed manner, lodge with the Director an objection against the granting of such application".

It is therefore perfectly clear that no organisation, apart from a few clearly defined exceptions such as State-run organisations, political parties and Churches (under certain severely limited conditions), may raise funds in order to finance its operations without the permission of the Director, who is appointed by the Minister. Furthermore any person or group of persons may lodge with the Director an objection against the granting of such application.

While there are undoubtedly dishonest people in this world and there have undoubtedly been abuses in the collection of funds from the public, this measure is an over-reaction by the Government, which jeopardises not only access to monies but the very existence of organisations.

The fact that objections can be lodged lays the entire system open to abuse - albeit a different type of abuse from that which the Bill is supposedly designed to prevent. If the Director reacts to all complaints, (as does the Censorship Board, for instance), an endless series of investigations of organisations can be envisaged.

There is no provision for an appeal to the Courts against a decision of the Director. Organisations will in effect be controlled by the Director, who inevitably must be influenced by objections lodged by possibly maliciously-minded individuals.

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There appears to be no real need for such overwhelming control, which is likely to stifle initiative in all organisations and could certainly lead to a reduction of the type of welfare work which presently plays such an important role in supplementing Government grants and subsidies. Certainly interference with Church welfare work is extraordinary in a Western society.

The ambit of this Bill, and the accompanying Welfare Bills, is far wider than is necessary to protect the public, and will almost certainly reduce participation by the public in communal work, even providing an excuse for the shelving of social responsibility. Any unauthorised fund-raiser will be guilty of a criminal offence carrying heavy penalties - a sad reflection on our society.

The Bill is yet another instance of ever-increasing bureaucratic control, which not only costs the taxpayer money but stifles initiative. <sup>f</sup> It should be amended or scrapped.

JOYCE HARRIS  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT of The Black Sash

18th April, 1978.