

Dear Caley

Thanks for your email, indicating that you could not verify the allegation that 'for every eight professionals leaving South Africa, there is one professional immigrating'. You found my assertion that the Department of Home Affairs' White Paper on International Migration included that statistic untrue, stating 'The white paper didn't include a reference but we've traced the stat back to a 2006 journal article written by Dr. Matthew Stern and Prof Gabor Szalontai'.

I have no problem with you publishing your verdict, as long as you simultaneously publish this full response by EOSA.

1. Regarding your conclusion that the DHA's White Paper does not include a reference to the statement that for every eight professionals leaving, one professional is immigrating, I refer you to page 49 of the DHA's White Paper on International Migration of 2017 (accessed at [https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis\\_document/201707/41009gon750.pdf](https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201707/41009gon750.pdf)) where the statement that I referred to, appears. See screenshot below with highlighted area:

#### **WHITE PAPER ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION – FINAL VERSION**

##### **Chapter 10: Management of ties with South African expatriates**

###### **Policy scope**

The focus of this policy is on South African citizens who either wish to emigrate or have already emigrated but wish to invest in South Africa or to return into the country. This is a new policy area on the management international in South Africa and it seeks to address policy and capacity weaknesses in the system. Issues of concern include institutional mechanisms and policy framework for managing emigration in the national interest.

###### **Status quo and problem statement**

International migration policy is often equated with immigration policy, but every immigrant is also an emigrant with ties to a sending state. Many sending states are active in managing these ties, with some deriving a significant portion of their revenue from remittances.

Like many other developing countries, South Africa loses a significant proportion of its skilled workforce every year. However, little attention has been paid to maintaining links to South Africans who have settled in other countries. A number of root causes have been identified to explain this pattern of migration. The current international migration policy framework does not cover citizens who wish or have migrated to other countries. That is, the current international migration policy does not enable South Africa to proactively manage and harness emigration for development purposes. Apart from economic incentives, many emigrants maintain links with South Africa and there are various ways in which they can contribute to national development.

Using receiving country censuses and other data, one study estimated that more than 520 000 South Africans had emigrated between 1989 and 2003, with the numbers growing by about 9 per cent a year. About 120 000 of those emigrants had professional qualifications. This represents about 7 per cent of the total stock of professionals employed in South Africa and is more than eight times the number of professionals immigrating to South Africa in the same period.

2. The radio interview with Bruce Whitfield dealt shortly with aspects that I had addressed in my blog at <https://eosa.org.za/2018/12/27/ten-wasted-years-preferring-dumbing-down-to-productive-knowledge/#more-2183>. I did not claim these numbers, but said these came from the Government's own documents (see above). In the same blog, I also claimed that during the Zuma years the trend continued.
3. Statistics on emigration are hard to find, also since many emigrants leave without formally renouncing SA citizenship. In the next few weeks I will publish another blog on the loss of productive capital from South Africa with some evidence of an acceleration in the departure of professionals seeking a future outside South Africa.

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