

# SA May Face Ethiopia-Type Situation

## *Do Those Who Support Sanctions Realise The Implications?*

The following is an article reprinted from the South African black news paper, *City Press*: Should the present birthrate in South Africa be maintained, the country's population will increase within 35 years from 28,5-million to more than 138-million - 60-million more than can be effectively housed and fed in this country. The majority of the present generation of South Africans will be witnesses to this catastrophe, if urgent counter measures are not introduced immediately. The Department of National Health and Population Development and the Population Development Council have been busy for some time with a dynamic population development program in an effort to counter this impending crisis. Seminars have been arranged throughout the country to inform South Africans about the problem. The PDP's approach is that a balance between the population growth, the natural resources and the socio-economic ability of the country can only be brought about by improving the standard of living of all people. It has been proved throughout the world that an improvement in the quality of life directly leads to a decline in the birthrate. Where the level of education, income and occupational status improve, people are inclined to spread the birth of their children and to limit their children to the number they can afford to rear. Every inhabitant of South Africa - from the businessman to the housewife - can make a contribution to improve the quality of life of fellow citizens and to ensure that the South African population will stabilise at 80-million people by the end of the next century.

Experts say farmers can make the biggest contribution. The following figures illustrate the problem:

- \* Eleven-million South Africans live in rural areas.
- \* Between five and six-million people - bread-winners and their families - live on farms owned by whites and they portray a typical Third World way of life. They maintain a high birthrate and are completely dependent upon the farmer.
- \* Eight out of every 10 farm workers

be countered through education and training, say the experts. If an individual has a low level of literacy, his standard of living will be comparably low and the birthrate in his family will be comparably high. In South Africa, 56 out of every 100 people are still illiterate. In Japan, for example, only one person out of 100 is illiterate and the country lowered its birthrate three-fold, from 3,4% to only 1,4%. Illiteracy among South African women is a source for great concern. About three-million women in South Africa cannot read or write. Research has proved that the level of education and the income and status of employment of women played the most important roles in family planning. A huge population growth would place an unbearable burden upon education in this country. It was expected that by the year 2000, South Africa would have about 1 652 000 more children of school going age than any other developing country with a similar population. The commitment to education would represent an astronomical sum of R 700 000 000. Formal education alone would therefore not suffice. Informal education and training would have an important role to play. Everybody can make a contribution to prevent chaos in South Africa. If collective endeavours failed to curtail the population growth, South African children and their descendants will be confronted with conditions similar to those presently found in Ethiopia, the Sudan and in some other countries in Africa. Famine, poverty, unemployment and a complete collapse socially face the future of our children.

**In South Africa a baby is born every 25 seconds - this represents nearly 3 000 babies every 24 hours. Should this birthrate be maintained, the following may happen in the country: It will have a population of 47-million in the year 2000. A population of 85-million by 2020. 140-million by 2050. 800-million a century later - the year 2100.**

**The last figure represents a population exactly 10 times more than South Africa can feed and house. Such vast numbers will lead to a total collapse of standards of living, social collapse, poverty and unemployment. Presently, South Africa's population doubles every 34 years, while the prosperous countries, representing only a quarter of the world's population, double their population every 118 years.**

- cannot read or write.
- \* The status of black women is very low.
- \* Facilities like schools and clinics are not readily available.
- \* The average birth rate among black people is calculated at 5,1 children per woman.

This figure clearly proves the effects that living standards, literacy and the acceptance of modern living patterns have upon the population growth. It has been calculated that even at a growth rate of 3% , as many as eight-million people will be unemployed by the year 2000. The problem can