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'Teacher assaulted for being too dark'  
 Moshoeshoe Monare and Melanie-Ann Feris  
 The STAR March 11 2001

Her dark skin and a "strange manner of dressing" were grounds for a teacher's arrest.

Police arrested Sylvia Manda, 33, on Friday, allegedly beat her up and detained her in a police cell for several hours.

Manda, a teacher at St Edna's Community College in Hillbrow, was on her way to school when she was stopped by two policemen from Jeppe police station who suspected her of being an illegal immigrant. She was arrested, allegedly assaulted and detained for four hours without being offered medical treatment.

Captain Bongani Dube said Manda failed to produce identity documents or "elaborate about her citizenship".

Asked on what grounds they suspected her of being an illegal immigrant, Dube said: "Her complexion, facial appearance, accent and her style of dressing."

[www.iol.co.za/html/frame\\_thestar.php](http://www.iol.co.za/html/frame_thestar.php)



## A Cultural Centre for the Foreign Community

2.1. Informal Trade, Klein Street, Hillbrow.

### Site

Street Address: 2 Esselen Street

Erf: RE of ERF 4352

Use Zone: Institutional

Height: 3 Storeys

FAR: 2,1

Coverage: 70%

Building Line: 0 m along Hospital Street, 0m along Smit Street.

### Client

Johannesburg Development Agency on behalf of the City of Johannesburg

According to Rogerson (2000: 121), 'developmental local government' as set forth in the White Paper on Local Government (March 1998) requires that South African municipalities become actively involved in maximising social development and economic growth. The White paper indicates that the activities of local government should be oriented towards achieving Local Economic Development - a process based on local initiative and driven by local stakeholders; aiming to create employment opportunities for local residents, alleviate poverty and redistribute resources and opportunities to the benefit of all local residents (Rogerson 2000: 120).

The project is proposed as a Local Government Initiative to counter xenophobia and ethnic intolerance and contribute to economic development and the building of a cohesive community in Hillbrow to the benefit of all local residents.

## Procurement

Funding for the development of the Health Precinct is the responsibility of the City of Johannesburg and Blue IQ. It is proposed that additional funding be procured from the Ford Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, both of which have indicated an interest in the AIDS-related programs currently being operated from 17 Esselen Street (Badat 2004). [Addendum E].

## Affected Parties

**Users**\_The primary user group is Hillbrow's foreign population, with South African residents of Hillbrow and tourists respectively being secondary and tertiary users.

The **Hillbrow Community Health Centre**\_located immediately east of the proposed development and currently undergoing extensive renovations so as to house the Hillbrow Polyclinic.

**Residents**\_in apartment blocks immediately south and west of the proposed development.

## Interested Parties

The **Department of Home Affairs**, according to the Immigration Act (Act 13 of 2002, Section 2.2.e), shall *educate communities and organs of civil society on the rights of foreigners, illegal foreigners and refugees, and conduct other activities to prevent xenophobia*; and deals with matters of citizenship.

The **South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC)** has the powers, as regulated by national legislation, to investigate and to report on the observance of human rights and to take steps to secure appropriate redress where human rights have been violated. The SAHRC currently chairs the National Consortium on Refugee Affairs and hosts the Roll Back Xenophobia Campaign Coordinator ([www.sahrc.org.za/about\\_the\\_sahrc](http://www.sahrc.org.za/about_the_sahrc)).

## University of Pretoria etd – Grobbelaar, K-M (2005)

The **National Consortium on Refugee Affairs (NCRA)** was established in 1997 and is made up of representatives from the refugee communities; service providers of secular and religious backgrounds; the Department of Home Affairs; the South African Border Police; the SAHRC, and specialist Institutes and Universities such as the Centre for Applied Legal Studies. The NCRA aims to monitor the implementation of refugee legislation and promote public awareness of the plight of refugees and asylum seekers in South Africa, and is responsible for the 'Roll Back Xenophobia Campaign'. The Campaign combats violence against foreign hawkers; discrimination against foreign workers; corruption and the physical abuse and arbitrary detention of foreigners by civil servants and the police; misrepresentation of issues relating to migrants and refugees by the media; and ignorance as regards the reasons for the presence of refugees and migrants in South Africa and the rights of such persons under the South African Constitution ([www.sahrc.org.za/braamfontein\\_statement\\_roll\\_back](http://www.sahrc.org.za/braamfontein_statement_roll_back)).

## Management

The Centre is to be managed by a board of representatives of Hillbrow's foreign communities with the assistance of the National Consortium on Refugee Affairs and a representative of local government.

## Programme

Instead of an objective process preceding and informing the ensuing design process, programming is considered a part of the process of conceptualisation. The 'programme' - a set of desired behaviours and the spatial qualities appropriate to them, rather than a statement of quantities of space by type - is to be established with reference to activity, from the scale of the individual to that of the collective. Accordingly, the project is synthesised from layers of activity in space and time.

The proposed development is a cultural centre where foreign residents of Hillbrow can meet and engage in the cultural activities from which they are increasingly being excluded on the grounds of their 'otherness'. The Centre provides

**\_a refuge** for the foreign population, offering freedom from discrimination and marginalisation within the boundaries of a defensible foreign territory.

The Centre is not a fortress intended to remove the users from the hostile context, but rather **\_a place of meeting and interaction**, programmed to invite lingering and multiply encounters between strangers at direct and indirect points of contact between the public and semi-public domains.

**\_a platform** for an anti-xenophobia campaign, relying primarily on the creative arts to cultivate an understanding of various aspects of the foreign cultures represented in Hillbrow; the rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, and the reasons for their presence in Hillbrow.

**\_a wellspring of economic opportunity** through the integration of the programmes of the formal and informal economy.

2.2. Klein Street, Hillbrow.

It is proposed that foreign-community development will enable the mobilisation of the skills which foreigners can contribute to the South African economy, while empowering them to survive and progress economically by personal incentive; and that cohesive foreign communities will be able to withstand marginalisation and interact with the local community more effectively. The outcome is the building of the social capital of the entire community of Hillbrow.

The Centre is to accommodate

- \_public performances and large gatherings
- \_a coffee shop/café
- \_workspace for local artists and craftsmen
- \_dance/music/drama studios
- \_a local newspaper
- \_a local radio station
- \_educational facilities
- \_a language laboratory
- \_market facilities for art, crafts, international cuisine and other merchandise
- \_offices for
  - \_\_\_a management committee
  - \_\_\_the Department of Home Affairs
  - \_\_\_the Roll Back Xenophobia Campaign Coordinator.

**Accommodation Schedule:** Addendum E.

