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Ministerie van Samewerking en Ontwikkeling
Ministry of Co-operation and Development

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The Director
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30-08-1979

Dear mrs Robb

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW: MEMORANDUM REGARDING BLACK DOMESTICS

With further reference to your letter dated 16 May 1979 in the above connection addressed to the Honourable the Minister, I have been directed by dr the Honourable G de V Morrison, Deputy Minister of Co-operation, to inform you that he trusts that you might understand the position of the Black people who are illegally in the Western Cape better if you consider the following aspects of the Western Cape Policy.

No doubt you will appreciate the following extract from the recommendations of the Erica Theron Commission in 1976:
".... that (a) the Government reaffirms its declared policy that the Western Cape is mainly a White and Coloured labour zone and take appropriate steps to give fuller effect to this policy; ✓
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The Commission suggests that in giving effect to (a) above, the following should serve as guidelines:-

- (i) ✓ that employers in the public sector in the Western Cape should set an example to the private sector by adhering scrupulously to declared policy, namely that the Western Cape should largely remain a White and Coloured labour zone;
 - (ii) ✓ that whenever the Government has to decide how strictly influx control has to be applied in the Western Cape, it should take into account not only the possible adverse economic consequences of a shortage of labour, but also the harmful social consequences the presence of a larger number of Blacks may have particularly for Coloureds with a low standard of living;
 - (iii) ✓ that certificates concerning the non-availability of Coloured labour should not be issued as readily to employers in the Western Cape as at present, and that the Department of Labour should always make sure that employers are not deliberately keeping wages low in order to frighten Coloured workers away;
 - (iv) ✓ that the levy payable on Black labour in the Western Cape should be increased considerably; and
 - (v) ✓ that the fine imposed upon employers for the unlawful employment of Black labour also be increased considerably, and that employers who are repeatedly guilty of the unlawful employment of Black labour should forfeit the concession to employ Black labour.
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When judging the labour ruling for the Western Cape against the foregoing background the positive aspects should also be taken into account.

The remuneration for Coloured workers (Excluding farm workers and household servants) increased from R177 million in 1960 to R979 million in 1975.

The average income of Coloured families in the Cape Peninsula increased from R1 586 per annum in 1960 to R3 131 per annum in 1975.

During 1975 the Coloured community in the Peninsula represented a consumers market of R485 million - more than the gross national product of many African states.

The question arises whether this rather healthy state of affairs would have materialised had Black labour been allowed to enter the Western Cape uncontrolled and to offer its less expensive services to employers.

One can also imagine the serious burden on the authorities to provide adequate housing and services in the event of an uncontrolled influx of Blacks. .

No Black worker who can be employed legally through the labour bureau will be deprived of an income to tend to relatives and dependants living in the Black states.

There are thousands of Black people living legally in the Western Cape who need all the available jobs there are, at a rate of pay that will enable them to feed and cloth their families and to help relatives in the Black states. The Government can, therefore, not tolerate the illegal employment of Black people at a cheap rate of pay while local people who have to pay rents, etc. are kept out of jobs. The locals cannot be expected to go to the Black states or elsewhere to look for jobs while others take up their jobs in their home town illegally.

The revision of the admission of guilt fine and the subsequent R500 per charge established for all prescribed areas is beyond doubt considered to be a most effective aid in the difficult task of influx control. Due to the fact that the Administration Board Western Cape has to cope with the demands of approximately 4000 registered unemployed Blacks, you will appreciate the fact that the Board's credibility is at stake with the local residents if illegal labour is indiscriminately allowed to disrupt the already difficult and sensitive situation in the Cape. The Board cannot sacrifice its primary objective in this regard and that is to attend to the interests of the legally resident Blacks. In the circumstances the R500 fine can be considered an essential element in order to prevent the illegal Blacks acquiring work at the cost of lawfully resident Blacks.

It is my sincere request that your organisation should rather canalize your resources towards the sustainment of the Government ceaseless efforts to promote the creation of more jobs within the Black states for the ever increasing Black population. This will enable them to live and work more happily near to there families and relatives.

In view of the foregoing it is doubtful whether an interview would serve a useful purpose, unless discussions can be focussed on my request in the previous paragraph.

Yours faithfully

G Haupt

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY
MINISTRY