

*Letter sent to
argus - see Press file*

1 October 1982

The Hon. J. C. Heunis
Minister of Constitutional Development
PB X645
0001 PRETORIA

Dear Sir,

The Black Sash, Cape Western Region, takes strong exception to the issuing of 10-20,000 circulars by the Chief Director of the Administration Board, Western Cape (15 September 1982) to "all employers of Blacks".

This circular threatened employers with a fine of R5 000 provided for in the draft Orderly Movement and Settlement of Black Persons Bill which is at present before a Commission. It would appear to us to be in contempt of the Commission since the legislation referred to is at present being considered and may never be presented to Parliament in its present form, let alone passed by it.

We are hopeful that the Commission may find that employers of "illegal blacks" are helping to avoid a confrontation between hundreds of desperate starving black persons with no hope of "legal" employment and officials of the Administration Board and the government itself.

What is needed is a POSITIVE plan to deal with the thousands of unemployed black people who leave the "homelands" for urban areas in a last attempt to feed their children. One cannot expect the Administration Board to come up with such a plan, but they should at least wait until legislation is passed by Parliament before issuing circulars concerning it.

We feel that the purpose of the circular was to intimidate employers into dismissing their black employees instead of attempting to register them legally.

Incidentally, this went to all employers of legally registered blacks who are paying monthly instalments for the privilege of employing them and would therefore seem to be a waste of time and money.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs) N Robb
VICE-CHAIRMAN