

PRESENTATION PAPER

**THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
OF THE DOCKRAT FAMILY BUSINESS, 1905 -
1937: A case study of Ismail Dockrat's
family business.**



WHY MIGRATE TO SA

- Dockrat came to SA around the turn of the nineteenth/twentieth century from India.
- Reasons for migrating to SA.
- His settlement and subsequent activities in Pretoria must be analysed in the historical context of the ZAR.
- Settled in Pretoria Town upon his arrival in SA.
(Asiatic Bazaar)
- Engaged in petty-trade (hawking fresh vegetables, fruits and flowers).
- This was the only way he could earn a decent living



FORCED REMOVALS

Arrival of more Indians and increased Indian activities in Pretoria Central.

White residents complained to authorities.

Around 1897 people of colour forcibly relocated to Marabastad as a result.

Coolie Location, creation of an “ethnic enclave.”

Life very difficult for Dookrat, no business opportunities, and subjected to curfew.



SELF-RELOCATION TO PRETORIA NORTH

- Dockrat realised his vulnerability and lack of socio-economic progress in Marabastad.
- Relocated to Pretoria North in 1905.
- Why Pretoria North?
- Marked the turning point of his family's socio-economic life.
- Began hawking a variety of small but very necessary items of life such as foodstuffs, condiments, farming implements, clothing and empty containers.
- Bought these in Pretoria.
- Offered a variety of services such as credit facilities, home deliveries, at home shopping, bargaining, and selling in small quantities.



SELF-RELOCATION TO PRETORIA NORTH CONTINUED

- Hawked deep into the interior and remote parts of Pretoria North.
- Pretoria North Farming community was very supportive.
- Ordered mainly essentials of life.
- Dockrat's hawking venture was mainly based on stocking in Pretoria and the actual hawking.
- As the business slowly grew, Dockrat hired an assistant, Ledwaba.
- Together they managed to service the remote parts of Pretoria North.
- Thus the hawking venture grew, and in 1915 Dockrat bought a piece of Land next to Pretoria North station and built a small shop.
- The little shop developed and expanded.

