

**NEWSLETTER #6 TO ALL DISPLACED PEOPLE
LIVING IN CAMPS AND SAFETY SITES
IN THE WESTERN CAPE**



**CLOSURE OF COMMUNITY HALLS AND SELECTED CAMPS
(ACCORDING TO THE LATEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT TIME OF
PRINTING- MAY NOT BE ACCURATE)**

Between Thursday 27 August and 1 September 2008 the City of Cape Town will be closing community halls housing displaced persons. Soetwater and Silwerstroom camps will also be closed. Those staying at these sites will be moved to two camps: Harmony Park and Blue Waters. Youngsfield will remain open, but no-one will be moved there.

Access cards will be issued to those already in these camps before new residents arrive. New arrivals at the three sites will have to register for an access card, so that the camp managers can control movements to and from the camp.

According to information received from government, individuals will not be able to select which of the three sites they will be sent to, but government will most likely keep existing site populations together (all residents from a site being closed will go together to one place).

TAC has been to several meetings with the City and Provincial governments to give input and voice concerns surrounding this process. Government has said that there will be no negotiation on keeping any other sites apart from the three-mentioned open. The UN has been asked to supply hundreds of tents to the three sites.

Government has said that when the sites and camps are closed, they will cut off all state supplies, and if people refuse to move from a site, government will follow “legal eviction processes”. The latest information suggests that government will give those staying at a site which is targeted for closure will be offered a choice between reintegration or moving to one of the three camps. It appears that if either of these choices is accepted, government will either evict those not willing to leave, or stop providing services. (Government did not detail which services). Those choosing reintegration should be able to get a ‘kit’ from government, including materials from which to make a shelter, and food vouchers (not confirmed).

It is unlikely that there will be any change to the status of those waiting for repatriation during the move. The registration process should help to keep track of individuals waiting for a response from the various repatriation agencies.

Resettlement may still be an option at the moment: those with refugee status unable to return to countries of origin due to political instability or the threat of violence against themselves or their families would be able to apply for this especially if they have a relative who is a citizen of another country. The UNHCR are responsible for this process, and should be contacted for additional information.

IMPORTANT:

***TAC does not recommend one option over another: It is the right of individual displaced people to choose the option best for themselves.**

SOME ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- Will conditions actually improve? Government claims that the big camps will make it easier to look after everyone. TAC will monitor relief and report on any areas where shelter, food, health care, access to education and other rights are being violated.
- What about children and women? Are they being especially cared for in terms of safety and security, separate toilet and shower blocks and, for children, are they able to access education, books, toys and play areas? Are the camps properly lit at night, especially the toilet areas? Are babies getting nappies and formula? Are women getting sanitary towels?
- How will government ensure that people's belongings are transported to new locations in a way that provides security against theft and damage?
- What happens to relief items donated to displaced people by TAC and other non-governmental relief agencies? According to TAC, non-food items such as blankets, mattresses, groundsheets and clothing belong to the displaced people using them. Whether they remain in the camps or not.
- How long will these three sites remain open? As yet, government has not confirmed a timeframe for the closure of the camps.
- What happens if displaced people experience violent behaviour or arrest at the hands of government agencies and the SAP during these moves? TAC, the Human Rights Commission and others will monitor the moves, and will report any inappropriate actions to the correct authorities.
- What happens if displaced people choose to be reintegrated and experience intimidation or violence from the communities to which they are returning? Displaced people should still be able to seek the protection of one of the three safety sites if they are victims of further xenophobic violence or intimidation. The SAP should also protect any victims of violence.

It is likely that the next week to ten days will be unsettling for many, with disruptions to routines and living conditions expected. All concerns should

be reported immediately to the refugee representative leader or camp manager.

There has been insufficient communication between government and those who will be moved and organisations working with them. Although TAC has asked for clarification on processes, dates and a general plan for site closures and consolidation, government has so far not provided one.

WHO TO CONTACT?

<p>Safety Forum - To report incidences of serious xenophobic violence in communities only</p>	<p>Contacts PASSOP – Braam Hanekom – 083 256 1140 Black Sash – Nkosikhulule Nyembezi – 082 429 4719</p>
<p>JOC - To request supplies</p>	<p>Contacts 021 937 0791, 021 937 0788</p>
<p>Cape Town Refugee Centre - Help with reintegration and repatriation and general queries Office hours: Monday and Tuesday 9am – 12noon Thursday by appointment only Wednesday and Friday no clients are seen</p>	<p>Address F 12 First Floor Wynberg Centre 123 Main Road Wynberg Cape Town Contacts Tel: 021 762 9670 Fax: 021 761 2294 Info@ctrc.co.za</p>
<p>UCT Law Clinic - Legal questions and help with repatriation</p>	<p>Contact 021 650 3775 / 3551 Address Kramer Law School Building 1 Stanley Round UCT Middle Campus Rondebosch</p>
<p>Human Rights Commission - Complaints relating to Human Rights</p>	<p>Tel: 021 426 2277</p>

**DIRECTORY OF EMBASSIES & CONSULATES FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES
IN SOUTH AFRICA*** Countries which do not appear on the list have no
representation in South Africa.

	Kenya - 012 362 2249/50/51
Algeria - 012 342 5074/75; 012 342 6345	Liberia - 012 342 2734/35 / 072 928 0841
Angola - 012 342 004	Madagascar - 012 342 0983/4/5/6
Benin - 012 342 6978	Malawi - 012 342 0146/1759
Botswana - 012 430 9640	Mali - 012 342 7464/0676
Burkina Faso - 012 342 2246/2243	Malta - 011 706 3052
Burundi - 012 342 4881/4883	Morocco - 012 343 0230 / 012 344 2340
Cameroon - 012 362 4731	Mozambique - 012 401 0300
Central African Republic - 011 970 1355	Namibia - 012 481 9100
Congo - 012 342 5508	Nigeria - 012 342 0805/ 012 342 0663/ 012 342 0668/012 342 0642/012 342 0947/ 012 342 0934
Côte d'Ivoire - 012 344 2278	Rwanda - 012 342 6536
Democratic Republic of Congo 012 3446475/6	Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic - 012 342 5532
Djibouti - 011 719 9111	Senegal - 012 460 5263
Egypt - 012 343 1590/1	Sudan - 012 342 4538/7903
Equatorial Guinea - 012 342 9945/ 012 342 6470/012 342 7087/012 342 5076	Swaziland - 012 344 1910
Eritrea - 012 333 1302	Tanzania - 012 342 4371/93
Ethiopia - 012 346 3542	The Gambia - 011 784 1059 / 083 222 6747
Gabon - 012 342 4376/7	Tunisia - 012 342 6282/83
Ghana - 012 342 5847-9	Uganda - 012 342 6031/3
Guinea - 012 342 7348 / 012 342 4906	Zambia - 012 326 1854
Guinea-Bissau - 011 622 3688	Zimbabwe - 012 342 5125