

MEMORANDUM

(Submitted to his Worship the Mayor of Brakpan)
by the African Women in Re: Issue of Permits
to African Women of Brakpan.

We the African Women of Brakpan desire to bring to Your Worship our deep grievance. It is now almost 2 months since a start has been made in Brakpan to issue permits to African Women. We therefore felt that, it was meet and proper under the circumstances to make representations to your Worship as the first Citizen of the town upon whom the whole responsibility of good relationship between the different sections of the population lie. In this connection, it is our sincere desire to do everything in our power to maintain the good relationship and to assist in every way possible. We feel also that it is our duty to bring to the notice of the chief citizen of our town any matter which is likely to disturb the peace and goodwill of all the citizens of Brakpan.

The issue of permits to African Women, is creating great ill feeling to the African Women for the following reasons:-

1. The permits are undesirable.
2. The permits being issued are passes, as we know these passes are enemy no one of the African people.
3. The raids by Police Officers for permits and passes conducted even during the middle of the night are most humiliating.
4. The passes subject the African Women to most humiliating and undignified circumstances.
5. Family life which we women, have great regard is being broken.
6. All of us will be faced with jail at any time and sent out to the farms as it is the case with men. We shall be removed from our place of employment.
7. We shall not be permitted to seek employment where we want, but shall be forced to take any employment to comply with

the demand of the permit.

8. We shall be forced to abandon our children and husbands to meet the demand inflicted upon us by permits and passes.
9. Passes create criminals. As a result of these permits and passes more young girls will be arrested and introduced to the hardened criminals and these young girls will in turn become criminals to the disgrace of our population.
10. Gaols will be filled up with innocent people, thousands of women will be rendered homeless and shall be forced to become wanderers.
11. To provide room for the criminals created by the pass system more jails shall be built and more money spent on useless and unpleasant institutions. Money which is greatly needed to build Schools and other institutions dedicated to the improvement of the well being of our people.
12. All over the country, the African women are up in arms against these passes.

We, therefore, plead with your Worship, in the light of the above reasons to do everything possible to save Brakpan from racial antagonism and upheavals which will bring chaos to our town.

Trusting that our plea will meet your favourable consideration.

Yours faithfully,

..... CHAIRLADY

..... SECRETARY

ON BEHALF OF THE WOMEN OF BRAKPAN LOCATION.

Collection Number: AD1137

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN 1954-1963

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.