

318 Grey Street,
Durban 30th October 1957

The Native Commissioner,
Durban.

Sir,

Bearer of this letter is my son in law. He is staying home in the Ngwedwe District. He occasionally comes to Durban to purchase goods from the N.A.L. Distributors, Durban vide the card enclosed.

Last week on Wednesday when he was alighting from the bus he was arrested by the police because he failed to produce evidence that he had been registered in Durban under the Influx Control Regulations. He states that he informed the police that he was not employed in Durban and that he was arriving that hour from outside of the City boundaries. The police had him charged but the Court discharged him. He had been kept locked up in the police cells and goal for two nights before being brought before the Court.

After his discharge he went home. On the 29th this week he again came to the city for three specific reasons.

1. To visit his wife who had just given birth at King Edward VIII Hospital taking the baby's clothes to her.
 2. To purchase goods in the course of his business at home.
 3. To apply for the duplicate of his lost driver's licence.
- He had in his possession the receipt for the money he paid for the photos and the application form which he states he produced to the police.

He was arrested in Alice Street while he was about entering the wholesale shop. He was taken to the Charge Office and locked up for the night. This morning he was asked to choose between being sent to goal to be detained there or accept an offer to be recruited to go and work in the sugar plantation.

He elected to be taken to the Lazarus Native Labour Organisation where he left his Reference Book and given this note that he has in his possession.

I am sending this native to report this to you because what he been done to him seems to be bad practice by the Police if what he states is correct. The practice of arresting natives who alights from the buses creates unpleasantness. It is not provided in the laws that before one visits an urban area one must make an application and be in possession of an inward pass. It is only when he is inside an urban area that one has to make application to be registered. The native police do not discriminate between new arrivals and the loafers. The case of this native who is well known to me is a typical example of a great hardship that is suffered by many natives. They are arrested early mornings and kept in one centre for hours before they are collected by the vans to the charge offices. In the charge offices it is alleged that they under go great hardships. He usually spends two nights before he is taken before the Court.

This natives wishes to cancel his offer for work as he will explain to you. He made this offer in order to save himself from the repetition of being kept for two days before he came before the court and this time he wanted to see his wife who was in hospital. His joining was not voluntarily but forced upon him by the police who appear to be assisting the farmers to get native labourers. I bring this specific case of hardship before you I ask you to have it investigated and have this native released from Lazarus Native Labour Organisation.

Yours faithfully
A.W.G. Champion

CHAIRMAN: Joint Locations Advisory Boards
Durban.

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CHAIRMAN: Joint Locations Advisory Boards
Durban.

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