

GENERAL MATTERS

TAXATION

Replying to a question in the Assembly on 13 February,¹ the Minister of Finance said that in the 1971 tax year the following amounts had been paid in direct taxes:

	<i>No. liable for taxation</i>	<i>Amount of tax assessed</i>
		<i>R</i>
Whites	1 201 037	474 820 387
Coloured	129 992	5 842 172
Asians	63 242	6 321 773

Africans are taxed on a different basis, described on page 156 of the 1969 *Survey*. In the Assembly on 16 March,² the Deputy Minister of Bantu Development gave information about the total amounts paid, excluding tribal and regional levies, which are accounted for separately by Bantu Authorities:

1970-1	R14 988 602
1971-2	R16 598 080

The latter total differs slightly from figures given by the Minister on 6 April,³ which were also for the 1971-2 financial year:

<i>Amount paid in:</i>	<i>R</i>
Fixed (general tax)	7 651 296
Graded tax based on income ...	8 887 688
Hospital levies	59 096
Transkeian general levy	306 268
	16 904 348

Regional and tribal levies were likewise excluded from these figures.

The accounts for 1971-2 of six of the homeland governments were furnished during the year under review by the Controller and Auditor-General. Together, these governments collected R859 362 in local taxes and quitrents, tribal and regional levies, and a general levy in the Ciskei. At a rough guess based on the popula-

¹ Hansard 2 col. 80.

² Hansard 6 col. 449.

³ Hansard 9 col. 617.

tion figures for the various ethnic groups, an amount in the region of R1 576 000 may have been collected in all the homelands (the large Zulu and Northern Sotho groups, among others, were not included in the official figure quoted). The amount is likely to increase considerably because some homeland governments besides the Transkei and Ciskei have since imposed general levies. All taxpayers in KwaZulu and Venda, for example, will from January 1974 be required to pay R3 a year.

COLOURED CADETS

The Training Centre for Coloured Cadets at Faure in the Western Cape was described on page 181 of the 1970 *Survey*. The initial period of training has been extended from three to four months. After this, cadets who are considered to be adequately trained are placed in employment, the rest being retained at the centre for further education. A group of 230 cadets completed their initial training in December 1972. The then Commissioner for Coloured Affairs, Mr. F. L. Gaum, said at their passing-out parade that about 73 per cent of all the cadets who had completed their training were after a period of a year still employed in the permanent positions that had been found for them. Many of these young men had previously not been steady workers, he stated.⁴

COLOURED DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

It was reported in the Assembly on 9 February, on behalf of the Minister of Coloured Relations,⁵ that by the end of 1972 the Coloured Development Corporation (established in 1962) had made 366 loans to Coloured businessmen in the Republic.

On 15 June the Minister said⁶ that during the year ended 31 March 1973 the Corporation had made 50 loans to Coloured businessmen in the Republic and one in South West Africa, the total sum involved being R1 413 254. (Further instalments were paid, too, of loans granted previously.) Since the establishment of the Corporation, 58 loans amounting to R627 437 had been fully redeemed. Just under one-third of all the loans granted had been for retail businesses, the next highest numbers being for restaurant/liquor outlets, light industries, and hotels.

The Corporation has built a few "factory flats" for leasing to Coloured men. The *Financial Mail* commented on 2 February that these were suitable for light industrialists such as joiners and furniture manufacturers. The difficulty facing Coloured men wishing to establish industrial concerns was that they would have to compete on the open market with Whites who had more capital and "know-how".

⁴ *Alpha*, February.

⁵ Hansard 1 Question cols. 42-3.

⁶ Assembly Hansard 18 cols. 1023-5.

In the course of his remarks on 15 June the Minister said that in 1972-3 the Corporation or its subsidiaries established a new branch of the Superama supermarket, at Elsie's River, which was managed and staffed by Coloured people. In the planning stage or course of erection were shopping centres at five townships in the Cape, restaurants/liquor outlets at two, and a filling station. All of these would be leased to Coloured persons. Further projects in progress included a property development company and a holiday resort at Hawston.

Some of the larger projects have been developed by subsidiaries of the Corporation. Coloured men serve on the boards of these companies, and Coloured managers are being trained and appointed. The intention is that the entire shareholding and control will be taken over by members of the Coloured community.

The Minister said that by 31 March 1973, Coloured people had deposited R3 178 710 in the Spes Bona Savings and Finance Bank. The bank had made R1 264 000 available in housing loans and to enable members of this community to acquire business or industrial land.

On 7 June he stated⁷ that in the year ended 30 September 1972 the Corporation made a profit of R61 981 from its interest in the rock lobster export market. It employs Coloured fishermen, who own their boats, to handle its quota. According to the *Sunday Times* of 12 August, these men are dissatisfied because a White company is still used to pack, store, and freeze the crayfish. They are pressing for a packing unit of their own. Without this, they state, they are being deprived of the additional income which could be made from packing snoek during the off-season for rock lobster, and from turning waste crayfish (other than the tails) into fertilizer.

RURAL COLOURED AREAS

The Minister said on 26 March⁸ that during the 1971-2 financial year his department or its agencies made R309 879 available from revenue funds and R11 508 from loan funds for development schemes in Coloured rural areas. Coloured boards of management contributed R64 587.

The State-owned Pella mission farm in the Namaqualand district has been reserved as an additional area for occupation and ownership by Coloured people.⁹

According to the latest Departmental report,¹⁰ as at 31 March 1972 there were 20 Coloured rural areas, totalling 1 667 523 hectares, with 46 753 inhabitants, of whom 7 462 were registered occupiers. The first three deeds of ownership of land had been granted during the preceding year, all in the Mamre area.

⁷ Assembly Hansard 17 col. 971.

⁸ Assembly Hansard 4 col. 248.

⁹ Proclamation R141 of 22 June.

¹⁰ R.P.44/1973 pages 2 and 44.

MINING IN COLOURED AREAS

Questioned in the Assembly on 7 June,¹¹ the Minister said that the Corporation had contracted with 19 White and three Coloured companies (nominated by the Minister of Mines) to undertake prospecting for base minerals in Coloured areas. Four of the White-owned companies had commenced mining. Six companies (none of which had Coloured shareholders) were prospecting for diamonds, four of these having commenced mining operations.

During the 1972-3 financial year, the Corporation received R362 876 in respect of prospecting and mining royalties and taxes, and R16 168 was paid to Coloured Boards of Management.

AGRICULTURE IN COLOURED AREAS

In terms of Proclamation R185 of 3 August, agriculture in Coloured areas was placed under the control of the Coloured Persons' Representative Council.

A draft Bill to provide assistance to Coloured farmers (including partnerships and companies) was gazetted as General Notice 489 of 3 August. It provided for a Coloured Persons' Agricultural Assistance Board to be appointed by the member of the Representative Council's executive who was responsible for agriculture (who was referred to as the "designated member"). Two of the five members (including the chairman and vice-chairman) would be officers of the Administration of Coloured Affairs, the other three being Coloured people with knowledge of agriculture.

On the recommendation of the Board, and with the approval of the appropriate Cabinet Minister of the Republic, the designated member would be able to sell or let State land in a Coloured area, and moveable property of the State such as machinery or equipment. With similar authority, he would be able to make loans for soil conservation works, water supplies, and afforestation.*

INTER-PROVINCIAL TRAVEL BY ASIANS

The Minister of Indian Affairs said in the Assembly on 16 February¹² that during 1972 his department issued 153 permits authorizing Indians to change their places of residence from one province to another, and 20 803 authorizing temporary inter-provincial travel. It is not known how many of the latter type of permits were issued to Asians by the Department of the Interior, magistrates, and police stations.

Legislation was passed during 1973 to enable the responsible Ministers to relax these restrictions on travel. The Aliens Control Act, No. 40 of 1973, amended the Admission of Persons to the

¹¹ Hansard 17 col. 970.

¹² Hansard 2 col. 107.

*This Bill became law in December.

Republic Regulation Act of 1972. It empowered the Ministers to exempt any category of persons, for a specified or unspecified period, and either unconditionally or subject to stated conditions. However, any person belonging to the category of persons concerned may be excluded from the general exemption, and exemptions granted may be withdrawn.

When introducing the Bill at its second reading,¹³ the Deputy Minister of the Interior said that his department dealt with permits for Chinese people, while the Department of Indian Affairs did so in the case of Indians. Permits for temporary visits had been valid for 90 days, and those for employment in another province for one year. In terms of the amending measure, regulations could be made rendering it unnecessary for certain permits to be obtained. But these regulations would not affect existing restrictions on visits to the Free State, certain districts of northern Natal, and the Transkei.

The United Party supported the second reading, but Mr. L. G. Murray urged that the Government should go further, removing all the restrictions concerned from the Statute Book.¹⁴

¹³ Assembly Hansard 8 cols. 3512-3.

¹⁴ Col. 3521.