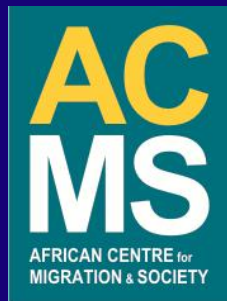


# Challenging Presumptions, Changing Process: Towards Progressive, Pro-Poor Migration Policy

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# The African Centre for Migration & Society at Wits

*An internationally engaged; Africa-oriented; and African-based research and teaching centre dedicated to shaping academic and policy debates on migration, development and social transformation*

- The African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS) is an independent research, training and outreach body based at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg
- Partnerships with SALGA, DoL, Stats SA, DoH



# **Scenario: The Dark Hole of Securitization**

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- **Securitization of migration management (increased border controls, restrictive entry, and more detention and deportation) leads to...**
  - **worsened conditions for the citizenry**
  - **fosters criminality and corruption**
  - **threatens the rights of asylum seekers and refugees, and**
  - **counter intuitively, increases the number of undocumented migrants in South Africa**

# Scenario: The Dark Hole of Securitization

## Wages and Employment

- pushes down wages and worsens labour conditions
- underemployment and wastage of skills and skills transfer
- little opportunity for investment or savings.
- Criminality and Corruption

# Problematic Presumptions

## The myth of numbers

- 2011 Census figures estimates 1,692,242 foreigners out of a total population of almost 50 million = 3.3% of the country's total population.

## Policy problems?

- Immigration Act is not overly permissive, its too blunt

# Problematic Presumptions

## Call in the troops?

- Detention and deportation aids what?
- At what cost?

## Immigration does not undermine South African's economic security and possibilities for job creation

- Migrants of all skill levels contribute to a robust regional economy.

# Processes for Positive Reform

- Entrench the role of the Immigration Advisory Board and expand to matters of policy.
- Reinforce labour inspectorates to capacitate them and ensure equality of remuneration and treatment of all workers including foreigners.
- Inter and cross ministerial effort at combating xenophobia.
- Establish a platform dedicated to improving the collection of international migration data?

# Points to ponder

- Are the policy's objectives clearly stated, pro-poor, and informed by independent research and knowledge?
- Consultation and support of key stakeholders
- Do the proposals reflect the interests of these stakeholders, or do they pursue a more narrowly defined set of goals that fails to take into account the broader context?



# Final thoughts

Do the proposed policy reforms include:

- A clear methodology and timeframes for implementation;
- Concrete programmes for addressing existing and potential administrative challenges;
- Estimated costs for implementation;
- Estimated aggregate and sector effects for the local, national and regional economy?
- Plans to reverse brain drain; promote skills transfer and retain qualified skills

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