

ENVIRONMENT - 1995

AUGUST.

Domestic coal fires and motor cars main culprits

(56) Jan 1/8/95

# Pollution levels dangerous

■ BY TAMSEN DE BEER

Air pollution levels over the Vaal Triangle are dangerously high — sometimes more than double internationally prescribed health standard levels, authorities say.

Studies indicate most of the pollution affecting people is coming from domestic coal fires and dust raised by cars.

But, despite the health risks, the Government does not believe it will be able to address the problem until new domestic fuels which emit very little smoke have been identified.

The results of a detailed study, expected to definitively identify the primary sources of air pollution as it is breathed by humans, are due to be released in September.

"The biggest single problem is domestic coal smoke in terms of exposure. It's a small amount of the total emissions, but is most

## AIR pollution in the Vaal region during winter leaps to levels almost twice as high as international norms

concentrated where people are living.

"Eskom is one of the biggest sources of particulate emissions, but nobody lives at the top of a chimney and the impact is minor on residents," said Harold Annegarn, president of the National Association for Clean Air.

International studies have shown direct links between early mortality and air pollution. Children breathing coal smoke emissions are 270 times more likely to contract a fatal lung disease than those breathing clean air.

Annegarn said that residents of the Vaal's industrial region

during winter are subject to air pollution levels up to 40% more than America's Environmental Protection Agency permits as standards.

"On occasions we are measuring up to double the prescribed health standard levels of particulate matter," said Annegarn.

Air Pollution Authority director Phillip Buys said an alternative fuel had to be developed before legislative requirements could be set in place.

"We cannot set limits on coal fires. It is a socio-economic problem."

The Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs is evaluating 11 different low-smoke coal types and their feasibility for use within communities as part of a low-smoke campaign.

Local authorities must educate communities about practical steps to reduce coal-fire pollution, said Buys.

Co-author of a recent CSIR study on household energy sources, Riëtte Nel, said increased urbanisation would worsen the situation.

Upper and lower respiratory tract illnesses including asthma, bronchitis, sinusitis, rhinitis, hayfever and burning eyes were caused by particles in polluted air.

"Electrification is being implemented as quickly as possible. It is a declared RDP policy," said Buys.

But, according to Nel, "people continue using coal even if they have electricity" as it proved more effective in winter heating than electricity.

Nel outlined practical smoke-reduction measures such as upgrading the condition of coal stoves, correct ventilation, and the insulation of houses to prevent unnecessary coal-heating.

## Industries must work together on this says expert

■ BY TAMSEN DE BEER

Weak controls and poor co-operation between industry and local authorities are major factors contributing to hazardous air pollution in the Vaal Triangle, a pollution expert believes.

Despite major investments in improved technology, regional co-operation was sorely lacking, National Association for Clean Air president Harold Annegarn said.

"Companies are still operating very much as individuals. They are not co-ordinated to assess

the cumulative impact of air quality."

He said little co-operation existed between town councils and industries in South African policy and legal structures.

"We need planning on a regional basis and strategies that go beyond the strict legal requirements," Annegarn said.

The main industrial contributors such as Iscor, Eskom and Sasol are among some 50 other heavy industries that emit more hazardous particles into the air than any other source.

Scheduled industries that emit more than a certain amount of pollution are monitored by the Air Pollution Authority, director Phillip Buys said.

Industrial companies co-operated well with regular inspections and were obliged to cease operations when a breakdown caused a higher emission of pollutants than was allowed.

Legal requirements for industry outline fines of between R500 and R 2000 for offences.

Buys said "some are good, some not so good" in keeping their pollution emissions to a

minimum.

But Annegarn described the current legislation and management of pollution as ineffective, saying an attempt to modernise South Africa's pollution policies was under way.

The Department of Environment and Tourism has launched an integrated pollution control initiative.

The focus was the prevention of pollution rather than prosecution after the fact, since fines amounted to "little more than a parking ticket for big companies", Annegarn said.

*'Greener' fuel likely to be cheaper*

# Plan to introduce unleaded petrol

(56) ~~(44)~~ STAR 1/8/95

## ■ CONSUMER REPORTER

The Ministry of Mineral and Energy Affairs is to ask the Cabinet to consider a price-and-tax plan for the introduction of unleaded petrol which proposes that the "greener" fuel be 4c/l cheaper than its leaded counterpart.

If the plan is accepted, the lower price will be achieved by levying a lower tax on unleaded petrol so that the difference in price will not be subsidised by leaded petrol users.

Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Pik Botha said in order to render the refining of unleaded petrol economically viable, "it needs to capture

at least 20% of petrol sales within the first year of introduction".

"It is estimated that the 4c/l difference on the price of unleaded petrol will achieve this."

More than 90% of vehicles on South African roads can operate on unleaded petrol, Botha said. Of these, 65% required no modification at all, 15% needed only minor ignition-timing adjustments, and 10% required one tank of leaded petrol for every four to five tanks of unleaded petrol used.

A survey conducted by the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa found that no specific ownership group would be materially prejudiced by the introduction of un-

leaded petrol.

More than 90% of minibus taxi operators would be able to pull up next to unleaded pumps.

According to Botha, unleaded petrol would not be introduced to South Africa for ecological reasons alone.

"The main reason is for the country to benefit from the advantages of economies of scale and contemporary technological development, since 80% of the world's current motor vehicle technology is based on unleaded petrol," Botha said.

Should the Cabinet give the price-and-tax plan the nod, unleaded petrol is expected to become available in South Africa by February.

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# Parks Board chief may testify in mill inquiry

(12/27/95)  
(56)

**SALDANHA:** National Parks Board chief executive director Dr Robbie Robinson may still give evidence before the Steyn Board of inquiry into the proposed steel mill at Saldanha Bay — despite having to miss this week's sitting due to work commitments.

Dr Robinson, who is opposed to the proposed site of the R4,7 billion mill, was expected to give evidence when the board resumed its sitting today.

Yesterday Southern Parks environmental manager Mr Sarel Yssel

replaced Dr Robinson on a helicopter inspection with Mr Justice Jan Steyn and his two assessors, Prof Richard Fuggle and Mr Rufus Maruma, of Yzervarkensrug farm — the preferred site for the mill — two alternative sites, and nearby Langebaan lagoon.

Yesterday Judge Steyn also went on a bus tour of the Strategic Fuel Fund's massive oil storage facilities and Saldanha harbour accompanied by objectors, Saldanha Steel executive chairman Mr Bernard Smith, his legal counsel

and journalists.

Saldanha Portnet manager Mr Danie Barnard said the harbour's general cargo quay would have to be extended by 63m and the channel deepened by 2,5m, to accommodate ships of up to 60 000 tons if the project went ahead.

If Saldanha Steel gets the go-ahead, the mill will be commissioned at the end of 1997.

Mr Barnard and representatives of the Vredenburg and Saldanha chamber of commerce will testify before the board today. — Sapa

ET 1/8/95

# Legal aid for objectors to Saldanha steel mill

PM 2/8/95

(56)

THE environmental affairs ministry has agreed to help meet the legal costs of cash-strapped objectors to the proposed R4,7bn steel mill at Saldanha Bay.

Details of the cash injection were released yesterday by Judge Jan Steyn, who is heading a three-man board of inquiry appointed by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers to investigate the project.

Steyn told a hearing at the Saldanha Naval Academy that legal representatives for a "substantial group" of objectors were unable to continue representing them because of a shortage of funds.

"The board believes that it would assist it in its fact-finding duties if some legal representation were to be made available to co-ordinate and present evidence on behalf of those who have particular environmental concerns," Steyn said.

The board believed it was in the public interest that the inquiry be open, even-handed and orderly, and the ministry had made money available for objectors' representatives. The proposal also had the support of Saldanha Steel.

West Coast Regional Development Association chairman Dawid Liebenberg told the inquiry that people living in Saldanha had been waiting 25 years for Iscor to build a steel mill in the region. Liebenberg said he spoke on behalf of residents who needed

jobs, food and shelter.

It had been understood since the completion of the Sishen-Saldanha railway in 1971 that Iscor would build a steel mill at Saldanha, Liebenberg said.

At the same time, however, the community was proud of its environment and had supported the creation of the West Coast National Park at the southern end of the Langebaan lagoon.

Asked about the possibility of squatter camps around the mill, he said more people would come to the area, but housing was the responsibility of local authorities.

Environmentalists say the steel mill will pollute the air and the lagoon.

The West Coast Peninsula Transitional Council was confident that pollution from the facility would be negligible, town clerk John de Klerk told the inquiry yesterday.

Asked whether he would still support the project if it endangered neighbouring wetlands and violated the international RAMSAR Wetlands Treaty, De Klerk said he was confident Saldanha Steel's anti-pollution measures and additional safeguards it planned would drastically reduce the risk of pollution from the plant.

There was overwhelming public support for the project which, if it got the go-ahead, would create 600 permanent posts and 4 000 temporary jobs during the construction phase. — Sapa.

ANC, BUSINESS BACK MILL

# Saldanha 'ghost town' without steel project

CT 2/8/95

**SALDANHA BAY** residents said yesterday they "stood as one" in support of the proposed steel mill near their town, **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

**W**EST COAST residents testifying before the Steyn inquiry yesterday came out in strong support of the controversial R4,7-billion Saldanha steel project — claiming the new industry would save Saldanha Bay from becoming a "ghost town".

In a joint statement submitted to the inquiry yesterday seven ANC branches backed the project.

ANC representative Mr Ebrahim Dalwai said the mill "will not create jobs ... only, but also uplift the living standards of our communities".

Women's League chairwoman Mrs Paulina Mali said: "I speak on behalf of the community and the

youth. If we don't get the steel factory we will be a ghost town. It's the last resort to save Saldanha."

Local chamber of commerce chairman Mr Hennie Griessel said the steel mill was critical to the survival of the town, which had limited agricultural and tourism potential and an ailing fishing industry.

"Saldanha is a very colourless place in December and very few people come to see (it)," he said.

He said the community "stood as one" in support of the steel mill. He expressed serious concern about the Steyn inquiry and said if this was the way proposed industries were to be handled in the new South Africa, the country would be

heading for trouble.

In another development in the continuing tension among members of the National Parks Board executive, board chairman Mr Naas Steenkamp sent a fax to the inquiry yesterday saying any submissions by chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson next week were to be regarded as personal opinions.

Dr Robinson has repeatedly spoken out against the proposed mill.

● Inquiry chairman Judge Jan Steyn said yesterday he had been advised by the legal representatives of a group of objectors to the mill that they were unable to continue to represent them because of a shortage of funds.

The hearings continue in Saldanha Bay today.

# Saldanha: 'We want the steel plant now!'

JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

WE want the Saldanha steel plant and we want it now!

This was the unequivocal message to the Steyn board of inquiry into the proposed R4,7 billion steel mill at Saldanha Bay from West Coast local authorities, business leaders, trade unions and the seven ANC branches in the region.

Unemployment in the region was rife and Saldanha Bay was in danger of becoming a "ghost town", the board was told yesterday during a hearing at the SA Defence Force military academy in the town.

The board, headed by former judge Jan Steyn, was appointed by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers following widespread objections to the project.

On Monday, it held an on-site

inspection and yesterday started two days of hearings in Saldanha Bay.

In a submission on behalf of the ANC branches, Saldanha Bay ANC executive member Ebrahim Dalwai told the board they believed the green light for the steel project was long overdue.

Their decision to support the project had been taken in consultation with West Coast branches of the SA National Civic Organisation (Sanco), the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) and communities at large.

John de Klerk, town clerk for the West Coast Peninsula Transitional Council which comprises the former municipalities of Vredenburg-Saldanha, Langebaan, Paternoster, Velddrif and St Helena Bay, said the region had been

(18719) (56)  
waiting patiently for years for the steel project which was "viewed as the logical solution to our struggling local economy".

Potential developers in the region would be expected to sign an environmental contract which would oblige them to apply mitigating measures.

Responding to a question about the level of support for the transitional council, Mr De Klerk said this was "probably 80 percent, possibly more".

The chairman of the local ANC Women's League, Paulina Mali, told the board Saldanha Bay was "almost a ghost town".

"It's not the Saldanha we knew ... there are unemployed people, some with degrees, sitting on the street doing nothing."

# Oil leaks into Rietvlei

(56)

A SMALL amount of crude oil stored at the Strategic Fuel Fund tank farm at Killarney leaked into the environmentally-sensitive Rietvlei wetland area this week after a pump flange failed.

SET 2/8/95

Staff Reporter, Sapa





Picture: HANNES THIART, The Argus.

**MOPPING UP:** Booms are deployed to protect the Rietvlei lagoon at Table View and workers use a rope-mop cleaning machine after an oil spill into the Diep River, which feeds the vlei.

## Rietvlei oil spill disaster averted by quick mop-up

ARLT 2/8/95

(56)

Staff Reporter

A POSSIBLE pollution disaster in the environmentally sensitive Rietvlei at Milnerton was averted after oil from a storm-water system spilt into the Diep River which feeds the vlei.

The source of the spill, first noticed by a Table View resident early on Monday evening, is believed to be the Killarney tank farm operated by the government's Strategic Fuel Fund.

Rietvlei is one of South Africa's most important bird conservation areas.

Portnet communication manager Adri Bootsma said their pollution team had been called out on Monday by the Milnerton fire department to help contain the spill.

The team had deployed sev-

eral booms in the vlei to help contain the oil in as small an area as possible. Portnet had also supplied Milnerton municipality with two rope-mop machines to remove the oil from the river.

Caltex refinery spokesman Nial Kramer said they were not responsible for the spill.

He had visited the site and said the oil appeared to have leaked from a stormwater system leading from the Strategic Fuel Fund's tank farm.

His company was helping the mopping-up operation and a crew had been sent to the site yesterday.

The spill was not large and was well contained, Mr Kramer said.

● The fuel fund could not be reached for comment.

THURSDAY  
AUGUST 3, 1995 ★

'MASSIVE IMPACT' FEARED

# Saldanha water plan 'could ruin estuary'

USING underground water for the proposed Saldanha steel mill could be even more damaging to the environment than taking it from the Berg River. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

THE proposed Saldanha steel mill's use of underground water from Langebaanweg could have a massive impact on the nearby Berg river system and possibly destroy its estuary, which scientists regard as the second most important estuary south of the Zambezi.

This emerged at a site visit to the Berg River yesterday by the Steyn board of inquiry appointed by the Minister of the Environment to investigate the desirability of the R4,7-billion steel plant planned for Saldanha Bay.

Professor Bryan Davies of UCT's fresh water unit said there was a strong possibility that the underground water, or aquifer, at

Langebaanweg could be linked to both the Berg River and Langebaan Lagoon.

"There are no concrete facts to show whether it is linked or not, nor about how much water there is in the aquifer.

"We need research to establish that it is not linked, or we could lose the second most important estuary south of the Zambezi. If it is linked to Langebaan Lagoon it will lower the water-table and have a serious impact on the lagoon," Prof Davies said.

Iscor has said it would use water from the Langebaanweg aquifer for the proposed steel mill after environmentalists said the Berg River could not support the

ET 3/8/95  
proposed mill.  
Prof Davies said the Berg River estuary was in the process of being declared a wetland of international importance in terms of the Ramsar agreement.

"Ironically, Langebaan Lagoon is less significant than the Berg estuary in terms of bird populations. It is second in importance only to the estuary at Walvis Bay."

## Fish stocks

There were 127 different bird species in the estuary.

"The estuary has great significance for the fish stocks that many communities rely on," Prof Davies said.

The Berg River floodplain was the only floodplain from the Kunene River between Namibia and Angola to the Pongola River in northern kwaZulu/Natal.

## Iranian oil 'could cause pollution'

SALDANHA — The Strategic Fuel Fund's massive oil storage tanks at Saldanha Bay would be flooded with seawater and employees retrenched if the deal to store Iranian oil at the facility fell through, the Steyn board of inquiry heard yesterday. ~~(S)~~  
Fund GM Kobus van Zyl told judge Jan Steyn — who is heading a three-man inquiry into the proposed R4,7bn Saldanha Steelmill project — it was not a question of the oil deal creating jobs, but protecting them. (S)

However, it was expected that the contract, which was still to be signed, would create 20 new posts in addition to the 80 staff presently employed at the facility.

Van Zyl also admitted that although the fund had modern anti-pollution equipment worth millions of rands, he could not guarantee that an oil spill would not spread to Langebaan Lagoon.

"We have a major problem in this area with the speed of the water. If the tide rises at top speed, it will be an effort to keep it out of the lagoon," he said. *BD 3/8/95*

An estimated 578 barrels had been spilled in eight incidents since 1980 when the facility came on line.

The fund would insist on vetting all ships carrying Iranian oil to ensure their seaworthiness and the quality of their cargo.

"If this is not acceptable to them (the Iranians) then there will be no deal because if we do not know what is coming into the harbour then we might have problems," Van Zyl said. — Sapa.

# Most cars can adapt with barely a hiccup

(56) Star 3/8/95 (56)

It is claimed that some 90% of cars currently on South Africa's roads will be able to use unleaded petrol. Of these, 65% will be able to use the new fuel without any tinkering under the bonnet, while 15% will be able to use it with minor ignition timing adjustments.

In older cars, mostly pre-1980, unleaded petrol might cause a problem with valve-seat recession, but in most cases this can be overcome by filling the car at a ratio of one tank leaded to three or four tanks unleaded.

The 10% of cars not compatible with unleaded petrol mostly comprise high performance or modified engines.

By the year 2005 it is expected that 98% of all new vehicles in South Africa will run on unleaded only, but leaded petrol is expected to be available in the country for another 15 years.

A widespread public education campaign will accompany the launch of unleaded petrol next year to ensure that motorists use the correct fuel in their vehicles.

The National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa (Naamsa) is compiling a register of vehicles that are compatible with unleaded fuel, which will be available at every petrol station.

It covers most local and imported cars, trucks and buses up to 15 years old, as well as motorcycles, outboard engines and lawnmowers.

There will also be a hotline network in operation for queries on unleaded petrol.

Unleaded pumps will be iden-

tifiable by special, narrow dispensing nozzles, and vehicles running only on unleaded petrol will have narrower fuel intakes to prevent anyone accidentally filling up with leaded petrol.

Only two grades of petrol will be sold inland and at the coast - 91 octane unleaded and 93 leaded inland, and 95 unleaded and 97 leaded at the coast.

The lower grade, 87 octane, will fall away.

Diesel will not be affected by the introduction of unleaded petrol.

## Why the wait for new petrol?

The controversy surrounding the pricing structure of unleaded petrol recently delayed its introduction in SA from October this year to the middle of 1996. The delay resulted from Government's indecision on whether to make leaded petrol users subsidise unleaded petrol users.

It all came about when the Unleaded Petrol Co-ordinating Committee, backed by SA's oil companies, decided that to be economically viable, unleaded

must achieve a market penetration of about 20% in the year of its introduction.

To achieve this, unleaded would initially have to be sold cheaper than leaded petrol. However, unleaded is more expensive to produce so it was proposed to artificially make unleaded about 6c cheaper by taxing leaded.

However, the Government feared this might cause an outcry among motorists already burdened with a petrol price heavily loaded with tax.

The petrol price has already risen by 14c since March, following the recent introduction of a revised mechanism which adjusts the price on a monthly basis.

### Damage

Another problem was that the less well off might also put the cheaper unleaded in their vehicles which could damage their engines.

The AA believes free market principles should determine the acceptance of unleaded petrol,

saying oil companies should carry the cost of its introduction themselves.

"We support the decision to go unleaded because we can't stay with motorised ox wagons," says AA spokesman Quinton van Eeden. "But we support the Cabinet's decision to hand the matter back for review."

"Why should today's motorist subsidise unleaded petrol so that South Africa's seven oil companies are guaranteed a return on investment?"

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# 'Protect the islands' call at Saldanha steel plant probe

**Staff Reporter**

ISLANDS in Saldanha Bay are part of a designated Ramsar Convention site — an international agreement, which South Africa has signed, to protect wetlands.

One of the islands — Marcus Island — is only about seven kilometres from the proposed R4,7 billion Iscor steel plant.

This was evidence to the Steyn board of inquiry into the steel plant by lawyer and environmentalist Denis Cowen, who said South Africa had to be aware of its international and environmental obligations when contemplating the steel project.

The board of inquiry, headed by former judge Jan Steyn, has been appointed by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers to investigate the proposed project and its implications.

Giving evidence to the board when it resumed its Cape Town sittings in the Huguenot Chambers yesterday, Professor Cowen said he believed the

planners of the Saldanha project had taken a highly restricted view of the environment and this concerned him.

He also said it appeared that insufficient attention had been given to the provisions of the Ramsar Convention.

Parties who had signed the convention had agreed that if the impact of any actions which might impinge on a Ramsar site were not clearly understood, such actions should be prohibited.

This should be done even if there was insufficient evidence to prove a direct link between those activities and the resulting degradation of wetland, Professor Cowen said.

In the case of the proposed Saldanha steel project, this applied to the Langebaan Lagoon and Berg River.

Professor Cowen expressed concern about the ecological implications of the steel project for Marcus Island, part of the Langebaan Lagoon site designated in terms of the Ramsar Convention.

## Witness faults project plan

**Staff Reporter**

THE structure plan for the Saldanha Bay area — used by the Saldanha steel mill proposers as part of their motivation for the project — had been extremely poorly advertised and had not been exposed to wide public participation.

This was evidence from land-use planner Mark Callaghan to the Steyn board of inquiry at the Huguenot chambers in Cape Town yesterday.

Mr Callaghan also said the structure plan had not been drawn up in an environmentally integrated manner.

He believed the plan did not

fully address environmental, tourism and recreational implications for the area.

Town and regional planner Mawer Visagie, who was involved in compiling the structure plan, said it was a requirement that the structure plan be advertised in an English- and an Afrikaans-medium newspaper, and he believed there had been a wide range of responses.

Neither the Department of Environmental Affairs nor the National Parks Board had raised major objections in letters to project planners.

With hindsight, public participation had not been ideal, he said.

# War-on-waste campaign encourages entrepreneurs

CT(BR)4/8/95 (20)(56)

RÓNNY TSHABALALA

STAFF WRITER

George Motaung, who had been unemployed for a lengthy period, has become an instant entrepreneur and owner of one of the first small wastepaper recycling enterprises to be set up by Sappi Waste Paper.

Justice Ngidi, the chairman of the Northeast Metropolitan Sub-structure, officially opened the

Sandton centre last week. He said it was a perfect example of a giant corporation recognising its responsibility and becoming involved with people at grassroots level.

Sappi Waste Paper hopes to create several hundred jobs as its R3,5 million war-on-waste project gets-off the ground, in support the RDP's empowerment objective.

Centres, to be established around the country, will be headed by entrepreneurs from local com-

munities. Sappi will put the capital equipment in place.

Denis Skeate, director of Sappi Waste Paper said: "South Africa's over 40 million people currently generate over 300 million tons of waste each year. Recycling clearly has significant business and environmental advantages. By putting value on waste products, an efficient collecting system will automatically develop."

Skeate said a financing agree-

ment had been reached with Future Bank, which would underwrite the financial loan to the entrepreneurs.

Depending on locality and size, the capital investment required to set up the centre could be as high as R35 000. This comprises such basic infrastructure as scales, containers and enclosing the area of the business. The entrepreneurs would be trained in waste collection. Each centre would handle waste paper and glass.

# Saldanha start-up delay likely

BY ANDY DUFFY

CT 4/8/95 (BR) <sup>STAFF WRITER</sup>

The start-up schedule for the controversial Saldanha Steel project is being revamped in a bid to cushion the impact of growing delays on the R3,5 billion scheme.

The project — currently mired in an official enquiry — is considering delaying the date for its first steel production by three months to December 1997. Iron production could start six months later in March 1998.

Joint shareholders Iscor and the Industrial Development Corporation will aim to salve any bruised earnings by cutting the timetable for hitting full capacity from two years to 18 months.

Chairman Bernard Smith said yesterday the company could speed up Saldanha's construction to recover lost ground, provided the go-ahead was given this month. But it was difficult to predict further slippage in schedules. "Each month that goes by is a serious issue. If it isn't resolved soon then the shareholders will have to reconsider their position," he said.

Company sources said the project remained viable provided construction started by December. Beyond that, the growing cost of the delay would be too much for shareholders to stomach.

The new mill would produce hot-rolled coil, with its output targeting overseas markets. Saldanha Steel has said the plant could bring in at least R1,6 billion in foreign exchange. But Iscor made it clear it would dump the scheme if construction remained on hold.

Planners have used the delay to fine tune construction and production details. The scheme's major building and equipment contracts are scheduled to be awarded next month, just three months after the work went out to tender.

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(48/11) (56)

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# Radioactive waste plagues Potchefstroom farmers

WM 4-10/8/95

(56)

## Eddie Koch

FARMERS in the Potchefstroom district fear vast tracts of arable land in the North-West have been damaged by radioactive waste and contaminated ground water from neighbouring gold mines.

The Council for Nuclear Safety (CNS) last month completed a R5-million clean-up operation aimed at removing tons of used pipes and machinery that had been sold by a number of mines to a scrap metal yard, located on a smallholding some 20 kilometres out of town, even though the waste was contaminated by large amounts of radioactive uranium sludge from the mines.

The CNS cordoned off a site next to the Katdoornbos farm in May this year after farmers complained that the headwaters of the Boskop Dam, which supplies Potchefstroom and surrounding agricultural estates with water, had been contaminated by waste that had been bought by the scrapyard owners

and sold to surrounding farms as cheap construction material.

Some spots on the contaminated site registered radioactivity more than a 100 times the safety level, according to farmer Theo van Niekerk. His neighbours complained that their cattle's reproductive rates had declined dramatically in the past few years, possibly due to radioactive exposure.

Gold mines on the dolomitic belt in the Gauteng and Free State provinces produce large amounts of radioactive uranium as a byproduct of their production process. Sediments of contaminated sludge tend to clog up pipes and other parts of machinery on the mines. The waste has been sold to scrapyards for the past 20 years even though it should have been stored in special disposal sites.

CNS representative Tienie Fourie said clean-up activities had been completed and radioactive levels at the Katdoornbos farm were back to normal. It appears that all the scrap metal and a layer of topsoil at the mine

deep has been removed and taken to a nuclear disposal site.

"The final results of recent tests by the Council for Nuclear Safety and the Atomic Energy Corporation show that there are no elevated levels of radioactivity in the Mooi River adjacent to the Katdoornbos farm," said an official CNS press release.

But farmers and conservation authorities remain disgruntled because much of the contaminated piping had been sold to farms and industries all over the region.

"Nobody can tell us where these pipes and scrap metals from the mines now are. For all we know they are still out there creating a real danger for citizens," said Deon Swart, a law enforcement officer in the North West Province's Department of Environment Affairs. Mines in the region belong to Wesgold, Anglo American and Gencor, but it is impossible to locate the precise origin of the waste.

Fourie admitted the CNS did not

have the funds or personnel to search for the radioactive material.

"The sludge in these pipes is probably not that dangerous, but any level of radioactivity needs to be removed. The CNS does not have the money and the mines are going through tough times so we are not sure who will pay for this," said Piet Brand, a retired professor of microbiology who owns a farm near the Boskop Dam.

Fourie said the CNS had identified 38 scrap metal sites in Gauteng, North West and the Northern Province where radioactive waste had to be cleared. Members of the Chamber of Mines have donated R5-million for the pollutants to be cleaned up but almost all of this has been used to decontaminate the site at Katdoornbos.

The CNS hoped to make an announcement about a new fund by the end of the month, said Fourie. However, it was likely this would be devoted to clearing the other scrap metal sites rather than individual farms that have radioactive materials on them.

On top of this, commercial agriculture has been rocked by evidence that gold mines near Fochville, to the east of Potchefstroom, have been leaching heavy metals and salts into the ground water.

"It appears that farmers can't farm on between five and 10 large farms in the area," said Swart. "There are also indications that other areas will be affected as mines may have been pumping polluted sludge into underground dolomitic caverns in the area."

Steve Johnson, director of conservation in the North-West, said anti-poaching units had recently been converted into a general environmental inspectorate in terms of new conservation and resource protection structures that had been set up in the province.

"The law enforcement section of the old Transvaal Provincial Administration is being converted so that field operators will become responsible for auditing natural resources in general," said Johnson. "We are throwing a lot of effort into solving the nuclear issue."

**U**nleaded petrol could be introduced locally before June next year. In a special investigation for Spectrum, Denis Droppa looks at the facts and issues surrounding unleaded petrol in South Africa

# Three fuel of the future

**Fitting of converters likely to be optional**

Depending on how well a vehicle is tuned, only between 1% and 3% of exhaust fumes - carbon monoxide, nitrous oxide and hydrocarbons - are said to be harmful.

A catalytic converter (Cat for short) significantly reduces these harmful emissions by making use of the unique properties of platinum group metals. The metals act as catalysts in a chemical process which changes the emissions to harmless carbon dioxide, nitrogen and water vapour.

However, a Cat is only effective when used with unleaded petrol, as leaded petrol soon clogs it and makes it inoperable.

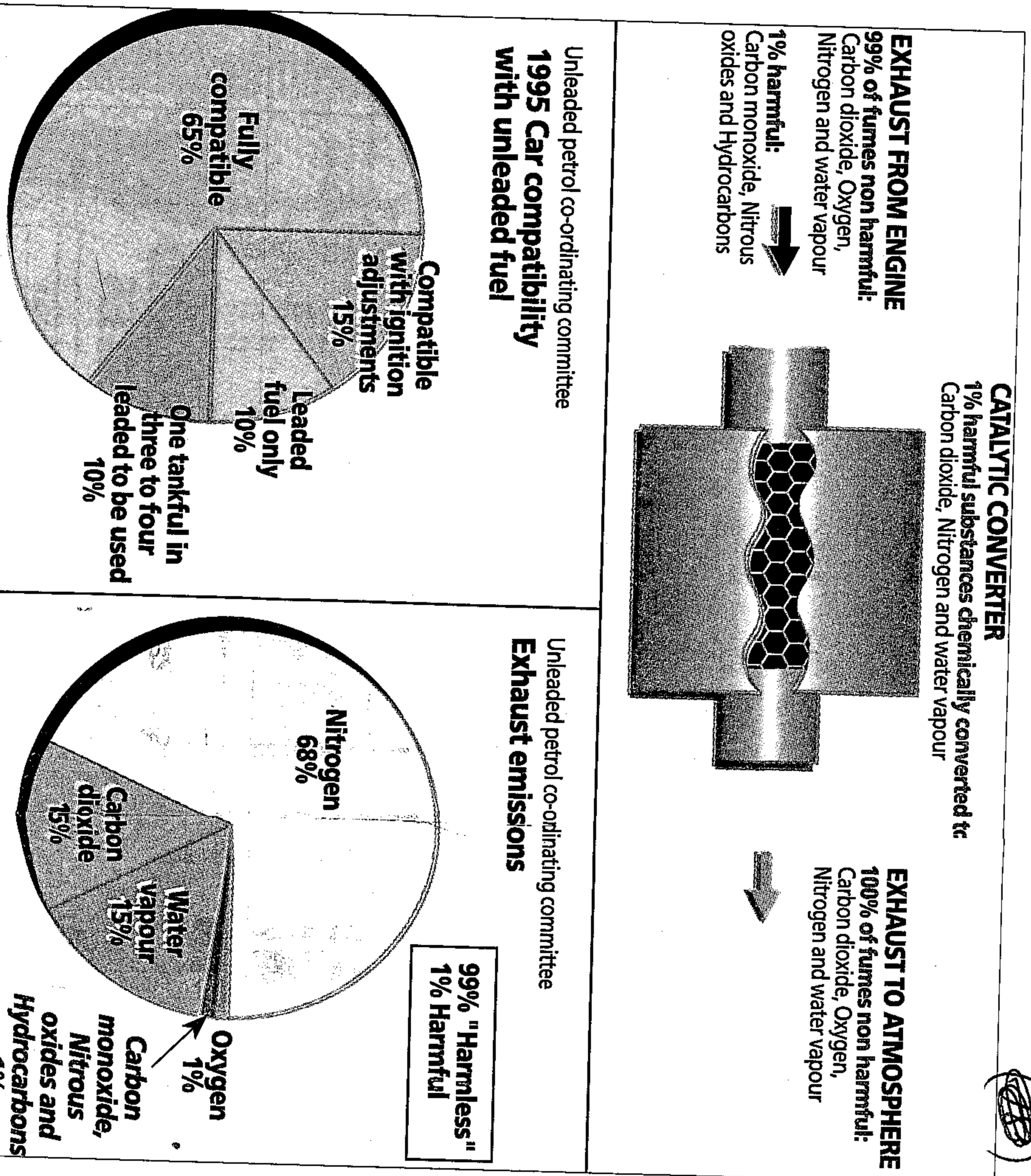
## Pollution

The law will not initially require the compulsory fitting of Cats to vehicles, as South Africa is going the unleaded petrol route for technological rather than health reasons.

There is no proof that vehicle emissions are a major contributing factor to pollution in South Africa. It is believed that electrifying townships and rural areas would do far more to curb air pollution than cleaning up the emissions of South Africa's relatively small car population.

However, an emissions working group set up by the Unleaded Petrol Co-ordinating Committee is currently developing a national policy on vehicle emissions, and government policy could change depending on their findings.

The five-phase project is due for completion within three to four years. Cats cost between R2 000 and R3 000.



stan 3/8/95 (56)

Unleaded petrol is usually introduced for environmental reasons. But in South Africa it is being introduced for economic reasons. Exports will play a vital role in the future survival of South Africa's seven vehicle manufacturers now that duties are decreasing and imports are becoming more competitive.

Internationally new engine technology is almost entirely based on unleaded petrol and SA needs to fall in line if its exports are to find markets. The alternative, converting engines that have been designed to use unleaded petrol so as to enable them to use leaded, will make cars more expensive in South Africa.

It has been estimated that export markets which could open up to SA motor manufacturers could earn the country up to R250-million a year in the first 10 years.

## Wholly compatible

The benefit for South African motorists in the long term is the improved fuel efficiency of engines designed to run on unleaded petrol. However, engines not wholly compatible with unleaded petrol are expected to be less efficient in the meantime.

Engines built according to unleaded technology are claimed to have a longer life than leaded petrol engines and to require lower maintenance. Spark plugs and exhausts are also said to last longer too.

To achieve a market penetration of about 20% in the first year, it was proposed to make unleaded (which is more expensive to produce) cheaper to buy than leaded petrol.

But because unleaded is more expensive to produce than leaded, it has been proposed to push up the price of leaded so as to subsidise unleaded.

It was disagreement over this that led the Government to postpone the introduction of unleaded petrol (see accompanying story).

Lead has traditionally been added to fuel because it lubricates valves, reduces engine knock, and is a low-cost octane enhancer. Unleaded petrol did not come about because its emissions are healthier to

breathe than those from leaded petrol, as seems to be the general perception. In fact, lead was removed from petrol because it attacked the catalytic converters that were increasingly being fitted to cars in the US in the 1970s, rendering them useless in a short period of time.

It is the catalytic converter, not the unleaded petrol, which reduces the health risk of petrol emissions by converting harmful carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides into harmless compounds such as water vapour, carbon dioxide and nitrogen.

Unleaded petrol, as opposed to lead-free petrol, still contains some lead, albeit in very small quantities. International standards allow up to 13mg of lead a litre to qualify as unleaded, compared to the current 400mg in leaded petrol.

Unleaded became available in the US in 1975, followed by Japan in the same year. Many other countries followed suit, but the Cameroon is the only African country to have introduced it so far.

The Unleaded Petrol Co-ordinating Committee (UPCOC), a body formed in 1991 to develop a programme for the introduction of unleaded in SA, claims only 1% of vehicle exhaust emissions are harmful.

The bulk of emissions are made up of harmless nitrogen (68%), carbon dioxide (15%), water (15%) and oxygen (1%). Harmful emissions are said to comprise carbon monoxide (0.1% - 0.4%), nitrogen oxides (0.3%) and unburned hydrocarbons (0.3%).

## State of tune

The levels of these emissions also vary depending on the state of tune of an engine. Octane boosting lead alternatives such as aromatics and olefins will probably increase the proportion of unburnt hydrocarbons, but the UPCOC admits that no local research has been carried out as to their possible harmful effects.

The relatively low octane level of South African unleaded (in comparison with the UK, for instance) should keep emissions down, it says.

It will initially not be compulsory to fit expensive catalytic converters to cars running on unleaded when it is introduced in SA.

# Saldanha steel project 'could destroy Berg River estuary'

~~(1897)~~ (56)  
JERMAINE CRAIG

Staff Reporter

AR 5/18/95

THE Saldanha Steel Project could possibly destroy the Berg River estuary, the only riverine floodplain on the west and south coasts of South Africa.

This is according to Bryan Davies and Jenny Day, of the University of Cape Town Freshwater Research Unit, who testified to the Steyn Board of Inquiry into the proposed Saldanha steel mill in Cape Town yesterday.

There are 127 bird species, a combination of 14 different types of vegetation communities, and 31 species of fish in the Berg River estuary.

Many of these fish species form the basis of employment and sustenance for the people of Saldanha, which is essentially a fishing village.

Professor Davies feels there has been a "glaring lack of holistic appraisal" of the proposed development's impact on these lifeforms.

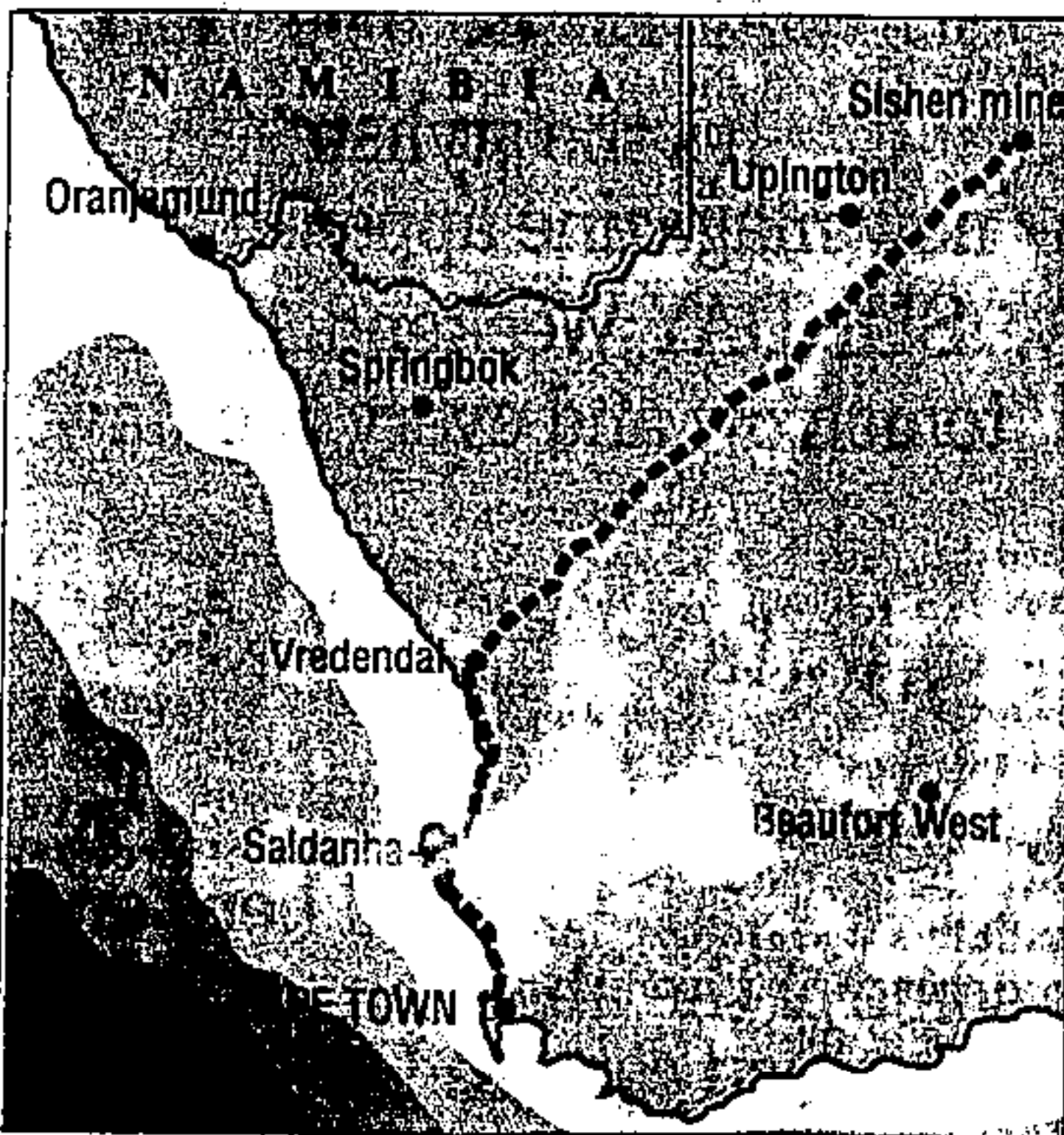
Professor Davies maintains that he is not against development in general, but he is against development which is unsustainable.

"The issue is not one of putting the environment against people or job opportunities. People are part of and dependent on the environment. The environment should be maintained so that people can be sustained," he said.

Iscor would be using water from the Langebaanweg aquifer for the proposed project. Professor Davies expressed concern that there is not sufficient proof that this aquifer is not linked to the Berg River estuary.

If this were the case it could put a strain on the region's already depleted water supply.

This could result in the degradation of the Berg River system to such an extent that it could be lost forever.



□ FRAGILE FLOODPLAIN: A map of the Berg River estuary at Saldanha Bay.

# Rail repairs new blow to Saldanha steel project

(189A) (56) ARG

**WILLEM STEENKAMP**

Staff Reporter

IN another major setback for the controversial steel project planned for Saldanha, Spoornet has now admitted that the 860 km-long Sishen/Saldanha railway track will have to be replaced at a cost of R500 million within about five years.

This has been attributed to a miscalculation by engineers, who failed to allow adequately for the interaction between the heavy iron ore trains and the track when it was built in 1975.

This puts a further question mark over the viability of the R4 billion steel project planned for Saldanha.

Since 1984 engineers have been working on the track to repair damage caused by the train trucks and locomotives.

When loaded with iron ore, each truck applies a pressure of about 104 tons on the track. About 21 million tons of iron ore a year is transported on the track.

Interaction between the trucks, locomotives and the track has been eating away at the railway line over a period of time. Engineers have been using special grinding and heavy duty sanding equipment to grind back the profile of the damaged track since 1984.

The cost of these repairs runs to about R5 million a year and maintenance and repairs will con-

■ To page 2

## Rail repair setback to Saldanha steel project

■ From page 1

ARG 5/8/95  
(189A) (56)  
tinue until the turn of the century.

But Frans Bruwer, infrastructure manager of Spoornet in Saldanha, has admitted that soon after the turn of the century the track will have to be systematically replaced as only so much re-profiling of the track can be done.

The total cost of replacing the track will be about R500 million.

Mr Bruwer said engineers were aware that tracks carrying heavy cargo trains suffered from deterioration caused by the interaction between the trains and the track. But the engineers had failed to grasp the problem fully early on.

He said the steel tracks used on the Sishen/Saldanha track were made from a super hard chrome and manganese alloy. This material was harder than the conventional carbon steel lengths used on other railway lines.

However, in spite of using the harder material, the track was still being damaged. Because of the near-collapse of the world steel market in the mid-80s, a lack of funds prevented adequate preventative repairs to keep the track in tip-top shape.

But in 1989 the transport of iron ore on the line increased and money was available to start re-profiling and repairing the track.

Danie Barnardo, regional manager of Spoornet in Saldanha and also harbour manager, said the interaction between the track and train was "a very difficult and complex problem".

"In fact, we have a group of experts who are based in Saldanha and whose brief is to study the problem and look after the track."

Mr Barnardo said Saldanha Steel would also need about 750 000 tons of coal a year for their steel mill if the project went ahead. If the company decided to have the coal transported to the mill on the same track, this would add a further 750 000 tons of cargo a year on the track.

Saldanha Steel was also considering bringing in the coal by sea. This would mean that the existing iron ore jetty would have to be extended and the harbour deepened to handle the coal delivered by ship.

Environmentalists do not want blasting in the harbour and have also expressed concerns about dust pollution from the off-loading of coal in the ecologically sensitive Saldanha Bay, which is only 10 km away from the Langebaan lagoon.

# Damaged track puts another spoke in steel project

A further question mark has been placed over the viability of the controversial steel project planned for Saldanha with Spoornet's acknowledgement that the Sishen-Saldanha railway track will have to be replaced, reports

## WILLEM STEENKAMP

In another major setback for the controversial steel project planned for Saldanha, Spoornet

has admitted that the 860km-long Sishen-Saldanha railway track will have to be replaced at a cost of about R500-million within about five years.

This has been attributed to a miscalculation by engineers who failed to allow adequately for the interaction between the heavy iron ore trains and the track when it was built in 1975.

This puts a further question mark over the viability of the R4-billion steel project planned for Saldanha.

Since 1984, engineers have

been working on the track to repair damage caused by the interaction between the train trucks, the locomotives and the track itself.

When loaded with iron ore, each truck applies a pressure of about 104 tons on the track. About 21-million tons of iron ore a year is transported on the track.

Interaction between the trucks, locomotives and the track has been eating away at the railway line over a period of time. Engineers have been

using special grinding and heavy-duty sanding equipment to grind back the profile of the damaged track since 1984.

The cost of these repairs runs to about R5-million a year and maintenance and repairs will continue until the turn of the century.

But Frans Bruwer, infrastructure manager of Spoornet in Saldanha, has admitted that soon after the turn of the century the track will have to be systematically replaced because only so much reprofiling of the track can be done.

The total cost of replacing the track will be about R500-million.

Bruwer said engineers were aware that tracks carrying heavy-haul trains suffered from deterioration caused by the interaction between the trains and the track. But the engineers had failed to fully grasp the problem early on.

He said the steel tracks used on the Sishen-Saldanha track were made from a super-hard chrome and manganese alloy. This material is harder than the conventional carbon steel lengths used on other railway

lines.

However, in spite of using the harder material, the track was still damaged. Because of the near-collapse of the world steel market in the mid-1980s, a lack of funds prevented adequate preventive repairs to keep the track in tip-top shape.

But by 1989-90 the transport of iron ore on the line increased and money was available to start reprofiling and repairing the track.

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said the interaction between the track and trains which caused the damage was "a very difficult and complex problem".

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Barnardo said Saldanha Steel would also need about 750 000 tons of coal a year for its steel mill if the project goes ahead. If the company decided to have the coal transported to the mill on the same track, this would add a further 750 000

tons of cargo a year on the rails.

Saldanha Steel was also considering bringing in the coal by sea. This would mean that the existing iron ore jetty would have to be extended and the harbour deepened to handle the coal delivered by ship.

Environmentalists are not keen that blasting be done in the harbour and have also expressed concerns about dust pollution from the offloading of coal in ecologically sensitive Saldanha Bay, which is only 10km from Langebaan lagoon.

Star 5/8/95 (58)

'WATER NEEDS COULD DESTROY ECOSYSTEM'

# Scientists slam steel project

**THE WATER** requirements of the proposed Saldanha steel mill and subsidiary industries could have devastating consequences, scientists say. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

**W**ATER scientists have cast serious doubt on the ability of the arid West Coast region to support the proposed Saldanha steel project and the industrial growth likely to be triggered if the mill is approved.

Testifying before the Steyn board of inquiry at the weekend, scientists also slammed the "glaring lack of a holistic appraisal" of the impact of the proposed industrial growth on the Western Cape, including Cape Town.

Professor Bryan Davies of UCT's Freshwater Research Unit said the R4,7-billion steel mill would use 16 000 tons of water a day — six million tons a year.

The satellite industries would

use an additional 20m tons a year and the increased workforce would push up the annual urban water consumption in the region to 14m tons — bringing water consumption to a total of 40m tons a year.

## Catastrophic

"If any reliance is placed on the Berg River for additional water supply then this river will degrade to the extent that one of the most important wetland/floodplain ecosystems in Southern Africa will be lost, perhaps for all time.

"This will have catastrophic implications for coastal fisheries, migratory birds, a suite of endangered species and the human pop-

ulations dependent on it for their living," Prof Davies said.

The loss of the wetland would also have international implications as the site was currently being considered for registration as a "wetland of international importance".

He said the Berg River floodplain and estuary had a unique combination of 14 different vegetation communities and five different types of wetland. There were 127 bird species, five of which were endangered.

"There is a higher proportion of fish species dependent upon this estuary than on any other estuary in South Africa.

"Many of these fish species form the basis of employment and sustenance for hundreds of families who live on the West Coast," Prof Davies said.

Director of UCT's Freshwater

Research Unit Dr Jenny Day said the exact amount of water in the two underground water bodies in the region — the Langebaanweg aquifer and the Elandsfontein aquifer — was unknown.

## Profound

It was possible that these aquifers were connected underground to the Berg River and to Langebaan Lagoon. If industry used water from the aquifers it could have profound effects on both the lagoon and the river.

Inquiry chairman Mr Justice Jan Steyn said the scientists' evidence had presented "considerable new information" which in many instances was in conflict with that supplied by the Department of Water Affairs.

He adjourned the hearing to study the new information.

ET 7/8/95

(56) (12/11)

# Move to turn islands into special reserves

(56) Star 8/18/95

■ BY ANITA ALLEN  
SCIENCE WRITER

Most South Africans probably don't know that Prince Edward Island and Marion Island, which lie halfway between the continents of Africa and Antarctica, are part of South Africa.

So they may be surprised by yesterday's invitation to comment on the intention to declare them as Special Nature Reserves.

The Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism manages and administers the islands, which were annexed as part of South Africa by the Prince Edward Islands Act 43 of 1948.

In a statement yesterday, the department said it was committed to the preservation of the islands as part of South Africa's heritage.

"All citizens of South Africa are invited to comment on the proposed declaration, as well as on the draft management

plan for these islands.

A weather station has been manned on Marion Island since 1947.

The department's statement said that, like many remote oceanic islands, the two islands exhibited a rare potential for the study of ecological processes, the monitoring of ecological change, and the preservation of biodiversity.

## Checked

"Prince Edward Island is regarded as so pristine that if helicopters take scientists from neighbouring Marion Island during relief voyages by the ship SA Agulhas, the helicopter's wheels are washed on board the ship to ensure that no alien fauna or flora are accidentally introduced."

All camping equipment and other supplies are also thoroughly checked.

Section 18 of the Environment Conservation Act of 1989 makes provision for the declaration of

special nature reserves, which are then managed by a committee appointed by the Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism.

This committee regulates visits to the islands, which are considered extremely sensitive environments where "the intrinsic ecological value exceeds all other values".

The department's intention to declare the islands special reserves and its draft management plan have been submitted to the parliamentary subcommittee on the environment, and to several non-governmental organisations, according to Richard Skinner, assistant director of the department's Directorate for Antarctica and Islands. Apparently the response has been positive.

Copies of the draft plan can be obtained from the directorate at Fedlife Forum Building, 315 Pretorius Street, Pretoria 0001, or telephone (012) 310-3569.

## Threat of lead, acid at Saldanha

Staff Reporter ~~1377~~ (56)

THE importation of raw materials for steel-making would generate acid and lead in groundwater and stormwater and air pollution in the Saldanha-Vredenburg area, an independent witness told the Steyn board of inquiry.

Dennis Everett, a Johannesburg engineering consultant who specialises in pollution control, was testifying at the inquiry into a proposed R4,7 billion Iscor steel mill at Saldanha Bay. ARG 9/8/95

He said materials such as coal, steel and iron contained sulphur which would generate acid and cause a substantial environmental hazard.

About 14 000 tons of acid fog could be produced each year in the area.

He said the unique, environmentally sensitive site was not suitable for the "very heavy industry" of a steel mill, or even for light industry or urbanisation.

The inquiry is headed by former judge Jan Steyn.



# Mill: 'Naive' to say no pollution

MELANIE GOSLING

THE proposed Saldanha Steel plant would emit over 700 tons of sulphur dioxide annually, which would give rise to about 14 000 tons of diluted acid fog over the area every year, the Steyn board of inquiry heard yesterday.

Dr Denys Everett, a chemical engineer called as a witness by the Northern Cape government, said the acid fog would move over Vredenburg and have an impact on the natural vegetation.

There was a danger that diluted sulphuric acid from the stockpiled ore and coal at the proposed R4,7-billion plant could leak into under-

ground water. "It is naive to say pollution will not occur."

He was called by Mr Willie Duminy, SC, counsel for the Northern Cape government and the Campaign for Saldanha who wanted to put the case for Sishen as a suitable alternative site.

## No mandate

However, chairman Mr Justice Jan Steyn said it was not part of the board's mandate to look at alternative sites and criticised the Northern Cape for using taxpayers' money to pursue a matter which was beyond the board's mandate.

"Why is the government of the

279/8/95 (56) (18/11)  
Northern Cape using public funds to promote the views of people who have holiday cottages at Langebaan?" Judge Steyn asked.

Mr Duminy said it was well within the powers of the Northern Cape to promote the Sishen site.

Board member Mr Rufus Maruma said: "I fail to understand that any government could come and attack Saldanha Bay on ecological principles — to say this company is a polluter, a monster, but let this monster come to me."

Judge Steyn agreed to allow Mr Duminy to present evidence on condition he restricted it to discussing the viability of the Saldanha site for the steel mill.

# Saldanha fog estimate slated

MELANIE GOSLING

ET 10/8/95

(56)

A SCIENTIST slammed as a "gross over-estimation" yesterday evidence before the Steyn inquiry that the proposed Saldanha Steel plant would give rise to 14 000 tons of acid fog in the region each year.

Testifying before the board of inquiry into the desirability of the R4,7-billion steel mill at Saldanha Bay, air pollution expert Dr Nico Boegman said: "Although the estimation looked nice on paper, it was a gross over-estimation."

He said most of the proposed plant's sulphur dioxide emissions, which causes acid rain or fog, would be released about 40m above the Saldanha fog belt.

"It will be hot, about 123°C, so there will be a thermal rise to between 120m to 150m above the ground and with normal dispersion it (sulphur dioxide) will dissipate," Dr Boegman said.

Earlier dentist Dr Jan Smith, who said he was testifying on behalf of the "oysters and mussels, birds and the bees" of Saldanha, questioned the relationship of National Parks Board chairman Mr Naas Steenkamp with Saldanha Steel chairman Mr Bernard Smith and Iscor managing director Mr Hans Smith.

He said the three were former Gencor colleagues.

## Saldanha probe told of men's prior relationship

2: Star 10/8/95 (56) ~~(57)~~

Cape Town — National Parks Board chairman Naas Steenkamp's relationship with Saldanha Steel executive chairman Bernard Smith and Iscor managing director Hans Smith was spotlighted at the Steyn inquiry yesterday.

Mr Justice Jan Steyn is heading a three-man board of inquiry appointed by Environmental Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers to investigate the proposed construction of a R4,7-billion steel plant at Saldanha Bay.

Giving evidence to the inquiry was Dr Jan Smith, a Cape Town dentist who told Judge Steyn he was appearing on behalf of the "neglected birds and bees, oysters and mussels" of Saldanha.

Smith said Steenkamp's previous involvement with the two

businessmen when they worked at Gencor might explain the parks board's neutral stance on the development.

Steenkamp does not appear to have the support of his staff, notably parks board executive director Dr Robbie Robinson, who is opposed to the plant being built at Yzerkarkensrug, 2km from Saldanha harbour.

Steenkamp has said the parks board will not oppose the development of the plant at Yzerkarkensrug as long as certain environmental precautions are taken.

Steyn described Smith's allegations as unjustified and unproductive. Legal counsel for Saldanha Steel Marius Helberg said he wanted it recorded that the company rejected the claims. — Sapa.

*Funds needed to set up task force*

# Muti trade threatens endangered wildlife

Star 10/8/95

(56)

■ BY TAMSEN DE BEER

A recent swoop on traffickers of endangered wildlife products in Manzini, Swaziland, highlights the muti trade as one of the biggest threats to the natural environment, conservationists say.

"The manner and rate at which animals, birds and plants are being traded for commercial purposes is wholly unsustainable," says Swaziland conservationist Ted O'Reilly.

O'Reilly is head of the Big Game Parks — a non-governmental organisation which manages Swaziland's three premier game reserves.

Colonel Piet Lategan of South

Africa's Endangered Species Protection Unit (ESPU), echoes his concern.

The recent arrests in Swaziland of 11 suspected traffickers at the Manzini market is part of an operation by Swazi officials to target the city.

It is believed that the trade is part of an extensive network through Africa to South Africa's metropolitan centres.

The alleged traffickers are mainly from Mozambique and Swaziland.

But Lategan says Swaziland is only one of a number of African countries that are cause for concern.

"Swaziland is in the news because of its good law enforce-

ment. Places like Mozambique have no law enforcement, so people think there's no trafficking going on."

He says the ESPU has started training an anti-poaching team in order to establish a "quick-reaction unit".

"We are preparing for an onslaught of poachers — jobless soldiers from Mozambique."

Law enforcement co-operation between South Africa and eight other African countries, including Swaziland, was formalised by the Lusaka Agreement.

But a vital regional task force to carry out law enforcement needs funding.

"No funds have been received yet," says Lategan.

# Conservation clash over

CAPE Nature Conservation has refused to sign a contract which effectively privatises the Tokai and Cecilia state forests, saying they must be managed as public assets in a new Cape Peninsula protected area.

"It doesn't make much sense to endorse a new role-player in the Cape Peninsula's conservation management when the whole issue is being subjected to review and rationalisation," CNC director Kobus Jooste explained this week.

He was referring to a document which defines the borders between Safcol (the SA Forestry Company Ltd) and CNC land at Tokai and Cecilia, and which CNC declined to sign last week.

Instead, the provincial conservation authority says the matter has to be referred to an official advisory committee which is drafting a new unified conservation

## state forest plan

BY CHARL DE VILLIERS

management blueprint for the Peninsula.

Safcol's Western Cape regional manager, George von dem Busche, said, the forestry company would be appearing before the Table Mountain and Peninsula Advisory Committee on August 21.

The two plantations are popular recreational areas inside the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment, but Mr von dem Busche says they are also two of the best timber sites in South Africa.

They could, conceivably, also be used for agriculture if this proved more lucrative than commercial forestry, he said.

"The Minister of Public Enterprises, Stella Sigau, has ruled that Safcol has a right to optimise land use. Where commercial timber production is not a paying proposition, agricultural production may be permitted (on Safcol land)."

But according to a senior CNC manager, there was concern that state forestry land would

be used for other purposes if it did not make money.

Mr von dem Busche promised that Safcol would fall in line with any policies issued from the CPPNE's successor, and said all development decisions were subject to environmental impact assessments and public participation.

He said the commercialised state plantations — which account for over half of some 428 000 ha of state forest land transferred to Safcol — could not be sold by the company as the state was the sole share-

holder and had the first right of refusal.

Another CNC source, who asked not to be named, said the dispute with Safcol hinged more on issues of ownership than boundaries between commercialised state forests and protected areas.

"How can a private corporation manage public land for profit in a designated, nature area?" he asked.

He said this was particularly the case regarding Cecilia, which had been bequeathed to the nation by the Rhodes Will Act.

Safcol chief financial

director Kobus Breed said his company was acting strictly within a cabinet mandate which had transferred state forestry land to Safcol for commercial exploitation.

● The next meeting of the Table Mountain and Peninsula Advisory Committee is on August 21 at 9am, at the Alphen Civic Centre in Constantia.

Draft submissions on the new authority must reach the committee by Friday, August 18. They must be addressed to the committee at Private Bag X7, Claremont, 7735, or fax 761 4687.

(56) ST (CM) 13/8/95

# New deal call for Table Mountain

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

A NEW management authority for the Peninsula's protected mountain area should have national status, be funded mainly by the central government and be governed by a fully representative board.

This is the view of the "Kahn" committee which is advising Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers on the future management of the mountain chain area — essentially the proclaimed Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment.

The committee, nominated by Western Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn and chaired by National Botanical Institute chairman Brian Huntley, has met five times and has produced draft terms of reference and functions for a proposed management authority.

The committee now wants public comment on its proposals and will hold public hearings next month at which organisations like the National Parks Board and Cape Nature Conservation — both vying for the job of managing the mountain — will be asked to re-

spond to its model.

The committee wants the new authority to be finalised by next year.

According to the draft terms of reference, the future authority's objective must be "to act as the custodian of the Cape Peninsula Protected Area, serving the public's interest through conserving and enhancing the area's rich physical and biological diversity, scenic beauty and cultural assets, and enabling the responsible and sustainable use of the area".

The authority must be accountable to, and representative of, the public and private and community sectors from local to national level.

The authority should be governed by a board, appointed by the responsible minister from nominations from interested organisations and individuals.

People holding public office should not be eligible for the board.

According to the draft proposals, the new authority should be a "legal person" which can:

- Receive, generate, invest, employ and retain funds to promote its objectives.

ARG 14/8/95 (56)  
● Employ permanent, temporary and contract staff to carry out its responsibilities.

- Own, lease or be custodian of movable and immovable property.

- Sue and be sued.

The new authority should have the legal power to control and manage activities within the Cape Peninsula Protected Area, and be responsible for all planning functions which would otherwise be undertaken by other authorities.

These would include the preparation and review of structure and local plans, control over development proposals, and the promulgation of by-laws.

The new authority should "respect the principles of participation, accountability, efficiency, sustainability, transparency, equity and adaptability".

- The draft Terms of Reference document is available from the Secretary, Table Mountain and Peninsula Advisory Committee, Private Bag X7, Claremont 7735.

Submissions should reach the committee by Friday.

For more information, ☎ 762 1166 or fax 761 4687.

*The announcement that South Africa has ratified the Madrid Protocol of the Antarctic Treaty has been warmly welcomed by conservationists. But they are concerned that the protocol, which provides for environmental protection of the vast frozen continent, is not yet operative because it has not been ratified by a sufficient number of treaty signatories, writes Environment Reporter JOHN YELD.*

# SA ratifies Antarctic Treaty on Environment

ALY 14/8/95

WE'RE extremely pleased — but it's time the other Antarctic Treaty countries also assumed their responsibilities!"

That was the reaction of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group, which incorporates the Save Antarctica Campaign, to the announcement that South Africa had at last ratified the Madrid Protocol.

The protocol, also known as the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, was signed in October 1991, by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to protect the virtually pristine environment of Antarctica and its associated ecosystems.

South Africa was a founder signatory of the 1959 treaty.

The protocol is aimed at strengthening the Antarctic Treaty and makes provision for a prescribed set of rules and procedures to be followed for any proposed activities and developments on the frozen continent.

It also provides guidelines, in the form of a code of conduct, for people visiting Antarctica.

A spokesman for the Department of Environmental Affairs, which administers South Africa's activities in Antarctica, said the ratification of the protocol had been handed to the United States — the repository country of the Antarctic Treaty — on August 3.

The announcement was warmly wel-

comed by Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action Group, which has been running a Save Antarctica campaign in association with Greenpeace for several years.

Mrs Rice has been sharply critical of South Africa's delay in signing the protocol.

"While we're extremely pleased that South Africa has at last ratified the Antarctic environmental protocol, it's our hope that the rest of the 26 Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties which have not already ratified it will do so as soon as possible," she said.

"It's rather a sorry state of affairs that the protocol was signed in 1991 and now — four years later — it is still not operative."

Construction of South Africa's new Sanae IV base in Antarctica — due for commissioning in the 1996/97 season — was proceeding strictly in accordance with the Madrid Protocol, the Environmental Affairs spokesman said.

In another major environmental initiative in the Southern Ocean area, the department has announced it intends declaring the Prince Edward Islands as Special Nature Reserves in terms of the Environment Conservation Act.

The island group is mid-way between Africa and Antarctica and consists of Prince Edward Island and Marion Island.

They were formally annexed as part of the then Union of South Africa in 1948, and are presently managed and administered by this department.

A weather station has been operated from Marion Island since 1947.



Pictures: JOHN YELD, The Argus.

**PRISTINE WILDERNESS:** The Vesleskarvet nunatak (rocky outcrop), above, where South Africa is building its new Antarctic base rises out of the snowy, wild interior of the frozen continent. Construction work on the new base, right, is being done according to strict environmental guidelines, as specified in the Antarctic Treaty's Madrid Protocol which South Africa has just ratified.

"We are committed to the preservation of the Prince Edward islands as our country's heritage, and we are inviting all South Africans to comment on this proposed declaration and on the draft management plan for these islands," an environmental affairs spokesman said.

"Prince Edward Island is regarded as so pristine that if a helicopter takes scientists from the neighbouring Marion Island to it during SA Agulhas relief voyages, the helicopter wheels are washed aboard the ship to ensure no alien fauna or flora are accidentally introduced to the island.

"All camping equipment and other supplies are also thoroughly checked before being landed ashore."

● World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) president Prince Phillip has called for Norway, Finland and Russia to co-operate in creating an international park in the Arctic region.

His remarks came after a five-day tour of Arctic Russia.

Prince Phillip said a park in an area bordering Russia's Kola peninsula would straddle all three countries.



&  
YOUR  
EARTH

# Woman to head E Tvl parks board

Environmentalist Dr Sue Hart has been appointed interim chairman of the Eastern Transvaal Parks Board.

At a function in Nelspruit at the weekend, Environmental Affairs MEC David Mkhwanazi said: "We are the second province in the country to have our

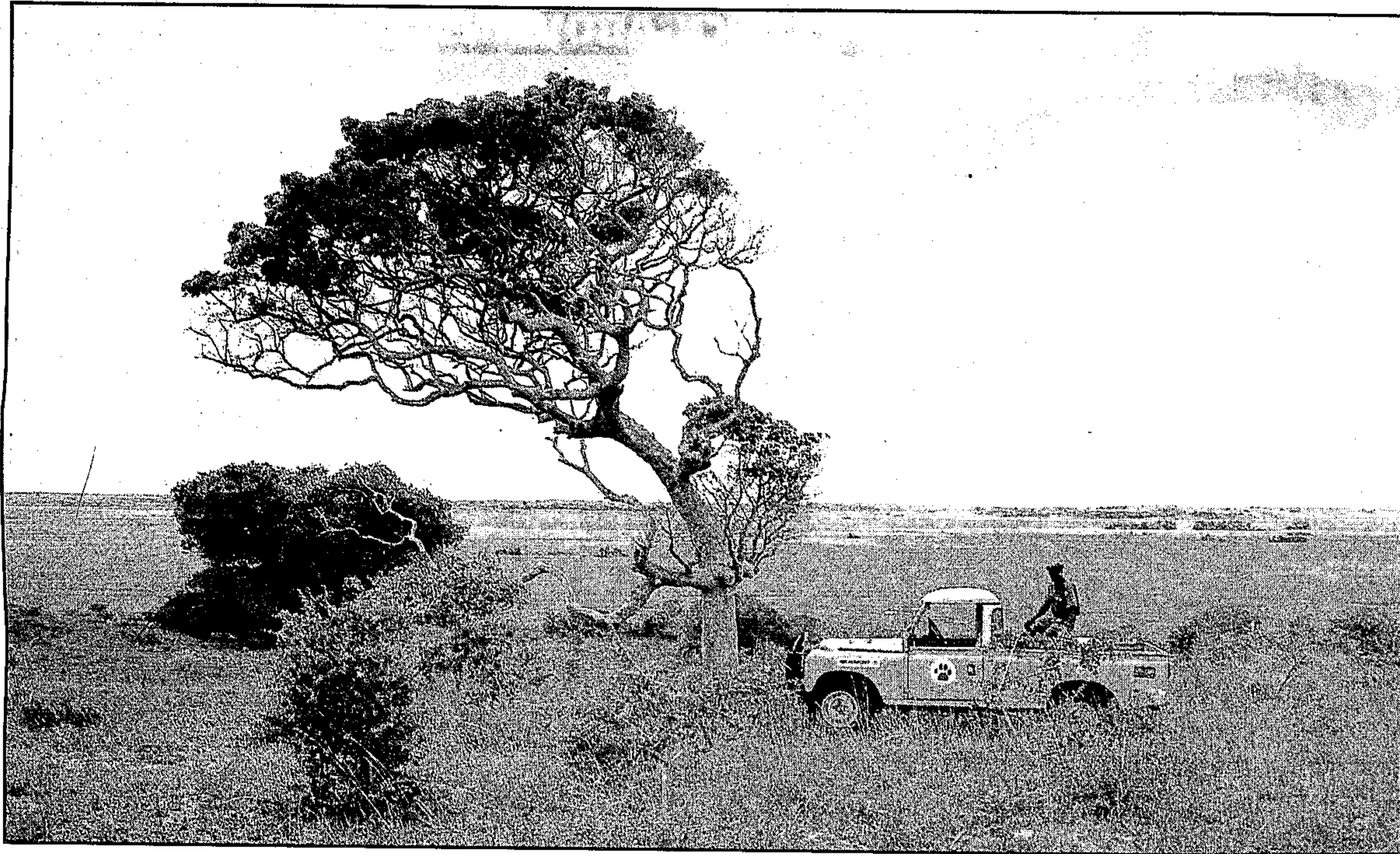
own parks board — the first being the Natal Parks Board in 1947 — but have scored a first with a woman as chairman."

Hart, he said, would be assisted by Dr P Maduna, as deputy chairman, Dr L Mabuza, Professor S Ripinga, Dr M Dender, Advocate FM Lekgodi, Dr Roy

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Impey, Dr JW van Niekerk, Dr Salmon Joubert, NT Sibiza, J Nkambule and DS Sangweni.

Hart said energy should be concentrated not on grabbing and wasting but rather on putting something back into nature in appreciation of what we have inherited. — Lowveld Bureau.





◀ New horizons ... the main focus of an Endangered Wildlife Trust project is to re-stock the great plains of the Maputo Elephant Reserve. The project also aims to halt poaching and to attract much-needed tourism.

*Endangered Wildlife Trust needs support for Mozambique project*

# Bid to rehabilitate game reserve

BY ANITA ALLEN  
SCIENCE WRITER

An emergency plan for the rehabilitation of the Maputo Elephant Reserve has been launched by the Endangered Wildlife Trust, which is appealing to South Africans for support in the form of funds, equipment and time.

"No donation is too small because the people in Mozambique have nothing," says Coral Wilder of the EWT who will be co-ordinating the project.

The drive into Mozambique was launched last week as an EWT Conservation Action Programme. Over the years these programmes, which rely on volunteer working groups, have notched up major successes in projects ranging from raptor conservation to training game guards in protected areas in Namibia. The heart of the programmes is the involvement of rural communities and job creation as part of the EWT's commitment to the RDP.

## Greatest need

EWT projects are determined on the basis of greatest need and this has led to a recent focus on Mozambique.

"The need is definitely greatest in Mozambique," EWT director Dr John Ledger said at the launch of the Maputo Elephant Reserve Action Programme.

"We have identified Maputo Elephant Reserve as the area of greatest potential and the only reserve that has the remotest chance of being used by tourists in the short term. It already has a herd of 75 elephants and other game is returning."

The reserve lies a mere two hours from Maputo, on the Futi watercourse, which was the migratory route of elephant between Natal and Mozambique before an electrical fence was erected.

It consists of bountiful reefs and white beaches in the east, pristine indigenous dune forests, pans, lakes and plains which used to be home for huge herds of animals. Twenty-three years of war has decimated the animal populations but the vegetation is still in prime condition.

"Our position is that southern African countries have to collaborate. The borders are not ours, they have been forced on us and we don't see why we should obey them," Ledger said.

"Water that falls on the Witwatersrand ends up in the Limpopo and then in Mozambique, so we are connected."

He warned that some South Africans visiting Mozambique were behaving very badly in terms of stripping marine and other resources and appealed to them, and particularly fishermen, to join the project.

"There's a lot of crockery and fly by nights, but the move by Mozambique authorities is to identify these people and get them out."

"Original landowners have a chance of getting their property back, especially if they collaborate with local people."

The EWT has registered its Mozambique office as Fundacao Natureza em Perigo (Foundation for Nature in Peril). Current activities focus on the training of game guards, and equipping them to halt endemic poaching. It has also set

conservation projects on the Bazaruto Archipelago and along the coast line from Maputo to the South African border.

Donations to the Maputo project to date include uniforms for game guards from Coin Security; a cell phone and pager from Radiospoor; a chain

saw and bush cutter from Husqvarna and a radio base station and three mobile phones from the US-based company Cobra, through its local franchise company GAS Electronics.

In addition, readers of The Star reacted to an appeal for CB radios and

have donated 12 to date. The EWT needs more CBs with sidebands. It also needs to set up extended facilities to manufacture fencing and a creosote treatment plant, as well to equip and complete a training and education centre which was half built before the war.

The EWT works closely with the *Mozambique Direcção Nacional de Florestas e Fauna Bravia* (National Directorate of Forestry and Wildlife) which has the daunting task of having to consolidate 87 000 square kilometres of gazetted protected areas.

The EWT has been in operation for 22 years, as a non-profit non-government conservation organisation. Help with the Maputo project has been divided into corporate, special events/fundraising, equipment/work parties, media/PRO and Friends of Mozambique.

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# Parks board flays steel mill plan

JACQUELYN SWARTZ  
Staff Reporter

(56)

THE National Parks Board has reinforced its stance against the proposed R4,7 billion steel mill at Saldanha Bay through additional hard-hitting representations to the Steyn board of inquiry.

Yesterday's address by chief executive director Robbie Robinson and two officials was supported by the chairman of the organisation's board of trustees, Naas Steenkamp.

This follows a clash between the two men earlier this year about the Parks Board's position on the proposed project.

Its eventual official statement in May — expressing concern about the potential harm the site of the mill could have on the environmentally sensitive Langebaan lagoon and West Coast national park

— was reinforced by Dr Robinson's emphatic appeals yesterday. *ARG 16/8/95*

"I am scared out of my wits in terms of what is being planned," Mr Robinson said.

"We believe the choice of the site is unfortunate.

"There are other sites which will create just as many jobs; that we will benefit just as much by."

He said the proximity of the proposed site to the park and lagoon presented the risk of air and ground-water pollution.

The area was of international importance, he said, pointing out that it is registered under the Ramsar Convention, to which South Africa is a signatory and which protects wetland areas, specifically with regard to water bird conservation.

"Ramsar will be withdrawn if that area is under threat and we are not meeting our commitment," Dr Robinson warned.

He said the Parks Board was the custodian of the area and that it should be preserved for future generations.

"We can't sell ourselves for cash flow comfort," he said.

"How much will future generations have to pay for the 'profits' made today?" he questioned.

Dr Robinson's appeal to the board followed presentations by two other officials, Southern Parks environmental manager Sarel Yssel and Johan Taljaard, head of socio-ecology in the West Coast national park.

In his address to the board, Mr Taljaard pointed out the importance of the area nationally and internationally to

plant, marine and bird life.

It sustained about 70 000 migrating northern hemisphere birds annually.

The area also supported huge tracts of fynbos and was home to 25 percent of the world's gannet population and to Southern Africa's only endemic penguin population.

Following the representations, Mr Steenkamp reminded the board that the statement made in May was the National Parks Board's official stance.

However, he supported yesterday's appeal and asked that the board of inquiry seriously consider the information presented.

● In order to accommodate the public, the inquiry, which continues on Tuesday, will be held in the Albion Room, Holiday Inn, Main Road, Newlands.

**Masterbond:**



'PARK OF GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE'

# Steel mill threat to park

**THE NATIONAL PARKS BOARD** has said the steel mill at Saldanha would be disastrous for the long-term development of the area. **CLAIRE BISSEKER** reports.

**T**HE National Parks Board (NPB) might "close up shop" at the West Coast National Park if the Saldanha steel mill were given the go-ahead, chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson told the Steyn Board of Inquiry yesterday.

Dr Robinson said: "We cannot be degraded to selling out our responsibility in order to serve short- and medium-term sectoral financial gain. We have one West Coast National Park and Langebaan Lagoon on earth and lots of sites for the steel mill."

Board member Mr Rufus Maru-

ma said, however, he was "not convinced by your argument that there is only one national park. Your sentiment is the same as I attach to the mountain outside my village where my parents are buried. Do you think your argument will convince the minister?"

Dr Robinson replied that the 27 000ha park, developed over 10 years at a cost of R30 million, was "of global significance".

The park supports 25% of the world population of Cape gannets, 12% of the population of the African oyster catcher and 70 000

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migratory waders and is one of the world's richest fish sources.

The park also contains 40% of the world's strandveld fynbos.

In written evidence the board said the proposal for the mill and plans to stockpile crude oil were "fundamentally flawed" and would turn Saldanha Bay into a third world "post office" for a toxic commodity.

## Unsustainable

By undermining the area's unique selling features, the mill would mitigate against long-term sustainable development of Saldanha.

It would also conflict with the

(56) (56) land-use planning principles for the West Coast and damage or destroy long-term ecotourism potential and mariculture activities.

In a separate submission, Mr Mike Solomon, a senior policy analyst at the Minerals and Energy Policy Centre, said if the mill was permitted, development at Saldanha was likely to outstrip Richards Bay.

Its job creation potential was likely to be five times the original estimate of 600 jobs because of the inevitable development of downstream and service industries.

While Saldanha Steel had designed an effluent-free plant, downstream industries would be the real polluters, he predicted.

# Saldanha steels itself for future

MELANIE GOSLING

**T**O SOME it's a monster, to others it's a saviour. They have denounced it, rejected it, praised it and welcomed it. They have testified under oath that it will pollute the land, air and water and become an ugly blot on the landscape that future generations will curse.

They have also testified that it will bring hope and prosperity to hundreds of unemployed and turn the ailing region into a vibrant "city of lights".

Never before in South African history has a steel mill been so many things to so many people. One could be forgiven for being confused.

What really is at the heart of all the fuss? Essentially, I think, a change in values.

## Loony left

Twenty years ago when, as they say, green was a colour rather than a philosophy, the proposed R4,7-billion Saldanha Steel project to build a steel mill at Saldanha — a joint venture by Iscor and the Industrial Development Corporation — would probably have gone ahead with a bang and little more than a whimper from a handful of concerned environmentalists.

Today South Africans are becoming environmentally "literate". There is a growing public awareness, concern and responsibility towards the environment, and politicians and decision-makers are having to adjust. No longer can they dismiss "greens" as the loony left.

As public outcry grew, which included

court action against the authorities, Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers appointed a Board of Inquiry in terms of Section 15 of the Environment Conservation Act — the first minister ever to do so.

Chaired by former judge Jan Steyn, the inquiry's brief is to evaluate the objections, to look at the implications of past decisions regarding development in the Saldanha region, and "any other issue which in its opinion is a relevant consideration in the evaluation of the matter".

The board began hearing evidence on July 16 and will make recommendations to the minister before the end of August.

It has certainly been an inquiry with a difference. Usually the exclusive domain of well-dressed men sprouting technical jargon (and there have been plenty of those), the inquiry has heard evidence from fresh-faced graduate students and veldskoened professors, dispirited West Coast hotel managers and vociferous trade unionists, leather-jacketed businessmen and people's politicians, concerned housewives and "freelance" community workers, chemical engineers armed with tomes of statistics and a woman who washes fish in a factory.

There was even an orthodontist who represented the "oysters and mussels, the birds and the bees" of Langebaan. And the board didn't laugh.

Saldanha Steel's evidence was the kind that anyone running a country would like to hear. The steel mill will generate R3,6-billion in company tax, R46-million in local and regional tax, R13-million in staff salaries taxes, about R1,8-billion in foreign exchange and create 400 jobs.

The people of Saldanha Bay-Vredenburg region "stood as one man" in support of the mill. Unemployment was rife, they said, the fishing industry in decline and tourism hardly existent. They too loved the environment, but were satisfied with the assurances the company had given that pollution would be minimal and strictly monitored.

One ANC woman said if the steel mill were not built, Saldanha would become a ghost town. Another local said without the mill, things would get so bad the people of the region would probably have to resort to eating Langebaan's famous flamingoes.

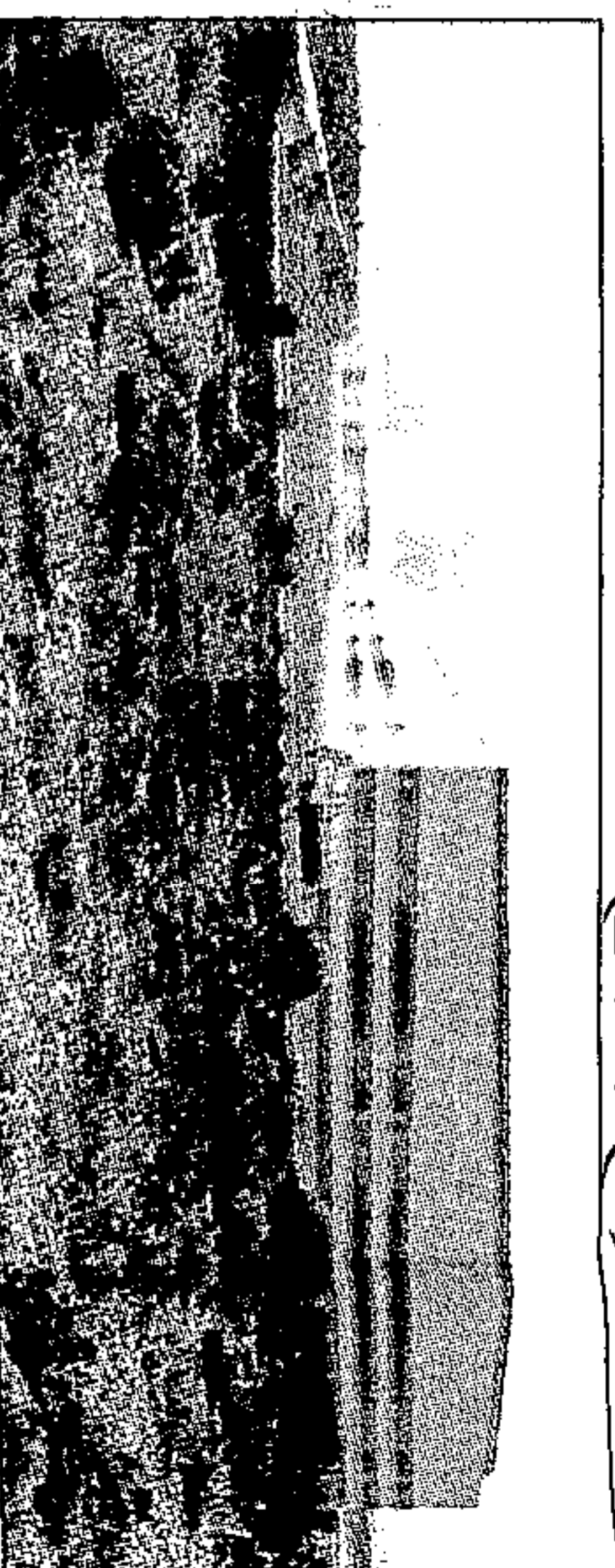
## Sense of place

The objectors submitted that the mill would pollute the air with coal dust and 14 000 tons of acid fog a year. It would have an adverse effect on the oyster and mussel industry, pollute ground water and increase the shipping which would require blasting and dredging of the bay.

It would be only 10 km away from the West Coast National Park and Langebaan Lagoon, recognised by the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance.

The visual impact would destroy the sense of place and hinder the development of tourism. In short, it was the thin edge of the industrial wedge which could turn Saldanha into a Vanderbijlpark-by-the-sea.

UCT scientists cast doubt on the ability of the arid West Coast region to support any big industry. Evaporation was greater than the amount of rain which fell. No one knew how much water there was in the under-



PLANNED PLANT: Computer simulation of the proposed steel complex at Saldanha Bay.

ground aquifers and whether they were connected to Langebaan Lagoon and the Berg River — also earmarked as a Ramsar site.

But as days of evidence were heard, it was clear there was a broader issue under the spotlight which, I think, is the crux of the whole debate.

In essence, people were questioning the procedures that led to the decision — embodied in the provincial authorities' 1994 Vredenburg-Saldanha Structure Plan — which earmarked sections of the region for heavy industry.

What people seemed to be saying was: who made the decision to zone areas for heavy industry and why? What are the real consequences — economically, environmentally and socially? Were the public involved? Did anyone seriously examine other land uses? Why was there no strategic environmental assessment for the region, no environmental overview?

In short, did the authorities stand back and look at the bigger picture, and, having

done that, did anyone really put the issue into the public domain for comment — before it became cast in concrete?

Sadly, the answer seems to be no. It was really only through the environmental impact assessment commissioned by Saldanha Steel (flawed though it may be) that what the authorities had in mind for the Saldanha region became public knowledge. It was only then that the objections started pouring in.

Professional environmentalists do not oppose development. They try to control and guide it to minimise the negative impacts. It seems clear that environmental impact assessments, which are meant to be an aid to decision-makers, can't really achieve this in isolation of the bigger picture, of an environmental overview.

Whatever the outcome of the Steyn inquiry, if it can include in its recommendations some procedures that will go some way to achieving this, it will have been a worthwhile exercise.

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(56)

\* National housing programme and RDP-related research

Apart from the building material-specific aspects of the CSIR's research, examples of which are highlighted above, the CSIR also conducts research in the field of land use planning and management which is region-related and which impacts directly on the national housing programme and the RDP. This research includes work on:

- the quantification and evaluation of land use through remote sensing techniques
- The use of information technology and integrated data management systems to provide decision support for housing delivery and subsidy management at national, provincial and local authority levels
- development feasibility modelling, including the use of terrain evaluation techniques, and the manipulation of geotechnical, geographic, topographic and demographic data.

The CSIR's RDP-related research, development and implementation (RDI) work is spread widely through the organisation, with most of the twelve operating divisions working on RDI projects relevant to the RDP.

\* CSIR research references

The wide body of CSIR research in the field of building materials is referenced in several data held by the CSIR. Specific queries regarding particular materials for use in particular geographic or climatic regions could be addressed by reference to the appropriate database.

Queries in this regard may be addressed to either:

Mr Awie Vlok  
Market and Business Development Manager  
Division of Building Technology  
CSIR

Tel: (012) 841-3870  
Fax: (012) 841-4680

or

Mr Bryan Wallis  
Manager: Technology  
Division of Building Technology  
CSIR

Tel: (012) 841-2522  
Fax: (012) 841-4680.

#### Occupation of government houses by Ministers of former Venda

\*19. Col N G RAMAREMISA asked the Minister of Public Works:

- (1) Whether any government houses previously used by former Venda Ministers are currently being occupied by any private persons; if so,
- (2) whether he or his Department has given any permission to these persons to occupy these houses; if not,
- (3) whether he or his Department intends taking any steps in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

N751E

#### The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS:

The Government houses previously used by Cabinet Ministers of Venda are at present controlled by the Department of Public Works in the Northern Province. I have therefore requested the responsible Member of the Executive Council to provide me with the necessary information to respond to this question.

- (1) Yes, some government houses previously occupied by former Venda Ministers are currently occupied by private persons. Students at the University of Venda illegally occupied these houses between 23 May 1995 and 7 June 1995.

- (2) The Department of Public Works in the Northern Province did not give permission to these persons to occupy the houses. The former Venda Administration, of which Col Ramaremsisa was a member, allowed these houses to be rented at R1 500 per month.

- (3) The students who illegally occupied the residences were evicted on 24 May 1995 and four students were charged and later released. The students re-occupied the houses on 27 May 1995 and were again evicted on 7 June 1995.

The Department of Public Works has accepted the responsibility for the completion of a National Register of State-owned Fixed Assets. The task is being

undertaken in close collaboration with the Department of Land Affairs and the Provincial Authorities.

The initial reconnaissance planning of the project provides as a first step for the appointment of a Steering Committee to oversee the project. A project manager is being appointed to manage it, and with his team will be responsible for a detailed plan of action, and the comprehensive control and monitoring of the project.

The target date for the completion of the project is the end of next year.

#### Membership of Lome Convention

\*36. Mr M van S HAMMAN asked the Minister of Trade and Industry:

- (1) whether South Africa has applied for membership of the Lome Convention; if not, why not; if so,
- (2) whether this application has been accepted; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether he has discussed the possibility of a free trade agreement between South Africa and the European Union with any representatives of the Union; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

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N791E

#### The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:

I think the primary point one wants to make is that it is in South Africa's interests to regain those export markets that we had prior to the imposition of sanctions. In seeking to establish a formal relationship with the EU the Lome Convention clearly offers a long-term relationship of the kind that we seek. The Lome Convention is an agreement between the 15 member states of the EU and 70 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

One must also take account of the position of South Africa in Southern Africa. Clearly the framework which the Lome Convention offers provides us with the best opportunity for sustainable interaction between South Africa and the EU.

On this basis the EU offered a twin-track relationship on 12 June this year,

- firstly, qualified membership of the Lome Convention excluding the elements of development finance and trade concessions.
- secondly, a bilateral agreement which, in the view of the EU, should be an agreement leading to the establishment of a free trade area between the EU and South Africa.

The specifics of the proposed EU-SA relations are still being negotiated between South Africa and the EU. Unfortunately this process has taken a break because the EU has shut down for holidays in August, but the negotiations were formally opened on 30 June this year in Brussels at a ceremony attended by ministerial representatives of both governments.

Our preliminary response has been to accept the principle of qualified membership of the Lome Convention—qualified because many of the provisions of the Convention are not quite suited to our needs, and South Africa does not want to prejudice the relationship and the interests of the ACP countries.

Regarding the EU's proposal for South Africa and the EU to start a process leading to the establishment of a free trade area, South Africa's response has been that we accepted the invitation as a long-term objective. We placed 15 years on the table with the EU in this regard. In other words, the Government could not commit the country to a free trade agreement with the EU before we had some measure of certainty as to what the impact of this would be on the economy as a whole and on a sectoral basis, as well as on the Southern African regional economy.

Currently we are involved in a research process to establish on what terms and with what implications South Africa can enter into an agreement with the EU which might lead to a free trade agreement.

Nevertheless, in approaching the issue South Africa's objective has been and will always be to obtain the maximum possible non-reciprocal trade preferences in the EU for the longest possible period necessitated by the current processes of political and economic restructuring in the country.

Questions standing over from Wednesday, 28 June 1995:

#### Tax rebates

\*2. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Housing:

- (1) Whether mortgage payments by first-time house or apartment owners qualify for tax rebates; if not, why not; if so, what is the nature of the rebates;
- (2) whether any steps have been taken or are to be taken to encourage ownership of dwellings through tax incentive schemes; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N852E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (for the Minister of Housing):

- (1) No. Government provides financial assistance to persons who acquire ownership of homes for the first time by means of its subsidy scheme to households with an income of R3 500 and less per month. Within the framework of the subsidy scheme, households with an income of R800 and less per month qualify for a subsidy of R15 000, households in the income group R801 to R1 500 for a subsidy of R12 500, households in the income group R1 501 to R2 500 for a subsidy of R9 500 and households in the income group R2 501 to R3 500 for a subsidy of R5 000.

The point of departure of the scheme is to enable beneficiaries to obtain home-ownership for the first time. This occurs by means of a once-off capital grant by the State.

Subsidies may also be credit-linked in so far as the purchaser complies with the requirements of financial institutions. Given the fact that the subsidy, as indicated, is a State grant, there are in these instances, however, no tax rebates on bond repayments.

- (2) No, as is evident from the above, the subsidy is aimed at enabling beneficiaries to obtain ownership of residential property for the first time.

— Urban Development.

— Economic co-operation, trade and investment promotion and support for Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs).

— Good Governance and Democratisation.

— Micro Projects Programme.

— Water and Sanitation Programme.

— Other: The EC is proposing the submission of a consultancy programme.

(2) No tied aid conditions attached. (Grant Aid).

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Did the hon Minister of Finance indicate the number of years? I think question (b) was for the number of years that this amount will be made available.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: It is only for one year.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

**State Tender Board: affirmative action criteria**

\*15. Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister of Finance:

Whether the State Tender Board uses any affirmative action criteria in the awarding of tenders for state contracts; if so, (a) what criteria and (b) when were these criteria introduced?

N868E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Mr Speaker, I am talking more today than for the entire sitting yesterday afternoon. [Laughter.]

Yes. (a) Some contracts are split and tenders are invited and adjudicated on a regional or even subregional basis. As a result of the fact that these quantities are considerably smaller than a tender invited on a national level, small and upcoming businesses are afforded the opportunity to be considered for state contracts. Furthermore, tender conditions in respect of building tenders in particular stipulate that tenders from tenderers which use labour intensive methods are preferred. Tender conditions also make provision that contractors should utilise

local labour or that subcontractors who utilise local labour may be appointed.

(b) Approximately July 1994.

I may just add that a task team appointed by the Ministries of Finance and of Public Works to investigate the revision of the tendering system, *inter alia*, with regard to affirmative action, regarding the position of small, medium and micro enterprises has been initiated. Inputs will be invited from all stakeholders, namely the Government, labour, business and civil society.

**Public sector's pension and provident funds: investment**

\*18. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Finance:

(1) What percentage of the funds available for investment in the public sector's pension and provident funds is being handled by the private sector;

(2) whether his Department intends increasing this percentage; if not, why not; if so, (a) how and (b) when?

N871E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(1) At present, a relatively small portion of the public sector's pension and provident funds are being handled by the private sector. In certain instances over the last four years, the Public Investment Commissioners have purchased low risk fixed-term capital-guaranteed investment contracts from some of the major insurance companies which, other than the direct equity investments mentioned hereafter, represents public sector funds being handled by the private sector. These contracts represent an investment of R3,4 billion, or more or less 4%, of the public sector pension fund money available.

The Public Investment Commissioners are, however, presently considering proposals for the external management of their existing equities portfolio which, at present market values, amounts to approximately R5 billion, or more or less 6% of the public sector pension fund money available for investment.

**European Union: financial contribution to SA**

\*3. Mr M van S HAMMAN asked the Minister of Finance:

(1) Whether the European Union has committed itself to an annual financial contribution to South Africa; if so, (a) What is the amount involved, (b) for how many years will the contribution be made and (c) for what purposes is the contribution to be used;

(2) whether any conditions were attached to this contribution; if so, what conditions?

N853E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(1) (a) 125 million ECUs.  
(b) one year.

(c) (i) NGOs:  
— The Human Rights Programme.  
— Support for the Urban Sector Network.

(ii) Government  
— Support for the Rural Development Services Network.  
— Support for the Land and Agriculture Policy Centre.

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# 'Clear industrial strategy required'

Edward West

CAPE TOWN — Controversy surrounding the proposed siting of the R4,7bn Saldanha steel mill and lack of cohesion between government departments on the issue was because of a lack of a structural industrial development policy framework.

This was said by Governance Mineral and Energy Centre senior policy researcher Mike Solomon at the Steyn board of inquiry yesterday.

Solomon said the inquiry's terms of reference were problematic in that the board could not be expected to make a decision without a clearly defined industrial strategy in place.

He said the board's decisions would create a precedent for all future development and he was concerned its decision might fly in the face of government legislation with regard to industrial development such as that contained in the draft Development Facilitation Bill.

vice is not a sentence on its own. It could be one of the conditions of a sentence of correctional supervision or a condition of a postponed or suspended sentence.

The administration of a Community Service Order as a condition of a postponed or suspended sentence, falls within the ambit of the Minister of Justice.

If the hon Senator is referring to the performance of community service as a condition of correctional supervision, it should be pointed out that statistics regarding the community service applicable to the 7 617 probationers who were subjected to correctional supervision as at 31 May 1995, can only be obtained by means of a time consuming, expensive and manpower intensive country-wide survey.

(b) Probationers perform community service (as a condition of correctional supervision) at a variety of organisations and/or institutions, with the focus on

- community upliftment projects
- nature conservation organisations
- welfare and charity organisations
- educational institutions
- hospitals or other health centres
- animal protection organisations, etc.

(2) Yes. It was stated in the White Paper on Reconstruction and Development, dated 15 November 1994, that one of my Department's policy objectives is the provision of an adequate infrastructure for alternative or community-based sentences.

I have confirmed this point of view on several occasions in Parliament this year. The hon Senator would also have learned from recent media reports that I intend to expand the system. However, the co-operation of the Department of Justice will be essential and more probation officers will have to be trained.

If more persons are sentenced to correc-

tional supervision with the performance of community service as one of the conditions, it will also necessitate the identification and co-operation of more organisations and/or institutions where such community service could be rendered.

**Percentage of recycling in Republic**

151. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) What percentage of (a) paper, (b) glass, (c) tin and aluminium cans and (d) plastic produced in the Republic is recycled by the (i) private sector and (ii) Government;
- (2) whether the Government provides any financial assistance to private companies involved in such recycling; if not, why not; if so, (a) which companies and (b) what amount in each case;
- (3) in respect of what date or dates is this information furnished?

S291E  
THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

(1) (i) The private sector produce and recycle the following amounts of materials:

(a) *Paper*:  
The estimated figures for 1992:  
Produced—2 million tons  
Recycled—570 000 tons  
Percentage recycled—28,4%

(b) *Glass*:  
Figures for 1994:  
Produced—379 000 tons  
Re-used (returnable use)—118 000 tons  
Recycled—74 279 tons  
Percentage recycled/re-used—38,4%

(c) *Tin cans*:  
Figures for 1993/1994:  
Produced—300 million per annum  
Recycled—84 million per annum  
Percentage—28%

*Aluminium cans:*  
Figures for 1993/1994  
Produced—8 700 tons  
Recycled—2 000 tons  
Percentage—22,9%

(d) *Plastics:*  
Figures for 1994:  
Polymer produced—690 000 tons  
Polymer converted—715 000 tons

Some of the polymer produced locally was exported and polymer imports also occurred, which explains the difference in figures produced and converted into product.  
Recycled—± 110 000 tons  
Percentage—15,4%

(ii) The Government does not have formally structured recycling programmes. In the department waste office paper is collected and is sent to a recycling company.

(2) No. The Government does not provide financial assistance for any of the companies involved in recycling. The recycling industry in South Africa evolved spontaneously without compulsory recycling or deposit legislation.

The recycling initiative in this country is successful when compared to figures from Europe and the United States of America. Success was achieved because the recycling effort is market-driven, which is the main reason for the absence of financial assistance by the Government. Another reason is the shortage of Government funds.

(3) The information was obtained from the respective industries in June 1994 and apart from the paper industry reflect the 1993/1994 period.

**Income of SABC from licence fees/advertisements**

153. Sen A E VAN NIEKERK asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting:

(1) (a) What was the income of the South African Broadcasting Corporation from (i)

licence fees and (ii) advertisements, (b) what amount of state subsidies was paid to the SABC, and (c) how many persons in the service of the SABC (i) resigned and (ii) were dismissed in each of the latest specified three calendar years for which information is available;

(2) (a) how many persons are in the service of the SABC in each of the provinces, (b) what is the total annual expenditure on the salaries of the (i) personnel and (ii) management of the (aa) SABC and (bb) Independent Broadcasting Authority and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished;

(3) whether the SABC is contemplating the reorganisation of its television and radio services; if so, what will the total estimated costs of this reorganisation be?

S293F  
THE MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING:

(1) SABC income

(a)	Projection	Actual	Actual	Actual
	94/95	93/94	92/93	91/92
(i) Licence fees	300	282	276	283
(ii) Advertisement	100	86	70	58
Other	1 550	1 394	1 203	1 089

(b) No State subsidies were received

(c)	Reason	1992	1993	1994
Resignation		250	238	254
Retrenchment		281	125	72
Dismissal		22	10	17
Retirement		77	89	89
Other		33	13	29
Total		663	475	461

(2) (a) Provincial analysis

Province	Total
Gauteng	3 474
KwaZulu-Natal	276
Eastern Cape	184
Free State	104
Northern Transvaal	157
Western Cape	243
Total	4 438

*Handwritten:* Hansard 17/8/95



- (3) whether such aid is being granted by means of a refundable loan; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

S318E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (for the Minister without Portfolio):

- (1) Yes, an agreement was signed with Mr Gareth Evans, the Australian Foreign Minister to (a) strengthen democratic development and to foster social and economic equality in the RSA. This agreement is aiming to co-operate in a Programme of development co-operation to meet the following objectives:

- assist the Government of the RSA (in areas identified by South Africa's Reconstruction and Development Programme) in its satisfaction of the basic needs of its people;
- assist in human resource development capacity building and institutional strengthening;
- contribute to the democratisation of the State and society; and
- develop long-term links between Australian and South African institutions.

- (b) Focus will be placed on the following kinds of development:

- Public sector strengthening in, for example, health administration and management, telecommunications, statistical collection and analysis, education, housing policy, water management, mining and international finance management;
- the media;
- constitutional reform and local government;
- economic policy and planning;
- primary health care;
- water and sanitation;
- basic education (including adult literacy);
- agriculture;
- micro-enterprise development;

- sports;
- low-cost housing; and
- the trade union movement

- (2) No, it is not a refundable loan but a grant.
- (3) The funds are being granted mainly for technical support. The Australian Government will, subject to annual Parliamentary approval of appropriations, make available for the purposes of the Programme thirty million Australian dollars (A\$30 million) during the period 1 July to 30 June 1997).

**Legislation/laws on land affairs iro Ingonyama Trust assigned to Province of KwaZulu-Natal**

\*2. Sen Dr R RABINOWITZ asked the Minister of Land Affairs:

- (1) Whether (a) any land affairs legislation and/or (b) laws pertaining to the Ingonyama Trust have been assigned to the Province of KwaZulu-Natal; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? S320E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) The following laws of South Africa dealing with land affairs have been assigned to the Province of KwaZulu-Natal—

- Land Regulations, 1969 (Proclamation No R188 of 1969)
- Regulations concerning Land Tenure in Towns, 1988 (Proclamation No R29 of 1988)
- Regulations for the Disposal of State Land in Towns, 1988 (Government Notice No R402 of 1988)
- Land use and Planning Regulations, 1990 (Government Notice No R1888 of 1990)
- Commonage Act, (Natal), 1904 (Act No 35 of 1904)
- Regulations relating to Township Establishments and Land Use, 1986 (Government Notice No R1897 of 12 September 1986).

- (b) No. The Ingonyama Trust Act, 1994 (Act No 3 of 1994) has not been assigned to the Province of KwaZulu-Natal. The Cabinet decision on 15 June 1994 regarding the Ingonyama Trust Act reads as follows:

Cabinet resolved that the Act should be amended or substituted in order to assure that—

- (a) the Ingonyama will continue as the guardian of tribal occupied land. The Act should describe the functions and powers of the Trustee and among other matters address issues dealing with alienation of land and resolution of tribal border disputes;

- (b) the Act govern all tribal-owned land falling within the former territory of KwaZulu, subject to the existing rights of occupants of that land;

- (c) the Act provide for the land to be dealt with in accordance with a set of agreed principles; and

- (d) the legislation create a structure for managing the land which is sufficiently broadly-based to ensure that any unwarranted interference by any person or body, or manipulation of the land would not be possible. This should be done to allay any fears of possible illicit interference or manipulation.

Cabinet also resolved that—

- (a) legislation to give effect to this decision should be the subject of consultation between the national government and the provincial government; and
- (b) all parties should agree and undertake not to take any action which might pre-empt the implementation of this decision.

My Department has already done preparatory work in this regard. My intention is to have discussions with

- the Province in the near future on how to give effect to the Cabinet decision.

- (2) No, it should not be necessary to make a statement. A statement was made at the time of the Cabinet decision, and this reply should provide sufficient clarity on the matter.

**Premiers of provinces to formulate own budgets**

\*3. Sen Dr R RABINOWITZ asked the Minister of Finance:

- (1) Whether the premiers of provinces may formulate their own budgets; if not, why not; if so:

- (2) whether they may distribute financial resources as they deem necessary; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

S321E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) Yes. In terms of section 125 of the Constitution a provincial legislature has the power to make laws for the province which, *inter alia*, include appropriation Acts. It should also be noted that appropriation Acts are essential for provinces in order to be able to utilise revenue in provincial revenue funds (that is own revenue together with the transfer payments from the National Revenue Account). Provinces are therefore, within this legal framework, autonomous to distribute financial resources according to their specific priorities.

**Introduction of lead-free petrol in Republic**

\*4. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

- (1) Whether his Department intends introducing lead-free petrol in the Republic; if not, why not; if so, when;

- (2) whether such petrol will be sold at a premium price; if so, what are the relevant details; if not,

- (3) whether such petrol will be sold at a price competitive to that of standard grades of

(56)

- petrol; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether any obstacles are being envisaged in regard to the introduction of lead-free petrol; if so, what obstacles?

S322E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS (for the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs):

- (1) Following the Cabinet's confirmation, on Wednesday, 3 August 1995, of the introduction of unleaded petrol, it is expected that unleaded petrol will become available in South Africa by February 1996.

- (2) and (3) On 3 August 1995, Cabinet approved a price-and-tax plan for the introduction of unleaded petrol. The plan provides for the initial price of unleaded petrol to be 4 cents per litre cheaper than the present leaded petrol. If the plan is accepted, the lower price will be achieved by levying a lower tax on unleaded petrol so that the price differential will not involve the subsidisation of unleaded petrol by leaded petrol users.

The introduction of unleaded petrol at a marginally lower price follows the practice of other countries. In order to render the refining of unleaded petrol economically viable, it needs to capture at least 20% of petrol sales within the first year of introduction. It is estimated that the 4 cents per litre difference on the price of unleaded petrol will achieve this.

- (4) More than 90% of the current South African vehicle population can operate on unleaded petrol. 65% of vehicles require no modification at all; 15% require minor and therefore inexpensive ignition timing adjustment; and 10% require one tank of unleaded petrol for every four to five tanks of unleaded petrol used. Only 10% of vehicles will not be able to use unleaded petrol and will have to continue using leaded petrol.

A survey by the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa found that no specific ownership group will be materially prejudiced by the introduction of unleaded petrol. Such vehicles as will still require leaded petrol are mostly of the high-performance type more

likely to be owned by upper and upper-middle income groups. The survey also showed that over 90% of minibus-taxis will be able to use unleaded petrol. Most minibus-taxi operators, and through them the 52% of commuters whom they transport, will therefore benefit from the introduction of the lower-priced unleaded petrol.

Unleaded petrol is not being introduced into South Africa primarily for ecological reasons although it is a first step in the process to render motor vehicle emissions more environment-friendly. The main reason for its introduction is to benefit from the advantage of economies of scale and contemporary technological development, since 80% of the world's current motor vehicle technology is based on unleaded petrol.

On 3 August 1995, Cabinet also considered the use of catalytic converters for motor vehicles in South Africa. Preliminary investigations show that environmental considerations do not yet require the use of catalytic converters here. It was decided that no compulsory use of catalytic converters would be required upon the introduction of unleaded petrol.

A comprehensive environmental monitoring system is being established to determine pollution levels and will indicate when the use of catalytic converters may become necessary.

As can be seen from the above, no significant obstacles are expected in connection with the introduction of unleaded petrol.

#### Land Reform Bill: agricultural unions consulted

\*5, Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Land Affairs:

Whether at any time during the preparation of the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill of 1995, he consulted with any agricultural unions; if not, why not; if so, which unions?

S323E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS:

Yes.

The Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill, 1995, is the result of various discussions between

myself and interested role-players involved with this issue. I have met, on a number of occasions, with representatives of landowners and labour tenants.

Earlier this year, I stated publicly that I had appointed a task team to investigate the issue and to draft legislation which would serve as a basis for further discussion. The result of that work was the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill, which was approved by Cabinet and published on 2 June 1995 in the *Gazette* for general comment. In order to give ample opportunity for general comment and discussion, a period of six weeks was allowed.

Discussions have already been held with representatives of the Transvaal Agricultural Union at a public meeting in Pietersburg, as well as with the President of the Natal Agricultural Union.

At a two-day workshop with interested parties during July, a number of experts, representatives of organised agriculture, the financial sector, organised labour and the government household got together in an effort to assist with the finalisation of the Bill. Following these deliberations, representatives of both the organised agriculture and the labour tenants met with our legal adviser to affect amendments as agreed to.

This, in my opinion, was a transparent and consultative process to deal with the Bill.

#### New questions:

#### Persons convicted of economic crimes released on parole

\*6, Sen J SELFE asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

- (1) Whether any persons convicted of economic crimes have been released on parole since 1 January 1995; if so, (a) how many and (b) what crimes were they convicted of;

- (2) whether any of these persons had not yet served any part of their sentences; if so, how many?

S343E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

- (1) Yes, (a) and (b) Information in this regard is not readily available and can only be

obtained through a time-consuming, expensive and manpower-intensive country-wide survey.

- (2) No.

\*7, Sen W F MNISI—Education. [Question standing over.]

#### Persons resigned from service of Division of Sea Fisheries

\*8, Sen M G E WILEY asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether any persons resigned from the service of the Division of Sea Fisheries recently; if so, (a) what are the names of these persons, (b) what rank did each of these persons hold, (c) which of these persons (i) retired due to reaching retirement age and (ii) accepted a retirement package and (1) what reasons were furnished for these retirements in each case;
- (2) whether their retirement will have an adverse effect on the functioning of the Division of Sea Fisheries; if so, what steps does he envisage in this regard?

S345E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (for the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism):

- (1) Yes, nine persons left the service of the Chief Directorate Sea Fisheries during the period from 1 January 1995 to 31 July 1995.

- (a) and (b) They are:

Mr J J Frans—Temporary Ship's Cook  
 Mr J N Long—Chief Navigation Officer  
 Mrs E Samuels—Cleaner I  
 Dr L V Shannon—Director  
 Mr C Pengilly—Assistant Director: Administration  
 Mr E H le Roux—Assistant Director: Financial Management  
 Capt J D Richardson—Chief Marine Superintendent  
 Dr L Botha—Chief Director  
 Mr L E Olivier—Deputy Director: Administration

- (c) (i) Messrs J J Frans and J N Long retired due to reaching the retirement age.

# Toxic waste

## import 'okayed'

CT 17/8/95

(5b)

JOHANNESBURG: The South African government had approved the import of 500 tons of toxic waste originating from the US and exported by Finland, Earthlife Africa claimed earlier today.

It quoted Finnish exporter Kikkola Chemicals as saying this was the first of several shipments totalling 3 000 tons for recycling by a Benoni, East Rand, company.

The waste, which was due in Durban harbour next Wednesday, was delayed when it broke open and leaked en route in Hamburg, Germany, Earthlife said.

It said the import of "poisonous cupric arsenide" waste had been approved by the Department of Environmental Affairs.

"This was despite repeated assurances by Environmental Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers that toxic waste imports into SA would never be allowed."

Department of Environmental

Affairs and Tourism director-general Dr Colin Cameron said the material was indeed toxic, but it would not be dumped and could therefore not be considered waste.

"The material is going to be used in manufacturing processes," he said.

The department's dangerous-substances deputy director, Mr Willem Scott, confirmed this, saying the imported material would be recycled by the Benoni JAD Metal Concentrate recycling firm.

"I am not sure what products are going to be recovered from the waste, but it will be done in an environmentally friendly way. As far as I know, it will not be dumped anywhere in SA."

Mr Scott could not confirm that the waste had leaked.

He said steps had been taken to ensure the waste would not be used in a way which would harm the environment. — Sapa

# It's cold comfort for consumers<sup>(56)</sup> as CFCs go

ARG 19/8/95

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Consumers will be hard hit by the end of the year when it will be impossible to replace the CFC components of household fridges, deepfreezes and car air-conditioners.

In accordance with the Montreal Protocol to phase out ozone-damaging CFC products, all manufacturers of CFCs, or ureans, will stop production by the end of the year, making it impossible to replace them should equipment break down.

While many larger organisations have already switched to the more ozone-friendly HFCs, smaller dairies, butchers, supermarkets and private households are affected by the Montreal agreement.

Air-conditioners in cars can be refitted with HFCs at a cost of more than R1 000, depending on the make of the car.

The Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism has advised motorists to service air-conditioners before the end of the year.

While it is legal to own CFC-driven equipment, no new CFCs will be available in the new year once stocks are sold out.

# Shock at medical expert's resignation from institute

BY PRISCILLA SINGH

The sudden resignation of a South African Institute for Medical Research director last week has sent shock waves through the medical science fraternity, according to institute members.

The SAIMR's Professor Jan van den Ende was reported to have announced his resignation last week, and it is to become effective on August 28.

A member of the institute, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "He has quoted personal reasons for his resignation, but there is a lot of speculation surrounding the suddenness of his decision.

"Everybody is shocked at his resignation, especially since he just completed a round trip of all the laboratories where he presented strategic plans for the institute in the future."

SAIMR board of management chairman At du Plessis said the organisation was very sorry to lose Van den Ende, and pointed to a reason for the surprise move: "An arrangement that would allow him his maximum retirement benefits, which was

made some time ago, necessitated his resignation.

"However, he is willing to continue until a proper replacement can be found, and a special board meeting will take place today to discuss a replacement and Van den Ende's resignation," Du Plessis said.

Van den Ende has been with the SAIMR since December 1989, and he is a member of several professional organisations, including the University of the Witwatersrand medical school dean's advisory committee on AIDS of which he is chairman. He also serves on the executive of the SA AIDS Advisory Group.

He has also published a number of scientific papers in national and international journals.

It is not known who will succeed the director.

National Institute of Virology head Barry Schub said Van den Ende was a valuable contributor to health care, and it was very sad to see him leave his post.

"I am not sure of the terms of his resignation, but I hope he will still stay on at the SAIMR," said Schub.

Van den Ende could not be reached for comment.

## Toxic waste sails for SA

The Government has approved the import of 500 tons of toxic waste originating from the US and exported by Finland, Earthlife Africa claimed today.

In a statement in Johannesburg it quoted Finnish exporter Kikkola Chemicals as saying this was the first of several shipments totalling 3 000 tons for recycling by a Benoni company.

It is due in Durban in less than a week.

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism said the material was toxic but would not be dumped. "It will be used in manufacturing processes," a spokesman said.

The department's dangerous-substances deputy director, Willem Scott, said the department

had taken several safety steps.

The department had to convince Finland that nothing would be done contrary to the Basel Convention, which directed that all imports and exports of toxic material had to be carefully monitored.

Scott, who heads the Basel committee, added that the country had to present a report of its activities in this regard to the Basel Convention's secretariat each year.

Earthlife said KwaZulu-Natal environment committee chairman Ina Cronje was planning to object to the waste coming through Durban.

Earthlife Africa is exploring legal means to stop the shipment. — Sapa.

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CT 17/8/95 (56)

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"The material is going to be used in manufacturing processes," he said.

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Mr Scott could not confirm that the waste had leaked.

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(56)

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## Manuel speaks up for steel plant

Political Staff

THE Saldanha steel plant will create new job opportunities in an area which desperately needs job creation and an injection of economic activity, says Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel. *ARG 18/8/95*

In a question tabled in the senate, Mr Manuel was asked whether there had been an investigation into possible retrenchments resulting from the development of the proposed Iscor plant.

Mr Manuel said no such investigation had been done.

## Street collection for health

TOMORROW'S street collection is for National War Memorial Health Foundation, fundraising number 08 800204 000 4.

## Public service has new faces in place

Political Staff

SOUTH Africa's public service is assuming a new complexion, thanks to the 11 000 posts advertised by the government last year. *ARG 18/8/95*

By May 31, 1 721 posts had been filled, according to a survey conducted by the Office of the Public Service Commission.

In 756 of these posts, appointments had been made from the ranks of existing public servants and 1 542 appointments had been made from under-represented groups.

At the same time, 116 796 working days had been lost because of strikes in the public service between October 1 last year and March 31.

Public Service and Administration Minister Zola Skweyiya gave this information in the national assembly.



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# SA's environment 'massively damaged'

(56) ET 18/8/95

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa had sustained massive environmental damage through years of neglect, President Nelson Mandela told an environmental policy conference here yesterday.

"We need to find ways to harness the positive links between development and the environ-

ment, so that each objective promotes the other. And we need policies targeted at specific environmental problems," he said.

He urged environmentalists to develop policies shaped by the right to live in an acceptable environment, the need to establish equilibrium between demand for

natural resources and their availability, the need for sustained economic development, the maintenance of renewable resources and solutions to pollution problems.

Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers said a national environmental policy was vital to avoid the devas-

tating long-term effects of neglect.

SA's natural resource base and biological diversity were crumbling and the country was close to being environmentally bankrupt.

Conservation goals could not be achieved without sustainable development to alleviate poverty, he stressed. — Sapa

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Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers, right, and Northern Province environmental affairs representative Rufus Maruma at a consultative conference on national environmental policy yesterday. Picture: NICKY DE BLOIS

# Environment polluters 'should be penalised'

Ingrid Salgado

ENVIRONMENTAL management had to become an integral part of industry's management and polluters should be forced to pay for negative costs to the environment, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers said yesterday.

At a consultative conference on national environmental policy — the recommendations of which will form the basis of a draft White Paper on environmental policy — De Villiers said the time had come for a "fundamental policy revision".

De Villiers suggested that mining activities should be restricted to non-sensitive ecological areas. The ministry wanted measures to minimise the effect of mining on the environment and rehabilitation measures to secure future use of mining areas after mining was completed.

A national environmental policy should ensure that sensitive and unique natural areas were protected; that developing communities shared in the management and benefits of neighbouring nature areas; and that land uses were managed to allow ecological systems to function effectively.

De Villiers recommended that conference delegates examine the role urban agriculture could play in feeding the urban population. Soil had to be used effectively and in a sustainable manner because only 3% of SA's agricultural land could be considered "high potential".

Renewable energy sources such as solar energy should be more widely used to counter the inequality in energy use.

*BD 18/8/95 (56)*  
President Nelson Mandela told delegates that "massive" environmental damage in SA had resulted from years of neglect. Mineral and energy resources would not last forever while marine resources were vulnerable and water availability was a growth limiting factor.

Environmental policy should balance the rights of present and future generations; take account of the need for sustained economic development; ensure that renewable natural resources were maintained; and balance the demand for natural resources with their availability, he said.

Deputy Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Bantu Holomisa said the lack of an integrated approach on environmental matters and a lack of political decisiveness on issues like the St Lucia controversy had previously hampered environmental management.

The key to sustainability was recognising that it would be counter-productive to separate the environment from societal processes in development, he said.

Reuter reports De Villiers said he had ordered a probe of the granting by his department of a permit for the import of 500 tons of toxic waste from Finland for processing in SA. He was not aware of the permit at the time it had been issued.

Chris Albertyn, chairman of the Environment Justice Networking Forum, and an official of Earthlife Africa, said the permit had been issued to a Finnish chemicals company. The waste was expected to arrive in Durban on August 23 and would be recycled by a Benoni-based company.

## No visas for policemen

Michael Hartnack

HARARE — Zimbabwe and SA have abolished the visa requirement for policemen pursuing criminals along the Limpopo River border to try to crack down on drug smugglers.

Announcing the move after day-long talks yesterday with a delegation from the Northern Province, Zimbabwe Home Affairs Minister Dumiso Dabengwa said all were alarmed by "the high rate of drug smuggling particularly from the north".

"They recommended a close alliance between the police forces to stop the traffic," said Dabengwa.

Reuter reports from Maputo that Southern African Development Community leaders will discuss scrapping entry visas for travel within the 11-member bloc at a meeting this month.

Mozambican Foreign Minister Leonardo Simao said several protocols were being drafted by the SADC council of ministers and would be put before the meeting in Johannesburg on August 28. SA, with the strongest economy in the region, has resisted efforts by fellow SADC members to scrap visas.

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# Ozone-damaging CFCs out by end of year

Star 18/8/95 (56)

## ■ STAFF REPORTER

Consumers will be hard hit by the end of this year when it will be impossible to replace any CFC components of household fridges, deep-freezes and car air conditioners.

In accordance with the Montreal Protocol to phase out

ozone-damaging CFC products, all manufacturers of CFCs, or oreans, will stop production by the end of this year, making it impossible to replace them should equipment break down.

Many large companies have changed to the more ozone-friendly HFCs, but smaller companies and households are also

affected by the Protocol.

Air conditioners in cars can be fitted with HFCs at a cost of more than R1 000, depending on the car.

Motorists are advised by the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism to service air conditioners before the end of the year.

## Waste deal 'breach of faith'

(56) APR 18/8/95  
JOHANNESBURG. — A deal to import 500 tons of toxic waste, due to arrive in Durban next week, was a fundamental breach of faith and an indictment of the government, Chris Albertyn of the Environmental Networking Forum said.

"We have to keep relying on Earthlife Africa to tell the public that the government is lying to it," he said on Agenda television programme.

Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Bantu Holomisa said the waste would "have to be identified as toxic and dangerous" before a decision could be taken on its fate.

Mr Holomisa said if investigations revealed the correct procedures had not been followed heads would roll in his department. — Sapa.

↑GRADUATE  
↑JOHNSON  
↑MARY-JEANS  
A

*We're not dumping it anywhere: Benoni firm*

# Waste permit: Dawie ignorant

Star 18/8/95

(56)

■ BY TAMSEN DE BEER

A permit for 500 tons of suspect chemical materials to be imported into South Africa has angered leading South African environmentalists and Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers has said he will investigate how his department came to issue it.

The nod for the imports was given by his department's pollution control directorate, which claims everything is "totally legal".

Environmentalists say the permit contradicts a promise by De Villiers earlier this year not to allow toxic waste to be imported.

The company involved, JAD Metal Concentrate, says the cupric arsenate it is importing from Finland is a "raw material" from which useable metals are extracted.

"We are taking the metals, we are not dumping waste on some dump," said Doug Gosling of JAD Metal Concentrate.

But Earthlife Africa's Peter Lukey is insisting the export "be returned to Finland at once". The organisation is attempting to put a legal stop to the shipment's arrival in Durban on Wednesday.

"Our Government is unable to ensure that workers and the environment can be protected by the same standards required in the United States and other rich countries which seek to send us their toxic waste," he said.

When The Star visited JAD Metal Concentrate's Benoni

## Environmentalists unimpressed by 'expert' opinion that other countries' toxic waste is not a hazard for South Africa

plant with Lukey this week, it found a small innovative business using a unique process to reclaim some highly valuable metals, which would otherwise be dumped, from the toxic substance.

Lukey said the process held promise for South Africa's many landfill sites that had been thought to contain useless materials because they were regarded as dangerous base metals.

David Baldwin of Waste Tech, South Africa's leading waste management company, said Waste Tech had seriously investigated JAD "with a view to potential involvement".

"They are recovering metal compounds, valuable ones, from materials that have been dumped," he said, adding that Waste Tech did not support importing toxic waste.

Baldwin said a tenet of recovery was "one man's waste is another man's resource".

The toxic arsenate was purchased by Kikkola Chemicals in Finland with a view to recycling. The Finnish company discovered recycling was technically impossible, and exported the arsenate

to South Africa.

But while copper, arsenic and zinc extracts would be sold to local companies, the by-products manganese and iron would be dumped at Enviro Serve's Holfontein dump outside Springs.

A pollution control spokesman denied this was a violation of the Basel Convention, which stipulated that no outside country was allowed to dump its waste on foreign soil.

"It will be done legally in a permitted site," he said.

Gosling said: "We have gone through the right people and satisfied all fronts."

Requirements for workers' health and the legal requirements of importation had both been satisfied.

The plant's agreement with Kikkola Chemicals was to extract sought-after cobalt and nickel and return it to Kikkola.

Toxic cadmium and lead would form tiny constituents in each of the recycled metals, and be further refined by end-users.

■ Yesterday, Earthlife Africa took De Villiers by surprise when delegates at a draft White Paper conference in Nasrec, Johannesburg, stood up bearing neon posters with the words: "No Toxic Waste Trade".

"I want to confirm once again that the Government of National Unity will not allow the dumping of toxic waste in South Africa," said De Villiers.

He said it was the first he had heard of the authorisation to import the toxic waste into South Africa.

# Mandela outlines environment policy aims

(66) Star 18/8/95

## ■ STAFF REPORTERS

Sustainable economic development should be the core of an environmental policy which will not harm the country's long-term needs, President Mandela said yesterday.

Opening South Africa's first Consultative Conference on National Environmental Policy (Connep) in Johannesburg, Mandela told 400 dele-

gates that environmental policy should promote the RDP's objectives of "economic development and social upliftment".

Mandela said: "Our minerals will not last forever; our energy resources are limited; our marine resources are vulnerable and water has already become a growth-limiting factor."

The two-day conference at Nasrec marks the

first time that all South Africans are involved in the process of formulating a national environment policy. The delegates' policy recommendations are to form the basis of a White Paper on the environment.

In his keynote address, Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers picked up on the theme of sustainable development as "improving the quality of

human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting eco systems".

Deputy Minister Bantu Holomisa recommended the establishment of a statutory President's Council for Sustainable Development, with overarching legislative powers.

Today, delegates will present to the plenary a recommendation on issues and processes.

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## Toxic waste import bungle

(5b) CT 18/8/95

JOHANNESBURG: Environment Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers said yesterday the government had no knowledge of a 500-ton toxic waste shipment on its way from Finland.

"We would never allow South Africa to be used as a dumping ground," he told delegates to an environmental conference here.

Dr De Villiers said he had ordered a probe of the import permit granted by his department.

Environmental activists, who are trying to stop the shipment, were told of it by a Finnish group.

Mr Peter Lukey of Earthlife Africa said yesterday the group was consulting lawyers to prevent the hazardous chemicals from being imported for recycling.

He said the shipment, including cancer-causing chemicals, was one of several planned by the company which received the permit.

"We find it very disturbing that we must depend on the Finnish environment agency to tell us that toxic waste is on its way." — Reuter

# Johannesburg pollution among worst in the world

Nov 19/8/95  
By CHRISTINA STUCKY

(56)

The good news is that the worst is almost over. The bad news is that the winter air you have been breathing for the past four months may have been as bad as in Mexico City, depending on where you live.

"In Greater Johannesburg there are multiple sources of air pollution which can affect health," says Petra Terblanche, an environmental health specialist at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

While no long-term data is available on the prevalence of respiratory illnesses caused by air pollution, Terblanche says a recent study showed 60% of children on the East Rand suffered from some form of respiratory illness.

The East Rand is not the worst-affected area in Greater Johannesburg. Parts of Soweto and Alexandra are "by far the worst", comparing with the most polluted cities in the world like Mexico City and Sao Paulo.

There the main problem - particularly in winter, when temperature inversion traps pollution - is the combination of coal-burning for heating and cooking purposes and high traffic density, creating unacceptable air quality, Terblanche says. Chronic and acute respiratory illness-

es are prevalent.

The East Rand suffers from industrial as well as motor vehicle pollution. Smells reminiscent of swimming pools (chlorine), rotten eggs (hydrogen sulphide) and strong chemical smells (ammonia) are periodically reported by residents.

The northern suburbs are also not pollution free - again mainly because of their proximity to major traffic arteries.

A two-year study was begun in January to collect information from which a policy for the control of motor vehicle emissions will be developed, Terblanche says.

"If we could solve the household energy problem, we could make a big difference in air pollution," she says. Bringing electricity to areas where coal is the only source of energy is an important step towards cleaner, more breathable air.

Terblanche says the Ministry of Energy Affairs is developing a policy, and both the Government and the public are aware of the problem.

Although most solutions carry only long-term benefits, "we should start seeing an improvement in the next five years", she says.

"Then there will be quite a steep upward curve. But I'm an optimist."



# Toxic cargo 'will not enter SA waters'

By ANITA ALLEN  
SCIENCE WRITER

A ship carrying toxic waste from a company in Finland will not be allowed to enter South African waters if Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers has his way.

There was a measure of uncertainty over whether and what legal measures could be taken, he said at an environment conference at Nasrec, Johannesburg, yesterday.

De Villiers said South Africa's government had con-

tacted the Finnish government with a request to help settle the matter amicably. In addition, the MD of JAD Metal Concentrate, the local company that had a valid permit to import the waste, had agreed to co-operate in stopping the shipment entering South African waters.

De Villiers said: "I'm against the import of toxic waste for dumping, recycling, recovering or reclaiming because, under this guise, people come up with wonderful schemes, but once you open the doors you lose control. We do not want to be-

come the dustbin of the world.

"Obviously this shipment contradicts this policy. We oppose it and we have taken steps to inform the Finnish government of our deep concern, and requested it to turn the shipment round."

The matter, raised in a television interview before the conference began on Thursday, caught De Villiers unawares.

A protest outside Nasrec after President Nelson Mandela had opened the conference on Thursday kept De Villiers on the spot.

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(56)

ledged that the system of granting permits for waste imports needed to be reviewed thoroughly. Apparently, permits are being issued by consultants on behalf of the Environment Ministry.

Meanwhile, Finland's environment minister said yesterday that South Africa decided at the last minute to revoke a permit admitting the toxic waste cargo.

Minister Pekka Haavisto earlier said he was trying to persuade the Finnish company involved to turn back.

"I've been upset ever since I heard about this shipment," De Villiers told delegates. "We want it returned and not to enter South African waters. It is with pleasure that I can announce that the importer has given his consent to solve the issue without allowing it to come to South Africa."

According to legal opinion, the shipment was contravening the Basle convention on toxic waste. The granting of the permit would be investigated.

At a press briefing after the conference, De Villiers acknow-

# Toxic waste shipment dead in the water — Minister

Staff Reporter

(56) ARL19/8/95  
THE shipment of toxic waste from a company in Finland will be halted and not be allowed to enter South African waters, if Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers has his way.

The measure of uncertainty

arose over what legal measures could be taken, he announced at an environmental conference yesterday.

Dr De Villiers said they had contacted the Finnish government with a request to assist in settling the matter amicably. In addition, JAD Metal Concentrate, the local company who

had a valid permit to import the waste, had agreed to cooperate in stopping the shipment entering South African waters.

"I am against the import of toxic waste for dumping. We do not want to become the dustbin of the world," Dr De Villiers said.

The issue of the toxic waste

shipment caught Dr De Villiers unawares during an SABC-TV interview before the start of the environmental conference.

"I've been upset ever since I heard of this shipment," he said. "It is with pleasure that I can announce the importer has agreed to solve the issue without it coming to South Africa."

## Unleaded fuel from February

By ESTHER WAUGH (56) (18)

Unleaded petrol will be available in South Africa from February, and will cost 4c a litre less than leaded petrol.

In terms of a price-and-tax plan for unleaded petrol, approved this month by the Cabinet, it was decided that the "initial price" for unleaded petrol would be 4c cheaper.

Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Pik Botha told the senate the lower price would be achieved by levying a lower tax on unleaded petrol so that the price differential would not involve subsidisation.

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### ◆ Unleaded petrol (56) (18)

"In order to render the refining of unleaded petrol economically viable, it needs to capture at least 20% of petrol sales within the first year of introduction.

"It is estimated that the four cents per litre difference on the price of unleaded petrol will achieve this," he said in reply to a question by Democratic Party Senator Errol Moorcroft.

Botha also said that more than 90% of South African vehicles would be able to operate on unleaded petrol. About 65% required no modification, 15% would need minor and inexpensive ignition timing adjustments and about 10% required a tank of leaded petrol for every four to five tanks of unleaded petrol used.

The minister said only 10% of vehicles would not be able to use unleaded petrol.

Star 19/8/95

ST(CM)20/8/95

# Saldanha oil tank leaking, says report

By CHARL DE VILLIERS (56)

AT LEAST one of the tanks at the Strategic Fuel Fund's giant Saldanha Bay storage farm "leaks substantially", according to an engineering report.

The first level of containment of Tank One at the 65-million barrel facility north of Cape Town leaked 5 300 litres of crude a month, says the report which was commissioned by an official board investigating Iscor's Saldanha Steel Project.

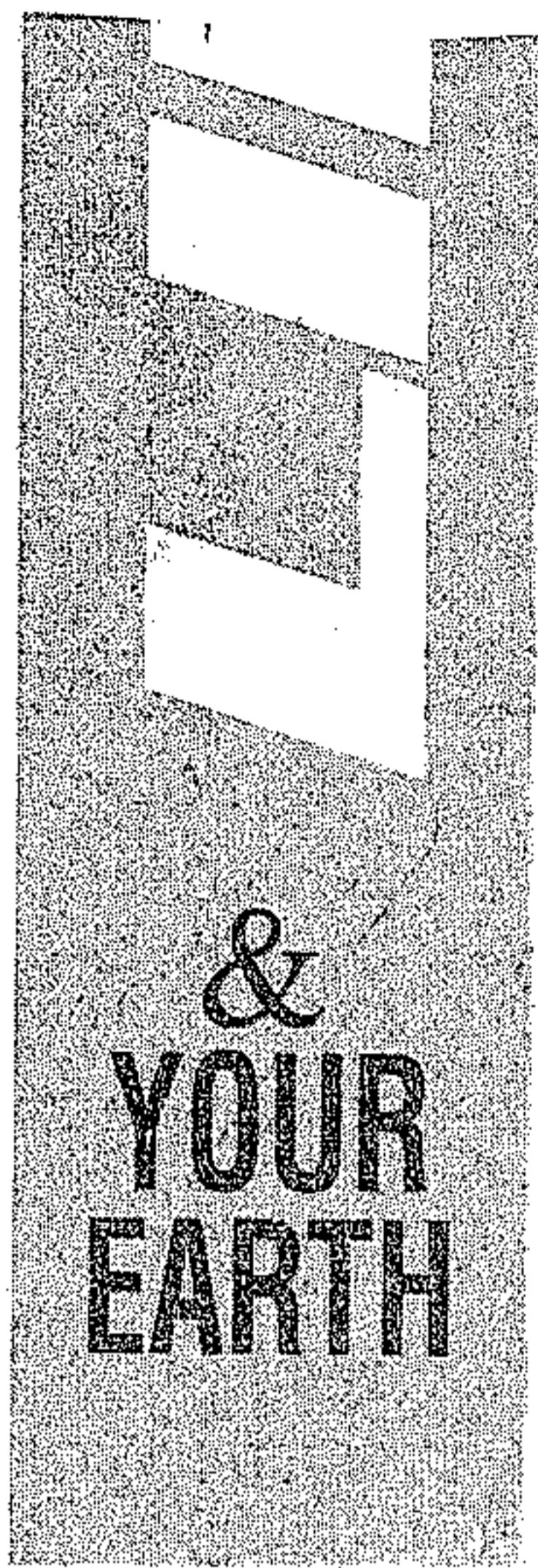
All seepage was, however, trapped and pumped back into the storage facility before it escaped into the ground, a source with access to the report told the Sunday Times.

Strategic Fuel Fund general manager Kobus van Zyl at first refused to comment, saying the monthly seepage rate was "out of proportion" if viewed in isolation.

The tanks were reinforced with concrete, epoxy skins and heavy-gauge plastic skins, he said.

"We don't know of any tanks that are leaking, that's all I can say. We have tanks designed to operate in a certain way. If there is leaking, we will experience oil losses."

Mr van Zyl said the annual oil loss at the Saldanha fuel farm amounted to 0,14 percent of its total stock.



South Africa's pressing environmental issues have been brought into sharp political focus, following the national conference to develop environmental policy in Gauteng last week that was opened by President Nelson Mandela. Environment Reporter JOHN YELD looks at what the key political players had to say.

# Huge damage, says Mandela

**S**OUTH Africa has experienced huge environmental damage because of years of neglect, says President Nelson Mandela.

Opening South Africa's first Consultative Conference on National Environmental Policy, he said combining development with the sustainable use of the environment was among the most challenging goals the world had set itself for the 21st century.

"The environmental damage in our country, resulting from years of neglect, is massive.

"As we set on the course of bettering the lives of the people, we need to find ways to harness the positive links between development and the environment, so that each objective promotes the other."

The two-day conference was attended by some 400 delegates — the first time all South Africans have been involved in the lengthy process of producing a national environmental policy.

ARG 21/8/95  
A draft White Paper is being prepared from the conference proceedings.

President Mandela said South Africa needed policies which targeted specific environmental problems.

Among other things, such policies would have to take into account:

- The reasonable rights of people to live in an acceptable environment, balancing the rights of present and future generations;

- The need to establish an equilibrium between the demand for natural resources and their availability; and

- The need for sustained economic development.

South Africa had to have development, President Mandela said.

"But it would be tragic if we pursued this in a way that exhausts our resources and denies our children and their children the prospect of a dignified existence."

In his message, Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers said South Africa was facing "enormous

(56)  
environmental challenges", and that reference to environmental issues often had little significance for millions of people living in the country's cities and squatter camps.

The conference was the start of the "huge" process of environmental policy formulation, which had to ensure the conservation and protection of sensitive and unique natural areas and biotic communities, Dr De Villiers said.

He said a clear timetable for progress had to be set.

Deputy Environmental Affairs Minister Bantu Holomisa said the conference was "a dream come true".

It was critical for all citizens to acquire the necessary knowledge and understanding of political processes so that they could make informed environmental choices and decisions at all levels.

"This is where environmental education can be a powerful tool to help people who had few opportunities in the past to participate in the decision-making process," Mr Holomisa said.

# Mountain management: Who will sit at head of the table?

21/8/95

A PART from the alarming revelation that Safcol is apparently contemplating living off large chunks of its essentially publicly-owned land within the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment, there have been few surprises to emerge from the workings of the Table Mountain and Peninsula Advisory Committee thus far.

The committee, constituted by Western Cape attorney-general Frank Kahn and now chaired by National Botanical Institute chief executive Brian Huntley, has come up with a set of eminently sound recommendations for a future management authority.

This is being written without the original Fuggle report from the University of Cape Town in front of me, but my recollection is that the new draft structure from the Huntley committee (if it can be termed that) is not too different from that envisaged by the UCF consultants in their report last year.



## GREEN SCENE

John Yeld

That is not surprising, given the large degree of consensus that exists about the required future management of this beloved mountain.

The main thrust of the Huntley recommendations is that a new management authority should be constituted that:

- Is a legal persona, with conservation as its primary objective;
- Has national status;
- Is primarily funded by the fiscus; and
- Is governed by a fully representative board.

It should be able to "receive, generate, invest, employ and retain" its own funds; employ permanent, temporary and contract staff; sue and be sued; and own, lease or be the custodian of movable and immovable property.

In particular, it should have the legal authority to control and manage the protected area of the Cape Peninsula.

So far, so good — who would quibble with these criteria and functions?

The interesting part of the exercise is about to start, with at least three organisations — National Parks Board, Western Cape Nature Conservation and the Cape Metropolitan Council — due to attempt to justify their particular claim to managing the protected area by demonstrating (or at least hypothesising) how the agreed criteria and functions of the new authority are (or could be) met by their respective structures.

The Cape Metropolitan Council must be

regarded as a non-starter, given the current state of flux in local government politics and — particularly — the national importance of the asset under discussion.

This latter factor would, superficially, also appear to rule out Western Cape Nature Conservation. But this organisation will doubtless immediately point to the rather good example of the Natal Parks Board, which has been managing very effectively undoubted national assets such as the Royal Natal National Park, Lake St Lucia and Umfolozi-Hluhluwe nature reserve for decades.

It would also be able to say that it has for years managed assets such as the Cedarberg and Kogelberg wilderness areas and De Hoop which — I believe — qualify eminently in the national natural asset register.

But the National Parks Board, in turn, can say it has a statutory duty to manage

national natural assets and also has a rather good track record in this regard. Also, the concept of a national management authority is one accepted internationally.

All of this leads to the highly interesting and extremely complex debate of the future management of South Africa's protected natural resources as the new South Africa takes firmer political shape with its new constitution — the subject of at least one further column.

It would perhaps be unfair to pre-empt some of the arguments which the three organisations mentioned here will probably make to the Huntley committee. Suffice to say that their submissions will be watched with extreme interest and subjected to close scrutiny and analysis.

Table Mountain is much too precious to be handed to those without the necessary will, wherewithal and track record to manage it properly in the future.

## Unleaded fuel by February '96

(56) ~~182~~  
**TYRONE SEALE, Political Staff**

SOUTH African motorists will be able to tank up with unleaded petrol from February 1996 — with the new fuel initially selling at four cents a litre cheaper than the present leaded variety.

Unleaded fuel will not only provide cleaner exhaust emissions but will also keep South Africa's seven major vehicle manufacturers more competitive in a market where 80 percent of the world's motor vehicle technology is based on unleaded petrol. *BD 21/8/95*

Details were released in the senate yesterday in a reply by Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha to Democratic Party senator Errol Moorcroft. Mr Botha was represented in the chamber by Deputy Minister of Land Affairs Anthon Meyer, who said the cabinet had approved a price-and-tax plan that provided for the cheaper price of unleaded fuel.

The lower price would be achieved by levying a lower tax on unleaded petrol so the price differential would not involve the subsidisation of unleaded petrol by leaded petrol users.

# N Cape wants Iscor to site plant at Sishen

ET 21/8/95

(56) ~~REDACTED~~

**KIMBERLEY:** A Northern Cape delegation would tell the Steyn board of inquiry on Wednesday why the proposed Iscor steel plant should be in Sishen rather than Saldanha, regional Premier Mr Manne Dipico said.

Central to their argument was the need for the Northern Cape to develop its economy by processing

its own raw materials, he said.

The Steyn board is investigating environmental concerns about the plan by Iscor and the Industrial Development Corporation to build a steel plant at Saldanha.

"We are hell-bent, we are going to fight for it, we are correct. Iscor was built with public funds ... let's consult the people. Our case is

clear," Mr Dipico said.

Northern Cape Economic Affairs Minister Mr Goolam Akharwaray said his province was in negotiation with "a Far Eastern country" to set up its own steel plant at Sishen, about 250km north-west of Kimberley, if Iscor went ahead at Saldanha.

There were enough privately

owned ore reserves to supply the plant.

Mr Dipico said a Northern Cape study had found a plant would cause less environmental damage at Sishen and cost no more than one in Saldanha.

Mr Akharwaray said building the plant at Sishen could save R33 million a year. — Sapa



## 'Attend to coloured community'

Edward West

CAPE TOWN — Fear among coloureds in the Western Cape of again being marginalised would pose a threat to democracy in SA if left unattended, Institute for Democracy in SA chairman James Wilmot said.

Speaking yesterday at the conclusion of the institute's conference, which looked into factors affecting the political future of SA's coloureds, he said there were emerging ethnic tensions and conflicts in the coloured community.

The primary issue raised at the conference related to the identity of the community. While it was understandable for the community to attempt to reclaim or reshape its identity after apartheid, there was a danger of constructing an identity on putative racial boundaries.

The conference had also shown that there was a lack of clarity in the commu-

ity on government policies and an uncertainty about which institutions to approach for legal redress of discrimination committed in the past. In this regard development of infrastructure for the human rights commission would have to be carefully considered, he said.

President Nelson Mandela said at the conference on Friday affirmative action had awakened fears among sections of the coloured community in that the policy was believed to benefit only Africans.

Mandela said this perception was a distortion of government policy and he invited those who claimed to have been wronged to take it up with the authorities.

"The RDP is sometimes the subject of similar false claims. The presidential lead projects and RDP forum have generated a range of projects in the Western Cape... They bring direct and indirect benefits for the coloured community."

## Toxic waste ship could still enter SA's waters

Ingrid Salgado

THE environmental affairs department and the local company wanting to import 500 tons of chemical waste from Finland, JAD Metal Concentrate, agreed at the weekend that the ship carrying the toxic waste to SA should be turned back.

JAD MD Andrew Gosling said it was also agreed to renegotiate the terms of a permit allowing JAD to import cupric arsenate for extraction purposes. Finnish exporters Kikkola Chemicals were aware of the agreement.

However, the ship could still arrive in SA waters if its captain decided not to turn back, Gosling said. The vessel was understood to be near British waters at the time of the decision.

Finland's government

and Kikkola had also discussed halting the shipment, Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers said. He had expressed SA's concern about the shipment to the Finnish government late last week.

The department granted JAD a permit to import the waste earlier this year, apparently without the knowledge and consent of De Villiers or his deputy Bantu Holomisa. Both were understood to be "deeply embarrassed" by the bungle.

Meanwhile, the Environmental Justice Networking Forum has called on De Villiers to sack the department's director-general Colin Cameron, whom they called "incompetent". The permit was granted to JAD with Cameron's "full approval", forum spokesman Chris Albertyn alleged.

## Council cuts after polls

Mduduzi ka Harvey

THE number of councillors in the greater Johannesburg transitional metropolitan council would be cut from 100 to 60 after the November 1 elections to make way for leaner, effective and gender sensitive councils, it was announced at the weekend.

Gauteng local government and housing MEC Dan Mofokeng said political compromises would have to be reached in implementing the decision and voters would decide which of Johannesburg's four sub-structures representatives would sit on the metropolitan council.

The trimming down of numbers is aimed at avoiding the practise of councillors attending meetings without making contributions to discussions.

has been established that De Kock.

at the inquest.

# DP forges ahead with new Bill

BD 2/18/95

**David Greybe**

CAPE TOWN — DP senator James Selfe said yesterday he would proceed with a private Bill in Parliament to compensate victims of violent crime, despite indications of a similar government initiative.

Selfe welcomed the news that the justice department was considering proposals for a state-controlled compensation scheme, but said the country could not afford to wait for government to enact legislation.

He said with dozens of draft Bills in the parliamentary pipeline it would take at least a year for even his Bill to become law. Selfe's "fund for victims of violent crime Bill" was

tabled in Parliament 10 days ago.

Selfe said he planned to meet Justice Minister Dullah Omar soon to explore ways to streamline his and the department's efforts. He said there was no need for any tension or competition over the matter.

Selfe said he would only consider withdrawing his Bill "if I get a copper-bottom guarantee from Omar that the justice department will produce a Bill".

He criticised the funding aspect in a report by Prof Charl Cilliers of the SA Law Commission and Unisa, that was sent to Omar. Selfe said the funding aspect was too complicated and cumbersome.

Cilliers and Selfe proposed that the envisaged compensation board would

not be funded by the state.

Selfe maintained funding would be obtained from all court fines except those paid to local authorities; all bail money forfeited to the state under the Criminal Procedure Act, and "any moneys appropriated by Parliament from time to time".

Selfe said with last year's court fines totalling around R80m it was unlikely Parliament would need to allocate extra funds to the compensation scheme.

Cilliers in turn said funding should be obtained from a 20% levy on all court fines except those paid to local authorities, plus a new R50 spot fine for every guilty verdict handed down in the criminal courts.

● Comment: Page 8

# Society slams prospecting grant

**Business Day Reporter**

(56) BD 2/18/95

THE Wildlife Society was concerned that an "irresponsible decision" had been made by government in granting permission for minerals prospecting in the Madimbo Corridor in Northern Province, the organisation said at the weekend.

The society was worried the decision had been taken without all relevant facts being known. Alternative land use options had been ignored.

The Madimbo Corridor, in the 29 000ha Matshakatini Nature Reserve, borders the Limpopo River and the Kruger National Park and forms part of the "golden horseshoe" plan linking frontier parks in SA, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

The potential for environmental damage from prospecting was enormous, said the Wildlife Society. Mining would occur in the Limpopo River bed and other areas of the reserve which were of extreme ecological and archaeological importance.

The society had tried in January to alert various Cabinet ministers about the issue, but had not received replies until after the permit had been issued in June.

Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers said he was in favour of conserving the Madimbo area.

His department had been consulted on the prospecting application, but "no substantive reasons" could be found for calling for an environmental impact assessment in terms of the Minerals Act.

The department had requested restrictions on trenching and pitting activities but none on drilling.

Last week De Villiers was reported to be considering legal steps to halt prospecting.

The minerals lease agreement stipulates that the environmental affairs director general has to be consulted to identify environmentally sensitive areas and exclude them from prospecting activities.

To date, the company had not approached his department, said De Villiers.

Mbeki lauds

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## Toxic waste ship to be turned back

(56) Star 21/8/95

Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers has requested the Finnish government to take back a shipment of toxic waste due for Durban harbour on Wednesday.

Five hundred tons of toxic cupric arsenate had been imported by JAD Metal Concentrate for recycling purposes.

Following a meeting on Friday with Chris Albertyn, chairman of the Environment Justice Networking Forum and JAD representatives, De Villiers said the ship would be turned back before entering local waters.

The minister had apparently held talks with the appropriate Finnish cabinet minister on Friday, and was expressing SA's concern about waste imports.

JAD had intended to return

refined chrome and nickel to the Finnish company, Kikkola Chemicals.

De Villiers said a row about the shipment was brewing in Finland.

The importation of the shipment for recycling purposes had apparently been approved by the Government.

This sparked accusations by Earthlife Africa last week that De Villiers had breached a promise made earlier this year not to allow any imports of hazardous waste into SA.

Following an Earthlife Africa protest at a meeting at Johannesburg's Nasrec on Thursday, De Villiers, apparently taken by surprise, committed the department to a re-evaluation of the permit that approved the import. — Sapa and Staff Reporter.

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## Waste-tech acquires recycling firm

Robyn Chalmers

(56)

WASTE-tech has acquired domestic and industrial waste recycling company Waste Flo from Basil Read Construction for an undisclosed amount, it was announced at the weekend.

Waste-tech MD Ken Bromfield said that with South Africans producing in excess of 15-million tons of domestic waste and 12-million tons of industrial waste a year, the need for re-use, recycling and waste minimisation was increasing.

Waste-tech's acquisition of Waste Flo is in keeping with our efforts to reduce dependence on disposal and to follow world trends in increasing the amount of materials recovered and recycled from the waste stream. Waste-tech is aiming to further

assist its clients to reduce their waste and its resultant impact on the environment."

Waste Flo has been incorporated into Waste-tech's waste minimisation division which assists companies with waste minimisation programmes and recycling.

Bromfield said that with land being at a premium, it made sense to keep well-managed landfill sites operating for as long as possible. Recycling was one way of reducing volumes of waste to a landfill.

Waste-tech manages domestic and hazardous waste landfill sites and collects and disposes of medical and chemical waste in conjunction with local fire departments.

It also conducts clean-ups of hazardous waste spills through its mobile units and sets up waste minimisation programmes for waste producing organisations.

# New Environment Act by 1997

(56) STW 21/8/95

■ BY ANITA ALLEN  
SCIENCE WRITER

A new Environment Act can be in place early in 1997 only, according to an ambitious timetable accepted at the Consultative Conference on Environment Policy, which ended in Johannesburg on Friday.

The historic forum at Nasrec was the first time that various sectors in South Africa were involved in the process of framing environmental legislation.

Over two days, sober-suited men of government, industry and business debated issues with a much more casual crowd representing grassroots organisations

and communities.

Their task was to reach agreement on the process that should be followed to ensure that every South African was given the opportunity to have a say in framing environmental legislation.

At the close of the conference, delegates resolved to return to their constituencies and to immediately set up forums at provincial and local levels. Reports from the various workshops would be circulated and discussed. A task team would also compile an initial Green Paper which would be passed on to delegates by October.

Return reports from delegates would be passed on to the task team by February next year. These would be synthesised in to a draft Green Paper by March. A second round of consultation until July would follow, so that a draft White Paper could be ready by November and hopefully, by early in 1997, the new legislation would be passed by Parliament.

At the closing plenary, delegates supported a proposal by Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers for a newly constituted 18-member Council of Environment to advise him in the interim period until the new Act was passed.

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## Policeman found dead

The body of Assistant-Constable Jacob Maboe (30) was found in Evaton in the Vaal Triangle yesterday with stab wounds in the chest and neck, said police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Piet van Deventer.

Maboe was a member of the Vaal Triangle police dog unit.

The motive for the attack is unknown. No arrests have been made. — Sapa.

## Industry does its bit by recycling water

STW 21/8/95

■ STAFF REPORTER

Private businesses were turning increasingly to water recycling as the campaign to save water gained momentum, a Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry survey revealed.

But recycling, the chamber said, could lead to higher prices for products in some industries.

JCCI chief executive Marius de Jager said the business community was

confident that the re-  
quired water savings  
could be achieved.

He said the majority of businesses in the industrial sector were waiting for official notification of their water consumption quotas to fully assess the contribution they could make to conserve water.

The quotas would be clearly indicated on their next accounts, he added.

De Jager said that in the bottling and glass manufacturing sectors companies were looking

at the possibility of installing plants and procedures that would recycle much of the water used in the production process.

"It is unlikely, though, that the cost of these modifications could be absorbed, and they may translate into higher prices for consumers.

"Businesses are urged to take careful note of those quotas so that the maximum saving of water can be achieved," he said.

IMPORT PERMIT TO BE PROBED

# Toxic waste cargo halted

**ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS** is to launch an investigation into the issuing of a permit to import toxic waste into South Africa.

**T**HE controversial shipment of 500 tons of cupric arsenate approved by the South African Environment department has been halted at Antwerp, Belgium, and will be returned to Finland.

The toxic cargo will be transported to the city of Kikkola on Finland's western coast, where it will be treated.

The Finnish company, Kikkola Chemicals, has capitulated to a request by Environment Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers and stated that it did not want negative publicity.

"It is regrettable that the interrupted transport will bring the

company a considerable loss and extraordinary costs," a company statement said.

The ship, the Saint Irene, was continuing its voyage south.

Environment Affairs spokeswoman Ms Luise Nicholson said yesterday an urgent departmental inquiry had been ordered into why authorisation had been given to issue the permit to import the waste.

The report of the inquiry was expected in the next day or two and further action would be decided once this had been received.

"This is a victory for South Africa," said Mr Peter Lukey of Earthlife Africa yesterday.

Earlier, Earthlife Africa and the ANC called for the firing of Mr Colin Cameron, director-general of the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism, who had approved the toxic import.

### Private deal

Mr Lukey said Mr Cameron should be fired because he had approved the contentious importation without informing his minister, Dr De Villiers, and because a private company was contracted by Mr Cameron to handle the government's affairs.

Documentation approving the import was apparently signed by a private company, Daan Malan and Associates, on behalf of the government.

Mr Lukey said it was "highly

questionable that a private company made use of department letterheads and acted on behalf of the government.

The ANC has also blamed Dr De Villiers. It said in a statement in Johannesburg yesterday that he would have to explain why the permit to import toxic waste from Finland was granted without Deputy Minister Mr Bantu Holomisa's knowledge.

Dr De Villiers' first reaction to the news of the waste last week was to say he was unaware of the development.

According to reports, Dr De Villiers said at the weekend that authority on matters relating to toxic waste had been delegated to Mr Holomisa, who was responsible for pollution control. — Special Correspondent, Political Staff, Sapa

56 22/8/95

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# Toxic waste shipment: Minister expected to order probe

(56) ARG 22/8/95  
JOHN YELD,  
Environment Reporter  
and Argus Correspondent

FINAL approval for a full government investigation into the controversial shipment of 500 tons of cupric arsenate is expected soon from Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers.

Dr. De Villiers is overseas, and his department is contacting him to clarify final aspects of the investigation, which also involves other government departments, director-general Colin Cameron said today.

There could be "legal complications" and it was therefore difficult to say how long the investigation would take.

"But we will do it expeditiously — we won't procrastinate. We would like to see this whole thing behind us so that we can get on with our work."

Dr Cameron declined to respond to calls by the environmental group Earthlife Africa and the African National Congress for him to be fired because of his department's handling of the issue.

The calls came at the conclusion of last week's first Consultative Conference on National Environmental Policy, attended by about 400 delegates.

Dr Cameron said Dr De Villiers had committed himself to a full investigation.

"We're in the process of doing that and the call (for his resignation) will be part of that, so I don't think it would be appropriate to comment."

The shipment of cupric arsenate, approved by Dr Cameron's department without the knowledge of Dr De Villiers or his deputy Bantu Holomisa, has been halted at Antwerp, Belgium, and will be returned to Finland.

"This is a victory for South Africa," said Peter Lukey of the Earthlife Africa.

The chemicals will be transported to the city of Kikkola on Finland's west coast where it will be treated.

Finnish company Kikkola Chemicals has agreed to a request from Dr De Villiers to take the shipment back, and said it did not want negative publicity.

Mr Lukey said Dr Cameron should be fired because he had approved the contentious importation without informing Dr De Villiers and because a private company had been contracted by Dr Cameron to handle the government's affairs.

Documents approving the import had apparently been signed by Daan Malan and Associates, on behalf of the government.

Mr Lukey said it was "highly questionable" for a private company to make use of department letterheads and act on behalf of the government.

Dr Cameron said the company had been contracted several months ago to help his department administer the provisions of the Basel Convention on the trans-border movement of hazardous waste, of which South Africa was a signatory.

Environmental affairs did not have enough staff and the company was required to assist in putting in place a "complete management system" so that "we can fulfil all the requirements of the convention properly".

The company had been contracted several months ago and "weren't brought in specifically for this (the shipment)", Dr Cameron said.

# Learn from our toxic waste blunders, says US Energy Secretary

Political Correspondent

UNITED STATES Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary says South Africa should learn from her country's blunders in handling nuclear and toxic waste.

(56) APR 22/8/95  
She warned against repeating the United States government's mistake of treating critics as the enemy.

Mrs O'Leary yesterday led a delegation of government officials and representatives of the private energy industry in a meeting with the national assembly committee on mineral and energy affairs.



Hazel O'Leary

She said the delegation had to come to offer advice and to forge economic ties.

"We want to invest here and we suspect that that is what you want us to do."

Asked by members of the committee about factors which would influence decision on investment, several members of the US delegation cited political stability.

Representatives of energy corporations urged South Africa to devise regulations in a way that would allow the energy industry to grow.

This was particularly necessary in the light of the reconstruction and development goal of extending electricity to every household.

Questioned whether South Africa's oil storage with Iran would prejudice relations between this country and the US, ambassador Princeton Lyman said the issue would be handled as part of a dialogue between friendly countries.

The issue did not change the fundamental relationship between South Africa and the US, he said.



# SA-bound toxic waste to be returned to Finland

■ BY TAMSEN DE BEER

A shipment of toxic waste approved by the Environment Department has been halted at Antwerp, Belgium, and will be returned to Finland.

The 500 tons of cupric arsenate will be taken to Finland where it will be treated. The Finnish company Kikkola Chemicals has capitulated to a re-

quest from Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers.

Earlier, Earthlife Africa and the ANC called for the firing of Colin Cameron, director-general of the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism, who had approved the import.

Peter Lukey, of Earthlife Africa, said Cameron should be fired because he approved the importation without telling De Villiers.

(56) STAR 22/8/95

# Inland site for steel mill 'viable'

□ Probe told Langeberg feasible alternative to Saldanha ~~(56)~~ (56)  
AR 22/8/95

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter  
A SITE 10 km inland of the proposed Saldanha steel mill site — at Langeberg — would be financially viable, but Sishen in the northern Cape would not, the Steyn board of inquiry has been told.

A report of a sub-committee on financial matters about the proposed steel mill at Saldanha Bay was tabled at the board's hearing in Newlands today.

The sub-committee — consisting of the former head of the Foschini Group, Clive Hirschsohn, and former senior partner in a prominent firm of chartered accountants, Gerhard Krone, was appointed by the board to report on the costs associated with moving the proposed steel mill to an alternative site.

The sub-committee's brief was to determine whether the costs associated with moving would negatively affect the commercial viability of the project and the robustness of the project and if it did, whether it would make a move to an alternative site a commercially irresponsible decision.

The sub-committee found that alternative sites at Port Elizabeth, East London, Delmas, Richards Bay and Pretoria could not be seriously considered.

An alternative site at Sishen would have to rely on "a very high and continuing level of international prices for most years" to be viable.

Realistically, returns would be "poor and unacceptable".

An additional amount of R100 million would be required and the sub-committee believed Sishen was not a viable commercial proposition.

The new proposed site, about 10 km inland of the preferred site, would give satisfactory returns if average international steel prices were maintained.

An additional amount of R32 million would be required.

"The project would be tolerably robust, based on average international prices." The sub-committee suggested that Langeberg be considered as an alternative site, "rendering acceptable and satisfactory returns to shareholders".

The northern Cape government is due to give evidence to the board of inquiry tomorrow about the possible location of the project at Sishen.

# Holomisa 'didn't issue permit'

BARRY STREEK

(56) CT 23/8/95

THE controversial permit to import toxic waste had nothing to do with him and was issued before he was given responsibility for pollution control, the Deputy Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Bantu Holomisa, said yesterday.

"I didn't know anything about it," he said from Chidzero, Zimbabwe, where he is attending a World Conservation Union conference.

"Nor has it landed me in any hot water — although there are people trying to get at me by blaming me," he said.

Mr Holomisa, however, did confirm claims by environmentalists that the permit had not been issued by a department official, but by "a consultant".

He also said provisions for signing inter-government protocols for the transfer of toxic waste, as laid



**TOXIC WASTE ROW:** Deputy Minister Mr Bantu Holomisa

down in the Basle Convention on Toxic Waste, had not been complied with.

Because the South African and Finnish governments had not signed a protocol, it had been possible to stop the shipment of the waste last Friday.

A permit had only been issued to an importer, not to a government as was required, Mr Holomisa said.

Department of Environment Affairs sources said yesterday that heads would "roll" once the urgent departmental investigation into the matter had been completed.

They said the permit had been issued without any consultation with the minister, Dr Dawie de Villiers, Mr Holomisa or the director-general, Mr Colin Cameron, and someone would have to answer for this.

Mr Holomisa said no one had consulted them at any stage.

"We did not know anything about it."

The 500-ton toxic waste (cupric arsenide) shipment from Finland was stopped in Europe and off-loaded at Antwerp for reshipping back to Finland and will no longer be imported into South Africa.

GROUND WATER THREATENED

# Lagoon pollution by mill 'inevitable'

**THE** highly porous sand on the proposed site of the Saldanha Steel mill means any contamination would inevitably affect Langebaan Lagoon, **CLAIRE BISSEKER** reports.

**C**ONTAMINATION of the Langebaan Lagoon was inevitable if the Saldanha Steel mill were given the go-ahead on the proposed site, unless costly engineering safeguards were implemented that "curtained off" the mill from ground water.

This was evidence put by geotechnical engineer Dr Gerald Rosenthal to the Steyn board of inquiry yesterday.

His expert testimony added further weight to recommendations by the board's financial sub-committee earlier in the day that a site 10km inland would be a financially viable alternative.

Dr Rosenthal said any soil contamination on the proposed site and surrounding area would inevitably reach the lagoon through the highly porous sand and mobile ground water.

While Iscor might be able to afford to construct a "curtain" that sealed off polluting parts of the mill from ground water, geotechnical experts appearing for Saldanha Steel had "trivialised" the complexity of the process, he said.

Dr Rosenthal said leakage from industrial sites, including those with containment provisions, was such a common problem in the Western Cape that in places there was a "diesel table not a ground water table".

Saldanha Steel had resisted recommendations by Iscor's engineers and their consultants to examine sites further inland where more favourable geotechnical conditions were thought to exist, he said.

Moving a few kilometres inland would not necessarily solve the problem, however, as the

whole area was underscored by ancient river channels and the ground contained staggering amounts of water.


Earlier the board's finance sub-committee recommended that the mill would still be financially viable if sited 10 km inland on Langeberg farm.

Although the move would cost Saldanha Steel an additional R32 million, it would still offer "satisfactory" returns to shareholders at average international steel prices and be "tolerably robust".

## 'Unacceptable'

The committee advised that Sishen would not be a viable commercial proposition as the move would require an additional R100 million and the returns would be "poor and unacceptable".

A close examination of capital requirements, transport and operating costs also revealed that Port Elizabeth, East London, Delmas, Richards Bay and Pretoria could not be seriously considered.

(56)   
ET 23/8/95

STW 23/8/95

## Sishen out of favour as site for steel plant

(SAPA) (56)

Cape Town — Sishen is not a viable alternative site for the proposed R4,7-billion Saldanha Steel project, according to two financial experts the Steyn Inquiry appointed to investigate the project.

The report, released yesterday, follows an extensive investigation by Protea Assurance chairman Clive Hirschsohn and former Pim Goldby senior partner Gerhard Krone into the comparative cost of alternative sites for the proposed plant.

They advised against relocating the plant at Sishen, saying the robustness of the project would be poor due to its dependency on unrealistic and improbable world steel price cycles.

The report deals a crippling blow to a bid by the Northern Cape government to force the relocation of the project to Sishen, and comes a day before a Northern Cape delegation was due to give evidence before the inquiry.

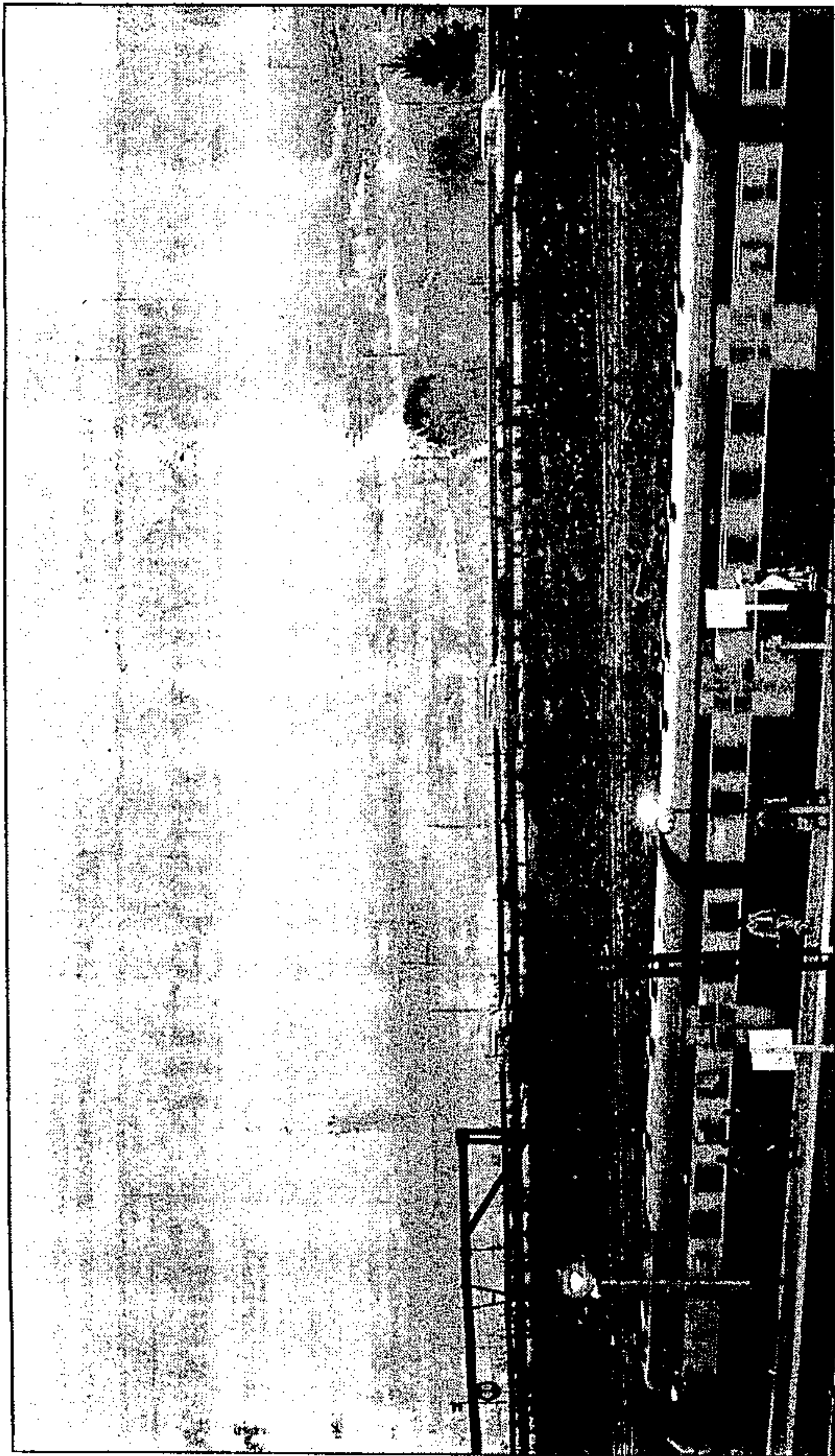
Mr Justice Jan Steyn, who is heading the three-man inquiry, indicated yesterday he had reluctantly agreed to allow the delegation to testify because he didn't "want to shut any doors".

However, he again stressed that in terms of its mandate from Environmental Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers, the board did not have the power to make proposals on alternative sites.

After examining the capital requirement, operating and transport costs, the experts' report also rejected Port Elizabeth, East London, Delmas, Richards Bay and Pretoria as alternative sites.

However, Langeberg (a farm about 10km inland from Saldanha) could be considered as a viable alternative site. — Sapa.

◀ Electrification will not end pollution . . . 50% of households having access to electricity still use coal and wood for cooking and to heat their homes.



*Study finds electrification alone does not solve problem*

# Solar solution to Gauteng pollution

By ANITA ALLEN  
SCIENCE WRITER

A comprehensive CSIR study has shown that electrification on its own does not offer a solution to air pollution in Gauteng.

Now solar energy has been proposed.

The three-year CSIR study found that about 2.4-million South Africans are exposed to hazardous levels of air pollution as a result of burning coal and wood as household energy sources. But, 45% to 48% of all households with access to electricity still use coal and wood for cooking and to heat homes.

One way of addressing the space heating problem, lies in

passive solar design (PSD), says Dieter Holm, head of the Department of Architecture at the University of Pretoria in the latest issue of *The African Sun*, the journal of the Solar Energy Society of SA.

This little explored component of current housing schemes refers to building with nature to achieve comfortable indoor conditions by using the sun for day lighting and winter space heating, or the cool breeze for summer cooling. Energy flows naturally while buildings react passively needing a minimum of artificial energy.

Holm argues that PSD is the only way of procuring cost-effective and sustainable housing. It is also the cheapest use of solar energy because it requires

no extra features that a normal decent dwelling would not have. But it demands care on the part of planners, architects and decision makers.

Of all generic housing forms, the detached house is thermally most inefficient because all six enveloping surfaces are exposed to the outside, with no mutual protection from other houses. The smaller the free standing house, the greater its surface-to-volume ratio and the greater its heating/cooling energy demand. It is also the most expensive model with respect to the provision of services such as water, electricity, telephone, road, storm water, sewer, waste removal, public transport, security and health services.

A new housing model must be

holistic, says Holm, aiming at integration, synergy and symbiosis of functions. It must aim to integrate living, leisure and work while obviating the need for commuting. It must not support the exclusive use of the unsustainable and socially disruptive detached house.

Other models, like terrace housing, courtyard housing and cluster housing, in addition to mixed land use will have to be considered. New urban settlements will strive to be in harmony with nature, not against it. Holm believes that this means the right to solar access will be protected, because it has survival value and that urban design should facilitate energy effective architecture design generally and PSD in particular.

Using PSD in 727 000 informal houses will save 6 400 ha of woodlands annually and reduce the emission of greenhouse gases by 4-million tons a year, Holm says. Savings for the end user with its application in only 50% of all formal housing will save R688-million a year, health cost savings will amount to R550-million. In addition, there are energy conservation advantages and job opportunities.

With all these advantages, Holm notes that a recent study showed that more than 72% of builders stated that thermal design is not a consideration. Users do not demand it and there is a general lack of awareness with developers and decision-makers.

In South Africa, the health impact and the number of deaths alone suffice to introduce thermal building regulations, says Holm.

"In view of the large-scale housing programme where very important decisions with long-term implications are being taken, it is important to ensure ecologically sustainable development. This requires that we seize this unique opportunity of doing things right the first time," he concludes.

Design guidelines on PSD are being prepared by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs. A brochure covering basic information for developers, users, decision makers and planners is available.

23/8/95 (56)

## Steel mill water shock estimate

ARLT 24/8/95 (24)  
Environment Reporter (56)

THE proposed Saldanha steel project will consume some 35 percent of all water used by industry in the Western Cape, says the environmental organisation Earthlife Africa.

Water was the region's scarcest natural resource and the "disproportionate allocation" to the steel project raised "serious equity and efficiency questions", Earthlife spokesman Tony Barbour told the Steyn board of inquiry.

"Can the region afford to jeopardise future economic development by allocating such a large proportion of its water supply to a single consumer which provides only 400 to 600 permanent jobs?"

"Can the region afford to place a large number of its eggs in one basket?"

His organisation was not opposed to economic development in the Langebaan-Vredenburg-Saldanha area but the proposed steel mill had to be assessed within a broader planning context to ensure the long-term sustainable development of the West Coast region, Mr Barbour said.

NO SA SITE HAS SUCH STRINGENT MEASURES

# 'Unnecessary' to build curtain wall for mill

**EVIDENCE** that waste from the Saldanha steel mill would inevitably contaminate Langebaan Lagoon was dismissed as 'hearsay' yesterday. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

It was "radical" and unnecessary to suggest the proposed R4,7-billion Saldanha Steel plant should have to adopt more stringent construction measures than a hazardous waste site, geotechnical engineer Mr Peter Day told the Steyn inquiry yesterday.

Mr Day was reacting to earlier evidence by geotechnical engineer Dr Gerald Rosenthal that Iscor would have to construct an expensive containing wall around the plant to and prevent pollutants from contaminating groundwater.

"I don't think there is a single site in South Africa which has been contained by a curtain wall around the site — not even hazardous

waste sites. What has been recommended is a very radical solution which in my opinion is neither practical nor required on this site," Mr Day said.

He said the suggestion that a containment wall be built had been based on assumptions not facts.

He questioned Dr Rosenthal's evidence that soil contamination by the proposed steel plant "would inevitably" reach Langebaan lagoon.

"We are not geohydrologists. A study by geohydrologists from the CSIR is currently underway. We must not pre-empt their evidence with hearsay evidence. Our find-

ings must be based on fact not on extrapolation," he said.

Mr Day also dismissed evidence that the underlying geology of the site would cause serious construction problems which would be prohibitively expensive to solve.

While conceding that it was not the easiest site to build on, Mr Day said the plant could be built with standard civil engineering techniques. Local contractors were able to handle the construction.

## Confidence

"I am confident as a geotechnical engineer we can deal with anything that site can throw at us. The main concerns raised here (in the inquiry) have been environmental which is outside our brief as geotechnical engineers," Mr Day said.

CT24/8/95

56



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# Toxic waste — firm cut off by govt

(56)  
ET 25/8/95

THE government yesterday suspended its dealings with a Gauteng-based firm of environmental consultants after the controversy about the permit to import toxic waste from Finland, and appointed an independent commission of inquiry into the matter.

The commission would hold public hearings into the employment of Daan Malan and Associates by the Department of Environment Affairs to act on its behalf in matters concerning hazardous waste, the Deputy Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Bantu Holomisa, said yesterday.

The members of the commission would be finalised next week.

Mr Holomisa said the departmental inquiry into who was responsible for issuing the permit would continue its work.

The commission would investigate financial and administrative matters relating to the planned import of hazardous wastes from Finland and the employment of Daan Malan Associates to act on its behalf. — Reuter

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LACK OF TRANSPARENCY CONDEMNED

# Govt's Saldanha oil deal 'unbelievable'

CT 25/8/95



**AN** ecologist says the government's lack of transparency in its oil deal with Iran makes a mockery of the scrutiny of the proposed Saldanha project. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

**T**HE government's sudden announcement of the oil storage deal with Iran made a mockery of the intense scrutiny to which the proposed Saldanha Steel project was being subjected to, coastal ecologist Dr Allan Heydorn told the Steyn inquiry yesterday.

Dr Heydorn said that for this reason he had "enormous sympathy" for Saldanha Steel's case.

He said it was "unbelievable" that the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs had simply announced the proposed Iran deal without any mention of investigating the environmental implications of the vastly-increased tanker

traffic in Saldanha Bay.

"It is an enormous pity that the government has demonstrated no sign of appreciation of the country's absolute dependence on a healthy environment or the need to act transparently, by simply negotiating and announcing a deal on massive oil transfers and storage."

South Africa's international integrity was at stake, he said.

The spectre of supertankers, many of which were in poor condition, colliding, running aground or just leaking oil was appalling.

Dr Heydorn said he had mixed feelings about the proposed

R4,7-billion Saldanha Steel project. "The development has enormous potential for the economy of the country (and) may well offer an opportunity which the country can't afford to miss.

"On the other hand, it is likely to have unforeseeable consequences for this irreplaceable coastal environment."

He said if Saldanha Steel genuinely met all the conditions and safeguards the World Wide Fund for Nature had laid out, he would find it difficult to oppose the building of the steel mill at Saldanha Bay.

He said the real cause for concern was the cumulative effects of other industries that would spring up as a result of the steel mill.

Saldanha Steel could not be expected to accept responsibility for these impacts.

(56) (1994)

# Iscor won't budge, says chairman

CT(BR) 25/8/95

By DEREK TOMMEY

Iscor will not move the site of its proposed Saldanha steel plant to an alternative location situated 10km inland, chairman Hans Smith said at a presentation in Johannesburg last night.

He was commenting on a suggestion by some environmentalists that to prevent any contamination from the plant it should be moved away from the coast.

Smith said that Iscor had done a good job on the plant and there was no one in the world who could prove that it would pollute the area. The Saldanha project was not an environmental issue and he believed that Iscor had the high moral ground.

The decision not to move the plant was a commercial one. It would be profitable at its planned location at all stages of the business cycle. But moving it inland would increase operating costs by about R50 million a year. As a result it would not be viable at the low point of the business cycle.

He was not prepared to ask his shareholders to provide the money for an unviable plant.

He expressed the hope that the commission of inquiry would report in Iscor's favour by the middle of next month.

Smith said Iscor did not expect to repeat its 1994-95 performance of a 101 percent increase in net income in 1995-96, but the increase would again be substantial.

Iscor would be investing considerable sums to improve productivity at its various plants. It was also looking at several other projects in South Africa and elsewhere in the world.

These included a new iron-making process, an Australian coal mine, the change at the Pretoria works to stainless steel production with a planned start-up date next April; improvements at the rod mill at Newcastle, which would result in higher profit margins and the modernisation of the Vanderbijlpark works.

# Steel firm jumps gun

AKL 26/8/95

(51)

■ Saldanha Steel has started recruiting engineers and technicians for its controversial steel mill.

WILLEM STENKAMP

Staff Reporter

SALDANHA Steel, the company planning the controversial R4,5 billion steel mill at Saldanha, is so confident it will get the go-ahead for the project that it has started recruiting engineers and technicians for the mill.

Saldanha Steel placed advertisements in Cape newspapers this week, saying critical issues such as the project's potential impact on the environment and its water usage had been resolved.

Reacting to criticism from some objectors that the issues had in fact not been resolved and that the Board of Investigation had not completed its probe, Bernard Smith, chief executive of Saldanha Steel, said he felt confident that the conclusions of the Board of Investigation would be in favour of Saldanha Steel.

The board was appointed by the government to investigate the viability of the project after environmentalists and homeowners in the area expressed concerns about the impact of the mill on the sensitive lagoon area.

Mr Smith said: "We have led expert evidence that we will not exceed the standards set down for the necessary environmental control. Up to now no expert evidence to prove the contrary has been given to the board."

"We have a programme for the project and we have said before that we will not appoint people from the ranks of Iscor, but that we would train our own staff for the mill."

"This is why we have started a recruitment drive. We hope to start training about a third of the 600 people we need to employ, by January next year. We expect the Board of Investigation to announce its finding in about three weeks time."

He said if Saldanha Steel was given the go-ahead, construction would be completed by the end of 1997.

# Education in grip of gangsters, vandalism

**ADELE BALETA**  
Staff Reporter

EDUCATION in the Western Cape is festering, with school vandalism and theft reaching alarming proportions, attempts to oust white teachers from township schools and the youth remaining disenfranchised.

The township youth feel the grievances they toyed over in the past have not been addressed.

In Beaufort West this month, in action reminiscent of apartheid, police fired at and wounded students who went on a protest march demanding improved educational facilities. They were fed up with being accommodated in a converted TB hospital.

In two Cape Flats schools, white teachers backed by pupils, parents and colleagues, are staying put at township schools in spite of a campaign by the Azanian Students' Movement (Azasm) to have them expelled.

Azasm has called off its campaign.

The overburdened and understaffed police force say they cannot patrol all schools and the education department says it does not have the money to do so.

Head of the Western Cape education department Francois Knoetze said vandalism and theft were rife: "We are just addressing the symptoms and not the whole problem. All we are doing is patching up. But as soon as we do that — the problem pops up in another place.

"There are not enough extra-mural activities for students. It is the responsibility of the teachers. We need to allow the community to take ownership of the schools. Some schools have been successful. The broader community needs to be able to use the schools as well. There needs to be more education."

He said gangsters, vandalism and theft were the biggest problems facing his department.

A city psychologist, who did not want to be named, said the behaviour of the marginalised youth was "normal" under the circumstances.

"It stems from a kind of breakdown of a social system. The frustrated youths, who are perform-

(50) ARG 26/8/95  
■ All is not well with education in the Western Cape in South Africa's second year of democracy.

ing and carrying on, are the product of many years of social destruction which has given rise to a subculture of violence and anarchy. We are now seeing the product of this.

"We are looking at something that was fostered in the community by apartheid for years. It's the thing that (President) Mandela is constantly appealing about.

"There needs to be a culture of discipline and co-operation to be built up in the community, the kind that Nelson Mandela talks of."

Commenting on attempts by the black consciousness Azanian Students' Movement (Azasm) to remove white teachers from black schools, SA Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu) spokesman Basil Sneyer said the situation was complex.

"Sadtu condemns any kind of racism — and the violence that emanates from it — as we condemned it in the previous dispensation. But we need to be mindful of where, historically, these actions are located.

"One cannot ignore historical imbalances and the effects of these imbalances on the lives of ordinary people.

"There are students, teachers and other sectors of the community who have suffered under the racism of the past. This action is understandable but not acceptable."

He said it was not as if the Western Cape education department had not been forewarned.

Sadtu had alerted it in a memo to Western Cape Premier Hennis Kriel and education minister Martha Olckers.

"We raised the question of the lack of facilities, the overcrowding of classrooms, the lack of teachers, resources, material as well as the security problem. They knew about it.

"We feel the Western Cape education department has not shown the capability or the political will to tackle the problem. There is still the preservation of white privilege."

ST (PT) 27/8/95

# Saldanha tarnishes Iscor's lustre

THE Saldanha Steel project seems to have been hanging over Iscor, and its share price, like the sword of Damocles.

When the steel producer announced this week that its attributable earnings for the year to June had doubled, its share price nevertheless managed to slump 5c to 435c a share.

The share has been unable to get close to the 500c high it reached in September even though it is still enjoying a buoyant local and international commodity cycle.

It would seem that this week's results hardly surprised the market. If anything, the results may have been marginally lower than expected despite the

the project will go ahead. Iscor also appears to be positive.

Neels Howatt, Iscor's general manager of human resources and public relations, says Iscor has completed all its studies on the project and will be in a position to start awarding contracts if and as soon as it gets the go-ahead.

However, the delays will mean that the export oriented carbon steel mill, which involves capex of R3,8-billion, will come on stream only in three years' time, when the world commodity cycle is on a down-

ward trend.

Still, Hans Smith, Iscor's managing director, says the project is expected to reduce Iscor's average cost a ton dramatically and raise significantly its total output.

Nonetheless, Iscor's production will be subjected to cyclical fluctuations — a factor it is trying hard to reduce in its operations. Saldanha's production will be entirely for export.

According to Mr Vermeulen, Iscor's margins on the local market are substantially higher than those for exports because of the lower transport costs. This particularly helped Iscor in the year to June as local sales improved 19% to 58% of total

sales (last year, 49%) while exports accounted for 42%.

The good news is that Iscor's market in South Africa is expected to remain strong for the next 18 months to two years. There are also sure to be benefits from the reconstruction programme, once it gets under way.

Water reticulation will require steel pipes, new houses will need roofs, doors and window frames and electrification projects mean people will be buying items such as stoves, fridges, kettles and washing machines.

But Iscor is not taking any chances. It has a host of unannounced value added projects on the drawing board which may be less sensitive to cyclical fluctuations and it is involved in some sensitive negotiations. It is looking at further developing its mining operations, which have been a more stable profit earner than steel.

One of these projects is the possibility of titanium mines in KwaZulu-Natal or Northern Province. This could also involve a smelter but Mr Howatt says any decision is about 18 months away.

Two stainless steel projects — one at its Pretoria works and the other at the old Iscor Durban site — should come on stream towards the middle of next year.

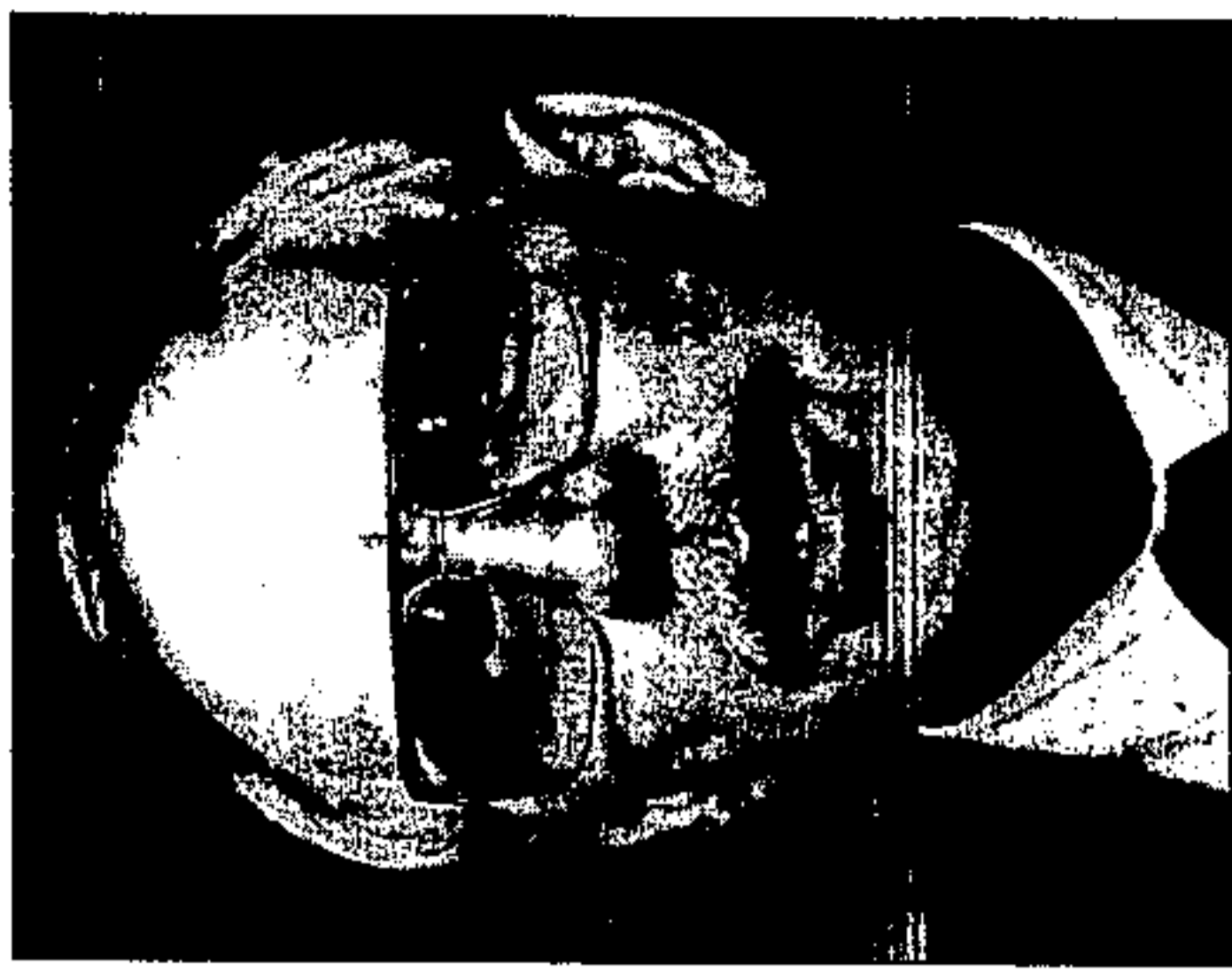
Iscor has also taken over full control of Cullinan Refractories, as well as the Tosa seamless tube plant in Vereeniging from Dornier. In addition, studies are under way regarding a palatizing unit at Sishen or Saldanha and mining coaling coal in Australia.

On the international front, steel export prices are softening in the US, European markets are holding steady while prices in the Far East are expected to remain strong for at least two more years, says Mr Smith.

Iscor recently paid R60-million for a 50% stake in Macsteel International which is set to take over its global marketing operations next year. Iscor will benefit when the next cyclical downswing arrives as Macsteel International will give priority to marketing its steel.

Mr Vermeulen finds the swing in Iscor's cash position particularly impressive. From having a debt net of cash end of June 1994 of R1,6-billion, Iscor is now sitting with R600-million in the bank.

Mr Smith says this should result in considerable savings in the interest bill in the current year. It will also act as a buffer against the next downturn and help Iscor buy companies that have not managed the cycle well at good prices.



UPBEAT: Hans Smith, Iscor's managing director

Zillo Efrat

# Energy boss denies oil leak

ST (CM) 27/8/95  
By CHARL DE VILLIERS

THE Central Energy Fund, stung by reports that its Saldanha fuel farm leaked oil, says it is prepared to sink boreholes to disprove the pollution claims.

CEF managing director Kobus van Zyl this week said he would put the proposal to a CEF director's meeting at Saldanha Bay on September 27.

"I'll consider this because environmentalists are concerned, not me. It's to satisfy them."

Earlier this week, the Steyn Board of Investigation into the Iscor/IDC Saldanha Steel Project heard that the innermost container of one of the multi-skinned tanks leaked 5 300 litres a month.

Consulting engineer Gerald Rosenthal said the facility had been designed to cope with such leakage, and all spillage was caught in a sump and pumped back into the tank.

He said it was possible for Iscor to meet the same standards of containment as met by the Strategic Fuel Fund at Saldanha Bay.

Mr van Zyl rejected allegations of leaks at the giant tank farm as being completely unsubstantiated. This was borne out by records kept over 19 years.

# NGOs play ball as batting on Saldanha

(56)

IN American parlance, it might not have been a curved ball that former supreme court judge Jan Steyn threw, but it was certainly a fast one.

The batter (so to speak) was Marlene Laros, conservation ecologist of the Western Cape branch of the Wildlife Society, and for a ball that was probably as unexpected as it was quick, she nevertheless managed a palpable hit.

The pitch came last week during a sitting of the board of inquiry, of which Mr Steyn is chairman, into the proposed Saldanha steel plant.

Ms Laros was leading evidence about the Wildlife Society's concerns when Mr Steyn suddenly asked about the rôle of environmental non-government organisations

(NGOs) in what has become popularly known as the new South Africa. The society was coming out of a period of protest and into a period of rebuilding, and many community-based organisations (or CBOs) had been forced to rethink their roles as a result.

Had the environmental NGO movement also reconsidered its future role, Mr Steyn wanted to know — particularly as regards helping eliminate potential conflict between the need for environmental protection on the one hand and the need for development on the other?

"Has there been a look at constructive involvement ... taking some of the adversarial bite out of it, if you like?"

What Ms Laros might have said but

## GREEN SCENE

John Yeld



didn't, was that merely by giving evidence to the board of inquiry, the NGOs were fact playing a constructive rôle in a constructive process.

She did note that the society was a member of the Green Coalition, which sought to do precisely that — find the optimum balance between development a

*After years of antagonism and the illegal occupation of state land by holidaymakers, negotiations about the future of the coastal area around the Groen River in Namaqualand are progressing well — and South Africa's 18th national park may be established there. Environment Reporter JOHN YELD looks at the issue.*

# Holiday area may become national park

ART 28/8/95

(56)

NEGOTIATIONS, which could lead to the proclamation of a new national park at Groen River on the west coast of Namaqualand, are progressing well and many previously antagonistic white "squatters" are in favour of a protected area being proclaimed.

vened a meeting at Kamieskroon to discuss the issue.

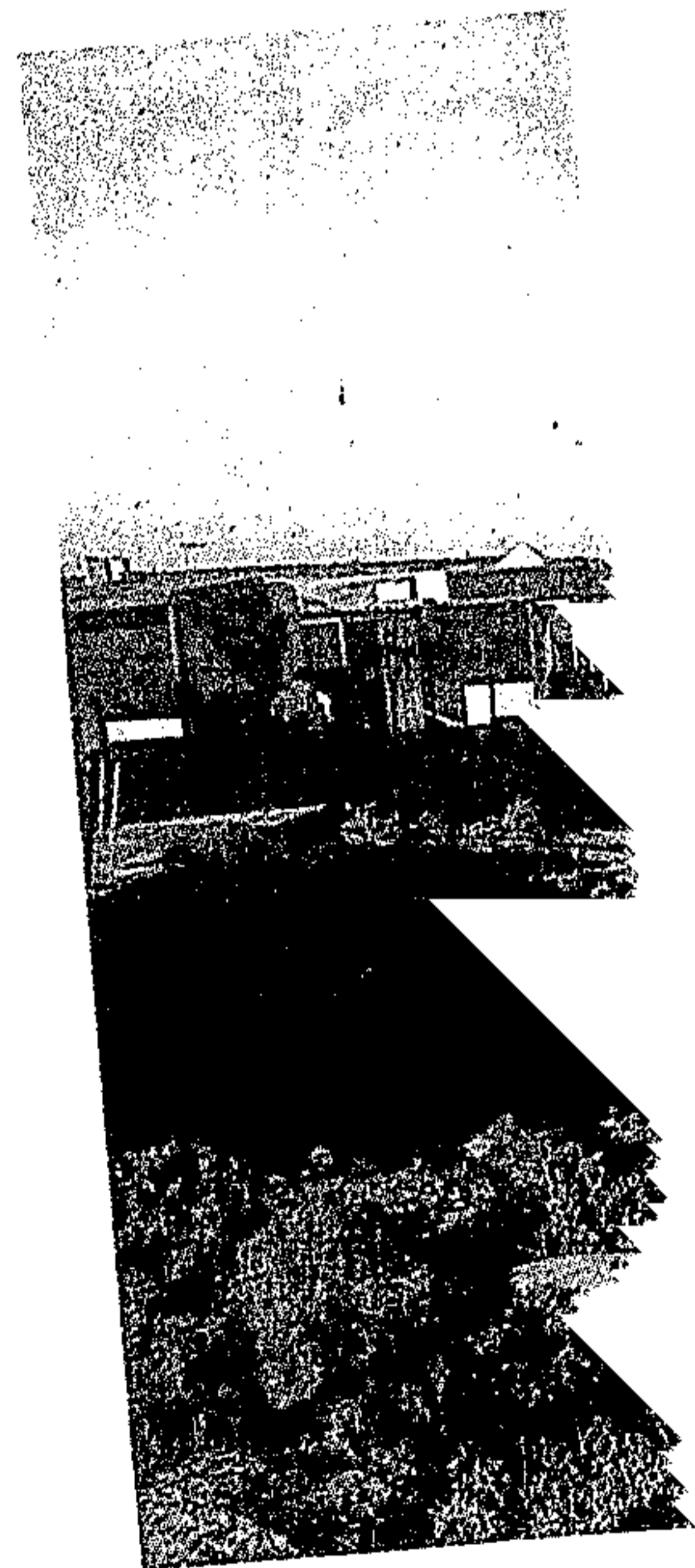
At the meeting, he said many people believed strongly that the area should be declared a national park.

"That it could be of great value to conservation and tourism is easy to understand," he said.

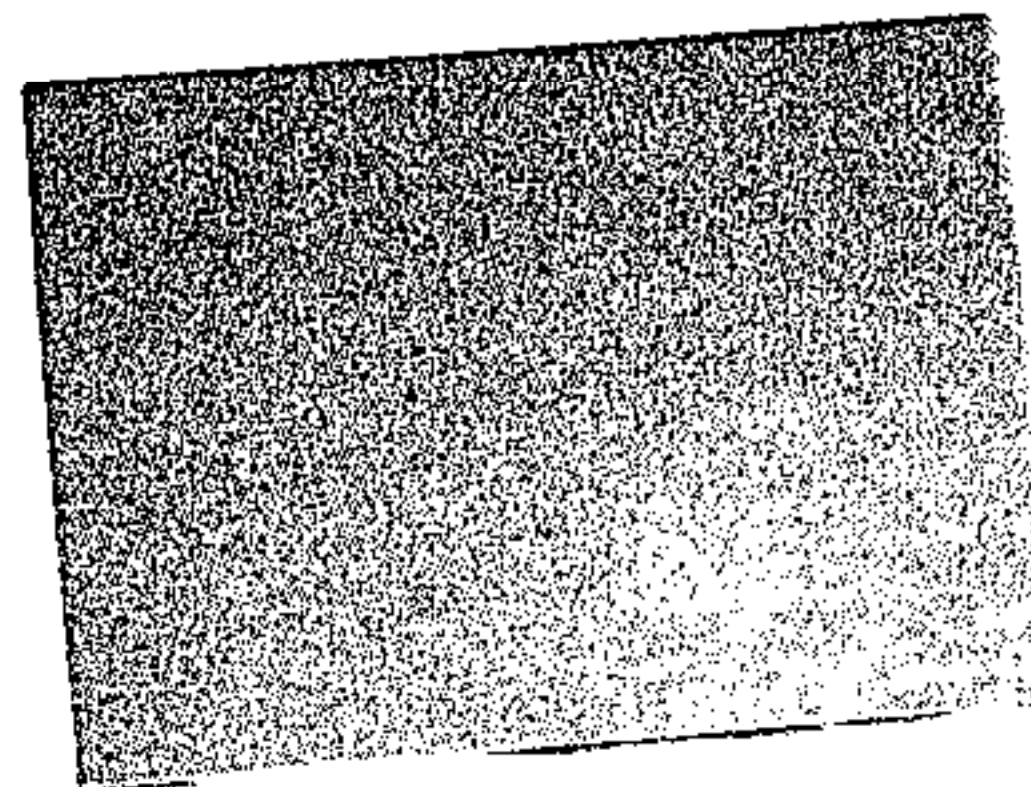
A national park could be of economic benefit to the area, he said, and he had been "ex-

council, had made significant progress towards a negotiated settlement.

Emphasising that he did not want to pre-empt any decision by Mr Hanekom on the future of the land, Dr Hall-Martin said committee members accepted that certain structures were not compatible with a national park and had indicated they would work with the board towards



ON THE BEACH: Illegal holiday homes in Namaqualand have been hampered





# insha gets fast and furious

ARG 28/8/95

environmental conservation.

More particularly, the NGO sector experienced "a fair amount of frustration" because existing planning processes allowed for inadequate briefs. Given these circumstances, adversarial positions were almost inevitable, she said.

Briefs were usually defined by the proponents of schemes and there were no effective review mechanisms which could be statutorily enforced, Ms Laros said.

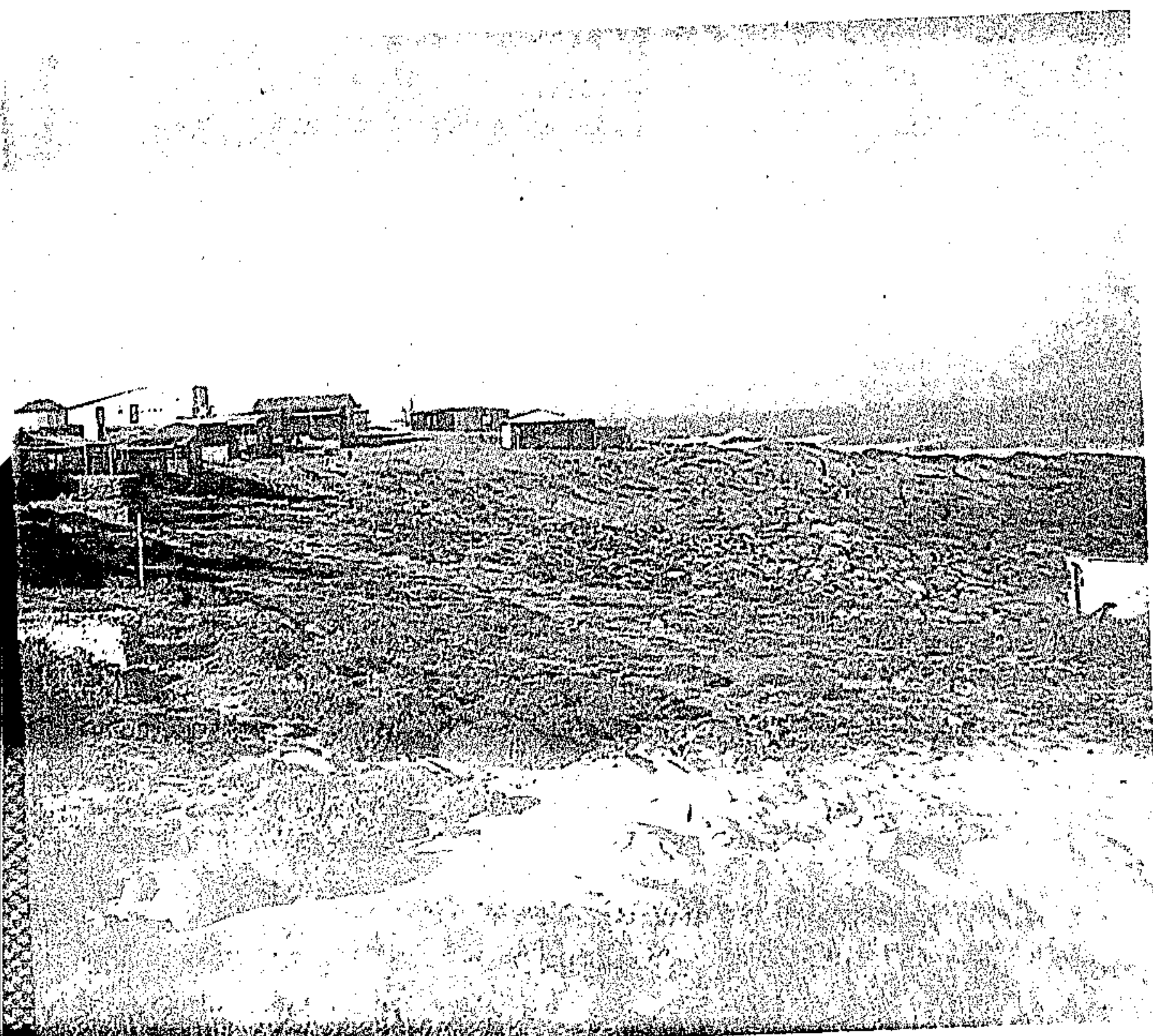
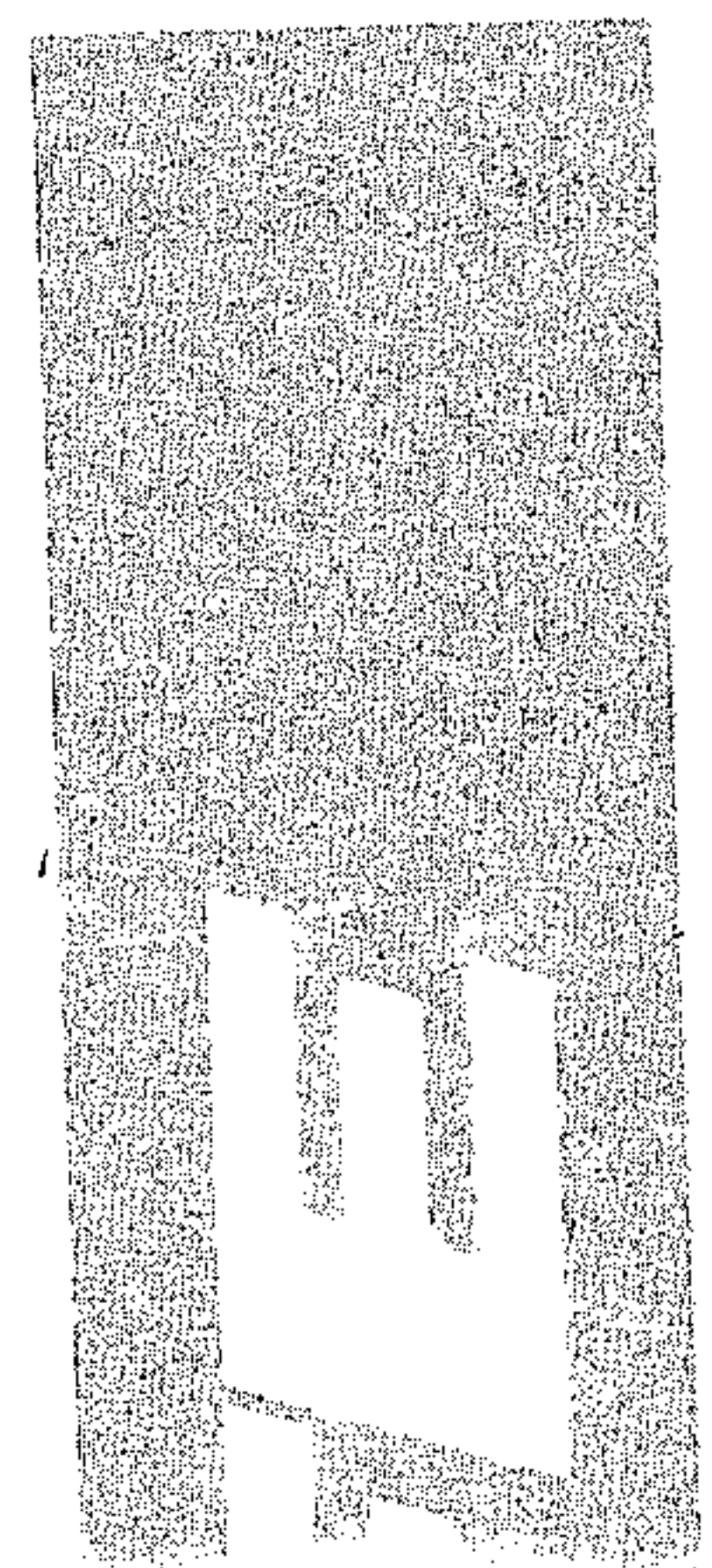
These were crucial points:

The board of inquiry was brought into being precisely because of concerns by many people that previous planning processes (like the Saldanha structure plan) had been inadequate, that the brief from Saldanha Steel project for its environmen-

tal impact assessment had been hopelessly too narrow — it specifically *excluded* the issue of increased shipping activity — and that the proposed steel project had not been considered in a holistic context because integrated environmental management (IEM) procedures are not yet legally enforceable.

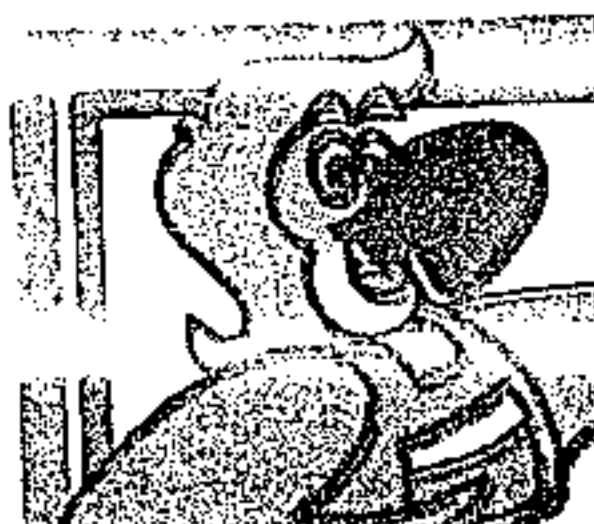
If the Steyn Board of Inquiry is able to make recommendations about *process* that would allay such fears in the future, it will have done South Africa a major service.

Then too, NGOs may be able to shed their adversarial image and take up a more relaxed batting stance with which to face fast or even curved balls with confidence.



&  
VOID

ay structures on state land on the coast near the mouth of the Groen River in Nama- g efforts to create a national park. Now negotiations about the future of these struc- tures are underway.

**DeWalt**  
YOU NAME IT - WE'VE GOT IT

But not all the holidaymakers who built illegal shacks and illegally pegged out plots for themselves on the 100 ha of state-owned land between the mouth of the Groen River and Island Point, about 60 km further south, are happy with the negotiation process, or with deadlines set by land affairs minister Derek Hanekom.

The National Parks Board has been keen to establish a park in the coastal area of Namaqualand, adjacent to Bitterfontein and Garies, and has been negotiating with the De Beers diamond mining

*company which owns substantial property along the coast.*

But the core area for a new park — state land at the mouth of the Groen River — has been used for a long time as an informal holiday resort by whites from Namaqualand, Bushmanland and even the Northern Cape.

Many of them were strongly opposed to giving up their traditional holiday area.

The problem was compounded as they built about 100 illegal shacks and — recently — illegally pegged out holiday plots on the state land.

The former "whites only" Garies municipality had applied for the rezoning of the area as a holiday resort, but its application was blocked after objections from communities not represented on the town council and environmentalists.

In July, Mr Hanekom con-

tinuedly concerned at seeing how the area has been used for camping and holiday shacks.

Referring to the Garies municipality application, Mr Hanekom said there had to be discussions about how to reconcile conflicting interests.

"There is clearly agreement that this valuable resource has to be used in a wise manner. We must do this in a way in which it contributes to improving the quality of life of the people of this region.

"We're also in agreement that there's a need for public holiday facilities, so that people can have access to this beautiful coastline."

Mr Hanekom then brokered a deal in terms of which there was an immediate ban on any further shack building.

All "plot" markers were to be destroyed.

Also, all shacks built without permission after April 27 last year — election day — had to be dismantled by October 2.

A committee, chaired by Anthony Hall-Martin of the National Parks Board, was established to make recommendations to Mr Hanekom about the future of the area and the fate of the remaining shacks.

The committee has met twice and a third meeting will be held soon.

Last week, Dr Hall-Martin said the committee, which includes representatives of the "squatter" community and the Garies transitional local

"And that's quite positive because in the past they were totally opposed."

But the future of some of the shacks at Groen Rivier were still "a sticking point", Dr Hall-Martin said.

"But the older 'squatters' want a resolution of the difficulties and their representatives have indicated they're prepared to negotiate, so I think it's moving in the right direction."

Mr Hanekom had stressed that the land had to be used for the direct benefit of the community, Dr Hall-Martin said.

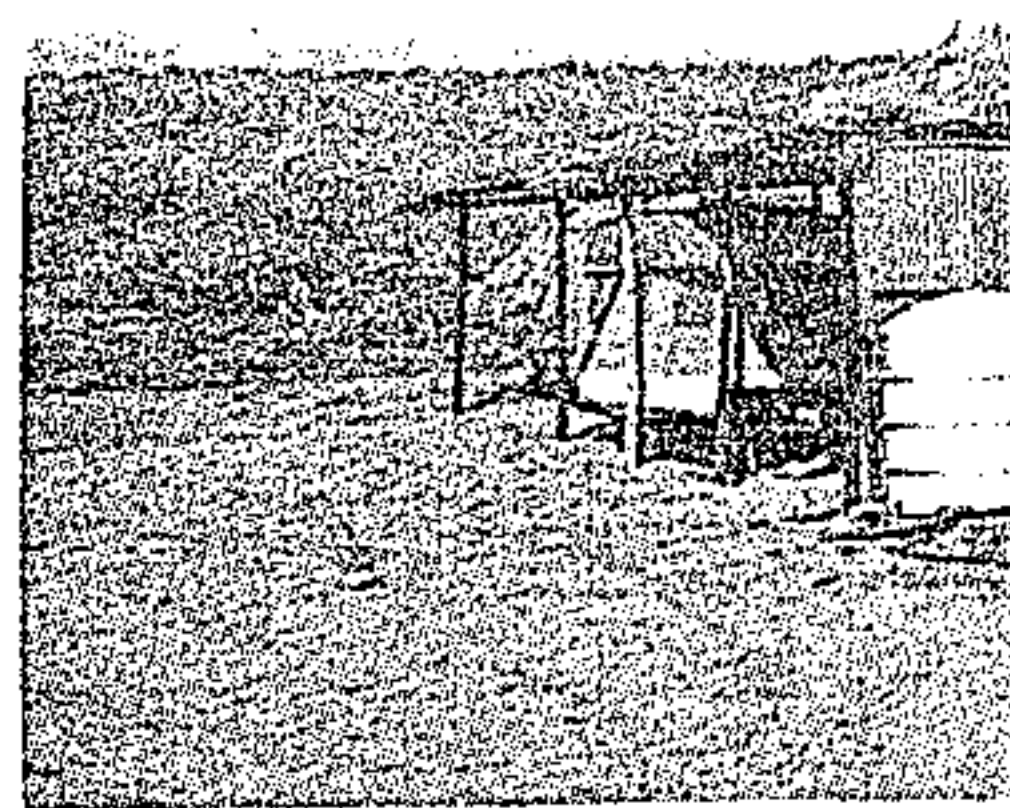
"I think a national park in that area will meet all the criteria for the sensible, productive use of that land.

"It meets all the World Conservation Union criteria (for a national park) and we're comfortable, especially with the component of working with the local community.

"In the meantime, the board is working really hard at producing a framework for a management plan for a national park there so that we'll be ready.

"We're discussing this with De Beers and that (management) plan will be presented to the minister," he said.

Mike McLaren, chairman of the Aggeney's Angling Club which maintains a park home in the area, wrote to Mr Hanekom asking for an extension to the October deadline, saying they had not been properly consulted.



**PRIME SPOT:** It might be a reality is an eyesore -

He said he represented the angling club, the Aggeney's community and the residents of Bushmanland, who were all affected by the "unilateral" decision.

The Aggeney's residents and the angling club had organised regular clean-ups of the Groen River area.

Some of the newer shacks were far neater and more orderly than the old structures and had cost their owners "substantial" amounts, said Mr McLaren.

"Surely we should all be treated equally and take part in future negotiations?"

"We object to not having been part of the meeting at which all these decisions were taken and to derogatory remarks made about us."

Dr Hall-Martin confirmed the committee had found it difficult to contact all the interested and affected parties.

# Pik to protect environment?

(56)

**POLITICAL STAFF**

AN independent and permanent conflict or dispute-resolving body called the Environmental Tribunal should be established to resolve differences over development and nature conservation, the Minister for Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has proposed.

He said he felt so strongly about the matter that "I am prepared to propose a change in current legislation to put this into place".

Mr Botha made the proposal in a reply to a question tabled in the senate by Mr E K Moorcroft (DP) about the granting of diamond-prospecting licences.

CT 28/8/75

# CFCs out by end of year

28/8/95

(56)

CHLORO-FLUORO Carbons (CFCs), used in refrigeration and air-conditioning appliances, are to be phased out by the end of the year, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism has announced.

The CFCs, which deplete the earth's ozone layer, are to be temporarily replaced with safer Hydro-

Fluoro Carbons (HFCs).

Department spokesman Mr Morkel Steyn said household refrigerators and freezers seldom needed to be serviced, but car owners should service their air-conditioners while CFCs were available.

It would still be legal to own CFC equipment. HFCs would be phased out later. — Staff Reporter

*Consultants under spotlight*

# Inquiry to probe toxic waste affair

STAR 28/8/98

(56)

■ BY TAMSEN DE BEER  
and OWN CORRESPONDENT

An independent commission of inquiry has been established to investigate the importation of hazardous waste from Finland and the employment of Daan Malan and Associates (DMA), a private consulting company that approved the importation.

Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Bantu Holomisa said last week he had requested that the services of DMA be suspended pending the outcome of the inquiry.

The inquiry will investigate the appropriateness and legality of the powers given to DMA in carrying out functions normally the responsibility of the Government.

The source of authorisation to contract DMA would also be investigated, as would the firm's compliance with all the requirements of the Basle Convention regarding toxic imports.

The infrastructure and authority of Benoni-based JAD Metal Concentrate in handling hazardous waste would also be probed.

Peter Lukey of Earthlife Africa said he was happy about the

proposed probe, calling it "hard-hitting" and "tough".

The inquiry follows the discovery by Holomisa and Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers two weeks ago of the importation of 500 tons of cupric arsenate by JAD Metal Concentrate. Both claimed it was the first they had heard of the deal.

Doug Gosling, waste dealer and recycler for JAD Metal Concentrate, has since disclosed further details about the import of "more than 3 000 tons of dangerously contaminated cobalt cement" from Russia to Durban. He claimed the deal fell through at the last moment because the material was too expensive and too risky to deal with.

Secret documents leaked to The Star's correspondent show that Gosling approached a private consultant working for the Department of Environmental Affairs and sought permission to import four barge loads of the toxic waste in April this year.

Gosling said he did not know "what the fuss was about" as the department never gave him permission to import the material.

The department could not be reached for comment.

## Company denies waste involvement

■ BY TAMSEN DE BEER

Benoni-based Enviroserv Industrial Waste Management, named as the "specialist waste treatment company" in documentation on the attempted import of toxic waste from Finland, has denied any involvement in the affair.

Documents by Kokkola Chemicals, the Finnish company from which the waste was to be imported, states the residues from

the 500 tons of toxic waste would be treated by Enviroserv.

A permit to import the toxic cupric arsenate was granted in controversial circumstances to JAD Metal Concentrates. The shipment has since been denied entry into SA.

Enviroserv deputy chairman A Maclean said yesterday he knew nothing of his company's involvement in the import controversy.

"We do not, have not, and will not import any toxic or hazardous waste from any company."

# SA warned to maintain green policy

(56)

CT(BR) 28/8/95

STAFF WRITER

If South Africa continues to lag behind in environmental control, countries and developing markets which are meeting world standards will gain a competitive edge.

Chris Mortimer, a partner at law firm Garlicke and Bousfield, says the new series of standards currently being finalised for envi-

ronmental management systems — the ISO 140 001 — will have far-reaching effects on local industry.

"Related to production management systems rather than end product quality, the parameters are in the process of being set by international business itself as a means of self-regulation.

"If South African business can achieve the new standards, it will

be able to increase its international marketability and competitiveness," he says.

As we approach the 21st century the quality of the end product alone will not be sufficient to ensure market share. Increasing emphasis will be placed on the impact of the manufacturing process on the environment, says Mortimer.

SALDANHA PLANT 'FITS GROWTH PREDICTIONS'

# 'Enough water for mill'

**THE** building of the Saldanha Steel mill fitted in with industrial and urban growth predictions, the Department of Water Affairs said last week. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

**T**HERE was enough water in the Berg River to supply the needs of the proposed Saldanha Steel mill for the first four years of operation, the Department of Water Affairs has told the Steyn inquiry into the controversial steel project.

The department's chief engineer of project planning, Mr Peter van Niekerk, said in evidence last week that after the turn of the century, other water sources, including dams and underground aquifers, could be used to supply the steel mill.

Mr Van Niekerk's testimony comes after earlier evidence by Pro-

fessor Bryan Davies and Dr Jenny Day of UCT's Freshwater Research Institute cast doubt on the ability of the arid West Coast region to be able to support the R4,7-billion steel mill.

The UCT scientists have submitted that any additional extraction of water from the Berg River would degrade one of the most important wetland and floodplain ecosystems in South Africa.

Mr Van Niekerk said that while his department had not taken the steel mill specifically into consideration in its planning, it had calculated general urban and industrial growth in future water planning.

CT 28/8/95  
The steel mill fitted in with these broad growth predictions and there was enough water in the Western Cape to supply the projected mill.

Water Affairs geohydrologist Mr Gordon Maclear told the inquiry that underground water in the nearby Langebaanweg aquifer could be used for the mill.

## Monitoring

He said any large-scale abstraction from the aquifer would be monitored by the department to ensure there were no changes in the water quality.

Meanwhile National Parks Board chairman Mr Naas Steenkamp wrote to the inquiry on Friday in support of evidence by

(56) (4/11)  
leading coastal ecologist Dr Allan Heydoorn, who said that if Saldanha Steel met all the conditions and safeguards the WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) had laid out, he would find it difficult to oppose the building of the mill at Saldanha.

Mr Steenkamp said he would also like to identify the Parks Board with the concern Dr Heydoorn had expressed about the plight of the poor in the Saldanha region and the "incontestable" need for development.

"This is subject only to the caveat that development should not in any way imperil, but should rather encompass the West Coast National Park as a vital component of the region's economy," Mr Steenkamp said.

# Saldanha Steel begins recruiting for mill project

CT 28/8/95

SALDANHA Steel has begun recruiting engineers and technicians for its proposed steel mill — although the project is still the subject of a government-appointed inquiry headed by Judge Jan Steyn.

The company placed advertisements in Western Cape newspapers this week, saying it had resolved critical issues such as the project's potential impact on the environment and its water usage.

It was now concentrating on providing social upliftment and job opportunities.

Several objectors to the project have questioned the placing of the advertisement and its reference to "resolved issues" before the inquiry, which is investigating objections to the project, has made public its recommendations.

Saldanha Steel executive chairman Mr Bernard Smith said the company understood the risks in starting the recruitment drive before the board had made its recommendations but "I feel confident they will find in our favour".

The company has already employed 130 people. — Sapa



# South Africa's great white poachers

WM 28/7-3/8/95 (56)

The great white poachers of the Limpopo Valley have been taken on by a lone ranger, reports **Fiona Macleod**

**S**ERGEANT Barnard — the new commander at the Pont Drift station near Alldays — has declared war against the white farmers, police and conservation authorities in the area who have for years been involved in poaching game from across the border. Barnard has even arrested his predecessor.

For generations, the white farmers on the South African side of the Limpopo River border have had virtual *carte blanche* to raid the game stocks of their Botswana and Zimbabwean neighbours. Complaints have generally fallen on deaf ears and, in many instances, the raids have been carried out with the collaboration of police and conservation authorities.

A report compiled for the Northern Tuli Game Reserve in Botswana notes that, in the late 1960s, "a major problem was poaching by white men from across the Limpopo River ... The white poachers, who came across the river at night to fill their bakkies with kudu and impala, would blaze away at everything that moved, including game wardens."

In the 1970s, the South African Defence Force erected a security fence along the border, with the intention of keeping out insurgents. But this fence appears to have done little to deter the trigger-happy white poachers; besides, there is a 37km gap in it near Pont Drift.

The long list of complaints that has emanated from the Botswana side over the years includes recurrent reports of:

- South Africans using helicopters to chase herds of game across the Limpopo riverbed, which is dry most of the year, for wealthy hunting clients to shoot.

- Farmers using dead donkeys to lure predators across the river and then killing them. Loud tape recordings of predator feeding sounds are often played near this bait.

- Hostility from the farmers whenever they have been confronted with evidence of poaching.

- Irregularities in the granting of permits, both for hunting and transporting animals, by conserva-

tion officials.

- Lack of response by police officials. In July 1990, for instance, a Botswana landowner who caught a farmer dragging a dead kudu through the riverbed, called the South African Police. He was told by the police that they could not charge the man for poaching and that it was not an offence to shoot across the border.

Though most of the South African farmers depend on game farming and hunting to supplement their income from agriculture, they have shown little concern for the dwindling wildlife resources in the area.

During the drought of the early 1980s, farmers dug a waterhole in the riverbed, fenced it and proceeded to shoot out the last buffalo in the area; in November 1990, a visiting Johannesburg taxidermist shot a huge crocodile — a locally endangered species — and dragged it across to South Africa; the total number of lions left in the Tuli Bushlands across the border is estimated to be fewer than 10 — in the early 1980s, there were about 60 lions in the area.

From time to time, the Botswana authorities have threatened drastic action. In 1990, for instance, a special anti-poaching unit was set up by the Botswana Defence Force, with orders to "shoot to kill" any poacher crossing the riverbed. But the Botswana have been exasperated by the lack of co-operation from their South African counterparts.

Not long after he took charge at the Pont Drift police station in December last year, Barnard discovered a re-

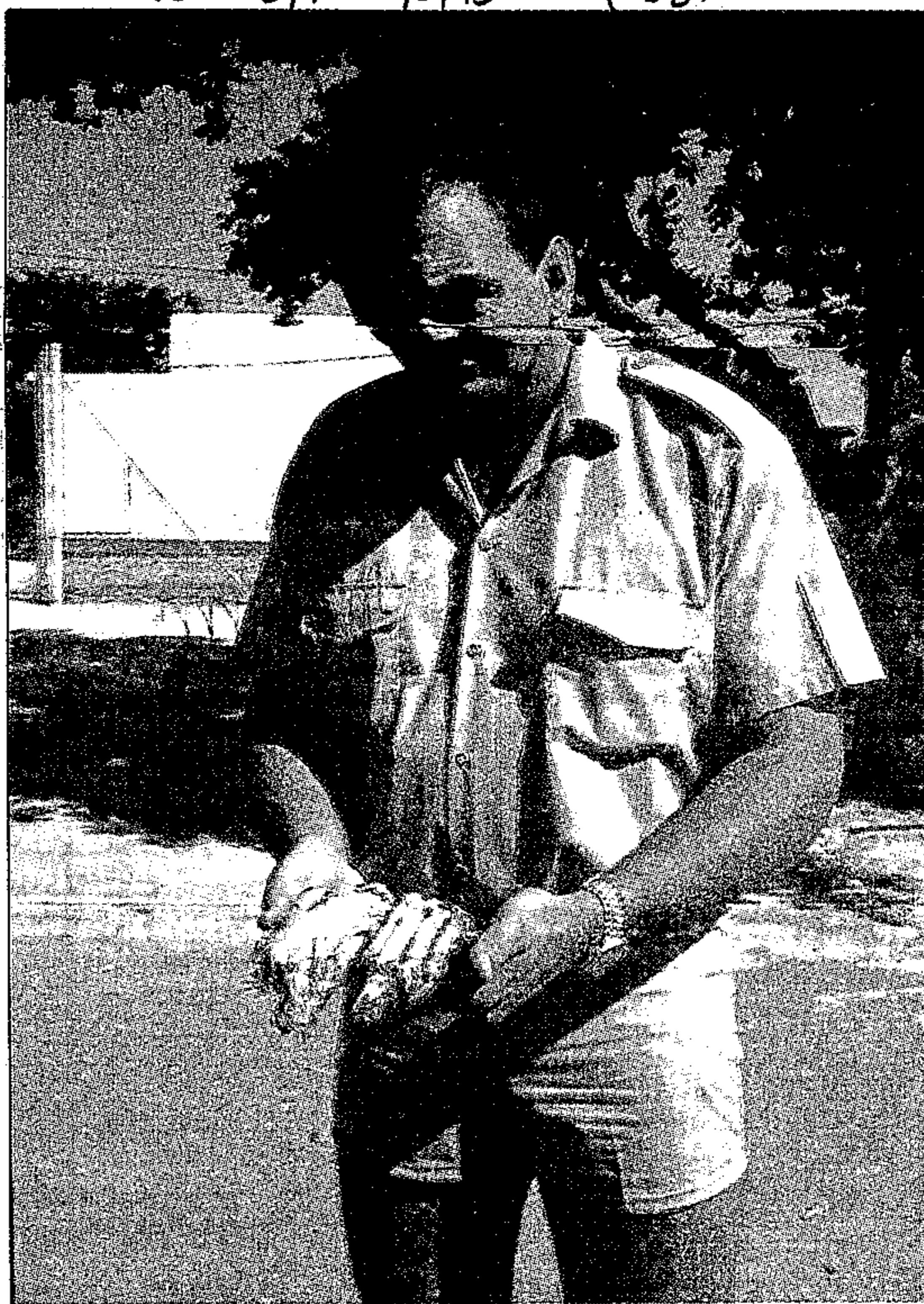
**'The white poachers, who came across to fill their bakkies with kudu and impala, would blaze away at everything, including game wardens'**

ports for this: his predecessor, Ockert Augustine, was allegedly shooting game in the riverbed and selling the meat for a profit.

Barnard received reports that, for at least two years, Augustine had

been shooting game on an average of three times a week. He was also told that the policeman had been involved in shooting 23 hyena in the riverbed with a 9mm pistol and, when he checked out the site, he found a pile of hyena carcasses.

So Barnard set up a trap and, on December 7 1994, caught Augustine in the process of shooting four



The lone ranger: Sergeant Barnard with a pair of lion's paws found on a local farm

PHOTOGRAPH: LAURA YEATMAN

impala. Augustine has since been transferred to Louis Trichardt and he has not been asked to plead to charges of game theft.

One of Barnard's priorities is to tackle the prevailing hunting mindset in the community, which has little respect for international boundaries and which has been the source of untold cross-border tension over the years.

Barnard has since become involved in two investigations that epitomise the situation in the Limpopo Valley:

- The first brings to the fore complaints about irregularities in the issuing of permits by conservation officials. It is a case in which Rudolf Erasmus, the officer in charge of the new Vhembe Nature Reserve in the area, has been charged with being an

accessory to the theft of game and obstructing the administration of justice.

Louis Stöckl, owner of two farms on the South African side of the border, laid a complaint after his neighbour, Piet Grobler, allegedly hired a helicopter on April 26 to chase game off Stöckl's farms on to his own, where it was captured and loaded up for transportation.

The charges that have been laid against Grobler include theft, trespassing, catching game with an aircraft without a legal permit, removal of game and selling it without a permit, and falsely professing that he sold game lawfully.

It is alleged that, despite the fact that Grobler had twice before been denied permits to capture game,

Erasmus failed to ensure that all the conditions had been met for the granting of a permit on April 26. The capture started without a permit and when the permit did finally arrive, it did not specify the species and numbers of animals to be caught — these details were simply filled in by Erasmus after the capture. The required veterinary certificate for transporting

Stöckl, who claims he lost at least R250 000 worth of game in the incident, says he has had little respect for the conservation authorities since he discovered, in the 1980s, that they were involved in shooting elephants on the border, "just for the fun of it ... This is senseless killing, and it's damaging South Africa's image overseas."

Thirty-four percent of one of Stöckl's farms is owned by two Austrian shareholders — one a bank director, the other an industrialist — and they have written a formal letter of complaint to Minister of Environment Affairs Dawie de Villiers.

- Barnard is also considering reopening the investigation into the shooting of the lion Batian, one of the last three of George Adamson's cubs, which were brought to the Tuli Bushlands by Gareth Patterson after Adamson's murder in 1989, and successfully rehabilitated back into the wild.

On July 29 1991, when Batian was three years old, South African farmers hung a donkey carcass on a tree, played feeding sounds through loudspeakers and, when Batian was attracted to the bait, shot him and proceeded to skin him.

Two farmers — Alan Fourie and Koos le Roux — subsequently stood trial for hunting a lion without a permit and failing to report the incident, for which they were each fined R360 and given suspended sentences of three months. But Barnard believes there was a cover-up and that the original investigation was "pathetic".

"The Nature Conservation Department conducted the investigation into the shooting ... I saw the case docket and this was the poorest investigation I have ever seen," Barnard says. "It seems that no serious effort was made to investigate the matter properly. I can just say that this won't ever happen again."

In the course of these inquiries, Barnard has also found evidence that seven other lions have since been killed on the same farm where Batian was shot. He is determined to bring these killings to light.

# Iranian oil deal raises a stink

WIM 28/7 - 3/8/95 (66)

An agreement by South Africa to store Iranian crude oil has incensed environmental groups and human rights advocates, reports **Rehana Rossouw**

**T**HE oil trade and oil money are probably the dirtiest in the world, and South Africa was soiling its human rights track record and possibly its environment by agreeing to store Iranian oil, say critics of a multi-million-rand deal between South Africa and Iran.

The Central Energy Fund (CEF) announced last week that it had brokered a deal, which will be finalised soon, to store 15-million barrels of Iranian oil at Saldanha Bay.

The announcement once again raised questions about South Africa's foreign policy objectives and its willingness to deal with countries accused of severe human rights abuses. Iran has one of the highest execution rates in the world, still detains political opponents without trial and tortures them, and reserves positions in government for adherents of one religion.

The oil deal will generate between R700-million and R1-billion annually, and the CEF is hoping tankers will begin offloading the oil next month into two tanks previously used to hoard South African reserves during the sanctions era.

Earthlife Africa representative Greg Knill said oil money was probably "the dirtiest in the world" and said his organisation deplored South Africa grasping at it.

"Oil money props up repressive regimes all over the world, Nigeria and Indonesia being good examples of this. In Nigeria, Shell Oil struck an ungodly alliance with an oppressive regime to supply troops to counter local protest against its poor environmental track record. What will South Africa do for Iranian companies?" Knill asked.

This view was echoed by foreign policy expert Peter Vale, who has in the past criticised the "schizophrenia" in the Department of Foreign Affairs, which simultaneously advocated championing human rights and traded with countries which do not uphold human rights.

"This deal once again illustrates that the human rights sympathies of the South African people have still not filtered through to the foreign policy establishment," Vale said.

Parliamentary foreign affairs select committee member

Rob Davies disagreed, saying that if South Africa only did business with countries with a good human rights record, it would cut itself off from a substantial amount of foreign trade.

"You can't automatically assume that if a country has a poor human rights record, South Africa will not do business with it or have diplomatic dealings with it," Davies said.

"South Africa can promote human rights in the international arena in a variety of ways. From the little information available, this deal is clearly a commercial arrangement and there shouldn't be any problems with it.

"When countries impose sanctions, it is a political campaign, not a commercial campaign. If we use the argument that the deal should be shafted because America believes so strongly about human rights in Iran that it imposed sanctions against Iran, then South Africa must stop relations with Cuba as well."

The Department of Foreign Affairs said South Africa's foreign relations throughout the world were based on economic interests, and South Africa stood to gain from the agreement with Iran.

"This in no way detracts from the fact that human rights considerations, democratic practices and the rule of law are paramount to our foreign policy orientation," said Foreign Affairs spokesman Peter Swanepoel.

"Diplomatic relations exist between South Africa and Iran and create the possibility of bringing our views to bear on the government of Iran."

Environmentalists are also comparing the response to the oil deal to the proposal by Iscor to build a steel mill in Saldanha. Opponents of the mill mounted a media campaign, petitioned the supreme court and succeeded in pressuring the Department of Environment Affairs to appoint a board of investigation.

The resultant increase in shipping to Saldanha Bay could necessitate the dredging of the harbour, when this was proposed by Iscor it drew howls of protest from environmentalists.

Knill said the threat crude oil constituted to the environment could clearly be seen on Clifton Beach, where crews were still battling to clean oil waste which washed up there last year.

"When people heard about the benefits of the oil deal, they did cartwheels and spoke about about the benefits for the RDP, without pausing to consider the effects on the environment," Knill said.

**H**e said Earthlife Africa would respond to the oil deal in the same way it dealt with the steel mill project. The organisation's representations to the board of investigation into the mill called for a structured plan for the entire Saldanha area, in consultation with environmental groups.

"Both Saldanha Steel and the CEF claimed to have done environmental impact assessments of their projects. But these are often used as business tools, designed to complement the objectives of the company concerned," Knill said.

"What they do is break up the study into tiny bits, like separating the study on the impact on the harbour from the

adjacent lagoon and land. Unless the study is integrated, all we will see is an incremental destruction of the area."

In response, the executive director of the CEF, Kobus van Zyl, said critics of the project should not ignore the fact that oil

had been ferried into Saldanha Bay and stored there since 1976. The harbour had been dredged in the past to accommodate the tankers.

"In those days, the emphasis on the environment was not what it is today. All we did then was a study to determine what we should do to ensure that we did not have accidents and what preparations and equipment was needed if there was an accident," Van Zyl said.

The CEF has commissioned the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research to do an environmental impact assessment for the Iranian deal, but Van Zyl could not say when it would be completed, or if it was expected before the oil arrived in Saldanha.

"We are satisfied that we will be able to deal with any situation with our present capacity. We have taken all the precautions we can to avoid the threat of oil pollution."

**'This deal illustrates that the human rights sympathies of the South African people have still not filtered through to the foreign policy establishment'**

# Corridor that's leading to controversy

WM 18-24/8/95

A plan to mine for diamonds along the Limpopo River is causing the biggest environment controversy since St Lucia, writes **Eddie Koch**

**O**n the banks of the Limpopo River between Messina and the Kruger National Park there lies a stretch of South Africa's last wilderness — baobab thickets, tropical flood plains, riverine forests, a diversity of bird life, and free-ranging herds of buffalo and elephants — that is set to become the focus of the country's biggest environmental controversy since the St Lucia debate.

The military, a multinational diamond mining corporation, a coalition of green organisations and at least three dispossessed rural communities (each with different interests) are the main contenders in a complex struggle that is looming over how this 80km-long Madimbo Corridor, and its rich mix of natural resources, will be used now that it is no longer needed as a *cordon sanitaire* against total onslaught from the north.

At present the South African National Defence Force manages the corridor, which straddles the border with Zimbabwe, as a conservation area and buffer zone against illegal immigrants who flood over the frontier. Military authorities have accepted that Venda and Tsonga communities removed from the area in the 1960s and 1980s have legitimate restitution claims — but will rather pay these people compensation and continue to use the area as a training ground for reconnaissance commandos.

But last year the army lifted a ban on prospecting for valuable minerals in the corridor and the Madimbo Diamond Corporation (called the Duo Corporation in some reports) — a 50-50 venture between local businessmen and an Australian mining company called Moonstone — was given a permit in May this year to look for diamonds that may have been washed

down the Limpopo from volcanic pipes located further upstream.

This news has created an uproar among green groups who claim that one of the subcontinent's last areas of true wilderness is about to be stripped and destroyed. "If mining goes ahead it will most likely blow any future ecotourism ventures off the map, not to mention the irreversible ecological and archaeological impact," says a statement issued by the Wildlife Society, the organisation that first alerted the media to the issue. The National Parks Board has since lodged an objection to the prospecting permit.

But Richard Bluet, a director of the Madimbo Mining Corporation, says his company will ensure that prospecting and mining operations will follow strict environmental guidelines. "Most of the sites where we believe the diamonds are deposited are covered by mopani scrub which we will easily be able to restore. We won't take out baobab forests nor will we mine where there is riverine forest or other sensitive ecological systems."

**'You should tell these people who like wildlife that they should come here and speak to us before they make statements about how our land should be used'**

he told the *Mail & Guardian*.

Researchers at the Mineral and Energy Policy Centre, an independent NGO that is helping the African National Congress develop a mines and mineral policy, say it is possible for diamond mining to exist alongside conservation and tourism. "Alluvial diamond mining does not have heavy ecological impacts and can be tightly controlled," says John Bristow, a geologist who did doctoral research on mineral deposits of the Northern Transvaal.

"The process does not require chemicals and is remarkably clean

although it uses a lot of water. In a country that needs to promote development for 40 million people, it is not helpful to promote an emotional rejection of mining in favour of conservation. The two can exist in the Madimbo area if the matter is handled properly." He adds that Moonstone would be guided by strict environmental guidelines that govern Australian mining companies.

Caught between the military, the environmental groups and the industrialists — lobbies made up mainly of wealthy middle class members — are groups with less opportunity to make their voices heard: the rural people who were forcibly removed from Madimbo.

Last weekend Chief Khorombi Muteke told a group of journalists who visited the village with the Wildlife Society that he is opposed to mining on his tribe's traditional land, mainly because the Madimbo Corporation had failed to consult him before applying for its permit. But while he was addressing an official press conference, other residents in the village said they favoured mining and pointed out that the nearby Tshikondeni Coal Mine, located on the Kruger Park border nearby was a major engine for economic growth in the area.

Further to the east are the Makuleke people who resided in the northern Pafuri district of the Kruger Park and a strip in the east of the Madimbo Corridor called Mabiligwe.

They built villages along the river valleys of the area — living off the fish, animals, wild fruits, mlala palm wine, and rich agricultural soils on the floodplains — until they were forcibly moved in 1969 so that the Kruger Park could be extended to the banks of the Limpopo River.

"You should tell these people who like wildlife that they should come here and speak to us before they make statements about how our land should be used. And when they come, they should remember we suffered greatly when our villages were destroyed and our homes burnt down so that Kruger could be made bigger," a Makuleke tribal leader called Gilbert



Looking for growth: Some residents of this village favour mining as it helps economic growth in a depressed area

PHOTOGRAPH: HENNER FRANKENFELD

Nwaila told the *Mail & Guardian*.

"Even today we are the ones who feed those wild animals with our live-stock. (A reference to predators who routinely break the fence and kill goats and cattle in the Mabiligwe resettlement village). Now that we have a chance to get some wealth from that land, we are being told to put even more animals there. It will be very difficult to convince our people that wildlife is better than mining — and it will be even more so if we are not spoken to properly."



Chief Korombi Mutale and David Lindley ... opposed to mining in the Matshakatini Nature Reserve.

PIC: SHARON CHETTY

# Outcry over mining permit

(56) ~~55~~ Sowetan 17/8/95  
Mulate tribe was not consulted and will not allow mining on nature reserve

By Sharon Chetty

**A** BREAKDOWN in communication while the regional government bureaucracies were being set up led the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs to approve a permit for diamond prospecting in a nature reserve.

The department's failure, quite literally, to speak to the right person in the Northern Province government, led to a decision that has sparked a huge row.

On May 25, a permit was granted to Duo Corporate Developers to prospect for diamonds in the Matshakatini Nature Reserve in Northern Province.

## Strong opposition

The move was opposed by conservationists and the 10 000-strong Mutale tribe – the people who have rights to the area.

Matshakatini Reserve – an important archeological and ecological site adjacent to the Limpopo River and Kruger National Park – is under the control of the South African National Defence Force with the State holding the mineral rights to the area.

After the SANDF approved the idea of prospecting in the area in 1993, Duo was the only company to apply for a licence. The company had to submit an Environmental Management Plan for consideration.

## Several authorities

This plan was in turn looked at by several authorities as the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs is obliged to consult with other bodies before a permit may be granted.

In July the plan was sent to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

It proposed a few restrictions – giving its tacit approval.

## Eco-tourism venture

However in March, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Dr Dawie de Villiers was given details of a model that proposed that the Matshakatini Reserve be developed as a community-based eco-tourism venture.

If Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs officials had bothered to speak to an official in the Northern Province regional government, Mr Jan Botha, they would have found out about the other proposals for the Matshakatini Reserve.

Then they would have been obliged to

application for a permit.

Yesterday Mr Howard Benkenstein, an assistant director in the Department of Environment Affairs, said the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs had not followed the correct procedure.

"When we discovered the model for eco-tourism, we contacted mineral and energy affairs and then found out that the permit had already been granted.

"Had they spoken to the correct official in the region, they would have come to a completely different decision," he said.

Dr Jan Bredell of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, who is dealing with this query, was not available yesterday for comment.

The chief of the local Mutale tribe, Chief Korombi Mutale, is angry because he was not consulted about land his people have occupied for generations.

Although it is not certain that there are sufficient diamonds in the area to warrant mining, concerns have been raised about possible irreparable damage to the environment from mere prospecting.

## Formal objection

Conservation groups and the Mutale tribe have lodged a formal objection to the permit with the Department of Mineral Affairs. An outcome is expected by the end of August.

Matshakatini Nature Reserve is a scenic area that is home to several important archeological sites which contain artifacts pointing to the Limpopo River valley as the seat of Sub-Saharan African civilisation.

None of the sites have been properly explored and, if damaged, invaluable material on black African history from as far back as the Stone Age could be affected.

## Endangered plant

Many rare and endangered plant and animal species can be found in the reserve – including 1 000-year-old baobab trees.

Chief Korombi Mutale, head of the Mutale tribe which originally owned the land and are now trying to reclaim it, said he was never asked whether the area should be mined.

"I want my people to have jobs. If there is tourism, there will be more benefits to my people for a long time," he said.

Unemployment in the area is estimated at 80 percent.

Mutale is adamant that he will not entertain any talk of mining the land

# Prospecting the

(56) star 1

The granting of prospecting permits in one of the last remaining wilderness areas of southern Africa along the Limpopo River has all the elements of the Lake St Lucia debacle and the Saldanha Steel furore, but on a much larger scale.

It involves an area identified as a vital link in an international initiative to create a Golden Horseshoe of parks across the boundaries of four countries. The ambitious plan "enjoys the full support of the Government of National Unity", according to a recent report by National Parks Board (NPB) director Dr Anthony Hall-Martin and former DP MP Rupert Lorimer.

Negotiations and collaboration with neighbouring countries have begun. The aim is maximum economic benefit for the region through eco-tourism with a system of multi-purpose parks. Eventually this could link Zimbabwe's Gonarezhou and its Campfire project of the Sengwe Tribal Trust lands, to South Africa's Kruger National Park and a "mirror" Kruger in Mozambique along Limpopo flood plains of Gaza province.

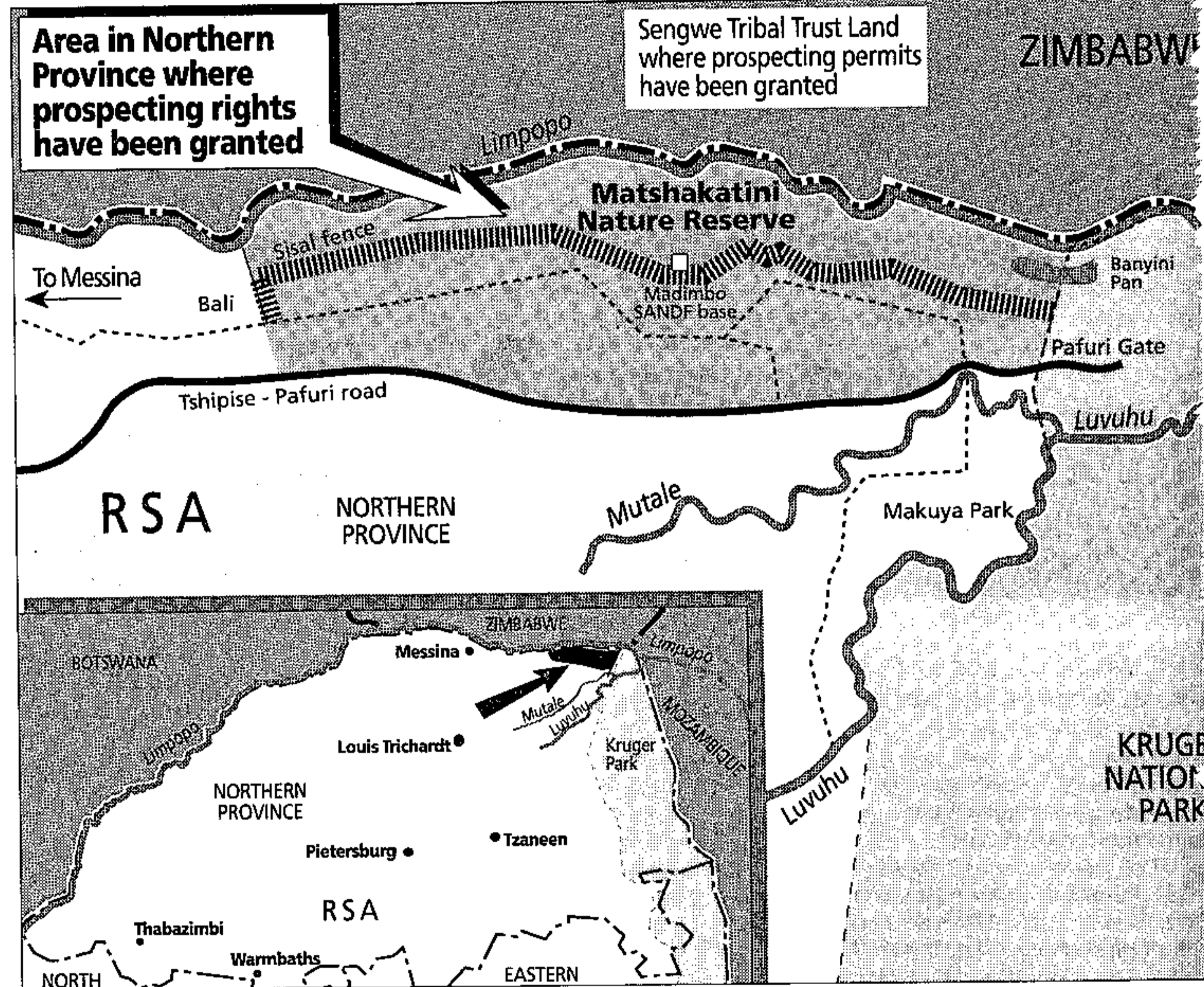
The proposed transfrontier park could stretch westwards to include Makuya National Park of the former Venda, adjoining Kruger, along the Limpopo to the 36 000ha Venetia Reserve of De Beers, where the (NPB) has already signed an agreement to develop a new national park, dubbed Dongola, at the confluence of the Shashi/Limpopo rivers.

This connects the Tuli block, and Botswana's Chobe, Savuti and Moremi National Parks and the Okavango.

Despite this, the granting of diamond prospecting rights along this corridor is now in full swing. Permits for at least five prospecting projects have been granted:

South Africa's Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs (DM'EA) has granted a permit to Duo Corporate Developers for prospecting in the 29 000ha Matshakatini Nature Reserve controlled by the SANDF.

Earlier this month, Reuter reported from Sydney that an Australian company Moonstone,



had acquired a 60% share in Duo. Moonstone's lawyer in South Africa Manda Scheepers of Webber Wentzel Bowens declined to comment.

The DM'EA has also granted a prospecting permit south of Matshakatini, in the Malonga Flats, to the Johannesburg-based company Bakus (Pty) Ltd. Jurisdiction over this land resides with the Mutele Tribal Authority which is also claiming title deed to Matshakatini. They say they have never been consulted. Further west, the DM'EA has also granted at least one prospecting permit near Messina.

According to sources in Northern Province, Moonstone, is currently prospecting in Zimbabwe in Sengwe Tribal Trust lands.

And Minerals de Mozambique, has acquired diamond prospecting rights over 64 000ha of the Gaza province bordering Kruger.

The search for diamond deposits would involve large-

scale pit and trench prospecting. A Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) report on the possible effects of such prospecting in the Madimbo Corridor was completed in July 1995, after the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa (WS) raised the alarm.

It compares Madimbo with a Vaal River area of 67 000ha between Warrenton and Delpoortshoop, which by 1992 had attracted 550 prospectors. The study found that 40% of the land has been disturbed beyond rehabilitation and a further 59% can be rehabilitated but only at high cost.

"No sustainable development of land use is now possible," DEAT chief ecologist Danie Smit concluded. "The area is an arid moonscape."

Pointing to similarities in temperature, rainfall, erodability of soils and density of vegetation, Smit said Madimbo would not be easily rehabilitated after

prospecting. He also said the prospecting would negate Northern Province development plan for Matshakatini, completed in August 1994 by Professor Be. De Waal Brandt, head of zoology at the University of Venda.

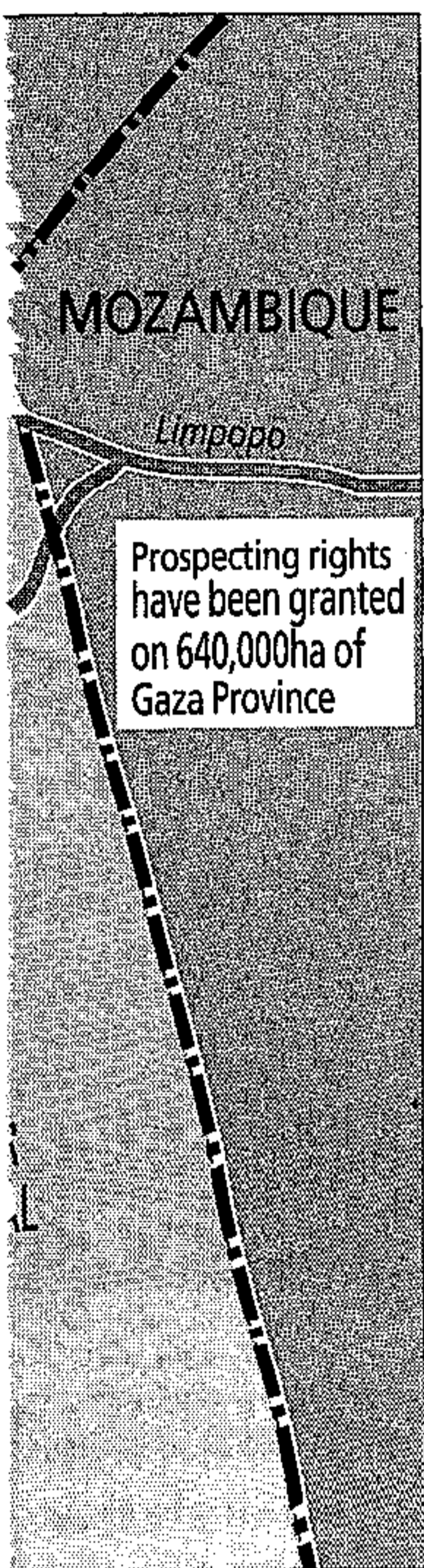
The irony is that in July 1994 the DM'EA approached Environment Affairs before granting the prospecting permit. Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers had claimed that his department "consulted" and "held discussions with staff" at the old TP Directorate of Nature Conservation. It had no definite plans for Matshakatini, De Villiers said.

Yet a report "Conservation Value of Matshakatini" completed by the TPA's JH Botha in 1993 had already identified it as a corridor area for multi-purpose tourism. He warned that it was "essential to plan for the area in a regional context" and to "guard against dangers of pending land claim, mining and agriculture in the upcoming transition".

al wilderness areas is brewing,  
 ce Science Writer Anita Allen,  
 etrum, discovers.

# reat to the wild

7/8/95



**At the top ... the view from an abandoned SANDF lookout post in the wilderness area of the Limpopo River in the Matshakatini Reserve**

mit was approved on May 25. Northern Province is still waiting to be consulted.

A sad note to this saga is a WS letter to M'E Minister Pik Botha on July 10, requesting an answer to its previous letter of March 24.

"Had it not been for the timeous action of the NPB lodging an appeal against the granting of the prospecting permit, Duo would now have been able to prospect," the WS wrote.

It expressed concern that Botha did not communicate his intention to issue a permit. "We

On July 14, Botha replied that "normal procedures" had been applied in the processing of the Duo application. He referred WS questions regarding Duo to the company at telephone (011) 407-1408 - a number for Medical Rescue International.

A switchboard operator told Spectrum that Bluett had used offices there "for a while". She worked at MRI while Bluett was there, but she can't remember if he was there for days, weeks or months, nor can she remember if it was this year or last year. Spectrum's efforts to get Bluett to return phone calls failed.

Botha's letter then concludes: "Prospecting will be allowed to continue. The position at the moment is that any other interested party is free to apply to the DME'A.

□ *Spectrum is Independent Newspapers' investigative unit.*

obligatory consultation process? This was the unanimous reaction from interested and affected parties in Madimbo who met Spectrum, the investigative unit of Independent Newspapers, last weekend during a field trip organised by the WS.

Chief John Mutele presides over the 10 000-strong tribe who live south of Matshakatini and are claiming all the land to the Limpopo. He said he had never been consulted by anyone and he was adamant that his people don't want mining.

"The best is tourism, my people have decided. The money must stay here and not be taken out. With mining it leaves. A mine is just for a moment, but ecotourism, even my children and their children will have it."

Johan Botha, director professional services at Northern Province Environmental Affairs said they had not been consulted, and definitely would have opposed any application to prospect.

The Ministry of Defence also received a WS letter in March this year. Deputy-Minister Ronnie Kasrils's replying letter is dated May 22 1995.

He confirmed that the SANDF was responsible for all aspects of the management of Matshakatini, including environmental management. "I have learnt that the DME'A have subsequently granted prospecting rights to Duo Corporate Developers," Kasrils wrote - three days before the per-

find this somewhat puzzling particularly as the Government keeps on committing itself to transparency and a broad consultative process," the WS wrote.



**On the ground ... Korimbie, headquarters of the Mutele tribe of the Madimbo Corridor, where people have decided that tourism is their future.**



**On site ... Wildlife Society ecologist David Lindley (centre in khaki shirt) and Professor Ben de Waal (left) with journalists in the Matshakatini Nature Reserve this week.**

Somehow, the TPA failed to advise Environment Affairs of this report. As a result, Duo's Environmental Management Plan (EMP) was approved by De Villiers with no requirements for rehabilitation and no Environmental Impact Assessment, which is a prerequisite for sensitive areas.

The WS wrote to De Villiers in March 1995. His reply is dated June 27 1995, after the permit had been issued. In it, De Villiers adopts a wait-and-see approach, even though he had by then received a report on the proposed Transfrontier Park from Lorimer in March 1995.

"A definite proposal for ecotourism within the framework of the RDP alters the development planning perspectives of the area and materially influences the DEAT's evaluation of the EMP," De Villiers conceded with hindsight, but he did not commit to any action.

Whatever happened to the

# Furore over Limpopo

## prospecting rights

(56) STAR 17/8/95

BY ANITA ALLEN  
SPECTRUM

An astonishing sequence of bureaucratic bungles has set government departments, provincial authorities, local inhabitants and conservationists on a collision course over the granting of prospecting rights in the ecologically sensitive flood plains of the Limpopo River.

The clash involves the Madimbo Corridor (the area north from Kruger Parks's Pafuri Gate to Messina). This has been the subject of international publicity over a proposed transfrontier park involving four countries — South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Botswana.

At the centre of the controversy is a South African developer and a Australian diamond company. They have

been given rights by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs (DM&EA) to prospect for diamonds in the Matshakatini Nature Reserve which covers 29 000 ha of the corridor.

The area has been under South African Defence Force control since 1968. Prospecting there was banned until 1993. Eight companies nevertheless registered applications to prospect in the area before the ban was lifted. But when it was lifted only one company, Duo Corporate Developers, was notified.

This led to reports in newspapers in December 1994 of unfair advantage by the SANDF in favour of Duo director Richard Bluett. All attempts to get Bluett to return calls have failed. The lawyer acting for Duo, Manda Scheepers of Webber Wentzel

Bowens, told Spectrum that she was "not in a legal position to comment". She declined to explain what legal restraint she was referring to.

Duo director Kehela Mthembu said that it was not the first time that allegations of unfair opportunity had been made. "We believe we went through the normal channels," he said. Duo was "concerned and sensitive" to the objections to the prospecting permit, but declined to elaborate further.

Nevertheless, in January the DM&EA suspended the signing of the prospecting contract pending an investigation into the extent that other applicants should be accommodated. The exact nature of the investigation could not be ascertained.

However, Spectrum has established that at least one of

► To Page 2

## Row over prospecting rights

◀ From Page 1

the applicants was informed of the lifting of the ban by the DM&EA only after Duo's permit was granted in May this year.

The Madimbo area is currently the subject of overlapping land claims by three tribal authorities, the Mutele, the Makuleke and the Mhinga. A similar situation exists at Lake St Lucia where Mineral and Energy Minister Pik Botha's decision on mining has had to be delayed until the land claims have been settled.

Madimbo was identified as far back as 1993 by then Transvaal Nature Conservation as a prime conservation area with unique regional eco-tourism potential.

With over 200 archaeological sites, it is a treasurehouse providing a unique picture of human habitation from at least 1AD. The alarm over possible ecological damage by opencast prospecting was raised in January by the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa (WS).

Its letters to the Ministers of Environment Affairs, Mineral & Energy and Defence went unanswered until after the permit was granted.

The National Parks Board has lodged an objection to the permit. It has until August 21 to submit its case to DM&EA Director-General Dr Piet Hugo, who will make the final decision.

► Prospecting threat

— Page 13

(56) STAR 17/8/95

# Land use laws 'should be changed'

CAPE TOWN — Land use laws should be changed to force local authorities to take environmental concerns more seriously, the Steyn inquiry into the Saldanha steel project was told yesterday.

Present legislation was too vague, Western Cape's planning directorate Vic Theunissen said. New planning legislation should also ensure broader public participation in planning land use.

The ordinance's requirements for local authority land use structure plans were vaguely worded and paid too little attention to environmental concerns.

As a result, some environmental impact assessments were only a few

paragraphs long, while others were pages thick. Structure plans themselves often varied, depending on who produced them and what brief they received from the local authority.

With no set standards, it was possible that two firms of town planners working separately could produce structure plans for the same area which "differed considerably".

The ordinance also gave local authorities too much discretion in how it could advertise rezoning applications.

"I suggest clear regulations should be drawn up to promote awareness of issues (raised in land use plans) more explicitly."

Earlier, environmental

lawyer and former law professor at Chicago University Prof Denis Cowen told the inquiry land use guidelines drawn up in 1975 for Saldanha ignored SA's obligations to the Ramsar International Wetland Treaty it had signed two years earlier.

The site had again been ignored in the Saldanha structure plan completed in 1992. "The perception might be created that SA is not taking its international obligations seriously."

However, board of inquiry member Rufus Maruma pointed out that the Ramsar conference decision, known as the precautionary principle, had been interpreted differently by the signatories. — Sapa.



# 'Land use laws open to abuse'

**MELANIE GOSLING**  
STAFF REPORTER

SOUTH AFRICA's land use laws were attacked at the Steyn inquiry into the Saldanha steel project yesterday for being vague and leaving too many decisions in the hands of local authorities who had an interest in increasing their tax bases.

Former provincial deputy chief planner Mr Vic Theunissen said in evidence yesterday that the Saldanha-Vredenburg local authority would have had complete jurisdiction to give the go-ahead for the Saldanha steel project had there been no objection to the proposed rezoning.

Once there was an objection, the matter had been referred to the provincial authorities.

Regarding land use plans, Mr Theunissen said there were no clear specifications in the Land Use Planning Ordinance for what environmental input was required when drawing them up.

"The rigour of the plan

depends very much on who did it and whether it is good or bad. Integrated environmental management is left to the discretion of the planning professional and is not embodied in law," Mr Theunissen said.

He said much of the procedure for drawing up land use plans — particularly regarding advertising and public participation — was left in the hands of local authorities.

**CT 4/8/95**  
**Tax base**

Inquiry chairman Mr Justice Jan Steyn expressed concern about legislation that "casts everything in concrete" as this would mean business could not function properly.

But he said local authorities had a motive to approve projects that increased their tax base.

Land-use planner Mr Mark Callaghan said that the Saldanha-Vredenburg land use plan had not been drawn up in an environmentally integrated manner.

# Mining starts at Noordhoek

(56) ~~(28)~~  
STAFF REPORTER

CT 2/8/95

THE Serina kaolin company began mining operations at its Noordhoek site on the slopes of Chapman's Peak yesterday, with the full blessing of the local community.

Mr Ian Brownlie, chairman of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, turned the first sod of kaolin yesterday to mark the start of mining operations.

The two groups fought a long and bitter battle over mining on Chapman's Peak.

But Mr Brownlie said Serina and the Noordhoek community had established a "good relationship" as a result of the steps taken by the company to reduce the impact of mining on the environment.

# Kaolin mine aims for Peak performance

**ESANN de KOCK**  
Staff Reporter

KAOLIN mining at the Chapman's Peak site has begun, and truck-loads of crude kaolin will soon be transported daily to the mining company's Brakkekloof drying plant at Fish Hoek.

Full mining begins early next year and operations at the site were marked by a sod-turning ceremony yesterday.

The mining company Serina has been given approval by the Noordhoek local council to temporarily truck kaolin between the sites, subject to technical conditions.

A pipeline to carry slurry — a mixture of kaolin and water — from the washing plant at the new site to the drying plant at Brakkekloof is expected to be completed by year's end to prove a far cheaper option than trucking, according to Serina.

The first sod was turned yesterday when Serina chairman Sybrand van der Spuy announced that mining — expected to last about 18 years — had begun on the 26 hectare site. Rate of mining would be determined by market demand, he said.



□ **SERINA'S SOD:** Mining company chairman Sybrand van der Spuy, left, and chairman of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group Ian Brownlie

But, as the company was the only supplier of top grade kaolin, the buoyant South African market gave the company high hopes that the new mine would be able to supply South African demand.

Already the company was exporting kaolin to African countries and Indian Ocean islands. Further inquiries had come from Italy and the Middle East.

Mr Van der Spuy emphasised the Chapman's Peak mining operation was a partnership between the company and the local community.

He praised efforts by the University of Cape Town's Environmental Evaluation Unit and other concerned organisations such as the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group for the constructive role they had

played to bring about a well-negotiated agreement.

Action group chairman Ian Brownlie said: "First prize would have been no mining at all, but this is a good second prize."

He said the manner in which the mining company had set about minimising the impact of their operation had been "first class".

*ORGT 2/8/95 (56) (278)*

# Major tourism plan for Cape beach

RLR 1/8/95

(56)

**COLIN DOUGLAS**  
Staff Reporter

THE Cape's most famous viewing site — the coastline between Bloubergstrand and Melkbosstrand, with its stunning view of Table Mountain — is set to become the focus of a multi-million-rand tourism and nature conservation programme.

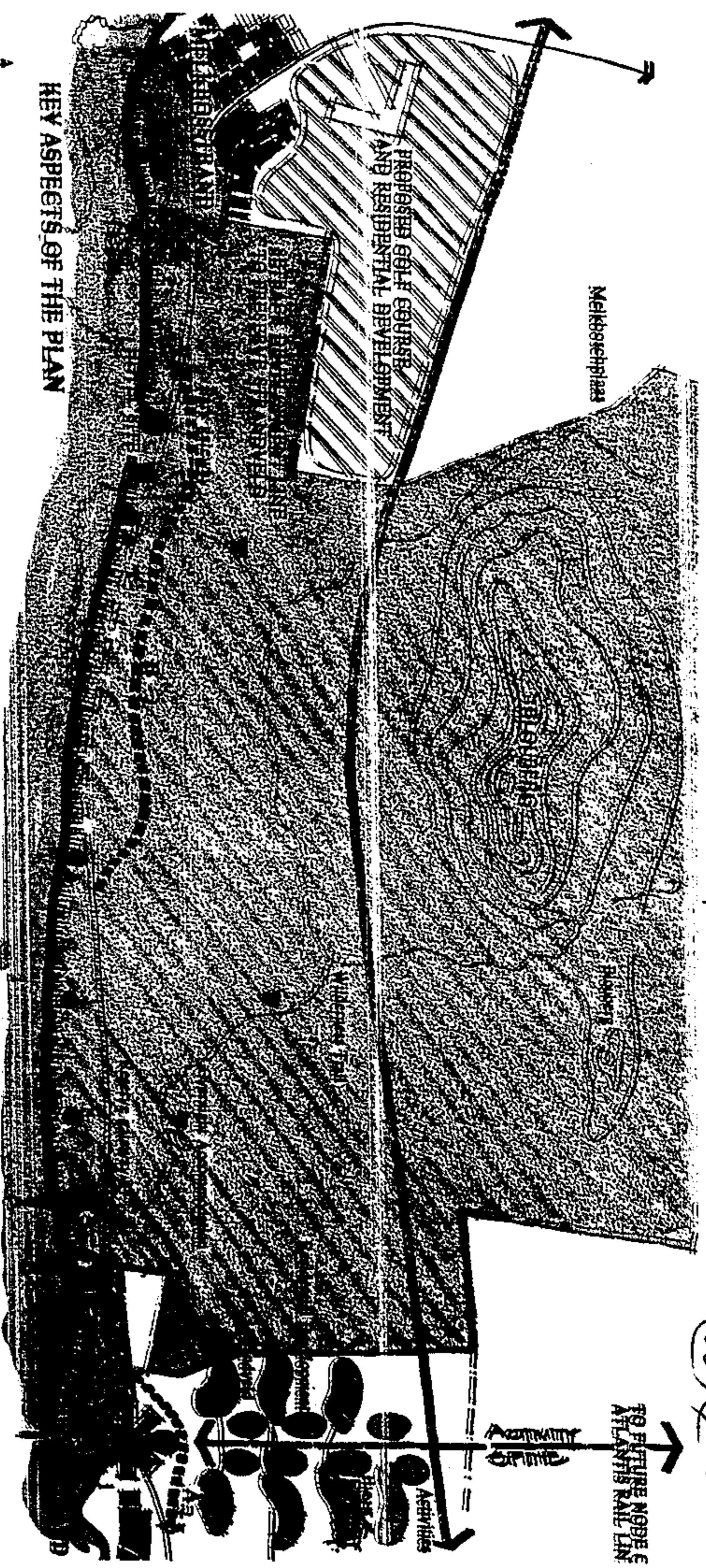
The programme, which aims to harness private sector funds to develop a major recreational and environmental resource for the Peninsula, has been proposed by consultants to the Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC).

A draft report by the consultants was backed by local residents and other interested parties at a public meeting in Bloubergstrand last week — the third since the planning process began last year.

The report proposes the sale of public land to create two major resort hotel sites, the establishment of an environmental education centre and the re-routing of sections of Otto du Plessis Drive to protect sensitive dunes.

The developments would form part of, and help fund, the new Blouberg Nature Reserve, which is expected to be proclaimed soon.

"The 7km coastal strip between Bloubergstrand and Melkbosstrand is one of the



**KEY ASPECTS OF THE PLAN**

**WEST COAST PLAN:** Plans are afoot for a major tourism and environmental project on the coast between Bloubergstrand and Melkbosstrand, which falls under the new Blouberg Nature Reserve (shaded green on the map). The plans feature the re-routing of sections of Otto du Plessis Drive (the dashed lines marked A and B) to protect sensitive dunes and make space for beachfront hotel, commercial and educational developments. A mass-based leisure resort, including camping facilities, would be built at Erstedesteen and Tweedesteen, marked on the map with two connected black dots at bottom right.

last remaining undeveloped sandy coastlines in the Cape metropolitan area," said Derek Chittenden of Chittenden Nicks Partnership, the firm contracted by the CMC to devise the plan. "It's a very important metropolitan resource, both for recreation and conservation — but because of the proximity of Otto du Plessis Drive to the sea there has been unlimited access to the beach. This is threatening to destroy the coastal environment." The recreational demand on the coastline would only increase, which made it essential to manage the area in a way that balanced leisure, commercial and environmental needs, Mr Chittenden said. He emphasised that the plan was still only a policy guide.

Graphic: CHITTENDEN NICKS

# Toxic waste importer 'in the dark'

(56) CT 30/8/95  
OWN CORRESPONDENT

DURBAN: Toxic waste importer and recycler Mr Doug Gosling says he is still waiting for official confirmation that the government has revoked his permit to import 3 000 tons of cupric arsenide waste from Finland.

Mr Gosling said the government had provided no official notification that his waste import permit had been cancelled.

"I don't know where I stand at the moment, and the government seems to be reluctant to clarify the matter."

Department of Environment Affairs director-general Mr Colin Cameron confirmed that Mr Gosling had not been informed officially.

"It is an awkward situation further complicated by negotiations between the Finnish government and the Foreign Affairs Ministry."

A commission of inquiry is being set up to investigate the manner in which the waste import permit was issued.

Row over source of pollution

dump

# Outcry over toxic

**RESIDENTS complain of air and water pollution, blaming Enviroserv facility in Holfontein**

56) 4/31/8/95  
BY TAMSEN DE BEER

An emergency dam, built illegally to contain toxic waste leaking from the Holfontein hazardous waste disposal site between Springs and Benoni, has outraged people in the area and could lead to legal action by the Department of Water Affairs.

The unauthorised dam, built about three weeks ago, has coincided with renewed complaints from residents about air and water pollution which they claim emanates from the Holfontein dump site, which is owned by waste disposal company Enviroserv.

Environmentalists are worried that the illegal dam could cause a major environmental hazard.

"How the dam was constructed we do not know. We only have Enviroserv's word on its safety. If there is any breackage of those walls, thousands of litres of toxic leachate could possibly enter the environment," said Peter Lukey of Earthlife Africa.

The excess leachate — water contaminated by hazardous waste — was pumped into the new dam after a wall between two cells in the waste dump had collapsed.

Lukey said this had placed a question mark over the soundness of construction elsewhere on the site. The leachate contains sulphides, acids, flammable materials, and water contaminated by hazardous and toxic chemicals.

Enviroserv has admitted that walls both inside and outside the waste containment cells were "problematic". Emergency buttress walls on one of the site's external walls had to be built earlier this year after leakage through the original wall posed a threat to grasslands immediately adjacent to the site.

A wall between two cells forming part of the dump collapsed recently and led to the construction of the emergency dam to contain the leakage.

"The dam was built without our permission or knowledge," said Henry Abbot, assistant director of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

The department said it was considering legal proceedings against Enviroserv because the dam had been built in contravention of the company's permit to store toxic waste, issued in terms of the Environment Conservation Act.

**Probe toxic waste imports - Page 7**

A CSIR report released earlier this year said residents in the area were being exposed to carcinogens (cancer-linked substances) such as carbon tetrachloride, benzene and form-

aldehyde in quantities exceeding recommended limits.

Other gases which exceeded recommended odour levels were also detected.

However, although the report urged that Enviroserv should reassess its control of carcinogenic gases, it said the pollution could not be directly linked to the company.

The report admits that the study was done during a time when Enviroserv had installed "remediation practices" following pressure from Water Affairs, and that the monitoring period had been "short".

Enviroserv managing director Dick Pienaar said consul-

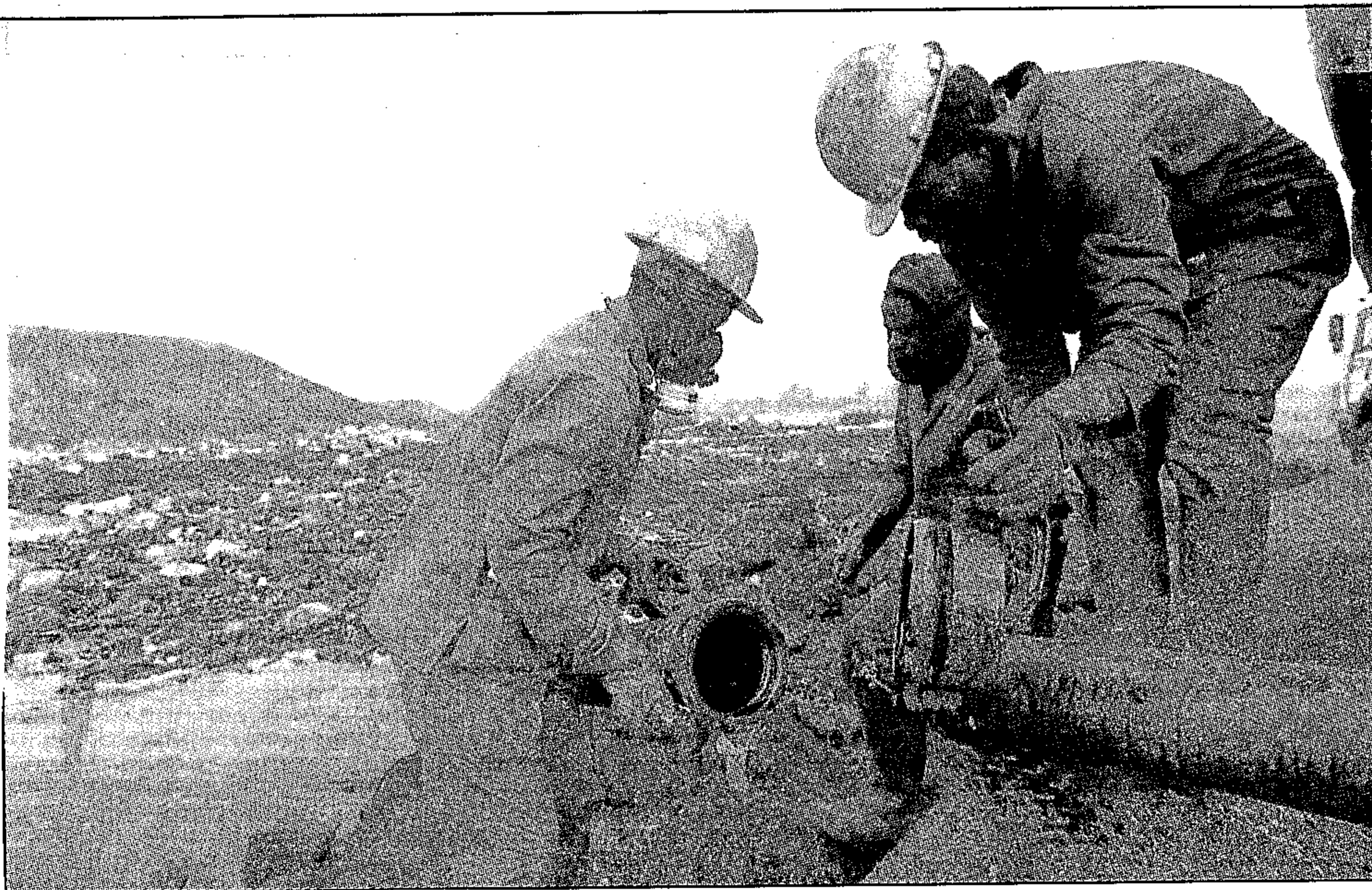
tants hired by the company to undertake the construction of the emergency dam had informed the department of their intentions.

He said it was a "temporary" dam that had been lined by compacting the clay beneath it to 1m.

Abbot disagreed. "They say they compacted the bottom but it doesn't look very compacted to me," he said after investigating the Holfontein site.

Abbot said Enviroserv had allowed too much liquid waste into its cells, causing a slippage of the wall between two

**► To Page 3**



Mucking in . . . Enviroserv workers handle toxic waste yesterday. Authorities are concerned about unmanageable quantities of liquid waste at the Holfontein waste disposal site in Springs.

PICTURE: BY MYKEL NICOLAOU

## Waste dump 'pollutes air, kills stock'

(56)  
SLOW 3/18/95

BY TAMSEN DE BEER

Sundra residents living on smallholdings as close as 1,5km to Enviroserv's toxic waste dump at Holfontein are mobilising the community to protest against the dump.

They see the waste dump as a health hazard which should never have been allowed.

"We hate this place so much," says Magda van der Merwe who lives about 2km from the dump, which belongs to waste disposal company Enviroserv.

But Enviroserv says it is being made a scapegoat for pollution from other sources, including coal fires in nearby Daveyton. "People will see what they want to see," said Enviroserv marketing manager Yolanda Young.

Jan Ras, who lives 7km from the Holfontein dump, said he suffered acute asthma because he was breathing contaminated air.

Sundra's doctor, who did not want to be named, said respiratory illnesses had increased among his patients in recent years.

CSIR studies on air quality in the area could not pinpoint Holfontein as the source of air pollution that included cancer-causing substances exceeding recommended guidelines.

But residents insist the dump is responsible, and that the CSIR report was inaccurate.

"While the CSIR was monitoring the air, we lived in heaven, but as soon as it finished the bad smells started again," said Van der Merwe.

Van Rensburg voiced the concern of numerous residents about the health of their livestock.

She said four sheep had died on her property in four days. An autopsy had been unable to reveal the cause of death but showed gall bladders swollen to the size of "three kidneys".

Three different dairy farmers in the area said they believed still-births, abortions and deformities in their cows might be connected to air pollution.

## Toxic dump (56) X Leakage calls in to question dump's safety

From Page 1

SLOW 3/18/95  
cells at the dump and the leakage of waste into a third cell. This leakage was being pumped into the emergency dam because the third cell was still under construction.

The department has recently amended Enviroserv's permit to prohibit the site from accepting odorous chemicals following complaints from residents about the smell.

"The new permit was an attempt to close some of the loop holes to tighten control over the site", according to Abbot, and included setting up a permanent air-monitoring system to be managed by an independent consultant.

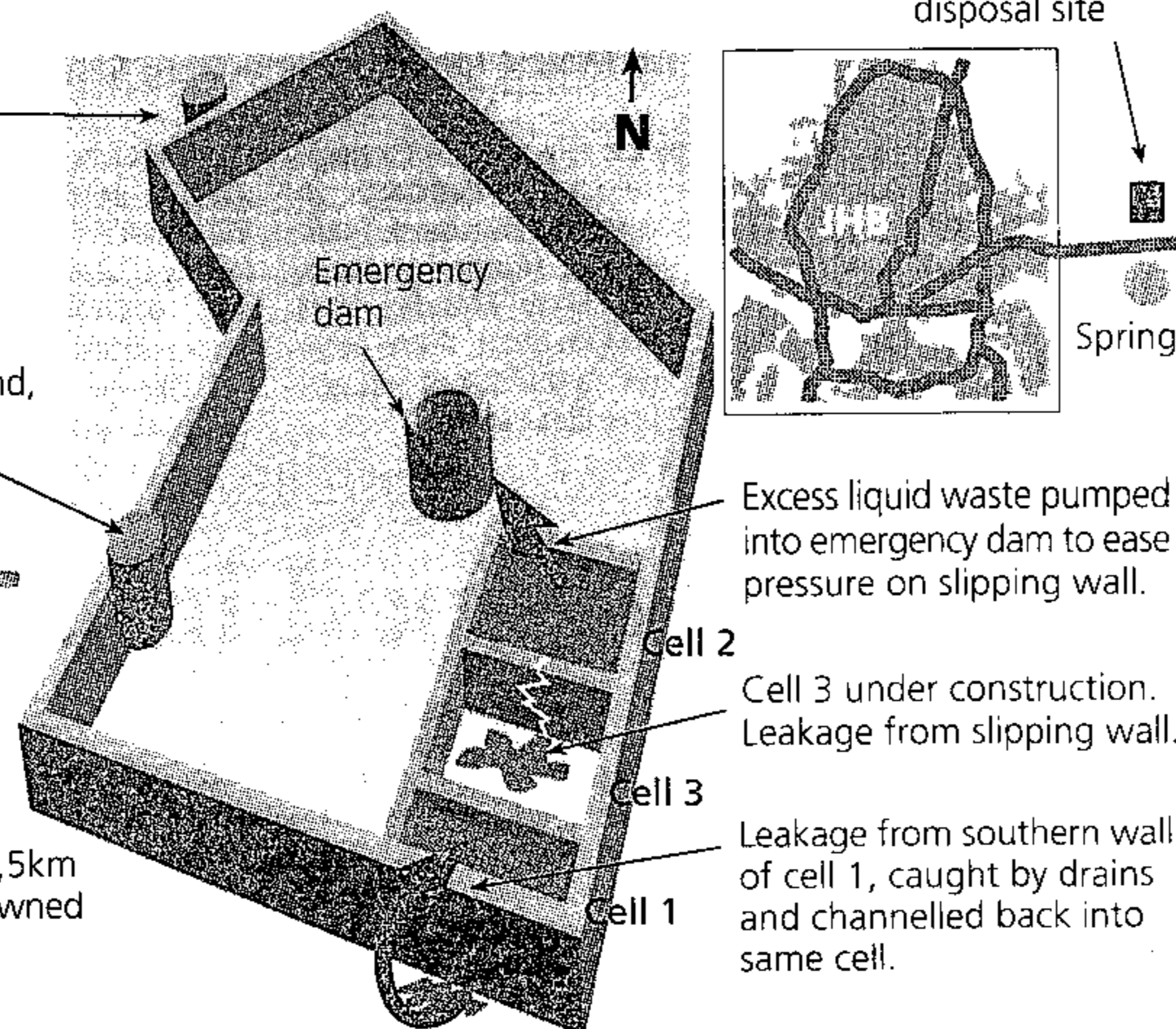
"In general their (Enviroserv's) co-operation has been good. If I compare them with some other companies I have dealt with, I find however that they are not as quick to respond as one would want," said Abbot.

Nearest residential borehole, 1km from cell 1.

Monitoring borehole. Traces of pollutants found, their source undetermined.

Surface run-off and groundwater flow in this direction.

Lushof Dam and Blesbokspruit, about 1,5km from site, on property owned by Enviroserv.



SOURCE: CSIR STUDY MARCH '95 GRAPHIC: FRANCOIS SMIT

# Call for top-level probe into toxic waste imports

ARG 30/8/95 (56)

**TYRONE SEALE**  
Political Staff

THE ministry of environment affairs and tourism is to ask the cabinet to launch a commission of inquiry into imports of toxic waste into South Africa.

The department's deputy minister, Bantu Holomisa, recently issued a permit for the importation of dangerous cargo from Finland.

Two weeks ago, after discussions between Environment Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers and his Finnish counterpart, a Finnish ship carrying copper arsenide and other substances was ordered to return to Finland from a Dutch harbour it visited on its way to South Africa.

The cargo was due to be processed at a Benoni plant, which subsequently agreed to co-operate in stopping the shipment entering South African waters.

Briefing the national assembly portfolio committee on environment affairs and tourism today, Mr Holomisa said the proposed commission would be asked to investigate which permits for similar imports had been issued since the government of national unity came into being, whether such shipments were on their way to South Africa, or whether any had reached the country since April last year.

He said consideration might have to be given to a separate commission investigating the position before April 1994.

Interviewed after the meeting, Mr Holomisa agreed that he carried the responsibility for the management of policy relating to toxic waste but denied he was disowning the director-general or that the director-general was working in isolation.

He said these and other questions would have to be dealt with by the commission.

At the meeting Mr Holomisa said the opinion of industry, business and South Africans at large would have to be sought to determine whether South Africa would subscribe to the Basel or Bamako conventions on the management of toxic and other waste.

The Basel Convention details different categories of waste, allows for negotiation between different countries but bans the import of waste from neighbouring countries.

The Bamako Convention, administered by the Organisation for African Unity, places an outright ban on waste imports, including scrap metals and other materials that might, during processing, produce new products or other usable substances.

Mr Holomisa said in his opinion the South African government wanted "nothing to do with" waste imports. However, this would have to be debated as broadly as possible.



# Govt rethink on Koeberg

**BARRY STREEK**  
POLITICAL STAFF

ET 30/8/95

THE future of the Koeberg nuclear power station could become the subject of a public inquiry.

This is one option presented by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, in a policy discussion document, tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The department criticised Eskom for not disclosing the cost of running the Koeberg plant, or the costs of decommissioning it.

According to the document, Eskom has acknowledged costs comparable coal-fired stations, but pointed out the station had not operated optimally due to contractual obligations to the Atomic Energy Corporation and national grid.

(56) (56)  
"Moreover, Eskom maintains that the cost of replacing lost generating capacity and of closure, would be higher than present operating costs ... Neither of these claims have been independently investigated," the document reads.

The department said there were various options: Permit Eskom to decide alone whether Koeberg should continue; establish a public inquiry into the economic and environmental desirability of continued operation; halt operations subject to the outcome of an independent investigation and oblige Eskom to publish full details of decommissioning and high-level waste disposal, and to organise and finance a series of public workshops at which these plans can be discussed and criticised.

# Environmental fear could terminate <sup>(Sb)</sup> ~~the~~ SA-Iranian oil deal

**JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter**

THE oil storage contract between South Africa and Iran has a suspension clause that will nullify the entire contract if an environmental impact assessment finds the potential risk to Saldanha Bay too great.

*ARC 31/8/95*  
In terms of the contract, some 15 million barrels of Iranian oil will be stored at the Strategic Fuel Fund's vast 45 million-barrel oil storage facility at Saldanha Bay, from where it will be traded on the international market on a speculative basis.

Kobus van Zyl, general-manager of the fund, is in Tehran this week and may already have signed the contract.

This was confirmed today by Roland Darroll, spokesman for Energy and Mineral Affairs minister Pik Botha, who said the ecological aspects of the oil deal were "fully catered for and have been all along".

On Tuesday the Steyn board of inquiry, investigating a proposed steel mill on a site adjoining the oil storage tanks, asked Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers to ensure no irreversible decisions were taken relating to increased oil traffic in Saldanha Bay before environmental impact assessments had been completed.

But Mr Darroll said the suspension clause in the contract with Iran meant that the inquiry was "trying to do something that has already been done".

In a joint statement by the two ministers released last night, Dr De Villiers said he had told Mr Botha of the Steyn board's concern.

But the statement added: "The sensitivity about any further increase in oil-related activities in the bay is fully understood by Mr Botha."

# 'SADF helped ivory smugglers'

DURBAN: A former South African Defence Force (SADF) intelligence officer gave details yesterday of military complicity in ivory smuggling from Angola to Namibia in the late 1970s.

Major-General Marius Oelschig was testifying before the Kumbèn Commission, which is investigating the role of South Africans in smuggling ivory and rhino horn from Angola and Mozambique.

Gen Oelschig said he took command of Rundu military base at the end of 1978 and went on a night mission into Angola on an SADF helicopter a year later.

The helicopter had picked up Unita officers to meet their leader Dr Jonas Savimbi in Namibia. Some of them had elephant tusks.

"I told (the leader) he could not take the tusks but he said they were a gift for Savimbi," he said.

(56) *CF* 31/8/95  
Gen Oelschig said that when he took command of Rundu he did not know the SADF had organised ivory storage there. He found out when Unita supporters arrived at the base with tusks for storage.

"I ordered the tusks be put on a truck and taken off my base," he said, adding that he did not know where they had been taken.

"I took the attitude of not involving myself." — Reuter

*Investigation of permits urged*

# Probe toxic waste imports, Cabinet asked

## ■ POLITICAL STAFF

Cape Town - The Ministry of Environment Affairs and Tourism is to ask the Cabinet to launch a commission of inquiry into imports of toxic waste into South Africa.

Deputy Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism Bantu Holomisa recently issued a permit for the importation of dangerous cargo from Finland.

Two weeks ago, following discussions between Environment Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers and his Finnish counterpart, a Finnish ship carrying copper arsenide and other substances was ordered to return to Finland from a Dutch harbour it had visited on its way to South Africa.

The cargo was due to be processed at a Benoni plant which subsequently agreed to co-operate in stopping the shipment entering South African waters.

Briefing the National

Assembly portfolio committee on environment affairs and tourism yesterday, Holomisa said the proposed commission of inquiry would be asked to investigate which permits for similar imports had been issued since the Government of National Unity came into being, whether such shipments were on their way to South Africa, or whether any had reached the country since April last year.

He said consideration might have to be given to a separate commission of inquiry to investigate the position before April last year.

Interviewed after the meeting, Holomisa agreed that he carried the responsibility for the management of policy relating to toxic waste but denied he was disowning the director-general or that the director-general was working in isolation.

He said these and other questions would have to be dealt with by the commission.

At the meeting Holo-

misa said the opinion of industry, business and South Africans at large would have to be sought to determine whether South Africa would subscribe to the Basle or Bamako conventions on the management of toxic and other waste.

The Basle convention details different categories of waste and allows for negotiation between different countries but bans the import of waste from neighbouring countries.

The Bamako convention, administered by the Organisation of African Unity, places an outright ban on waste imports, including scrap metals and other materials that might, during processing, produce new products or other usable substances.

Holomisa said in his opinion the South African Government wanted "nothing to do with" waste imports.

However, this would have to be debated as broadly as possible, he said.

(56) Star 31/8/95

# SA-Iranian fuel storage deal 'may already have been signed'

Cape Town — Strategic Fuel Fund (SFF) general manager Kobus van Zyl is in Tehran to sign a deal that will give Iran use of oil storage facilities at Saldanha Bay, the Ministry of Mineral and Energy Affairs confirmed yesterday.

Van Zyl, who flew to Iran on Monday night, had gone with the intention of signing the deal this week and "may have already done so", Ministry spokesman Roland Darroll said.

On Monday Van Zyl's office said he was going on leave for a week, and was not going to Tehran.

Darroll said the contract would be subject to the completion of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) commissioned by the SFF on the risk of pollution to the harbour from increased oil tanker traffic.

"The EIA must say there will be no unacceptable damage to the environment," he said.

Environmental Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers agreed on Tuesday that "no irreversible decision" leading to increased oil tanker shipping in Saldanha Bay would be taken before he had studied the results of two EIAs commissioned by

Portnet and the SFF.

The Portnet EIA focuses on the planned extension of the general cargo quay and is due to be released next week.

The first step in the SFF EIA will be taken tomorrow with a "project initiation meeting" between representatives of the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research and the SFF.

The CSIR has been told Van Zyl will be at the meeting, but it is unlikely he will be back in time. A spokesman said the EIA would take a minimum of seven months to complete to ensure full public participation. Sapa

stav 31/8/95

(48) (56)

# More penguins found oiled as slick spreads

CT 30/8/95 (56)

**LISA TEMPLETON**  
STAFF REPORTER

THE oil slick that has affected penguins on the south coast is larger than anticipated, with 104 oil-laden penguins being rounded up yesterday on Dyer Island off Gansbaai.

Another 37 birds were found on the mainland coast.

The first batch of 64 oiled penguins was shipped to the mainland late last week and on Monday 218 birds were airlifted off the island by an air force helicopter.

Because of rough seas yesterday penguins on the island were being treated there.

Penguins collected along the mainland coast were being treated at Cape Nature Conservation (CNC) offices in Walker Bay.

Penguins picked up earlier in the week are being treated at Sanc-

cob in Tableview, where volunteer staff have been working into the night since Monday.

Ms Larfa Krige, supervisor at Sancob, said the rescued penguins were doing excellently and they would hold the birds until they were stabilised and the oil slick cleared.

## Unknown

The source of the oil is unknown.

● The CNC have asked anyone who finds an oiled penguin in this area to place it in a cardboard box and take it to the CNC office in Hermanus or phone Mr Mike Scott at (0283) 770062. Birds found in other areas can be reported to (021) 557 6177.

People are asked not to feed or wash the penguins as this could harm them.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is a translation on channel two. [Laughter.]

Manu M A MNCWANGO: Ngakho-ke, ngingenkinga nxa uNggongqoshe esisihela ukuthi kunamalungu angamakhulu ayisikhombisa namashumi amathathu akhishwa ophikweni lozomshosha phansi wenhlangano kaKhomgoloze alikwa ngaphansi kophiko lwamaphoyisa. Kimamaphoyisa acishe abu ngamakhulu ayisithupha ayethole ukugqesha ezikhungweni zokugqesha amaphoyisa KwaZulu.

UNggongqoshe, kuze kubhe namanje, unenkinga yokuba abenze amaphoyisa lababantu ngenxa yesizathu asibekayo sokuthi abahlalwanga ngudokotela futhi abazange bacindezelwe nezithupha. Ngakho-ke, abanazo izithupha ezalhawayo. Kepha sizwa futhi esisihela ukuthi lawo malungu wawathatha njengamaphoyisa. Wenza ukulolwa kwawo ecelele angamalunga obuphoyisa.

Ngingathanda una uNggongqoshe angasichazela ukuthi kuyini sengathi ungomo wakhe usebenza ngandlela thile, usika nganhlanye njengomsezi? Kukhona abanye abakhophela eceleni. Kunohlelo yini oluseceleni alungiselele bona ukuba bajoyine enuphoyisenti? *Translation of Zulu speech follows.*

[Mr M A MNCWANGO: I therefore have a problem when the hon Minister tells us that there are 730 members who were transferred from the ANC National Intelligence Service to the SAPS. There are nearly 600 policemen who were trained in the KwaZulu Police.

The Minister, up to today, has a problem appointing them as policemen because, according to him, they were either not examined by the doctor or their fingerprints were not taken. So, no fingerprints were taken. But now, we are told that those people are now members of the police service. They were examined after being appointed as policemen.

I would like the hon the Minister to explain why his policies seem to work in a certain way, cutting on one end like a knife. There are some people that he puts aside. Is there any other way he is going to use in order for them to join the police service?

Manu V B NDLOVU: Sontono, ngiyaxakeka mina uma ilungu elihloniphekile uMnumzane uGibson ethi mina angikwazi ukukhuluma isiNgesi. UnguMlungu phele yena. Wazalwa

ekhuluma isiNgesi. Ngeke ngisikhulume njengoba esikhuluma. Nami ulwimi lwami ngikhuluma ngandlela engikhuluma ngalo. Uma ezoma lapha ethi akasizwa isiZulu uzwa isiNgesi, yingoba wazalwa esikhuluma, vele.

Okusemgoka ukuthi asibuzi lemibuzo esiyibuzayo kuNggongqoshe ngoba silwa naye. Indaba enkulu nje ukuthi sifuna ukubona ukuthi akukho ukwenzelela kuMnyango. Okwesithi, akukho yini ukwenzelela kuyena ngqobo ukukho yini ukwenzelela kuyena uMnyango. UNggongqoshe ophethe uMnyango. Okwesithathu, akukho yini ukwenzelela kubantu ahala nabo nasebenza nabo, abangabangani bakhe nabangebona abangani bakhe, na. Ngakho-ke, yonke lemibuzo ihlangene nalokho kanye nokusebenza kuMnyango kaNggongqoshe, futhi edinga izimpendulo kuNggongqoshe. *(Translation of Zulu speech follows.)*

[Mr V B NDLOVU: Mr Speaker, I am surprised to hear the hon member Mr Gibson saying that I cannot speak English. Well, he is White. He was born speaking English. I cannot speak it the way he does. I am also speaking my own language as I do. If he is going to stand here and say he does not understand Zulu, but only English, it is because he was born speaking it in any case.

What is important is that we do not ask the Minister these questions because we are fighting him. What we want to see is that there is no favouritism taking place in this department. Secondly, what we want to see is that there is no favouritism from the Minister himself. Thirdly, there should be no favouritism of the people with whom he is living and working, irrespective of whether they are his friends or not. Therefore, these questions have something to do with how this department is working, and they need answers from the Minister himself.

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY: Mr Speaker, earlier on I made reference to the criteria which were applied by the Commissioner when dealing with members of the nonstatutory forces who had to be incorporated into the SAPS. I want to put it on record here that the same criteria were applied in respect of the 610 assistant constables, who did their training in Ulundi, when their applications to become permanent members were put before the Commissioner. Those who were found to be fit for employment and were actually employed, were 227. The Commissioner is at present sitting with a recommendation to condone 190 assistant constables.

There are 144 assistant constables who were not recommended for condonation. A total of 49 of the 610 were discharged because they failed to furnish the police with the required information, for example, whether they underwent a medical examination and what the results were, and some even refused to have their fingerprints taken. I am saying that, irrespective of where people come from, if they refuse to comply with an order given by the National Commissioner of the SAPS, even before they are enlisted as permanent members, perhaps it would be better not to consider enlisting them. I think that those who comply with the instructions of the National Commissioner will be fit to be regarded as the type of people that the hon Mr Gibson referred to as people of the best quality.

Debate concluded.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Before proceeding to interpellation No 3, I would like to welcome back the hon member Collins Ramusi who was ill for a long time. We welcome him back to the House. [Applause.]

#### Import of copper arsenide waste material

3. Mr P R MOKABA asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether, with reference to certain information furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, his Department was involved in any way in the granting of permission to any company or companies within the Republic to import copper arsenide waste material from Finland; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether he or his Department has detailed information in regard to all contracts entered into on behalf of the Government and/or his Department in respect of the importation of hazardous and toxic waste material into the Republic; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

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The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM: Mr Speaker, the Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, to whom responsibility for the Basel Convention and related matters has been delegated, could not be present here today. He has a commitment in Port Elizabeth, and I will deal with this interpellation.

Before I respond to the questions raised by the hon member, I would like to inform the House that an announcement has already been made that a full, open and transparent investigation concerning the granting of a permit for the importation of cupric arsenite with a "r", and not copper arsenide with a "d" as stated in the question, for recycling in South Africa will be instituted. A further announcement in this regard will be made as soon as the necessary preparatory work has been completed.

Most of the questions raised by the hon member will form part of the investigation. I am therefore not in a position to provide conclusive answers to all the questions put by the hon member concerning this matter. If I could provide all the answers, of course an investigation would not have been necessary. Any effort to try and provide the House with conclusive answers at this stage would therefore be premature. I would like to appeal to hon members to give the investigation a fair opportunity to ascertain all the facts and report on the matter before final conclusions are drawn.

However, in a brief response to the questions asked by the hon member, and on the basis of the information that is available to me, I can say the following.

The first question the hon member asks is who was involved. Apparently officials of the department, as well as its appointed consultants, were involved. He further wants to know when the Minister knew about this matter. The Deputy Minister and I learned of the matter on 17 August 1995. That is the date on which it became public knowledge that the shipment of cupric arsenite was due to leave for South Africa.

Thirdly, as regards the policy considerations for granting such permission, this question will be dealt with in the ensuing investigation. According to the information furnished to me, the permit was granted because the material containing cupric arsenite was going to be fully recycled by a company in Benoni and was not going to be dumped.

In the fourth place, the hon member wants to know how, or through which agency, the permission was granted. According to information provided to me, the permission was granted by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, which is the designated competent authority under the Basel Convention, after consultations and on advice from their appointed consultants.

Under (2) in this interpellation the member asks whether the Minister and the department have detailed information regarding all contracts entered into on behalf of the Government or this department. The answer is that detailed information and documentation is indeed kept regarding all contracts and that this will form part of the investigation to which I have referred.

Mr P R MOKABA: Mr Speaker, we are indeed prepared to give the commission a chance to look into this matter, but there are issues that we would like to see addressed, because this is a matter of public concern which has caused a lot of controversy. It is not the first time the Government of National Unity has been thrown into this type of mess by this department.

It concerns us that the Minister was quoted as saying, at the end of July in the USA, that South Africa would not allow the importation of any hazardous or toxic waste to this country. At that very same time the consultant working for the department was signing a contract that was contrary to what the Minister was saying. Therefore there is a problem as to who exactly is running this department.

As to the appointment of Mr Holomisa as Deputy Minister, he today explained in the portfolio committee that he and the Minister knew nothing about this. That concerns us, because this is a serious matter and an international convention is being flouted by South Africa through a consultant who is acting on behalf of the Government of National Unity against policies of the Government of National Unity.

When I accept that a commission has to be called for, I am saying that this commission should take place, but that Duan Malan and Associates must be suspended for the moment. They should not continue with anything and Mr Cameron himself, who has been conducting these particular transactions without informing the Minister or his Deputy, must also be suspended until the investigation is completed. That is exactly how I would deal with these matters. I have dealt with them in this fashion in our national forum on tourism and I would also deal with them in this fashion as regards this department. [Applause.]

Mr R K SIZANI: Mr Speaker, it does seem that in the importation of 500 tons of toxic waste from Finland both governments, as well as our Minister and Deputy Minister, were not involved or consulted regarding the issuing of that permit.

The question then really is who issued that permit, and on what legal basis? We are now told by the Minister that a commission of inquiry is to be established to investigate that question.

What we would like to emphasise is that we do not want a departmental commission of enquiry. We would like an independent commission of enquiry with clear terms of reference and also clear timeframes. Equally, since the Ministers have publicly stated that they had no knowledge of this importation, the only assumption, therefore, is that it is only officials who are involved.

We want to state clearly here that if this is true, then the officials and not the Ministers must face the consequences of their actions. We do not want anything called ministerial responsibility here. Those officials should be publicly named and be punished accordingly. This is a very serious scandal where South Africa will be made a dumping place for toxic waste. We therefore call on the Minister publicly to make a clear statement on all these issues. [Applause.]

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I think I have made a clear statement. It will not be a departmental investigation, but an independent inquiry, and in the meantime we have requested the consultants not to proceed with any work. They have been suspended, pending the investigation.

However, it should also be clearly stated that the Basel Convention does provide for the transboundary movement of toxic material. It does not prohibit it. Therefore, it is only a question of us, in South Africa, not wanting this country to become the dumping ground of the world. I have stated over and over again that my department and this Government will not allow toxic waste to be dumped in South Africa. I have said at press conferences—on more than one occasion—that as far as the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism is concerned, toxic waste should not even be imported for recycling. [Interjections.]

I will consult my colleagues, since there are also other ministries involved, on whether a policy of no toxic waste—as defined by the Basel Convention—being imported into South Africa, whether for dumping or for recycling, could be strictly adhered to by all ministries. I cannot put the position of the Government of National Unity across more strongly than that. [Interjections.]

I would request hon members who have any particular concerns in this matter to wait for the investigation and, if they have further evidence to

provide, to provide the commission with such evidence. We should allow the investigation to take its course.

Ms G L MAHLANGU: Mr Speaker, I wonder, as I sit here, why we should be wasting time with a Minister in whose department such serious decisions can be taken without his knowledge? [Interjections.]

My point is that the Minister speaks today as if Deputy Minister Holomisa had been part of the Basel Convention and all those agreements that we entered into. When the Minister allocated pollution and related issues such as hazardous waste transportation, the Minister did not inform the Deputy Minister of all the agreements that had been entered into.

I, therefore, propose that the terms of reference of the commission should be expanded so that we know about all the other contracts that have been entered into on behalf of South Africa. We do not want to keep on reacting to things as they come. We want to have a clear and detailed way of dealing with this hazardous waste.

I, therefore, would like to say to the hon the Minister, that—I am not going to say he must resign... [Interjections.] However, I am definitely going to say that he is failing, he is not in control. The reason he is giving this wishy-washy kind of response, which is typical of the NP, is that he has never been sensitive to the issues of the people of this country. He has never cared for the millions of people of this country, and we are saying now that this Government is an ANC-led Government. We need transparency. We need to know about all those contracts that he has entered into. [Interjections.] We have information that, prior to 27 April, he entered into a number of contracts deliberately to make sure that we inherited a very weak government. We therefore need all those things to be known. [Applause.]

Mr P R MOKABA: Mr Speaker, let them keep on referring to the Deputy Minister Holomisa. It is true that Deputy Minister Holomisa was appointed only in July to look into the question of pollution. What is important is that the Minister did not inform him of all the contracts that had been entered into before he was appointed.

Even now the Minister says that he himself was not informed, but that is something that we do not want to believe. The Minister is saying to us that he has made strong statements. How strong are these statements when he is allowed by the Act

actually to make policy, and he is not making policy? We cannot listen to statements that are made, no matter how strongly they are made. He has the right in terms of the Act to make policy, and to make that policy binding. He has not done so.

We are aware that they are doing these things because they know that they have entered into contracts that are still going to be carried during the lifetime of the Government of National Unity, and want to pass the buck to the ANC-led Government when, actually, it is the NP which plunged this country into this problem.

We refuse to accept responsibility. It is the responsibility of the NP. Even when we say that Cameron must be suspended, we know that we are suspending the NP. We would want this department to be thoroughly restructured, because we cannot be dealing with these matters piecemeal.

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I am very sorry about the fact that the last two speakers are trying to turn this into a political football. [Interjections.]

Unfortunately the first speaker appears to be someone who wants to play politics without the ball. Like the hon Mr Mokaba, she has no leg to stand on, because the point is that no toxic waste for dumping that I know of or anyone else knows of has been imported into this country with my knowledge or with a permit from the department. [Interjections.]

This one case was brought to our attention, and we managed to get the ship to turn around. However, we have not heard one word of comment for that. Not a single person stood up here and said: That is something that we are proud of that when something went wrong the Ministry took action, and saw to it that the ship did not enter South African waters. [Interjections.]

That kind of political positioning is not serving the environment. I have given commitments, and we will stick to those commitments. If the hon member would like to know more about the matter, she should ask the Deputy Minister who is much closer to her than members on this side are. The hon member has been given a certain responsibility, and therefore has every right to approach the department to ascertain information about all contracts and all the activities of the department. [Interjections.]

The reality of the matter is that the ANC regrets that suddenly an NP Minister has done something



of value for this country. [Interjections.] We have made the ship turn around. We have protected this country from toxic waste, and they cannot take it. [Interjections.] However, they have to take that kind of performance, and when we take over the Government one day, they will see what a good government can do for this country. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Let us keep this ship afloat. [Laughter.]

Debate concluded.

#### Drug barons influencing political decisions

4. Mr L M GREEN asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

Whether, with reference to a newspaper article furnished to the South African Police Service for the purpose of his reply, (a) there is any evidence indicating that South Africa's political system is under threat of drug barons influencing political decisions and (b) South Africa's banking laws are secure enough to be protected against corruption and money laundering practices; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what action is being taken in this regard?

NIRRIE, INT

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY: Mr Speaker, the answer is no. South Africa is to an increasing extent becoming a convenient and profitable drug market. Recognising this, the Government instructed an interdepartmental task group to examine legislation on drug abuse and to advise it on the signing of the Vienna Convention.

The Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act brings South African law into conformity with the Vienna Convention. However, South Africa has as yet not become a signatory to this convention.

The answer to part (b) of the question is No. The only legal mechanism to protect the banking and financial institutions against money laundering is the provisions of the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act of 1992.

In accordance with this Act any director, manager or executive officer of a financial institution who suspects that any property acquired by the institution from any person in the course of legitimate business is the proceeds of a drug-related crime, is obliged to report it to the SAPS. Failure to report such information can result in a fine imposed by the court, and/or a sentence of up to 15 years in prison. If any stockbroker or financial broker

suspects that any property acquired by him from any other person in the course of a legitimate business is the proceeds of a drug-related crime, he must also report it to the SAPS. Failure to do so can result in the same penalty as that for the employees of a financial institution.

Although the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act of 1992 provides for the recovery of the proceeds of drug trafficking, South Africa has no legislation in place to deal with money laundering. A draft Bill has, however, been prepared to address this matter. The inputs of the Department of Justice, the SAPS, the Reserve Bank, banking institutions and other role-players were considered in drafting the Bill.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members are requested to converse quietly.

Mr L M GREEN: Mr Speaker, there is a greater danger than toxic waste threatening South Africa, and this danger is the threat to political stability in South Africa which is being posed by organised criminals and drug syndicates. Organised criminals exploit the spice which is being created by democracies-in-transition, particularly in South Africa, where all the changes needed to improve the criminal justice system are not in place yet.

At the 13th Interpol regional conference held in Zimbabwe it was found that lax and inadequate drug laws in most of sub-Saharan Africa make it difficult, if not impossible, for the subregion to create an effective anti-narcotics network. What this, in effect, means, is that drug barons have been granted a safe haven in South Africa, because our legal system makes their arrest for drug-related crimes committed elsewhere virtually impossible.

In order to rid our nation of this scourge of drug addiction, we need to limit the freedom of these drug lords who are abusing the new freedom created by our Bill of Rights, particularly section 23, which allows them the right of access to all information held by the State, and upon receiving the police docket, it grants them sufficient time either to destroy evidence, or, where a conviction is imminent, to leave the country undetected.

Without undermining our human-rights culture, we should introduce legislation to allow the extradition of criminals, particularly those guilty of drug trafficking and money laundering. At present there are 278 known crime syndicates operating in South Africa, of which 115 are known to be drug syndicates. That is an average of

13 drug syndicates per province. There are more drug syndicates operating in South Africa than there are drug rehabilitation centres.

The youth of this nation are under threat. The cheaper derivative of cocaine, called "crack", is now available on our streets, and if the trade in "crack" is not stopped soon, it will become as common as Mandrax.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I urge hon members to converse quietly.

Rev K R MESHOE: Mr Speaker, detectives given the task of apprehending thousands of criminals are facing the real danger of being swamped by the increasing number of suspects stalking the country. Police sources say there could be as many as 200 wanted criminals walking the streets of South Africa. Why should the detectives and police continue risking their lives, trying to apprehend criminals, when they cannot retaliate with force when they are under attack? Whenever they are endangered or engaged in a gun battle with robbers or gangsters, most of those who lose their lives are police or security officers. Is it because criminals are better trained and equipped than our Police Force, or is it because our Police Force is instructed to be soft on criminals? What our country needs is not necessarily a bigger police force that will look like scarecrows on every street corner, but a strong force that will bring fear and panic to the criminals.

Criminals in South Africa do not respect law and order or fear anybody, including our semi-paralysed Police Force. That is why they are continually creating such havoc. It is high time that our Police Force was given better training on how to defend themselves and apprehend criminals, rather than seminars on the rights of the criminals.

Threatening criminals will not solve the problem, but punishing them will. The Minister's department and the Department of Justice must do more to rid the community of criminals.

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I will convey the message from the hon member Rev Meshoe to the Ministry of Justice. The police were, at no stage, given instructions to be soft on criminals. On the issue of legislation raised by the hon member Mr Green the issue is indeed the subject of ongoing discussion between the South African Police Service and other police forces in the Southern African region. This matter was discussed at the recent Interpol regional conference in Harare.

Certain recommendations were put forward, which, of course, will have to be taken to the respective governments. One hopes that this will result in better co-ordination between the police forces in the region; something which we need in order to win the battle against organised crime.

Mr L M GREEN: Mr Speaker, the hon the Minister mentioned the recent conference and its recommendations. What I would like to know is whether the Minister could tell the House what those recommendations were and to what extent he has considered those recommendations, as two months have passed by. I also want to know whether steps have been taken in order to implement those recommendations.

I want to turn to the issue of money laundering. We all know that drug money is dirty money, and the only way to get it clean is to use our South African banking system in order to transfer, electronically, huge amounts of money. We, however, know that Act 140 of 1992 attempts to plug the loopholes. In fact, it does not plug all the loopholes. Perhaps a solution would be to introduce additional legislation which would change the secrecy laws regulating banks more dramatically, and which would compel all bank employees, and not only bank managers, who suspect money laundering, to report this to the police. Failure to do so should become an offence. Legislation that will allow the courts of foreign countries to freeze accounts of people being held under suspicion of money laundering should also be introduced. I do not think that we have that kind of legislation in place.

Rev K R MESHOE: Mr Speaker, there have been innumerable warnings from both within the SAPS and from outside that the Police Service is threatening to disintegrate under the workload, financial pressures and grave interpersonal stress leading to the failure of many marital relationships.

In 1994, over 214 policemen were murdered in the execution of their duties, and 142 committed suicide compared to 106 in 1992 and 65 in 1991. Although psychiatric assistance is available to the police, many of them are reluctant to accept it for fear of having the need for assistance recorded on their personnel files, thereby hampering their promotion possibilities.

What is the department's policy regarding members of the Police Service who receive psychiatric treatment because of their stress levels? Are they

*Paltry payout after collision*

# Constitutional Court weighs paralysis case

Star 30/8/98  
(58)

■ BY NIKKI WHITFIELD

Elias Tsotsetsi was a passenger in a car one fateful day in 1991 when his boss hit a cyclist and smashed into a tree.

The collision crushed two of Tsotsetsi's vertebrae, leaving him a quadriplegic. Despite suffering damages totalling R1 143 600 — which included future medical expenses, pain and suffering, and loss of earning capacity — insurance giant Mutual and Federal, the driver's insurer, paid him only R25 000.

Compare that to a precedent-making case in the Cape Town Supreme Court last week, when a judge wept as he handed down a personal injury award totalling almost R16-million to Joel Miller, a chartered accountant who also became a quadriplegic after an out-of-control BMW flipped over and landed on the roof of the vehicle he was a passenger in.

The fundamental difference between the two cases was this: Miller was in the "innocent" vehicle, Tsotsetsi in the "guilty" one.

Mutual and Federal paid out R25 000, the "capped" or highest possible amount, stipulated in the Motor Accident Fund Act, paid to passengers in cases where the driver is to blame. If the driver of the car is innocent, passengers' damages are paid out in full.

## Equality

After his paltry award, Tsotsetsi asked the Pretoria Supreme Court to refer the matter to the Constitutional Court, claiming that a section of the Motor Accident Fund Act was unconstitutional and in conflict with section 8 of the interim constitution.

That section states that every person has the right to equality and equal protection by the law.

Therefore, article 47(a) of the Act — the part which caps compensation at R25 000 to passengers in vehicles where the driver is to blame — was discriminatory and unconstitutional and

should be struck down, Tsotsetsi's counsel argues.

Whether Tsotsetsi will get more money to ease his suffering remains to be seen. His accident happened in February 1991, more than three years before the new constitution came into being.

But the Constitutional Court's decision could have far-reaching consequences for all claims submitted after the drawing up of the new constitution.

If the court asks Parliament to amend the Act, passengers injured in accidents will all be entitled to the same compensation, no matter who is to blame for the accident.

## Poorer sector

Those affected by the death of someone in an accident will also benefit. At present, dependants of a passenger killed in a vehicle where the driver was to blame are also entitled to only R25 000.

Arguing the case before 11 judges yesterday, counsel for Tsotsetsi, Wim Trengove, said the R25 000 cap affected South Africa's poorer sector particularly harshly.

"Poorer people are more dependent on public transport, like buses and taxis, and these people are usually black. If the Act is going to discriminate, it is going to discriminate mainly against black people."

Trengove added that between 70% and 80% of people killed in vehicle accidents were black.

In response to a statement from the Bench that it was the passenger's responsibility to find out whether the driver was comprehensively insured, in which case he or she would be entitled to more compensation in the case of an accident, Trengove replied that that did not usually happen in the normal course of life.

Since most people relied on public transport, they rarely had a choice about who their driver was, he said.

The case continues.

# Oil storage decision on hold

Edward West

CAPE TOWN — Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers had agreed to the Steyn inquiry's request that no irreversible decision be made on Iran's use of oil storage facilities at Saldanha Bay until the inquiry was finished, a spokesman for the minister said yesterday.

The board of inquiry met De Villiers yesterday and advised him of the evidence before the inquiry relating to the proposed increased use of the facilities by Iran.

The board, appointed to investigate Iscor's proposed R4,7bn steel plant at Saldanha Bay, said it shared concerns expressed before the inquiry and had sought the assurance from De Villiers.

In terms of the oil deal — which Central Energy Fund Association CE Kobus van

Zyl said recently was within weeks of being concluded — the spare capacity at the oil storage tanks would be used to store Iranian oil, which would be traded out of Saldanha into international markets.

A Central Energy Fund spokesman said the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research was conducting an environmental impact study of the oil storage deal.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports that Judge Jan Steyn said yesterday Saldanha Steel's claims that the inquiry would find in its favour were "pure speculation".

Steyn said statements by Iscor MD Hans Smith and Saldanha Steel executive chairman Bernard Smith, who were reported to have said they were confident the inquiry would give the mill the go-ahead, should not be seen as reflecting the view of the board of inquiry.

SD 30/8/95

(2) whether he will make a statement on the success achieved by the SAPS in ensuring that arms caches and firearms in general are being handed over to the authorities?  
N1102E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(1) No arms caches were officially disclosed to the South African Police Service by armed formations operating before 1 May 1994. According to information certain arms caches were pointed out to the SANDF, in terms of an agreement between the SANDF and other parties. It is, however, unknown whether certain arms caches still exist under the control of such former armed formations.

(2) No.

Mr H A SMIT: Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Minister's reply, he said "officially". Allow me to ask him whether there were any "unofficial" instructions.

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY: Not as far as I know. [Laughter.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Minister has made Mr Smit happy.

**Major removable body components of vehicles: identification marks**

\*6. Mr T C NTSIZI asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

(1) With reference to his reply to Question No 95 on 19 September 1994, when does he intend introducing legislation in terms of which the major removable body components of vehicles are to be marked with vehicle identification numbers;

(2) whether any closer ties in this regard have been established between the SAPS and international vehicle theft investigation agencies; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N1104E  
The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(1) The intended legislation has to be introduced by the Department of Trade and Industry, by way of the Standards Act. This Act Regulates the compulsory specifica-

tions for new motor vehicles. Majority consensus has to be obtained from the automobile manufacturers in South Africa and other users in the industry before such legislation can be introduced. Negotiations by the Vehicle Theft Unit, in this regard, are taking place with the various parties concerned.

(2) Yes.

The SAPS and the Southern Africa Branch of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATI) hosted an international conference on vehicle theft at Nylistroom during March 1995, which was attended by 8 Southern African police agencies ranging from Lesotho to Kenya.

**Aeroplanes belonging to South African Air Force: accidents**

\*7. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether any accidents involving aeroplanes belonging to the South African Air Force were recorded during the period 1 January 1990 up to the latest specified date for which information is available; if so, how many of these accidents occurred as a result of (a) human error and (b) mechanical failure;

(2) whether safety standards set and required by the SAAF are equivalent to safety standards set by the Department of Civil Aviation; if not, (a) why not and (b) what are the principal areas of difference; if so, what are the relevant details?  
N1105E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) Yes. Over the period 1 January 1990 to 31 July 1995 a total of 42 accidents involving South African Air Force aircraft were recorded.

(a) Of those 42 were attributable to human error, and  
(b) 18 were attributable to mechanical failure.

(2) I am informed that the safety standards set by the Air Force are in all instances equal to, or more stringent than those laid down by the Civil Aviation Authority. Flying in the South African Air Force is regulated by

a comprehensive set of safety standards, regularly measured against international standards by means of biennial courses presented by foreign experts.

All accidents involving aircraft of the South African Air Force are fully investigated by Boards of Inquiry consisting of specially trained investigators. The findings and recommendations of these Boards of Inquiry are then reviewed by specialist aviation safety managers at Air Force Headquarters, and finally by the Chief of the Air Force personally. Specialist staff then ensure that the applicable actions are taken to prevent a recurrence of similar accidents.

The aviation safety record of the South African Air Force compares very favourably with those of other air forces all over the world, and is the result of the Air Force's strong stance in this regard.

\*8. Dr B L GELDENHUYS—Foreign Affairs.†  
[Question standing over.]

**Contamination of water by cyanide**  
(56)  
\*9. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

Whether any evidence has been found of the contamination of water by cyanide (a) in the Province of Gauteng and (b) elsewhere to the extent that the food chain is being affected; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (i) what is the extent of the problem and (ii) how is such contamination being controlled?  
N1107E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

(a) To the knowledge of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry no cyanide pollution of water has been reported or found in the Gauteng Province.

(b) The Department is aware of two cases where cyanide pollution took place, viz. the Buffelsdoornspuit and the Merriespruit. In neither case was the food chain affected.

(i) Some sporadic cyanide spills occurred in the past in the North West Province in the Buffelsdoornspuit from the Elandsrand gold mine. Cyanide

levels during these spills were found to be of a low concentration which did not have negative effects on the food chain.

In the Free State Province, the only incident where cyanide could have had an impact was the Merriespruit slimes dam accident which took place about a year and a half ago. The day after the accident, monitoring indicated that the dilution caused by the rainstorm the previous evening prevented the cyanide from having any impact on the Sand River.

(ii) The contamination of the Buffelsdoornspuit is controlled by the construction of an emergency containment pit to intercept and contain possible future spills where it can be treated. The Elandsrand gold mine will do the required upgrade on their return water dam to ensure sufficient capacity that cyanide spills will not occur during rainfall events. A forum was established to address this problem. An intensive monitoring programme was instituted to monitor the progress and any possible spills. These spills constituted illegal discharges and pollution of the public stream and the Department intends laying charges with a view to prosecuting the mine.

The residual impact of the cyanide in the Merriespruit was controlled by the construction of retention dams. In the retention dams the cyanide was exposed to sunlight which broke it down into non-toxic substances. Daily monitoring of the Sand River showed no impact from the cyanide.

In the past commercial undertakings were apparently not easily prosecuted when pollution of water resources took place. In March this year the Department was strictly instructed to enforce all laws administered by the Department, especially those dealing with pollution. Transgressors will no longer be let off the hook. Everything possible is now done by the Department to obtain evidence and immediately lay charges in cases where water

pollution is evident. The Department usually assists Public Prosecutors in collecting evidence and formulating appropriate charges in order to expedite the prosecution of polluters.

#### Towns without transitional local councils

\*10. Mr C M MAKWETU asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development:

- (1) Whether, with reference to section 245 of the Constitution, read with section 2 of the Local Government Transition Act (Act No 209 of 1993), there are any municipal towns in the Province of Eastern Cape which have no transitional local councils; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) how many and (b) why in each case;
- (2) whether the nominees in respect of the Butterworth TLC, whose names were submitted to the Local Government Negotiating Forum of the town have been appointed; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N1108E

#### THE MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

(1) and (2) The information is unfortunately not readily available in the Department of Constitutional Development. To assist the honourable member the following information was obtained from officials of the Eastern Cape Province.

The only town in the Eastern Cape Province which have no Transitional Local Council is Butterworth. No consensus could be reached between the members of the Local Government Negotiation Forum and a Commissioner was subsequently appointed in terms of the Transkei Municipalities Act to run the affairs of the local authority.

Mr C M MAKWETU: Mr Speaker, arising from the reply of the hon the Minister, I have a number of questions to ask. Firstly, is it correct that the Butterworth Transitional Local Council Agreement, as published in the *Daily Dispatch* on 30 November 1994, was one of the municipal TLC agreements which, amongst others, was approved for promulgation?

If the answer is yes, why did the MEC for Housing and Local Government in the Eastern

Cape Province appoint 12 commissioners to replace 12 of the nominees agreed upon by consensus in the Butterworth Local Government Negotiating Forum, in compliance with the Local Government Transition Act. I am, in fact, surprised to hear the Minister say that there was no consensus.

If the answer is no, why was the Butterworth Transitional Local Council not promulgated, bearing in mind that it was established under the guidance of officials from the provincial committee for local government?

I have been reliably informed that in Case No 90 of 1995 in the Bisho Supreme Court, the appointment of commissioners by the MEC for Housing and Local Government was challenged by certain Butterworth residents as being unlawful and unconstitutional. The 12 commissioners were withdrawn unconditionally per tender submitted to the Bisho Supreme Court.

Can the hon Minister explain why the hon the MEC in the Eastern Cape had to do something illegal and unconstitutional, notwithstanding the fact that both the Premier and the MEC for Local Government had been warned by the legal advisers of the municipality of Butterworth that the appointments were illegal and unconstitutional?

#### THE MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Mr Speaker, I believe the hon member will know that this matter falls squarely under the authority of the Eastern Cape provincial government.

I obtained only the information I have given the hon member in this regard. However, I must add that I have the same queries as he has regarding the current situation in Butterworth. During the past week or so I have referred those queries directly to the Premier of the Eastern Cape Province, and asked him for a full report on the situation in Butterworth, because I believe it is one of great concern. The Premier has promised to give me a written report as soon as possible. I am following the matter up directly with him.

Mr C M MAKWETU: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, the question is put in no uncertain terms, as follows:

... whether the nominees in respect of the Butterworth TLC, whose names were submitted to the Local Government Negotiating Forum of that town have been appointed; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

I was expecting details from the hon the Minister. I did not expect him to say that this falls under the MEC in the Eastern Cape. This matter has already been taken up with the MEC in the Eastern Cape, but without satisfactory results. Hence I felt we should appeal to the Minister.

Is the hon the Minister asking for more time to investigate this matter, because there is a lot involved in this regard? I have a series of questions to ask in relation to this matter.

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I am quite prepared, as soon as I have received the information from the Premier, to share it with the hon member.

#### Minimum/maximum petrol price

\*11. Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

Whether he intends setting a minimum and maximum price for petrol; if not, why not; if so, when?

N1111E

#### THE MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:

The question of the way in which the retail price should be established and the extent to which it should be determined by Government or some other authority or market forces or a combination of these, is a complex one.

The Departments of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Trade and Industry and Finance are working together to draw up proposals. It is part of the process of consulting with the stakeholders involved, stakeholders who have differing and often conflicting interests, which have now been taking place for more than a year. The setting of a maximum and minimum retail petrol price is an option which can be considered as part of the Government's present process of reviewing Government involvement in the Liquid Fuels Industry.

#### Government funds for running of 1995 local government elections

\*12. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development:

Whether any government funds have been allocated to any Departments and/or organisations for the running of the 1995 local government elections; if not, what is the posi-

tion in this regard; if so, (a) what amount, (b) to which Departments and/or organisations and (c) what mechanisms have been devised to ensure that such funds are properly managed? N1112E

#### THE MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Yes.

(a) A total amount of R396.7 million (as approved by Cabinet on 8 February 1995 and reserved within the total expenditure level) will be made available on the Vote: Finance as a transfer payment for the local government elections to the Provincial Revenue Accounts (R323 731 million) and on the Vote: Constitutional Development (R72 969 million) in the Adjustments Estimate for 1995/96.

The provinces will have to appropriate these funds in their respective Provincial Adjustments Estimate for 1995/96 before 31 March 1996.

#### (b) Department/Province/ Organisation

Department/Province/ Organisation	Amount
Constitutional Development	R66 469 000
SABC	R6 500 000
Northern Province	R39 528 500
Mpumalanga	R25 248 000
Gauteng	R54 719 000
North West	R28 342 500
Free State	R22 363 500
KwaZulu-Natal	R74 242 000
Northern Cape	R6 764 000
Eastern Cape	R47 273 000
Western Cape	R25 250 500
Total	R396 700 000

(c) The funds for the local government elections being made available from the fiscus are conditional contributions towards total election costs via provincial budgets. Provinces will be accountable for the transfer payments voted on their Adjustments Estimates as will the Department of

'ENOUGH EVIDENCE THAT MILL POSES THREAT'

# Saldanha planning decision 'a mistake'

(56)  
~~1077~~

**THE** Steyn inquiry was urged yesterday to delay its findings on the Saldanha Steel mill until more information about its impact was available. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

**T**HE decision by planners "in armchairs" to earmark sections of the Saldanha region for heavy industry over two decades ago was a mistake — and the Steyn inquiry was the last chance to turn that around, the board heard yesterday.

This was said by counsel appointed to assist the board in the public interest, Mr Andrew Brown, who said it was essential the Steyn board of inquiry delay its findings on the controversial R4,7-billion Saldanha Steel mill until further information was available.

Mr Brown submitted there was enough evidence to show that the steel mill posed a threat to the environment. Yesterday was the final day of public hearings.

But counsel for Saldanha Steel, Mr Marius Helberg, urged the

board to advise Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers to allow to go ahead now.

"This is not a process to be followed with future industrial development. It will kill industrial development," he said.

Mr Helberg submitted there was no evidence that the steel mill would have a detrimental effect on the lagoon or the bird life. Evidence submitted on pollution was "mere supposition".

The Department of Water Affairs had testified that there was adequate water to supply the steel mill without any detriment to the environment.

Mr Helberg said Iscor had a legitimate expectation for their rezoning application to be heard now and not in the future.

Mr Brown urged the board to

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accept the precautionary principle of the Ramsar Convention that if there were any doubt about the potential negative impacts of a proposed development on a declared Ramsar wetland — like Langebaan Lagoon — the development should not go ahead.

## Pollutants

He said there was uncertainty about how much underground water could safely be extracted for use by the steel mill and about movement of underground water which could carry pollutants into the lagoon.

Mr Brown said the 1974 decision to earmark sections of the Saldanha region for heavy industry had been a mistake.

"The country is facing the last chance to turn that mistake around. Saldanha Steel has to be the victim of that mistake," Mr Brown said.

## Iran oil deal on hold after appeal by Steyn

MELANIE GOSLING

CT 30/8/96 (56) (1299)  
ENVIRONMENT Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers has agreed to put the Saldanha Iranian oil storage deal on ice after an appeal by the Steyn board of inquiry.

Mr Justice Jan Steyn met Dr De Villiers yesterday to ask that "no irreversible decision" leading to increased oil tanker shipping in Saldanha Bay be taken before the minister had studied the results of an environmental impact assessment commissioned by Portnet and an environmental risk assessment commissioned by the Strategic Fuel Fund.

The deal, which would increase shipping in Saldanha from 25 tankers a year to 75, was to have been signed this week.

● See Page 3

# Factions of Saldanha

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(56)

The Steyn board of inquiry, appointed in June by Environmental Affairs minister Dawie De Villiers to probe all aspects of the controversial proposal to build a R4,7 billion mini-steel mill at Saldanha Bay, is almost ready to formulate a recommendation. The board, headed by former Supreme Court judge Jan Steyn, has been sent some 100 written submissions and has several thousand pages of evidence from 57 witnesses who gave oral evidence since July 18. Yesterday, the board heard final arguments by counsel for both those in favour and against the proposed mill. Mr Steyn declined to be drawn on when he expected the board's recommendation to be ready, saying it had a substantial task on its hands and would not be rushed. Environment Reporter **JOHN YELD** summarises some of the final arguments — for and against — made to the board yesterday.

## THE CASE FOR ...

**SALDANHA Steel**, the would-be developer of the R4,7 billion mini-steel mill at Saldanha Bay, had been democratic, open and transparent in its development proposal — and had been “crucified” by its opponents as a result.

This was one of the submissions by Marius Helberg SC, for Saldanha Steel, in his concluding argument to the Steyn Board of Inquiry yesterday.

The developer had commissioned the CSIR to do an environmental impact assessment of its proposal, based on the Integrated Environmental Management procedure as defined by the Department of Environmental Affairs.

“Unfortunately, the larger proportion of the public (including many experts) did not understand the purpose of an environmental impact assessment and used this mainly as a tool in their attempt to expose the proponent's (Saldanha Steel's) alleged lack of openness and bona fides,” Mr Helberg said.

The issue of possible alternative sites for the proposed steel mill had been one of the most contentious.

But it was not for the board to direct investors where to make their profits “even if the facts were to show that in fact, financially, it will be a more viable investment to locate the project at Sishen or at any other site. This board's advice concerns environmental issues, not financial issues.”

The proposed oil deal between Iran and South Africa, using the Strategic Fuel Fund's storage facilities at Saldanha

Bay adjoining the proposed steel mill site, had “unjustifiably” been made an issue of.

“It is submitted that the harbour and the oil issues ... should have been irrelevant to the investigation of this board.”

Referring to secondary or downstream development, Mr Helberg said this was “a highly speculative issue.

“The example of Richards Bay clearly illustrates that it is almost impossible to forecast what the nature and extent of any development will be and, especially, when such development will commence.”

There had not been any evidence that South Africa would be in breach of its Ramsar Convention on the protection of wetlands commitments if the steel project went ahead, nor was there any evidence that it would cause significant pollution or risk to the “ecology”.

The National Parks Board had not submitted any evidence that the project would pollute or have a detrimental effect on the West Coast National Park and surrounding areas.

Evidence by the Wildlife Society, Earthlife Africa and Captrust had been “emotional, to some extent interesting, but irrelevant with reference to the issues to be considered by the board”, Mr Helberg argued.

Iscor — a 50 percent shareholder in Saldanha Steel — had a legitimate expectation that its rezoning application for the site of the proposed mill would be decided on as this (rezoning) was a regular practice.

## THE CASE AGAINST ...

**PLANNING** for the proposed R4,7 billion steel plant at Saldanha Bay allows the doubling of its capacity and therefore also the doubling of its waste products, but this has been overlooked by many experts evaluating the project.

This was a key aspect of the submission to the Steyn board of inquiry by Andrew Brown, appearing as a “friend of the board” to sum up arguments by people opposed to the steel mill but unable to afford legal representation.

Mr Brown said he believed the board of inquiry did not have sufficient information to be able to give the nod to the proposed plant and further studies were required.

And in a submission on behalf of the Northern Cape government and individual objector Carel Schouten, Willy Duminy SC said available evidence “strongly suggested” that the steel mill would have a substantial detrimental effect on the environment of Saldanha Bay and Langebaan Lagoon if it was allowed to be built on the preferred site.

The final environmental impact assessment did not form an adequate or satisfactory basis for further decision-making in relation to the proposed project, Mr Duminy said.

“The only justification given by the intended developer for selecting the proposed site was financial.”

In his argument, Mr Brown said it was evident that Saldanha Steel had not paid particular attention to the Ramsar Convention site of Langebaan Lagoon and the proposed Ram-

sar site at the mouth of the Berg River.

He argued that Saldanha Steel had failed to deal adequately with several concerns raised in the CSIR's environmental impact assessment.

These included the need for further study regarding threatened plants, the final waste water discharge of the plant and the cumulative impact of dust from industrial development in the area.

“It is submitted that there are numerous and substantive aspects of the proposed steel project which require clarification or further investigation,” Mr Brown said.

“I'm really arguing the need for informed decision-making.”

The design of the proposed steel plant allowed for the doubling of its capacity, and this would lead to the doubling of its waste products.

“This aspect had been overlooked by many of the experts,” Mr Brown said.

There was a good case for an environmental impact assessment of the plant operating at its full, double capacity.

“Saldanha Steel has chosen a complex, sensitive and contentious site for its development by applying economic criteria alone.

He submitted that the “precautionary principle” should be applied to an evaluation of the proposed site and that the board should either recommend that the site be refused or advise Environmental Affairs minister Dawie de Villiers that further studies or investigations were required.



# Row over state buildings

□ Approval 'not needed' for centre on sand dune

JENNY VALL  
Staff Reporter

WORK on a "cultural centre", being built on the sensitive sand dunes near Melkbosstrand, is going ahead in spite of a local authority order to demolish it and concerns about its effect on the environment.

The centre is being built by the Department of Education on its Culturama site.

Duncan Bates, chairman of the local council, the Cape Rural transitional metropolitan substructure, said plans submitted last year indicated the building would be sited away from the frontal dune system and restricted to one storey in height.

There was no specific mention of distances from the dune.

The plans were not followed, and building began on a primary sand dune, in spite of the department being given exten-

sive input on the environmental sensitivity of the area, Mr Bates said.

The council recommended in June that work stop immediately, the building be demolished and set back an acceptable distance and that the primary dune be reinstated.

Work stopped while the department sought legal advice and a Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) report on the damage to the dune was drawn up.

The education department then said that as a state department it was not required to get approval for the building from the council.

National building regulations required it to submit plans for information and comment only, it said.

Head of cultural affairs Herman Venter said his department had asked the CSIR to assess damage to the dune because it was concerned about the environment.

"The report stated that although the building was not sited according to the guidelines, the small area of the dune damaged could be rehabilitated and improved on.

"The building is on what used to be an informal gravel car-park anyway, so no fynbos was damaged.

"It is not financially viable to break down the building for not more than a 20 sq m infringement.

"A dune is a sensitive area, but it also depends on how you see the function of a primary dune.

"The primary dune is there to protect the builder, and is not used primarily for birds and plants. It's a shifting dune," he said.

Work has resumed on the centre.

But the issue was bigger than just the building infringement, said Derek Chittenden, a consultant for the Blouberg-

strand Melkbosstrand Local Structure Plan.

What was at stake was the role of local government.

"The issue is bigger than this site. It's about how powers are to be divided between provincial and local authorities.

"In spite of environmental policies and studies, state and provincial departments do what they want."

Mr Bates said the local authority decision had been ignored, yet the constitution stated that "parliament or a provincial legislator shall not encroach on the powers, functions and structure of a local government to such an extent as to compromise the fundamental status, purpose and character of local government".

He said: "We're sitting with old apartheid legislation, which is contrary to the constitution.

"While we have no legal recourse to rectify matters we will be taking the matter to the



**CULTURE VULTURE?** Controversy is raging between the local authority and the Department of Education about this "cultural centre" under construction on dunes near Melkbosstrand.

Minister of Education and the Western Cape Premier Herms Kriel.

Mr Chittenden said the centre was an eyesore and built with no regard to the environment.

"A large area of what little

Sandveld fynbos remains along that stretch of coast has been destroyed by the building operation, while the rootkrans behind the centre flourishes.

"This coast is already on a slippery slope of degradation. There's already so much damage from unlimited access because a large part of the Culturama site is not fenced off.

"This stretch has mostly invasive vegetation but there is some pristine Sandveld left."

Mr Venter denied that fynbos had been destroyed.

# Appeal puts Iranian oil storage deal in balance

JOHN YELD, ~~(199)~~ ~~(183)~~ (56)  
Environment Reporter

ARG 29/8/95  
ENVIRONMENT Minister Dawie de Villiers may delay the signing of a controversial deal with Iran to store oil at Saldanha Bay after an appeal by the Steyn Board of Inquiry.

The agreement with Iran is due to be signed this week.

And in another development, board chairman Mr Justice Jan Steyn told the inquiry today that positive statements by Iscor and Saldanha Steel executives and advertisements for staff for the proposed 4,7 billion steel plants at Saldanha Bay were "pure speculation" and did not reflect any preliminary view of the Steyn inquiry.

Today the Steyn board of inquiry met Dr De Villiers, asking him to take no irreversible decision leading to increased oil tanker traffic in the Saldanha Bay area before he had studied the results of impact assessments and a risk analysis now being done.

Mr Justice Steyn said after the meeting that Dr De Villiers had indicated he shared the board's concerns and "will urgently consider giving the assurance sought by us".

The Steyn Inquiry was appointed by Dr De Villiers to investigate the proposed R4,7 billion steel plant at Saldanha Bay.

The inquiry's request to Dr De Villiers comes on the eve of the signing of a contract between South Africa and the Iranian government which will see oil tanker traffic in Saldanha Bay increase from an average of 25 tankers a year to about 75.

In terms of the oil deal, the spare storage capacity at the Strategic Fuel Funds oil storage tanks at Saldanha Bay will be used to store Iranian oil and this will be traded out of Saldanha on the international market.

The Steyn inquiry is hearing final arguments this week.

Before the start of today's proceedings at a Woodstock hotel, chairman Jan Steyn read out a statement following the board's meeting with Dr De Villiers.

The board sought an assurance from Dr De Villiers that no irreversible decision would be taken which would lead to any

(To page 4)

# Oil deal in balance

(56) (183)  
(From page 1)  
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increase in oil related activities in Saldanha Bay without Dr De Villiers exercising appropriate powers in terms of the Environment Conservation Act to control oil related activities in the region.

They asked Dr De Villiers not to take a decision without taking "such steps as would give effect to recommendations emanating from studies as he deems appropriate."

● Mr Steyn said the board's attention had been drawn to weekend statements by Iscor managing director Hans Smith and Saldanha Steel executive chairman Bernard Smith regarding the board's possible findings.

The board had also been referred to certain advertisements for staff to be employed at the proposed mill.

The advertisement read: "We are involved in the development of a steel factory in Saldanha; we have resolved the critical issues such as the impact on the environment, water usage, etc. and are concentrating on the positive aspects such as providing social upliftment and job opportunities for the local populace."

Mr Steyn said it was self evident that these statements were "pure speculation" and were in no way to be seen as reflecting any preliminary view of the board.

"Indeed, we have not even begun to consider the voluminous testimony before us and we have most certainly not come to any conclusions."

Referring to the advertisement for staff, Mr Steyn said the efforts and expense of this initiative was clearly done at the risk of the developer.

"We wish to give all concerned the assurance that the board will in no way be influenced either by the statements or the advertisements concerned in the advice it gives to the Minister of Environmental Affairs."

Mr Steyn told journalists he could not give any indication when the board would make its final recommendation.

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*Storage and marketing windfall*

# SA, Iran sign oil deal

(56) (183) star 1/9/95

Cape Town - South Africa and Iran yesterday signed the first part of an oil storage and marketing deal that could earn SA about R50-million a year.

Mineral and Energy Affairs spokesman Roland Darroll said in Cape Town the deal allowing Iran to store about 15-million barrels of oil at Saldanha Bay had been signed in Tehran.

He said implementation of the deal would depend, however, on positive environmental impact reports by Portnet and the Council for Scientific and

Industrial Research as well as subsequent agreement on a marketing joint venture.

"The storage deal was signed by (Central Energy Fund general manager) Kobus van Zyl today, but the marketing part of the deal has still to be negotiated," he said.

Darroll said the two parts of the deal were interdependent and would be implemented together.

"No crude oil will flow to Saldanha Bay until the CEF board has satisfied itself as to the overall deal. That includes the

environmental safety as top priority and the financial aspect of it," he said.

The second part of the deal, which involves a profit-sharing agreement on marketing of the Iranian oil into Africa and South America, could be signed by the end of September.

Darroll said the marketing joint venture could, on the basis of past experience, be expected to earn SA at least R50-million a year.

The oil deal has been criticised by the United States which accuses Iran of sponsoring terrorism

and of trying to build weapons of mass destruction.

Washington tried to isolate Tehran internationally by imposing a trade ban in June but its calls to other nations to shun the Islamic republic have fallen on deaf ears.

South Africa might eventually reduce its strategic oil stocks from about four months' supply to about two months', but this would depend on details of the deal with Iran and an assessment of the country's fuel security, Darroll said. - Reuter.

~~57~~ (58)

**SALDANHA BAY**

**Planting doubts**

*FM 1/9/95*

**Despite** environmentalists' protests, observers are swinging to the view that the Steyn board of inquiry will approve Iscor's proposed Saldanha Steel plant near the internationally protected Langebaan wetlands on the Cape west coast.

Legal counsel for the environmentalists argued this week that Iscor hadn't made its case refuting fears of potential hazards from the plant and that the inquiry should delay a decision or vote against the site.

Others see it differently and say joint shareholders Iscor and the Industrial Development Corp (IDC) have allayed fears sufficiently for the project to be given the go-ahead. One observer goes so far as to say the result is "a foregone conclusion."

Iscor is certainly confident. MD Hans Smith says he believes the R4,7bn project will go ahead. The company has already started recruiting staff.

But Judge Jan Steyn has moved quickly to quash any talk of victory by the steel consortium. He says statements by Iscor MD Hans Smith and Saldanha Steel chairman Bernard Smith should not be seen as reflecting the view of the board of inquiry. "We have not even started to consider the testimony before us, nor come to any conclusions on the evidence," Steyn says.

Opponents of the project hope testimony by Iscor private shareholder Ian Moultrie — that Saldanha Steel had overstated the costs of moving the plant inland by two-thirds — could influence the decision. Moultrie says between May 2 and July 18, Saldanha Steel gave nine different estimates for the extra costs of moving the site. Additional capital costs varied between R60m and R132m; operating costs ranged from R42m a year to R500m over the first five years.

An independent consulting engineer found that Saldanha Steel had overestimated costs of equipment and surveys, over-

provided for damage and miscalculated interest charges. He said extra capital costs of R39m and operating costs of R17m would be more realistic. But Saldanha's Smith stands by the figures he put before the inquiry and questions the veracity of the independent costing.

Meanwhile, Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers has been asked by the board of inquiry to intervene in the impending deal to store Iranian oil at Saldanha. It has asked him to exercise his powers to control oil-related activities in the region. Steyn says it has become clear that oil storage and transport at Saldanha has considerable environmental significance. ■



**Smith . . . questioning veracity of independent costing**

## Firm refused permit for hazardous waste site

■ BY TAMSEN DE BEER

Waste Tech has been refused permission to open its hazardous waste site at Chloorkop, near Kempton Park, following a bid by the company to obtain a rezoning of the site.

The site was completed in July 1993, but had not been properly zoned.

The Kempton Park-Tembisa Metropolitan Substructure (MSS) refused Waste Tech's application to rezone the land from "agricultural" to "industrial", a statement said yesterday.

A two-year battle has been waged between Waste Tech, the public and the town council because the site was built 100m closer to residential homes than allowed by law.

Waste Tech's Margolis landfill site in Germiston closes to hazardous waste on December 31.

It is one of only two operating sites in Gauteng classified to handle lethal industrial waste.

According to Waste Tech managing director Ken Bromfield, the

(56) STAR 1/9/95  
company would continue to focus on waste recycling.

All Gauteng's hazardous waste, 8,4-million tons per year of mainly liquid waste, would be disposed at Enviroserv's Holfontein site in Springs next year, he said. This will effectively double the load on a site which is already battling to handle the amount of liquid waste coming onto its site.

The dump recently has had to illegally build a dam to contain excess liquid waste.

Bromfield said it was "no longer practical" for commercial companies such as Waste Tech and Enviroserv to "have sole responsibility for developing these contentious sites". Government decision-makers now had to make "the tough choices" concerning hazardous waste management.

Dr Henry Abbot, assistant director of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry reiterated Bromfield's words earlier this week, saying his "experience" had shown it was "better" for regional authorities to manage hazardous waste.

# Planting trees for (South) Africa

□ Tens of thousands to help green the country in Arbor Day celebration  
(26)  
ALG 1/9/95

JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter

TENS of thousands of South Africans will today help green the country and contribute to its spiritual regeneration by planting trees to mark Arbor Day.

The annual event is being celebrated at schools, parks and community centres around the country and even the victorious Springbok rugby side has been roped in to help plant trees on the eve of its encounter with Wales.

Arbor Day — moved from its traditional August slot to avoid frost damage to newly planted trees in inland areas — follows a new international study confirming that planting trees could help save the planet.

The northern hemisphere study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found that half the carbon dioxide emitted by burning fossil fuels was absorbed by plants, and that plants played a role more-or-less equal to the oceans in balancing the so-called greenhouse effect.

Co-author Pieter Tans said earlier studies had suggested that most carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was absorbed by the oceans, but their study showed plants played a role equal to the oceans in absorbing the atmospheric gas.

Deputy Environmental Affairs Minister Bantu Holomisa, who will officiate at an Arbor Day event at the Guguletu sports complex where Sappi has sponsored a week-long pro-

gramme for more than 10 000 pupils from 17 schools, said planting trees was not a luxury but a necessity in South Africa.

At a "green ball" in Sandton, Mr Holomisa also said it was essential for South Africans to have faith in the future, and that few human activities reflected such faith as forcibly as the act of tree planting.

"A commitment to the Reconstruction and Development Programme by all sectors of our society is essential to provide an acceptable livelihood for all our people.

"Arbor Day offers every South African the opportunity of expressing his or her goodwill towards the building up, and maintenance of this country's essential natural resources."

His department has appealed to everyone to wear green ribbons or green clothing and to tie green ribbons to car aerials "as proof of their concern".

Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal and the Grahamstown local transitional council are jointly hosting an Arbor Day celebration which includes the official inauguration of the National Arboretum for Peace and Reconciliation, in the grounds of the 1820 Settlers Monument.

At parliament, 550 yellow-wood trees donated by Stodels Nurseries are being given to Deputy Speaker Bhadra Ranchor and MPs.

The Springbok rugby team is helping plant trees in the barren landscape of Alexandra township in Gauteng in a pro-



**GREENING EFFORTS:** Some of the 10 000 pupils from 17 Guguletu schools who have been taking part in a week-long Arbor Day celebration. The trees were donated to their schools.

ject organised by Trees for Africa.

The Cape Town City Council's parks and forests branch has been giving 10 000 free trees to organisations and individuals during the past two weeks.

Cape Town mayor William Bantam is officiating at a tree-planting in a park in Mitchell's Plain.

In Khayelitsha, the Catholic Church's greening project Aba-

limi Bezekhaya and the Cape Flats Tree Project have organised an Arbor Day event to green the Nomsa Mapongwana School and clean up the surrounding area.

It is being staged in memory of well-known Khayelitsha community leader Michael Mapongwana and his wife Nomsa, both of whom died in political violence.

Also in Khayelitsha, children from Heideveld Primary

School will plant trees at the Red Cross Resource Centre in the town centre of the Harare squatter camp, in a symbolic gesture of friendship.

This initiative is organised by the Lions Club and Red Cross.

The Wildlife Society has organised special Arbor Day packs, which include environmental fact sheets, teachers' manuals, booklets, stickers and

a "forest eco-puzzle".  
In Jonkershoek, Safcol is opening its "yellowwood educational trail".

At Total service stations, 600 000 packets containing seeds of indigenous trees, and information by the Department of Forestry on how to grow them, are being distributed to motorists.

Special postage stamps are available at Sabie, George and Port Edward.

**NEWS FEATURE**

Trying to get its land back, a clan faces the parks board and mines

By Joshua Raboroko

**A** MAJOR NEW ROW OF BREWING in KwaZulu-Natal after threats by the Mkhwanazi clan to occupy eastern shores of St Lucia Lake unless their land claims are resolved soon.

Alarm bells are already ringing after about 10 000 residents from Dukuduku, who were forcibly removed from their ancestral land, visited family graves recently and vowed to return.

The people claim that the entire eastern area north of the Crocodile Centre up to St Mary's Hill belongs to them.

After they were removed during the apartheid era, trees were planted on their land and wild animals introduced. The area is now a tourist attraction.

**Forcibly removed**

Chief Mzondeni Mkhwanazi said: "In the 1950s our people were forcibly removed from these areas. I have tried to fight for the return of our land, but without success.

"The people are deeply frustrated that they were deprived of their land while others are now benefiting. The people are ready to occupy the land. However, the provincial government pleaded with them not to return before their land claims were resolved

to avoid serious conflict that might result in bloodshed.

The clan threatened to move to the park in the area, prompting the Natal Parks Board to seek police assistance.

The land is now being kept under constant vigil by the authorities, who before often conducted raids and arrested and prosecuted those evicted residents for the return of their land has become a matter of great concern for the board and for Richards Bay Minerals.

The board has recommended that the rightful landowners should be compensated for their forced removal, but should not be allowed to resettle. In their view, resettlement would conflict with plans to have the area



Induna Samuel Ntuli ... his people want to return to their land near St Lucia Lake.

evicted residents for the return of their land has become a matter of great concern for the board and for Richards Bay Minerals.

The board has recommended that the rightful landowners should be compensated for their forced removal, but should not be allowed to resettle. In their view, resettlement would conflict with plans to have the area

to avoid serious conflict that might result in bloodshed.

# Trouble brewing over St Lucia land

Sowetan 1/9/95 (271) (56)

on the land to earn a living." Their homes were made of concrete blocks. Malnutrition, poverty, unemployment, lack of water, sewerage, electricity and recreational facilities soon became major worries for them.

Conservation of the forest became the priority of the National Parks Board, forcing some of them to flee to barren lands in Mthunzwa.

The claims of evicted residents for the return of their land has become a matter of great concern for the board and for Richards Bay Minerals.

The board has recommended that the rightful landowners should be compensated for their forced removal, but should not be allowed to resettle. In their view, resettlement would conflict with plans to have the area

to avoid serious conflict that might result in bloodshed.

The board has recommended that the rightful landowners should be compensated for their forced removal, but should not be allowed to resettle. In their view, resettlement would conflict with plans to have the area

**Our cattle died because there was no water or grazing land. We also did not have fields to plant vegetables. We depend on the land to earn a living.**

and the development of business.

But will these projects actually benefit anyone or are they just meaningless buzz words?

A representative of the evicted people, Mr Phincas Mbuyazi, said: "I am dissatisfied because we submitted a number of issues regarding our land.

"We indicated that we were forced from our land by the Department of Forestry. We were then forced to live under terrible conditions.

"We were separated from our customs and from the areas where we actually communicate with our ancestors." Mbuyazi said he would not have any objections to job creation because the area he wants to occupy has "nothing to do with mining".

An *induna* of the tribe, Mr Samuel Ntuli said: "We want our land back. We also want additional land for agriculture and grazing."

Ntuli said the Natal Parks Board had no jurisdiction over the area.

The KwaZulu-Natal government and the land claims court need to release their findings before there is bloodshed.

**Ecotourism and mining**

The company claims that, by mining the area, it will be able to provide homes, clinics, schools and creches as well as create jobs and wealth for the disadvantaged communities.

The board argues that ecotourism is a balanced compromise between the conservation of natural and cultural resources, tourism and economic benefit to local communities.

Ecotourism will encourage tourism to the benefit of disadvantaged rural communities without damaging the environment.

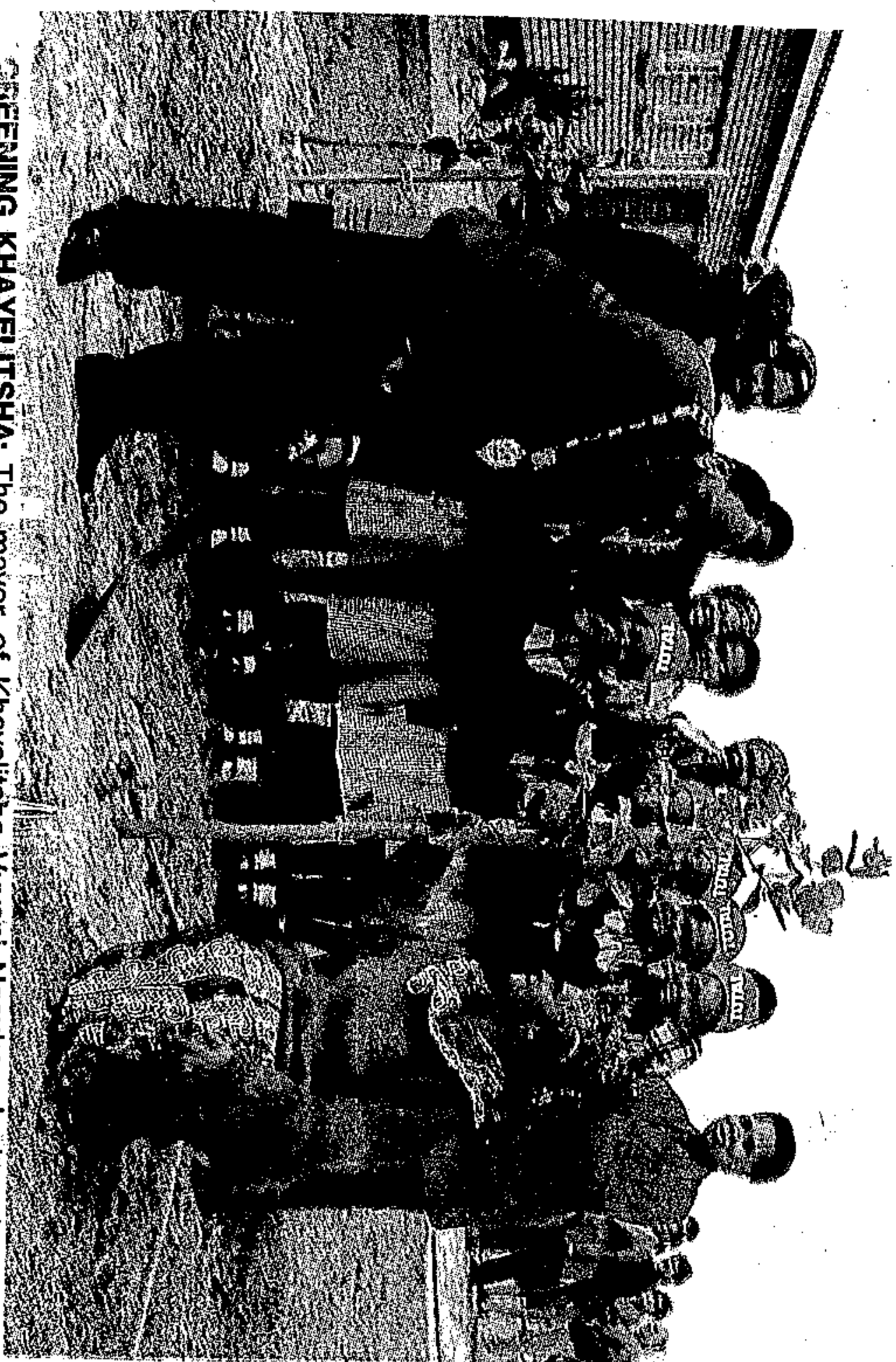
However, RBM's communications affairs manager Mr Jabu Kubheka, they believe ecotourism and mining can go hand-in-hand.

The want to mine the ore in the area, but they also intend to plough back the interest into community projects such as schools, clinics, housing



# Khayelitsha folk add green to dusty streets

**ADELE BALETA**  
Staff Reporter



**GREENING KHAYELITSHA:** The mayor of Khayelitsha Vuyani Ngeuka, plants a tree on our Day yesterday while Nompumelelo Tywakadi, principal of the Nomsa Mapongwana school looks on.

Picture: JACK LESTRADE

AS the battle rages on in the highest court of the land over who will take responsibility for Khayelitsha, the people living there are getting on with transforming the wasteland into a greener area.

In the township, which is 90 per cent "desert", pockets of greenery are emerging, said Rob Small of Abalimi Bezekhaya, a non-governmental organisation which assists residents in the greening of the township in the absence of official services.

■ Khayelitsha residents are not waiting for the courts to determine their future. They are getting on with trying to improve their environment.

Yesterday, on Arbor Day, pupils from Nomsa Mapongwana School planted more than 200 trees and shrubs and collected refuse in the area.

Mr Small said greening the township had caught on in the imaginations of residents. "Thousands of people are planting vegetables, trees, grasses and shrubs in their own homes," he said.

The Manyamani Peace Park in A-section was once "a dusty wasteland but it is now a beautiful green jewel

*Msq 2/1995*

*(56)*

above the roof line. There are a variety of shrubs and vegetables. But in the newly established areas like Makhaze and Harare there is only sand.

"The climate is harsh and it's very difficult to get anything to grow in those areas. In summer the sand reflects the sun and it is very hot. In winter the area is flooded and during the in-between months there are gale force winds. It's a tough environment for vegetation," Mr Small said.

Mr Small said there was a lot of resentment among residents who believe funds for community services have been whittled away by corrupt Lingelthu West town councillors.

## Angry Asmal may prosecute 'irresponsible' Enviroserv (56)

Star 2/9/95

The waste disposal company Enviroserv contravened conditions of its permit by constructing a toxic waste dam in Holfontein near Springs, Water and Energy Affairs Minister Kader Asmal said yesterday.

He had instructed his department to urgently look into the contravention with a view to prosecution.

"The company Enviroserv ... has constructed a dam and has made other changes to the approved development plan without obtaining the department's approval as required in terms of the permit and even without its knowledge," Asmal said in a statement.

The potential damage to human health and the environment "by such irresponsible action cannot be tolerated", the minister said.

"An example must be set to other potential polluters and the department is intent on doing so."

*The Star* reported on Thursday that Enviroserv had built the dam to contain toxic waste leaking from its hazardous waste site.

Enviroserv managing director Dick Pienaar said the firm of consulting engineers contracted to build the dam had told him that permission had been received from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, but this was denied by an official. - Sapa

## 'No approval for toxic waste dam'

JOHANNESBURG. — Waste disposal company Enviroserv contravened conditions of its permit by building a toxic waste dam in Holfontein on the East Rand, Water and Energy Affairs Minister Kader Asmal has said.

Professor Asmal said in a statement that he had instructed his department to look into the contravention with a view to prosecution.

"The company Enviroserv ... has built a dam and has made other changes to the approved development plan without obtaining the department's approval as required in terms of the permit and even without its knowledge," Professor Asmal said. (56) ARG 2/9/95

The potential damage to human health and the environment "by such irresponsible action cannot be tolerated", he said. "An example must be set to other potential polluters."

A Johannesburg newspaper on Thursday reported Enviroserv built the dam to contain toxic waste leaking from its hazardous waste site near Springs.

Enviroserv MD Dick Pienaar said the firm of consulting engineers contracted to build the dam had told him he had permission from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, but this was denied by a department official. — Sapa.

*Conservationists move mountains to protect the Cape environment*

# Price of saving natural asset

BY ANITA ALLEN  
SCIENCE WRITER

What price would South Africans be prepared to pay for the protection and conservation of Table Mountain?

This question has relevance in light of the latest initiative by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), which has put the price tag at R25-million.

At the launch of the Custodians of Table Mountain Fund in Johannesburg last week, the WWF gave notice that the Table Mountain project, and its declaration as a World Heritage site, had been moved to the top of its fundraising agenda.

The Table Mountain Fund was launched by Sir Edmund Hillary in May 1993, but in a change in fund-raising strategy, the WWF is now seeking a capital investment of R25-million. The idea is to

leave the capital intact and to use the annual interest from the fund to halt and reverse environmental deterioration throughout the Cape Peninsula, an area of some 300 sq km.

A checklist of why the project is being regarded as urgent includes the facts that:

- The area between Table Mountain and Cape Point is the latest bio-diversity hotspot, with the highest concentration of threatened species on any continental area of equivalent size in the world
- It has more plant species - 2 256 - than the entire British Isles and is the centre of bio-diversity of local, national and international importance
- Table Mountain is the best-known natural feature in South Africa
- It is the second most important eco-tourism destination in South

**THE WWF has launched a R25-million appeal to save the fairest Cape**

Africa, after the Kruger National Park

- It is the Western Cape's most valuable natural asset, and
- It is probably the most threatened of the important protected areas of southern Africa.

WWF South Africa chief executive John Hanks said that while all contributions to the fund would be welcomed and acknowledged, what was needed was the immediate injection of capital. For this reason the latest appeal was being made for individuals to become custodians.

This means making donations ranging from R10 000 to R250 000

or more. The funds can be made in cash, through a bequest in a will, or through an interest-free loan. The loans are being underwritten by Old Mutual and the WWF will guarantee the repayment of the full donation after five years.

In return, custodians will have their names inscribed on a special plaque to be displayed on a prominent site on Table Mountain. They receive a certificate and specially designed tie or lapel pin and will be kept informed about progress.

Custodians will also be invited to attend a special dinner in Cape Town in the next month. The event will be attended by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, International President of the WWF.

In addition, the WWF is offering a limited edition of the first definitive study of the plant genus, *Mimetes*, text by John

Rourke and illustrations by Thalia Lincoln. The leatherbound 650mm x 480mm collector's item weighs in at an impressive 8kg and is available at R1 950. The size of the pages was dictated by the size of the illustrations, which, in turn, were determined by the plant sizes.

At the launch dinner in Johannesburg last week, Swissair became the newest custodian, with a gold-status donation of R50 000. The highest status is platinum - R250 000 or more.

Handing over the cheque, Swissair marketing and sales manager, Bernard Strauffer said his organisation was proud of its reputation as the world's most ecologically friendly airline and was glad to be associated with the Table Mountain Fund. Its previous involvement was the organisation of a clean-up campaign by schoolchildren from Khayelitsha.



Attest hotspot ... the protection of Table Mountain and the Cape Peninsula moves to the top of the conservation agenda of the World Wide Fund for Nature.

## SADF 'hoarded crates of poached ivory'

DURBAN — The SADF hoarded scores of crates of poached ivory at a weapons store in Namibia in 1979, a former military intelligence officer said yesterday.

Former army captain Desmond Burman told an inquiry he had seen about 60 army crates filled with ivory in the store at Rundu in what was then South West Africa.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species has banned trade in ivory and rhino horns since 1989.

The commission, appointed by President Nelson Mandela, is probing the role of South Africans in smuggling these products from Mozambique and Angola.

Burman said he had seen crates of ivory

(56) BD 6/9/95  
in the store. "It was hard to estimate how many tusks there were because with the smaller tusks, a lot were packed into a crate and bigger tusks were cut up . . . but I estimated there were about 60 crates."

He confronted the camp's commanding officer and after a heated exchange was transferred back to SA the next day. "I had the feeling I was being kept away . . . that people were slaughtering elephants to line their own pockets. I did not realise there was a co-ordinated operation to help Unita in its war effort."

The commission heard last week that the SADF helped Unita smuggle ivory to raise funds in the late 1970s. — Reuter.

# Third World rethinks toxic waste 'imperialism'

(56) ET(M) 7/9/95

FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES

If moral issues were simple, the Basle convention in Switzerland would be a clear victory against the forces of darkness.

For decades, businesses from rich countries used to dump poisonous waste in poor countries to escape environmental regulations at home — a trade described as "toxic imperialism" by Greenpeace.

Last year, after a campaign by poor countries, such dumping was made illegal.

Under the auspices of the Basle convention, more than 100 countries agreed to ban the export of hazardous waste from the rich countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to their poorer brethren.

But now the rights and wrongs of the ban look less

straightforward. On September 18 in Geneva, a group of Third-World businessmen will complain at a meeting of governments which signed the ban that it could harm the very countries it was intended to protect. Even some poor-world governments who originally supported the ban are now having second thoughts.

Nobody is against the outlawing of exports of hazardous wastes for disposal, a ban which is already in effect. The row is over prohibition of the export of hazardous waste for recycling, which is not due to be enforced until the end of 1997.

Few recycling plants in poor countries comply with rich-world standards — so any such exports may end up damaging the environment.

Yet many poor countries rely on recycled scrap —

much of which could be regarded as "hazardous", to produce raw materials such as aluminium, lead, zinc, steel and paper. Poor-country imports of metal scrap from OECD countries have risen eightfold since 1980.

Much of this scrap trade involves the fast-growing economies of China, India and Malaysia, which need lots of metals for their vast infrastructure projects.

Scrap-processing firms in poor countries worry that the ban could cut off their supplies.

For example, Indian Lead, a company which recycles lead from residues and old car batteries, imports about a quarter of its scrap from OECD countries.

Bhagwan Thadhani, its managing director, claims that a ban on such imports might mean closure for his firm.

How much economic damage the ban will cause depends largely on how the convention's signatories define hazardous waste. So a crucial battle over definitions is now beginning.

Business lobbies — originally just from OECD countries, but now joined by those from the poor world — complain that the definitions in the convention could include all sorts of scrap.

A large consignment of generally harmless material, they say, might be classified as "hazardous" because it contains tiny quantities of toxic waste such as lead.

Environmentalists deny they want to end exports of such "clean scrap". But they will fight any attempt to weaken definitions.

Jim Puckett, a Greenpeace campaigner, admits that the ban might have a damaging impact on

some poor-world industries.

He argues that the small harm done will be more than outweighed by the environmental and health benefits of a strict ban.

Poor countries seem not to have weighed the costs and benefits when they called for the ban.

No one has calculated the economic costs, nor the environmental harm.

Only now, as their businessmen start to grumble, are governments weighing the interests of the economy and those of the environment.

Poor countries may still conclude that it is worth some economic pain to improve their environmental standards. But at least the debate will have become more sophisticated.

# Council considering job of managing mountain

CT 8/9/95

(56)

## MUNICIPAL REPORTER

THE Cape Metropolitan Council may bid for the job of managing and conserving the Table Mountain chain.

At the moment this is done by several different authorities.

Policy on managing the mountain has up to now been set by a Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment advisory board.

Metro planning committee chairman Mr Louwtjie Rothman said at a meeting yesterday that one option was for the National Parks Board to govern Table Mountain from Pretoria.

Another option was to establish a completely new statutory body, comprising everyone who should

be involved, and have the government carry 90% of the finances and the CMC the other 10%. But a proliferation of bodies was not desirable either, he said.

Mr Rothman said it took nearly R35m a year to manage the mountain properly, yet the country's entire conservation budget is about R200m. Table Mountain needs to take up 17% of the country's annual conservation funds.

He doubted that anywhere near the required amount for Table Mountain would be forthcoming from the central government.

"If this council must pay, then this council must have the say."

It should be advised by a management team of experts. No new bureaucracy was needed, he said.

# Furious Mokaba fears toxic hush-up

(56) CT 8/9/95

## STAFF REPORTER

THE cabinet has reversed a decision to hold a commission of inquiry into a permit being issued to import toxic waste — and has ordered an internal investigation to be conducted by the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism instead.

Last night an "extremely angry" Mr Peter Mokaba, chair-

man of the National Standing Committee on the Environment, said the decision could lead to a cover-up.

The department, which was clearly at fault, cannot investigate itself, he said, and called for the commission to be held.

Recently a shipment of 500 tons of cupric arsenate, approved by the department was halted at Antwerp, Belgium and ordered to

be returned to Finland. A permit approving the import was apparently signed by a Mr Daan Malan on a government letterhead.

Mr Mokaba said he thought the matter was going to be examined by an independent commission of inquiry but the cabinet decided on Wednesday to hold an internal departmental investigation.

His committee's decision had already been discussed with the

ANC head office, a study group in Parliament and with deputy minister, Mr Bantu Holomisa, he said.

"I don't know how the department can investigate itself when the department was clearly at fault.

"I think it (the cabinet decision) will lead to a cover-up," Mr Mokaba said.

Earthlife Africa, Cape Town, said it regarded the cabinet decision as "totally unacceptable".



# 'Toxic waste a threat to water supply'

(56)

CT8/9/95

DURBAN: The lack of regulated sites for disposing of toxic waste posed a threat to drinking water, the managing director of South Africa's biggest hazardous waste disposal company said yesterday.

"If we don't get to a situation ... where we have regulated and controlled ... disposal facilities, we aren't going to be able to drink the water in this country," Waste-tech's Mr Ken Bromfield said.

"We're in danger of polluting our ground water sources."

He added the lack of properly regulated sites meant people would simply dump their toxic waste: "(Waste) is just going to start disappearing down sewers, stormwater drains and into the veld," he warned.

Mr Bromfield was reacting to a recent statement by Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Mr Kader Asmal, who said Waste-tech's disposal site in Umlazi should "preferably" be closed within six months, following complaints that it was a health hazard.

The site is used to process domestic and semi-hazardous waste from industries and 15 local authorities in kwaZulu/Natal.

Waste-tech's regional director Mr Richard Saunders said it would take up to two years to close the site. — Reuter

# New Claims of SADF Ivory Smuggling

A former national serviceman has claimed that SADF involvement in illicit ivory smuggling continued well into the 1980s, writes **Ann Eveleth**

**A** JUDICIAL commission of inquiry heard claims this week that the old South African Defence Force (SADF) was involved in ivory smuggling on behalf of Angola's Unita rebels until at least 1987.

Testimony by former national serviceman Fernando Gomes contradicted earlier SADF claims to the Kumbleben Commission of Inquiry into ivory and rhino horn smuggling that its involvement in the illicit ivory trade to fund Unita had ceased in 1979. Gomes — who approached the

commission last week after reading press reports of SADF testimony that the force's involvement ceased in 1979 — said he saw an SADF commander allow ivory transportation by Unita soldiers through the Caprivi Strip as late as 1987.

Gomes, who was doing his national service at the Western Caprivi Omega base during 1986 and 1987, said the SADF set up a roadblock outside the Omega base after an informant told him ivory was being smuggled from eastern Caprivi to Rundu in Namibia.

On the second day of the roadblock, a lorry driven by two Unita soldiers was stopped. "I looked into the back of the truck and saw tusks under a canvas sheet. They were all a metre long or longer — about 50 of them."

Gomes said when he asked the soldiers for a permit, they replied that they had permission, but no permits, and refused to give the destination. He

said the base commander then made a phone call and came back and gave the soldiers' permission to proceed. Two to three weeks later, Gomes was transferred to Windhoek without explanation.

Former special forces corporal Abraham Gedula testified earlier that he had seen SADF soldiers transporting ivory as late as 1986. He told the commission this week that SADF Major Marius Meiring had sent out ivory hunting parties, which included Bushmen employed by the army, from 1980.

Meiring and another SADF member were extradited to the United States in 1989 and convicted of illegally dealing in ivory and rhino horn as well as weapons.

South Africa's commercial "underworld" was also implicated in evidence heard this week. Former SADF special forces officer Gray Branfield testified

that several heavy vehicle transport companies were involved in smuggling operations between South Africa and neighbouring countries which included ivory and rhino horn.

Branfield was assigned to infiltrate "anti-government forces" in neighbouring countries, particularly Zambia, Namibia and Botswana in the early 1980s.

Following intelligence reports that these organisations used "the South African underworld" to finance their operations, Branfield placed several of his operatives as drivers with cargo operators going into neighbouring countries.

His operatives reported to him that several of the cargo companies and drivers were involved in smuggling ivory, rhino horn, cobalt and precious stones.

Under cover as a hardwood buyer, Branfield then recruited an old friend

Rouse, for assistance. Rouse set up a timber company called African Timber, and Branfield's operatives were employed as drivers.

Branfield then discovered that Rouse was using the operatives to smuggle ivory in a false compartment in his trucks.

During trips to Zambia, the drivers were told to leave the truck with a curio dealer named Hans Beck overnight. When Branfield opened up the compartment on one occasion, he discovered "27 large ivory tusks and five rhino horns".

Branfield said it appeared to him that Rouse and Beck, together with Beck's sister Goodran and girlfriend Brenda Voue were in business together "either smuggling or what-ever ... I believe they were a general wholesaler of curios in Johannesburg".

26/11/85 (56) 8-14/19/195

# Kruger will stop culling if ...

(56) W/M 8-14/9/95

If enough money can be raised, Kruger Park elephants will be relocated instead of culled next year, writes **Eddie Koch**

**T**HE controversial elephant cull in the Kruger Park will stop next year if the National Parks Board succeeds with an ambitious plan to raise funds from international animal rights organisations to expand South Africa's game reserves.

The parks board this week confirmed reports that it has launched the Elephant Relocation Project and appointed a private consultant to solicit funds from groups which have mounted a vociferous campaign, mainly in Europe and the United States, against the annual elephant cull in the Kruger Park.

A letter sent by the consultant, Rozanne Savory, to some of these organisations, says their money will be used to expand the country's wildlife parks and then transfer to them herds of elephant that would otherwise have been shot.

The shooting of a few hundred elephants in the Kruger Park every year, which the parks board says is designed to prevent the herds from becoming big enough to destroy the natural habitat, has been at the centre of the country's most heated environmental debates in recent years.

Anthony Hall-Martin, national parks' director for research and development, told the *Mail & Guardian* that "it is our intention to develop an alternative to culling" and added that Savory was in the United Kingdom this week to set up the fundraising drive.

"The National Parks Board prefers elephant relocation to culling, but we are looking at a short-term solution. If enough funds can be generated, no family groups will have to be culled next year, but the board still regards culling as a wildlife management option," he said.

"We are in the process of reviewing the scientific basis of our elephant management policy. That, however, is an ongoing process which will not be completed before March 1996 at the earliest. In the meantime, however, we are more than willing to



**Tug of war: Animal rights activists want the culling of elephants to stop but some conservationists disagree**

PHOTOGRAPH: PATRICIA VOSS

accommodate the substantial body of public opinion, especially overseas, which wants us not to kill any more elephants."

The move marks a dramatic shift on the part of Kruger's management, which has, until now, maintained that the cull is necessary to keep the park's population at around 7 500 animals — said to be the maximum number that the vegetation in the reserve can support.

Said David Grossman, ecologist and member of the North West Province's new conservation board: "I don't believe that it has ever been established to the general satisfaction of scientists, either locally or abroad, that it is necessary to cull elephants in the Kruger National Park at present levels on so-called scientific grounds."

But the new policy shift has also prompted strong criticism from conservationists inside South Africa and in other neighbouring states who see the parks board as capitulating to

sentimental demands from animal rights organisations.

Groups in favour of elephant culling argue that animal products are an important source of revenue for conservation programmes and rural development programmes in and around national parks.

They point out that Kenya recently abandoned the practice of culling elephants in order to obtain foreign funds and that this source of revenue is notoriously fickle — especially in a situation where massive amounts are required to maintain and protect wildlife areas.

"Colleagues in Zimbabwe and others feel we are embracing these organisations and turning our backs on those African states which insist on the right to make sustainable use of their natural resources," said Hall-Martin.

"This is not the case. If Rozanne Savory can co-ordinate funds from NGOs to increase the National Parks Board's capacity to relocate ele-

phants to other national parks we will be delighted. To what extent this will impact on the elephant culling programme in the Kruger National Park will be determined by how much money is forthcoming."

He denied the move was in response to a threatened consumer boycott from groups overseas, saying this was "a small group of people" who had little impact on the credibility of the parks board overseas. The South African Tourism Board has, however, come out against the cull because of its possible negative impact on tourism arrivals.

Care For The Wild, one of the largest NGOs opposed to the culling, has already sent an appeal for its members to foster a baby elephant called Aitong who was orphaned in the Kruger cull.

In exchange for about R120 (£20) members are offered "an adorable photo of Aitong and a video featuring Aitong and all the other orphans".

## Probe into toxic waste permit

A PERMIT to allow hazardous waste from Finland into South Africa would be probed even though a cabinet committee had turned down a judicial inquiry, said deputy environment minister Bantu Holomisa.

"The department's recommendation that there be a commission of inquiry to investigate the controversial (Finnish) toxic waste to South Africa has been turned down by the cabinet committee on economics on the ground that it would be costly to do so," Mr Holomisa said yesterday in a statement.

"The investigations will continue, but it will not be a commission of in-

(56) ART 9/9/95  
quity."  
Mr Holomisa had proposed the inquiry to investigate the legal, financial and administrative terms of the permit for a Benoni firm to recycle 500 tons of waste from a Finnish company.

Last month environment minister Dawie de Villiers said South Africa was barring the import of toxic waste, including the Finnish shipment, after environmentalists exposed details of the deal and the permit.

Activists said the cargo included chemicals that could cause cancer and at least 16 percent arsenic in copper arsenide cake. — Reuter.

## Toxic deal permit probe

(56) Star 9/9/95  
A permit to allow hazardous waste from Finland into South Africa would be probed even though a Cabinet committee had turned down a judicial inquiry, Deputy Environment Minister Bantu Holomisa said yesterday. Holomisa proposed that the inquiry investigated the permit for a Benoni firm to recycle 500 tons of waste from a Finnish company. Last month Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers said SA was barring the import of toxic waste, including the Finnish shipment, after environmentalists exposed details of the deal and the permit. - Reuter

# Control of protected land: Storm brews

By CHARL DE VILLIERS (56)

A MAJOR row is brewing over land control in the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE) only days before contenders publicly motivate their bids to manage the world-famous nature destination.

ST(M) 10/9/95  
The National Parks Board, Cape Nature Conservation and Cape Metropolitan Council will present their cases to an official advisory committee on Wednesday and Thursday.

The Table Mountain and Peninsula Advisory Committee's public hearings on management submissions will be held at the Reiger Hall, Good Hope Centre, on Wednesday and Thursday.

Copies of the documents are available for public viewing at libraries at Athlone, Fish Hoek, Bellville, Guguletu, Khayelitsha, Milnerton, Westridge, Tokai, Wynberg and Central Cape Town.

Written comment on the submissions must be sent to the TMPAC secretary at Private Bag X7, Claremont, 7735, by September 25. Or call 762-1166.

# Saldanha oil spill raises fears for storage plan

(163) (1888) (51) ST(M) 10/9/95  
FIVE thousand litres of oil have spilled into Saldanha Bay at a terminal where South Africa hopes to handle 15-million barrels of Iranian crude in a controversial R50-million annual storage deal.

Most of the spill, which occurred on Friday, had been contained by booms but some slick had escaped and reached the boundaries of the West Coast National Park by early yesterday, port and parks spokesmen said.

The spill from the Hawaiian King comes just one week after the Strategic Fuel Fund announced the first steps of an environmental impact assessment which will determine if the Iranian oil pact can be activated.

This probe was advised by a judge investigating Iscor's plans for a steel mill nearby and who heard evidence that Saldanha Bay's tanker traffic could be trebled to 75 vessels a year if the oil deal came off.

Some critics have sketched an ecological nightmare if a major slick were to reach the internationally-rated Langebaan Lagoon wildlife haven.

However, in this instance standard safety precautions had averted a crisis, Saldanha Bay port captain Dave Duncan said yesterday.

"The ship was already surrounded by booms when the leak happened about 1.45pm on Friday, and more booms were brought in and put around those already in place," he said.

Extra personnel had been brought in to help with the clean-up and oil which had made it into open water had been

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

treated with a chemical dispersant.

The oil had spilled from the ship which was taking on Arabian light crude from the Strategic Fuel Fund's vast tank farm, Capt Duncan said.

The ship had already been fined R50 000 by the Department of Transport.

West Coast National Park chief warden Otto von Kaschke said some of the treated slick had reached his park's marine boundary at the mouth of the Langebaan Lagoon about 6km from the oil terminal early yesterday.

Oil had also been reported on beaches between Langebaan and Club Mykonos.

"It's not a disaster, but spills like this are always worrying," he said from the park which surrounds the Langebaan Lagoon, a destination for 70 000 migratory waders each year.

The lagoon is rated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar convention.

# Nyati pay inquiry will also cover provincial parks board

By JUSTIN ARENSTEIN

THE Mpumalanga special commission of inquiry into allegations that private consultant Eugene Nyati was paid up to R15 000 a day to investigate waste and inefficiency in three parastatals was widened this week to include an earlier commission into the province's parks board.

Mpumalanga Premier Matthews Phosa placed a moratorium on the activities of the development corporations and the Mpumalanga Parks Board and sent the staff of the bodies home on Monday, with orders not to speak to the press.

Mr Phosa also declined to release the report of the latest commission before tomorrow, despite commission head Brian Shroobree's arguing for its immediate release.

Mr Shroobree, who is a special adviser to the Premier, was appointed to investigate allegations that Mr Nyati, contracted to restructure three development corporations in the province, was being paid higher-than-usual rates and that tender procedures had not been followed.

The Mpumalanga Parks Board was included in the inquiry because, Mr Phosa said, both Mr Nyati and

(56) (250)  
fellow commission member Ntsoaki Mohapi had served on the commission which had brought about the creation of the board.

Documentation leaked to the press two weeks ago indicated that Mr Nyati and Ms Mohapi were paid R1,23-million and R342 000 respectively for two months of work on the Kangwane Economic Development Corporation, the Kwandebele Development Corporation and Agriwane.

The documents also indicated that, as interim executive chairman of the Mpumalanga Economic Development Corporation, Mr Nyati had incurred R96 153 travel expenses and had authorised the awarding of a catering contract to a relative of his assistant, without following tender procedures.

Mr Nyati denied he had pocketed the money paid to him, saying some of the funds had been used to contract private-sector consultants.

At a press conference on Monday, Mr Nyati said: "While there is nothing to be ashamed of in the contents of the documents leaked... if I discover anyone (sabotaging the system), I shall use the power vested in me to either ask them to resign or,

ST 10/9/95  
alternatively, to fire them."

Constitutional experts have expressed concern at the threat, pointing out that central government is about to table the Open Democracy Bill, designed to protect people who disclose government corruption.

Constitutional experts are also concerned about the precedent set by Mr Phosa's order that civil servants should not speak to the press.

Mr Nyati was interviewed yesterday by a provincial panel of private-sector experts, including Mr Shroobree, for the post of board director of the Mpumalanga Economic Development Corporation.

The name of the new board member will be announced tomorrow.

● The report in last week's Sunday Times on the payments to commissioners appointed by the Mpumalanga government inadvertently attributed a comment to the chairman of the commission, Ntsoaki Mohapi.

The comment: "Frankly, I do not believe any such authorisation letter exists" was, in fact, made by Mpumalanga MEC for Finance Jacques Modipane. The Sunday Times regrets the error.



# Ex-officer lifts the lid on ivory smuggling network

(56) ST 10/9/95

By ANDRE JURGENS

**A FORMER defence force special forces officer described this week how ivory and rhino horn were smuggled from neighbouring countries into South Africa in hidden compartments in cargo trucks.**

Gordon Grey Branfield told the Kumleben commission of inquiry into the smuggling that trucking companies were used to transport the contraband.

Mr Branfield claimed this week that ivory was still regularly being smuggled into South Africa.

The Durban-based inquiry, being chaired by Mr Justice Mark Kumleben, has heard claims of South African Defence Force involvement in the movement of ivory and rhino horn from as late as 1987.

Mr Branfield told the commission that he was ordered to infiltrate "anti-government forces" in neighbouring countries in the early 80s.

He said that he went undercover as a hardwood buyer and set up a timber company called African Timber with ex-Zimbabwean and big-game hunter Keith Rowse.

Mr Branfield's defence force operatives posed as drivers for Mr Rowse and other long-distance trucking companies.

The drivers told Mr Branfield that Mr Rowse was smuggling ivory in false compartments in trucks fetching timber in Zambia. Mr Branfield found 27 tusks and five rhino horns hidden in one truck.

He discovered later that Mr Rowse was linked to a curio dealer, Hans Beck, and his girlfriend, Brenda Voue, and a man by the name of Rob Barbour.

Mr Branfield had numerous meetings

with the three, and they mentioned a Chinese man from Pretoria called Mr Pong, to whom ivory was allegedly sold.

Mr Branfield's evidence ties up with a 1988 Sunday Times investigation into a multimillion-pound smuggling ring with its headquarters in Francistown, Botswana.

In the Sunday Times investigation, the web's key operatives were identified as Greek and Lebanese people in central Africa, a Pretoria-based Chinese businessman, curio shop owners in Johannesburg, Zambians, Zaireans and former Rhodesians.

The smuggling web extended across Zambia, Zaire, Angola, Zimbabwe and Botswana. The goods were stored in safe houses and then shipped out of South Africa by freight companies.

Almost two tons of ivory and 94 rhino horns were smuggled to Pretoria via the Kazungula border post between Bo-

swana and Zambia, the investigation reported. The consignment note was allegedly made out to Mr Chong Pong of A H Pong & Sons.

Mr Pong told the Sunday Times at the time that he had no knowledge of contraband goods.

The Sunday Times also interviewed Mrs Voue, who said she had left Francistown because she could no longer bear to live in the town known as the ivory capital of Africa. "Because Francistown is such a small town... I soon realised there was a growing trade in ivory and rhino horn," she said.

"In the last couple of months people have been picked up in the Caprivi conveying ivory and they said, on arrest, that their destination was South Africa.

"I've had reports... that there are still people from South Africa flying in with aircraft and collecting ivory."

Diels Tinz title

# All-out bid to contain Saldanha oil pollution

(56) ARLT 11/9/95

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter.

**SALDANHA BAY.** — "We'll be here until it's all over."

That was the promise which Saldanha Bay port manager Daniele Barnado gave from the seventh-floor operations centre at the iron-ore export quay, where anti-pollution efforts to cope with the 5,000-litre spill from the Hawaiian King are being co-ordinated.

Saldanha Bay's port captain Dave Duncan has been at the centre since the spill happened on Friday afternoon and has been joined by Mr Barnado, Portnet marketing officer Marcus Butler and three support staff.

"Dave Duncan has been going virtually non-stop since Friday afternoon," said Mr Barnado.

"And, Marcus is much more than than just our marketing man — he's helping with the operation and he's very calm, cool and experienced."

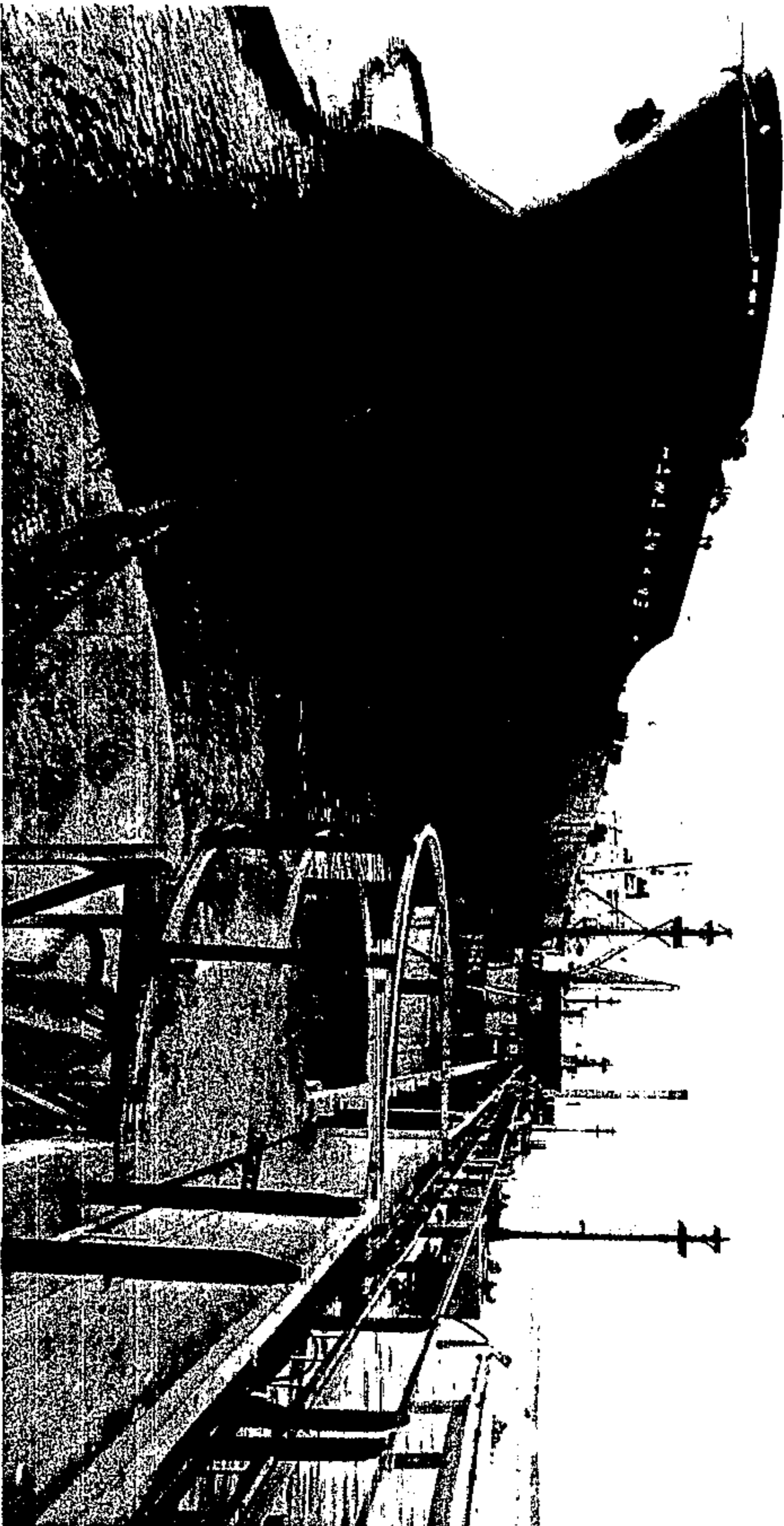
Yesterday, the team was controlling the activities of six boats: Portnet tug Marcus, Portnet pilot boat Harding, two inflatables operated by Portnet and police crews, the Strategic Fuel Fund's anti-pollution vessel, Plus Ultra, and an oil-skimming craft, and was responding to a constant stream of reports and calls from volunteer observers in a small fleet of craft, land-based observers and even a private military aircraft.

Pollution patrol aircraft Kustawag 7 also has been deployed and a nine-man Portnet team was on the beach at Langebaan, mopping up the small amount of oil on the beach with spades and rubber scrapers.

"We've got a lot of resources out there and we've been able to respond to, and investigate, all reports," said Captain Duncan.

"And, as one can expect under these circumstances, we've had a number of false reports." For example, one well-meaning person sent in a sample of an "oil-polluted" rock which turned out to be common black algae.

Was Captain Duncan tired after being on duty for so long? "No — as a seaman you get used to this type of thing." He expressed satisfaction



**THE CULPRIT:** The Hawaiian King, which spilled an estimated 5,000 l of Arabian light crude while loading on Friday, lies at the Saldanha Bay oil quay.

with the operation.

"I think we're as on top of this as can be expected. If you'd seen the oil at the quay (where it was spilled), relative to that there's a minute amount on the beach, but obviously we don't want any on the beach at all.

"I wouldn't be so unwise as to say we've got this completely under control — we get little surprises every now and then and we have to re-prioritise our resources."

The clean-up was "far from over", said Captain Duncan.

"There's a lot more work to be done at the quay, and also we have to remove and clean the big Yokohama fenders and all the tyres that are in place around them.

"We'll use a dispersant on

those to effect a quick clean-up and then we have to get them back in place."

Mr Barnado said he was "reasonably happy" with Portnet's anti-pollution efforts — "But, 'happy' is relative, obviously," he said.

The operation had to be done systematically, Mr Barnado added: "We need to see what's happening — it's no good going in like a bull in a china shop. That would be the worst thing."

Lynn Jackson, head of the pollution division of Sea Fisheries, said the spill was "relatively under control".

"It's not a heavy slick. The oil is in quite small patches, but the tide is coming in and I'm concerned that this tide might drag it further in (to the lagoon)."



**MOPPING UP:** A Portnet official operates a mechanical mop — one of several oil-collecting devices being used to clean the contaminated water contained by booms around the Hawaiian King at the Saldanha oil quay.



**COLLECTING THE OIL:** One of the Strategic Oil Fund's anti-pollution devices is deployed in the oily water alongside the Hawaiian King.

**CLEANING THE BEACH:** Members of a nine-man Portnet team remove oil-soaked sand from the beach at Langebaan.



Pictures: LEON MÜLLER and HANNES THIAFT, The Argus.

# Saldanha oil spill threatens lagoon

CT 11/9/95 (157) (158) (56)

MELANIE GOSLING

OIL from the estimated five-ton spill at the Saldanha Bay terminal has penetrated the sensitive southern end of Langebaan Lagoon and been deposited in patches along the shores of the West Coast National Park — raising fears that a slick in the bay cannot be contained.

Environmentalists have called on Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha to halt the proposed deal to store Iranian oil at Saldanha and have said this weekend's slick is proof of the real risk of an environmental disaster.

Portnet and Strategic Fuel Fund staff were still working late yesterday to break up oil "pencils" — thin surface films — which escaped from the booms that contained most of the light crude oil around the tanker and oil quay.

## Clean-up costs

Port Captain Dave Duncan said estimates put the cost of the clean-up operation at R3,5-million.

Tugs, rubber ducks, oil recovery craft and the Kuswag 7 aircraft are helping to mop up the spill. By late yesterday, they had recovered about 20 tons of oil-and-water mix, Capt Duncan said. It appeared as if more than five tons of oil had been spilled, he added.

"A pipe on board the Hawaiian King burst inside the ship and the oil leaked into her ballast, which was pumped into the sea," he said.

"Fortunately, the oil fence booms were already around the ship. If they had not been, we would have had a very serious situation to deal with. Even so, small amounts escaped.

"Trying to contain oil is like trying to contain quicksilver."

The warden of the West Coast National Park, Mr Otto von Kasch-



**OIL TRAP:** Port Captain Dave Duncan stands on the oil quay at Saldanha Bay where booms have prevented most of the five-ton spill from the Hawaiian King tanker from spreading. Small amounts have escaped and have been deposited along the shores of the West Coast National Park. Harbour staff were still mopping up the light crude oil late yesterday.

PICTURE: CLIVE SMITH

ke, said yesterday: "This was a small spill, yet oil came up on beaches way beyond the point of the spill.

"It was only a thin film, but it proved what the Parks Board had been saying all along — that what happens in Saldanha Bay will have an effect on Langebaan Lagoon. People have been trying to say the bay and the lagoon are separate, which this spill has shown is clearly not true."

Dr Allan Heydorn, specialist consultant for the World Wide Fund for Nature, said the spill had made it was "quite obvious" that no matter how sophisticated the oil recovery equipment, it would be inadequate to contain an oil

spill in Saldanha.

"In an ecologically sensitive area which is subjected to powerful natural processes like storms, it is only a matter of time before we have a catastrophe," he said.

## Fined

Earthlife Africa spokesperson Ms Liz McDaid said yesterday: "The Iranian oil storage deal at Saldanha is just not worth the environmental risk. Technology can't undo the damage once it's done. We call on Mr Botha to halt the Iranian deal."

Portnet's port manager, Mr Danie Barnado, said the owners of the Hawaiian King would be

responsible for the cost of the clean-up. The ship has already been fined R50 000 by the Department of Transport.

The chairman of the board of inquiry into the proposed Saldanha Steel factory, Mr Justice Jan Steyn, highlighted environmentalists' concerns about the Iranian oil last month. He called on the Minister of Environment, Dr Dawie de Villiers, not to take "any irreversible decision" about the Iranian oil deal until the environmental risk assessment on the proposal had been completed.

● The Hawaiian King rescued 900 passengers in December last year after they had abandoned the burning Achille Lauro.

# 30 oiled penguins found on island

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

ABOUT 30 lightly oiled penguins — the victims of a 5 000-litre spill from the Hawaiian King tanker at the Saldanha oil terminal — have been found at Jutten Island in the West Coast National Park.

Warden Otto von Kaschke, who visited the island early today, said the birds would be left on the island for the present as the penguins there were all breeding and had chicks.

Attempting to remove the oiled birds could be more detrimental to the colony, he said.

"They're not heavily oiled so we won't be removing them, but obviously we'll be monitoring the situation very closely."

Another parks board team was using an inflatable craft to check the salt marshes at the southern end of the lagoon where small quantities of oil washed up at the weekend, Mr Von Kascke said.

There were still two "smallish" oil slicks in Saldanha Bay which Portnet craft were attempting to disperse.

"They're working there, churning them to try to break them up."

The weather was overcast at Langebaan today, Mr Von Kaschke said.

"But fortunately it's also very calm, and that's helping us tremendously."

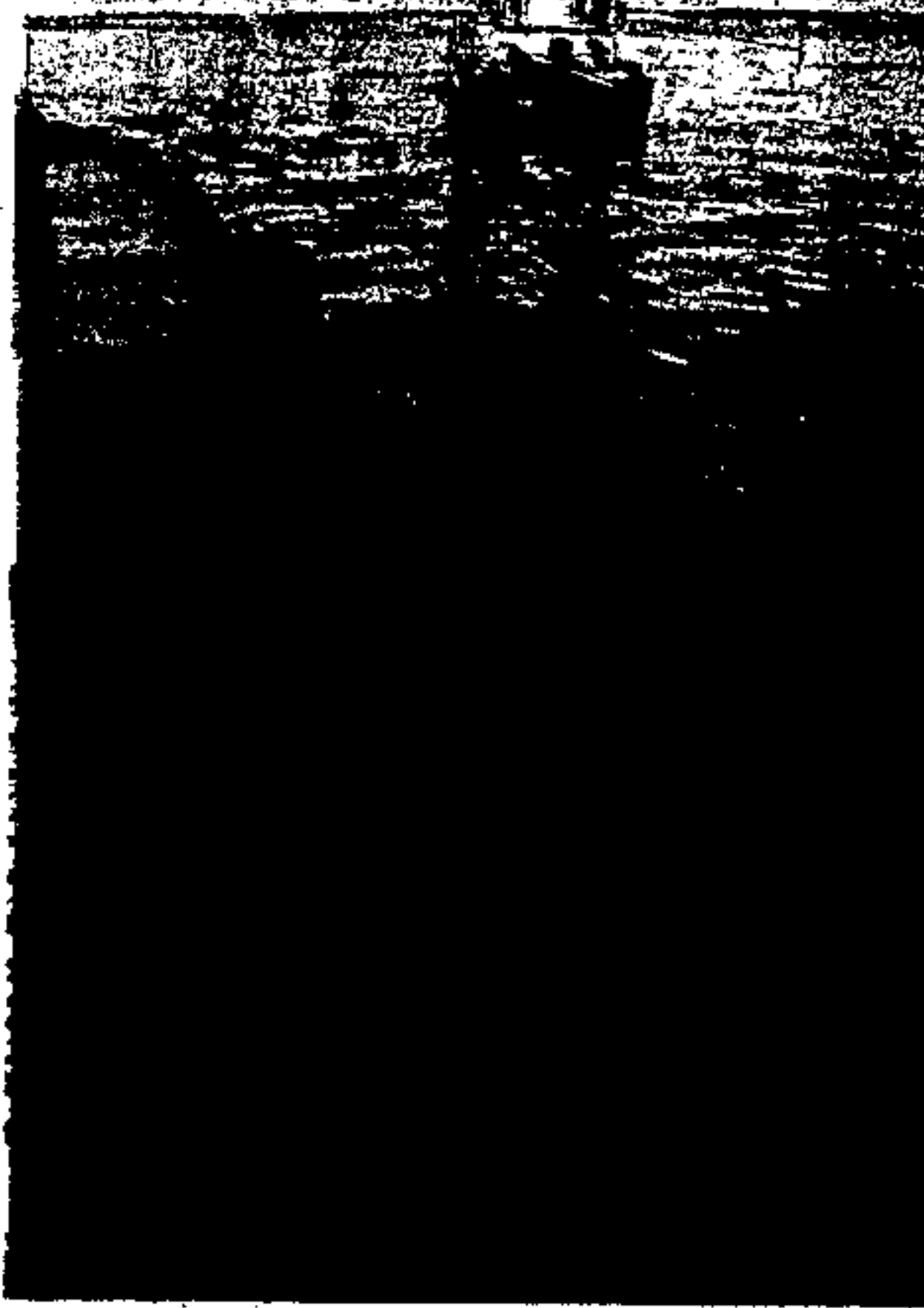
"We're still busy with mopping-up operations and teams are working the shoreline at Langebaan where some light deposits washed up in the night."

"Basically we'll have to go through this procedure for the next couple of days, until the mopping up at the source of the oil is complete."

"Because until that's done, there's always the possibility that more of the oil that was spilled will get out into the bay."

An estimated 5 000-litres — about five tons — spilled into Saldanha Bay at the oil quay on Friday when a cargo pipe in the Hawaiian King ruptured.

Arabian light crude being loaded into the tanker from the Strategic Fuel Fund's



**SURROUNDED:** A small slick is contained by booms at the Saldanha Bay oil quay. In the background is one of the Strategic Fuel Fund's anti-pollution vessels.

Picture: LEON MULLER, The Argus.

(56) ARG 11/9/95 (185)  
vast oil storage facility flowed from the broken pipe into a ballast tank, and was then pumped out into the bay with ballast water.

Extra booms were deployed around the tanker and anti-pollution measures applied, but some of the oil escaped into the bay and by yesterday patches had reached the salt marshes at the southern end of the Langebaan lagoon — part of the West Coast National Park and a proclaimed Ramsar Convention site for the protection of water birds.

● Report, more pictures on page 3

# Calls to stop asbestos pollution

**DENNIS CAVERNELIS**  
Staff Reporter

IN the wake of allegations of asbestos pollution from Athlone power station, the Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Bantu Holomisa, has revealed that 25 000 people in a Lebowa town are living in and around asbestos mine dumps.

Athlone power station manager, Wouter Roggen, slammed a recent press report which said the power station was exposing Pinelands residents and power station workers to asbestos.

Mr Roggen denied reports that there was asbestos "lying around" the power station and that when it was removed it was washed into the Black River.

"When asbestos is removed, the entire area is covered in a plastic tent. The removal team wears protective clothing and breathing apparatus and is constantly monitored," said Mr Roggen.

Everything, including the tent, was encapsulated in concrete and disposed of at the Vissershok disposal site.

The amount of asbestos in the power station was measured every six months, ac-

ording to Mr Roggen.

"We started off with regular sampling at short intervals, but the sampling intervals were increased because of the zero and very low readings. If we do get a high reading we will revert to testing at short intervals," he said.

The power station did not take its own readings: "We take samples, but they are sent to an independent examiner for testing.

"We do not wash asbestos into the Black River, but when asbestos is wet, and as long as it stays wet, it is not dangerous," he said.

The power station has had situations where asbestos had fallen from ducts, said Mr Roggen, "but we have an on-site removal team and a removal company on call to deal with this".

The power station had budgeted for asbestos removal in "a capital programme that runs into millions of rands", but the removal method has not yet been decided on.

"We are going to put out a contract and we will ask a chemical encapsulation company to submit a tender for removal," said Mr Roggen.

(56)  
"We have tested the chemical encapsulant and it works, but it is very expensive because when we remove asbestos we do not replace it with more asbestos. It is not very cost effective for us."

Meanwhile, a statement released to a Pinelands environment technology company by Deputy Environment Affairs Minister Bantu Holomisa said 25 000 people in Mafefe, Lebowa, were exposed daily to airborne asbestos from asbestos mine dumps in the town.

Asbestos is a natural mineral, used as a reinforcing agent in building products and pipes and also as insulation against extreme temperatures.

The statement said "asbestos has been proven to cause deadly diseases such as asbestosis, mesothelioma, a cancer caused by exposure to asbestos, and various other cancers".

Mr Holomisa has recommended that a chemical encapsulant be used to render the asbestos harmless.

"South Africa was the fourth largest producer of asbestos in the world. There are lots of places like Mafefe,"

ARG 11/9/95  
said Jeff Batt, one of the directors of Pinelands Environmental Technology.

"The townspeople are living on mine dumps. They have been using clay contaminated with asbestos to build their huts. Roads and land in the town are covered with asbestos," said Mr Batt.

Soaking asbestos with water was an expensive, unsafe and unreliable way of dealing with the problem, said Mr Batt, adding that there were harmless, non-toxic chemical solutions available that could encapsulate the material and render it harmless.

Mr Holomisa said water was too precious a resource to be used for the removal of asbestos.

"The dubious practice, by many asbestos removal companies, of using thousands of litres of water to temporarily dampen the asbestos prior to its removal and burial must be stopped," said Mr Holomisa.

"It is essential that the Occupational Safety Act outlaws the use of water for asbestos removal and instigates the use of non-toxic chemical encapsulation as soon as possible."

# Oil spill soaks Saldanha

Star 11/9/95

(56)

Cape Town - Oil from an estimated 5-ton spill at the Saldanha Bay oil terminal this weekend has penetrated into the sensitive Langebaan Lagoon and has been deposited along the shores of the West Coast National Park.

Environmentalists have raised fears that oil slicks in the bay cannot be completely contained, and have called on Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha to halt the proposed Iran oil storage deal at Saldanha.

They say this weekend's slick is proof that the risk of an environmental disaster is real.

Portnet and Strategic Fuel

Fund staff were still working late yesterday to break up oil which had escaped from oil booms that contained the bulk of the light crude oil around the tanker Hawaiian King and an oil quay.

Port captain Dave Duncan said initial estimates for the clean-up operation were about R3,5-million. Tugs, rubber ducks, oil-recovery craft and the Kuswag 7 aircraft have been deployed.

He said that by late yesterday, about 20 tons of oil-and-water mixture had been recovered. It appeared as if more than five tons of oil had been spilt. - Own Correspondent.

# Hazardous waste crisis looming <sup>(56)</sup>

CT 11/9/95

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**JOHANNESBURG:** Opening the controversial Chloorkop hazardous waste site near Kempton Park might be the only short-term solution to Gauteng's imminent hazardous waste crisis.

Gauteng Minister for Development Planning, Environment and Works Mr Sicele Shiceka has said re-opening Waste-Tech's Chloorkop site was one of two "temporary measures" the province was considering to avert a hazardous waste crisis after the closure of the Margolis site at the end of the year.

## **Legal**

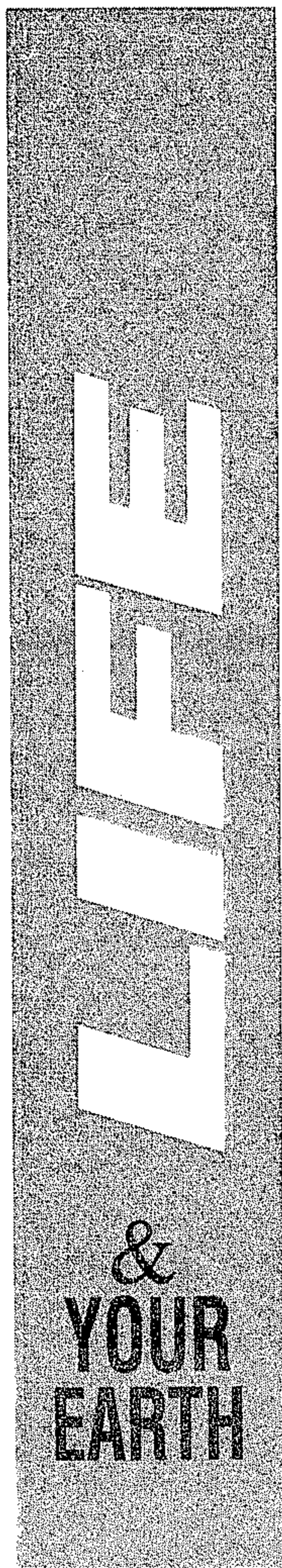
The closure will leave Enviroserv's Holfontein site as Gauteng's only legal waste dump.

Mr Shiceka said the other solution would be to improve management at Holfontein which, he said, was "not that good".

The Institute of Waste Management has supported the use of the Chloorkop and Holfontein waste sites.

Institute president Mr Jarrod Ball said ideally a new site should be developed far from communities that might be affected, but this would take three years. There was as yet no other site planned.

He said the Holfontein site had recently suffered an additional hazardous waste load "the situation ... is already critical".



## Mr Botha does have an answer

**N**OW this may come as a surprise to some readers and politicians, but journalists have feelings too — most of them, anyway.

And so the prompt reply by Mineral and Energy Affairs minister Pik Botha to last week's Green Scene column, which expressed concern about oil tanker traffic in Saldanha Bay, brought a warm glow of satisfaction to my heart.

Yes, I'd been right in my speculation — *Pik does have an answer!*

For the sake of those who may have missed the minister's letter, Mr Botha took issue with my suggestion that a single accident like the Exxon Valdez oil tanker grounding in Alaska occurring at Saldanha would spell the total destruction of the Langebaan lagoon wetlands.

"There is only one way to be absolutely sure there will never be any damage to the environment and that is to stop importing oil altogether," he said.

"The present volume of oil-bearing tank-

ers around our coast *in any one day* is more than the amount of *annual* oil traffic at Saldanha — past or future."

South Africa has no control over the quality of ships passing around the South African coastline, nor over their captains, Mr Botha continued.

"(But) if the Exxon Valdez had been calling at Saldanha, it would have been met by a pilot 12 sea-miles off the coast and escorted by four tugs when six sea-miles from port.

"The pilot and the tugs would have controlled the ship. There would have been no ecological disaster."

Mr Botha's belief in the infallibility of South African mariners and pilots — as opposed to equally qualified and concerned sailors of other nationalities who nevertheless manage to go aground elsewhere on occasion — is touching but naïve. In fact, it's rather like the British public's blind acceptance of boasts by the naval architects who designed the Titanic that their ship

*The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry has launched a National Water Conservation Campaign that is likely to have far-reaching implications. Environment Reporter JOHN YELD looks at what Water Affairs minister Kader Asmal had to say at the campaign's launch in Gauteng last week.*

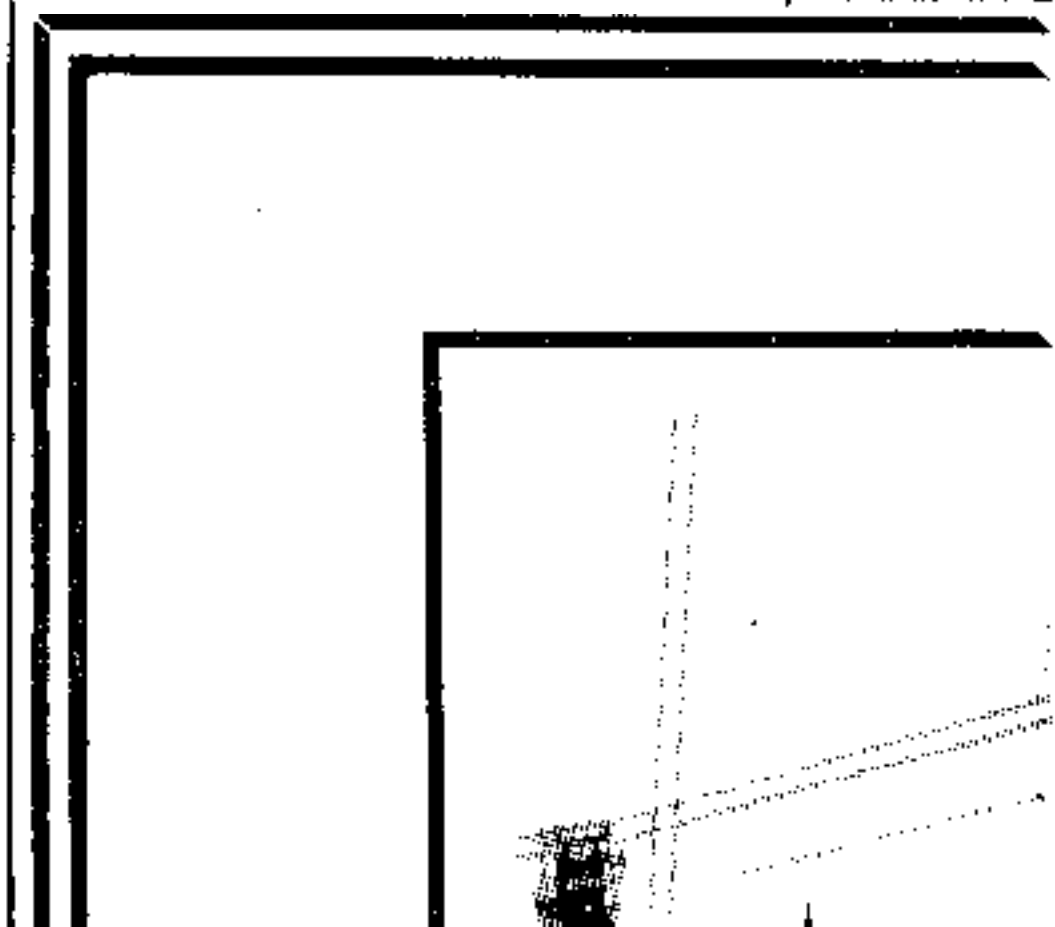
# People hold the answers — Asmal

**S**OUTH Africa could save billions of rands through the successful implementation of the newly-launched national water conservation campaign, says Water Affairs and Forestry minister Kader Asmal.

Speaking at the launch, Professor Asmal said South Africa was

ies on water-guzzling appliances; regulations (for example, a hose-pipe ban for the hottest hours of the day); research (compulsory environmental impact assessments and environmental audits); and communication — including "creative billing" to make consumers aware of how much water they're using.

A provisional series of water



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*(56) ARG 11/9/95*  
Belver, which caught fire and broke in half not that far from Saldanha Bay in 1983, had been steaming to offload at the oil quay? What would have happened if it had been 12,5 nautical miles off port while a westerly wind (instead of the unseasonal, God-sent south-easter) had been blowing?

All Portnet's tugs and all Portnet's pilots and all the Strategic Fuel Funds's expensive anti-pollution equipment wouldn't have made the slightest difference.

Mr Botha is right, of course, about both the number of oil tankers that have safely berthed at Saldanha Bay during the past 15 years and about the busy shipping lanes around South Africa which present another risk from spilled bunker fuel.

And it's common cause that this country has a near-total dependency on the burning of fossil fuels for its energy requirements (the unwelcome heritage of 40 years of National Party government policy, but that is another debate).

The real issue here is whether Saldanha

Bay and its adjoining wetlands of international significance are any way suitable for a major oil import/export facility — and why a thorough environmental impact assessment wasn't commissioned *before* such a facility was established or any contracts signed to increase oil tanker traffic, suspensive conditions or not.

Mr Botha has been a key figure in a government (make that two governments) that, on paper at least, is committed to a policy of Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) procedures being applied to all major developments.

Why was this conveniently forgotten when it came to Saldanha?

I for one firmly believe *any* oil tanker facility, even an offshore pipeline, at Saldanha Bay is a pollution disaster just waiting to happen.

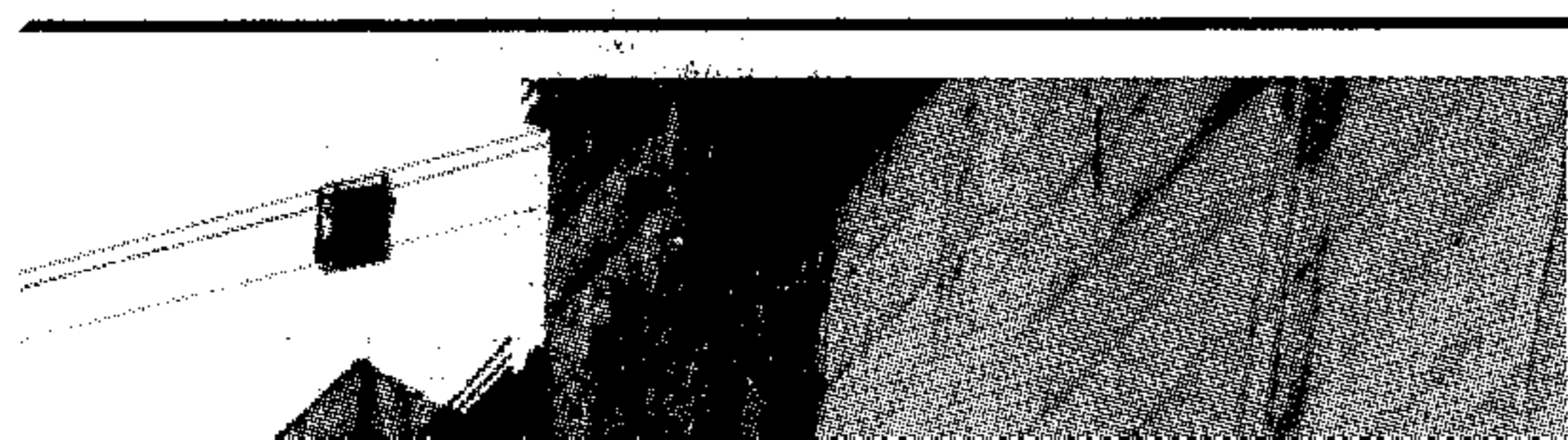
That prospect brings a chill to my heart — and I would really have wished for more than just facile answers from smart politicians and decision-makers.

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**ILLUSTRATOR EXTRAORDINARY:** Lovers of botanical art will soon have a new opportunity to admire the work of Thalia Lincoln. The Cape Town artist is acknowledged as one of the world's top botanical illustrators and a leader in the field of drawing indigenous South African plants. An exhibition of her limited edition portfolio, commissioned by the Sappi Conservation Project, opens at Kirstenbosch on September 19. The signed and numbered prints are being sold for the benefit of World Wide Fund for Nature, South Africa. The conservation project, now in its seventh year, is underwritten by the paper manufacturer to an amount of R500 000 a year. Funds are used to help develop economically-viable and ecologically-sustainable wilderness areas, and to promote conservation education in rural areas.

Picture: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus.



**Group Five**

**Equity Group**

in the midst of a critical, long-term water crisis that stood in the way of the country's reconstruction and development.

There had to be a dramatic, immediate and permanent change in South Africans' use of water if they were to enjoy a better education and achieve sustainable growth and develop a healthy national community, he said.

"Our investment in the national water conservation campaign for 1995/96 and the national water conservation conference next month represents billions of rands of potential savings for South Africa.

"We are committed to realising this investment and have a fierce determination to succeed," Professor Asmal said.

The campaign has as its goal long-term, fundamental attitude and behavioural changes in regard to water use.

"The solution to our long-term water crisis in South Africa must be recognised as lying with each and every South African.

"We are the ones who must solve this crisis — by changing our individual and communal relationships with our most precious resource.

"We must become a society committed to responsible, effective water management and usage — while we still have water to use," Professor Asmal said.

The campaign will run for an initial year, after which it will be reviewed.

It will work towards a new policy on water conservation by using mechanisms such as tariffs and levies; incentives and disincentives — like import duties or lev-

conservation projects has been agreed. These include:

- The labelling of appliances in association with organisations such as the SA Bureau of Standards, Eskom and the Institute of Plumbers to increase consumers' awareness;

- A policy for new houses, with new regulations being workshopped in conjunction with the ministries of housing and the reconstruction and development programme;

- Encouraging the effective and diligent reading of water meters, so as to guarantee significant water savings;

- Support for the "water-wise" gardening project, initiated by the Botanical Society;

- Integrated catchment management, with a particular focus on the clearing of alien vegetation;

- Retro-fitting of water conservation measures in households, with trials being undertaken by Rand Water, Umgeni Water, and Durban and Stellenbosch municipalities; and

- Water-wise food production, through trials to demonstrate the greater effectiveness of water use in agriculture, permaculture and land-care.

Professor Asmal said the water conservation campaign posed a "daunting challenge" to address all sectors of South African society and to create an awareness that translated into sustainable behaviour regarding water.

"It's too late to contemplate whether or not we need water conservation measures — now is the time for action."

## Boffins set to save 'world's noblest flier'

Dateline: DAVAO, Philippines

**D**ESPITE threats from illegal loggers and hunters, scientists are confident they can save the Philippine Eagle, once described by aviation pioneer Charles Lindbergh as the "world's noblest flier".

The latest estimates place the number of Philippine Eagles, previously known as the Monkey-Eating Eagle, at about 70, including 18 kept at two Philippine ecological centres.

The eagles, with a wing span of more than two metres, are the second biggest eagle after the Harpy eagle of South and Central America.

Deforestation and hunters threaten the remaining birds in the wild, said Dennis Salvador, executive director of the Philippine Eagle Foundation.

The 12-year-old research foundation cares for 16 of the 18 eagles being nurtured in captivity.

A pair of eagles need about 65 km<sup>2</sup> of hunting ground to survive in the wild. — Sapa-AP.

## 'Environmental refugees may double to 50 million'

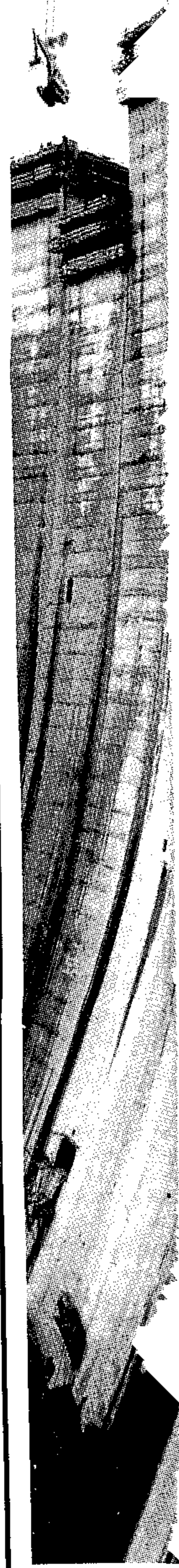
Dateline: WASHINGTON

**T**HE number of "environmental refugees" worldwide may double within 15 years from the current estimate of 25 million unless population growth is curbed, an environmental group has said.

"The sudden growth in numbers of environmental refugees is outpacing the ability of the world community to respond," said John Topping Jnr, president of the Climate Institute, a non-profit research group.

It defined environmental refugees as "people who can no longer gain a secure livelihood in their homelands because of drought, soil erosion, desertification, deforestation and other environmental problems".

Two thirds of environmental refugees are in Africa, with China's six million and Mexico's two million making up most of the rest of the world's 25 million. — Reuter.



# Students give boost to security on UCT campus

*Pepper spray, radios and escorts to bolster residents watch programme* (56) AKG 11/9/95

Southern Reporter  
STUDENTS at the University of Cape Town have reinforced student security on the campus by forming a Student Protection Service (SPS).

Equipped with luminous vests, walkie-talkies, torches, pepper-spray dispensers and that pre-requisite for the unpredictable Cape weather — the umbrella — members of the SPS have been active on campus since August 21, the launch date of the new service.

The organisation aims to reinforce student safety by developing two pilot schemes: the Walk Safely programme and the Residence Watch programme.

The Walk Safely programme is an escort service along the main "walk safe" route between the upper and lower campus and involves a basic patrol service in pairs.

The Residence Watch programme provides security in and around student residences.

A similar Residence Watch programme has already been



**SELF-DEFENCE:** Members of UCT's new Student Protection Service (from left): Nicky Veerner, Carey Raine, Guy Griffiths and Ian Pate show off some of their equipment.

established by the students of Leo Marquard Hall.

Initially, these programmes will not operate around the

clock but only within set hours during the night.

The launch of the scheme was prompted by the need for

more student participation in the practical aspect of securing their campus, possessions and themselves. The Equal Opportunity research project investi-

gated the issue and found the security system had many advantages.

The programme has the sup-

port of most students, who want to promote understanding and interaction between the student community and the campus security service. Local police have also welcomed the programme which in itself promotes community policing.

Rondebosch station commander Henry Hubart said he was "thrilled with the initiative" which would make policing in the area "much easier".

The efforts of the students would take a burden off his already hard-pressed team.

"I am definitely for anyone who takes an interest in their own safety and I encourage the programme," Captain Hubart said.

Allocation of SPS shifts ensures that at least one male student and one woman student will be on duty together, in order that all students feel at ease. SPS members are not expected to intervene physically, but to summon Campus Control in an emergency. The pilot stage of the SPS will be evaluated at the end of this year.

# All-out bid to contain Saldanha oil pollution

(56) ARGUS 11/9/73

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter.

**SALDANHA BAY.** — "We'll be here until it's all over."

That was the promise which Saldanha Bay port manager Danie Barnado gave from the seventh-floor operations centre at the iron-ore export quay, where anti-pollution efforts to cope with the 5 000-litre spill from the Hawaiian King are being co-ordinated.

Saldanha Bay's port captain Dave Duncan has been at the centre since the spill happened on Friday afternoon and has been joined by Mr Barnado, Portnet marketing officer Marius Butler and three support staff.

"Dave Duncan has been going virtually non-stop since Friday afternoon," said Mr Barnado.

"And, Marius is much more than just our marketing man — he's helping with the operation and he's very calm, cool and experienced."

Yesterday, the team was controlling the activities of six boats: Portnet tug Marcus, Portnet pilot boat Harding, two inflatables operated by Portnet and police crews, the Strategic Fuel Fund's anti-pollution vessel, Plus Ultra, and an oil-skimming craft, and was responding to a constant stream of reports and calls from volunteer observers in a small fleet of craft, land-based observers and even a private military aircraft.

Pollution patrol aircraft Kuswag 7 also has been deployed and a nine-man Portnet team was on the beach at Langebaan, mopping up the small amount of oil on the beach with spades and rubber scrapers.

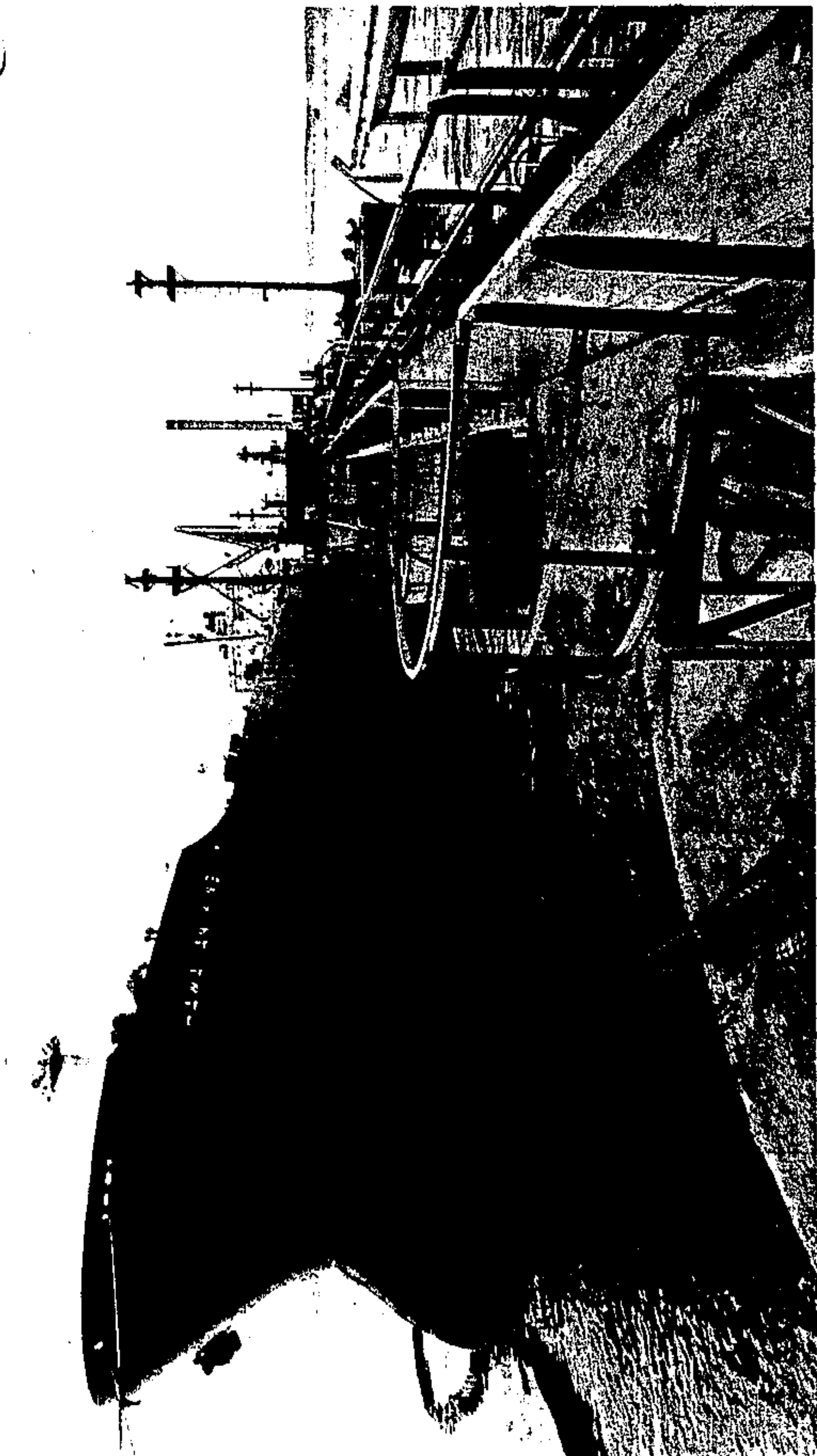
"We've got a lot of resources out there and we've been able to respond to, and investigate, all reports," said Captain Duncan.

"And, as one can expect under these circumstances, we've had a number of false reports." For example, one well-meaning person sent in a sample of an "oil-polluted" rock which turned out to be common black algae.

Was Captain Duncan tired after being on duty for so long?

"No — as a seaman you get used to this type of thing."

He expressed satisfaction



**THE CULPRIT:** The Hawaiian King, which spilled an estimated 5 000 l of Arabian light crude while loading on Friday, lies at the Saldanha Bay oil quay.

with the operation. "I think we're as on top of this as can be expected. If you'd seen the oil at the quay (where it was spilled), relative to that there's a minute amount on the beach, but obviously we don't want any on the beach at all."

"I wouldn't be so unwise as to say we've got this completely under control — we get little surprises every now and then and we have to re-prioritise our resources."

The clean-up was "far from over", said Captain Duncan. "There's a lot more work to be done at the quay, and also we have to remove and clean the big Yokohama fenders and all the tyres that are in place around them."

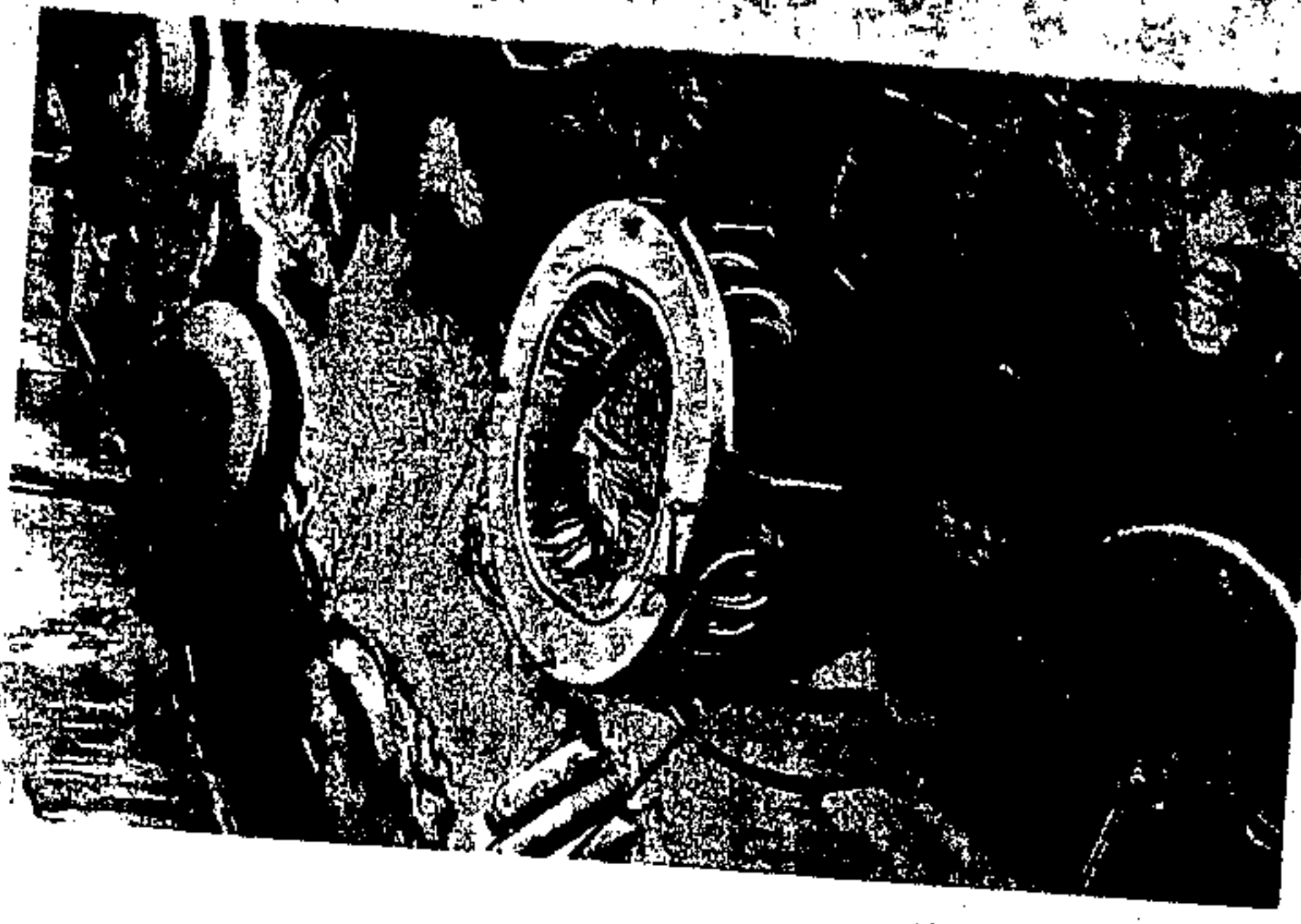
"We'll use a dispersant on those to effect a quick clean-up and then we have to get them back in place."

Mr Barnado said he was "reasonably happy" with Portnet's anti-pollution efforts — "But, 'happy' is relative, obviously," he said.

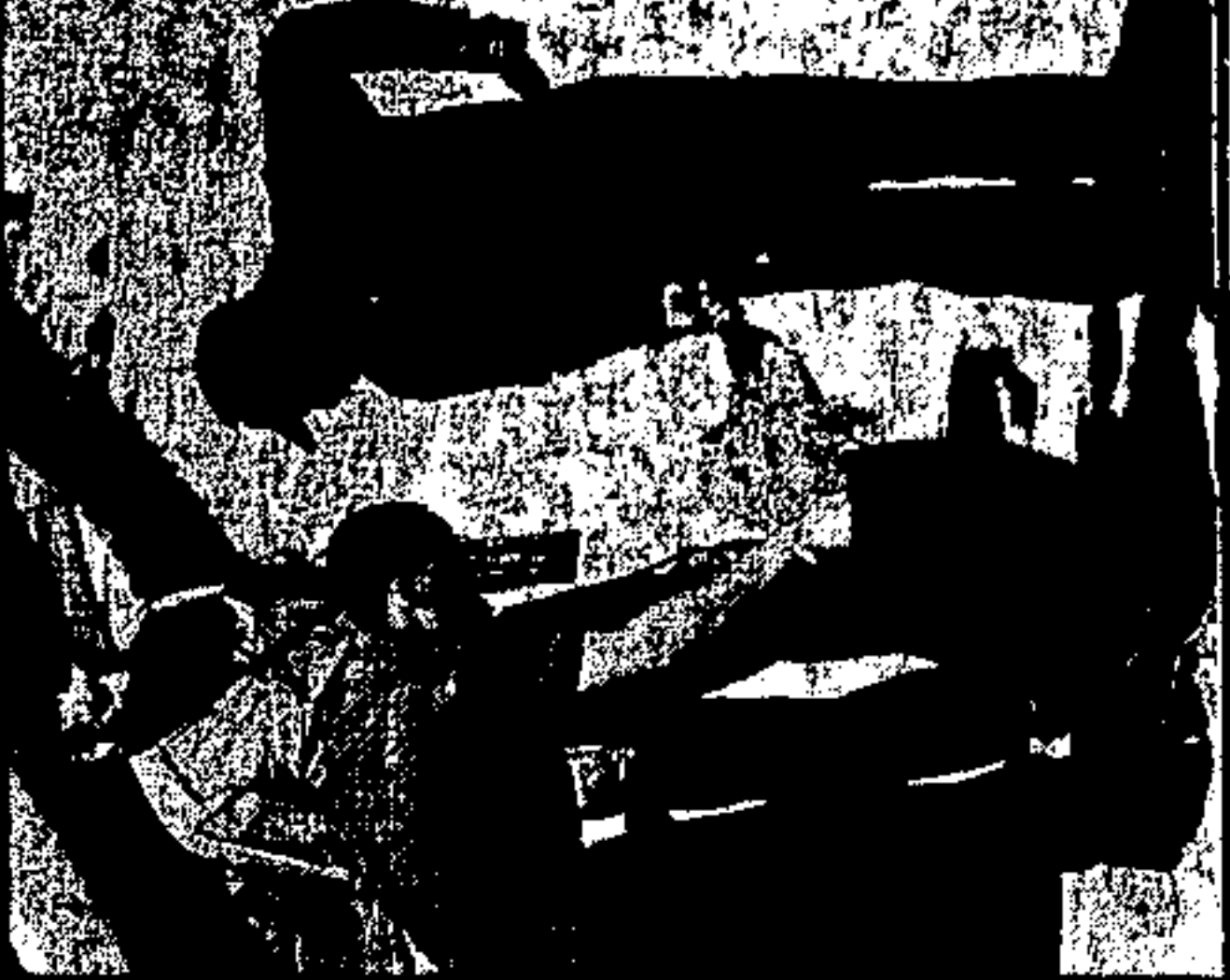
The operation had to be done systematically, Mr Barnado added: "We need to see what's happening — it's no good going in like a bull in a china shop. That would be the worst thing."

Lynn Jackson, head of the pollution division of Sea Fisheries, said the spill was "relatively under control".

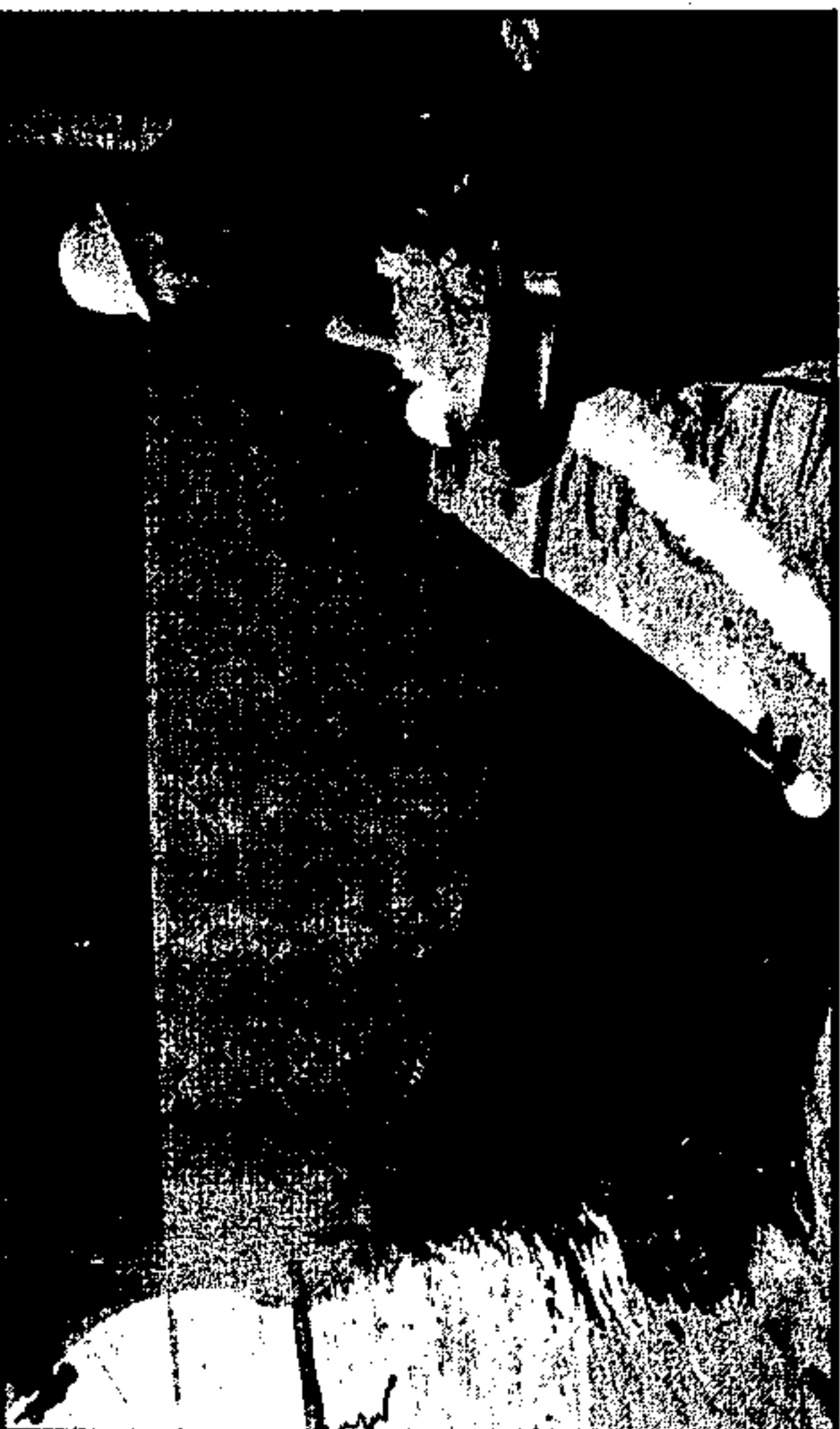
"It's not a heavy slick. The oil is in quite small patches, but the tide is coming in and I'm concerned that this tide might drag it further in (to the lagoon)."



**COLLECTING THE OIL:** One of the Strategic Oil Fund's anti-pollution devices is deployed in the oily water alongside the Hawaiian King.



**CLEANING THE BEACH:** Members of a nine-man Portnet team remove oil-soaked sand from the beach at Langebaan.



**MOPPING UP:** A Portnet official operates a mechanical mop — one of several oil-collecting devices being used to clean the contaminated water contained by booms around the Hawaiian King at the Saldanha oil quay.

Pictures: LEON MÜLLER and HANNES THIAFT, The Argus.

closed since Friday. The pupils occupied the school, which was empty at the time, in protest against the condition of the community school they were attending.

Picture: NICKY DE BLOIS

## Oil spill worries Parks Board

(56)  
THE National Parks Board yesterday questioned pollution precautions at Saldanha Bay after a five-ton oil spill over the weekend affected the environmentally protected Langebaan lagoon in the West Coast National Park.

Board acting CEO Herman Botha said: "The National Parks Board questions the effectiveness of pollution control measures in the Saldanha Bay ...

"In the light of the planned Saldanha steel mill and oil storage facilities, one wonders what the environmental consequences would be in case of a larger oil spill."

About 30 oil-covered penguins were found at Jutten Bay. The area would be monitored because of the large number of eggs and chicks there, Botha said.

The oil was spilled on Friday when, under ideal weather conditions, oil was pumped from a ship to the pier at Saldanha Bay. The oil quickly spread towards Langebaan, a protected site in terms of the international Ramsar treaty.

Park warden Otto von Kaschke said two more oil patches were reported just when the clean-up was almost finished. Sapa.

BD 12/9/95

## IFP moderates set to defy national leaders

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — IFP provincial negotiators are set to defy their national leaders by going ahead with negotiations today in a bid to secure a constitution acceptable to opposition parties in KwaZulu-Natal.

This sets the scene for a major confrontation between provincial moderates and national hard-liners at an IFP national council meeting this weekend, where one faction will have to back off.

IFP provincial negotiator Mike Tarr said negotiations with the other six parties would resume today in the KwaZulu-Natal legislature's constitutional affairs standing committee.

IFP provincial negotiators had received no "instructions" to the contrary, and did not believe they were "departing" from the mandate given by their leaders.

Tarr said he expected discussions with other parties to resume from where they ended last week — on the compromise agreement that irked IFP leader Mangosuthu

BD 12/9/95  
Buthelezi and national deputy chairman Sipo Mzimela.

Buthelezi and Mzimela insist the IFP's original 12 constitutional principles form the basis of a provincial constitution, or else a fresh provincial election be called.

IFP sources said negotiators were continuing talks after receiving the unanimous backing of the IFP's KwaZulu-Natal caucus last week. This includes premier Frank Mdlalose, IFP secretary-general Ziba Jiyane and Women's Brigade chairman Faith Gasa.

Sources said the negotiators would table the compromise agreement this weekend for a decision. However, it was unclear whether provincial caucus members would feel intimidated about making their views known in Buthelezi's presence.

Some said Buthelezi's weekend threat to quit as IFP president because of the "intrigues" he was facing would work against the interests of moderates. "People do not want him to quit so they will back his position," a source said.

# Parks Board questions precautions after Langebaan spill

(51) ~~12/9/95~~ Star 12/9/95



Sick slick ... Langebaan resident Katinka Heydenrych gets a hands-on experience of the oil that washed up on the beach after spilling from a tanker at the Saldanha Bay oil quay, while clean-up operations continue.

The National Parks Board questioned precautions at Saldanha Bay yesterday after a five-ton oil spill at the environmentally protected Langebaan lagoon in the West Coast National Park at the weekend.

Board acting chief executive officer Herman Botha said: "The National Parks Board questions the effectiveness of pollution control measures in Saldanha Bay ... In light of the planned Saldanha steel mill and oil storage facilities, one wonders what the environmental consequences would be in case of a larger oil spill."

About 30 oil-covered penguins were found at Jutten Bay. The area would be monitored because of the large number of eggs and chicks there, Botha said.

The oil was spilled on Friday afternoon while it was being pumped under ideal weather conditions from a ship to the pier at Saldanha Bay.

The oil quickly spread from Saldanha towards Langebaan, a protected site in terms of the international Ramsar treaty. Park warden Otto von Kaschke said two more oil patches were reported just as the clean-up operation was being completed.

He said harbour authorities had told him the ship owners had been fined R50 000 and arrangements had been made for their insurers to pay for the clean-up. — Sapa.

*Hazardous waste crisis contingency plan*

# Call to reopen Chloorkop dump

(56) Star 12/9/95

■ TAMSEN DE BEER

Opening the controversial Chloorkop hazardous waste site near Kempton Park might be the only short-term solution to Gauteng's imminent hazardous waste crisis, according to provincial government and independent experts.

Gauteng MEC for development planning, environment and works, Sicelo Shiceka, has said that reopening Waste-Tech's Chloorkop site was one of two "temporary measures" the province was considering to avert a hazardous waste crisis following the closure of the Margolis site at the end of the year.

The closure of Waste-Tech's Margolis waste site in Germiston at the end of December, will leave Enviroserv's Holfontein site in Springs as Gauteng's only legal hazardous waste dump.

Gauteng currently generates 70-80% of South Africa's hazardous waste.

Shiceka said an alternative solution to the anticipated crisis would be to improve management at Holfontein which, he said, was "not that good".

Shiceka said the Holfontein site was "not managed according to the exact standards required by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAFF)".

The Institute of Waste Management, a professional body comprising individuals, government representatives and companies involved in waste manage-

ment, has supported the use of the Chloorkop and Holfontein waste sites on strategic grounds.

"This is in the best interests of hazardous waste management, the public and the environment of the Gauteng province as a whole," said Jarrod Ball, president of the institution.

Ball recommended that provincial government "take the necessary steps, including enlisting the support of local communities, to open Chloorkop as soon as possible."

## Risks

He said any risks identified at either site should be "properly managed by ensuring all facets of the design and operation of these facilities comply with the department's (DWAFF) minimum requirements.

"Ideally, a new hazardous waste facility should be developed far from communities that could be affected.

"Unfortunately no such facility is currently in the pipeline, and to develop one would take at least three years," said Ball.

He said the Holfontein site had recently suffered an additional hazardous waste load, especially of liquid waste, and that "from recent media coverage there is little doubt that the situation at Holfontein is already critical".

"Unless something is done to take the pressure off Holfontein or to safely extend its capacity, the situation will worsen with the coming rainy season and the final closure of Margolis."

Ball said that if only Hol-

fontein were operational and problems prevented it from receiving hazardous waste, illegal dumping would increase throughout the province with an "adverse impact on the environment, public safety and health".

He said by operating both facilities, "contingency planning" in the interests of the environment and public safety would be possible and avoid an "all eggs in one basket situation".

Shiceka said the views of East Rand residents and the Kempton Park/Tembisa sub-structure which until now have objected to opening Chloorkop, would be taken seriously.

He said it was "important to mobilise all resources and keep people informed".

"We must look at a way of ensuring the community is not going to be worse off in any way if a mistake occurs," he said.

Shiceka said he would be employing "skilled people to look at the question of policing the environment", as well as to assist in waste management.

He said he would be visiting the hazardous waste disposal facilities of both Enviroserv and Waste-Tech and "changes" in waste management could be expected by next year.

"We are determined to improve a lot," he said.

A one-day seminar on  
the development of hazardous waste management

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# Botha to assess oil-spill strategy

**MELANIE GOSLING**  
STAFF REPORTER

MINERAL and Energy Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha says his department will have to re-examine anti-pollution equipment and the methods used in cleaning up oil spills at Saldanha Bay.

Commenting on the oil spill from the Hawaiian King, Mr Botha said last night: "We cannot afford

(183) (184) (56) CT 12/9/95  
to be satisfied that our ability to limit damage is sufficient. We will have to look anew at our equipment and methods."

As anti-pollution staff continued to clean up thin slicks on the water yesterday, three days after the five-ton spill, the National Parks Board questioned the effectiveness of pollution control measures in the Saldanha Bay harbour.

Acting chief executive Mr Herman Botha said: "In the light of the planned Saldanha Steel mill and oil storage facilities, one wonders what the environmental consequences would be in the case of a larger oil spill."

Oil from the spill has been found in the Jutten Bay area, where about 30 soiled penguins have been seen.

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# Oil spill highlights danger

ARG 12/9/95

(56)

## Call for assessment of Iranian deal after Saldanha pollution

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

PORTNET tugs fighting the oil pollution problem in Saldanha Bay have been withdrawn after the two remaining slicks were broken up, and officials said the threat from Friday's 5 000-litre spill appeared to be over.

But, environmentalists called for a thorough review of anti-pollution measures at the Saldanha Bay oil terminal and for a full environmental impact assessment into the Strategic Fuel Fund's proposed oil contract with Iran.

They paid tribute to the anti-pollution work by Portnet officials, but said the Langebaan ecosystem was too sensitive to be exploited for short-term gain.

The spill happened last week when a pipe aboard the tanker Hawaiian King burst inside the ship and the oil leaked into her ballast, which was pumped into the sea.

Saldanha port manager Danie Barnado said the tugs had been withdrawn about 1.30pm yesterday after the two remaining slicks had been broken up.

"The plane (Kusway 7) is in the air now to see whether any oil is left," he said about 3pm yesterday.

"There was some more oil on Sandy Bay at Langebaan and we probably will have to clean up there for the next day or so.

"At the Hawaiian King itself, we're finishing off. It's difficult work because there are very small patches to be picked up, but we won't take up the booms or stand down until we know everything has been sorted out."

The Wildlife Society said the Strategic Fuel Fund's oil deal heightened the risk of pollution and should be subject to a proper assessment.

The seaworthiness of vessels entering local waters and the competency of their crews were of "paramount importance", said the society's West-

ern Cape conservation ecologist Marlene Laros.

"Unfortunately, this is an aspect over which the Strategic Fuel Fund will have little control."

The effectiveness of booms to contain spilled oil during unfavourable weather conditions remained a concern, said Ms Laros.

"While we laud the efficient response in the clean-up operations, the risk of oil spill and the effectiveness of contingency plans to cope with these eventualities must be assessed."

All South Africans had to be involved in deciding whether or not the risk of increased tanker traffic was acceptable.

"In the spirit of the developing National Environmental Policy, an environmental assessment with an appropriate brief and with full public participation should be informing the decision to bear the increased risk for our environment," said Ms Laros.

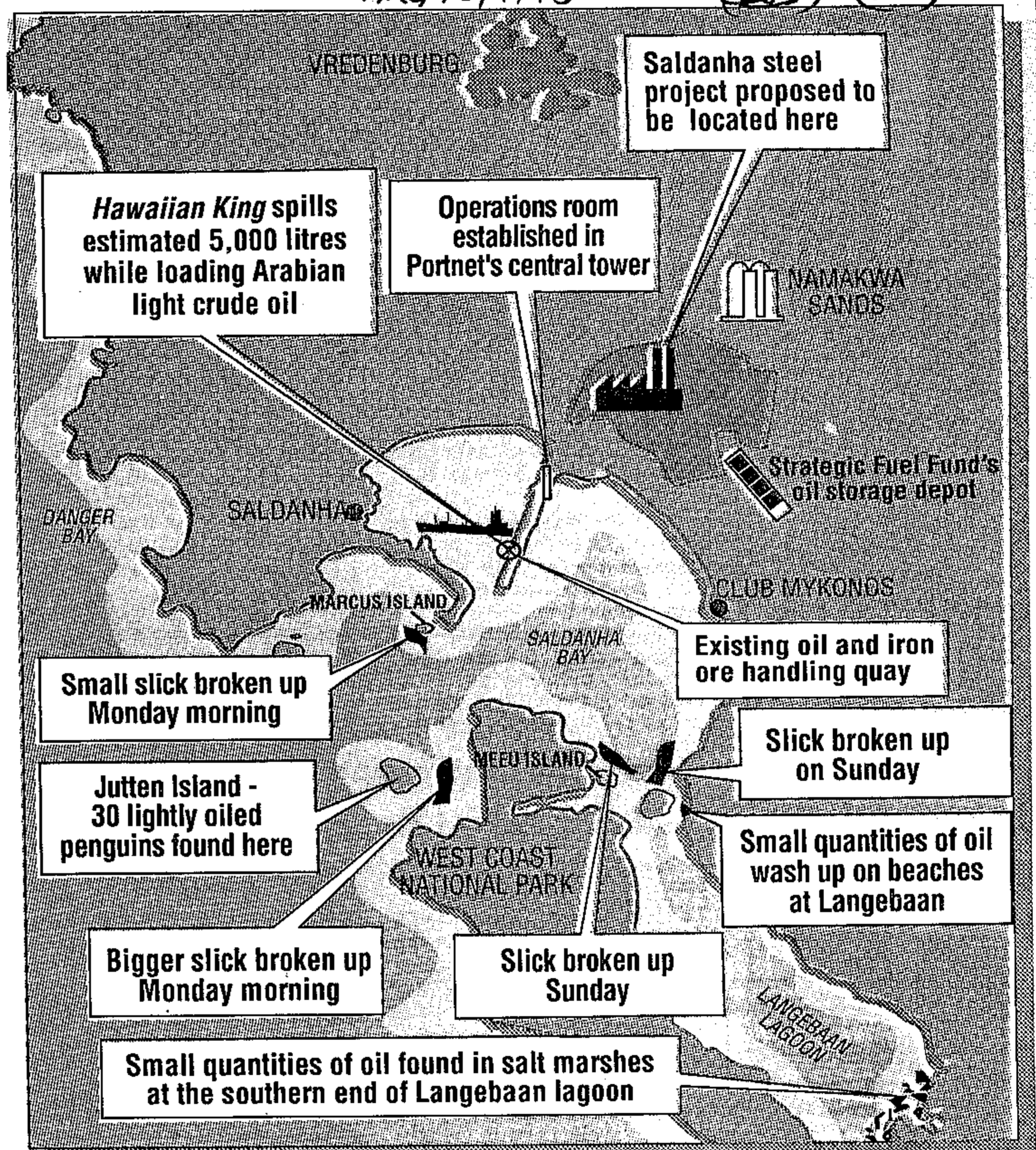
Earthlife Africa said the fact that a "small" spill of a few tons had reached Langebaan and Churchhaven within 24 hours highlighted the potential catastrophe of an Exxon Valdez-type incident in the bay.

"The inability of the port authorities to contain and deal with such a small spill also highlights the inadequate measures in place to deal effectively with oil spills ...

"The spill is a timely reminder to Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers and Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha that Saldanha Bay-Langebaan Lagoon is a highly sensitive ecosystem that needs to be protected for the benefit of future generations and not exploited for short-term gain."

Leading estuarine ecologist and environmental consultant Allan Heydorn expressed concern that the spilled oil had been in ballast water being discharged, as such water often was contaminated.

● The Strategic Fuel Fund has been asked to comment.



**SCENE OF THE SPILL:** This graphic of the Saldanha Bay area shows where some of the oil spilled from the Hawaiian King tanker ended up — and proves the National Parks Board's point that Saldanha Bay and the Langebaan lagoon are one environmental system and must be managed as such.

# NEWS

## Oil spill bigger than estimated

25/13/95

56

SIXTY-SIX thousand litres of oil, not 5 000 litres as first claimed, flooded out of the ballast tanks of the Hawaiian King in Saldanha Bay last week.

The revised figure is still not accurate, but Portnet marketing manager, Mr Marius Butler, says although the amount is probably more, "we are sure it will not be vast".

It was only when the anti-pollution vessels were emptied yesterday afternoon that a more accurate picture emerged.

"At this stage it is difficult to say, but we are sure we have picked up 99% of the oil," Mr

Butler said last night.

Mr Otto von Kasschke, warden of the West Coast National Park, said: "Everything's pretty well back to normal."

The Hawaiian King sailed yesterday.

● The oil storage facilities at Saldanha Bay should be closed if necessary to avoid damage to the environment, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha said yesterday. "But we are faced with the need for economic development and jobs on the one hand and preserving the environment on the other," he said. — Sapa, Staff Reporter

# Call to freeze mountain development

*(56) ARU 13/9/95*  
**Southern Reporter**

A MEETING of the Peninsula Mountain forum has unanimously decided to call for a moratorium on any developments affecting sensitive areas within the Table Mountain and Peninsula mountain range.

This follows concern expressed as to what may happen

before the establishment of a single authority to manage the area.

Those present at the meeting included members of conservation groups as well as members of the Huntley Commission appointed to draw up a set of criteria on which to select a single managing authority.

The Huntley Commission is a document which looks at all aspects of management of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE).

Those present at the meeting expressed concern at what was happening at Cape Point Nature Reserve during the

construction of the restaurant.

Public meetings are taking place tonight and tomorrow at the Good Hope Centre in the Rygers Room at 6 pm to discuss the submissions for management from Cape Nature Conservation, National Parks Board and the Cape Metropolitan Council.

# 'Why was toxic waste row inquiry rejected?' (56)

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

ARC 13/9/93

LAWYERS representing environmentalists have asked deputy presidents Thabo Mbeki and F W de Klerk to release full details of the cabinet meeting which rejected an independent commission of inquiry into the toxic waste import row.

The cabinet decision relates to the authority given to a Durban businessman to import 500 tons of cupric arsenate from Finland for recycling.

Toxic waste is generated during the recycling process.

The importation of the waste was apparently approved by a consultant working for the Department of Environment Affairs and Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers and his deputy, Bantu Holomisa, said it had been done without their knowledge.

The request for an independent commission of inquiry was made by Mr Holomisa, who has departmental responsibility for all matters relating to waste and Dr De Villiers told Parliament during an interpellation on August 30 that an "independent inquiry" into the attempted importation would be held.

The reported reason for the cabinet rejecting the commission was cost.

But cabinet watchers said several African National Congress ministers must have sided against Mr Holomisa in the decision and suggested they were scared that the commission would uncover a can of worms relating to the government's use of consultants — including those appointed by ANC cabinet ministers.

The cabinet's decision infuriated Peter Mokaba, chairman of the national assembly's standing committee on the environment, who said he was "extremely angry".

The Legal Resources Centre, acting for the Environmental Justice Networking Forum — a voluntary association of more than 180 South African organisations which has been highly active in opposing toxic waste imports — has now formally asked deputy presidents Mbeki and De Klerk to release full details of the cabinet meeting or cabinet committee meeting at which the decision was taken.

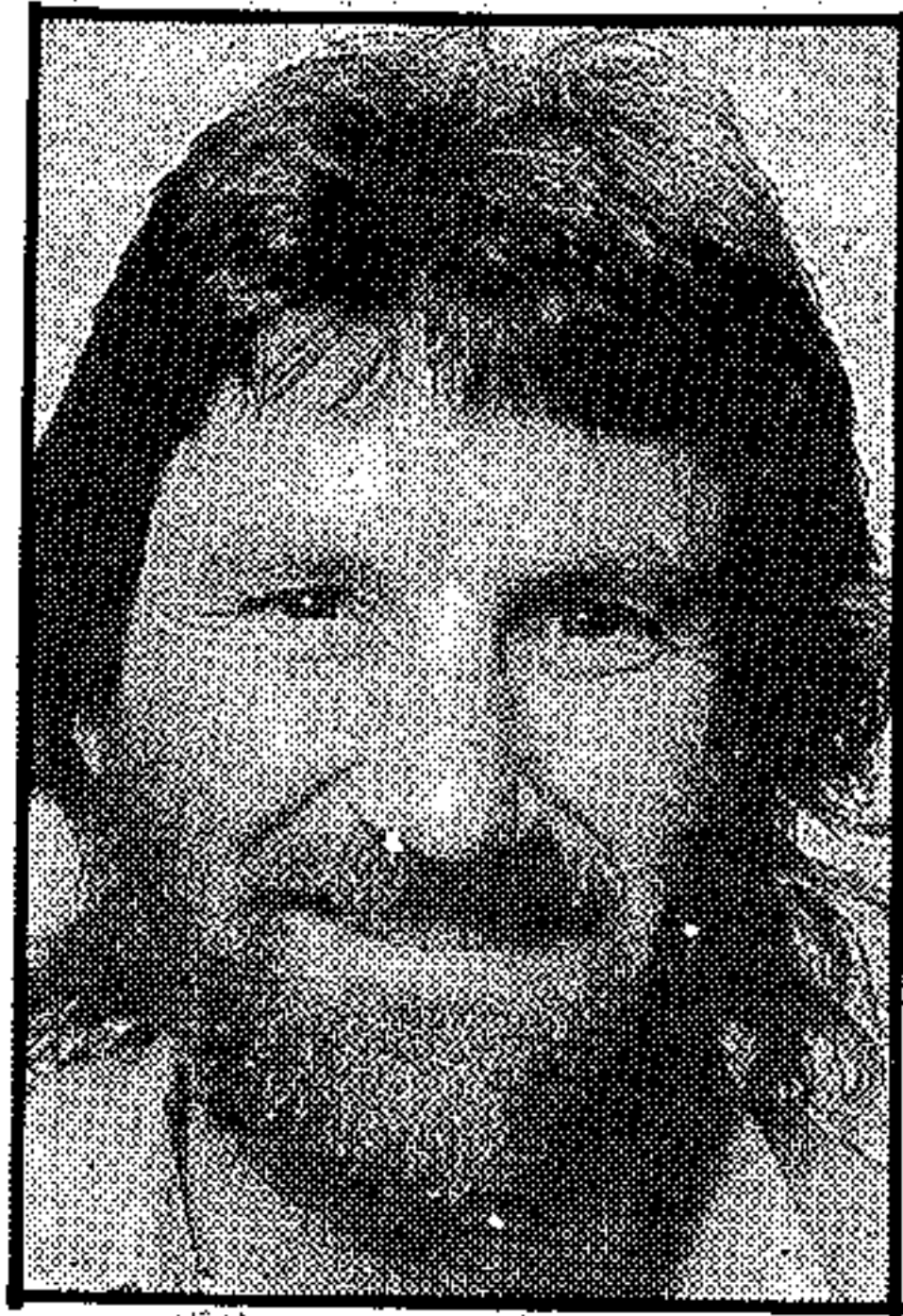
Centre lawyers said Dr De Villiers had agreed to an independent inquiry and this was one of the reasons the networking forum had not sought "judicial redress".

"Our clients relied on this agreement to address the grave problem ... of departmental mismanagement that threatened and continues to threaten the environment, as well as our client's health and well-being."

There had to be a commission of inquiry as important information was being withheld from the networking forum "on the grounds that the inquiry will deal with these matters".

The lawyers, citing section 23 of the constitution regarding the right to information, have asked the two deputy presidents:

- Which cabinet meeting decided to reject the agreement between their clients and Dr De Villiers to appoint a commission of inquiry;
- Whether this meeting was properly constituted in terms of the constitution;
- For a written statement of reasons for the cabinet's rejection; and
- For "all minutes, notes, agendas, records of decision or any other documents that refer or relate to any discussion or decision by cabinet or a cabinet committee on the agreement to appoint the commission of inquiry".



John Yeld

(56)  
**Argus man  
Yeld tops  
in enviro  
reporting**

ARGUS 13/9/95  
Staff Reporter

ARGUS environmental writer John Yeld has been voted this year's SAB Environmental Journalist of the year. He is one of only two journalists to have won this prestigious award twice.

The award was presented at a function at the SAB's brewery in Newlands last night.

Announcing the winners, the judges said Mr Yeld was "so consistent, productive and balanced, and his range of environmental interests so broad that he is a role model for other journalists and is, from now, the person to beat."

The other second-time winner was John Richards of the SABC, who won the category for radio reporting, and was also one of the winners in 1992.

Winners of the SAB Environmental Journalist of the Year Award are presented with a citation and a cheque for R5 000.

John Yeld writes a regular environmental column, "Green Scene" in The Argus, and has travelled extensively, observing and reporting on environmental matters.

Early last year he travelled to the Antarctic with the team that constructed the new Sanae 4 base, and wrote a series of articles on his experiences.

Recent controversial issues covered extensively by him include the possible environmental impact of holding the 2004 Olympics in Cape Town, the care of Table Mountain, the Cape Point development plan, kaolin mining and the proposed Saldanha steel mill.

Other winners of main categories were Debbie Rogers of SABC TV's "50/50" programme, Ockert Venter, also of "50/50", and Arlene Cameron of Earthyear magazine.

Merit awards were presented to Natal Mercury's Tony Carnie, Carol Lane, for her radio programme on poachers, Dr Sandra Herington, for a TV programme on poaching, Jill Gowans of the Sunday Tribune, Julienne du Toit for her magazine, "On Track", Russel Belter for his feature on the bearded vulture on "50/50", and the "Nature on Track series" produced for NNTV by Ann Strimling and Garth Lucas.

Constitution, which means they are being reviewed as if they were improper, if they were improper. In addition, there are imbalances that exist regarding the post of chief magistrate in the former Transkei will be dealt with in the process of the rationalisation of my department.

Mr M A MZIZI: Mr Speaker, I have listened to the answer supplied by the hon the Minister, and I am not trying to be racist, but—I hope you will allow me to say this, Sir—having learnt through the press that there are so many chief magistrates, the following saying that was used in the past jumped to mind: Too many chiefs, but too few Indians. [Laughter.]

We were all alarmed when we heard about this through the press. [Interjections.] Having listened to the hon the Minister's reply, I am left with many questions and doubts. One feels inclined to ask how many of these chief magistrates are Black, how many are White, and how many are women. How many of these 13 officials, or chief magistrates, all of the same rank, are Black? How many of them are White?

I am asking these questions, based on the fact that this was a homeland territory which was ruled by a military government. One may get the impression that people were trying to enrich themselves unduly by having themselves placed in high positions such as these. However, this line of thought cannot be pursued, because we do not know the facts. Yet, one wonders why the Government remained so silent about these irregularities.

In my opinion it would be proper to appoint an independent commission to establish what exactly was happening in the Transkei during the time of the military rule of the hon Bantu Holomisa. [Interjections.] Of course, he is a general; I do not have to use the term "the honourable" when referring to him. [Interjections.] I wonder if the Minister knows what criteria were used when the chief magistrates were appointed to serve in these positions. [Time expired.]

Mr L M GREEN: Mr Speaker, the appointment of a chief magistrate should relate directly to the workload of the courts. If the entire South Africa, excluding the former TBVC states, employs only 13 chief magistrates and one special magistrate, we do not understand how it can be justified to have 27 chief magistrates in the former Transkei. The Eastern Cape has a bloated public service

which is five times the size of that of the Free State. Yet it serves only twice as many people. The ACDP believes that if there was corruption in that magistrates were promoted to positions which they did not deserve, the matter should be put right at the Minister's earliest convenience. Blanket promotions are unacceptable. We believe that the issue of irregular promotions has been referred to the Browde Commission of Inquiry, and would like to know whether a deadline with regard to producing a report has been set by the Department of Justice.

THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY: Mr Speaker, if Mr Mzizi had been at the meeting of Select Committee on Justice where the Minister of Justice in fact announced these facts, all the answers would have been provided. The fact is that the information for the *Sunday Times* report which focused attention on this was provided by the Department of Justice.

The second thing to remember is that all these appointments, as I said in my first intervention, were made before 27 April 1994. It is quite clear that even the provisions of paragraph 31 in the Public Service manual were not followed. Paragraph 31 was meant to promote officials of outstanding ability who were not promoted due to a lack of higher posts in exceptional circumstances. Even allowing for the fact that in the Transkei there were obviously people with outstanding ability, the number of people who were promoted out of turn refers to one factor only.

It was done at a particular period preceding the repeal of the various Public Service Acts applicable to the TBVC states and the self-governing territories. Therefore, the officers to whom the promotions were granted were unjustifiably advantaged in relation to officers in the rest of the Republic with similar qualifications and number of years of experience. The discrepancy causes considerable dissatisfaction among other officials also. The Browde Commission is now seized of it.

The answer to Mr Green is that one cannot compel a judicial commission to either hasten its work or to do it with deliberate speed. The Browde Commission will report to the Minister of Justice when it has completed its function and the report of the commission will go to the Cabinet and of course the Cabinet will follow the recommendations.

Mr M F CASSIM: Mr Speaker, I think the important point here is that a moratorium was in

place. That moratorium was supported by the people who are here, that is, all the parties involved. Have these people been suspended until such time as the commission comes forward with its findings or are they being paid at present as though they occupy the positions of chief magistrates? If they are being paid at that level, then it would be grossly unfair to all the others whom the Minister acknowledges as people deserving promotion but who have been overlooked. So, in order to regularise this matter one has to bring it back to threshold.

I think this Government should adopt a new software package which has been developed in Canada by a former South African. That package enables government to monitor eventualities of this very nature we are talking about, because recently we also read that Government was surprised that it had on its payroll a lot more people than it expected. Again it happens to be in that part of the country. [Time expired.]

Mr M A MZIZI: Mr Speaker, one is of the mind that if a place such as Cofimvaba of all places, the smallest town in the Transkei, should also have a chief magistrate, then it means that everybody there could have acquired any position in terms of what was happening there. We have to investigate and bring about justice in that part of the country.

I am of the mind that there are a lot of things which are happening probably even up to now, but the Government is actually investigating other former homeland leaders such as Lucas Mangope. I do not know why we are investigating those cases whilst the infrastructure in the former Transkei is almost on the verge of collapsing. I urge the Minister, as his first priority, to restore all the imbalances in the Transkei.

\*Dr W A ODENDAAL: Mr Speaker, on a point of order: The hon the Minister of Justice is sitting just behind the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry. I wonder if it would be fair to the House if he would agree to deal with the last leg of the interpellation himself.

\*The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I do not think that that is a point of order. He has asked the hon the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry to act on his behalf. The hon the Minister may proceed.

THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY: Mr Speaker, I would hand over to the Minister with pleasure. I think this is an abuse of the process. I began with the answer, and he is allowing me to complete it.

If the hon member Mr Mzizi had listened to the answer, he would know that this is a process laid down in the Constitution. Many of us fought very hard at Kempton Park, because we anticipated that such so-called promotions would take place, not only in the Transkei, but elsewhere too. There is a judicial commission looking at this.

The hon member Mr Cassim sounds so reasonable, but he makes the most draconian proposals. He wants to have a soft position in one place, but now he says we should chop heads off without looking at the proceedings of the Browde Commission. I think we have to follow constitutional legal procedures.

As we are doing in relation to other public servants whose jobs are protected under the Constitution, so we must presume that the Browde Commission will investigate the matter and will report in due course whether these were invalid promotions or not. Either we respect the constitutional provisions I referred to or we say that we look to our own hearts and hunches and take action. If we do that, we should dismiss not only some chief magistrates in the Transkei, but also other people who would be candidates. I am sure this would not be liked by the House. Therefore we wait for the Browde Commission to make its recommendations.

As far as Mangope is concerned, this was a procedure set up by the provincial government. It is not a matter for the Minister of Justice or the central Government. The provincial governments are entitled to find out whether there is a pattern of corruption. Here we are looking specifically at appointments that were made, it is alleged in anticipation of the new constitutional provisions.

Debate concluded.

**Importation of toxic waste (56)**

3. Mr R K SIZANI asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether he or his Department has given effect to the undertaking he made on 30 August 1995 that a full, independent commission of enquiry will be appointed into the question as to who was responsible for issuing a permit for the importation of 500 tons of toxic waste into South Africa; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

*Hansard*  
1995

(2) whether the said permit was issued by his Department; if not, by whom was it issued; if so, what are the relevant details?

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The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM: Mr Speaker, I should like to draw the hon member's attention to the fact that his interpellation is wrongly worded. He either had a formulation problem or did not listen to me when I committed the Government on 30 August to institute a full and open investigation. I never used the word "commission", not in that interpellation, not in press statements, and not in a letter that I wrote to The Legal Resource Centre. Therefore the question is incorrectly worded.

If it was a question of whether I have instituted the investigation that I committed myself and the Government to, the answer would have been yes. Last Friday I issued a statement announcing the investigation, and yesterday I issued a further statement to indicate that Mr Jan Venter, president of the regional court in Pretoria, will conduct the investigation.

I briefly want to quote one paragraph from the press statement I issued last Friday, 8 September. I quote:

The facts in this case are well known and can easily be verified by a further independent inquiry. The issuing of a permit is an administrative function. Steps are being taken to rectify the procedure by reviewing the agreement between the department and the consultant. On the basis of the available evidence, there is no justification for appointing a commission of inquiry at great expense to look at an administrative problem about which most of the information is already known.

This is why the Cabinet Committee for Economic Affairs, after considering the matter last Wednesday, decided that the issue should be handled in a different manner, that the President should not be approached to appoint a commission. I quote further:

The inquiry now being announced gives any person . . . .  
This includes the hon member or any other person . . . .

. . . and/or institution the opportunity to provide the investigator with further written or oral evidence on this matter.

I think that that is keeping the commitment I gave on 30 August.

Mr R K SIZANI: Mr Speaker, I know that the best form of defence is attack, and have the idea that the Minister is trying to wriggle away from his commitment in Parliament. I am not talking about statements he made outside the House. I am referring to the interpellation we had with the Minister on 30 August this year.

I said in Parliament that we would like to emphasise that we do want a departmental commission of inquiry. We would like an independent commission of inquiry with clear terms of reference and timeframes. The Minister was probably not listening. His response was: "I think I have made a clear statement." We will not get a departmental investigation, but an independent inquiry, and in the meantime we have requested consultants not to proceed.

The question we really wanted to know is whether the Minister has instituted his promise of having that independent commission of inquiry as asked for in Parliament. He never said that it would not be a commission. I can see now, even by the many attempts that have been made to get me to withdraw this question, that there is something that the Minister is trying to hide. I will appeal again, to him and to those qualities that I know are rare in the NP, namely those of honour and integrity. Will the Minister please explain what is happening? What are they trying to hide? Why is he going back on his word?

Mr P R MOKABA: Mr Speaker, in order to put the record straight, I just want to say here that the demand for the commission did not come from outside the department. It was made by the Deputy Minister, and representing also the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

In argument after the Cabinet decision, the decision is made to look like it is a demand from outside. They themselves convinced the portfolio committee that there was a need for a commission of enquiry, and that is what we have been saying to the people. It is a promise that we have made to the people and now to retreat from that particular undertaking, simply on the basis of cost, suggests other things. That is why we insist. Let us deliver to the people what we have promised them.

We are also concerned, as we have pointed out in the last interpellation, that we are not talking about just one contract. We are talking about all the other contracts that South Africa may have

entered into through a consultant and which have not been divulged to the Deputy Minister. He has said to us that he was given this particular responsibility regarding pollution, but that there was no briefing at all. That is why he did not have information in this regard. So on this basis we insist on our original demand.

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM: Mr Speaker, if hon members made promises, they must not blame me for not keeping their promises. I am keeping my promise.

On 29 August I wrote a letter to Mr Graham Boyd from the Legal Resources Centre. They approached me in connection with such an investigation. In that letter, re importation of cupric arsenite into South Africa, I again reiterate point 5:

The Deputy Minister has already stated that an open investigation will be instituted.

That was on 29 August. On the next day, 30 August, I dealt with an interpellation here in Parliament. We do not have to argue about the words. Parliament keeps record of debates, so I am quoting from what I said on that occasion from the record of Hansard:

Before I respond to the questions raised by the hon member, I would like to inform the House that an announcement has already been made that a full, open and transparent investigation concerning the granting of a permit for the importation of cupric arsenite . . . for recycling in South Africa will be instituted.

So what is the argument about? We have kept our commitment and the hon members are now trying to lay words in my mouth which I never used. If they spoke of a commission, that is their problem. I have not spoken about a commission. I have been consistently referring to an investigation, and an investigation is what we have.

Mr R K SIZANI: Mr Speaker, I have a letter here in my hand, written to the Portfolio Committee on Environmental Affairs on 7 September 1995. It comes from that hon Minister's department, informing the committee as follows:

The Cabinet Committee on Economics has on 6 September 1995 ruled that there is no need for a commission of inquiry. Instead we shall have a departmental inquiry in order to minimise costs, and the public will still have the right to submit their concerns to the said inquiry.

The department's proposal, therefore, for an independent commission of inquiry has been turned down. The department concerned is the department of that hon Minister. It was their proposal. It came from the department of that Minister, who is now distancing himself from it. [Interjections.] That Minister, here in Parliament, on 30 August 1995, promised an independent commission of inquiry. Now he comes with a departmental commission. Where will the dishonour of the NP end? It is the same Minister who was boasting last week about being a green Minister in the NP and showing the way; now he is hiding the fact that toxic waste has been imported into the country without a permit, and he does not want to investigate it. He is going back on his word, and he is betraying his own department, who had initially made this proposal.

What we do not know is why the Cabinet said that there should be no commission of inquiry. That is the question the Minister must answer here. It was a commitment he gave in Parliament, and which his department had given, even to the portfolio committee. That has been rejected by the Cabinet. Why is that so? We want to know that. The Minister should answer that question.

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM: Mr Speaker, I give up. I taught at a university for a long time, but I find it difficult to explain to someone that the record proves that I never said that there was going to be a commission, but the hon member insists that I did say that there was going to be a commission. I cannot resolve that. I indicated that there would be an investigation, and an investigation has been instituted.

The Cabinet committee considered the question as to whether a commission, in terms of the Commissions Act, should be appointed by the President. For various good reasons the collective wisdom of the Cabinet committee was that I should pursue another route, that I should not approach the President to appoint a commission at great cost. If I wished to appoint an independent investigator, which is within my right as Minister, I could do so, and that is what I have done.

There will therefore be a full investigation into this matter, and if the hon member has some information that he does not want to share with us, I invite him—as a matter of fact, I expect it of him—to appear before that investigator, to meet the investigator, and to table the problems and concerns he has on the issuing of the licence.

More than that I cannot do, but I offer the hon member an honourable way to express his concerns and to inform the investigator of the facts he has at his disposal.  
Debate concluded.

#### QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

*For oral reply:*

*Question standing over from Wednesday, 30 August 1995:*

#### South African ambassadors/senior officials: public questioning

\*8. Dr B L GELDENHUYS asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:†

- (1) Whether (a) South African ambassadors and/or (b) senior officials of his Department will in future be questioned in public by parliamentary committees before their appointment is finalised; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

N11106E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) With regard to the appointment of Ambassadors, my Department is bound by the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. (Act No 200 of 1993), which stipulates quite clearly in section 82(1)(f) that the President has the power "to appoint, accredit, receive and recognise ambassadors, plenipotentiaries, diplomatic representatives and other diplomatic officers, consuls and consular offices;"

It is therefore within the competence of the President and his prerogative to appoint ambassadors to represent South Africa abroad.

In terms of section 82(2)(d) of the Constitution, "The President shall consult the Executive Deputy Presidents [regarding] appointments

[made by him] under subsection (1)(f)";

- (b) The same provisions apply in regard to the appointment of senior officials of my Department as Ambassadors.

(2) No.

Dr B L GELDENHUYS: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, there is a Chinese saying which goes: "The sky is high and the emperor is far away." Now, will the Deputy Minister not agree that in many instances high commissioners and ambassadors are actually regarded by MPs and Parliament as being emperors far away? Will the Deputy Minister not also agree that this huge gap between proverbial "emperors far away" and Parliament could in fact be narrowed by parliamentary involvement through the committees? We are not saying the committees should actually have a final say in the appointment, but I think, as is the case in many other countries, the committees should at least be involved in the process, regardless of the obstacles in the Constitution.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, I am glad my colleague on the other side has at last woken up to some democratic practices. If he is suggesting that we look at new formulations in the process of transition, he should make serious recommendations and the department and the Ministry are willing to consider them.

*Questions standing over from Wednesday, 6 September 1995:*

#### Official position on genocide/nuclear tests

\*9. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Whether the South African Government has expressed its position on the (a) genocide in (i) Rwanda and (ii) Bosnia and (b) intention of testing of nuclear devices in the Pacific; if not, why not; if so, (i) what position did the Government adopt and (ii) how was this position officially communicated to the United Nations and/or the governments concerned?

N1149E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, I think Mr Cassim must have been experiencing one of his less enlightened

days. This is a very complicated question, and therefore members will have to bear with us as we try to answer it in a more understandable way.

- (a) (i) and (a) (ii) Yes.  
(b) French nuclear tests.

The Department of Foreign Affairs issued a press release on 6 September 1995 condemning in the strongest terms possible the nuclear test explosion conducted by the Government of France on the Mururoa Atoll on 5 September 1995. It is the Government's hope that France would heed international concern about their decision to abandon the moratorium on nuclear tests and to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific. The Government is deeply concerned about the potential negative effects of underground nuclear testing on the environment. I wish to reaffirm the Government's solidarity with the States in the South Pacific and the Government's continued support in their strong opposition to the resumption of the French tests in the region. Work is presently being done to bring a resolution on nuclear testing before the Fifteenth United Nations General Assembly.

- (aa) Genocide and ethnic cleansing is one of the most heinous of crimes, perpetrated for the worst possible motives of destroying a whole people, their culture and established traditions. It leaves chaos and destruction in its wake. It takes many forms and consists of criminal acts, injury, murder, rape and expelling people from their traditional places of residence. It calls for governments around the world to intercede, to take action to stem the tide of human suffering and make the perpetrators accountable for their crimes.

(aa) (i) Rwanda  
As the newest democracy on the African continent and as an expression of our support and commitment to the continent, the Government has added its support to international efforts to alleviate the human suffering and refugee crisis in Rwanda. The Government remains committed and is participating to the full extent of its abilities in the efforts spearheaded by the OAU to restore peace

and stability to the country and surrounding territory.

(bb) (i) Among the practical steps followed by the South African Government to stop and/or alleviate the effects of genocide in Rwanda are the following:

—As a member of the United Nations, and in compliance with the UN Charter, to which it is bound, the South African Government has, where appropriate, either supported, responded to, or upheld all UN General Assembly or Security Council Resolutions related to alleviating the situation in Rwanda. This has been accomplished through the provision of humanitarian assistance, and support for the UN's and the OAU's efforts to arrive at a solution causing preventative diplomacy. More specifically, the Government has firmly committed itself to upholding those Security Council Resolutions pertaining to the imposition of an arms embargo (UNSC Res. 918 of 1994), which has now been lifted, and the establishment of an International Tribunal of Experts (UNSC Res. 955 of 1994) to prosecute the perpetrators of the atrocities in Rwanda (on which Justice Goldstone is the Chief Prosecutor and Ms N Pillay is a tribunalist.

(aa) (ii) Bosnia  
With regard to Bosnia, The Department of Foreign Affairs issued a press release on 21 July 1995 condemning human rights violations and acts of violence in Bosnia. The Office of the President also issued a press release on 22 July 1995 expressing the Government's concern and outrage at the situation. The Department of Foreign Affairs again issued a press release on 31 August 1995 expressing its outrage at the marketplace bombing in Sarajevo in which 37 innocent civilians were killed and many more injured.



**Final year medical students: internship**

\*10. Dr W A ODENDAAL asked the Minister for Health:†

Whether she is planning to impose a limit on the existing number of final year medical students who will be allowed to complete their internship at academic hospitals; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

N1216E

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH:

The Minister for Health does not wish to limit the existing number of final year medical students who want to complete their internship in academic hospitals. The Minister of Health wants to ensure that there is equity in the allocation of posts for internship of medical students without sacrificing the quality of education they received. Historically provincial health authorities allocated students to well resourced hospitals which largely treated patients in tertiary care and seldom in secondary and primary care.

Doctors are better trained if they are exposed to a wide range of patients with both ambulatory and in-patient care and also learn about health education, health promotion and preventive care in real life situations. Reallocation of interns to more training places in all provinces will increase their range of experience and make them more effective doctors.

A formula for ensuring equity in allocation of interns has been developed and it takes into account the number of South African Medical and Dental Council's (SAMDC) accredited facilities to which interns can be sent.

**Investigation into murder of Dennis Marock**

\*11. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Justice:

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 17 on 29 March 1995, the Attorney-General has completed the investigation into the murder of Dennis Marock; if not, why not; if so, when is it expected that a prosecution will be instituted?

N1217E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

The police investigation into the murder of Dennis Marock has been completed. Three

accused, to wit, James Leckey Agnew, Michael Felhun and Willem Smit will appear in the Supreme Court, Cape Town on 16 October 1995, on charges of murder and robbery.

**Australian diplomat employed/relaxation of ban on movement of toxic/hazardous waste by**

(56) Dept

\*12. Mr P R MOKABA asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (1) Whether his Department has employed an Australian diplomat as an adviser, if so, what is the brief of the person concerned;
- (2) whether his Department intends supporting a bid by another country to relax an international ban imposed in terms of the UN Basel Convention on the movement of toxic and/or of hazardous waste from industrialised to non-industrialised countries; if so, why; if not, (a) what position will South Africa adopt at the meeting of the Basel Convention signatories in September and (b) who will be representing South Africa at that meeting?

N1218E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- (1) The Department of Foreign Affairs has not employed an Australian diplomat as an adviser.

The Governments of South Africa and Australia have, however, entered into an agreement to exchange officials for a period of twelve months on a reciprocal basis between their respective departments of foreign affairs.

The purpose of the exchange programme is to facilitate an exchange of views, skills and experience on issues of mutual interest, particularly in relation to multilateral diplomatic work, and to strengthen the constructive partnership between the two countries.

An official from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade joined the Department of Foreign Affairs recently to commence the exchange programme. The South African Department of Foreign Affairs is soon to send a South African Official to take up a placement in the

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

- (2) The Department of Foreign Affairs has not been requested by any Government to support a particular position regarding a proposed ban on the movement of toxic and/or hazardous wastes from industrialised (OECD) to non-industrialised (non-OECD) countries in terms of the Basel Convention.

The Third Conference of Parties (COP III) to the Basel Convention, to be held in Geneva from 18 to 22 September 1995, will consider a proposal that decision II/12 as adopted by the Second Conference of Parties be incorporated as an amendment to the Basel Convention. If the proposed amendment is adopted by the Third Conference of Parties it will—

- place an immediate ban on the export of hazardous wastes destined for final disposal from OECD to non-OECD countries; and
- prohibit, after 31 December 1977 the export of hazardous wastes destined for recycling or recovery operations from OECD to non-OECD countries.

(a) It is the view of the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism that South Africa should support decision II/12. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism is currently consulting stakeholders in government, NGOs and the private sector with a view to formulate a position in this regard.

(b) General B Holomisa, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism will lead the South African delegation to the Third Conference of Parties. Ambassador J S Seledi will be the deputy leader of the delegation. The rest of the delegation will consist of the following members: Mr W Scott, Director, Pollution Control, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism; Mr C Badenhorst and Mr L L Ndimeni, Directorate Marine and Environment, Department of Foreign Affairs; a representative from the Department of Trade and Industry (to be nominated); Ms J Hall, Earthlife

African: Ms S Miller, COSATT; Mr M I. Hawke of the South African Chamber of Business.

**Investigation into Swaniville massacre**

\*13. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

- (1) Whether an investigation into the Swaniville massacre in May 1991 was ever initiated; if not; why not; if so, by whom was this investigation ordered;
- (2) whether the investigation was terminated at any time; if so, (a) on whose authority, (b) why and (c) at what stage; if not, what were the results of this investigation;
- (3) whether any prosecutions resulted from the said investigation; if not; why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N1219E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

- (1) Yes. A case of public violence, together with various other charges, was investigated by the South African Police under the supervision of Lieut-Gen Van der Westhuizen from Head Office, Pretoria.

(2) No. The investigation was never terminated, but submitted to the Attorney-General on completion, who decided to prosecute 7 (seven) persons on charges of murder and public violence.

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.

(3) All 7 (seven) accused were acquitted in the Johannesburg Supreme Court on 16 February 1993 on all the charges, as a result of contradictory evidence by State witnesses.

**Representation of Dept in Australia**

\*14. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Trade and Industry:

- (1) Whether his Department has any representation in Australia; if so, (a) what representation and (b) as from what date; if not, why not;

(2) whether any change in this regard is envisaged in the near future; if not, what is

*Hand said 13/9/95*

South African Communication Service	16(4) 17(2)(a)	1 1	38 051 647 563
Education and Culture Service (Ex Administration: House of Assembly) <sup>7)</sup>	16(4) 16(6)(a) <sup>2)</sup> 17(2)(a) 17(2)(b) 17(4)	3 12 55 9 1	11 711 30 761 9 307 6 750 13 202
Education and Culture Service (Ex Administration: House of Representatives) <sup>4)</sup>	17(6)(a) <sup>2)</sup> 17(2)(a) 17(2)(b)	2 15 1	64 187 117 522 283 210
Education and Culture Service (Ex Administration: House of Representatives) <sup>4)</sup>			2

<sup>1)</sup> 16(6)(a) Retirements in terms of the specific provision contained in Public Service Staff Code B (Special).

<sup>2)</sup> 16(6)(a) Other retirements on the basis of the prescripts contained in Public Service Staff Code B.XV/II.

<sup>3)</sup> The relevant information is classified and has not been made available.

<sup>4)</sup> No information could be obtained from these institutions.

<sup>5)</sup> The information supplied also includes that of the Northern Cape.

<sup>6)</sup> Separate amounts were not supplied per section of the Act.

<sup>7)</sup> Information regarding pension gratuities was not supplied.

**Kransdraai Primary School: teachers/access road**

355. Mr G Q M DOIDGE asked the Minister of Education:

(1) (a) What is the current teacher complement at the Kransdraai Primary School in KwaZulu-Natal, (b) where did these teachers reside and (c) what total estimated distance is daily being travelled by these teachers between this school and their places of residence;

(2) whether these teachers are (a) being compensated for their travelling costs or (b) receiving a travelling allowance; if not, why not;

(3) whether his Department is taking any steps to ensure that the access road to the school is being regularly maintained; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) what is the current condition of this road? N717E

**The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:**

The reply of the Education Department in KwaZulu-Natal is hereby given.

(1) (a) Five CS educators.  
(b) Four in Kokstad and one in Kransdraai.  
(c) Four CS educators travel 136 km return and one CS educator 2 km return.

(2) (a) None of the five CS educators are presently compensated for their travelling costs.  
(b) Some of the five CS educators did receive a state travelling allowance until 31 March 1994. The attached copy of circular no 28/94 dated 15/7/94 and file no TS9/3/1 states the reasons for cancellation of the State's travelling allowance.

(3) whether his Department is taking any steps to ensure that the access road to the school is being regularly maintained; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) what is the current condition of this road? N717E

(3) The maintenance of the road is the responsibility of the KwaZulu-Natal provincial administration.

(a) Falls away.

(b) Falls away.

**Condition of schools in Dutyini: Eastern Cape**

356. Mr G Q M DOIDGE asked the Minister of Education:

(1) (a) What was the pupil/teacher ratio in each class at the Dutyini (i) Preschool, (ii) Junior Primary, (iii) Senior Primary and (iv) Junior Secondary School in the Province of Eastern Cape as at the latest specified date for which information is available, (b) what are the relevant details in respect of each of these schools in regard to the (i) age of the buildings, (ii) availability of toilet facilities and (iii) condition of the water tanks and (c) what furniture is being used by the pupils of class II at the Junior Primary School;

(2) whether the classroom referred to in paragraph (1)(c) has a blackboard; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether all these school buildings belong to the State; if not,

(4) whether these buildings are being leased; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) from whom and (b) who is responsible for the maintenance of these buildings;

(5) whether there is a full staff complement at the Junior Secondary School; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? N755E

**The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:**

The reply of the Eastern Cape Education Department is as follows:

(1) (a) The present pupil/teacher ratio in Dutyini

(i) Preschool is 85:1

(ii), (iii) and (iv) Primary/Junior Secondary School is 48:1.

(b) (i) The age of the Preschool building is not known. For the Primary/Junior Secondary School

there are five rondavels, of which four are very old and one which the community is busy building. An additional six classrooms were built in 1974, but do not have ceilings and have mud floors.

(ii) The Preschool does not have toilet facilities of their own, but make use of the facilities of the Primary/Junior Secondary School. There are twelve pit latrines at the Primary/Junior Secondary School which require maintenance.

(iii) There are no water supply at the Preschool and the Primary/Junior Secondary School.

(c) The Primary/Junior Secondary School does not have its own furniture, but is borrowing from the Preschool and neighbouring schools. Even borrowing does not provide enough furniture. The Preschool has 40 desks for 170 pupils available.

(2) The classrooms of the Primary/Junior Secondary School have writing boards.

(3) No.

(4) (a) The Methodist Church of South Africa is lending the Preschool building free of charge to the community. The buildings for the Primary/Junior Secondary School belongs to the State.

(b) The maintenance of the Preschool building is the responsibility of the church and the community. The maintenance of the Primary/Junior Secondary School buildings is the responsibility of the Eastern Cape Education Department in collaboration with the Department of Works.

(5) No.  
The Eastern Cape Education Department is addressing the staff shortages at schools within its financial constraints.

**Disposal sites operative in terms of Environment Conservation Act**

389. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

*HANSARD 14/9/95*

- (1) With reference to section 20 of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No 73 of 1989), how many disposal sites are currently being operated in the Republic;
- (2) whether the necessary permits have been obtained in terms of the said section 20 in respect of all these disposal sites; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

N8201E

**THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:**

- (1) Approximately 1 200 waste disposal sites are currently operated in South Africa. This number can be as high as 1 600, especially if waste storage areas at factory premises are taken into account.

(2) Currently 186 of these sites are in possession of permits issued in terms of section 20 of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act 73 of 1989). Of these, nine are hazardous waste disposal sites, eight asbestos and 169 general waste disposal sites. Approximately 33% of the latter permits are for medium sized (serving up to 200 000 people), 54% for small (serving up to 10 000 people) and only 4% for large disposal sites (serving more than 200 000 people). A further 135 permits are currently being processed by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

The reasons that all sites are not being issued with permits are, *inter alia*, the duration of the investigations required for waste disposal sites and its environs and the complex and time-consuming nature of public scoping and rezoning which form part of the permit application process. Conformance to these requirements are integral to ensuring that the public and the environment are not detrimentally affected by waste sites. Further reasons include the artificial backlog in waste disposal sites without permits that was created with the promulgation of the Environment Conservation Act in 1989, understaffing and a lack of uniform standards for waste management in South Africa. The latter was resolved with the publishing of the minimum requirements documents by the De-

- (b) any (i) organisations and/or (ii) political parties in other countries in Africa since 1 January 1990; if so, (c) (i) which governments, organisations and/or political parties, (ii) for what reasons, and (iii) when, in each case?

N832E

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE:**

A new arms control policy has recently been adopted by Cabinet. Countries are no longer categorised, but every order is treated according to product classification and on a case by case basis.

The principles governing the National Arms Trade incorporate control measures and human rights criteria based on the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.

The Government sells weapons to Governments and their security forces. Arms and ammunition are also sold to organisations, for example to Sport and Recreation organisations for Bisley purposes as well as for security in nature conservation and mining companies.

A detailed list of all sales is available at the Ministry of Defence for scrutiny by the hon member. It is not published due to the confidentiality normally expected by buyers.

**Voters registered for local elections**

410. Mr J W MAREE asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development:†

- What total number of voters are registered for the local elections in (a) each province and (b) the metropolitan areas of (i) Cape Town, (ii) Port Elizabeth, (iii) East London, (iv) Durban, (v) Johannesburg and (vi) Pretoria?

N841E

**THE MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

(a) *Nine Provinces*

According to information received from the various provinces, the number of voters registered in the nine provinces on the dates given in brackets (this being the latest dates for which information is available), are as follows:

Province	Number of voters registered	Date
Gauteng	3 665 810	(21 July 1995)
KwaZulu-Natal	3 130 008	(18 July 1995)
Northern Cape	328 925	(8 August 1995)
Northern Province	1 752 554	(10 August 1995)
North West	1 413 043	(27 July 1995)
Eastern Cape	2 738 929	(23 August 1995)
Mpumalanga	1 072 188	(23 August 1995)
Free State	1 123 282	(7 August 1995)
Western Cape	2 310 761	(16 August 1995)

(b) *Metropolitan areas*

According to information received from the various provinces, the number of voters registered for the metropolitan areas on the dates given in brackets (this being the latest dates of which information is available), are as follows:

(i) Cape Town	1 439 052	(16 August 1995)
(ii) Port Elizabeth	394 281	(6 August 1995)
(iii) East London	188 530	(6 August 1995)
(iv) Durban	1 006 891	(18 July 1995)
(v) Johannesburg	1 452 490	(21 July 1995)
(vi) Pretoria	626 139	(21 July 1995)

**Resettlement of former freedom fighters**

411. Mr J A MARAIS asked the Minister of Defence:†

- (a) What total amount has been made available by (i) overseas institutions and/or (ii) any other specified institutions for the resettlement of former freedom fighters, (b) (i) what portions of these amounts have been utilised for this purpose and (ii) what amount is still available for this purpose, (c) how many persons have been resettled with the aid of these funds and (d) which institutions exercise control over these funds?

N842E

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE:**

Financial assistance was provided to former freedom fighters to assist them to resettle and

**Sale of weapons by SA**

401. Mr AJILEON asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) Whether South Africa sells weapons to (a) the governments of and/or (b) any (i) organisations and/or (ii) political parties in any other countries in Africa; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (c) (i) which governments, organisations and/or political parties, (ii) what is the value of these sales in respect of each such government, organisation and/or political party and (iii) in respect of what date or dates is this information furnished;
- (2) whether South Africa has ceased to supply weapons to (a) the governments of and/or

department is presently aware of only one case; this person apparently worked at Premier Mine.

- (3) The final results of the present project will dictate the necessary course of action to be taken for control purposes. The monitoring for asbestos fibres for risk levy payments in terms of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act will be considered if results indicate the necessity of such action.

**Commitment of gross violation of human rights: investigations**

555. Mr R H GROENEWALD asked the Minister of Justice:

- (1) Whether any investigations have been done into the possible involvement of persons in the commitment of gross violation of human rights in terms of the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act, 1995; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) who authorised such investigations, (b) by (i) whom and/or (ii) which organisations were such investigations done and (c) what are the names of the (i) persons, (ii) authorities, (iii) institutions and/or (iv) organisations, in respect of whom such investigations have been done;
- (2) whether such persons, authorities, institutions and/or organisations will be furnished with details of such investigations before they are called upon to testify before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

N1189E

- (1) No. The Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act, 1995 (Act No 34 of 1995), will become operative on a date still to be determined by the President. The Act itself provides that such investigations are to be conducted by a Commission, appointed by the President in consultation with Cabinet, or a Committee of the Commission. Until the Commissioners are appointed and the Act becomes operative, no investigation can be done in terms of the Act.

**The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:**

Although the question does not specifically refer to waste, it is clear from the context that hazardous waste is implied. The answer has therefore been focused on waste.

- (1) Yes. (a) As far as the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism knows there was one such a case and that was from America; (b) Plus minus 2 000 tons;
- (2) Yes. (a) Such a permit was issued to Thor Chemicals on the conditions that regulations and standards as determined by legislation, are not transgressed or exceeded; (b) The importation of spent mercury catalyst is controlled by the Hazardous Substances Act, 1973 (Act No 15 of 1973) and was administered by the Department of Health. A committee consisting of officials from the Departments of National Health, Water Affairs, Manpower and Environmental Affairs agreed to the importation thereof and a permit was issued to Thor Chemicals on 30 May 1991. The permit was cancelled on 16 September 1994.

**Local government elections: supervision by Independent Electoral Commission**

558. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development:

- (1) Whether the local government elections will be held under the supervision of the Independent Electoral Commission; if not, why not; if so, in terms of what constitutional provisions will the elections take place;
- (2) whether it has been established whether any lacuna exists in the Constitution in respect of local government elections; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

N1192E

**The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

- (1) Local government elections are held in terms of the Local Government Transition

Act, 1993, and the regulations made thereunder.

- (2) It is not clear what the hon member is referring to. If the hon member supplies me with further information, I will attempt to reply to the question.

**Increase in price of postage stamps**

559. Mrs P DE LILLE asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting:

By what percentage did the price of postage stamps increase in each of the latest specified three years for which information is available?

N1193E

**The MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING:**

The Chief Executive of the South African Post Office Limited has informed me as follows:

- (i) 1 April 1993 30%
- (ii) 1 April 1994 10% (non-standard rates only)
- (iii) 1 August 1994 11% (standard rate only)
- (iv) 1 April 1995 15% (average)

**Percentage of cutting/polishing of SA diamonds done locally/abroad**

560. Mrs P DE LILLE asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

- (a) With reference to certain information furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, what percentage of the cutting and polishing of South African diamonds has been allocated to persons and/or industries in (i) Amsterdam, (ii) Antwerp, (iii) Tel Aviv and (iv) India, (b) what criteria are being used in allocating such cutting and polishing and (c) (i) what amount of the cutting and polishing of South African diamonds is undertaken in the Republic and (ii) where in the Republic?

N1194E

**The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:**

(a) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) South African diamonds are not "allocated" to any person and/or concern in other countries. Cutting concerns in the main diamond cutting centres (like Antwerpen, Tel Aviv, Johannesburg, New York, Bangkok and Bombay) purchase most of their raw material (rough diamonds) from suppliers

Hansford 14/9/95

**Toxic substance imported into the Republic for disposal/treatment**

557. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether any toxic substances resulting from various manufacturing processes have been imported into the Republic for disposal and/or treatment; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) from where and (b) in what quantities;
- (2) whether any permits have been issued in this regard; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) how are such permits issued and (b) who authorised such permits to be issued?

(56)

N1191E

applying for and in his capacity as attorney acting on behalf of a client.

The Department has also had communication with Mr Wildu du Plessis in his capacity as an attorney acting on behalf of a client.

The Managing Director of Telkom SA Limited has informed me as follows:

(1) None of the individuals concerned received any instructions from Telkom on legal matters since 1 May 1994.

(2) The firm Hofmeyr Incorporated completed work in one court case in which they were instructed before 1 May 1994. Their total fees in respect of that court case amounted to approximately R69 000.

(3) In the period under consideration the firm Hofmeyr Incorporated received one instruction from Telkom to provide legal advice, in respect of which their fees amounted to a few hundred Rands.

(4) There were various communications between Telkom and the firms David Dison, Norval & Weldon as well as Hofmeyr Incorporated where they acted for outside parties and communicated with Telkom in the ordinary course of business.

In my own view the attorneys used by a company such as Telkom, and the fees involved, is a private business matter seen against the background of our contention that Telkom is not an organ of State. It is for the Minister to decide whether or not to make the information known. The danger of setting a precedent to provide information of a private business nature about Telkom in Parliament should be considered.

The Chief Executive of the SA Post Office Limited has informed me as follows:

(1) (c) Yes, since 1 May 1994 the South African Post Office Limited made use of the services of Hofmeyr Attorneys.

Mr Wildu du Plessis of the Firm Hofmeyr Attorneys is currently lending assistance with the incorporation of two private companies in which the South African Post Office has a share and with the preparation of the

agreements which have to be concluded.

It should be mentioned that the South African Post Office approaches the firm to render the service and is not involved in assigning the person in the firm who should execute the order.

It is not known whether board members of the South African Post Office have in their private capacities made use of the services of the mentioned firms or persons.

(2) No moneys have yet been paid to the firm as the work has not yet been completed.

The Chairperson of the SABC has informed me as follows: (1)(d)

(1) Sentech, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the SABC, made payments to two of the parties listed in your enquiry in respect of various services rendered as outlined below during the period 1/5/94 to 31/8/95.

(1) David Dison (various attorneys):  
Telkom satellite feed case, including cost for an advocate 98 348,00  
IBA hearing 13 991,22  
Sentech Act 4 935,16  
Future of Sentech 42 436,50  
TOTAL 159 747,55

(2) Media and Broadcasting Consultants:  
Future of Sentech 152 891,16  
IBA hearing 8 977,50  
Licence application 28 271,56  
TOTAL 190 140,22

The Chairperson of the IBA has informed me as follows:

(1) Shortly after the establishment of the IBA in April 1994, the councillors had two formal consultative meetings with Messrs David Dison, Michael Markowitz and other members of the technical committee which drafted the IBA Act. The purpose of the meetings was to brief the council on the intent of various clauses of the Act. There have also been a few informal consultations by some of the councillors with Dison to discuss similar issues related to the Act.

(2) No fees were requested and none were paid. Messrs Dison and Markowitz have ~~presigned~~ before the IBA representing clients. (56)

#### Toxic/hazardous waste: importation/exportation

545. Mr P R MOKABA asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

(1) Whether any applications for the importation of toxic and/or hazardous waste were made through his Department during the latest specified period of two years for which information is available; if so, (a) for what reason, (b) who was involved and (c) how many such applications have been approved;

(2) whether any toxic and/or hazardous waste was imported into the country in the past; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) who was involved and (b) how was this waste disposed of;

(3) whether South Africa or any companies in the Republic have exported any toxic and/or hazardous waste to other countries; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) which countries were involved and (b) through which ports did such transportation occur?

N1176E

#### THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

(1) Yes.  
(a) Application was made for the importation of waste with the intention to extract mainly the metals. No application was received with the intention to merely dispose of the waste.  
(b) IAD Metal Concentrators, Benoni.  
(c) Only the one abovementioned application was approved.

(2) Yes.  
(a) The Department is aware of only one other case, that of Thor Chemicals, Natal. This incident occurred before South Africa became party to the Basel Convention and the Department had no control over the importation. The policy at that stage was not to

import hazardous waste for the disposal thereof and it was therefore not in conflict with the policy. A permit for the import of the waste was at that time issued by the Department of National Health;

(b) Some of the waste which was imported by Thor Chemicals is stored on their premises in Cato Ridge, Natal, because the permit which allowed the company to incinerate the waste in order to extract the mercury, was withdrawn. One of the terms of reference of the Davis Commission of Investigation to the case is to table a proposal on the disposal of this waste.

(3) Yes.

(a) Belgium, Germany and the United Kingdom;  
(b) Durban.

#### Employees of SAPS in various districts of North-West province

548. Mr A S BEYERS asked the Minister for Safety and Security:†

How many members of the police (a) were in the employ of the South African Police Service as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) on average were in the employ of the SAPS in the past financial year at the police stations at (i) Potchefstroom, (ii) Lichtenburg, (iii) Mankeng, (iv) Mmabatho, (v) Zeerust, (vi) Delareyville, (vii) Ioseng, (viii) Coligny, (ix) Bloemhof and (x) Schweizer-Reneke?

N1182E

#### THE MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

Latest specified date: 1995-08-31

(a) 143 192.  
(b) (i) 385  
(ii) 172  
(iii) 201  
(iv) 333  
(v) 93  
(vi) 28  
(vii) 176  
(viii) 29  
(ix) 46  
(x) 38

## Saldanha study starts

Michael Moon

18 (18) (56)  
2013/9/19/95

A SPECIAL "scoping study" is being undertaken by the CSIR as the first step in a planned environmental impact assessment for the controversial proposed expansion of the oil loading facility in Saldanha Bay.

All interested and affected parties can participate in the first phase of the study, a "process review" on how the CSIR should approach the investigation.

The second, scoping phase will ensure all issues, concerns and alternatives to the planned development by the Strategic Fuel Fund Association are identified and investigated.

A background document will be distributed to interested parties for comment.

Crowther Campbell & Associates is handling public consultation. For more information contact Jonathan Crowther at (021) 461-1118, or by fax on (021) 461-1120.

# Waste deal probe 'just window-dressing'

(56) STAW 13/9/95  
Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers has appointed Pretoria Regional Court President Jan Venter to head an independent inquiry into the issuing of a dangerous waste importation permit earlier this year.

His appointment comes shortly after a Cabinet committee vetoed a proposal that the permit for the importation of 500 tons of cupric arsenate be investigated by a commission of inquiry. The Cabinet's decision prompted accusations of a cover-up.

The Government permit was

granted in conjunction with private consultants Daan Malan and Associates. It caused an uproar when it was made public because it appeared to contravene an earlier agreement by De Villiers to ban the importation of toxic waste.

De Villiers said the commission would not take place because it would be too costly and because most of the facts surrounding the incident were "well known" and could be verified by Venter's independent inquiry.

But, Environmental Justice

Networking Forum co-ordinator Chris Albertyn said: "It's like asking the fox to look for the missing chicken. It is essentially a window-dressing exercise designed to cover up what is quite clearly a serious matter."

"It will not investigate what Parliament wanted - the alleged corruption in the appointment of Daan Malan and other consultants by the department."

Interested parties are invited to submit evidence on the matter to Venter at Private Bag X61, Pretoria 0001. - Staff Reporter.

## Saldanha oil spill 'cleared'

(56) Stav 13/9/95

Cape Town - The 80 000 litres of oil spilt by a Panamanian tanker in South Africa's Saldanha Bay harbour had been cleared, authorities said yesterday.

A spokesman for the Strategic Fuel Fund said no traces of oil had been found in the sensitive southern end of the Lan-

gebaan Lagoon, as had been reported.

"An aircraft which patrolled the Saldanha and Langebaan Lagoon area reported that no oil spills could be seen from the air," SFF general manager Kobus van Zyl said. He said the area had been cleaned without using chemicals. - Reuter.



# Magistrate to probe toxic waste permits

**BARRY STREEK**  
POLITICAL STAFF

CT 13/9/95 (56)

THE president of the Regional Court in Pretoria, Mr Jan Venter, has been appointed to head an independent inquiry into the issuing of permits to import toxic waste, Environmental Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers, announced yesterday.

The inquiry follows on the granting of a permit to import a consignment of cupric arsenite from Finland.

The permit was signed by a consultant.

The shipment was stopped after a public outcry about the

granting of the permit to import toxic waste into the country.

Mr Venter would lead the investigation into the facts and circumstances regarding the issuing of the permit, Dr De Villiers said.

"The decision to launch an one-man investigation is based on the fact that there is no justification for appointing a commission of inquiry at great expense to look into an administrative process," Dr De Villiers said.

The Deputy Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Bantu Holomisa, initially announced that a judicial commission of inquiry would be appointed to investigate the matter.

# Saldanha anti-pollution readiness questioned

(56) (183) ARU 13/9/95  
**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

ABOUT 500 barrels of oil, or 66 tons, was spilled from the tanker Hawaiian King into Saldanha Bay last Friday — 16 times more than the original estimate of 5 000 litres.

The Strategic Fuel Fund termed the clean-up operation "highly effective and successful", and said it indicated the anti-pollution measures and facilities at Saldanha Bay "could be employed with confidence in such a situation".

But the National Parks Board has questioned the effectiveness of the control measures, and questions are being asked about why the West Coast National Park warden was informed about the spill only four hours later, and why there was the huge discrepancy in the reported size of the spill.

The Democratic Party has added its voice to concerns expressed by environmentalists, saying the oil spill was "dramatic proof" of growing evidence that the proposed oil storage deal with Iran was undesirable.

"The oil spill this weekend will cost R3,5 million to clean up. What will it cost to clean a spill double this size?" asked DP Western Cape leader Henrie Bester.

"Is the R50 million annual earnings of the Strategic Fuel Fund worth this financial risk — not to mention the

environmental risk? We believe not."

In a statement yesterday, Strategic Fuel Fund general-manager Kobus van Zyl said the spill had been cleared up.

"The clear-up operation retrieved 66,5 tons of oil from the water. This equates to roughly 500 barrels or approximately 80 000 litres of oil."

In view of the tiny amount of oil discovered on the beaches, very little oil was not recovered from the water, Mr Van Zyl said.

West Coast National Park warden Otto von Kaschke said he had been told about the spill "about 6 or 6.30pm" on Friday — about four hours after it happened.

"We would have had a lot of time to take precautions — to get the boats into the water and to go across to help or whatever — but half a day went past."

National Parks Board acting chief executive Herman Botha said that in spite of ideal weather conditions at the weekend — calm seas and very light winds — the incoming tide had swept the oil rapidly towards Langebaan.

"In the light of the planned Saldanha steel mill and oil storage facilities, one wonders what the environmental consequence would be in the case of a larger oil spill."

(56) ARG 14/9/95

# Peninsula mountain chain may become national park

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

THE Peninsula mountain chain is one of the most important conservation areas on earth, and it must enjoy South Africa's highest conservation status if it is to be named a World Heritage Site by the United Nations.

That was a point made by Ian Macdonald, conservation director of the World Wide Fund for Nature — South Africa (WWF-SA), from the floor during a public meeting about a future management structure for the Peninsula's protected natural area.

The meeting, at the Good Hope Centre last night, was called by the Table Mountain and Peninsula Advisory Committee, which has been established by Environment Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers to make recommendations on a future single management authority for the entire area.

At the invitation of the committee, three organisations — the National Parks Board, Western Cape Nature Conservation and the Cape Metropoli-

tan Council — gave presentations about how they could manage the mountain in relation to the committee's draft structure for a new authority.

Only the National Parks Board indicated a belief in its ability to be considered as the appropriate management authority.

Western Cape Nature Conservation said it was not a contender and believed a new Cape Peninsula Management Board should be established by specific legislation to manage a Cape Peninsula Protected Area.

The Cape Metropolitan Council also said it was not vying for the future management.

National Parks Board representative Anthony Hall-Martin said they believed the Cape Peninsula qualified as a national park in terms of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) criteria.

"We are conscious of some deficiencies in the existing national parks legislation which we think can be made up."

Johan Neethling of Western Cape Nature Conservation said

the Peninsula mountain chain had national and international symbolism.

"But we must never forget it is in the Cape's backyard. Unless we address that properly we will again fail. There is no point in trying to wish territorialisation away.

Tony Murray, acting chief director of the Cape Metropolitan Council's engineering department, said the mountain chain was a symbol of all that the people of Cape Town valued.

"The Cape Metropolitan Council rejects any administration (of the mountain chain) by a national body because it has no dedicated interest in the mountain or the Cape metropolitan area."

The advisory committee will probably finalise its recommendation to Dr De Villiers by the end of next month.

It will consider written submissions from the public sent by September 25.

● A repeat of last night's meeting will be held in the Reiger Hall at the Good Hope Centre tonight, starting at 6pm.

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# Table Mountain to be a National Park?

(56) CT 14/9/95  
TABLE MOUNTAIN should be declared a National Park, the Parks Board said in a submission to the Table Mountain and Peninsula Advisory Committee last night.

This was one of three submissions made to the committee by

Cape Nature Conservation, the Cape Metropolitan Council and the National Parks Board.

Both the CMC and Nature Conservation suggested a board be set up to run the mountain.

The Parks Board's Dr Anthony

Hall-Martin said the area qualified as a National Park and a World Heritage site. "The Mountain is a national and not just a local symbol." It would not be a conventional park as the mountain could not be fenced in.— Staff Reporter

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MORE PROFITABLE THAN CATTLE — EXPERT

# 'Farm rhinos for horn'

**DURBAN:** A leading South African authority on the rhino advocates farming rhinos for their horns to curb smuggling and raise money to finance their protection in the wild.

**T**HE head of the World Wide Fund for Nature's South African branch said yesterday that rhino farming would be far more profitable than cattle farming and could curb the illegal trade in rhino horn.

Dr John Hanks told a commission investigating ivory and rhino horn smuggling that South Africa had 63% of the world's 11 500 rhi-

nos and that the country was obliged to protect them.

"We need a bit of vision," he said. "Rhino farming would be infinitely more profitable than cattle farming."

Rhino horn could be cut from the animals. It would regrow at about about five centimetres a year and could be reharvested.

Dr Hanks said an enormous

investment would be needed over too long a period to stop the smuggling of rhino horn to the Far East.

Commercial rhino farming could satisfy this market legally and generate more money for protecting rhinos in the wild.

Only about 2 200 black rhinos remained in Africa and roughly 890 of them were in South Africa.

Staff guarding rhinos in reserves had to be better paid, trained and equipped and more funds were needed for this.

Rhino would have to be

(56) CT 14/9/95  
removed from dangerous border areas to safer places and the Endangered Species Protection Unit needed better funding.

## **Banned**

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) banned the trade in ivory and rhino horn in 1989. Last November it approved South Africa's bid to have regulated trade in white rhino skin and meat, but not horn. — Reuter

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# Mokaba group slams ministry

## POLITICAL STAFF

CT 14/9/95 (5b)

THE Ministry and Department of Environment Affairs has been accused of "shoddy performance" by the ANC's study group on environmental affairs and tourism.

The group, chaired by Mr Peter Mokaba, slammed the department for not delivering legislation. What legislation had been brought to the portfolio committee had always been late, it said.

"There was absolutely nothing the department reported or did that suggested it had embraced the need to deliver transformation (Parliament was supposed to be engaged in) and to do so with deliberate speed.

"It is at the level of policy, policy determination, delivery and implementation that the shoddy performance of the department has revealed itself."

This was demonstrated by the toxic waste debacle, the group said.

● The ANC and the PAC yesterday slammed a cabinet decision not to appoint a judicial commission of inquiry into the attempt to import toxic waste into South Africa.

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ARG 14/9/95

■ ZEEKOEIVLEI

# Fuel dumped in Little Lotus River highlights threat to vlei

**Staff Reporter**

A MIXTURE of oil and diesel dumped in the Little Lotus River has highlighted the need for stricter controls to prevent this type of pollution in the area of Zeekoeivlei.

A spokesperson for the Pollution Control Unit said: "The Metropolitan Council can levy charges of up to R2 000 against people polluting the stormwater drainage system."

The river feeds into Zeekoeivlei and disaster was

averted by prompt action on the part of the Pollution Control Unit and the Stormwater maintenance unit.

In addition to the existing booms across the mouth of the river to prevent rubbish going into the vlei, oil absorbing cushions and chemicals were used to soak up the oil and diesel mixture.

Commenting on the situation, a spokesperson for the Zeekoeivlei Environmental Forum Jill Groenhof said: "Stricter

regulations are needed to govern the dumping of pollutants in stormwater drains.

She said it was hard to believe that people could be so thoughtless about the environment.

"Zeekoeivlei has been so badly affected by pollutants and excessive weed growth that its function as a recreational asset is threatened."

She questioned the pumping of sewage effluent into Prin-

cessvlei by the Victoria Road pump station as it is also used for recreation purposes.

"The impact of this on the water quality must be severe as the municipality has put up signs saying it is dangerous to swim."

Public relations officer for the Council Ted Doman said: "Discharging the screened sewage into the vlei was unavoidable as the replacement of sewage pipes in Klip Road had been undertaken." (53)

# Top magistrate to probe import of toxic waste

(56)  
ARC 14/9/95  
□ Investigation into why, how businessman was granted permit

JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

THE president of Pretoria's regional court will investigate an incident in which a businessman was granted a permit by the Department of Environment Affairs to import from Finland 50 tons of toxic waste for recycling.

But, yesterday's appointment of court president Jan Venter has been slammed by the African National Congress's study group on environmental affairs and tourism, which wants the cabinet to reverse its decision not to appoint a full commission of inquiry into the affair.

The study group also wants the Steyn board of inquiry into the proposed steel plant at Saldanha Bay to help establish a "permanent and sustainable link between the environment and development".

The import deal, apparently sanctioned by a consultant employed by the department with-

out the knowledge of Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers or his deputy, Bantu Holomisa, was called off before the toxic waste reached South Africa.

Dr De Villiers said the decision to hold the one-person investigation was because there was no justification for appointing a commission "at great expense" to look into an administrative process.

Mr Venter would investigate all the facts and circumstances regarding the issuing of the permit to import the cupric arsenate waste.

An "end of session" statement by ANC MP Peter Mokaba, chairman of the national assembly's portfolio committee on environmental affairs and tourism and of the ANC's study group, described the incident as "a scandal".

The granting of an import permit was "a flagrant breach of established government poli-

cy", he said.

The study group wanted the cabinet to take note of serious public concerns and to review its decision.

It was also "gravely concerned" about last week's oil spill at Saldanha Bay, said Mr Mokaba.

"The information before us already indicates that Transnet might have been less than frank in its reports about the actual amounts of spilled oil and the related potential damage.

"We would like to call on Transnet — and, indeed, the whole of the South African business community — to encourage transparency and public scrutiny into important business matters of public concern.

"They should embrace environmental concerns, rather than fear them."

Mr Mokaba said the portfolio committee had enjoyed work-

ing together as a team and had ensured the fastest possible processing of bills, but the ANC study group remained unhappy about the performance of both the environmental affairs' ministry and the department.

The promised legislative programme had not completely materialised and no explanation had been offered. Legislation had always arrived late, he said.

Also, the type of legislation had little or nothing to do with the transformation process in which the committee was supposed to be engaged.

"There was absolutely nothing that the department reported or did that suggested it had embraced the need to deliver transformation and to do so with deliberate speed and in a manner that was effective and visible," he said.

● A spokesperson for Dr De Villiers said Mr Mokaba's statement had been brought to his attention.





Innocent victims: Some of the 1 300 jackass penguins found contaminated with oil since August 20 in the Dyer Island region near Hermanus. They are now being looked after at the SANCCOB base in Cape Town PHOTOGRAPH: RODGER BOSCH

## Pik fumes over 'rust bucket' tankers

Rehana Rossouw

**M**INERAL and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha this week blamed the Strategic Fuel Fund (SFF) for allowing a "rust bucket" tanker — which spilled 66.5 tons of crude oil into the sensitive Saldanha Bay area — to slip through safety controls.

The spill, some of which seeped into the Langebaan lagoon reserve, fulfilled the worst fears of environmentalists, who have criticised Botha's plans to store 15-million barrels of Iranian oil at Saldanha.

The spill last weekend — earlier reported as only five tons — happened when the tanker Hawaiian King was taking on oil from the SFF storage bunkers at Saldanha Harbour.

While Botha this week charged the SFF had failed in its responsibility to ensure no unsafe tankers enter the bay and launched an informal inquiry into the matter, the Department of Transport, which has to do the checking, said it was not that simple.

Botha's representative, Roland Darroll, said this week South Africa had a

responsibility to make absolutely sure tankers in its harbours were in "first class" condition and crewed by "first class" personnel.

"We were supposed to have regulations in place to ensure this, but the Hawaiian King appeared to have slipped through the net," Darroll said.

"We would like to see the Strategic Fuel Fund (SFF) go back to the drawing board to ensure that the proper controls are in place before tankers are allowed to enter Saldanha Bay."

An investigation found the spill was caused by a burst pipe on the Hawaiian King.

Darroll said because the world's oil tanker fleet was aged, with most vessels built 20 years or more ago, the Ministry would investigate the possibility of South Africa choosing which tankers will be allowed to transport oil from Iran to South Africa, if the deal went ahead.

"Minister Pik Botha is determined to tighten up our checking procedures. He has called for an enquiry into the leak at Saldanha Bay and is drawing up a list of questions he wants the SFF to

(56) WM 15-21/9/95 answer immediately," Darroll said.

The Department of Transport's assistant chief director for shipping, Naas Wasserman, said his department had no jurisdiction over vessels entering South Africa's harbours, unless they suspected a danger to the environment.

He believed the Hawaiian King had undergone a port state inspection in Australia before it departed for South Africa, but it was unlikely this procedure would have disclosed the burst pipe which had been responsible for the oil leak in Saldanha.

"It is generally accepted that the world's tanker fleet comprises of rust buckets, but the problem we face is that we don't know when to decide that they are no longer seaworthy. Unfortunately, we will have to continue to allow these vessels into our waters," Wasserman said.

The Western Cape Wildlife Society called again for an environmental assessment with an appropriate brief and full public participation to investigate the risk of the Iranian oil deal.

SFF executive director Kobus van Zyl was not available to comment.

2-m tons of  
toxic waste

(56) STAV 15/9/95  
SA produced about 2-  
million tons of toxic  
waste a year - 1-million  
tons industrial and  
1-million mining,  
Environmental Affairs  
Minister Dawie de Villiers  
said yesterday. About half  
of this hazardous waste  
was disposed of on  
licensed sites. There  
were nine hazardous  
waste disposal sites in  
SA, one of which was not  
in operation. - Sapa.

WAR DECLARED ON ALIEN PLANTS

# R13m Cape jobs boost

56 (123)  
CT 15/9/95

**THE GOVERNMENT** has announced a labour-intensive programme to rid the water catchment area of thirsty alien vegetation, while creating jobs. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

**W**ATER AFFAIRS Minister Mr Kader Asmal launched a major R28 million environmental initiative yesterday to clear alien vegetation from the nation's water catchment areas — creating 3 000 jobs immediately and 20 000 over the next 20 years.

Announcing the project, part of the National Water Conservation Campaign, Mr Asmal described it as the "most far-reaching and significant" campaign ever launched against alien plants.

The project, for which the RDP office has released R25m and the Forestry Owners' Association donated R3m, will help secure water supplies necessary for social and economic restructuring.

Alien plants had a serious negative impact on water catchment areas and storage dams because they used far more water than indigenous vegetation, he said. In the Western Cape alone the

annual water yield would be decreased by between 30% and 50% if the alien plants were left unchecked, he said.

"Invasive alien plants are an enemy because they displace indigenous vegetation and because they pump precious water from the soil like wanton windmills."

The project will kick-off in the Western Cape where R10m has been allocated to eradication in the Hottentots-Holland mountains where the need is greatest.

## Labour intensive

Other allocations are: R3,5m to both the Outeniqua mountain region in the Western Cape and the Langkloof region in the Eastern Cape; R3m to catchments in both the Drakensberg foothills and catchments of the Sable, Sgind and Letaba Rivers; R1,5m to catch-

ments around Keiskammahook in the Eastern Cape and R500 000 to national projects of eradication.

Mr Asmal said the project would create 3 000 jobs at a small cost compared with creating industrial jobs. It had the potential to create 20 000 direct jobs for 20 years or more. It would also further the aims of the RDP because:

- It was a labour-intensive, capacity-building programme;
- It could stimulate disadvantaged communities economically;
- It could help get water to communities deprived of water;
- It would result in less expensive water in the long-term.

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) director of conservation Dr Ian Macdonald described the project as a "breakthrough" for both the RDP and the environment.

"For the first time we are seeing large-scale people-friendly environmental management being implemented on a huge scale."

WWF chief Dr John Hanks said: "The environmental situation in Africa can only be described as an eyesore to mankind. Africa desperately needs success stories by having projects which succeed. This project falls right at the top of what Africa needs because it links conservation with development."



**ALIEN WARES:** Forestry Minister Melusina Asmal (right) releases on a bench made of Port Jacksonian alien plants, while the warden (left) and Mr Aaron Bakala, look on. Mr Asmal has declared war on alien plants. Photo: JANE LANGE

# Shareholder challenges Iscor over smelter

CT (MR) 15/9/95 (56) (15/9/95)

By BRUCE CAMERON

POITICAL EDITOR

Should shareholders be prepared to forego some profit to preserve the environment? One of Iscor's biggest individual shareholders, Ian Moultrie, believes they should.

And in his commitment to environmental issues, he is taking on the steel company over its plans to construct a smelter near the shores of the Langebaan lagoon on the Cape west coast.

He, along with many others, wants the plant moved 15km away to a less environmentally sensitive site and has argued it be moved even further back, 870km away to Sishen.

Iscor's conflicting statements, threats and apparent lack of environmental concern has seen him dedicating most of his time to analysing the position. He submitted a comprehensive 70-page report on the financial implications of various possible sites for the proposed smelter to the Steyn commission of inquiry into the siting of the Saldanha Steel project.

Key to his report is his finding that Iscor's costings to move the plant from an environmentally sensitive area 2km away from the wharfside, to another site 18km further away, are overstated.

The figure he comes up with is R17 million a year — well below Iscor's best figure of R42 million.

Moultrie has used consultants and a variety of sources to draw up the report. He is no slouch with figures, having an MA in mathematics and mathematical statistics from the University of Cape Town.

In his submission, Moultrie said that if the operating costs of the project were to increase by R50 million a year, as was once claimed by Saldanha Steel, profits would drop by about 0,75 percent.

If his calculations are correct, the extra costs are R39 million in capital costs and R17 million a year in operating costs.

Or put another way, the cost of moving the plant 15km inland will

increase the capital costs by 1,9 percent and diminish the return by less than 0,5 percent.

This would meet Saldanha Steel's own financial measures of "robustness, intramarginality, return on investment and competitive advantage" and the profitability of the mill would not be materially affected, said Moultrie.

He has estimated that the profit would in fact be greater if the plant was sited at Sishen.

Against this, Iscor has given at least nine different estimates between May 2 and July 18, which range from an additional capital cost of R60 million to R132 million, and running costs ranging from R42 million a year to R500 million for the first five years.

On top of this, stockbrokers Simpson Mackie have estimated Saldanha Steel's after-tax profits at R600 million in five years.

"The costs of resiting, even at Saldanha Steel's own disputed levels, will reduce the return by an insignificant amount," Moultrie said. Even the R17 million could be lower, he said.

He rejected Iscor's arguments that the complex needs to be at the harbour because iron ore and coal may have to be imported. South African reserves are sufficient for at least 100 years at current ore-export levels. The import of iron pellets from Brazil might be phased out soon after the plant is commissioned.

Calculations by civil engineers for Moultrie on the additional cost for the alternative Saldanha site are:

	Tons	Added cost	Total
	a year	per ton	
Pellets:	340 000	x R2,76 =	R0,9m
Final:	1 216 000	x R5,42 =	R6,6m
Coal:	750 000	x R2,76 =	R2,1m
Ore:	1 730 000	x R2,76 =	<u>R4,8m</u>
<b>Total a year:</b>			<b><u>R14,4m</u></b>

To this total a further R2,6 million a year has been added to cover other expenses such as road maintenance and other contingencies.

In his submission, Moultrie queries most of the figures given by Iscor. For example, the cost of trans-



**ENVIRONMENTALIST** Iscor shareholder Ian Moultrie is prepared to accept a reduction in returns

PHOTO JOHN WOODROOF

porting iron pellets the extra 15km is given by Iscor as R40,83 a ton, while the cost of transporting them from Saldanha to Sishen 871km away is R45 a ton, and the cost of transporting iron ore from Sishen to Saldanha is less than R12 a ton.

One of Moultrie's major concerns is that Iscor, in looking at other sites around the country, appears to have embarked on costing exercises only after making decision to site the complex at Saldanha.

"The perfunctory way in which the sites were costed suggests that Iscor was predisposed towards a site in Saldanha."

On the basis of the marginal reduction in profit, Moultrie questioned the threat of Hans Smith, the managing director of Iscor, to walk away from the project if pressures for the plant to be moved increased.

"Why walk away from a good

investment merely because an excellent return has declined fractionally. Smith's approach does not add value for shareholders."

In his analysis, Moultrie has also shown that Iscor's Vanderbijlpark plant is the world's second lowest cost-steel producer.

It is estimated that Saldanha Steel will produce hot rolled coil at \$195 a ton. Whether the plant is sited 15km away or at Sishen, Saldanha Steel will still retain a ranking of the fifth cheapest producer in the world of the product.

Moultrie's document queries almost every figure provided by Iscor and also deals extensively with environmental issues.

Responding to the question as to why he chose to challenge Iscor, Moultrie said: "Someone asked me if I had an opinion on the siting. I wrote to the managing director of Iscor. He replied that it would cost

an extra R500 million over five years to resite, and if I, as a shareholder, wanted to contribute, mine would be a lonely voice. Intuitively the figure seemed excessive and that's how I become involved.

"Saldanha Steel claims the environmental risks are acceptable; but those risks will not be borne or paid for by the company. The nation as a whole will pay, not only now, but for generations.

"It is the state's function to intervene and strike a balance when the public good conflicts with private greed. In this case the choice is simpler than usual because moving the site would cost Saldanha Steel very little by comparison with the long-term environmental benefit."

"As a shareholder, I am entirely in favour of the establishment of the plant at whatever site will result in the least environmental risk, subject to a sacrifice of return," he said.

# Steyn's constitutional crucible

**Plans to build a R4,7bn Iscor steel mill near Langebaan Lagoon, on the Cape west coast, have highlighted the dilemma facing SA. We urgently require economic growth but are constitutionally bound by the environmental rights of our citizens.**

The interim constitution guarantees everyone the right to engage freely in economic activity. It also guarantees everyone the right to an environment which is not detrimental to their health or well-being.

The role of the Steyn board of inquiry, appointed by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers to evaluate the Saldanha Steel proposal, is to reconcile these potentially conflicting rights.

The proposed mill, potentially the largest capital project to be undertaken in the Western Cape, holds the nucleus of a steel industry that could see the region emerge as a force in steel production and downstream fabrication.

It would contribute significantly to GDP as 70% of the R4,7bn capital expenditure would be on SA products. By Iscor's estimates, it would yield R3,1bn in company tax, up to R1,8bn in foreign exchange and create about 600 permanent jobs.

But the Langebaan Lagoon is recognised by the Ramsar Convention as an internationally important wetland. The National Parks Board has invested R300m in developing the West Coast National Park and says it could be forced to close if the steel mill goes ahead.

The Cape Chamber of Commerce & Industry says the project should not be viewed as a contest between economic advantages and environmental disadvantages. Having said that, it predictably comes down firmly in favour of economic advantages. It wants the project to go ahead — with the rider that environmental considerations should be accorded "top priority." Saldanha Steel says it is prepared to abide by a check list of environmental conditions. It is even prepared to allow an independent monitoring team to shut the plant if it oversteps the mark.

However, Andrew Brown, counsel for

most of the opponents, says the appropriateness of these conditions cannot be evaluated on the available evidence. He urges the board to delay its findings until proper environmental and developmental planning for the broader Saldanha-Vredenburg area can be carried out. He acknowledges this could take up to two years.

Brown argues that the proposed development has to be considered in conjunction with a strategic economic development plan for the south-western Cape. He says it is nonsensical to permit industrial development if it compromises an area's existing economic strengths. The interests of Saldanha's tourism and fishing industries, both of which depend on a clean environment, have to be considered.

Saldanha Steel contends it will use the



Langebaan Lagoon . . . internationally important wetland

world's best engineering expertise to design an environment-friendly plant. It dismisses evidence of pollution put to the board of inquiry as "mere supposition."

Board chairman Judge Jan Steyn does not believe the constitutional right to freely pursue economic activity is necessarily at odds with the right to a healthy environment. "From the start of the inquiry, it has been a key issue whether it is possible in the circumstances to reconcile the developer's interests with environmental interests.

"All the constitution does is give us a context within which that dilemma has to

be resolved. I think the challenge is to see to what extent it is possible to reconcile the two interests," he says.

The board is urged by both parties to include in its report recommendations on how such conflicts should be handled in future.

The board has a special role in that it enables every affected party, including lay people, to give evidence and to ask questions through the chair. Judge Steyn says the process is "not without its problems" and expresses concern that "the highly adversarial positioning we faced during the course of the inquiry tended to inhibit the rationality of the debate."

Marius Helberg, counsel for Saldanha Steel, says the six-week process — during which the board received 5 000 pages of submissions — should never be repeated as it will "kill industrial development."

"Similar investigations may have the result that the operation was a great success but, unfortunately, the patient died. Saldanha Steel was able to survive financially but few other entrepreneurs would have been able to do so," he says.

The implication of such a comment is that industry should be allowed to rush through plans with the minimum of consultation and objection — an irresponsible idea. Six weeks to decide the future of an entire region and population is hardly excessive — especially when it involves a long-term, costly project such as that proposed by Saldanha Steel. Developers are not

required by law to conduct Environmental Impact Assessments of proposed projects. Helberg says that by pursuing democracy by commissioning and publicising an assessment on the steel mill, Saldanha Steel brought about its own "crucifixion."

An alternative expression might be "healthy debate."

The board has been urged to be fair to all by recommending that such assessments be made compulsory. The crucial test will be the extent to which public participation exercises will be allowed to hold up development.

(56)

AM 15/9/95

## R28-m to move invasive alien plants

(56) sfaw 15/9/95

Cape Town - The Government has launched a R28-million project to clear invasive plants from water catchment areas.

At the launch yesterday of the project, which is expected to create about 3 000 jobs, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal said: "Invasive alien plants are an enemy, because they displace indigenous vegetation, and because they pump precious water from the soil like wanton windmills."

He said certain species of pines, wattles, gums and hakeas impacted significantly on South Africa's water catchment areas. "They are a barrier between us and the achievement of a sustainable use of water."

In Western Cape, for example, it has been estimated that the yearly water yield could be decreased by between 30% and 50% if alien plants in catchment areas were left unchecked. Some R3-million for the project would come from the forestry industry and the rest from the RDP office.

The project would continue until the end of March next year, after which it would become part of the maintenance procedures for water supply, creating at least another 20 000 jobs for the next 20 years. - Reuter.

# SA pollution 'deteriorating'

(56) AT-15/9/95

AS a developing industrial nation, South Africa had not yet experienced the environmental decay Europe and America were trying to rectify — but the situation was deteriorating and measures were needed to stop pollution.

Ms Zenda Ofir, manager of biotechnology at the Foundation for Research Development, said this

was one reason why four young South African scientists and engineers are to attend an advanced bio-engineering course in Guatemala, Central America.

Ms Ofir said many overseas countries were interested in seeing how South Africa handled its environmental problems. — Staff Reporter

# Alien plant clearing hailed

RDP plan will create jobs  
66X (15/9/95)

JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

A R25 MILLION reconstruction and development programme (RDP) project to clear "water-guzzling" alien vegetation from South Africa's mountain catchment areas will create 3 000 direct jobs and a further 20 000 potential jobs in the next two decades.

Most of the funding in the initial phase goes to the Western Cape.

The eradication project was announced yesterday by Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal.

He described it as "exciting and massive, the most far-reaching and significant campaign ever launched against these invasive alien plants in South Africa" and said it would help the RDP to achieve its potential.

The Western Cape will get

R10 million to clear the Lismietberg-Hottentots Holland mountains and R3,5 million for the Outeniqua mountains.

The rest is made up from R3,5 million for the Krom and Kouga rivers in the Langkloof area and R1,5 million for the Keiskammahok-Stutterheim area, both in the Eastern Cape; R3 million for catchments of the Drakensberg in KwaZulu-Natal; R3 million for the Sabie and Sand rivers catchments in Mpumalanga; R3 million for the Letaba River catchment in the Northern Province; and R500 000 for national project co-ordination.

The project was hailed by conservationists as a first for Africa.

John Hanks of the World Wide Fund for Nature (South Africa) said Africa was increasingly portrayed as a continent without hope, and desperately needed success stories such as the alien eradication project.



CONSERVATION BILL (56)

## Parliamentary clutter

FM 15/9/95

The lengthy wrangle over the siting of the steel mill near the Langebaan Lagoon could have been curtailed were it not for the machinations of parliament. It has failed to allow the Wetlands Conservation Bill, introduced early this year, to even leave the starting blocks.

The aim of ANC senator Stefanus Grové's private Bill is to make the environmental conditions contained in the international Ramsar Convention binding by entrenching them in SA's law. Until then, SA has no legal obligation to abide by the terms of the convention it signed in Japan in June 1993.

The Langebaan Lagoon meets eight out of the 11 criteria of a Ramsar site. It need meet only one to be listed as such.

The steel mill's opponents have urged the Steyn board of inquiry to adopt Ramsar's precautionary principle which says the environment should be given the benefit of the doubt if the impact of a specific action is not clearly understood.

The convention takes it even further to state: "These actions should be prohibited

## BUSINESS

even if there is insufficient evidence to prove a direct link between the activities and the resultant wetland's degradation."

But the Bill cannot even begin its slow path through parliament without the permission of President Nelson Mandela because it is a private member's Bill dealing with State land. Earlier this year Mandela

appointed Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom and Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers to advise him on the matter.

They recently told Grové to rewrite his Bill to deal exclusively with SA's 12 Ramsar wetlands as all other catchment areas should be covered by the new water and

environmental Acts that are being written.

Grové believes they will advise Mandela to sanction the amended Bill's passage to a select committee from where it will have to pass through various readings in both the Senate and the National Assembly. He says the Bill should become law by this time next year. ■

# Crops 'poisoned' by SADF herbicides

(56) WM 15 21/1/95

The troubled Limpopo River area is in trouble again — this time from the effects of herbicides used by contractors employed by the SADF, writes

**Stephanie Dippenaar**

ILLEGAL and dangerous herbicides — used by South African Defence Force contractors to control 70km of sisal fence along the Zimbabwe border — have contaminated farmers' crops and natural vegetation along the Limpopo River, a Northern Province inquiry heard this week.

The Agricultural Research Board told a commission of inquiry, appointed by provincial MEC of Agriculture Dr Tienie Burgers, that it had found traces of unregistered herbicides in and around the sisal fence. "Their research has clearly shown

that two products, Brumisal and Ethidimuron, are present not only in the sisal fence, but also in the seepage areas, the river bed and the agricultural crop areas," said the commission's Dr Gerhard Verdoorn. He also confirmed that the two herbicides, which are registered as required by law,

the fence was erected in the early 1980s to keep "undesirable elements" from neighbouring countries from entering South Africa. Ironically, the area's farmers whom the "impenetrable" sisal fence was supposed to protect, have for years claimed that they suffered great crop losses because of the use of herbicides on the fence.

The fence was the responsibility of the former SADF and they employed contractors to maintain it from 1982 to around the end of 1992. For the first three years herbicides with the active ingredients of Ethidimuron and Brumisal were used. Among the evidence is a letter dated

Ecologist Professor Ben van der Waal said: "If you use the substances every year at full strength, as it is alleged happened, for 10 consecutive years, then you'll get an accumulation of the poison," he said.

Irrigation farmers next to the fence have claimed that the herbicides declined dramatically since the introduction of the herbicides started in 1982. They complained that yield dropped up to 90 tons a hectare in the worst years. However, for many years these complaints were put down to the result of the bad drought in the area, increased salinity and even general bad farming practices.

But it is not only the border farmers who are concerned about the use of the herbicides. Ecologists are up in arms about the presence of herbicide poison in the sisal fence where it runs through the Matshakatini Nature Reserve, which has become all the more important in the context of talks about the establishment of a trans-

national game reserve. The Matshakatini reserve would form an important link between the Kruger National Park and the parks of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana in the east and north.

Visiting the Limpopo area one can clearly see that the vegetation on the southern side of the river is in a poorer condition than on the northern side. This is not the case further east where the sisal fence is further removed from the river. But the Department of Agriculture claims rare photos taken of the area show no difference, and says that even if there is a difference, it is not necessarily linked to the herbicides.

Van der Waal said the fence in itself had already damaged the environment in that it disturbed animal migration patterns. He said if the fence was removed it could leave a scar of more than 70km in the nature reserve which could take a long time to recover fully because of the presence of the poisons.

"It can take anything from 50 to 100 years to recover. A long stretch in the middle of a national, possibly international, park where trees are still dying is totally unacceptable."

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

TRADE and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel has outraged environmentalists by alleging that "greens" have withdrawn most of their objections to Iscor's Saldanha Steel Project.

"That's entirely untrue," Earthlife Africa spokeswoman Liz MacDaid charged yesterday, saying her organisation remained implacably opposed to the siting of the R4,7-billion project.

She said Earthlife had been one of the earliest opponents to Iscor's plans, having recorded

## Trevor Manuel has greens seeing red

(4899) (56) ST (M) 17/9/95  
its objections during a CSIR environmental impact assessment.

She said Earthlife challenged Mr Manuel to substantiate his claims in his August 29 submission to the Steyn Board of Investigation.

Echoing Ms Mc Daid's statement, the Wildlife Society said nothing in the evidence before the

Steyn investigation had led it to believe that environmental concerns had been addressed.

"The Wildlife Society has certainly not withdrawn its objections," conservation ecologist Marlene Laros said.

According to Mr Manuel, SSP was a world-class industry which had to go ahead as planned.

He states in his submission: "The Department of Trade and Industries notes that the principle objections to the proposed site for the erection and operation of the (SSP) from environmental associations and interest groups have been withdrawn."

The only organisation mentioned by name, however, is the World Wide Fund for Nature.

Mr Manuel also said his department was confident the steel project would comply with environmental standards expected by communities near the plant.

# Dawie in about face on mountain areas

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

**ENVIRONMENT** Minister Dawie de Villiers has thrown his weight behind far-reaching demands for a ban on developments and land deals in the Peninsula's protected area.

This week he told official advisors he had already approached national and provincial cabinet ministers "with the view of declaring a moratorium on future development".

This could have massive implications for transactions, contracts and property developments along the Peninsula's entire length — ranging from deals involving State Forests to new housing schemes and multi-million rand plans to re-plant the Table Mountain cableway and Cape Point tourist facilities.

Dr de Villiers's dramatic pledge comes as an apparent about face after earlier saying the Table Mountain and Peninsula Advisory Committee (TMPAC) should direct its appeal to "the relevant ministries and authorities".



Dawie de Villiers

Appointed by Dr de Villiers to draw up a new conservation blueprint for the Cape Peninsula, the

TMPAC recently called on the minister to stop all developments in the 29 000ha protected area which could jeopardise a new, unified conservation authority.

Its appeal has been backed by the National Parks Board, Cape Nature Conservation, Cape Peninsula Conservation Managers' Forum and the non-governmental Peninsula Mountain Forum.

Dr de Villiers's letter to TMPAC chairman Brian Huntley reads: "(I) am committed to the future conservation of the Cape Peninsula Protected Area.

"I am determined that appropriate and effective measures at all levels of government should be set in place to achieve this objective.

"For this reason, I have approached the relevant ministers at both national and provincial level, as well as the premier of the Western Cape, with the view of declaring a moratorium on future development, rezoning, transfer of state land and mining activities in the designated area . . . ."

This would, however, require

careful deliberations with the relevant authorities and would have to include local government.

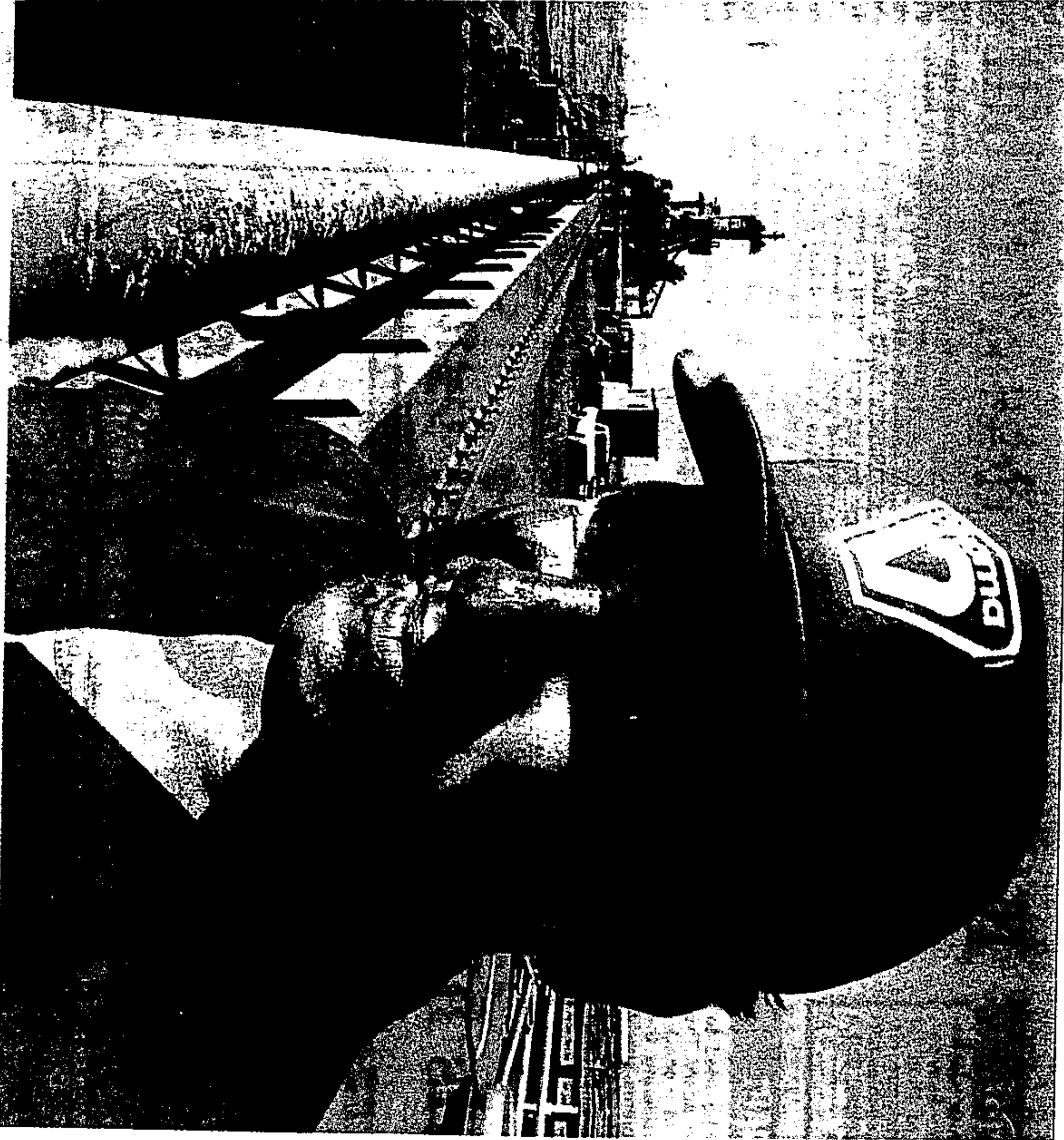
Commenting, Prof Huntley said yesterday he was pleased that Dr De Villiers had taken a "positive and definite approach" to the issue of a moratorium.

He said his committee wanted to encourage the various players in the mountain chain's management to "do things in such a way as not to cause further chopping and changing of land ownership and use".

● The National Parks Board, Cape Nature Conservation and Cape Metropolitan Council this week publicly motivated their respective bids for the Peninsula's protected area at a meeting hosted by the TPMAC.

Dr de Villiers says legislation for a single statutory management structure could be tabled next year if the TMPAC submitted its report before November 1.

Prof Huntley's committee says the proposed Peninsula Protected Area must be governed by a representative authority with national standing.



“Jaco Jacobs swung into action to wage war on oil slicks which threatened Langebaan’s world-famous lagoon.”  
 Picture: Terry Shean

# Saldanha Bay fiasco

By CHARL DE VILLIERS  
 (58) ST(m) 17/9/95

A TRAIL of ineptitude and faulty planning has been uncovered by a Metro investigation into last week-end's disastrous oil spill in Saldanha Bay — prompting the country's top pollution expert to call for a total review of flawed protection measures.

Dr Lynn Jackson, who is responsible for combatting coastal oil pollution, said she, together with the relevant authorities, would review the flawed protection measures with the view of “closing gaps”.

It took just three minutes for 66,5 tons of crude to be flushed into the sea while oil was being pumped into a tanker from the nearby Strategic Fuel Fund tank farm in last week's spill.

The following serious flaws have come to light in the resulting mop-up operation.

- A boom system designed to contain 7 000 barrels of oil had leaked;
- Harbour officials took nearly two hours to notify the Department of Environment Affairs of the spill;
- The NPB, which manages the nearby West Coast National Park, had been informed too late to send people to the scene before nightfall;
- Port control could not handle communications;
- A crisis centre was set up more than 24 hours after the spill;
- Absorbent bags meant to mop up oil between containing booms had escaped and washed into the lagoon about 6km away; and

● The SA National Defence Force refused to let Parks Board and Sea Fisheries scientists into the Donkergat military base to monitor spillage.

While experts and SFF clean-up crews agree most of the spill was contained, some oil nonetheless slipped underneath the floating booms.

Following the unsuccessful attempts to contain the relatively minor spill, oil pollution experts have predicted that any spill which happened outside Saldanha Bay's quayside oil defences would spell disaster for the entire Langebaan Lagoon.

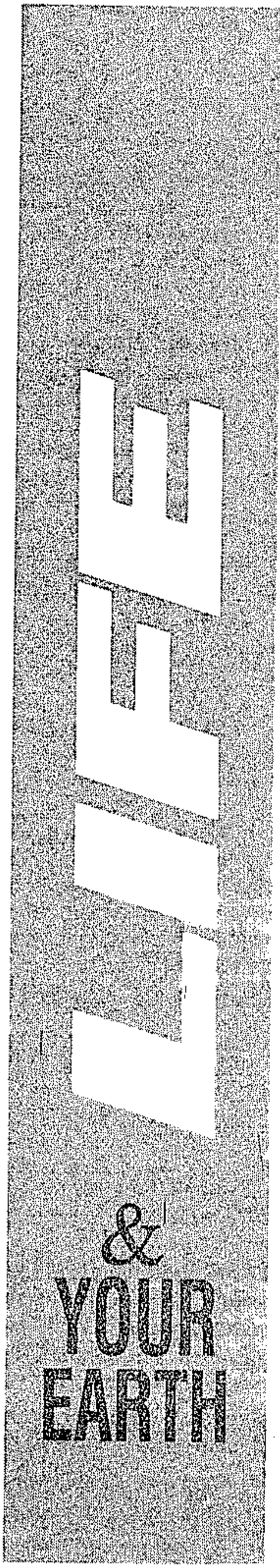
“There is not one country in the world that could deal with a major spill in the Saldanha Bay situation. It is logistically not possible,” said Dr Jackson, acting head of pollution control at Sea Fisheries.

National Parks Board environment chief Sarel Yssel was joined by ex-SA Petroleum Industry Association advisor Rodney Camp in slamming Saldanha Bay as a high-risk port not suitable for oil transfers.

The biggest headache for oil pollution authorities, however, was ships in transit, according to Dr Jackson.

While tankers were routinely surrounded by up to 600m of booms when docked, this protection would not be in place for ships entering or leaving the bay, she said.

Wind-driven oil moved quickly on water and, combined with strong tides, it would be virtually impossible to seal Langebaan Lagoon.



*Environmental Affairs and Tourism minister Dawie de Villiers, with major green issues hitting the headlines. His sharp attack from the ANC's study group on the environment with Environment Reporter JOHN YELD,*

**A**LL the facts are known about the attempted importation of 50 tons of cupric arsenate and there is no suggestion of any corruption or embezzlement, says Environmental Affairs minister Dawie de Villiers.

He was reacting to criticism that the cabinet had rejected a request by his deputy minister, Bantu Holomisa, to appoint a full commission of inquiry and had instead approved the appointment of a regional court president to conduct a one-person investigation into the incident.

Dr De Villiers said he had not opposed Mr Holomisa's request to the cabinet as they had agreed earlier this year on a division of functions in the department.

"I have always felt the nature of this problem does not justify a commission, but because it is an area for which responsibility has been delegated to the deputy minister, I didn't stand in his way."

He had not used the word "commission" in correspondence or in parliament.

"I referred to 'an open independent investigation' because the facts of this are well known — no one is denying anything."

"I know exactly who issued what permit, on a letterhead of the department signed by a consultant. And every department uses consultants, so neither is that an unfair situation."

"The irony is that the permit was issued, not for dumping but for recycling, and the material never even arrived in the country, so I have my doubts that there's even a need for an investigation."

"This was a mistake, and the mistake was that the ministers were not informed. The minister had taken up a particular position and it was not really reflected in the issuing of this permit."

The investigation was an opportunity for people with information about toxic waste to come forward, Dr De Villiers said.

"I expect people who have such grave reservations — like Mr Mokaba — to appear before the inquiry and provide him with evidence. And if he doesn't, then there must be some other agenda he's trying to promote."

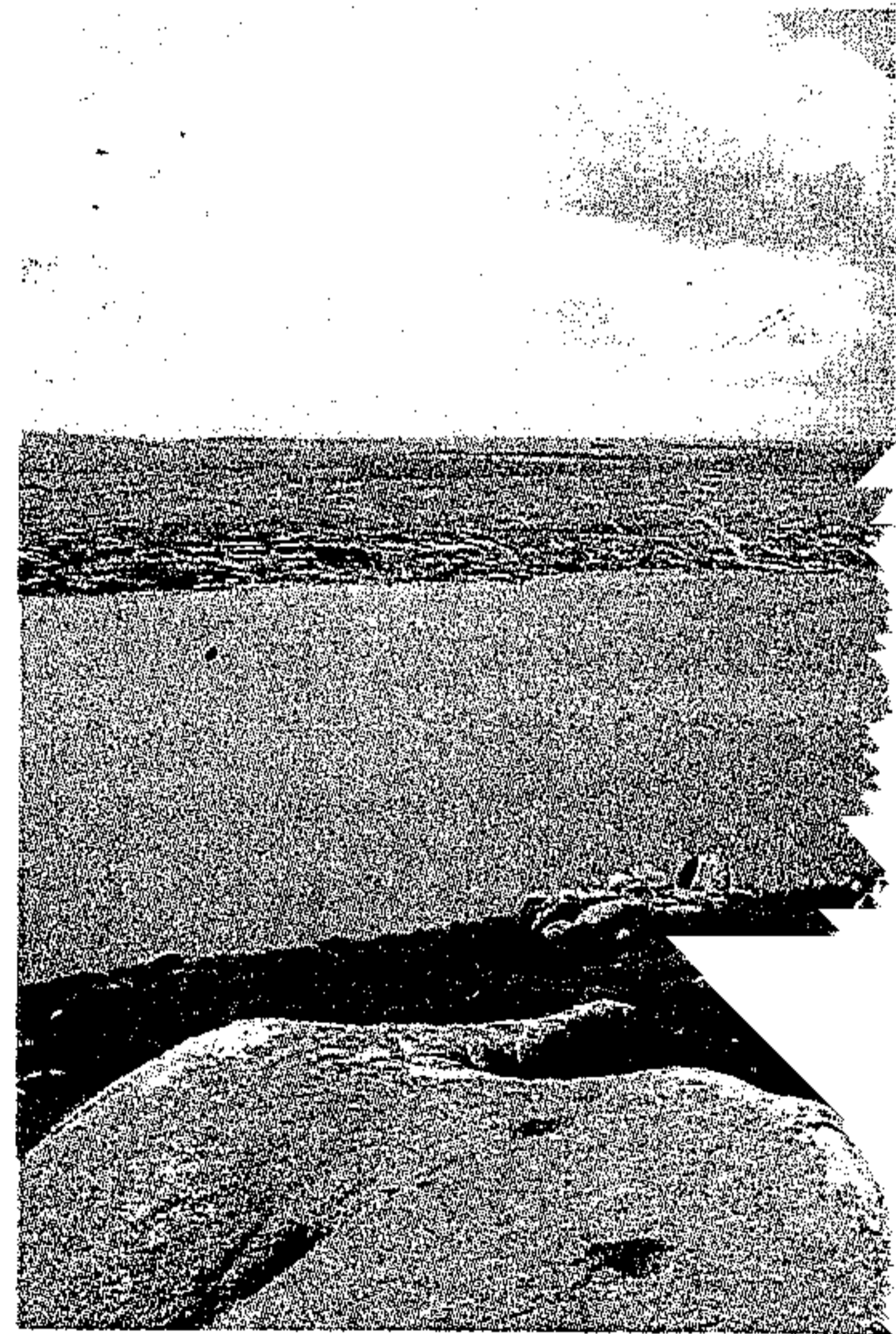
Responding to sharp criticism in a statement last week by Mr Mokaba on behalf of the ANC's study group on the environment and tourism about his ministry and department, Dr De Villiers said he believed it was "totally unfair" and Mr Mokaba was trying to play politics.

"And that is the last thing we need. He (Mr Mokaba) is chairman of the portfolio committee, he has access to me, he can see me any time."

Referring to last weekend's oil spill at Saldanha Bay, Dr De Villiers said he had had "several" discussions with Mineral and Energy Affairs minister Pik Botha about the issue of oil tanker traffic in Saldanha Bay.

"Particularly after the recent incident, it's a matter of great concern."

# Dawie nothing



**ECOLOGICAL JEWEL:** The view of the beach. Environmentalists are concerned that incre

"For the time being, the appropriate step is to wait for the reports from Portnet and the CSIR's investigation. I think this latest incident should form an important element of that investigation."

Dr De Villiers acknowledged being a shareholder in the syndicate whose Postberg property forms part of the West Coast contractual national park.

"But I don't think there's a conflict of interests because basically I rely on expert advice — I don't just take decisions," he said.

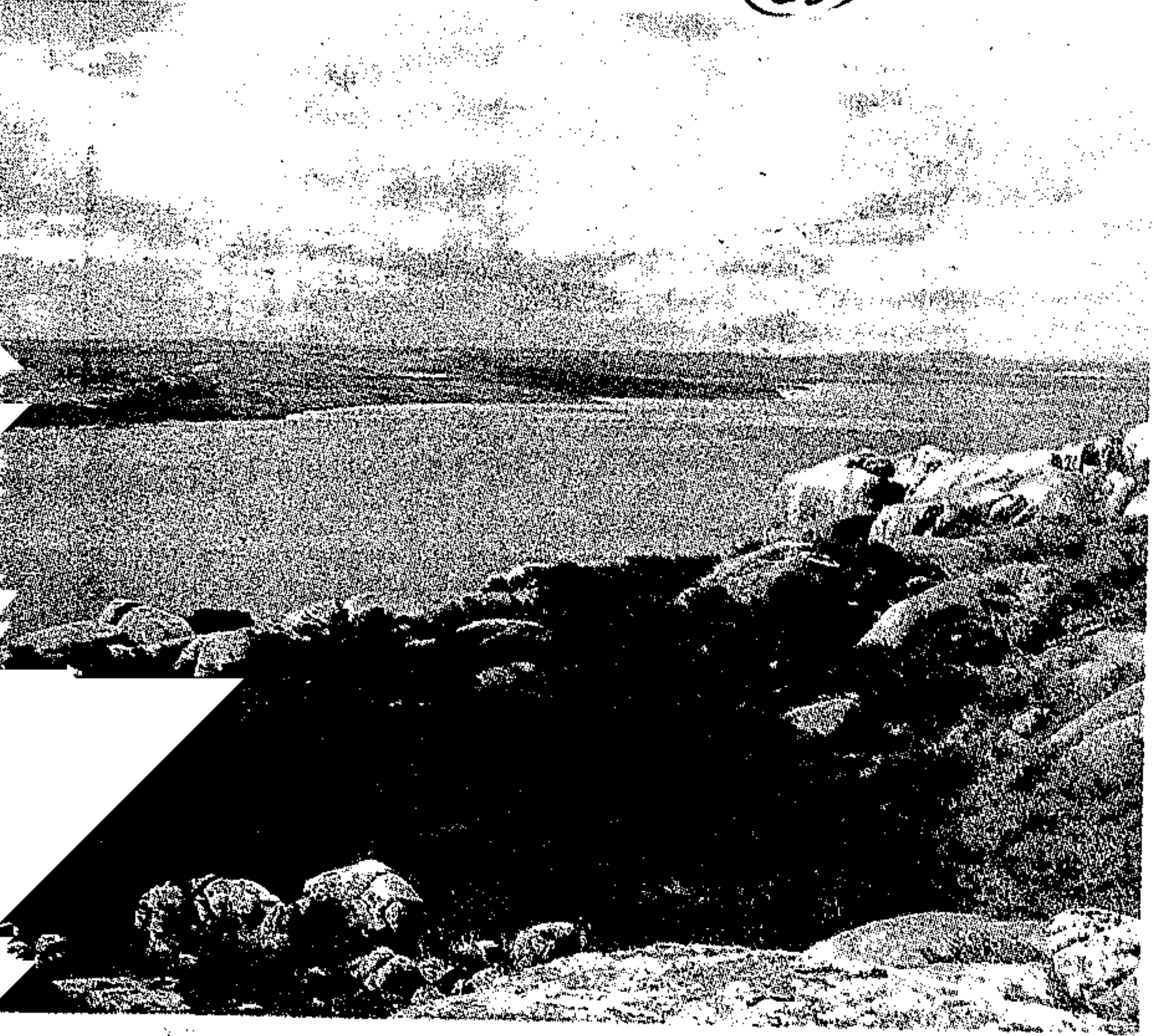
"And insofar as I have an interest there, the effect is that it has sensitised me not only to the great beauty of the area, but also

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iers has been in the frontline of criticism in recent s ministry and department have also come under nment and tourism. In a wide-ranging interview Dr De Villiers replied to his critics.

# There's ing to hide

ARG 18/9/95 (56)



Beautiful Langebaan lagoon from Postberg in the West Coast National Park. Increased oil tanker traffic will put the lagoon at risk. Picture: JOHN YELD, The Argus.

the fragility of the West Coast environment. As much as I am in favour of development and the need to create jobs in South Africa, I also realise that once we destroy that kind of environment that it is not only of national but also international importance, we will never be able to turn it around. I believe I have an open mind and that I will weigh up the different points of view to come to responsible decisions." Other points made by Dr De Villiers included: the names of the new National Parks and the names of Trustees were "fairly close" to be announced;

- He was not satisfied with the refusal of the SA National Defence Force to consider allowing its Donkergat training area at Langebaan to be incorporated into the West Coast national park, and would continue discussions;
- The recent national environmental policy conference was "a good start";
- South Africa had now ratified the Biodiversity Convention; and
- Draft regulations for compulsory environmental impact assessments for certain activities were being discussed with the provincial governments, which would have to enforce them. An amended set of regulations would be published.

## GREEN SCENE

John Yeld



ARG 18/9/95 (56)

## Pik's letter raises more questions

THAT Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha is a fighter is as much an understatement as saying environmentalists are a trifle concerned about Langebaan.

His latest salvo — in a letter to The Argus on Thursday — covered a wide target and an answer requires more space than is available, but here are a few thoughts.

Under the former government, of which Mr Botha was a key member, there was a hugely disproportionate spending on nuclear research, much of which was clearly aimed at the development of nuclear weapons.

For example, in 1986 R750 million was spent on nuclear research and just R5 million on alternative energy, of which only R1 million went to solar power research.

In spite of repeated warnings about the rate of consumption of natural woodlands in the former homelands, the previous government never, to my knowledge, developed large-scale fuelwood plantations.

But the issue of an appropriate energy policy is really a separate debate.

The immediate concerns are tanker traffic and the oil storage facility in Saldanha Bay — and the bottom line is that the authorities, in perfect weather conditions, were unable to prevent even a small spill from entering the lagoon ecosystem.

Certainly, I will be watching the CSIR environmental impact assessment with great interest, but Mr Botha apparently fails to understand the fundamentals of the Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) process. IEM means precisely that one does not stand back and wait for the results of a study, but becomes involved from the very first stage of a proposal.

To take the debate forward, can we please have answers to the following from the appropriate authorities:

- Why did it take so long to inform the West Coast National Park about the spill?
- The media was informed by an anonymous tip-off — why was a public statement not issued immediately?
- The general manager of the Strategic Fuel Fund says oil did not penetrate the southern end of the lagoon. The National Parks Board says it did. Why the discrepancy?

b)

Should Toughbrush (Pty) Ltd be offered finance?

The amount to be advanced to Toughbrush (Pty) Ltd should be viewed as a medium to long term investment since it is repayable in three years time. Essentially the focus should fall on profitability, debt equity levels and the ability of the business to liquidate the debt at the end of the three year period.

The projections clearly indicate that no difficulty will be experienced in liquidating the R400 000 loan. Furthermore, the use of long term capital, in the form of share capital and loans, to acquire fixed assets makes sound financial sense. If the existing shareholder's loan is converted to share capital and approximately R160 000 of new share capital is introduced then the debt:equity ratio can be considered satisfactory. With almost R200 000 (conservatively calculated on the basis of existing contracts) being retained at the end of the first year the ratio of equity to debt will be strong at approximately 520:400.

... need to be adjusted upwards by the after tax saving on interest.

*Environmental lobby urged to unite*

# Greenies fiddle while Rome burns

■ BY ANITA ALLEN  
SCIENCE WRITER

The environmental lobby is being encouraged to overcome its lack of cohesion and seeming inability to unite in the interests of achieving a greener, sustainable future by Professor Dan Archer of the Institute of Natural Resources at the University of Natal.

Archer heads up the 20/20 team which has embarked on a campaign for sustainable development in South Africa by the year 2020.

*'For too long, most have been excluded from taking part in and influencing decisions which impact on their lives'*

(56) Grav 18/9/95

involved thousands of people in evaluating policy options, but we will not have identified priorities, or developed an action plan and a timetable for implementation.

"We should be determining where we want to be in five years or 10 years.

- To champion effective and efficient environmental management systems.
- To encourage an educational crusade for sustainable development.
- To advocate and support transparency and freedom of access to information related to the environment.



In a position paper on behalf of the team, Archer said in-fighting and the fragmentation of organisations responsible for the environment amounted to fiddling while Rome burns.

"For too long those with an environmental interest have been prone to work independently, to provoke confrontation, to protect turf, even to defend egos.

"For too long, most have been excluded from participating in and influencing the decisions which impact on their lives. Our energies have been dispersed, our actions fragmented and environmental factors have been marginalised.

"The perpetration of such actions and attitudes is counter-productive of sustainable development and will only succeed in permitting the destruction of the very environment that we all care so much about," Archer said.

He made the point that everyone's resources were limited, and no one group or sector could move ahead alone and expect to make significant progress.

At the same time he emphasised that environmental issues involved far more than endangered species and protected areas.

"The reality is that our environment satisfies the full spectrum of human needs: basic needs - land, water, food and energy; security - health, safety, jobs and shelter; and empowerment - access to resources and education, culture and recreation, participation and individual responsibility," Archer said.

"Building in partnership is the key to becoming an environmentally sustainable nation. The 20/20 vision is that it is now time for a pooling of resources and talents, for collaborations among stakeholders, for building toward a common objective."

Speaking to The Star, Archer affirmed the 20/20 vision. He applauded the recent call for leadership. He called on a National Environmental Policy (CONNEP) for its involvement of previously marginalised groups, but he questioned where the process was heading.

"There is no framework within which we are working. In a year's time, the process will have

**Building in partnership is the key to becoming a environmentally sustainable nation... for a pooling of resources and talents**

"Only then will environmentalists be ready to move from debating among each other to positioning the environment as the cornerstone of reconstruction and development.

"20/20 believes it is now time for a campaign of action, operating nationally, provincially and locally working from top down and bottom up with everyone identifying a role, assuming responsibility and making commitments.

"The year 2020 is only one generation away, the first steps must be taken now," Archer said.

The 20/20 team which has guided the development of the project consists of prominent South Africans from a range of experiences: Professor Kader Asmal, Siva Chetty, Rod Crompton, Professor Dave Dewar, Professor Jakes Gerwel, Andre la Grange, Professor Brian

Huntley, Dr Lynn Jackson, Professor Louise Tager, Dr Nthatho Motlana, Dr Michael O'Dowd, Dr Mamphela Ramphele and Dr Frederick Van Zyl Slabbert.

It has received inputs from consultative groups and specialists, and preliminary ideas for building towards a sustainable South Africa have been discussed at workshops. The result is a set of 10 goals which reflect priorities from a broad range of stakeholders.

■ To bring a strategy for sustainable development on to the agenda of reconstruction, linking the economy with people and the environment.

■ To promote integrated decision-making as central to the concept of sustainability.

■ To alert the nation to the costs of environmental degradation and the need to build environmental factors into accounting systems.

Another project being promoted is the grass-roots LandCare movement, which is focused on soil and water conservation in rural areas. Discussions are also under way to develop a 20/20 charter aimed at youth.

"Other ideas are being formulated and suggestions and partnerships around practical projects identifying with the 20/20 concept are encouraged and welcomed," Archer said.

He described the 20/20 vision as a campaign and a rallying call for action aimed at achieving an environmentally sustainable South Africa by the year 2020.

"This means a winning nation that future generations will be proud to inherit, a better place for everyone, a desirable place to reside, an enticing place to visit."

Archer can be contacted at telephone (0331) 46-0796, fax (0331) 46-0895. e-mail Archer@INR.UNPA

■ To foster commitment to, and clear understanding of, an ethic of environmental sustainability.

■ To build grassroots capacity and promote empowerment.

■ To seek equitable access to, and participation in, the use of environmental assets and

■ To provide support, assistance, resources and advice in support of the above objectives.

The 20/20 project is in the process of being registered as a Section 21 company. It will be run by a board of directors representing a broad range of constituencies.

"Projects are needed at every level to support and give substance to the 20/20 vision," Archer said. "We are advocating that a state of the environment report is required to provide a baseline of information on the natural environment, to assess people's perceptions and

expectations and, from regular updates, to measure our progress."

20/20 suggests that this should build on the Department of Environmental Affairs' computerised data base, but most importantly that it is undertaken in partnership with all stakeholders to increase the quality of information and to induce a greater commitment to the strategies and actions that flow from the exercise.

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# Peninsula mountain chain plans on hold

JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

ENVIRONMENTAL Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers has come out in strong support of a moratorium on all development in the protected natural area of the Cape Peninsula until a new management authority is in place.

He has asked the relevant regional and national ministers and Western Cape Premier Her-nus Kriel to support a moratorium on all future development, rezoning, the transfer of state land and mining in the area.

Dr De Villiers made this announcement in a letter to Brian Huntley, chief director of the National Botanical Institute, who is chairing the Table Mountain and Peninsula Advisory Committee.

The committee, established by Dr De Villiers to make urgent recommendations on a single management authority for the Peninsula's protected natural area, recently expressed concern to the minister about the transfer of state land at Cecilia and Tokai forests to Safcol, and about the leases of the restau-

rant complex at Cape Point and the Table Mountain cableway.

Other environmental groups — including the umbrella body Peninsula Mountain Forum — have expressed similar concerns.

In a letter to Professor Huntley on Friday, Dr De Villiers said he was aware of the continuing development threats to the area.

"I am committed to the future conservation of the proposed Cape Peninsula Protected Area. I am determined that appropriate and effective measures at all levels of government should be set in place to achieve this objective."

He had therefore contacted Mr Kriel and the other ministers about a possible moratorium.

"You will appreciate, however, the complexity and sensitivity of such a step, and realise that it requires careful deliberations with the relevant authorities.

"Local government will also have to be included in the process."

It was essential that new leg-

islation and a single statutory management structure were in place as soon as possible, Dr De Villiers said.

"If your report is submitted to me before November 1, it will be possible to table legislation during 1996."

The Peninsula Mountain Forum has pointed out other threats to the integrity of the protected area, in addition to the alienation of state land and the leases issues.

These include development on the dunes at Fish Hoek and at Capri Farm in Noordhoek, and at Boulders Coastal Park in Simon's Town.

● The forum is holding a meeting tonight to discuss submissions to the Huntley committee last week by the National Parks Board, Cape Nature Conservation and Cape Metropolitan Council.

It is being held at the Cape Town Environmental Centre in the grounds of Valkenberg Hospital in Observatory, at 7pm.

Follow the signs from the hospital's entrance gates. All welcome.

● See page 12

ARLT 18/9/95

(56)

# South Africans get poorer by the year

Star 18/9/95

BY DEREK TOMMEY

South Africans have been getting poorer every year since 1980, says the latest Economic Spotlight published by Absa Bank's Economic Research Department.

Unless this cycle of impoverishment is broken, average living standards will fall further, with possible grave consequences, it states.

Absa says that from 1960 to 1972, real per capita disposable income grew 2,8 percent a year.

But from the early 1970s, the per capita standard of living moved sideways. And between 1980 and last year, it fell by 11,2 percent or 0,9 per-

cent a year.

It says the main reason for this poor performance over the past 14 years is a decline in the real economic growth rate from an average of 5,7 percent a year between 1960 and 1970 to only 1,1 percent a year between 1980 and last year.

This decline, together with a high inflation rate caused "stagflation" which resulted in a strong decline in the ability of the economy to provide jobs in the formal sector.

While the number of people employed in the formal sector, excluding agriculture, grew 5,7 percent between 1980 and last year, the number of workers entering the labour market in this period grew by an esti-

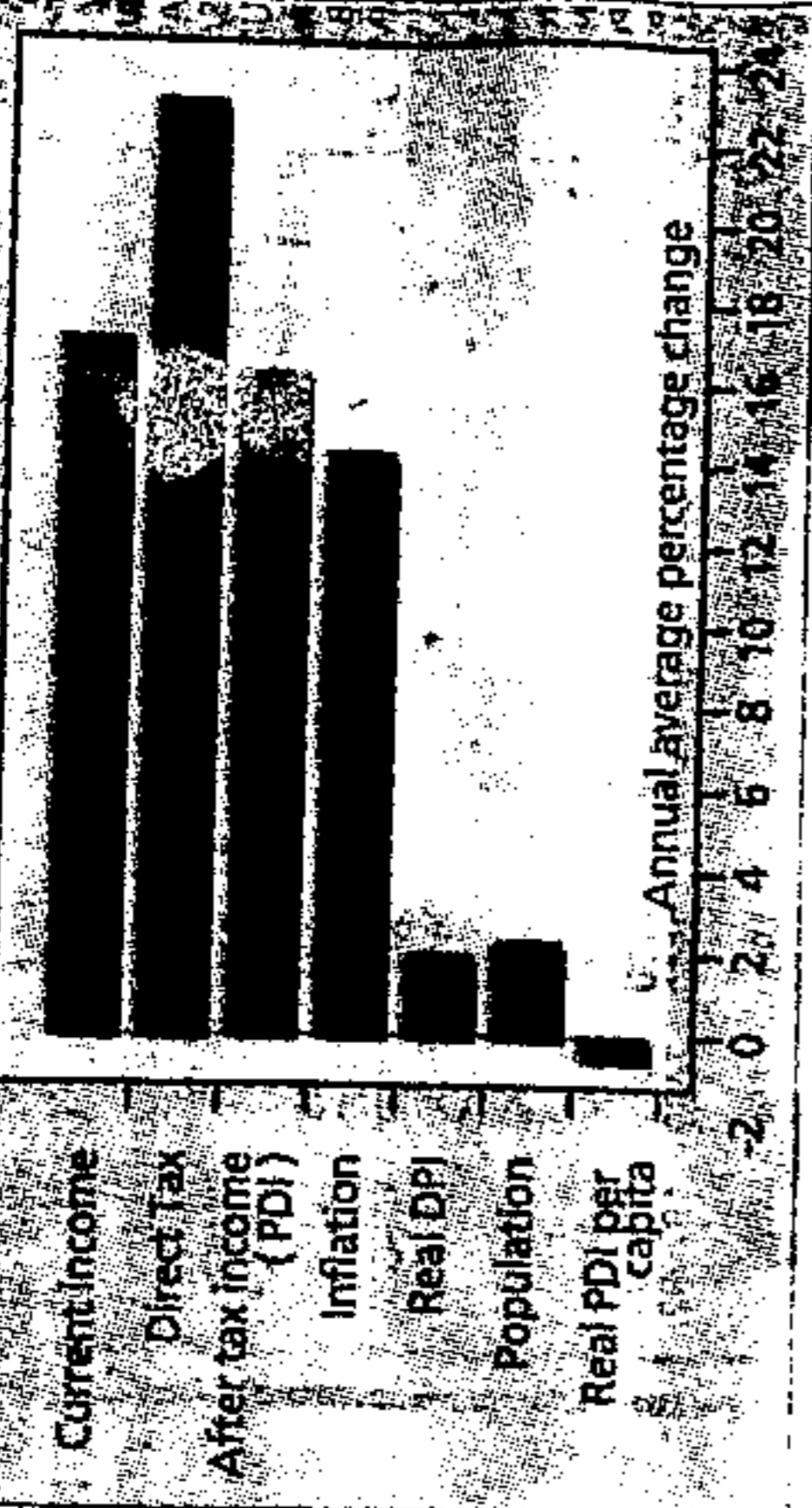
mated 45 percent.

Absa says there were hopes that last year's elections would lead to more foreign investment, but the result so far has been disappointing.

While there has been some improvement in real gross domestic fixed investment, this has been not nearly sufficient to increase the growth potential and growth rate to the levels of the 1960s — to which they have to be raised if the country's social and economic problems are to be addressed.

Even though gross domestic fixed-investment grew 7,1 percent last year, the real fixed-capital stock grew only 0,8 percent.

Profile of impoverishment: 1980 - 1994



Absa says the problem is that South Africa does not generate sufficient savings to finance a continued strong increase in fixed investment.

This is the result of the low personal savings rate which is linked largely to the decline in the average standard of living and large dis-saving by central government.

# Liebenberg warns banks over negative public perceptions

BY JOHN SHERROCKS

There are widespread perceptions in political circles and the community that the banking industry is merely interested in profit, said Chris Liebenberg, the minister of finance.

Addressing the annual dinner of the Durban branch of the Institute of Bankers in

South Africa on Friday, Liebenberg said these perceptions needed to be corrected if banks were to take advantage of the opportunities the new South Africa offered.

Liebenberg said there was a perception within political circles that banks chose to ignore the appeals of the Reserve Bank to limit credit

card funding, because they would benefit from a resultant interest rate hike.

Another perception was that banks were not interested in expanding their mortgage bond market beyond the 40 percent upper income bracket of the country's population, which they already serviced.

"(There is a perception)

that banks try to do something but with little enthusiasm ... deposits are good — but don't ask for loans." He said there was also a perception that banks colluded to fix rates and only competed in terms of the service they offered.

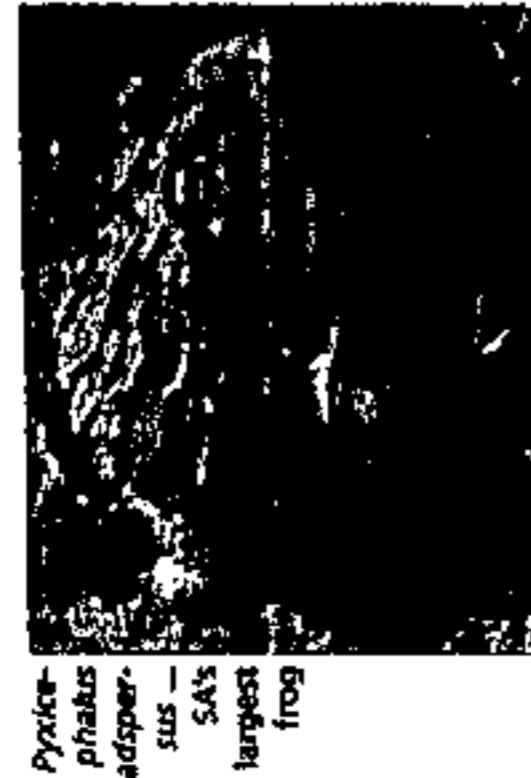
"We know that is not the case but when you are standing on the outside things

look different.

Liebenberg said another challenge the banking industry faced was in devising innovative measures that would enable them to finance the excluded 60 percent of the home buyer's market.

He said that interest rates were not an option because of the high inflation rate.

One million tourists expected



*Ptycho- phalus adspersus* - SA's largest frog

Victory for the environment

# New lease of life for Bullfrog Pan

(56) Star 18/9/95

sportsfields. The environment has been the victor at Bullfrog Pan, but it isn't really about saving bullfrogs and birds. It's about partnerships. Partnerships between local government, industry and environmentalists. Waste-tech MD Ken Bromfield said at the hand-over ceremony.

"It might seem strange that groups with sometimes very opposite views could work together and get it right. The truth is we wouldn't be able to look over the second largest bullfrog reserve in the southern hemisphere. It would be dead."

Back in 1992, it was Benoni resident Katie Fitzgerald who first noticed a marked drop in the numbers of the bullfrog (*Ptycho- phalus adspersus*), which is South Africa's largest frog with a lifespan of more than 30 years.

Fitzgerald, whose house

overlooks the pan, spearheaded the drive to clean-up the site. She formed the Friends of the Bullfrog group and approached Benoni City Council, which in turn contracted Waste-tech to take over management of the landfill.

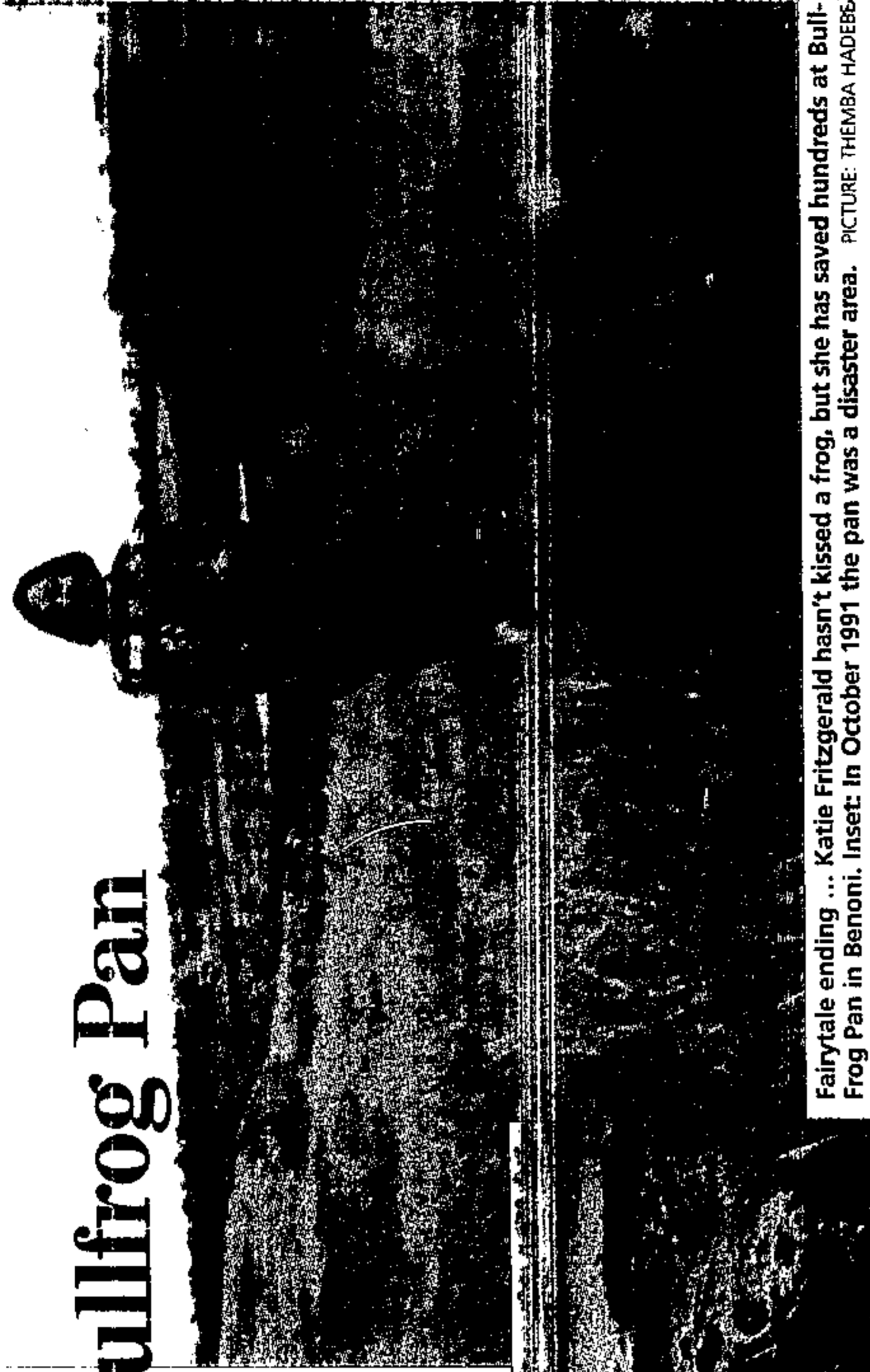
Bromfield said the victory at Bullfrog Pan was a perfect case study of what could be done when partners focused on the result.

"Too often we get locked into the process and lose sight of the outcome. When it comes to the environment, each outcome is vitally important. Each hour we waste fighting among ourselves, jostling for position and satisfying our ego, the bell tolls for the environment and ultimately for our existence on this planet."

Plans are in place to have Bullfrog Pan declared a conservancy. Rehabilitation of the landfill to grassland has been so successful that the bullfrogs are once again on the increase. They are

at present underground and will emerge after 30cm of rain has fallen, Fitzgerald said. Over 50 species of birds have been spotted and flamingos have taken up residence at the pan, after last being seen there 20 years ago.

The project has been nominated for the Conserva Award of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.



Fairytales ending ... Katie Fitzgerald hasn't kissed a frog, but she has saved hundreds at Bullfrog Pan in Benoni. Inset: In October 1991 the pan was a disaster area. PICTURE: THEMBA HADEBE

SC

# Plans to protest over dump

■ BY TAMSEN DE BEER

Angry residents who live near the Enviroserv Holfontein hazardous waste disposal site are planning a campaign to protest against pollution from the dump.

At a meeting attended by about 150 residents in Sundra, near Springs, last week, residents alleged that pollution from the waste disposal site had resulted in several health problems.

They rejected findings by the CSIR which indicated that the pollution could not be linked to Enviro-serv.

They also rejected the results of water tests conducted by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry which showed high metal concentrations in

underground (56) water before it entered the site.

Residents at the emotionally-charged meeting decided to form a committee to liaise with the relevant authorities and Enviro-serv.

Melinda Swift of Earth-life Africa told the group it was incorrect to feel they would be causing illegal dumping for refusing to tolerate hazardous waste.

"As individual citizens you have the right to exercise your rights. Decide what you want to do, focus and stand together," she told them.

National Association for Clean Air president Harold Annegarn advised the group to compile evidence of their illnesses and of alleged air and water pollution.

"The best solution is to help (Enviro-serv) run the

site safely," he said.

Department of Water Affairs and Forestry official Dr Henry Abbot responded to accusations of him being "bought off" by Enviro-serv by saying that he was "only one man" and his decisions were subject to his superiors.

"I have even been asked to tone down my criticism of the site, and I must say that for a while things have gone fairly well there," he said.

Abbot outlined amendments to Enviro-serv's permit, due to come into effect in a fortnight, which would reduce odour levels from the site.

The committee agreed to hold demonstrations or pickets as part of the residents' protest campaign, and to involve the nearby communities of Daveyton and Etwatwa.

(56) SHAW 18/9/95

# Plan to reopen hazardous waste dump draws anger

A proposal to reopen the Chloorkop hazardous waste dump in Kempton Park has been strongly criticised by the ANC's North East Rand region.

"Our people are not prepared to be the guinea-pigs in a dangerous management experiment," a statement said.

The ANC has described the proposal to reopen the controversial site as "ill-advised", and said it was opposed by the ANC provincial structure in Gauteng, as well as the North East Rand region.

The statement said the dump would "sterilise" industry in the area because of close proximity to the dump, which was illegal, and would adversely affect the health of more than 600 000 people living within a 3km radius of the site.

The statement said good management skills had never been displayed in South Africa, and that "the powers-that-be chose to ignore people and focused on profits" when objection was lodged to the site two and a half years ago.

Staff Reporter.

(56) stan 18/9/95

# Arsenate import: 'no hint of corruption', (5b)

Star 19/9/95

**Cape Town** - All the facts are known about the attempted importation of 50 tons of cupric arsenate and there is no suggestion of any corruption or embezzlement, says Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers.

He was reacting to criticism that the Cabinet had rejected a request by his Deputy Minister, Bantu Holomisa, to appoint a full commission of inquiry and had instead approved the appointment of a regional court president to conduct a one-person investigation into the incident.

De Villiers said he had not opposed Holomisa's request to Cabinet as they had agreed earlier on a division of functions in the department.

"I have always felt the nature of this problem does not justify a commission, but because it is an area for which responsibility has been delegated to the deputy minister, I didn't stand in his way."

He had not used the word "commission" in correspondence or in Parliament. "I referred to 'an open independent investigation' because the facts of this are well known - no one is denying anything."

"I know exactly who issued what permit, on a letterhead of the department signed by a consultant. And every department uses consultants, so neither is that an unfair situation."

"The irony is that the permit was issued, not for dumping but for recycling, and the material never even arrived in the country, so I have my doubts that there's even a need for an investigation."

"This was a mistake, and the mistake was that the ministers were not

informed. The minister had taken up a particular position and it was not really reflected in the issuing of this permit."

The investigation was an opportunity for people with information about toxic waste to come forward, De Villiers said.

"I expect people who have such grave reservations - like Peter Mokaba - to appear before the inquiry and provide evidence. And if he doesn't, then there must be some other agenda he's trying to promote."

Responding to sharp criticism in a statement last week by Mokaba on behalf of the ANC's study group on the environment and tourism about his ministry and department, De Villiers said he believed it was "totally unfair" and Mokaba was trying to play politics.

## Platform

"And that is the last thing we need. He (Mokaba) is chairman of the portfolio committee, he has access to me, he can see me any time."

"He has chosen on more than one occasion to make a public attack on me and the department, and I see it as purely his style of trying to draw attention and create a political platform for himself."

Referring to last weekend's oil spill at Saldanha Bay, De Villiers said he had had "several" discussions with Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha about the issue of oil tanker traffic in Saldanha Bay.

"Particularly after the recent incident, it's a matter of great concern."

"For the time being, the appropriate step is to wait for the reports from Portnet and the CSIR's investigation, and I think this latest incident should form an important

element of that investigation."

De Villiers acknowledged being a shareholder in the syndicate whose Postberg property forms part of the West Coast contractual national park.

"But I don't think there's a conflict of interests because basically I rely on expert advice - I don't just take decisions," he said.

"And insofar as I have an interest there, the effect is that it has sensitised me not only to the great beauty of the area, but also to the fragility of the West Coast environment."

"And as much as I am in favour of development and the need to create jobs in South Africa, I also realise that once we destroy or harm or damage the kind of environment that is not only of national but also international importance, we will never be able to turn it around."

"It is irreparable, and we will lose it for generations to come."

"I believe I have an open mind and that I can weigh up the different points of view and come to responsible decisions."

On other matters De Villiers said the names of the new National Parks Board of Trustees were "fairly close" to being announced.

He was not satisfied with the refusal of the army to consider allowing its Donkergat training area at Langebaan to be incorporated into the West Coast national park, and would continue discussions.

He added that the recent national environmental policy conference had been "a good start". South Africa had now ratified the Biodiversity Convention - Own Correspondent.

# 'No crisis' at waste site

Star 19/9/95

(56) (123)

■ BY JANINE SIMON

There are problems but no crisis at Holfontein, Gauteng's largest hazardous waste disposal site, MEC for Development Planning, Environment and Works Sicelo Shiceka has declared.

Shiceka and Gauteng director of environment Chris Warner yesterday went on a fact-finding tour of the five-year-old, 64ha site, on semi-rural land 40km east of Johannesburg.

Holfontein operator Enviro-Serv has been heavily criticised in

recent months for leaks on site, allegedly caused by an excess of liquid waste and poor structural and management planning.

Shiceka said the situation at Holfontein was not as critical as had been made out.

He would be noting the findings of a recent independent study of the site, and of the report of the MEC's interim hazardous waste advisory committee, before deciding on hazardous waste disposal strategies in Gauteng.

Holfontein is processing about 80% of the province's hazardous



**Hazardous waste ... Gauteng's MEC for development planning, environment and works, Sicelo Shiceka (left), director of environment Chris Warner, the site's geo-technical engineer Stan Jewaskiewitz and Jarrod Ball, president of the Institute of Waste Management at the Holfontein site yesterday.**

waste, a large portion of which is liquid waste.

The only other site for hazardous waste is Margolis in Germiston, which is run by Enviro-Serv's competitor Waste-tech. Margolis will be closed down in December, and provincial authorities have then to decide whether to allow a third site, Waste-tech's controversial Chloorkop in Midrand, to open.

After yesterday's tour, Jarrod Ball, president of the Institute of Waste Management, said he believed that there was still too

much liquid on the site, but that this problem was now being addressed.

Excess liquid caused a smell, could threaten the structures of a landfill site and polluted the groundwater, Ball explained. It also upset the process by which bacteria break down the toxic waste.

According to Enviro-Serv deputy chairman Alistair McLean, Holfontein battled to get solid waste from nearby Daveyton when residents refused to pay for refuse collection services.

But a contract securing dry waste supply from Daveyton has now been signed, and a second, securing the waste from Springs, is almost tied up.

Enviro-Serv's consulting geo-technical engineer Stan Jewaskiewitz added that the site had been improved by strengthening the walls of the "cells" - the actual landfill containers. New cells would be lined with new geoplastic membranes.

A treatment centre for liquids would also be built, but would not be ready by year-end.



# Port pollution control hurt by lack of staff

(56)

OWN CORRESPONDENT

CT 19/9/75

DURBAN: Serious concern has been expressed about the ability of South African port authorities to prevent environmental pollution.

It emerged at an international shipping conference here yesterday that less than 10% of ships in local ports are inspected for safety, mainly because of staff shortages.

Australia, which has about 30 ports, has more than 2 400 inspectors who conduct safety checks on nearly 60% of all vessels. By comparison, South Africa has just 30 inspectors to cover seven ports.

Mr Patrick Quirk of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said safety inspections played a major role in reducing environmental damage and crew losses.

# Steel mill approval denied

(56) (56)

ARG 20/9/95

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

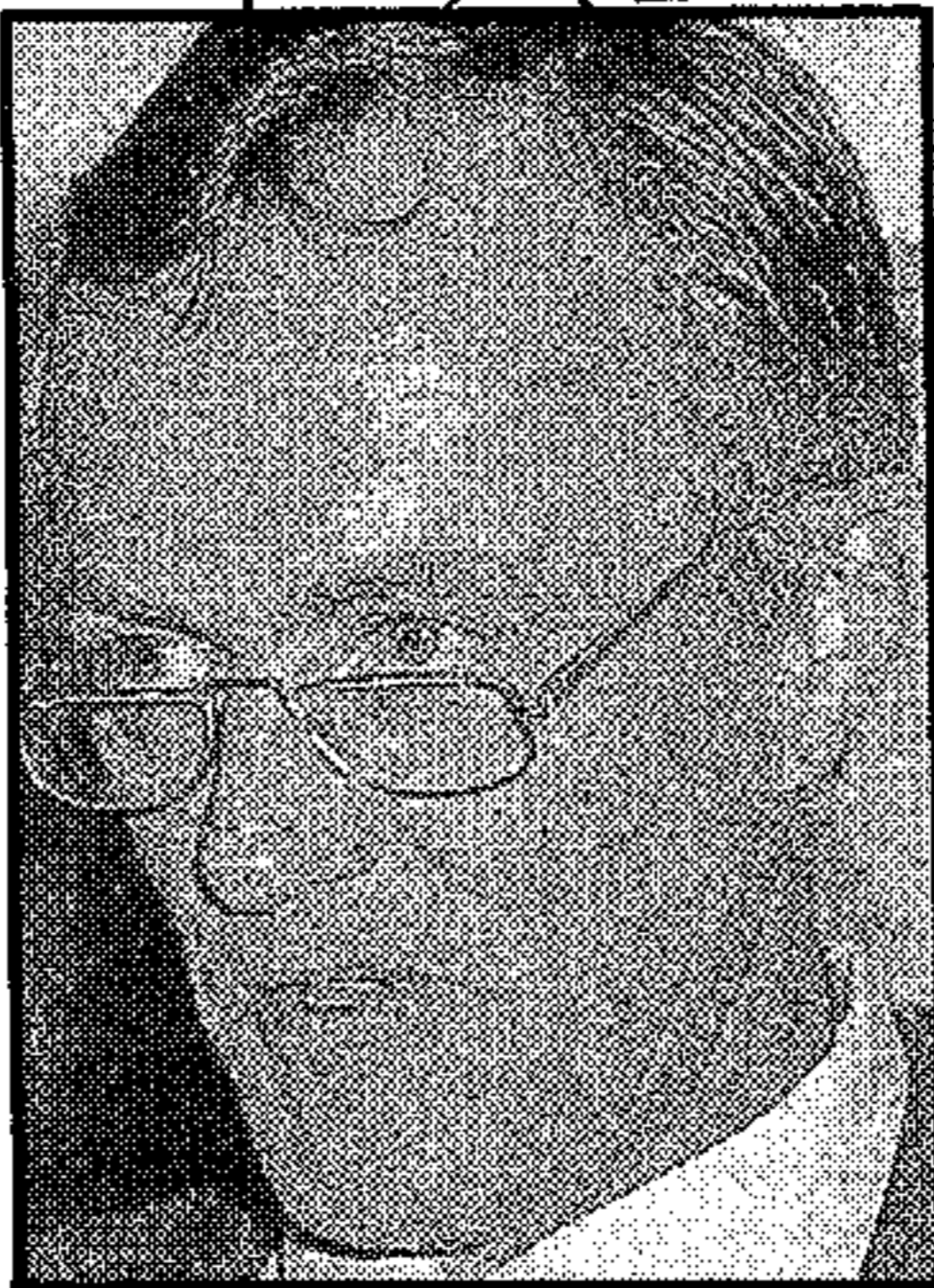
THE Department of Trade and Industry has come under scathing attack from the World Wide Fund for Nature for a "grossly misleading" claim to the Steyn board of inquiry into the proposed steel mill at Saldanha Bay.

The board of inquiry, headed by former Supreme Court judge Jan Steyn, has completed public hearings on the controversial issue and is compiling a report — expected within days — for Environment Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers.

In a recent written submission to the board, Paul Jourdan, specialist adviser to Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel, said the department "notes that the principle objections to the proposed site for the creation and operation of the Saldanha Steel Project from environmental associations and interest groups have been withdrawn".

He named the World Wide Fund as one of these organisations.

But the fund reacted with an unusually strong letter to Mr



**World Wide Fund chief executive officer John Hanks**

Steyn, signed by chief executive John Hanks and specialist consultant Allan Heydorn, in which it termed Dr Jourdan's remarks "totally misleading".

It had not withdrawn its objections, but had stated the conditions under which it would not oppose the construction of the steel plant on Iscor's proposed site.

And in its official submission, the fund has specifically recommended the steel factory be moved to an alternative site 10km inland.

If the official go-ahead was given for the steel plant on the Iscor-favoured site, the fund wanted to make specific recommendations for this site.

"We, therefore, regard the statement that WWF has withdrawn its objections as grossly misleading and untrue," Dr Hanks and Dr Heydorn said.

They also noted with concern that Dr Jourdan had not recognised in his submission to the board their pertinent environmental arguments.

These included the need for a strategic economic development plan for the area; the need to ensure the area's natural carrying capacity was not exceeded — particularly water; the need to bring environmental costs into the decision-making process; and the need for genuine respect for South Africa's commitment to the international Ramsar Convention on the protection of wetlands.

CELL PHONES, MIRRORS USED TO WARN DIVERS

CT 2/19/95

# Perlemoen poachings still rife

STAFF REPORTING

**POACHERS** have adopted sophisticated methods for harvesting perlemoen. **DAN SIMON** reports.

**P**ERLEMOEN continues to be poached in large quantities near Hawston and law enforcement officers in nearby Hermanus say they are powerless to stamp it out.

Although police and Sea Fisheries inspectors at Hermanus undertake daily patrols of the dunes they say they are fighting a losing battle as the poachers have become increasingly sophisticated.

They post lookouts on the dunes and flash warnings using mirrors and even use cell phones if police or inspectors approach.

The Department of Sea Fisheries said that since the beginning of the year, 65 people had been arrested in the Hermanus area and nearly 10 000 perlemoen had been confiscated and sold for R82 000. In 1994, they confiscated more than 16 000 poached perlemoen which was sold for R172 850.

The Cape Times visited the area this week and accompanied the eight-man foot patrol of police and Sea Fisheries inspectors.

The area patrolled was a private nature reserve belonging to local landowner Dr Frank Raimondo. Earlier this year pitched battles

took place at the reserve between police, poachers and Dr Raimondo, over access to perlemoen resources through the property.

Police at the time said they had identified the poaching problem in Hawston as gang activity — drugs-for-perlemoen smuggling.

Local ANC spokesman Mr Phillipus May said poaching would only cease if the locals were given a legal slice of pie.

"Mostly the poaching has stopped but there are still some people doing it. Most of the local fishermen are waiting for the Quota Board to respond," he said.

## Quota Board

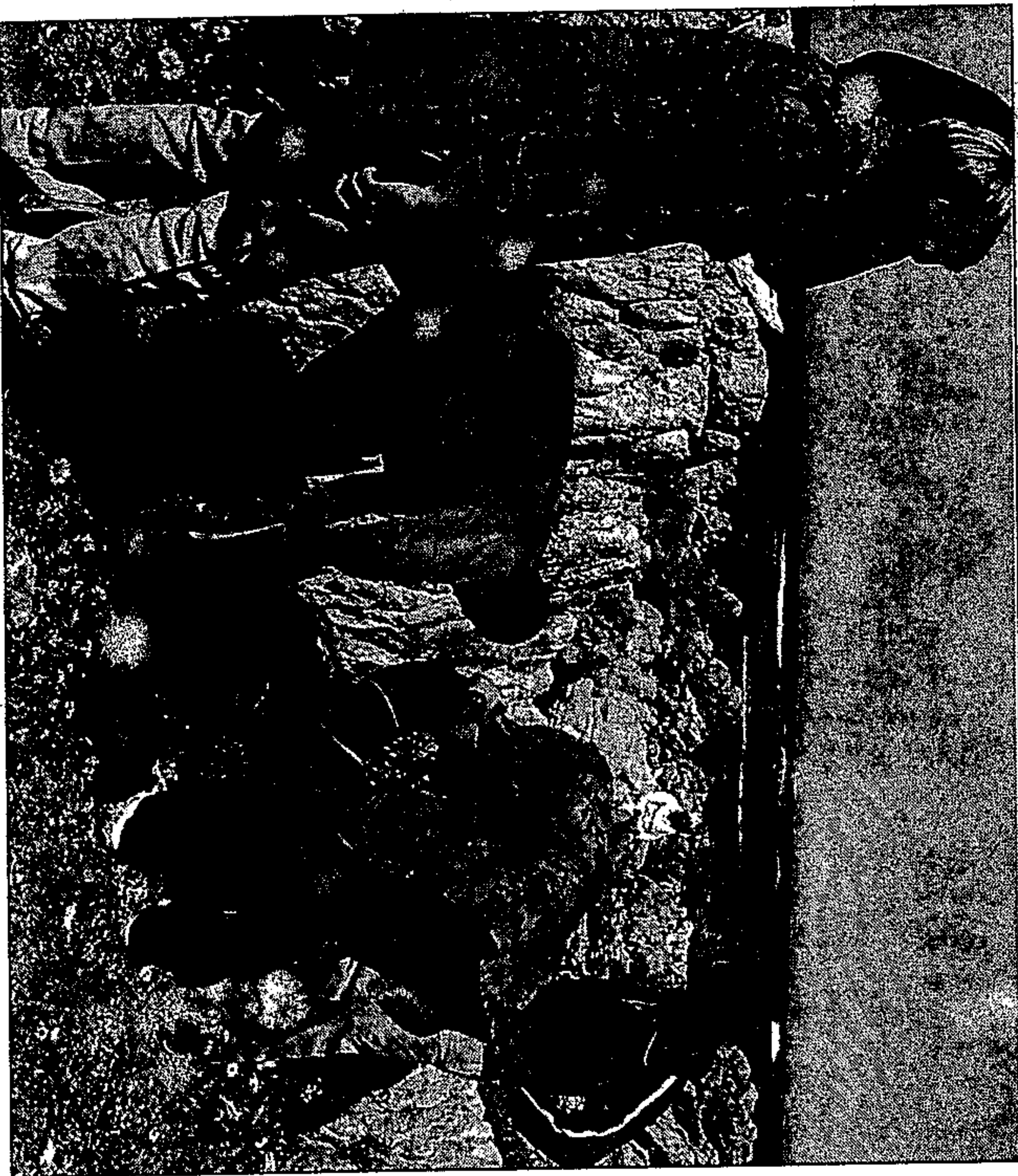
The Quota Board is to decide tomorrow on quotas.

However, police say poaching is rife near Hawston. They daily find evidence of the poachers' activities, including freshly shucked perlemoen shells.

"They've hidden it (the perlemoen) somewhere near here," Constable Boette Viljoen said after he had searched the belongings of a number of local divers.

"There are only eight of us. We are fighting a losing battle. To catch these poachers is like emptying the sea with a bucket."

Legislation was not deterring the poachers. "If they get a fine they'll make it up with one dive."



**SEARCH:** Members of the Hermanus police search a bag belonging to two divers who were questioned and searched for poached perlemoen. Police and Sea Fisheries inspectors are now conducting joint patrols near Hawston because of the continuing poaching problem.

**PICTURE: DAN SIMON**

## Move to halt 'rape of the Transkei coast'

DURBAN: The Wildlife Society is to take two ministers, a provincial premier and four tribal chiefs to court in a bid to halt the "environmental rape" of the Transkei coastline.

The society says chiefs are "giving away" plots, mainly to white fishermen and holidaymakers.

For as little as R200 or a few sheep, the society claims, non-residents have been able to acquire prime sites next to the beach. Large areas of indigenous forest and dune vegetation are being destroyed in the process.

In 1992 the former Transkei government declared a coastal conservation zone and prohibited any unauthorised development within 1 000 metres of the high-water mark.

The society said efforts to get officials to act had failed, and it had no alternative but to take legal action against Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers, Eastern Cape Premier Mr Raymond Mhlaba, Eastern Cape Agriculture and Environment Minister Mr Tertius Delpont and four chiefs.

None was available for comment. — Own Correspondent

(56) CT 21/9/95

# Less 'brown haze' over Cape Town — experts

Environment Reporter

(56) ARG 21/9/95

CAPE TOWN'S infamous "brown haze" appears to have been less prominent this year than last, say University of Cape Town scientists researching the problem.

The scientists, at UCT's Energy Research Institute, found a marked drop in the number of days on which NOX (oxides of nitrogen) levels exceeded the recommended health standard of 1 504 micrograms per cubic metre.

This happened on 27 days this year compared with 39 last year.

Institute professor Dick Dutkiewicz said the decrease in the brown haze occurrence was probably because of climatic conditions.

"The brown haze is particularly bad when nightly temperature inversions occur during winter months, but this has happened less this year."

The UCT researchers are continuing to sample emissions from all the major polluters in metropolitan Cape Town, including petrol and diesel vehicles, large industries and wood-burning.

Their sampling is focused on the small particles which are the main cause of the brown haze.

The results of their comprehensive study — expected at the end of next year — will quantify how much each of the major polluters contributes to the brown haze problem.

Cape Town - The Department of Trade and Industry has come under scathing attack from the World Wide Fund for Nature for a "grossly misleading" claim to the Steyn board of inquiry into the proposed steel mill at Saldanha Bay.

The board of inquiry, headed by former Supreme Court judge Jan Steyn, has completed public hearings on the controversial issue.

It is compiling a report - expected within days - for Environment Affairs Minister Dawie

# 'Grossly misleading' Saldanha claim slated

ST 28 FEB 1995  
From 2/19/95

de Villiers.

In a recent written submission to the board, Paul Jourdan, specialist adviser to Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel, said the department "notes that the principle objections to the proposed site for the creation and operation of the Saldanha Steel Project from environmental associations and interest groups have been withdrawn".

He named the World Wide Fund as one of these organisations.

But the fund reacted with an unusually strong letter to Steyn, signed by chief executive John Hanks and specialist consultant Allan Heydorn, in which it termed Dr Jourdan's remarks "totally misleading".

It had not withdrawn its objections but had stated the conditions under which it would

not oppose the construction of the steel plant on Iscor's proposed site.

And in its official submission, the fund has specifically recommended the steel factory be moved to an alternative site 10km inland.

If the official go-ahead was given for the steel plant on the Iscor-favoured site, the fund wanted to make specific recommendations for this site.

"We therefore regard the statement that WWF has withdrawn its objections as grossly misleading and untrue," Dr Hanks and Dr Heydorn said.

They also noted with concern that Dr Jourdan had not recognised in his submission to the board their pertinent environmental arguments.

These included the need for a strategic economic development plan for the area and the need to ensure the area's natural carrying capacity was not exceeded - particularly water.

# Saldanha: WWF hits at govt claim

STAFF REPORTERS

CT 21/9/95

107A  
56

THE World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has attacked the Department of Trade and Industry for what it calls a "grossly misleading and untrue" submission made to the Steyn board of inquiry on the proposed steel mill at Saldanha Bay.

WWF was objecting to a recent written submission from Mr Paul Jourdan, specialist adviser to Mr Trevor Manuel, Trade and Industry Minister.

Mr Jourdan had written that the "principal objections to the proposed site for the creation and operation of the Saldanha Steel project from environmental associations and interest groups have been withdrawn".

He added that the WWF had withdrawn its objections.

A letter to the commission, signed by Dr John Hanks, chief executive for WWF, and Dr Allan Heydorn, specialist consultant, emphasised that "WWF has NOT withdrawn its objections".

WWF said in the letter that the submission by Mr Jourdan promoted the merits of Saldanha Steel without reservation and gave the impression that the ministry did not understand that "a sound and sustainable economy cannot be built on an inadequate, misused and depleted natural resource base".

WWF said it had stipulated conditions under which it would not oppose the establishment of the steel mill on the proposed site and in its official statement WWF had recommended the site be moved 10km inland.

The board, headed by Judge Jan Steyn, is compiling a report for Dr Dawie de Villiers, Minister of Environment Affairs, and said yesterday it would submit its findings on October 6.

*'Need is for more documentation from Environment Affairs'*

# Waste import probe starts

BY TAMSEN DE BEER

Jan Venter, the man appointed to head the independent inquiry into South Africa's importation of 500 tons of cupric arsenate, has begun his investigation, but requires more documentation from the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism.

"I'm working through what I have but it's impossible, it's quite a wide thing that I have to investigate," said a frustrated Venter earlier this week.

Venter, who is president of Pretoria's Regional Court, said he was in the process of requesting that the department "give (him) all the relevant documents."

He was appointed to conduct an independent inquiry, following the rejection by the Cabinet of a proposed commission of inquiry on the grounds that it would be "too costly".

This decision has been condemned by ANC MP Peter Moka-ba, a member of the National Assembly's portfolio committee on environmental affairs and tourism.

Mokaba wants the Cabinet to reverse its decision not to appoint

a full commission of inquiry into the incident.

The commission's original terms of reference were to investigate the Government's contract to Dean Malan & Associates - a private consultant appointed to manage hazardous materials in terms of the Basel convention - and its granting of a permit to JAD Metal Concentrate, Benoni, to import cupric arsenate.

## Ignorant

Venter said that the matter "would take some time to investigate", and that he "certainly" did not have all the "necessary documentation" from the department yet.

Both Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers, Deputy Minister Bantu Holomisa, and latterly, the department's director-general, Colin Cameron, have claimed they knew nothing about the importation.

Cameron had earlier admitted to knowing of the import, prompting a call by Earthlife Africa to have him fired.

But in a recent press release the department has said Cameron, too, was ignorant.

The import was in breach of De Villiers' stated policy that

South Africa would not accept any hazardous waste.

The independent enquiry has been called a "window-dressing" exercise by environmentalist Chris Albertyn of the Environmental Justice Networking Forum.

He said its legal jurisdiction would be far less than the original commission of inquiry, and that "those involved" would "not be obliged" to give evidence.

But acting director-general of the Department, Francois Hanekom, said that he believed the terms and conditions of the inquiry, not yet forwarded to Venter, would be sufficiently binding on any party involved.

He said that the terms of reference referred specifically to the permit granted for JAD's importation, as well as to an investigation of "all matters relating to Dean Malan in this context".

Willem Scott, acting director of Pollution Control, said Dean Malan had been appointed by the department in 1988 because of a manpower shortage.

"We had a bit of a crisis because it's a lot of work to handle these things," he said.

Dean Malan was signed to a "major contract involving all rele-

(56) Star 22/9/95

vant government departments" to deal with "the environmentally safe management" of hazardous waste, said Scott.

"When we became party to the Basel convention, the original contract was supplemented, and it was agreed that they (Dean Malan) should help us with administering its (Basel agreement) terms," he said.

## Suspended

Scott said Dean Malan had been suspended from matters involving the Basel agreement, but that the company was "still operating otherwise" on behalf of the department.

"For the main part of their contract they will be staying on," he said.

He said the results of the inquiry would determine the consultant's future at the department.

"From our side we feel we followed the rules to the letter, as prescribed by Basel, but we will have to see what the inquiry says," he said.

Venter has requested that the public come forward with information addressed to the Regional Court President, Private Bag X61, Pretoria, 0001.



# Transkei land sales may be illegal

Durban - A bottle of cheap brandy and R200 ... that's the price some chiefs have been accepting to sacrifice the natural heritage of their people and the unspoiled beauty of the former Transkei coastline.

The Wildlife Society says hundreds of illegal fishing shacks and holiday cottages have sprung up along the coastline in the past year - mainly in the area around Port St Johns and Mbotyi.

The society says the allocation of prime sites by at least four chiefs - many directly on the beach - has resulted in the destruction of large areas of indigenous forest and dune vegetation.

Marine resources such as

crayfish and other seafoods have also been put under severely increased pressure.

"This is an environmental nightmare on a grand scale," said society conservation director Keith Cooper, "Unless we put a stop to it immediately, the problem is going to mushroom out of all proportion."

"So far the sites have been granted for a pittance, but prices are going up all the time. Two weeks ago I heard that the going rate has reached the R1 400 mark."

Cooper, who has walked the length of the coastline and helped prepare environmental protection regulations for the former Transkei authorities, said the Pondoland coast contained

the most pristine and unspoiled areas of the entire SA coastline.

It appeared that unscrupulous people had decided to take advantage of the virtual collapse of the former homeland's administrative and regulatory systems.

Deport told lawyers he was aware of the illegal land allocations, but he had no staff to monitor or control the problem.

"A lot of these developers know they are acting illegally and that their rights of tenure are uncertain," said Cooper.

"But they are saying: 'What the hell? It will only cost us a few hundred bucks, so let's take a chance.'"

Cooper said the problem was brought to his attention by East-

ern Cape residents who were legally granted cottage sites several years ago. When he learned of the scale of the destruction, he asked lawyers to contact the responsible authorities to intervene immediately.

Along with Don MacRobert and Raymond Taylor (members of the Transkei Cottage Owners' Association), society lawyers approached the Department of Environment Affairs and the nature conservation and forestry officials of the Transkei - all to no avail.

In a letter to Environment Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers and Easter Cape Premier Raymond Mhlaba in May, lawyers urged the minister and Premier Mhlaba to carry out

their legal obligation to halt the damage.

The Wildlife Society argues that in terms of Decree No 9 of the former Transkei government, no development whatsoever is allowed within 1 000m of the high water mark along the coast - unless it is sanctioned by permit.

It argues that this law has never been repealed, and that under the new constitution the decree still has legal effect in the former homeland territory.

A dossier of photographs has also been collected showing massive destruction of coastal dune forests and mangrove areas which have been cleared to obtain clear sea views. - Owen Correspondent.

(56) Star 22/9/95

*'It's as radical as sterilising people'*

# Outrage at soil scientist's view

(56) Star 22/9/95

## OWN CORRESPONDENT

Pretoria - Outraged conservationists have reacted vehemently to suggestions that certain species of wildlife should be allowed to become extinct as they serve no useful purpose.

Unisa soil scientist Dr Munro Munnik suggested in a recent interview with Farmer's Weekly that rhino, elephant, hippo and other species take up valuable grazing space.

"You must be realistic," he is quoted as saying, "I feel strongly if we do not curb population growth in Africa — and this seems highly unlikely — we can forget about conservation. We will have to give all our attention to ... producing food."

Most outspoken of the critics was award-winning wildlife film maker Fanie van der Merwe. He

said: "It appears Dr Munnik has adopted a radical approach. I could be just as radical and say 'why don't we sterilise people?'"

Clive Walker, co-founder of the Rhino and Elephant Foundation, was also scathing in decrying Munnik's views.

"If what he is reported as having said is true, I would compare it to destroying cathedrals to grow cabbages," he said.

"While I appreciate his views on the population explosion, it is wrong to stamper people into thinking game reserves and conservancies would be better utilised to grow potatoes."

Munnik would be well-advised to remember that extinction is forever, warned International Fund for Animal Welfare South African spokesman David Barritt.

The Natal Parks Board, ini-

## UNISA's Dr Munnik has been criticised for saying certain wildlife should be allowed to become extinct

tiators of Operation Rhino, which led to the re-establishment of a sustainable white rhino population in Southern Africa, dismissed Munnik's remarks as ill-informed opinion.

"It is widely accepted that tourism has the potential of pulling South Africa out of the financial doldrums and Satour informs us that 90% of foreign tourists come to South Africa for natural areas and wildlife.

"Rhino and elephant, apart

from having a vital role in nature, are very much part of the wildlife attraction. To consign them arbitrarily to extinction is to threaten the success of our eco-tourism incentives," executive director Dr George Hughes said.

Wildlife Society ecologist David Lindley was in agreement with Hughes' views and added he was surprised a soil scientist would come forward with an opinion such as Munnik's.

"There are very few game farms and reserves on what can be considered prime agricultural land in South Africa. If this land was turned over to agriculture it would cost plenty to produce crops and even then the cost would be far higher than that of game ranching."

North West Conservation's Steve Johnson said Munnik's

views, if correctly put, would do irreparable damage to the earth's bioersity.

He added that in the province's 75 000ha Madikwe Game Reserve it had been forecast via modelling that cattle ranching would create an extra 80 jobs with about R500 000 a year in salaries. Against this, further boosting of nature-based tourism would create up to 1 200 jobs with salaries exceeding R7-million a year.

Last words from Worldwide Fund for Nature South Africa's director of conservation Dr Ian Macdonald: "The reality of Africa is that the diverse communities of wild herbivores that have evolved on the continent are often better able to exploit natural rangelands than introduced domestic livestock," he said.

## Manuel was misleading on Saldanha - parks chief

(S6)  
Cape Town - The National Parks Board claims that Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel has misled the Steyn inquiry on the board's strong objections to the siting of a steel mill at Saldanha.

Chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson said yesterday the board had not withdrawn its objections to the proposed site of the R4,7-billion plant, as suggested by Manuel in a recent submission to the inquiry.

Manuel told the inquiry that the main objections to the proposed site by environmental and other bodies had been withdrawn. *Star 23/9/95*

Robinson complained in an angry letter to inquiry chairman Mr Justice Jan Steyn that the minister's statement was misleading.

The board still believed that siting the mill near Langebaan lagoon created an unnecessary risk which was economically and environmentally flawed, as well as irresponsible.

Robinson also criticised the Department of Trade and Industry, saying it was not known for its consideration of the environment.

In his letter to Steyn, he also commented on the recent oil spill off Saldanha Bay, saying it showed that protection measures were seriously inadequate. "This spill served as a timely reminder that Saldanha Bay is a high-risk port not suited for oil transfers." - Sapa

# Private consultant issued waste permits

(56) WUM 25-31/2/95

A non-government official used official government forms to authorise importation of toxic waste to the country, writes **Eddie Koch**

released documents to show that a non-government official, Daan Malan, had used official-government letterheads to authorise importation of the cargo for treatment in South Africa — even though the government has stated it will not allow toxic waste from overseas into the country.

Holomisa said "there was cause for concern" about the ethics and competence of Malan's behaviour, especially because it appears the consultant failed to carry out procedures as required by the Basel Convention for the movement of toxic material from Europe to South Africa.

Earthlife Africa has called for the axing of Cameron over the debacle. The green group's representative Chris Albertyn says Malan was given the power to devise policy and issue permits for toxic waste imports even though he heads the South African Chamber of Business' environment committee — which has gone on record in favour of importing hazardous materials for recycling in South Africa.

Albertyn said it was both illegal and unethical for the director general to appoint a private individual to carry out sensitive government work and says there is a clear conflict of interests between Malan's role as a lobbyist for big business and a consultant for the Government. Earthlife is demanding that the new inquiry investigate the possibility of collusion around the issuing of toxic import permits.

On Thursday Holomisa overturned plans by Cameron to hold an in-house inquiry into the matter and it appears he will appoint three people, including top scientists, to probe Malan's conduct. "Any pending deals on toxic waste that Malan has been negotiating — in addition to the shipment from Norway — will also be investigated," said Holomisa.

"This week Earthlife released documents that show JAD Metal Concentrates, the East Rand firm that was planning to recycle Finland's cargo of cupric arsenate, had entered into advanced talks with Malan to import

four shiploads of heavily contaminated cobalt cement that had been dumped by a French company in Russia.

The documents — including faxed correspondence between JAD director Doug Gosling and Malan — show that serious consideration was being given to bringing the toxic shipment through Durban into South Africa. Gosling's fax to Malan discusses details about how to insure the shipment and states: "Samples have been tested. There will be no harmful side effects from the treatment of this material."

Documents in the M&C's possession show that the cargo is, in fact, classified as dangerously toxic and can cause vision impairment, "madness", and damage to the central nervous system.

Gosling said the shipment contained some 15 tons of talcum, one of the most toxic substances known, and that it was not brought into the country for this reason. Malan refused to say why he had entered into negotiations about importing this waste saying only: "I

cannot recall any correspondence about this matter".

Evidence is also emerging that the Australian government has been lobbying officials in South Africa's foreign affairs and environment departments to support Australia's bid to relax an international ban imposed in terms of the Basel Convention on the movement of waste from industrialised to non-industrialised countries.

A confidential memo from Australian officials shows that a team from that country held talks with three counterparts in South Africa's foreign affairs, environment and trade and industry departments about the Basel Convention. "We raised general issues in relation to the Basel Convention, in particular the ban decision," says the memorandum.

The Australian Financial Review reported this month that the Australian government is preparing to reverse its adherence to the Basel ban on movement of waste from north to south.

**D**EPUTY Environment Minister Bantu Holomisa this week announced an independent commission will investigate the toxic waste scandal that has rocked his ministry — amid new evidence that officials from the Department of Environment Affairs were this year negotiating to bring four barge loads of lethal cobalt waste from Russia to South Africa.

The inquiry will focus on a decision by Collin Cameron, director general of the department, to allow a private consultant to issue government permits for 500 tons of cupric arsenate to be imported from Finland.

The ship was turned back last week after the green group Earthlife Africa

# Whale research 'vital for their conservation'

Environment Reporter

RESEARCH on whales in Walker Bay, Hermanus, is vital to their conservation and is part of the scientific programme of the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

So says veteran whale conservationist Nan Rice in defence of work by specialist whale scientist Peter Best of Pretoria University's Mammal Research Institute.

Dr Best is taking small tissue samples from Southern Right whales in Walker Bay for DNA testing and has a Sea Fisheries permit for his re-

search, which involves driving his small boat slowly up to the whales.

But his activities have raised strong protests from some Hermanus residents — and Mrs Rice has been drawn into the controversy by people accusing her of not caring for whales because she supports Dr Best's work.

Mrs Rice pointed out that DNA sampling of whales was being done internationally as part of the IWC's "Comprehensive Assessment" programme to monitor the world's whale species and stocks, in accordance with the present moratorium on the com-

mercial killing of whales.

This programme, which included developing a data bank of DNA for all species, sub-species and stocks of marine mammals worldwide, was considered "vitally important", Mrs Rice said.

The sampling Dr Best was doing, with other benign research by him and other scientists in several countries, would help with the future conservation of the great whales.

"It apparently doesn't occur to many people that we still know very little about whales, their biology and

behaviour (52)

"Further, there is no guarantee that the commercial whaling moratorium might not be lifted at any time in the future. *ARR 25/9/95*

"It's therefore essential, if we really want to conserve whales, that we gain as much knowledge about them as we can in this interim period."

Her organisation — the Dolphin Ac-

tion Group, incorporating Save the Whales — believed this was quite acceptable, if such knowledge was obtained without killing the whales, she said.

Plan to link N Province, Mozambique

# Storm over Kruger Park road proposal

(56)

Star 25/9/95

■ BY ANITA ALLEN  
SCIENCE WRITER

National Parks Board authorities have reacted with stunned disbelief to a proposal to construct a road through the Kruger National Park to link Northern Province and Mozambique's Gaza province.

"I am prepared to sit with whoever and debate the issue, but it's beyond my comprehension that a road should be allowed," NPB chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson told *The Star*.

"Kruger should have been a World Heritage site long ago, but because of apartheid it has not been possible. It is the most well-known brand name worldwide, even surpassing Yellowstone National Park in the US.

"We hold Kruger in trust for the rest of the world and are responsible for preserving its integrity. That's what I am trying to defend here. Kruger's integrity can be destroyed by a commercial road."

The idea of the road was first mentioned during exploratory talks on possible trans-border co-operation between

## NATIONAL Parks Board astounded at scheme to build major road through famed reserve

Northern Province and Gaza province. The meeting in July was attended by Northern Province Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi, the governor of Gaza, and representatives of Phalaborwa's Chamber of Commerce, the military and the NPB.

Jack Mokobi, spokesman for Ramatlhodi's office, said there was agreement at the meeting on the need to open a route linking the two regions, and there was cordial discussion. At no stage did any of the NPB representatives oppose the plan.

Robinson said members of his staff attended what they thought was a routine meeting about ongoing co-operation and had no idea that a plan for a road through Kruger would be on the agenda.

"They were taken aback and said they would like to consider

the situation. When they told me, I was totally opposed. I told them: for goodness' sake, you have to draw the line somewhere," Robinson said.

He pointed out that the July meeting was not about making decisions, and it should have been arranged through his office if matters at that level were going to be discussed.

"It's premature to draw any conclusions," Mokobi told *The Star*. "All aspects will be looked into by a working group we have agreed to set up, which will discuss the matter."

The working group would include all parties at the July meeting, as well as representatives of the departments of foreign affairs of both countries.

Robinson confirmed that the matter had been brought to the attention of SA's Department of Foreign Affairs. However, David Loubser, chief director: southern Africa at the department, told *The Star* he had no knowledge of any such approach.

Robinson also confirmed that a road through Kruger would not be allowed in terms of the National Parks Act.

# Saldanha spill controls 'inadequate'

MELANIE GOSLING

THE National Parks Board has slammed the anti-pollution measures at Saldanha Bay and said the recent oil spill showed that current measures to protect the environment were "totally inadequate".

The board has also hit out at Department of Trade and Industry Minister Mr Trevor Manuel for claiming that environmental organisations had with-

drawn their objections to the proposed R4,7bn steel plant at Saldanha.

In a submission to the Steyn Board of inquiry into the Saldanha steel plant, Parks Board chief Dr Robbie Robinson said at the weekend the threat which industrial activity posed to Saldanha Bay and Langebaan Lagoon had been "dramatically highlighted" by the spill, and was a timely reminder that Saldanha Bay was a high-risk port not suited to

oil transfers.

Reacting to Mr Manuel's claims, he said: "Our national parks are an important fulcrum around which our international and national tourism industry revolves and as such, the Department of Trade and Industry should be far more sympathetic towards the endeavours of the National Parks Board."

The Steyn inquiry will hand in its report on October 6.

CT 25/9/95

(56)

# Currency storm continues as EU fails to destroy doubts

BY ANGUS MACKINNON

SAPA-APP

Alcudia, Spain — European money markets are braced for fresh turmoil this week after a European Union summit failed to kill off speculation that internal divisions could wreck plans to create a single currency.

Rather than eliminating uncertainty, the summit only served to underline the strains within the union which have left the Maastricht Treaty's framework and timetable for monetary union looking extremely fragile.

The storm generated by German Finance Minister Theo Waigel's remarks last week that Italy would not meet Maastricht's tough economic conditions by the 1999 deadline catapulted the explosive single-currency issue to the top of the informal summit's agenda.

Officially the message that emerged was a rebuke to Waigel,

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with even Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, insisting that there was no question of rewriting the Maastricht targets.

"It is not for any one country or any one minister to decide who will participate in the transition to a single currency or when it will happen," said Jacques Santer, the president of the commission, reflecting widespread irritation at what was seen as Germany flexing its economic muscles.

Kohl, in a move that reflected Bonn's concern about the potential consequences of the Waigel affair, made an appearance on Italian television where he effectively disowned Waigel's comments.

Inside the meeting, however, the German chancellor struck a different note, warning his counterparts of the huge political risk that the German public or parliament could refuse to swap the mark for a Eurocurrency.

(56)  
Germany's determination to avoid this by ensuring that the new currency is at least as strong as the mark lies behind Waigel's campaign to tighten the rules on budget deficits for those countries which decide to go ahead with a single currency.

Kohl indicated that he saw no need for extra restrictions, but he insisted that the Maastricht objectives would have to be followed to the letter, even if that meant postponing the launch of the single currency.

The pressures on the Maastricht programme for a single currency are not purely economic.

The political compromise which the treaty embodies effectively amounts to Germany agreeing to give up the mark in return for its partners agreeing to Bonn's ambitions for political union, which include new powers for the European parliament.



# Kruger road idea shocks officials

(56) CT 25/9/95

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

JOHANNESBURG: A proposal to build a road through the Kruger National Park to link the Northern Province and Mozambique's Gaza province came to light this week.

The plan has stunned National Parks Board (NPB) authorities.

The idea of the road was first mentioned during exploratory talks on possible trans-border co-operation between Northern Province and Mozambique's Gaza Province. The meeting in July was attended by Northern Province Premier Mr Ngoako Ramatlhodi, the governor of Gaza Province, and representatives of Phalaborwa's Chamber of Commerce, the military and the NPB.

NPB chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson said: "Kruger should have been a World Heritage site long ago, but because of apartheid it has not been possible.

"It is the most well-known brand name worldwide, even surpassing Yel-

## 'Govt should control parks'

JOHANNESBURG: National Parks Board chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson has asked the Constitutional Court to allocate the permanent management and control of all national parks to the national government.

In his submission to the court Dr Robinson said the government could ensure that international standards were maintained in trans-frontier and other parks, and could provide financial support. — Sapa

lowstone National Park in the US. We hold Kruger in trust ... Kruger's integrity can be destroyed by a commercial road."

Mr Jack Mokobi, spokesman for Mr Ramatlhodi's office, said it was premature to draw any conclusions. A working group had been set up to discuss the matter.

# Environmental protection will show us to the promised land

(56) CT(BR) 26/9/95

An apocryphal anecdote: The Egyptians are pursuing the Israelites and Moses, who is endeavouring to get them to the promised land.

Moses is sent off urgently to see the Lord on the shores of the Red Sea with a view to solving the impasse.

He returns with the following announcement: "I have good news and bad news. First the good news: the Lord is to part the waters of the Red Sea to enable us to pass through safely. Now the bad news: He is awaiting receipt of our environmental impact assessment!"

The point is, if Moses had been an environmental committee, the Israelites would probably never have reached the promised land.

A similar fate awaits us, unless we manage to resolve the current impasse between managed economic growth and sustained environmental protection. A number of key projects have had to weigh economic growth up against environmental protection:

- The mining of the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia;
- The Saldanha Steel Project;
- The storage of oil from Iran at Saldanha;
- The Chloorkop Hazardous Waste Landfill project in Kempton Park;
- The Waterfront Development proposed for the Zoo Lake area in Johannesburg;

In too many cases, there have been serious flaws in the process of public participation and environmental impact assessment. Let us examine a few of them:

- An absence of clear guide-lines from the legislature about what is required to be done;
- Enforcement agencies are understaffed and there is conflict and confusion between existing government departments at national, regional and local level;
- A misuse of environmental impact assessments to carry out political and commercial agendas;
- A mistaken belief that the public

## TERRA FIRMA



BY JEREMY BOSWELL

*In the first of a series of fortnightly articles in which a panel of environmental professionals examine the issues facing business today, Jeremy Boswell looks at the issue of economic growth versus environmental protection*

must decide whether a project proceeds or not (instead of the authorities);

- A failure to understand that 100 percent consensus is seldom, if ever, achievable in these decisions;
- The absence of deadlock breaking mechanisms in order to facilitate progress;
- The belief that no risk or zero pollution is achievable along with economic development;
- Punishment for the honest and success for the secretive.

Since no decision will meet with 100 percent support and since the authorities are reluctant to agree to any project not attaining 100 percent support, the project gets stuck by throwing money at it, or lawyers, usually both.

### Mistakes

But if we unpack the problem more carefully, we realise that serious mistakes are being made.

Why is it that economic growth and environmental protection must be viewed as alternatives?

Surely the answer is to develop compromise solutions and negotiated alternatives which would more closely satisfy the requirements of devel-

oper, job seeker, environmentalist, politician and authority.

We see far too few projects where there is encouragement to develop alternatives and make progress. They all too easily become adversarial, high profile media issues with no chance of going forward.

We need to take some tough decisions before the issue can even begin to be resolved.

Developers must know how to proceed with environmentally sensitive projects. It is no longer an excuse to say, "we never considered public participation or the environmental impact".

Each new project that commences without those decisions makes it worse for the others who are desperately trying to do it correctly.

The authorities need to take an active lead in developing and enforcing legislation which must be funded, guided and negotiated.

The environmentalists and green pressure groups need to take responsibility for their actions. Idealist and elitist principles will not feed hungry mouths.

Journalists in both the electronic and print media need to look further than the immediate sensationalist value of a project which has run into difficulties and educate the public as to what the true issues really are.

There needs to be responsible empowerment and capacity building amongst the previously disadvantaged, or else they will all too easily continue to revert to mob rule.

What we are missing at the moment is environmental leadership.

We need responsible citizens who will stand up and work together across the divide of government, private enterprise and environmentalists, to agree to a frame-work which will allow progress.

Jeremy Boswell is a civil engineer who specialised in the field of environmental engineering. He is employed as engineering manager by Waste-tech to develop new waste management facilities.

**A**lien vegetation affects everyone in this country needs badly - and it must be dealt with.  
*Allen*

# Water: no magic,

**G**autengers may feel that the R28-million project to clear water-guzzling alien vegetation, which was announced last week, has little to do with their daily lives, but they would be wrong.

The project is the first of a planned 48 projects in a National Water Conservation Campaign, which is going to affect everyone in this country as it addresses the trade-offs that will have to be made between water supply, water quality and who pays.

"We do not have some magic wand to settle South Africa's water problems," says Dr Guy Preston, project co-ordinator in the office of Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal. "But we know we have to encourage equity, efficiency and sustainability in the supply and use of water. In meeting this, the project to eradicate invasive plants from rivers has the potential to deliver fantastic results."

One negative impact of invader alien plants is that they take up water and evaporate it through their leaves and in the process rivers and streams dry up. In addition, moisture which should fall to the ground and then seep into rivers, falls on leaves and is evaporated in sunlight. Also, invader plants displace indigenous vegetation and because their spread is not inhibited by natural enemies, they transform landscapes and threaten biodiversity.

Preston points out that some of the programmes being funded by the project involve rivers that supply Gauteng with water. Eradicating the water-guzzling aliens from these water sources means more water will be available for all users. Estimates of the increase in annual water yield of

rivers presently choked with alien vegetation are as high as 30% to 50%.

If the water supply implications of Asmal's experts are right, then it could lead to the postponement of major capital works for the provision of water, such as large dams. This will mean significant financial savings for consumers.

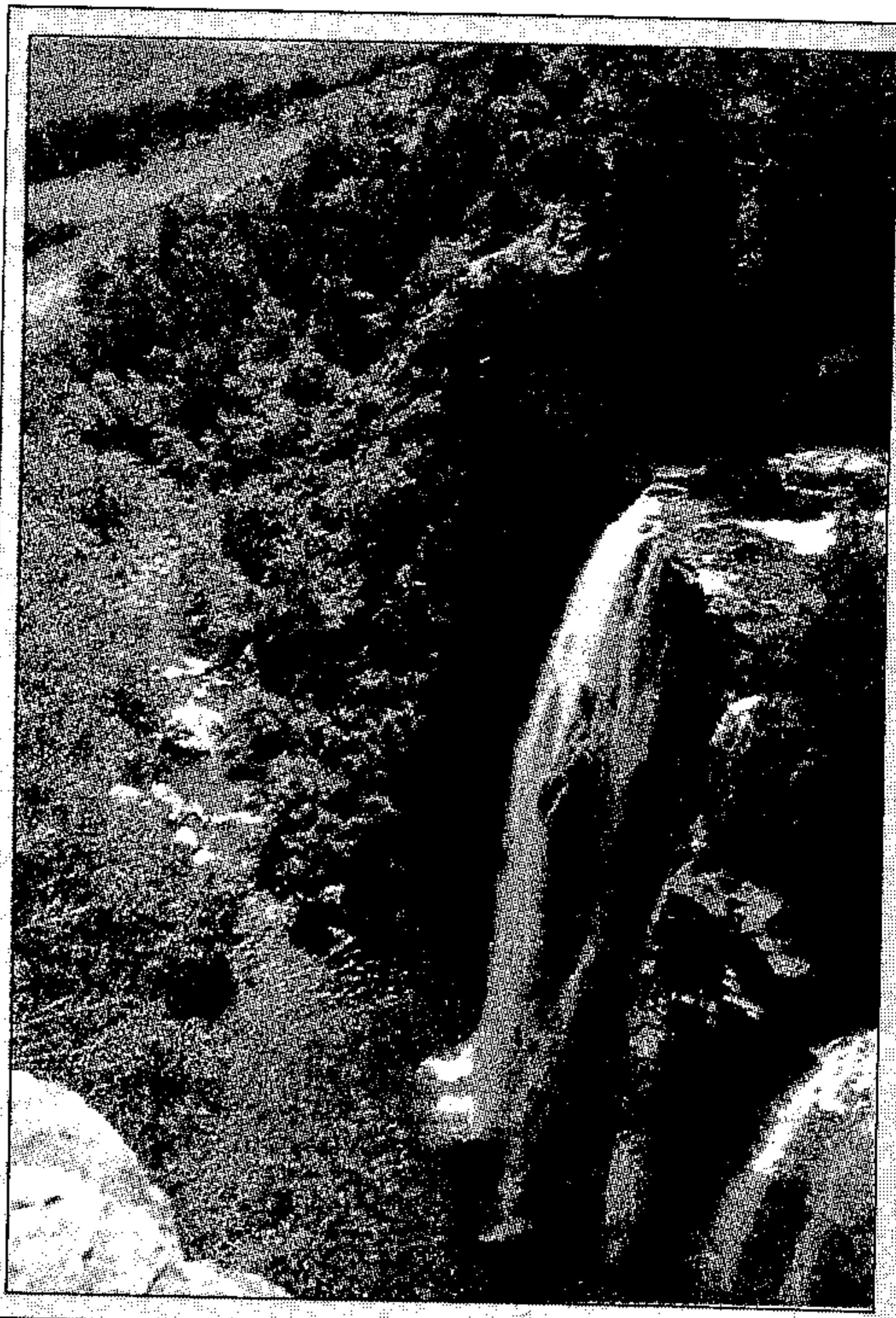
Some of the programmes in the eradication project, which is being funded under the Reconstruction and Development Programme banner, involve neighbour provinces of Gauteng. Mpumalanga is to receive R3-million for clear-ups on the Sabie and Sand rivers catchments, and Northern Province gets R3-million for the Letaba River catchment, with a further R3-million from the Forest Owners' Association for the two provinces.

These programmes will not only ensure a better water supply to the two regions, but also to Kruger Park and Mozambique. The creation of jobs and ultimately better living conditions in these regions will have a direct beneficial ripple effect on Gauteng.

While none of the present projects falls in Gauteng, the province has a serious invasive plant problem along its rivers. Local job creation initiatives to tackle the problem would definitely be supported, Preston says.

The initial phase of the alien plants project has been designed to show what can be done: "a pilot test that helps us to fully understand the opportunities and constraints facing us in developing the programme to its fullest," says Preston.

The main focus in the first phase is on the Western Cape. It receives R10-million to clear the



**Lisbon Falls ...** most of the trees in the picture on the left are alien plants. The enhanced picture on the right shows what the area would look like if the alien plants were removed. The natural grasslands has occurred and more water gets to the river.

Limietberg-Hottentots Holland mountains and R3,5-million for the Outeniqua mountains. The Eastern Cape gets R3,5-million

for the Krom and Kouga rivers in the Langkloof area, and R1,5-million for the Keiskammahoe-Stutterheim area. An additional

and our resources. It uses water which  
 be removed. Science Writer Anita  
 reports.

# just hard work

(56)  
 Star 27/9/95



an invasive water-guzzling alien plants. The graphically  
 look like after they are eradicated. Rehabilitation to nat-

PICTURE: ADAPTED BY DAVIDA TANCHEL

500 000 has been allocated for  
 tional project co-ordination.  
 The process of accessing the  
 ds is presently being set up

through steering committees in  
 each region. In Mpumalanga and  
 Northern Province this will be  
 made up of the MECs responsible

for water affairs and forestry  
 industry representatives. It will  
 be the steering committee's task  
 to define how the programme will  
 be implemented in their areas.

A direct measure of the suc-  
 cess of the project will be the  
 number of jobs that are created  
 which has to be evenly allocated  
 to men and women, and capacity  
 building. For the initial period to  
 March 1996, it is estimated that  
 3 000 jobs will be created and in  
 the long term over 20 years this  
 could rise to 20 000 direct jobs.

Eradication of alien plants is  
 not a once-off exercise. In one  
 Sappi plantation, where an eradi-  
 cation programme has been on-  
 going for a number of years, a  
 total of 45 sweeps of the Mac Mac  
 River has been completed, and  
 the aliens are still springing up  
 again each year.

"The problem in South Africa  
 is so huge that we could have  
 started anywhere," says Preston.  
 "But we wanted to spread the  
 benefits, so the criteria we used  
 was that we had to select areas  
 where the impact would be signif-  
 icant, where communities needed  
 work to fulfil RDP goals and  
 where structures were in place to  
 make the programme work. Then  
 we worked with people in the  
 identified areas to get a major  
 buy-in."

Preston's team is expecting  
 that international agencies will  
 also buy-in, especially in the  
 Western Cape where the selling  
 point will be that it is the smallest  
 of the six plant kingdoms of the  
 world with unprecedented biodi-  
 versity, and extreme pressure  
 from human population growth.

In the long term, it is hoped  
 that the project will be self-gener-  
 ating through the sale of sec-  
 ondary products such as wood for  
 fuel, furniture, crafts and con-

struction material. In addition,  
 the team is hoping that the idea  
 will capture the imagination of  
 South Africans.

The eradication project is just  
 one component of a broader con-  
 cept of integrated river catch-  
 ment management.

This involves additional  
 actions such as rehabilitation of  
 degraded lands, control of agri-  
 cultural damage, and develop-  
 ment planning.

Other projects in the National  
 Water Conservation Campaign  
 which are under way or being  
 investigated include the promo-  
 tion of water-wise gardening and  
 farming techniques; effective  
 metering and meter reading;  
 labelling of appliances to raise  
 awareness of their lifetime costs;  
 the identification of high profile  
 people to act as role models and  
 guardians of the campaign; the  
 setting up of new regulations for  
 new houses; a review of tariff  
 structures and a review of  
 groundwater use and manage-  
 ment. In addition, the public have  
 been invited to submit project  
 ideas.

The goal of the NWCC, which  
 was announced on World Water  
 Day (March 22) this year, is to  
 develop new policy on water con-  
 servation that will ensure equity,  
 efficiency and sustainability in the  
 supply and use of water in South  
 Africa.

These principles and the nec-  
 essary trade-offs will be debated  
 at next month's National Confer-  
 ence on Water Conservation on  
 October 2 and 3 at the World  
 Trade Centre, Kempton Park.

The conference will be the  
 prime opportunity for everyone to  
 make sure that their views are  
 heard and to be part of the policy  
 setting - and tariff structuring -  
 process.

# Delays force Iscor out of Saldanha deal

(56) (848)  
Michael Urquhart  
BD 27/9/95

ISCOR says it has pulled out of the controversial R4,7bn Saldanha Steel project "in its present form" because delays have affected capital cost escalations and forecast project returns.

Yesterday's announcement pre-empted the findings of the Steyn commission of inquiry — appointed to look into protests against the project — which is set to report on October 6.

The go-ahead for the project had been delayed following protests from environmentalists.

Iscor MD Hans Smith said yesterday he knew "only from press reports" that the Steyn commission was expected to report on October 6, and the period required by government to further evaluate the report was unknown. Iscor's overall strategies could not be disrupted by delaying decisions "on investments of this magnitude for undetermined periods".

Delays in issuing the site rezoning permits had held up progress on the project by almost a year.

Iscor Steel MD Kevin Robertson said the hold on the project meant Iscor had curtailed further costs related to it until a final decision had been made on its participation. The estimated cost so far was between R80m and R100m, of which Iscor had provided half.

But Iscor has held out the possibility of the project going ahead in some form. It said the IDC would re-evaluate the project in a bid to achieve a more acceptable capital cost, investment return and risk profile for Iscor.

This would involve consideration of alternative financing structures, as well as alternative iron-making technologies and the sourcing of alternative iron and steel scrap supplies.

The re-evaluation was expected to be completed by early next year.

Move precedes Saldanha commission findings

# Iscor pulls out of Cape project

PRETORIA CORRESPONDENT

Iscor has withdrawn from the R4,7-billion Saldanha Steel project pending a thorough re-evaluation.

The shock announcement follows months of haggling over the siting of the plant and its environmental effects, and just before the Steyn Commission of Inquiry is due to release its findings on the project.

However, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), Iscor's partner in the venture, has decided to re-evaluate the whole scope of the project, with a view to achieving a more acceptable capital cost, investment return and risk profile for Iscor.

The IDC said it had decided on this step "due to the importance of the project from a national point of view".

Iscor managing director Hans Smith said the company would "consider the investment merits of a restructured project, or any portion thereof" after the re-evaluation.

He said Iscor would also accelerate its investigations into the merits of other local growth projects.

Smith cited inordinate delays experienced in the issuing of the necessary site rezoning permits - which had resulted in progress on the project being held up by

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~~(56)~~ (56)  
**SCOPE of the project to be re-evaluated, to achieve a more acceptable risk profile for Iscor**

almost a year - for the decision to withdraw from the project in its current form.

Iscor and the IDC approved the project in November.

"The impact of the delays on capital cost escalations and forecast project returns has now been assessed and has resulted in our decision," he said.

## Cost

Smith said the estimated cost incurred on the Saldanha Steel project to date had been between R80-million and R100-million, but Iscor's 50% share in these costs had been substantially provided for in the previous financial year.

Iscor Steel managing director Kevin Robertson said the hold placed on the Saldanha Steel project had resulted in Iscor curtail-ing further costs on the project until such time a final decision had been made on the company's participation in such a venture.

Commenting on the timing of Iscor's announcement before the outcome of the Steyn Commission of Inquiry was known, Smith said he had repeatedly stated that the

robustness of the project could be negatively influenced by delays in finalisation of decisions on such matters as the rezoning.

"We know from press reports only that the Steyn report is expected to be finalised by October 6. However, the period required by Government to further evaluate this report and discuss it with the relevant provincial authorities is still unknown to Iscor.

"We cannot delay our own decisions on investments of this magnitude for undetermined periods, as such delays directly influence Iscor's overall business strategies," he said.

Smith said last month that moving the plant inland would increase operating costs by about R50-million a year and, as a result, it would not be viable at the low point of the business cycle.

The re-evaluation of the project by the IDC is expected to be completed early next year.

It will involve, among other things, consideration of alternative iron-making technologies, as well as the sourcing of alternative iron and steel scrap supplies. It will also include alternative financing structures.

Smith said Iscor remained committed to local investment and had, therefore, agreed to assist the IDC in the new initiative by contributing technical expertise.

# Back to drawing board as Iscor drops Saldanha

JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter

~~(SAA)~~ (5b) ARU 27/9/95  
ISCOR has cancelled existing plans for its R4,7 billion steel mill at Saldanha Bay and instead will take part in a complete re-evaluation of the project with the Industrial Development Corporation — a process that will last into the new year.

The steel giant's bombshell announcement yesterday came just days before the report of the Steyn board of inquiry into the controversial project was due to be handed to Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers.

The news came as a major surprise to objectors and to environmentalists, who stressed economic development in the Saldanha Bay area was still necessary but that the steel project proposal had been planned incorrectly from the outset.

In a statement late yesterday, managing director Hans Smith said Iscor had taken a "firm decision" not to participate further in the Saldanha steel mill project in its present form — a project on which it had already spent between R80 million and R100 million.

"Since the approval of the project

by Iscor and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) in November last year, inordinate delays in issuing the necessary site rezoning permits have been experienced, so that progress with the project has been held up by almost a year.

"The impact of the delays on capital cost escalations and forecast project returns have now been assessed and have resulted in our decision."

Because of the importance of the project from a national point of view, the IDC had decided to re-evaluate the whole scope of the project to achieve a more acceptable investment return and risk profile for Iscor.

Specialist environmental consultant Allan Heydorn, who had made personal submissions to the Steyn inquiry and on behalf of the World Wide Fund for Nature — South Africa, was "stunned" by the news.

"If this means Iscor is pulling out altogether and industrial development there is completely stifled, that would be bad news.

"But if it means a re-evaluation to bring industrial development into line with the area's carrying capacity and the resources that are available, then it's very good news," Dr Heydorn said.

# Waste-tech sets its pre-listing priorities

By 27/9/95

(56)

Yuri Thumbran

WASTE-tech, the waste management division of engineering group Fraser Alexander, would be listed on the JSE once the company had achieved certain goals it had set itself, group strategic planning and marketing director Kevin Eborall said yesterday.

Eborall said that Waste-tech, with an annual turnover of more than R100m, would have to find a suitable partner keen on participating in the listing, build a strong profit record, and have the Chloorkop dumpsite controversy in Gauteng resolved.

He was confident that once these criteria had been met, the way would be paved for Waste-tech's listing. But he warned that this would not happen in the foreseeable future.

Waste-tech is the country's largest private-sector waste management organisation operating on a national basis. It accepts, treats and disposes of industrial, hazardous, toxic, medical and domestic waste.

Eborall said the division was a significant contributor towards Fraser Alexander's net profit. The group does

not disclose a divisional analysis of profit contributions.

Fraser Alexander posted a 25% increase in attributable earnings for the year to June. At the time of the release of the results, CE Dennis McIntosh said Waste-tech had performed well. Its second half contribution had, however, taken a hammering due to factors including the continuing controversy over the Gauteng hazardous waste landfill sites.

The Chloorkop site, developed at a cost of R12m, has not been opened due to objections from squatters and farmers on smallholdings in the vicinity.

The division's wide-ranging services include the design and operation of landfill sites for its own uses, as well as for regional and local authorities.

Commenting on the legal implications of the Merriespruit slimes dam disaster, Eborall said civil claims were expected to amount to approximately R50m. Criminal charges against tailings company Fraser B Alexander and four of its employers were sub judice.

The group hoped, however, to bring "the entire painful episode" to a close as soon as possible, Eborall said.



# Cabinet decision angers greens

Wm 22-28/9/95

(56)

A Cabinet decision to keep a toxic-waste investigation in-house has made green organisations see red, writes **Eddie Koch**

A COALITION of green organisations plans to take President Nelson Mandela to court because of his Cabinet's decision to overturn Parliament's call for an independent inquiry into recent toxic-waste scandals.

The Environmental Justice Networking Forum (EJNF), made up of more than 150 organisations, is enraged because the president's office has failed to provide its members with reasons for holding only an in-house probe—even though Parliament had earlier called for an independent inquiry.

The controversy revolves around evidence that private consultants with big business links had obtained administrative powers to bring a large cargo of cupric arsenide waste from Finland

into the country last month.

Before the Cabinet made its controversial decision last week, the House of Assembly's portfolio committee for environmental issues, chaired by MP Peter Mokaba, called for a wide-ranging inquiry that would probe all recent shipments of hazardous waste into the country and the role that consultants have played in handling these matters.

A statement from the EJNF says the organisation is up in arms because the president's office has refused to provide reasons for overturning the call from Parliament—and they claim Mandela's officials are obliged to do so in terms of "administrative justice" clauses in the constitution that allow interested parties to demand reasons for executive acts that affect their members.

"We have instructed the Legal Resources Centre on this matter. They will take all necessary steps to secure a statement of reasons (from the president's office)," says a statement from the EJNF. "If these reasons do not justify the Cabinet's decision then we will have grounds to set aside the decision

and reinstitute the commission of inquiry."

Comment from Jakes Gerwel, Director General in the Office of the President, was not available at the time of going to press because he was in consultation with Mandela.

The call for an independent probe was supported by all the major parties in Parliament, including the Conservative Party and the African National Congress. Deputy Environment Minister Bantu Holomisa initiated it and later Minister Dawie de Villiers assured concerned MPs during debate in the House that "it will not be a departmental investigation but an independent inquiry". However, after discussion in the Cabinet it was decided that an in-house investigation would be held. De Villiers' ministry's press statements say this was because the bigger and more independent inquiry would have been too expensive.

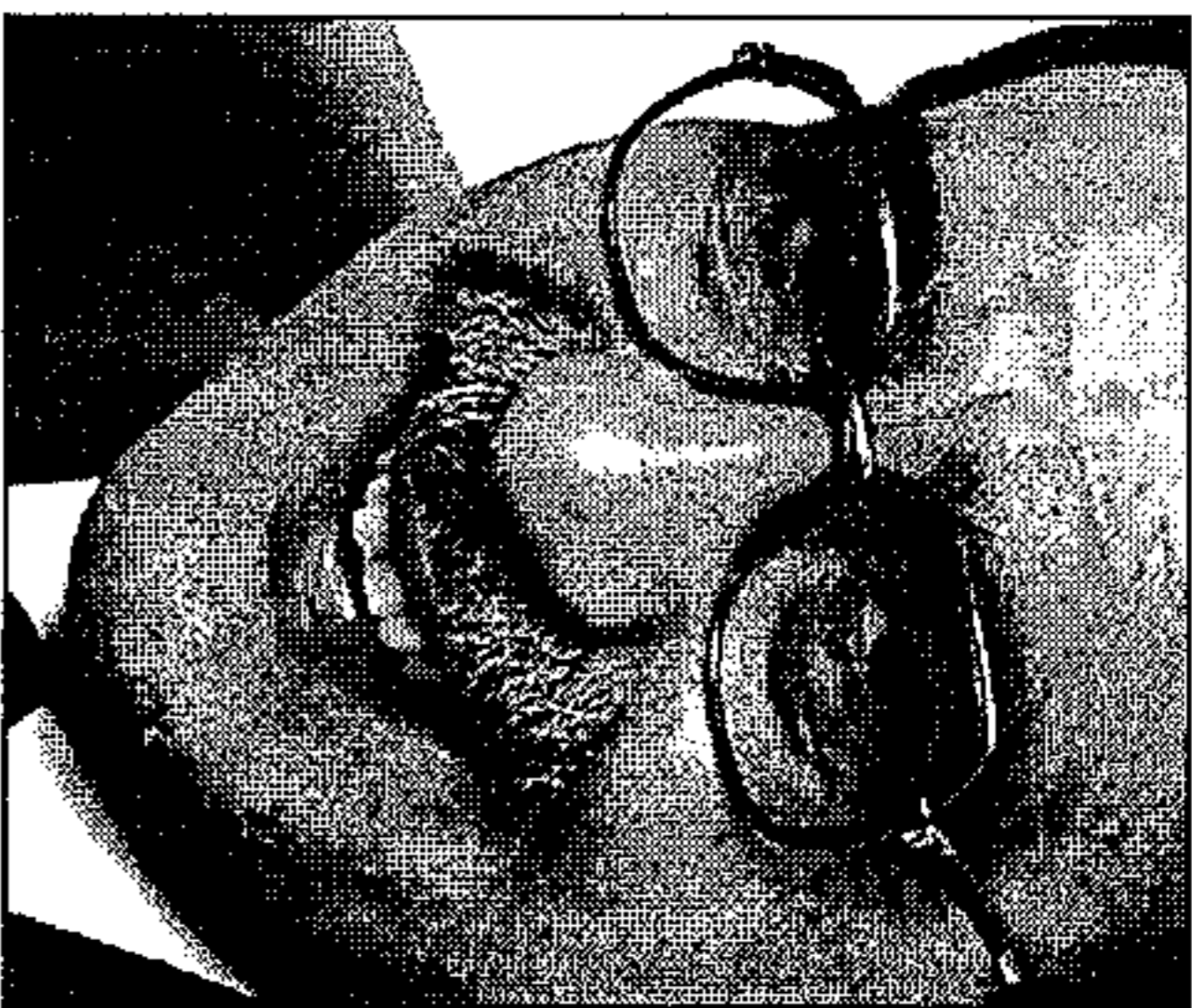
The in-house inquiry approved by Cabinet has been tasked to examine only one shipment of cupric arsenide that was sent back to Finland after the EJNF discovered it was en route to

South Africa. Subsequent investigations revealed that a private group of consultants, Daan Malan and Associates, had arranged on official letterheads from the Department of Environment Affairs to import the waste.

The EJNF says: "The key issue in this toxic waste shipment scandal is determining how a private consultant could sign a permit on the government's behalf supposedly without the government's knowledge. We maintain that the rampant use of industry-affiliated consultants to make government policy explains this scandal and will result in many more to come."

The EJNF claims that the consultants working for government departments have "close connections to major industrial polluters" and believes their role in shaping the country's environment policies is a major cause for concern.

EJNF spokesman Chris Albertyn said Daan Malan had also been part of a team of consultants who helped draft Water and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal's official policy on the management and storage of hazardous wastes



**Kader Asmal: Not duped**

that are produced inside the country. Asmal responded by saying that the team of consultants who drafted his ministry's policy, which has nothing to do with toxic-waste imports, had been appointed before last year's elections. However, he insisted the policy was an excellent one and had received widespread commendation from abroad.

Asmal rejected as "patronising" any suggestions that his ministry had been duped by its consultants but added he had issued instructions for the use of consultants to be minimised in the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

# Lagoon site under scrutiny

CT 28/9/95

(56)

~~(22)~~

THE Western Cape cabinet will visit the controversial proposed 360-home Transnet development site on the banks of the Rietvlei lagoon next month before deciding on rezoning.

The cabinet decided yesterday to inspect the site following protracted battles between the Milnerton municipality, which wants to expropriate the

site for inclusion in the Rietvlei Reserve, and Transnet.

The proposed development falls within an area declared a protected natural environment.

Planning Minister Mr Lampie Fick has to decide whether to change development guidelines or whether to agree to rezoning the site. — Political Staff

# Why Iscor pulled plug on Saldhana

(56) Star 28/9/95

■ BY ANDY DUFFY

Iscor pulled the plug on Saldanha Steel because it wanted to halve its stake in the R4,7 billion project, sources close to the company said yesterday.

Iscor is understood to have told its Saldanha Steel partner, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), that it wanted no exposure to iron production at the site.

The IDC, which is now revising the plans, has been left searching for another partner, possibly an international group, to share the burden of funding the iron capacity.

IDC officials were unavailable yesterday, but it is understood that the iron production capacity could be relocated away from Saldanha Bay.

But sources said Saldanha's viability could be jeopardised if there was any move to cut its total production capacity.

Iscor said it pulled out on Tuesday because delays stemming from environmental concerns had deflected the scheme from costs and return targets.

A spokesman for Iscor said yesterday that bringing in another partner was one option the IDC was considering.

"If the IDC could come up with a deal where it had another partner, we'd be interested in steel production."

But he said the delays could still render the scheme unviable to Iscor, even with another partner on board, unless the IDC could structure a package to offer Iscor acceptable returns.

"Even if the decision is finalised early next year, the steel plant will only come into production at the bottom of the cycle," he said.

Iscor had previously said Saldanha's steel output could secure R1,6 billion a year in foreign earnings.

But the delay, already close to one year, would have left Saldanha coming on stream just as international markets turned down.

Saldanha's project team had revamped the plant's construction and production schedules last month in a last-ditch bid to cushion the impact of the delay.

# Why Iscor left Saldanha in the lurch

56) (12/17) CT (BR) 28/9/95

BY ANDY DUFFY

STAFF WRITER

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'NP WILL LOSE VOTES'

# Shock over Iscor's steel mill pullout

**SHOCKED SALDANHA RESIDENTS** blame outsiders for Iscor's decision to pull out of the R4,7bn steel mill project at Langebaan, **MELANIE GOSLING** reports

**S**ALDANHA residents have expressed shock at Iscor's sudden withdrawal from the controversial R4,7-billion Saldanha Steel project — while Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers described the move, only days before the outcome of the Steyn inquiry, as "unfortunate".

Dr De Villiers said yesterday: "The outcome of the inquiry would be a benchmark case for future issues where there is a clash of interests between development and conservation. It is therefore unfortunate that Iscor did not await the outcome of the findings."

The board of inquiry under Judge Jan Steyn will publish its findings on October 6.

While environmentalists have welcomed Iscor's announcement, local residents are shocked.

West Coast ANC spokesman Mr Ebrahim Dalwai said: "People are very upset ... their hopes were so high because we really need the employment. It was just a couple of privileged people making a noise ... they caused the delay."

## Lost votes

A Saldanha resident who did not want to be named said the National Party was likely to lose votes in the coming local elections: "It is the fault of Dawie (de Villiers). I tell you, the National Party will be hurt over this," she said.

Town clerk Mr J P de Klerk said Iscor had done everything it could to try to satisfy the "sometimes very unfair" demands made by people who opposed the steel mill.

"They were mostly people not

from this area. This was a very viable project seven months ago... it appears the R90 million spent by Iscor on environmental assessments, reports, press briefings and so on was a waste," he said.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) welcomed the move and said the Industrial Development Corporation's period of "reassessment" of the project should be used by the regional government to commission an urgent strategic economic development plan for the entire region.

● The Western Cape government appealed to Saldanha Steel yesterday to reassess its options once the inquiry tables its report.

Premier Mr Hennis Kriel hoped the report would not be "too negative". He said his biggest regret would be if Saldanha Steel pulled out in spite of the commission attaching "affordable and attainable" conditions.

● See Page 17

(56) ~~(15)~~ ET 28/9/95 2P/115

## De Villiers slams Kruger road plan

PRETORIA. — Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers has condemned proposals to build a major road through the Kruger National Park.

Dr De Villiers was commenting on reports of a plan to build a road through the park linking South

(56) Africa and Mozambique.

ARG 28/9/95  
He said he supported the view of National Parks Board chief Robbie Robinson that such a road could damage the park's ecosystems and animal migration routes irreversibly and affect tourism negatively. — Sapa.

# Shock, anger at Iscor withdrawal

ART 28/9/95 (56) (157A)

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

**ENVIRONMENTAL** Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers has expressed surprise at Iscor's sudden decision to withdraw from the R4,7 billion steel plant proposal for Saldanha Bay, saying it was "unfortunate" it had not waited for the findings of the Steyn report.

The Saldanha-Vredenburg community and their political representatives reacted with shock and anger at Tuesday's surprise announcement.

Dr De Villiers will receive the report of the Steyn board of inquiry into the controversial steel mill proposal next week. He said the cabinet committee on economic affairs should reach a decision by October 11.

The Steyn board had been inundated with submissions about the steel plant proposal — a joint venture between Is-

cor and the Industrial Development Corporation — because of the national importance of the ecologically sensitive Saldanha-Langebaan area, he said.

The board had worked as quickly as possible to accommodate all parties, and Iscor had been informed about the inquiry's progress.

The outcome of the Steyn inquiry would be a benchmark case for future issues where there was a clash of interest between development and conservation, he said.

"It is therefore unfortunate that Iscor didn't wait for the outcome of the findings," Dr De Villiers said.

Welfare and Population Development Minister Abe Williams, who is from Saldanha, said Iscor's "disappointing" announcement had come as a shock to West Coast residents.

Mr Williams called for the development to proceed because of the collapse of the

crayfish industry and cutbacks in the region's fishing quotas, but said people could not abdicate their responsibility towards environmental concerns which the proposed development might highlight.

He would immediately talk to Iscor to "once again illustrate to them the feasibility of the steel plant project in Saldanha/Vredenburg, and the benefits that it will bring the people of the West Coast".

The Saldanha-Vredenburg council said it would do everything possible to save the project, while the ANC's West Coast branch and the Saldanha Bay Chamber of Commerce said residents were upset and saddened by the decision.

Wildlife Society Western Cape manager Andy Gubb said Iscor's decision was "wise".

"We've gone into a new era of transparency and openness. If they (Iscor) try to undertake big projects as they did in the past, they're going to lose."

# Poison claims at vanadium mine

(56) (56) WM 29/9-5/10/95

**Molefe Matlou**

**W**ORKERS at the remote Vametco mine, which produces vanadium on the outskirts of Brits in the North West Province, say they and their kin in surrounding rural settlements are being poisoned by the mine, and that 10 former workers have already died.

"We heard of workers dying, children and old people becoming ill from mine dust blowing into their homes and 'poisoned' underground water," says a newsletter of the Environmental Justice Networking Forum (EJNF) published after the organisation's officials visited the area to investigate the claims.

"Just days after we interviewed Mr Albert Modibela (64), he died in the Garankuwa hospital with the same bleeding symptoms as eight other former Vametco workers before him. Mr Modibela had a history of vanadium-related health problems and was offered early retirement by the mine in 1990."

Ironically, Vametco mine used to be owned by American multinational Union Carbide, the company that was responsible for the Bhopal disaster in India in 1985 that killed more than 200 people.

The National Union of Metalworkers (Numsa), which organises at the mine, charges the company has a history of refusing to co-operate with the union around collective bargaining as well as health and safety issues, and that in the past it made use of the fact that it was located in Bophuthatswana to avoid dealing with the union.

Vametco's management was unable to comment on the allegations when approached by the *Mail & Guardian*, saying its managing director, Hein Enslin, was the only person allowed to speak to the media and was abroad this week. However, a briefing document produced by the company claims vanadium is a fairly harmless substance that has no major health and safety dangers.

"Allegations have been made that, due to our earlier association with Union Carbide, our plant and operations can cause an incident with catastrophic results like what happened in Bhopal in 1985," says the report.

"The Bhopal process was a chemical process ... At Vametco these chemicals are not used. The chemicals used

at Vametco like soda ash and amsul are safe to use and cannot cause explosions. The most dangerous chemical we use is sulphuric acid. This acid is used in many industries and, when handled correctly, can be used safely."

The Vametco document adds that there is no record worldwide of any worker who has suffered permanent health damage because of exposure to vanadium, let alone death.

But according to Dr Mark Colvin of the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide, scientific articles show that workers exposed to vanadium salt experienced a green discoloration of the tongue. Severe respiratory tract irritation occurred in at least 74 of 100 boilermakers after exposure to vanadium fumes. Wheezing, rales and hoarseness were found in workers by physicians. One patient continued to wheeze eight weeks after his last exposure.

The information also indicated that workers exposed to the mineral for a few days developed irritation of the conjunctivae, dryness of the throat, pneumonitis and asthma.

A medical examination conducted in 1992 by the National Centre for Occupational Health (NCOH) at the request of the Legal Resource Centre in Pretoria on 67 former workers of the mine indicated that 41 of them reported chest pain, bronchitis or asthma, and one of them had cancer of the larynx.

Workers also complained of wheezing, dryness of the throat, discoloration of the tongue and lung problems. But the NCOH report stresses that the workers had been out of work for more than a year and, as a result, the symptoms could not be positively linked to conditions at the mine alone. NCOH officials say a larger study, focusing on workers currently employed at the mine, was necessary before hard and fast conclusions could be made about the plant's health and safety record.

Louis Khompela, the chairman of the civic association at Mothotlung township some five kilometres from the mine, told the *Mail & Guardian* that the Vametco saga has negatively affected the whole community.

"The dust blowing off the mine dumps makes children and old people ill, the community has seen what has happened to the workers and we are afraid," said Khompela.



zoning permits have been experienced, so that progress with the project has been held up by almost a year.

Saldanha Steel has faced a barrage of negative publicity from the "greens" who claimed the mill would cause untold environmental damage. But with unemployment in the region running high, a counter lobby argued the mill would provide a much needed boost for the local economy.

Smith says the estimated cost incurred totals between R80m-R100m of which Iscor carries 50%. He adds the costs have been provided for in the previous financial year.

However, he has kept the door open and says due to the national importance of the project Iscor will re-evaluate its position after an investigation by the IDC. The IDC will look at the entire scope of the project with a view to achieving more acceptable capital cost, investment return and risk profile for Iscor. This will involve the consideration of alternative iron-making technologies, as well as the sourcing of alternative iron and steel scrap supplies. It will also include alternative financing structures. It is expected that the re-evaluation will be completed by early next year.

Smith says the company took the "firm decision" not to participate any further in the steel mill in its present form due to the impact of delays on capital cost escalations and forecast project returns.

"After completion of the re-evaluation, Iscor will consider the investment merits of a restructured project, or any portion thereof," he adds.

The project has been bedevilled by environmentalist protests since the announcement that it was to go ahead. An investigation is underway into the environmental impact of the project on Saldanha Bay and the adjoining Langebaan Lagoon. Headed by Justice Jan Steyn, the commission was due to present its findings early next month.

Questioned on the timing of Iscor's announcement before the outcome of the Steyn Commission is known, Smith says he has repeatedly stated that the "robustness" of the project could be negatively influenced by delays in the finalisation of decisions such as rezoning.

"We only know that the Steyn Commission is expected to be finalised by October 6. But the period required by government to further evaluate this report and discuss it with the relevant provincial authorities is still unknown to Iscor," says Smith.

If you believe in political adroitness, Smith's timing appears masterly. ■

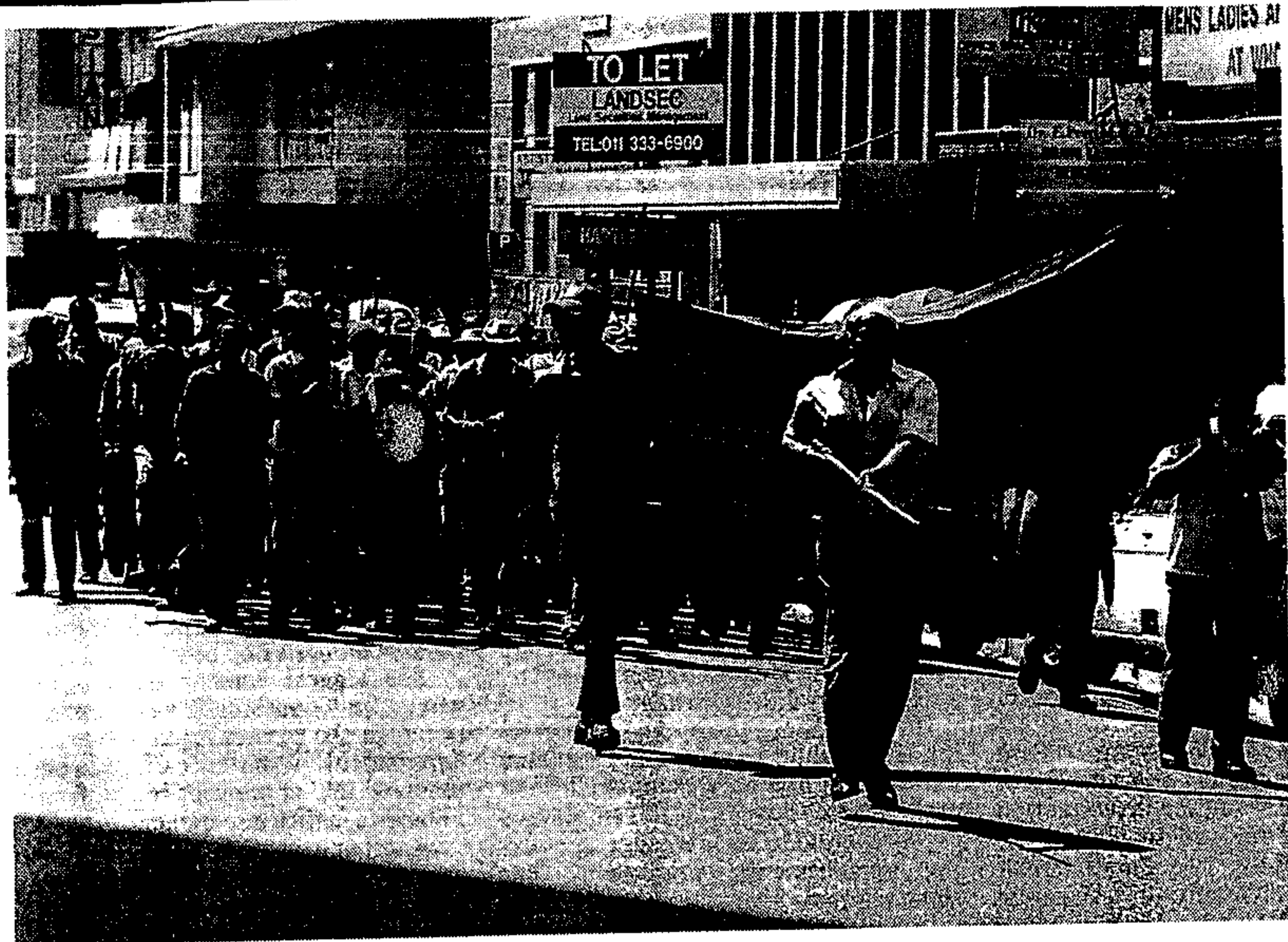
## SALDANHA STEEL

### Expensive saga

*FM 29/9/95*  
**The unthinkable** has happened. Iscor says "inordinate delays" have forced it to pull out of the R4,7bn Saldanha Steel minimill steel project.

Is it brinkmanship or genuine good business savvy? The latter, says Iscor MD Hans Smith, who adds that the company cannot delay its decisions on investments of this magnitude for undetermined periods. He says that such decisions directly influence Iscor's overall business strategies.

Since the approval of the project by Iscor and joint venture partner, the Industrial Development Corp (IDC), in November last year, delays in issuing the necessary site re-



Hundreds of SA Municipal Workers' Union members march through the centre of Johannesburg yesterday following a reportback meeting by the union leadership at Library Gardens. Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

## Mabuza heads parks board

Michael Moon

*BD 29/9/95 (56)*  
**BUSINESSMAN** Enos Mabuza has been appointed chairman of the National Parks Board.

The Cabinet this week also approved the names of the 17 other new board members, who will serve for three years.

Nine members were nominated by the provincial premiers and nine were selected by central government from public nominations.

Provincial members are: Jacklyn Cock (Gauteng), Roger Collinson (Northwest), David Cruse (Mpumalanga), Niel MacGregor (Northern Cape), Rufus Maruma (Northern Province), Maria Mbengashe (Eastern Cape), Phomolo Modise (Free State), Ian Player (KwaZulu-Natal) and Ton Vosloo (Western Cape).

The other eight members are: Group for Environmental Monitoring director David Fig, Ecolink's Sue Hart, Pretoria University academic Theuns Erasmus, Wildlife Society president David Hatton, University of Cape Town academic Farieda Khan, Thebe Investment Corporation MD Vusi Khanyile, ecotourism entrepreneur Mike Rattray and Genfood chairman Johan Roode.

Mabuza is a former NPB member and former chief minister of KaNgwane homeland.

## Municipal union held liable for city chaos

*BD 29/9/95 (15/2/250)*  
**Renee Grawitzky and Mduduzi ka Harvey**

THE Greater Johannesburg transitional metropolitan council decided yesterday that striking workers who caused chaos in the city centre this week should be disciplined and that the union should be liable for costs.

Earlier, in Pietersburg, a striker died after a clash with police.

Mediation between the SA Municipal Workers' Union (Samwu) and local authority employer organisations was due to start today in a bid to resolve the 10-day-old strike in small to medium-sized local authorities after the deadlock of negotiations at industrial council level.

Amid the move to mediation, the union reported that its members were attacked by SA Police Services members in Pietersburg, with five workers being injured — one man dying of his wounds later — and 100 workers arrested.

Samwu general secretary Roger Ronnie said workers were injured after a police attack.

A police spokesman said, however, that police opened fire with live ammunition after a policeman was attacked by a striking worker. Labour Minister Tito Mboweni

last night urged the parties to take the mediation seriously. Mahmood Fedal of the Mediation and Conciliation Centre has been appointed as mediator.

An unconfirmed number of local authorities have already dismissed illegally striking workers, while some local authorities have been negotiating at a local level in a bid to resolve the strike. An Employers' Organisation for Local Authorities spokesman said the parties should continue to reach consensus at a local level to resolve the strike.

Samwu said that the strike in Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Northwest and Northern Province would continue.

Meanwhile, at a meeting yesterday, all parties in the Greater Johannesburg TMC condemned the strike action in the strongest terms and called for the "no work, no pay" policy to be maintained.

Councillors also resolved that a survey be made of all direct and indirect damage caused by strikers, and that culpable strikers be identified.

The council apologised to the business community and Johannesburg's residents for the disruption, damage and non-delivery of services.

# New parks board named

(56) WM 29/9 - 5/10/95

**Eddie Koch**

**T**HE Cabinet this week appointed new members to the National Parks Board (NPB) in a move that will speed up conservation reforms designed to make the country's game reserves more relevant to the needs of the rural poor.

The appointment of the new national conservation body, made at Cabinet's meeting on Wednesday, is also likely to end a long period of intense conflict between NPB director Robbie Robinson and his chairman Naas Steenkamp, which had effectively paralysed many of the organisation's plans to reform the way in which national parks are run.

The new-look NPB replaces an old body, made up almost exclusively of white males, with a diverse group of people drawn from non-government organisations, universities and the private sector. It includes:

David Fig, director of the Group for Environmental Monitoring; Farieda Khan from the Environmental Advisory Unit at the University of Cape Town; Ton Vosloo, a director of M-Net and Nasionale Pers; and Jacky Cock, a professor in the sociology department at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Enos Mabuza, former KaNgwane Chief Minister and the only black

member of the old board, replaces Steenkamp as chair. His other colleagues on the new board include Roger Collinson from the North West Province, David Crusae from Mpumalanga province, Dave Hatton of the Wildlife Society and Ian Player from KwaZulu-Natal.

The new members of the board, selected by a Cabinet subcommittee after widespread consultation with the private sector and NGOs, will be plunged into a series of heated environmental controversies almost as soon as they sit for the first time.

These include:

- Intense pressure from animal rights groups on the parks board to stop the culling of a few hundred elephants in the Kruger National Park every year.

- The controversy over plans to prospect for diamonds in the Matshakatini Reserve, one of South Africa's last stretches of unspoilt wilderness that lies on the banks of the Limpopo River, just to the west of the Kruger National Park.

- A heated debate between provincial conservation agencies and the National Parks Board over which body has ultimate authority over the national parks located in the provinces.

- Controversial plans to build a highway to Mozambique through the middle of the Kruger park.

## Pumping of sewage into vlei attacked

(56)  
ARG 29/9/95  
JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

THE Cape Town City Council's decision to pump four-million litres of treated sewage into Princess Vlei has been attacked by environmentalists as "short-sighted" and possibly illegal in terms of the Water Act and the provincial nature conservation ordinance.

The city engineer's department defended the move, saying it was necessary to enable a new pipeline section to be connected to the sewerage system, replacing an old, badly corroded piece. The department claimed the release would have a "minimum adverse environmental or ecological effect".

Assistant city engineer Herbert Oberhofer said the overflow of screened and chemically treated waste water would probably not last longer than eight hours.

While "some pollution of part of the vlei" was unavoidable, there would be no health risk — provided people did not swim in the vlei.

But the University of Cape Town branch of the environmental organisation Earthlife Africa pointed out that Princess Vlei was connected to Rondevlei nature reserve. Also, Princess Vlei was used for swimming, fishing and baptism ceremonies.

"The introduction of such large quantities of sewage, and hence disease-bearing organisms, will prevent many of the activities being enjoyed by the local community.

"Furthermore, the introduction of nutrient-rich wastes will irreparably damage the vlei systems for future generations."

MORE BLACKS, WOMEN ON NATIONAL BOARD

## Mabuza new parks chief

(56) CT 29/9/95

**DR ENOS MABUZA** is the new chairman of the National Parks Board, replacing Mr Naas Steenkamp, who has not been re-elected to the board. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

**A** THIRD of the new members of the board of National Parks Board, announced yesterday by the Department of the Environment, are black and almost a third are women.

Previous boards were dominated by white males.

The new chairman is Dr Enos Mabuza, a Johannesburg-based company executive and trustee of several educational, conservation

and development organisations. He was the only black board member on the previous all-male board.

Former board chairman Mr Naas Steenkamp, whose relationship with chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson was fraught with tension and disagreement, has not been re-elected to the board.

Mr Steenkamp refused to comment yesterday.

Environment Minister Dr

Dawie de Villiers said the new board had been increased from nine to 18 members. They were approved by the cabinet on Wednesday and would serve for three years.

The nine members nominated by the public are: Dr Mabuza, Dr David Fig, Mrs Farieda Khan, Dr Sue Hart, Mr David Hatton, Mr Mike Rattray, Professor Theuns Erasmus, Mr Johan Rhoode and Mr Vusi Khanyile.

The nine nominated by the provinces are: Western Cape, Mr Ton Vosloo; Gauteng, Professor

Jacklyn Cock; North-West, Mr Roger Collinson; Kwazulu/Natal, Dr Ian Player; Northern Province, Mr Rufus Maruma; Mpumalanga, Dr David Cruse; Northern Cape, Mr Niel MacGregor; Eastern Cape, Ms Maria Mbengashe; Free State, Ms Phomolo Modise.

Apart from Mr Steenkamp, those not re-elected to the new board are Professor C J Leonard and Mr L J Botha.

Director of the World Wide Fund for Nature Dr John Hanks said the new board was an excellent balance.

## Academic and farmer for new parks board posts

Environment Reporter

(56) ARG 29/9/95  
A UNIVERSITY of Cape Town environmental academic and a Nieuwoudtville farmer who specialises in managing his veld for wildflowers are among 18 people nominated to the new National Parks Board of Trustees.

The board, announced yesterday by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers, will be under the chairmanship of the former chief minister of Kangwane, Enos Mabuza.

Dr Mabuza, a member of the former board of trustees, is now a Johannesburg-based executive and socio-political consultant who also serves on several educational, conservation and developmental bodies.

Farieda Khan, co-ordinator of UCT's environmental advisory unit, is one of nine board members nominat-

ed by the cabinet from suggestions by the public.

Nieuwoudtville farmer Niel Macgregor was nominated by the Northern Cape Province as its representative.

The Western Cape will be represented by media executive Ton Vosloo.

The other public nominees on the board of trustees are Theuns Erasmus, vice-rector: academic (natural sciences) at the University of Pretoria; David Fig, director of the Group for Environmental Monitoring; veterinarian, writer and environmentalist Sue Hart of White River; David Hatton, president of the Wildlife Society; Vusi Khanyile, managing director of the Thebe Investment Corporation; Mike Rattray, chief executive of Rattray Reserves; and Genfood executive chairman Johan Roode.

# Council hits out at Saldanha objectors

JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

1897 (56)  
ARC-10/95-30/9/95

THE West Coast Peninsula Transitional Council is "surprised and disappointed" that Iscor has pulled out of the proposed R4,7 billion Saldanha steel project and wants to discuss the issue with the government and the developers.

The council held a special meeting this week, following Iscor's shock announcement that it was withdrawing from the proposal in its present form.

In a statement after the meeting, the council hit out at objectors to the project, saying they were mostly from outside the

Saldanha area.

"The council still believes that the rezoning applicant (Saldanha Steel Project) did everything in its power to accommodate the sometimes unreasonable demands of the objectors.

"The investigation costs of nearly R90 million apparently had no impact on the objectors."

The council also expressed its disappointment with the "obviously exaggerated delays" caused at both provincial and central government level, which had led to the present proposal being abandoned because of rising capital costs.

"The country should be more sympathet-

ic to developers who in recent times have turned too easily to foreign countries.

"The council will do everything in its power to ensure that the project is not lost to the local community, the region or the country, because many loyal entrepreneurs have already invested large sums in the area in anticipation of the project."

The council intended asking all the important role-players — Western Cape premier Hernus Kriel, regional minister Lam-pie Fick, Environmental Affairs and Tourism minister Dawie de Villiers, Iscor chairman Hans Smith and Saldanha Steel Project executive chairman Bernard Smith — to discuss the issue with it.

*Community point of view will be accommodated*

# Parks Board is a 'positive step'

(56) Star 2/10/95

■ BY ANITA ALLEN  
SCIENCE WRITER

The new-look National Parks Board, appointed by Cabinet last week, has been welcomed as a positive step towards ensuring greater representation of the broader South African society.

Chief executive of the NPB and the head of management of national parks, Dr Robbie Robinson, expressed relief that the board had finally been appointed. This was a reference to the fact that the term of office of the old board expired at the end of March, and he has had to function without a statutory board of governors in the interim.

"I am immensely grateful that the long, drawn-out process of screening has now been finalised. This process, although necessary, was not without its share of trauma and problems. However, it is now over and we can at last get on with the job of running the national parks," Robinson said.

He expressed delight at the appointment of previous board member Dr Enos Mabuza as chairman of the board.

"He is a person held in high esteem, both nationally and internationally, for his concern for the country's environment and strong philosophy on human rights, in a united, non-racial, democratic South Africa," Robinson said.

Former DP MP shadow minister of environment Rupert Lorimer said Mabuza would be a good chairman and as a former member of the board, he would give continuity.

"I believe he is the right man, in the right job at the right time,"



**Robbie Robinson ... chief executive of the NPB.**

Lorimer said.

"The board faces enormous challenges. I think the major challenge is the state of the board in relation to the provinces. We have Madimbo, the road through the Kruger Park, Table Mountain and Saldanha, which are all critical, as well as the development of new national parks like Dongola and Marakele. There's also the question of finances, because if they are going to develop conservation land to accommodate the flood of tourists, they will need to find money somewhere. These are enormous challenges and I hope the board has the ability to meet them, because some of them are relatively inexperienced," Lorimer said.

Chris Albertyn, spokesman for the Environmental Justice Networking Forum, said he was pleased to see the broadening of the perspectives represented by the new people on the board.

"We believe that the community point of view will now have a much better chance of being understood and accommodated," Albertyn said.

The new board, which is the statutory governing body of all national parks, will serve for a period of three years up to September 1998. It has nine members elected by provincial premiers and nine members selected from nominations by the public. In addition to Mabuza, these are:

Professor Theuns Erasmus (vice rector and academic, natural sciences at the University of Pretoria), Dr David Fig (director of the Group for Environmental Monitoring), Dr Sue Hart (Eco-link), David Hatton (president of the Wildlife Society), Farieda Khan (co-ordinator of the Environmental Advisory Unit, University of Cape Town), Vusi Khanyile (MD of Thebe Investment Corporation), Mike Rattray (chief executive of Rattray Reserves), and Johan Rhooode (executive chairman of Genfood).

Board members from the provinces are: Professor Jacklyn Cock (Gauteng), Roger Collinson (North West), Dr David Cruse (Mpumalanga), Niel MacGregor (Northern Cape), Rufus Maruma (Northern Province), Maria Mbengashe (Eastern Cape), Phomolo Modise (Free State), Dr Ian Player (KwaZulu-Natal), and Ton Vosloo (Western Cape).

Those on the board selection panel were Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Dr Dawie de Villiers, Minister of Agriculture Kraai van Niekerk, Minister of Land Affairs Derek Hanekom, and Minister of Water Affairs Kader Asmal.



# Shiceka says, Gauteng doing well on environmental issues

(56) Star 2/10/95

While others may think Gauteng is in an environmental crisis – we may have only one functional hazardous waste site by January next year and yet we produce between 70% and 80% of the country's hazardous waste – Gauteng MEC for Development Planning, Works and Environment Sicelo Shiceka believes his province is way ahead in the race to address South Africa's environmental issues.

And in terms of its organisation around these issues, it certainly appears to be. At the close of the Consultative Conference on Environmental Policy three weeks ago delegates resolved to set up forums at local and provincial levels within their various constituencies. Gauteng already had such a forum with an executive of about 20 people representing interest groups and local and provincial government.

That forum – the Provincial Environmental Advisory Forum – established a sub-committee called Hazwac to investigate the problem of hazardous waste in Gauteng and Shiceka is expecting a report on its findings this week.

Not only were these up and running when the conference started, but the Minister had also commissioned an investigation into the degree of pollution and environmental degradation in the province. The report is due for submission in January.

"Once I have the report, we can assess the state of the province and formulate our priorities from there," says Shiceka.

The Gauteng government, according to him, also took a policy decision to encourage recycling and to "change the mind-set

## **BOTTOMS-UP approach is needed to address our problems, MEC tells Gauteng Reporter Karin Schimke**

and culture of uncaring". Communities which embrace the practice of clean-up, re-use and recycle enjoy the Minister's support and encouragement.

Shiceka's portfolio is a hefty one which may not always be in the forefront of media attention. However, he sees his role as supportive and considers himself a neutral arbitrator between the departments. He counts himself "lucky" that development planning, environment and works fall into his area of jurisdiction because he sees them as inextricably linked.

"My department creates a framework within which housing, agriculture, health, clinics, schools, sports and culture, transport and roads and safety and security can function.

"We have a vision. It is well and good for people to demand delivery, but we must look at the implications of that which is implemented on the ground – socially, physically, environmentally and economically. Because whatever you do has implications. We want to develop as much as we can as quickly as we can, but it must be within the framework of a vision."

When Shiceka talks about a vision, he is referring to a growth and development strategy. This means deciding how the government and its people want the

province to look in 2025, in 10 years' time or even in a year's time, and to allocate scarce resources in a way which will benefit the poor and the marginalised, but at the same time ensure economic growth, redistribution and equity.

"So every department, community, NGO and CPO and everyone in the private sector must pull in the same direction. That is what has been lacking in this country in terms of planning in the past."

In a province where landlessness and homelessness are the most pressing of problems, Shiceka believes the only way to make this happen is with a "bottoms-up approach".

In the past, he says, the departments that made the most noise usually managed to get the biggest slice of the budget cake.

"But the budget was never linked to a plan – we were allocating money because it was there. But now we want communities to identify their own needs, look at objectives and the programmes for implementing these.

These must be submitted to local governments to be okayed, from there they go to provincial government and so on up so that departments can be structured according to what communities see as the priorities. That means *people* will be driving development and they can't renege on it in the end."

His intention to involve the community in environment and planning is a noble one and one can only hope that South Africa's highly-politicised society will use its frustration to make the bricks and mortar that are needed for what is generally known as "nation building".

But what of the bureaucracy we are used to – the one that has in the past put dampers on many ideas?

Shiceka is not blind to the hitches involved in allocating land, building houses and generally "making things happen".

"Quite a number of projects have been approved which could address the problems in this province. But these seem to get jammed in the bottlenecks of administration. One of the problems is capacity. We don't have enough people to do all the work there is to do.

"The other problem is that there are many new people in some of the jobs and they are trying hard to find their feet."

The first problem has been partially eased by the Danish government promising help – financial and otherwise – for capacity building.

The second is a problem South Africans will probably have to learn to have patience with.

But Shiceka is optimistic without seeming unrealistic about the tasks his department is assigned to perform.

If his intentions are realised and the forums formed under his direction to address environmental issues function well, Gauteng could prove to be a source of enormous help in forming the draft Green Paper on the new Environment Act which is due for discussion in March next year.

If everyone becomes involved, as Shiceka would like to see happen, then the people of Gauteng may play a major role in moving South Africa away from environmental crisis management to long-term planning which will underline our constitutional right to a healthy environment.

# Saldanha: Iscor bodes ill for the future development

18779 (56) ARG 2/10/95

WHEN the news broke last week that Iscor was pulling out of its joint partnership with the Industrial Development Corporation to develop a vast new steel producing plant at Saldanha Bay, you could have knocked most environmentalists over with ... well, an oiled penguin's feather.

Okay, I know there were only 30 or so lightly oiled birds on Jutten Island and only odd small patches of oil in the salt marshes way down at the southern end of Langebaan lagoon and that those consequences didn't constitute environmental damage — at least not in the eyes of the Strategic Fuel Fund.

And I know that the spill from the Hawaiian King had no direct connection with the proposed R4,7 billion Saldanha Steel Project, apart from their physical proximity.

But remember that much of the Steyn board of inquiry's time and attention was focused on the issue of holistic planning for the area and the cumulative impact of secondary industry and other activities on the sensitive Saldanha-Langebaan environment, in addition to the impact of the proposed steel mill itself.

So why did Iscor actually pull out?

There are as many theories at the moment as there would have been rolls of hot coiled steel on the Saldanha quay waiting to be exported if the plant had been built.

Even Iscor's own press statement sheds little light. In it, managing director Hans Smith said the project had been "held up" by almost a

## GREEN SCENE

John Yeld



year. "The impact of the delays on capital cost escalations and forecast project returns has now been assessed and has resulted in our decision."

What is extremely disappointing is that, despite all that has emerged during the past months, Iscor still appears either unable or unwilling to acknowledge that there are factors other than pure profit which have to be taken into account when deciding whether — and where — mega-projects like this should be built.

Those include environmental costs, sensible land-use planning and the most effective use (nationally) of limited resources like water.

Such decisions are not Iscor's and/or the Industrial Development Corporation's to be made, then to be rubber-stamped by the authorities through a quick and guaranteed rezoning.

Iscor's failure to acknowledge that fact bodes ill for future development which even the most ardent conservationists acknowledge is necessary — although not close to the edge of Langebaan lagoon! — to help the region's inhabitants.

'ATTEMPT TO GET SALDANHA REZONING'

# Steel mill opponents slam Iscor's pullout

ET 2/10/95

**CAMPAIGNERS** against the Saldanha steel mill are angry about Iscor's withdrawal from the project, claiming it is an attempt to get the province to rezone the property.

**T**HE Campaign for Saldanha has urgently called upon Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers and Mr Justice Jan Steyn to re-open the investigations of the Steyn board of inquiry into the feasibility of the Saldanha steel mill, following Iscor's sudden withdrawal from the project.

The group, which is opposed to the mill, says recommendations should be made only after the board has been able to assess the existing information in conjunction with any proposals for a revised project.

Mr Ian Moultrie, largest indi-

vidual Iscor shareholder and a member of the Campaign for Saldanha, slammed Iscor's sudden withdrawal 10 days before the commission releases its report.

He alleged it was an attempt by Iscor "to persuade the provincial authorities to hastily rezone the property, even if there is a negative finding by the Steyn inquiry".

Mr Moultrie said the Saldanha project had not been delayed, despite claims by Iscor that delays in rezoning had held up the project by almost a year, and pushed up the capital cost.

He said the cost of moving the

site within the Saldanha area would be small. Siting it at Sishen would improve profits.

Iscor's investment in the project stood at R745 million and it was unable to withdraw or cancel this investment without the consent of Iscor shareholders.

Iscor announced last week that the Industrial Development Corporation, a 50% shareholder in the project, would investigate alternative iron-making technologies, supplies and financing structures in a study to be completed in January.

Mr Moultrie said this was an indication that Iscor was turning away from the environmentally friendly Corex process, which invalidated the current rezoning application. — Staff Reporter

RESIDENTS TO DECIDE JUMBOS' FUTURE

# Knysna elephant project abandoned

(56) ET 3/10/95

**THE FATE** of the Knysna elephants has been further jeopardised as the government withdraws its support for the translocation programme. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

**T**HE famous Knysna elephants are doomed to extinction — unless the people of Knysna are prepared to pay the costs of translocating young elephants from the Kruger National Park to breed with the last surviving female.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry has called a meeting on Thursday for local residents to decide on the future of the elephants. Forestry spokesman Mr Dave Reynell said funding for the translocation programme was drying up: "They're wonderful animals, but we now have to say to the people of Knysna if they want them, they pay for them."

The Mazda Wildlife Fund had paid for the translocation project through the Rhino and Elephant

Foundation.

Spokesman for the fund, Mr Peter Frost, said the translocation had cost about R120 000.

"That included insurance. There was a public liability cover for two years which was expensive but necessary in case one of the elephants walked out of the forest and injured or killed someone."

Three Kruger females were released into the forest in September last year. One has since died.

Vice-chairman of the foundation, Mr John Illsley, said after the release it was found that the last Knysna elephant was in fact a cow, not a bull as previously believed.

Because of this, the foundation had decided to put funds for any further translocations on hold.

Head of Cape Nature Conserva-

tion Dr Johan Neethling said his organisation no longer backed the translocation project.

"We have, regrettably, reached the end of the line and the final bell may have tolled for the Knysna elephant. The African elephant is not an endangered species and repopulating the Knysna forest with elephant is not a conservation action," Dr Neethling said.

As 600 elephants were culled each year, it would be better to focus on conserving the Knysna forest rather than the elephants.

Mr Reynell said the Forestry Department would oppose translocating sexually mature bulls to Knysna as they were unlikely to remain in the forest.

Forestry would not oppose translocating younger animals if Knysna paid. Another option was to let the Knysna elephants die out naturally, he said.

● The meeting will be in the Protea Hotel at 2pm.

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# Saldanha

CT 3/10/95

## 'training'

~~1874~~ (56)

SALDANHA STEEL said yesterday it would select trainee technicians for its proposed R4,7 billion steel mill, despite Iscor's decision last week to pull out.

Executive chairman Mr Bernard Smith said the company would assist the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) in finding new financing for the project.

"We are working hard to help the IDC find a solution to this dilemma."

Mr Smith admitted Iscor's withdrawal had caught him off guard. He had learnt of the decision only hours before it was announced.

Iscor said delays in implementation of the project had raised costs to the point where the project was no longer viable.

IDC chief executive Mr Carel van der Merwe said last week the IDC would know next month whether the troubled project should be saved or scrapped.

The IDC, Saldanha Steel's main shareholder, was looking at various options, including finding another partner, scrapping steel production plans and reducing the plant's targeted output.

Mr Smith said he would review his position as executive chairman once Saldanha Steel had a clearer view of the project. "I still believe that it is a fundamentally good project. We just have to have faith that we will find a method of financing it and attracting Iscor back into the fold." — Sapa

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# Mercedes factory gets new heaters

(102) (56)

By FRANÇOISE BOTHA

CT(BR)3/10/95 STAFF WRITER

Mercedes-Benz has installed solar-powered water heaters at its East London factory as part of its environmental campaign.

Dennis Payne, the manager of planning, said the decision taken at the East London factory was not purely economic.

"We are very conscious of environmental considerations and especially the importance of not taxing the country's electricity grid," said Payne.

The company replaced water tanks in two ablution blocks used by 300 people. The eight new tanks have a capacity of 300 litres each.

Payne acknowledged that the cost advantages were a factor in the replacement decision.

"The money spent now will be recouped in 15 months' time.

"We have over 3000 people employed at the factory so future savings will be extremely significant," he said.

He added that it was not economically viable to replace all the tanks, but said that as they wore out, solar heating water systems would be installed.

Johan Lubbe, an agent at Sol-Energy, which supplied the units, said it was interesting to note that solar water heating was being used in the industrial area.

"The benefits have been clearly recognised and the cost savings become significant when used on a large scale, especially since maintenance is negligible," said Lubbe.

Payne said workers showered before they left work and the costs of using electricity alone would be exorbitant.

# Gauteng medical waste disposal sites sought

BD 4/10/95

(5b) (127)

Michael Moon

DEMAND for the disposal of medical waste in Gauteng has doubled in the past four months, and urgent discussions are taking place between government and waste management companies to seek solutions to the problem.

The water affairs department has issued an emergency permit to the Eastern Services Council to use its Platkop landfill site for the disposal of an excess of 80 tons of medical waste.

Disposal company Waste-tech said yesterday that in May it had handled 100 tons of medical waste at its Rietfontein incineration facility. It had been expected to climb to 200 tons for the month of August.

Other commercial disposal companies had reported similar increases in demand.

Waste-tech MD Ken Bromfield said

it seemed publicity accorded the medical waste issue earlier this year, when Waste-tech was barred — then unbarred — from burning or dumping hospital waste, had alerted the health care sector to availability of services.

Bromfield also believed that the controversy had prompted some local authorities to crack down on hospitals illegally dumping on municipal tips.

This was an encouraging development, because most medical waste produced in the province (estimated at 345 tons a month) was now being handled legally. However, existing commercial incineration facilities could not cope.

Waste-tech and others were currently investigating new waste sites.

The deadline for public input for the environmental impact assessment for the new incineration site is October 20. Waste-tech said that only a handful of submissions had been received so far.

# Truck drivers given say at talks for first time

Renee Grawitzky

BD 4/10/95

(533)

ABOUT 40 000 truck drivers and their assistants will be party to central level negotiations in the goods transport industry for the first time when wage negotiations start on Friday.

These negotiations come one year after the Turning Wheel International Workers' Movement claimed responsibility for the Mooi River truck drivers' blockade, where workers demanded among other issues the establishment of a national forum for negotiations.

One of the reasons for the delay in starting negotiations was the failure of the Turning Wheel Workers' Union and the Transport and Allied Workers' Union to commit themselves to observer status at the negotiations because they had not complied with the requirements for registration with the labour department and the industrial council. It is understood that if these unions were observers, they would have to commit themselves to the outcome of the negotiations even though they were not party to them.

Ben Petersen of the Turning Wheel Workers' Union said the union had received notification of its registration and would be taking part in the negotiations. He said the union — with an estimated membership of 13 000 — was an important player in the industry and there could be "severe repercussions" if the outcome of negotiations did not have "our blessing".

An agreement was reached by six of the seven unions, excluding Turning Wheel, operating in the sector, and three employer organisations representing 1 000 employers, to begin central level negotiations even though the national industrial council had not yet been registered.



## Barnato Exploration Limited

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)  
Registration No. 88/03756/06

# R80 000 for environment group

Staff Reporter

(56)

ARG 4/10/95

THE Kommetjie Environmental Awareness Group (Keag) is to receive about R80 000 from Minister of Roads, Transport and Public Works Leonard Ramatlakane in the next two weeks so it can continue its campaign to clean up the environment.

The promised sum is half of what Keag applied for in June from the reconstruction and development programme budget.

When he visited Kommetjie

last week, Mr Ramatlakane praised Keag for its efforts in the "Clean and Green Campaign".

Keag engaged five previously unemployed people in Ocean View in the task of clearing and cutting alien vegetation from Slangkop mountain and surrounding areas three times a week.

Keag executive member Jennifer Trethowan said the group showed Mr Ramatlakane other projects it was busy with when he visited the area.

"The minister said he was impressed with our projects. It's an on-going educational process to get all people in the area to look after their natural heritage."

Ms Trethowan said other projects involving Keag included an ongoing greening campaign, dune stabilisation and the monitoring of residential developments.

● A spring walk on Slangkop mountain, led by Wally Petersen, will take place on Saturday October 14 from 10 am to noon.

**HOSPITAL RAFFLE:** A new computer has been given by Microdata to the organisers of the October 14 masked ball in aid of the Red Cross Children's Hospital in Rondebosch. The computer will be raffled at R30 a ticket. Tickets may be bought from the ball's convenor Gloria Craig on 434-2472 (all hours). All proceeds from this raffle and the social event of the year will go to the financially embattled hospital. Standing next to the prize computer are (from left) Neville Naidoo, operations director of Microdata, Gloria Craig, Gladwin Morton, managing director of Microdata and Ansuya Kassan, co-convenor of the ball. Donations for the hospital are still urgently needed and there are a few tickets left for the ball.





# THE CAPE

## Bid to clear oil from beach

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

MUNICIPAL workers at Saldanha Bay were out again early today after working late last night to clear bitumen emulsion from a beach in the centre of town after an estimated 2 000 litres spilled from a road tanker being used to tar roads.

A Sea Fisheries inspector is visiting the site today to check for possible damage to the marine environment, but municipal officials said no oil was visible on the water and the situation was under control.

The tanker was parked in the

municipal yard yesterday when a valve was inexplicably opened.

The bitumen entered a stormwater drain which discharges more than a kilometre away into Hoedjies Bay in the centre of Saldanha.

Lynn Jackson, head of the pollution division of Sea Fisheries, said she had been informed of the spill by Saldanha Bay's port control last night.

The liquid part of the bitumen emulsion was likely to evaporate quite quickly, leaving a thick residue which was probably not highly toxic.

(56) ARG 5/10/95  
"I'll have to look it up, but I think this will be more of a sticky mess than anything," she said today.

André Oberholser, deputy town clerk of the West Coast transitional local council, said municipal workers had been sent to clean the oil off the beach late yesterday and were out again at first light.

"It's not as bad as we had feared and it's all under control," he said.

Portnet had sent an anti-pollution vessel to stand by but no oil was visible on the water today.

# Calculation for GDP to go green (56)

FROM REUTER

CT(BR) 5/10/96  
Washington — In an unusual alliance, the World Bank, United Nations and environmental groups have joined to urge that governments revise the methods they use to calculate GDP so as to weigh the costs of environmental damage.

The agencies and green groups said new ways of calculating national productivity should eventually help governments set policies that caused less harm to the earth.

The effort to develop those methods was expected to take several years.

The World Bank is looking for about 10 countries to test new systems for weighing environmental and economic costs and benefits.

Standard national accounting ignored environmental harm from things like logging, oil spills or earthquakes, but measured actions to repair the damage as an economic benefit.

Green accounting methods would place a negative value on pollution, soil erosion, deforestation, wildlife loss and other factors that affected land use and human health and productivity.

"Policy decisions are being made daily on a very faulty indicator — GDP," said Claude Martin, the director-general of the World Wide Fund for Nature.

The group claimed that under the existing system, activities that harmed the environment counted for 70 percent of GDP growth in industrial countries.

"If investment in a particular sector turns out to be disinvestment, we have to do something about the structure of the industry," said Peter Bartelmus, the chief of environmental statistics for the United Nations.

(56) ~~1898~~  
ISCOR

## **Backing off**

**What is** really happening at Iscor? The market is humming with inquiries but no-one seems to have satisfying answers.

The issue, of course, is the steelmaker's abrupt withdrawal from its heavily attacked, R3bn Saldanha Steel project, just weeks ahead of the findings of the Steyn board of inquiry appointed by Environmental Affairs & Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers to evaluate the project.

"This (the decision) has nothing whatsoever to do with the outcome (of the Steyn inquiry)," says Iscor financial director Louis van Niekerk. "It was a commercial decision which was made in the light of Iscor's increased financial risk exposure and now reduced returns."

The delays caused by the environmental outcry which the project elicited "are part of the problem," he adds. Van Niekerk says the underlying problem is not the depreciation of the rand against European currencies (which means paying more for capital equipment) but its steadiness against the dollar (in which its exports are priced) as well as inflation. The exchange differential apparently played an important role in the decision.

As an explanation it is unsatisfactory in at least one respect: only a few weeks ago, Iscor CE Hans Smith told a meeting of investment analysts that he was optimistic the project would go ahead. Nothing at that time suggested the Saldanha scheme lacked economic merit. The marked deterioration since then has raised cynical eyebrows.

Van Niekerk is adamant the decision to refurbish and upgrade production facilities at Iscor's Vanderbijlpark works, at a capital cost of R1,2bn, was taken before Saldanha. "Whatever happened at Saldanha, the rationalisation at Vanderbijl would still have been undertaken." This project involves an extensive upgrading to convert to continuous casting. "When it's complete," says Van Niekerk, "it will be the lowest integrated cost producer of hot rolled coil in the world."

The suspicion which lingers in the market is that Iscor's decision to withdraw from Saldanha — after costs of between R80m and R100m were incurred — is grounded in a serious wish to back off entirely. The IDC

## **FOX**

has a number of options: it can close the scheme and walk away, sell to another party or entice Iscor to return. Van Niekerk says Iscor will only go back if the risks are reduced and the rewards improved on Iscor's portion of the investment.

Saldanha Steel chairman Bernard Smith says Iscor's original decision to proceed was taken late last year.

"There has been a lot of engineering since then. In addition, capital costs have risen by about 10% and by an amount we agreed to put in to mitigate any environmental damage." Smith declines to reveal the environmental impact allowance.

The implication is that Iscor's original capital estimates and those for its total risk were wide of the mark. This is also what the market suspects and, together with the recent downward drift in carbon steel prices, it probably adds to the comparative lack of interest in the Iscor counter. This week its price had drifted down to 393c, from R5 a year ago.

*David Gleason*

# Foreign backing for incinerator

(56) 306/10/95

Michael Moon

DIRECT foreign investment of R108m was planned for the construction of a high temperature hazardous waste incinerator near Springs. However, environmentalists have vowed to oppose the project "tooth and nail".

Western Cape company Peacock Bay Environmental Services is behind the planned project, which MD Sydney Sanders said would alleviate a hazardous waste disposal crisis on the Highveld.

Incinerator manufacturer Vulcan was one of two US backers.

The proposed site was at Holfontein, on land adjacent to a controversial landfill which had been plagued by leachate leakages.

Environmental group Earthlife Africa said yesterday it would campaign against the incinerator.

"It will simply encourage manufacturers to produce more toxic waste," said spokesman Greg Jacobs. "Industry should rather reduce the amount of dangerous material it generates."

The CSIR had been commissioned by Peacock Bay to conduct an environmental impact assessment of the project.

Sanders said the incinerator would handle up to 35 000 tons a year of SA-generated waste.

Government officials estimated that about 200 000 tons of hazardous waste were produced annually in Gauteng, only a proportion of which was dumped legally in permitted landfill sites.

High temperature incineration was the most widely used and accepted hazardous waste disposal method internationally.

The Vulcan rotary kiln plant — devised by the US government's environmental protection agency and used on its "superfund" rehabilitation sites — operated at 1 600°C. Swiss company Von Roll would be appointed to manage the facility should it be approved.

Sanders said that if the Holfontein site was deemed unsuitable, alternatives would be sought.

The company planned to hold an "open house" at the Springs library during the last week of the month to give interested parties the chance to get information.

Sanders said the plant would reduce smoke-stack emission to only carbon dioxide and water vapour. Ash residue would be land-filled, he said.

Bonile Ngqiyaza reports that Enviroserv, the company operating the Holfontein landfill, said there was no arrangement between it and Peacock Bay.

Enviroserv deputy chairman Alistair McLean said the last discussion between the two companies had taken place "about three or four years ago".

A water affairs department spokesman said proposals to help solve the hazardous waste crisis were viewed as positive, but this did not mean the department endorsed the Holfontein site.

Gauteng environment director Chris Warner said he would like to see the province getting on top of problems related to hazardous waste. However, issuing permits was a central government function and provincial authorities would be involved only in decisions relating to the rezoning of planned disposal sites.

# Report says 'No' to Saldanha site for steel mill

JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

THE proposed site at Yzervarkensrug for the R4,7 billion steel plant at Saldanha Bay is not desirable and a suitable site further inland should be readily identifiable.

This is the main recommendation of the Steyn Board of Inquiry into the proposed steel factory which handed its report to Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers at a packed press briefing today.

The board said the suitable site further inland could be determined without signi-

ificantly jeopardising the economic viability of the project or without undue delay.

"It is our view that the risk to the environmentally sensitive areas in the vicinity of the development will be materially reduced by locating the plant further inland.

"A responsible developer would certainly determine the suitability of the Langeberg or other suitable inland site in other respects before seeking to adopt an intransigent attitude that — as it was suggested — it is 'roast duck or no dinner'."

The report said Saldanha Bay was the developers' preferred location and the

board believed there was no overriding reason why any authority should interfere with this choice.

There were, however, certain constraints in this respect.

Chairman Jan Steyn said the recommendations had been agreed unanimously by the three board members.

"It was a very complex matter and the advice we've given is the product of very considerable anguish on our part."

He emphasised it was only advice and that any decisions based on it would be taken by the government.

# Grim outlook for Knysna elephants

**MELANIE GOSLING**

THE fate of the Knysna elephants — doomed to extinction unless males are brought in to breed with the three females — still hangs in the balance.

At a public meeting in the town yesterday, called by the Department of Forestry so local residents could have a say in the fate of the elephants, it was decided to maintain the status quo for at least a year.

Forestry spokesman Mr Dave Reynell said yesterday: "The experts made it quite clear that we can forget about bringing in mature bulls because we would run into trouble. They also made it clear that bringing in younger elephants to breed would be an exercise in preser-

ET 6/10/95 (56)  
vation, not conservation.

"It appeared as if those (residents) who wanted elephants were slightly in the majority."

Mr Reynell said the meeting had decided to monitor the existing three elephants for the next year and then to decide whether to bring in other young elephants from Kruger, and how to finance the translocations.

Last year three Kruger females were released into the Knysna forest, one of which died.

After the release it was discovered that the only remaining original Knysna elephant was a female, not a male as previously believed. Conservation authorities have now pulled out of the translocation project.

# Steyn report draws muted reactions

(56) (189A)

ARG 7/10/95

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

MIXED reactions have greeted the Steyn board of inquiry's finding that the proposed site for the R4,7-billion steel plant at Saldanha Bay is not desirable and that a suitable site farther inland should be readily identifiable.

Environmentalists have welcomed the board's report, handed to Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers yesterday, but their reaction has been muted, with most emphasising that it was not a question of "winning" or "defeating" the Saldanha steel project.

The real issue was about sustainable development and sound environmental planning for the benefit of future generations, said Marlene Laros, conservation ecologist of the Wildlife Society.

"Our fears, however, of the implications of downstream developments, increased oil shipping activities and the extension of the harbour have not been allayed.

"Water is a major consideration for the viability of an industrial development node in the Western Cape and remains a concern, as does the present inadequacy of social services in the area and the future pressures on them.

West Coast transitional local council mayor Ebrahim Nackerdien said he was personally "disappointed" with the report and that the local community was "very unhappy".

The Steyn board's report said

■ The Steyn board has recommended the proposed Saldanha steel project be built farther inland — a suggestion that has received a mixed reception.

Saldanha Bay was the developers' preferred location and the board believed there was no overriding reason why any authority should interfere with this choice.

There were, however, certain constraints in this respect.

"We point to the fact that the developer has chosen to locate so close to environmentally sensitive areas as to have raised in the minds of reasonable and responsible environmentalists a justifiable concern that damage may be caused to the environment," the report stated.

The central government's environmental policy was that alternative options should be considered.

"It is clear that this requirement was not, from an environmental point of view, observed in this case," the board's report stated.

"This is not in itself a fatal flaw, but in all the circumstances we conclude that it was unreasonable not to have seriously considered any other site in the vicinity of the preferred site."

The site selected by the Saldanha steel project — at Yzer-varkensrug — did pose environmental risks which could to a significant extent be reduced by

locating at the Langeberg site or at some other site further inland.

"Such relocation is not inappropriate by virtue of financial considerations *per se*."

Chairman Jan Steyn said the recommendations had been agreed on unanimously by the three board members.

The World Wide Fund for Nature — South Africa (WWF SA) endorsed the board's recommendation that industrial development in the Saldanha-Vredenburg area should be encouraged, but be in keeping with the environmental sensitivities imposed by ecological and aesthetic features which occurred only in this region.

"WWF SA therefore applauds the view of the board that "a balance must be maintained between environmental conservation and development".

It also acknowledged the dilemma faced by the board in that the interim constitution enshrined two fundamental freedoms: the right to freely engage in economic activity and the right to an environment which was not harmful to an individual's health.

Langebaan property owner Zolli Rumble, one of the most forceful objectors to the proposed site for the steel factory, described the Steyn report as "wonderful" and said many other "very ordinary people" who had been involved felt the same.

"The process of investigation has been intensive, lengthy and exhaustive, but really important milestones have been passed.

"Jobs, foreign exchange and profits are all part of the equation for our country's growth, but so is the environment," she said.

# Land is sold for a swig and a song

ST 8/10/95  
By STEUART WRIGHT

WHITE South Africans seeking prime plots on the Transkei coastline are resorting to tribal customs to ingratiate themselves with local chiefs.

The Wild Coast Cottage Owners' Association, chaired by Ray Taylor, an Umtata businessman, charges that people are buying plots from local chiefs for as little as R200 and a bottle of cheap brandy.

The association is trying to halt the influx, which it says is damaging the environment.

One man who went the tribal route was Jeremy Ferrow, a Natal businessman. He joined a coastal Xhosa tribe and secured land in Mpantsana, near Port St Johns, through the local tribal authority.

Mr Ferrow and a syndicate of five other Natal businessmen are being prosecuted for illegally occupying land at Mpantsana.

Mr Ferrow's lawyer, Jeremy Chaplin, said: "Basically Mr Ferrow has gone about it in the same way as any black guy: through the chief. He applied for land and got the necessary consent and permit from the Port St Johns magistrate."

He said he did not know what it took to become a tribesman or how much it cost.

Mr Taylor claimed indigenous bush was being ripped up to make way for new holiday homes and roads.

This has prompted the Wildlife Society of South Africa to seek interdicts against four chiefs and the government to halt development at about 40 sites.

Mr Taylor said the occupation of land anywhere within a 1km-wide belt along the coast was illegal in terms of a 1992 decree issued by the former Transkei ruler, General Bantu Holomisa.

But the leader of the Mpantsana syndicate, Christopher Bailey, countered that now that the Transkei had been reincorporated into South Africa, the laws governing all South Africa's coastal zones applied.

"In many ways we agree with the cottage owners' association," he said. "Most occupations are illegal. But the association members think they have exclusive rights and have taken the attitude they want no more development."

"Their cottages are within 1km of the coastline and they continue to put in roads. They are not allowed to do that as much as we are not allowed to."

He said he had a life-long attachment to the area and was adamant that he had acquired his plot "by the book".

But he refused to divulge the procedures he had followed.

"I can't reveal that," he said. "There is a Supreme Court action against the chiefs and we do not want to complicate the issue."



# Board backs compulsory environment evaluations

BD 9/10/95 (56)

Edward West

CAPE TOWN — The Steyn board of inquiry has suggested that Environmental Conservation Act provisions should be invoked to make environmental assessments compulsory for all major development proposals.

The board was set up to investigate the proposed siting of the R4,7bn Saldanha Steel plant after the initial development plans, which have since been scuttled, drew sharp fire from a variety of environmental interest groups.

Its written summary and conclusions were handed to Environment and Tourism Affairs Minister Dawie de Viliers on Friday.

The report's main recommendation was that the plant be situated further inland to reduce perceptions of a polluted environment and to reduce the risk to the mariculture industry as a result of potential dust fallout over Saldanha Bay.

"The present situation in which developers can choose whether or not to undertake formal environmental impact assessments appears to us to be undesirable," the board said.

Major projects did not, under SA

legislation, require formal environmental impact assessments.

The proposal for a permanent representative tribunal to oversee future major developments should be considered, the board said.

Board chairman Judge Jan Steyn said the pendulum had swung too far in the direction of creating public forums with their inherent capacity for delay and opportunity for grandstanding by those with parochial agendas.

He said that the board had encountered a confrontational situation between the various parties over the Saldanha Steel controversy which had also involved incidents of "harassment and filibustering".

"If we have that in future we will discourage development," he said.

Saldanha Steel had failed to comply with a government directive that alternative sites be investigated for development and the board concluded it was unreasonable for Iscor not to have seriously considered any other site in the vicinity of the preferred site.

De Viliers said the board's inquiry represented the first attempt in SA's history to give the environment "proper weight" in the consideration of an industrial development project.

## Cosatu offended by 'sabotage' claim

Renee Grawitzky

COSATU unionists have criticised the Gauteng ANC for lack of consultation, following the latter's claims that a "hidden hand" was stoking labour unrest in the province.

Cosatu's Wits region was reacting to recent ANC statements that "certain forces" had used the municipal strike to "undermine the democratic process".

Cosatu's regional secretary Dan Mohapi said yesterday that the statements could undermine the alliance, in that they implied that elements in Cosatu were trying to sabotage the local government elections.

He said that in subsequent discussions, ANC provincial secretary Paul Mashatile had assured him that his reference to a "hidden hand" had not been intended to implicate Cosatu.

Mohapi said the issue would be discussed with the ANC. Referring to

Mashatile's call for a summit between the two regional organisations on the strike wave, he said Cosatu had received no notification of this.

On Friday the Wits region extended its support to the SA Municipal Workers' Union's demand for the repeal of Annexure J of Local Government Proclamation 42, which Cosatu said should be repealed before the election.

Annexure J seeks to devolve certain powers from metropolitan councils to their substructures.

Mohapi said Cosatu and its affiliates supported the repeal of Annexure J. He said local government MEC Dan Mofokeng's office believed that this would not happen before the election, despite a decision of the ANC provincial executive council.

Cosatu's Wits region also supported the view that Johannesburg municipal workers should not be disciplined for their actions during the strike.

BD 9/10/95

## Table Mountain management

(56)  
Edward West

80 9/10/95  
CAPE TOWN — The National Parks Board should be appointed as the responsible management authority for Table Mountain, according to recommendations by the Table Mountain and Peninsula Advisory Committee.

The committee, chaired by National Botanical Institute CE Brian Huntley, presented its recommendations to Environment and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers on Friday.

The committee was charged with recommending a single statutory management authority for the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE) areas previously controlled by the city council and provincial administration.

In drawing up the new legislation, the committee urged that existing levels of local, regional and national

funding for the management of the CPPNE be maintained during the transitional phase.

There should be strong participation by local civil groups in structures and decision making related to CPPNE management. Legislation should ensure that future changes in land use within the CPPNE be subject to veto by the new authority.

The committee submitted that new legislation should be finalised before the end of next year and the National Parks Board be established in a custodial role as soon as possible.

De Villiers said other affected ministers and the Western Cape government would be consulted regarding the committee's recommendations for the proposed legislation and once a decision had been reached, legislation would be prepared and published for further comment.

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# Cableway upgrade plan

## □ Environmental problems up for open discussion

JOHN YELD (56) ARG 9/10/95  
Environment Reporter

PROPOSALS to upgrade the Table Mountain cableway and associated environmental problems will be discussed at an open display on Thursday and at two workshops scheduled for later this month.

The Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company has appointed a firm of environmental consultants to ensure a proper, integrated environmental management (IEM) process is followed for the upgrading. A substantial number of "interested and affected parties" have been identified and invited to the display and workshops.

The proposals include new cablecars with increased ca-

capacity, improvements to the upper cableway station and lease-area on the Western Table summit, interior changes to the lower station and improved traffic flow and parking.

They also include increasing the levy on ticket sales by between 7,5 percent and 10 percent and paying this into a dedicated fund — to be used in helping maintain the mountain.

Consultant Jonathan Crowther said the cableway company was doing preliminary designs to upgrade the existing system because of the increase in tourism and the need to cope more efficiently with peak periods.

"The company is also acutely aware that a new management authority for the Peninsula mountain chain will be appointed in the near future. This

has implications for any proposed development on the mountain.

"In the interim, an integrated environmental management process has been initiated which will enable citizens and authorities interested in the Table Mountain chain to make an input to the upgrading proposals."

According to a fact sheet supplied by the cableway company, any improvements to the mountain must be acceptable to the authorities and interested people, because it is a national monument.

"Passenger and tourist surveys indicate that the time spent in queues is not acceptable. These queues are a direct result of the cablecar carrying capacity, which is limited to 230 passengers per hour in one

direction."

On average, some 400 000 people used the cableway each year to get to the top of the mountain, the company said.

The highest demand occurred in the summer months during the school and tertiary institution holidays.

The cableway was closed on average 60 days a year, mainly because of wind.

● The open display is on Thursday at the lower cableway station from 3 pm to 7 pm.

The workshops are at the Captrust environmental centre, Valkenberg Hospital, Observatory, on October 24 from 4 pm to 7 pm and on October 25 from 6 pm to 9 pm.

For further information, contact Jonathan Crowther, ☎ 461 1118/9.

# Call for eco-watch on all major projects

JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

(56) ARG 9/10/95  
THE situation which allows developers to choose whether or not to undertake environmental impact assessments of projects is undesirable and assessments should be compulsory.

This is a key recommendation in the report by the Steyn board of inquiry into the proposed R4,7 billion Saldanha Steel Project, disclosed on Friday.

The board found the site undesirable and said alternatives inland should be investigated.

Its report said publicity surrounding the project and the proposed Strategic Fuel Fund's oil storage arrangement with Iran, which focused on major

projects with "significant implications", were not required under South African legislation to undertake formal environmental assessments (EIAs).

"The present situation in which developers can choose whether or not to undertake formal EIAs appears to us to be undesirable.

"The country has much to gain and little to lose through invoking the provisions of the Environmental Conservation Act to make environmental assessments and reports compulsory."

Structure plans and programmes which had environmental, social and economic implications should be subject to assessment.

# Aquatic Club slams 'elitist' Rietvlei plan

(56) ARG 9/10/95

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

**THE** Milnerton Aquatic Club — representing some 2 000 powerboaters, sailors, boardsailors and competitive skiers — is strongly opposing plans by Transnet to develop about 360 townhouses on the northern banks of Rietvlei.

It is also a member of the Rietvlei Action Group, which includes various nature area "friends" groups, Cape Bird Club, Wildlife Society, Rietvlei environmental advisory board and the management committee, and which is lobbying hard to have Rietvlei consolidated into a formal nature reserve.

Transnet's proposed development — termed "elitist" by the objectors and which includes three-storey buildings — is within the proclaimed Rietvlei protected natural environment (PNE) on property adjoining the aquatic club.

Milnerton municipality has applied to the Western Cape government to expropriate Transnet's land so that all the

Rietvlei erven can be consolidated into a reserve.

But Transnet has applied to amend the Cape metropolitan area guide plan so that it can develop the townhouses, some of which would be within the 1-in-50-year flood line.

The Western Cape cabinet postponed a decision on these two proposals at its meeting last month — much to the disgust of the action group — and will meet on site on Wednesday to consider the opposing applications.

Aquatic club commodore Peter Howarth said the club had been formed some 20 years ago.

Uncertainty about the area's future had had a detrimental effect on the membership of some 600, which translated into about 2 000 people because of family memberships.

"Should this proposed development take place, a minority would benefit while the majority would lose a wonderful natural facility," he said.

Conservation had always been one of the club's priorities

and it had a proud record of protecting birds and other wildlife.

The housing proposal was elitist and would not serve the less privileged sections of the community.

"The whole Rietvlei wetland area is not only enjoyed by club members and friends, but plays host to many schools and other education centres which arrange walks and studies in the area."

Development would destroy what had been preserved during the years, leaving nothing for future generations, Mr Howarth said.

"At the end of the day, I hope sanity will prevail and the cabinet will see the long-term benefits of conserving the area and not ruin it for everyone forever."

The Rietvlei Action Group said it had been involved with the World Wide Fund for Nature — South Africa (WWF-SA) and other organisations for more than five years in an attempt to secure the future of the Rietvlei protected natural

environment.

"This nature reserve will safeguard a threatened wetland environment vital to migratory wading birds, and at the same time ensure that its remaining floodplains remain intact."

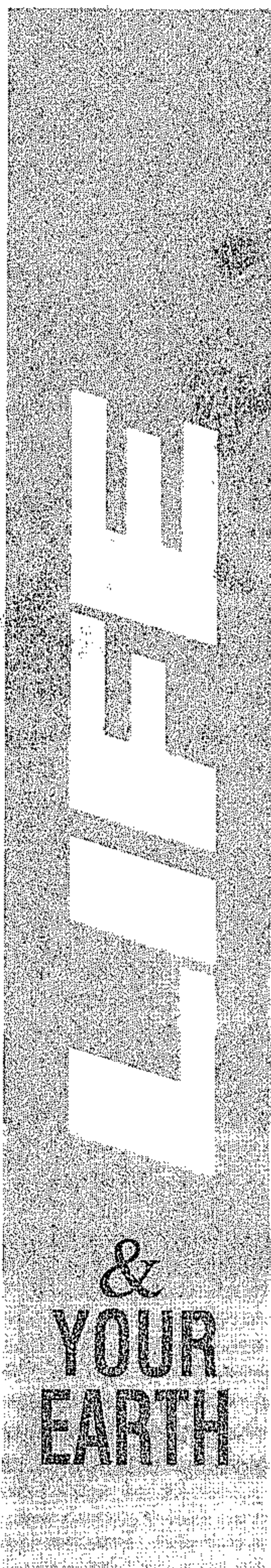
The action group noted that the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, would be attending the first WWF International meeting in South Africa later this month.

As president of WWF, he had been kept fully informed about the Rietvlei issue, and there would be a unique opportunity for him to announce during his visit that the Transnet land was being expropriated and a nature reserve declared.

"We trust that the Western Cape cabinet will take note of the wishes of the electorate and will put the new South African democracy into action for the benefit of the people.

"The cabinet can be assured that the public will fight to see the Rietvlei wetlands saved for future generations," the action group said.

295



# Green-letter day for futu

(56) ARG 9/10/95

**R**ED-LETTER days are already part of the English vocabulary; after Friday, perhaps we can also refer to green-letter days.

Just a few minutes after Jan Steyn had handed the voluminous report of his board of inquiry into the proposed Saldanha Steel Project to Environmental Affairs minister Dawie de Villiers (metaphorically, that is — the actual hand-over had been two days previously), Brian Huntley performed a similar task, this time with his Table Mountain committee's report.

Both reports are deeply significant; both are likely to change for the better the way in which key aspects of South Africa's natural environment will be managed in future,

although in rather different ways.

At face value, the report from Professor Huntley's committee is the more straightforward of the two.

In recommending that Table Mountain and the rest of the protected natural area of the Cape Peninsula become a national park, the committee has given a formal structure to a proposal that many people — both in Cape Town and the rest of South Africa — believe is long overdue.

It is, frankly, the best practical option, and while there will undoubtedly be the diehards who will still squeak about the pitfalls of being "ruled by Pretoria", the sooner the central and regional govern-

*Development on two adjoining coastal properties at Kommetjie stripping one site bare and constructing a major stormwater drain on the other, has some local residents up in arms. But the developments are being carried out within strict environmental guidelines. Environment Reporter's special issue.*

# Dune development sites make

**I**NITIAL development of two properties on the coastal dunes at Kommetjie has caused an outcry among some local residents and led to renewed calls for a reassessment of the long-term plans for the area.

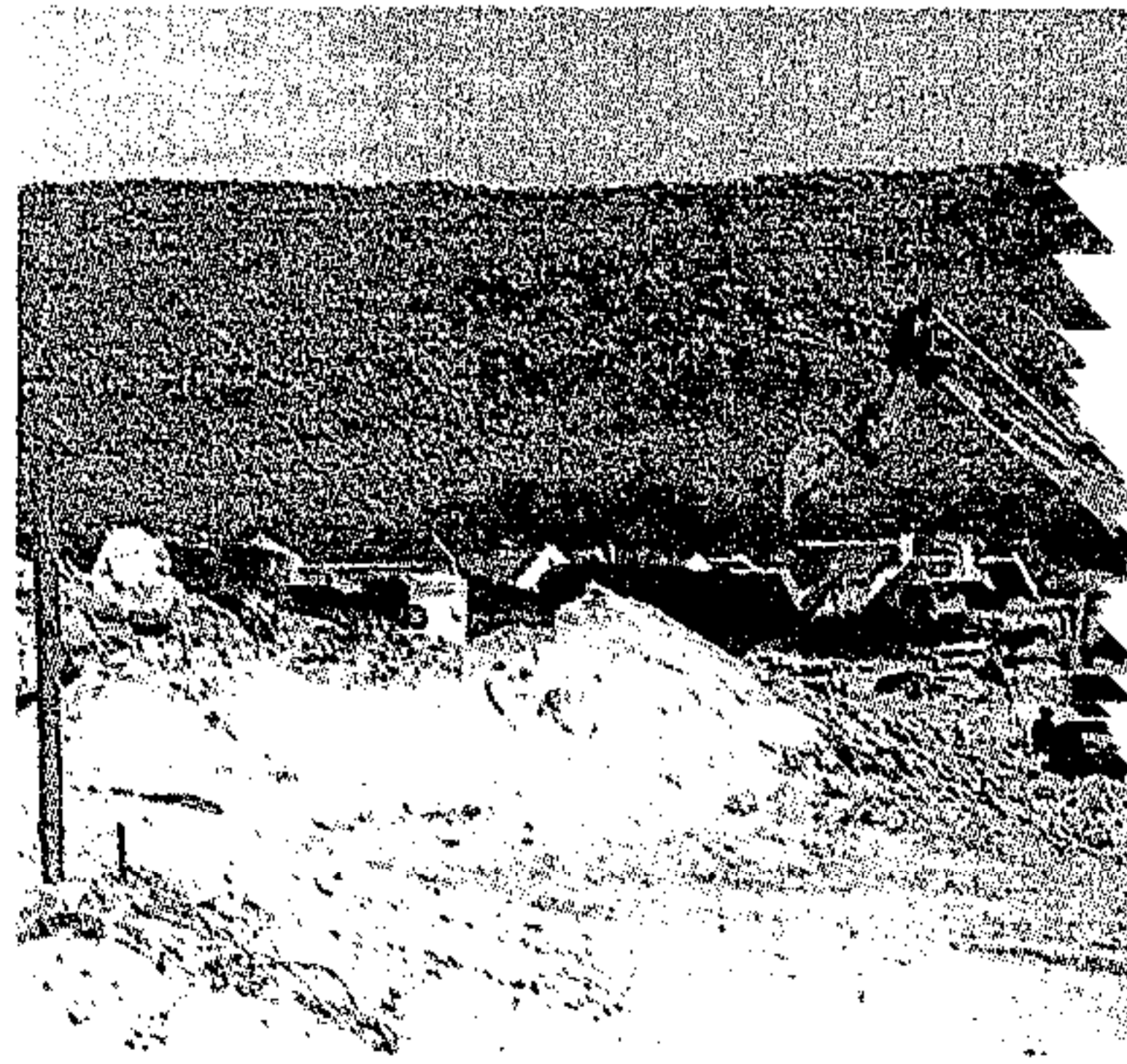
The two developments are on Erf 4214 at the end of Wireless Road, on the north-eastern end of Long Beach, and phase one of the Klein Slangkop development, closer to Noordhoek.

Erf 4214 has been temporarily cleared of all vegetation, while milkwood trees have been lost to development on the Klein Slangkop site.

A major stormwater drain from Klein Slanghoek has been built to discharge on the beach.

National Party senator Mark Wiley has expressed deep concern about the two developments and is watching building work closely.

The Kommetjie Environmental Action Group is among those to have expressed concern and spokesman Wally Petersen said emotions were "running high" among



**GONE TODAY, HERE TOMORROW:** The primeval forest, removed to allow construction of the stormwater drain and re-vegetation.

mental studies.

# ire management of environment

## GREEN SCENE

John Yeld



3 give effect to its recommendations, after.

2 National Parks Board — particularly its new board of trustees representing a wide spectrum of the new South Africa — is certainly best-placed to fulfil its management role.

The report by the Steyn board of inquiry is significantly more complex, and it would be extremely foolish — even for journalists accustomed to the demands of producing supposedly authoritative commentary on substantial texts at extremely short notice — to venture an informed opinion after little more than a quick glance at the summary and conclusions.

To do justice to what was a prodigious effort by the three-member panel is going to require some hours of close study.

But it is perhaps worth noting that, at Friday's media briefing, Mr Steyn was at pains to emphasise that Saldanha Steel Project executive chairman Bernard Smith and his legal team — viewed in some quar-

ters as the real villains of the piece — had been extremely co-operative and helpful during the inquiry.

In contrast, a handful of objectors appeared to have gone out of their way to frustrate its workings.

"The board experienced frustrations in having to deal with requests for information, to give evidence, make submissions and lodge objections which were often only remotely, if at all, relevant to our mandate and which occasionally smacked of filibustering or obsession," the report stated.

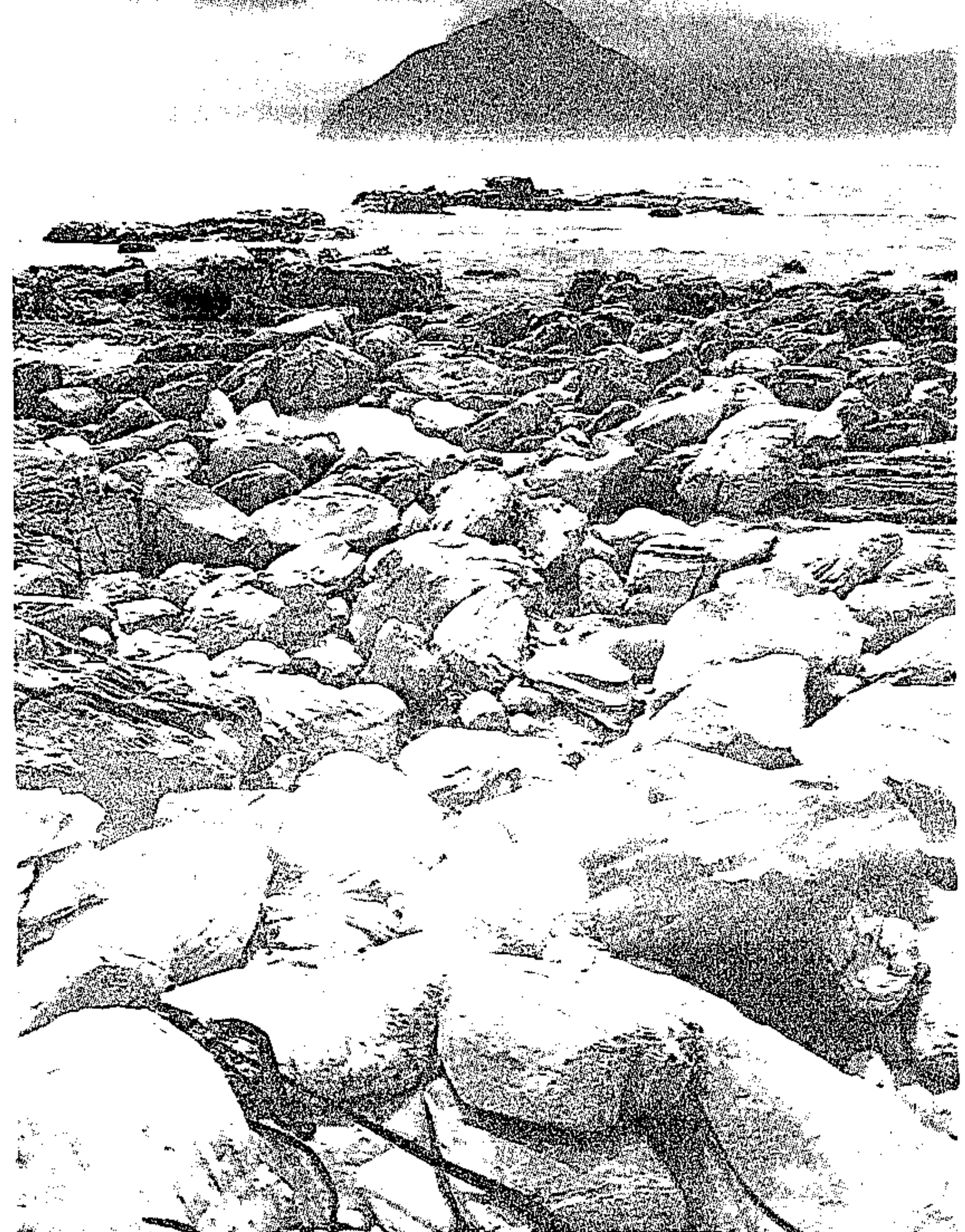
At the very least, the Steyn inquiry should prompt a highly-critical self-examination in some quarters.

*etjie, which has included  
outlet on the beach at the  
pers say they are working  
JOHN YELD looks at the*

# ppment waves



ry sand-dune at the Klein Slangkop development stormwater channel, will be reinstated and protected.





some Kommetjie residents.

He said the development of Erf 4214 looked "very good" on paper, but in reality it was too close to the high-water mark.

"I walked it and it was 17 steps from the building line to the kelp at the high-water mark.

"I asked the developers to check and they said they had, but this is a disaster — the dunes are so low and so narrow here they're not an effective barrier," said Mr Petersen.

"We also warned them at a site meeting a couple of weeks ago that the public would be up in arms if they cleared the site completely.

"We asked them to use their discretion, but they simply went ahead."

Referring to the Klein Slangkop development, Mr Petersen said future phases closer to Noordhoek were of more concern.

A great number of milkwood trees had been removed during the present construction, and the stormwater outlet on the beach was "horrific".

"That stormwater will go straight onto a mussel bed, a prime picking spot for the people of Ocean View. And it's a potential health hazard."

Ludo Verheyen, spokesman for the Alpha Land Trust, the developers of erf 4214, said some people were under the impression that the development was being done without consultation and the necessary environ-

consultation with local residents and environmental groups, and the planning has been based on thorough environmental studies by impartial experts," he said.

The land had belonged to the local council and the idea of selling it to generate funds for much-needed community facilities had originated with the officials of the then Western Cape Regional Services Council.

"These officials conducted a comprehensive environmental study, and appointed the CSIR to determine the correct development set-back line."

The council had made a proposal call based on these studies — which included setting architectural standards and other requirements — and the bid by the present developer had been accepted.

"The development of erf 4214 is to consist of a low-density residential area of 34 units, and will be carried out in accordance with an environmental contract which binds the developer to certain actions.

"What can be seen on the site now is a temporary construction phase, and in a few weeks the transformation of the site to a stabilised, naturally-landscaped environment can be witnessed," Mr Verheyen said.

Neal Carter, environmental spokesman for the consulting engineers who are closely involved in the development of Klein Slangkop, said he was satisfied everything possible was being done to minimise envi-

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**SEATED ROW:** Sit in an upright position on the floor with band hooked around soles and legs stretched out. Start with arms extended. Pull ends of band towards you with elbows kept close to sides and back out. Start with arms extended. Pull ends of band towards you with elbows kept close to sides and back out. Remember to pull tummy in. Slowly return to stretch.



# Or the diabetic

A person have still to be widely appreciated by those who suffer the care of your doctor. GILLE WEINTROUB reports.

The exercises demonstrated here are to strengthen the muscles of the legs and stomach.

"Start with some stretching and muscle toning exercises as well as strength and toning exercises: Naveil recommends a combination of aerobic as strength and toning exercises: Start with some stretching and muscle toning and strengthening, and then go on to an aerobic warm-up slowly increasing the intensity to a steady pace. Then slow down your pace and end off with some more stretches, which are essential to reduce the risk of injury, and will leave you feeling more relaxed, at peace and in control."

"Hypoglycaemia is more prevalent in new exercisers and those who have just finished a particularly hard and long exercise session. It can strike up to 48 hours post-exercise — hence the need for close monitoring and record keeping so medication adjustments can be made."

Remember to carry some glucose sweets around with you as increasing the insulin sensitivity may result in more frequent hypoglycaemic reactions (a drop in blood glucose).

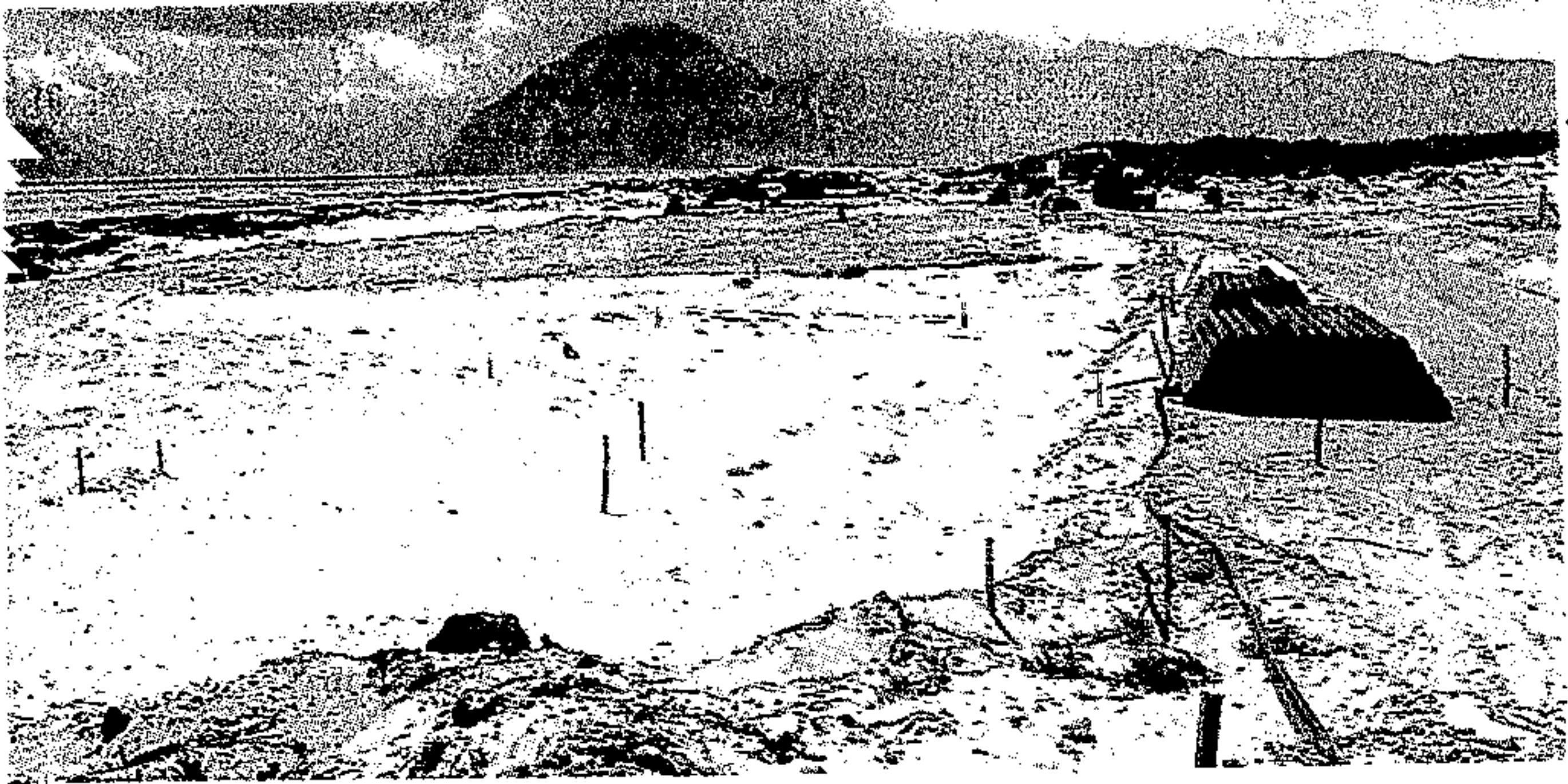
Remember to carry some glucose sweets around with you as increasing the insulin sensitivity may result in more frequent hypoglycaemic reactions (a drop in blood glucose).

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the beach at Klein Slangkop, Kommetjie, looking out over Noordhoek Bay towards Chapman's Peak in the background.

Pictures: JOHN YELD  
The Argus.

**DENUDED:** All the vegetation has been removed from this development site, left, on the Kommetjie beachfront at the end of Wireless Road.

damage on their site.

Realised that this was not the development closest to Wireless Road — Erf 100 has been stripped of all vegetation.

An environmental management plan for the development at Klein Slangkop was in the contractor's compliance with the plan was being monitored by an environmental control officer and a representative of the Kommetjie Environmental Action Group (Keag).

An effort is being made to protect the environment on the site and to limit the

extent of the earthworks by demarcating areas where the contractor is allowed to operate," Mr Carter said.

The development was designed to take account of the milkwood trees on site and minimise the number of trees which had to be removed, he said.

"The main road was designed to cross the area of milkwoods at its narrowest point. A limited number of milkwoods have been removed and transplanted, and the smaller ones seem to be surviving and doing well."

Because of the levels, it had not been

possible to channel stormwater from the development anywhere other than to the beach, but the discharge point had been located at a rocky outcrop, where it would be disguised as far as possible, Mr Carter said.

"The plan is to conceal this outlet as much as possible with the aid of rocks.

"The dune through which the stormwater pipe trench has been cut will be reinstated and re-vegetated in due course."

Additional phases of the Klein Slangkop development had been designed around a large central nature area, which incorporated all the local vegetation types, Mr Carter added.

It's important to choose a form of exercise that is convenient and enjoyable for you. So don't give up, don't quit," says Dr. Keag. She advises people to monitor their pulse levels closely throughout the exercise you know how your body responds. You will need to monitor yourself. You may need to adjust your medication.

Denise Nativel, a diabetic person who has managed her condition for years. She is a pharmacist and has completed a fitness course as well. She has lots of advice to offer to people who wish to take the first step to obtain advice from a doctor. That's essential in the case of people who are diabetic.

**E**XERCISE can be of great benefit to people with what's known as type 2 diabetes, the kind that is treated with insulin pills rather than insulin.

face band behind back, under arm in each hand. Lie on floor with both feet on floor. Press lower back into floor. W on the floor, aiming the opposite knee as illustrated. Breathe out on exertion.



Picture: WWF-SA.

**WELL DONE, DOC!** Doc Shongwe, chief educationalist at the department of agriculture and environmental affairs in the North-West Province, has been awarded one of the prestigious Prince Bernhard World Wildlife Fund Scholarships for nature conservation. He is the only South African to win the award this year. Congratulating him is WWF-South Africa chairman Gavin Relly.

### Praise for new parks chief

**T**HE new chairman of the National Parks Board, Enos Mabuza, is held in high esteem for his concern about the South African environment and his strong commitment to human rights, says the board's chief executive Robbie Robinson.

Dr Robinson, said he was "personally delighted" with Dr Mabuza's appointment, but added the process of selecting the 18-member new board had not been problem-free. — Environment Reporter.

# Exercise for

*The positive effects of exercise for the diabetic. Start slowly and under the condition.*

# Boulders penguins to be protected by stone barrier wall

Staff Reporter

(56) ARG 9/10/95

THE habitat of the Boulders Beach penguins is to get a welcome upgrade, following the announcement that a stone barrier wall — and not a wire fence, as previously proposed — is to be built to protect people, penguins and flora.

Work on the R138 000 project near Simon's Town will begin soon.

Stone will come from Du Toit's Kloof pass and the wall will be designed free of charge by architect Mike Munnik, a member of the Boulders Advisory Committee.

The 400 m long, hip-high wall will be built from the end of Kleintuin Road to Boulders car park. Construction will probably begin at the Seaforth side because that is where most penguins live. At the height of the tourist season work will slow down and will be resumed when the tourists have left.

Previous plans put forward were for a wire fence. The idea has been rejected because of the "visual impact that fencing would have on the park". Town Engineer Ivan Atwell says a stone wall will have a natural finish and will blend better with the environment.

The matter was discussed on September 28 at a meeting of the Boulders Advisory Committee.

Another item discussed at the meeting was the recommendation that the SA Touring Association be invited to nominate a representative to be appointed to the Boulder advisory committee. A boardwalk has also been proposed and money for it could come from Sanccob. Pick 'n Pay, which made a substantial contribution towards its construction, said the boardwalk had to be wheelchair friendly.

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GOVT REACTION AWAITED

Nothing in report to entice us back — Iscor

**HOPES** that the Steyn board of inquiry report into the proposed Saldanha steel mill might persuade Iscor to rejoin the project have been dashed. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

**I**SCOR managing director Mr Hansie Smith said there was nothing in the report of the Steyn board of inquiry that would "entice" Iscor back into the R4,7-billion Saldanha steel mill project.

He was, however, "anxiously waiting" to see if the government would accept the inquiry's recommendation that the mill be moved nine kilometres inland.

The move, he said, would increase expense and further endanger the project's viability.

"The Steyn report is nowhere close to finality on the issue. These are recommendations and the government need not follow them. Once a decision has been made, we will comment further," Mr Smith said.

Iscor pulled out of the joint Iscor/Industrial Development Corporation venture two weeks ago, claiming delays by the inquiry had caused unacceptably high capital cost escalations.

The Steyn report the steel plant should not be allowed to go ahead on the proposed Yzervarkensrug site — two kilometres from the Saldanha Bay shore — because of the risk to its surroundings.

The risk would be "significantly" lower at Iscor's Langeberg site 9km inland.

**Confrontation**

It said any responsible developer should show "acute sensitivity" to the justified public concern of a major industrial development in an environmentally sensitive area, and should have considered alternative sites in the vicinity.

An unyielding attitude by the developers would alienate many parties and could create continued confrontation and even "militant opposition".

The board's sub-committee had found that the rate of return to shareholders if the steel mill were

moved inland to Langeberg would be about one percent less than if it remained at the Yzervarkensrug site.

In tabling the report, inquiry chairman Mr Justice Jan Steyn said: "That is a critical finding. The cost differences are not so profound as to justify rejection of the Langeberg site on financial grounds only."

He said a responsible developer would determine the suitability of other sites before adopting an intransigent attitude of "roast duck or no dinner".

The report recommended the Vredenburg/Saldanha Bay region's structure plan be revised as soon as possible and that the zoning of heavy industry close to the Saldanha Bay shoreline, which would be detrimental to tourism and the marine culture industry, be reconsidered.

"It makes little sense to require the steel mill to locate further inland but to leave open the possibility of some other industry with pollution potential coming into being close to the shoreline," the report said.



*East Rand environmentalists unimpressed by hi-tech claims*

# Incinerator plan gets icy response

(57) Star 10/10/95

■ BY PRISCILLA SINGH

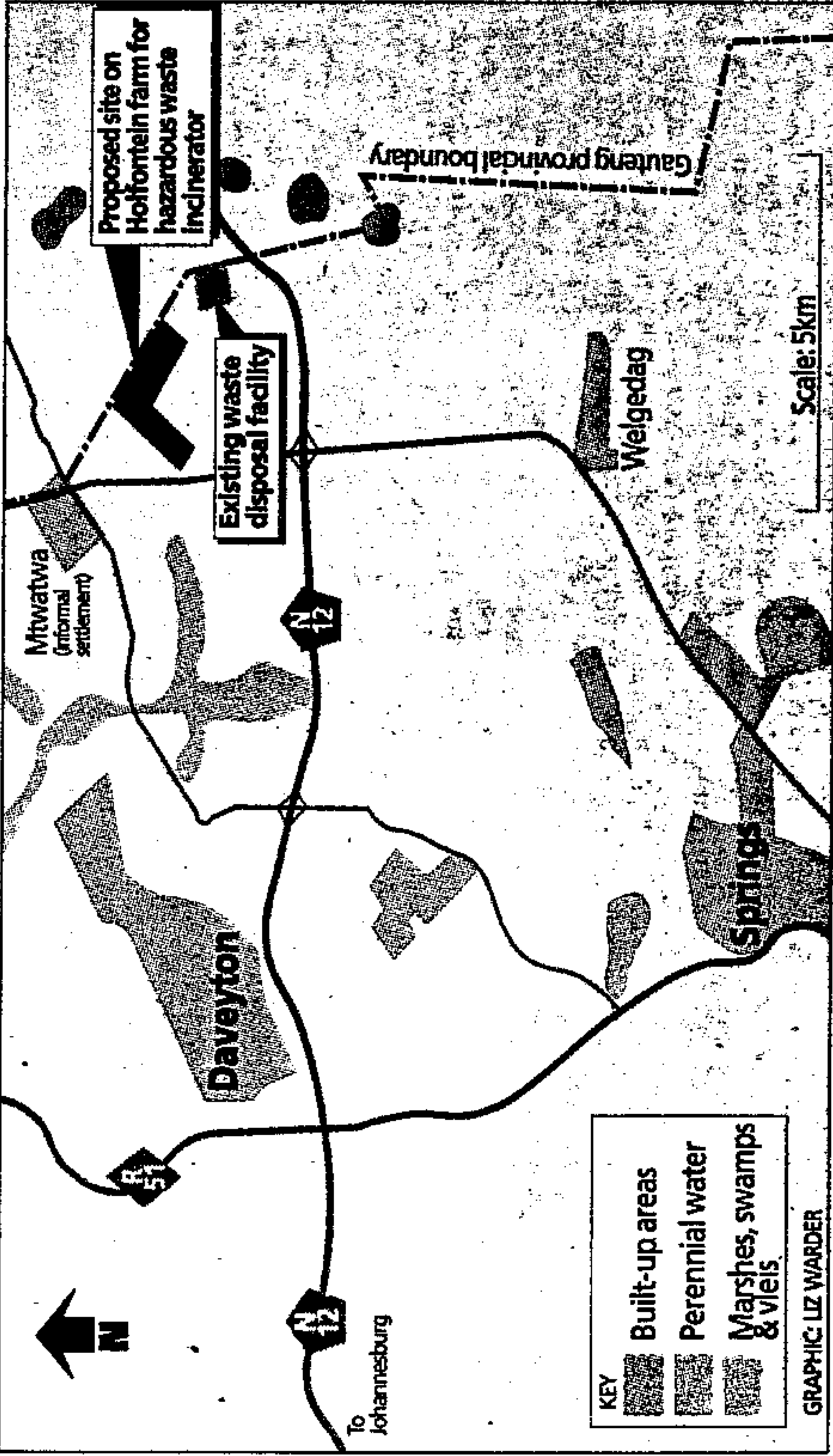
The proposed construction of a R108-million hazardous-waste incinerator on the East Rand has sparked opposition from environmentalists who say they will put up a strong fight to veto the plans.

Spokesman for the Environmental Justice Networking Forum, Chris Albertyn, said it was a major concern for the community in the immediate vicinity of the high-temperature incinerator because of the health hazards associated with such a project.

A Western Cape company, Peacock Bay Environmental Services, is behind the planned project which, the company says, will be used for the treatment and destruction of hazardous waste material.

The scheme has the financial backing of several overseas investors.

The actual proposed site is the farm Holfontein on the eastern border of



Gauteng, on land next to a landfill which has been the centre of controversy because of leakage problems.

Albertyn said the project was loaded with issues that affected the thousands of people who lived in the area.

"The immediate community must be properly informed about the hazards and threats they may be exposed to and, for something as controversial as this, the people should have every opportunity to fully understand what's going on."

"All the developers are interested in is showing off the high technological abilities of the incinerator, but they do not point out what the threats are," said Albertyn.

Earthlife Africa is also deeply committed to opposing the project and is busy facilitating discussions with the community and the developers to halt the process.

Sean O'Biernie of the CSIR is heading the environmental impact assessment study, which is

expected to be completed in four stages. Peacock Bay Environmental Services managing director Sydney Sanders could not be reached for comment but, in a background to the project proposal submitted to the CSIR, the inadequacies and low standards of existing landfill sites were given as reasons for the installation of the incinerator.

It also highlighted that thorough investigation and research it was discovered that the South African industry produces around 120 000 tons of waste every year.

The incinerator will maintain an in-kiln temperature of 1 600 deg C and has the capacity to burn up to 35 000 tons per annum, operating on a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week basis.

The rotary kiln design was also described as "a popular design" which has been adopted by the majority of hazardous waste incineration contractors in Europe and North America.

Third hazardous leak in 18 months on East Rand

# Fury over spill from toxic site

(56) STAN 10/10/95

**CHILDREN are sick and our property is worthless, says angry smallholding resident**

■ BY JANINE SIMON

Residents on smallholdings in Holfontein on the East Rand are again up in arms over the third leak in 18 months of liquid toxic waste from a hazardous waste site north of Springs which officials say they cannot do anything about.

A stream of about 8 000 litres of black, acid oil treated with alkaline fly ash poured 150m into the adjoining veld after the retaining wall of an ash-mixing pond broke sometime on Sunday night.

During the leak, smelly liquid poured through the pre-cast perimeter fence, over the adjoining dirt road and into the veld. By mid-morning yesterday it had largely been cleared.

Dr Henry Abbott, assistant director, water quality management for the Department of

Water and Environmental Affairs, said authorities' options to take action against the site owners, EnviroServ, were limited. The current law did not provide for a fine and, though court action was pending against EnviroServ, chances were slim that the site could be closed down.

But, said Arthur Cockcroft, who lives in Rietkol, 4km away, and sits on the residents' action committee: "We don't have information about the leak. But if they can't do the job right, they must close it. Our property is worthless, our children are sick - who's going to pay?"

► **Incinerator plan gets icy response - Page 8**

Abbott said after an inspection yesterday that lack of planning had caused the leak. The acid-oil mix shouldn't have been left in the pond over the weekend, and Holfontein management should have made contingency plans for a possible leak.

Enviroserv deputy chairman Alistair McLean said he believed the fly ash wall had been sabotaged. "We've never had

problems in that part of the site before. It was carefully checked after the rains on Saturday and again at close of shift at 6pm on Sunday." But he admitted that a retaining trench was possibly needed on the site's perimeter.

Irate local residents want



**Black death ... some of the treated corrosive oil (on side of embankment) which leaked from the Holfontein site yesterday.**

the water and environmental affairs minister to close the site.

Holfontein has been dogged with criticisms of bad management over the past 18 months when two incidents set alarm bells ringing. First, a leak from a disposal cell saw liquid seep into the quarry dam of the adjoining Holfontein brickworks.

Then, in August, the company was forced to build a controversial waste dam for excess, hazardous liquid that threatened to breach a wall between two disposal compartments. The dam did not have the necessary approval from authorities.

The liquid did not reach the Blesbok Spruit, a few hundred metres away, and damage was minimal, but would be monitored after the rains, Abbott said.

Derek Bluff, a former resident, pointed out that Holfontein had failed to build a retaining wall or trench around the property to ensure that any possible leakage did not contaminate adjoining ground.

Chris Warner, Gauteng's director of environment, said a failure of this nature was "completely unacceptable".

**TUESDAY**  
OCTOBER 10, 1995 ★

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## African focus on conservation (56)

PRETORIA: African countries trying to save their endangered species from extinction began talks here yesterday on a united approach to conservation and use of natural resources. *CT 10/10/95*

The talks are part of preparations for a UN meeting in Jakarta next month of the 128 nations that are party to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The convention was established at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 because of growing concern over the large numbers of extinctions.

Briefing documents circulated at the conference said fossil evidence showed that on average through history, one mammal species vanished every 400 years and one species of bird was destroyed every 200 years.

"However, recorded extinction over the last 400 years indicates that 58 mammal species and 1.15 birds have disappeared," the documents said. — Reuter

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# White lime plant given nod

**EUNICE RIDER**

THE UCT Environmental Evaluation Unit has given conditional approval to the proposed white lime plant at the Kynoch fertiliser factory in Milnerton.

In its environmental impact assessment it says the plant can go ahead if Kynoch observes the unit's recommendations and improves communication with the public.

Its report says emissions into the atmosphere should not exceed those used in the report on atmospheric dispersion modelling.

The overriding concern expressed by interested and affected parties had been that the white lime plant would add to the emissions of other industries in the area and jeopardise the health of peo-

ple living and working there.

The researchers recommended that Kynoch continues having its hazard and operability studies independently reviewed at each stage of its programme.

They said the findings of the independent specialists' reviews should be made available to the public.

## Studies

They also said the findings of all future hazard and operability studies should be incorporated into a modified process design in such a way that all potential hazards would be "satisfactorily mitigated".

Also recommended in the report is that Kynoch conclude

agreements with suppliers of raw materials to the proposed plant, to allow archaeologists and palaeontologists — studying prehistoric human societies and animal fossils — to examine fossil deposits and middens before work begins on each of the areas to be mined.

Mr Clive Thorpe, general manager of Kynoch Cape, said recently that the fertiliser giant makes sufficient fertiliser to grow enough wheat for fifteen million loaves of bread a day.

But he added that it wanted to do this "in harmony with the community and in an environmentally responsible manner".

"We need to work with you to achieve improvements that benefit us all, at costs we can all afford," he said.

BT CT 10/10/95 (56) (56)

INCREASED THREAT TO MARINE LIFE

# Saldanha shipping

# could be doubled

(56) (KETA)

CT 10/10/95

A CSIR report has found that increased shipping volumes in Saldanha Bay and the extension of the harbour will have a high impact on marine life. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

**I**F THE proposed Iranian oil deal and the Saldanha Steel project go ahead shipping in Saldanha Bay will almost double, with the number of ships entering the port each year rising from 250 to 475.

This is one of the findings of the CSIR's draft environmental impact assessment (EIA) report, released yesterday, on the proposed extensions to the general cargo quay at Saldanha.

The EIA, commissioned by Portnet, found that the increased shipping would increase the risk of pollution accidents in the bay and could also result in conflict between the different uses of Saldanha Bay, like shipping, recreation and mariculture.

The report recommended a representative working group be established to review existing safety and pollution measures in the bay and plan for the future.

It also recommended that a management audit be done to assess the adequacy of safety systems to cope with increased shipping, and an independent safety audit should be done annually.

The EIA said blasting for construction of the quay could have a high impact on marine life and could kill marine animals, especially penguins. But bird deaths could be reduced to zero and the impact to other marine life — except fish — to minimal levels, if the size of blasts were reduced and if they

were restricted to between 11am and 1pm when few birds were on the water.

Dust from lead and copper exports could cause pollution of the sea surface and kill mussel eggs. This should be monitored by specialists.

Dredging would not cause environmental problems.

The project would also mean an increased demand for housing, health and welfare facilities. The report recommended Portnet employ local people, expand the clinic, implement a health monitoring programme and construct workers housing rather than provide temporary housing.

The extension of the cargo quay will go ahead if the R4,7 billion Saldanha Steel project is approved. The quay will be extended by 635m and a navigational channel deepened to 15m.

# Potential partners in Saldanha talks

(56) (57) CT(BR) 11/10/95

By CHARLOTTE MATHEWS

BUSINESS REPORT STAFF

The Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) is talking to potential partners in the Saldanha Steel project to fill the gap left by the withdrawal of Iscor two weeks ago, IDC chief executive Carel van der Merwe said yesterday.

However, the matter was at a delicate stage and discussions also had to be held with government and suppliers, he said.

Iscor pulled out of the controversial R4,7 billion steel mill, originally proposed last November for a site near the environmentally sensitive Langebaan lagoon, at the end of September, citing inordinate delays.

One of the delays was caused by the Steyn inquiry, which last Saturday recommended the project proceed, but at an alternative site further away from the bay.

Van der Merwe said the IDC was in the process of looking at alternatives and had three or four

weeks to come up with a solution. It had to decide whether the project was viable since it was costing a lot of money to keep the whole infrastructure intact.

Saldanha Steel executive chairman Bernard Smith confirmed alternatives were being considered in the light of the recommendations of the Steyn committee.

Smith was unable to confirm whether the project would go ahead. "I would like to see Iscor come back," he said.

UNLEADED petrol <sup>(56)</sup>  
UNLEADED petrol would be available at selected retail service stations from February, entering the market 4c/l cheaper than leaded petrol, the mineral and energy affairs department said yesterday.  
BD 11/10/95

# Firm may face charge for acid leak

Star 11/10/95 (56)

■ BY TAMSEN DE BEER

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) is considering prosecuting EnviroServ Industrial Waste Management, after a leak at its Holfontein site spewed acid oil 150m into the adjoining veld.

About 8 000 litres of black, acid oil treated with alkaline fly ash, poured across a road on to the veld after the retaining wall of an ash-mixing pond broke on Sunday night.

"We took some samples of the leaked liquid yesterday and we are considering prosecution," said Sakkie van der Westhuizen, director of water quality management, yesterday. He added that prosecution was "not easy", but that the Attorney-General was looking into the matter.

Van der Westhuizen said that EnviroServ had not complied with permit regulations stipulating that rainfall and leachate (liquid waste from disposal containers) run-off must be contained on-site.

He said an earth wall around the site to contain liquid run-off would eliminate a large part of the risk in future, and that EnviroServ had apparently built this wall yesterday, after the incident.

EnviroServ spokesman Kevin de Villiers, recently appointed to handle environmental aspects of the site, said it was highly unlikely the DWAF could have anticipated the leak.

"I am not aware a wall was a requisite of the permit, and that sounds a bit like being wise after the event," he said.

Van der Westhuizen said the corrosive acid oil, a by-product of

the oil recycling process, posed a risk to the environment, but not to people.

"No person was harmed in the process, and we're very glad about that," he said.

He said damage to groundwater in the area was unlikely since the area was fairly well protected by underlying layers of clay, and that most of the topsoil contaminated by the black substance had been removed.

EnviroServ deputy chairman Alistair McLean repeated his assertion on Monday that the company was investigating the possibility of industrial sabotage.

"The whole episode is strange. If it had broken because of the rain, what about the nine other ponds there? They should have gone as well," he said.

McLean declined to comment on the possibility of prosecution

by the DWAF.

Chris Warner, director of Environment for Gauteng, expressed concern about the leak, saying it was unacceptable in the light of a recent management plan set up between DWAF and EnviroServ.

"Local MEC Sicelo Shiceka has called a meeting for tomorrow with the department, EnviroServ, members of the community, the mayor and local authorities to discuss the matter and ensure this problem does not occur again," he said.

Warner said a boundary wall was clearly necessary, and that blame should not be apportioned over why there was no wall before the leak, but that measures should be taken to prevent a repeat occurrence.

He emphasised that the leak presented no threat to human health or life.

## Moment of truth for Unisa students

Beverly Hills, California, to Pofadder, South Africa, is a long haul - but, today, students in these areas will begin writing the same examinations through the University of South Africa.

Unisa is probably the largest distance learning institution in the world: a total of 107 803 students from around the globe will be putting months and years of study behind them as they strive to obtain their degrees and diplomas at examination centres far and wide.

Exams end on November 15 and results are usually available from mid-December. - Staff Reporter.

## Danes boost Mpumalanga by R15-m

(DANCED) Star 11/10/95

■ BY CLYDE JOHNSON  
LOWVELD BUREAU

**Nelspruit** - The Danish environmental and development agency (DANCED) is to spend R15-million on capacity building in Mpumalanga.

Environmental affairs MEC David Mkhwanazi said yesterday the money was specifically intended for use in his department. The decision came after a three week visit by a delegation of senior DANCED officials to the province. Mkhwanazi said the Danish funds would speed up the development of his department

and a priority would be the training of at least 40 officials in diverse disciplines.

Danish experts will be seconded to South Africa to carry out training, part of which will involve the fulfilment of legislative responsibilities regarding air pollution, waste and environmental management.

Mkhwanazi said the building of environmental information centres was also in the pipeline.

"These centres will an important role in exposing disadvantaged communities to environmental issues and educating people on the importance of natural resources conservation," he said.

## Hospital worker molested brothers

A young hospital employee who sexually molested his infant brothers was handed down a R2 000 fine and a 12-month suspended sentence by the Johannesburg Regional Court yesterday.

The man, who may not be identified, pleaded guilty to two charges of indecent assault.

The man molested the older of his two brothers twice, once when the child was two years old, and again when he was five.

The second charge pertained to the molestation of the youngest child, who was three at the time. - Staff Reporter.

*Mushrooming of cottages threatens pristine Transkei shoreline*

# Can Wild Coast stay wild for long?

Star 11/10/95

(58)

■ BY TONY CARNIE

Four men appeared in the Port St Johns Magistrate's Court on Monday in connection with the construction of cottage sites along the Transkei coast. Peter Richardson, Hans Schneider, Jeremy Ferrrow and Hylton Kidger were not charged or asked to plead.

The men were remanded to appear again on December 29, pending a decision by the Eastern Cape attorney-general to prosecute them for occupying land at Mpanzana without a permit.

The development of "illegal" holiday cottages and fishing shacks along the Wild Coast continues unabated, despite warnings of tough action by the State.

All that is needed in some areas is a case of beer, a bottle of brandy, roughly R50 for "registration" fees — and a requirement that cottage owners become members of the local tribe.

When I visited the coast last week, a chief and the son of a local headman both offered to reserve plots of land for me.

Mercifully, I noted, neither of them stipulated a necessity for prospective male initiates to undergo traditional *umkwebha* circumcision ceremonies.

"Against my wishes, some of my workers took building sand from the dune bank, so now we are backfilling the bank to prevent erosion," he explains.

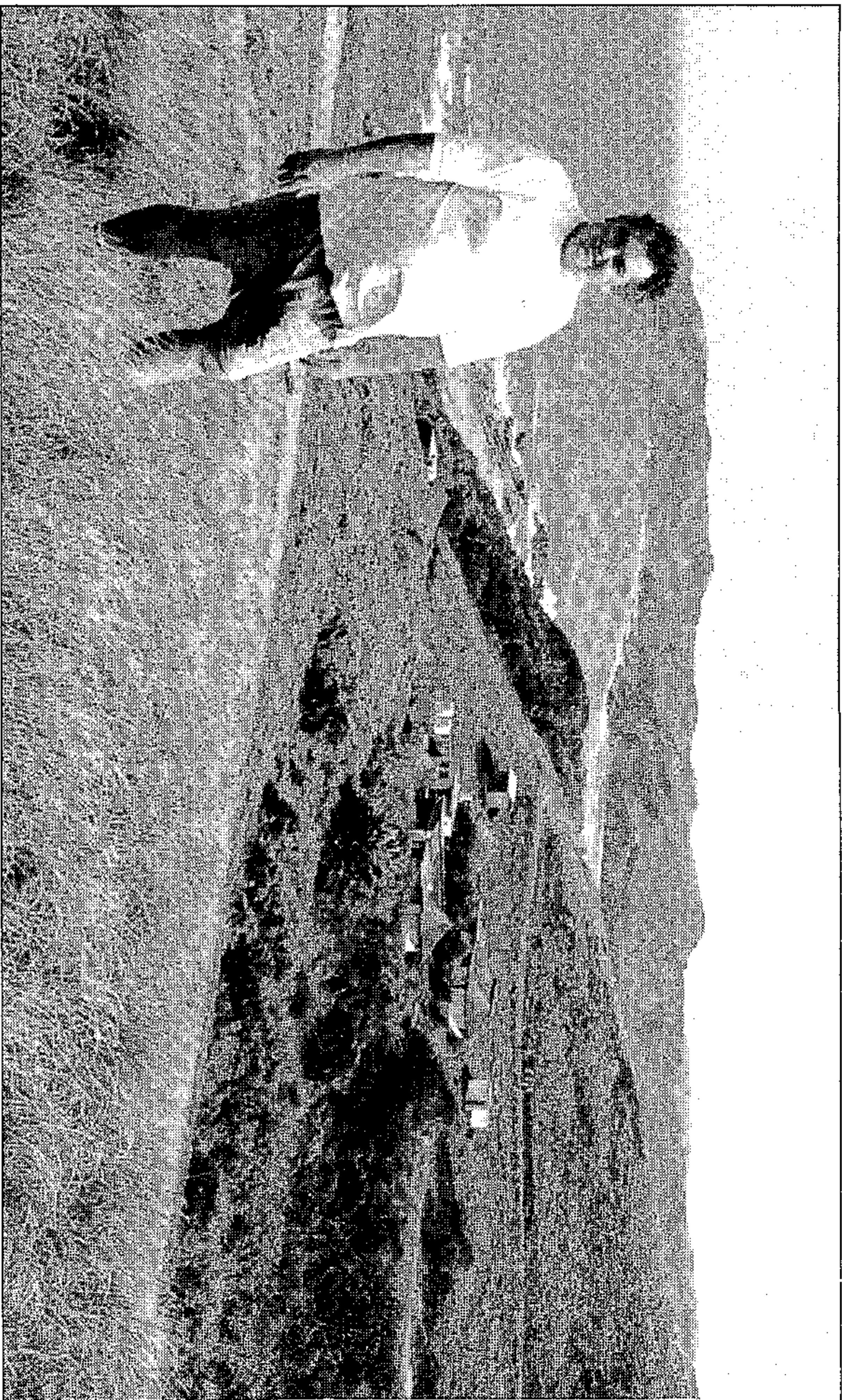
"This is a beautiful area, and we want it to stay that way — but black people have been living here for centuries. The size of the local population is expanding every day, so what difference is it going to make if a few more (white) people build a few more houses?"

Richardson, who has been given the nickname Mazambane (potato) because of his portly stomach, asserts that new cottage developers have the full support of local villagers.

"The rich people who've owned cottages here for several decades are trying to keep the area for themselves. This isn't an environmental issue at all," he claims, "it's a battle for exclusivity."

"But the local people have nothing — with a capital N. They've no jobs, no proper schools, no proper hospitals. At least we're helping them with jobs as builders, domestic workers or gardeners."

Richardson, who has imported a machine to mass-produce bricks, says he'll give the device to



In court this week ... Peter Richardson, one of the new wave of "illegal" cottage builders on the Transkei Wild Coast.

At Mpande and Mgazana (south of Port St Johns), building work was proceeding apace – and it seems some developers will take a defiant stand against efforts to halt further construction. In several pristine areas of this rugged and beautiful coastline, the ugly sprawl of cottages also appears to have the blessing of several chiefs and poverty-stricken communities desperate for any form of employment.

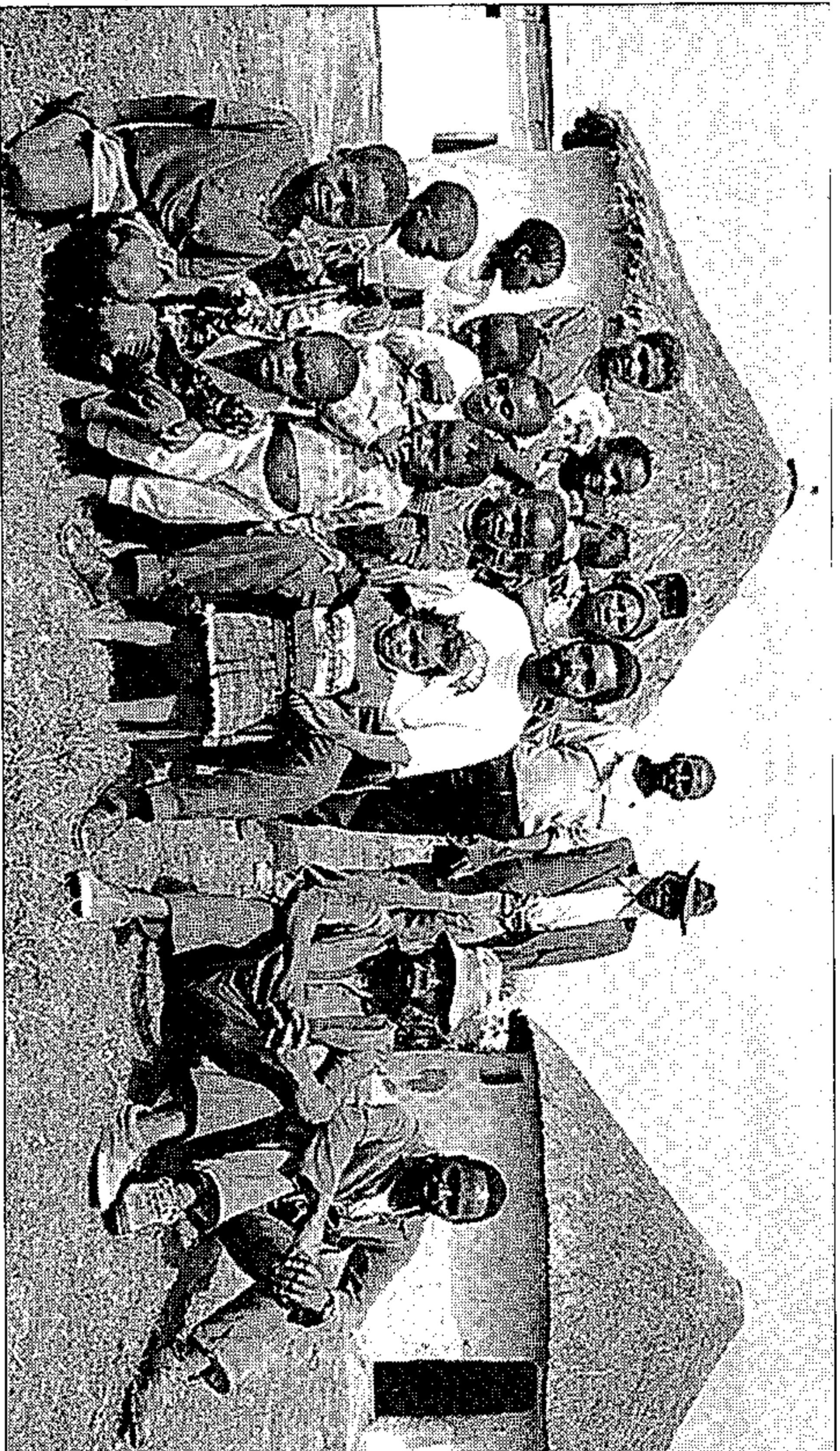
Many of the new wave of developers are affluent whites from as far afield as KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape. And some of them believe they've found a loophole to get around environmental conservation laws that prohibit unsanctioned developments within 1km of the high-water mark.

Simply by assuming the status of Transkei villagers, entrepreneurs and professional people from around the country are taking advantage of a law passed in 1936 giving chiefs the power to allocate land to "native people".

"There is no apartheid in South Africa any more, so there can no longer be a question of reserving land for "native" people alone," says Richardson, a former Zululand resident who is busy developing several cottage sites at Mpanzana.

"The stories about the 'environmental rape' of the Transkei coast have been very one-sided," he protests. "I can't speak for all developers, but in this area we don't want to bugger up the environment."

When we met, he was standing on the sea shore, loading up his truck with beach sand.



**Land allocator ... Chief Sdumo Diko (seated centre) and some of his people from the Mpande area south of Port St Johns. The Government is paying his salary now, he says, so why should he accept bribes from whites who want to build?**

the local community once he has finished building several cottages around the bay at Mpanzana.

Richardson stresses the humanitarian help provided by the new developers – but the fact that he has been allocated a prime spot of land overlooking Sharks Point is almost glossed over.

Later he arranged for me to visit Chief Sdumo Diko, the man who allocated the plot.

Dressed in slacks, sandals and a T-shirt advertising a brand of instant-brew beer, the chief is sus-

picious about my presence until he learns that Mazambane has referred me to him. And he scoffs at suggestions that Transkei chiefs have been bribed with bottles of brandy and a few hundred rands in return for plots.

Echoing Richardson's arguments, the chief declares that apartheid is over: "We are all South Africans now – and my job is just to distribute sites to my people. There are no blacks or whites anymore, and the Government pays my salary so there is

no need for me to take bribes."

He perceives reports of court action by the Wildlife Society, the State and certain "legal" cottage owners as a threat to his tribal authority: "People here don't want to be disturbed by court threats, and they could retaliate in an unsavoury manner against the rich people who make these threats."

Richardson is more blunt: "The people are saying they will burn down the cottages of the rich people if we are not allowed to build new ones."

Diko suggests, rather unconvincingly, that the new cottage sites he allocated are not really "holiday cottages". He has merely allocated land to his "people". The fact that most of the new cottages adjoin the beach is apparently sheer coincidence.

Later, at Mgazana, I was confronted by a man called Jackson, who introduced himself as the son of the local headman.

Smelling strongly of alcohol, the man asks why I'm taking photos in "his" area. He explains there has been a lot of nonsense in the newspapers recently, and some of the newwhites here do not want anyone snooping around with cameras. Pretending to be a clothes salesman, I inquire if it's possible to secure a plot for myself.

"Sure," he says, glancing warily at my camera again. He stresses there is no truth to reports that people are taking bribes. But the chief will confer with the people, and if spare land is available, a site will be allocated to me. I should also bring R50, a case of beer and a bottle of brandy for a man called Matuta. Jackson says he wouldn't mind some beer as

well, seeing that he has just let me take more photos.

At Mgazana, scores of cottages are under construction. Because several cottages have been here for decades, the area can no longer be described as pristine. Nevertheless, it is a place of breathtaking beauty, and the sprawl of new cottages has had a severe impact on the aesthetic quality of the area.

The Wildlife Society, which is seeking a Supreme Court interdict to halt any further unplanned developments, stresses it will not take sides between the "legal" and the "illegal" developers.

"What concerns us immensely is that if no action is taken now, the higgledy-piggledy development of shacks and cottages will mushroom out of control – and both the environment and the local population will be losers," says spokesman Keith Cooper.

"People of the Transkei coast may get short-term benefits from construction and domestic jobs. But it's going to wreck the chances for orderly and planned tourism development in the future."

There are several court actions pending on the cottages issue at the moment. And while the public awaits the outcome of these cases, many will be wondering how much longer the Wild Coast can remain a wild coast.

Mercury chief reporter Carnie has just returned from a visit to Transkei. The second part of this feature will appear tomorrow.

# 'Green' store targets shoppers with a clean conscience

Ed 12/10/95 (56)

LONDON — The UK's first politically correct supermarket, stocking only products that satisfy a set of ethical conditions, opens this month in Bristol.

The store, called Out Of This World, will not sell goods that are tested on animals, considered damaging to the environment or contain artificial additives. It will be lit by energy-saving light bulbs and decorated with environmentally friendly paint.

Meat and vegetables will be organic, washing powder will be biodegradable and coffee will be manufactured by Third World co-operatives. Slimming products, tobacco, pornographic items and goods associated with the arms trade or slave labour are banned.

Out Of This World will use a computer database to give shoppers up to six pages of notes about a product. These will analyse the product's health-giving properties and detail its

credentials relating to environment, fair trade, equal opportunities and animal rights.

The shop is the first of a chain of 200 such "green" stores planned around the country. Sites have already been identified in Newcastle, Nottingham and Oxford.

Richard Adams, MD of the co-operative that runs Out Of This World, is a veteran campaigner for "fair trade".

He says the chain is motivated by a desire to educate people about what they are buying.

"Consumerism is one of the blessings and curses of the 20th century. We have to understand the impact on the environment and on workers in other countries of the products we buy."

Adams is certain there is sufficient demand for such retail outlets.

"Polls consistently show that about 30% of the population base their shop-

ping decisions on ethical concerns of human rights, the environment and animal welfare," he said. "There is clearly a huge gap in the market."

Similar ventures have succeeded in other countries.

Wellspring Grocery, a wholefood and organic supermarket chain in the US, has a turnover of \$10m. In Japan, Seikatsu clubs sell £500m worth of ethical products a year.

One problem is that such goods are more expensive than ordinary supermarket lines.

Organic meat and vegetables are about a third more costly because they are farmed less intensively than their non-organic equivalents.

Phil Wells, of the Fair Trade Foundation, said the price premium had prevented some schemes getting off the ground. "There is clearly a demand, but there is a gap between what people

say they would like to buy and what they are prepared to pay for."

Adams is confident, however, that a wealthy niche market exists.

"Although the mass market supermarkets have created a cheap food culture, there are people around who are willing to spend a bit more on food that is produced in the best way."

But Clive Vaughan, of retail analyst Verdict Research, said: "Green issues are less prominent in consumers' minds than they were a few years ago."

Shoppers have also grown more sceptical of manufacturers' claims of environmental or ethical value.

"Customers have become much more aware and demanding," said Leon Choi of The Body Shop.

"They expect a product to have gone through some kind of assessment to prove that the claims are genuine," Choi said. — ©Telegraph plc.



Star 12/10/95  
Thor workers  
to sue in UK (56)

Maritzburg - The Court of Appeal in England has upheld the right of employees of Thor Chemicals in KwaZulu-Natal who contracted mercury poisoning, to claim compensation in English courts.

The court this week granted a motion brought by the lawyers for Thor victims to strike out the appeal by the company against a ruling that victims may sue for compensation in English courts.

The company said it was more appropriate to deal with the claims in South Africa but the High Court rejected that contention in April this year.

Thor SA's mother company is British.

The plaintiffs are Anastasia Cele, Busisiwe Ngeobo and Mrs Albert Dlamini.

# Legal action on waste site possible

(56) / stav (127)  
■ BY TAMSEN DE BEER

stav 12/10/95  
The Springs Town Council is investigating all legal options open to it - including obtaining a court order - to force EnviroServ's Holfontein hazardous waste site to comply with permit regulations, the council said yesterday.

The council would also consider asking for a court order to force EnviroServ to comply with CSIR recommendations on waste management, a statement, issued after a council meeting said.

The site became embroiled in controversy when waste leaked from a storage pond on Monday, the third leak from the site in 18 months.

The CSIR was commissioned by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry earlier this year to launch an investigation into the site, following numerous complaints from residents.

The CSIR found that certain chemicals occurred at unacceptably high levels in some residential areas, and could be a health risk should people be exposed to them over long periods.

The council has said it "shared the concerns of residents regarding the conditions under which the Holfontein disposal facility is operating".

However, the council had little authority to monitor or penalise EnviroServ. The facility's permit was granted at national level by the then Department of Water Affairs, the council said.

The DWAF earlier this week requested that EnviroServ take all possible steps to reduce the concentration of unacceptable substances in the air.

# Cash galore for 'Clean<sup>(5b)</sup> and Green'

## Staff Reporter

ENVIRONMENTAL clean-up and awareness projects in Kommetjie and Red Hill have been given a substantial cash lift-off by the regional government. ART 12/10/95

The projects are being financed as part of the "Clean and Green Campaign", an environmental programme co-ordinated by the regional Department of Transport and Public Works.

Minister Leonard Ramatlakane has handed the Kommetjie Environmental Awareness Group (Keag) and the Valley Development Project, Red Hill, cheques for R328 000 and R54 166 respectively for their projects.

The projects will each create about 20 jobs and will address issues such as the removal of alien vegetation, greening open spaces, soil erosion, litter removal, preparing food gardens and conducting environmental awareness campaigns.

The first phase was a clean-up of major roads in the Peninsula during May.

"The first phase was successful as the local community was employed. It raised community consciousness about having a clean environment," said Mr Ramatlakane.

"We hope eventually to absorb these people (those trained for clean-up projects) into the municipal services," he said.

Sandy Dowling, co-ordinator of the Valley Development Project, said three three-month projects were planned — the provision of toilets and litter removal, the removal of alien vegetation, and environmental education.

Organisers of the project would liaise with the Simon's Town municipality, she said.

Chairman of the Kommetjie Environmental Awareness Group Piet Erasmus said the money would be used for 12-month projects.

# Rietvlei housing complex rejected

□ *Fear expressed over 'environmental soundness'*

(56) ART 12/10/95

**Staff Reporter**

THE controversial development proposal for 360 townhouses on the banks of Rietvlei has been rejected by the provincial government.

Transnet applied to the Western Cape cabinet to amend the official guide plan for the northern banks of the lagoon, changing the area's designation from "nature area" to "urban development" so that the townhouses could be built.

Yesterday, after an on-site assessment by the regional cabinet, Minister of Agriculture, Planning and Tourism Lampie Fick said they had decided unanimously not to sup-

port amendments to the guide plan.

The decision would have to be approved by Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom, "but it is most unlikely the minister will take another decision", Mr Fick said.

"We were concerned about the environmental soundness of the proposed development in general."

Regional Minister of Finance and Environmental Affairs Kobus Meiring said the decision opened the door for a consolidated Rietvlei nature reserve.

"Half of it (the lagoon) already belongs to Milnerton and now it is possible to buy the

rest. It's wonderful to have a place like this so close to Cape Town."

Friends of Rietvlei chairman Pat Titmuss said the organisation was "delighted".

"It's great the politicians have listened to the community", she said.

Mr Fick said Milnerton municipality's application to expropriate Transnet's land and incorporate it into the nature reserve and the amount of compensation it would have to pay, would be dealt with later.

He could not say when this would be, nor when Mr Hanekom was expected to give final approval for the cabinet's decision.

# Group gets steel report <sup>(5b)</sup>

**STAFF REPORTER**

THE Steyn inquiry report on the controversial Saldanha Steel project was presented yesterday to the cabinet committee on economic affairs by Environmental Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers.

A spokesman for the Department of Environmental Affairs said yesterday the "real political decision" on whether the Steyn report recommendations would be adopted by government, would be made by the committee.

CT 12/10/95

The main recommendations of the report, released last week, were that the R4,7-billion steel project not be allowed to proceed on the Yzervarkensrug site two kilometres from the Saldanha Bay shoreline.

It should instead be moved about nine kilometres inland to the Langeberg site which was environmentally less sensitive.

The report also recommended that the structure plan for the region be revised to ensure no other heavy industry be allowed to proceed close to the lagoon.

# Rietvlei to stay a nature reserve

## POLITICAL STAFF

RIETVLEI'S future as a nature reserve was secured yesterday when the Western Cape cabinet rejected a Transnet application aimed at paving the way for a multi-million rand housing development on the banks of the lagoon.

Conservationists and lobbyists, ranging from the World Wildlife Fund to the Friends of Rietvlei, welcomed the rejection of Transnet's bid to have the official Guide Plan for the northern bank of the lagoon changed from "nature area" to "urban development".

They will now support Milner-ton municipality in its bid to expropriate the Transnet land — land originally officially acquired with taxpayers' money by the former government corporation, SA Railways and Harbours.

Regional Planning and Tou-

ism Minister Mr Lampie Fick and his Nature and Environment counterpart, Mr Kobus Meiring, said the outstanding cabinet decision on this application would depend upon negotiations between the parties over the market value of the land.

Dr Ian Macdonald, director of conservation for WWF in South Africa, described yesterday's decision as "wonderful — we've been working towards this for years and are delighted".

The WWF wanted to see the transfer of land for "gratis and for nothing — or at the very least at a reasonable price".

Mrs Pat Titmuss, chairperson of the Friends of Rietvlei, described the decision as the biggest step forward in a six-year campaign. She labelled the R32,1-million Transnet price tag for the land "ridiculous and irrelevant".

CT 12/10/95

(56)

Water crisis: It's not about when or how much you can water your garden. It's about how

# Abuse behind the

Eddie Koch

**A** FRONT-PAGE article in a national newspaper recently reported on how the Johannesburg city council was encouraging suburban residents to spy on neighbours who might be illegally watering their gardens.

The report was a classic example of the way ordinary folk who water their gardens or clean their motor cars with hoses have been identified as the main culprits for South Africa's present water crisis — and have been subjected to the only major efforts to conserve this resource.

But the story of the Olifants River (see below) shows that the country's flood of water problems has at its fountainhead a body of water law made up of regulations that were drafted up to 300 years ago when water scarcity was not a problem.

"Two primary legal constraints are 'private water' and 'riparian rights'. Private water essentially includes rainfall, soil water and ground water

occurring on or underneath private land, together with streams which rise and flow over a single piece of private land. The state has little control over what a private landowner does with his private water. South African water law does not recognise the hydrological cycle as an indivisible continuum, nor does it acknowledge water as a national asset," says Simon Forster, special adviser to Water Minister Kader Asmal.

**The average irrigation water required for one hectare of land is enough to meet the domestic needs of almost 900 people a year**

"Water flowing in a public stream (any stream which is not deemed to be private) is public water. However private landowners can and do have rights to divert and use a portion of both the normal and surplus flow of a public stream. Riparian water

rights from part of the title deeds of land and were originally granted when river utilisation was negligible. Today, with the immense pressure on water resources, riparian land owners are technically and legally capable of pumping many rivers dry, particularly during low-flow periods."

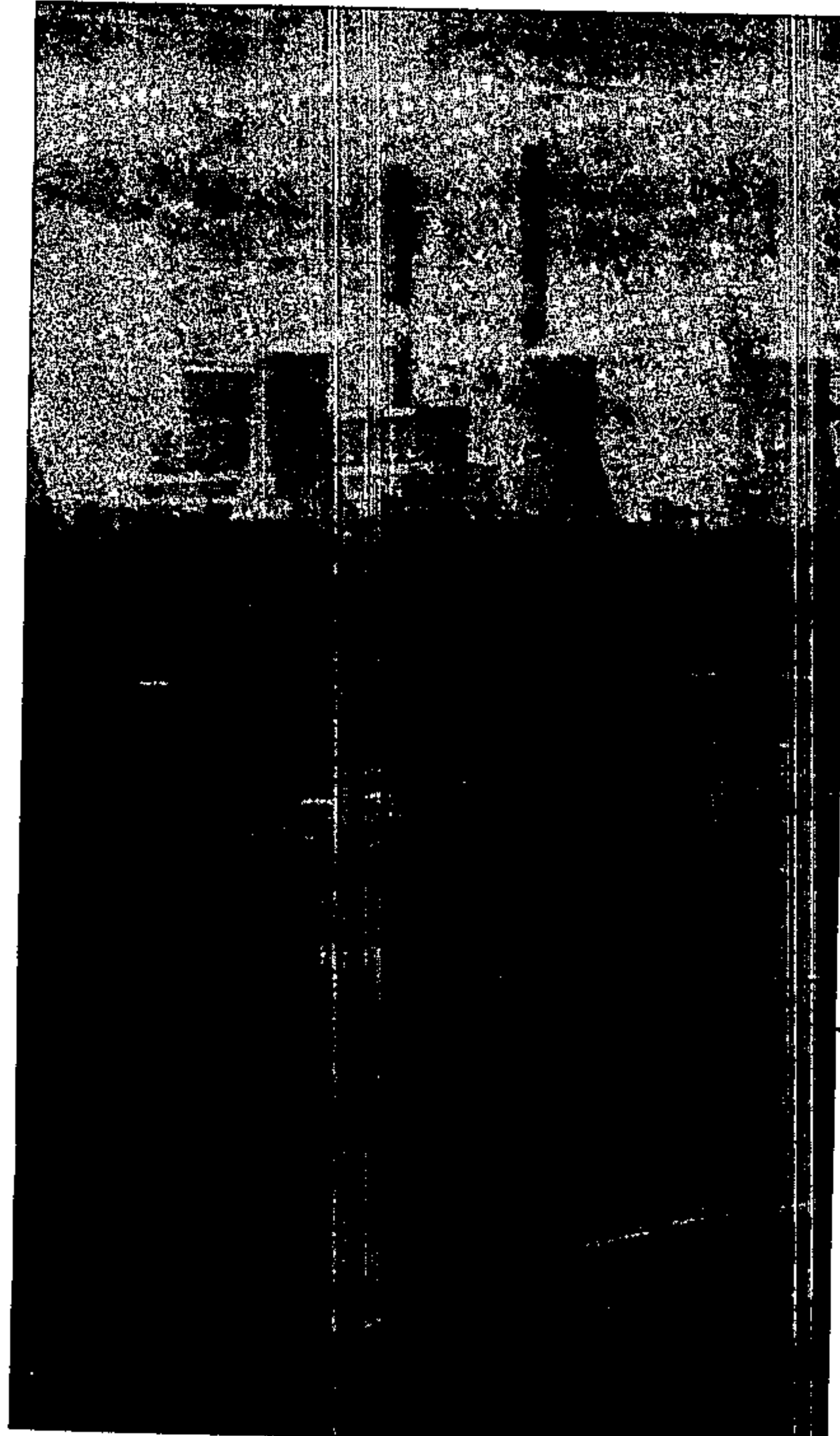
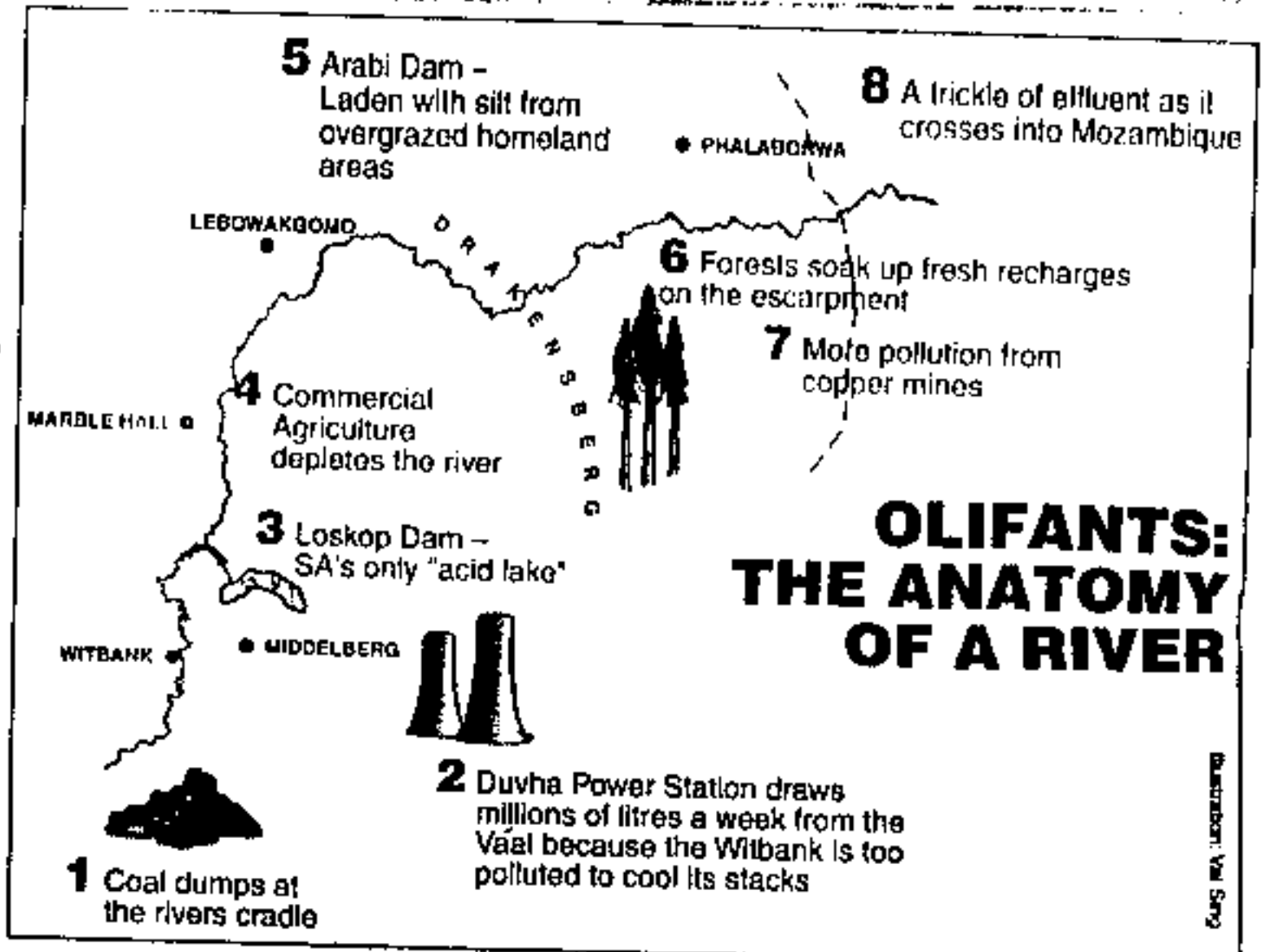
Forster estimates that more than 65 percent of all water currently used in South Africa is either privately owned or used under historically obtained riparian rights. Private water used up by the accelerated pumping of groundwater, dryland and rain-fed farming — including forest plantations — and the proliferation of small dams on farms has resulted in a huge decrease in water reaching rivers.

Says Forster: "When viewed in conjunction with the expansion in irrigation that has taken place during the last two decades, the conclusion can be made that a relatively small number of landowners now control the greater portion of the nation's utilisable water."

He points out that the average

## A river dammed and destroyed

To trace the course of the Olifants River is to trace a history of appalling environmental degradation, writes **Eddie Koch**



Duvha power station near Witbank was built there so it uses the Olifants River for cooling. But the Olifants' water is so polluted that the power station must draw millions of litres a week from the Vaal instead. PHOTOGRAPH: NAASHON ZALK

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**L**OOK at a map of South Africa and you will see sprinkled over it names that reveal how rivers were once venerated by the early inhabitants, black and white, of this country. Amanzimtoti, the Sweetness of Water; Bloemfontein, the Fountain of Flowers; and Witwatersrand, the Ridge of White Waters, are just some of the prominent ones.

Yet this respect for rivers has been ignored in the way natural water in South Africa has been managed over the last three decades — a time in which a small group of powerful landowners and industrialists have been able to gouge out a huge gap between these beautiful names on the map and the barren reality on the ground they describe.

Take the Olifants. There can be few rivers in the world that have been manipulated, twisted, polluted, dammed and denuded like this one has. It begins near the town of Trichard in Mpumalanga province, surrounded by coal dumps that seep sulphur and other industrial toxins into its cradle.

From there the river flows northwards, through other collieries, to another misnamed place: the Witbank (White Banks) Dam.

A massive coal-fired power station called Duvha was built on the edge of this dam so it could draw water for cooling from it. By the time the Olifants River gets here, though, it is so polluted with sulphates and

salts that its water creates a thick scale on Duvha's cooling towers and threatens to corrode them. The power station now draws millions of litres a week from the Vaal for cooling.

From Witbank, the Olifants pushes further north, through more coalfields scattered with ochre-coloured effluent dams that leach into the rivers' supplies, until it reaches the Loskop Dam which Simon Forster, special adviser to Water Minister Kader Asmal, describes as "fast becoming the only acid dam in the country".

Downstream of the dam, between Loskop and Marble Hall, lies some of the richest farming land in the country where landowners have used their riparian water rights to construct an amazing network of canals and mechanised systems that irrigate vast fields of wheat, maize and orange trees that supply Gauteng's industrialised areas with food.

**T**hese are some of the most efficient farms in the country, but they use so much water from the river that, says Forster, "there is literally not a cupful left" to supply settlements of rural people who were removed from the valley and shunted into the KwaNdebele and Lebowa homelands. A few kilometres away from these well-watered estates lie parched villages that have water trucked in to them every day.

The Olifants then trickles into a section of the former Lebowa home-

land, where it veers east towards the sea and picks up fresh water from a new catchment area. But these lands have been overgrazed and eroded lands (they were never supplied with proper irrigation), so that by the time it flows into the Arabi Dam, east of Lebowakgomo, it has picked up tons of silt and soil.

From there the river flows through more degraded villages, and a couple of asbestos mines that leave their toxic fibres in its waters, until it is joined by the Steelpoort and Blyde Rivers near the Northern Transvaal Drakensberg escarpment. These rivers should refresh the Olifants with mountain water, but the Steelpoort has been heavily polluted by mines along its course and the Blyde River has been sucked dry by huge pine and bluegum forests.

Trees in these plantations can use more than 100 litres a day each and their roots reach into groundwater some 20m below the surface. So the Blydecrivierspoort Dam, just under the escarpment, lies well below its proper level and its waters are laden with silt and pollution gathered upstream. The Olifants then winds across the Lowveld to Phalaborwa, where industries discharge more effluent into it.

The river's load of silt, sulphates and other pollutants have devastated aquatic life in the Kruger National Park. By the time the river crosses into Mozambique it is, according to Forster, no more than "a little trickle of effluent" (see opposite).

ongoing mismanagement and environmental damage have ruined resources

# water shortage

*MG 13-19/10/95*  
Irrigation water required for one hectare of land is enough to meet the domestic needs of almost 900 people a year. Water losses associated with the supply of irrigation water are around 30 percent. A one-percent reduction to 29 percent would meet the basic water needs of nine million people.

Water restrictions imposed on urban consumers and increased tariffs on users of bulk water from government dams, mainly municipalities and large industries, are one way of ensuring that water is conserved.

But government-owned water is just a tiny proportion of the resource and the only long-term solution lies in a thorough overhaul of the country's water law to allow the state to regain control of the bulk of water resources and allocate these in a planned and equitable way.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry has begun to do just that, by preparing a White Paper on water law reform. This will allow for the creation of catchment authorities that will have real powers to allocate and control water use. In this way rivers like the Olifants can be better cared for and used by a greater proportion of the population — instead of being subjected to an unregulated system that encourages the owner-takes-all principle.

But organised commercial agriculture, which feels under siege from new land restitution and redistribution laws, has already indicated it will fiercely resist any initiatives that will erode their rights to water — especially at a time when years of drought have pushed many farmers to the wall.

The owners of large agricultural estates and plantations will also be emboldened by property clauses in the Interim Constitution that are interpreted by many as a protection of their land and thus riparian and private water rights.

In 1852, Chief Seattle wrote an often-quoted letter in response to US government requests for title to his peoples' land. It said: "How can you buy or sell the sky? The land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them? ... The rivers are our brothers. They quench our thirst ... So you must give to the rivers the kindness that would give any brother."

In South Africa, the waters have been bought and sold under a system of private management that defies compassion.

"This highly distorted access to natural resources is not the fault of the 'haves'. Large-scale bulk water users such as forestry, agriculture and municipalities are merely responding to the legal circumstances concerning the control of water," says Forster.

**T**he fault lies with the laws which govern the ownership, allocation, access to, use and management of water, and the political system which maintained such laws. The only solution, he says, is for the state to take back public ownership of the rivers and the groundwater.

The problem is that civil strife in South Africa is more likely to take place over water reform than the land that is often mistakenly described as the most heavily contested resource in this country.

## A river barely runs through it

*MG 13-19/10/95*  
Mozambique's rivers all originate elsewhere — and by the time they get to the drought-ravaged country, they are almost useless.

Justin Arenstein reports

**M**OZAMBICAN goodwill towards South Africa is drying up — with a growing clamour that South Africa is responsible for that country's increasingly parched crops and dwindling rivers.

Not even a flying visit to Maputo late last week by South Africa's water guru, Kader Asmal, is expected to satisfy Mozambique's increasingly militant agriculturalists, who are convinced that South Africa is over-utilising a limited resource.

The growing outrage in southern Mozambique stems from the fact that Mozambique has been forced to rely on its rivers for water because of its severely under-developed water infrastructure.

None of these rivers, however, originate within the country and all are heavily utilised by neighbouring countries such as South Africa, Zimbabwe and Swaziland before entering Mozambique. After three years without any significant rains, Mozambique's rivers are drying up.

Mozambican government authorities contend that a number of South African dams on the Injaka and Inkomati rivers in Mpumalanga and the increased agricultural use of the Olifants and Crocodile rivers have aggravated this situation to the point where many of Mozambique's once major waterways have ceased to flow.

Asmal was attempting to address this growing dissatisfaction when he flew to Maputo last week for an urgent one-day meeting with his counterparts there.

"Yes, South Africa is very aware that the Mozambicans are unhappy about the quantity of water reaching them. In fact, the Mozambicans were so unhappy that they declined to sign a proposed Memorandum of Understanding — they called it a 'feel-good document'," said Peter van Niekerk, Asmal's chief engineer for project planning and a delegation member.

"Instead, they immediately signed a draft document calling for the creation of a joint water commission between our two countries. This is much more than we had expected or hoped for and, as a result, a formal treaty between South Africa and Mozambique is scheduled to be signed in early November — after the two countries' Cabinets approve the document, of course."

Acknowledging that the proposed treaty won't bring any dramatic or other gains for either Mozambique or South Africa in the short term, Van Niekerk explained that "the present drought is so severe that we don't have the capacity to supply Mozambique with much more water than it's currently getting."

"But what we're actually doing is laying the framework for 10 to 15

years from now. This agreement will be the keystone for similar treaties throughout the sub-continent."

Although no formal complaint has yet been lodged with South African authorities, it is also hoped that Asmal's visit will quash grumblings for a World Court lawsuit against South Africa for allegedly violating international water conventions.

"We've informed the South Africans that we don't agree with unilateral decisions to build dams on international rivers such as the Sabie River," explains Mozambican National Water Board Director Luis Elias.

"We depend on the rivers that flow from neighbouring countries, but if we don't like their decisions what can we do?" asks southern Mozambique's Regional Director for Water Affairs, Issufo Cautamla. "We can't just go and knock the dams down."

Although the threatened legal action is seen as nothing more than a political lever to impress the South Africans with Mozambique's seriousness, the threat itself could seriously harm South Africa's image both within the sub-continent and in the Organisation for African Unity (OAU). South Africa has repeatedly tried to emphasise that although it is a regional superpower, it will not bully its neighbours.

Declining to comment on a possible meeting between Minister Asmal and his regional counterparts to establish non-riparian rights to water systems for all the countries within the sub-continent, South Africa's Director of Legal Services for Water Affairs, Willem Labuschagne, would only say that "non-riparian rights are on the cards. But there is no concrete framework for this yet and only long negotiating will produce such a framework."

Labuschagne also dismissed hopes for "quick fix" solutions to water shortages via exchange programmes with countries such as Zambia and Zaire which have abundant water.

"Water exchange schemes with such countries is just talk at the moment," he said.

"Water supplies to Mozambique should increase, though, when programmes such as the eradication of exotic trees along water courses in South Africa begin to have an effect. These plants can consume up to 30 percent of river-borne water."

Labuschagne also added that the entire body of South African water legislation is presently being reviewed, including farmer's riparian rights to water that flows through their property.

"This process allows for public participation and good suggestions will definitely not be ignored," he said.

● Submissions can be sent to Dr Kader Asmal, Minister of Water and Forestry Affairs, Private Bag X9052, Cape Town, 8000. — African Eye News



PHOTOGRAPH: HENNER FRANKENFELD



SALDANHA STEEL

## Fishing smack

AM 13/10/95

The landmark recommendation by the Steyn board of inquiry that the proposed Saldanha Steel plant be shifted inland to a less sensitive site represents a compromise between development and conservation — but it may mean the death of the R4,7bn project.

Saldanha Steel — reeling from the loss of Iscor's backing in the venture — has expressed no real interest in any other sites for the plant. And Iscor says there is nothing in the board's report to entice it back to the project.

The report — handed to Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers last week — also recommends that environmental impact assessments be compulsory for all large-scale development proposals in future. It finds the present situation where developers may choose whether or not to undertake assessments "undesirable."

It also suggests the creation of a permanent representative tribunal to oversee large-scale developments. Ad hoc inquiries, of the kind undertaken by the board, should not become standard practice.

The board says the pendulum has swung too far in the direction of creating public forums "with their inherent capacity for delay and opportunity for grandstanding by those with parochial agendas." Care should be taken not to create bureaucratic procedures that shackle the entrepreneurial spirit of developers and cause undue delays that discourage development.

The detailed report represents the start of a balanced, more transparent and environmentally sound approach to large-scale development. De Villiers regards it as a "benchmark case" and says it is the first time in SA's history that the environment

has been given due weight in the consideration of a major industrial development.

He says the "balanced" report contains many important guidelines and nothing that he finds unacceptable on a first reading. Board chairman Judge Jan Steyn says the recommendation that the plant be shifted further inland "was required in the public interest to ensure optimal reconciliation of developmental and environmental interests. We are obliged to exercise a value judgment which requires an assessment of two potentially competitive public interests. The first is the precious treasure of a clean environment; the other is development, job creation and economic growth."

While unanimous that the project should go ahead, the board found that the environmental risks could be reduced by moving the project inland "without significantly jeopardising the economic viability or without undue delay of the project." It would also be better for Saldanha's tourism and mariculture industries if the plant was sited further away from the coastline.

Saldanha Steel CE Bernard Smith concedes that the suggested 7,65 km move to the Langeberg site will reduce the rate of shareholders' return by no more than 1%. But he disputes the board's finding that the project would still be "tolerably robust." He refuses to comment further on the report, saying he must first consult shareholders.

At the start of the inquiry he told the board he would advise shareholders not to pursue the project if it could not take place on the preferred site. The board and the project's main antagonists say Saldanha Steel has never given other sites serious consideration.

The report says a responsible developer would have determined the feasibility of nearby sites before adopting the intransigent attitude that "if we can't locate at site A we will throw our toys out of the cot and we won't play."

After an independent financial committee found the Langeberg site worthwhile, the validity of resisting the examination of another site could no longer be sustained. Steyn says this was the main reason the board concluded the project should be shifted inland.

The findings should be welcomed for representing the start of a more open and environmentally sound approach to large-scale development. ■

# Waste site owner may face court

(51) Star 13/10/95

Enviroserv, the owners of the Holfontein waste disposal site on the East Rand where acid oil leaked on Monday, could be prosecuted for a breach of its permit, a Water Affairs official said yesterday.

About 8 000 litres of partially pre-treated acid oil had leaked and flowed on to a dirt road from Enviroserv's Holfontein site for the third time in 18 months, sparking an outcry from neighbouring residents.

"The minister (Kader Asmal) has requested that all facts must be collated for submission to the attorney-general of the Witwatersrand for a decision on possible prosecution for breach of permit conditions," Water Affairs official Wouter van der Merwe said.

Van der Merwe said samples of the sludge had not shown any "measurable impact" on the environment.

"The thin layer of contaminated topsoil had been removed and deposited within the secure containment area of the disposal facility," he said.

He added that the department had issued an order stopping pre-treatment of wastes outside primary containment areas. -  
Reuter.

# 'Sewage dumped in river'

## □ Council to investigate allegations (56) ARG 13/10/95

### Southern Reporter

A CAPE Metropolitan Council sewage removal tanker was held "hostage" at the bridge over the Westlake River in Raapkraal Road, Steenberg after its occupants were allegedly seen discharging raw sewage into the river.

Debbie O'Keefe, who works in premises abutting the river, said she had seen this happen frequently.

"I have seen faeces and toilet paper floating in the river after the truck has been here in the past," she said.

She once questioned the driver and was told the sewage had been removed from a nearby

farm and that discharging it into the river was "all above board".

On October 9, Mrs Keefe's employer parked his car across the road to stop the truck leaving, while she called Barry Patterson, the conservation officer for the Constantia Local Council.

Mrs O'Keefe said by the time Mr Patterson arrived the discharge pipe had been removed from the river and he was told the contents of the truck were being discharged into a manhole, which Mrs O'Keefe had previously been told was nothing more than an inspection manhole.

An official from the Cape Metropolitan Water Control

Branch was called to take a sample from the river. The sample revealed the presence of ammonia. High nutrient levels in the river have allegedly contributed to the excessive growth of invasive weeds.

A spokesman for the Cape Metropolitan Council's Water Pollution Control Unit confirmed tankers cleared septic and conservation tanks in the Constantia area. As far as he knew, the manhole next to the Westlake River was not an official discharge point.

"The unit has received a report from Mrs O'Keefe stating that she has seen effluent being discharged into the river," he said. He said there would be an investigation.



**INVASIVE WEED:** Debbie O'Keefe points to invasive weed in the Westlake River at Raapkraal Road, Steenberg, where raw sewage has allegedly been discharged by a Cape Metropolitan Council tanker.

## Development 'can be green' (56)

ENVIRONMENTAL conservation allowed for sustainable development and rational use of natural resources, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Deputy Minister Mr Bantu Holomisa said yesterday.

Speaking at Double Drift near Peddie in the Eastern Cape, Mr Holomisa said environmental matters were linked to every aspect of human endeavour. CT 13/10/95

# Fight to keep steel plant in W Cape

Political Correspondent  
and Sapa ~~ARLT~~ 13/10/95

THE Western Cape cabinet will do everything it can to ensure the controversial Saldanha Steel project stays in the province.

Regional Minister of Agriculture, Planning and Tourism Lampie Fick said the present status of the project had led to a "drastic decline" in business confidence in the area, and this was a source of "serious concern".

In Port Elizabeth yesterday, Eskom, the transitional local council and the Eastern Cape government agreed to proceed with plans to build a steel mill

near the city.

In statement after the first Western Cape cabinet meeting after the release of the Steyn Commission report on the project, Mr Fick disclosed he had been engaged in urgent discussions with Saldanha Steel and Iscor "in an attempt to ensure the continuation of the project".

He and the Western Cape government "will do everything in our power to ensure the development stays in the Western Cape".

Mr Fick said he had asked Saldanha Steel, in the light of the Steyn Commission's findings, "to supply me with their

~~view~~ view on possible softening of the impact, and/or possible alterations to the project".

In the Eastern Cape yesterday, regional Economic Affairs Minister Smuts Ngonyama, Finance Minister Shepherd Mayatula and Public Works Minister Thobile Mhlahlo met representatives of the Port Elizabeth council, Eskom, Spornet, Portnet and the Port Elizabeth Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Council chief executive Kevin Wakeford said the meeting followed approaches from "up to five serious potential investors" interested in developing a steel mill in Port Elizabeth.

# W Cape tries to keep steel mill

CHRIS BATEMAN

~~12/11~~ (56) CT 13/10/95  
CT 13/10/95  
THE Western Cape cabinet moved swiftly yesterday to try to retain Saldanha Steel's proposed R4,7-billion mill, inviting the Industrial Development Corporation to probe the "softening" of the project and to report by month's end.

The cabinet also urged national Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers to speedily announce his intentions on the Steyn Commission report — which recommended a site further away from Saldanha Bay — so it could take a rezoning decision by the end of next month.

Saldanha Steel's application to rezone, from agricultural to industrial use, the site closest to the shore, is still on the desk of regional Agriculture, Planning and Tourism Minister, Mr Lampie Fick.

Yesterday Mr Fick said environmentalists whose court action and lobbying led to two probes and his

inability to take a rezoning decision to his cabinet, would have to accept that people's "right to develop is no less than their right to a healthy environment".

Joblessness and poverty remained two of the biggest threats to a balanced environment.

"Within the powers of Planning and Land Usage legislation, all stumbling blocks will be removed to ensure an investor-friendly climate in the province," Mr Fick said.

Judge Jan Steyn's probe urged that the Saldanha/Vredenburg structure plan be revised quickly to rule out the chance of heavy industrial development close to the Saldanha Bay shore

"It makes little sense to us to require the steel mill to move further inland but to leave open the possibility of some other industry with pollution potential coming into being close to the shoreline waters," he said.

# Holomisa given a cold shoulder

CP 15/10/95 (5b)

IN A FURTHER salvo surrounding the recent chaotic visit to Europe by the deputy minister of environmental affairs and tourism, Bantu Holomisa, the general accused the South African deputy ambassador in London, Gert Grobler, of having a party with intelligence officers on the fifth floor of the embassy while he and his guests were trying to get inside, reports Eena.

According to Dr Khobeshe Ginwala - South Africa's ambassador in Rome and sister of Dr Frene Ginwala, Speaker of Parliament - the visit was marked by "faulty information, confusion and crossed communications lines". She summed it up in a "confidential and important" memorandum to the deputy minister of foreign affairs, Aziz Pahad.

General Holomisa said he would be submitting details of the incident to Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo, in which he would be asking for Grobler to be sent home in disgrace. "Minister Nzo has to discipline this sort of behaviour... these people are not good for South Africa's image," he said. A senior diplomat, who denied that he had any bad feelings towards the deputy minister, said

Holomisa's visit had been "an exercise in crisis management", writes our correspondent in London.

Holomisa had been so secretive about his travel plans that it caused friction in the host countries and was an embarrassment to South African diplomats, said diplomats.

The problems started in London, where Holomisa and his entourage were guests of the British government. Holomisa allegedly pushed a senior South African diplomat aside and demanded that a staff member be fired because the door of the embassy had not been open when he arrived there for a function.

Arnold Nel of Holomisa's office confirmed this and said the deputy minister and his entourage "had to queue like school kids" at South Africa House "so that their names could be taken before they were allowed to go further".

South Africa House acknowledged that the doors had been locked, but said Holomisa had arrived too early. He then went to another entrance, where a security guard told him he would open the main entrance for him.

Unfortunately for Holomisa, another function

was being held at the same time in South Africa House - which caused the queuing. There was confusion over which guests belonged at which function.

Holomisa's British hosts were also unhappy because he and his delegation made an unplanned visit to Bristol - after having failed, moreover, to vacate their hotel in London. The British department of foreign affairs demanded that South Africa pay the hotel expenses. The baggage of Holomisa's group was then taken to a storeroom.

Greater confusion surrounded Holomisa's visit to Italy - as the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria had apparently not been informed about it.

It is apparently because of this confusion that Ginwala recommended to Evans that ministers and members of parliament should get counselling before travelling overseas and that "clear and firm guidelines" should be provided.

In his reaction Holomisa said a "malicious diplomat" had probably been responsible for the "malicious propaganda".

He denied that there had been problems with unpaid hotel bills or confusion over his schedule.



**LOCKED** ... Bantu Holomisa didn't get the embassy welcome he expected.

# Saldanha ruling a headache for greens

ST(M) 15/10/95 (56) ~~(56)~~

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

IT will be pointless to make environmental impact assessments compulsory unless state departments gain the staff and expertise to process them, senior government officials have warned.

These studies could become compulsory by mid-1996, but inadequate staffing at national and provincial levels could impede their enforcement, the director-general of Environment Affairs, Dr Colin Cameron, said this week.

"We might have great legislation in place, but without the ability to implement it — that's very disconcerting."

The director of the Industrial Environmental Forum, Jonathan Hobbs, says an "ineffective and ad hoc situation" is undermining business competence.

"The lack of government capacity to administer . . . systems and review environmental impact reports is a (source) of considerable concern."

Dr David Fig, of the Group for Environmental Monitoring, says the Reconstruction and Development Programme office also does not have the capacity to review the impact studies

that must accompany RDP business plans.

He and other specialists were commenting on the Steyn Board of Investigation's recommendation that environmental impact assessments (EIAs) be compulsory for major projects.

Mr Hobbs says the lack of uniformity in approach to impact studies is impeding progress towards developmental and environmental goals.

Business favoured mandatory EIAs but believed these should provide a framework to encourage innovative environmental solutions.

"EIAs are a decision-making tool — no more, no less," Mr Hobbs says.

The Saldanha inquiry also recommended that the Department of Environment Affairs' integrated environmental management (IEM) guidelines be applied to planning proposals.

"Mr Justice Steyn has endorsed what we know must be done, but we're not going to get there overnight," said Dr Cameron.

Draft EIA regulations were gazetted for comment last year. They must now be redrafted to conform to constitutional directives that make the environment a provincial responsibility.



# Saldanha: Minister's needless sideswipe at Greens

IT'S a reasonable bet that dust from the Saldanha Steel Project — the metaphorical kind, that is — will be a long time settling.

It is entirely understandable that the initial reaction of presently unemployed West Coast residents was one of deep disappointment. Equally understandable is the peeved reaction of the local business community, who saw the equivalent of neon and signs winking at them from across the bay summarily extinguished.

Both, however, were probably highly over-optimistic in their initial expectations

and might yet come to realise that their first reactions were irrational.

The Steyn report is quite clear: the proposed site at Yzervarkensrug is environmentally sensitive and the steel plant poses a significant risk to it. Therefore, alternative sites nearby should be exhaustively analysed, and only if those prove to be totally unsuitable should the original site be revisited, it states.

Those alternative sites are less than 15km inland. Other than a minor increase in commuting time — and the area doesn't exactly suffer from Table Bay Boulevard



## GREEN SCENE

John Yeld

traffic congestion — and an equally minor increase in travelling expense, siting the steel plant inland will not affect prospective employees. Most businesses associated

with the proposed plant will be even less affected — so why the fuss?

One of those who should have studied the Steyn report extremely thoroughly is regional Agriculture, Planning and Tourism Minister Lampie Fick — and his statement on the issue is somewhat disquieting.

He is quite correct that unemployment and poverty remain two of the biggest threats to a sound environment, and that people have as much right to development as they do to a healthy environment. But his added remark — "This fact environ-

mentalists will have to accept" — is unnecessary and even somewhat insulting.

A major problem is that his statement nowhere acknowledges one of the key recommendations of the Steyn report: "We urge that the Saldanha-Vredenburg-Langebaan Structure Plan be revised to preclude the possibility of other heavy industry attempting to locate close to the bay."

This is an issue at the heart of Mr Fick's portfolio; his reaction to that would have been far more reassuring than a sideswipe at Greens who raise entirely legitimate environmental objections and concerns.

is worrying  
ARU 16/10/95

The controversial issue of trek-netting in False Bay was highlighted recently when a southern right whale was caught during a trek off Fish Hoek beach. The incident led some conservationists to repeat their demands for a ban on some forms of trek-netting and for additional restrictions on others. But the trek fishermen have hit back, pointing out they have science on their side. Environment Reporter JOHN YELD looks at a recent study which was commissioned by the Sea Fisheries Research Institute to help resolve the issue.

# Trek 'off the hook'

ARL 16/10/95 (5)

**R**ESearch shows that trek-netting — more correctly, beach-seine fishing — does not have any major detrimental effect on most fish stocks in False Bay or on ecological interactions in the bay.

Also, commercial trek-net fishermen in False Bay are entitled to claim a historical right to "angling" species such as elf, yellowtail and white steenbras.

These are the major findings of a three-year study, initially commissioned by the Sea Fisheries Research Institute in January 1991 as an investigation of the highly controversial fishery in the bay.

The study, which involved intense monitoring of commercial trek-netting operations, became a M Sc thesis, *The commercial beach-seine fishery in False Bay*, by Stephen Lamberth at the University of Cape Town's zoology department and marine biology research institute.

Catch rates achieved by anglers in False Bay and elsewhere on the South African coast have declined substantially over the past 20-30 years and, because trek-netting is a highly conspicuous operation which frequently results in much larger catches than any individual angler can hope to make, it is blamed by anglers for their declining catches.

According to the thesis, the main allegations against trek-netting by anglers and some conservation groups are:

- Harders are the "traditional" catch of the trek-netters and their targeting of "angling" species — yellowtail, cob, elf, white steenbras — is a relatively recent practice;

- Anglers' catches have declined because trek-net catches of shared species have been big enough to have caused significant stock depletions;

- Netting near river mouths causes big mortalities of spawning fish and of juveniles entering and leaving these estuarine nursery areas;

- Large-scale mortalities of cartilaginous (sharks) and other non-target species cause ecological imbalances in False Bay;

- The trek nets scrape the seabed, resulting in mortalities of non-target organisms and the degradation of the bottom habitat.



**BOUNTIFUL HARVEST:** It's a sight for sore eyes — or a painful sight, depending on whether you're a trek-fishermen or a recreational angler. A successful trek like this yellowtail haul at Muizenberg is a classic symptom of the century-old conflict between the two groups of fishermen.

Picture: THE ARGUS.

But the study dismisses most of these allegations. It notes harders were not the traditional catch of trek-netters and that their targeting of "angling" species is not a new phenomenon.

In the early 1900s, elf, yellowtail and white steenbras made up 83 percent of trek-netters' catches, with harders only accounting for five percent. Now harders make up more than 85 percent of their total catch.

Also, the trek-net catch of most "angling" fish represents less than 10 percent of the

total national catch of these species.

"Only for white steenbras, for which the seine-net catch is estimated as approximately 25 percent of the national catch, do seine-net catches provide cause for concern," the thesis states.

Evidence from both commercial and experimental netting at varying distances from estuary mouths indicates that neither spawning nor juvenile fish congregate in the vicinity of estuary mouths in False Bay, it records.

Even if the entire catch of the trek-net-

ters was killed — with no juvenile or non-target species being returned to the sea — this would amount to only 0,2 percent of fish stocks in the bay each month.

Also, trek-netting is unlikely to have a significant detrimental impact on ecological interactions through mortalities of cartilaginous species, and video footage and diving observations show the trek-nets do not scrape the seabed.

"These research findings indicate that seine-netting does not have any major detrimental effects on most fish stocks."

# Conservation 'resulting in unfair restrictions'

(56)  
ARC 16/10/95  
Environment Reporter

**R**ESearch has disproved many of the allegations about trek-fishing, but pressure from some conservation groups has resulted in unfair restrictions on this form of fishing in False Bay being maintained.

So says Jeff Petty, chairman of the False Bay Trek Fishermen's Association, holder of some of the remaining seven trek licences for the bay, who speaks of a "war" being waged against the trekkers.

"Conservation is being used as a tool to hammer us," he said.

Muizenberg-based Mr Petty, who has been fishing for a living since 1960 — the first 16 years as a purse-seine netter fishing for pilchards — holds three trek-net licences for two areas in False Bay.

Two of these have been bought from previous holders — "quite legitimately", he points out.

Severe restrictions on trek fishing were introduced by, initially, John Wiley and later Gert Kotzé when they served respectively as Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Petty noted.

Mr Wiley had "hammered" them but had the relaxed some of the regulations.

Mr Kotzé, in response to pressure, had re-introduced harsh measures which almost put them out of business, Mr Petty said.

"Research disproved many of the allegations in terms of which the restrictions had been imposed.

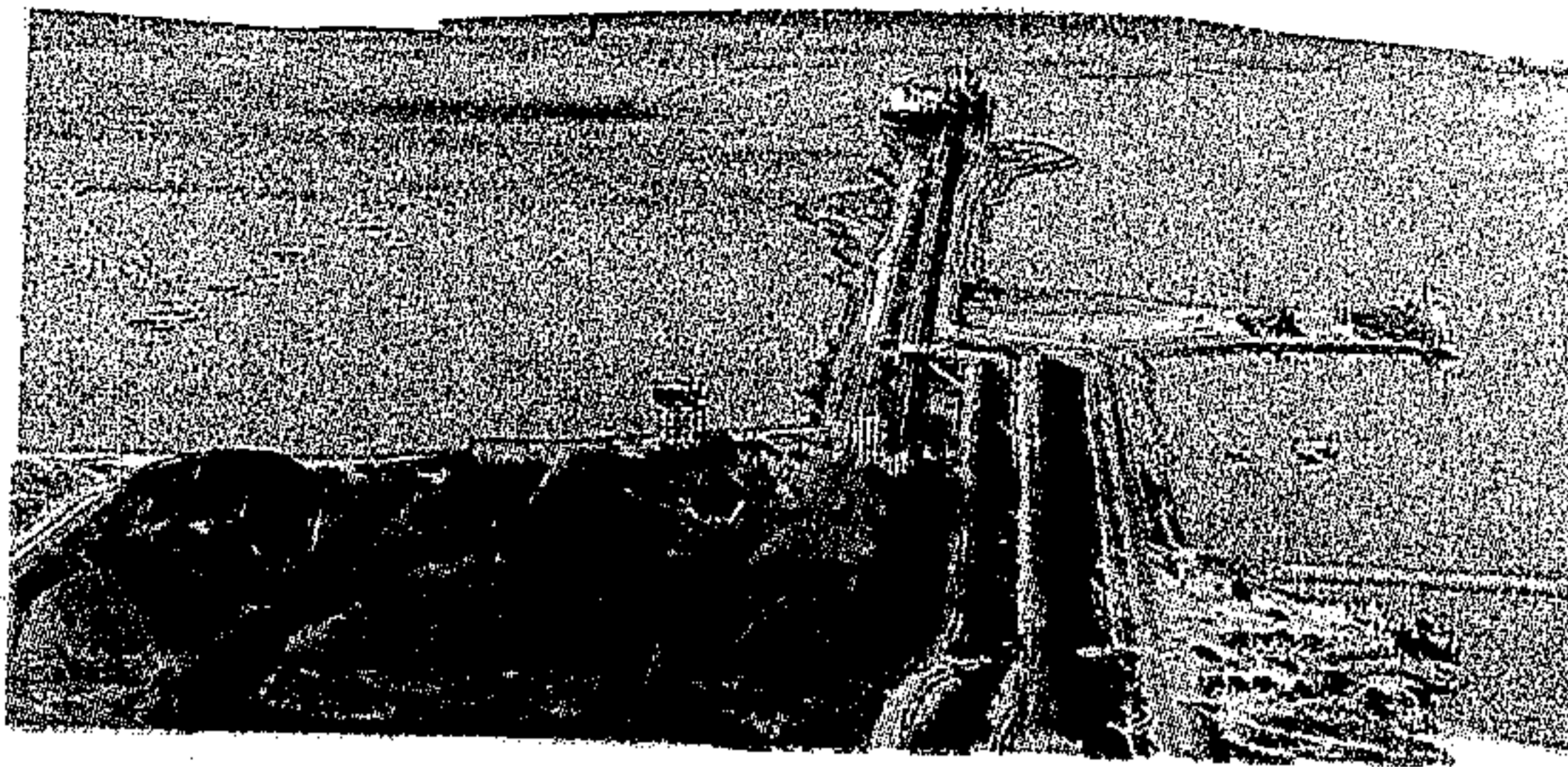
"They (scientists) made recommendations on what could be relaxed and (then Environmental Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar said to Sea Fisheries: 'Put it right'. We were told to be patient and to give them a few days, but the days became months and the months have become years."

Mr Petty agreed that white steenbras were a potential problem — "although my colleagues will probably hammer me for saying that".

But he disagreed with criticism that Russman (weighted) treks should be banned because this operation targeted deeper swimming species and was "blind".

"An angler goes out in a skiboat, puts bait on a hook and throws it into the water — isn't that blind fishing?" he asked.

Trek-nets were expensive — "I wouldn't sell mine for R20 000" — and fishermen did all they could to avoid whales and other marine mammals.



**SALDANHA QUAY:** An aerial view of Portnet's Saldanha Bay harbour area. The general cargo quay, which it wants to extend, is in the lower right foreground. Behind that is the iron-ore quay and, at the far end of the quay, the oil transfer jetty. Picture: CSIR.

## Oil cargoes main threat in bigger port — report

### Environment Reporter

**P**ORTNET'S proposed extension to its general cargo quay at Saldanha Bay could increase the risk of shipping accidents causing pollution, but the biggest risks with the most serious potential consequences are from oil shipments.

This is the finding of a draft environmental impact report into the proposal to increase the quay by between 350m and 1 205m.

The draft report, released last week for public comment, recommends an "Operational Systems Audit" to identify possible measures to reduce the risk of shipping accidents.

The proposed extension will be stopped or postponed if the controversial Saldanha Steel Project does not go ahead.

Portnet wants to extend the quay to allow newer, larger and safer cargo carriers of up to 60 000-tons to berth there, and to improve cargo handling.

It proposes deepening the navigational channel alongside the quay by using a "cutter-suction" dredger for four to six months.

"Dredging and blasting for the proposed deepening of the navigational

channel are not predicted to have any long-term or high significant impacts," the draft report notes.

But short-term impacts — some of them high — could occur, and possible mitigation measures and monitoring measures have been proposed.

These include blasting which could kill marine animals, especially birds such as penguins.

Copies of the draft report are available for inspection at libraries at the Cape Town city hall, University of the Western Cape, UCT, CSIR's Ematek library in Stellenbosch, Vredenburg, Saldanha Bay, Diazville and Langebaan, among others.

An open day is being held at the Saldanha Bay Recreation Hall from 10am to 8pm on Wednesday, October 25, and there is a public display at the Protea Hotel in Saldanha until November 11.

Comments on the report should reach the study team by November 10.

"Only once all interested and affected parties' comments have been taken into account will the final environmental impact report be published," a spokesperson said.

(56) ARL 16/10/95

# Mandela, Kohl in bid to save the planet

(56) Nov 17/10/95

Karlsruhe (Germany) - Chancellor Helmut Kohl expressed deep concern yesterday over degradation of the global environment and said he and presidents Nelson Mandela of South Africa and Henrique Cardoso of Brazil were launching a worldwide initiative.

In a speech to a conference of his Christian Democratic Union, Kohl said "know-how must be put at the service of environmental protection everywhere in the world".

"I am deeply worried that the protective ozone layer of our Earth is disappearing at the rate of 5 to 10% a year. It cannot leave humanity indifferent that as a result of other economic activity the atmosphere continues to grow warmer.

"If we do not succeed in reaching a world-embracing partnership on this, densely populated stretches of land will be submerged and millions of people will be threatened with hitherto unknown storms, floods or droughts.

"The time is ripe for a big environmental initiative going beyond continental boundaries.

"We invite all nations to join in and take this road with us," Kohl said. - AFP.

# Raw sewage flows into vleis after heavy rains

## Southern Reporter

RECENT heavy rains have resulted in raw sewage flowing into Zeekoeivlei at the mouth of the Little Lotus River.

According to a Zeekoeivlei resident, Dunston Runciman, nets across the river inlet generally prevent rubbish and muck from getting into the vleis, but the waterflow in-

ARG 17/10/95  
creased to such an extent during recent heavy rains that sewage was washed through the nets.

Raw sewage in the river was reported to the Water pollution Control Unit by law enforcement officers.

The river flows through densely populated areas into Zeekoeivlei. The effluent has

(56)  
been spread around the river mouth where it is causing a dreadful stench.

Further up the river raw sewage has been flowing through Guguletu in the canalised section of the Little Lotus river which feeds into Zeekoeivlei. This resulted from the collapse of the sewerage and drainage system in Guguletu.

# Sewage block to be cleared

□ Work on stopping vleipollution well underway

## Southern Reporter

THE blockages causing sewage overflows into the Nyanga Lotus Canal and Zeekoevlei will be cleared this week.

This assurance has been given by city engineer Arthur Clayton following reports of raw sewage in the Little Lotus River and Zeekoevlei.

"Once we became aware of the sewage overflows to the Nyanga Lotus Canal we re-prioritised our resources and are directly engaged in clear-

ing the blockages causing the overflows.

"Work continued over the weekend and it is anticipated that this work will be completed this week. We are still trying to locate one of the blockages but are hampered by the lack of record plans. A council sewer cleaning gang is on standby ready to assist."

Mr Clayton said it was planned to create a bypass to intercept the polluted water in the Lotus River Canal and divert it to the Philippi sewer in-

terceptor and the Cape Flats wastewater treatment works.

"However this proposal may not be possible to implement if rainfall causes high flows in the canal. Chlorination is not being considered as it is unlikely to be of assistance and has adverse environmental implications."

Monitoring of the water in the Lotus River canal showed high bacteriological counts indicating faecal pollution. However, there were elevated counts both downstream and

upstream of the overflows indicating other pollution sources.

"We believe a contributory factor to the pollution is the runoff from the many informal settlements in the area."

Cape Town was assisting Ikapa Municipality in the restoration of infrastructure and service delivery. It was systematically cleaning and restoring the underground storm-water and sewage reticulation systems, repairing the wastewater systems and reorganising the cleansing services in Ikapa.

(56) ARG 18/10/95

botanic gary share dnt.

# Call to halt work on mountainside

Southern Reporter

(56) ARC 18/10/95

THE Fish Hoek Residents Association is calling for a moratorium on mountainside developments, which it claims are gradually eroding the slopes above the town.

An application for rezoning and for the closure of roads above Risi View overlooking Kommetjie Road has again sparked concern in the community, which has rejected the development of this area at public meetings held by developer Seaside Investments.

"High density developments not only have a detrimental visual impact, but are also responsible for flooding in the valley during winter," said Andrew Cunninghame, chairman of the association.

General residential usage results in the extensive loss of natural ground for the absorption of stormwater."

Deep excavations into the mountain slopes intercept the underground water which would normally drain away below the surface, resulting in faster run-offs and flooding lower down the slopes, he said.

Although no concrete proposals have been put forward the developers were originally investigating a 142-unit townhouse development.

The bulk of the area is now zoned public open space and all of it is unsuitable for development.

To obtain more accessible land Seaside Investments proposed a land swap with the council, but this was recently rejected.



□ Denel-Somchem hands over test facility to Overberg RSC

# Controversial rocket site to be conservation area

JOSEPH ARANES, Staff Reporter

THE controversial rocket-testing facility in the mountains near Rooi Els on the eastern edge of False Bay has been handed to the Overberg Regional Services Council (RSC), which will now manage the area with Cape Nature Conservation.

After years of testing rocket motors and propellants at the site, Denel-Somchem reached an agreement with residents, environmental groups and the local authority to dismantle and rehabilitate the site.

Its adjoining ammunition testing facility will continue to operate for several years.

Earlier this year, an American demolition team moved on site and tore down the sheds and concrete slabs where South Africa tested rocket motors until about two years ago. At a ceremony in the old control

room yesterday, Denel's managing director Johan Alberts handed the site to Pierre Rabie, chairman of the Overberg RSC.

But the ceremony did not proceed without controversy.

A couple of hundred of metres from the testing range, RSC workers were removing gravel from a quarry.

This raised the ire of Denis Cowen, former chairman of the Rooi Els Ratepayers' Association, which had launched court action against Denel-Somchem over the testing.

Professor Cowen said he did not expect to see workers excavating gravel from such a sensitive site.

"We are here to witness a new-found understanding between people and the environment, yet on the very same site which for years we have been trying to save from destruction, a new threat is lurking.

"Instead of taking a leaf out of

Denel-Somchem's book, the RSC is showing a total disregard for the sensitivity of the area and the concerns of the residents," Professor Cowen said.

Dr Rabie said the RSC was conducting an investigation into the work at the quarry and he agreed it was not a suitable site.

"We inherited the problem but are searching for alternative solutions ... we are aware that the issue is very complex and that it is not desirable to mine gravel in this sensitive water catchment area."

Mr Alberts said while the company has stopped its rocket testing operations and had dismantled the test facilities, other buildings — like the guard house, control room and viewing platform — would be used as educational and research facilities.

"We will still be using some of the land as we have an agreement to do so until 2003 but we will ensure that

it will not negatively impact on the environment."

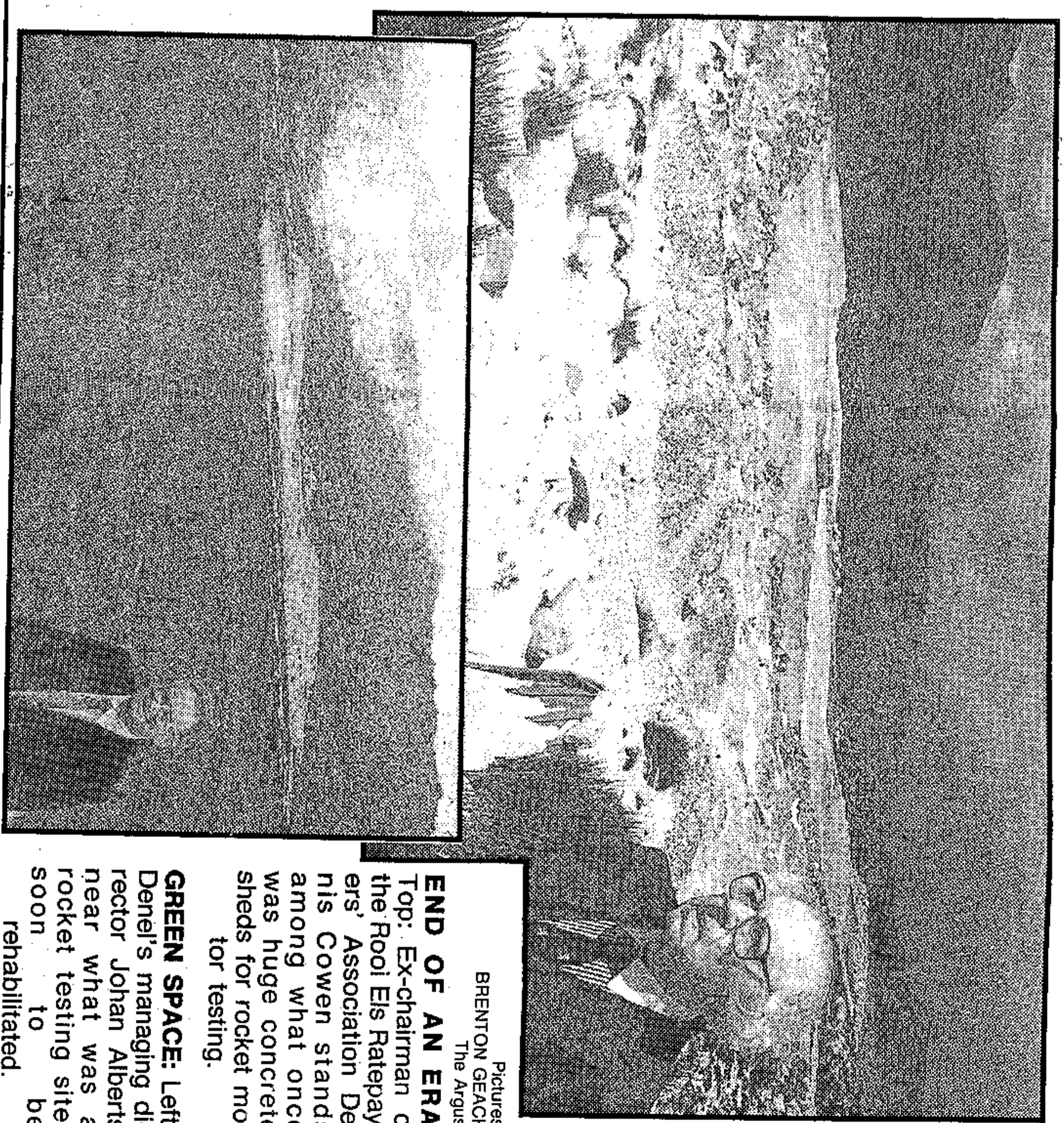
He said the company would spend about R300 000 to rehabilitate the area.

This was expected to be complete by March and a working group of conservation officials, community leaders and Somchem was monitoring the process.

"The whole site will be fully restored in an environmentally friendly manner with the involvement of all role-players."

In response, Dr Rabie said he was sure the area with its diversity of flora would be well-suited to be part of an international biosphere reserve.

"You are handing the land back to the RSC, but the whole world — not just the Rooi Els area or the country — will be richer for it, as it will be used to educate the broader community, especially the youth, on the uniqueness of their fynbos heritage."



Pictures: BRENTON GEACH, The Argus.

**END OF AN ERA:** Top: Ex-chairman of the Rooi Els Ratepayers' Association Denis Cowen stands among what once was huge concrete sheds for rocket motor testing.

**GREEN SPACE:** Left: Denel's managing director Johan Alberts near what was a rocket testing site, soon to be rehabilitated.

ARG 18/10/95 (56)



Health hazard ... women collect garbage on the banks of the badly polluted Jukskei River in Alexandra township.

# Faecal content of Jukskei river now at danger levels

(56) Nov 19/10/95

■ BY ANNA COX

Pollution counts in the Jukskei River flowing through Alexandra, Sandton, are unacceptably high, with faecal contamination counts standing at about 3,7-million parts per 100ml of water at the Marlboro Drive bridge, says microbiologist Alan Fuchs.

The acceptable level, according to a directive from the Council of European Communities on the micro-organism called E.coli - which indicates faecal contamination - is between 100 and 2 000 parts in 100ml of water.

Fuchs said he had commissioned studies by Dr Mike Whitcutt of Biological Services at three points in the river, and counts taken on Monday revealed that they were at 8 000 at the Modderfontein bridge, just before the river enters Alex, and at 200 000 at the Gibson Drive bridge, where the river exits the township.

The highest point of contamination is at the Marlboro Drive bridge, which is in Alexandra itself, where the counts stand at 3,7-million parts per 100ml of water. In March, counts at this spot stood at 12-million.

"We have a biological time bomb in our midst. There is a health hazard associated with faecal contamination, and

access to contaminated water of this nature could easily lead to epidemics of diseases such as Hepatitis B, typhoid, dysentery and polio.

"In certain overseas countries, it is required by law to restrict access to water which does not meet the required standard," he said.

Rivers were able to clean themselves, and this depended on factors such as amounts of oxygen, levels of sunlight and levels of chemicals in the water. But at the moment, the river was low and slow-moving.

"When the river is deeper, sunlight has less of an effect, and we can expect the counts to increase substantially. It could be feasible to treat the river chemically, and a cost analysis should justify this.

"An example is chlorination, and it seems reasonable that this could be done before the river enters Alex. This would enable the people of Alex to utilise the water with a higher degree of safety.

"The creation of weirs where the water is 'swirled' encourages natural cleaning and oxygenates the water, which would cause the levels of coliforms to drop. It is the responsibility of the council to ensure that our people are not exposed to hazards," he said.

*Additional incineration facilities urgently needed*

# Poor public response to call for new waste sites

✓ Star 19/10/95 (56)

■ BY TAMSEN DE BEER

The lack of vital public participation in selecting sites for additional medical waste incinerators for Gauteng is to the community's own disadvantage, experts have warned.

Leading waste management company Waste-tech has pointed out that demand for their waste incineration services has doubled in recent months – beyond the company's capacity, prompting the urgent need for additional incineration facilities.

The recent emergence of a third commercial waste company – National Waste, with a facility in Roodepoort – was further indication of this increased demand for professional waste incinera-

tion, said Waste-tech's communications facilitator, Brian Gibson.

Urgent consultations between the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and the three commercial waste management companies – Waste-tech, Bugs Binz and Cape Town-based National Waste, resulted in a temporary permit from the Eastern Services Council to landfill an excess backlog of some 80 tonnes of medical waste at the Platkop site, 35 km outside of Johannesburg.

But this permit expires on October 31.

Gibson said the demand for professional facilities had increased because of recent caution from local authorities that medical waste was not dumped on municipal dumps.

Another reason, he said, was

the closure of many hospital incinerators after failing to meet upgraded incineration standards.

"The good news is that medical waste is being professionally managed, and it would be very sad if we were to go into reverse and, in the absence of suitable incineration facilities, force waste generators back to their old bad practices," said Gibson.

But in spite of growing pressure on professional waste companies, public participation in selecting a suitable site for additional incinerators has been poor.

Optional sites for a new Waste-tech facility, as outlined in the Briefing Paper of August 1995, include the following: Selby, Weltevreden, Alrode, Waterval and Witkop within the Randvaal area, Platkop, Daspoort, Cham-

dor, or Waste-tech's existing Rietfontein site.

Objections from residents to the Rietfontein site prompted the Briefing Paper to outline alternative disposal sites.

"These provisional sites we have chosen are well-removed from residential areas. But we have only had a handful of respondents. The strongest response so far has been from the Germiston area where the existing incinerator is, from Alrode and the Randvaal area," said Gibson.

The deadline for community response is October 20 1995.

All comments to : Brian Gibson, Public Consultation Facilitator, Toll-free : 080 01 22012. Fax (011) 880 1392. PO Box 406, Parklands, 2121.

## NATURE CONSERVATION (56)

### Dawie's haven

FM 20/10/95

National Party members have questioned Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers's membership of an exclusive holiday resort syndicate at a nature reserve near the controversial Saldanha Steel plant.

The matter was raised at a meeting between De Villiers and the local Vredenburg NP last Thursday. De Villiers met an NP group before meeting the five-man joint delegation of NP representatives and members of the town's transitional local council at his Cape Town office. Their discussions focused on the findings of the Steyn Commission, appointed by De Villiers and which recommended the proposed plant be shifted inland to a less sensitive site.

Both delegations which met the Minister supported the initial project on the grounds that it would raise the area's development prospects and boost employment and housing. The NP delegation was led by district council chairman Hennie Griesel, Willie Spamer, a Vredenburg accountant, branch chairmen Flip Duiker and Fred Louw, as well as Sakekamer chairman Cassie Carstens. The transitional council was represented by mayor Ebrahim Nackerdien and four councillors.

Application for rezoning of the 300 ha owned by Iscor and earmarked for the R4,7bn project by Saldanha Steel (held in a 50% equity split by Iscor and the Industrial Development Corp), was first published in *Die Weslander*, a local newspaper, at the start of this year. But because of an objection by the National Parks Board, a statu-

tory body, the local transitional council had to refer the matter to the provincial government.

Western Cape MEC for environmental affairs Lampie Fick, who, according to the NP members, initially supported the project, left it to De Villiers to decide because of the parks board's objection. The board is answerable to the Minister. A successful Supreme Court interdict brought by Cape Town attorney Alistair van Huysteen, who has a vacant stand at Langebaan, resulted in De Villiers appointing a commission of inquiry chaired by Judge Jan Steyn.

#### Benchmark case

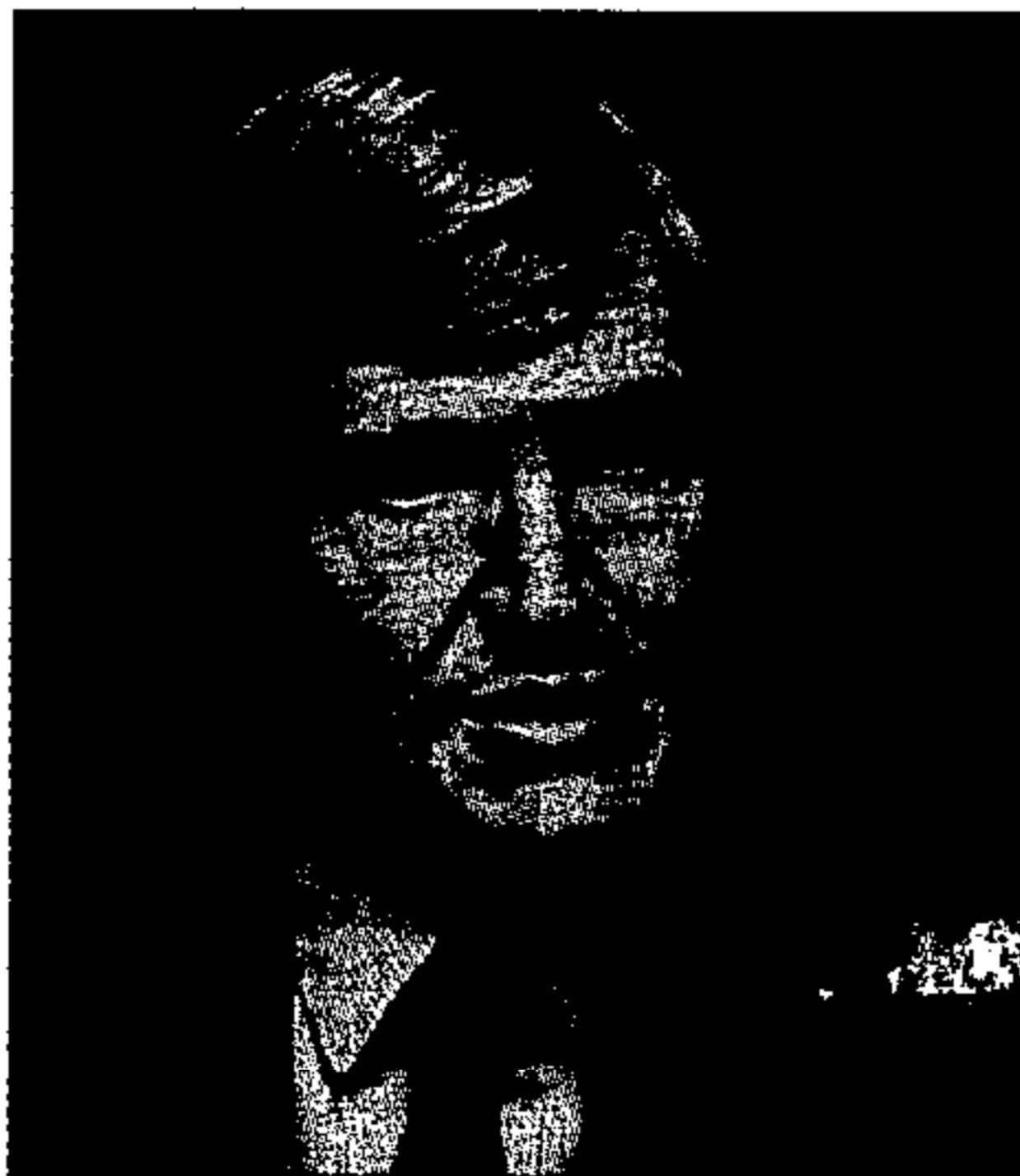
The Steyn report, which was handed to De Villiers two weeks ago, recommends environmental impact assessments be compulsory for all large-scale development proposals in future. De Villiers heralded the findings as a "benchmark case" and said it was the first time in local history that the environment had been given due weight in the consideration of a large-scale industrial development.

The report may have effectively killed the proposed project because Iscor had already withdrawn from it. The rezoning application is still on the table. The matter remains a burning political issue in the region.

At last Thursday's meeting with De Villiers, Griesel pertinently asked the Minister about his share in the Oudepos syndicate in the West Coast nature reserve overlooking Langebaan lagoon — only 15 km from the proposed steel site.

The syndicate has about 140 members and the area, which is managed by the National Parks Board, is reserved for members. Cordoned off, it's open only in the flower season and no-one can buy property there.

Griesel told De Villiers grass-roots NP members were unhappy about the setup. De Villiers admitted he had a property in



De Villiers . . . did not disclose his interest

Langebaan but denied it played any role in his opposition to the steel project. He said his objectivity was evident in that he had not testified before the Steyn Commission.

He also told the delegation the NP handled the matter according to its principles on the environment. He said Iscor withdrew because of other factors.

Constitutional Assembly chairman Cyril Ramaphosa visited Vredenburg last Wednesday and told the meeting the ANC would like to save the project.

In local NP circles, the matter is seen as a political football between the Nat-controlled provincial government and an ANC reluctant to again challenge Hernus Kriel's government after the local elections demarcation debacle.

Many local Nats do not accept the environmental reasons given for the stalling of the project and are not happy about De Villiers's interest in the Oudepos syndicate.

Vredenburg town clerk John de Klerk, a member of the local transitional council delegation which met De Villiers, says the project would have meant about 12 000-20 000 new jobs in the long run and investment of R67bn over five to seven years.

De Villiers did not reply to the *FM's* inquiries.

Eddie Botha

# SA environmental policy a legal minefield

CT (BAR) 20/10/95 (52)

Environment is the buzz-word of the 1990's, thanks to increased media coverage and active environmental groups heightening public awareness. In South Africa, the protection of the environment is now engaged at the political level.

This is largely because of the urgent need to build our developing economy against a background of limited natural, human and fiscal resources. Law-making in the environmental arena has gained momentum over the past two decades, and with increased social and political awareness, it will continue to do so.

A casual observer of South African environmental law might conclude that it resembles a legal minefield.

With the intensification of industrial growth and development in this country, certain important environmental statutes were enacted, particularly after World War 2. Many of these statutes remain in force today.

Although a dedicated Environment Conservation Act was promulgated in 1989, it does not constitute a codification or consolidation of all of our environmental laws.

The absence of a unitary or centralised environmental protection control authority in this country has resulted in numerous relevant statutes being administered by a number of public authorities.

Provincial legislatures now have increased powers for environmental protection and control and local governments will continue to administer the applicable by-laws.

The availability of human resources to those authorities to enable them to effectively monitor and control environmentally unsound activities has always been severely limited, largely due to budget constraints.



TERINA FINMA

By ROBYN STEIN

*As the country's industry grows, so does the effect of its inevitable by-products*

As the industrial economy in South Africa grows, so too does the effect of its inevitable by-products on the environment.

Given the limited nature of available fiscal and human resources for environmental protection in our developing country, it is clear that the economy is unable to afford the cost of illegal activities conducted by corporations and individuals who choose to flout the laws. Environmental law-makers have recognised the need to place financial accountability on those responsible for environmentally unsound practices.

The 'polluter pays' principle has therefore been introduced into our legislation as one mechanism to cost pollution or damage to the environment. The effect of this principle is that a pollution incident may not only have criminal consequences for those concerned, but may also have serious financial implications.

Another mechanism is an incorporation of provisions which require tangible financial commitments at the commencement of a project in order to ensure availability of sufficient funds in the event of ensuing environmental damage.

An example of this principle is found in the Water Act. Here, the State is empowered, under defined circumstances, to recover the costs incurred in attending to the clean-

up of pollution from any person (or company) who has gained an advantage from such clean-up operations.

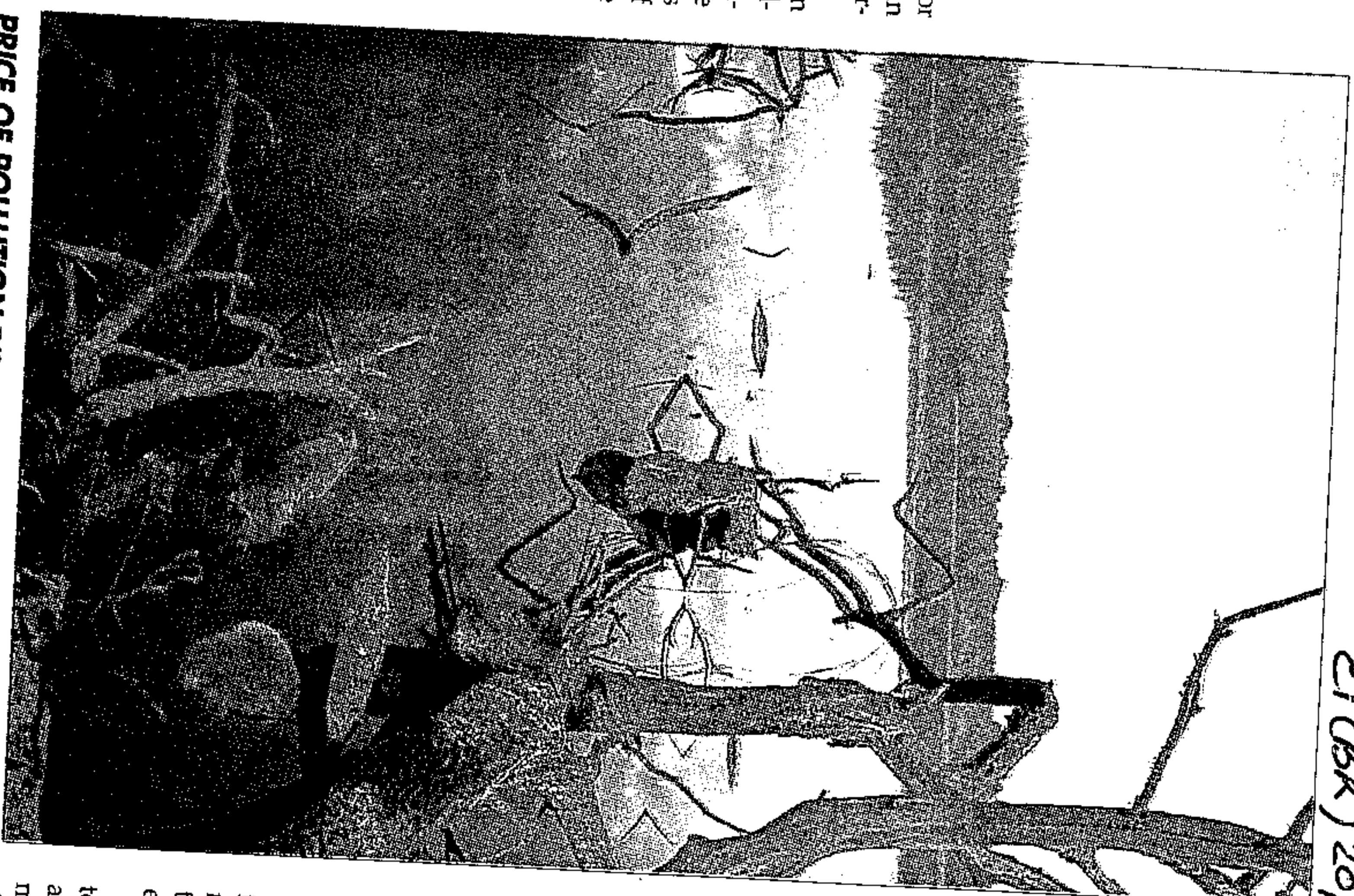
The principle is also applied in other statutes dealing with air pollution, human health and environmental protection in general. The notion of responsibility for costs is also embodied in the provisions of the Minerals Act and the applicable regulations.

The act requires that financial responsibility by way of the provision of resources, is undertaken by the mines from commencement to close of mining operations.

Such financial provision is not dependent on liability arising in particular circumstances, but is a means of ensuring that adequate funds will be available for, inter alia, the rehabilitation of surface land which is disturbed by mining activities.

Extended use of such mechanisms in our environmental legislation will make it necessary for individuals and companies to plan strategically for the future.

In addition to compliance with the law and prevailing policies, sound environmental management practices should ideally include the provision of adequate contingency funds. These may be applied, for example, in the event of a pollution incident or for resource conservation purposes.



**PRICE OF POLLUTION** Effluent from factories has killed fish and driven birdlife from the Rondebuilt bird sanctuary. Companies should plan for such eventualities

PHOTO: ANDREAS VIACHAKIS

Ideally, funds should also be earmarked to provide reasonable measures to protect against environmental damage. These measures include the installation of affordable improved technology

and employee education programmes. The provision of adequate insurance can also be considered as a financial planning measure. In Sweden, for example, a state sanc-

tioned Environmental Damage Consortium provides indemnities in respect of environmental damage in specified circumstances. Industry in this country may consider initiating or supporting similar insurance funds which should ideally be sanctioned by the State in the interests of integrating both public and private sector environmental protection and controls.

The provision of resources to cater for contingencies can also be effected in the private sector by setting up correctly structured trust funds, such as those common to the mining industry. It is significant that the State allows certain income tax deductions and/or exemptions in respect of these funds.

Undoubtedly, in placing the financial burden of clean-up costs on the private sector, the burden on the State is alleviated.

However, economic growth and development will always remain a priority in this country and in order to facilitate financial responsibility for environmental protection in the private sector, appropriate incentives should be encouraged.

For example, tax concessions for funds which are dedicated to environmental protection and rehabilitation should be favourably considered.

As the twentieth century draws to a close, diminishing resources and the urgent need for environmental discipline are at the core of strategic planning in many enterprises in both the public and private sectors. Given the trends in our environmental legislation, this may well include additional financial planning.

□ Robyn Stein is an attorney practising Environmental Law at the firm Bowman Giffillan Hayman Godfrey, where she is an associate

# Green warriors do battle

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

STCM 22/10/95  
on aliens in the Western Cape's  
420 000 ha mountain catchment  
areas.

TWO hundred green warriors took up their pangas this week in the first wave of a R13,5-million RDP assault on invasive plants that are soaking up Western Cape water supplies.

Called to war by Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal just over a month ago, the pioneering troopers from Boland towns started their basic training on Monday.

The first intake is to be paid this Friday, when Professor Asmal launches the Fynbos Water Conservation Project in the Western Cape.

"The response has been fantastic," says Cape Nature Conservation staffer Christo Marais, who is co-ordinating the Reconstruction and Development Programme's assault

Besides unleashing the recruits on invader-choked rivers and hillsides between Bain's Kloof and the Theewaterskloof Dam, the campaign has generated lucrative spin-offs for sharp-eyed entrepreneurs.

Mr Marais says a factory in Epping was saved from laying off 100 workers when it landed a contract to make overalls for an anticipated 1 000 hackers.

Minibus taxi operators — paid by Cape Nature Conservation — have ferried workers to pick-up points. The SA National Defence Force is also in line for an off-road transport contract.

# The Blouvlei debate: whe

**W**HAT'S in a name? Shakespeare asked. A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.

The Bard was probably right about roses, but can the same be said for a wetland?

Environmentalists are asking legitimate questions about the status and conservation of Blouvlei, a wetland (or not, depending on your immediate allegiances) close to the N1 freeway north-east of Ysterplaat air force base, following disclosures last week that the area is of regional importance to the Western Cape's waterbird population.

Also, they're asking legitimate questions about the thoroughness of the environmental impact assessment of the area, prior to the would-be development of a multi-billion rand entertainment and office complex on the site.

The issue is timeous, because there have been repeated attempts to get a wetland bill through Parliament during the last few

years, following the Lake St Lucia controversy. Such a bill now appears likely to become a reality — possibly even during the next session of Parliament — and it will surely eliminate any argument over just what constitutes a wetland.

Not that there can really be any doubt when it comes to Blouvlei. It is, as its name implies and as it is depicted even on small-scale maps, a decidedly wet area. And, as the Elizabethan playwright might have added, it will remain as damp by any other name: lake, swamp, marsh, morass, bog, fen, quag, slough, sump or wash (to suggest a few).

The Department of Environmental Affairs is quite unequivocal when it comes to the proposed development of environments which require special attention.

Such areas are designated by the state or the Minister of Environmental Affairs as being particularly sensitive and which require special planning attention. They in-

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# Blouvlei fu

**T**HE discovery that large numbers of birds are present at Blouvlei, site of the proposed R1.5 billion entertainment complex Century City just north of Ysterplaat air base, is "exciting" and offers new opportunities, say planners involved in the project.

But the Wildlife Society says the environmental impact assessment of the proposed development is completely inadequate, and it wants the wetland area to be properly investigated as a possible formal nature reserve.

Geoff Underwood of the Planning Partnership, the planning firm responsible for the impact assessment, said this option could not be supported because of the surrounding urban development, stormwater problem, noise and the severely degraded nature of the site.

"(These) will make the management of such an area virtually impossible.

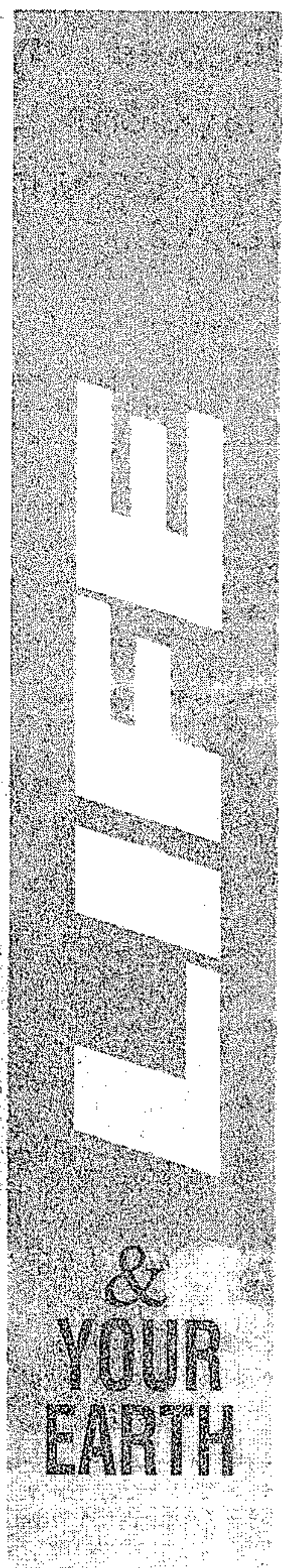
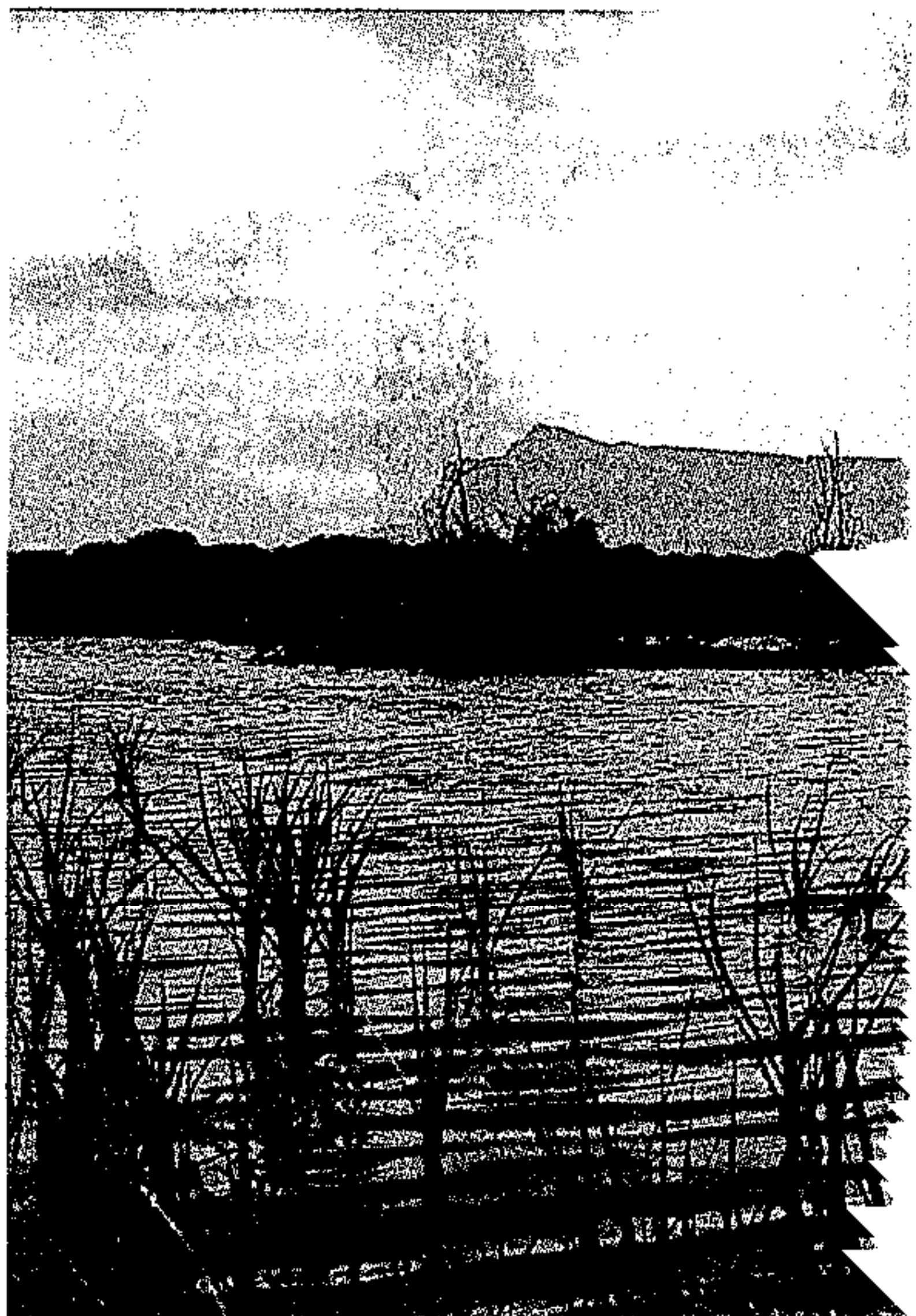
"However, the creation of an amenity at Century City where water birds can congregate and where visitors can enjoy these birds is very much supported."

The Wildlife Society, which has objected formally to the proposed sub-division and rezoning of the property, said the developers had not followed Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) procedure, and that the environmental impact assessment report had failed to identify and address relevant issues.

This report could not, therefore, be used to inform the decision, said the society's Western Cape conservation ecologist Marlene Laros.

The assessment of the biophysical environment in the impact report was "grossly inadequate".

*Ornithologists, alerted by The "heronry" — a mixed breeding proposed multi-million rand Century City base. The discovery has sparked which, say developers, is already reassessed. Environmental*



# n is a wetland not a wetland?

## GREEN SCENE

John Yeld



river banks, dunes, public open space, of outstanding natural beauty, lakes — yes — wetlands.

The EIA report for Blouvillei makes a surprising claim that Blouvillei somehow fits this category: "When the biological characteristics of the site are compared with the listed environments," it "it is concluded that the site does fall within either category of designations as or demarcated areas."

would-be developers and their plan — the wetland has been so changed

by the run-off from the developed urban fringe — and that this can only continue to increase — that Blouvillei is no longer a wetland in the true sense of the word. Realistically, they argue, it cannot be maintained in its traditional seasonal form.

Moreover, even if keeping it in a "natural" state was viable, who would pay to manage it like this?

Their concerns and arguments are legitimate; but so are those of the conservation lobby, and Blouvillei's future must get close attention — and rather more than it was accorded by the EIA report.

So much of the Cape's natural environment has already been destroyed in the name of "development".

Historical wetlands and vleis, like the floodplain of the Kuils River and some of the "Sewer Pannetjies" adjoining Blouvillei, have already disappeared or been effectively destroyed beneath a mass of concrete, bricks and bitumin.

We must keep our remaining natural sys-

tems as intact as possible, and this possibility for Blouvillei must be fully explored.

Ultimately, it may not prove feasible — but we have to try first, before the final go-ahead is given for the development.

Formal boating, mown green verges and weeping willow trees in Disney World-type entertainment complexes have their place, but *not* at the expense of vanishing ecosystems.

Nineteenth century English poet and Jesuit priest Gerald Manley Hopkins penned many wonderful lines in honour of what he saw as the miracle of creation. None is more relevant to the Cape in 1995 than these:

*What would the world be, once bereft  
of wet and wildness? Let them be left,  
O let them be left, wildness and wet;  
long live the weeds and the wilderness  
yet.*

(John Yeld will be away for four weeks. This column will resume on his return.)

# Future uncertain

(56) ARG 23/10/95  
Argus, last week found a regionally important colony of water birds — at Blouvillei, site of the Ysterplaat development north of Ysterplaat air force base — a sharp debate over the future of the wetland area, already artificial but which conservationists want to preserve. Reporter JOHN YELD looks at the issue.



"emerge on the site each winter and virtually dry out in summer".

"On taking control of the site, we were very excited to discover this natural oasis in the middle of all the Port Jackson scrub, and decided to embrace this precious resource as a feature which would distinguish our site from others without water."

It was their intention to introduce appropriate vegetation to promote a breeding ground for bird life to promote an environment "not unlike Hyde Park in London, which can be enjoyed by our growing urban population together with large volumes of tourists that we anticipate will be attracted to the site".

They believed there would be substantial benefits to the community, and the development would "create a magical sanctuary setting for bird life".

David Allan and Keith Barnes of the University of Cape Town's Avian Demography Unit who did the count at Blouvillei last week, said the heronry was "clearly of regional importance".

"Of 34 wetlands currently being counted in the south-western Cape ... on behalf of the Department of Environmental Affairs, only 10 regularly have higher numbers of waterbirds than Blouvillei."

The planner's impact report erred in denying that Blouvillei was a wetland, and a number of factors "clearly demonstrated" that it was a wetland system.

"The option of using Blouvillei as a formal nature reserve does not appear to have been considered," the two researchers said.

"The site could be fenced and the heronry actively managed and protected to ensure its long-term health. Lying close to a major urban centre, such a reserve would have high environmental, education and



No scoping process — to identify relevant issues — had been undertaken with interested and affected parties, and the relevant issues had not been addressed, Ms Laros said.

"We would support the recommendation that Blouweï is considered as a formal nature reserve which could be integrated into the Metropolitan Open Space System (MOSS) and that access to this resource is enhanced."

Mr Underwood rejected the charge of inadequate public participation, and said there had been a number of stages of pub-

lic consultation and a number of organisations — including the Wildlife Society — had been contacted.

He also dismissed charges that the impact assessment has been inadequate. It had been "relatively brief", he ac-

knowledgeed, because of the degraded environmental conditions on the site, its location in the centre of a heavily urbanised area, and the extensive development rights which had already been granted on the property.

Martin Wragge, chairman of Ilco Homes, said the entire Century City concept had been planned from inception around an extensive system of waterways.

These would more than double the existing size of the Blouweï ponds which tourism value.

"Hides could be constructed to allow visitors to view the waterbirds present, and the site could thus have great value for people living in the area."

Cape Nature Conservation confirmed it had been approached for comment about the development and that it was not opposed to the rezoning.

"But we recommended that more public participation should be allowed during the more detailed planning phase, and that environmental issues are addressed in the process," said director Niel van Wyk.

## Indonesia's forests disappearing

JAKARTA (Indonesia). — Up to 400 000 ha of Indonesia's tropical rain forest disappeared each year between 1976 and 1990 — 83 percent higher than original estimates.

"This depletion rate is worrying," said the Ministry of Education and Culture's head of research and development Sri Harjoko.

Mr Harjoko acknowledged there was no single solution to the problem but called on all parties — including the government and

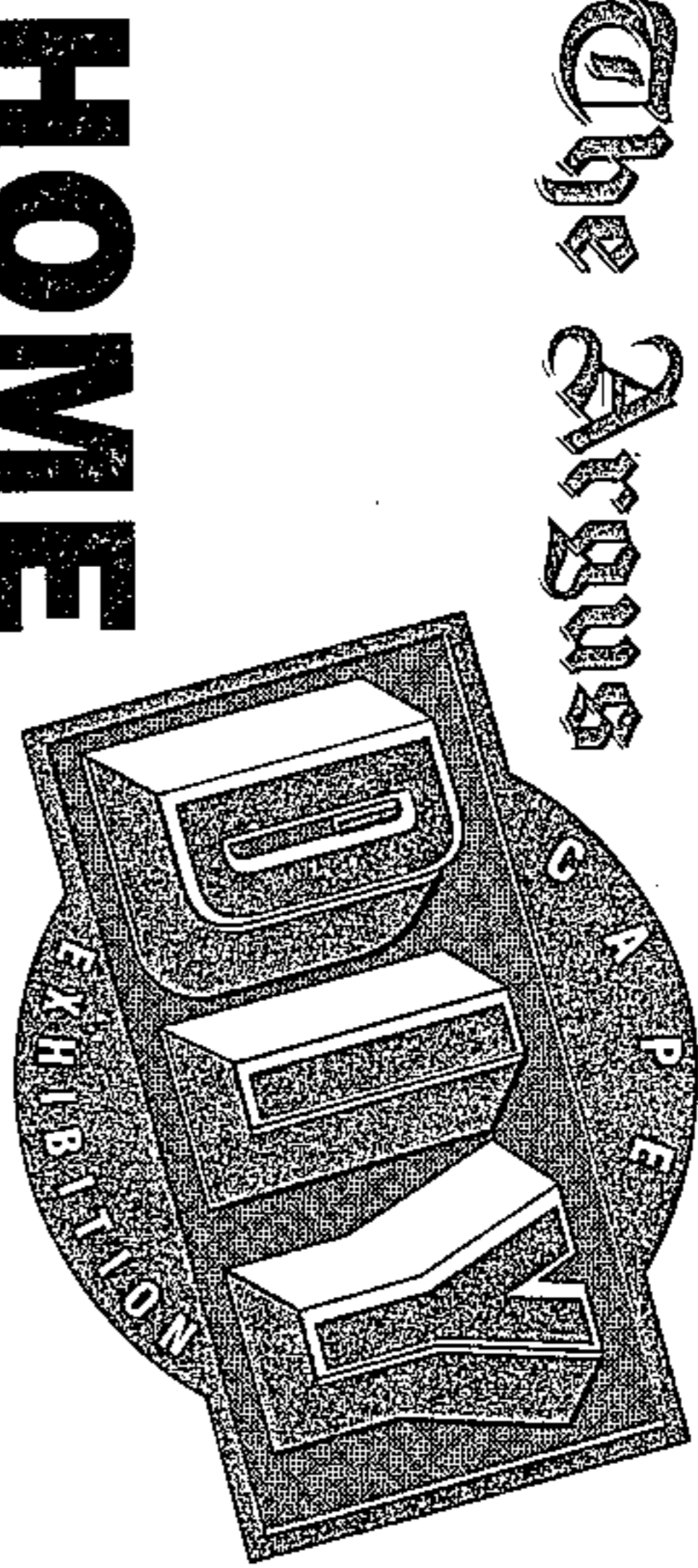
forest concession holders — to fight the trend.

He blamed economic pressures for the dramatic depletion, noting that global industry spent R300 million a year on forestry products.

His comments came only a week after Indonesia and Malaysia, at a joint ministerial meeting on forestry, attacked western countries campaigning against the use of tropical forest timber. — Sapa-AFP

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# HOME & GARDEN EXHIBITION

## Good Hope Centre

### FRI 3 - SUN 5 NOV

### 10:00 - 21:00

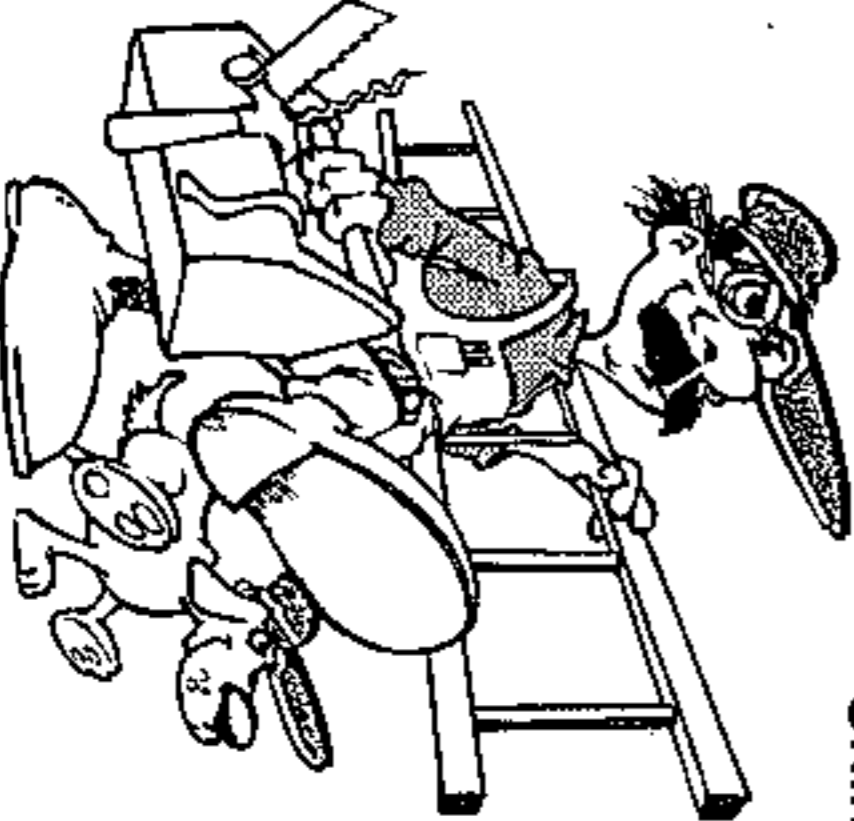
(Sat, Sun - 10:00 to 18:00)

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BEAUTIFUL BLOWEÏ: There's no denying the attraction of this lovely stretch of water on the site of the proposed Century City development just north of Ysterplaat air force base — but what is the best option for its future?

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"Hides could be constructed to allow visitors to view the waterbirds present, and the site could thus have great value for people living in the area."

Cape Nature Conservation confirmed it had been approached for comment about the development and that it was not opposed to the rezoning.

"But we recommended that more public participation should be allowed during the more detailed planning phase, and that environmental issues are addressed in the process," said director Niel van Wyk.

## Last week's R25 000 Winning numbers on the Zama-Zama

### LAST WEEK'S DRAW DATE: 21 10 95

**MONDAY**  
 SHEET: 100-1250-0-100-0000  
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**TUESDAY**  
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**FRIDAY**  
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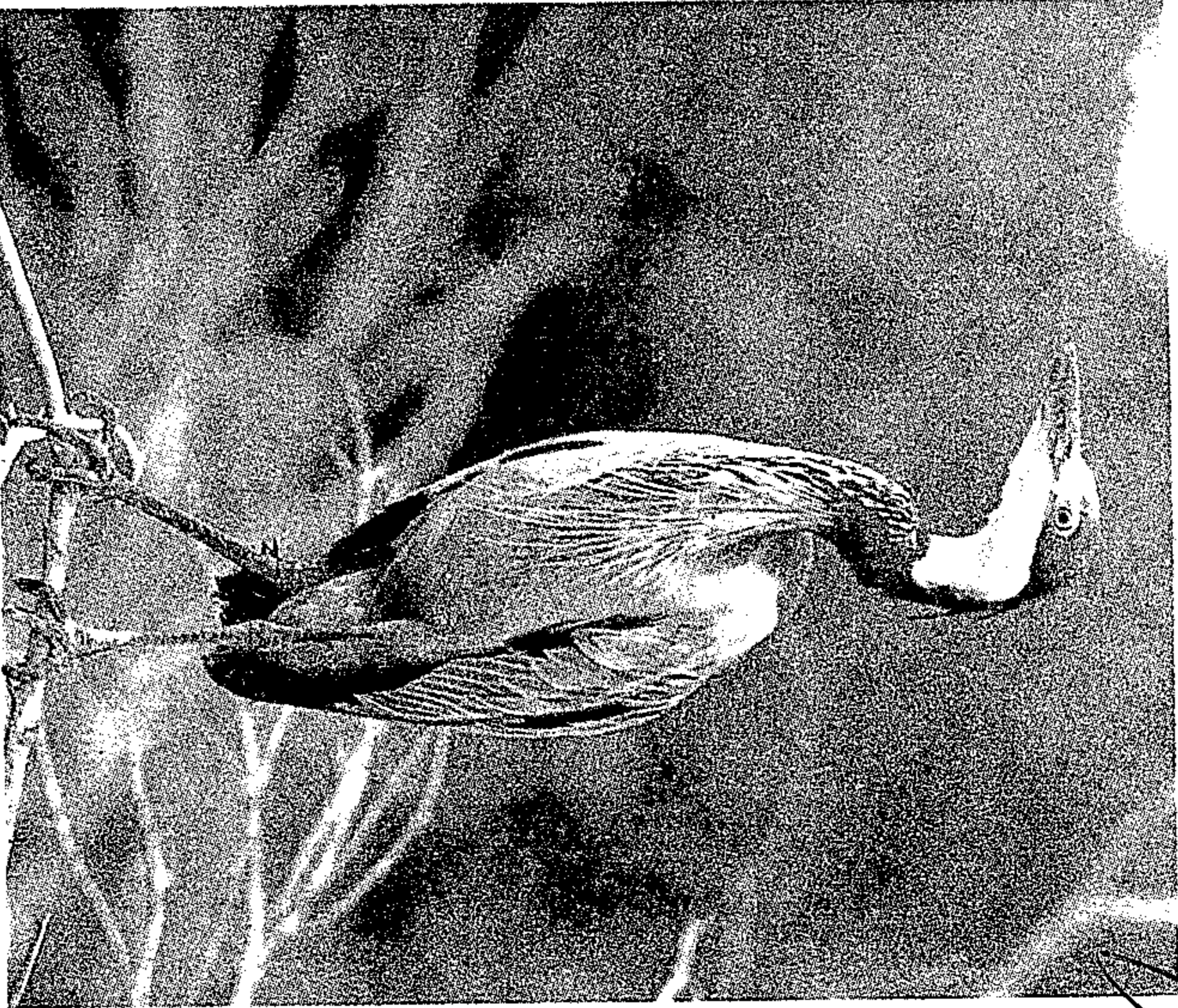


WATCH CCV THIS SATURDAY NIGHT AT 8PM

## Hospital driver wins R25 000

Dirk Botha, a driver with the JG Strijdom Hospital, could not believe his well-deserved luck when he won R25 000 with Zama-Zama.

"I have been unfortunately very sick over the past few months with heart problems and was worried about how to pay all my expenses, so this win is really a very special gift," said the happy winner.



TRANQUIL SCENE: A Black-headed Heron waits patiently for a meal at Blouweï. A count last week revealed a herony — a mixed breeding colony of water birds — of significant proportion on the site.

## T'kei illegal cottages for survey

**Environment Reporter**  
 A HELICOPTER is to be used to photograph illegal structures on the Transkei coastline so that action can be taken against the owners, the Department of Environmental Affairs has announced.

The department recently approached the State Attorney's office in Umtata with an urgent request for a court interdict against the developers of illegal structures along the coast.

Since then, department officials have visited the area to obtain first-hand information about these structures.

A spokeswoman for Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers said police would make continuous efforts to locate the owners so that "the necessary steps" could be taken against them.

"The department has clearly stated that all persons who have already erected illegal structures, or are in the process of doing so, will be prosecuted," she said.

In terms of the Environment Conservation Act, owners of illegal structures could be compelled to repair any damage caused to the environment at their own cost.



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To claim your prize, see the back of your Zama-Zama ticket for details. Zama-Zama all hours results line 083 9000-2222. Prizes subject to confirmation.

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*Dream of dedicated group of Etwatwa youngsters comes true*

# New life for polluted dam

Star 24/10/95 (56)

■ BY TAMSEN DE BEER

The dream of a committed group of youngsters became a reality last week with an official sod-turning ceremony to mark the start of an ambitious environmental and recreational project.

A polluted dam in East Etwatwa, near Springs, is undergoing conversion to a natural wetland, park, recreation area.

A community centre is also planned there.

An unsightly and smelly area, with raw sewage from blocked drains flowing into the dam, the area was once regarded as a hazard to the community.

But these perceptions have been turned around by a group of forward-thinking youngsters under the leadership of the East Rand branch of the Southern African Association of Youth Clubs.

"The community is quite excited, because they wanted to close the dam earlier this year before we identified the site. Now they see it differently," said Phule Mochoareng, co-ordinator of the project.

Mochoareng said of yesterday's sod-turning event: "The community braved the rain and it was beautiful."

Dozens of unemployed young Etwatwa residents have been equipped with the necessary environmental, practical and building skills to make the Tshepo/Themba Resource Centre project work.

The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa has helped in planting reeds to filter the sewerage flowing into the dam, and intends to continue the reed-planting process.

Mochoareng described the society's input as invaluable in its technical advice on rehabilitating the dam and park areas.



**Community spirit ... Dan Thabethe, facilitator of a youth project involving the SA Association of Youth Clubs, with environmental and building trainees. They are transforming an old dumping site into a recreational park and wetland area in East Etwatwa, near Daveyton.**

PICTURE: NAASHON ZALK

The project has been funded by the Ingwe Coal Corporation's Environmental and Community Fund, Master Fence, BRC Mesh Reinforcing and Nedcor.

Simon Mashela, director of community services for the Benoni Town Council, described the project as a significant example of what was necessary in the Daveyton area.

"The vision, the enterprise and the spirit of dedication displayed by the persons responsible for this project should ever serve as an inspiration to the present generation to preserve and build on the foundations that they

so steadfastly laid," he said.

But David Lindley, conservation ecologist for the Wildlife Society, said vital input was needed from the Benoni Town Council in ensuring that blocked drains were repaired.

He added that while the proposed wetland would effectively filter sewage, the wetland would not cope with raw sewage from blocked drains.

Construction of a resource centre is due to begin early next year, providing the community with a recreation hall, four classrooms, a career information centre.

An area will be set aside for environmental education.

"We hope this will not end at the dam but that we will continue to make other parks in the area," said Mochoareng.

He said the project's chances of success lay in the hands of the youngsters of Etwatwa.

"It is amazing that there are young people in the township that want to do things along environmental lines. Most importantly, this group approached us.

"At the end of the day, it's up to the youngsters themselves to ensure the project succeeds," Lindley said.

# Philip 'delighted' to see Table Mountain

(56) ART 24/10/95

Staff Reporter

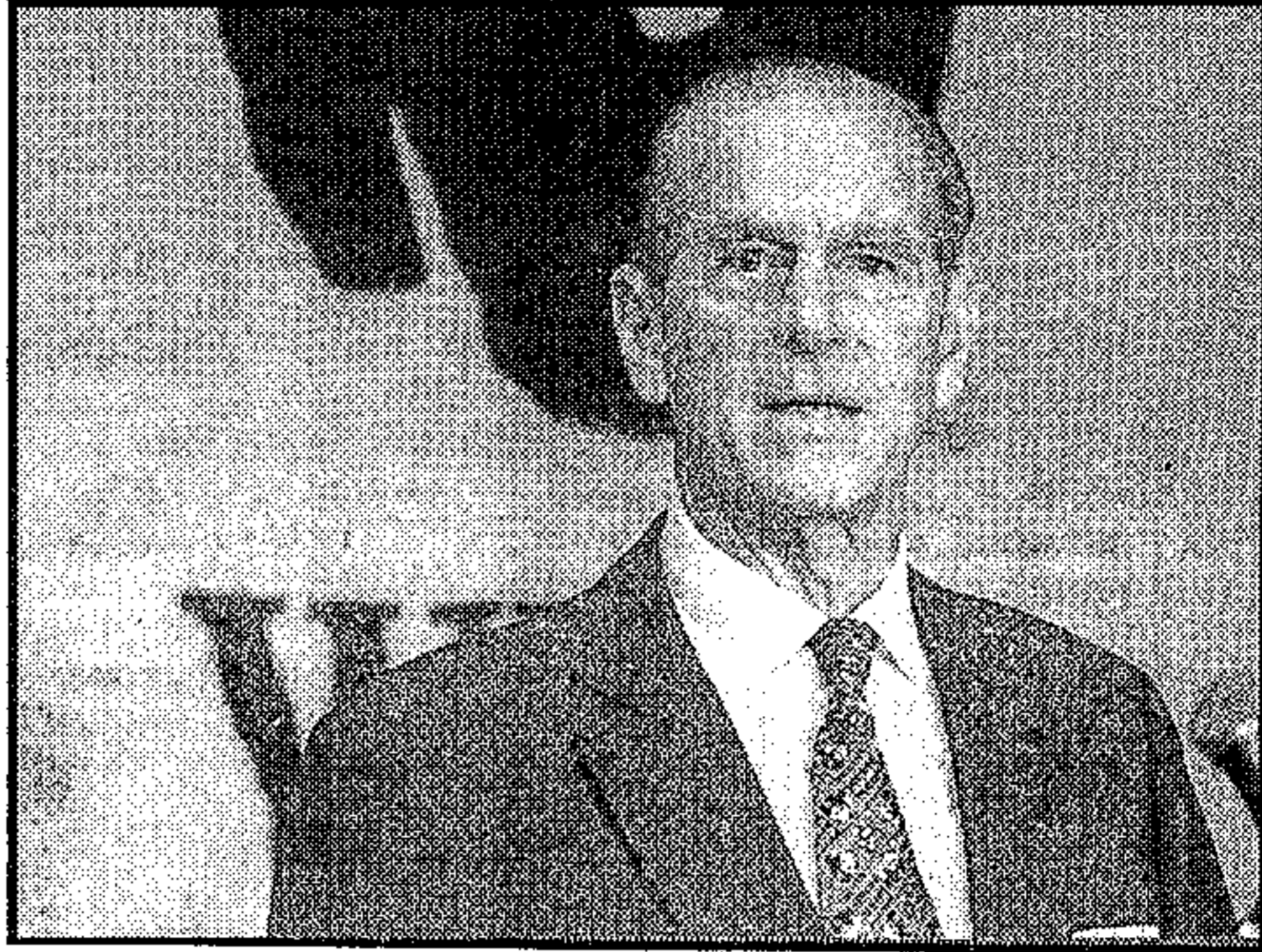
THE Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, today expressed his delight that the World Wide Fund for Nature is holding its first annual congress in Africa close to Table Mountain — “one of the ecological wonders of the world”.

—Prince Philip has been involved with the highly influential WWF since it was founded in 1961.

Today, more than 100 delegates from 29 countries around the world are gathering at Somerset West for their annual meeting which ends on Thursday.

Sporting a red tie decorated with the now world famous Panda, symbol of the WWF, Prince Philip told delegates there was a tendency for people to think the problems of the natural environment had “finite solutions”.

“The fact is that the more involved WWF has become in the process of trying to conserve biological diversity, the more



**ROYALTY:** Prince Philip at Somerset West today.

challenges appear,” he said.

If the world population of six billion was already over-consuming renewable resources, the problems would only worsen when the population reached 10 billion in the next 20 years.

“It may be possible to reduce

the wasteful use of resources, but I just wonder whether it is practical to expect to reduce individual consumption.”

But, he believed the WWF was an effective tool which could “save this world from unintentional destruction by its human inhabitants”.

# Duke to open wildlife summit

STAFF REPORTER

(56) ET 24/10/95

THE Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, arrived in Cape Town yesterday for the annual international conference of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) — the first time the organisation has held the conference in Africa.

Prince Philip, president of the WWF, will open the conference at the Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West today.

He visited Stellenbosch yesterday afternoon and attended a private function hosted by the British High Commission in the evening.

Prince Philip will be the guest of honour at the Custodians of Table Mountain gala dinner in the city on Friday to thank those who have supported the Table Mountain Fund through WWF's fund-raising scheme.

On Saturday he will unveil a foundation stone in the Kruger National Park at the Southern African Wildlife College construction site near Orpen Gate.

He will also be guest of honour at the Green Trust Awards ceremony in Johannesburg on Saturday night.

More than 100 delegates from 29 countries are attending the WWF conference.

The WWF was founded in 1966 and was established here by Dr Anton Rupert in 1968.

Since its inception the South African branch has raised more than R150-million for more than 550 conservation projects.



**ROYAL VISITOR:** World Wide Fund for Nature president Prince Philip, who arrived in Cape Town yesterday for the WWF's annual conference, leaves his hotel with Mr Gavin Relly, chairman of the WWF in South Africa.

PICTURE: NIC BOTHMA

*Unique grassland will be destroyed, claim ecologists* (56)

# Anger rises over Skydeck

Star 25/10/95

■ BY TROYE LUND

A 15-hectare tract of Bakenveld - grassland unique to Gauteng - could be irreparably damaged by a 660-metre skydeck and petrol station straddling the N3 between Modderfontein and Linksfield in Johannesburg.

However, the plan has run into fierce opposition from the Wildlife Society and local residents action groups who are determined to have it scrapped in spite of the approval granted by Minister of Transport, Mac Maharaj.

The opponents say the minister's approval is subject to the go-ahead from local authority and

residents of the area, but Fuelfin, which intends to build the skydeck, disagrees and is adamant construction will go ahead.

Skydeck Action Group chairman Walter Ebling said the (minister's) consent was only given "in principle".

"The plan still has to survive environmental impact assessments (ELAs) and must, in terms of the new constitution, gain consent from residents," he said.

According to Friends of Rietfontein, an arm of the Wildlife Society, the grassland is an essential genetic bank - the only original genetic "savings

account" left from which other open spaces in the province can develop.

"This land is the only known example of the area's original grassland," said conservation ecologist for the Wildlife Society, David Lindley, who emphasised how this land boasted between 40 and 60 grass, bulb and herb species and supported an equally rich variety of insect and birdlife.

Other grasslands found in Gauteng's open areas such as Midrand had been grazed and cultivated in the past and now sported only four or five plant species, he explained.

"The genetic pool of

Rietfontein aside, this is an ideal outdoor classroom for people to learn about the province's typical ecology and make comparisons with areas disturbed by man," said Lindley, who has formulated a plan to guide future development there.

"Once this habitat has been disturbed it is impossible to restore, even with the technology of today," he said.

Ebling expressed more damning sentiments, saying the closest homes were only 150 metres from the proposed structure.

"During construction the crime and traffic will increase. This damage to

the environment, humans included, in Rietfontein's unique habitat, the noise and the neon lighting have made 1800 signatories of a petition adamant not to tolerate (the situation)."

However, Fuelfin was adamant the skydeck would not adversely impact on the environment as it was "just like building a bridge."

"We have the permission and this will be built. We have done more than our bit by meeting with the residents. We do not have to consult with the local authority as the land does not belong to it but to the Department of Transport," said Harold Pakendorf, a Fuelfin director.

# Race on to save starving children

**Bulawayo** – World Vision International has launched one of the biggest relief operations in Africa to save the lives of 250 000 children facing starvation in Zimbabwe's drought-ravaged Matabeleland province.

The relief operation was launched recently in the Tsholotshe district, 115km south of Bulawayo, where 39 children have already died of hunger.

Besides poverty and drought, Tsholotshe is the district where most of the breadwinners were killed by Fifth Brigade soldiers after independence.

According to World Vision

International director in Zimbabwe, Maxwell Chigwida, they were alerted to the seriousness of the situation by BBC radio reports.

The operation to feed children younger than five in the province will last for eight months.

Chigwida says 400 feeding centres have been established by his organisation.

"We are greatly moved by the deaths of the children and we decided to approach our donors for help. I am happy that today we are able to launch this programme," Chigwida said.

There were pitiful scenes at some of the feeding centres this

week as relief started filtering through to the communities.

At Mvundlana school a few kilometres from Tsholotshe business centre, children fought to be first in the queue to get a plate of staple food – isitshwala and beans.

Tsholotshe MP Cain Mathema says 362 children in the district are malnourished.

The drought has become so critical in rural areas that some villagers have resorted to eating roots and boiled tree leaves.

According to Tsholotshe rural council chairman Judah Nthembu, food supplies do not reach the

people in time.

"We have just buried two people who died of hunger."

There are also scores of villagers who have not benefited from the government's grain loan scheme because of poor distribution and food thefts.

At Mbamba village a few kilometres from one of the feeding centres, villagers this week held a rain making ceremony.

"In the old days we used to sing and dance for our ancestors and get rains afterwards, but now nothing happens," said 82-year-old Nikisi Ndlovu looking sadly at the clear blue sky. – Sapa.

# Shortfall of funds hits 'green crusaders'

**Somerset West** – Funding for nature conservation is becoming scarce, leading to the demise of many environmental groups, the director-general of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Claude Martin, said here yesterday.

Martin, speaking at the WWF's 11th annual conference in the farming town outside Cape Town, said some analysts interpreted the scaling down of conservation organisations as the "end of the Green Crusade" that peaked with the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

"What has been said by many is that the conservation movement is undergoing a rapid change because of the shortfall of funds", he said. "Money is more

difficult to get and there is, in fact, a shakedown taking place and organisations are disappearing quite frequently."

However, the 35-year-old WWF – the largest private conservation body in the world, with about 3 500 employees – continues to grow, Martin said.

The three-day conference, the first the organisation has held on African soil, was opened by the Duke of Edinburgh, who is president of the WWF.

Prince Philip told the conference that the world recession had struck just as organisations such as the WWF were beginning to make a "significant impact".

"More people are certainly aware of the environmental crisis, but many of them are also

beginning to feel that we should have solved the problems by now," Prince Philip said.

However, nature conservation is an ongoing task and will become more challenging as the human population grows and consumes natural resources, he told the meeting. About 100 delegates representing 24 national organisations and affiliated bodies are attending the conference.

Based in Gland, Switzerland, and active in about 60 countries, the WWF conducts high-level lobbying of governments and businesses and funds specific conservation projects.

The main issue at the conference is the WWF's "2000 Campaign" which aims to set various goals in reversing environmental

degradation by the turn of the century.

The WWF has brought in a number of experts to focus attention on climactic changes resulting from human activities, fishing resources and forestry, according to the WWF's South Africa spokesman, Bun Booyen.

The conference, which is being held behind closed doors, ends with a press conference on Thursday to be addressed by Prince Philip, Martin and John Hanks, chief executive for WWF South Africa.

At the end of the meeting, the WWF will announce eight awards "to recognise the contribution to conservation by South Africans," according to a statement by the group. – AFP.

## W Cape govt to hear IDC's Saldanha brief

(56)   
CHRIS BATEMAN

CT 25/10/95

THE Industrial Development Corporation is to brief the Western Cape cabinet this morning on proposals to "soften" the R4,7-billion Saldanha Steel project in an attempt to avert a pullout by the steel mill company.

A spokesman for regional Agriculture, Planning and Tourism Minister Mr Lampie Fick said yesterday: "If the proposals are realistic, the cabinet will evaluate them."

The Steyn Commission's chief recommendation was that Saldanha Steel erect its mill away from the ecologically sensitive shoreline and that the Saldanha/Vredenburg structure plan be revised to rule out heavy industrial development close to the Saldanha Bay shoreline.

## Urban poor gain from EU grant

PETER DENNEHY

CT 25/10/95

POOR urban households whose incomes are less than R2 000 are to benefit from a R26-million funding contract signed at the Strand by the European Union yesterday.

European Union ambassador to South Africa Mr Erwan Fouéré said there would be a particular focus on households that earned less than R800 a month.

The funds are to go to the Urban Sector Network, a group of non-government organisations.

The R26m is part of R600m that the European Union will have committed, by the end of this month, to RDP projects in South Africa for this year alone.

The funds come through the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development, which proposes that similar grants be made to South Africa in each remaining year of the government of national unity.

Mr Jeff Radebe, Minister of Public Works, who was the guest speaker at the signing ceremony, cited the former squatter settlements of Erijaville and Cassablanca, near the Strand, as examples of what can be achieved by communities.

The communities took the initiative in ensuring that land passed from a developer's hands to the municipality and negotiated for low-cost homes to be built with national housing funds.

Also signed yesterday was a registration document for the Strand Community Development Association, a non-profit company through which the community will be able to enter into contracts and raise funds for a community hall in Erijaville.

Mr Wessel Badenhorst, of the Cassablanca Community Centre Trust, said the community leadership had unfalteringly motivated people towards development.

WWF MUST BOOST INCOME — PHILIP

# Nature conservation 'key to future of all life'

**CONSERVATION** will become more challenging as the world population grows, Prince Philip has told the World Wide Fund for Nature conference. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

**T**HE conservation of nature is one of the most worthwhile causes as the future of all life depends on it, says the Duke of Edinburgh.

Opening the annual international conference of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in Somerset West yesterday, Prince Philip said the conservation of nature would remain a task as long as there were human beings.

"The situation will become even more challenging as the population continues (growing) unchecked," he said.

Prince Philip, international president of the WWF since 1981, said the world's population was already overconsuming non-renewable resources. The problem would worsen when the population reached 10 billion early next century.

It was unfortunate that the

world recession had begun just when the demand from voluntary conservation organisations for funds was at its height.

It was important that the WWF develop ways of increasing its income, Prince Philip said.

## Transition

The director-general of the WWF, Dr Claud Martin, said a growing number of non-government conservation organisations was disappearing. Some people believed this signalled the end of the "green crusade".

What was really happening, however, was that more conservation organisations were being integrated into other facets to find conservation solutions.

"Conservation NGOs may be right, but they are not necessarily the right partners in finding solu-

ET 25/10/95 (56)  
tions. They have a reputation for walking out with their fists in the air and telling the world what they should do and then leaving.

"NGOs must change. We have entered a phase of rapid transition in the way conservation is managed. For conservation organisations, it is now the survival of the fittest," Dr Martin said.

Although one could not paint a consistently good picture of Africa, it showed many positive trends.

"There is a continuous move in the direction of democratisation ... and macro-economic reform. It has led to a reversal of decades-long economic decline ... to less poverty and resource depletion."

In its 35-year history, the WWF had invested more money in Africa than in any other continent and would continue to do so, Dr Martin said. It had raised R26 million for a new Southern African Wildlife College in the Kruger National Park. Prince Philip is to unveil the foundation stone of the college on Saturday.



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## 'Defiant' RSC warned over beach

(56) CT25/10/95

### **STAFF REPORTER**

ENVIRONMENT Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers has threatened to take action against the Overberg Regional Services Council for "defying" a request from his department to ban vehicles on an ecologically sensitive stretch of beach near Agulhas.

In a statement yesterday, Dr De

Villiers said he had asked the Overberg RSC in April to ban vehicles from the stretch of beach near the Papkuilsfontein Nature Reserve, but it had continued to allow traffic on the seashore.

He said the Department of Environment regarded the conservation of the Papkuilsfontein coastal area as "of the utmost importance".

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## Environment 'can be harmed despite growth'

Michael Moon

(56) 20 26/10/95

TO ACHIEVE sustainable development, SA needed to move away from being a society obsessed with economic growth to one which was aware of its limits, Deputy Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Bantu Holomisa said yesterday.

Economic growth in itself was not enough because high levels of productivity and widespread poverty could coexist and, in the process, endanger the environment, Holomisa said at a Cape Town workshop of the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa.

Attaining sustainable development would also entail moving from a society orientated to satisfying the wants of a few to one committed to meeting the basic needs of all, and from a dependent society to one that was self-sufficient.

Growth had always been high on the agenda in SA and development policy had been dominated by engineering and technology solutions, he said.

But managing demand for resources was often neglected, which led to wasteful utilisation practices.

Holomisa called for new policy directions in environmental impact management. Market-based and self-regulatory approaches needed to be added to the regulatory policies employed since the early 1970s.

A regulation system isolated environmental management from normal economic decision-making. A market-based approach relied mostly on economic instruments to include environmental costs in the price of products and services using natural resources.

These instruments included charges or taxes, tradeable permits, subsidies, economic incentives and cost benefit analyses.

Joining the market system and self-regulation to the traditional regulatory approach would take place in SA over "the next couple of years", said Holomisa.

*Blesbokspruit safe*

# Mine has to purify water, say ministers

(56) Nov 26/10/98

■ BY TAMSEN DE BEER

Three cabinet ministers agreed yesterday that contaminated water, which has to be pumped out of Gencor's Grootvlei mine in Springs, should be desalinated beforehand so it does not harm the adjoining Blesbokspruit wetland area – an internationally recognised nature reserve.

Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Dawie de Villiers, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Kader Asmal, and Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Pik Botha – who met to discuss the issue – acknowledged that the water had to be pumped out.

If this was not done, it would accumulate in the mine and seep into the Vaal catchment area.

They decided, however, that a water desalination plant was a proviso to the granting of a permit for the pumping.

Such a plant would reduce contamination levels, which are currently almost double the prescribed water quality level.

Grootvlei's water contains 3500mg of dissolved salts per litre of water, and would negatively impact upon the wetland, irrigators in the area, and the Vaal Barrage.

But the mine has claimed that water quality would improve once pumping started.

The ministers considered three possible options in providing a solu-

**TOXIC** water should not be pumped into wetland, ministers decide

tion to the problem – granting a pumping permit to see if water quality did improve; if this was not the case, erecting a desalination plant; and thirdly, diverting water to another tributary bypassing the Blesbokspruit.

Further discussions will continue between the three departments until the issue is taken to the Cabinet.

The involvement of all three departments is crucial in reaching an equitable solution.

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism must monitor the impact on the sensitive wetland ecosystem, while the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry must ensure that water quality is acceptable to the wetland, to irrigators in the area and to the Vaal Barrage.

The Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs will, should this become necessary, render financial assistance to the mine for the pumping of the water.

Grootvlei's management has warned that the water has to be pumped by December or the mine would be faced with closure, possibly precipitating the closure of other marginal mines in the area.

# 'Saldanha plans C

□ *Separate impact studies give false picture of develo*

(56)

(4/26/95)

APR 26/10/95

LINDSAY BARNES  
Staff Reporter

THERE is concern over the "piecemeal planning" of the Saldanha area as well as isolated impact assessment reports.

Earthlife Africa claims the reports are giving a false picture.

The organisation criticised Saldanha Steel for its "lack of transparency" at an exhibition on Portnet's proposed general cargo quay extension held in Saldanha Bay yesterday.

There was an open invitation to visit the exhibition, to meet the specialists involved in the extension and to comment.

Portnet intends to expand the cargo quay from its existing 250 m to 885 m to accommodate the proposed Saldanha Steel Project's exports and imports.

However, the proposed extension will be stopped or postponed if the steel project does not go ahead.

"When the impact assessment study was done for the Saldanha Steel Project, the reason they gave for not including the harbour in the study was that the two were entirely separate," an Earthlife Africa spokeswoman, who declined to be named, said.

"Today we heard that the quay development is to cater for the steel project and that if the project does not go ahead, the quay may not be developed.

"Earlier it was denied that the extension of the cargo quay was in any way linked to them and now we hear that it depends on them," she said.

"Why didn't they say this in the beginning?"

The public is being presented with a false picture of the impact of the development of the area in general, she said.

She questioned Portnet's reasons for looking at the impact of the extension of the cargo quay at present and requesting a separate study for the impact of the proposed oil terminal.

"For example, say that the impact of the extended cargo quay on the marine life was 10 units and the impact of the oil terminal



was another 10 units, and the marine life could withstand 12 units. In isolation, it would appear that each development is acceptable, when in fact the combined impact is 20 units and this is the true extent of the harmful effects.

"The separate impact assessments give the impression that the impact is less than what the cumulative effect is in reality. By compartmentalising the projects, you split the actual level of impact," she said.

Saldanha Bay port manager Danie Barnado said that instead of looking at all of the projects together when perhaps some of them may not in fact materialise, Portnet was dealing with what it knew.

He said: "When the oil

terminal development comes along, the impact assessment report will include all information that appeared in previous impact studies. The idea is that we deal with what we know.

"This impact assessment study being done is for the Saldanha Steel Project and the cargo quay, including all the existing operations. If we combine this with studies on the oil terminal and other possible developments, the one is going to get bogged down by the other."

Portnet is to deepen the navigational channel alongside the general cargo quay, using a cutter-section dredger over four to six months, to allow larger cargo carriers to use the quay.

The dredged material will be used as backfill for the extension. Precast sections of the quay wall, four metres wide and about five storeys high, are to be cast at the Mossgas site in Saldanha Bay.

The quay was not heavily used until recently. Concentrates of lead, copper and zinc from the Black Mountain mine near Aggenys are loaded at the quay for export, according to a draft summary report of the environmental impact assessment.

The capacity of the quay may well be reached by the Namakwa Sands Project and if the proposed Saldanha Steel Project goes ahead, additional cargo handling facilities will be required.

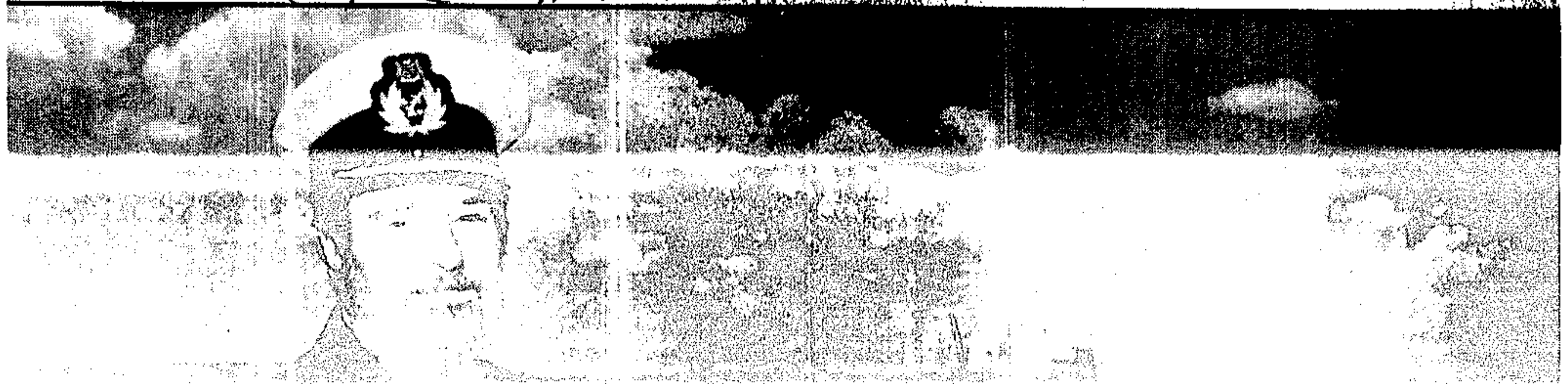
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# Plans concealed'

Plans give false picture of development, says Earthlife Africa

(56) (199A) APR 26/10/95



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required.

Pictures: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

**EXPANSION:** Saldanha  
Bay port captain Dave  
Duncan, above, stands  
near the spot where the  
general cargo quay is to  
be extended.

**PROGRESS:** Daniele  
Barnado, right, Portnet's  
port manager for  
Saldanha Bay, with a  
model of one of the  
counterforms which could  
form the basis of the  
quay wall. Up to 180 of  
these units could be put  
in place with the use of a  
floating crane.



# 'Lips sealed' on steel plant

## STAFF REPORTER

THE Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) was playing its cards close to its chest yesterday after a high-powered meeting with the Western Cape cabinet on the future of the Saldanha steel plant.

"Our lips are sealed," said managing director Mr Carel van der Merwe after he and IDC chairman Mr Christo Wiese met the cabinet

~~(S11)~~ (S6)  
yesterday to discuss proposals to "soften" the R4,7-billion Saldanha steel project in an effort to prevent the steel mill company from withdrawing.

Mr Armand le Roux, administrative secretary to provincial Agricultural Development and Economics Minister Mr Lampie Fick, said he could not comment but that various alternatives were being considered.

ET 26/10/95

# Call for better waste system

**STAFF REPORTER**

CT 26/10/95

AN INTEGRATED and sustainable waste management system programme should be adopted by all local government authorities in the Western Cape.

This was a recommendation yesterday from a task group formed under the auspices of the Institute of Waste Management.

The task group is preparing a document highlighting the problems of waste management in the

~~(23)~~ (56)  
Western Cape.

The task group, who held a public meeting at the Civic Centre, is to hand a draft document containing recommendations on ways to overcome waste management problems in the short and long term to the provincial Minister of Environmental Affairs Mr Lerumo Kalako.

Task group member Ms Anne Coleman said there was a need to "improve waste collection in low-income areas".

# 'Environment policy must fit govt goals'

56 PET 26/10/95

FUTURE environmental policy must consider the goals of the government, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Deputy Minister Mr Bantu Holomisa said yesterday.

Speaking at the fifth workshop of the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa, held in Cape Town, Mr Holomisa said this would also have to be married with the many international initiatives in this field.

"Environmental policy is never static — it is evolving, taking new approaches, mechanisms, norms and values into account.

"The events of the last 18 months in South Africa, where our whole society was caught up in fundamental changes, pose new and exiting challenges for environmental management policy."

Mr Holomisa said there were three basic changes needed:

- A move to a society oriented to satisfy the basic needs of all.
- A move to self-sufficiency.
- A move to a sustainable society aware of its limits. — Sapa



(56) (288)

## ECOTOURISM

### In for the kill

FM 27/10/95

**The National Parks Board** has embarked on a two-year programme to obtain about R30m in offshore donor funding. The money will be used to expand land areas of existing national parks or to create new parks.

If successful, the programme will be continued after two years, giving a major boost to the labour-intensive ecotourism industry. Wildlife is SA's single biggest international tourism drawcard.

Rozanne Savory, newly appointed fund-raising co-ordinator for the board, says source funding from overseas has been decided on, as local funds should be prioritised for the socio-economic needs of government's RDP. "Initial responses from the UK and the US have been enthusiastic. And, with one job created by each 10 new tourists coming to SA, the programme should have far wider benefits than merely

## BUSINESS

relocating elephants."

Driving the board's land expansion programme is the need to relocate surplus elephants from the Kruger National Park. The park is embroiled in an international controversy over its need to cull elephants from overpopulated areas.

The 40 000 ha Marakele Park in the Transvaal Waterberg and the 22 000 ha Vaalbos Park at Barkley West near Kimberley have already been targeted by the board for initial expansion. Another area that might benefit at a later stage is the new 25 000 ha Dongola Park on the Botswana-Zimbabwe border, which adjoins the Mashatu Game Reserve in Botswana.

Also under consideration for elephant repopulation is the eastern shores section of the St Lucia nature reserve in KwaZulu-Natal. "But this would depend on the Natal Parks Board," says director Anthony Hall-Martin.

Similarly, the 40 km tribal trust area in Zimbabwe, separating the northern Kruger Park from Zimbabwe's Gona-re-Zhou game reserve could eventually be managed as a wildlife tourism area, while the Mozambican authorities still have to decide on the creation of a cross-border park adjoining Kruger.

"Our target is to bring in about R10m in the first year, followed by R20m the next. We will also investigate getting some funds from the Far East," says Hall-Martin.

If successful, the programme will be a major boost for labour-intensive ecotourism, now seen as SA's major long-term forex earning industry. Based on renewable resources, SA's future as a global ecotourism destination seems secure.

Apart from tourists, trophy hunting is also growing as a forex earner, says Di Pieterse of the Professional Hunters' Association.

"We are busy with a survey updating our statistics, but estimated forex value of trophy hunting in SA is about R325m a year. The US (with about 67%) and German-speaking European nations (20%) provide the lion's share of the revenue and about 7 500 foreign hunters visit SA each year. SA is the primary trophy hunting destination in Africa."

Pieterse says with foreign hunters prepared to pay about R65 000 to shoot an elephant, the board should also consider allowing hunting in culling areas.

But, says Hall-Martin, this is not allowed under board legislation. "To change this one would have to change the founding Act — but we are considering allowing controlled hunting of spillover game in private areas (co-managed by the board) on the borders of a park like the Kruger. Inside the park, our duty is to provide a sanctuary for game — and we believe that this is what most South Africans would support." ■

## Government announces environment awards

BD 27/10/95

(56)

**Michael Moon**

THE Natal Parks Board, Trees for Africa and Mpumalanga environmentalist Sue Hart were yesterday named as this year's recipients of government's Conservation Awards for achievement in the environmental field.

The environmental affairs and tourism department said the Natal Parks Board played a key role in the preservation of natural resources

and wildlife, and had also developed a dynamic neighbour relations policy in its sphere of influence. Through its community outreach programme, the board had improved the quality of life in its neighbouring communities.

Trees for Africa was one of the first non-governmental organisations to play an active role in empowering people through community-owned projects, the department said. Through

these projects, thousands of trees were bringing new hope to deprived people.

Hart, the founder of Ecolink and recently appointed to the National Parks Board, was honoured for her work among poverty-stricken communities and for promoting environmental awareness.

Political comment in this issue by J Jones; newsbills by C Pickard-Cambridge; headlines by V Strauss; all of 11 Diagonal Street, Johannesburg.

# WWF honours SA efforts

Star 27/10/95 (56)

The National Parks Board and the Richtersveld Community yesterday received the World Wide Fund for Nature's conservation medal at Spier Estate near Stellenbosch.

"Oom" Paulus de Wet of the Richtersveld Community and Dr G A Robbie Robinson of the National Parks Board accepted the awards from the WWF president, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

The award was for the

conservation of special endemic flora, fauna and landscapes.

The Natal Parks Board was also endowed with the same honour.

Among its listed successes are its black and white rhino and marine turtle programmes.

The WWF Conservation Merit award was given to the Zimbabwean Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Residents.

Known as Campfire, the award in recognition of the work done to involve local communities in general conservation, was accepted by its executive officer Taparendava Maveneke.

Also granted this award was the Environment Education Association of South Africa for establishing a network of more than 300 individuals, non-governmental organisations, government agen-

cies and companies since 1982.

Individual awards to generous supporters of the fund, the Gold Panda, were made to Dr Anton Rupert, Nedbank, the Goldfields Foundation and Hans Otto Hoheisen who donated land for the extension of the Kruger National Park.

The land gives better control of water catchment areas and rivers feeding the park. - Sapa.

## Philip made custodian of Table Mountain

**Staff Reporter**

THE World Wide Fund for Nature will make Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, an honorary custodian of Table Mountain at a special function at the Mount Nelson Hotel tonight. (56)

Prince Philip has been in South Africa to attend the first meeting of the WWF to be held in Africa. ARG 29/10/95

The WWF wraps up its deliberations today with a meeting of its international board.

Table Mountain was described to the more than 100 delegates of the WWF as one of the richest floral areas of the world.

The WWF in South Africa has been instrumental in setting up a Table Mountain Trust Fund which will be used to conserve the mountain. It has already raised R5,6 million towards this objective.

Prince Philip will also be opening a major art exhibition in Rosebank, Johannesburg, tomorrow, which is expected to raise a further R1 million.

# Recycling plan for Khayelitsha

ET 27/10/95

STAFF REPORTER

(56)

IN a bid to boost job-creation and clean up the townships, the Khayelitsha Business Association (Khaba) has announced the start of a recycling programme.

Speaking at the opening of a branch of First National Bank in Khayelitsha yesterday, Khaba development co-ordinator Ms Be Roro said the project, which was launched last week, had attracted strong community support.

She said that in five days over two tons of papers, cardboard, tins and plastic had been collected and "hundreds of people" had come forward to take part in the project.

Collectors of recyclable material are paid 10 cents a kilogram by Khaba, who are operating as a non-profit organisation and selling the materials to recycling companies.

The proceeds were ploughed into community projects, she said.

157 PLANT SPECIES THREATENED OR EXTINCT

# R25m to be raised for Table Mountain

CT 27/10/95 (56)

**THE** World Wide Fund for Nature and German investors have undertaken to raise or donate at total of R50m for conservation and environmental education in South Africa.

**T**he World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has undertaken to raise R25 million for the protection of Table Mountain.

This was announced at the conclusion of the WWF annual conference held on the historical homestead Spier in Stellenbosch yesterday.

Dr Ian MacDonald, the director of conservation for WWF South Africa, said dominant projects were the Table Mountain fund and the Southern African Wildlife College, which borders the Kruger Park.

German investors are to donate R25m for the establishment of the Kruger Park school.

He said Table Mountain, the country's most important tourist destination, measured 471km<sup>2</sup>. It

contained more plant species, 2 256, than the whole of the British Isles — but 157 species were endangered or extinct.

He said R25m was needed to establish a trust for Table Mountain. It was hoped that R15m would come from international foundations and aid organisations, R8,5m from custodians and R1,5m from other sources.

## Heritage site

During this year WWF lobbied for South Africa to draw up a nomination for Table Mountain as a World Heritage Site.

WWF International director Dr Claude Martin said the WWF's global priorities were fish life, oceans and coastal regions and

forests.

Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, said \$50 billion (about R181bn) was spent globally subsidising fisheries to deplete a resource already down. He said the actions of fisheries were extremely difficult to control.

The prince also presented WWF International Awards to several South Africans yesterday:

● A new award, the WWF Gold Panda, was presented to Dr Anton Rupert for establishing the WWF in SA. Nedbank also received the award for the Green Trust, which is generating more than R1m for conservation annually. The Gold Fields Foundation also received the award for conservation.

● The WWF Conservation Merit Awards were presented to the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa, and the Campfire Association of Zimbabwe. — Staff Reporter

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# Water Affairs to clear alien vegetation (56)

**BARRY STREEK**  
POLITICAL STAFF

cf 27/10/95

THE Western Cape part of a R25-million campaign to remove alien vegetation from water catchment areas is to be launched this morning by Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Mr Kader Asmal.

The Villiersdrop Fynbos Water Conservation Project is to be launched at Rusbos, the site of the invasive plant clearing project.

The project is one of 11 being run across the country as part of a R28m RDP programme by the Department of Water Affairs.

The ministry said yesterday the project had generated 150 jobs.

It would increase the flow of water from the catchment area and benefit the biological diversity of the fynbos area being cleared of invasive plants.

# Asmal in crusade against alien vegetation

**ROGER FRIEDMAN**  
Staff Reporter

ASK one of the 3,5 million South Africans who have been given access to water over the past 18 months whether the reconstruction and development programme is delivering.

"I get angry when people say the RDP is not delivering... 3½ million people! That's more people than currently live in greater Cape Town."

Water Affairs and Forestry Minister, Kader Asmal, was addressing Cape Nature Conservation officials and workers gathered next to the Theewaterskloof dam outside Villiersdorp yesterday at the official launch of the Fynbos Water Conservation Project.

"We are repelling the silent invaders who come in the night, who seduce our border guards and steal our water," Professor Asmal explained lightheartedly.

Seriously, though, removing alien plant species produced water at a lower cost than building more dams. And, in any case, there wasn't necessarily sufficient rain in the region to sustain extra dams, he said.

"To be able to deliver water, we have to have water. This is

■ Kader Asmal, Water and Forestry Minister, has declared war on alien vegetation — and on those who criticise the RDP for its lack of delivery.

what the R25 million RDP programme to clear invasive alien plants in catchment areas sets out to do. These trees act as windmills, pumping water out of the soil."

It was estimated that, if left alone, alien plants could reduce the flow of water to the Western Cape Dams by 30 percent in wet years, and 60 percent in dry ones.

"Clearing invasive alien plants is thus a lateral-thinking way of building dams."

And not only did removing aliens make for extra water, but the water could be piped to some of the 8,5 million South Africans who are still without proper access to water — "and it is also a wonderful way of creating employment", said Professor Asmal.

The Fynbos Water Project — administered by Professor Asmal's department in conjunction with Cape Nature Conservation and the Forest Owners Association — would employ 1 500 workers in the Western Cape over the next five months.

Countrywide, the R25 million RDP alien clearing programme would generate about 4 500 jobs.

"That, ladies and gentlemen is delivery," said Professor Asmal.

"We who get water at the turn of a tap do not understand the value of water. Those who have been forced to walk long distances for a meagre amount of water, and then for water of questionable quality, know the value of water."

"One of the many challenges of my position is to engender that respect for the value of water among all South Africans, for we are unquestionably a water-scarce country."

Professor Asmal said he hoped to muster 20 000 new jobs in the next 20 years to win the war against alien vegetation.

"It must be funded, of course, and my vision is that the users of water pay to protect their water."

"We are still deliberating as to how this can be done, but the bottom line will be that water will become slightly more expensive."

"If that thought disturbs you, think of the alternatives. If left alone, invasive aliens invade. We shall have to clear them sooner or later, or face far, far more expensive costs in schemes to provide us with water."



□ HACK: Water and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal gets down to some serious hacking of alien vegetation near Villiersdorp.



## Earthlife Africa raps SA Cabinet

(56) AR 28/10/95

PRETORIA. — Earthlife Africa has said it is disillusioned with the reluctance of South Africa's Foreign Affairs Department and the cabinet to protest France's nuclear tests.

It had decided "not to spend a single cent in a way that will benefit France" or other nations breaching the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

— Sapa.

# R1-million for Table Mountain

GLYNNIS UNDERHILL  
Staff Reporter

(56)

ARL 28/10/95

THE Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, was presented with "Honorary Custodianship of Table Mountain" at a glittering function at the Mount Nelson last night.

The future conservation of Table Mountain was given a major financial boost at the gala dinner with the presentation of a R1-million donation from Sappi paper dealers to the Table Mountain Fund.

In another positive lift-off for the Table Mountain Fund, the Cape Town Olympic Bid Committee announced its agreement with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) to give 10 percent of all gross revenue from its merchandising royalties.

Dapper Prince Philip, international president of the highly influential WWF, said he was delighted with "the splendid certificate" he was awarded. "It is tremendously encouraging to see such local effort to look after this real jewel in this part of the world," he said.

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Star 30/10/95  
**Environment on  
Cosatu agenda**

(56)  
The Congress of South African Trade Unions is to urgently develop a policy on environmental issues such as pollution control, recycling, water management and toxic waste dumps. -

Cosatu resolved at its weekend Health, Safety and Environment Policy Conference to campaign against companies which refused to take responsibility for pollution, and to expose and resist the dumping of toxic waste.

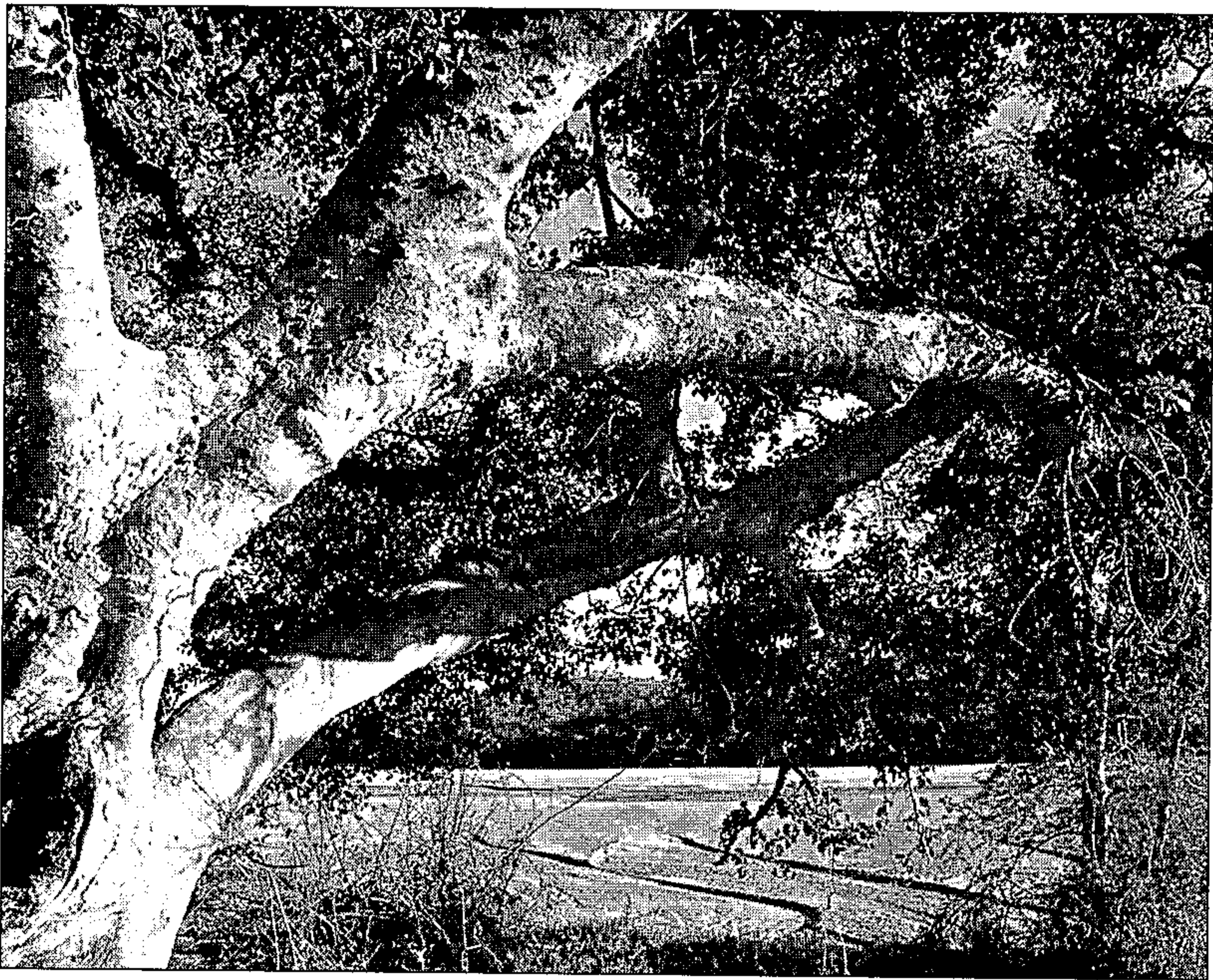
It also demanded that communities be informed and consulted about waste disposal and recycling schemes.

The conference called on affiliates to educate members about the National Occupational Health and Safety Act, as well as on demands to improve it.

The conference was Cosatu's first to focus solely on health, safety and environmental issues.

Cosatu spokesman Nowetu Mpati said the conference signalled organised labour's intention to integrate these issues into the collective bargaining process.  
- Medical Correspondent.

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**Troubled trees: Pik Botha issued mining permit for the Madimbo corridor but Dawie de Villiers is concerned about the ecological damage that could result from this**

PHOTOGRAPH: HENNER FRANKENFELD

## Pik and Dawie on collision course

(56) Wm 27-28/9/95

**Stephanie Dippenaar**

**N**ATIONAL Party cabinet ministers Pik Botha and Dawie de Villiers appear to be on a collision course over strip mining in the Northern Province's environmentally sensitive Madimbo corridor.

While the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, for which Botha is the responsible minister, issued a prospecting permit to a diamond-mining company in May, De Villiers, Minister of Environment Affairs, joined hands this week with Northern Province MEC for Environment and Tourism Maris-Stella Sexwale-Mabitje and environmentalists who are opposed to it.

De Villiers, accompanied by Sexwale-Mabitje and National Parks Board chief Robbie Robinson, visited the Matshakatini Nature Reserve on Tuesday to find out for himself what ecological

damage mining would cause, should it be allowed to go ahead.

"It is important to weigh up all the options as far as land use is concerned. But when it comes to this particular area, it is my conviction, and that of Ms Sexwale-Mabitje, that it has a unique potential," De Villiers said.

"This potential can only be fully developed if it is based on nature-related tourism and hunting based on farming."

At stake is the Madimbo corridor of 45 000 hectares which stretches along the Limpopo River from the Kruger National Park, and which includes the 28 000-hectare Matshakatini Game Reserve.

Both De Villiers and Sexwale-Mabitje "noted, with great distress, recent developments relating to the granting of the prospecting permit". De Villiers said although an appeal was still pending and he did not want to "jeopardise the legal process", he believed mining

should not be allowed in the park.

"We are concerned about the prospect of having mining in the areas. We don't believe everything has been properly evaluated."

Sexwale-Mabitje said Matshakatini "fits firmly in the conservation and tourism strategy of the Northern Province", while Robinson said: "You can pick up a few diamonds which is going to create wealth, but that wealth is on the short term."

"If you develop ecotourism, the community adjacent to the Kruger National Park will have jobs which are sustainable."

Botha's ministry responded this week that "the question on the impact of prospecting on the environment is a complex one" and that "an environmental tribunal with a judge and an equal number of members from both the environmental side as well as the economic side" could help to decide on such matters and "take them out of the political arena".

*Southern African regional plan needed, says NPB head*

# Ecotourism could lead the RDP into the future

■ BY ANITA ALLEN  
SCIENCE WRITER

Conservation and tourism authorities need to come together to draw up a southern African regional plan and strategy as a matter of urgency, according to Dr George Hughes, chief executive of the Natal Parks Board (NPB).

Speaking to The Star at a briefing for tourism and travel agents in Johannesburg this week, Hughes said that ecotourism had the potential to be the driving force behind reconstruction and development, but it lacked a patron.

Asked what he would do if he were in the driving seat, Hughes said: "I would bring all conservation and tourism authorities together in one forum to draw up

a regional tourism plan and strategy to provide the framework for development."

Unlike other provinces, a regional approach to nature conservation and tourism planning had been in place in KwaZulu-Natal for a long time, he said. The NPB and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Nature Conservation worked in close co-operation and their amalgamation into a single body would be completed by April 1 next year.

He said that the NPB would oppose "to the last person" proposals from certain quarters to downgrade its authority and have certain parks under its jurisdiction transferred to a national authority.

"KwaZulu-Natal has a bizarre view of central government and a long tradition of resisting central

government," he said.

"The NPB is different from all other conservation authorities. We not only look after parks and rest camps, but all other wildlife from the Drakensberg mountains to the sea."

This approach had made the NPB the leading conservation authority in the country with a proud record of innovation and the involvement of farmers and local communities in conservation long before it was fashionable elsewhere, he said.

Natal was the first province in South Africa to realise that things did not look good for the conservation of wildlife, and was celebrating 100 years of conservation this year.

Components of the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park and the Hluhluwe/Umfolozzi Game Reserves,

were the oldest protected areas in Africa.

The NPB's claim to fame was white rhino, with 30% of the world's population concentrated in a single reserve. In 1898, there were only 14 white rhino left and today the numbers worldwide had increased to about 7 000.

"The NPB decision to protect white rhino was one of the world's greatest business decisions," Hughes said.

In addition to its Big Five and other wildlife, the region offered tourists bio-diversity options ranging from Alpine-type snow to coral reefs and more than 30 000 rock art sites in its Drakensberg mountains.

The briefing was part of a NPB campaign to promote the tourist potential of the KwaZulu-Natal region.

(ST) (56) Star 15/9/95

# RDP project will wipe out 'water-guzzling' vegetation

By JOHN YELD

(56) (22) 2/16/95

Cape Town - A R25-million Reconstruction and Development Programme project to clear thousands of hectares of "water-guzzling" alien vegetation from South Africa's mountain catchment areas will first create 3 000 direct jobs and another potential 20 000 jobs in the next two decades.

Most of the funding in the initial phase goes to the Western Cape.

The eradication project was announced on Thursday by Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal.

He described it as "exciting and massive, the most far-reaching and significant campaign ever launched against these invasive alien plants in South Africa" and said it would help the RDP to achieve its potential.

"On the one hand, the clearing of invasive alien plants will help secure water supplies that South Africa needs for social and economic restructuring.

"On the other, the eradication programme will create jobs as well as address many RDP objectives," Professor Asmal said.

The R25-million - which has been

boosted by another R3-million from the Forestry Owners' Association - has already been made available by the RDP office of Jay Naidoo.

The Western Cape will get R10-million to clear the Limietberg-Hottentots Holland mountains and R3,5-million for the Outeniqua mountains.

The rest is made up from R3,5-million for the Krom and Kouga rivers in the Langkloof area and R1,5-million for the Keiskammahoeek-Stutterheim area, both in the Eastern Cape.

Then there will be R3-million for catchments of the Drakensberg in Kwa-Zulu-Natal, R3-million for the Sabie and Sand river catchments in Mpumalanga, R3-million for the Letaba River catchment in Northern Province and finally R500 000 for national project co-ordination.

The initial programme would run until March next year, during which time 3 000 direct jobs would be created and "all sorts" of other development and growth stimulated, Asmal said.

The international community was likely to provide financial assistance to achieve the longer-term goals of the programme.

## Africa Games 'boxer' held for cocaine use

Sanddrift residents have launched a petition to have Blouvllei, which lies on the site earmarked for the Century City theme park development, conserved as a nature area. ANDREA WEISS reports.

# Residents petition to save vleei

AR4 30/10/95

(51)

**T**O the residents of Sanddrift near Montague Gardens, it's not called Blouvllei but Buck's Dam because in the old days the spoor of buck were common at the water's edge.

Now Buck's Dam, or Blouvllei as it is called on some maps, is in the news because of a proposed theme park development there, and Sanddrift residents Pieter Groenewald and Deon Pretorius are deeply concerned about its future.

The land in question lies between the Ysterplaat airforce base and the Summer Greens housing estate, just north of the N1, and is earmarked for the Century City theme park development.

Pieter, a security officer, and Deon, an auto electrician, both 25, are an unlikely pair of campaigners, but they are learning fast. For six months they toyed with the idea of a petition, and when the news broke that Blouvllei was an important breeding area for waterbirds, they were galvanised into action.

"At first we only thought the area was of sentimental value to us," explains Deon. "But when we saw the article in the newspaper, we thought 'here's our move, we must take action.'"

Their petition asks for the vleei area to be preserved even if the development goes ahead. They are at pains to stress that they are not opposed to the development itself but believe a compromise is possible.

They have also written to Lampie Fick, the provincial minister who is charged with looking into the issue before a rezoning application is approved, asking that a proper environmental assessment be done before a decision being taken, because a prior assessment failed to reveal the bird breeding site.

The two men feel strongly about the area because they know it intimately. Each weekend, they walk there, sometimes for hours at a time, and can tell you about every nook and cranny. Deon's wife Jackie

and their two young children Isis and Storm, also go along for the outing.

Both men arrived in Sanddrift as two-year-olds when the housing development was brand new, and have been friends from childhood, using the vleei area as their playground.

Over the years, the area has become more densely infested with Port Jackson and many of the surrounding marshes have been built on, including Sewepannetjies where the present Summer Greens housing development has sprung up.

Because water is being led off Summer Greens into the vleei, Blouvllei no longer dries up seasonally, but remains a permanent stand of deep water.

Also, the area has become a dumping ground for rubble from surrounding housing developments, roads cut across pan areas, and there is evidence of sand mining. On a visit to the site, there is the sound of gunshots as somebody uses the dunes for target practice.

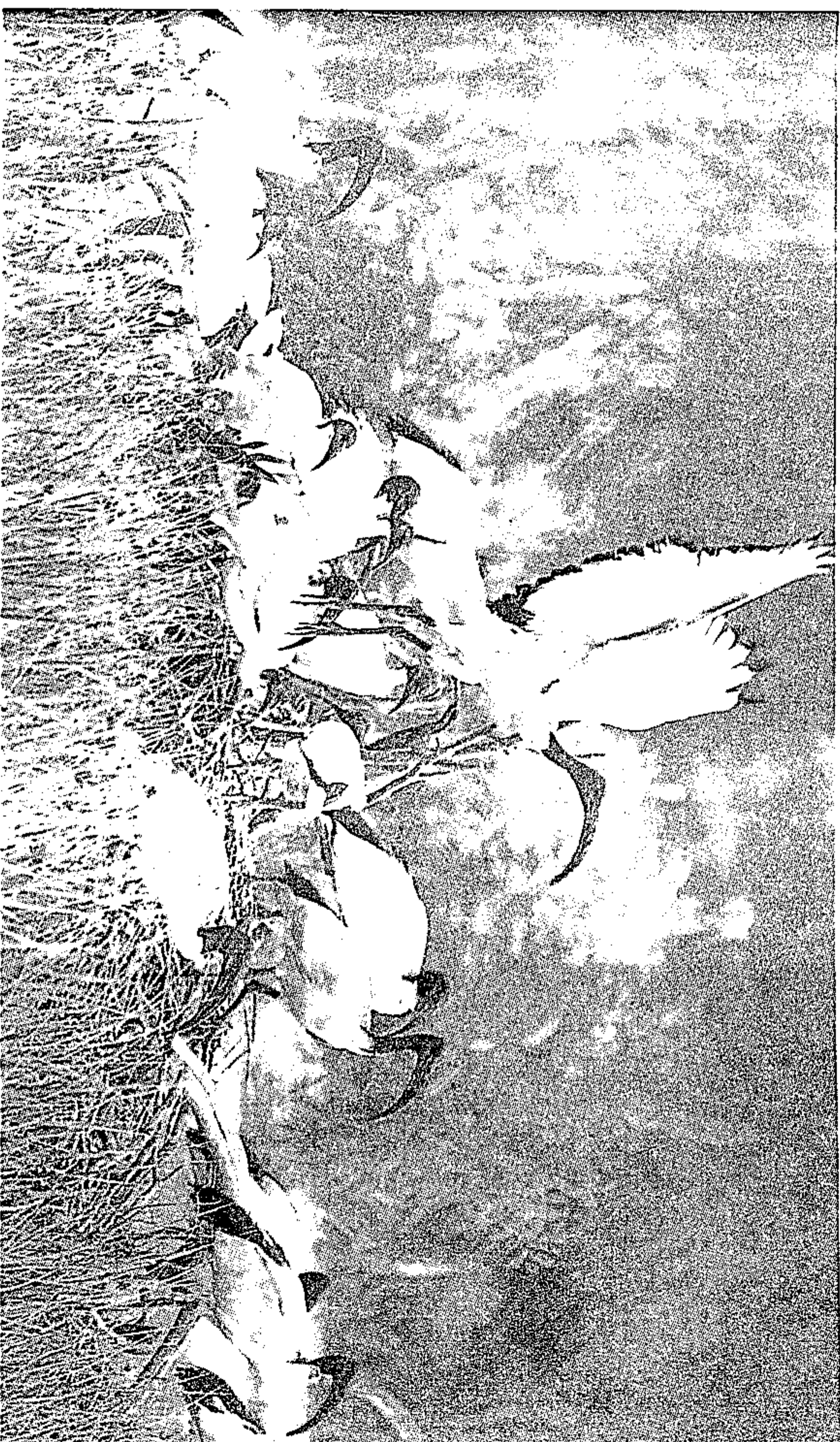
In Deon and Pieter's view, the best case scenario for Blouvllei is for the vleei areas to be left as a natural area, even within a development, but that would preclude the use of pleasure boats because they would disturb the birds.

Pieter says: "The vleei is in a small corner of the site. The main development could be towards the airforce base."

● Martin Wragge, chairman of the landowner Ilcom Homes Ltd, issued a statement shortly after the discovery of the heronry, saying that the Century City concept was planned around an extensive system of waterways.

"On taking control of the site, we were very excited to discover the natural oasis in the middle of the Port Jackson scrub and decided to embrace this precious resource as a feature which would distinguish our site from others without water."

Mr Wragge said that an extensive "canal system" would be developed with the "specific objective of accommodating and propagating breeding grounds for birds."



**IBIS NESTING GROUND:** Sacred ibis gather together around a nesting site at Blouvllei. Heronry. The dead trees in the water are where literally thousands of breeding egrets, and a good number of ibis, herons and African spoonbills are nesting. The waterlogged trees make an ideal breeding site, known as a heronry.

## 'Breeding site needs protection'

**T**HE Southern African Ornithological Society has asked Western Cape Development Minister Lampie Fick to give "serious consideration" to giving Blouvllei formal protection.

Blouvllei is located on the site close to the N1 earmarked for the Century City theme park, where a large breeding site for birds was recently discovered.

In a letter to Mr Fick, the chairman of the SAOS said it was clear the environmental impact assessment done by The Planning Partnership for the Monev development company had "a number of grave inaccuracies".

Had consultation with ornithologists taken place, it was certain that a full Integrated Environmental Management Procedure would have been insisted upon.

"Blouvllei is clearly a wetland system of extreme regional importance, particularly because of the large heronry present, and also the representative numbers of other waterbirds that this vleei supports.

"This, together with the presence of large concentrations of a diverse array of bird species in a comparatively small area such as Blouvllei, imparts important conservation status to the wetland," the letter says.

Other requests to the minister have also come from the Friends of Rietvllei and the Wildlife Society.



Pictures: DOUG PITHEY, The Argus.

**SAVE OUR VLEI:** Sanddrift residents Pieter Groenewald, Jackie Pretorius and her husband Deon Pretorius, have launched a petition to have Blouvllei conserved as a nature area. Blouvllei, or Buck's Dam as it is known to the locals, lies on the site earmarked for the Century City development close to the N1.

YOUR EARTH