

HOMELANDS — LEBOWA — GENERAL

1993

Hit squads blamed for 45 murders

No welfan 28/1/93
MONITOR'S SUBMISSION Commission told that residents know the culprits:

KWAZULU POLICE AND HIT squads were allegedly responsible for at least 45 deaths in Empangeni's Esikhawini township in the past five months, Ms Mary de Haas said yesterday.

De Haas, anthropologist and Natal unrest monitor, was making submissions to a committee of the Goldstone Commission which was holding a preliminary inquiry in Empangeni on causes of violence — excluding ANC-Inkatha rivalry — in the area.

De Haas alleged no action had been taken to prevent the alleged KZP and hit squad activities, despite repeated calls for a Goldstone inquiry there.

The unrest monitor submitted that killings at Esikhawini were widely perceived to have been carried out by either the KZP or people acting in collusion

with this force. "Residents assure me that everyone knows who is responsible for this violence, but they do not trust either the South African Police or the KZP sufficiently to make statements or to pass on evidence."

Witnesses were only prepared to talk evidence before the Goldstone Commission in camera.

She said there had been incidents of political violence in the area over the past two years. The situation deteriorated in August when at least 31 people were killed. Since then another 14 had died.

These attacks had taken place despite warnings to senior members of the security forces by herself and Democratic Party unrest monitor Mr Roy Ainslie. She provided dates and documents to back up her claims. - Sapa



AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR ... Aborigine Mandawuy Yunnupingu (37), with the Australian of the Year trophy, smiles at his wife Yalmay at Admiralty House, Sydney, on Tuesday after he received the accolade from Prime Minister Paul Keating. Yunnupingu is the lead singer of Australia's most successful rock band, Yothis Yindi.

Cops 'beat up alleged wizard'

No welfan 28/1/93
A GROUP of Lebowa policemen near Groblersdal allegedly assaulted a family with pick-axe handles after accusing them of stealing a colleague's three-month-old baby.

While denying the assaults, police yesterday confirmed that the family was subjected to "intensive interrogation" and eventually pointed out the place where the baby's body was found.

The drama started on Monday when an officer living near the police station woke up to find the baby missing.

Missing policeman's baby found dead:

No welfan 28/1/93
Police spokesman Lieutenant Mj Maepa said the policeman suspected Mr William Makgopa's family of being behind the infant's disappearance.

Witnesses said policemen went to the Makgopa family, dragged them out of the house and started assaulting them. The family house and car were burnt.

"The assaults were so brutal that I thought the wife and children were going to die," an eye-witness said.

"I could not stand the sight and I left as the beatings continued."

Maepa said Makgopahad confessed and took them to a spot where they found the baby's body.

"They were not assaulted. They were just scared to see so many policemen," Maepa said.

Makgopa has been arrested. He is expected to be charged with murder and child stealing.

R40-m down the Mutlomuvi River

STAR 29/1/93

111

130

By Julienne du Toit

A large earth dam in Lebowa, built at a cost of about R40 million, mysteriously collapsed in the early hours of Monday morning when it was only between 26 and 28 percent full, Lebowa engineers have confirmed.

The Zoeknog Dam on the Mutlomuvi River near Bushbuck Ridge was finished only a month ago, and was being filled for the first time.

The collapse has enraged game reserve owners downstream, particularly the Varty brothers who own the exclusive Londolozzi game reserve.

They said the dam should never have been built in the first place. Its construction and collapse had caused huge ecological damage.

"These people are stealing water," said John Varty.

The community around the Zoeknog Dam has expressed its satisfaction over the collapse. School principal

Farris Siwela said the Lebowa government had told them the water could be used only for coffee irrigation and could not be used by the community, which now carries water in buckets from the river.

But Claasie Claassens, director-general of the Water Affairs and Forestry Department, said the dam water would have fulfilled the needs of 90 000 people living in the area.

No one can work out why the dam failed, except to say the concrete tunnel under the earthen wall collapsed, undermining the rest of the wall.

Consulting engineer P J van der Walt, of Eksteen, Van Wyk and Nissen in Pietersburg, said he was baffled by the collapse.

Frans Cillie of the Development Bank of Southern Africa, which lent most of the money for the building of the dam, said investigations would be carried out.

Mud-slinging after collapse of dam

STAR 30/1/93

III

JULIENNE DU TOIT

THE spectacular hole that appeared in the Zoeknog Dam this week has led to speculation that corruption may have been responsible for the disaster.

The Zoeknog Dam, on the Mutlomuvi River in Lebowa, was completed only a month ago at a cost conservatively put at R38 million.

Early on Monday morning, the brand new dam wall collapsed, sparking speculation among property owners in the area that millions of rands had disappeared into back pockets. Sources in the area said the dam's construction may have failed because of the use of second-grade materials or theft of monies destined for construction.

The dam, which was built to hold 12 million cubic metres of water, was being filled for the first time when it burst, but was only 28 percent full.

The Lebowa government, whose Department of Works constructed the earthen dam wall, said it was the concrete tunnel underneath the dam that failed.

The Development Bank of



HOLE IN THE WALL: An aerial view of damage to the dam.
● Photograph: MIKE BAKER

Southern Africa (DBSA), which put up R30 million for the scheme, concurred that this seemed to be the situation.

But Grinaker Construction, which put up the spillway tower and the concrete tunnel, retorted it was the wall that had failed, not their construction.

"We have 100 percent confidence in our construction," said managing director "Bean" Bornheimer.

The consulting engineers, Eksteen, Van der Walt and Nissen, of Pietersburg, said they were baffled.

An inquiry by independent professionals would have to be appointed by the contracting

party, the Lebowa government, said P J van der Walt, who was in charge of construction.

The earth had been properly compacted, and instruments to detect moisture and vibrations had been installed. He could not say whether these instruments had given any untoward readings.

A community leader from the Zoeknog area said that in his opinion, people with vested interests had built the dam, because villagers living around the dam were told they could have no access to its water.

Farris Siwela said they were told to sink a borehole or take water from the river. There is no running water in the villages surrounding the dam.

Siwela said there were rumours that the dam had been sabotaged by angry neighbourhood youths.

He said the Lebowa government had told him the water was meant for coffee farmers. A group of white farmers had shares with the Lebowa government in the proposed coffee project, he said.

The community became so angry that they had told Londolozi's community contact officer, Solly Mohaule, that if they could not have access to the water, no one would.

Lebowa government project

official Bernie Badenhorst denied the water was only for coffee farmers, saying it was for consumption by 90 000 people in the area.

For Londolozi private game reserve owners John and Dave Varty, the dam burst is just one incident in a long line of shady happenings in the Sand and Sabie river systems, of which the Zoeknog Dam is part.

They have been fighting since October against the various governments they allege have been "illegally" damming the river.

In December, at a meeting between Londolozi and Lebowa and Gazankulu government representatives, a Gazankulu official threatened that if the Vartys took them to court over the water, they would be "run ragged" in the homeland's courts.

Varty said that after the meeting, the man from Gazankulu's Department of Agriculture proposed a compromise: If the Vartys, with their good environmental track-record, approached the DBSA for R53 million to build a dam near Thulamahashe in Gazankulu, a plan would be made to keep supplying Londolozi's animals with water. Gazankulu, with its bad financial track-record, would find it difficult to get a loan, the official implied.

R40m collapsed dam to be reconstructed

BIDA 1/2/93.

LLOYD COUTTS (111)

FINANCIERS of a R40m dam on the Mutlomuvi River in Lebowa which collapsed last week are to finance the project's reconstruction, and a panel of 20 experts has been appointed to investigate the cause of the breach.

The collapse of the earth-wall at Zoeknog Dam had silted up the river, and angered environmentalists and local residents.

It is believed the dam was breached when two-thirds of a concrete tunnel collapsed last week, washing away part of the earth-wall.

Engineer P J van der Walt, of consulting engineers Eksteen, Van der Walt and Nissen, said an investigation could take months. It was impossible to say at this stage what had caused the incident, he said.

He said the volume of water released (the dam was about 30% full) was the same as that of a once-a-decade flood, and the banks of the river had not burst. "No agricultural land was affected," he said.

Development Bank acting CE Nick Christodolou said the bank, as the financier of the Lebowa government project, had undertaken its own investigation and had decided the project was still justified.

The bank would fund any independent investigation and would provide bridging finance to repair the dam.

He said the accompanying agricultural project had been put on hold, but a coffee project could be irrigated from the river for the next 18 to 20 months.

Star 11/2/93

Zoeknog Dam break to hurt wildlife, tourism



By Julienne du Toit

When the Zoeknog Dam in Lebowa gave way last week, it was not just R38 million that was washed down the river.

The tons of soil from the dam wall turned the river a thick orange-brown colour, so solid it looked like a sand road from the air.

But it was not so thick as to clog up the gills of the fish. The damage was far more subtle.

It coated and smothered the eggs and hatchlings the fish have just laid on the gravel bottom of the Mutlomuvi River, and also the river it flows into — the Sand — and ultimately the Sabie River.

According to biologist Des Weeks, of Rhodes University, who is doing studies on invertebrates in the Sand River system, this huge load of topsoil does not kill, but weakens the

life in the river.

It is not just the Mutlomuvi River that is in trouble, but the entire Sand-Sabie river system.

In a space of less than 100 km, the Sand River and its tributaries run through the territory of three governments: South Africa, Lebowa and Gazankulu.

The two homelands, which are politically hostile to each other, usually do not communicate on river matters, and this has led to a great deal of misunderstanding, according to Londolozi game reserve owner John Varty.

He maintains the Sand River is perennial. From his birth, it has flowed, clean and strong, throughout the seasons. A perennial river has certain rights. It must be kept flowing. No one can completely dam it or channel it, he says.

Last year, Varty and his brother became frantic. The Sand River was not flowing. Their hippos were trapped in

shrinking, stagnant pools.

A trip in a helicopter showed them the problem. The water was not flowing beyond a weir in Lebowa, built to trap water for Champagne Citrus Estates.

Because of this, Gazankulu water officials further downstream, unaware the river was flowing strongly above the Lebowa weir, maintained that the river was a seasonal one.

A seasonal river can be sucked dry by anyone for any purpose. So the Gazankulu officials said they were under no obligation to release water from the Edinburgh Dam, which the Sand River flows into, to save Londolozi's hippos.

Before the wrangle became too complicated, the rains came, and most of the hippos were saved.

SA Department of Water Affairs director-general Claasie Claassens admitted, after some argument, that the Sand River was perennial. The problem was that the entire catchment

area was overdeveloped, he said.

At the rivers' source high in the Drakensberg, exotic pine trees and bluegums planted for forestry were sucking up 30 to 40 percent of all the rain that would go into the river, Varty said.

Further down, citrus trees used up 200 tons of water for every ton of citrus produced.

The Mutlomuvi had been dammed at Zoeknog for coffee, which was also not a water-economical crop.

Lastly, there were hundreds of thousands of people. Very few had running water, but when they all did, even more water would be used.

And as less and less water found its way downstream, to the Sabi Sand Reserves and the Kruger National Park, so the game would suffer.

And if the game suffered, the tourists would be less willing to come, which would be a blow to the tourism industry.

Cloud of uncertainty hangs over Kersaf performance

B/DAY 8/2/93
MARCIA KLEIN

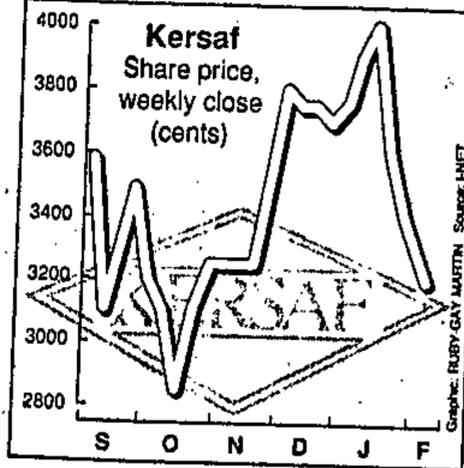
UNCERTAINTY over how Kersaf would absorb the effects of unrest, massive expansion and unregulated casino operations had made forecasting difficult, analysts said.

Forecasts for the six months to end-December varied from a 10% decline in earnings to a 5%-10% increase.

Uncertainty was also reflected in Kersaf group shares, which have been weak — but volatile — in a strong market.

Kersaf interim results, which will soon be released, could be disappointing and dull at best, an analyst said.

But it was difficult to forecast because of the building and opening of the Lost City, poor consumer spending, the effect of the unregulated casinos on casino revenues, the effect of the world recession on its offshore operations, and unrest, particularly in Transkei and Ciskei.



The Lost City, the largest project of its kind in southern Africa, would result in a deterioration in the balance sheet.

But the question was how much, analysts said.

A short-term cash need would result in a reduction in the dividend payout. The option of a scrip dividend was also likely.

Analysts expected results from

Sun Ciskei to be sharply down following unrest in the area.

Occupancies, which affected the amount of business in the casinos, were expected to be significantly lower than the previous year.

Transkei Sun, which had relatively high occupancies in the peak period, was expected to show little if any growth.

Sun City and the Carousel remained buoyant. The Carousel would make a significant contribution to Sun Bop as it was operating for less than two months in the previous interim period.

Operations in Swaziland, Lesotho and other smaller areas more dependent on occupancies would have "fallen out of bed", an analyst said.

Leisure and entertainment group Interleisure was likely to report unchanged earnings. Cinema attendances had held up well.

Interleisure results would come off a high base as its second half was worse than its first in the previous year.

Q Data stays on growth path

COMPUTER software and services company Q Data continued to achieve a real growth in profit, increasing earnings by 31% to 23,4c a share in the six months to December last year.

The company declared an interim dividend of 7,5c a share compared to 6c a share in the same period in 1991.

Turnover rose 38% to R88,6m (R65m) and pre-tax profit rose 64% to R9,35m (R5,71m).

Chairman Piet den Boer said the increases were the result of "the solid, consistent performance of the services arm of the Q Data group, a substantial improvement in first-half sales by a number of the group's product companies, and the excellent results achieved by the two new companies operating in the networking and systems integration environments".

Q Data paid tax of R5,32m (R2,76m) as a

B/DAY 8/2/93
JONO WATERS

result of an offshore investment that was expected to show positive results in the next financial year, he said.

Group income after tax rose 37% to R4,03m (R2,95m).

Den Boer said the bulk of software sales occurred in the second half of the year and the company was confident that substantially improved earnings would be achieved in the second half of the financial year.

"Despite the negative economic conditions affecting many organisations, the group's proven track record of success in its dedicated market niche gives the Q Data board confidence in achieving a steady growth in earnings a share over the previous financial year."

Q Data's southern African operations achieved an 89% increase in after-tax profits, he said.

Lebowa slashes its net losses

B/DAY 8/2/93
JOHN DLUDLU

THE Lebowa Development Corporation boosted its turnover 7,5% last year despite continuing lack of industrial investment in the poverty-stricken northern Transvaal, chairman Willie Ramashoba said in the corporation's financial statement last week.

Turnover increased to R115m and net losses before extraordinary and abnormal items were slashed to R409 000 from R5m in 1991.

The corporation's retained income for the year was R3,3m.

Slave wages at new coffee plantation

Southern 9/2/93

Workers earn R240 a month: (111)

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

THE twisted iron and steel reinforcements and the concrete of the Zoeknog Dam lie smashed to the ground.

Concrete slabs that formed a tunnel for water are strewn all over and covered with silt, sand and soil that once formed the great wall.

An army of labourers are on site, putting stones on the outer walling to strengthen what remains of the wall. Others are clearing the rubble left by the gushing water after the dam burst.

Project beneficiaries

They are the "beneficiaries" of the R37 million project that government spokesman Mr Louis Theron speaks glibly about.

They work five days a week, from 7.30 in the morning to 4.30 in the afternoon, for R7 a day.

This figure translates into R140 a month.

Theron also boasted of the "hundreds" of jobs that would be created by the coffee plantation that is to use the dammed water.

Workers we spoke to and who have been working at the plantation for over six years earn R280 a month.

Mrs Agnes Malatji (29) of Castellie village near Acornhoek is a mother of two. Her work is to put stones that are delivered by trucks on to the dam wall.

"It is really horrible. I can't tell you why I wake up and come here every day because what I get is nothing. I keep coming because I hope one day they will feel pity for us and pay us decent wages," she told us.

As we spoke, trucks and tractors rambled on in the area, clearing more land for more coffee — Coffee that is owned by a corporation that no one in the village knows anything about but whose planting has shrunk their grazing land.

Water is the issue

In the villages the issue is water. For the coffee masters it is water. For the game rangers it is water.

The damming of the Mtlomobe River in the form of the now crumbled Zoeknog Dam was intended to provide water for villagers and for the coffee, the latter to result in more of the R280 a month jobs.

But local activists, such as IDT co-ordinator Mr Luckson Mathebula, dispute this and say the jobs alluded to is in fact disguised slavery.

How can people go and boast about creating jobs when people are paid R140 and R280 a month? These capitalists are just taking people's land away by bribing chiefs. As a result they no longer have grazing land or fields to plough," Mathebula said.

But the rumbling of the trucks and tractors clearing more land is a sure sign that the project is there to stay and that more and more black people will soon find themselves queuing for those jobs.

focus on Zoeknog Dam

WAS IT divine intervention on behalf of humans and animals downstream or the work of saboteurs?

Or, worse still, was it just plain poor workmanship of an unbelievable magnitude?

These are the questions that are taxing the minds of all who have seen the gaping hole at the Zoeknog Dam outside Bushbuckridge.

Built at a cost of R37 million and completed two months ago, the dam collapsed in the early hours of January 25, filled to only 28 percent of its total capacity.

The collapse, which left in its wake a major environmental tragedy that killed fish and made water uninhabitable for hippos and crocodiles, has focused attention on the dam itself and how it will affect the local communities and business interests.

Speaking to the different players in the R37 million game is extremely enlightening. What becomes obvious is that there are opposing commercial interests that are fighting for and against the dam.

On the one hand, the Lebowa government, through the Lebowa Agricultural Corporation (LAC), acquired R37 million from the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) to build the dam on the Mtlomobe River.

The primary aim was to develop further an existing coffee plantation managed by the LAC. This project is reputed to have the capacity to create jobs for "hundreds" of local black people.

Lebowa deputy chief engineer in charge of water Mr Louis Theron said the coffee plantation would eventually occupy 350 hectares.

The dam, he said, would also provide drinking water for over 100 000 people in the region, including some in Gazankulu. Theron emphasised that it was actually the latter reason that motivated the damming of the river.

The department "intended" to build a purification centre at the dam to ensure that "water that is supplied to the villages was good for human consumption", he added.

"The dam is a major achievement for Lebowa and will provide jobs and water. The collapse is a tragedy but it will have to be rebuilt for the purposes for which it was created. Otherwise the money will have gone down the drain," Theron argued.

At the other extreme are private game lodge owners who depend on the river for water and for their animals.

For them the Zoeknog dam is a major disaster that has almost dried up their supply.

At least 12 lodges in the Sabie area — Mala Mala, Londolozi, Castelton, Ravenscourt, Othawa, Toulon, Exeter, Ulusaba, Alicecot, Ulu Lapa, Idube, Dulini and Inyati — depend directly on the Sand River which is fed by the

Sowetan 9/2/93.

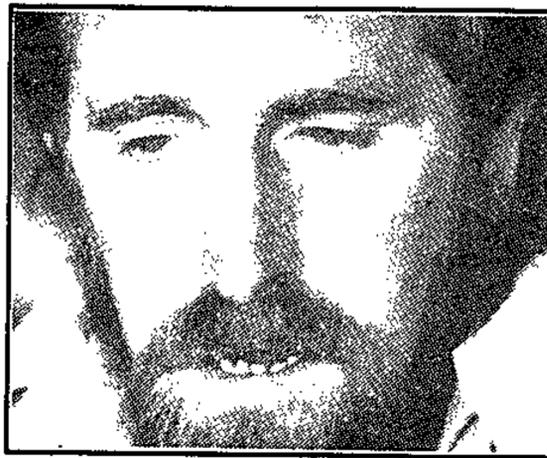
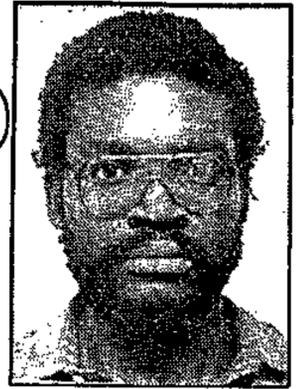
Game lodge owners say the Zoeknog Dam, which collapsed recently, is an ecological

disaster for animals and villages, while the

Lebowa government claims it will provide

jobs and water for villagers, writes

Mathatha Tsedu, Investigations Editor:



Londolozi communication manager James Marshall.

Mtlomobe River.

For these private lodge owners the argument against the dam is clothed in environmental terms.

Mr James Marshall, communication manager for Londolozi, argued that damming the river upstream was an infringement of the rights of lodge owners downstream and a murderous act on water animals such as hippos.

"This river is home to hippos, crocodiles, large species of rare birds and beautiful vegetation. What has been done is wrong. The Lebowa people are not only damming the river, they are also planting gum trees right on the edge of the river, siphoning water off for coffee and leaving the river virtually empty.

"One gum tree needs about 200 litres a day to survive and if they are planting these trees and citrus fruit trees on the river's edge, they are disturbing the river.

"To cap it all, they went and built the dam and now, thank God, it has collapsed," Marshall said.

He said their concern was also for black villagers along the stream who have depended on the river for drinking water since time immemorial.

"The lodge owners may be able to drill for water but the residents cannot. Where are they supposed to get water from? This river was dry after they closed the dam," he said, introducing the villagers as one of his reasons for fighting the dam project.



Deputy chief engineer Louis Theron.

We spoke to villagers at Zoeknog and Madjembeni villages who are to benefit from the dam. They were happy at the promise but decried the fact that they had no access to the dam water at present.

Caught in between the arguments of the two capitalist pivots, the villagers have now become the trump card for both sides, dealt to strengthen opposing points of view.

And as the argument rages, the dam that never was lies in ruin, with workers on site doing mop up operations.

They are the workers who had to spend the night in the nearby hills after the dam collapsed and almost washed them downstream.

The costs of repairs will run into further millions but with R37 million already gone, literally down the river, the argument about rebuilding is merely academic.

Marshall denied that it was the game lodge owners who bombed the dam for water.

Theron said he did not know how it happened and was awaiting results of an investigation by experts.

Locals are just amazed at the damage and are wondering whether they will ever get water from the dam.

In the interim, the crocodiles and hippos, the villagers downstream and the game lodge owners, are just happy that water is flowing downstream for now.

See page 7

CIPRESS 14/1/93

Lebowakgomo mass action planned

By KHANGALE MAKHADO (11)

THE Lebowakgomo Civic Association has declared a five-day stayaway in the capital of Lebowa from tomorrow.

LCA secretary Champ Sepuru said the planned mass action followed failure by Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike to respond to their demands presented to him on February 2.

The demands included:

■ The immediate servicing of Zone S and an immediate halt to the development at Zone R, which was unoccupied;

■ The immediate removal of Lebowakgomo's town manager;

■ The immediate allocation of church sites as agreed with the office of the town manager; and

■ The immediate creation of posts for unemployed teachers.

The LCA has also placed a ban

on all Lebowa government-registered vehicles – as well as cars belonging to Lebowa members of parliament – from entering the township. However, ambulances will be exempted from the ban.

Sepuru said although nothing had been decided regarding schools, “we do not guarantee the safety of those who will either go to school or work during the stay-away period”.

Name of School	Ss A		Ss B		Sid 1		Sid 2		Sid 3		Sid 4		Sid 5	
	(a)	(b)												
Mqhayi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	235	192	200	155	190	160
Mtonjeni	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	340	321	319	307	290	278
Nokhwezi	262	163	230	161	133	109	154	149	80	136	122	86	60	—
Nosipho	362	318	222	191	213	178	215	190	119	109	67	62	—	—
Nilemeza	161	139	159	138	101	97	121	116	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phakamile	112	112	126	126	178	178	180	180	122	122	128	128	155	155
Phindubuye	227	158	92	92	141	141	183	183	258	245	299	280	268	264
RH Godlo	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	179	159	211	203	236	202
Stephen Nkomo	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vuba	193	164	177	145	144	137	128	107	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nomathamsanqa	73	46	78	45	91	80	61	58	58	44	59	50	69	51
James Gndulula	155	142	156	140	192	172	132	112	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dr Osmond*	1	1	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2 876	2 332	2 299	1 960	2 089	1 919	2 123	1 968	1 866	1 582	1 816	1 604	1 605	1 460

* Hospital School

De Meyer Commission: cost/completion of task

190. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

(1) (a) What is the total cost that has been incurred to date by the Commission of Inquiry into the Appropriation of the Lebowa Revenue Fund and Alleged Mismanagement in Lebowa (De Meyer Commission) and (b) for what date is this information furnished;

(2) whether this Commission has completed its task; if not, (a) why not, (b) when is it expected to do so and (c) what estimated additional cost will have been incurred by this Commission by the time it has completed its task; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) and (b) The total cost that has been incurred by the Commission of Inquiry into the Appropriation of the Lebowa Revenue Fund and Alleged Mismanagement in Lebowa (De Meyer Commission) is:

1 April 1990-31 March 1991	R56 924
1 April 1991-31 March 1992	R193 103
1 April 1992-2 March 1993	R126 141
Total	R376 168

(2) No.

(a) The activities in the Office of the Receiver of Revenue in Lebowa still has to be investigated.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Black local authorities: housing rentals/service charges

71. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Local Government:

What total amount was owing to Black local authorities in respect of (a) housing rentals and (b) service charges in each (i) province and (ii) municipal area as at 31 December 1992?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

It is not possible to analyse arrear accounts in terms of housing rentals and service charges separately since local authorities in most instances supply consolidated accounts to residents and no analysis of payments is being made. The total amount of housing rentals and service charges which was due to black local authorities as at 31 December 1992, is however indicated below.

(i) Transvaal	R1 606 640 880
Orange Free State	R 128 795 760
Natal	R 10 650 641
Cape	R 166 716 725

(ii) Transvaal

Alexandra	18 461 139
Bekkersdal	6 082 316
Boipatong	16 707 830
Bophelong	10 322 585
Diepmeadow	146 281 877
Dobsonville	25 216 500
Evaton	22 986 611
Kagiso	29 215 634
Khutsong	5 910 090
Kokosi	1 797 280
Mohlakeng	6 291 924
Munsieville	1 959 756
Sebokeng	120 514 661
Sharpeville	46 034 481
Soweto	562 082 794
Wedela	729 151

(ii) Transvaal

Botleng	2 462 954
Daveyton	44 173 354
Duduza	12 830 137
Impumelelo	268 946
Katlehong	92 642 215
Nthorwane	159 088
Ratanda	6 648 954
Siyathemba	1 208 142
Tembisa	94 423 519
Tokoza	63 948 099
Tsakane	17 479 247
Vosloorus	58 376 774
Wattville	3 576 888
Atteridgeville	27 532 987
Mamelodi	69 355 838
Refilwe	444 197
Zithobeni	656 512
Agisanang	383 426
Boikhuiso	1 041 865
Boitumelong	459 309
Borolelo	144 035
Ikageleng	76 824
Ikageng	4 880 826
Ipelegeng	1 627 256
Jouberton	9 438 083
Kanana	5 609 175
Kgakala	897 893
Khuma	6 069 097
Lebaleng	302 096
Letsope	582 110
Reagile	815 714
Tigane	992 583
Tlhabologang	108 337
Tsing	359 138
Tsweleng	782 336
Utlwanang	501 393
Embalenthle	7 259 528
Emgwenya	415 072
Emjindini	1 046 273
Emthonjeni	494 865
Emzinoni	2 362 448
Esizameleni	203 642
Ethandakukhanya	1 146 086
Ezamokuhle	321 084
Kwathibikhulu	15 030
Kwadela	410 812
Kwagaqa	6 243 727
Kwanthandeka	65 818
Kwazamokuhle	4 377 352
Kwazanete	2 091 703
Lebohang	1 456 384
Mashishing	633 828
Mhluzi	245 854

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

NEWS Chief Minister implicated in alleged shady dealings • Accident claims six lives

Desai slams 'race war'

■ PAC sends condolences to victims:

A RACE war against whites was counter-productive and was not Pan Africanist Congress policy, the movement's information chief Mr Barney Desai said yesterday.

Speaking on his return from a PAC national executive meeting in Umtata in Transkei, Desai said the organisation wanted to convey its condolences to the victims of an attack by AK-47 rifle-wielding gunmen.

Desai said the organisation was outraged by calls to the media, and the South African Press Association in particular, claiming responsibility on behalf of the PAC's armed wing, the Azanian Peoples Liberation Army, for the attack in which a white woman and a 16-year-old schoolboy died.

"It is not our policy to conduct a race war against whites and we don't know who these guys are," Desai said.

"That kind of thing is counter-productive and we are outraged. In fact we want to convey our condolences to those involved. Our policy is not to fight a race war but to bring about democracy," he added. - Sapa.

'Corruption' exposed

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

■ Top Lebowa government official blows the whistle: (11)

LEBOWA Development Corporation (LDC) chairman Mr Willie Ramoshaba has blown the whistle on alleged corruption by members of the cabinet in the homeland.

A few hours after he went public, however, he was replaced as chairman of the board, which is appointed by the cabinet he was complaining about.

Ramoshaba told a media briefing in Johannesburg that the alleged corruption included Lebowa Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike who, he claimed, bypassed structures of the corporation to secure a R245 000 loan for his brother.

Approached for comment on Friday, Ramodike denied that he had applied for a loan from the LDC.

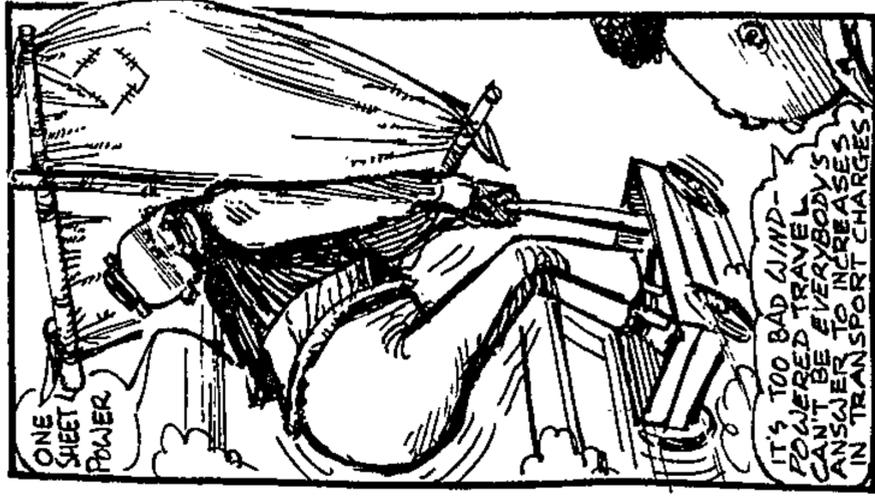
He announced that Ramoshaba had been

demoted from chairman to an ordinary member of the LDC board. The new LDC chairman is University of the North acting rector Mr John Malatji. Ramoshaba said attempts to stop the corruption had been unsuccessful because the board could only report its concern to the same cabinet it was complaining about.

Board members who complained were kicked out. He mentioned Mr Matome Mponya as the most recent example.

He said Ramodike had approached him personally last year for a loan to buy a farm.

"I told him it was not possible as rules prohibited cabinet members from receiving loans. He then put together what amounted to a loan proposal for his brother, Mr PZ Ramodike, who was to buy the chief minister's bottle store for the same amount the chief minister needed to buy his farm."



Ex-Lebowa chairman is dismissed by Cabinet

Star 24/3/93



By Mathatha Tsedu

Former Lebowa Development Corporation (LDC) chairman Willie Ramoshaba, who last week alleged that the Lebowa Cabinet was interfering with the running of the corporation, has been dismissed from the board.

His ousting was confirmed in a letter from the director of economic affairs and technology, MG Ratlabala, on Mon-

day.

Ramoshaba's allegations, made at a press conference in Johannesburg, were denied by Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike yesterday.

LDC staffers yesterday staged a two-hour demonstration at the corporation's head office in Lebowakgomo, denouncing alleged nepotism in the allocation of jobs and unilateral restructuring.

The demonstrations are set to continue today, according to a spokesman for the workers.

Ramoshaba said members of the Lebowa Cabinet who appointed the board used their influence to get loans for themselves and dismissed those who opposed corruption.

Ramoshaba cited a case in which he alleged that Ramodike, having failed to secure a loan to buy a farm, used his brother, P Z Ramodike, to apply for a loan and use it to buy the chief minister's business complex near Lenyenye.

The loan application was approved within five

days instead of the usual two months and the money was deposited into the chief minister's account in Tzaneen.

Ramodike said yesterday that he had used "my own resources, financial assistance of the Land Bank and Nedbank in Tzaneen" to buy the farm.

But confidential LDC documents in possession of The Star reveal that the chief minister had indicated to the LDC that the sale of the business complex was to enable him to buy the farm.

'Mister Clean's loan'!

By MOSES MAMAILA

City Press

28/3/93

DEPOSED Lebowa Development Corporation chairman Willie Ramoshaba this week accused Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike of using his influence on the corporation to obtain a loan for his brother.

Ramoshaba also said Ramodike engineered his dismissal earlier this month as the LDC board chairman because he was opposed to corruption.

Speaking to City Press in Johannesburg this week, Ramoshaba said Ramodike approached him around August last year, wanting the corporation to grant him a loan of R210 000 to enable him to buy a farm.

"I told him his application could not be processed as it was against the regulations of the corporation to give loans to cabinet members. In fact, it was Ramodike who introduced the rule when he ascended to power as he was then known as 'Mister Clean'.

"But when he realised I wasn't budging, he arranged with his brother, PZ Ramodike, that the latter would make a loan application of R210 000 from the LDC, saying that he wanted to buy a shopping complex owned by Ramodike.

"The Chief Minister went to the LDC managing director and had the loan processed within a week," he said.

Ramoshaba has denied any irregularity took place.

A lesson in ecology no textbook could give

THE setting is Lebowa. The scenery is stark, with patches of acacia trees and one or two huge euphorbia (nabooms) against a background of khaki grass. Here and there militant aloes rear up from the veld, some of them reaching as high as 3 m.

At a pipe-stem tree (Zeyheri Rehmann) a group — about 14 schoolgirls from Mihetva High School in Alexandra near Sandton — cluster around Roland Jones of the Lebowa Environmental Awareness Project (LEAP), who is explaining the characteristics of the tree to the youngsters.

He picks up a dead branch and points out the hollow core forming the pipe which is used for smoking.

The group moves on a short distance

until Jones stops again, pointing to a patch of lichen on a rock. He explains that lichens were the earliest form of vegetation on Earth and from these primitive compound plants, consisting of a fungus and algae living symbiotically, all other vegetation developed. He then shows the group three different types of grass and explains how they, too, fitted into the evolutionary line-up.

He points to a midden of kudu dung and explains how the animals mark out their own territories. He also explains why the dung is so dry, what the kudu eats and how it manages to survive on a minimum of water.

Jones gives a concise lesson in ecology to these youngsters — a lesson that no textbook or teacher struggling in an overcrowded classroom in Alexandra

could give. And the girls are fascinated, listening attentively, asking questions and making notes.

Jones runs LEAP courses at Tompi Seleka near Marble Hall in the north-eastern Transvaal. For him it is more of a mission than a mere educating course. While he takes numerous groups from clubs and schools on the courses, his main interest is in educating the people of Lebowa themselves in environmental awareness and ecology.

He will stop under an acacia and explain why the grass in that area is sweet; he will point to an aloo and explain how and why it has its own in-built fire protection system and why the leaves are shaped as they are to collect moisture. He explains why a variety of different animals can live in harmony in

the same area because of their different grazing preferences.

In his courses for Lebowa residents the emphasis is even more practical. Clean drinking water and good soil conservation are essential for the well-being of the inhabitants of the region. He also demonstrates how to establish food gardens for the villagers.

Jones gives demonstrations on how to stop erosion by placing gabions (mesh wire boxes filled with stones) in gullies to prevent the good soil washing away and allowing the grass to grow again. He shows the inhabitants how to prevent overgrazing — a factor which contributes to erosion and soil depletion.

His courses for city children include a lesson in simple astronomy. After an early supper our group climbed up a

little koppie. There, seated on rocks and tufts of grass, Jones explained about the stars and the moon and their relationship to Earth. The lesson, even if it had been learnt from a textbook, suddenly became real and alive as the children watched the stars come out and followed the course of the moon across the sky. New horizons suddenly stretched before these children.

Halfway down the koppie on the return trip, the group was asked to sit down quietly while Jones called up the nightjars. To do this, he imitated the birds' call and within minutes had three or four nightjars swooping in and answering to his call. He actually set up a little war and had the birds fiercely calling out to each other as they fiercely guarded their territory from intruders,

allowing him physically to demonstrate the defensive and aggressive characteristics of these nocturnal birds.

Included in the itinerary for the next day was canoeing on the dam. For these children, whose experience of recreational water probably had not extended beyond mud puddles in the streets of Alexandra, this was a daunting experience.

A great boon to the LEAP project has been the support given to it by the Mazda Wildlife Fund, which has provided a vehicle for the use of LEAP, and Nestle, which has provided much-needed funds and material aid such as fence-building equipment. Women for Peace is also an active supporter of LEAP.

The Lebowa Department of Conservation allows LEAP the use of the reserve where most of the courses are held.

STAR 29/3/93

(111)

Ramodike tells of 'plot' to kill him (11)

Sowetan 3/3/87

By Don Seokane

LEBOWA Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike yesterday suspended a cabinet minister, fired his white departmental head and several technicians amid allegations of spying and an assassination plot against him.

An enraged Ramodike produced a bugging device at a Press conference as he announced that the Finance Minister, Chief Chris Mothiba, and the chief director of the chief minister's department, Mr NH Fick, would leave their posts with immediate effect.

"My attention has been drawn to the fact that about eight Lebowa MPs are behind a plot for my assassination after having failed to overthrow my administration with the help of a group of white people.

"The aim is to overthrow my administration and substitute me with a puppet who would facilitate the recruitment of the people of Lebowa into an anti-Patriotic Front," he said.

Mothiba and Fick were not available for comment yesterday. Mothiba was reappointed to the Cabinet about a year ago after being kicked out by Ramodike when he took over the reins of government in 1987.

Star 3/13/93

Plot to kill Lebowa's chief alleged

LEBOWAKGOMO — Lebowa's Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike said yesterday there had been plots to assassinate him.

He added that bugging devices had been found in his office as well as in the conference room of the self-governing territory's Cabinet.

Ramodike, who made sweeping changes to his administration, said: "The general public is entitled to know that evil plans have already been arranged for my assassination and the assassination of some policemen."

A departmental chief director, seconded to Lebowa from South Africa, was "forthwith released of his functions" after the bugging devices were found, Ramodike told a news conference in Lebowakgomo.

He called on President F W de Klerk to recall seconded white technicians attached to the Department of Public Works and Transport, who were placed in his offices without approval of the Cabinet.

Ramodike said a private company would be appointed to investigate the bugging devices.

— Sapa.

Stop harassment call

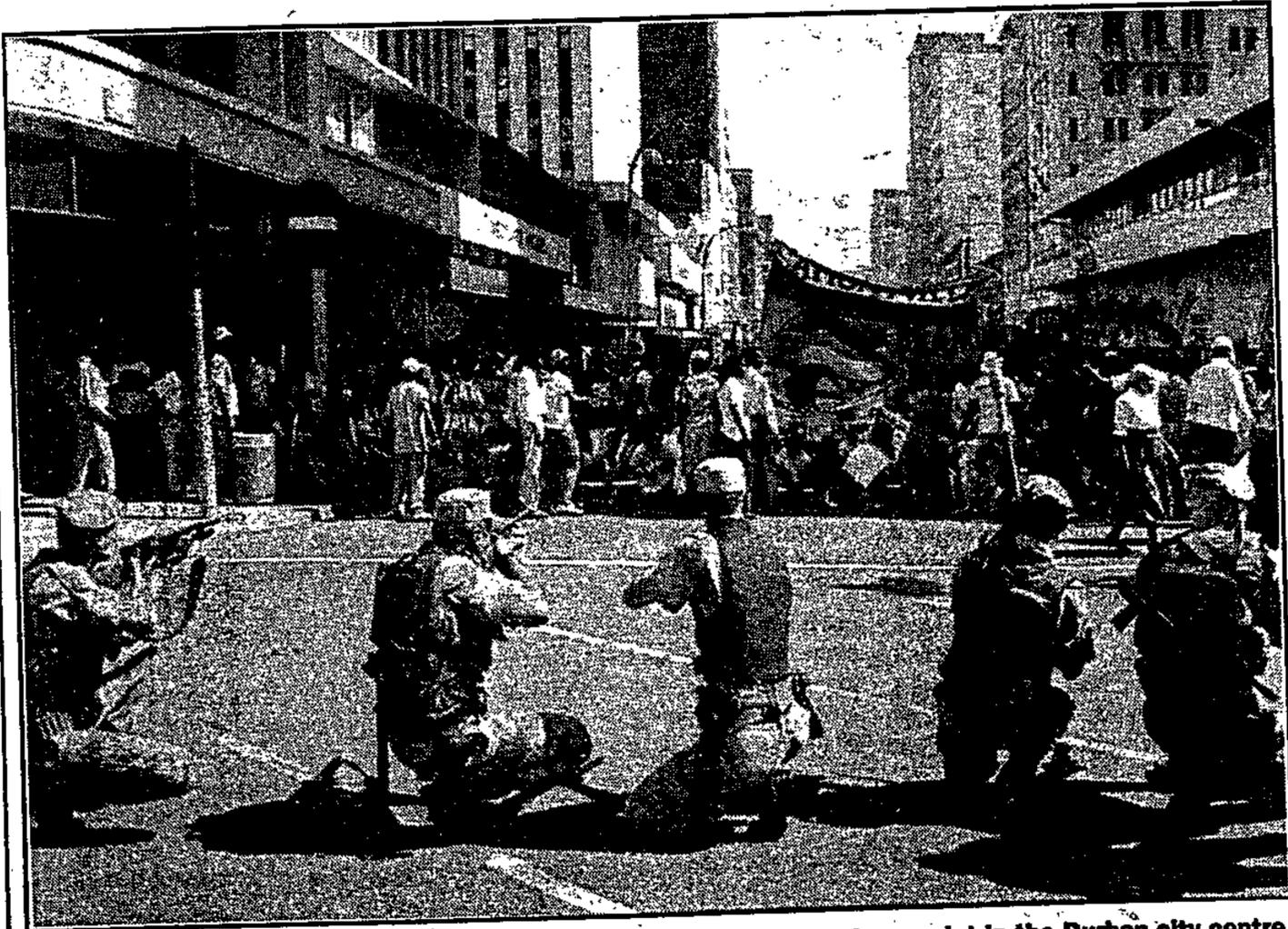
The South African Democratic Teachers Union has urged Lebowa Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike to stop the alleged harassment of teachers and to end corruption and mismanagement in education. *Sadtu 7/4/93*

Sadtu also called on Ramodike to refund teachers from whose salaries deductions were made following the 1991 and 1992 strikes when the education department adopted a policy of no work, no pay. *308 (10)*

Lebowa Education Department spokesman Mr SF Seroka said the question of deductions from salaries was still sub judice, adding that no comment would be made until the matter had been finalised.

Seroka said Sadtu's demand for free political activity in Lebowa had em-

- Ramodike ● 27 inmates walk free



THE MARCH STOPS HERE ... Police stop a group of demonstrators at gunpoint in the Durban city centre.

Lebowa puts De Klerk on the spot

By Don Seokane

MEMO LIST Backlogs in education and health services the cause of threat:

LEBOWA Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike has threatened to shut down his administration unless the Government agrees to wipe out backlogs in education and health services.

Ramodike, lashing out at President FW de Klerk's administration after holding a cabinet meeting with his ministers, said failure to meet such demands may result in the handing over of the keys of Lebowa government buildings to Regional Development Minister Mr André Fourie.

He disclosed during a Press briefing on Tuesday that his government was prepared to postpone the seating of the legislative assembly or "close shop" indefinitely if the demands were not met.

The demands, which were con-

tained in a memorandum to be submitted to Fourie, included:

- Immediate approval of pension benefits amendment Bills passed by the Lebowa legislative assembly;
- Provision of infrastructure in 16 Lebowa townships;
- Erecting a nursing college at Mankweng, outside Turfloop, or in the northern Transvaal; and
- That applications for funding of development projects approved by the Development Bank should be urgently released.

Ramodike added that this year's ordinary session of Lebowa's legislative assembly will be the last one. "This will mark the end of the last

chapter of apartheid and homeland politics in our region and the dawn of a new era which we all have been waiting for."

The threat to "close shop" has been made in the past but it was never carried out.

The Lebowa government has been under pressure by nurses recently who alleged that they were overworked and understaffed.

The pension demands also followed upheavals by pensioners who accused the Lebowa government of misusing funds destined for pensions.

A cabinet minister, Chief Harry Rammupudu, was dismissed following an outcry over pensions.

Lebowa puts De Klerk on the spot

By Don Seokane

15/4/93 (111) ■ MEMO LIST Backlogs in education

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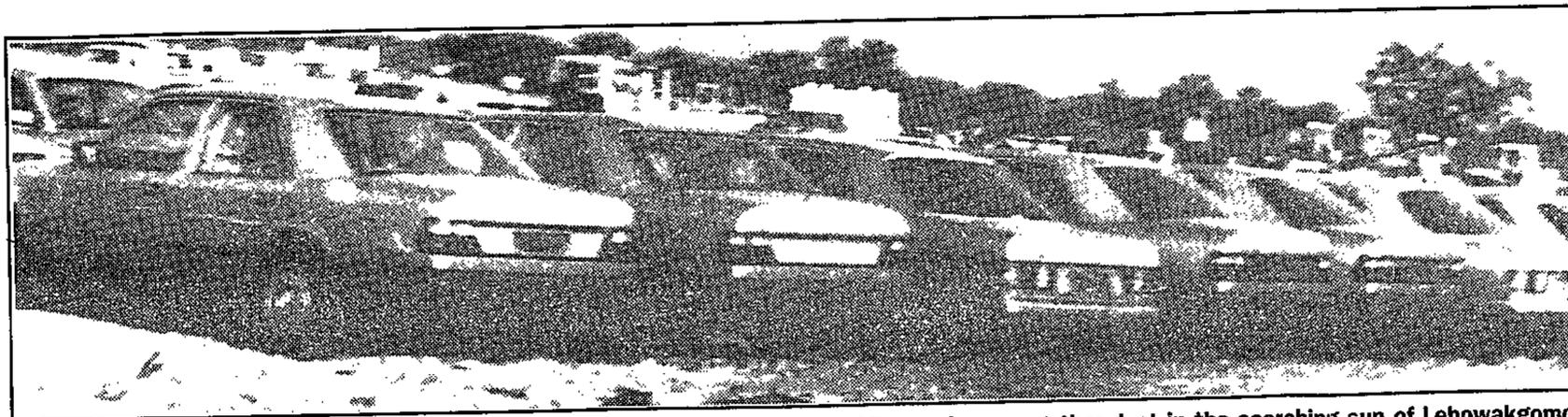
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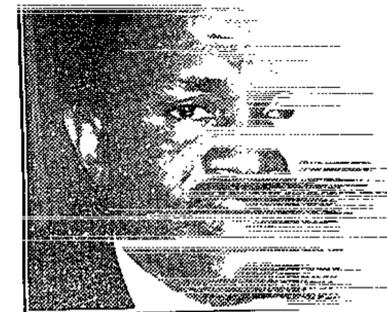
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A cabinet minister, Chief Harry Rammupudu, was dismissed following an outcry over pensions.

NEWS FEATURE *Contract not put to public tender after cabinet waived procedure*



Some of the Mercedes cars bought two to three years ago, all 230E and 300SE models, now gather dust in the scorching sun of Lebowakgomo.



Nelson Ramodike

Lebowa deal 'irregular'

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

Sowetan 16/4/93
DUMPING PRODUCTS R15 million's worth of cleaning chemicals to be pumped into Lebowa over next three years:

ABOUT 2 000 tons of cleaning chemicals are to be pumped into Lebowa over the next three years after an "irregular" R15 million deal between the bantustan government and Firechem.

The deal, signed late last year, was not put to public tender after the Lebowa cabinet asked the Tender Board to waive the procedure, a *Sowetan* investigation has revealed.

Sowetan can also reveal that Firechem has since donated R100 000 to the United People's Front party of Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike, whose department requested the tender waiver.

The UPF is in dire financial straits and used up R16 000 of the donation two weeks ago.

Firechem, among whose directors is former Daveyton mayor and close friend of Ramodike, Mr Tom Boya, is dumping large quantities of cleaning chemicals at schools and hospitals.

The contract makes provision for training but we did not find a single worker who said he or she had been trained.

Some workers have complained about burns after using the chemicals.

The Lebowa government set police on reporters who asked for comment.

The police said they were ordered by the Lebowa Police Commissioner, General MA Maletle, to search our car for "documents of a cabinet decision". We were kept for an hour before being allowed to leave.

The police action followed a message for us from the chief public relations officer for the Lebowa government, Mr KJ Setati, to be at the government buildings in Lebowakgomo that morning for an interview with Deputy Minister Mr LL Mpya.

Mpya was Tender Board chairman at the time of the Firechem contract.

The contract was negotiated by Boya, who has close working relations with Ramodike.

Boya referred all inquiries to Mr Douglas McNaught, a director of Firechem, but indicated that the contract "even received approval by the central government".

McNaught refused to discuss the contract but confirmed the donation to the UPF.

Legal sources have said the contract could be illegal as such a large sum of money have to be tendered for publicly and have asked why the Lebowa government chose not to do so.

The Tender Board, a statutory body independent of the civil service, and whose task is to allocate contracts to lowest and most efficient tenderer, is seen in Lebowa as a mere rubber stamp for the bantustan's cabinet.

Sowetan can also reveal that two weeks ago the board granted a R1,3 million tender to a cousin of Ramodike, Mr Ronald Rasebotsa, to supply meat to the Groothoek Hospital.

Rasebotsa, trading as Black Movie, was the most expensive tenderer, charging R226 971 more than the lowest bidder, Badikila butchery. He does not own a butchery, which is a prerequisite for such a tender.

A tender board source said in 1991 they had refused to approve the purchase of cars for members of the cabinet, saying the money should be used for building schools.

"All they did was go straight to the treasury and got the cars purchased," the source said.

This string of 26 Mercedes Benz's costing between R3,5 million and R4 million, have been replaced by new ones this year.

Those bought two to three years ago, all 230E and 300SE models, now stand in the scorching sun of Lebowakgomo, gathering dust.

They are due to be sold on auction.



Tom Boya

Corruption scandal mushrooms

By Jacques Pauw

Hundreds of tons of chemicals are being dumped in Lebowa after the homeland's government signed an irregular multimillion-rand contract with a South African chemical firm.

A few months after the Lebowa government signed the R15 million contract with Firechem Lebowa, the company donated R100 000 to the ruling United People's Front (UPF), which at that stage was in serious financial difficulty.

The contract, which was never put out on tender as regulations stipulate, was approved by Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike and his Cabinet. Ramodike is also UPF leader.

The contract will lead to a massive oversupply of chemicals to the homeland and amount to a waste of millions of rands.

A Star investigation has also found that millions of rands of taxpayers' money is still being lost through maladministration in Lebowa — despite promises by Ramodike to clean up his administration after the damaging De Meyer Commission report, published late last year.

De Meyer revealed evidence of massive corruption and incompetence amounting to hundreds of millions of rands.

Ramodike, who calls himself "governor" of the homeland, was both directly and indirectly implicated in the corruption. He refused to accept responsibility but vowed to take steps to remedy the situation.

However, corruption and wastage of money seem to continue unabated.

The De Meyer Commission found serious shortcomings in the process of allocating tenders. Three weeks ago the Tender Board awarded a contract of R1,3 million to a cousin of Ramodike to supply meat to State hospitals.

Ronald Rasebotsa, owner of Black Movie Butcherers, not only tendered R227 000 more than the lowest tender — but was awarded the contract despite not even owning a butchery.

Another example is a brand new fleet of 20 luxury Mercedes-Benz cars worth between R3,5 million and R4 million being delivered to Ministers and their deputies.

The new luxury cars are intended to replace 26 existing Mercedes-Benzes which are only two or three years old.

A Star attempt to interview former Tender Board chairman L P Mpya on the Firechem contract ended in failure.

Firechem managing director William McNaught said he would not like to comment on the contract with Lebowa, but said the whole deal was above board and that his company acted in good faith.

He confirmed the donation to the UPF, but said there was nothing sinister in doing so as his company had a policy of "ploughing something back in the community".

● From traffic policeman to "Governor of Lebowa" — Page 6

R15-m chemical contract exposed

(110)
The Lebowa Tender Board, already accused of being nothing but a rubber stamp for the homeland government, approved a multimillion-rand deal between the Lebowa Cabinet and a chemical company without querying why hundreds of tons of chemicals were needed. The board also did not question why the contract was never put out to tender.

According to government documents, the office of the homeland's Chief Minister, Nelson Ramodike, asked the Tender Board on October 13 last year to approve the R15 million contract with Firechem for the provision of cleaning chemicals, training and supervision, as it would be "more convenient" to get supplies from one company.

Deputy director T J M Mampane, who signed the letter on behalf of the office of the Chief

Star 16/4/93
Minister, denied knowing about the deal, although the document is filed with the Lebowa Tender Board in Lebowakgomo.

According to information, three out of the seven Tender Board members did ask questions about the contract, but it was nevertheless approved.

The contract allows for a supply of 1 500-2 000 tons of cleaning chemicals.

Before the contract was approved, government departments had to purchase cleaning chemicals on State tender.

Government warehouses in Lebowa have been flooded with cleaning chemicals since Firechem started deliveries in February. At the Jane Furse Hospital, about 120 25 kg bags of chemicals are lying in the store-room. Officials say chemicals are delivered to them whether they need them or not.

The Star was told that officials in the departments of Health and Education who have complained about the supply of chemicals have been threatened with dismissal or a transfer.

According to estimates, the Lebowa government service should not need more than R2 million worth of cleaning chemicals a year.

The Star was told that a letter has been written to the Department of Education complaining that some people show a burning reaction to the chemicals. Firechem managing director Douglas McNaught said his products were environmentally friendly and he was unaware of any complaints.

The Star has established that Firechem recently donated R100 000 to the United People's Front, which has aligned itself to the ANC.

From traffic policeman to 'Governor of Lebowa'

Lebowa has been described by the De Meyer Commission as a pit of corruption. JACQUES PAUW focuses on Nelson Ramodike, the homeland's Chief Minister, and gives details of a R15 million contract awarded to a South African chemical company.

There was a time, almost 20 years ago, when Mogoboya Nelson Ramodike was lurking behind bushes waiting to issue traffic tickets to offending motorists.

Today, the former traffic cop calls himself "Governor of Lebowa", and is one of South Africa's highest-paid civil servants with an annual pay package of R199 152. His administration controlled a budget of some R2,3 billion in the last financial year.

Reports earlier this month claimed he also receives a household allowance, an entertainment allowance and a transport allowance, totalling R75 000 a year. To maintain and improve his house he gets a further R7 000 a month.

Lashing out at the reports as untrue, Ramodike said he had to pay income tax whereas the State President's salary does not even attract tax deduction at all.

Ramodike has become one of the most controversial politicians in South Africa, a man accused by the De Meyer Commission of heading a massively corrupt and incompetent administration.

De Meyer said Ramodike was implicated in the scandal and was, among other things, the illegal owner of two liquor outlets.

In a homeland where Mercedes-Benz cars for government officials are as commonplace as hunger and poverty, the commission found that although his 420 SE was replaced with a 500 SE, the 420 SE was still used as a "substitute car". According to reports he also "personally owns" a Mercedes 200 E.



Nelson Ramodike . . . has denied all allegations of corruption.

And 20 new Mercedes-Benz cars, earmarked for Ministers and deputy Ministers, were delivered to the homeland barely two weeks ago to replace older models.

According to government sources close to Ramodike, he is experiencing financial problems. He has asked people close to him to help him settle certain debts, while it is known that he has difficulty keeping two of his children at school and university. He has also not been able to repay a widow for a loan of R20 000.

Two weeks ago, Lebowa Development Corporation (LDC) chairman Willie Ramoshaba was fired after exposing further Cabinet corruption — and it was the Cabinet that ordered his dismissal.

Ramoshaba alleged that Ramodike, having failed to secure

a loan to buy a farm, used his brother, P Z Ramodike, to apply for a loan of R245 000. The purpose of the loan was to buy the Chief Minister's business complex near Lenyenye.

Three weeks ago, one of Ramodike's cousins, Ronald Rasebotsa, was allocated a government contract of R1,3 million to supply hospitals with meat — although Rasebotsa does not own a butchery.

Ramodike has always vehemently denied any allegations of corruption against him.

"The public should praise and thank me for having been brave enough to expose the mismanagement of funds in Lebowa government services, which took place before I was elected political head of the territory," he said before firing two Ministers implicated in the report.

Ramodike, who became Chief Minister of Lebowa in 1987, is described as a daring and aggressive politician who has repeatedly stated his opposition to independence for the homeland.

He has claimed often in the past that there have been plots to oust or even assassinate him.

Ramodike dismissed his chief director, Boet Fick, at the end of last month after the alleged discovery of bugging devices in the Cabinet room and in his own office.

At a June 16 rally in Johannesburg in 1991, ANC president Nelson Mandela referred to the presence of Ramodike and forgave him for "past mistakes".

This week, however, ANC supporters in Pietersburg refused to listen to Ramodike when he tried to deliver a speech at a memorial service for Chris Hani.

than what he thinks. It is a complicated matter, but the judgment on this appeal will be delivered in the near future.

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For written reply:
General Affairs:

Lebowa: committees/commissions of inquiry

268. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

- (1) (a) How many (i) commissions and/or (ii) committees of inquiry have been appointed to date to conduct investigations into (aa) the affairs of statutory bodies, (bb) allegations of fraud and/or (cc) the misappropriation of funds in Lebowa and (b) in respect of each of these commissions and/or committees, what (i) was its name, (ii) was the name of its chairman, (iii) were its terms of reference, (iv) were its recommendations and (v) was the total cost involved;

(2) (a) which of the recommendations of each of these commissions and/or committees were (i) implemented and (ii) not implemented, (b) (i) why, (ii) in what manner and (iii) when was each of the recommendations in question implemented and (c) why were the other recommendations not implemented? B610E

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

- (1) Two Commissions of Inquiry have been appointed, namely:
- (i) the Dekker Commission, under the chairmanship of Mr L W Dekker, whose terms of reference to investigate, report and make recommendations on the possible misappropriation of funds in the Lebowa Government Service; and
- (ii) the De Meyer Commission, under the chairmanship of Mr O A de Meyer, whose terms of reference was to inquire into any mismanagement that may have occurred in the Lebowa Government Service, the Lebowa Development Corporation or the Lebowa Agricultural Company.

Recommendations of Dekker Commission

The Commission recommended that:

- (a) the Lebowa Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environmental Conservation must exercise stronger control over capital assets with regard to their function and cost implications;

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- (b) capital budgets be compiled in greater detail and that transfer of budgetary funds not only take place at management meetings with project developers, but be authorised by the Secretary of the relevant Department so that potential misuse of unapplied funds already paid to project developers, be avoided.

- (c) the delivery of material and services by one government department to another will take place within the budget and be financially calculated against each other, to determine the actual costs of capital expenditure;

- (d) under the guidance of the Department of Finance, registers be kept of capital assets indicating the full costs thereof and subject to internal and external audit;

- (e) the Commission recommends that the Lebowa Development Corporation Ltd decrease its loan to Kgosi L C Mothiba with R22 474,34 and that the latter be compelled to summarily repay the said amount minus any prepayments on compulsory instalments. After capital redemption and advanced payments an amount of R3 933,85 was paid by Kgosi Mothiba on 14 June 1989.

Recommendations of the De Meyer Commission

The First and Second Reports were tabled in Parliament during January/February 1993. Its recommendations are not repeated here.

The total costs of the Commissions were as follows:

- Dekker Commission: R21 686
De Meyer Commission: R376 168

- (2) The recommendations of the Dekker Commission were carried out by the Lebowa Government Service. With regard to the De Meyer Commission, some recommendations were carried out, whilst others are still receiving attention.

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Citizenship certificates issued

272. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

How many citizenship certificates (a)(i) had been issued and (ii) remained to be issued as at 31 December 1992, and (b) were issued in 1992, to citizens of each self-governing territory? B619E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

	(a)(i)	(a)(ii)	(b)
KwaZulu	1 611 787	3 122 743	244
Lebowa	278 322	1 379 184	0
Owaqwa	176 508	199 802	3 258
Ganzankulu	98 444	446 833	0
KaNgwane	4 574	398 405	0
KwaNdebele	47 430	228 874	0

The figures furnished under (a)(ii) are projections based on the latest adjusted 1991 Census figures as supplied by the Central Statistical Service.

Action on suggestions

RECOMMENDATIONS of the Dekker commission on the misappropriation of funds in the Lebowa government had been implemented by the homeland, Minister of Regional Affairs Andre Fourie told Parliament yesterday. He said also some of the recommendations of the De Meyer commission investigating mismanagement in the Lebowa government and the territory's development corporation had been carried out, while others were receiving attention. (11)

B/D/M 29/4/93

NEWS FEATURE Nelson Ramodike Predicts the end of the road for Lebowa as a homeland

LEBOWA WILL HAVE its last ordinary session of the legislative assembly this year during May or June. This will mark the end of the last chapter of apartheid and homeland politics in our region and the dawn of a new era which we have all been waiting for.

Believe it or not, Mr Mogofoya Nelson Ramodike, Chief Minister of Lebowa, is the source of this statement. Obviously Ramodike and his cabinet ministers have realised that the tide for democracy has turned full circle and are now pre-empting calls for the cessation of bantustan legislative assembly sittings.

However, even if Ramodike and his cabinet had not decided to end their parliamentary sittings this year, the constitutional talks at the World Trade Centre — if they are not derailed or deadlocked — will do that for him and other homeland leaders.

But for Ramodike, it is a milestone that he announced the end of Lebowa as a bantustan and if there is any ordinary legislative assembly sitting, he will have branded himself a cheat and a liar. The announcement comes hot on the heels of several corruption scandals that have plagued Lebowa and several other homeland administrations.

Corruption and graft have become a common feature of almost all the homelands and the central Government also gets full marks for its performance. High salaries and perks, Lebowa Development Corporation saga, which the chief minister dismissed as blatant lies.

Of late, Ramodike's administration has been exposed of awarding a Fire-Chem multi-million rand cleaning contract and to show its generosity, the company "ploughed back" R100 000

Final curtain

Sowetan 30/4/93.
UP, DOWN Heady days of an elevated traffic cop may be ending.

By Don Seokane

into Ramodike's United People's Front

During slain SACP chief Chris Hanzi's memorial service, Ramodike was booed by the people and chased away. This was clearly a sign that the people know how to deal with him.

But Ramodike and his ministers are not bowing out of cabinet politics that easily, as their demands from the Government guarantee.

A memorandum containing demands has been sent to the Minister of Regional Development and Land Affairs Mr André Fourie, threatening to shut down the homeland's administration unless the central Government fulfils its promises and obligations to Lebowa.

In the memorandum, the Lebowa cabinet demands that all applications for development projects approved by the Development Bank of Southern Africa be financed as soon as possible.

Backlogs in education and health services should be wiped out and that a nursing college should be built in the Northern Transvaal. Also infrastructure should be pro-

vided to 16 Lebowa townships and that additional land be made available.

Lebowa cabinet further demands that a pension benefits bill — passed by its legislative assembly — waiting for approval by President FW de Klerk be recognised immediately.

In short the Lebowa government needs more funds. And Ramodike has made it clear that those funds should come from the Government.

Trying to clarify things, Ramodike says constitutionally Lebowa cannot be regarded as having its own parliament and bills passed by the homeland's legislative assembly have to be approved by the State President.

The Azanian People's Organisation, which has vehemently opposed the homelands system and has consistently kept homeland leaders at arm's length, says Ramodike's announcements of no consequence.

Spokesman Mr Mmutle Phasha says before Ramodike's administration and any other bantustan government decides to close shop, taxpayers should be told what happened to the money squandered by the so-called MPs.

No bantustan, willing or unwilling, can exist beyond this year

111

"No bantustan, willing or unwilling, can continue to exist beyond this year and Ramodike's announcement is of no consequence."

"During the past two years the Lebowa government has been rocked with one corruption scandal after the other."

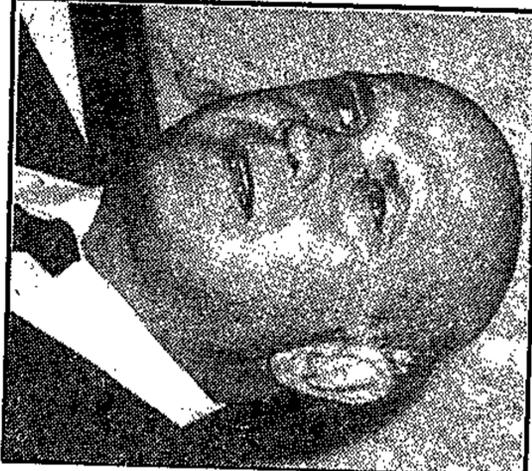
"What are they doing with those ministers who granted themselves liquor licences and what about those luxury German cars accumulating dust at Lebowakgomo?"

"They may close shop but the people will continue to demand answers," Phasha says.

For Ramodike and his followers — if there are any — the announcement might be proof that he rejects the system that elevated him to a political leader. After all, he was only a traffic cop before.



Nelson Ramodike



FW de Klerk

S. Times 16/5/93

Lebowa's sick wait for cure

IN LEBOWA'S Matlala Hospital near Marble Hall, half of the 228 beds stand empty.

Consulting rooms and wards have been commandeered as living space by policemen, hospital staff and trade union officials.

At the end of a brightly-lit corridor a fully equipped operating theatre is being used as a store.

Matlala superintendent Dr Nkombua Lushiku said: "After five, we don't get people here."

"They can't come because there is no transport."

Drugs

The outpatient wing at Matlala is a typical example of bad planning and maladministration in a chaotic and inefficient Lebowa Health Department, according to another medical superintendent, Dr John Millard.

Dr Millard, who runs the Jane Furse Memorial Hospital 50km down a dirt road from Matlala, is at his wit's end.

Superintendents are battling problems ranging from drug shortages and poor facilities to underpaid staff, he said.

Drugs supplied by the

By JAMES BRITTAIN

government stores frequently run out.

Last month, chemicals supplied by Firechem — the company that allegedly cut an illegal R15-million deal with Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike — were delivered to Jane Furse by government officials in a luxury German car.

The hospital has since been swamped with supplies of cleaning chemicals and overpriced mops.

But health workers believe the most serious problem is that health funds are not being channelled in the right direction.

According to Operation Hunger, 404 000 people are receiving food aid in Lebowa. This figure represents a 500 percent increase over the 1992 statistics.

Thousands more suffer from malnutrition and associated diseases such as gastro-enteritis and tuberculosis.

"There is a desperate need for improved primary health care in the region," said Dr Millard.

"People often have to walk up to 50km to find a

clinic, yet the government insists on pumping money into hospitals that don't need repairs."

The total 1992-1993 budget for health in Lebowa was R330-million.

The region has 20 hospitals and 146 clinics.

Lebowa's Director of Health, Social Welfare and Pensions, Professor Moses Bopape, admitted his department was "very much behind" but denied that primary health care was not a priority.

Rural

"Most of Lebowa is a rural area and we have old hospitals inherited from missionaries. So we are upgrading them," he said.

At Hlatlolanang — a new primary health-care centre in Mokwete funded by the Kellogg Foundation — Rose Mazibuko raised her arm and pointed out across the dry valley.

"Fifty percent of children in our area are underweight."

"There is insufficient food and water comes from the river."

"We don't need new hospitals."

"Stethoscopes can't do away with dirty water."

Tough trading conditions knock bakery

HARSH conditions in the food sector saw Lebowa Bakeries (Lebaka) report a 21,8% drop in attributable earnings to 10,9c (14c) a share in the six months to end-March.

Directors said the recession and high unemployment in the Transvaal region had affected results. There had been some good rains, but some areas were still affected by the drought. Political stayaways, boycotts, labour stoppages and strikes had also been factors.

Turnover fell 7,5% to R47,6m from R51,5m, and operating profit by 31,3% to R4,3m from R6,3m, with the operating margin being reduced by 23%.

Although interest paid was lower, interest received declined by 47,3% to

13/08/93 19/5/93
MARCIA KLEIN

R747 000 from R1,4m previously. Income after tax was down by 27,5% at R2,8m from R3,8m.

After outside shareholders, attributable income was 21,8% lower at R2,7m from R3,5m. The interim dividend was halved to 3,5c

(7c) a share. (11)

With effect from February, Lebaka had entered into a joint venture with Albany Bakeries. The assets of Lebaka's Bushbuckridge branch and Albany's Barberton Bakeries were combined to form Ridgeton Bakery, held equally by the two companies.

LEBAKA

Less dough

Bread may be the staple diet but it's of little consequence when the nation is eating less. This axiom is clear from Lebowa Bakeries' interim results. The baker and confectioner reports a 22% drop in attributable earnings to 10,9c a share.

Turnover of R47,6m is 8% down on a year
FM 28/5/93.

EATING LESS

Six months to	Mar '92	Sept '92	Mar '93
Turnover (Rm)	51,5	50,7	47,6
Operating income (Rm) ..	8,8	6,6	6,8
Attributable (Rm)	3,5	2,6	2,7
Earnings (c)	14,0	10,3	10,9
Dividends (c)	7,0	3,5	3,5

† Annualised.

ago. Population is around 2m but rural areas have been hard hit by the dip in disposable income. Extreme pressure on margins (the effect of drought, despite good rains in some areas) and general political upheaval saw operating profit down 23% to R6,8m. Fixed

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FM 28/5/93.

costs, though contained, did not fall in the same proportion. Interest paid was lower, but neutralised by a 47% decline in interest received. Lebaka should benefit at year-end from the new company tax rate.

From February, Lebaka entered into a joint venture with Albany Bakeries. The assets of Lebaka's Bushbuckridge branch and Albany's Barberton Bakeries were combined. Financial director Timothy Lehong says the formation of Ridgerton Bakery, though not expected to have much impact this year, will bring benefits next year.

Capex is still rising. Of R13,1m budgeted for this year, under half was spent in the first half, some of which was on a bakery project which will start production in July. The remaining R7m will go on expanding activities and replacement costs.

Over 70% of capex is to be funded internally. This is positive for gearing, now a healthy 7,7% (10% at year-end).

With continued socio-political problems, affecting the consumer and labour markets, and unlikely to show marked improvement soon, management is aiming to achieve taxed earnings for 1993 similar to the R6,7m of the previous year.

The share price, at 130c, is down 12% since the release of the figures. With limited growth prospects, the counter is unlikely to offer much excitement.

Marylou Greig

action in the memorandum. Only in its reference to good governance does the memorandum refer, in passing, to the fundamental issue of restoring the social climate of peace and order.

My question to the hon the Minister in this regard is whether the Government is afraid to admit to the real dilemma. In a theoretical model such as the Normative Economic Model it is indeed a soft option to make a theoretical supposition such as this and then to continue one's argument from that point.

The ultimate question therefore is: Can the normative model and its results be applied to the real world? Alternatively stated, was the exercise worth the effort?

*I know what the answer to this question is. It is "no". We can simply throw the Normative Economic Model into the trash can as a publicity document.

*The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Mr Chairman, I had hoped that hon members of the CP would also participate in the debate on the future economic policy in a positive manner.

I have already said that some important role-players of the future are not in this House, but outside it. [Interjections.] If we want to destroy this country, we must make an issue of our economic policy. The Normative Economic Model has already led to a great measure of convergence of thought outside in so far as economic policy is concerned.

The hon member made the remark that State revenue was now so much lower that one could act prophetically here in relation to the deficit before borrowing at the end of the financial year. We are not prepared to take part in that debate. It is true that there is a shortfall in so far as the revenue for the first two months is concerned, but it is possible that there is a cyclical trend involved here.

In so far as the lack of economic growth is concerned, this is largely related to political factors and the lack of investment in the country. [Interjections.] We are a country which finds itself in a transitional phase.

It is true that State debt has increased rapidly, particularly during the past two years, but viewed within the international context, our State debt is still entirely within limits. Hon members therefore need not try to score any points in that regard.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

The Government is anything but devoid of an economic plan. The Budget is one of the most important of a variety of economic policy instruments and plays a tremendous role in respect of economic restructuring and socio-economic reconstruction. This year's Budget is merely another step in a programme spanning a number of years.

We have said that the Normative Economic Model is a discussion document. It is not perfect and we want people to criticise it, because by criticising they are taking part. By so doing they become a party to that plan. [Time expired.] Debate concluded.

Building of Soeknog Dam in Lebowa

2. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Water Affairs:

- (1) Whether he will furnish information regarding the circumstances surrounding the building of the Soeknog Dam in Lebowa and the subsequent breaking of the dam wall; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant particulars;
- (2) whether it is the intention to rebuild this dam; if not, why not; if so, when?

B953E.INT

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS: Mr Chairman, Lebowa is a self-governing territory. In terms of the Self-governing Territories Constitution Act of 1971 such territories are empowered to construct such waterworks as they may deem fit, provided that they are not contrary to any entitlement to water of common interest on the part of cobasin states.

The 40 metre high earth embankment dam was constructed between January 1991 and December 1992 by the Department of Water Affairs of Lebowa, with finance provided by the Development Bank of Southern Africa, with a view to irrigating coffee plantations in Lebowa. The construction activities were undertaken by a contractor as far as the concrete works were concerned, and the aforementioned department in Lebowa undertook the ground fill, all under the control, guidance and supervision of a private firm of consulting civil engineers.

The dam safety legislation and regulations applicable to the construction of dams in the RSA do not apply to Lebowa, but prior to commencement of construction of the dam, a set of provisional plans was submitted to the department for perusal and comment. The Dam Safety Office in the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry at that time offered its assistance and expertise with the design and construction. Although Lebowa accepted this offer at the time, it ultimately did not make use of it.

When the dam was 28% full and with approximately two million cubic metres of water in storage, indications are that a leak developed overnight, which resulted in a breach in the earth embankment in the vicinity of the outlet works. This failure released the water in storage, resulting in a flood of approximately 300 to 500 cumec downstream. It is estimated that this flood was equivalent to a one-in-100 year flood. As far as can be ascertained, no loss of life occurred. As far as the environment is concerned, it was initially feared that serious ecological damage had been caused by a heavy silt load and subsequent deposits.

On hearing of the disaster, the department, in liaison with Lebowa, immediately arranged for a site inspection, and arrangements were also made for a group of experts from the department, the Nature Conservation Branch of the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the National Parks Board to look into the environmental aspects. Observations by the department at that time indicated that the Muthumvi River ... [Time expired.]

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Chairman, listening to the hon the Minister I come to the conclusion that there was a disgraceful degree of incompetence involved in all stages of the building of this dam, which finally culminated in the absolute debacle with which we are faced.

A homeland government, in this case Lebowa, operating through its separate Department of Water Affairs, and without proper reference to this hon Minister's department, decides to build a dam to serve the needs of approximately 200 000 people in Lebowa, as well as to allow an amount of water for irrigation purposes, including a coffee plantation. Whether any real consideration was given to downstream users outside Lebowa is very doubtful indeed, and whether any real environmental impact assess-

ment was conducted before the start of the project seems highly unlikely.

So a start is made on an inadequately thought out, ill-considered project. The project goes ahead, and the dam is completed. During construction a sort of environmental impact study is conducted by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry of the RSA which reveals, *inter alia*, the almost total destruction of all natural vegetation in the catchment area near the dam, indicating massive potential runoff. This does not appear to influence the situation.

Finally, after last year's major drought, the dam begins to fill up. The downstream users are deprived of any of the benefits of the first rains in the catchment area until, suddenly and unexpectedly, they get the total benefit of all the water plus an enormous amount of silt in one fell swoop when the dam wall breaks when the dam is probably about a third full. The resulting flood causes serious damage to the ecology of the Sand River, in spite of what the hon the Minister says. In the deep parts it is silted up and ...

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! Hon members must please lower their voices.

Mr R J LORIMER: ... there has been consequential damage to the delicate ecology of the Sabie River system. My questions to the hon the Minister are: Why was the building of the dam allowed to go ahead when no agreement on water usage had been reached with the users? Did his department know about the building of the dam from the outset and did they approve the plans? He did not say so in his speech. What has been the cost to the South African taxpayer? Is this wall going to be rebuilt, and if so, is a full-scale environmental impact assessment finally going to be conducted? Will the landowners in the Sabie Sand Reserve, who are heavily affected by the flow pattern of the river, and the Kruger Park authorities be considered?

Sabie Sand alone brings in R40 million in overseas currency for South Africa and pays out something like R0,5 million per month in salaries.

My colleague the hon member for Umhlanga will deal with the question of a department with inadequate expertise in dam building being allowed to proceed on its own ... [Time expired.]

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

*Mr C B SCHOEMAN: Mr Chairman, this dam, the Soeknog Dam, has the right name. After R38 million had been spent on its construction, after interest had been lost, after R340 000 had been spent by the Development Bank of Southern Africa to investigate what went wrong and after irrecoverable damage of between R10 million and R16 million had been suffered the dam is still missing (*soek*). [Interjections.]

In spite of the fact that the ground fill was undertaken by the Lebowa government, Gr-naker dealt with the concrete works, Van Wyk Louw were the engineers who designed the concrete works and Eksteen, Van der Walt and Nissen were the consulting engineers, the dam is still missing! That is unforgivable!

With all the modern dam building techniques available in the world, the question is whether there was a design problem. Was it faulty construction or good construction with poor supervision, or both? Of what quality was the material? Somebody is definitely to blame.

There is suspicion, particularly in the light of the revelations in connection with this self-governing state during the past two years, because there must have been a reason for the dam wall to give way. If it was the outlet works, why did the defensive design which was supposed to prevent this not work? One becomes concerned when one considers that there are 3 092 dams in South Africa which have been registered as safety risks.

The silt adversely affected the micro-ecology downstream, although the damage is considerably less than was initially stated in the media. There are also other environmental influences which apply, such as the destruction of vegetation and the population density. This plays an important role, particularly in respect of that region. This must receive urgent attention. Ironically enough, this dam was built in the first place for domestic water. Although the dam was virtually completed, a start had not yet been made with the planning or construction of the network for water distribution to the target population. [Time expired.]

*The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS: Mr Chairman, at the outset I want to say that it was the prerogative of the Lebowa government to build that dam. [Interjections.] Secondly, the

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

February 1990, which he considered to be a watershed year, he had gone ahead and transferred certain further functions in respect of water to the governments of the self-governing territories.

We must, however, realise a very important point. In the setup in which we find ourselves in this country there must be a central department which exercises control over a vital aspect such as water resources, because water is a national resource and knows no boundaries.

In certain regions one can grant certain functions to those regions. However, when it comes to the utilisation, development and so on of one of the most important resources in our country, there must be a central department. If we consider the development of water resources and how arid South Africa is, and take into account that we will have to import water from outside, not only from Lesotho, but even from further away, it is of vital importance for us to realise how important this resource is . . .

*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order!

*Mr J A JORDAAN: . . . that it is a matter which must be dealt with at central level . . .

*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order!

*Mr J A JORDAAN: . . . and that the NP itself must examine . . .

*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order!

*Mr J A JORDAAN: . . . where they put water affairs.

*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! If the Chair accommodates hon members so that they can complete their sentence, they must not start new sentences. [Interjections.]

Mr P G SOAL: Mr Chairman, on a point of order: Is it in order for the hon the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs to say to the hon member for Bryanston that he has lied?

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order!

Did the hon the Minister say that?

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Chairman, when the hon member said that he had put this question to me and that I had refused to reply to it, I said that he was lying.

*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! No, the hon the Minister must withdraw that.

*The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS: I withdraw it, Mr Chairman.

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Chairman, when I placed this question on the Question Paper, I directed it to the hon the Minister of Land Affairs. For some reason or other, because of the machinations on the other side, it was directed to that hon Minister who is obviously not responsible. It was put directly to the hon the Minister of Land Affairs. He is incompetent, and I would like an apology from that despicable Minister.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! Did I hear the hon member for Bryanston refer to an hon Minister as a despicable Minister?

Mr R J LORIMER: Yes, Mr Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon member must withdraw it.

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Chairman, I withdraw it.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! I cannot hear the hon member.

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Chairman, I withdrew it.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! Thank you. The hon member may continue.

Mr R J LORIMER: The hon the Minister of Water Affairs has still not answered any questions. He has not told us how much it cost. He has not told us whether the dam wall will be reconstructed, what kind of reparations are going to be made for the damage suffered by those downstream, whether or not water will be provided to the people downstream of the dam. He has not told us what is going to happen to the coffee plantation.

Everybody up there wants to know what is happening. I do not think this hon Minister knows himself. [Time expired.]

*The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS: Mr Chairman, I shall come to the hon member in a moment.

I agree with what the hon member for Umhlanga said. That is in fact the direction in which we are moving. When we find ourselves in a new government dispensation, of which Lebowa will be a part, we will say water is a national asset.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

[Interjections.] The hon member must listen to what I am saying.

Water is a national asset and we shall have to have some or other central mechanism which controls water in a co-ordinated way, so that they can see to it that there is uniformity and certain minimum standards are maintained and so that the distribution of water can be done mutually by regions, etc.

I now come back to the issue of the reconstruction of the dam. [Interjections.] Although he says I have not yet answered the question, I want to point out to him that I have already told the hon member that the reconstruction of the dam is entirely a decision of the Lebowa government. The Lebowa government is going to decide on this after they have completed the investigations, which quite a number of committees, which are examining the ecological and other adverse effects, are involved in.

I have already told the hon member that because of what has happened the Lebowa government has become thoroughly aware of the necessity for dam safety. The Department of Water Affairs has for that specific reason been invited to be part of the planning and to supervise operations as if the dam were being built in South Africa. That is their standpoint. Although the rules of dam safety have not yet been applied to it, it will be as if the dam were being built in South Africa. They will then apply those rules to ensure that the dam is built according to the safety standards.

I do not know what answer the hon member still wants.

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

State President:

*1. Mr P G SOAL—State President. [Withdrawn.]

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

the service of the South African Defence Force and stationed at a base at Swartkop.

(2) Yes.

The investigation was completed and the two men were arrested on 18 September 1992 and brought to court after which they were released on their own recognisances. They had to appear in court again on 7 January 1993, but did not show up and warrants for their arrest were issued. One of the men was re-arrested on 12 June 1993.

(3) No.

Pietermaritzburg Regional Court: Case No RC 958/92

*2. Mr P C CRONJÉ asked the Minister of Justice:

(1) Whether case No RC 958/92 was heard in the Pietermaritzburg Regional Court; if so, what (a) are the names of the accused in this case and (b) were the charges involved;

(2) whether the accused appeared in court in connection with these charges; if not, why not; if so, what was the outcome;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B912E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

(1) Yes.

(a) Alfred Kock and Willem van Wyk.

(b) Count 1: Rape.

Count 2: Robbery.

Count 3: Attempted murder.

(2) Yes. After the case had been postponed to 7 January 1993 for trial, both accused failed to appear in court on this date and warrants for their arrest were issued. The accused have to date not been apprehended.

(3) A statement is not necessary.

Jan Smuts: aircraft fired upon

*3. Mr J P I BLANCHÉ asked the Minister of Law and Order:†

(1) Whether any aircraft of the South African Airways were recently fired upon with firearms or other weapons in the vicinity of a South African airport; if so, (a) when, (b) at which airport and (c) what was the (i) nature and (ii) extent of this incident or these incidents;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B927E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) Yes.

(a) 27 May 1993 between 19:15 and 19:30

(b) Jan Smuts Airport

(c) (i) and (ii) Members of the South African Police noticed, on two occasions whilst aircraft were flying over the Tembisa area, a limited number of tracer rounds being fired from the ground. No aircraft were hit. It is not known which type of firearm was used to fire the shots.

(2) No.

†Mr J P I BLANCHÉ: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I want to ask him whether he can perhaps tell us whether the SA Police have taken any measures to deal with similar cases in future.

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, yes, security measures have been introduced to deal with such problems. The hon member will understand, however, that it would be unwise of me, and not in the public interest, to explain what we have done.

Jan Smuts: aircraft fired upon

*4. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Transport:†

(1) Whether flight routes to and from Jan Smuts Airport had to be altered as a result of recent alleged rifle fire or other ground-to-air attacks on passenger aircraft en route to or from this airport; if so,

(2) whether passenger flights of any airlines have been affected by these altered flight routes; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Lebowa nurses end strike

AN EIGHT-WEEK strike by Lebowa nurses ended this week with the signing of an agreement between the Department of Health and Social Welfare and a workers' committee.

The department agreed to pay all arrear salaries by September 30, and to recommend that the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union be recognised. (1/2) ARG 10/7/93

Teachers march over salary cuts

(11)
LEBOWAKGOMO —
Lebowa police and South
African soldiers manned
roadblocks as about
2 000 South African
Democratic Teacher's
Union members
marched on the home-
land's legislative assem-
bly building. *ARG*

The marchers were
demanding a refund of
salaries deducted after a
strike in 1991. *14/8/93*

No violence was re-
ported. — Sapa

Halt on payments until financial crisis resolved

Star 1/9/93

SA moves on Lebowa

BY MCKEED KOTLOLO
and NORMAN CHANDLER

In an unprecedented step, South Africa today takes over financial control of Lebowa because the local Legislative Assembly failed to pass a budget for the 1993-94 financial year.

This was announced yesterday in Pretoria by Local Government Minister Andre Fourie. He said "no authorisation exists (for Lebowa) to incur any expenditure or to make any payments".

This means cheques issued to homeland officials, contractors and others with a claim on Lebowa will not be met until the situation has been resolved.

"Lebowa government Ministers whom I met in Pretoria yesterday appeared to be surprised at our decision but later, after discussions, they accepted the taking over of the financial situa-

SOUTH AFRICA sends financial task force to Lebowa to probe irregularities and take control of the homeland's coffers

tion as being in the interests of all," Fourie said.

The homeland's budget was R3,6 billion and an additional R360 million was requested in April. This later doubled to R722 million before Lebowa, after a further meeting in May, reduced it to R306 million.

The decision means that in order to ensure the "efficient continuation of services", the Minister, with the approval of the Cabinet and in accordance with the authority vested in him

by Section 25 of the Constitution of the Self-Governing Territories, was compelled to exercise control over Lebowa's financial administration.

The South Africa Government said it appeared that the financial management of the Lebowa government had deteriorated to such an extent that intervention had become inevitable.

Fourie said the first indication that Lebowa was in financial trouble came in April when a request for additional funds was received.

The department would act in close co-operation with the Lebowa government and officials.

An investigation would be launched into irregularities "which have been assuming alarming proportions over the past few months", he said.

Fourie disclosed that a "financial task force" was being sent to Lebowa to assist in the inves-

tigation.

The Government has appealed to the Lebowa government and its officials as well as civilians, political groupings and others to remain calm and provide co-operation.

It warned, however, that officials, existing recipients of welfare allowances and suppliers who would have received payment yesterday, may encounter problems in cashing their cheques.

Consideration

The South African Government has undertaken to make all legitimate payments as soon as possible.

Other homeland states, whom Fourie did not name, had submitted their budgets in time, although some had also requested additional funds. These were under consideration.

Seshego civic unified

Sowetan 11/9/93

THE disgraced Seshego Civic Association is to be unified tomorrow when an eight-man working committee meets to complete the process.

The committee — made up of four former officials and four from the new executive committee — has been involved in the mediation process conducted by the

Independent Mediation Service of South Africa.

The former executive committee was recently accused of misappropriating funds totalling over R30 000, corruption and improper handling of financial records by Mr Japie Maboea, treasurer of the new executive.

However, former executive committee chairman Mr Robert Moringi denied the accusations, saying the only funds received by the civic was R6 000 from the United States Agency for International Development and R1 480 from a fundraising function.

in connection with the training.

The SDU were said to be buying firearms from Mozambicans who were probably former rebel Frelimo members.

Brig Abrie said this was one of the main factors leading to instability on the Witwatersrand.

Three SDU members have already been charged and several arrested for murdering policemen. — Sapa

Terror bus attack: ~~258~~ Three men released

CT 11/9/93
POLICE released three men yesterday who were detained for questioning in connection with the terror attack on a bus in Beaufort West last week.

A fourth man who was arrested on Monday, has not yet been released, a police spokesman said.

He is expected to appear in court this week in connection with the illegal possession of a firearm.

Earlier yesterday, police fired teargas at pupils who refused to disperse when they protested at the Beaufort West police station, demanding the release of the arrested men. They then stoned at least five cars in the town's main road. — Staff Reporter, Sapa

Homeland cops 'killers'

CT 11/9/93
DURBAN. — Kwazulu Police allegedly assassinated suspected police killers, and failed to cooperate with South African Police in murder investigations of a Natal ANC leader, a Goldstone inquiry heard yesterday.

It also emerged at a Goldstone Commission sub-committee hearing in Westville, near here, that a KZP member charged with murder continued to work in the homeland force for 2½ years after he jumped bail. ~~(S)~~

The sub-committee also heard that urgent requests for information relating to G3 rifles suspectedly used in the 1992 murder of ANC deputy Midlands chairman Mr Reggie Hadebe were ignored. — Sapa

Govt moves on Lebowa

CT 11/9/93
Political Staff

THE government is taking over the financial administration of the non-independent Lebowa homeland from today after irregularities of "alarming proportions" emerged. ~~(S)~~

The move is the first decisive step by the government to reintegrate Lebowa into South Africa.

With irregularities and overspending in most if not all of the 10 indepen-

dent and non-independent homelands — all of whom are heavily dependent on the South African taxpayer — Pretoria's action is a warning to all homeland administrations they could face similar action soon.

Lebowa has a budget of R3 664 billion and requested R360m more.

The Lebowa administration would remain intact till a new dispensation had been implemented.

Taxi war: Suspects given bail

A SUPREME COURT judge warned two Codeta committee members yesterday he would withdraw bail of R10 000 each should there be "as much as a whisper" of intimidation of state witnesses.

Mr Sandile Nonqwana and Mr Patrick Nonqwana are charged with two counts of murder and one of attempted murder, each related to the taxi war.

They were yesterday released

on bail by Mr Justice H L Berman following an appeal to the Supreme Court. ~~(S)~~

The men were previously refused bail by a Mitchells Plain magistrate on the grounds that they may interfere with state witnesses. ~~(S)~~ *CT 11/9/93*

Referring to evidence by a state witness that he would refuse to testify if the men were released on bail, Mr Justice Berman said the state could not be

held to ransom by this and the men's right to bail should prevail.

Mr Justice Berman said given the volatile nature of the taxi business certain state witnesses might indeed feel in danger.

There was however nothing to show that the danger they feared was promoted by the appellants.

Strict bail conditions were set.

Mr Marius Broekmans appeared for the state. Mr William King, instructed by Mr William Booth, appeared for the men.

Officials accused of graft

SA govt takes over chaotic Lebowa fiscus

B/Day 11/9/93

PRETORIA — A government task force was dispatched to Lebowa today to take immediate control of the homeland's deteriorating financial situation.

Regional and Land Affairs Minister André Fourie said yesterday the "unprecedented" intervention, including the freezing of all Lebowan government cheques, had become necessary in the interests of SA taxpayers.

Lebowa had overspent its 1992/93 budget of R3,6bn by about R722m, he said.

An investigation into financial irregularities would also be launched following indications that graft and self-enrichment by officials had reached "alarming proportions". Evidence that officials had been upgrading their posts and authorising salary back payments had been confirmed by the auditor-general's office, Fourie said.

The Lebowa Legislative Assembly's failure to pass its 1993/94 budget within the prescribed time gave SA the statutory right to intervene under the Constitution of the Self-Governing Territories Act of 1971.

But Lebowa's recent request for R360m in additional funds, a structural adjustment programme report on the territory's finances, and a letter of concern from the auditor-general to the Land and Regional Affairs Department had indicated that Lebowa's financial situation was far from sound, Fourie said.

"The financial management of the

ADRIAN HADLAND

Lebowa government had deteriorated to such an extent that intervention by the SA government became inevitable.

Officials, existing recipients of welfare allowances and suppliers, who would have received payments on August 31, would have problems cashing cheques. From today all Lebowa government expenditure would be unauthorised.

The SA government, which would draw cash from Lebowa's expenditure account to meet the territory's immediate obligations, undertook to make all legitimate payments as soon as possible, Fourie said.

He appealed to Lebowan officials, inhabitants, political groupings and concerned parties to remain calm and cooperate in setting up a sound financial administration.

Fourie said Lebowan government representatives had expressed surprise yesterday morning when warned of SA's intervention. He had informed a delegation, including Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike, that the move was not vindictive, but was taken "in the interests of the taxpayers of SA".

He restated government policy that self-governing territories should remain in place until a new regional dispensation was approved by national negotiators.

PATRICK BULGER reports Ramodike

□ To Page 2

described Fourie's allegations as "a diabolical lie". He had been under the impression Fourie had called the meeting to discuss the homeland's budget and was surprised that a decision had been taken already.

Ramodike said seconded SA finance officials were "incompetent". He was being victimised because of his ANC ties.

"The truth is that there has been a delay (in) the annual sitting of the legislative assembly because of the continuous meet-

ings that we have held with Fourie.

"It is nonsensical to suggest that any money has been misappropriated. Fourie is blowing the matter out of all proportion. We have nothing to hide," he said.

DP land affairs spokesman Peter Soal said the Lebowa government had been irresponsible and incompetent in allowing financial chaos to develop. But the crisis was a direct consequence of NP policy and it was government's duty to intervene.

Silent

Sowetan
11/9/93

'coup' in Lebowa

By Josias Charle

THE SOUTH AFRICAN Government has taken over the control and administration of all financial matters of Lebowa and a probe is to be launched soon into certain alleged irregularities. The unprecedented steps will come into effect today.

Announcing the measures yesterday, South African Minister of Regional and Land Affairs Mr André Fourie said Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike and his Cabinet have been told about the new steps and, though surprised, accepted them.

They attended a meeting yesterday with South African Government officials to discuss the matter. The measures were taken after the Lebowa Legislative Assembly had failed to pass a budget for the 1993-94 financial year within the prescribed statutory period, Fourie said.

"In order to ensure efficient continuation of services I am compelled to exercise control over Lebowa's financial administration from September 1," Fourie said.

He said the financial management of Lebowa

had deteriorated to such an extent that intervention by the SA government was inevitable.

"This is confirmed by among others the fact that the Lebowa government requested additional funds as well a report from the Auditor-General," Fourie said.

He disclosed that Lebowa's budget for the previous financial year was about R3,7 billion and on top of this they had requested an additional R360 million which subsequently shot up to R722 million.

Fourie said after a meeting with Ramodike and his Cabinet on May 7 they agreed to bring down their additional request to R306 million.

As of today officials from the South African Government are to be seconded to Lebowa and all expenditure and payments will be made by Fourie.

"At the same time an investigation will be launched into irregularities which evidently have been assuming alarming proportions over the last few months," Fourie said.

The Government was not being vindictive in its actions but it was acting in the best interests of South African taxpayers as well as Lebowa officials, he said.



Mr Nelson Ramodike

Lebowa overdraft facility closed

BINAY 2/9/93
PATRICK BULGER

A LEBOWA government overdraft facility provided by the Standard Bank was closed earlier this week when the SA government told bank officials it would not continue to guarantee a spiralling overdraft.

It is understood the account was opened three years ago when the Lebowa government first experienced cash flow problems. An overdraft limit, guaranteed by the SA government, was established. It was administered by the Lebowa treasury. (11)

Bank officials became concerned at the account's state at the end of last year and discussions were held with the Lebowa government treasury. When it continued to deteriorate, the bank opened discussions with the SA government which was technically in a position to provide comfort to the bank for amounts over the established limit.

Although the amount by which the account was overdrawn is not public, a source in the Regional and Land Affairs Department which disburses funds to the self-governing territories, said it formed a substantial part of the R360m shortfall in Lebowa's budget estimates.

The SA government was to have provided further guarantees for the overdraft by yesterday. Instead SA government officials met bank officials and "reached an understanding" about the overdrawn amount, a source close to the negotiations said. He said it was probable SA had paid the debt.

A new account, to be administered by SA officials, has been opened to cover cashflow problems.

A Standard Bank spokesman cited customer confidentiality and said he could not comment on the issue.

Star 2/19/93

Lebowa hits out at SA over budget

III

■ STAFF REPORTER

Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike yesterday claimed the South African Government had caused the financial crisis in his territory by not allocating enough money to the self-governing state.

Local Government Minister Andre Fourie announced on Tuesday that South Africa would take control of Lebowa's finances because a budget had failed to be passed for the 1993/94 financial year.

The problem arose after Lebowa asked for an additional R722 million to supplement the homeland's R3,6 billion budget.

Ramodike said in a statement: "Mr Andre Fourie's department failed to provide an adequate budget for the needs of the people of Lebowa, and

the Lebowa Cabinet refused to accept the budget."

However, the Democratic Party welcomed the move as an effort to control excessive spending. But DP MP Kobus Jordaan said in a statement the decision "smacks of political chicanery of the first order".

Jordaan said the Lebowa case was just the tip of the iceberg. He added that the sub-council on regional and local government of the proposed transitional executive council should be given control of expenditure in the self-governing territories in order to level the political playing-field.

Sapa reports that the PAC said that while it appreciated Government moves to take over control of Lebowa's finances, they were "long overdue".

Promotions cost R60m

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Lebowa's financial crisis was triggered by the mass promotion of public servants who alleged they were being "unduly prejudiced" and demanded more pay, a source within the self-governing territory's government said yesterday.

The promotions have cost the Lebowa government R60m to date. The money came from a bank account opened on behalf of Lebowa by the SA government three years ago when Lebowa's cash flow problems began.

The SA government stepped in and

took over the financial affairs of the territory earlier this week. At the same time it closed the account which had reached R245m in overdraft, of which the SA government had agreed to guarantee only R185m.

The Lebowa government was until Monday this week under the impression that Pretoria would settle the bill with the bank. Instead it invoked a section of legislation governing the finances of the self-governing territories to take over Lebowa's finances.

At the same time Pretoria sent a financial task team to sort out the territory's financial crisis.

NEWS Ramodike is said to be a failed financial controller who cannot manage a budget

By Don Seokane and Mathatha Tsedu

Lootings stopped in tracks

IRREGULAR PROMOTIONS *Sowetan 3/9/93*
Fancy titles mask illegal actions and back pays:

IT WAS A TIME OF ACCUMULATING and it was a time of looting.

That about sums up the financial mismanagement in Lebowa that led to this week's historic action by the South African Government to take over control of financial matters in the bantustan.

Newspaper readers may not have been surprised by the news that said the Government found Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike to be reckless with finances; the De Meyer commission had found that much already. But many would still have asked, why now?

In a system that was so morally bankrupt that it depended for its sustenance on the collaboration of corrupt and bribed lackeys, why is it that the South African Government now feels it has to act?

What is it that the Lebowa government did now to force the Government to step in. A *Sowetan* investigation has shown that over the past two months, the Lebowa government spent nearly R90 million on backdated promotions - some up to nine years - and on new cars for ministers and their deputies.

Here are some of the details:
 ● The office of the Auditor-General, after an inspection of the finances, found that 10 departments had spent R49,3 million on backdated payments following irregular promotions. Three of these departments, Home Affairs, Agriculture and Justice, spent a further R10,5 million on promotions, but these were hidden in other expenses.

stopped immediately.

There is indeed no doubt about the irregularity of the promotions. In one case, Mr MS Tema of the department of finance was promoted retrospectively to 1984, a total of more than nine years.

He was promoted from administration officer, where his duties included distribution of toilet papers, stationery and telephone directories, to assistant director, with back payments amounting to R72 000.

Prohibited

The promotion meant that he had jumped one stage, of senior administration officer, a step prohibited by the regulations that Ramodike's cabinet had laid down for the promotions. Seven other officials were promoted above the allowed rank. The auditor found that the positions to which the officials had been promoted might not even exist.

He found extreme haste in processing the back payments. The report said an examination of the processed cases had revealed that all payments made were wrong, and that those responsible were aware "of the problems and are

purposefully speeding up the process before errors can be detected and transactions stopped".

Some of the cases highlighted include promotions of an official who was on probation.

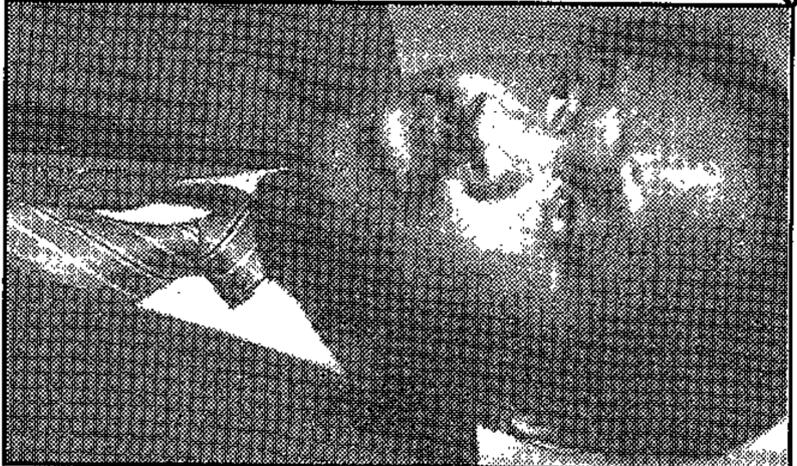
She was promoted retrospectively and given arrear payments. Officials are said to have raked in as much as R120 000 each in arrears, and this is reflected in the number of new luxury cars on the local roads.

The exercise is seen by many as an attempt by Ramodike to play up to the gallery of civil servants. If civil servants are raking in millions, they are bound to defend the system that benefits them, it is argued.

Looting not limited

But be that as it may, many see the Government action this week as a precedent that, if carried further, could lead to the annexation of all bantustans overnight.

Such is the state of corruption in all, that none would survive a vigilant audit scrutiny.



Nelson Ramodike ... "reckless with money".

The looting spree is not limited to Lebowa. In Venda, the military junta privatised the pension scheme, granting top officials millions each in wrongly calculated benefits.

When this was noticed and corrected, attempts were made last week to circumvent restrictions on the use of the money, until *Sowetan* blew the lid and

the matter was reversed.

In Gazankulu, corruption has meant that almost all viable business ventures have had a minister or deputy involved to milk the profits. The political ramifications of the move are wide, and many see in the Lebowa action a move that may result in any bantustan not towing the line being subjected to a rigorous audit.

The reaction by the ANC, which could only be seen as perfunctory, was that the Lebowa action was unilateral and selective.

But they could not have been arguing for condonation of the massive looting of public funds under the guise of rationalisation and parity.

At a time when Lebowa school children attend school under trees or in overcrowded classes, the expenditure of about R90 million on back payments of up to nine years is unjustifiable, many believe.

But for Ramodike, who has responded with outbursts of anger and accusations, the sun seems to be setting much sooner than for anyone else in the bantustan league.

And the major questions now is, stripped of financial control that he has successfully used to cushion himself against usurpers, what is the status of the office of His Excellency the Governor?

R23million 2/9/93

In addition, health, spent an additional R23 million up to the end of June in back payments. This was on top of the R13,6 million that was also spent on the issue.

● On top of this, the cabinet ministers and their deputies, comprising over 20 members, bought themselves luxury cars costing R220 000 each.

● In addition, Ramodike bought himself two other luxury cars costing a total of R450 000.

The Auditor-General's report found that the entire expenditure was unauthorised and irregular. He ordered that the process be

SA takes over Lebowa finances after chiefs try to oust Ramodike

III WM 3-9/9393

Paul Stober reports on moves to depose Lebowa leader Nelson Ramodike

THE South African government's move to take over the finances of Lebowa follows hard on the heels of a bid by local chiefs to rid the self-governing territory of its chief minister, Nelson Ramodike.

Two weeks ago, chiefs opposed to Ramodike tried to pass a motion of no-confidence in the chief minister in the Lebowa Legislative Assembly. Chiefs constitute the majority of assembly representatives.

Ramodike survived the motion by bussing youths, armed with knobkieries and other weapons, to the legislative assembly, a local source said. There they were left to wander about "as some kind of intimidation tactic" during the motion.

In a recent application in the Pretoria Supreme Court to have the defeat of the motion set aside, Ramodike was accused of ensuring the motion was not debated or put to the vote. He is also said to have removed the Speaker of the assembly, who was sympathetic to the motion.

The court action, brought by Chief Walter Morwamoche, failed. An application by the former Speaker, Boleu Matsepe, that he be reinstated was also dismissed.

Chiefs opposing Ramodike have been complaining about conditions in their villages, including a chronic shortage of water, collapsing infrastructures and a breakdown in the health service as overworked and underpaid nurses and doctors resign. The aged have accused the Lebowa government of misusing money meant for pensions.

African National Congress sources in the region, who are close to the chiefs, said the real problem was that the chiefs felt Ramodike was

"no longer taking care of them. He is juggling them around. They want the Mercedes, but they don't want to be his property."

Chiefs who held cabinet posts in Lebowa and were dismissed after the De Meyer Commission report and other revelations of massive government corruption, believe they were scapegoats.

When the chiefs made known their intentions to depose Ramodike, it came to the attention of South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha, who is also the National Party head in the Northern Transvaal, said the sources.

The South African government is believed to have indicated it would back the chiefs in the hope that Ramodike's successor would be less well-disposed to the ANC.

"They are funny bedfellows. Botha is hoping to win the support of the chiefs but that is not going to happen," said the source.

Although the Lebowa government is part of the ANC-led patriotic front, the ANC's Northern Transvaal region opposes Ramodike. The Lebowa leader was driven out of a memorial service for Chris Hani in April this year. "There are no activists in the area who like Ramodike," said the ANC source.

Ramodike has attributed Pretoria's move this week to take control of Lebowa's finances as a response to his ties with the ANC.

The measures — which mean that no cheques issued by the territory's administration to officials, welfare recipients or suppliers can be cashed until its financial crisis is resolved — were taken after the Lebowa legislative assembly failed to pass a budget for the 1993/94 financial year.

Lebowa overspent its 1992/93 budget of R3,6-billion by R772-million, says Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie.

Ramodike is reported to have been taken by surprise by the South African move. He claimed he was being victimised because of his ties to the ANC.

Pay hikes spark Lebowa crisis

B1 Day

PATRICK BULGER

LEBOWA's financial crisis was triggered by the mass promotion of public servants who alleged that they were being "unduly prejudiced" and demanded more pay, a source within the homeland's government said yesterday. 3/9/93

These promotions have cost the Lebowa government R60m to date. The money came from a bank account opened on behalf of Lebowa by the SA government three years ago when Lebowa began experiencing cash flow problems. (III)

The SA government stepped in this week and took over the self-governing territory's financial affairs. It also closed the account which was R245m in overdraft, of which the SA government had agreed to guarantee only R185m.

Worried bank officials approached

Lebowa, then SA, to express their concern about the state of the account. Until Monday Lebowa was under the impression that SA would settle the bill. Instead SA invoked a section of legislation dealing with the finances of self-governing territories and took over Lebowa's finances.

At the same time the SA government sent in a financial task force to sort out the homeland's financial crisis. It was accompanied by a personnel task force headed by a senior SA Public Service Commission official. The existence of this second team was not publicised.

Allegations of arbitrary promotions in the Lebowa civil service were first made

To Page 2

Lebowa

B1 Day

3/9/93

From Page 1

by CP deputy regional and land affairs spokesman Schalk Pienaar, who alleged that the problems began when staff at Lebowa's Groothoek Hospital threatened to go on strike unless they were promoted.

The source said nurses had claimed that their merit records, which promotion assessments were based on, had not been kept up to date. At the end of June they went on strike. (III)

"All of the rest of the public service threatened to go on strike unless they were also promoted. The government decided the same principle must apply to all and began backdating promotions and giving more pay to people they called deserving officials who had been unduly prejudiced."

The personnel task team intended reversing the promotions, he said.

Gravy train too fast even for SA

© IPROD 51.91.93

(11)

By THEMBA KHUMALO

GROSS mismanagement of funds plunged the Lebowa government into an unprecedented financial crisis which prompted Pretoria to step in and administer the homeland's finances for a period of between three to six weeks, Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andries Fourie said on Friday.

He told a press conference in Pretoria that his government's intervention came after the SA Development Bank had found that Nelson Ramodike's government had overstepped its budget by R60-million, plunging Lebowa into a R722-million deficit.

Fourie said the bank also found that Lebowa civil servants were promoted three times above their original posts at a time, which meant that their salaries rose significantly. This caused a serious financial crisis.

He added that Lebowa took on new staff, despite the fact that there was no money to pay their salaries.

The bank also discovered that the homeland had a R60-million bank overdraft, said Fourie.

"Any government the world over will budget according to its ability rather than its needs," he said.

Ramodike earlier accused Pretoria of intervening in his administration's affairs, and of seconding incompetent officials to his government.

Fourie said he would not be dragged into mud-slinging with Ramodike as he (Ramodike) was scoring political points while he (Fourie) was only concerned with facts.

Receiver takes over in Lebowa

By CLAIRE ROBERTSON

THE Lebowa financial crisis escalated further this week when the Receiver of Revenue moved in to ensure income tax is paid in the homeland — and that central government gets its share. (11)

The move came in a week when the Pretoria government took the unprecedented step of taking charge of the finances in the territory following revelations of maladministration and Lebowa's refusal to pass its R3,6-billion budget. The administration of income tax in the

territory was also found to be "not up to standard", said Minister of Regional and Land Affairs Andre Fourie, who admitted: "We were not getting the taxes we were due." 5/19/93

The minister's colleagues explained that Lebowa had left itself open to Pretoria's intervention when it threatened not to pass its budget unless it received more funds than those allocated.

"This is the only circumstance in which we could intervene. Lebowa created the gap, and we took it," an official said.

Lebowa finances probed

Sowetan 6/9/93

A SOUTH African financial task force worked round the clock over the weekend checking whether there had been widespread corruption in Lebowa's financial affairs.

Mr. Andries Fourie, the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, says that instances of mismanagement have been unearthed since the team took charge of Lebowa's money matters last week.

The arrival of the task force has also had an unfortunate offshoot for local

people - the Government has called in the Receiver of Revenue to investigate personal finances.

Fourie said the Government took the action with reluctance but was legally obliged to do so.

Fourie revealed that Lebowa had received 21 percent more for its 1993/94 budget compared to the previous year and was one of two territories - the other was QwaQwa - which had asked for additional money.

Lebowa resists fiscal takeover

PIETERSBURG — The Lebowa cabinet is considering legal action to resist South Africa's take-over of its financial administration, according to Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike's office. **October 13**

"There has never been any agreement for the so-called take-over of the financial administrative function, an action which may be challenged by the Lebowa cabinet in a court of law," a statement said yesterday. — Sapa

Lebowa admits misuse blame

LEBOWAKGOMO — Lebowa chief minister Mr Nelson Ramodike admitted yesterday some seconded officials in his department of finance had been involved in the misappropriation of about R44 million, it was reported.

This came a day after an official in the department was dismissed.

He said the money was withdrawn from the tribal trust account since 1991. A committee would investigate. — Sapa

Sharing the burden of Sekhukhuneland's poverty

(11) WM 10-16/9/93

Drought, overcrowding and joblessness ensure that the South African takeover of Lebowa's finances will make little difference to the homeland's grindingly poor inhabitants.

Paul Stober visits desolate Sekhukhuneland

PEOPLE are not surviving here," says civic leader Patrick Tsoaledi, looking across the small dirt playground into the village of Modibong.

Between the houses are smudges of green — some grass and vegetable patches which have survived the drought and goats — but the overwhelming impression is of desolation.

In the mountains of Sekhukhuneland, Lebowa, villages are surrounded by bare rock and deserted mud houses, cracked by the sun. There are no wells, fields or any obvious means of survival for the villagers.

"People look after each other, their parents and their children. They are forced to live in a way they would prefer not to," said Operation Hunger's regional director, Johann Rissik.

Rissik has headed his organisation's relief work in Lebowa for the past eight years. Every day, Operation Hunger provides food for 450 000 people in the Northern Transvaal — most of whom live in Lebowa. From Rissik's office, the organisation runs the largest school feeding programme in South Africa and distributes nutritional aid to families.

He believes the root problem in Sekhukhuneland is that too many people live in too small an area. "The area is fairly fertile but it has been severely degraded because of the unnatural population density. There has been erosion and deforestation, and wild life has just about been wiped out. There are no natural resources left. When there is a drought or recession, people cannot turn to natural resources, they can no longer live off the land."

The last census put the population of Lebowa at over four million, of whom 1.5-million live in Sekhukhuneland. But development workers scoff at this figure, seeing it as a gross under-estimate.

Rissik recognises the feeding programme is not going to solve the problem. "We accept the need for sustainable development — but the reality is that children are dying on a daily basis."

Hlatlolanang (which means "we share the burden") is a community centre based in Jane Furse which is working on a development programme aimed at improving health standards in the surrounding villages.

The chairman of Hlatlolanang's management committee, Aaron



Erosion, deforestation, a scarcity of water and over-population has resulted in widespread malnutrition PHOTOGRAPH: PETER MCKENZIE

Motwseledi, a doctor who has worked in Sekhukhuneland for many years, talks about "the problems of deprivation".

Lack of basic nutrition has hit the villages hardest, and children have been ravaged by kwashiorkor (severe malnutrition). According to Hlatlolanang centre employees, at least half the children up to the age of 12 years are malnourished. In some villages the incidence is apparently as high as 60 percent.

Wherever you go, villagers complain about the shortage of water. The Lebowa government — only nominally in charge of territory since South Africa seized control of the financial administration of the territory — is, at best, incompetent and corrupt. At worst, it deliberately keeps the region underdeveloped, so that villages remain dependent on it for survival.

"That is what is holding development back. The Lebowa government still has not given water because here it is a political weapon," said a development worker.

All through the day, youths can be seen pushing containers of water in wheelbarrows while women walk with cans on their heads. "People are travelling a long way to get water because the taps are dry," said Tsoaledi. "In some of the places the water is in the dongas and you have to go down to the bottom to get it."

Communities said the health services, electricity supply and

education system were in disarray. "The Lebowa government only deploys members of South African Defence Force and builds police stations here," said Tsoaledi.

Joblessness is a huge problem. There is virtually no formal business sector around Jane Furse and about 90 percent of the population is unemployed.

With little food produced in the region and virtually no work, it is hard to see how people carry on. "People are trying to sell things — fruit or vegetables — going door to door to make a living," said Tsoaledi.

Rissik believes a way must be found to increase the agricultural production of the area. Although there is some agricultural activity, production costs are too high and too few people have access to land. "We are not going to feed everybody on a sustainable basis, but we have to ensure we produce as much as possible. If there is no agricultural base in the area, there can be no local development. People have to go out of the area to spend their money on food," he explained.

Few residents believe the South African takeover will change anything in the region.

"We never wanted to be part of Lebowa. Unless people have a say in the Lebowa government, these problems will never be solved," said a Madibong Civic Association member.

A special supplement for the legal fraternity.
Next week in the Weekly Mail & Guardian —
Review/Law

HOMELANDS
FM 10/9/93
Same old story

A joint ministerial committee established to oversee the clean-up of maladministration in Lebowa met for the first time only on July 30 — more than eight months after government announced its formation. Even then it did not complete its agenda. Proceedings ended when agreement could not be reached on Lebowa's request for more money. The homeland's Chief Minister, Nelson Ramodike, demanded to see President F W de Klerk and the meeting adjourned.

By then Lebowa's financial crisis had deteriorated to such an extent that less than a month later, last week, government stepped in to take control. (111)

The joint ministerial committee was supposed to have been a key element in government's efforts to remedy the massive financial and administrative irregularities exposed in a report of the De Meyer Commission last year. The commission, headed by Johannesburg chief magistrate Olaf de Meyer, found that there was a breakdown of financial administration in the homeland due to unqualified officials, unauthorised actions and contempt for the legislative process.

When he released the report in November former Land Affairs Minister Jacob de Vil-

liers said remedial action would include the appointment of a committee of Lebowa government Ministers to oversee the implementation of the commission's recommendation, and a joint Lebowa-SA ministerial monitoring committee to check the implementation.

It was unclear this week why the committee had taken so long to have its first meeting.

Regional & Land Affairs Minister André Fourie, who is responsible for homeland affairs, tells the FM that when he took office on April 1 he immediately arranged for a meeting on the earliest possible date, which was July 30. He says the Lebowa committee of Ministers was established and submitted regular reports to the joint committee.

However, it seems that either too little was done to ensure De Meyer's recommendations were implemented, or the situation was totally out of control. Last week government took control of Lebowa's financial affairs — the strongest possible action in terms of the Self-Governing Territories Constitution Act.

The final straw was apparently the Lebowa legislative assembly's refusal to approve a budget for the current year. Earlier warning signals included:

- A request by Lebowa for additional funds even though it had not yet approved a budget;
- A cash-flow problem which resulted in Lebowa exceeding its overdraft facility "by a large amount," according to government; and

- Allegations of massive and unscheduled salary increases for some civil servants.

What is not clear is why, in the first place, the corrective steps supposedly taken by government and Lebowa last year were unsuccessful and, secondly, why it took so long to realise they were not working.

Ramodike — implicated in alleged malpractice — said at the time that De Meyer's findings were "a dismay to all of those in responsible positions at political and official level (*Current Affairs* November 13)." But it seems that neither the official steps announced by De Villiers nor Ramodike's dismay had much effect — and no-one in government seemed concerned enough to do anything about it.

In a background document published last week on the financial crisis in Lebowa, government says irregularities in the homeland's administration had assumed "alarming proportions" in recent months. Fourie denies "quite categorically" Ramodike's claim that SA's action is in response to his support for the ANC. "The move is in the interests of the people of Lebowa and SA taxpayers. Financial control in Lebowa will be restored within four to six weeks and our action will then be seen to have been correct."

In terms of the action government has provided a budget of R3,6bn for Lebowa and will retain financial control. The money will be allocated to the homeland's 10 State departments which will use it to continue with their normal functions.

Government has assured Lebowa's civil

servants, recipients of welfare payments and suppliers to the State that they will be paid and that normal services will continue.

Given that government will be out of office within a year and the homelands reincorporated into SA, the relative lack of outrage that greeted the latest Lebowa scandal is understandable. It is as if a punch-drunk public has come to accept that the Nationalists are no longer capable of honouring commitments, particularly to taxpayers. ■

Lebowa hobbled

Sowetan 23/9/93

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

A CRISIS HAS GRIPPED Lebowa, where civil servants have not been paid following the takeover of the homeland's financial administration by Pretoria.

By late yesterday, civil servants were on a virtual strike and it was announced that a court interdict may be brought today by both the Lebowa Cabinet and workers.

At issue is an insistence by South African Government officials, now in charge of finances, that salaries be paid out in terms of the computer tapes used at the end of March this year. This would effectively reverse the backdated salary increments that sparked the takeover late last month.

The Lebowa Cabinet had submitted last month's salary computer tape but this was rejected by Pretoria officials. Following the stalemate, Central Government officials yesterday handed Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike a letter stating that they would henceforth take over the computer operations in Lebowa.

The letter, from Regional and Land Affairs Minister Mr Andre Fourie, also said certain executive functions of government relating to finances would now fall under their control. Fourie said Ramodike was not co-operating with officials, despite agreeing to do so last

month.

A Government spokesman in Pretoria said yesterday a major announcement was to be made late last night in Parliament.

It is believed this could mean a wholesale takeover of the administration, which would effectively oust Ramodike from office.

Ramodike addressed workers yesterday and said he would not be ousted by Fourie. He ordered Fourie's appointees to leave the Lebowa government premises within 30 minutes. An official later told *Sowetan* that police had advised the officials to leave, but their response was unknown.

Yesterday's events followed weeks of declining services as Lebowa government functions dwindled, with no petrol for vehicles and banks dishonouring government cheques, sources said.

Trouble in Lebowa started on August 30 when Pretoria announced a takeover of control of finances. The move was sparked by large-scale promotions of civil servants, with backdated benefits of up to five years.

The move cost the State about R90 million, which was not budgeted for. Fourie said at the time that the move was illegal and called for its reversal. Ramodike refused. Fourie said at the time that services would not be affected, but this has seemingly happened.

The takeover of the computer services would mean that Pretoria would be able to pay people on the scales determined by itself, despite protests from Ramodike, his Cabinet and civil servants.

Bill allows SA to run Lebowa affairs

Political Staff

DRAMATIC legislation allowing the government in effect to take over the administrations of troubled homelands has been tabled in parliament in response to the mounting crisis in Lebowa.

The territory's chief minister was also told by the government yesterday that Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie would immediately begin "performing those executive powers, authorities and functions as are necessary for ensuring the continuation of the administration of government".

But this morning South Africa ordered its officials to withdraw from Lebowa amid reported chaos.

Tensions between the South African and Lebowa governments are growing after chief minister Nelson Ramodike ordered the republic's officials out of the territory.

This morning Mr Fourie tabled the far-reaching Self-Governing Territories Constitution Amendment Bill, designed to address the crisis in Lebowa.

It gives the president the power to perform or exercise the executive powers, authorities and func-

tions" in territories where the administration is in danger of collapse.

The bill marks another step towards the dismantling of the six self-governing homelands, but does not provide for the removal of the chief minister.

Problems in Lebowa were sparked on August 30 when Pretoria announced a takeover of control over finances.

The move followed large-scale promotions of Lebowa's civil servants, with backdated benefits of up to five years.

AP Wirephoto
AUGUST 23/1973

SA officials withdraw from Lebowa

SA government officials sent to take over Lebowa's financial administration were withdrawn from the territory yesterday after Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike allegedly told Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie that their safety could not be guaranteed. **B/D**

The task force to take over financial affairs failed to show up yesterday but other seconded officials were at work as usual. A spokesman for Fourie confirmed the withdrawal of the SA officials "until the situation is resolved". **24/9/93**

The spokesman said Lebowa had refused to accept SA's right to intervene in the territory's administration, but it was hoped the matter would be resolved by today.

However, Lebowa spokesman Jo-

LLOYD COUTTS

sias Setati denied Ramodike had warned Fourie that the officials' safety could not be guaranteed.

Ramodike said yesterday he would not be pressured to "toe the line" by Pretoria's "carrot and stick tactics".

Addressing a meeting attended by PAC president Clarence Makwetu in Lebowakgomo, Ramodike said the SA government's decision to take over the financial administration of the territory had caused confusion and conflict in Lebowa. **(11)**

The freezing of salaries had caused severe hardships among public servants and had subsequently affected services for the ordinary people of Lebowa.

Lebowa public servants demand-

ing to be paid gathered in the grounds of the government complex in Lebowakgomo yesterday, but dispersed peacefully at 4pm.

□ Possible legal complications about government's power to take over the financial administration of the six non-independent homelands will be removed in terms of the Self-Government Territories Constitution Amendment Bill, tabled in Parliament yesterday.

Our Political Staff reports from Cape Town that the Bill will enable the President to take over the administration of the homelands if he believes this is necessary to prevent the collapse of their administrations.

The measure follows government's decision to take over the administration of Lebowa.

Court plea on Lebowa

Weekend Argus Political Staff

(11)

ARG 25/9/93

AN interdict will be sought by the government in the Supreme Court to force Lebowa to allow Pretoria's officials to operate in the homeland.

This follows the withdrawal of the South African officials who had been seconded to run the self-governing territory's finance department amid mounting chaos in the administration.

Tension between the South African and Lebowa governments has been mounting since Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike ordered the Republic's officials — in charge of finances since August 30 — out of the territory.

Yesterday the regional and land affairs minister told parliament of the government's decision to go to court.

He was closing debate on the far-reaching Self-Governing Territories Constitution Amendment Bill, passed by parliament yesterday.

The legislation, which should be promulgated early next week, allows the government to take over, in effect, the administration of troubled homelands.

It gives the president the power to perform or exercise the "executive powers, authorities and functions" in territories where the administration is in danger of collapse.

By KHANGALE MAKHADO and JUSTICE MOHALE

Sword of fate hangs over Ramodike

TOMORROW is a make-or-break day for Nelson Ramodike.

The Lebowa Chief Minister's government will witness the Pretoria government pass a bill handing control of the homeland back to South Africa.

With Ramodike virtually declaring war on president FW de Klerk, fears of open clashes between the forces of the two governments cannot be overruled.

Logically, once the SA government passes the bill, it will be up to the state's armed forces to enact the law.

The Lebowa leader has threatened to use the Lebowa police force to defend Lebowa.

Meanwhile, the SA government has refused to disclose steps to be taken tomorrow to regain financial control of Lebowa.

At the heart of the dispute are the salary increases to Lebowa civil servants - which SA has refused to recognise.

The SA government has accused Ramodike of declaring the increases without considering Lebowa's budget.

This led to De Klerk appointing Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie to take charge of the homeland's finances.

SA had insisted that all workers should be paid salaries in accordance with the computer tapes used at the end of March this year.

The Ramodike government had insisted that the new increases had to stay.

The result was that over 60 000 civil servants in Lebowa were not paid last week.

This followed a tug-of-war between the Lebowa government and Pretoria for control of the computer centre in Lebowa-kgomo.

26/9/93

Lebowa's civil service has ground to a halt and workers have vowed not to return to work until they have been paid.

"We do not care about this political bickering which has put us in the middle of the crossfire. All we are interested in is our wages which we have worked for," said a clerk.

In another financial twist, the Lebowa Police medical aid scheme has refused to pay the medical bills of members and there are fears in police circles that the schemes will not pay for doctor's prescriptions.

Last week four official anti-malaria teams in Lebowa stopped working because the homeland could not pay the petrol costs. Fears have been expressed that this would lead to the escalation of the dreaded disease.

After calling Lebowa unco-operative, the SA government has been accused of being insensitive by neglecting to address the issue of essential services.

By late yesterday the Lebowa cabinet was locked in an emergency meeting and did not respond

to City Press inquiries.

An internal audit of the KwaNdebele government accounts has uncovered serious irregularities such as unauthorised expenditure, over-payments, non-collection of taxes and debts, improper acquisition of goods and services and poor control of government stores.

The report said the homeland's Department of Education and Culture exceeded its budget by almost R4-million. Inadequate controls over building projects were also reported.

CP boss warns of next 'plague'

GEORGE — The only way to stop the April 27 election was for the Concerned South Africans Group (Cosag) not to return to the negotiations table, CP leader Ferdi Hartzenberg said on Saturday.

Addressing the CP's Cape congress in George, Hartzenberg said Cosag represented 40% to 50% of South Africans and the only way to show there was no consensus at negotiations was for it to stay away.

"The election must not take place. Our first option is to see that we get our own election for our freedom."

Referring to the series of "plagues" instituted by the party, he said the fourth plague had been its demonstration against the Transitional Executive Council. Planning was in progress for the fifth plague, details of which would be announced when everything was ready.

"We must do everything possible to prevent the 10th plague occurring," Hartzenberg said. "If the election comes, then the volk must decide if it is going to surrender or fight, and I say we must stand up and fight the ANC."

He said government and the ANC were trying to give the Afrikaner a form of self-determination that boiled down to minority rights. "I want to say 'Don't think we will settle for anything less than full self-determination.'"

Ladybrand MP Charl Herzog, speaking on agriculture, said farmers, as the biggest title-deed holders in SA, should be given the opportunity to say whether they wanted their own state or wished to become part of the ANC's enslavement, he said.

MP for Brits Andrew Gerber said education was being used to build a single nation in SA.

The only way to guarantee Christian national education was to have an own volkstaat. — Sapa.

New law to be used on Lebowa

TIM COHEN

CAPE TOWN — Parliament has passed legislation that will allow government to rescind past decisions of homeland governments, which will be applied immediately against Lebowa.

Parliament on Friday passed the Self-governing Territories Constitution Amendment Bill which will allow the President to rescind decisions of homeland government taken after March 31.

The legislation provides that this can be done only if the governments concerned are on the brink of collapse or if the decision of the government was likely to result in unreasonable financial obligations.

The legislation was unanimously supported, and is going to be used against Lebowa immediately to rescind the homeland government's decision to backdate and increase public servant's salaries.

Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie confirmed at the weekend that his department would make a renewed effort to gain access to computers which issued Lebowa's public sector salary cheques.

Last week, Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike refused to co-operate with officials sent to Lebowa to take over the territory's financial affairs and locked them out of rooms containing computers controlling government finance.

Lebowa had backdated promotions and promoted some officials beyond their stations which resulted in some salaries being more than doubled. Some of its 70 000 officials had also been given back payments of as much as R73 000, Fourie said.

In so doing, Lebowa had exceeded its R185m overdraft facility by about R70m.

Fourie confirmed that if control was gained over Lebowa's finances, government employees would be paid according to how much they

were getting in March this year, plus the 5% increase given to all civil servants, effectively nullifying the salary increases.

Action in terms of the new legislation was not planned against any of the other self-governing states, only one of which apart from Lebowa had an overdraft facility, Fourie said.

The passing of the Bill coincided with the auditor-general's reports being tabled in Parliament on five self-governing states, which levelled criticism at all of them for the laxity of their financial controls.

The reports, all of which reported on events that took place two or more years ago, disclosed that financial controls in the states were either shoddy or non-existent.

KwaNdebele's unauthorised expenditure amounted to R4,5m for the 1991/92 financial year.

The auditor-general found it was impossible to carry out a proper audit in Kangwane, where R13m in unauthorised expenditure was recorded in 1989/90.

The KwaZulu 1991/92 report revealed serious shortcomings in systems of internal checking, and 101 cases of theft involving firearms and ammunition worth R78 000 were disclosed.

DP MP Peter Soal said the reports confirmed SA's worst fears about the "decline into an abyss of corruption which could cost the SA taxpayer millions if not billions of rands".

He described the tabling of the reports after Parliament had adjourned as a "cynical act which will not escape public scrutiny".

Fourie said the picture painted of the self-governing states being hotbeds of corruption was "unfair". Many performed adequately under difficult circumstances, he said.

● Comment: Page 4

SA cops move on Lebowa

Sowetuis 28/9/93

SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT officials moved in under police guard and seized the computer centre of the Lebowa administration at the weekend.

The officials have been working to iron out the region's chaotic financial affairs.

They moved into the Lebowakgomo computer centre to print or reprint previously dishonoured cheques for salaries, pensions and suppliers after the homeland's coffers ran dry as a result of maladministration.

Thousands of civil servants who had not been paid their salaries again gathered outside the homeland government's offices in Lebowakgomo yesterday, said Mr Kwena Setati, a spokesman at Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike's office. The atmosphere was tense, he added. Ramodike could not be reached for comment.

Pretoria obtained a court interdict at the weekend because the Lebowa government would not co-operate. The South African Police's Internal Stability Division sent 120 policemen to provide security, ISD deputy chief General Adriaan de la Rosa

confirmed. This was after Mr Ramodike remarked that he could not guarantee the safety of South African officials in the homeland. (iii)

The Minister responsible for regional and land affairs, Mr Andre Fourie, will address a meeting in Pietersburg today to explain the situation to parties with a financial interest in the homeland.

His spokesman, Mr Helmut Schlenter, said: "At the moment we have people in the computer centre going day and night to get the cheques printed and get them out as soon as possible. Every salary cheque had to be reprinted."

The Lebowa government, which has about 70 000 public servants, had been interdicted from issuing more cheques.

The homeland did not pass its budget in the statutory period and therefore has no authorisation to make payments.

In addition, it exceeded by R60 million an overdraft facility guaranteed by Pretoria, Schlenter said. One of the examples of why Lebowa had severe cash flow problems was that the salaries of 192 justice officials had not only been doubled, but had also been back-dated. —Sapa.

Financial crisis in homeland escalates SA security forces move in to guard key Lebowa installations

ARG 28/9/93
III

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The crisis in Lebowa has escalated with South African security forces moving in to guard key installations.

Round-the-clock guards have been deployed at power stations and computer installations as a result of the financial crisis in the homeland.

The chief minister, Nelson Ramodike, and members of his Cabinet have apparently gone to ground after a South African task force unearthed more discrepancies in the homeland's financial affairs.

Sources in Lebowagkomo, the capital, said that Mr Ramodike and other top political officials were not in their offices yesterday and have not been seen since Friday.

An official at Mr Ramodike's office said: "They are not at work. They are out." There was no further explanation.

Sources in Pretoria insisted

the government had no knowledge of the whereabouts of Mr Ramodike and his colleagues.

South Africa is today poised to take over all the homeland's affairs after parliament passed the Self-Governing Territories Constitutional Amendment Act, which was rushed through the House by Regional Affairs minister Andre Fourie as a result of the Lebowa crisis. It is expected to be signed into law by President De Klerk, who returns to Pretoria from the United States and Britain at 9 am today.

According to sources in Pretoria, security forces acted on Friday after the Lebowa government had the day before ordered seconded South African officials — looking into the homeland's finances — to leave the territory.

South Africa then obtained a Supreme Court interdict in Pretoria to allow the officials — from the Department of Regional Affairs and other State departments — to continue their work.

The crisis was sparked off last month when South Africa declined to provide additional funding, totalling tens of millions of rand, to bolster Lebowa's budget, which had not been officially agreed to by the homeland's legislative assembly.

South Africa said then that it had discovered irregularities of "alarming proportions".

In terms of the Self-Governing Territories Constitutional Act, South Africa then took over the budget as well as control of financial obligations to the civil service and contractors, and sent in a task force to investigate the territory's financial affairs.

Meanwhile, there was chaos in the homeland yesterday as more than 60 000 civil servants went into a second week of strikes because they have not been paid.

South Africa declined to authorise September salaries because it says increases agreed to by the Lebowa authorities were irregular.

Lebowa audited under SAP guard

B15au - 28/9/93

LLOYD COUTTS

SA GOVERNMENT officials sent to take over Lebowa's financial affairs returned to the territory under SAP guard yesterday, took control of a computer centre and reopened investigations into alleged maladministration that would have left the homeland bankrupt by November.

SAP spokesman Lt-Col Ray Harald confirmed yesterday that 120 internal stability unit policemen had been deployed in the capital, Lebowakgomo, in support of officials from the Regional and Land Affairs Department.

"The sole purpose was to give protection to the people who are investigating the financial situation there at the moment, and not to take over the functions of the Lebowa police," Harald said. Eastern Transvaal police, meanwhile, were deployed on "special perimeter patrols" along the SA/Lebowa border.

Yesterday's intervention followed a stand-off between Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike and SA Regional and Land Affairs Minister André Fourie over Pretoria's decision earlier this month to take over Lebowa's financial administration.

SA moved to investigate irregularities in the territory's financial administration when the Lebowan parliament failed to meet a statutory deadline for passing its 1993/94 budget earlier this month.

However, SA officials were withdrawn from the territory last week after Ramodike allegedly told Fourie

the safety of SA officials in Lebowa could not be guaranteed.

Sapa reports that a spokesman for Fourie said yesterday officials moved into the Lebowakgomo computer centre to print or reprint previously dishonoured cheques for salaries, pensions and suppliers after the homeland's coffers ran dry.

"At the moment we have people in the computer centre going day and night to get the cheques printed and get them out as soon as possible. Every salary cheque had to be reprinted," Hellmuth Schlenther said.

Schlenther said Lebowa had exceeded by R60m an overdraft facility guaranteed by Pretoria. Another reason Lebowa had severe cash-flow problems was because the salaries of 192 justice officials had not only been doubled, but also backdated.

Meanwhile, thousands of striking Lebowa civil servants who have not been paid since Pretoria took over the territory's purse strings, returned to work briefly yesterday morning but gathered in the parliamentary compound in Lebowakgomo in the afternoon, according to Lebowan spokesman Josias Setati.

In a letter to Lebowan civil servants yesterday, Fourie said the continued payment of present salaries would have resulted in Lebowa having no money by November 1993 for further payment of salaries, pensions and essential services. Fourie said every effort was being made to meet all legitimate payments by October 2.

Lebowa finance probe reopens

(11) CT 28/9/93

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Government officials, under SAP guard, returned to Lebowa yesterday, took control of a computer centre and reopened investigations into alleged maladministration.

They were sent to take over the bankrupt territory's financial affairs.

A spokesman said 120 internal stability unit policemen were guarding the officials.

Pretoria moved earlier this month to take over Lebowa's financial administration after the Lebowan parliament failed to meet a statutory deadline for passing its 1993/1994 budget.

However, Pretoria's officials

were withdrawn last week after being told their safety could not be guaranteed.

A spokesman for Regional and Land Affairs Minister Mr Andre Fourie, told Sapa yesterday the officials took control of the computer to reprint previously dishonoured cheques for salaries, pensions and supplies after the home-

land's coffers ran dry.

Lebowa had exceeded by R60m an overdraft facility guaranteed by Pretoria, Mr Hellmuth Schlienther said.

Another reason for Lebowa's cash flow problem, he said, was because the salaries of 192 justice officials had not only been doubled, but had also been back-dated.

Call to probe Lebowa tender awards

CT 29/9/93

JOHANNESBURG. — An urgent investigation into possible corruption in the Lebowa government's system of awarding contracts was demanded yesterday by the SA Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors and the Building Industries Association.

In a written appeal to Finance Minister Mr Derek Keys, the organisations said ethical principles

had been ignored in 14 recent construction contracts.

The organisations called for an end to practices "which do nothing more than line the pockets of individuals and consume state funds for no useful purpose".

They drew attention to 14 building and civil engineering contracts that had not been awarded to the

lowest tenderers, although these had been recommended by the consulting engineer.

The Lebowa government failed to respond to a request for comment yesterday.

Meanwhile, Lebowa yesterday appealed for the territory's financial administration to be placed under direct control of the Transi-

tional Executive Council's sub-council on finance.

In Pietersburg yesterday Minister of Regional and Land Affairs Mr Andre Fourie told businessmen that in April this year almost 200 officials of Lebowa's Department of Justice were granted salary increases of between R24 000 to R49 000 a year.

In terms of a court order the Lebowa government was forbidden from printing or sending out salary cheques and any cheques already printed had to be handed over to South African officials.

Lebowa government officials were also forbidden from destroying or tampering with material or equipment at the government's central computer centre at Lebowaqomo. — Sapa



Officials get massive handouts

Huge gravy train scandal in Lebowa

Star 29/9/93

■ BY JUSTICE MALALA
and NORMAN CHANDLER

Nearly 200 of Lebowa's Department of Justice officials had their salaries increased from R24 000 a year to R49 000 a year — and each received a separate payment of R73 000 to backdate the huge salary increases, Minister of Regional and Land Affairs Andre Fourie revealed yesterday.

Fourie made the disclosure to Pietersburg businessmen — amid mounting tension between the South African Government and the Lebowa administration — as an example of financial irregularities in the homeland.

Outlining some of the irregularities which led Pretoria to take over Lebowa's financial affairs, Fourie said 192 officials in Lebowa's Justice Department had received the huge backdated salary increases in April.

The Lebowa government had also appointed more than 1 000

R25 000 salary increases were coupled to separate, backdated payments of R73 000



teachers whose salaries had not been included in its budget.

Fourie said South African working groups would take over the homeland's financial affairs, personnel matters, security, administration, pensions and the "delicate issue of the tender board".

Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike said last night "promotions" of Lebowa civil servants were not irregular until proved to be so by a "properly constituted investigating body".

Ramodike also said he objected to members of the Internal Stability Unit "harrasing" officials by fetching them from

their homes to help at the Lebowa Computer Centre which South African officials have taken over.

And in a memorandum to the Negotiating Council, Ramodike requested that immediately on its inception, the Transitional Executive Council's subcommittee on finance should investigate allegations of corruption, inefficiency and deterioration in Lebowa's financial management.

He also proposed that the financial administration of Lebowa be put under the direct control of the TEC.

■ **Kaizer Nyatumba** reports that the ANC yesterday strongly condemned the Government's takeover of Lebowa's financial administration, and accused Pretoria of victimising homelands hostile to it while turning a blind eye to those which "identify with its broad policy positions".

Lebowa asks TEC to take over its finances

LEBOWA yesterday accused Pretoria of political victimisation and appealed for the territory's financial administration to be placed under the direct control of the Transitional Executive Council (TEC).

In a memorandum for consideration at the Kempton Park talks, Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike asked the negotiating council to consider giving its finance subcouncil control over the homeland's administration.

He also demanded the immediate withdrawal of the SAP from Lebowa.

The SAP's internal stability unit seized a Lebowan government computer centre on Monday to allow SA officials to investigate

B/Say 29/9/93
LLOYD COUTTS

alleged irregularities in civil service promotions and Lebowa's failure to pass its 1993/94 budget.

Ramodike's memorandum was sent to talks administrative head Theuns Eloff.

He also asked the subcouncil to investigate SA Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie's allegations of corruption and inefficiency in Lebowa.

The chief minister claimed the crisis in Lebowa was politically inspired and was being used for electioneering. Government and the NP could not be allowed to continue "marginalising, victimising and op-

pressing" Lebowa and its ruling United People's Front.

In Pietersburg yesterday, Fourie spelt out some of the financial irregularities which had led to government's action.

Speaking to businessmen, he said that in April nearly 200 officials of Lebowa's Justice Department were granted salary increases of between R24 000 and R49 000. They each received R73 000 to backdate their increases.

The Lebowa government had also appointed more than 1 000 teachers whose salaries had not been included in its budget. Lebowa wanted to stop capital pro-

To Page 2

LEBOWA

jects to enable it to pay officials' salaries, he said.

Fourie said Ramodike had refused his request to meet him yesterday.

But Ramodike found an ally in the ANC, which said it believed the finance sub-council would have the legitimacy and credibility to take "the necessary measures" to rectify the crisis.

It said the showdown was "a crisis of grand apartheid". The finances of all the homelands and TBVC states was "appalling" and they should be reincorporated into SA urgently.

The ANC said while it condemned corruption, SA's action in Lebowa was "hypo-

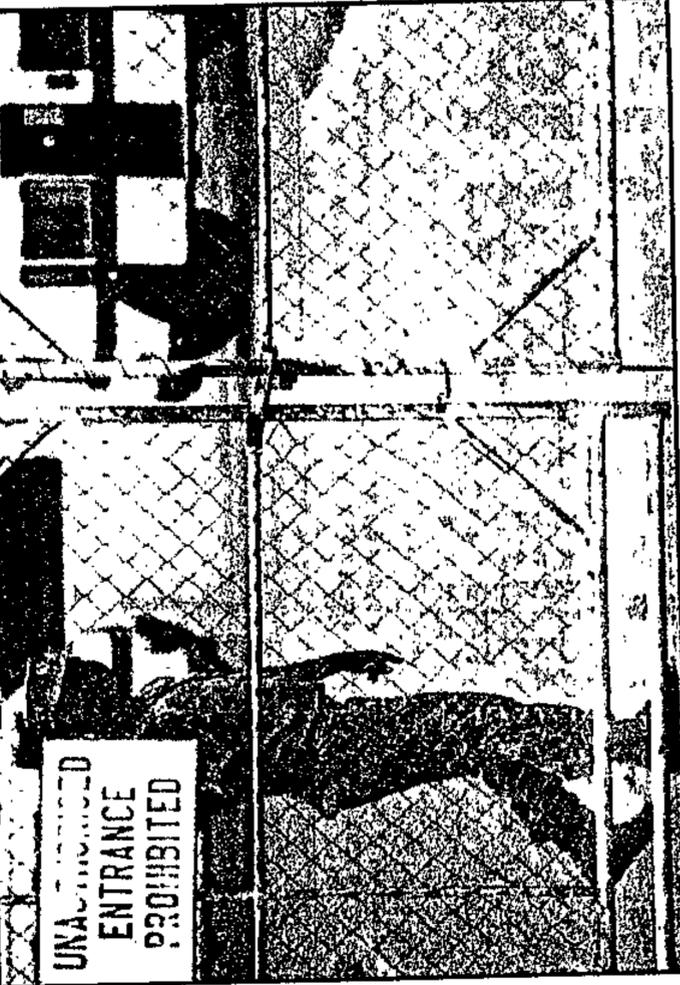
critical and arrogant" and came from a government which itself had a track record of corruption and maladministration.

Ramodike denied that he and his cabinet had gone underground and that Lebowa's civil service was on strike.

He said his government was aware of irregularities in Lebowa's administration as reported by the De Meyer commission, but not of new irregularities.

Meanwhile, Fourie's spokesman Hellmuth Schlenker said the officials charged with honouring Lebowa's debts were expected to complete work at the computer centre ahead of schedule on Friday.

Ramodike sees



A member of the South African police stands guard at the computer centre in Lebowaqomo which the South African Government occupied forcibly on Sunday to take over the running of the finances of Lebowa.

PIC: SELLO MOTSEPE

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TEC lifeline

Sowetam 29/9/93

By Don Seokane and Mathatha Tsedu

LEBOWA CHIEF Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike yesterday lodged an urgent and desperate appeal to the multi-party negotiating council to take over the homeland's financial affairs through the Transitional Executive Council (TEC).

Ramodike's appeal, sent late yesterday, came in the wake of Land and Regional Affairs Minister Mr Andre Fourie's statement that six working groups had been appointed to administer pensions, security, personnel, administration, financial affairs and the tender board.

The working groups will effectively replace Ramodike's Cabinet. In his appeal, seen as a measure to stave off the looming orders to vacate the office of the chief minister, Ramodike said the TEC's sub-council on finance should assume full responsibility and functions in the allocation, control or monitoring of funds in conjunction with the Minister of Finance and the Minister of State Expenditure.

Ramodike said Fourie's functions were unacceptable as his own department had been found to be corrupt. He called for the dismantling of Fourie's department.

Ramodike and his Cabinet spent the day yesterday huddled in a meeting with the week-long threat to interdict Pretoria no nearer to materialising.



Mr Nelson Ramodike

from between R24 000 and R49 000 a year, back-dated for five years ensuring that the officials received R73 000," Fourie said.

Fourie has, however, promised Lebowa's 60 000 civil servants that they would receive their readjusted salaries by the end of the week.

And as the wrangling went on yesterday, units of the SAP brought in on Sunday to assist in the takeover of the computer centre, remained in the area, preparing for a long stay.

Most computer operators employed by Lebowa were not on duty yesterday, police said. The exception were four who were rounded up from their homes on Sunday and who have not been allowed out.

made up of Azapo, ANC, SACP, Samco, Sadu and the Lebowa Interdepartmental Co-ordinating Forum representing civil servants, met yesterday and condemned the SA Government's takeover and condemned the "legitimate body" to control of Lebowa and other homelands.

The forum condemned corruption but said it supported the workers in their demands for full pay.

Fourie, who addressed a meeting in Pietersburg attended by businessmen and other interested parties, said Lebowa's financial affairs were in a shocking state and revealed that the banustan had exceeded its R185 million overdraft facility by R60 million.

He said salary increases, which were the primary reason why the SA Government took over Lebowa, had increased abnormally.

"In one case, 192 officials from the department of justice had their salaries increased

from between R24 000 and R49 000 a year, back-dated for five years ensuring that the officials received R73 000," Fourie said.

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Sowetan 20/9/92

focus on Lebowa

WHEN, this time last year, a commission appointed to look into corruption in Lebowa found that millions of rands had been embezzled by state functionaries, Pretoria said there was nothing it could do.

But in a matter of three days, the same Government has now piloted a law through the short session of parliament, giving itself power to take over control of any bantustan authority.

Speaking to many in Lebowa, one is left in no doubt about the political opportunism involved.

Many point to the presence of the National Party's new member, Chief Chris Mothiba, who is a member of the Lebowa Legislative Assembly and a member of the NP's Provincial governing body.

Mothiba, a former minister of finance, was in the forefront of the battle against Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike in the LLA earlier this year. The attempt to unseat Ramodike failed. The argument now given is that the NP wanted to unseat Ramodike and replace him with Mothiba and use Lebowa administration to garner support for its election campaign.

Dramatic action

With that tactic having failed, it is argued, Ramodike had to be taken out another way hence this week's dramatic actions.

There is some merit in this argument, for corruption is not new in any bantustan. Most bantustans, as well as the central Government, bribe people to collaborate in their own oppression. This view is, to a large extent, supported by the African National Congress, which has come out in support of Ramodike, even promising mass action to force Pretoria out of Lebowakomo.

It is a paradox of today's politics that the ANC, which spent years campaigning for the dissolution of bantustans, today threatens action to ensure their continuance. But, again, there is also an opportunism involved, many say. For Ramodike is a member of the ANC controlled 'Patriotic Front at Codesa'. But, what is the background to this action by Pretoria, which has effectively ousted Ramodike from power? Civil servants employed by Lebowa have been denied promotion for a long time, they say.

Earlier this year, health workers, specifically nurses, downed syringes demanding that their salaries be adjusted accordingly. As the government dug in, community anger grew, and they gave in and paid nurses millions of rands. In the process, clerks in the health department who were working on the files realised they too had been disadvantaged, and demanded the same.

Computer operators who had to feed in the data for issuing cheques demanded the same and it became an all round demand for justice in the

After saying there was nothing it could do to stop corruption in Lebowa, the South African Government speedily piloted a Bill through Parliament which

gives it control over any bantustan. **Mathatha Tsedu** and **Don Seokane** look at the implications:



promotions. It was this trend that led all departments to look into their staff and give backdated promotions. The move cost nearly R90 million and has not been completed. As staffers went home with tens of thousands, the money had not been budgeted for.

The salary account dried up immediately and money from capital projects was used. When this too dried up, a suspense account, which is used to finance specific emergency projects and is refunded each month, was used to pay salaries, with no refunds taken into the account.

Hence the huge overdraft of R245 million. It was at this point that banks started returning cheques by the government, and the request by Lebowa for more funding from Pretoria — an opportunity seized by Pretoria to come in and take over.

Supported the move

At first, Ramodike supported the move, although he said it was not necessary. He defended his promotions and said black staffers had been denied promotions by seconded whites. But when the task force from Pretoria took over and he realised they were intent on overturning the promotions, and aware of the anger that would arise among civil servants, he blew his top and expelled them.

He threatened legal action to stop the takeover but more than a week has gone by and this has not materialised. But Pretoria outsmarted him, passing the bill authorising complete takeover in a record three days, and sent troops and crack police units in to take over the computer centre.

Without delay, Pretoria also established commissions to run the affairs of Lebowa, security, personnel, pensions, finance and the tender board, effectively setting up a parallel cabinet that had control of the funds, while Ramodike and his over-sized cabinet remained in office with no power. In desperation, Ramodike has now turned to the multiparty talks in Kempton Park for support.

His ship is sinking fast and he wants a John

Rolfe tug to salvage him, to throw a rope and pull him back. Whether he will get the support he wants is open to question, for the MPC will also be faced with the dilemma that by supporting him they may be seen to be supporting unbridled corruption in homelands. The Lebowa administration is important for Ramodike. Without it, he has no discernible following with his United People's Front. Even the support he now commands through the UPF, is probably because people want favours from him as chief minister.

Has no money

The UPF has no money and almost all its staffers are employed by the government, drawing salaries there while effectively doing party work.

A recent injection of R100 000 by Firechem followed an intervention at a high level to get the company a R15 million contract that was piloted outside the tender board, a deal now in danger of being cancelled by Pretoria. In the region itself, debate is raging about how to deal with the matter.

The ANC supports Ramodike. The Azanian People's Organisation supports the workers but calls for the dismantling of all bantustans. It says corruption should be rooted out by a credible body but rejects the link with the Transitional Executive Council, which is the route the ANC is proposing. The PAC held discussions with Ramodike last week, the outcome of which is unknown.

But the organisation has said it supports the dismantling of all bantustans. And as the debate rages, and Ramodike's fate becomes clearer by the day, basic services in the bantustan are coming to a standstill. In the process, ordinary people suffer, caught between what seems to be political manoeuvring by the NP, against a man who seems not to support it.

Pretoria has said civil servants will be paid today, on reduced scales that cancel out the promotions. This is likely to lead to renewed battles between the Government and the workers.

Lebowa remains tense

Star 30/9/93

■ BY DIRK NEL
NORTHERN TRANSSVAAL BUREAU

Lebowakgomo — Lebowa was tense yesterday as civil servants continued to strike despite assurances by the South African Government that their salaries would be paid by the weekend.

A mass protest meeting was held in Lebowakgomo Civic Centre, where speakers criticised the Government's take-over of Lebowa's financial and administrative affairs.

Meanwhile Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike reportedly conferred once again with his Cabinet. Sources said Ramodike was still defiant, and was not considering stepping down.

THE homeland's request to be put under control of the TEC is called a 'non-statement'

On Tuesday SA Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie said Lebowa had squandered millions of rands on unauthorised, unbudgeted salary increases for government officials.

Ministry spokesman Helmut Schlenter said yesterday that had the SA Government not stepped in to take over finances in the homeland, Lebowa would

have run out of money by November.

Earlier, Ramodike said inadequate funding by the South African government had prevented Lebowa from approving a budget for 1993/94.

He added that "promotions" of Lebowa civil servants were not irregular until proved to be so by a "properly constituted investigating body".

And in a memorandum to the Negotiating Council, Ramodike requested that — immediately on its inception — the Transitional Executive Council's subcommittee on finance should investigate allegations of corruption and inefficiency in Lebowa's financial management.

He also proposed that the financial administration of Lebowa be put under the direct control of the TEC — a call backed by the ANC.

Fourie said yesterday that the ANC's call for Lebowa's financial administration to be placed under the control of the TEC sub-council on finance was "a non-statement".

The TEC had not been implemented nor did the powers given to the subcouncil allow it any administrative capability.

"Furthermore, even if it were not for the above, by the time the TEC and its sub-councils would have been instituted, Lebowa would have run out of money for the payment of salaries, pensions and suppliers," he said.

Lebowa, where corruption and maladministration are said to have run rampant, is on the verge of a virtual takeover by its creator, the South African Government. Justice Malala went to the northern Transvaal homeland to find out how this came about

Sun settings fast on Ramodike's reign

Star 1/10/93

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The sun sets quickly on the tiny Lebowa capital of Lebowakgomo. It disappears with a startling swiftness behind the towering mountains that surround the dry, dusty town.

Just as swiftly and as unexpectedly, the sun seems to have set for the homeland and its leader, Chief Minister Mogoboya Nelson Ramodike.

Over the past week South Africa's Ministry of Regional and Land Affairs has taken decisive steps to bring to an end years of alleged corruption and irregularity in the homeland's administration.

The beginning of the end of the former traffic officer's reign came on August 30, when Pretoria issued a proclamation handing financial control of the homeland to the Ministry of Regional and Land Affairs.

The proclamation came after Lebowa failed to pass the 1993/94 budget within the prescribed time. Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie said the takeover had become necessary because financial administration in the homeland had deteriorated to such an extent that the central Government's intervention had become inevitable.

He said Lebowa had overspent its 1992/93 budget of R3,6 billion by R722 million. Fourie said two independent reports — one of them the Auditor-General's — had found the state of financial maladministration to be serious.

The upshot was that more than 60 000 civil servants did not receive their September salaries due to wrangling between the Government and Lebowa over the salary scales to be used. South Africa insisted on using

scales used before the March salary increases, alleging that there were irregularities in the promotion of some employees and in the increases awarded.

As an example, Fourie said that 192 officials in the homeland's Justice Department had their salaries increased from R24 000 a year to R49 000 a year — and each received a separate payment of R73 000 to backdate the huge salary increases.

Officials of the central Government were evicted from the computer centre, the heart of financial administration, in Lebowakgomo last week. They came back under SAP protection on Monday.

These events culminated in Fourie, last week, pushing the Self-Governing Territories Constitutional Amendment Act through Parliament.

Executive powers

The far-reaching Act allows the Government to effectively take over the administrations of troubled homelands.

It gives the State President the power to perform or exercise the "executive powers, authorities and functions" in homelands where the administration is in danger of collapse.

The Act marks another step towards the dismantling of the six self-governing homelands. It is probably the final nail in Lebowa's coffin.

Already, Pretoria has established six working groups which will take over the homeland's financial affairs, personnel matters, security, administration, pensions and the tender board. The revelations of corruption are nothing new to Lebowa, though. One is reminded of the De

Meyer Commission of Enquiry, which found that whole departments were created without authorisation, non-existent officials were paid for years and large numbers of officials lacked the skills to do their jobs.

One is reminded also of the huge number of people who went to the homeland to obtain forged drivers' licences, of "irregular deals" with a chemical company involving over R15 million, and of Ramodike's alleged nepotism. The list goes on and on.

The signs of decay and the end of empire show, too, in Lebowakgomo.

Civil servants in the lower categories, to whom the huge corruption moneybags not trickled, are getting restless and resentful and are starting to voice their dissatisfaction with Ramodike's rule.

His responses to the latest events have followed to the letter his old, trusted style: frothing-at-the-mouth indignation.

After the South African Government's proclamation, he is reported to have said Fourie's that corruption allegations were "diabolical lies".

All his latest utterances on the subject have been in the same vein.

Now he is refusing to speak to the media and remains closed in his parliamentary chambers in Lebowakgomo, only venturing out to address civil servants' meetings, or to retreat to his home.

The Self-Governing Territories Constitutional Amendment Act will also affect other self-governing territories seen to be corrupt. The Lebowa case is a forerunner for certain other homeland leaders, and therefore might be the beginning of the end of the world as they know it.



Nelson Ramodike . . . the Lebowa leader has retreated into reclusiveness.

Lebowa's accounts disgrace

The Auditor-General's report on Lebowa's accounts reveals acute maladministration, failure to submit proper documents, lack of accountability and general mismanagement of funds.

This led to the auditor-general not being able to carry out a proper audit.

The report says that according to the Director-General of the former Department of Development Aid, the South African Government granted Lebowa R1,3 billion, but no statement of the Exchequer account on this was submitted. The Government also incurred additional expenditure of R229,3 million on services provided to Lebowa.

A random check of the Lebowa Education Department revealed:

There was inadequate policy and policy determination and it did not have an up-to-date organisation chart.

There was inadequate organisation and establishment of structures.

The department failed to finalise a budget in the prescribed time, proper bank reconciliations were not prepared and study loans were not properly documented and controlled.

Accurate cash flow planning

and control did not always take place and documentation supporting some payments was incomplete.

Certain personnel were overpaid for periods of up to two years while others were being paid for two posts simultaneously.

The effect of these and other discrepancies was that a shortage totalling R36,25 million occurred in the department during the 1989-90 financial year.

Major discrepancies

Other random checks in the purchasing of coal, in housing loans, recovery of interests on debts and suspense accounts revealed that there were major discrepancies in their running and control.

Queries arising from audit investigations carried out at departmental head offices resulted in recovery of R1,6 million.

Generally, appropriation accounts, finance statements and supporting returns for 1989-90 had still not been returned by December 1992. The report said it was especially disturbing that even statements and returns, which are not dependent on the closing of accounts, could not be submitted.

1-10-93

Standard faces R60m Lebowa loss

STANDARD Bank stands to lose R60m if no money is found by SA's task force in Lebowa to honour an overdraft incurred by the homeland. **BIDAY 11/10/93**

Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie confirmed yesterday that SA had guaranteed a R185m overdraft facility for Lebowa at Standard Bank, but an additional R60m given to Lebowa when the homeland's coffers were empty was the bank's responsibility. **(11)**

"They (Standard Bank) took that risk as a business decision," Fourie said.

Government was negotiating with Standard Bank, and had promised to "accommodate" it if Lebowa's finances were stabilised and the money could be found within the territory's budget. Normal payments on the account would continue. Fourie described government's relation-

LLOYD COUTTS

ship with the bank as "good".

Standard Bank has refused to comment on its relationship with Lebowa.

Fourie laid the blame for Lebowa's financial crisis squarely at the door of Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike and accused him of intimidation.

"I get the impression there is intimidation from Ramodike, that his staff and the legislative assembly are scared to take a stand against him."

Political considerations had played no part in Pretoria's decision to take over Lebowa's financial administration.

"The current situation in Lebowa is a direct consequence of the decisions of, and the lack of co-operation from, the chief

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Lebowa

BIDAY 11/10/93

From Page 1

minister," Fourie said.

It became clear to Pretoria that Lebowa was in trouble when it requested an extra R360m from government, even before it was supposed to approve a budget.

Government had suggested that the Development Bank of SA's structural adjustment programme investigate the request, and the programme had, in an August 26 report, alleged maladministration and mismanagement. **(11)**

Standard Bank had also refused to honour Lebowa cheques, Fourie said.

Irregular promotions in Lebowa would cost the SA taxpayer hundreds of millions of rands a year if they were not stopped.

"It came to the task team's attention, for

example, that 192 senior administrative clerks in the Lebowa justice department were promoted to senior administrative officials. Not only did these officials' yearly salaries increase from R24 721 to R49 668, but each of them received backdated payments of salaries, pensions and essential services."

Fourie said such backdated payments would be investigated, but it would be difficult to recover the money.

He dismissed the call by the ANC and Ramodike for the financial administration of Lebowa to be placed under the control of the Transitional Executive Council, saying this body was not yet operating and its finance subcouncil would have no administrative capability to perform this task.

Civil servants being paid

Lebowa still defies SA Govt

Star 1/10/93

■ BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

Lebowa yesterday continued to defy the South African Government over its attitude towards the financial crisis in which the homeland has found itself.

Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike and his Cabinet yesterday again refused to discuss the issue with Regional Affairs Minister Andre Fourie.

SA has, meanwhile, started to pay the monthly salaries of civil servants, while the Standard Bank of SA — Lebowa's chief bankers — tries to recover almost R70 million from the Lebowa government, which overran its R185,5 million overdraft facility.

Fourie told a media briefing in Pretoria that while the government had secured the R185,5 million, Standard Bank was liable for the recovery from its clients of the R70 million.

"It is a bank-client situation," Fourie said. "We have promised the bank that the issue will be settled. We are not going to leave the bank in the lurch."

"However, we must point out that Standard Bank took the risk."

Fourie, who described the Lebowa crisis as "a difficult problem and unprecedented", said the SA Government had not received the assistance it had needed from Ramodike's government.

LEBOWA'S chief minister still refuses to discuss his territory's financial crisis with Minister Andre Fourie

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"It is a stumbling block," he admitted, saying that up to 70 000 civil servants' salary cheques — bearing the signatures of a South African and a Lebowa government official — had been reprinted and distributed this week.

Most of the salaries would have been paid by today.

"In addition, every salary earner will be receiving a letter from the SA Government detailing how the situation in Lebowa had arisen, and how it is being resolved," Fourie said.

He emphasised that it was not the intention to dismantle the Lebowa government, nor was it the intention to upset the people of Lebowa. "We are, however, concerned that the ANC has got on the bandwagon and stated that it supported Lebowa, particularly after having given its support to the Self-Governing Territories Constitutional Amendment Act in Parliament last week."

Fourie said it appeared that certain officials in the ANC were not in concert with the organi-

sation's official line or its parliamentary representatives.

Meanwhile, a task force — comprising experts in finance, pensions, tenders, personnel and income tax — continues to sift through Lebowa's affairs. "We cannot at this moment tell you with any accuracy what they have found," said Fourie.

He also said some civil servants who might have been overpaid might be held liable "if it were found that their salary increases were too excessive".

He said 192 officials in the justice department alone had received huge increases, some backdating three years, and that other departments were being investigated. A total of 1 147 teachers had been engaged over the past three years, but there had been no money in the budget to meet their monthly salaries.

The SA Communications Service has requested all creditors wishing to inquire about debts to them by the Lebowa government to telephone the Department of Regional and Land Affairs in Pietersburg (01521) 74750, or submit full documentation of the outstanding accounts to the department's offices at room 110, Library Gardens, Grobler Street, Pietersburg.

► Sun setting — Page 13

Law permits takeover of homelands

AS LEBOWAN civil servants queued to draw their salaries yesterday after SA officials had worked non-stop the past week to process payments, legislation allowing the SA Government to take over Lebowa's administration was pub-

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lished after being signed into law.

The Self-Governing Territories Constitution Amendment Act, signed into law on Thursday and published yesterday,

allows the Government to take control of a homeland when the State President believes this is necessary to prevent its administration collapsing, or that the administration is incurring "unreasonable financial obligations".

The legislation was tabled in an attempt to halt overspending in Lebowa. Lebowa citizens owe between R60 million and R70 million in tax which still has to be collected and which could cover some shortages. — Sapa.

(11)

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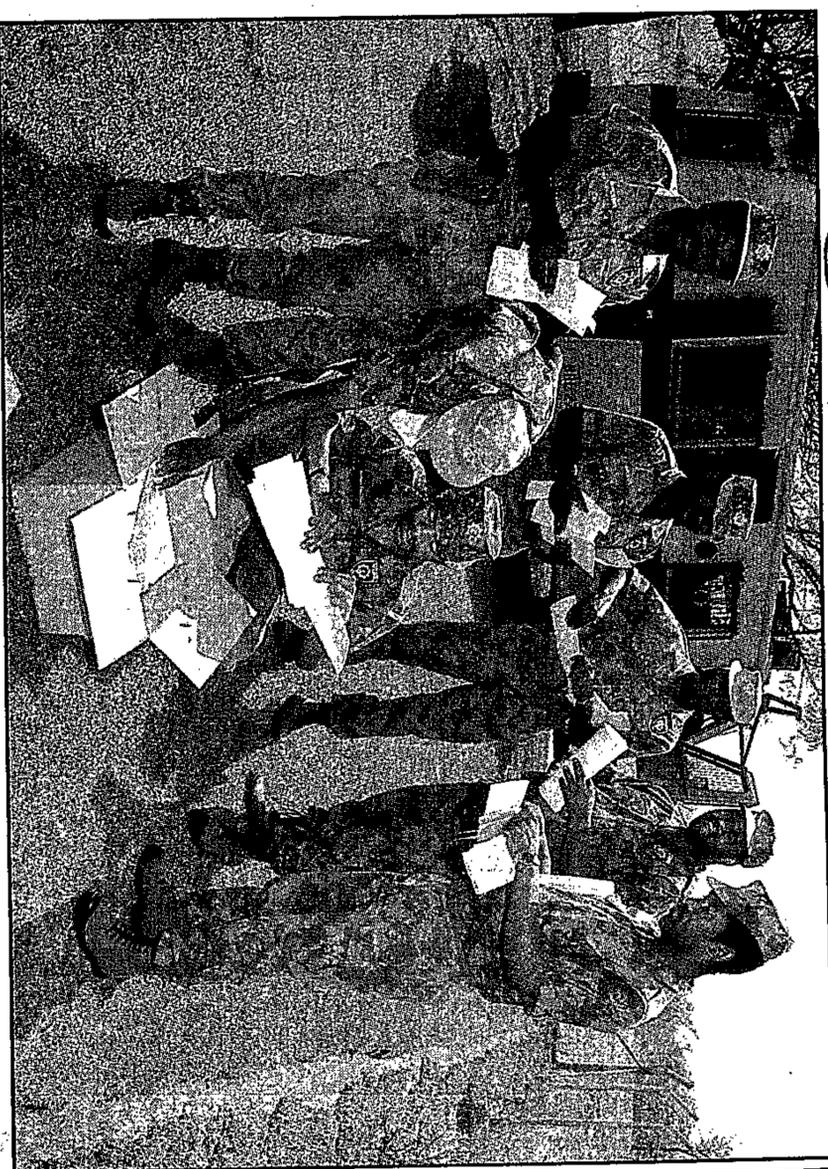
Lebowa finds itself in a pickle

Public servants add fuel to the fire

CHIEF REPORTER JOHN PERLMAN and PHOTOGRAPHER MYKEL NICOLAOU spent a few days in Lebowa this week and found the homeland's civil servants in a combative mood.



CIVIL OFFENCE: Public servants in Lebowa march in protest against the South African Government's takeover of the homeland's finances.



PAPERING THE CRACKS: Policemen from the Internal Stability Unit, guarding the computer centre, help to fold letters from Minister Andre Fourie sent out with every pay slip.

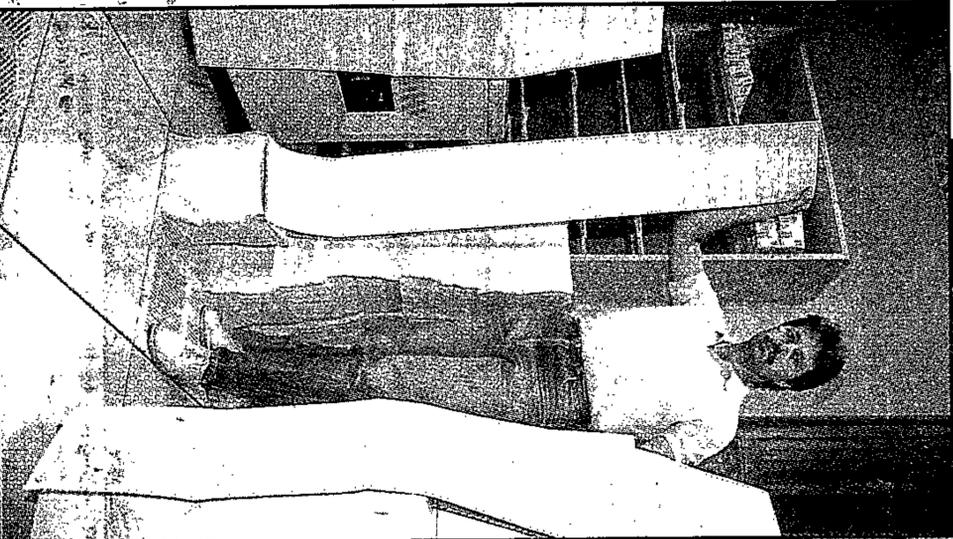
WITH the midday heat one degree short of murderous, everyone seemed relieved that the people advancing on the Lebowa government computer centre were civil servants, and not march-fit youths toyi-toying their way through another comrades marathon.

The 500 protesters broke into a rhythmic run at one point, but slumped gratefully back into a brisk walk after about three minutes, a Lebowa police officer still leading the way. Many of the men wore collars and ties, most of the women wore dresses and high heels.

Difficulties

In a place as poor as this — Labovakgomo's little islands of green lawn and airconditioned government buildings are surrounded by sun-blasted earth and shacks — public servants are something of an elite. The fact that they were on the march this week, even more than the takeover of Lebowa government finances by Pretoria, reflects just how deep the difficulties of this homeland go.

The computer centre, occupied last Sunday by the Department of Regional Affairs under SA Police



CHEQUE THIS: Chris Collitz, who headed the Regional Affairs computer team, with some of the thousands of cheques processed and issued in a

memoration for Chris Hani forced Ramodike to flee after stoning his car.

ANC officials say this was the action of people on the ground. Ramathodi says pressure has been put on Ramodike in other ways. "We have not publicly condemned Ramodike, but we have taken very, very aggressive campaigns to get him to deliver certain things within his competence. In the teachers' strike and the health workers' strike we have intervened through discussions and persuasion."

Rip-offs

But the ANC clearly wants the Lebowa elite behind their election efforts — they say they would consider putting some of them on their regional election lists. At the very least they want Ramodike neutralised. "I would like to have peace in this region until April," one official says.

Pretoria's feeble record of curbing financial abuse

1993 for the further payment of salaries, pensions and essential services. It is therefore in the interest of every resident of Lebowa that this situation be corrected.

The first step towards "correcting the situation" — getting 25 000 transfers and 41 000 cheques worth R185 million paid out — took a round-the-clock effort from a team of com-

puter technicians. Chris Collitz, who headed the operation, denies allegations that Lebowa computer operators were kidnapped and forced to work. "Everyone realised what the job was

that had to be done," he says. "This task team is going to go through all the problems," says Piet Mathee, a former Pietersburg town treasurer brought out of re-

tirement to head the Lebowa operation. "Those that are legitimate will get their money." Other task teams set up when Lebowa's finances were taken over at the end of August, will look

into lenders, pensions and tax matters. Throughout all this, the Lebowa government has refused to meet Fourie to discuss the process. They wouldn't meet us, either.

2/10/93

march, and the memorandum handed over at the gates called for Pretoria to get out. But while that call makes temporary allies of

'The fact that civil servants were on the march, even more than the takeover of Lebowa's finances, reflects just how deep the difficulties of this homeland go.'

the marchers and Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike — both say the Transitional Executive Council should sort out Lebowa's financial chaos — the longer-term reality is that the public servants are unhappy and are getting organised, and whoever takes over the region will have to deal with that.

The issue that prompted Regional Affairs Minister Andre Fourie to step in — mass promotions followed by large salary increases and hefty amounts of backpay, all of it unauthorised — has generally been seen as Lebowa's umpteenth episode of corruption, the scam that finally broke the accountant's back. Lebowa's R185,5 million overdraft is now overdrawn by a further R70 million.

But Gilbert Mosena, a town planner in the Department of Home Affairs and joint head of the Inter-

round-the-clock operation.

departmental Co-ordinating Forum which represents Lebowa public servants, sees it differently. "This mass promotion was simply normalising the situation, and that is something which people don't understand," he says.

"People deserve those promotions and whoever takes over this administration will have to recognise the reality of the situation. All the pressures used to get Ramodike to agree to mass promotion will be used on the next person," he says, adding that Lebowa's civil servants plan to join COSATU's public sector union next year.

Advancement, he says, was at first thwarted by the presence of white officials seconded from Pretoria. Thereafter it was distorted by what Mosena calls nepotism through the Cabinet. "We don't recognise Ramodike. We are not softening our approach to

him as a result of this. But we don't recognise this takeover either. We don't see any reason to give Fourie power to run Lebowa as that is to his political advantage," he says.

This theory, that Pretoria's takeover is aimed at giving the Nats political leverage in the area in advance of elections, is also propounded by the regional ANC. "We do not condone the corruption here in Lebowa," says northern Transvaal head Ngoako Ramathlodi. "All we are saying is that the Pretoria Government must be seen to be consistent in the way it responds."

The ANC leadership in the region has been sidling up the diplomatic route with Ramodike for some time. There have been strikes in the hospitals and schools, a tax boycott by traders, even a protest march by pensioners. In April, the crowd at a com-

has made it easier for the ANC to focus on that, rather than speak out against the Lebowa government's well-documented rip-offs —

'Someone had to do something because Lebowa has simply ground to a halt. The government fuel depot in Lebowakgomo has not had petrol since September 6.'

which it keeps saying is the ultimate responsibility of the central Government. Ramathlodi says: "We are not even sure if that Government is qualified to be a judge over the administrations it created itself for purposes of corruption."

Pretoria's moral qualifications aside, someone had to do something because Lebowa has simply ground to a halt. The government fuel depot in Lebowakgomo has not had petrol since September 6 — the supplier, unpaid for too long, has turned off the taps.

Yesterday 66 000 salaries were paid out, a week later than usual and less money than some employees had reason to expect. In a letter sent out with every pay slip, Fourie said: "The continued payment of present salaries as adjusted could have resulted in Lebowa having no money available by the end of November

SA strips Lebowa's leader of his power

By CLAIRE ROBERTSON, CIARAN RYAN and EZRA MANTINI

THE South African government has stripped Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike of his power to rule the bankrupt homeland.

In a proclamation rushed through a day after enabling legislation was published this week, President FW de Klerk gave Regional Affairs Minister Andre Fourie the power to override decisions taken by Mr Ramodike and his cabinet.

Although the homeland's ministers will retain their titles after the bloodless coup, the South African government can overturn their decisions and even cancel existing decrees, effectively placing Lebowa under Pretoria's curatorship.

The move — which will send shivers through the ranks of other wasteful homeland governments — gives Pretoria the right to rescind any decisions likely to result in "unreasonable financial obligations, responsibilities or burdens" on revenue funds in Lebowa or South Africa.

Already Pretoria has overturned the Lebowa cabinet's gift of its civil servants of massive pay rises and meteoric promotions across the board. A task team sent to Lebowakgomo last Sunday completed paypackets for 72 000 civil servants on Friday, having pared these back to reasonable levels.

A second team goes in tomorrow to begin the task of combing through contracts to check whether proper tender procedures were followed.

The Sunday Times has established that building contracts amounting to R76-

million were awarded to the highest bidders. *S/Times 3/10/93*

The last five civil engineering contracts entered into by the Lebowa government went to the highest tenderer in each case — a little-known company called Grow Construction. Growcon's bids were in each case an average of 20 percent higher than its competitors, according to Des King, a director of the SA Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors (SAFCEC). *(11)*

The Building Industries Association, which has called for an urgent review of tender procedures in the homeland, says Growcon won three road construction projects even though it did not have the ability to carry out the work and had to bring in outside contractors.

Mr King said that on 15 occasions contracts had been awarded to the highest bidder or a company that was way out of line with the pricing recommended by the architects and professional team. "It makes Al Capone look like a Sunday school preacher," he said.

The additional cost to the South African taxpayer of awarding these contracts has been estimated at R8-million.

Mr Fourie has promised legal action if the task group uncovers any irregularities at the Lebowa Tender Board.

The Regional Affairs Minister, who faced down cabinet opposition to the Bill granting South Africa the right to intervene in executive decisions in self-governing territories, yesterday stressed

□ To Page 2

Lebowa leader stripped of power

□ From Page 1

that his new powers would be used "very cautiously".

"We are not going in high-handedly," he said.

Late yesterday afternoon, Mr Ramodike and his cabinet were locked in a meeting discussing their future.

However, Lebowa's chief public relations officer, Mr Joseph Setati, said: "We are not going to let this go on unchallenged and we will use every available method from the courts to the World Trade Centre to try and get the South Africans out of our homeland."

The stripping of Mr Ramodike's powers went largely unnoticed by the inhabitants of the homeland yesterday.

Most people were excited at the idea of getting their salaries after two months in which cheques issued by the Lebowa government bounced.

Some civil servants, loitering around the parliamentary buildings in Lebowakgomo expressed

S/Times 3/10/93
fears that the South African government was seeking to replace Mr Ramodike with the opposition, which is "pro-Nat". *(11)*

Lebowa's only way back to a degree of autonomy would be for the Legislative Assembly to vote Mr Ramodike out of office and replace him with someone who enjoys the support and trust of Pretoria — or for Mr Ramodike to give his complete co-operation to Pretoria's task teams.

While Mr Fourie was at pains to stress that the aim of the new legislation was not to dismantle the self-governing territories, other homeland leaders will be viewing the unfolding

events in Lebowa with concern.

Reports tabled in Parliament last week by Auditor-General Henri Kluever were highly critical of all the homelands.

Already the ANC has seized on the government action against Lebowa to demand that it takes similar steps against Kwazulu, power base of its political rival, the Inkatha Freedom Party.

The Auditor-General's report on Kwazulu found "serious shortcomings in the systems of internal checking and control as well as a disturbing failure to adhere to financial regulations and instructions".

PRETORIA'S ARMY IN TIES MARCHES ON LEBOWA TO FIGHT

LEBOWA was closed this week. Inside the government complex policemen lolled, joking about cabinet members who had taken to leaving work at 10am since Pretoria turned off the money tap a month ago.

Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike, locked in a bitter war with the SA government, was not receiving callers. The official line was that he was not in the building, but policemen pointed out privately that he was indeed in his office.

Outside security guards on duty started visitors by begging coins because "the government hasn't paid me and I am hungry".

A coup was in progress. Fiscal, bloodless, soldiered by men in shirts and ties, it was no less debilitating to the Lebowa government for being a paper war.

It began when the Lebowa legislative assembly refused to pass its budget this year. At that stage Lebowa had exceeded its overdraft by R60-million.

Refusing to pass the budget is one circumstance in which, under legislation then pertaining, the SA government could interfere in the territory's affairs. It assumed financial control of the homeland affairs on September 1, freezing all government cheques.

But Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike refused to play ball and, fearing the irretrievable loss of computer records, the SA government struck again last Friday with an interdiction forcing Lebowa not to print salary cheques — a loose term in Lebowa — and to hand over control of its computer centre.

A senior Johannesburg municipal official was brought out of retirement to oversee the rehabilitation of Lebowa finances, and a Regional and Land Affairs task team assembled.

On Sunday morning a crack unit of Internal Stability policemen forced open the doors of the deserted centre and the computer squad got to work. The crisis hinged on the extraordinarily generous pay policy of the Lebowa government.

The Lebowa Cabinet had decided that all officials deserved promotion, but none should jump a rank. This was circumvented by the following

THE

STI was

2/10/93

PAPER

WAR

SPECIAL REPORT BY CLAIRE ROBERTSON

reasoning: if a civil servant had been employed, for, say, the last nine years, and it was only fair that they be promoted every three years, they were due three promotions.

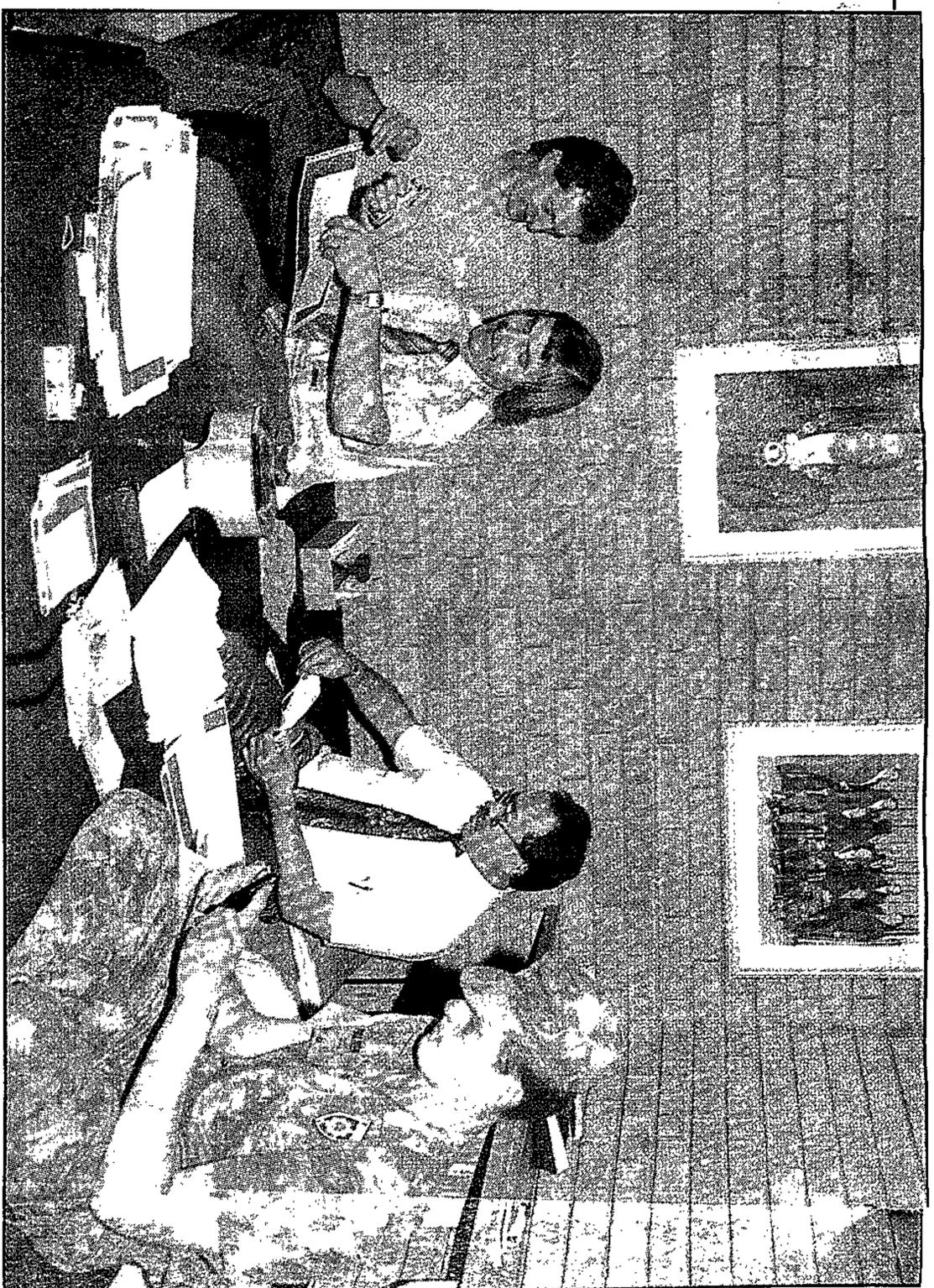
To compensate for having not received these at the time, they would receive back pay. One example quoted often and with indignation by Pretoria was back pay of R73 000 given to 192 Justice Department clerks.

Another example: as of March this year, the annual pay packets of 546 Justice officials came to R13 449 142. By August their annual salary bill alone had jumped more than 50 per cent to R21 233 967.

If the normal civil service pay hike of five percent had been granted, it would have been only R14 121 569.

This handful of bureaucrats make up less than one percent of Lebowa's 72 000 government employees.

IT'S IN THE POST: Public servants and police prepare salary cheques for Lebowa's civil servants



Picture: JOE SEFALE

"If we had let this go on there would be no money left by November, December at the latest," said former Johannesburg deputy town clerk Pieter Mathee.

The team, headed by Regional and Land Affairs deputy director of information systems Chris Calitz, had given themselves less than a week to analyse six months of pay slips for the entire civil service.

Their priority was to pay the civil servants as soon as possible, but ignore the promised raises and back pay. The SA government was empowered to reverse this Lebowa decision in legislation passed in Cape Town last month, and issued a proclamation to this effect on Friday.

"It usually takes a month to do the normal pay slips. We had three or four days to do it plus working out the salary of each person from scratch," said Mr Calitz. Some members of the computer

team — up to 15 Pretoria and Lebowa officials working in shifts — ate and slept in the centre in police-issue beds crammed between desks.

"At exactly 1.20 am on Thursday morning the last cheques for teachers were printed," said a Lebowa computer operator.

This man and a colleague denied charges that the SA government had "kidnapped innocent computer programmers".

In fact, the computer centre opened for business as usual on Monday morning, but Mr Calitz later limited access to essential staff after operators were badgered by colleagues.

They returned on Thursday but refused to help with the cheques, and left, after 15 minutes.

The man in charge of the SA Police's toughest unit, Brigadier Pierre Wessels, who had brought 120 SA policemen to Lebowa to guard the centre, sat on the stoep folding letters to civil servants. The letters from Minister of Re-

gional and Land Affairs Andre Fourie were included with every pay slip, explaining to the recipients why their cheques were late and asking them to continue work as normal.

But they did not point out that Pretoria would seek to recover the outrageous payments. It will do this as soon as every "promotion" has been weeded out.

To this end a second task team of personnel officers will soon begin assessments.

One man who did not receive the handout is a local school principal. But neither was he paid this month. "It is really horrible. You know, we civil servants know we will get that cheque every month, so we don't save any money."

A look of disgust crossed his face. "Look at this," he said, indicating the scrappy spaza shops, the dust and the red cows. "And look at that (Mercedes) Benz."

"This year they all got new Benzes."

The Wabenzes may have bought new cars, but they clearly knew the money was running out.

The Pretoria team found the computer centre littered with vouchers authorising payments to suppliers and contractors, some dated June this year, but not yet paid.

"Some contractors have not been paid for 90 days. There have been repercussions throughout the construction industry. There is one hell of a cash flow problem," said Manie Bester, MD of Builders Market, the largest building materials supplier in the area.

Unpaid workers had downed tools on projects from schools to regional offices, he said.

"I am carrying contractors to the tune of R5-million. There are millions more outstanding."

Pretoria admits that some of the money will be recovered by cutting capital works. Ironically, it was Mr Ramodike's threat to do this in order to pay the inflated salaries that sparked Pretoria's tough tactics.

A farce played out on an absurd stage

Government's clampdown

In Lebowa is the latest, and one of the last, scenes in South Africa's homeland tragedy comedy. **Carol Gales** tracked down Nelson Ramodike and his cabinet

DESPITE media claims to the contrary, the chief minister of Lebowa and his cabinet clearly were very much above ground this week. They were on the second floor, in fact, spending the whole day in their comfortable cabinet room.

They couldn't have been happier that two reporters and a photographer had bothered to come out to Lebowakgomo, a cluster of brick government buildings, to find out what was up.

"Kindly prove to South Africa that we are not underground — in fact, you found us in session," said Nelson Ramodike with a smile. A brass nameplate on his table announced him as chief minister and minister of law and order and traffic.

"I'm still a happy man and the whole cabinet is here and we continue with our normal work and the people are not on strike." Media

reports had said 60 000 Lebowa civil servants had been on strike since last week because they had not been paid for the month of September.

Ramodike sat in the centre of a long row of cabinet ministers, middle-aged men in quality suits relaxing behind their long wooden meeting table.

They pooh-poohed South African government accusations that the homeland should not have given employees belated promotions and salary increases that amounted to back-pay of R73 000 each for nearly 200 justice department officials.

Ramodike seemed unaware that his homeland was another scene in the tragicomedy of the Old South Africa, whose final act is being written at the World Trade Centre. Lebowa's budget scandal is likely to open one of the play's closing scenes.

In taking over Lebowa's financial affairs, personnel matters, security, administration, pensions and tender board — in effect neutralising Ramodike's cabinet — the South African government has taken a first step towards reincorporating the homelands.

Some homeland sequences in the play depict gripping drought, food shortages on overcrowded land, broken families and terminally bloated

bureaucracy. But moments of farce also abound: the brand new Ciskei flag is hoisted at a solemn ceremony marking the homeland's inauguration, and the flagpole topples. The amateurish 15-hour, reggae-driven coup in Bophuthatswana in February 1988 ends when 34 South African Defence Force troops liberate the pyrama-clad president.

Maybe it was Ramodike's excitement at finally attracting some media attention on Tuesday (he said the media always ignored his press releases and SABC censored his remarks) that caused a few things to slip his mind.

When asked on which day he had met thousands of workers wanting to know why they hadn't been paid, he replied, "Friday". That sparked corrective murmurs from the cabinet ministers. "Wednesday," some said. "Thursday," others suggested. After making a quick assessment, the minister turned to the microphone again and said: "Wednesday".

This was not the worst. Describing steps his government had taken during the investigation of its finances, Ramodike uttered a classic Freudian slip: "The Lebowa government appealed to the state president after we had exhausted all the revenues —

er, all the avenues, rather."

So what happened to all the money?

Ramodike blamed "incompetent, inefficient" white officials seconded to the homeland from South Africa — some of them "rejects" with barely a Standard 10 education who supervised blacks with university degrees. Such officials had failed over the years to promote black employees — something discovered only recently when the homeland recruited senior black staff, Ramodike said.

Some of these whites, he alleged, had taken R63-million from the Tribal Trust Account and invested it privately. A committee was investigating this, he said, and "prosecution is to follow soon". Then he hesitated ... "sooner or later".

Ramodike also claimed a former employee had taken R5-million "behind my back" to buy Mercedes-Benzes for Lebowa MPs in hopes of winning support for a future bid for the chief minister's mantle.

He didn't mention some of the other cash drains. Ramodike's salary is said to be higher than FW de Klerk's. Thirteen luxury Mercedes-Benzes in pale metallic gold, green and blue, many equipped with cellular telephones, were parked in front of the chief minister's building. With all this to lose, how could

111 WMM 1-7/10/93

Ramodike say so boldly that he had asked De Klerk to dissolve the homeland government? Where would that leave Ramodike?

"I will start organising my political party and we'll prepare ourselves to win the 1994 elections," Ramodike explained. He suspects his opponent will be the man now spearheading the investigation into his government. Department of Land and Regional Affairs Minister Andre Fourie himself.

Meanwhile, in a familiar scene not far away, camouflage-clad members of South Africa's Internal Stability Division guarded the computer centre. Reporters were barred from meeting Lebowa computer operators, who allegedly had been "taken by force" to the building on Sunday to help issue pay cheques to civil servants by today.

Chris Calitz, the South African official heading the operation, said the Lebowa staff did not want to be interviewed, fearing intimidation from the public.

"It's very complicated," Calitz said in a knowing tone from behind the wire fence, exposing a mindset that is another crucial element of the homeland farce. "It's black people we're dealing with here."

Lebowa Protest

By KHANGANE

MAKHADO

City Press 31/01/93

THOUSANDS of Lebowa civil servants will gather at the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park this week to protest against salary cuts imposed by the South African government.

This was the claim of Sebola Sebokala, who heads Lebowa's interdepartmental coordinating forum, a group of civil servants.

The action comes after the takeover of the homeland by the central government a month ago.

Although no date has been finalised, the demonstration is billed for Tuesday or Wednesday, he said. (11)

One of the demands to be presented would be for an investigating board to look into alleged corruption, whether in Lebowa or anywhere else in SA, he said.

There was relief on Tuesday when civil servants were assured their salaries would be paid.

Demand *Sowetan* for refund

MEMBERS of the South African Democratic Teachers Union in Lebowa have given Regional and Land Affairs Minister André Fourie until Wednesday to refund money they say is owing to them.

Sadtu officials told a meeting of members at the weekend that Lebowa education authorities and the union had signed an agreement that money deducted during a 1991-92 strike be refunded.

They are asking Fourie to make a declaration of intent to refund their money because Lebowa Education Minister, Mr Mokhodu Ledwaba, had authorised the payments before Fourie took over the administration of the homeland. — *Sapa and Sowetan Reporter.*

Bank defends Lebowa loan

LLOYD COUTTS

MONEY advanced to Lebowa to meet the homeland's debts was paid in accordance with facilities sanctioned and approved by the SA government, Standard Bank said yesterday. **By Day 5/10/93**

The bank was responding to claims by government that Pretoria was not responsible for R60m overdrawn by Lebowa shortly before central government took over its administration last week.

Government said it had guaranteed Lebowa's overdraft facility for R185m, but Lebowa overdraw nearly R250m to meet its salary payroll.

The bank said misconceptions had arisen over media reports based on incorrect information. "All amounts advanced to the Lebowa government to meet drawings, including drawings for salaries, have been made in accordance with facilities approved and sanctioned by officials of the SA government," Standard said.

However, the SA National Civic Organisation (Sanco) said yesterday Standard and not the SA taxpayer should carry any losses from Lebowa's financial crisis.

Sanco president Moses Mayekiso said Standard had profited from its relationship with Lebowa, but had "apparently become

too greedy" and extended the overdraft facility beyond what government would guarantee. Government should respect the rules of the market in this case, and not accommodate Lebowa through using its strained finances. (11)

"Standard must not set the precedent for getting a bailout. Other banks must learn the lesson that homeland governments ... are not good credit risks," Mayekiso said.

Cosatu, meanwhile, has called for the urgent establishment of an independent audit commission to investigate and regulate all government expenditure.

It said a Transitional Executive Council subcouncil on finance should oversee the expenditure of apartheid institutions until an interim government was in place. "This will ensure that the massive pillaging of the fiscus ... will be checked before it jeopardises the transition process."

The Lebowa cabinet met yesterday to discuss a submission it is to make at the multiparty talks in Kempton Park today. Lebowa is expected to ask for its financial administration be placed in the care of the TEC subcouncil on finance.

SA govt approved Lebowa loan ⁽¹¹⁾ Standard

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Money advanced to Lebowa to meet the homeland's debts was paid in accordance with facilities sanctioned and approved by the SA government, Standard Bank said yesterday.

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"All amounts advanced to the Lebowa government were sanctioned by officials of the SA government," Standard said in a statement.

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'Don't replace us with other puppets'

CLP News 10/10/93

(11)

LEBOWA Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike, whose territory has been invaded by the Pretoria government, said his entire Cabinet was prepared to close shop and leave office if all homelands were to be dismantled.

In an exclusive interview in Lebowakgomo, Ramodike told City Press that his government was reluctant to leave office before the legislative assembly was dissolved.

He said should the homeland government resign, it would be replaced with another set of puppets because legally the legislative assembly was still in existence.

"Bantustan leaders, collaborators and puppets should not be replaced with other puppets. If we leave office now, Pretoria will do just that," said Ramodike.

He claims that FW De Klerk's decision not to dismantle Lebowa was in accordance with developments at the World Trade Centre.

Ramodike believes the takeover of the homeland's financial administration is a political move.

He said if maladministration was the motive for the invasion, more corrupt homelands would also have been targeted.

He maintained that he was being victimised because he was a member of the Patriotic Front and supported the ANC.

Since the NP rally in Pietersburg, Ramodike believes he has become a stumbling block to the recruitment drive in the region.

He accused the central government of applying double standards by allowing some officials implicated in corruption to go unpunished.

Ramodike and most of his cabinet have not been paid since August.

OUTTO GET ME!

C/Press

10/10/93

(111)

By MOSES MAMAILA

LEBOWA chief minister Nelson Ramodike is positive there is a plot to assassinate him and to destroy his entire cabinet.

"There are attempts to kill me," said Ramodike, adding that he had reason to believe that his entire cabinet was on a hit-list.

"My typist and my personal secretary have been receiving threatening calls from anonymous callers who warned them to tell me that I should seriously consider leaving this office or my days are numbered," he said.

He said he believed the death threats were linked to the take-over by the central government, saying the threats came shortly after the "invasion".

"There are plans to stage a physical coup here," said Ramodike, who said he feared the entire cabinet was in danger.

The chief minister said it was clear that those who wanted to oust him



RAMODIKE ... SA is plotting against me.

from power through the "silent" coup were not satisfied that he was still in power after all their efforts.

He said he had consequently increased security measures for himself and for cabinet members following the threats on their lives.

During one of the "mysterious" calls, Ramodike said the caller told him Zambian presi-

Ramodike says he's aware of plot to kill him

dent Fredrick Chiluba wanted to see him in Lusaka.

Later another anonymous caller said president Kamuzu Banda of Malawi wanted to see him in Lilongwe.

Ramodike told City Press that his offices were earlier this week surrounded by members of the SAP's Internal Stability Unit in an action he described as open provocation.

He also accused the ISU members of interfering in his private affairs and those of other ministers and their relatives - by patrolling the ministerial residence during the night.



THIEVES UNWANTED ... A determined protester at the World Trade Centre.

Raiders of the Lost Files

By CLAIRE ROBERTSON

Stimmed Office 1993

PRETORIA task teams entered Lebowa government offices under armed guard this week to seize documents as the accounting war in the homeland intensified.

Original estimates of a R722-million deficit for last year soar every day as metre-high stacks of unprocessed documents and unpaid bills are uncovered.

Education — one of the worst departments in terms of mismanagement and wild spending — was at first said to be R139-million in the red for 1992/93. The latest estimates put it at more than R300-million — and growing.

Pretoria officials have discovered that, as the money began to run out in Lebowa, the government simply stopped paying its bills — or accounting for money spent.

Financial task team head Willie Cremer divides his time between pleading for Lebowa's co-operation and overseeing the processing of mounds of paperwork by the dozen officials in his charge who moved into Lebowa last month to clean up its finances.

Central government financial experts move about the Lebowa government compound under the guard of members of a crack SA Police unit.

SUPPORT: Nurses back the clean-up



ment officials took control of Lebowa's computer centre. In terms of a court order, they have encountered active opposition from civil servants.

This came to a head on Thursday when, according to Mr Piet Mathee, designee of Regional Affairs Minister Andre Fourie, a request for vital payment vouchers met with the reply: "We will burn this building down if you try to take them."

Mr Fourie was effectively placed in charge of Lebowa's financial affairs last month in terms of a new law which allows the SA government to intervene if the administration of a self-governing territory threatens to collapse.

Mr Mathee decided to use force. On Thursday morning officials and armed internal stability unit members raided the Department of Works, where most of the missing vouchers for payment to government contractors were stored.

"We were having a meeting when they came. They held us hostage in one room while they took the documents," said works task team member Madimetja Ngobeni.

Fellow task team member Mogale Mokgatjane said works officials had

refused to hand over documents themselves "because the salaries question has not been finalised".

Salaries sparked the crisis when a Lebowa cabinet decision to grant widespread promotions and massive backpayments to officials all but emptied the homeland's coffers. Last week Pretoria rescinded the promotions and gave notice it would reclaim the rises and backpayments.

Works officials — excluding management — decided on Friday to retaliate for the raid and the suspension of 14 members of their task team by reporting for work but staying outside the department complex until the task team was allowed back.

Nurses from the territory's three largest hospitals are due to return to work today after a 14-day sit-in, which culminated in a picket of the government compound on Friday.

The dispute involved two colleagues who were suspended after using hospital vehicles for union business related to the salaries issue.

After a meeting with the cabinet, the two women were reinstated "without prejudice".

Strike cripples

Sowetan 13/10/93

Lebowa

111

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

THE ENTIRE WORK FORCE of about 60 000 Lebowa civil servants downed tools yesterday after 15 colleagues were ordered out of their offices by South African Government officials.

Representatives of the workers said 14 members of Lebowa's department of public works were forced out of their offices on Monday by South African officials who were accompanied by armed members of the Internal Stability Unit.

Also ordered out was Miss Ginny Mathinjwa, a finance clerk based at the computer centre which is now under police guard. Mathinjwa is also a member of the Inter-departmental Forum.

The stoppage yesterday, which crippled all services except health and the police, is the culmination of events that started with the takeover of Lebowa's finance administration in September.

A spokesman for the Department of Regional and Land Affairs said yesterday the 15 had been found to be obstacles to the functioning of the task force sent by Pretoria.

He said suppliers of services to Lebowa had not been paid since June and that boxes containing claims were lying in the works department offices unprocessed.

He said the 14 works department representatives had threatened task force members with violence last week and had ordered other clerks not to process any payments for contractors until

the reductions made in salaries last month were reversed.

The department had then decided to give the 15 workers indefinite paid leave. He said the task force, accompanied by the police, had seized documents needed to process claims by suppliers.

Worker representatives, however, said the problem stemmed from cheques issued to labourers by the Lebowa administration. The cheques were not honoured by the banks and requests to Pretoria's task force to reissue the labourers with new cheques had been ignored.

"These are people who have effectively been robbed. The staff say that the task force was too keen on processing their white brothers' claims while ignoring salaries of black labourers.

"The task force was told that if they wanted co-operation from the staff, they should pay the labourers," a spokesman said.

The workers, who spent the day yesterday camped outside the main government buildings in Lebowakgomo, sang and



Mr Nelson Ramodike

danced the whole day, demanding that Land affairs Minister Mr A Fourie should meet them.

Fourie was attending a National Party congress in Cape Town and was only expected in his office today, a spokesman for his office said.

The workers are understood to have vowed to remain outside until Fourie meets with their representatives, who yesterday met Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike at his office.

A spokesman for Ramodike confirmed the work stoppage and said the chief minister's appeal to the multiparty talks for intervention in the stalemate would be discussed today.

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Mr Nelson Ramodike

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Crippled Lebowwa is ready to explode

Sowetan 14/10/93

AN explosive situation is developing in Lebowwa, crippled by 60 000 government employees on strike.

The strike is to show sympathy for 15 colleagues dismissed by officials of Mr André Fourie's Department of Regional and Land Affairs.

Government employees massed outside government buildings in Lebowwagomo yesterday demanding a meeting with Fourie.

Urgent talks between Lebowwa government department heads and officials delegated by Fourie began in Lebowwagomo yesterday in an effort to defuse the tense situation, which has been deteriorating since the South African Government's takeover of Lebowwa's financial affairs on September 1.

The homeland's public servants last month expressed dissatisfaction

with salary cheques paid out after the takeover.

An official in Lebowwa's Department of Home Affairs confirmed yesterday that all work in local government departments had stopped.

The 15 Lebowwa officials, members of the civil service organisation and the Interdepartmental Co-ordinating Forum, were allegedly ordered out of their offices for allegedly obstructing the work of seconded officials instructed to speed up the processing of claims from businesses to whom large amounts had been owing since June.

The Pietersburg office of the Department of Regional and Land Affairs, which is helping to process the claims, yesterday refused to disclose the total amount involved.

ICF chairman Mr Moseamo Sebola said the Works Department

officials had refused to pay white suppliers of services to Lebowwa because thousands of labourers and general assistants on the Lebowwa payroll had not been paid their August salaries.

Civil servants at a meeting later decided that they would all go on strike in solidarity with the dismissed workers, he said. "We are saying that if SA is so eager to pay the white suppliers why is it not ready to pay the labourers their meagre R500 salaries?"

"The strike will continue for as long as our members are walking the streets," he said.

A spokesman for Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike said there had been no talks between Fourie and the Lebowwa cabinet on the future of the homeland's administration.

Sowetan Reporter and Own Correspondent.

1 000 workers strike

Sowetan 14/10/93

By Lulama Luti

ABOUT 1 000 workers at Game Stores countrywide began an indefinite strike yesterday after negotiations with management collapsed.

The workers, all members of the South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union, decided on the strike action after management refused to accede to their demands.

Stores already affected by the strike are

in Pietersburg, Nelspruit, Bruma Lake in Johannesburg, Game City in Durban and Alberton.

Union spokesman Mr Bukani Mingoma said the union was demanding an increase of R165 across the board, a minimum salary of R1 400 a month, a monthly laundry allowance of R15, discounts of 14 percent for staff and unconditional days-off. He said management was instead offering a R120 across-the-board increase, R1 320 minimum a month and that the union drop all its demands.



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Homelands crisis deepens

Gazankulu, Venda also in financial difficulties

Star 15/10/93



BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

The financial crisis in the homelands is deepening.

After revelations of Lebowa's financial chaos, The Star learnt yesterday that Gazankulu is also experiencing financial difficulties. And in Venda the government is trying to recover R5,5 million in pensions paid in error to five civil servants.

Gazankulu sources said "desperate cost-cutting measures" were being introduced to save the homeland from bankruptcy in the months before the 1994/95 budget allocation is made.

The Education Department alone is down R72 million, and has instructed school principals to "privatise their schools" and, if necessary, retrench staff to reduce the salary bill. Similar exercises are being followed by other departments.

At least 2 500 unqualified teachers stand to lose their jobs at the end of the year, but will be able to apply for posts in April.

In Lebowa, meanwhile, claims of about R60 million have been received from suppliers to the homeland's government. These are being processed.

Plans are also being made for Regional Affairs Minister Andre Fourie to meet the Lebowa Interdepartmental Action Co-ordinating Forum next week to

DESPERATE cost-cutting measures are needed to rescue homelands — with shortfalls of millions — from bankruptcy

discuss grievances.

Yesterday about 60 000 striking civil servants warned of a boycott of white businesses in and around Lebowa if the crisis with South African officials was not speedily resolved.

They also demanded that 14 dismissed Works Department employees be reinstated and that no white-owned company which was owed money by the Lebowa government be paid until casual workers received their overdue wages.

A spokesman for the Regional Affairs Department told The Star that hundreds of casual workers would probably be paid soon.

The Venda civil servants have been ordered to repay the R5,5 million within 21 days or face legal action. They got the money last year as a result of incorrect calculations made when the Venda government pension fund was privatised.

Letters of demand from the country's Pension Implementation Committee had been sent to them, Venda Public Servants' Coalition Committee chairman Alidzulwi Muvhango said.

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Agreement in Lebowa row

PIETERSBURG. — The Lebowa Inter-Departmental Co-ordination Forum and the South African task team have reached a provisional agreement allowing 15 evicted officials to return unconditionally.

The agreement was reached between the parties yesterday.

A spokesman, Mr. Moseamo Sebola, said civil servants would resume duties soon. *CTIS/10/98*

Lebowa civil servants downed tools on Tuesday to protest against the South African task force which is running the homeland's financial administration. — Sapa

Why Lebowa went on promotions spree

JOCKEYING for position in the new South Africa was at the heart of the sudden and widescale promotions of civil servants by the Lebowa cabinet, it emerged this week.

Venda, Gazankulu and Lebowa will all form part of a single northern Transvaal region in future. Their civil servants will have to compete for jobs.

Pretoria's spokesman in Lebowa,

Mr Piet Matthee, would not confirm this was the reason behind the promotions, but said Lebowa officials had complained that "Gazankulu has more directors-general than we do."

Lebowa's deputy Minister of Works, Mr Lekau Mamabolo, told workers on Friday: "Our civil servants cannot transfer into the new South Africa with lower ranks. Our people must be promoted."

How some of the cash was squandered

SOME of the examples of wild spending discovered by officials in Lebowa:

● The cabinet ordered R14 000 worth of steak "and a few chickens" for one function;

● A minister managed to go through 14 lunches on a two-day visit to the Palace at the Lost City;

● A junior official on business in Pretoria spent more than two hours — and over R100 — on a long-dis-

tance private call (not to his wife);

● The education department was asked to approve a R1 600 take-away chicken lunch for a teachers' conference "because free lunch would motivate them to attend";

● A civil servant could not refund the R116 000 back-payment she received after her promotion as she had spent the money on a trip abroad. She brought back R4.

Talks on Lebowa's debts

PRETORIA — Contractors, suppliers and bank officials will meet the Lebowa Cabinet tomorrow to discuss the state of the homeland's finances and the prospects of receiving outstanding money.

A Lebowa government spokesman said the business community had been plunged into a state of "ongoing confusion" since officials from Pretoria intervened in the homeland's affairs last month.

The intervention, by a team of SA auditors and police, came in the wake of

BISA
ADRIAN HADLAND

the Lebowa government's inability to pass its budget. Allegations of widespread financial mismanagement are being investigated.

18/10/93 Following a meeting last week between Lebowa government officials and representatives of the Pietersburg Chamber of Commerce, it had been decided a meeting for all interested parties should be held, the spokesman said.

At tomorrow's meeting, those attending would be informed of developments.

Lebowa staff resume duties

LEBOWAKGOMO — Lebowa public servants resumed their duties yesterday after a four-day strike.

The decision to end the strike came after the Lebowa inter-departmental co-ordination forum received a letter confirming the unconditional reinstatement of 15 officials evicted last week from their offices by the SA government's task team. *B. B. S. a. y.*

The task team alleged the officials were uncooperative. *19/10/93*

A spokesman for the Lebowa public servants denied this, saying the officials were reacting to the "racist attitude" of processing payments for white tenders and contractors, while the salaries for black labourers were not paid.

The spokesman also called for the appointment of an independent body to investigate misused funds in Lebowa. *(11)*

He said most of the members of the task team investigating the alleged embezzlement of funds in the territory had earlier been dismissed by the Lebowa government for corruption.

The inter-departmental co-ordination forum would meet Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie today in Pretoria to discuss the matter, he said.

— Sapa.

Lebowa, SA try to clear the air

BY NORMAN
CHANDLER

PRETORIA BUREAU

South Africa and Lebowa yesterday took joint action to heal rifts between the two countries as a result of South Africa taking over control recently of the homeland's financial affairs. (11)

President de Klerk and Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike discussed problems which had arisen — including strikes by civil servants, occupation of computer centres by South African security services, and non-payment of salaries and contractors' fees — at a meeting at the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

Lebowa's legislative assembly did not pass the homeland's 1993-94 budget, resulting in a request from the homeland for more than R300 million to meet its commitments.

According to a government statement on yesterday's meeting, "the two sides discussed the current financial and administrative crisis in Lebowa."

"They agreed to establish a joint ministerial committee to clarify the present limitations on the authority of the Lebowa government."

It was also decided that the time had come for both governments to be continually informed of what "rectifying action" had been taken, and to promote co-operation between two South African financial task forces and the Lebowa government and civil service.

The results of the talks are the first positive signs to emerge in the Lebowa crisis since South Africa invoked the Self-Governing Territories Constitutional Act, later amended, to take over Lebowa's affairs at the end of August.

The first financial task force was sent to Lebowagkomo, the homeland capital, immediately afterwards and ran into problems when it attempted to look into the territory's financial affairs. Security forces seized the computer centre to enable SA to reprint 60 000 cheques.

DP candidates to sign conduct code

Biday 27/10/93

THE DP is set to adopt a set of regulations for the nomination of election candidates which contain no specific mechanisms for affirmative action on the basis of race or gender.

The DP's draft regulations note that the electorate will expect the lists of candidates to be nonracial and nonsexist, but it will be left to electoral colleges to vote for a balanced list of candidates.

In the preamble to the regulations, the DP notes that they provide for a mechanism to screen candidates on the basis of merit, electability, commitment and past performance.

Prospective candidates will be required to sign a "candidate and public representative undertaking", which will include a code of conduct requiring candidates to operate openly, to be accountable to the party and not to use their office for personal gain.

The first position on the DP's list of candidates will be reserved for the leader of the party.

Other candidates will be selected in a complex process whereby a national electoral college will vote for nominees in batches of 20.

The 10 nominees to receive the most votes will join the final list of candidates. The remaining 10 will return to the pool of nominees. This process will continue until there is a complete list.

DP national organiser James Selfe

TIM COHEN

said the process was designed to prevent block voting and ensure geographic balance.

□ WILSON ZWANE reports that the ANC PWV region will ask its members and those of its allies to nominate its key leaders for positions in government at its annual conference in Johannesburg this weekend.

Secretary-general Paul Mashatile said yesterday new regional executive committee members would be elected at the conference.

The conference would then ask its branches to nominate candidates for local and regional governments.

"The members will be given three weeks to do this. And a conference of the regional tripartite alliance will be convened towards the end of November to discuss the lists," he said.

He stressed that nominees did not have to be ANC members. They could come from any mass democratic movement organisation.

It would not be necessary for nominees to leave their organisations, but once in government on the ANC ticket they would be answerable to the organisation.

The weekend conference will be attended by 800 delegates from Cosatu, the SACP, the mass democratic movement and business.

Bid to resolve Lebowa crisis

LLOYD COUTTS

GOVERNMENT and the Lebowa administration yesterday agreed to establish a joint ministerial committee to clarify "limitations on the authority of the Lebowan government" precipitated by last month's takeover of the homeland's financial administration by Pretoria.

An SA delegation headed by President F W de Klerk and a Lebowan government delegation led by Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike met in Pretoria yesterday to discuss the administrative crisis in the homeland.

Government said the parties had agreed to promote co-operation between the Lebowa government and the SA financial task force sent to take over the homeland's administration last month when the territory's assembly failed to meet a deadline for approving its budget.

It was also agreed that both governments would be kept advised of "rectifying action" and ways of normalising the situation in Lebowa would be investigated. A joint committee of officials would be appointed to assist the ministerial committee.

The rotten heart of the homelands

111 W/M 19-25/11/93

Complete disorder caused by mismanagement and corruption has been revealed by commissions of inquiry into the affairs of Lebowa and kwaNdebele. By **Mduduzi ka Harvey**

THE latest reports of commissions of inquiry into Lebowa and kwaNdebele reveal a cesspool of corruption and mismanagement which can only accelerate moves to reincorporate them into South Africa.

The fourth and final De Meyer Commission of Inquiry into Lebowa this week ratified the government's decision to take over the finances of that homeland. The revenue office of the homeland was "poorly controlled and managed" and led to "inefficiency in all sections", the report concluded.

There is no final graft tally, but the inquiry found that R4-million was outstanding on the 62 cases it had investigated in the Revenue Office. The third De Meyer report, published a year ago, found that almost R1-billion had been lost through mismanagement in the homeland.

"The commission shudders at the thought of what the total amount outstanding will be found to be if all the files are subjected to an audit, as has been recommended," the report says.

It continues: "To create order out of the existing disorder will require a major effort."

Some order will be restored by the complete overhaul of the system of tax assessment and tax collection. The report suggests that the names of tax offenders be made public and that the government grant a concessionary period to taxpayers to get their affairs in order.

The fifth Parsons report into the affairs of kwaNdebele — also released this week — places blame for mismanagement at the door of then minister of finance David Nguni, and the former chief minister, George Mahlangu.



Blamed ... Former kwaNdebele chief minister George Mahlangu

Nguni did not budget for expenditure incurred, pursued projects without checking whether funds were available and overspent on the budget, the inquiry found. Mahlangu is criticised for forcing decisions on finance officials.

The report says that maladministration was rife in all departments of the kwaNdebele government service because of the total absence of middle management.

The report found that the kwaNdebele Department of Justice was completely disorganised.

Records were continually lost, there was no filing system, appeals did not receive attention and reviews were not sent to the supreme court. No overall control was exercised because of the lack of regular administrative, financial and audit inspections.

Teachers' salaries were paid by

different departments and this gave rise to "losses and malpractices". Thousands of school packages were purchased, resulting in overspending of R162 926.

The report suggested that ministers had an interest in certain book firms and found that the payment of kick-backs for the award of tenders was widespread.

Cases were also noted where people received public service salaries, but also drew pensions.

KwaNdebele, like Lebowa, had also lost large amounts of money in rental and services arrears, the inquiry concludes. The town of Enkangala, for example, had a potential income of R300 000 a month, but only R20 000 was received monthly, leaving the arrears at about R11-m between 1991 and 1992 alone.

Ministers of mismanagement

KWANDEBELE's ministers have entered the art of mismanagement. Some of the more hair-raising instances revealed in the final Parsons report include:

- All government departments were made to contribute R10 000 a welcome party when the minister returned from Taiwan in 1992.

- A national day of mourning cost taxpayers R21 000 in 1989.

- Extensions to the Ndebele Teachers Training College cost R2 million, while kick-backs of R1 million had been made to officials by contractors. Although the department did not have the necessary funds, it continued with the project, which was ultimately cancelled after losses of almost R62 000 had been sustained.

- Election pamphlets were made for R38 000.

- Promoting the homeland's tourism cost R343 000, paid to a company called Unique Communications.

- Failure to adjust rents for government buildings resulted in R1,5-m loss to the Income Fund while thousands of rents were lost because large consumers of electricity did not pay their bills. Government buildings had no electricity.

- Ministers' taxes were paid to state coffers, while ministers received housing allowances whether they lived in official houses or not. Between April 1990 and October 1992 alone, over R2-million was paid to 16 officials in housing allowances.

- Almost R20 000 was paid to a transport engineer, while administrative clerk read R100 as R165 500 and filled it in on the order form. Another department read R200 for R50 000, resulting in increased expenditure.

- In many cases, cheques drawn with no amounts to justify the expenditure.

- Tenders often went to the highest bidder. In a tender for initial contract went to a contractor who was in a tender that was almost R300 higher than the lowest bid.

Commissions expose massive corruption in KwaNdebele,

PRÉTORIA — Government yesterday expressed shock at the multimillion-rand level of corruption and mismanagement uncovered by two commissions of inquiry investigating the administrations of KwaNdebele and Lebowa.

Reports published this week by the De Meyer and Parsons commissions indicated that theft, "kick-backs", fraud, maladministration, tax evasion, tender irregularities, needless expenditure and chaotic administrative control existed in virtually every department of the dozens examined. Regional Affairs Minister André Fourie said government was shocked by the level of mismanagement and was impatient for

the financial affairs of the self-governing territories to be corrected.

"At the cost of effective government, it damages the economy and is a waste of taxpayers' money. Corruption and maladministration is wholly unacceptable."

The two commissions were established in 1989. They have previously reported on the 1986 unrest in KwaNdebele, the role of the territory's police force and the initial results of an investigation into the Lebowa government service, the Lebowa Development Corporation and the now defunct Lebowa Agricultural Company. Fourie said corrective steps including criminal procedures, the disbanding of a

ADRIAN HADLAND
B/Say 19/11/93

state department and the institution of improved control had been implemented as a result of the earlier reports.

The latest De Meyer commission report included investigations into the administration of Lebowa's education department, the chief minister's office, the receiver of revenue and the departments of works, transport and water affairs.

The commission concluded that "mismanagement occurred in all the departments that were investigated". Similar results were reported from the Parsons commission examination of Kwa-

Ndebele's chief ministry and the departments of justice, interior affairs, welfare and pensions, education and culture, finance, health, and civil liaison.

Rough estimates suggest that at least R50m in "needless expenditure" had been approved by officials from KwaNdebele, while R30m in unbudgeted funds had been spent on various projects. More than R17m in expenditure was unaccounted for in the chief minister's office.

These figures represented a fraction of the millions, possibly hundreds of millions, of rands squandered by the two self-governing territories during the 1980s. President F W de Klerk told Parliament

earlier this year that most of the incidents mentioned in the De Meyer and Parsons reports referred to "corruption and malpractices dating back to the '80s and even earlier".

- The commissions' findings included:
- Kickbacks of R1m were paid to officials in KwaNdebele's education department to encourage their decisions on construction contracts;
 - Electricity meters were not attached to KwaNdebele government buildings, leading to the loss of thousands of rands;
 - Luxury vehicles became the property of ministers after 18 months, while allow-

Corruption

B/Say 19/11/93

From Page 1

- ances were adjusted to include tax;
- The appropriation of R10 000 from each department, or R180 000 in total, by the KwaNdebele chief minister's office for a welcome-home party;
- The issuing of drivers' licences in Lebowa needed urgent investigation; and
- Widespread theft of cotton, irrigation equipment, milk, milk powder and cattle

within Lebowa's agriculture department. The De Meyer commission blamed the financial chaos on politicians who had set up the territories' structures.

"The politicians involved are to a great extent to be blamed for the process through which certain institutions were established," it said.

● See Page 4

To Page 2.

Lebowa

Call to probe licence testing

CAPE TOWN — Independent experts should thoroughly investigate the manner in which people were tested for driver's licences in Lebowa, the De Meyer commission of inquiry has found.

The commission said the balance of probabilities indicated many irregularities in testing for licences.

Driver's licences had been issued to people who were not competent to drive the type of vehicle for which the licence was issued.

"Taking into account the large number of deaths on SA roads, and the enormous amounts spent to promote road safety, it is a shocking state of affairs that there are possibly many drivers on SA

roads who have licences issued in Lebowa while they are not competent to drive a vehicle."

The commission found that until 1991, only people normally resident in Lebowa could obtain learner's and driver's licences in the territory.

However, this stipulation had not been enforced. Magistrates, who had tried to prevent irregularities, faced opposition and had condoned irregularities by issuing licences to people who did not qualify.

The commission also recommended that roadworthy certificates issued in Lebowa be investigated with police help. — Sapa.

Justice department 'in a shambles'

CAPE TOWN — The KwaNdebele justice department should be placed under the control of the SA Justice Department to raise its justice system and administration to a more effective level, says the Parsons commission.

According to the recommendation of the commission of inquiry into the 1986 unrest and alleged mismanagement there was considerable doubt as to whether the KwaNdebele government had the manpower and experience to place the judicial system and its administration on an effective and acceptable footing.

Commission findings on the jus-

ice department included:

- "Barely a semblance" of a correspondence and completed cases filing system;
 - Appeals had received no attention and review cases not sent to the Supreme Court in time — If at all;
 - Criminal case exhibit disposal — many of which had been lost — had received no attention; and
 - Non-existent liquor and commercial licence registers.
- It recommended that efforts be made to promote officials to senior posts on merit only, and discipline, internal control be drastically improved. — Sapa.

Control of Lebowa revenue should move to SA office'

CAPE TOWN — Control of the Lebowa revenue office should be removed to a South African revenue office, the De Meyer commission has recommended.

In its report on alleged mismanagement in the territory reviewed today, it said another option would be to transfer sufficient experts from SA to the Lebowa office to introduce corrective measures.

Sections of the Income Tax Act should also be amended so that particulars of malpractice and tax evasion might be made public, the report says.

"Those who do pay taxes have a right to know whose tax affairs are not in order, which malpractice came to light and that steps are being taken against those who do not meet their obligations or are involved in malpractice."

The commission found the state of the Lebowa revenue office was disorganised and poorly controlled and managed, which led to inefficiency in all sections.

"The loss of income as a result of this must be astronomical, in view of the fact that there is about R4m outstanding on 62 cases alone. The commission shudders at the thought of what the total

amount outstanding will be found to be if all files are subjected to an audit, as has been recommended."

Because of the inefficiency shown by the office, Lebowa's inhabitants "cannot rely on an honest and fair system for the collection of taxes, which necessarily militates against the willingness of the public to pay taxes".

A first priority should be to look at expanding the tax base.

Steps could include:

- Trade licences issued by magistrates' offices should be compared with the existing tax register;
- A similar comparison made between the register and particulars of employees of large institutions, like the Lebowa Government Service, to ensure that PAYE cases are registered;
- Identification of people liable for tax.

□ An offer to the public, through the media, of a last chance to get their tax affairs up to date, with no action to be taken in the form of fines or legal steps up to a predetermined date; and

□ Personal visits to businesses to determine whether they are registered as employers and what the tax situation of the employees of each business is.

As income tax files had fallen into disarray, every file from 1985 should be audited to ensure all returns had been received; all taxable income had been declared and taxed; all assessments were issued; all assessments issued were correct; balances on accounts and interest were correct; taxpayers' particulars were correct; and that steps were taken to correct outstanding cases.

The practical training and motivation of the staff required should be given to the registration, collection, PAYE, and assessment sections.

An investigation should be launched immediately into establishing a suitable and effective computer system.

The commission said personnel were plodding along utterly demotivated, without knowing what was actually required of them.

A further general impression was that supervisors had little or no contact with subordinates and did not actually know what was happening in departments under their control.

Work was piling up disturbingly everywhere and the situation was deteriorating. — Sapa.

Multi-million rand wastage

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The government expressed shock yesterday at the staggering multi-million rand level of corruption and mismanagement uncovered by two commissions of inquiry investigating the administrations of KwaNdebele and Lebowa.

Reports published this week by the De Meyer and Parsons commissions indicated that theft, "kick-backs", fraud, maladministration, tax evasion, tender irregularities, needless expenditures and chaotic administrative control existed in virtually every department of the dozens examined.

Regional Affairs Minister Mr André Fourie said government was shocked at the level of mismanagement revealed by the reports and was impatient that the financial affairs of the self-governing territories be corrected.

"At the cost of effective government, it damages the economy and is a waste of taxpayers' money. Corruption and maladministration is wholly unacceptable," he said.

The two commissions were established in 1989 and had previously published reports on the 1986 unrest in KwaNdebele and the role of the territory's police force as well as the initial results of an investigation into the Lebowa Government Service, the Lebowa Development Corporation and the now defunct Lebowa Agricultural Company.

Mr Fourie said corrective steps including criminal procedures, the disbanding of a state department and the institution of improved control were implement-

Reports outline homeland spending

ed as a result of the earlier reports.

The latest De Meyer Commission report included investigations into the administration of Lebowa's Education department, the Chief Minister's Office, the Receiver of Revenue and the departments of Works, Transport and Water Affairs.

The commission concluded that "mismanagement occurred in all the departments that were investigated".

Similar results were reported from the Parsons Commission examination of KwaNdebele's Chief Ministry and the departments of Justice, Interior Affairs, Welfare and Pensions, Education and Culture, Finance, Health and Civil Liaison.

Rough estimates suggest that at least R50m in "needless expenditures" had been approved by officials from KwaNdebele while R30m in unbudgeted funds had been spent on various projects. More than R17m in expenditure was unaccounted for in the office of Chief Minister Mr M.J. Mahlangu.

These figures represented a fraction of the millions, and possibly hundreds of millions of



CHIEF MINISTER ...
KwaNdebele's Mr M.J. Mahlangu

rands, squandered by the two self-governing territories during the 1980s.

The findings of the two commissions included:

- Kick-backs of R1m were paid to officials in KwaNdebele's education department to encourage decisions on construction contracts;

- Electricity meters were not attached to KwaNdebele government buildings leading to the loss of thousands of rands;

- Luxury vehicles became the property of ministers after 18 months while allowances were adjusted to include tax;

- The issuing of drivers' licences in Lebowa needed urgent investigation, and

- Widespread theft of cotton, irrigation equipment, milk, milk powder and cattle within Lebowa's Agriculture Department.

The De Meyer Commission blamed the financial chaos on politicians who had set up the self-governing territories' structures.

"The politicians involved are to a great extent to be blamed," it said.

Multi-million rand wastage

27/9/11/93

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Homelands rife with corruption

ARGUS 19/11/93

The Argus Correspondent
PRETORIA. — Commissions of inquiry into two soon-to-be abolished homelands have uncovered rampant maladministration, corruption and theft involving many millions of rands.

The Lebowa and Kwanabele governments, from chief ministers down to the lowest paid civil servant, as well as public and private companies, have come in for criticism from the De Meyer and Parsons commissions respectively.

Some officials in Kwanabele took a R1 million "kickback" for building work which never got off the ground, while cabinet ministers pocketed money received from disbursements obtained on luxury cars.

The De Meyer Commission which investigated Lebowa — now under further scrutiny by the South African government after a fiasco developed over its budget allocation — uncovered non-payment of taxes by most of the population over eight years, as well as ministerial instructions which helped deplete government funds.

In some instances the two commissions have recommended legal action and the recovery of millions of rands of government money.

Minister of Regional and Land Affairs Andre Fourie said in Pretoria last night that "government shares the public's shock and impatience with mismanagement. Corruption and maladministration is wholly unacceptable."

The two reports have been issued in the same week as the Negotiations Council at Kempton Park recommended the abolition of homelands and independent states, established by South Africa as part of apartheid policies.

Calling the establishment of the homelands "part of an obsolete policy", Mr Fourie claimed the decision to set up self-governing states was "at the time supported by most white voters".

President De Klerk on February 2 1990 "turned his back on separate ethnic states which at any rate

were not viable. Both central government and the (homeland) governments are in agreement that the present system must be abolished and replaced with a new strong autonomous regional dispensation."

The De Meyer report on Lebowa says there was a lack of knowledge on the part of a large number of senior officials in regard to administration and management which led to a further lack of proficiency in the lower ranks of the civil service.

"Politicians involved are to a great extent to be blamed for the process through which certain institutions were established. Policy was often formulated without the prior consideration of implications, in particular financial."

There was mismanagement in the Chief Minister's department as well as those of Works, Law and Order, Transport, Water Affairs, and Education.

In one instance, it was found that bales of cotton worth R49 052 "sim-

ply disappeared" from the Sepitso Project Farm and Lebowa Development Corporation (LDC). Staff are said to have committed criminal acts in this connection. The commission has recommended a police investigation.

The LDC came in for sharp criticism, particularly as its board of directors was found to have ignored decisions laid down in a government White Paper, published after an earlier investigation was carried out into the LDC.

The Parsons Commission on Kwanabele — which first sat in 1989 — found that the chief minister at the time, M G Mahlangu, gave instructions which seriously affected financial discipline in the homeland.

A list of the instructions from Mr Mahlangu included a "welcome home function" on his return from a visit to Taiwan and which cost each government department R10 000, a 1988 day of prayer for rain cost R21 000, a million election

pamphlets costing R1 million, the transporting of 1 300 children from Soweto and Atteridgeville to a local beauty spot cost R93 000, and boosting the image of the country and its people cost R343 000.

"Kickbacks" of about R1 million were paid to various people in regard to building work which was to be carried out at the Ndebele Teachers' Training College in 1987.

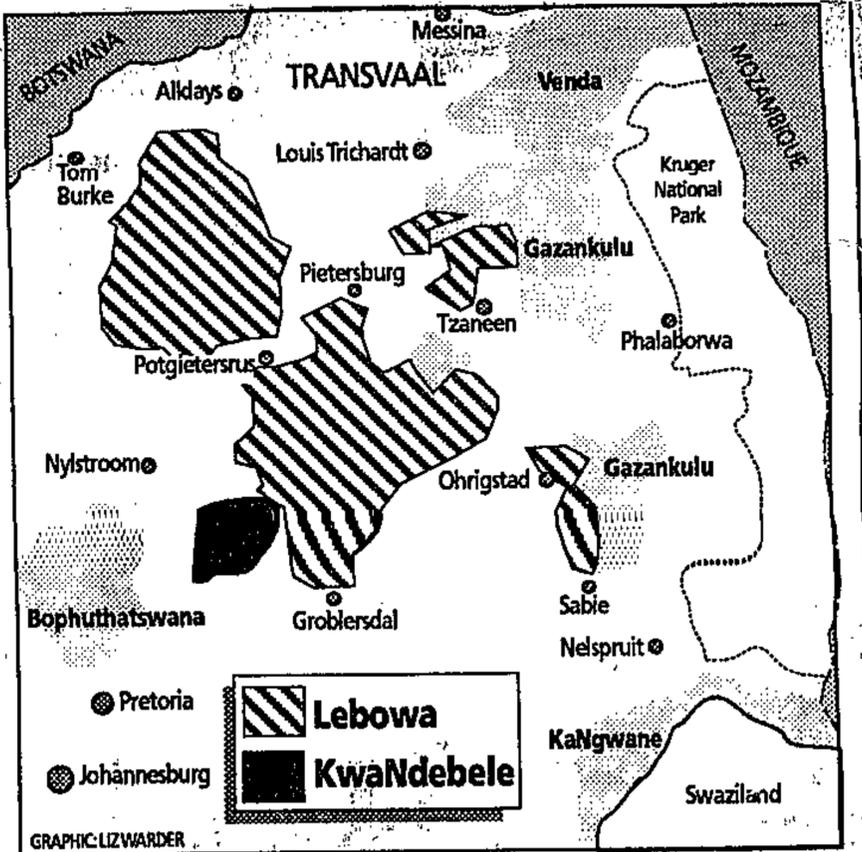
The extensions were cancelled when it was found there were no funds available. Criminal proceedings have been recommended.

The giant housing project at Tweefontein was not budgeted for at all — and eventually cost taxpayers R28 million.

The commission comments: "It is surprising that such an extensive project was launched without prior budgeting for the initial expenditure or determining that funds could be provided over a period."

Work on the project was stopped between February 1990 and July 1990 while investigations were carried out, but salaries were continued to be paid.





Homeland graft revealed

19/11/93

◀ From Page 1

out into the LDC.

Former LDC chairman Dr Jara Pretorius was criticised for not devoting all his energies to his position. The commission found that future LDC chairmen should not be involved in day-to-day administration, and any remuneration Pretorius received as a director of affiliated companies of the LDC was to be recovered.

The Parsons Commission of KwaNdebele — which first sat in 1989 — found that the Chief Minister

at the time, M G Mahlangu, gave instructions which seriously affected financial discipline.

A list of the instructions from Mahlangu included a "welcome home function" on his return from a visit to Taiwan, which cost each government department R10 000; a 1988 day of prayer for rain which cost R21 000; a million election paint

phlets which cost R1 million; transporting 1 300 children from Soweto and Atteridgeville to a local beauty spot which cost R93 000; and boosting the homeland's image at a cost R345 000.

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The commission discovered there was almost R1 million in surplus or unusable stock at the main government stores at Sibuswa, and officials who did not have the competency to invite

tenders were given "yes-time" in the situation.

The giant housing project at Tswelontsin K was not budgeted for at all — and eventually cost taxpayers R28 million. Work on the project was stopped between February and July 1990 while investigations were carried out, but salaries were still paid.

The commission recommended that money should be recovered from a welding company which had a contract for nearly R1.2 million.

■ BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

Commissions of inquiry into two soon-to-be abolished homelands have uncovered rampant maladministration, corruption and theft involving many millions of rands.

The Lebowa and KwaNdebele governments, from Chief Ministers down to the lowest-paid civil servant, as well as public and private companies, have come in for criticism from the De Meyer and Parsons commissions respectively.

■ Some officials in KwaNdebele, the Parsons Commission found, took a R1 million "kick-back" for building work that never got off the ground, and Cabinet Ministers pocketed money received from discounts obtained on luxury cars and gave "tea-time instructions" in regard to tenders.

■ The De Meyer Commission which investigated Lebowa — now under further scrutiny by the South African Government after a fiasco developed over its budget allocation — uncovered non-payment of taxes by most of the population over eight years, as well as ministerial instructions which helped deplete government funds.

Unacceptable

In some instances the two commissions have recommended legal action and the recovery of millions of rands of government money.

Minister of Regional and Land Affairs Andre Fourie said in Pretoria last night: "The Government shares the public's shock and impatience with mismanagement. Corruption and maladministration are wholly unacceptable."

The two reports have been issued in the same week as the Negotiating Council at Kempton Park recommended the abolition of homelands and independent states.

The Revocation and Assignment of Powers of Self-governing Territories Act to do away

GOVERNMENTS of KwaNdebele and Lebowa come in for criticism from the De Meyer and Parsons commissions

with these states has already been passed by Parliament.

Authorities of the two homelands "presently still accept full responsibility and accountability in the appropriation of funds allocated to them", Fourie added.

In regard to Lebowa, the De Meyer report said there was a lack of knowledge on the part of a large number of senior officials in regard to administration and management, which led to a further lack of proficiency in the lower ranks of the civil service.

There was mismanagement in the Chief Minister's department as well as those of Works, Law and Order, Transport, Water Affairs and Education.

The commission said revenue collection in Lebowa was "not an honest and fair system for the collection of taxes, which necessarily militates against the willingness of the public to pay taxes".

The report has recommended that every taxpayers' file since 1985 should be audited because files were in total disarray.

In one instance, it was found that bales of cotton worth R49 052 "simply disappeared" from the Sepitsi Project Farm, and Lebowa Development Corporation (LDC) staff are said to have committed criminal acts in this connection. The commission has recommended a police investigation.

The LDC came in for sharp criticism, particularly as its board of directors was found to have ignored decisions laid down in a government White Paper, published after an earlier investigation was carried

► To Page 3

Reports reveal rampant maladministration, corruption and theft

Homelands graft

Star 19/11/85

P.T.O.

Shock

Reports add up the high cost of apartheid

By BRIAN POTTINGER
and CLAIRE ROBERTSON

THEY lived like kings amid a wasteland. The white beneficiaries of the apartheid system — public servants, contractors and friends — consumed taxpayers' money and spawned a whole class of petty bureaucrats chiselling money and perks.

Now, rather like an endless soap drama, two new reports reveal the never-never land created by the National Party.

The Oelof de Meyer inquiry into the Lebowa homeland paints a picture of administrative collapse, possible larceny and suspected fraud in the heyday of apartheid in the mid-80s. Millions of rands were misspent, stolen or simply lost.

The inquiry reveals a pyramid of, at worst, corruption and, at best, irregularity. Whites stood at the apex.

In 1986 Terald Engineering, owned by a Mr Streicher, was granted a contract for building reservoirs and laying pipes.

The work was so shoddily done that the contract was terminated. Three years later, however, Terald was awarded the exclusive contract to build all the dams in Lebowa.

One of Terald's former employees, a Mr Marx, testified that the company sometimes paid up to R25 000 a month to employees in the Lebowa government — although the employees denied this.

Then there is the case of the obliging Mr S G van Zyl of the Lebowa Department of Works.

In 1989 the department called for tenders for the Gakgapane and Manweng testing ground. The department recommended the lowest tender submitted by M G Maboya Electrical Contractors. Because the tender was not signed it was awarded to D R Ratladi. The nearest other competitor was B & B Electrical.

Mr Ratladi told the commission that Mr van Zyl had asked him to tender. He had told Mr van Zyl he was not in a position to do the work, but Mr van Zyl advised him to tender anyway. Mr Ratladi won the tender

but when he could not find a sub-contractor to do the work, Mr van Zyl came to his rescue with a white sub-contractor.

When the work was done, Mr van Zyl told Mr Ratladi to invoice the department and later arrived with a cheque for R18 210 made out to Mr Ratladi. Mr Van Zyl asked him to cash it — and took the cash.

Only later did it emerge who got the contract — M G Maboya Electrical Contractors which, on investigation, proved to be the business of a Mr D B Bronkhorst. He also owned B & B Electrical which put him in the fortunate position of having two out of three tenders before the board.

In the Parson report on Kwandebele, meanwhile, one irregularity that stands out among the scores detailed, involves contracts granted to the brother-in-law of a Tender Board member — and to the member's own private Johannesburg firm.

Mr J Morgan was a KTB member until last year; he was also a partner in the firm Professional Project Services.

In January 1991, PPS was awarded a contract for the design, supply, construction and supervision of a R3,4-million project to build 164 classrooms.

No tender procedures had been followed.

Although it had undertaken to charge R21 000 for the design, supply, construction and supervision of the classrooms, and although the Kwandebele Department of Works undertook to oversee the work, PPS piled on the costs.

An extra R75 000 was charged for site supervision and design, and another R30 000 for "travelling costs".

The report found that some were built in the wrong villages, and some not at all — but cheques were "blindly" signed.

At least 19 of those that were constructed were in an appalling state.

In September 1990 tenders were invited for the supply of 200 prefabricated toilets. The second most expensive was that of Hata-Butle Homes, which has a Kwamhlanga address, among others, (giving it favoured status as a local firm) and which gave as its tender address that of Mr H K Wilson of Pretoria — Mr Morgan's brother-in-law.

Hata-Butle did not win the tender — not at first.

The Department of Education wrote to the chairman of the Tender Board recommending that it go to the lowest tenderer, Ballantine, for R68 000.

The name of this firm was crossed out in pen, that of Hata-Butle substituted, and the amount changed to R99 000. Hata-Butle was duly awarded the contract.

But there is no record of the toilets reaching their destinations. Education complained, and a letter bearing the name of a Mr L Mkhwanazi arrived with excuses.

Then a letter from Mr Mkhwanazi increased the order, quoting the old tender number, and the extra R12 000 as well as the original R99 000 were paid. Mr Mkhwanazi denies any involvement. He is Mr Morgan's partner in PPS.

The actual supplier of the toilets remembered some of them being signed for by Kwandebele government employees — but unfortunately these turned out to have been on leave at the time they signed.

Work on abuses swamps office

PRETORIA — The Transvaal attorney-general's office has been swamped with work since publication last week of reports on maladministration in Lebowa and KwaNdebele by the Parsons and De Meyer commissions.

Transvaal attorney-general Jan D'Oliveira said he had limited resources with which to investigate the "multitude of allegations" emanating from the commissions.

The two commissions uncovered irregularities and maladministration in virtually every department they investigated, dating back to the late '70s. These included Lebowa's chief minister's office and its departments of education, receiver of revenue, works, transport and water affairs and KwaNdebele's chief minister's office as well as its departments of justice, interior affairs, welfare and pensions, finance and health.

Tens of millions of rand and hundreds of the self-governing territories' officials were implicated in the commissions' findings.

D'Oliveira said a special investigation team had been created and additional staff taken on by his office to deal with the "very large number" of cases to be looked at.

ADRIAN HADLAND

The four reports issued by the commissions, which detailed the numerous abuses, ran to almost 1 700 pages.

D'Oliveira said, however, the investigation and the opening of criminal dockets would take months rather than years.

Meanwhile a finance department spokesman said a team from SA's inland revenue office was in Lebowa attempting to place the territory's receiver of revenue office on a sounder financial footing.

The unsatisfactory state of Lebowa's receiver had been a source of concern for a considerable time, Finance director-general Estian Calitz said last week.

New measures, including additional training for Lebowa staff, improvement of administration procedures and the assistance of SA officials, had been introduced.

Receiver of revenue offices in other self-governing territories had been kept under better control. While SA's inland revenue office had been aware of difficulties in Lebowa for some years, until they had taken part in the De Meyer commission investigation they "were not aware of the magnitude of the problem".

UK military attache takes up duty in SA

LONDON — The first British military attache to serve in SA for eight years, Brig James Parker CBE, a former deputy chief of staff of British forces in Germany, will present his credentials to the Foreign Affairs Ministry this week before officially taking up his embassy duties.

Britain's Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, said in the House of Commons last week: "It is a direct British interest that SA should come through this tunnel of transition safely. Our

Own Correspondent

dealings with SA have returned to healthy normality. We are working to encourage British investment."

He said Parker would be the first defence attache to be sent to the British embassy in Pretoria for eight years.

"We want SA to return to being an area of prosperity and stability after being, for too long, a source of dissension and disturbance," Hurd said.

CP and ANC in local govt talks

GAVIN DU VENAGE

RIGHT-WING local government representatives and the ANC will meet today to discuss transitional measures that will probably be enacted at the end of the month.

The Transvaal Municipal Association, an organisation representing CP councillors, has accepted most of the provisions in the Local Government Transition Bill, as well as Chapter 10 of the interim constitution. The inclusion of the association was seen as a major breakthrough, as CP councillors have threatened to resist any attempts to integrate white towns with black local authorities.

However, intensive discussions between the association and ANC over the past few months had led to compromises, particularly on the ANC's side. Entrenched in the constitution is a provision that reserves at least 30% of council seats for minorities.

The association provisionally accepted the Bill and Chapter 10, pending the outcome of discussions. Transvaal Municipal Association president Prof Ben van der Berg declined to give details at the weekend as matters were "still very sensitive". However, he was confident the two sides would reach agreement soon.

Once they have finalised discussions, the proposal will still have to be ratified by the Local Government Negotiating Forum management committee, which sits later this week. If the association endorses the agreements in full, the ANC/civic alliance will put pressure on the association to convince its members to go along with the process.

The association will be expected to intervene in councils that have up to now refused to begin discussions on integration.

Meanwhile, the DP has said it would "vigourously oppose" the agreement. DP local government spokesman Jaspar Walsh said the deal was racially biased and would provide "different answers depending on which town you looked at".

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B/Day 22/11/93

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Prosecution probe in homelands scandal

Own Correspondent

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Tens of millions of rands and hundreds of the self-governing territories' officials were implicated in the commissions' findings.

The unsatisfactory state of Lebowa's receiver had been a source of concern for a considerable time but the size of the problem had been underestimated, Finance director-general Mr Estian Calitz said last week.

Ramodike hits back

Sowetan 24/11/93

By Russel Molefe

THE disgraced Lebowa chief minister, Mr Nelson Ramodike, yesterday said the current system of government in South Africa has had corruption as one of its key instruments of survival.

He said all the homelands, as offshoots of a corrupt system, have been kept and nourished by corruption.

Ramodike was reacting to a statement made last Friday by the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, Mr André Fourie, after the release of the third and fourth reports of the De Meyer commission of inquiry appointed in 1989 to investigate corruption and other irregularities in the homeland.

That Fourie had no reason to inves-

tigate the other homelands was an empty argument, as the central Government has every lead it wants to investigate.

"But it prefers not to do so because it still serves its interests to keep the other homelands intact.

"Lebowa and KwaNdebele are, in the eyes of Pretoria, political mischiefs who do not want to play by the rules and this is why they remain on a shopping list for persecution," Ramodike said.

On Fourie's comment that most of the corrupt activities dating back to the '80s were due to senior officials who did not know their duties, Ramodike said the 10 administrative heads of department were white, seconded officials from Pretoria charged with supervising and training their

subordinates.

"Failure to see to the promotion of an efficient administrative machinery therefore rests to a large extent on the shoulders of those who sent the supervisors and trainers to manage the administration of this homeland," he added.

Although he concurred that necessary steps be taken against individuals implicated, including the seconded officials, Ramodike emphasised that it was the kind of system that officials work in which encourages mal-administration and mismanagement.

"We remain convinced that financial discipline was a mere smoke screen to hide political motives behind. We have no objection in the application acceptable to financial measures."

Lebowa salary probe

By Don Seokane

A PERSONNEL task team of 26 Government officials has begun investigations into the controversial salary increases and promotions of Lebowa public servants.

Government spokesman Mr Sakkie du Plooy said the personnel task team was in the process of working through all personnel files in order to establish which Lebowa officials qualified for promotions and those who do not.

Du Plooy said the task team consists of staff from various Government departments

together with their counterparts in the Lebowa government.

The aim of the team is to establish what the position of each of the estimated 70 000 public servants was on March 30 this year and the findings will be submitted to the homeland's Public Service Commission, Du Plooy said.

Lebowa public servants' Interdepartmental Co-ordinating Forum had earlier threatened not to co-operate and called for a stayaway but workers backed down, opting to continue working. Most workers welcomed the arrival of the task team.

Sowetan 24/11/93

NEWS Chief Minister Ramodike forms election alliance ● 'Pass savings to motorists'

Sowetan 21/12/93

UPF teams up with ANC

NARROWING GAP Alliance to

fight next year's general election:



Ledwaba said negotiations on the selection of candidates for the national, regional and local government would be held with the ANC national executive committee.

"The negotiations will be supervised by senior officials of both the ANC head office and UPF in conjunction with the sub-committee that has already been appointed by the Patriotic Front summit at the Looopspruit Lodge this month," Ledwaba added.

ANC media spokesman Mr Carl Niehaus yesterday said the UPF, by virtue of being a Patriotic Front member, would form an alliance with the ANC for next year's elections.

By Russel Molefe

THE UNITED PEOPLE'S FRONT of Lebowa Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike is to form an alliance with the African National Congress for next year's April 27 general election, *Sowetan* was told yesterday.

The move could narrow the gap with ANC grassroots structures in Lebowa which have been in constant conflict with the UPF since its inception.

The conflict was highlighted when Ramodike was booed and frog-marched out of the hall where a memorial service for South African Communist Party secretary-general, Mr Chris Hani, was being held in Pietersburg in April this year.

Local government

UPF organising secretary Mr Mokhudu He said the alliance would be formed on condition that the UPF retained its identity.

News in brief

Petrol-price drop urged

THE Automobile Association yesterday said the imminent lifting of the oil embargo against South Africa and a drop in world crude prices augured well for a further reduction in petrol pump prices.

"The direct procurement of crude by the oil

P. T. O. 578



Lebowa govt (11)
cheques fraud
C 23/12/93
PIETERSBURG
Fraudulent Lebowa
government cheques to-
talling R90 000 have
been detected in the re-
gion since Monday.
The cheques, resem-
bling genuine govern-
ment cheques, were
cashied at businesses,
but electronic devices
rejected them. — Sapa