**Attachment 21: Influx of Foreigners, with reference to the crime rate**

# ‘Extra laws needed to tackle foreigner influx’

February 9 2012 at 01:26pm
by Sue Segar

The ever-increasing influx of foreigners into SA and the resulting expansion of informal settlement populations nationwide were contributing greatly to the country’s crime rate, the National Assembly’s committee on police has heard.

The mushrooming of informal businesses – in many cases opened by foreigners – and a lack of municipal by-laws to regulate these businesses were cited by most provinces as problems in tackling crime.

These were some of the problems identified as provincial commissioners from the nine provinces briefed MPs on provincial crime statistics on Wednesday.

The briefings followed the release, in September, of crime statistics for the country.

Western Cape police commissioner Lieutenant-General Arno Lamoer told the committee that his department was dealing with an influx of about 8 000 foreigners into the province every month.

Lamoer said the Home Affairs Department was processing about 800 applications from foreigners for asylum every week.

Lamoer and other commissioners pointed out that the foreigners were both contributors to and victims of crime.

A particular problem cited by some of the commissioners was that many foreigners set up spaza shops or ran businesses from containers or from their homes – making them soft targets, and, in some cases, resulting in foreigners becoming involved in crime for protection purposes.

“They do not bank their money and they operate 24/7. They also sleep on their premises,” said Lamoer.

Lamoer said business robbery in the province had increased by 23.7 percent from April 2009 to March 2010 and April 2010 to March 2011.

In that time, business robberies had increased from 1 058 incidents to 1 309.

Of these, 80 percent were robberies from spaza shops, container shops and shops run from the homes of foreigners.

Lamoer and other commissioners said authorities were not applying municipal by-laws to regulate the business activities of foreigners.

“Foreign nationals are not supposed to trade without working permits and trade permits,” he said.

Lamoer said his department was consulting with the Department of Home Affairs to try and iron out some of the issues.

KwaZulu-Natal commissioner Lieutenant-General Mmamonnye Ngobeni said many of the foreigners came into the province as asylum seekers.

She said the Department of Home Affairs needed to ask more in-depth questions when dealing with them.

“They come into the mainstream and stay in our communities – and they are taken advantage of and robbed where they stay,” she said.

Ngobeni said one of the issues facing KZN was the fact that it shared a border with Mozambique, Lesotho and Swaziland. Stock theft into the neighbouring countries was an ongoing problem.

Free State commissioner Lieutenant-General Khehla Sitole said an ever-expanding population in the province’s informal settlements was placing a big strain on policing and resources in the province.

Tuck shops belonging to illegal immigrants were constantly springing up.

A further problem was increasing service delivery actions where foreigners were targeted and attacked.

The country also faced serious border challenges with fences being severely damaged and, in many places, removed, leading to illegal crossing points and the establishment of illegal shops close to the border.

Committee chairman Sindi Chikunga said there was a need for more focus on stock theft. - Political Bureau

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/extra-laws-needed-to-tackle-foreigner-influx-1.1230711#.UCK38PZlRF0>

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE IN BOOK FORM:

BUNDLE 1: Attachments 1 - 3 <https://www.createspace.com/4392573>

BUNDLE 2: Attachments 4 - 8 <https://www.createspace.com/4398589>

BUNDLE 3: Attachments 9 - 10 <https://www.createspace.com/4416061>

BUNDLE 4: Attachments 11 - 14 <https://www.createspace.com/4400727>

BUNDLE 5: Attachments 15 <https://www.createspace.com/4415962>

BUNDLE 6: Attachments 15a <https://www.createspace.com/4497969>

BUNDLE 7: Attachments 16 - 18 <https://www.createspace.com/4415984>

BUNDLE 8: Attachments 19 - 26 <https://www.createspace.com/4416010>

BUNDLE 9: Attachments 27 - 30 <https://www.createspace.com/4416021>

BUNDLE 10: Brief <https://www.createspace.com/4437109>

BUNDLE 11: Brief Concordance <https://www.createspace.com/4497991>

BUNDLE 12: Attachment 15b, update of

genocide records, 2013 will be available

during April 2014 on <https://www.createspace.com/4498007>