



# AZAPO

AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

**TO : ALL MEDIA HOUSES FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**FROM : AZAPO SECRETARY LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS**  
**DATE : 15 NOVEMBER 2023**  
**SUBJECT : AZAPO'S CALL FOR DEALING WITH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY**

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1. AZAPO has taken note of the pronouncements by the Minister of Home Affairs with regard to what he termed as **“the need to overhaul the regime regulating Citizenship, Immigration and Refugee Protection”**.
2. AZAPO calls on the Minister to be honest about the problems facing the citizens on a daily basis - **uncontrolled illegal immigration into the country**.
3. A false narrative has been created that **Zimbabwean Exemption Permits** are the cause of the problems that are experienced by citizens; that is the least of our problems.  
According to the records, only 170 000 permits were issued and one would expect that fewer of those are still in the country, why then do we think that 170 000 permit holders are a problem with more than a million Zimbabweans allegedly in the country per the recent statistics.
4. At the same time, we would call upon institutions like the Centre for the Child Law and the Helen Suzman Foundation (“HSF”) to start acting **“In the best interest of the South African Citizens”** and work towards improving the living conditions of its citizens.  
Fighting for socio-economic rights for **illegal immigrants** – not the

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refugees and genuine asylum seekers - is not in the best interest of South Africans where there are limited resources to even cater for its citizens.

5. AZAPO has noted that although studies are made about how changing the laws on immigration would affect the illegal immigrants, with institutions like the HSF being in the forefront of protecting the rights of the migrants, no one is interested in studying what is the impact of uncontrolled migration on the citizens of this country.
6. The issue of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Expatriates with Critical Skills is not a major problem such that we should be acting with panic to try and regulate such as a means of dealing with the immigration problems.
7. AZAPO agree with the Minister that agreeing to the 1951 Convention for Refugees and the 1967 Protocols without reservation was the highest form of incompetence that has left the country open to abuse by those with unscrupulous motives, like human traffickers.
8. We are now a safe place for **European, Asian and Israeli Gangsters** together with **Genocide** perpetrators from Africa. They must be arrested and deported with immediate effect
9. AZAPO calls upon the Minister to actually listen to the plea by the citizens when they point out that they are powerless to deal with **ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION**, with the associated problems of:
  - (i) Drug peddling that is associated with illegal immigrants
  - (ii) Food poisoning that is associated with fake food production
  - (iii) Mushrooming informal settlements
  - (iv) Problems with policing those who cannot be accounted for
10. AZAPO says that Illegal Immigration is not a problem that is dealt with under the "Refugee, Asylum Seekers and Expatriates", it is a problem that is dealt with as a crime.

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11. Implementing the laws by apprehending those who enter the country illegally or remain in the country illegally is the **minimum** that we can expect from our government.
12. The Department of Home Affairs and the South African Police Services need to work with the Citizens of this country in dealing with illegal immigration. In each and every City, Town and Village the citizens are the best resources for ensuring that there is compliance with the laws.
13. AZAPO is in the same breath calling upon the Minister to apply the simple principle of **the further from South Africa one comes the earlier they should be apprehended and be deported** – it is anti-black to be chasing illegal migrants from Africa while leaving Migrants from Europe and Asia to live in peace.
14. Fellow Africans with good intentions and who need help will readily comply with the laws of these country. AZAPO call upon them to go and self-report to ensure that their stay is regularized.
15. The ministers should ensure that the porous borders are properly policed and then deal with those already in the country to avoid the futile deportations with people coming back on the same day.
16. AZAPO calls upon the Minister of Home Affairs, The Minister of Police and the State Security Function to prioritize tackling the problem of **Illegal Immigration**.

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