'Teacher assaulted for being too dark'  
Mosheshoe 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."


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2.1. Informal Trade, Klein Street, Hillbrow.  

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A Cultural Centre for the Foreign Community

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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).

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).

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.

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.

2.2. Klein Street, Hillbrow.