

FOR : PETER SULLIVAN, THE STAR
FROM : DR. F. VAN ZYL SLABBERT, M.P.

The Government has been warned time and again that its policy of black resettlement in the Homelands and particularly its policy of treating the Cape Western Region as a Coloured Labour preference area would lead to intensified urban migration and create problems of housing and urban overcrowding. In the Western Cape the Government for years neglected to build adequate housing or to even face up to the fact that the de facto black population was increasing annually. Now that the situation has reached a flashpoint stage with disastrous consequences for us all internally and internationally, the Government, like King Canute, wants to turn back the tide.

No group or individual could have organized or set the stage better for the tragedy at Nyanga than the Government's own policies. What Dr. Koornhof must do is not look for agitators or fall back on a law that is clearly not working but apply his mind to three simple questions :

- Where can these people find jobs?
- Where can they find reasonable shelter?
- Where can they be together as families?

If Dr. Koornhof cannot answer these questions how can he expect these people to? And if they cannot, then as sure as night follows day they will come to the metropolitan areas where they believe the chances of survival are better than in the rural areas. I have personally been to some of these rural areas and I know that the chances of survival are very poor indeed. I am quite happy to accompany Dr. Koornhof or any other Cabinet

Minister to any one of these areas and let them judge for themselves. The move to the cities is a universal phenomenon. A Government either plans intelligently to cope with this population shift or it lands in the ridiculous, tragic and indefensible situation in which the present one finds itself. Expert after expert, research institution after research institution over the years repeatedly has told the Government that the policy of treating the Cape as a Coloured Labour Preferential Area is not going to work and is counterproductive. Yet the Government simply ignores this and carries on. For all of us a legacy of bitterness is being created a few kilometres from the centre of Cape Town and those who govern cannot answer a simple question : Why?

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