

DISASTER DIARY

The South African Security Association (Sasa) is in the process of drawing up a draft Bill which will be sent to the Minister of Justice. In terms of the proposed legislation a licensing system will be introduced making it compulsory for all security firms as well as their employees (of all races) to be licensed.

The normal nonsensical arguments are advanced in favour of this new piece of co-ercion — all for the so-called “protection” of the public. And Big Brother, always trying to be all things to all people, obligingly supplies the machinery which will make yet another service a closed shop where entry by competitors is prevented by law.

May we be so bold and suggest to Mr Bob Power, chairman of Sasa, to try the Free Market way. See to it that membership to Sasa is voluntary and strictly subject to minimum requirements. Your clients will very soon find out whether you can deliver the goods. But leave them the option to try somebody else if they think they can get better service elsewhere. We don't always **want** protection you know. Especially not when the “protection” minimizes our choices and looks alarmingly like a protection of the people who are supposed to supply the service.



In order to give our readers an idea of the extent of price control in South Africa, we publish the following list of categories of commodities with government-determined prices. It shuld be emphasized that there can be thousands of items under any one heading with the result that the total control involves hundreds of thousands of individual prices. Even the price controller admits that he does not even have a rough estimate of the number of items involved but that it could be in the vicinity of 20% of all items. Add to this the fact that we have various other acts controlling prices in agriculture, transport, rent, professional fees, interest, etc., and one can start to appreciate our rapid and continuous advance to Socialism.

The prices of the goods and services listed below are at present subject to control in terms of the Price Control Act, 1974.

1. Electrical and non-electrical household appliances and parts therefor:
 - (i) Refrigerators and parts therefor.
 - (ii) Freezers and parts therefor.
 - (iii) Stoves and parts therefor.
 - (iv) Ovens and parts therefor.
 - (v) Floor polishers and parts therefor.
 - (vi) Vacuum cleaners and parts therefor.
 - (vii) Clothes washing machines and parts therefor.
 - (viii) Electric smoothing irons and parts therefor.
 - (ix) Electric kettles and parts therefor.
 - (x) Toasters and parts therefor.
 - (xi) Heaters and parts therefor.

- (xii) Electric food mixers and parts therefor.
 - (xiii) Ventilating fans and parts therefor.
 - (xiv) Hair driers and parts therefor.
 - (xv) Geysers and parts therefor.
 - (xvi) Electric razors and parts therefor.
 - (xvii) Domestic sewing machines and parts therefor.
 - (xviii) Domestic knitting machines and parts therefor.
 2. Seed potatoes (imported).
 3. Photographs for population register.
 4. Cinema admission prices.
 5. Building materials:
 - (i) Burglar proofing.
 - (ii) Burnt clay bricks and other building bricks.
 - (iii) Corrugated galvanised iron, asbestos cement, slate and tile roof coverings and fittings therefor, excluding lead washers.
 - (iv) Galvanised iron and asbestos cement gutters and down pipes and fittings therefor.
 - (v) Cast iron pipes.
 - (vi) Gypsum board, fibreboard and other ceiling coverings and fittings therefor.
 - (vii) Glazed tiles.
 - (viii) Glass and putty for glazing.
 - (ix) Hardboard
 - (x) Timber for joinery and structural timber.
 - (xi) Wooden doors and door frames, including solid laminated flush doors, chip core doors and hollow core doors.
 - (xii) Lime.
 - (xiii) Quarry tiles.
 - (xiv) Lintels, pre-stressed.
 - (xv) Sand, river and pitsand.
 - (xvi) Sanitary ware and fittings, including wash basins and baths, but excluding copper and lead pipes and fittings therefor.
 - (xvii) Cement. slag cement and mixtures thereof.
 - (xviii) Salt-glazed earthenware pipes and fittings therefor.
 - (xix) Steel doors, door frames, windows, sidelights and fanlights.
 - (xx) Paint, limewash and distemper for interior and exterior use, including roof paint.
 - (xxi) Crushed stone and crusher sand.
 - (xxii) Wood blocks, strip flooring, floor boards and other floor coverings.
 6. Dried lucerne and lucerne meal.
 7. Photographic and cinematographic cameras, enlargers and reducers, projectors and parts therefor.
 - (i) Cameras and parts therefor.
 - (ii) Cinematographic cameras and parts therefor.
 - (iii) Image projectors and parts therefor.
 - (iv) Cinematographic sound and silent projectors and parts therefor.
 - (v) Slide viewers and parts therefor.
 - (vi) Films (all types).
 - (vii) Projection screens and parts therefor.
 - (viii) Camera lenses and filters (all types).
 - (ix) Photometers and parts therefor.
 - (x) Flashlights and parts (including bulbs) therefor.
 - (xi) Camera stands and supports and parts therefor.

- (xii) Projector stands and parts therefor.
 - (xiii) Photographic enlargers and reducers and parts therefor.
8. Yellow margarine.
9. Galvanised corrugated iron sheets (new and second hand).
10. Fertilizers
11. Agricultural machinery, implements and equipment and parts therefor.
 - (i) Lawn mowers and parts therefor.
 - (ii) Hay and grass mowers (excluding lawn mowers) and parts therefor.
 - (iii) Harvesting and thrashing machines and parts therefor.
 - (iv) Combines and parts therefor.
 - (v) Hay and fodder presses and parts therefor.
 - (vi) Winnowing and similar cleaning machines for seed, grain or leguminous vegetables and parts therefor.
 - (vii) Ploughs, mouldboard and disc types and parts therefor.
 - (viii) Harrows, offset disc, one-way disc types and other parts therefor.
 - (ix) Cultivators and parts therefor.
 - (x) Egg-grading machines and parts therefor.
 - (xi) Dairy machinery (including milking machines and cream separators) and parts therefor.
 - (xii) Presses, crushers and other machinery, of a kind used in wine-making, cider-making, fruit juice preparation or the like and parts therefor.
 - (xiii) Poultry incubators and breeders and parts therefor.
 - (xiv) Tractors (tracklaying and walking types) and parts therefor.
12. Fencing materials (wire, wire netting, fence poles and droppers).
13. Pipe tobacco.
14. Flat steel sheets (coated or uncoated)-
15. Porcelain insulators.
16. Radios, radiograms, high-fidelity sets, gramophones, sound recorders and reproducers, record players, tape and wire decks, loud speakers and amplifiers and parts therefor.
 - (i) Radios and parts therefor.
 - (ii) Radiograms and parts therefor.
 - (iii) High-fidelity sets and parts therefor.
 - (iv) Grammophones and parts therefor.
 - (v) Sound recorders and reproducers and parts therefor.
 - (vi) Record players and parts therefor.
 - (vii) Tape and wire decks and parts therefor.
 - (viii) Loudspeakers and parts therefor.
 - (ix) Amplifiers and parts therefor.
 - (x) All types of dry batteries.
17. Certain steel products.
18. Cigars.
19. Cigarettes.
20. Coal.
21. Sugar.
22. Fresh milk in certain areas.
23. Firearms and ammunition.
24. Whisky.
25. Television receivers and accessories therefor.
26. Mineral waters and fruit juices.

27. Illuminating Paraffin.

B. Apart from statutory control, the Price Controller may conclude an agreement with a specific manufacturer or group of manufacturers on an industry basis in terms of which the manufacturer or industry undertakes not to increase his or its prices without the prior approval of the Price Controller. Agreements of this nature have been concluded in respect of the following commodities:

1. Alcoholic liquor.
2. Anthracite.
3. Bolts, nuts and screws.
4. Coke.
5. Condensed milk.
6. Galvanised steel tubes.
7. Glass containers.
8. Metal containers.
9. Petrol and power paraffin.
10. Pharmaceutical products.
11. Tyres and tubes.
12. Wattle extract.
13. Fish meal.

C. In addition to the control applied under the Price Control Act, the prices of certain agricultural products are controlled in terms of the Marketing Act. Although the latter Act is mostly used to determine minimum producers' prices for agricultural products, it also empowers the Control Boards to control prices at manufacturers' and commercial levels. The prices of the following commodities are fixed at commercial levels in terms of the Marketing Act.

1. Bread, wheaten flour and meal.
2. Butter and cheese.
3. Fresh milk in certain areas.
4. Bananas (only a recommended price).

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