



In a very interesting article in this issue of Sash Mr. Lawrence Morgan discusses the resettlement of the African population in Natal. Mr. Morgan has made a particular study of this field and the facts and figures he presents are invaluable.

Mr. Morgan speaks of our "pathological urge to translate everything into political attitudes" and the need for "perspective which will enable us to view Bantu resettlement . . . not merely as an exercise in Black or White logistics, but essentially as a problem of human ecology."

We are aware of the urgent need for sound economic planning, industrial decentralisation and rural renewal in South Africa and would welcome wholeheartedly planning which was based on the need to solve the modern problems of a rapidly industrialising society, but, it is our contention that the whole structure of South African social and economic planning is built on the political foundation of the Nationalist ideology of Apartheid and not on the 'problem of human ecology'. Removals and resettlements are being carried out primarily for the purpose of forcing African people out of 'white' areas into the homelands. 13 million Africans (and this figure is thought to be grossly underestimated) are supposed to occupy 13.7% of South Africa's land while 3½ million whites have the rest. Social and developmental factors are being ignored in favour of white political imperatives.

The homelands are already poverty stricken and almost without employment opportunities except for those few fortunate areas which happen to be sited near growing white towns. The situation is being aggravated by the political actions of the white government in forcing more and more people into economically hopeless areas. Natal is exceptionally fortunate in having such a close geographical connection between white and black areas but this does not apply in the other provinces.

Until economic planning is seen to be based on a concern for the future prosperity and wellbeing of people and not on "black and white logistics" we maintain that political action is of first importance. The Black Sash does not concede the Nationalist claim that the whole subject of separate development and its practical implementation has been removed from the sphere of South African politics.

In 'n baie interresante artikel in hierdie uitgawe van die Swart Serp, bespreek Mnr. Lawrence Morgan die hervestiging van die Bantoe bevolking in Natal.

Mnr. Morgan praat van ons „patologiese drang om alles in terme van politieke houdings te vertolk”, en die behoefte aan „perspektief wat ons in staat sal stel om Bantoe hervestiging . . . nie net te sien as swart of wit verhuisings nie, maar werk as die probleem van menslike gewoontes en aanpassings”.

Ons is bewus van die dringende behoefte aan gesonde ekonomiese beplanning, industriële desentralisasie, en landbou verbeterings, in Suid-Afrika, en sou heelhartig 'n plan verwelkom wat gebaseer is op die behoefte om moderne probleme van die samelewing, wat vinnig besig is om te industrialiseer, op te los, maar ons beweer, dat die hele struktuur van Suid-Afrikaanse sosiale en ekonomiese beplanning fondament van die Nasionale Party ideologie van apartheid, en nie erkenning gee aan menselike behoeftes nie. Verhuising en hervestiging word in die eerste plek uitgevoer met die doel oor Bantoes uit die blanke gebiede te dwing na die Bantoe tuislande. Dertien miljoene Bantoe (en die syfer word beskou as 'n growwe onderskatting) word veronderstel om 13.7% van die land se grond te besit terwyl 3½ miljoen blankes die res besit. Sosiale en ontwikkelings faktore word oor die hoof gesien ten gunste van wit politieke eise.

Die tuislande is reeds so arm met min werkgeleenthede, met uitsondering van 'n paar bevoorregte gebiede wat na aan „blanke” dorpsgebiede geleë is. Die posisie word net vererger deur die politieke stappe van die wit Regering, wat meer en meer mense dwing na dele wat ekonomies sonder hoop is.

In teenstelling met die ander provinsies is Natal in die besondere gelukkige posisie dat sy noue geografiese verbindings tussen wit en swart wyke het.

Tot sulke tyd dat dit duidelik word dat ons ekonomiese beplanning voort spruit uit besorgheid vir die welvaart en geluk van mense, en nie berus op swart en wit verhuisings en hervestigings nie, meen ons dat politieke aksie baie belangrik is. Die Swart Serp neem nie die Nasionale Party bewering, dat die die hele aangeleentheid van aparte ontwikkeling, en die praktiese uitvoering daarvan, nou buite die politieke staan, aan nie.