

HOMELANDS — LEBOWA —
LABOUR.

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Chrome the key mineral in rich Lebowa chest

Star

1/3/79

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By Colin Campbell, Deputy Financial Editor

An extensive mineral survey of Lebowa suggests that the homeland is rich in a host of precious minerals and metals. And that possibly as much as half of South Africa's chrome deposits are to be found there.

The Chief Minister of Lebowa, Dr C N Phatudi, told me last night: "We have everything except diamonds and oil."

The findings of the extensive survey, carried out by consulting engineers Dames and Moore, were officially presented to Dr Phatudi last night, who plans to use the findings as a basis for attracting South African and overseas capital.

The survey was also handed to representatives of leading mining houses who were told of the "considerable mineral potential" of the homeland.

It was, however, stressed that there were many important and frustrating steps between "potential" and "exploitation" of the mineral wealth, including the provision of a suitable infrastructure and, of course, investment capital.

Lebowa will have to convince overseas investors of the attractiveness of the investment possi-

lities — but at least the Lebowa Cabinet has given its full backing to the programme.

Dr Phatudi has already received assurances of aid.

The findings suggest that there are deposits of platinum, asbestos, chrome, nickel, and alu-site, and uranium. There is also potential for vanadium, and tin and associated minerals.

"Certain studies warrant close attention," mining house representatives were told.

Dr Phatudi told me that the Lebowa Government would not nationalise the homeland's mineral wealth.

As to how the wealth will be exploited, he added that the Cabinet would come to terms with the mining house who will be invited to participate in a development programme.

The mineral resources, in the long term, are likely to be the key contributor to the homeland's economy.

the cost of raising the necessary funds has to be taken into account. The funds themselves are already justified by comparison with the alternative methods of provision, but there are additional costs involved in raising them: interest on loans, or administrative and incentive costs of raising taxation. These are normally insignificant for any given project, but may affect the overall amounts available for the health budget.

Where the source by means usually

Of the 17 teachers who remained, 14 have been given posts at schools in Dwars River and Ramokgopa. Mr Francis Makgato, who was principal of the Makgato Junior Secondary, has been transferred to a school at Acornhoek, near the Kruger National Park. The Makgato teachers claim they have not yet been paid for last month. But a spokesman for the Lebowa Department of Education said his department was awaiting formal claims from the teachers.

The children and their teachers fled with the bulk of the Makgato villagers when the Government tried to move them to Kromhoek, beyond the Zoutpansberg Mountains, about 140km northwest of Pietersburg. Only three teachers and 170 pupils were re-settled. The schools in Makgato have been dismantled by the Department of Co-operation and Development.

Overall way to solve the problem to re- There are expenses 2.1 Progr... is di... gerie

Makgato teachers resettled

Staff Reporter

ALL but one of the 17 teachers, who remained at Dwars River near Soekmekaar in the northern Transvaal when Makgato villagers were resettled, have been posted to other schools in Lebowa.

The Lebowa government has also allowed the 704 schoolchildren, who remained behind, to continue their education at other schools at Dwars River.

The Standard 5 pupils have already written their yearly examinations, and the Standard 8

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This is necessary:

- to know the cost of pursuing each objective;
- to group together activities with the same objectives which can be compared by cost-effectiveness analysis;

- to know the effectiveness of a given amount of money when spent on different objectives, so that choices can be formulated in terms of the alternatives we might afford - so many geriatric day care centres, so many child welfare clinics, etc.

Financial statistics are not traditionally arranged on this basis but in categories such as 'salaries', 'transport', 'medicines', etc. A separation, e.g. between expenditure on different disease groups or age groups cannot be made.

The grouping of expenditure into programmes is an art. Pole, an economist in the U.K. Department of Health, writes:

"Programme structure should, in my view, be mainly determined by the decisions to the taking of which one wishes it to contribute... One might suggest that where decisions are primarily a matter of political or moral judgement - of determining basic priorities - one would want the activities to be compared to reside in different programmes - the mentally handicapped against the alcoholics; but where it is a more technical question of how particular objectives can best be achieved - drug therapy against behavioural therapy - one would want the activities to be compared to be within a particular programme. This distinction ties up with an economic jargon of slightly older vintage - that of cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness; and through that to the main stream of neoclassical welfare economics, which attempts to make a distinction between the choice of the composition of the basket of outputs and the choice of the set of resources from which each output is to be produced. The former is, in a broad sense, a question of tastes, values, or utilities; the latter is a question of techniques".

He adds:

"In practice, it is not an easy matter to make a hard and fast distinction between technical matters and matters of values or utilities in the health services. From one point of view, the question whether to treat schizophrenics in hospital or in the community is a technical one. Which is the cheaper way to fulfil whatever are the society's requirements for the treatment of this group? But community care originally became fashionable as a good thing in itself. The practitioners are very apt to muddle the medical and economic arguments when it suits them, and the politicians and administrators equally so when it suits them, but the economist's concern is to keep them separate".

Programme budgeting, then, entails the attempt at this separation, sorting out from the multiplicity of decisions those which can be made on the basis of administrative or economic, together with medical-technical criteria, and those in which the role of the public through political

Lebowa budget to help unemployed

Northern Transvaal
Bureau

SESHEGO — The Lebowa Government is expected to announce a budget of more than R100-million for the coming financial year.

Substantial loans from foreign investors have made several major development projects possible.

"These figures indicate our determination to provide more job opportunities for our people," said Lebowa's Chief Minister, Dr Cedric Phatudi. Unemployment was still his Government's biggest problem.

Mr Andre de Villiers, Economic Adviser to the Lebowa Government says there could be as many as 50 000 unemployed people in Lebowa.

Rio Tinto puts R13m into black housing

CAP Tinto's
13/2/80

By PAUL DOLD
Financial Editor

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THE quality of housing being provided for South Africa's black labour force, particularly on the mines, has attracted a fair amount of comment both locally and abroad but one group which has tackled an impressive scheme is the British based Rio Tinto group which, apart from its Rossing uranium mine in South West Africa, has a 39 percent stake in Palabora and also manages the latter mine.

The other shareholders in Palabora are South Africa's Industrial Development Corporation and Newmont Mining of the United States.

At Namakgate — a town in Lebowa — which is some 14km from the Palabora mine, Palabora Mining, a Rio Tinto subsidiary has pumped some R13m into housing, a 205 bed hospital, clinics, recreational and other facilities such as an olympic size swimming pool, cycle track and football stadium for its black labour force.

Its contribution in the housing field is by far the outstanding feature. Admittedly, Palamin has several major advantages including that it is an open cast mining operation but has an excellent track record in the industry.

The group is opposed to the recruiting of migrant labour from the surrounding areas and has from the start adhered to a policy of maintaining a stable permanent black work force. This has effectively meant that the family unit has been enshrined into labour policy.

PMC has a staff of some 2 850 blacks and 970 whites and at its own cost has been building superior houses (way above Soweto standards) which have bathrooms, separate toilets, built-in cupboards and electric stoves to its black staff.

The group has some 770 two, three and four bedroomed houses and part of the success of the scheme is the assistance PMC has received from Government departments such as the Department of Co-operation and Development.

Since the original houses were built PMC has also begun renovating and upgrading some 1 356 existing government built houses at the town. This huge scale renovation is being undertaken at the group's own cost which will convert the spartan style houses into comfortable homes.

The big hospital which was a joint PMC — Government venture is serving the entire community supported by clinics run by black nurses.

Accommodation has also been provided for single

workers in four blocks which have a kitchen, dining hall, gymnasiums, library and games rooms. Meals are subsidised and diets are compiled by nutrition experts.

All workers on the mine earn well above the household effective level — which is basically the household subsistence level plus 50 percent compiled on a cash and kind basis.

The lowest wage is over R215 a month with top salaries in the

R500 bracket for hourly paid staff. Some 15 percent of the black staff are paid monthly. The highest paid black is a graduate laboratory assistant.

In addition, housing, water and electricity are subsidised by PMC. There is a contributory pension fund for all workers. The benefits of the money spent thus far can be seen from the low staff turnover figure for an operation of this type which last year was only 7 percent.



Sir Mark Turner, chairman of the Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation Ltd.

In 1978 Rio Tinto opened the R1m Sir Val Duncan Trade School named after the former chairman of RTZ. The school which is financed by PMC to the extent of R750 000 with a contribution by Lebowa as well, is the homelands first technical school and the complex has hostel accommodation for 200 apprentices.

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Independence 'NO'

By ZWELAKHE
SISULU

If people living in Transkei, Bophuthatswana and Venda had been consulted before these territories opted for independence, they would have rejected it.

This emerges from completed investigations by the Quail Commission which studied the feasibility of independence for Ciskei.

The lack of adequate consultation with people of territories which sought, or intended to seek, independence was seen as one of the major flaws in homeland independence.

The South African Government did not ask people whether they wanted independence or not, and it was left to the homeland to decide whether to consult its citizens and in what way.

Lack of consultation was given as one of the main reasons why 93 per cent of Ciskeians rejected independence.

The Quail Commission completed its work in February of this year, more than a year after it was appointed. The report of the commission has now been compiled into a book.

Under the chairmanship of Professor George Quail, it also included Mr Tamsanqa Latendle, a senior lecturer at Fort Hare, and Mr Arthur Snelling, former British Ambassador in South Af-

rica.

In its findings, the commission felt that a strict method of consultation was necessary before a homeland opted for independence, because some of the people living in the territory

ed between people connected with Ciskei and other blacks who lived in South Africa and who wished to seek their political destiny within South Africa.

Ciskeians also felt it was wrong that they

tical accommodation in South Africa".

Ciskei is the first homeland to use a commission as a means of determining the attitude of the people towards independence.

Ciskei's Chief Lennox

NO TAKERS ON VENDA CITIZENSHIP

SUNDAY POST Reporter

The Venda Government has received no application for citizenship since the granting of the homeland's independence in September last year.

The granting of independence to South Africa's bantustans goes with the acceptance of the Status Act which confers automatic citizenship on the people who live in the territory.

Venda's director of information and broadcasting, Mr S Muedi, this week confirmed that no citizenship applications had been received by his government.

might be intimidated by restrictions such as the Ciskei's Proclamation R252.

At least three homelands have indicated that they will not opt for independence at this stage. The main factors which decided people in Ciskei against independence were:

- Lack of consultation;
- The loss of South African citizenship;
- Economic disadvantages and;
- There was no prospect for international recognition.

On the question of citizenship, the commission found that a bond exist-

Asked about the apparent lack of enthusiasm over Venda citizenship, Mr Muedi said the Act had to be ratified by the Venda parliament before any application could be considered.

The Act has now been ratified by the government.

Meanwhile 434 people have taken up Transkei citizenship since it attained independence in October 1976.

The figure was released by the Department of the Interior in Umtata this week.

In 1978, two years after independence, Transkei only had five people who had applied for citizenship.

Bophuthatswana's Mangope

guments against independence for Ciskei was too small, fragmented and poor.

"The utter inadequacy in size and viability of Ciskei, even with the inclusion of those areas already earmarked for incorporation, was stressed by nearly all black witnesses".

Only if South Africa undertook, in writing, to buy and transfer to Ciskei the land referred to in the 1975 land proposals, would the homeland think of independence.

More land, the commission said, was necessary as a prerequisite to independence.

Strong arguments on the long and short term economic welfare were advanced. Discrimination in the economic field, most of the interviewees felt, would not be changed by independence.

Only about a fifth of the people interviewed felt that the independence of Transkei had improved the lives of her people.

Venda's Mphahlele

"In short, independence is perceived by urban blacks as at best irrelevant and at worst inimical to their immediate economic prospects".

The report continues: "No once-and-for-all financial settlement of any conceivable size at the time of independence, or even a promise of aid for the first few years, can provide adequate compensation for the irrevocable losses".

Transkei's Matanzima

abandonment of any hope of a share in the making of decisions affecting the regional distribution of the national wealth and income in years to come."

The report says: "The more it is modernised, the more it would be in the interest of Ciskei to remain within South Africa, so that it could stake its claim on future economic growth and growing claims to political benefits".

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Calf born with 5 legs

A CALF with five legs and six hooves was born recently in the Shanxi province of China, the Shanghai Liberation Daily reported.

The additional leg with two hooves was placed just behind the right front leg and swung between the two front legs, the paper said.

The animal, born in February, was being exhibited in the people's park at the town of Linfen. — AFP.

Lebowa to creat jobs

P65T

11/2/80

ONE of the first priorities of the Lebowa Government is to create as many as possible job opportunities for citizens.

This was said at the weekend by Dr C N Phatudi, chief minister of Lebowa in an interview.

Dr Phatudi and six other ministers of his cabinet

visited the East Rand at the weekend to address Lebowa citizens on the latest developments.

A public meeting, attended by about 600 people, was held at the Lionel Kent Centre in Daveyton, Benoni, where Dr Phatudi was the main speaker.

He said: "The other priorities we are working on include improving water circulation, electricity and roads so as to attract industrialists in Lebowa."

He said that by attracting more industrialists more job opportunities would be created for the Lebowa people.



Some of the commuters queuing for taxis . . . rather than taking a bus and paying increased fares.

Bus boycott, big walk

POST 28/8/80

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By MATHATHA
TSEDU

AS the bus boycott in Pietersburg entered its 3rd day yesterday with the workers continuing their walk to work, the Lebowa Government has called a meeting for today between community leaders and the bus company representative to discuss the matter.

The meeting to be attended by the members of Lebowa Legislative Assembly, the Seshogo Town Council and the chief from the Moletji area, will be held in the community hall and takes place as schooling at post primary level in the township has come to a halt.

The chairman of the Seshogo Village Committee, the Rev M P Malatjie whose organisation, together with Azapo (Seshogo branch), organised the meeting that called for the bus boycott is the only one operating outside government-created platforms to be invited to the meeting. He said he would attend the meeting.

The decision to call the meeting was taken at another meeting yesterday between Lebowa MPs representing Seshogo and the homeland Chief Minister, Dr C N Phatudi.

The boycott started on Monday, as protest against the increase in bus fares effective from that date. Workers are calling for a general increase in pay as a prerequisite to any fare increase and the absorption of the increases by government subsidy.

They are also calling for the buses to drop people in town and not "at beerhalls in the outskirts of town where our people were encouraged to squander all their earnings in liquor." The present bus rank at Polokwane Centre has four liquor outlets ranging from a lady's bar to an open sorghum beer garden.

In an interview yesterday, Dr Phatudi gave guarded support to the stand taken by the workers, saying that black wages were "always below expectations. These people say the cost of living, transport and

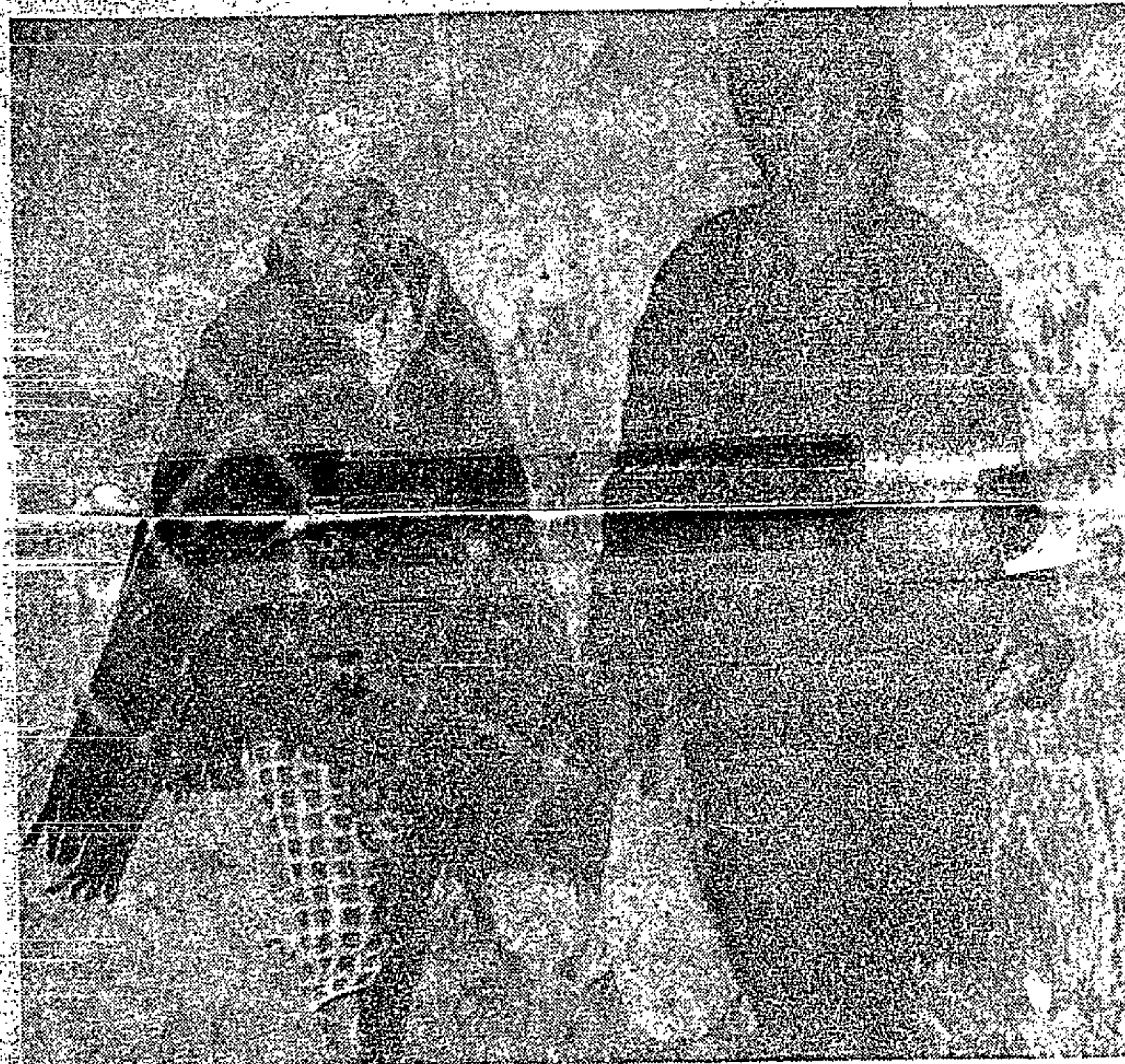
other things has gone up and that they cannot afford them. One must listen sympathetically.

"My concern is to see the present tension reduced and to have the matter resolved harmoniously between the commuters and the bus company," he said. Dr Phatudi's Minister of Finance, Mr L C Mothiba is on the board of directors of the bus company.

The group manager for the bus company, Mr H T Brooks yesterday denied that the service to Blood River and Mmu-tung-Wa-Perekisi had been suspended on Tuesday. He said there had been a temporary suspension due to strike and that the service had later restored.

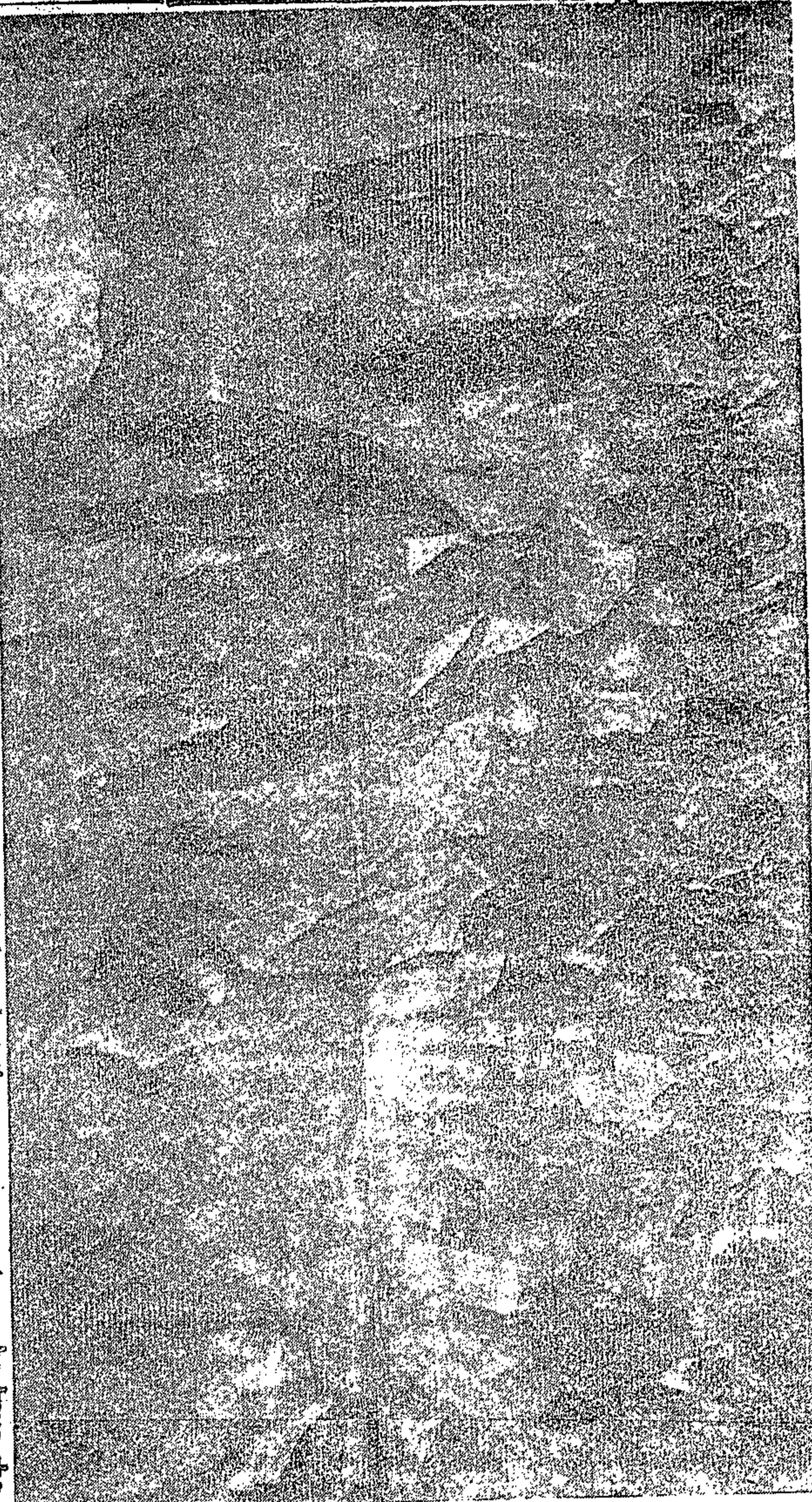
Workers from the two areas, however, are continuing the boycott of the buses and are footing it to Pietersburg, a distance of at least 23 km, or using Hamba-Buya buses once they reach the outskirts of Seshogo.

Students at the two high schools in the township continued with their boycott of lessons in solidarity.



Young and old . . . all are taking part in

the walk against
creased bus fares.



This is not the fashionable Big Walk competition you may have seen before, but these are commuters who have dressed to foot it to and from work.

28/2/80

RDM 25/9/80 (112) 278

Plans to intensify bus boycott

LEBOWA. — The boycott of buses, which started last week, continues unabated with commuters from the villages of Moshate and Tshamahanse continuing to walk to Mahwelereng, from where they get transport to town.

Mahwelereng residents will meet on Saturday to intensify

their boycott. The meeting has the full backing of Chief A B Kekane of Moshate village, according to his spokesman.

A resident of Mahwelereng said: "When our boycott picks up fully, we won't have to depend on alternative transport as Mahwelereng is only about 7km from Potgietersrus."

There is general dissatisfaction with the Lebowa Development Corporation and the residents of Mahwelereng will be urged to boycott not only the buses, which belong to a subsidiary of the corporation, but also all its other services, according to the chief's spokesman.

Pensions: new plan blamed for strike

STAR
16/10/80

300
157
189
213
112
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By Drew Forrest

A proposed change in the law governing pension schemes could become a major cause of industrial unrest says a senior executive in the Union Carbide mining company.

Mr W H McGruder the company's regional director, was asked to comment on reports of a strike at Tubatse Ferrochrome Ltd at Steelpoort on the Lebowa border. The plant is owned jointly by Union Carbide and General Mining.

Mr McGruder confirmed that there had been a strike involving Tubatse's entire workforce of 400 on September 16 and 17. It was sparked he said by workers' fears that proposed changes in the law might prevent them from withdrawing their pensions on premature termination of service.

He denied independent reports that the workers struck in sympathy with 10 colleagues who had resigned so as to cash in their pensions and whom the company had refused to rehire.

Mr McGruder said concern over the pension issue had been building for some months among Tubatse workers most of whom viewed their pen-

sion contributions as a form of saving.

Concern reached a peak in June this year with the tabling of the Louw Commission report in Parliament. The report — on which new legislation will probably be based — recommends the freezing of pension fund contributions, to preserve them for the workers' retirement, he said.

A specially disturbing feature of the proposed legislation, Mr McGruder said, was its retrospective nature. Workers who had joined pension schemes expecting to recover their contributions might be denied this.

"On the surface, this seems grossly unfair," he said, "and it could lead to considerable worker unrest."

1 P/80

Turfloop workers strike

POS
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By MATHATHA
TSEDU

~~POST~~ THE catering staff at
the University of the
North yesterday went
on strike over a pay
dispute and hungry
students looted the kit-
chen.

By late yesterday after-
noon the students were
carting bags of mealie
meal, salt and other food
stuffs to their hostels
on trolleys while others
had opened "shops", with
20 litre of cooking oil
going for R3.

One of the workers,
who are employed by
Ferdics, told POST last
night that they were paid
R50 a month and worked
seven days a week.

University officials and
Ferdics management could
not be reached for com-
ment.

Striking 'varsity workers go back

POST
2/10/80

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THE CATERING staff at the University of the North, which went on strike on Tuesday, returned to work yesterday after an assurance that their grievances would be considered.

The strikers, who said they earned R50 per month, and worked seven days a week, are employed by Fedies Food Service.

The strike brought chaos to the campus with over 2 000 students going hungry. The students helped themselves to the main kitchen and looted it, causing damage and loss of about R30 000, according to the Rector designate, Prof P C Mokgokong.

The workers had downed tools after serving breakfast on Tuesday and hungry students were surprised to find the dining hall empty at lunch time. They then went to the main kitchen and took everything they could lay their hands on, from uniforms to bags of salt and wheat grain.

N Tvl workers force police to retreat

By MATHATHA TSEDU

COMMUTERS and students went on the rampage in Mahwelereng township, near Potgietersrus on Monday night and a bank, beerhall, bakery and buses were stoned.

This latest outbreak of violence, confirmed by Lebowa police chief, Brigadier W M van Zyl, coincide with the

start of a bus boycott in the township in solidarity with other workers in the Northern Transvaal.

Reports from the township say the trouble was sparked by dissidents who used the buses on Monday, enraging students and other workers who had footed the five kilometers to town, and who then attacked buses with stones.

Others went for a bank in the township and smashed all the windows. The enraged crowd then rushed to the Lebowa Development Corporation owned beer hall and

smashed all the windows and looted the beerhall, getting away with money and liquor which was later thrown into the street.

At about the same time, another group, singing freedom songs, uprocted all bus stop shelters in the township and went to the LDC Bakery. This was stoned and four delivery vans were hijacked and smashed.

RETREATED

Eye witnesses said police tried to stop the crowd but were outnumbered and retreated when the mob advanced. Brig van Zyl said investigations were continuing and added that he was

not aware of any arrests at this stage.

LDC officials refused to comment on the attack and damage yesterday. There was no bread in Mahwelereng township yesterday until delivery vans from Lebowakgomo came in.

Meanwhile workers from Bolobedu area near Duiwelsklcof have joined the Lebowa Transport bus boycott and are using trucks, vans and other means to get to work in Tzaneen where the boycott has entered its second week. The boycott which also covers Seshego, Moshate and Tsamahantsi was sparked by fare increments six weeks ago.

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1/19/80

Lebowa needs ^{RDM} doctors, ^{S/AB} teachers ^{11/2}

By J S MOJAPELO

MORE than 9 000 teachers have to be trained in Lebowa within the next few years to meet the teaching needs of the homeland, according to a report of the Bureau of Economic Co-operation and Development (Benso).

The report on Manpower Planning for Lebowa has been submitted to the Chief Minister of the homeland, Dr Cedric Phatudi.

The bureau's research was conducted by Mr D de Klerk who said that within the next few years an additional 19 engineers, 86 medical doctors, nearly 9 000 teachers, more than 2 000 salesmen and about 1 200 tradesmen would have to be trained.

Vacancies

Employment in 1979-80 was approximately 85 000 but would increase to a total of about 124 000 in 1984. At present there were about 10 000 job vacancies and more than 94 000 formal job opportunities existed in the homeland and the white towns, the report said.

There were a total of 1 183 teachers in secondary and trade schools. There were 450 teaching vacancies in Lebowa. In 1984 the total number of teachers in demand would be 3 923.

There were six medical doctors employed in the area and vacancies for 71 doctors. The demand for doctors in 1984 was expected to be 92, said the report.

According to the report a programme of job related teaching has been successfully applied in Taiwan and if the programme could be utilised in Lebowa, the homeland's economic development should benefit significantly.

When Dr Phatudi received the report, he said in Seshego it would serve as a basis for planning educational and training needs of the homeland.

Lebowa will be short of skilled manpower

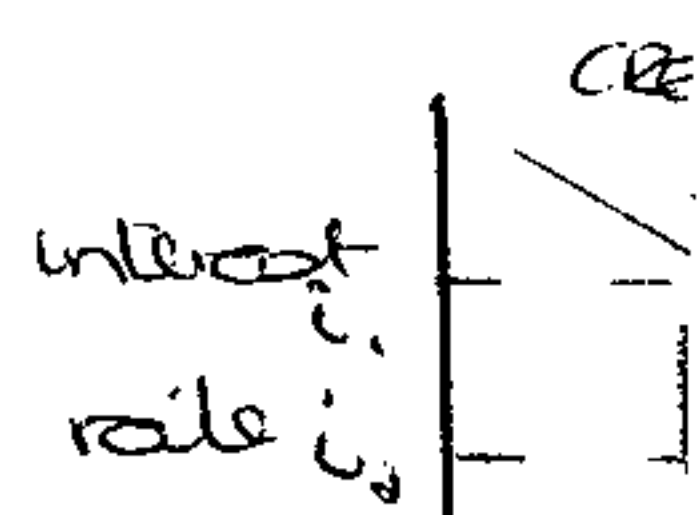
STAR
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The classical perfectly competitive supply curve will be one do occur, rates or interest rate where $S < I$ investment the interest rate being the appropriate saving is investment in current and capital to equilibrium investment.

By Anthony Duigan
About 45 percent more black workers will be needed by commerce and industry in the Northern Transvaal by 1984. This will still leave about 40 percent of the economically active blacks in the area unemployed. This appears in the final report on manpower planning for the black homeland, Lebowa, drawn up by the Bureau for Economic Research of the Department of Co-operation and Development. According to the survey about 85 000 blacks from Lebowa were employed last year in skilled and unskilled jobs inside the homeland and adjoining white towns. By 1984 there will be positions for 124 000 workers said Mr D de Klerk, a researcher who drew up the report. In an interview he said the economically active population of Lebowa in 1984 will be in the region of 230 000 and more than 100 000 of these would be without employment in the area. At the same time there was now a shortfall of 10 000 blacks for skilled

positions in Lebowa and towns like Pietersburg, Potgietersrus and Tzaneen, he said. Mr de Klerk's survey showed that within the next few years an additional 9 000 teachers, 86 medical doctors, 1 200 tradesmen, 19 engineers and 2 000 salesmen would be needed in the area. The highest number of present vacancies (and what will be needed in 1984 in brackets) includes agriculturists 208 (449), doctors 71 (92), pharmacists and other medical assistants 133 (181), secondary school teachers 450 (3 865), knitters/seamstresses 113 (818). Dr Cedric Phatudi, Chief Minister of Lebowa, said the report would serve as a basis for planning educational and training needs. One of the important recommendations made by Mr de Klerk is that teaching and training in Lebowa should be taken out of its traditional mould and made far more job-related. A programme of job-related teaching had been successfully applied in Taiwan and could benefit Lebowa significantly.

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supplied, unless rate is rate must be reduced - saving to equal investment

if supply exceeds demand ie if saving is greater than investment, the interest rate will fall (conversely when demand is greater than supply, the interest rate must rise) until demand equals supply, and so, says IB say, will always occur on the free market ie the price mechanism always restores equilibrium and thus supply creates its own demand.

Homelands - Lebowa - Labour

1982 - 1987

HIGH hopes and extensive planning went into the establishment of Metz and Bothashoek in Lebowa.

But the hopes — almost predictably — have come to nothing, as the planning has proved unworkable. The two settlements, both bursting at the seams, are painful examples of how best to bungle a planned community, from inception to implementation.

Geographer Ms Essy M Letsoalo studied the two communities for a master's degree, awarded by Wits University in May. Her dissertation is called "Survival strategies in rural Lebowa: a study in the geography of poverty". She found both villages surviving largely on cheques sent home by migrant labourers. For Metz, at least, it is a fate quite different from that intended when space was cleared and tin shelters set up to house residents resettled there.

Metz is a "betterment village", a planned agricultural settlement. The people chosen to live there were evicted in 1958 from land their forebears had bought, near Tzaneen, in 1907; they had been farming there for two centuries. They fought the removal order by appealing to Parliament under a provision in the Native Administration Act, but the appeal was unsuccessful.

Bothashoek is a "closer settlement", a rural residential community. With a population of 16 000, it is the largest in Lebowa. It took the authorities more than four years to evict black residents from the farm Doornkop — to which they held freehold title — and settle them on small sites in the Lebowa bush. The last hold-outs were trucked to Bothashoek in 1974 when Doornkop, near Middleburg, was expropriated.

Resistance spent and alternatives blocked, the people of Metz and Bothashoek got on with the business of surviving in the homeland.

Ms Letsoalo found the standard of living had dropped dramatically, but that relocated farmers in both communities had survived, by adopting a simple strategy: in a great number of families the men have returned, as labourers, to the areas from which they were evicted, or they have gone as migrants to the Johannesburg/Pretoria area.

Although their people have been farmers for generations, the migrants are not working on

How high hopes ciec in two Bantustan villages

BARBARA LUDMAN reports on two villages in the Lebowa bantustan, where people rely for survival largely on money sent back from migrant labour in the cities.

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farms. They are domestic servants, gardeners, mhenworkers, drivers, workers in the building trade. They have had to sign on as migrants by in Metz, designed as a self-supporting agricultural community, there is not enough land to go round.

There was never enough land. She notes that in 1958, a spokesman for the Native Affairs Department told Parliament that only half the tribe would get land in Metz; the rest would be housed in a nearby closer settlement.

Using a complicated formula, plots were demarcated as economic units. One-third of the families chosen for farmland received full units; the rest got sub-divided units. The land has been subdivided further and the population has grown; new arrivals have been offered residential rights. But the proportion of farmers to non-farmers remains constant: of the 438 families living in Metz and the nearby closer settlement of Moetladimo, just over half have farming rights. Because the plots are small, little can be grown on them. Along with small crops of castew nuts, pumpkins and other vegetables, farming families manage to produce one bag of maize a year, the equivalent of a month's supply. Ninety percent of the residents of Metz — including the farmers — depend on bought provisions. One-third of the families keep cattle, but only rarely for sale.

In a settlement where 73% of the families are

headed by women, one-third of the families count on remittances from migrant workers for at least half their income. In the days when they farmed near Tzaneen, only 2% of the families depended on cheques from migrant workers.

"The high dependence of the people of Metz on migratory labour becomes more disturbing in view of the fact that betterment planning was intended to reduce the rate of labour migration," writes Ms Letsoalo.

The bus schedule reflects the situation. There are two buses a week, run by the Lebowa Development Corporation, plying the route between Metz and Penge Mine. The SA Railway bus service, from Metz to the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area, operates every weekend. Two private bus services travel daily from Metz to Phalaborwa/Tzaneen.

When Metz was first planned, there was provision for dryland farming as well as an area suitable for irrigation. But the village has grown and the closer settlement extended; and the dryland area has gone. An area set aside as irrigable land has been expanded.

Household water must be drawn from a canal, there are no sanitary facilities and only one school; but there is an agricultural training centre and a hospital not far away.

The residents of Bothashoek — a village planned as a rural residential community, with no farmland provided — have managed to re-

plan their village.

Twenty-three percent of the people manage to grow mealies, sorghum and beans on land added to the village. The figure, Ms Letsoalo points out, is misleading; added into the figure are those people who are borrowing plots from others absent as migrants. Some of the Doornkop residents ignored the order to sell their cattle and brought them along; cattle owned by 9% of the families are grazed on mountainous land north of the village.

Thirty percent of the Bothashoek households survive on the wages earned by family members doing seasonal work on nearby white farms, or at the Tswelopele Cotton Project, run by the Lebowa Government Corporation.

They cannot take jobs locally in factories because there are no factories in the area. Nor, says Ms Letsoalo, are there any plans to for declaring Bothashoek or any other closer settlement an industrial growth point.

In Bothashoek, half the families survive on money from migrant labourers. A few men work at chrome mines in Lebowa, returning home at weekends. Most find work in the Johannesburg area or in towns not far from the farm they once occupied. They also work in the mines.

For those families whose members do not find work as migrant labourers, classic survival strategies are made impossible by the location: too far from urban centres, even centres in

Lebowa, for commuting to jobs or for engaging in traditional informal sector activities, i.e. hawking fruit, washing, gardening, selling newspapers. Some families brew beer, a traditional informal sector occupation; the median monthly income derived from this source is R9.

There are two survival stratagems left.

One is the payment of pensions — average R30 a month — by the Lebowa government to the aged and disabled. Twenty percent of the households in Bothashoek are dependent upon pension money.

"The proportion of the families dependent on pensions would be much greater if all those people who qualified through age or through welfare conditions could be catered for," writes Ms Letsoalo.

"However, many such cases are turned down due to lack of funds.

"It is significant to note ... that when people are resettled from a 'white area' into a homeland, the receiving homeland inherits the responsibility of providing the pensions."

The final strategy is called "borrowing", and according to Ms Letsoalo's survey, 13% of the residents of Bothashoek and 16% of the households in Metz are to some extent dependent on it.

"The term 'borrowing' in this context is equivalent to begging," she writes, "as the people with no incomes are never able to pay back what they 'borrow'.

"Besides 'borrowing,' the people without incomes practice a form of what is actually termed begging ... people shamelessly visit from one family to the other in the hope of being invited to join the families for a meal."

Betterment planning could have worked, according to Ms Letsoalo's research, only if enough land had been set aside for the "economic" plots to be truly economic — and if the number of people to be accommodated in betterment villages were not continually swollen by new arrivals excised from black spots and squatter villages.

The viability of closer settlements might be boosted if industries were sited there.

Without these modifications, both types of settlement function merely as low-cost labour reservoirs for farms, mines and industries outside the homelands.

Dr. Fishatch
Matter ~~(107)~~
of fact ^{27/1/83} ~~(107)~~ (112)

JOHANNESBURG — In a Sapa report issued on January 24, Dr Cedric Phatudi, Chief Minister of Lebowa, was wrongly identified as Chief Minister of Venda.

In fact the President of Venda, Chief Patrick Mpephu, was not involved in talks with the leaders of Transkei and KwaZulu about the possible formation of a black federation in Southern Africa. — SAPA.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

- (i) Labour is a function which has been transferred to the governments of the national states and consequently the Department of Co-operation and Development is not in a position to furnish the statistics as requested.
- (ii) A citizen of a national state can only leave that state for the purpose of employment in the Republic of South Africa if he has been recruited/requisitioned for while in the national state and is in possession of a valid reference book and a contract of service which has been attested in that national state. Record of unemployed citizens outside their national states is therefore not maintained.


Unemployed KaNgwane citizens

297. Mr. A. SAVAGE asked the Minister of Co-operation and development:

What is the estimated number of unemployed (a) male and (b) female KaNgwane citizens between the ages of 16 and 60 years (i) within and (ii) outside the borders of this national state?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

- (i) Labour is a function which has been transferred to the governments of the national states and consequently the Department of Co-operation and Development is not in a position to furnish the statistics as requested.
- (ii) A citizen of a national state can only leave that state for the purpose of employment in the Republic of South Africa if he has been recruited/requisitioned for while in the national state and is in possession of a valid reference book and a contract of service which has been attested in that national state. Record of unemployed citizens outside their national states is therefore not maintained.


 Unemployed Lebowa citizens
 Hansard Q. 61.809-810
 296. Mr. A. SAVAGE asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

What is the estimated number of unemployed (a) male and (b) female Lebowa citizens between the ages of 16 and 60 years (i) within and (ii) outside the borders of this national state?

They're taking the walk that may le

(112)

27/6/83 Star



Some of the job seekers on their way to the Sekgosese employment depot. Although they know there is only a slight chance of finding work, they are hopeful that one day things will come right.



At the Sekgosese employment bureau work from Lebowa Government clerks about work. first at the win

Thousands are on

The sheer hell of thousands with no work, no pay is hidden deep in rural areas where there are few to witness the heartache. SOL MAKGABUTLANE visited some of the labour bureaux in the Northern Transvaal recently and was moved by the plight of the thousands who have only one hope in life - a job somewhere, sometime, in the PWV. Many will tell you that, had it not been for the womenfolk, they would have starved long ago. So, every day they walk for work - some of them up to 50 km - but, when there are no jobs... well, there is always the nearby bar where you can buy forgetfulness.

It is an early winter morning in Lebowa. The cold wind, surging occasionally, is almost out of step with the usually hot climate of the area.

Lebowa, like most other homelands, is a piece of parched land endlessly scorched by the sun that compels both man and beast to seek shelter. The empty rivers, the yellow mealie stalks and the bony animals all bear testimony to this.

As soon as the sun rises over the mountains, a horde of men, some clutching jackets and others carrying jerseys under their arms, slowly journey to the offices of the Lebowan Government.

And, unlike the clerks at the offices, most of whom are colourfully dressed, the men, humming wordlessly, are wearing noticeably inferior clothing.

The men are some of the several thousand young people who are unemployed in the homeland.

Day in and day out they trudge many kilometres to the Government's offices to ask about vacancies on the Witwatersrand. The wind might whistle and throats might be sore, but the men will still make their trip to the offices.

At Sekgosese district, near Soekmekaar, the magnitude of the problem becomes clear as throngs of desperate men jostle and elbow one another in an effort to be the first at the small window where clerks sit with registers containing details of vacancies.

For some of the men the daily trip to the depots, sometimes stretching up to 50 km, has been going on for the past two years.

● Samuel Mohomi is 25 and lives in Sekonye village, about 40 km from Sekgosese. He says he has been going to the offices

since 1979 when he lost his job. He worked as a refuse-collector.

He lost his job after visiting his family in the Transvaal and could not leave for Lebowa because he had broken down. When he returned to Lebowa, he had later he was told he no longer had a job.

His family - his elderly mother and two children - depended on him. The children were hungry because of the lack of money and the family was in a state of despair.

They survive by selling their produce and doing odd jobs. A potent concoction - and the only one - is the prospect of being arrested. That, however, is not money.

Samuel, like most of the unemployed, is waiting for a job that might be offered him.

● Simon Masipa (26) also is going to the employment depot.

His father died a long time ago and his two brothers depended on him. He was retrenched at a factory.

His younger brother works on a farm and occasionally sends money home.

Although Simon gets pocket money from the white farms, the money does not go to his brothers, as a result, do not have money for their education.

Simon goes to the depot every day.

Lead to a job — and to penniless old age

Alfred found the glitter, but the gold was missing

By Sol Makgabutlane



When gold was discovered on the Witwatersrand late last century many people flocked to the cities in search of greener pastures and better standards of living.

Since then, to the people from the mealie fields, Johannesburg has been the promised land where there were unlimited opportunities for prosperity.

Among those who came in 1937 was a 13-year-old boy, Alfred Matome Matlou.

Like countless others, Alfred was burning with ambition and determination to make the best of his life in Johannesburg.

But, after working for 42 years in Johannesburg, Mr Matlou, now 59, is back in his birthplace of Lebowa — sick, bitter and penniless.

He was not among those who were fortunate enough to get houses in Sophiatown or, later, in Soweto. He had to put up at hostels for the duration of his stay in the city.

He also discovered that Johannesburg was no land of milk and honey.

When The Star visited him



Mr Matlou ... and the reference book which lists his former employers in Johannesburg where he worked for 42 years — but which cannot get him residence in the Golden City.

last week at "Tickey-line" village, near Lenyenye in Tzaneen, Mr Matlou had this to say: "During my 42-year stay in Johannesburg, I achieved absolutely nothing."

On his arrival, he first worked as a gardener in the city's northern suburbs, then at a hotel as a cleaner.

After that he was employed by a plumbing company, became a delivery truck-driver, worked as an electrician and, finally, joined a construction company.

"It was this company that built the Carlton Centre in central Johannesburg and the G J Strijdom Hospital in Westdene. I worked for the company for 18 years, earning R25,60 a

week. But, unfortunately, the money was not enough to provide for my old age.

"But, if I were still working in Johannesburg, at least I would know that I would be entitled to live there permanently because of this new court ruling," he said.

He was referring to the Supreme Court's Rikhotso ruling under which migrant workers who have worked for the same employers for 10 years or more without breaking their service are entitled to city residential rights.

"But, at the moment, I wouldn't like to leave this area for the urban areas even though I have worked for the same employer for 18 years. This is where I want to die."

PENSION

He said he applied to the Lebowa Government for a pension a year ago and was told it would be ready by April this year.

"When I went there this year they told me that some papers had not arrived from Pretoria and I would have to wait."

Mr Matlou, whose right arm was "suddenly partially paralysed one night when I woke up", is thought to be suffering from arthritis and he cannot walk long distances without resting.

He said he did not blame the construction company for not taking care of him as they did not know where he was. When he became sick in 1979 he just went home without telling them.

At the moment he is being kept by his 30-year-old daughter, Dorcas, who works in Tzaneen.

But he keeps on hoping that the empty bags he brought back from Johannesburg will one day be filled with pension money and unemployment benefits for which he paid when he was working.



seekers queue at a window to find out. Men often jostle each other to be the first in the window.

the scrapheap

job with the Soweto Council where he has been for three years.

visiting his mother in Lebowa for a week. He finally arrived in Soweto three days ago and had a job.

He has a mother, brother (9) and sister (15) — but they can no longer go to school because of poverty which is on the verge of starvation.

What is known as Barberton beer — a drink which they have become resigned to the prospect of having no other way of earning any money.

work-seekers, said he would accept any job.

He lives in Sekonye village and has been unemployed for the past six months.

Some time ago and his sick mother and six children for survival until last December when they moved to a miller somewhere in Delmas.

He works for a miller somewhere in Delmas and sends money to his mother.

He makes money by doing odd jobs at nearby farms but it does not amount to much and his younger children cannot attend school because no one can pay for it.

every day. On Thursdays, he leaves his

home at 3 am to be at the offices at 7 am because he believes there are many job offers on those days.

But, for the 33 Thursdays since January, Lady Luck has turned her back on him.

● Joel Legadima (21) has been going to the bureau since 1979. Each day he has been unlucky, especially in the past six months when virtually no prospective employers came to Sekgosese.

Joel's father is a part-time bricklayer who often runs out of jobs. When that happens "only hunger reigns in the house". Although the family has two cows, his father is reluctant to sell them.

Like the others, Joel says he is so desperate that he is prepared to accept any kind of job.

● Frans Letswalo (26) who, after working for six years at a mental hospital in Boksburg, was laid off when he complained that the R90 a month he received was too little, said he had been walking the 40 km to the employment bureau for the past two years.

He stays with his mother and young sister at home while his father works on the East Rand and occasionally posts some money home. The family has no other source of income and has to struggle during the month to make ends meet.

Although Frans has a Standard 8 certificate he, too, is prepared to accept any job.

These are but four examples of the plight of the unemployed who besiege the depot every day.

And, when the clerk at the employment bureau tells the men there are no jobs, they make for the nearest bar — to use liquor to help them forget their problems.

TUESDAY, 28 JUNE 1983

X Indicates translated version.

Handwritten reply: 6.6.1.16 96 28/6/83

For written reply: 6.6.1.16 96
 National States: persons employed
 906. Mr. R. A. F. SWART asked the
 Minister of Co-operation and Development:

How many Blacks in each national state were employed in undertakings established (a) on an agency basis and (b) by development corporations for national states as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

(a) National State Employment as at 31/3/183

KwaZulu	9 578
OwaOwa	2 391
Lehova	4 267
Gazankulu	1 316
KaNgwane	310
KwaNdebele	—

Since the 1982/83 financial year the Corporation for Economic Development only made loans available to the Bophuthatswana National Development Corporation and the Ciskei National Development Corporation and not to specific individual industrialists and for this reason figures for Bophuthatswana and Ciskei was not readily available. However as at 31/3/1982 the employment created was 17 731 for Bophuthatswana and 5 221 for Ciskei as at the date the Corporation for Economic Development was still involved in industrial activities at the request of the Governments concerned.

(b) National State Employment as at 31/3/183

KwaZulu	10 967
OwaOwa	1 019

TUESDAY, 28 JUNE 1983

Lehova	6 342
Gazankulu	3 513
KaNgwane	2 195

Irrespective of the figures in (b) above the Economic Development Corporation has created 22 831 job opportunities in the Agriculture and Transport activities in Bophuthatswana, Transkei and Ciskei as well

as in areas not allocated to a specific National State.

National States: Investments

807. Mr. R. A. F. SWART asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

What amounts were invested by (a) the State and (b) foreign agencies in the industrial sector in each of the national states in the 1981-'82 financial year?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

National State	(a) State	(b) Foreign Concerns	(c) Overseas Companies
KwaZulu	R 26 221 712	R 11 753 000	R 1 041 600
OwaOwa	2 285 553	110 400	—
Lehova	2 317 798	1 020 400	—
Gazankulu	1 543 673	168 100	—
KaNgwane	754 951	—	—

It is not clear what is meant by foreign agencies. Therefore the amounts given in (b) above represent total contribution by White industrialists overseas and local while the amount mentioned in (c) above represents only the contribution from overseas companies.

(112) Star 22/7/83

Lebowa to take SA to court over land deal

Pretoria Correspondent

The Lebowa Government will take the South African Government to court over the kwaNdebele land deal, Chief Minister Dr CN Phatudi said today.

Dr Phatudi said his Government was prepared to meet the South African Government in court over the proposed inclusion of the Moutse area in kwaNdebele.

Yesterday, South Africa announced the final consolidation for kwaNdebele. Parts of white farms and certain Lebowa lands are to be incorporated into kwaNdebele.

Dr Phatudi also said he was to meet Prime Minister P W Botha in Pretoria on August 2 but was not prepared to comment any further. The kwaNdebele Government is also not happy with the land deal.

kwaNdebele's Chief Minister, Mr S S Skosana, said he was disappointed at the exclusion of certain fertile farms in the final consolidation plan.

"This will not be the end of our attempts to get a better deal. Negotiations with South Africa are still continuing," he said.

Farmers were generally satisfied with the consolidation plans.

The Bronkhorstspuit District Agricultural Union chairman, Mr Gerhard Schoeman, said he was pleased with the outcome and hoped the plans were final.

Rust de Winter farmers were also pleased.

The Elandrivier Farmers' Association secretary, Mr Jan Smuts, said his farm, as well as several others which had been included in the homeland in the commission's amended proposals, had now been excluded.

"Farmers all over the Rust de Winter irrigation area are delighted," Mr Smuts said.

1997

(110/83) ROOM (112)

Meetings ban stops formation of union

Labour Correspondent

A BAN on all meetings in the Northern Transvaal township of Seshego has prevented the inaugural meeting of a fledgling union for black electrical workers.

Seshego is situated in the Lebowa homeland and the inaugural meeting of the Black Electronics and Electrical Workers Union was to have taken place there this weekend.

But, in an angry statement yesterday, the union's acting president Mr Mbulelo Rakwena said meetings in Seshego had been banned by the area's chief magistrate and alleged the ban was an attempt to act against black

unionisation.

"We abhor and reject the action taken by Government officials in short-circuiting the initiative taken by black workers to assert themselves in forming and creating a platform for themselves," Mr Rakwena said.

"This action clearly reflects the true intentions of white officials towards black workers," he added.

Mr Rakwena said he would "like to make it known to all who oppose our struggle for the upliftment of black workers that this continued harassment and repression can never deter us in our endeavour to create a platform to fight for what is rightfully ours".

shabelo and Luckhoff; if not, (a) why not and (b) what steps are being taken in this regard; if so, (i) what is the nature of the facilities provided and (ii) what will be the transport cost to commuters travelling to and from Luckhoff for purposes of work?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION:

No.

(a) As far as could be ascertained there is now only one Black person who lives in Botshabelo and works in Luckhoff.

(b) No steps are being taken. The person concerned has made his own arrangements. It would look rather stupid if we provided a bus service for one person.

*3. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

(1) Whether the residents of Boschfontein 458JQ, an area situated in the district of Rustenburg and known as Machakaneng, are to be moved; if so, (a) why, (b) when, (c) where will they be moved to and (d) how many persons are involved;

(2) whether his Department has held discussions with the Boschfontein community regarding the proposed move; if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) what was the response of the community;

(3) whether he or any member of his Department has received any representations from the Boschfontein community; if so, (a) when and (b) what was (i) the nature of the representations and (ii) his response thereto?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION:

(1) Yes.

(a) To give effect to a decision of Parliament.

(b) At a date to be decided upon in consultation with the Boschfontein community.

(c) On a portion of the farm Kaferskraal 133JQ in the District of Rustenburg, if the land is acceptable to the community.

(d) Approximately 182 persons.

(2) Yes.

(a) On 17 February 1984 and 11 May 1984.

(b) In general favourable.

(3) No.

*4. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

(1) Whether a decision has been taken on the future of the Moutse area; if not, (a) why not and (b) when is it anticipated that a decision will be taken; if so, (i) when and (ii) what is the nature of the decision taken;

(2) whether his Department has received any requests for a referendum amongst the residents of the Moutse area on its inclusion in a national or independent Black state; if so, (a) when, (b) from whom and (c) what was the response to these requests; if not;

(3) whether his Department has been informed of such requests having been made by the said residents to other authorities; if so, (a)(i) when and (ii) to whom were they made and (b) what was the response to these requests;

(4) whether his Department has received any representations on the future of this area; if so, (a) when, (b) from whom and (c) what was the (i) nature of the representations and (ii) response thereto?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

(1) (a) Negotiations between the Government of kwanDebele and Lebowa regarding the conflicting land claims of the two national states are at present being conducted under the chairmanship of Dr P S Rautenbach.

(b) A decision will be taken as soon as possible after the present negotiations have been concluded.

(i) and (ii) Fall away.

(2) Yes, but not specifically for a referendum but that the will of the people be taken into consideration.

(a) Periodically since the excision of Moutse from the area of the Lebowa Legislative Assembly.

(b) The Government of Lebowa and certain chiefs of the area.

(c) This request was considered together with all other suggestions and factors. No definite reply was given as the matter is being considered as a whole.

(3) No.

(4) Yes.

(a) Since 1 November 1980.

(b) The Government of Lebowa as well as certain chiefs residing in the area and other residents of Moutse.

(c) (i) In certain instances it was requested that Moutse again be incorporated in Lebowa and in other instances it was requested that incorporation in kwanDebele should take place.

(ii) As a result of the representations negotiations are still being conducted.

Umbumbulu area: faction fighting

*5 Mr G S BARTLETT asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether the South African Police recently received requests for additional police to deal with anticipated faction fighting in the Umbumbulu area; if so, (a) when and (b) from whom;

(2) whether these requests were acceded to; if not, why not;

(3) whether the South African Police took any action in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what action;

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

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (for the Minister of Law and Order):

(1), (2), (3) and (4) No such requests have been received by the South African Police, but as a result of the violence in the area during which numerous murders were committed and property damaged, I instructed that police re-inforcements be sent there to restore order and keep the warring groups apart. Units of the South African Police under the command of senior officers, as well as a senior detective branch officer are presently deployed in the area to maintain law and order and to investigate the murders and other serious crimes committed during the violence. So far 119 persons have been arrested and the investigation are continuing. A disruption of law and order as has occurred in the area cannot be tolerated and the South African Police are determined to apprehend those responsible and take them to court.

*6. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

(1) Whether the residents of Valspan,



● Chanting asbestos mineworkers, sacked after striking three weeks ago, gather in the Lebowa hills on Friday night. The 12 000 workers at the Penge mine vowed to "starve rather than go back to Penge" and to refuse to take up management's conditional job offers unless all miners were taken back

Picture: HERBERT MABUZA

LABOUR NEWS

1700

Lebowa asbestos workers sacked

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

ABOUT 1700 mineworkers at the Penge asbestos mine in Lebowa have been dismissed after failing to meet deadlines to return to work.

However, Mr Pat Hart, the managing director of Gefco, owners of the mine, said yesterday that they had not yet started recruiting new workers.

The workers went on strike late last week in protest against this year's pay increases which range from 12 to 13%.

This is slightly lower than the annual increase for coal and gold mineworkers, announced by the Chamber of Mines.

These increases have been rejected by the National Union of Mineworkers which is in dispute with the chamber.

A spokesman for the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers' Union (Bamcwu) said yesterday he was not aware that all the workers had been fired.

The union has claimed the workers were also striking over a demand that the union be recognised.

● Almost 900 motor workers at the Alfa Romeo assembly plant, Brits Engineering, at Brits continued their strike yesterday in support of higher wages.

A spokesman for the National Automobile and Allied Workers' Union (Naawu) said there was no production at the plant yesterday.

The managing director of Alfa Romeo SA, Mr N Bianco, has denied there had been any stoppage.

Workers downed tools on Monday after wage talks between Naawu and Alfa Romeo became deadlocked last week.

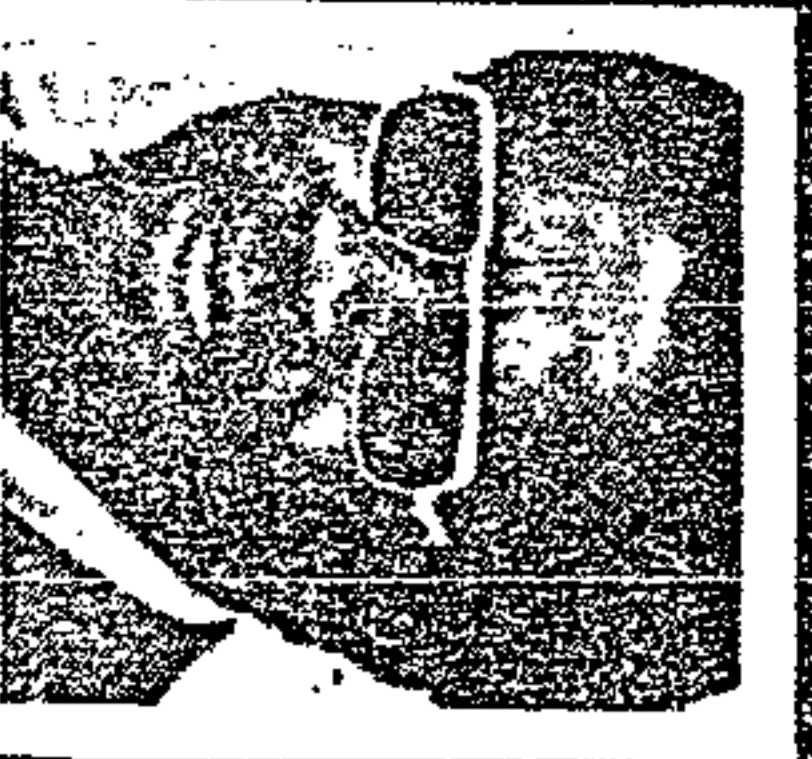
Naawu is demanding a 50c an hour across-the-board increase and the company is offering 11c across-the-board.

Negotiations between union officials and management continued on Monday and yesterday.



CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

Blue fibres, Black death



DR. MAKUNYANE

BY ZB MOLEFE

LEBOWA Health Secretary E Mphahlele has refused to comment on the Northern Transvaal asbestos scandal which is affecting more than 200 000 people in the homeland — because "it is a sensitive issue with political overtones".

"We must first have out facts about this thing. It is causing an undue disturbance. It can't be left like that. We are pushing all those concerned very hard," said Lebowa Health Director A M Makunyane.

The Government Mining Engineer's office has not responded to inquiries from City Press. The Government's Deputy Mining Engineer, D M Morris, said the newspaper should put its questions in writing.

Dr Makunyane said reports on tests carried out on the dangers of asbestos have been handed to the Legislative Assembly. Trade unions with members in Northern Transvaal asbestos mines — the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers' Union and the

National Union of Mine-workers — are concerned about this silent killer.

Banuwu general secretary Pandelani Nelolwhe says his union has asked medical specialists to check the files of 1 700 miners formerly employed at Penge, one of the biggest asbestos mines in the area.

And NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa told City Press his union plans to launch a campaign against asbestos.

Last month the Griqualand Exploration and Finance Company, one of the industry's main

112

companies, revealed that Penge was still unable to meet the Government Mining Engineer's firm of two fibres a millimetre in several key areas.

This followed critical Press reports of extremely high asbestos dust levels. About 780 workers at the mine were compensated between 1973 and last year.

Already an order has been issued prohibiting the manufacture of bricks from asbestos waste dumps.

The Technical Advice Group is alarmed that more than 200 000 black workers in Strydpoort-

C.P. Les

berge, from Donkerkloof through to Mmafele, are surrounded by hundreds of killer asbestos waste dumps.

There is little relief under the law for these Northern Transvaalers. The Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act of 1965 does not prescribe control of asbestos dust levels.

The Mines and Works Act does not seem to offer any recourse either.

"The workers have no statutory recourse under these circumstances, unlike other workers who are protected by the Workmen's Compensation

30/9/84

Wits University research officer Jean Leger.

"Their only recourse would be to bring civil actions of negligence against the asbestos companies. But that would be hard to prove."

Meanwhile, black workers in Mahluwane and Mmafele are still using asbestos waste to make bricks and children are still playing in unprotected asbestos dumps.

All the asbestos mines in the Strydpoortberge have been closed down but no dumps have been covered adequately.

Just who's in charge of these dumps of death?

TWO-AND-A-HALF months after the Rand Daily Mail first reported the widespread asbestos pollution caused by abandoned dumps near Pietersburg in the North Eastern Transvaal, little has been done to clean them up.

The Government Mining Engineer has warned local brickmakers to stop making their bricks from asbestos dust. The Egnep mining company — owned by the Griqualand Exploration and Finance Company (Gefco) — has taken down its signs in the Bewarkloof valley. For the communities living next to the blue and



brown asbestos dumps in the villages of Lebowa — who have learned for the first time that they are threatened by a potentially deadly health hazard — it has been a trying time. In recent weeks they have been visited by doctors, journalists and television crews, by all sorts of officials testing for dust levels and in one case by a

PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

mysterious group wearing white jackets and masks.

Children have been warned to stop playing on the dumps, the brickmakers now make their bricks from red clay brought in from other areas, and attempts have been made by school teachers in particular to educate the villagers and find ways of dealing with the problem.

A teacher at Mahlajani, one of the small villages polluted by blue asbestos dumps, summed up a dilemma which has arisen within the community over the hazard:

"Some people say we've been here a long time with these dumps and nothing has happened. Others said yes, a lot of people of the older generation are dead because

of this dust.

"There's little we can do. We can agree to stop using the dumps but we can't cover the dumps. We don't have the money."

Some children still play on the dumps, people have continued to plaster their homes with asbestos. Most of the pollution is all-pervasive. The roads are full of asbestos, houses are built of asbestos bricks and plastered with asbestos cement and asbestos fibres are caked in the ground.

Mr Samson Mojalefa, a teacher at the village of Mafele, said many people were angry because they believed the mining companies and the Government had evaded their responsibilities. The community had simply

been left with the dumps without ever being informed of the hazard.

"The government must do something," he said.

But no one has yet accepted responsibility for the situation which could cost millions to clean up. According to Mr S P Badenhorst, the Government Mining Engineer, the asbestos fields of the North Eastern Transvaal are not in a "proclaimed area" so there is no legislation providing for the covering of dumps.

Most of the land no longer belongs to the big companies who, until recently, owned substantial property in the area, so it is not seen as their responsibility.

But in terms of the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act, there is an obligation on the GME to ensure that the owner of a mine has taken "all the necessary steps" to prevent dust pollution before

he sells the mine or the land it is on.

Most of the land littered with asbestos dumps in the Bewarkloof valley has been sold in recent months to the South African Development Trust — with no attempt to clean up.

Only the farm, Bewarkloof, sold by Gefco for R250 000, has a wall around the dump and attempts have been made to grow vegetation, although the fibres still spill into the road.

Apart from Gefco, the sellers include Turner and Newall's Dublin Consolidated Asbestos and two companies in which United States Steel has a large shareholding, Associated Asbestos and Lagerdraai Asbestos.

All still have mineral rights in the area and Dublin still owns some property in the valley with uncovered asbestos dumps. This week Mr C Good, the

group financial executive of Turner and Newall Holdings South Africa, said his company was working on the situation and would soon inspect the property.

What makes the sale of these properties significant is that, while at present they are sparsely populated, they are soon to be opened up for settlement by thousands more people before being incorporated into Lebowa.

In recent years there has been a vast influx of people into the whole area. According to official census figures, the population doubled between 1970 and 1980, a result of forced resettlement and influx control.

Despite the GME's denials that the health hazard is serious, people are flooding into an area contaminated by what, in western countries, is recognised to be a highly toxic substance.

In the United States last year, an entire community at Globe, Arizona, was evacuated by the US Environmental Protection Agency because they were found to be living near an exposed asbestos dump.

On the other hand, people in the town of Cermik, Turkey, have used asbestos outcrops in the mountains to make whitewash and stucco for their walls and roofs, leading to an exceptionally high rate of chest disease and cancer. Inadequate health facilities have made it difficult to determine the extent of disease in the villages of Lebowa.

The territory's director of Health, Dr A M Makunyan, has pointed out that people die and are buried at home, without going to hospital and without having post mortems to establish causes of death.

In addition, the long latency period for the asbestos-associated cancer of the lung lining, mesothelioma — which can be up to 40 years — makes the actual effect of the dumps almost impossible to measure.

And for many of the people of the area, the problems of unemployment and starvation are more immediate than what they see as the far-off dangers of asbestos.



For the communities living next to the blue and

now made them suffer from red clay brought in from other areas, and attempts have been made by school teachers in particular to educate the villagers and find ways of dealing with the problem.

brown asbestos dumps in the villages of Lebowa — who have learned for the first time that they are threatened by a potentially deadly health hazard — it has been a trying time. In recent weeks they have been visited by doctors, journalists and television crews, by all sorts of officials testing for dust levels and in one case by a

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“Some people say we’ve been here a long time with these dumps and nothing has happened. Others said yes, a lot of people of the older generation are dead because

GEORGE MOGELE, an asbestosis sufferer, points to the mine in the mountains where he used to work. In the background is an old mill which is still littered with asbestos fibres

FIFTEEN elderly men in the former asbestos mining areas of the North Eastern Transvaal interviewed last week all showed signs of suffering from asbestosis.

All had worked on the mines. Most had been compensated for the disease, while some did not know that their difficulty in walking without losing their breath, their rasping coughs and their hoarse voices probably meant they were suffering from the disease.

One who was compensated is George Mogele who — when asked about asbestos mining — supported himself with his stick and pointed to a row of worked-out mines in the mountains.

He was standing near an old asbestos dump on the farm, Lagerdraai, in the

They don't know that they are doomed ...

Bewaarkloof valley, where he now lives.

An interpreter translated the old man's Tswana words: “He came with his boss, Hans van Wyk, from the Kimberley diamond mines in 1951 ... Hans van Wyk bought a small mine up there ... that one.

“Those mines up there closed a long time ago ... the men who worked them are dead. Many had phthisis. Hans van Wyk is dead. He had the same phthisis.”

All that is left of Lagerdraai's mining days are an old mill, asbestos dumps

and George Mogele.

Many of the men who worked the mines are dead from asbestos-related diseases. The mining companies have gone.

In May this year George Mogele's farm was sold by Lagerdraai Asbestos, in which United States Steel has a major shareholding, to the South African Development Trust for R71 000.

Farther down the valley there are more men suffering from the disease.

And more uncovered dumps.

X

KDM 26/11/84 (112)

Lebowa police hold NUM's Ramaphosa

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

MR CYRIL RAMAPHOSA, the general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), was arrested in the Namakgale township outside Phalaborwa in the Northern Transvaal yesterday for allegedly holding a meeting without permission.

Mr Ramaphosa was arrested while interviewing 30 workers fired from the British-owned Rio Tinto Zinc's Phalaborwa Mining Company for refusing to work overtime.

NUM's legal representatives said they had been told Mr Ramaphosa would be held overnight and would probably appear in court this morning.

Union spokesmen said the situation on the surrounding mines, several of which are strongholds of the NUM, was tense last night as news of Mr Ramaphosa's arrest spread.

Detective-constable T S Malatji, of the Lebowa police, said Mr Ramaphosa had been arrested for holding an illegal meeting after the magistrate had banned the NUM from holding a meeting in the township.

Mr James Motlatsi, the President of the NUM, who was due to address the meeting in Namakgale yesterday, said they had discovered the meeting was banned when they arrived in Namakgale from Welkom in the morning.

"Seeing that the meeting we'd come to address was now banned, we went to the union offices in Namakgale where Cyril took statements from the fired workers.

"While Cyril was busy inside the offices we went to the shop and later found out that they had arrested Cyril — at about 12pm — and taken the particulars of the workers in the office."

Mr Ndwako Ratlabala, the magistrate who banned the meeting, told the Mail the meeting had been banned in terms of the Riotous Assemblies Act.

He said he had taken this step after the police had made representations to him saying they believed the meeting would constitute a disturbance of the public peace.

"I also got further information from other sources saying the workers were preparing to stay away from work," he said.

RDM 27/11/84 112 411

Ramaphosa plans to sue over arrest

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

LEGAL representatives of Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, the general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, who was released without charge by the Lebowa Police yesterday, plan to sue the territory's authorities for "unlawful arrest".

Mr Ramaphosa, who was arrested on Sunday in Namak-gale township near Phala-borwa for allegedly addressing an illegal meeting, was released at midday yesterday

after spending the night in jail.

The magistrate who banned the meeting told the Rand Daily Mail he did so in terms of the Riotous Assemblies Act — which was repealed two years ago.

NUM's lawyers said yesterday that they would sue either the Lebowa Minister of Police or the Minister of Justice for wrongful arrest.

Meanwhile, 283 workers who went on strike at the nearby Foskor mine within hours of

Mr Ramaphosa's arrest have been fired by the company and given until midday today to get out of the hostel.

Mr J V Schultemeyer, Foskor's manager (external), said he had no reason to suppose the strike had anything to do with Mr Ramaphosa's arrest though he was at a "total loss to explain" why it had taken place.

"None of the three night shifts reported for work on Sunday night," he said.

"They had been warned that

if they went on strike illegally they would open themselves to instant dismissal and consequently their services were terminated."

NUM's legal representatives said they would challenge Foskor on the firings which they believe constitute unlawful dismissals.

This was the second strike at Foskor in the past few weeks: the company's entire workforce downed tools for two days on October 24.

Union boss held under defunct law

STAR 27/11/84
By Carolyn Dempster,
Labour Reporter

Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), was released by the Lebowa police yesterday after being arrested under a defunct statute — the Riotous Assemblies Act.

His lawyers are now contemplating suing the Lebowa authorities for wrongful arrest.

Mr Ramaphosa was arrested in Namakgale township outside Phalaborwa while taking statements from six workers dis-

missed from the British-owned Rio Tinto Zinc Phalaborwa Mining Company last week.

About 30 workers were dismissed for refusing to work overtime. A meeting due to be held by the union in the township was banned by Lebowa magistrate Mr Ndwako Ratlabala under the Riotous Assemblies Act, so Mr Ramaphosa went to the union offices to take down statements from the workers.

While there he was held by the Lebowa police.

Mr Ramaphosa was due to appear in court yesterday on

charges of holding an illegal gathering.

"We want to warn the Lebowa regime and its misguided labour advisers that we won't become victims of their intimidation," said Mr Mahlaomola Skhosana, Cusa's acting general secretary.

"We will continue to organise workers throughout the country, and we call upon employers to immediately state their views on this matter."

Cusa expressed its concern over the whereabouts of the six men who were with Mr Ramaphosa at the time of his arrest, but have not reappeared.

Seweter 4/2/85 (112)

Pay delay in Lebowa

THOUSANDS of civil servants in the Lebowa government service had their monthly salaries delayed this month when the government apparently experienced cash problems.

Relief only came at the end of the week, when nurses and clerks were handed their cheques back-dated January 29.

According to a source close to the Lebowa Government, teachers had not yet received their salaries.

The Minister of Finance in Lebowa, Mr Chris L Mothiba, is reported to have said all other governments experience the same problem at some stages.

112 U. Mail 19/12/85

Traded: Lots of oranges for lots of angry people

IN what has been characterised as an effort to give some viability to the new political contrivance of KwaNdebele, 120 000 people from the Moutse areas on the homeland's northern and southern boundaries are to be incorporated into the homeland in the next fortnight.

The gift of land to the territory, under the official terms of consolidation, will more than double its area in time for its "independence" next year — an act that will deprive Moutse residents of their South African citizenship.

The announcement last week by Chris Heunis, Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, came after months of negotiation between his department and Lebowa's chief minister, Cedric Phatudi, in what is described by Moutse's community leader Maredi Chueu as "an act of connivance and collusion".

After years of battling against Moutse's incorporation into KwaNdebele and warnings of "bloodshed" should it proceed — Lebowa has long put forth claims to the area — Phatudi recently underwent a remarkable change of heart.

"We're under a very strong impression that Moutse was part of a package deal," says Chueu, himself a member of the Lebowa legislative assembly.

In effect, it seems Phatudi has been offered the orange estates of Zebediela and a rail link from there to Lebongoma, in exchange for abandoning Lebowa's claim to Moutse, leaving the way open for its incorporation into KwaNdebele.



Chris Heunis is tidying up the homeland map. On January 1 his department will shuffle 120 000 unwilling people into another homeland. VIVIENNE WALT reports

Moutse, which is in two major pieces and was part of Lebowa until 1980, is no ordinary scrap of land. It includes about 50 schools, tarred roads, and what will be the only hospital in the new national state of KwaNdebele.

In addition, KwaNdebele's chief minister Simon Skosana will increase by 50 percent the number of subjects under his control, despite the fact that most of Moutse's population are non-Ndebele.

Perhaps more important to the standard-four educated Skosana are the mineral-rich areas of Moutse, for which JCI has requested the prospecting rights.

Not far away from Moutse is Ekangala, another treat to be added

eventually to Skosana's bounty.

Ekangala comprises a few thousand people who were squeezed out of East Rand townships by the housing freeze, and opted to move to the solid brick houses in the new township 20km from Bronkhorstspuit.

Attached to Ekangala is the development conglomeration of Ekandustria, which employs a small fraction of the residents. Most commute several hours a day, spending up to R100 a month on transport.

Added to the transport factor, the unemployment rate in Ekangala is five times higher than in the East Rand. The order of the day has become that of KwaNdebele.

For those who voice dissent, the brutal treatment has been meted out, allegedly by KwaNdebele vigilantes, who, claim many Ekangala residents, are sanctioned and aided by Skosana.

On a recent visit to Ekangala, I met two men who had just returned after their abduction by a vanload of vigilantes near their home. They took off their shirts, showing several deep sjambok welts on their chests and backs.

It is this reign of terror, a phrase frequently used by Ekangala Action Committee leaders, which has forced nearly a third of the community to flee the area. The rest are now demanding that the government resettle them back on the East Rand.

But with Skosana courted by Pretoria, and Phatudi now won over, it is likely that Moutse and Ekangala will soon become the latest victims of the government's stated reform programme: no more forced removals. Incorporate instead.

Small investors dominate scramble

RUS DAY
● To Page 2

'50 hurt in mine clash'

ABOUT 1200 workers remained on strike at Foscor in Phalaborwa for the second day yesterday amid unconfirmed reports that more than 50 mineworkers had been injured in clashes with police in nearby Namakgale township.

National Union of Mineworkers' Press officer Marcel Golding said more than 50 Foscor and Palabora Mining Company workers had been injured in clashes. Three workers and a policeman had been hospitalised, he said.

Golding said Lebowa police and mine security had attacked PMC and Foscor workers on Wednesday when they held a joint meeting to discuss the Foscor strike.

Namakgale had been heavily barricaded as workers and residents tried to

defend themselves against dogs, rubber bullets, baton charges and teargas fired by Lebowa police and mine security police, he said.

Lebowa police refused to comment and managements of both companies denied their mine security teams had been involved.

PMC general manager Colin Crossen said one PMC worker died and 18 were injured after working hours on Wednesday.

Crossen said there had been a stoppage at PMC which related to "some conflict at Foscor".

"But we have no dispute at PMC and production is back to normal," he said.

CLAIRE PICKARD-CAMBRIDGE

Dealman puts Roks to rout

... has ordered ... the country by Jan- ... to be

**NUM claims 50
injured in clash**

The National Union of Mine workers has claimed more than 50 Foscor and Palabora Mining Company workers were hurt in a strike-related clash near Phalaborwa this week.

The union said a meeting was attacked at Namakgale township.

Lebowa police have not confirmed the allegation and company officials deny mine security personnel were involved.

STAR 13/2/88. 25

Farmers want Govt to cordon off Lebowa

By Don Holliday, Crime Reporter

About 400 Eastern Transvaal farmers, who met at Laersdrif yesterday to discuss the security situation in the area, called on the Government to establish a military cordon around the neighbouring homeland Lebowa, police reported.

According to police, the meeting developed into a "mud-slinging match" as members of the audience attacked Government policies.

The meeting was called by local farmers following a string of attacks over the past three months on elderly farming couples in the area.

The farmers are said to have attacked the Government for plans to scrap the pass laws.

"Had the meeting been attended by local farmers only — specifically to see what could be done to stop the attacks — it would have served a purpose," a police spokesman said.

"One suggestion was that they set up a ring of military fortifications around Lebowa to prevent insurgency.

"Major crime in the area has decreased a lot although petty crime has risen. The attacks in the area are of a criminal, not political, nature."

chatting to a girl behind him.

He said he broke a window

Security forces kill seven in weekend Lebowa unrest

STAR 11/3/86

By Rich Mkhondo

112

At least seven people were shot dead, allegedly by the security forces, hundreds were arrested and scores of others were injured in two separate incidents in Lebowa at the weekend.

In Motetema, near Groblersdal, residents said six people were shot dead when security forces tried to stop mourners from Dennilton, Pretoria, Jane Furse, Witbank and other areas from attending the funeral of an unrest victim.

In another incident, a man was shot dead in Mahwelereng township, near Potgietersrus, when police opened fire on a group of people, residents said.

The deaths were confirmed by Lebowa's Commissioner of Police, Brigadier W G Beetge.

Brigadier Beetge said six people were shot dead when they tried to attack a police station in Motetema. Eleven people were wounded and six of them were admitted to hospital with bullet wounds.

In Mahwelereng, a man was shot dead when a group of rioters attacked police who tried to disperse them", the brigadier said.

Police told Nchabeleng they were going to kill him, family claims

Mystery letter found after UDF man dies

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Questions are flying thick and fast about the death of United Democratic Front leader Mr Peter Nchabeleng in Lebowa's Schoonoord police station after the discovery of a "letter" signed by him in captivity during his last hours.

The letter is said to be a total negation of everything Mr Nchabeleng stood for during a life of struggle against apartheid. The UDF insists that it indicates that he was placed under "tremendous duress".

Mr Nchabeleng (59), the UDF's Northern Transvaal president, died before noon on Friday, April 11, 1986 just hours after being taken from his home. Police said he had apparently had a heart attack, but the UDF claims he had been in "perfect condition" before he was held.

Chiefs detained

- The South African Council of Churches (SACC) claims that:
 - The Nchabeleng family overheard police saying: "This time we are going to kill you," as they removed Mr Nchabeleng from his home.
 - Two chiefs detained at the same time were beaten and one of them said he had seen Mr Nchabeleng being tortured.
- Brigadier W Beetge, Commissioner of Police for Lebowa, has strongly denied that Mr Nchabeleng was assaulted during his detention. He has also denied knowledge of the letter bearing Mr Nchabeleng's signature. "It has not been brought to our attention at this stage," he said.

Main thrust

The main thrust of the letter, dated April 11 — the day of Mr Nchabeleng's death — is an appeal to the community to abandon its campaign of social isolation of the security forces. In many parts of Sekhukhuneland police have been refused service in shops and transportation in local taxis.

It states: "This is to certify that the Lebowa police, the SAP and SADF and related forces must enjoy the privileges of the community like any other citizen of South Africa ... Any businessman who refuses forces the abovementioned must close his business with effect from today 1986/04/11 midnight."

The letter also appeals for an end to the burning of people and property "including the State property" and for a return to school by pupils.

The document came to light on Friday when a policeman took it to a shopkeeper in the area and demanded that he be served, according to Dr Beyers Naude, secretary-general of the SACC.

Dr Naude said the statement "must have been made under extreme conditions and was an attempt by the police to break the campaign of isolation".

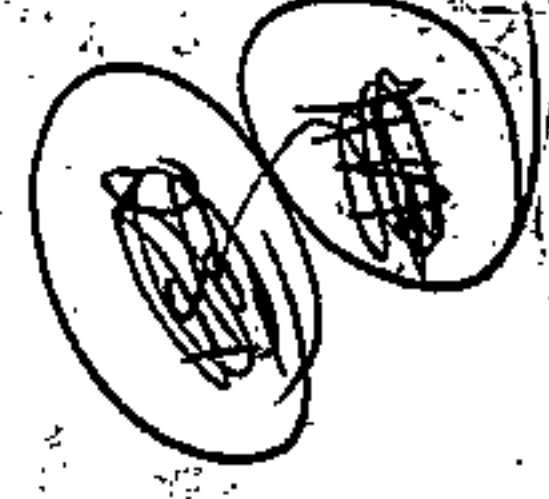
Dr Naude has also highlighted an incident which took place less than 48 hours before Mr Nchabeleng's death. Youths in the village of Apel allegedly called a meeting with a local school principal to discover whether he had collaborated in an attempt to kill Mr Nchabeleng in 1983 when a letter bomb was sent to him, disguised as his son's school report card.

At Wednesday night's meeting the principal was allegedly doused with petrol — but he was not burnt.

112

19/4/86

STAR



Killings 200
in court
PIETERSBURG
more than 200 people appeared in the magistrate's court at Sekhukhune, south-east of Pietersburg, this week in connection with the alleged "necklace" killings of 35 villagers in Lebowa last month. Many of the accused are minors.
The hearings were postponed till next month. — Northern Transvaal Bureau.

Kids flee N Tvl schools

POST primary schooling ground to a halt in Seshago yesterday when pupils fled from South African Defence Force troops and Lebowa police.

The soldiers and police patrolled the townships yesterday.

The action came on the second day of the consumer boycott of white-owned shops in nearby Pietersburg and other Northern Transvaal towns.

The boycott, called by the Northern Transvaal Consumer Boycott Committee, has been effective in Pietersburg and Potgietersrus.

Tension has gripped the trouble-torn Seshago township where the army moved in on Monday night in at least 12 trucks. Police are patrolling the streets and eight youths arrested on Monday are due to appear in court this morning.

Sowetan 14/5/86

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112

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21/9/86
STAR

Lebowa to get ¹¹² R2,2-m for water

Pretoria Bureau

The Department of Development Aid has set aside R2,2 million for the improvement of water provision for domestic purposes in the rural areas of Lebowa as a short-term solution.

In a statement released yesterday in Pretoria by the Bureau for Information, the director-general of the department, Mr Gilles van de Wall, said the money was part of the R3,7 million set aside during the current financial year for job creation in Lebowa.

PROBLEMS

Mr van de Wall said his department was aware of the problems encountered regarding provision of water within the self-governing territories.

Boreholes and dams were drying up as a result of the drought and because of the insufficient rain to supplement underground water sources.

BOREHOLES

The department has already used R435 000 this year on the sinking of boreholes, building of reservoirs and laying pipelines.

"As far as long-term measures are concerned, all main rivers in the self-governing territories are being hydrologically surveyed for subsequent water developments, while several big storage dams are being built," Mr van de Wall said.

The construction of the Arabie Dam at a cost of R21 million in Lebowa will provide sufficient water for 250 000 people, while the Tours Dam costing R12 million will be used mainly for irrigation purposes.

5M

Holidays for Labour

By MATHATA TSEDU

13/11/87 Soweto 112
THE Lebowa Cabinet has declared May 1 and June 16 as official public holidays throughout the bantustan.

A circular from the Public Service Commission, which was circulated to all departments recently, stated that the decision was taken on November 25 last year.

The holidays will be known as "May Day" and "The Students Day (Soweto Day)". "Should these days fall on a Sunday, the holiday should be observed on the following Monday" the circular concluded.

The declaration of these holidays followed massive stayaways from work by workers in the area during these days on the past two years. Virtually all Lebowa Government offices were deserted on May Day last year as Government officials heeded calls for

a stayaway by trade unions and political organisations.

The Chairman of the Northern Transvaal region of the Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo), Mr Mmutle Phasha, said yesterday that the declaration of the holidays was "a non issue to the black people of Azania. Our people have always regarded these two days, together with many others such as September 12 and October 19, as their national holidays and have accorded these days their due respect through commemorations and staying away from work".

Lebowa's Chief Minister, Dr C N Phathudi, was yesterday not available for comment. Gazankulu's Chief Minister, Dr H W E Ntswanisi, was said to be on leave. It could not be established whether other bantustans are going to follow suit.

Clothes factory workers sit in

ABOUT 50 workers employed by Rupwin Clothing Manufacturers in Seshego, Pietersburg, staged a three-hour sit-in yesterday demanding a pay increase. The workers say they earned between R16 and R20 per week.

The manager, a Mrs Swanepoel, yesterday said: "There were problems" at the plant but said everything had gone back to normal. She denied that workers were paid between R16 and R20 per week but refused to say what the correct figures were. "It is none of your business and I'm not going to tell you", she said.

Workers told the *Sowetan* that 10 workers were dismissed yesterday after the three-hour stoppage. "We sent a delegation earlier to negotiate about pay increases and also because increases are given unequally. Some people get increases some don't. We were told we could all go home and come back on Friday as we were fired," one worker said.

The factory is in Lebowa where trade unions are not recognised.

12/8/87

Sowetan





Daily Mail 2/6/77

Phatudi looking for mining experts

Staff Reporter

THE CHIEF Minister of Lebowa, Dr Cedric Phatudi, has left for Europe to persuade mining houses to tap his territory's mineral resources.

During his 16-day visit, Dr Phatudi will consult with mining houses in Germany and France. He said they would be given offers to work on mineral projects in the homeland.

Lebowa had more minerals — in the form of large deposits of chrome, coal,

manganese and asbestos — than any other homeland, but these were not being exploited.

"We have all kinds of minerals except diamonds and oil," he said.

The South African Government had a bad reputation where mining projects were concerned, because it did not bother to use its skills for prospecting in the homelands.

Dr Phatudi again stressed his stand against inde-

pendence, which he said, would make him a foreigner in the land of his birth.

"Opting for independence is a stupid thing because you disown the wealth and riches of the country and cut yourself off from the fertile areas in favour of the poorest ones," he said.

Dr Phatudi was accompanied by Mr Sadness Mameane, Minister of the Interior and of Economic Affairs.

Lebowa's

R7m

R7m boost

to farming

112

112 23/8/78
SESHEGO. — The Lebowa Government would spend more than R7-million on agriculture and forestry during the 1978-79 financial year, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Chief K E Phasha, announced in the Lebowa Legislative Assembly in Seshego yesterday.

Agricultural experts said pastoral farming had the highest immediate potential, while irrigation was expanding satisfactorily. "About 344 000 ha were used for dry-land farming and more than 8 000 ha were under irrigation," he said.—Sapa.

Sun. Times bus. 12/11/78 (112)

Lebowa chrome mine study may bring R80m expansion

By IAN MUIL

THE Mining Corporation, formerly the Bantu Mining Corporation, is conducting a feasibility study into the establishment of an R80-million ferrochrome beneficiation plant and expansion of its Lebowa-based chrome mine.

The mine, owned by the Corporation's company Dilokong Chrome Mine (Pty), currently supplies 110 000 tons of fine chrome ore a year to two overseas customers and lump chrome

ore to the South African ferrochrome industry.

Dr H. J. Hanekom, general manager of the Mining Corporation, says the overseas contracts will terminate in three years time.

However a marketing report recently commissioned is expected to result in new contracts which Dr Hanekom hopes to conclude next year.

The Corporation's chrome mine is sited on the Mooihoek farm although the large deposit, which has an estimated life at current extraction rates of up to 100 years, is in the Maandagshoek farm area.

According to Dr Hanekom the Corporation will be inviting public participation in both the mining and the beneficiation projects.

"We have already had interest shown by one large overseas buyer," he said.

The Corporation recently approached the Chief Minister of Lebowa, Dr Cedric Phatudi, for four nominations to the board of Dilokong Chrome.

"We want four black directors and four white directors," said Dr Hanekom.

PROBLEMS OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

There is a growing army of unemployed Africans — in excess of 1.5 million — living in homelands and ready to demand redress for their grievances, according to the estimate of a Rand economist. Incorrect, says the

Secretary for Bantu Administration, Dr I.P. van Onselen. "There is basically no unemployment among the Bantu. In the homelands there are many who do not want to work, or who return there for rest periods between work contracts," he claims. Two views on the homelands, and there is lit-

tle doubt which one homelands leaders themselves support. Dr Cecil Phatudi, Chief Minister of Lebowa, whose Legislative Assembly opened in Seshago yesterday, believes the unemployment problem in his homeland is critical, but nowhere are any statistics

available to show just how bad it is. *SAP 30/3/76* "I'll give you an indication," he said in an interview recently. "Some time back I called a meeting at the place I come from, Mphahlele, of all the young men who wanted work. When I arrived at the hall for the meeting I found at least 600 young men between about 16 and 21 years.

you may find a statistic for unemployment here." Dr Phatudi says that obviously there is no hidden solution to this problem. "On the one hand you just have to institute a massive literacy programme, and then provide the jobs to employ the folk coming out of school — that's all."

these people into South Africa. It's a bit like I could not get them the necessary documents to enter. Yet they were prepared to come and help for the same or lower salaries than our teachers in Lebowa.

"Then I will... Well, I tried... And the young... say to me: 'Why so?' But by then it is too late." The... decentralisation... taken in earn... the Governme... private sector... said.

Not in South Africa... "I don't think the Government understands our problems. Here in the homelands we have to cope with development and all its myriad problems — and these don't come in Indian file but in an avalanche."

Turning to the unemployment situation again, Dr Phatudi said anybody who was prepared to do a scientific survey on this problem rather than just claiming unemployment was insignificant would do a tremendous service for Lebowa.

"In spite of the mass of uneducated people I was talking about, the fact is there are a lot of educated people in the homeland in whom do not have proper jobs," he said. "This is an even bigger problem because the Government about getting

"But this just shows where the apartheid policy lets us down. We are battling to get sufficient and qualified teachers to staff these schools, so when I was overseas I approached one of the voluntary service organisations in Britain with my problem. "They offered to send me several teachers well-qualified in the subjects I desperately needed — mathematics and general science.

"When I approached the Government about getting

"If you have... tralisation... tackled with... then you will... dustrialists com... homeland in... employ people... he said. "It is the... way this proce

Half-heart

- 1 315
- 2 202
- 3 112

Wanted work

"They all said they wanted work, and I began questioning them about their education. The bulk had little or no schooling at all, showing they had little or no chance of getting any recent sort of work anywhere.

"At the same time, I must emphasise that Mphahlele is one of the better-endowed areas of Lebowa when it comes to school facilities.

"You can multiply the situation I found in Mphahlele by the number of villages in Lebowa, and

HOMELANDS — LEBOWA — LABOUR

1988 — 1990

1991 — 1992

Father of seven waits for steady job

Six years ago Mr Philemon Mashegoane (47) — then a Pretoria municipality nightwatchman — was told to return home to Sekhukhuneland and wait for a call back to work.

Star 5/2/88
He has been waiting ever since.

The frail father of seven is just one of the out-of-work men in the Sekhukhuneland area where unemployment is believed to be as high as 75 percent in adult males.

When The Star spoke to Mr Mashegoane, he had just had one of his luckiest days in years.

That morning he had been successful in signing on for a Lebowa Department of Works drain digging project. He and scores of unemployed men and women had been assigned to dig a trench. For this he would receive R3.

Until his retrenchment in 1982, he had always been able to find regular employment on the Reef.

Although unskilled and illiterate, he had worked for Sappi and South African Railways as a labourer.

When he finished his digging job, he would return to doing what he normally does... sitting at home and waiting, he said.

W/Marcel

1-7/7/88

(112)

(~~112~~)

Weavers find a helper in Lebowa MP

WEAVERS at Masana textile plant, Lebowa have found unexpected allies in their dispute with the company — two "homeland" chiefs have said they will urge management to recognise the workers' trade union.

About 450 workers at Masana, jointly owned by Anglo American and De Beers, were dismissed last month after striking for union recognition. Most were re-employed but about 90 workers, including two shop stewards, were not taken back.

Chief Matsikitsane Mashile, Lebowa legislative assembly MP for Mapulaneng, said he wished to intervene on behalf of the workers.

Mashile received a letter from Masana MD, Ian Johnson, saying workers were told before the strike that as the company was in Lebowa, "there was no legislation" providing for union recognition.

By EDDIE KOCH

The letter said Masana was not prepared to recognise the union, but "accepted the principal of consultation and the establishment of a properly constituted 'liaison committee'."

Last week Marc Allan, Masana's industrial relations adviser, rejected worker claims that the firm was acting against Anglo policy by denying the weavers trade union rights.

Allan said Masana accepted that most of the workers belonged to the SA Textile and Allied Workers' Union. Worker representatives were told organisation would be recognised if they drafted a recognition agreement suitable to conditions in Lebowa.

South Africa's Labour Relations Act does not apply in the "homelands" and it was necessary to draft an agreement creating other ways of

resolving disputes, Allan said.

A representative of the Masana workers rejected Allan's claims. He said Johnson's letter to Mashile was proof the company was making use of the "homeland" system to pay low wages and deny trade union rights.

Allan said the letter to Mashile contained a "qualified rejection of the union in the sense that the union had failed to produce a suitable draft recognition agreement".

He said Masana had received no recognition proposal in six months. He said the issue was "not whether we recognise the union but rather to develop appropriate and workable procedures for the relationship."

Masana pays basic wages of R90-R130 a month. The company can recover 90 percent of these costs from the government in terms of "decentralisation incentives."

Sowetan 3/8/88

112

Labour briefs

Illegal strike case put back

STATE prosecutor in the trial of two Transport and Allied Workers' Union members and an official facing charges of instigating an illegal strike yesterday applied for a postponement so that he could consult with the Attorney-General.

Mr M Pogrundt, who had asked for a postponement on Monday, told Pietersburg Regional Court magistrate, Mr A G Boucher, he was not "in a position to reply to the defence's arguments". The case was postponed to September 9.

The defence team of Mr H J Brandt and Mr Ephraim Magoba have argued that charges of instigating an illegal strike and a call for an economic boycott, could not be heard in a South African court because the Act allegedly contravened had been repealed in South Africa.

Mr Abraham Mahume Malatji (39),

Mr Namadzavho Rhodes Makamu (32) and Mr Daniel Malesela Sekele (37), are charged with instigating a strike of the Lebowa Transport workers in June last year. The strike took place at Seshego, Lebowa. They have not yet pleaded.

The State alleges that the strike was contravention of the Native Labour Act.

Mr Brandt yesterday said the second count of contravention of the Internal Security Act could not be heard as no certificate from the Attorney-General had been produced.

Mr Pogrundt replied that the certificate had been telefaxed to the security police in Pietersburg.

Bail conditions for the three accused were relaxed yesterday. They are no longer required to report to the Pietersburg Police Station every Friday or when they leave the Pietersburg magisterial area. They are on R10 000 bail each.

Talks today to resolve Lebowa bloodshed

For months, a remote area of Lebowa has been gripped by conflict. Residents have accused the Chief Minister of deliberately allowing armed gangs to roam. VUSI GUNENE reports



Burnt out homes — the result of vigilante attacks in Bushbuckridge

A CRUCIAL meeting to resolve the violence that has gripped the Eastern Transvaal area of Bushbuckridge takes place between leaders of community-based organisations and the Sofasonke vigilantes today.

It is the upshot of a meeting held earlier this week between Lebowa Chief Minister, Nelson Ramodike, and a delegation of religious ministers led by South African Council of Churches general secretary, Frank Chikane.

Chikane and six ministers from the trouble-torn communities of Bushbuckridge met with Ramodike, members of the Lebowa Legislative Assembly and key figures in the Sofasonke vigilante group, in an effort to end the bloodshed that has plagued this divided community for the past three months.

One SACC delegate expressed "surprise" that members of the vigilante group, including those identified as having taken part in recent attacks on activists and their houses, were present at the meeting.

"Many of their meetings came to the parliament buildings in cars and stood

there for the duration of the meeting. Ramodike himself addressed these people and even told them about our resolutions," he said.

"It leads us to suspect that the Lebowa government is supporting the vigilantes."

Since October last year, Sofasonke

and another group known as Inkatha are alleged to have launched attacks on local activists and on the chief of the Maphaneng tribe, Chief Laynus Mashile.

In the same month, 30 000 people marched on the local police station to protest conditions in the surrounding communities and demanding better social facilities. A fieldworker from the Bushbuckridge Advice Office told *Weekly Mail* that in the days following the march, its organisers were sought both by police and members of Sofasonke who, it is alleged, are armed by the homeland police.

A spate of attacks and counter-attacks on people's houses followed. When we visited the area this week, many houses had been reduced to burnt-out shells.

Mmamodikane, a member of one of the families who fled the area and is now hiding out in Nelspruit, told of the night their home was torched.

"We were woken by a huge bang and heard shots being fired. Then we realised the house had caught fire and that we had to escape.

"We managed to get the children out and ran into the veld where we were helped by neighbours."

Mmamodikane, who refused to divulge her full name for fear of victim-

isation, does not believe the violent crisis can be solved.

"How can you resolve it with the very perpetrators of the violence being party to the peace settlement?"

Chief Mashile of Acornhoek said he did not see any point to "peace" talks with Sofasonke.

"We have asked Ramodike (who is also minister of law and order) and the local station commander repeatedly to arrest the perpetrators of these acts of violence. Nothing has happened."

"These people move around our communities armed. It is no longer safe to send our children out at night."

This week, one of the activist, Elizabeth Modipane, received a threatening letter, allegedly from the vigilantes, about her nephew. The letter, now in possession of the *Weekly Mail*, reads: "We are aware that Jacks Modipane (whose house was the first to be petrol bombed) moves with a gang who are armed. We are also aware that he has sought help from communists in Mozambique to eliminate us. If one of us dies then you and other people are going to be shot dead."

The letter lists the names of 10 other activists who have fled the area as being on the "hit list".

But a statement on the carnage released by United Democratic Front affiliates in the Transvaal this week, is optimistic about prospects for a peaceful settlement.

It holds the view that "in this early hour peaceful avenues still exist to put an end to threatening violence."

The statement further called on Ramodike to end police violence and to guarantee the safe return of exiled families from the area.

Make a date with reality.

112

Bus drivers on trial

Sowetan
14/2/90

By RUSSEL MOLEFE




OVER 400 Lebowa bus drivers were turned away from the Pietersburg regional court by police when the trial of two members of the Transport and Allied Workers Union resumed yesterday.

Chaos nearly erupted when police blocked all entrances to the court buildings where Mr Abraham Malatjie (40) of Ga-Mamabolo and Mr Daniel Sekele (39) of Doornfontein are facing charges of instigating and participating in an unlawful strike.

The accused are appearing before Mr AGH Boucher, whom they had earlier asked to step down, alleging that he was unfair. They pleaded not guilty to all charges.

The charges arise from work stoppages at all Lebowa Transport depots in the northern Transvaal between June and July 1987.

Judgment will be passed on March 21.




112

Stayaway supports teachers

LEBOWA government
civil servants living in
Lebowakgomo are to start
an indefinite work
stayaway today to press
demands for the provision
of books and the hiring of
more teachers.

The decision, taken at
a meeting of the
Lebowakgomo Civic As-
sociation on Thursday
night, does not affect
other areas of the
homeland, according
LCA spokesman Mr God-
frey Selepe. (112)

Lebowa public servants stop work to demand books

PIETERSBURG. — Lebowa public servants in the homeland's capital of Lebowakgomo are to start an indefinite work stayaway today to press demands for the provision of books for school pupils, according to a call made at the weekend.

The decision, taken at a meeting of the Lebowakgomo Civic Association on Thursday night, does not affect other areas, according to an LCA spokesman, Mr Godfrey Selepe.

The decision was, however, strongly contested at a meeting to launch a public servants' union on Saturday.

More than 1 000 civil servants argued that the LCA decision was taken without consulta-

tions and that a proper work stayaway should be organised to involve all workers employed by the Lebowa government.

Mr Selepe said the LCA wanted Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike to rescind a decision not to hire more teachers, provide books for pupils, build more classes and provide special classes for laboratories and libraries.

In Seshogo, school pupils from four high schools marched to the local circuit office on Friday to demand books and more teachers. Mr Ramodike could not be reached for comment yesterday.

In nearby Gazankulu, a major police crack-down is under way following the indefinite

suspension of all sittings of the homeland's legislative assembly.

More than 200 people have been detained since Thursday, sources said.

Reports from Gazankulu capital Giyani, the scene of a large-scale stayaway by civil servants for the past two weeks, said a house belonging to Chief Minister Hudson Ntsanwisi's chauffeur was attacked by arsonists at the weekend.

It was unclear on Sunday whether the work stayaway by government employees, which was to continue until Mr Ntsanwisi resigned, would continue.

In Venda, the scene of a massive funeral on

Saturday for Mrs Elsie Makuya, a spokesperson for the UDF announced that people would march on the homeland's parliament on Friday when this year's session begins.

It was also announced that a consumer boycott of shops in Louis Trichardt would begin on April 1 and end on June 1 to protest at the conservative policies of the town council and its white inhabitants.

● In Johannesburg yesterday a Foreign Affairs spokesman said SA troops had completed their withdrawal from Ciskei but would be ready and available at short notice to re-enter Ciskei if the homeland requested help. — Sapa

1 600 teachers to stay away

MORE than 1600 teachers from the Bolobedu circuit, near Duiwelskloof, have resolved to embark on an indefinite stayaway.

By **MATHATHA TSEDU**

The move is to protest against maladministration in the Lebowa Education Department.

Monday, an LTA spokesman said.

The decision was a follow-up to a march last month during which a memorandum detailing several grievances were handed to the local circuit inspector.

The grievances include the failure by the circuit office to submit application forms for the supplementary exams for all matriculants.

A call was also made for an end to arbitrary transfers of teachers. Eleven were allegedly transferred for refusing to

join Tuata.

The LTA spokesman said several executive members of Tuata had resigned from the organisation to join LTA.

No official comment from the head office of the Lebowa Education Department could be obtained as all workers are on a stayaway.

Meanwhile lecturers from Setotlwane College of Education are to stage a march tomorrow to protest against discrimination and job reservation, according to a spokesman.

He said the march will end at the rector's office where a petition will be submitted outlining the grievances.

Late paper
DUE to problems with our presses, Sowetan was several hours late on Friday. We regret any inconvenience caused to our readers.

112

Media curbs to be reviewed

So we few
AN extensive review of all legislative restraints on media reporting will be undertaken by the South Africa Media Council, the Council's chairman, Mr Jan Steyn, announced in Cape Town yesterday.

The council had de-

should be addressed, was an onerous one, and the council would "seek to involve all the suitable expertise it can muster both from within and outside its own ranks to this end".

CHALLENGE THE PARADIGMS

3 WEST STREET, CNR. ANDERSON, JOHANNESBURG

"FIND-THE-NAME-GAME": R4549

RULES: 1. Cut out and keep the LETTER in the box. The entry form will be published on March 29th 1990.

2. The first 10 customers to produce the correctly filled in Entry Form will qualify for R20 FREE PURCHASES at West street ONLY.

WORTH R20 FREE PURCHASES

Lebowa stayaway may end today 112

Sowetan 24/4/90
THE continuing stayaway by Lebowa Civil servants based in Lebowakgomo is likely to end today following a meeting yesterday called by the public service commission.

By MATHATHA
TSEDU

were divided on the need to continue the stayaway which was called by the Lebowakgomo Civic Association to protest educational inadequacies.

Sources who attended the meeting said workers

More than 1 000 staff members attended the meeting in which several cabinet members also took part.

None of the senior members of the LCA could be reached for comment.

LEPLAT FIM 18/5/90

All out battle (112)

Lebowa Plats' stand on last week's wildcat strike has overturned a hornet's nest. The company has fired 1 500 workers, almost the entire work force of its Atok mine, after attempts at negotiation failed to end two days of illegal strike action by black miners protesting at "racism" on the mine. Specifically, the men claim one mine overseer persistently

FIM 18/5/90

used racially offensive language. (112)

Rustenburg Platinum, which controls Leplat, says there has been a "campaign of mass defiance" at the mine and that management attempts to mediate a return to work were howled down by miners.

Mine spokeswoman Anne Dones says Atok is recruiting replacement labour and had expected to have signed up about 1 000 men by Wednesday this week. NUM spokesman Gerry Matjatladi says there are no skilled miners available in the area and adds that union attempts to talk to management were rejected early this week. If Matjatladi is correct on the unavailability of skills, production could be disturbed for some weeks as novices are trained.

Derek Ritchie, of Fergusson Bros, estimates that Atok is producing platinum at a rate of around 130 oz a day now, allowing for the lock-up in the new plant. Production has been halted for at least a week and even if it resumes promptly, at least 2 000 oz, or about 5% of this year's estimated 47 000 oz, will be lost.

Gillian Findlay

Lebowa demands fired miners be reinstated

Cart Times 18/5/90 Own Correspondent

112

JOHANNESBURG. — The Lebowa government yesterday demanded that 1 500 workers, fired last week by Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company (JCI) at its Atok platinum mine, be rehired unconditionally.

The work stoppage which led to the firing of the workers resulted from a misunderstanding between management and the work force, Strategic Planning and Mines Deputy Minister Mr L A Mamabolo said in the Lebowa Legislative Assembly.

He warned that the recruitment of any alternative labour by management must stop immediately, Sapa reported.

Lebowa orders JCI to rehire workers 112

RIAAN SMIT 8

THE Lebowa government yesterday demanded that 1 500 workers, fired last week by Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company (JCI) at its Atok platinum mine, be rehired unconditionally.

The work stoppage which led to the firing of the workers resulted from a misunderstanding between management and the work force, Strategic Planning and Mines Deputy Minister L A Mamabolo said in the Lebowa legislative assembly.

He warned that the recruitment of any alternative labour by management must stop immediately, Sapa reported.

But JCI spokesman Ann Dones said on

Monday the company was recruiting and 1 000 new workers were expected to have been employed by Wednesday.

In an announcement published on Monday, JCI said almost the entire work force was dismissed after employees engaged in illegal strike action for two days.

Management attempted to give the strikers a final opportunity to return to work after the two days, but was shouted down when it tried to address the work force, the announcement said.

18/12/90

Strikers rehired at Lebowa mine

RIAN SMIT (112)

JOHANNESBURG Consolidated Investment Company (JCI) has acceded to a Lebowa government demand to reinstate 1 500 workers fired 10 days ago at the Atok section of its Lebowa Platinum mine.

JCI spokesman Ann Dones said yesterday no decision had been taken yet about the situation of the 600 new workers the company had hired before the Lebowa government made its demand. 610 am 23/5/90

She said the 1 500 workers — almost the entire labour force — had been rehired and production at Atok had been affected in the short term. It would not have a material effect over the long term, she said.

In a published announcement on Monday last week, JCI said the 1 500 workers had struck illegally for two days. Management was shouted down when it tried to put an ultimatum to the workers to return to work. It then fired the workers.

The Lebowa government said the dismissals had arisen from a misunderstanding between government and workers.

Action by police leads to stayaway

THE eviction of a delegation of Bochum residents from the offices of the Lebowa Chief Minister by police last week has precipitated a work stayaway by teachers.

A spokesman for the delegation, which included priests, teachers, youths and businessmen, said the week-long

By MATHATHA
TSEDU

stayaway affected all employees of the bantustan government in the Bochum magisterial district.

A meeting is to be held tomorrow to discuss the next step, the spokesman added.

But investigations by *Sowetan* yesterday revealed that clerks at the local magistrate's offices and post office employees were on duty.

Residents said only teachers were on stayaway and added that schools were deserted.

A spokesman for the Lebowa government's

public relations division, a Mr Setati, said his information was that only schools were affected by the stayaway.

The delegation has also called Mr Nelson Mandela to sever all links with the bantustan leader as a result of what they called shabby and unacceptable treatment.

01/18/70
Sowetan 3/18/70

112

ABOUT 50 personnel of-
ficers in various depart-
ments of Lebowa yester-
day started an indefinite
work stoppage over
demands for salary ad-
justments.

112
Although the chief
public relations officer for
the government, Mr
Josias Setati, said 99 per-

Officials stop working

cent of the affected
people reported for work,
Sowetan investigations
revealed at least 50
people (80 percent) were
not at work.

Officials distributed a
memorandum on Friday,
stating they would em-

bark on an indefinite
stoppage starting yester-
day.

They said the public
service commission had
failed since last year to
adjust salaries in line with
a dispensation that was
effective in November.

Meanwhile, clerks in
the works department
have given the govern-
ment an ultimatum to im-
prove their salaries or
face a strike.

They say their quali-
fications, gained at the
University of the North,
have been ignored since
last year.

Lebowa companies agree to unions

A DRAMATIC breakthrough, which could change the face of industrial relations in Lebowa, was made yesterday when industrialists agreed to recognise trade unions in the homelands.

By Mathatha Tsedu

The agreement was announced at a meeting between the Seshego Industrialist Association, Cosatu and members of the Lebowa government. The meeting was held at the government offices in Lebopakgomo.

SIA spokesman Mr NH Millin said his members, concerned at the

high rate of strikes in Seshego, had decided to recognise trade unions.

Strikes

The issue of trade unions recognition has been a contentious one for years as the Labour Relations Act does not apply to homelands.

Recently, nearly 5 000 workers in Seshego alone went on several strikes

Sowetan 30/8/90
demanding higher wages and recognition of trade unions.

112
Cosatu official Mr Elias Block said at the meeting that the lack of legislation governing industrial relations had been used by various companies to block talks with unions. This had led to deadlocks followed by strikes.

Adviser

The adviser to the Lebowa government and officials of the Lebowa Development Corporation, MR MD Lamola, said legislation was "on the way. But the association and trade unions can in the meantime make arrangements that will apply until legislation is with us."

Cosatu and the SIA agreed to meet again on September 12.

Industrialists, unions bid to improve labour relations in Lebowa

W/Mant 3118-219190

112

By GLENDA DANIEL

INDUSTRIALISTS and trade unions in Lebowa have agreed to set up channels of communication for the first time in a bid to improve labour relations in the territory.

Arguing that government policy precludes union recognition, many Lebowa companies have refused to deal with the labour movement. As a result, there has been little collective resolution of disputes.

The agreement, announced after talks among Cosatu, the Seshego Industrialists' Association (SIA) and Lebowa government representatives, lays the basis for union recognition and agreed dispute-settling procedures. These are to be formalised at a further meeting next month.

Giving details of the agreement, SIA chairman Nigel Millin said Cosatu had agreed to resolve disputes by using communications channels rather than resorting to immediate strike action.

The federation had also undertaken to ask wildcat strikers to return to work and refrain from further strike action until negotiations were completed.

The main problem was one of communication; the unions wanted some form of recognition.

Both sides are keen to have a period of peace.

Reports indicate that in recent months, nearly 5 000 workers in Seshego alone

have launched strikes over wages and union recognition.

According to a Northern Transvaal official of Nactu, Mathatha Tsedu, all the "self-governing" homelands except kwaNdebele, QwaQwa and kaNgwane, fall under the South African labour laws of the 1950s and are not covered by the Labour Relations Act.

This had been used by companies to refuse union recognition.

"Unions have been recruiting for a while and strikes have erupted over recognition.

(Lebowa chief Minister Nelson) Ramodike says he wants unions to operate, but hasn't provided the legal framework."

Yesterday, Lebowa government adviser MD Lamola was reported as saying that legislation was "on the way". "But the association and the trade unions can in the meantime make arrangement that will apply when legislation is with us."

But Cosatu regional organiser Patrick Phintsi was sceptical.

"The government does respond to pressure, but there is no clear change in policy.

"It has said that a labour Bill will be passed, but has not said when.

"Unions now have to operate at the discretion of industrialists." Phintsi added that the unions' main concern in Lebowa was harassment in the form of dismissals and interference with picketing.

Stayaway brings education to halt in Lebowa

Sowetan
6/9/90

112

By MATHATHA TSEDU

EDUCATION has come to half in many areas of Lebowa following a four day stayaway called by the Neusa-affiliated Northern Transvaal Teachers Union.

The stayaway, which began on Tuesday in solidarity with 20 Zebediela teachers against whom disciplinary action was taken by the Lebowa government recently, has been widely condemned by political and community organisations.

At the root of the matter, which is likely to have disastrous effects on the coming examinations, is grievances that teachers have against the Lebowa government.

Teachers sent a memorandum to the department early this year detailing complaints. These include provision of books, hiring of more teachers, building more classrooms and acceleration of the process of paying first year teachers.

When by July this year nothing had been done, teachers decided on a defiance campaign. Twenty teachers from Zebediela refused to attend an in-service training course organised by the department.

In retaliation, the department suspended the teachers and this led to a sit-in by eight colleagues at the circuit offices two weeks ago.

BTU sets aside political parties

New Nation 14/9-20/9/90

112

This is the fifth part of the series on how teacher organisations will be affected by the launch of the non-racial body, the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU), next month.

THIS week, PUPILS FORUM takes a look at the Lebowa-based Bolobedi Teachers' Union (BTU).

BTU was established in February this year as a regional teacher body whose main task was to take up the grievances of its membership with the Lebowa authorities.

According to BTU president Molebatsi Masedi, the union commands a membership of about 1 200 members who teach in schools and colleges.

As a means of pressurising the authorities to meet their demands BTU has staged protest marches, stayaways and, according to Masedi, the union has won recognition from the authorities.

A few weeks ago, a three-day stayaway to demand the resignation of Bolobedu circuit inspector JM Makgoka culminated in his transfer to the Mankweng circuit.

Masedi said that since its formation, some BTU members have desired to affiliate to the National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa). But, he said, there has been strong opposition to this, and some of the members have indicated that affiliation to Neusa, which is an UDF affiliate, would mean that other members who belong to the black consciousness and Africanist camps would have to leave the or-

ganisation.

Masedi said they believed that the teachers should not exercise their political aspirations through their professional bodies, but through political parties.

Regarding affiliation or joining SADTU Masedi said no position had yet been formulated, because no contact had taken place with the new organisation.

"We have never had any discussion with any official from SADTU, but the leadership had already been mandated to initiate representations with its counterparts in the future body," said Masedi.

Masedi, however, indicated that they stood for teacher unity as a means to develop co-operation among them, but they felt that affiliation to political parties should be set aside.

Lebowa civil servants start work stoppage over white officers

By MATHATHA TSEDU

112

ALMOST the entire civil service force in Lebowa started an indefinite work stoppage yesterday to demand an end to preferential treatment for white officers.

They are also demanding that labourers be employed permanently. *Sowetan 20/9/90*

The Spokeswoman for the Northern Transvaal Public Servants Union, Miss Cebile Khanye, said yesterday that a meeting on Tuesday night with the Lebowa Cabinet ended abruptly when the ministers walked out.

A memorandum sent to Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike demanded, among other things, that:

- * Labourers who are treated as permanently temporary should be taken on staff;

- * There should be an end to preferential treatment of white officials and the implementation of study schemes where other officials are allegedly punished for not being in the good books of seniors;

- * There should be maternity leave.

Notrapu sent Ramodike a final memorandum on Monday which read:

"The union has satisfied itself that the authorities have failed to respond to most of our demands stated in the memorandum handed to the Chief Minister on 7/8/90. Your office is therefore informed that the union will withdraw its services with effect from September 19 1990 until our grievances have fully been attended to.

Ramodike could not be contacted yesterday.

Lebowa unionists detained

■ Three senior members of the Northern Transvaal Public Service Union were detained this week, in a sequel to the ongoing general strike by Lebowa civil servants. (112)

Pietersburg police confirmed the arrests under section 50 of the Internal Security Act, which provides for 48 hours' detention without charge.

The three men are the union's president, Maxwell Malatji, secretary Mpho Mogale and treasurer Reynold Maleka.

The strike began last Wednesday after talks between the union and the Lebowa government deadlocked. Unionists are demanding an end to alleged unfair dismissals and preferential treatment for white officials, and permanent status for

casual workers. (112)

The union says the action will continue until the Lebowa government is ready to negotiate. P.M.A. 289-410190

W/Mal 289-410190

Probe into Lebowa strike begins 110

AN inter-departmental commission of inquiry to investigate public servants' grievances and working conditions starts in Lebowa today.

The commission is under the chairmanship of the public relations of-

**By MATHATHA TSEDU
and Sapa**

ficer for education in the homeland, Mr ER Maponya.

It has been appointed by the Cabinet to solve problems related to the

ongoing strike by public servants.

Five leaders of the Northern Transvaal Public Service Union, currently on strike in Lebowa, are still being held under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act.

Sapa 11/10/90

Ramodike is warned after five detained

Sowetan 4/10/90

112

AZAPO has warned the Lebowa Chief Minister, Mr. Nelson Ramodike, to tell "his bosses in Pretoria" to release five northern Transvaal Public Service Union executive members detained under security laws by police.

The five, Mr. Maxwell Matlatji, Mr. Mpho

By RUSSEL MOLEFE

Mogale, Mr. Reynolds Maleka, Mr. Mashudu Rathobotha and Mr. B Mogabi, were detained under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act last week by the Pietersburg security police.

Their detention followed a strike by almost all the homeland civil ser-

vants which has brought services to a halt.

The police have also confirmed that the detentions were linked to the strike.

In a statement released yesterday, Azapo regional publicity secretary, Mr. Khangale Makhado, said Ramodike should address the grievances of workers instead of harassing those not in detention.

Makhado said the arrogance shown by Ramodike was similar to that shown at Zebediela Citrus Estate where management has refused to discuss wages with strikers.

"For Ramodike to refuse to discuss matters was proof of how out of touch he is with the feelings of black people," he added.



NELSON RAMODIKE

'Two more union officials held'

112

TWO more executive members of the independent Public Servants Union in Lebowa have been arrested in connection with the two-week-old strike by hundreds of civil servants in the homeland, according to the union's lawyer, Mr Saad Cachalia.

They bring to six the number of union executive members arrested under the Internal Security Act, he said. *Sowetan 4/10/90*

Pietersburg Security Police could not immediately confirm this.

Hundreds of Lebowa Government department workers, members of the union, downed tools two weeks ago over wages.

Masekoameng said one of the six union members was arrested yesterday morning by a large contingent of Lebowa police just before a union meeting in Lebowakgomo.

Police declared the meeting illegal, he added.

Traffic officials were joining the strike, which was intensifying and partially affecting some hospitals, he said.

The workers are also demanding the recognition of the union. - Sapa.

More unionist detained in Lebowa (112)

■ Two more executive members of the Lebowa public servants union had been detained under the Internal Security Act in connection with the two-week strike by homeland state employees, said a union spokesman.

Six executive members were now in detention and there were fears that police could move against the entire central committee of the Northern Transvaal Public Service Union, he said. Police confirmation could not be obtained.

The union said traffic officials were joining the strike, which partially affected some hospitals. Wages and union recognition are among the demands at issue.

W/M... 5/10 - 11/10/90

W/stand 12/10/ - 18/16/90
Lebowa strike ends (112)

■ A 21-day strike by about 6 000 Lebowa civil servants ended this week, when the Lebowa government agreed to give immediate recognition to the Northern Transvaal Public Servants' Union (Notrapu), the union said.

• In terms of an agreement between the government, Notrapu and Cosatu, strikers were to resume work yesterday. The government also agreed to release five union leaders detained during the strike.

Reports from Weekly Mail staff, Sapa

Death

[Handwritten mark]
112

as Turf

Sowetan 2/11/90

erupts

A UNIVERSITY of the North student has been killed, and extensive damage was caused to buildings and furniture during violence on the

campus which began on Tuesday.

The dead student has been identified as Jappie Molokomme (19) of Mamelodi.

He was a Bachelor of Optometry student. He died on Wed-

nesday morning at Mankweng Hospital after he was stabbed by a student on Tuesday night. The assailant was later stabbed by another student and was admitted to the same hospital. His condition was yesterday reported as stable.

● To Page 2

Turf student killed in campus fighting

Sowetan 2/11/90

[Handwritten mark]
112

● From Page 1

A reliable source said about 500 students went on the rampage on Tuesday, apparently in sympathy with members of the National Education Health and Allied Workers Union (NEHAWU) who have been on strike on campus since Monday.

The strike ended yesterday afternoon when an agreement was reached between management and the union.

The workers are demanding higher wages.

A spokesman for the university public relations

department said a kitchen was looted, crockery and furniture in a cafeteria were destroyed and the rector's reception area was extensively damaged.

An SRC spokesman yesterday confirmed Tuesday's looting but denied property had been destroyed.

Lebowa police yesterday confirmed the death of a student, and that charges of malicious damage were being investigated.

While students were writing exams, catering staff did not prepare meals.

Crisis at 9 strike-hit hospitals

Sowetan 2/11/90.
THE dismissal of five nurses from a hospital in Lebowa last Friday has precipitated a health crisis in the area with nine hospitals at a virtual standstill.

Patients, some of them still unable to walk, are being discharged from several hospitals as services came to a halt. A skeleton staff of senior nurses and doctors is manning emergency and intensive care cases, hospital sources said.

A spokesman for the Lebowa government, Mr N Bambo, said yesterday the Department of Health had confirmed that at least nine hospitals were affected.

These included major referral centres such as Groot Hoek Hospital. Bambo said a decision on patients had been left to individual superintendents to handle according to available manpower.

"Patients no longer in dire need of hospital care are being sent home while serious cases are either being

retained or transferred to other centres", Bambo said.

Trouble started at Maandags Hoek Hospital, at Driekop, on Saturday after five nurses were fired for allegedly organising meetings of workers.

Almost the entire staff downed tools and demanded the immediate dismissal of the superintendent, a Dr de Jager, who they accused of alleged right wing leanings and racism.

Other hospitals joined in solidarity on Monday and the strike has spread, Bambo said.

Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike was quoted on the radio as saying the dismissed would be reinstated but confirmation of this was unavailable yesterday.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

112

W/M/9/11/15/11/90
Strikers want the reinstatement of 25 workers allegedly suspended at the Maandagshoek Hospital. A government spokesman said three nursing students were suspended after refusing to write nursing council tests, along with three other workers who defied management instructions. 12

IsCOR workers end strike
■ About 3 500 workers at IsCOR's Sishen, Grootte Geluk and Tabazimbi mines have suspended their 21-day strike after management refused to budge on its final R556 monthly minimum wage offer. W/M/9/11/15/11/90
The National Union of Mineworkers dropped its initial R630 demand to R590 in an abortive mediation last week.

Leplat fires 1 200 miners after work stoppages

JCI's Lebowa platinum mine (Leplat) management fired 1 200 miners yesterday, saying repeated work stoppages contradicted a moratorium on illegal industrial action agreed to by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

Sapa reports a JCI spokesman said employees had without warning absented themselves from work on October 27 and November 3, and "were placed on a final warning in terms of the agreed disciplinary procedures".

He said about 90% of the

mine's workforce were dismissed in May after an illegal strike, but were reinstated after talks with management, the Lebowa government and the NUM, on condition no further illegal action would occur.

Ninety-nine workers were dismissed after they allegedly left their work stations on November 20.

NUM Press officer Jerry Majatladi said yesterday the dismissal of members was indicative of JCI's

poor attitude towards industrial relations issues.

He said workers' protests were aimed at management's attempt to "stretch available labour to the limit" rather than employ extra workers. The company had instructed miners to work a six-day week without consulting the NUM, he claimed.

The union was waiting for a response from management on its proposals made yesterday for negotiations for the reinstatement of workers and a resolution of the dispute.

MATTHEW CURTIN

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MATTHEW CURTIN

Strike-hit platinum mine closed down

B12m
26/11/90

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JCI's Lebowa Platinum Mines (Leplat) has temporarily ceased operations at its Atok mine following the dismissal of about 1 600 workers last week, JCI platinum division MD Barry Davison said yesterday.

He said the shut-down could last for some time, depending on how soon the company could recruit new workers.

Davison said the dismissed workers would not be re-employed as they had broken undertakings not to engage in illegal strike action and had disregarded a final warning given early in November after workers failed to appear for work on two consecutive Saturdays.

He said the workers had complained of excessive hours.

Davison said 300 workers who went underground on Thursday had failed to re-surface and the mine was considering what legal or other action could be taken to evict them.

He said the dismissal of the workforce was the culmination of a series of illegal industrial actions.

Attempts to contact a National Union of Mineworkers' (NUM) spokesman yesterday were unsuccessful.

Davison said the JCI group of platinum

LINDA ENSOR

producers would not have a problem meeting Leplat's supply contracts.

The news of the shut-down could see a further firming of the platinum price. Nymex platinum futures closed sharply higher on Friday on news that Leplat had laid off its workforce. January platinum rose \$13,70 to \$429,70 with other months rising \$14,10.

The market was uncertain over what effect the firings would have on output and the announcement of a cessation of operations could see a further price rise.

SA supplies 80% of the world's annual output of 3,5-million ounces of platinum and JCI's Rustenburg Platinum is the world's biggest producer. Davison said Leplat was a small player in world terms but perceptions of labour unrest in the SA industry could affect the price.

Johnson Matthey has forecast a platinum surplus of about 70 000 ounces this year.

Davison said productivity at Leplat's mine had been poor in the past few months. While it aimed at 50 000 tons of ore a month

□ To Page 2

Mine closed

B12m
26/11/90

~~112~~

□ From Page 1

and was planning to expand the milling rate to 100 000 tons, it had experienced difficulty in getting even 40 000-45 000 tons.

In an announcement today, Leplat said that "as a result of ongoing illegal work stoppages" management had implemented the disciplinary procedures contained in the recognition agreement with the NUM culminating in the dismissal of most of the workforce.

In May, 1 500 workers at Leplat's Atok mine were dismissed after negotiations failed to end a two-day illegal strike over

alleged racism on the mine. The workers demanded that a mine overseer be sacked.

Leplat said the workers were re-engaged on the basis of assurances given by the NUM. Davison said an assurance had been given that there would be no further illegal strike action.

"The union and its members have failed to honour certain of these assurances as well as the conditions of the recognition agreement entered into between them and the company," the announcement said.

400 in Lebowa mine sit-in

ABOUT 1 200 miners at JCI's Lebowa Platinum Mine at Atok have been effectively locked out of the mine while about 400 are staging an underground sit-in in protest against the dismissal of 99 workers.

It was claimed yesterday the 99 miners were barred from the premises last Wednesday and, according to the National Union of Mineworkers, "summarily dismissed without having an opportunity to state their case".

The mine has been

closed since Monday, according to the NUM.

Miners protested against the dismissal by staging a work-stoppage last Thursday while NUM efforts to intervene were met with "teargas, rubber bullets, teargas and batons," the union claimed.

'Evicted'

The 1200 miners "evicted" from the mine hostel and premises are now staying in a nearby village, NUM press officer Jerry Majatladi said yesterday.

A group of about 400 miners started an underground sit-in in protest against the lock-out and dismissals last Thursday, he added.

According to the NUM, mine management stopped feeding them on Thursday and on Friday switched off the ventilation system to the shaft.

A spokesman for JCI was able to confirm the mine has been closed since Monday, but denied the men were still underground, saying they came to the surface on Monday. - Sapa.

Sowetan 29/11/90

112

15

Miners planted explosives - JCI

By DREW FORREST

WORKERS staging a six-day underground sit-in at Lebowa Platinum Mines' Atok mine came to the surface last Sunday and planted explosives, destroying a mine vehicle and damaging an administration building, JCI claimed yesterday. *112* *30/11-6/12/90*

In a flurry of claims and counter-claims surrounding the dispute, JCI also said that after abandoning their sit-in, many workers had complained of being held hostage underground by "marshalls apparently acting on the instructions of the National Union of Mineworkers". NUM denies this.

JCI said equipment had been damaged underground and that one worker had been injured while trying to make an explosive device.

About 1 700 workers have been sacked in a cycle of protest and disciplinary action centring on agitation for a shorter working week, in the second mass dismissal at the mine this year.

JCI said the sit-in strikers had surfaced and been dismissed, along with 1 200 fired at an earlier stage. The mine has been indefinitely closed, but NUM's Marcel Golding said the union had tabled new proposals for the resolution of the dispute.

The company also denied NUM claims that South African Defence Force personnel had blocked attempts to smuggle food underground and that the army, mine security and Lebowa police had taken part in an attack on workers in which 22 had been hurt.

Lebowa police had on one occasion used teargas when workers tried to damage company property, it said.

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LABOUR**Miners demand
a five-day week**

By DREW FORREST

THE bitter battle raging at Lebowa Platinum Mines' Atok mine was triggered by a campaign for a 5-day week — long a demand of white unions in the mining industry.

Demanding a move from the 11-shift fortnight, workers stayed away from work on successive Saturdays last month, JCI has said. They were placed on final warning, starting a cycle of protest and dismissal.

A total of 99 workers were fired after a stayaway; 1 200 workers staged a protest sit-in and were also dismissed and 400 night-shift workers then staged an underground sit-in. JCI secured a court order for their eviction.

This is the second mass dismissal at the mine this year: in May strikers were sacked and then reinstated following the precedent-setting intervention of the Lebowa government. This option seems no longer open to the National Union of Mineworkers, as according to JCI the union agreed at the time to desist from further unprocedural action.

At the time of going to press there was confusion over the position at the mine. The NUM says the sit-in continues, and that in a bid to force miners to the surface, ventilation had been switched off and attempts to smuggle food underground blocked by the SADF.

It attacked JCI's "iron fist tactics" and "inhuman approach", and said twenty-two miners involved in the earlier stoppage had been hurt when the SADF, Lebowa police and mine security used teargas and batons against them.

JCI was not in a position to comment on Wednesday, but reports indicate that the 400 sit-in protesters have surfaced and have also been dismissed.

Miners planted explosives - JCI

By DREW FORREST

WORKERS staging a six-day underground sit-in at Lebowa Platinum Mines' Atok mine came to the surface last Sunday and planted explosives, destroying a mine vehicle and damaging an administration building, JCI claimed yesterday. *W/M 30/11 - 6/12/90*

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Lebowa police had on one occasion used teargas when workers tried to damage company property, it said.

●See PAGE 50

93
6/2

1264
1140
-124

Dispute knocks production at Leplat

JCI's Lebowa Platinum Mines (Leplat) has lost about 20 000 tons in ore production from its Atok mine, closed for two weeks after management dismissed the entire 1 600-strong workforce. 112

A JCI official said yesterday the company was maintaining essential services at Atok, but mining had not restarted. The official would not give details of the financial cost of the closure.

Negotiations with the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) aimed at restarting production were continuing.

Leplat's monthly production target was 50 000 tons, but in recent months the mine

had produced only 42 000 to 45 000 tons a month, the spokesman said.

Leplat management attributed the dismissal of the workforce to "ongoing illegal work stoppages" which contradicted an NUM undertaking in May to refrain from unprocedural industrial action.

NUM media officer Jerry Majatladi said the union was negotiating for the reinstatement of the majority of the workforce. It was waiting for JCI to respond to its latest proposals for ending the dispute.

He would not divulge details.

Blom-6/12/90
MATTHEW CURTIN

Leplat may open 'next year'

JCI's Lebowa Platinum (Leplat) mine, shut down by the company two weeks ago after management dismissed the 1 600-strong workforce, was set to remain closed until the new year, National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) media officer Jerry Majatladi said at the weekend.

He said it was "highly unlikely" the Atok platinum mine would re-open this year, although talks with the company were continuing. *B1Pam 10/12/90*

The mineworkers were fired after the company claimed last month the NUM broke a moratorium agreed to in May on unprocedural industrial action at Atok.

However, JCI's platinum division MD and newly appointed Leplat chairman Barry Davison said at the weekend it was his priority to get the mine back into pro-

MATTHEW CURTIN
and PETER GALLI

duction and build a co-operative industrial relations environment at the mine.

"The pursuance of a confrontational attitude by a portion of the workforce has led to a significant deterioration in productivity, with a series of illegal work stoppages and other incidents culminating in the dismissal of the majority of the workforce," Davison said.

But NUM economist Martin Nicol said on Friday there was little market pressure on Leplat management to restart production. He estimated a month's lost production would cost about R6,25m in sales revenue and R1,5m in profits, but the Atok

□ To Page 2

Mine *B1Pam 10/12/90*

operation was small compared with the far larger Impala and ERPM platinum mines.

In general, owners of platinum and coal mines in SA were able to "sit out" strikes and mine closures for longer than their gold-mining counterparts. He said about 80% of the western world's platinum came from SA, the metal's current price was low and a surplus of platinum was forecast for the end of the year.

Davison said JCI was confident platinum would continue to be "very good business" for the group, despite the problems experienced.

Leplat was expanding rapidly and its participation with Rusplats in the Potgietersrust Platreef project was particularly exciting, Davison said.

112 □ From Page 1

However, a major challenge remained the improvement of the industrial relations climate at Leplat, he said.

Dave Kovarsky, who recently took over the new JCI ferrochrome division and was appointed chairman of Consolidated Metallurgical Industries (CMI), said his short-term challenge was to steer CMI through a depressed market and to ensure that it would come out of this cycle far stronger than it was before it entered it.

"We are going through some fairly tough trading conditions in the ferrochrome industry, which are likely to continue for some time," Kovarsky said. CMI's recent acquisition of Purity Chrome was made with this knowledge, and demonstrated its long-term confidence in the industry.

NUM hopes Lebowa mine will reopen soon

11:2
BIDAY 21/12/90
MATTHEW CURTIN

THE National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) was optimistic yesterday that production at JCI's Lebowa Platinum mine would restart early in the new year as care and maintenance operations began this week, union assistant general secretary Marcel Golding said yesterday.

He said JCI had rejected original NUM proposals for the reinstatement of the majority of the 1 600 workforce, dismissed a month ago after management claimed union members had broken a moratorium on unprocedural industrial action.

The mineworkers were first fired from the Atok mine in May but management agreed to their conditional reinstatement after Lebowa government intervention.

Progress

Golding said there was no decision on when the mine would reopen and no new meetings with JCI had been scheduled, but added "channels were open" for discussion.

A JCI official said there had been progress in recent talks, but the company was waiting for the union to suggest "more constructive" proposals which would allow production to restart.

Management had employed a small contracting labour force to "restore conditions underground". The company claimed a group of NUM marshals held workers underground against their will during a protest sit-in against the dismissals while others destroyed a vehicle and damaged an

administrative building with explosives when they returned to the surface.

In a separate issue, Golding said the NUM and management at Rand Mines' Barbrook gold mine were negotiating recall procedures for the mineworkers after the decision to close the mine.

He said Rand Mines had advised the union that operations at Barbrook, the smaller of the company's two gold mines which posted a R16,8m combined loss in the September quarter, were no longer viable.

Rand Mines announced the closure of Barbrook on Tuesday, citing the low gold price and lower than expected tonnage and grade "due to higher dilution in the stopes and the unplanned treatment of low grade development ore, necessitated by labour disruptions".

The Barbrook workforce was suspended on December 11 after a violent protest by 280 workers.

The spokesman said the 700 black and 90 white workers at the mine would be paid off tomorrow and receive severance pay in January.

The mine was employing a small crew for care and maintenance purposes. The status of the mine would be reviewed in September next year, "or earlier if there is a substantial and sustained increase in the gold price".

LABOUR BRIEFS

NUM accuses colliery of racism in bus issue

■ The National Union of Mineworkers has accused TransNatal's Koornfontein Collieries, near Middelburg, of condoning racism by white workers at the mine's Blinkpan shaft.

This follows the laying of charges against five black miners for preventing buses carrying black and white miners bound for the workplace.

The NUM said that on December 12, a white Council of Mining Unions steward ordered white miners to alight from a multiracial mine bus. They returned after a 30-minute meeting.

Five NUM members were later charged with stopping the bus, sparking a strike over demands "for equal justice for all workers".

TransNatal said the various allegations were under investigation.

Grey Hospital strike ends

■ The strike by general assistants and some nurses at Grey Hospital in King William's Town ended this week, with workers agreeing to return to work on Tuesday.

A hospital spokesman said discussions had been held with the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union.

The strike followed lunch and tea-time demonstrations, beginning on December 27, over allegedly discriminatory practices.

Tradegro job loss dispute

■ The SA Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union has declared a dispute with Tradegro subsidiaries Metro, Checkers and Frasers Greenstein and Rosen over retrenchments and store closures.

It said that since Sanlam had taken over Tradegro, workers "had lost their jobs in large numbers". Checkers had retrenched at several stores, and in October closed its Southhills Hyper, with the loss of more than 150 jobs.

Checkers MD Sergio Martinengo said about 80 Southhills staffers had been relocated elsewhere in the group.

Atok using outside labour

■ Atok platinum mine in Lebowa, brought to a standstill by a labour dispute in November, has resumed production with about 500 contract workers while 1 000 former employees remain jobless, Johannesburg Consolidated Investments spokesman Ann Dones confirmed this week.

JCI is the major shareholder of Lebowa Platinum Mines, which owns Atok.

Dones said the 500 workers had been brought in via the mining contract company, Shaft Sinkers.

She said there were no immediate plans to reinstate the 1 666 workers, all NUM members, who were fired in November following a number of alleged illegal work stoppages.

The NUM has reportedly expressed its disappointment at the move to bring in outside labour.

Merc criticises ANC for rally

■ Production at the Mercedes Benz plant in East London returned to normal on Wednesday after workers downed tools on Tuesday to attend an African National Congress anniversary rally in the region.

The company said the workers would not be paid for the time they were absent without permission and expressed its disappointment at Tuesday's action.

It said while the company recognised the right of every individual to support the political movement of his choice, it could not be expected to support any specific political movement.

Mercedes Benz has reportedly also criticised the ANC for holding a rally on a working day without prior consultation on the effect it would have on business operations in the region.

Reports from Weekly Mail staff, Sapa

W/m... 1111 271191
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112

Leplat keeps metal moving

ST Times 20/1/91

JCI's LEBOWA Platinum Mines (Leplat) has been able to meet its supply contracts despite the strike at Atok mine which is now entering its third month.

JCI group public affairs manager Ann Dones says: "Leplat has met and will continue to meet all supply contracts."

Contractor

Production was halted last November when 1 600 workers were dismissed. Atok called in mining contractor Shaft Sinkers at the end of December and is now employing more than 700 of its workers.

Atok was producing between 40 000 and 45 000 tons of ore a month before the stoppage. JCI will not give current production figures.

The workers were fired after several unprocedural stoppages. They had also been dismissed last May after an illegal strike, but were reinstated after the

By ADRIAN HERSCH

Lebowa Government intervened.

The National Union of Mineworkers apparently pledged that there would be no more unprocedural action.

In December NUM submitted proposals to JCI for reinstating most of the workers. But the company did not agree to the terms.

JCI is "open to further proposals", says Mrs Dones.

The union is expected to submit new proposals soon, but officials are unavailable for comment.

Mrs Dones says: "The Shaft Sinkers workers are tiding us over, but they are not seen as part of a long-term solution."

Management reaction at Atok is seen by industrial relations consultants as a tactic likely to become more common in production stoppages.

"Management must regain control on the shop-floor," says one consultant.

Lecturers in sleep-in protest

Sowetan 19/2/91

112

THIRTY-FIVE black lecturers at Mamokgalake, Chuene College of Education, Groblersdaal, have occupied new administration offices and turned them into sleeping quarters.

The occupation of the offices is also to protest against racism in the college where white and

By **MATHATHA**
TSEDU

black staffers use separate toilets and staff rooms, a spokesman for the lecturers said.

The 20 men and 15 women have no beds and are sleeping on the floor, using sponges for mattresses.

They said black staf-

fers who have to travel more than 50km in single trip each day have been asking for accommodation for the past 20 years at the college.

Instead, the authorities erected the administration block last year and told the staffers that there was no money to build a hostel complex for them.

This infuriated the black staffers who then moved into the new double storey administration block on January 31.

A spokesman said the Lebowa Minister of Education, Mr S. Ledwaba, promised to bring

Lebowa teachers in sit-in 112

SCHOOLING has ground to a halt at 141 schools in the Bochum district of Lebowa, where teachers are staging a sit-in at the circuit inspector's office.

The teachers, under the auspices of Sadtu, started the protest on Monday, demanding that an inspector, Mr NT Nthlane, be transferred immediately.

Sowetan 18/4/91
**By MATHATHA
TSEDU**

The teachers allege that Nthlane is vindictive and responsible for unexplained transfers of teachers.

Over 400 teachers have been congregating at the circuit offices, disrupting work. Some teachers slept in the of-

fices on Tuesday night, a spokesman, Mr Octavia Manny, said.

Schoolchildren, ranging from primary to high school level, spent the day in empty classrooms as teachers vowed to continue the protest until their demand was met.

Lebowa Education Department chief liaison officer Mr MER Maponya yesterday confirmed the teachers' action.

More cops than jobs

LEBOWA has turned down "numerous" applications from policemen seeking to transfer from the South African Police, the homeland's Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike said yesterday.

In his budget speech for the Law and Order Ministry, Ramodike told the homeland's parliament that Lebowa was constrained by financial limitations and the need to accommodate school-leavers unable to obtain employment elsewhere.

Sowetan
Enlisted

He said 215 men who had recently qualified at the SAP training college in Hammanskraal had been enlisted in the homeland's police force.

Another 180 would be enlisted during the next financial year. - Sapa.

R150 000 lawsuit after man's death

By MONK
NKOMO

A PRETORIA housewife is claiming R150 000 from her husband's former employers for allegedly denying him proper medical care before his death.

Mrs Julia Makalela's lawyers, in a letter of demand to her late husband's employers, Pretoria Portland Cement, submitted that as a result of

the company's negligence, she had suffered loss of support totalling R150 000.

The legal action against the company follows Makalela's death on March 23 this year.

Mrs Makalela's lawyer, in his letter of demand, said Makalela became ill on March 15. He complained of stomach pains.

The lawyer, Mr Cyril Morolo, contends that in terms of the company's

policy, employees on sick leave remain at the company's premises where they are treated by their employer's own doctors.

Morolo said Makalela remained at the company's premises where his condition deteriorated.

The company's doctor, Dr Aboo Baker, inquired about his condition on March 19, he said.

"He was advised by your (the company's) Mr Moolman that he was doing well despite his worsening condition,"

said Morolo.

Makalela died on March 23.

Mr CJ Grundling, the company's personnel manager, this week said the company had acted responsibly in arranging the necessary medical attention for Makalela.

He said at the time of his death, Makalela was under treatment at the Kalafong Hospital and the cause of his death indicated by a doctor at the institution was kidney and liver failure.

Population explosion will hit Lebowa's agriculture

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE number of people resident in Lebowa increased by at least 85 000 every year and if the trend continued, land for agricultural use may shrink even further.

This was revealed at a dinner party to mark the end of the Lebowa Population Development Awareness Week held at a Pietersburg hotel.

The bantustan's deputy minister of Health and Population Develop-

ment, Mr MTD Leboho, said if present population increase trends in South Africa continued, the country would have 134 million people by the year 2040.

It was disclosed that information from all but three hospitals in the bantustan showed that 120 babies were born on July 11 alone, bringing

the yearly total to about 85 000.

The resources of the country would not be able to cope with the rapid increase and this would mean suffering for the majority of people, Leboho said.

He said strategies to combat the population explosion still suffered from the politicisation of the measure, as propagated

by Government spokesman over 20 years ago.

He said the negotiation process about the political future of the country had to put population development high on the agenda as a failure to do that would mean that the exercise agreed on such forums would be rendered unworkable by the sheer force of numbers.

The dinner was part of the worldwide World Population Day, celebrated on July 11.

Nurses threaten to strike over crisis

Star 12/18/91
Northern
Transvaal Bureau

PIETERSBURG — Nurses at medical clinics in the Sekhukhuneland area of Lebowa have threatened to suspend all services to patients unless the transport crisis in the area is resolved soon.

During the past three months several patients have narrowly escaped death after waiting in vain for ambulances from the Jane Furse Hospital to pick them up.

A spot survey by The Star revealed that the ambulance crisis has spread to other parts of Lebowa, and many complaints have been re-

ceived by hospitals failing to supply urgent ambulance services.

● Some nurses have alleged that they have been harassed by Lebowa MPs, who allege they are neglecting their duties.

The nurses claim they are unable to do their work properly because of the erratic ambulance service.

Ambulance drivers interviewed by The Star said they had paid heavy fines from their own pockets for mechanical faults to ambulances which had been picked up by traffic authorities.

No comment could be obtained from Lebowa Secretary of Health Services Dr D M Itsweng.

NCC and Vista may lock horns

Sowetan 26/8/91

(112)

CONFRONTATION looms between Vista University, Soweto and the National Co-ordinating Committee which has declared this week a "week of action", to address the accommodation crisis.

NCC publicity secretary Mr Tony Chiloane said this followed the university's reluctance to address students' demands through negotiations.

The demands include residences for students, a spacious library with adequate facilities, the resignation of university chancellor Dr RN Gugushe and a review of admission and exclusion policies.

Students' mass action will include squatting on the campus, picketing, demonstrations and sit-ins.

The campus director, Professor DJP Koekemoer, said violation of the law and danger to the safety of the campus could not be tolerated.

He said the university would not allow students to sleep on campus, erect squatter shacks or to occupy buildings.

By XOLANI MAKWEDINI and PHANGISILE MTSHALI

He said the campus management failed to understand what would be achieved by the planned action as all grievances are being taken seriously by campus and university management.

Meanwhile, MATHATHA TSEDU reports the South African Democratic Teachers Union has called an indefinite sit-in by Lebowa teachers to force the government to improve school facilities.

Sadtu regional deputy chairman for the Northern Transvaal Mr Machike Thobejane said the action would involve sit-ins at head and circuit offices of the Lebowa education department, a ban on school visits by inspectors and calls for the resignation of Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike and other education officials.

He said the action would last "for as long as it takes the government to meet our demands. Our return to work depends on the department".

Education crisis meeting

Sowetan 28/8/91
PIETERSBURG - A South African Democratic Teachers' Union delegation has met the Lebowa Cabinet to discuss the education crisis in the homeland. Lebowa Education Department spokesman, Mr Enoch Maponya, said yesterday the meeting comes after accusations by Sadtu that the Lebowa government failed to address problems at the CN Phatudi College and demands by the union that Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike and Director of Education Isaac Mateme

should resign

Sadtu has also demanded that 45 lecturers, dismissed from the college for allegedly implicating the rector in certain corruption charges, should be reinstated.

Meanwhile, teachers in the Sekhukune area agreed on Monday, after a meeting with inspectors and senior police officers, to stop picketing the education department's circuit offices. But they have insisted on continuing their "chalk down" strike. - *Sowetan Correspondent*

Killer mine's owners sought

Sowetan 5/9/91

112

(Handwritten scribbles)

OPERATION Hunger yesterday appealed to journalists to help locate owners of an asbestos mine responsible for the outbreak of the deadly disease asbestosis among GaMathabatha residents near Lebowa.

Mrs Ina Perlman, executive director of the organisation, said of the dying GaMathabatha residents: "There are men, women, and children.

By MZIMASI NGUDLE

"They have no compensation, they are destitute. In the two years I have visited the area, eight have already died. There are another two, at least, who will not see out this year.

Women

"Initially I could not understand why the women were so often the

worst affected, because they were not the miners," Perlman said, "until I realised that asbestos is mined in slabs and that the women were employed to chip at these slabs and reduce them to fine powder in this process.

"We cannot track down the owners of the mine and, therefore, cannot get information on their employment records."

Union warns

...



Villagers stricken by deadly asbestosis

AFRICA

By Brian Sokutu

At least 100 residents of Ga-Mathabatha, a village near Chuneespoort in Lebowa, are suffering from the deadly disease asbestosis which has claimed the lives of eight people in two years, according to Operation Hunger.

The organisation's executive director, Ina Perlman, described her visit to the area last week as "one of the worst days I have ever spent".

"It was a day when I came home convinced that the greatest sin of all was greed," Mrs Perlman said.

She said there were about 100 people in the village and a nearby squatter camp, who came from the now closed Bewaarskloof mine, "dying of or who will probably die of asbestosis".

The families, among them children, were destitute, had no compensation and depended on minimal rations from Operation Hunger, she said. *Star 5/9/91*

Mrs Perlman said earlier she could not understand why women were the worst affected although they were not miners.

"It was until I realised that asbestos is mined in slabs and that the women were employed to chip at these slabs and re-

duce them to fine powder in the process. Children who played around while their mothers worked were exposed to the dust they inhaled."

Among the victims was a woman whose husband died of asbestosis a month ago.

"She is already too weak to walk and fetch water from the tap. The village children fill up tubs of water for her once a week. In exchange she gives them a pigeon, one of the remaining from the flock that was her husband's pride and joy."

The owners of the mine have not yet been reached for comment.

DX 4005

DBUHLE TOWNSHIP

HAGE

IN April 1856 Nongqawuse told her community in the Eastern Cape to slaughter their cattle and burn grain in the struggle against white settlers.

This desperate move almost wiped out the Xhosas.

Today we wonder how the Xhosas could have believed the sun would turn black at noon August 11 and old soldiers would rise from the dead to sweep all whites back into the sea.

But the desperation faced by Nongqawuse's people in the face of diminishing land, as settlers pushed further inland, had taught them to look where they could for salvation.

Those who refused to take part in Nongqawuse's plan were called sellouts and were blamed when the scheme backfired. In those days grain and cattle were the only means of survival.

Today education, or to be more precise formal school education, has become the key to salvation and the future.

And yet today, in the northern Transvaal bantustan of Lebowa, teachers are in the third week of an indefinite sit-in. Parents are conspicuous by their silence.

There have been attempts by the Azanian People's Organisation and the South African Democratic Teachers Union in Seshego to get parents to discuss this problem.

But over the past two weekends meetings on the matter have drawn a combined crowd of less than 200 people out of a population of more than 75 000.

By the time the Sadtu meeting was called on Sunday, schooling in the township had been grounded for two weeks.

Exams are only a few weeks away.

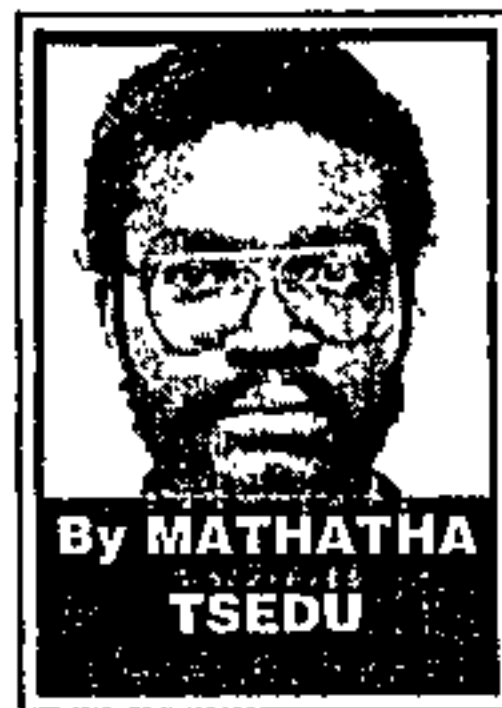
With many of the parents being illiterate — and awed by the idea of confronting teachers and telling them to go and teach their children — it is understandable that many of them do not go to the meetings.

But a similar effort in Mankweng, the citadel of black academics, had the same turnout and the meeting planned for Saturday by Azapo failed to materialise.

How do the academics, who are teaching university students, explain their silence?

Going against their grain

Teachers
striking
on the
eve of
exams



By MATHATHA
TSEDU

Sadtu decided, at a meeting held at the University of the North on August 17, that it would embark on an indefinite sit-in.

The organisation cited the transfers of lecturers from CN Phatudi College of Education and the Naphuno College; alleged harassment of teachers who participated in a one-day protest march; and general lack of facilities.

The organisation called on chief minister Mr Nelson Ramodike to resign, alleging that he was a bully and was interfering with education officials. They also called for the resignations of Dr Mabu Mateme, Mr MER Maponya and Mr CN Malseke.

At a Press conference to announce the start of the sit-in, Sadtu regional vice chairman Mr Maclike Peter Thobejane said — in response to a question about what arrangements

had been made for children during the sit-in — that his organisation encouraged "self-activity by pupils".

The PAC and Azapo, as well as their student wings, have denied any consultation with teachers before about the sit-in. Both organisations have denounced the action by teachers as "suicide".

Azapo said that while it supported the demands of the teachers it did not support the sit-in itself because the grievances had not been canvassed in the community.

"Our position on 'chalkdowns' by teachers is that there must be deep involvement by parents. This has not been done," publicity secretary Mr Khangale Makhado said.

Even the ANC, many of whose members are leaders in Sadtu, said while it recognised the "authenticity" of the teachers' demands, it was concerned about the interruption of schooling.

Nactu has opposed the action and has called on Sadtu to return to work and teach, while Cosatu has said it supports the teachers' demands.

In Lebowa kgomo a meeting called on Sunday September 1 was attended by about 100 people who called on teachers to return to work and explain their

problems to the community.

These voices in the wilderness are far and few between.

The vast majority of parents are silent in public. In private discussions, they admonish the teachers.

Everyone realises, including Thobejane, that the sit-in will only worsen the results problem in black schools. Ramodike refuses to resign and has threatened to fire all teachers.

In the meantime, children get up daily, pack their books and go to school. For many of them it is a round trip as there are no teachers.



Ramodike - says he will not bow to calls for his resignation.

They spend the day getting up to various forms of mischief.

Like Steve Biko said in a chapter of his book, *I Write What I Like*; the parents curse and curse in the sanctuary of their bedrooms and living rooms but are not willing to stand up and talk publicly.

Where are black academics in this mess? All the men and women who populate our centres of high learning should be giving a lead to the masses.

Some believe that with the decline of standards in black education most of the learned people have taken their children out of township schools into the "multiracials".

Whatever the reason, posterity will surely judge today's academics harshly for standing aside.

Sowetan 13/9/91

Deadly dust still killing

By SOPHIE TEMA 112

THE deadly asbestosis disease is slowly, but surely, killing the people of Phelindaba village in GamaMathabatha, Lebowa.

All the sufferers once worked at the Bewaarkloof Asbestos Mine which closed in 1978, leaving them destitute, sick and poverty-stricken.

Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman has appealed to the media to help trace the owners of the asbestos mine.

She said: "In the two years I have visited the area eight people have already died. Most pathetic is that while the disease is ravaging these people, the Lebowa authorities are doing nothing to help."

Phelindaba, known locally as Matikiring (a dumping spot), is a squatter area at the foot of a mountain. About 100 people in the area who came from Bewaarskloof Mine about 13 years ago are either dying of, or will probably die of, asbestosis.

The mine authorities have disappeared and cannot be traced, making it impossible to find employment records.

Perlman said: "The



EMILY KGASAGO ... Trades pigeons for water as she is too weak to fetch her own.

CPres 15/9/91.

women seem to be the worst affected. They were the ones who used to chip up the asbestos slabs and reduce them to fine powder."

Children who used to play around their working mothers are also suffering.

Inhalation of the dust causes a cancer known as mesophelomia which causes the lungs to collapse and serious liver problems.

Emily Kgasago is one of the sufferers. She worked on the mine for 28

years and came to GamaMathabatha with her husband Mohammed after the mine closed.

Mohammed died last month after years of suffering. The mud house they built has largely collapsed. She lives in the one remaining room.

She is now too weak to fetch water from the tap in the road. Village children fill up two tubs of water for her every week for a pigeon from the flock that was her husband's pride and joy.

Sadtu wants Ramodike out

Sowetan 16/9/91
THE SA Democratic Teachers Union will stage a protest march today to demand the resignation of Lebowa, Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike.

The Northern Transvaal region of Sadtu said marchers will hand over a memorandum at Ramodike's office.

They will also demand the reinstatement of 42 lecturers at Dr CN Phatudi College of Education.

Striking teachers will only return to school when their demands were met. -Sapa.

112

Malgas said the union had a mandate from work-

five-day week. - *South African Press Association.*

Chalk-down carries on

Sowetan 24/9/91

112

A 29-DAY chalk-down action by about 25 000 teachers in Lebowa shows no signs of ending.

The action started on August 26, when the Department of Education in the homeland failed to meet demands by the South African Democratic Teachers' Union.

The Northern Transvaal regional branch of Sadtu demanded the reinstatement of 42 lecturers dismissed from the Dr CN Phatudi College of Education. They also called for the transfer of three Naphuno College of Edu-

cation teachers to be reversed.

When the action entered its second week, several organisations, including the Pan Africanist Congress, the Azanian Peoples' Organisation and the National Council of Trade Unions, appealed to Sadtu to suspend the protest as examinations were approaching.

Since the strike began, the Lebowa Education Department has agreed to reinstate the 42 lecturers dismissed from the Dr CN Phatudi College of Education. — *South African Press Association.*

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Students chase out lecturers

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Sowetan
4/10/91

THIRTY-three lecturers at Dr CN Phatudi College of Education, who returned to their posts this week, were chased away by students.

The lecturers' return had been the main part of an agreement with the South African Democratic Teachers Union which ended the month-long teachers' strike.

This meant the matter was unresolved and put the settlement in jeopardy, with the possibility of the strike being reopened, a union official said.

Sources in the Burgersfort area said when

By MATHATHA
TSEDU

the lecturers, who had left the campus earlier this year after students expelled nine other lecturers, returned to the college on Monday, students had assembled for a mass meeting to discuss their presence on campus.

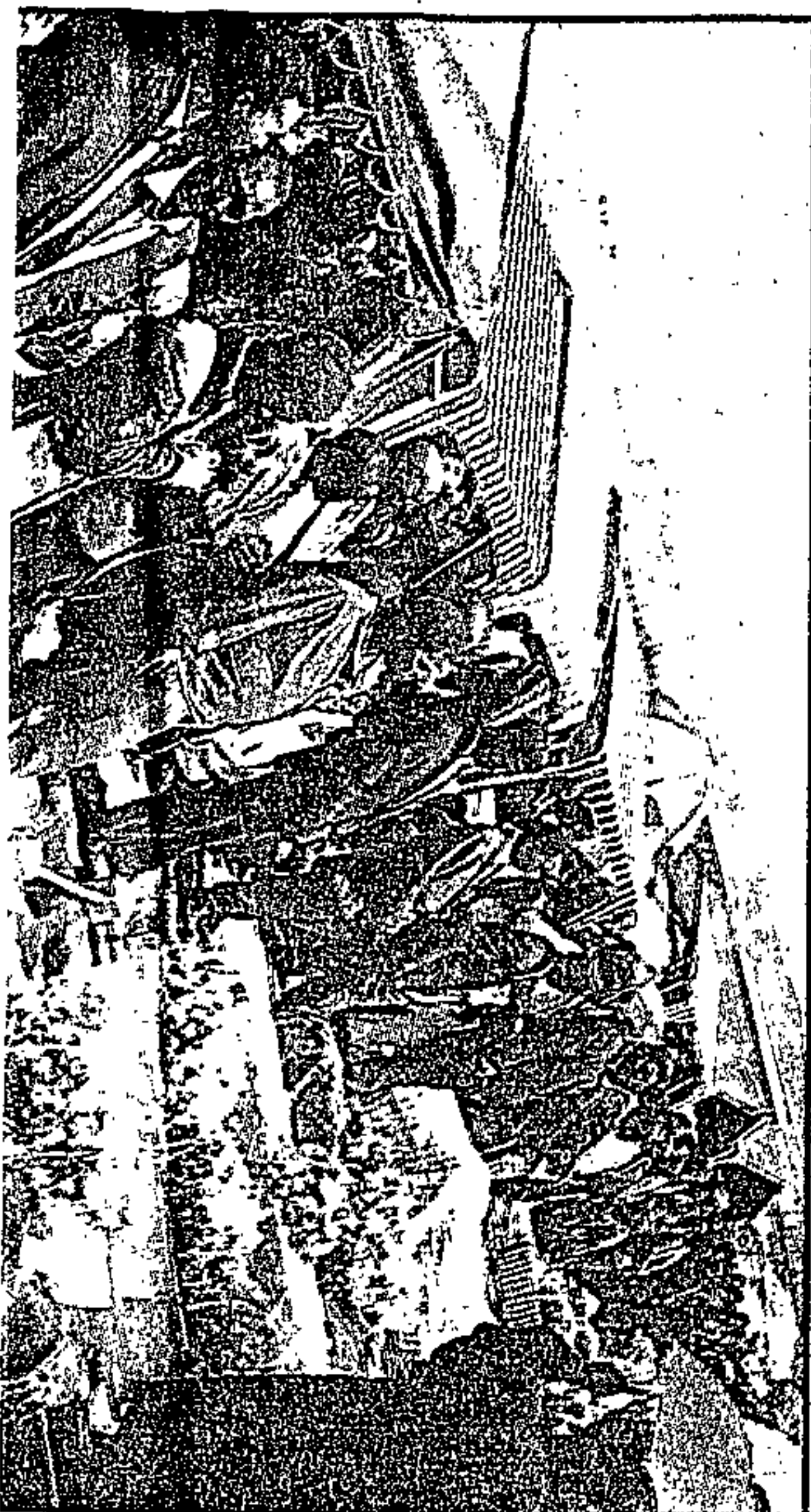
After the meeting, the students surrounded the staffroom and demanded that the lecturers should go.

"Some tried to comply and those that did were pelted with stones, with some suffering injuries", one lecturer said.

Teachers On Streets

Sowetan 15/11/92

11/2



HUNDREDS of newly qualified black teachers are roaming the streets without jobs.

An investigation by *Sowetan* has revealed that in Lehova alone, where an estimated 2 200 new teachers have emerged from eight colleges, no new posts have been created.

At the same time, more than 200 teachers who reached retirement age in the homeland have been retrenched. Many felt they were being dumped because the education authorities were trying to find jobs for newly qualified teachers.

In Venda, newly qualified teachers' bitter circuit officers hoping to secure employment.

In the Johannesburg area, there are hundreds of teachers who were retrenched after working on a part-time basis for a year or more.

BY MATHATHA TSEDU

One of the teachers said principals preferred teachers with specialisation in subjects.

However, spokesmen for various education departments have attributed the increased number of jobless teachers to the refusal of newly-qualified teachers to take up posts in outlying areas.

"The Department of Education and Training has been under pressure from many communities to enrol more students than the capacity of their colleges," said DET spokesman Mr Corrie Rademeyer.

"Although we try to match the anticipated future needs when enrolling students, community pressures sometimes result in us producing more teachers that

● To page 2

P.T.D.



By **DON SEOKANE**
LAWYERS acting for the Transvaal United African Teachers Association are instituting legal action against the Lebowa police for the alleged harassment of a school principal.

The principal and president of Tuata's youth league, Mr Japhet Motsepe, has alleged that security police held him and his family hostage, humiliated them and kept them semi-naked at his Seshego home last Tuesday morning.

Major J Sloan of the Lebowa security police confirmed that his men had raided Motsepe's house looking for a gun. He denied maltreating Motsepe

Tuata go to court in principal's case

Sowetan 3/3/92 *112*

and said it was not the police's responsibility to tell people to dress themselves before opening doors.

"If you open the door in your underpants it means the police can come in and search. The police knocked softly and did not harass anyone," Sloan said.

Motsepe, a principal at Kabela High School, said

about 15 policemen arrived at his home about 3am and subjected him and his family to harassment, pointing their guns and rifles at his wife and children, one of whom is three years old, while ransacking the house.

Motsepe said his wife and children were ordered to stand outside semi-naked in the freezing pre-

dawn cold while the police were searching the house. He was made to lie on the ground in his underpants.

Another group of policemen raided and searched his mother's house at GaSemenya in the Moletje district, subjecting her and his two sisters to the same treatment, Motsepe said.

He said police searches at the two houses had revealed nothing except his son's toy gun which police took and later returned. Police told him they were searching for an AK-47 rifle as they had been told he owned one.

The ordeal at his home lasted for about an hour.

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Lebowa teachers in row

(112)
CP Correspondent

THE SA Democratic Teachers Union has accused Lebowa Department of Education inspectors of victimising their members.

They also want the department to recognise Sadtu and to stop transferring Sadtu members against their will.

Sadtu deputy chairman in Nebo, Nthabiseng Moswane, this week called for a halt to inspectors' visits until a new dispensation on education was in place.

"The Lebowa Department of Education knows very well that we dumped our workbooks last year. These workbooks were unnecessary - especially since they are ethnically based on the Gazankulu, Venda and Lebowa bantustans," he said.

He said the teachers will picket at departmental offices on May 22 and 23.

In a letter to community leaders, Sadtu asked parents to support their demand for the creation of more teaching posts to alleviate overcrowding.

Sadtu bid to end strike in Lebowa

so wafan
THE SA Democratic Teachers Union wants to meet the Lebowa education authorities to restore order in Phalaborwa.

This is after Sadtu's regional council last Saturday endorsed a resolution by the Phalaborwa branch to make Lebowa ungovernable until two teachers allegedly suspended this month were reinstated.

112
18/6/97
By DON SEOKANE

The union said it adopted a slogan, "Suspend one, Suspend all".

Sadtu's Mr Benny Boshielo said the union has sent its regional chairman to Phalaborwa to address the situation.

Thabamopo students wanted a lecturer to be fired.

112

Tutors walk out over ultimatum

Sowetan 18/6/92

A DEMAND by students at Sekgosesa College of Education in Lebowa and the resultant walkout by lecturers from the institution may put the internal examinations in jeopardy.

The students are demanding that examinations for third-year students which were due to be written this month be postponed to September.

When the demand was rejected at a meeting between the SRC and staff, the SRC later resolved to issue an ultimatum to staff members to bow down to the demand by 10am on Thursday last week.

An SRC spokesman said the lecturers however responded by staging a walk-out from the institution on Thursday.

The college's rector, Mr K Mabitwa, said the lectur-

By RUSSEL
MOLEFE

ers "went away" after being terribly embarrassed and intimidated by an ultimatum and the behaviour of students who occupied the offices and sat on lecturers' tables.

Mabitwa said by walking-out, the lecturers were giving way to an unpleasant situation as they expected the worst if their demand was not met. He however could not mention whether the demand would be met.

The SRC spokesman said the entire student-body has resolved to maintain their stance and attend classes until the lecturers come back to the college. He said the SRC has been mandated to consult with progressive organisations on the matter.

Teachers and Lebowa in a war of words

By DON SEOKANE

A PLANNED meeting between Lebowa education authorities and the SA Democratic Teachers' Union this week failed to take place when the teachers' delegation was barred from entering the premises.

The meeting was called to iron out differences between the department and the teachers' union that have resulted in a war of words.

Sadtu has threatened not to resume duties after the winter break. This follows the suspension of two of its Naphuno members and the halting of schooling at Phalaborwa.

The education department slammed the move as irresponsible and said it had "an open-door policy" for discussions.

Sadtu said this was the second meeting that had failed to take place despite the department's open-door policy. The department now had a "closed-door policy", union spokesman Mr Benny Boshielo said.

"Education officials were not even prepared to talk to Sadtu to arrange another date. The nation must know that we have exhausted all peaceful avenues in dealing with Lebowa and now we are left with only one option of implementing our programme of action," Boshielo said.

Yesterday senior education authorities and public relations staff were not available and were reported to be attending a seminar at Magoebaskloof.

Azapo no to Sadtu strikes

By RUSSEL MOLEFE
Sowetan 26/6/92

THE Azanian People's Organisation has warned the South African Democratic Teachers Union not to turn its threats of disrupting classes into reality as this could destroy black school-children's lives.

Sadtu has threatened to disrupt classes and make Lebowa ungovernable after the winter school holidays if their demands are not met.

The union is demanding that the suspension of two of its members in the Naphuno district be lifted.

A delegation from the union was also allegedly barred from entering the premises of the education department in Lebowakgomo this week where they were to iron out differences with the authorities.

Azapo media liaison officer, Mr Khangale Makhado, said yesterday Sadtu would have made the "gravest mistake" since its inception if it went ahead with its plans to disrupt classes. This would amount to destroying the lives of thousands of black school-children in the area.

Makhado said Sadtu's decision to halt schooling was like "thinking with the mouth" as some of the union's members' children attended elite private schools which would not be affected by their actions.

Meanwhile, students at more than four tertiary institutions in Lebowa have embarked on class boycotts to press for their various demands.

So far, the academic year at Mamokgalakachuene College of Education has been suspended until July 27 after a boycott which started on Wednesday.

Lebowa rejects Sadtu's recognition bid

The Lebowa Legislative Assembly has decided not to recognise the South African Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu), which represents over 5 000 teachers in the homeland.

To tighten the grip on Sadtu, which represents over 40 000 members countrywide, the homeland went further to bar everyone, including its cabinet ministers, from challenging the assembly's decision.

Seshego member of parliament (MP), I Moloko, proposed the banning after disclosing that Sadtu was canvassing for membership in the whole of South Africa and that it should not be given statutory recognition in terms of the Lebowa Public Service Act No 2 of 1992 and Lebowa Education Act No 6 of 1978, which do not provide for teachers to belong to trade unions. Moloko's motion was

seconded by James Mphahlele of Thabamopo.

Reacting to the Lebowa authority's move, Sadtu spokesperson Randall van der Heever said his union would continue representing more than 5 000 teachers in Lebowa.

"We have requested an interview with the Lebowa government on the question of the recognition of Sadtu as well as the victimisation that teachers suffer in Lebowa," said Randall.

New Nation (Pupils Forum) Union 3(7)-9/7/92

He added that his union and the Lebowa government had reached an agreement in respect of problems pertaining to various teachers employed by the Lebowa government on September 23, 1991.

A Sadtu delegation held "very productive" meetings with the department in March this year about the formal recognition of the union, he said.

"We therefore have no reason to doubt that our fourth meeting with the Lebowa government will be as productive as meetings held in the past," he said.

Meanwhile, the Namakgale Sadtu branch, Congress of South African Students (Cosas) and the Pan Africanist Students Organisation (Paso) announced that they had declared war against the Lebowa education department for dismissing several teachers.

A number of teachers have already been dismissed for allegedly associating with political structures and trade unions.

Local Sadtu activists said mass action, which would include sit-ins involving teachers and students at various schools, was being contemplated to place pressure on the homeland authorities to recognise the universal principle of freedom of association.

The spokesperson added that the date for mass action would be released soon after plans had been finalised.



Randall van der Heever, Sadtu spokesperson.

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Warning over stayaway (112)

The Lebowa Education Department has warned that it will take action against teachers who heed the stayaway call by the South African Democratic Teachers Union later this month. In a circular, the department informed teachers the principle of "no work, no pay" would apply if teachers joined the Sadtu boycott.

STAR 617192

Sadtu poised to 'target' Lebowa

■ Sadtu says teachers should resume duties, but Lebowa will face mass action for its refusal to recognise the union: Sowetan 20/7/92

By Don Seokane

SE (112)

THE regional leadership of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu) in Lebowa has called on its members to resume their duties when schools reopen after the winter holiday.

However, Lebowa's chief minister, Mr Nelson Ramodike, and his administration, have been identified as targets for the union's mass action activities.

Sadtu's regional secretary Mr Benny Boshielo said despite problems encountered with the territory's administration, the union urged teachers to report for normal teaching when schools reopen on July 27.

Boshielo had earlier said teachers may not return to classes when schools reopened, an announcement that precipitated a flurry of condemnation from many quarters.

Boshielo disclosed that the union will incorporate its ANC-led mass action programme against Ramodike since the Lebowa government had shown that it was "part of the problem".

While the Northern Transvaal region of Sadtu has failed to get recognition from Lebowa, at least three education departments are poised to recognise the union.

The Department of Education and Training, education departments of the House of Delegates and the House of Representatives are due to sign recognition agreements with the union in August, Sadtu's general secretary Mr Randall van den Heever disclosed.

News

in brief

500 game carcasses

ABOUT 500 game carcasses will be donated to welfare organisations over the next two months by the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

MEC member Mr Willie Hoods said yesterday the donation would comprise about 150 wildebeest, 250 springbok and 90 impala and blesbuck carcasses, with a market value of about R70 000.

He handed over the first consignment of 84 game carcasses to the O'Connor Foundation at the Roodeplaat Nature Reserve yesterday. The carcasses will be distributed to needy communities in the Johannesburg area. The culling of game had been necessitated by the drought that caused grazing in some of the 40 Provincial Nature Reserves in the Transvaal to become limited.

Gunmen attack two

A PERSON was killed and another injured after they were attacked by unknown gunmen at Esikhawini near Empangeni on Wednesday night.

KwaZulu police said Mr Musa Mpanza died after gunmen shot at him through the window of his Port Dunford cottage. The gunmen then went to the next cottage where they shot Miss Sibongile Mabaso (24). She was wounded in the right thigh. Police have not yet established the motive for the attacks and are investigating cases of murder and attempted murder. No arrest has been made.

Fine for firing cops

A 20-YEAR-OLD man who shot and wounded two policemen in May last year was yesterday fined R3 000 or two years' imprisonment in the Johannesburg Regional Court.

Magistrate Mr AJS Boucher sentenced Clyde Booyesen to another two years in prison suspended for five years. Booyesen was convicted of assault with the intent to do grievous bodily harm. The original charge was one of attempted murder. Boucher said Constable Edward Goliath and Constable Jacques Bezuidenhout were wounded at a discotheque where Booyesen was working as a security guard.

Sadtu-Lebowa row

THE Northern Transvaal branch of the South African Democratic Teachers Union yesterday called on the Lebowa Department of Education to reopen three colleges in the territory.

Sadtu claimed in a statement the department had closed Sekgosese, Mamokgalake-Chuene and Kwena-Moloto colleges "without tangible reasons".

The department, however, denied it had closed the colleges. It said: "The Lebowa Department of Education wishes to reiterate that it cannot open colleges of education which are open" and urged Sadtu that "if they wish to actively participate in politics they should look for a convenient political forum such as Codesa".

Homelands warned

THE ANC Northern Transvaal region yesterday announced that four homelands would be targeted for mass action from August 3.

Regional deputy secretary Mr Norman Mashabane said marches would be staged in Venda, Gazankulu, Lebowa and KwaNdebele where memoranda will be submitted to the homeland leaders deploring corruption and urging the establishment of an interim government. "The bantustans are a creation of the apartheid regime and must be dismantled. The mass action will be followed up by sit-ins and the occupation of state buildings such as police stations, hospitals and education departments."

SA to import wheat

MORE than 50 percent of South Africa's wheat requirements will have to be imported next year because of the drought in the Free State wheat-producing region says the chairman of the Winter Wheat Producers Organisation, Mr Chappie Ferreira - Sowetan Reporters, Correspondents and Sapa

Sowetan 24/7/92

Sowetan 24/7/92 (112)

(25)

(112)

Sowetan 24/7/92

Sowetan 24/7/92

Sowetan 24/7/92 (112)

Sadtu-Lebowa row

THE Northern Transvaal branch of the South African Democratic Teachers Union yesterday called on the Lebowa Department of Education to reopen three colleges in the territory.

Sadtu claimed in a statement the department had closed Sekgosese, Mamokgalake-Chuene and Kwena-Moloto colleges "without tangible reasons".

The department, however, denied it had closed the colleges. It said: "The Lebowa Department of Education wishes to reiterate that it cannot open colleges of education which are open" and urged Sadtu that "if they wish to actively participate in politics they should look for a convenient political forum such as Codesa".

Turf's staff on strike

Goweten 14/9/92

(32) (112)

By Don Seokane

ACADEMIC staff at the University of the North started their "gown-down" strike on Friday, demanding that the administration reinstate lecturers who were removed from their posts.

A spokesman for the university, Dr NA Budeli, said about seven staff members have been removed from their posts following complaints by students.

During their meeting on Thursday, staff members resolved to sus-

pend teaching, conducting tests and will not mark any examination scripts or submit students' examination marks.

However, the lecturers decided to continue with office work and would be ready to resume academic activities when the issue of their colleagues had been resolved.

Testify against them

The new staff association, University of the North Academic Staff Association (Unasa), said lecturers were being punished without proof of wrong-doing and that there were no witnesses to testify against them.

Approached for comment, Budeli said the problem of the seven lecturers could not be solved by the university's authorities alone.

He said Unasa was a relatively new staff body and that management had been trying to deal with the issue even before Unasa was born.

Budeli said students were strongly opposed to the recalling of the affected staff members.

The president of the student representative council (SRC), Mr Arthur Moloto, said negotiations were being held with the university on the issue, but added that students would not be dictated to by lecturers.



NEWS 357 out of 374 teachers entitled to full compensation for deductions during strike

Payouts for teachers could reach R1-m

Sowetan 2/11/92 112

Sowetan Correspondent

HUNDREDS of thousands of rands will have to be paid by the Lebowa education department to teachers whose salaries were cut back because they participated in a strike.

The Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday ordered the minister of education of Lebowa to repay withdrawals and deductions made from salaries of Lebowa teachers in September last year.

It was estimated that the payouts could be as much as between R500 000 and R1 million. The deductions were made to sala-

Teachers absent during strike to be paid out by Lebowa education department rules Supreme Court:

ries of teachers who embarked on a National Day of Action on August 7 last year, and subsequently joined a stayaway.

Some teachers were absent from work for up to 28 days.

Mr Justice McCreath ruled in an application, brought by the unregistered South African Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu) and 374 teachers who were all members of the union, that the deductions were unlawful.

The court ruled, however, that on

the facts only 357 teachers were entitled to their full pay.

He said the teachers were not granted an opportunity to state to the department why their attitude of "no work no pay" should not be followed.

The court also found that some of the teachers may have been intimidated not to go to work and could therefore not be punished.

According to legal representatives for the minister, an application for leave to appeal against the ruling will be launched in the next few days.

focus on education

Sowetan 2/10/92

THE South African Democratic Teachers Union can count among its achievements a recognition agreement with the Department of Education and Training - but its Northern Transvaal region does not attach much importance to this "achievement".

Since the beginning of the year, Sadtu's Northern Transvaal region has been involved in a war of words with its employer bodies, particularly Lebowa's department of education, Gazankulu and to a lesser degree Venda.

The region's relationship with these departments can hardly be termed cordial. Venda's education department created a compliant relationship by recognising the union before it issued its strike threat.

While pupils are busy with last minute preparations for examinations, Sadtu has dropped a bombshell: stop misconduct, lift suspensions on teachers and reinstate dismissed teachers or we go on strike on October 6.

The impending strike could not have come at a more inconvenient time. Examinations for all pupils, including matriculants, are less than three weeks away. Having gone through disruptions due to mass action activities, pupils could be facing year-end examinations ill-prepared.

The union's regional executive committee held numerous council meetings this year in an attempt to sort out issues that have plagued them for the better part of the year. Among these, in particular, is the constant claim that teachers are being harassed and victimised by the Lebowa education authorities because of their union activities.

The union this year adopted several resolutions designed to pressurise Lebowa into agreeing to recognition terms but all in vain. Some measures included eviction of "reactionary" principals and inspectors, boycotts of businesses owned by "unsympathetic" cabinet ministers and a threatened "chalkdown" when schools reopened in July.

In retaliation, Lebowa's Legislative Assembly passed a resolution stating that its Public Service Act and Education Act did not provide for the recognition of a teachers trade union.

Venda became the second homeland to recognise Sadtu. Transkei was the first. After the union gained recognition from the homeland's department of education, regional organiser Mr Western Mkazi was optimistic that Lebowa had no choice but to recognise the union's Northern Transvaal region.

Since February, after the Giyani summit on exclusion and admissions at tertiary institutions, Sadtu, together with Sasco and NECC, have been involved in a war of words with Lebowa and Gazankulu's education authorities. The authorities were condemned for the closure of colleges and were labelled as intransigent and

Sadtu this has been embroiled in a war of words with the education departments of Lebowa and Gazankulu. With examinations rapidly approaching, a strike is threatening in Lebowa. **Don Seokane** looks at the issues involved in the dispute:



Mr Nelson Ramodike

uncaring about the education of the black child.

Lebowa's education authorities retaliated by branding Sadtu part of a serious educational problem for denying children the right to an education through its stayaway actions. For its part, Lebowa said it remained committed to its policy of "no work, no pay" popularised by Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike as "chequedown".

In a hard-hitting statement, the homeland's education department said it wished to advise Sadtu that if the union wanted to actively participate in politics, it should look for a convenient political forum such as Codesa. However, Lebowa's education department has since changed its position and indicated its willingness to recognise the teachers union and Gazankulu has already scheduled a meeting to discuss recognition and other demands.

Lebowa's change of heart meant that pupils

The crunch will come on October 6 when it will be seen whether Lebowa can avoid the embarrassment of a strike and all the accusations that will come out of it.

could heave a sigh of relief. The shift, it was thought, would avert a strike since union officials had previously stated that a signed recognition agreement would make it easier to negotiate other demands.

The rope tightening around Lebowa and Gazankulu was expected to be slackened pending the outcome of a meeting on October 5. Instead, the union reiterated its threat of a "chalkdown" on October 6.

Union officials disclosed that members were not happy with the union being granted recognition while some teachers were serving suspensions, others were being charged with misconduct and some had been dismissed.

Since then, the union's aim has been diverted from simply acquiring recognition to demands that charges against teachers be withdrawn and suspensions lifted before any agreement with Lebowa can be signed.

But the crunch will come on October 6 when it will be seen whether Lebowa can avoid the embarrassment of a strike and all the accusations that will come out of it. Last year Sadtu went on a marathon strike and a "chequedown-chalkdown" policy was implemented.

Now it remains to be seen whether teachers can still make sacrifices for their pay-packets.

NEWS Union wants to start with a cle

Sadtu threatens to go on indefinite strike

Sowetan 8/10/92

(112)

■ Demand for reinstatement before signing of agreement:

By Don Seokane

THE Northern Transvaal branch of the SA Democratic Teachers Union yesterday warned that their strike might be indefinite unless Lebona imposes a moratorium on suspensions and misconduct charges.

During their rally, Sadtu president Mr Shepherd Mdladlana said the union had to start with a clean slate in dealing with the Lebona education authorities. No recognition agreement would be signed before dismissed teachers were reinstated.

Meanwhile, lawyers acting on behalf of the Lebona education authorities

have threatened to take legal action to force Sadtu to return to classes.

In a letter sent to Sadtu secretary Mr Benny Boshelo, education authorities said the strike was illegal and unjustified and said the union's handling of disputes was unreasonable.

Responding to the threatened legal action, Mdladlana said "the bantustan has declared war on us" without regard to the education of the child.

"We are concerned about our school-children. People not concerned are those who dismiss and suspend teachers and then fold their arms expecting children to teach themselves," he said.

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Sadtu 'irresponsible'

LEBOWA's department of education has deplored as insensitive and irresponsible the strike by the Northern Transvaal region of the SA Democratic Teachers' Union. (112) ~~112~~

The department has accused Sadtu of "shifting the goalposts" because the union has been fighting for recognition and when their demand was to be granted they included "other issues".

Spokesman Mr SF Seroka said the department viewed the signing of the recognition agreement and the resolution of remaining issues as two different matters. Sullivan 12/10/92.

to observe bannings

Exams hit by teacher strike

■ Sadtu members on strike following
dispute with education department:

Savetia 19/10/92.
By Russel Molefe

THE end-of-year examinations at Sekhukhune College of Education in Lebowa have been cancelled because of a strike by members of the South African Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu) in the homeland.

Students Representative Council president Mr John Mokgotho said the exams which were to start tomorrow were cancelled because the majority of lecturers were on strike.

The few non-striking teachers, he said, would not be able to conduct the exams.

Student representatives met education authorities in Lebowakgomo on Thursday in a bid to resolve the dispute with Sadtu so that exams could be written.

But the students were told there was nothing the department could do, Mokgotho said.

Sadtu members went on a "chalkdown" strike to put pressure on the authorities to accede to their demands.

Tension mounts

as exams start

Soweto 20/10/92



■ **UNCERTAINTY PREVAILS** Pupils and teachers march on Lebowa parliament as judge declares Sadtu strike illegal:

AS THE COUNTRY'S 325 000 matric pupils prepare to write their exams today, tension and uncertainty prevailed in Lebowa and Soweto.

In Lebowa, members of the South African Democratic Teachers Union yesterday vowed to defy a court order imposed by a Pretoria judge at the weekend outlawing their chalkdown action against the Lebowa Education Department.

In an apparently bid to circumvent a court order, Sadtu said although they would "respect the court interdict as a structural organisation" its members would continue with the strike until all their demands were met.

Yesterday, about 200 teachers - and some pupils - defied the order and marched on Lebowa's parliament demanding a resolution to the dispute between Sadtu and the home-

land's education department.

Sources yesterday reported that there had been no lessons at six schools in Diepkloof, Soweto, since last week.

The affected schools are Bopa Senatla, Fidelitas, Diepdale, Namedi, Madibane and Fons Luminis.

Pupils in the area were reportedly demanding the unconditional release of their classmates arrested by police for undisclosed offences before they could sit for their exams.

However, these reports could not be confirmed by a spokesman for the Department of Education and Training. He said a number of schools had indicated that preparations for the exams were well underway.

Today 1 800 pupils will sit for the typing paper and November 18 a total of 136 papers would have been written.

DE MEYER COMMISSION Departmental money misappropriation exposed in Lebowa

Junior clerk paid

millions - twice

Sowetan 11/11/92

(112)

DUTY DERELICTION Accounting officer and accountant

either 'not qualified' or in neglect of their civic duties:

A CLERK in the Lebowa department of works had been responsible for 80 double payments totalling more than R2,75 million to commercial firms, the De Meyer Commission found. The Commission's report said all these overpayments had been recovered but there was a strong possibility that other overpayments had not come to light.

It also said that haphazard payouts had been made and that in one case an order number had been written in as the amount to be paid - and that this had gone through. Among the double payments was an amount of R543 261 to Samcor in 1986/87.

The Commission said it was incomprehensible and in contravention of Treasury instructions for a junior official, like a clerk, to be entrusted with the important task of making payments totalling thousands of rands.

Both the department of works' accounting officer and its accountant had been guilty of serious dereliction of duty in not immediately checking all claims as soon as it was

discovered that considerable overpayments had been made.

This showed incontrovertibly that senior persons were either not qualified for their posts or that they were not exercising their management and control functions.

In one case items to the value of R21 738,75 had been delivered. On the payment slip, however, the amount was indicated as R217 838,75 and this had been approved for payment.

In another case the number of the order was indicated as the amount that had to be paid to the firm. This payment had also been authorised without the mistake being noticed. The Commission recommended that junior officials should under no circumstances be allowed to authorise payments.

All proofs of payment from at least the 1986/87 year should be examined.

DE MEYER COMMISSION



Regional and Land Affairs Minister Jacob de Villiers speaking on corruption in Lebowa at a Pretoria media conference yesterday.

Picture: BRIAN HENDLER

Disqualification no bar to chief minister's pub

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike owned two liquor outlets and licences in the homeland although he was disqualified from doing so, the commission ruled yesterday. *BIDAM 11/11/92*

After the commission started investigating the matter, Ramodike had tried to transfer the licences for the Noko Ramodike Bar Lounge and the Porcupines Bottle Store to his brother, Z P Ramodike, but this was invalid.

The commission also found that Secretary for Justice J M Lekoloane, who was also the chairman of the Liquor Board, controlled the Baupo Bottle Store and Bar Lounge, of which he was the de facto owner.

The commission said Lekoloane had falsely told Nedbank he was the sole owner of the Baupo Bottle Store, had broken the law and that a liquor licence was issued in the name of M G Lekoloane seven months after her death, and recommended that Lekoloane be charged with fraud.

Cabinet Ministers M J Duba, who had four licences, L C Mothiba, who had three licences, and MPs M M Lekalakala, M A Tswale, L M Mokoena and N P Chula all held liquor licences although they were disqualified from doing so.

It found that two other officials also had been granted invalid liquor licences, and that on the balance of probabilities the administration of the Liquor Board was influenced by certain politicians.

'Public holidays' cost R112m in lost hours

PREFERENTIAL treatment of officials through extra "public holidays" and being given time off early on a weekly basis had cost the Lebowa government at least R112m between 1988 and 1991. *BIDAM 11/11/92*

The De Meyer commission found that the cabinet had decreed a number of extra public holidays in contravention of the Act and this was solely for the benefit of government officials. The decree was never gazetted and the public never benefited from the holidays.

Officials were allowed to leave work every Friday at 3pm and were given time off from 10am on days preceding a public holiday.

Officials were also paid overtime for working during regular hours, and this did not comply with the provisions of the staff code.

Because of this practise in Lebowa, about 2,6-million official hours were wasted, which meant that if all officials worked for a minimum of 40 hours a week, about 1 500 posts could be abolished.

De Meyer recommended that if circumstances demanded officials work to 3pm on Fridays the lost time should be made up during the week, and that all officials be compelled to work a minimum of 40 hours a week.

Officials should also only be permitted to be absent from duty on public holidays applicable to Lebowa in terms of the Public Holiday Act of 1952, he said.

Pensions rackets uncovered

RANDOM samples of pension payouts in Lebowa revealed irregularities involving hundreds of thousands of rands, including double payments and payments to dead people, the De Meyer commission found.

"The commission shudders when thinking what the results of an in-depth investigation will be," commissioner Oelof de Meyer said, referring to the number of irregularities brought to light by his random sampling.

The lack of efficient management and control over social grants was "alarming" and the indifference of many officials, including senior officials, to this problem gave rise to grave concern, the one-man commission by Johannesburg chief magistrate De Meyer said.

He recommended that steps be taken as a matter of "utmost urgency" to place the management and control of social pensions on a proper basis, and that if money paid out irregularly could not be recovered, it be recovered from the paymasters who had paid it out.

"The outdated management styles must be replaced with new management styles. The probability of furthering a uniform management system in conjunction with other self-governing territories and the TPA should be given serious consideration," he said.

The report contains evidence of irregularities where pensions were paid out, after people had died, to people with different thumbprints.

The commission says it found many Lebowa

citizens had had to wait a long time for the pension benefits to which they were entitled. At one stage this backlog had been overhauled, but it had now grown again to about 10 000 because of a shortage of funds. *112 BIDAM*

In the light of the years during which the available funds were not spent, and the additional funds which had been made available, the commission found it was not the non-availability of funds but poor administration that was the main reason for the backlog, and that available funds had not been used for the proper purpose. In some instances, it had been used to compensate for overspending by other departments. *BIDAM 11/11/92*

Sample tests done by the commission had indicated that once a pensioner died, the pension had not always been cancelled. There were several instances where up to six months' pension had been accumulated and then withdrawn by an unauthorised person before the pension was cancelled.

In just five magisterial districts of Lebowa, 121 cases had been identified where pension money totalling R133 252 was illegally paid out to unauthorised people, or proxies, after pensioners died.

"Although it will be an enormous task, the review of all pensions must be given serious consideration. It may be advisable to get assistance from outside Lebowa for this purpose," De Meyer recommended.

It's 2.30pm in Lebowa... time for the civil servants to *tshaile**

S/Times 15/11/92

REPORTS BY KURT SWART AND HEATHER ROBERTSON

IT was business as usual for Lebowa's civil service in the wake of the De Meyer report this week. Business as usual in Lebowa means: ending work at 2.30pm, ducking responsibility and exploiting the system to the full.

The De Meyer commission on corruption, fraud and mismanagement of funds in the Lebowa government was released this week — after three years of investigation and sittings — alleging massive abuse involving hundreds of millions of rands.

But at the Lebowakgomo state building this week retired magistrate Mr MJ Geyser was in despair. He said he had been "chasing department heads" for a report back on how they planned to comply with the report's recommendations.

He was seconded by the SA Department of Justice to work on the Lebowa Management Committee which will oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the commission.

Despite the fact that the report was in the hands of the Lebowa government months ago, he was able to start acting on it only after it was tabled in the Lebowa parliament on Tuesday. He had not yet finished reading the report, he said.

"It is very difficult to get hold of anyone," he said.

Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike refused to be interviewed. Press officer Sam Mbambo ducked questions about Mr Ramodike's two liquor outlets opened in contravention of the 1973 Liquor Act.

Questions were referred to Mr Ramodike's lawyer — who was "not available", said Mr Mbambo.

Anyway, he said, the law was changed last year, allowing cabinet ministers, their deputies and members of the Legislative Assembly to own liquor outlets. This was backdated to 1973.

A visit to Lebowa's various government departments on Friday afternoon showed that the "early closing" rule which was much-criticised by Mr Oelof de Meyer, chief magistrate of Johannesburg, still applied.

Only three men were left guarding the hundreds of wrecked vehicles at the Works Department workshop in Lebowakgomo by 2.30pm.

Lebowa's unofficial "time-off" rule of half-days

and special holidays for civil servants cost the government service R112-million between 1988 and last year, Mr de Meyer found.

The holidays applied only to government officials — not for the general citizenry of Lebowa.

And officials who worked through the "time-off" periods were paid overtime.

This was uncovered by the De Meyer commission when it investigated charges that officials in the Lebowa Department of Health were receiving overtime payments for work done during normal working hours.

The "time-off" practice included allowing officials to leave work at 10am on the day before any public holiday and declaring March 21 a public holiday for officials to commemorate the Sharpeville shootings.

Abolished

As a result of "the practice that exists in Lebowa", about 26-million official working hours were lost per year, which meant that if each official worked a normal week of a minimum of 40 hours, 1 500 posts could theoretically be abolished, the commission found.

The commission broke down the loss of R112-million as follows:

● R75-million because officials went home at 3pm on Fridays;

● R26-million because officials went home at 10am on days before public holidays; and

● R11-million because the Lebowa cabinet took decisions on holidays for officials without gazetting them.

The amount of R112-million did not include the payment of "overtime" for officials who had to work during "time-off" periods.

The lack of supervision endemic in Lebowa's government departments led to cases such as that of Mr LS Botes of Potgietersrus, a seconded official who spent almost two months doing private work in Botswana — while drawing his pay from the homeland government.

He had taken full advantage of the "total confusion about who his supervisor was" in the Department of Agriculture and Nature Conservation, the report said.

* Knock off for the day

HOMES FOR HIS FAMILY

A SCHOOL principal feathered his family nest by arranging the sale of school houses to his brothers.

Seshego council officials connived in the deals, allowing principal Herman Phosoko's brothers, Martin and Stephen, to "rent", and then buy houses allocated for teachers in 1987.

The men completed rental applications to comply with the policy that the tenant had first option to buy.

Neither Martin nor Stephen, both from Pretoria, ever lived in the houses.

LAND 2: THE DE MEYER REPORT

No funds to run R11-m hospital

A ZAIREAN doctor and her two-year-old son are the only inhabitants of a double-storey, 50-bed nurses' home attached to the spanking new R11-million Seshego Hospital in Lebowa.

The hospital stood unused for two years and was only brought out of mothballs after the De Meyer Commission began asking questions about it in 1990.

Even now, all but the maternity wards close at 3pm and emergencies are referred to the Pietersburg Hospital 10km away — although this is overcrowded.

There are few signs of life at the hospital.

Dr Chizanye Chabikuli, who lives in the vacant nurses' quarters with her son Gillion, said the hospital was barely used by Seshego residents because only the outpatient section and maternity wards were functioning.

"But the maternity ward is never full. We have



DESERTED: All quiet at Seshego Hospital

about five women a day."

"We do not have the facilities for surgery and plans to establish gynaecology, obstetrics and paediatric wards two years ago have not been implemented."

She said the two theatres for casualty and maternity cases were not used because of lack of equipment.

There is no kitchen, and food is cooked in the nurses' quarters, almost a kilometre away.

Income

Said Dr Chabikuli: "Nurses don't stay here because the Lebowa government cannot afford staff to clean the building."

The commission recommended the accommodation be rented out to nurses to generate income.

The idea of a community health centre in Seshego was first mooted by the Department of Development Aid in 1981, when it set aside R500 000 for the building of the clinic.

There are two more hospitals in the vicinity — Mankweng, 35km away,

and one at Lebowakgomo, 90km away.

A 250-bed hospital was planned as phase one of a full community health centre with 500 beds.

Eventually, the department paid R11-million for the building of the hospital while the Lebowa government agreed to pay for the costs of 250 beds and the expansion of the clinic into a fully fledged hospital.

The first phase was completed in June 1988, but the Lebowa government could not scrape up the funds for the operating costs.

Mr Oelof de Meyer found the unavailability of funds a poor excuse "considering funds were available for the payment of government officials' motor insurance premiums and the purchase of unnecessary and expensive cars".

By October 9 1990, the hospital was still not in use. The commission found health ministry officials did not take steps to obtain funds because of "petty personal squabbles, unnecessary sensitivity and shortsightedness".

Youngsters cash in as pensioners go hungry

St Times 15/11/92 (112)

PEOPLE as young as 22 drew pensions in Lebowa — while 10 000 genuine pensioners went without.

In some cases children drew pensions without presenting the proper documents, while officials turned a blind eye.

The De Meyer commission found there was an alarming lack of efficient management and control of social grants, and said it was gravely concerned at the indifference of many Lebowa officials.

Lebowa pensioners had to wait a long time for payments and 10 000 pension applications were turned down, ostensibly because of a lack of funds.

"In the commission's opinion it was not a lack of funds that was responsible for the backlog but poor administration. It's clear that available funds were not allocated for the correct purposes. In some instances the money was used to rectify overspending elsewhere."

Among irregularities uncovered by the commission were:

- When a pensioner died, the pension was not always cancelled. In one case 13 withdrawals occurred after the death of a pensioner. In five districts the commission identified 121 cases where pensions were irregularly drawn after the pensioners' deaths. The amount of money involved was R133 252.

- The names of some pensioners appeared twice on some official lists, listed under their old as well as their new identity numbers. The main reason for this was a lack of contact between the Lebowa government and the South African Department of Internal Affairs. Some pensioners were receiving pensions from both the Lebowan and the South African government.

- People received pensions even though they had obviously not reached the qualifying age. Some were as young as 22 or 23. An investigation in 1978 concluded that about 37 percent of people drawing pensions had not reached the required age or were otherwise not qualified.

Little was done to retrieve money wrongly authorised or to take steps against offenders, the commission added.

The commission found that officials seldom followed the correct procedures when pensions were issued and that the recipients were seldom identified.

It also found the actions of officials to be blatant contempt for regulations rather than incompetence.

The commission added that it had been hampered by the disorderly filing of pension documents — some of which were found in the garage of a private house.

Clerk who *SI Times 15/11/92* overpaid R3m kept his job (112)

A GOVERNMENT clerk who overpaid almost R3-million to various firms kept his job even after this was discovered.

Mr KJ Sebotja, an administrative clerk in Lebowa's Public Works Department, authorised 80 overpayments, including several to Samcor.

Overpayments of R2 751 122 authorised by Mr Sebotja were first discovered in 1988 by the departmental accountant, who requested that Mr Sebotja be transferred to

a post where he would not be involved in financial matters. Although the transfer was approved by the department secretary, Mr Sebotja remained in his position.

All the amounts overpaid were reclaimed but in most cases the mistakes were identified by the firms themselves and the money repaid — otherwise most of the money would not have been recovered.

It was possible other overpayments had not been identified.

Guilty

There was no acceptable explanation for Mr Sebotja's non-transferral.

It was inexplicable that a junior official was entrusted with important tasks involving large sums of money, and that his work was not supervised.

The department accountant and the chief accounting officer had therefore made themselves guilty of extreme negligence, the commission found.

the nation in brief

Sadtu decries harassment

THE Sekhukhune branch of the SA Democratic Teachers Union has accused the Lebowa department of education of not honouring their record of agreement by harassing teachers. *112*

The union claimed that its Sekhukhune branch members were being victimised by conservative principals. *Sowetan 30/11/92*

Branch chairman Sello Modiga said they were shocked to find that Sekhukhune circuit office did not even have a copy of the agreement.

Education spokesman Mr Seroka was yesterday reported to be attending a course in Port Elizabeth and unavailable for a response.

Taxi shooting victims buried

THE funerals of victims of the Pietersburg taxi shooting proceeded without any incidents on Saturday, but the planned joint burials failed. *Sowetan 30/11/92*

Speakers at Mr John Pholo's funeral condemned the shooting and appealed to people not to solve their problems by killing one another. Other burials of victims of the taxi shootings that claimed eight lives were held at Seshego and Zebediela on the same day.

Inquest into Malele's death

THE inquest hearing into the death of a victim of alleged Gazankulu police brutality resumes at Hlanganani Magistrate Court tomorrow. *112*

The family of Mr Edward Booi Malele, who was arrested on December 26 last year and allegedly severely assaulted by police until he died, had on November 10 successfully applied for an exhumation order so that another post-mortem examination could be done. Results of the further post-mortem are expected during this hearing. Malele, exhumed two weeks ago, had been buried on January 8 this year.

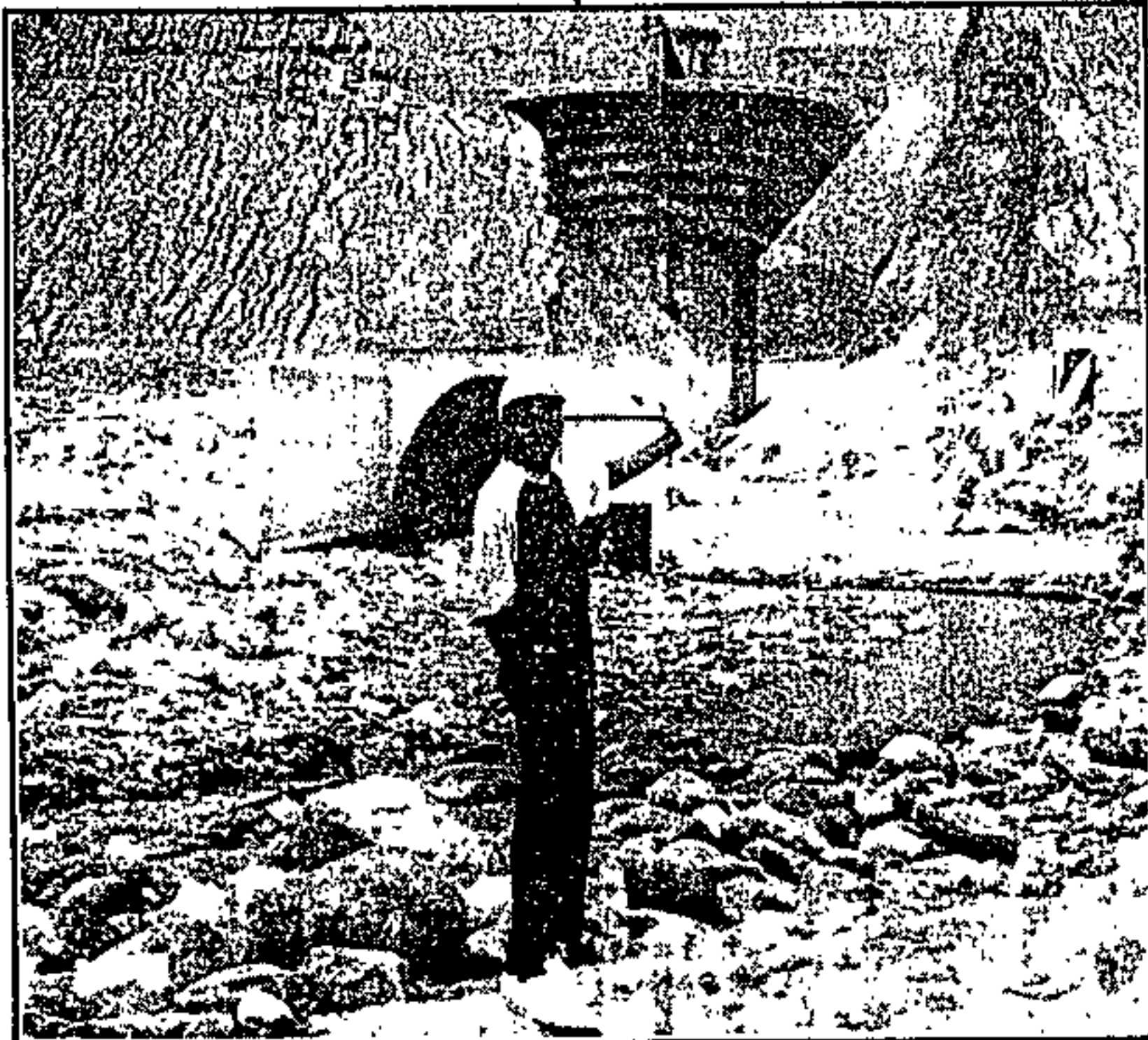
Sowetan 30/11/92.

HOMELANDS - LEBOWA - LABOUR

1993 - 1994

NEWS FEATURE Villagers watch helplessly as water, grazing and crop land is gobbled up

many are afraid of...



Solly Mohale, community liaison officer for Londolozi, points at the gaping hole of Zoeknog Dam.



Workers employed at R7 a day lay stones on the outer wall of the collapsed R37 million dam in preparation for repairs. PICS: LEN KHUMALO

Slave wages at new coffee plantation

Southern 9/2/93

Workers earn R240 a month:

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 Acornhock 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 rumbled 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.

in deserted cities

Stayaway hits North

Swetane 20/4/93.

■ Hani's funeral affects
many areas:

By Don Seokane

NORTHERN Transvaal towns and townships experienced an eerie silence with virtually no black faces in towns as workers observed the call for a stayaway.

Lebowa schools were deserted even though they were supposed to have reopened yesterday.

Normal schooling

It is expected that normal schooling will resume in the area today.

The University of the North, where a march to a local police station ended in chaos because of incidents of stone throwing and the burning of at least five delivery trucks on Friday, was closed for the day.

According to student sources, normal academic programmes were unlikely to continue this week despite the fact that students missed a full two weeks of lectures when the university reopened in February due to boycotts.

Extension

At University of Venda students have been given an extension of holidays up to May 3.

Despite the memorial service yesterday, acting rector Professor MP Moila said the decision was taken to allow authorities to clear up the problem of the suspension of two unnamed staff members.

Dignified funeral

Lebowa police spokesman Colonel LM Tlomatsana said the homeland was extremely quiet yesterday and added that people were respecting the day in the true spirit of a dignified funeral.

South African Police spokesman Major Arno Vogel said no incidents were reported and that generally it was quiet and peaceful.

'AWB made us strip and took photos'

C Press 30/5/93

By JUSTICE MOHALE

SEVEN black teachers - four of them women - were this week allegedly punched and kicked and had their naked bodies photographed by suspected rightwingers.

However, the Lebowa police said in statements made to them by the teachers they only claimed that the men had been stripped and photographed.

"They said nothing about the women being stripped," said Colonel ML Tlomatsana.

He said the Lebowa police were investigating charges of crimen injuria and malicious damage to property. In a statement, the Lebowa public relations division said that the incident took place when a large number of white policemen and two black policemen allegedly searched the premises.

The teachers said the white thugs raided their living quarters at Zenzeleni High School at Nebo near Groblersdal in the early hours of Tuesday morning.



TERRORISED... Wreckage caused when a gang of white thugs attacked a group of mostly women teachers in Nebo. ■ Pic: ANDRIES MCINEKA

They said a group of about 30 khaki-clad white men travelling in about a dozen cars, including an armoured vehicle, broke down their doors and windows and assaulted them without warning.

The teachers said they were sworn and spat at by the attackers who wielded guns and batons.

They said they suspect-

ed the raiders were members of the AWB because they wore red berets with "swastikas".

The faces of some of their assailants were covered by balaclavas.

The teachers, who were dressed in nighties and pyjamas, said they were ordered to strip naked and were pushed against a wall and photographed.

The attackers had made humiliating remarks about their private parts.

A woman teacher said she was terrified when they ordered her to strip. She had thought she was about to be raped.

"Despite the humiliation I breathed a sigh of relief that they hadn't raped me."

NEWS FEATURE Homeland faces health trouble as its few doctors threaten to leave

By Don Seokane

Hospital crisis in Lebowa

Sowetan 11/6/93

THE BIGGEST hospital in Lebowa, Groothoek with a bed capacity of 1 230 is empty, and some wards are locked as there are no patients.

And the hospital will continue to be empty until the strike by nurses is over.

Wards such as male and female surgical, children's, TB and the usually busy medical wards for male and female patients have been unused since the strike started and it was found a better option to have them locked.

The strike by more than 1 200 nurses started at the end of April to back up demands for promotion and payment of arrear salaries. And it is the second time this year that nurses at Groothoek have gone on strike.

In February, when a strike was called for the first time, the same demands were on the table and later an agreement was signed binding Lebowa's department of health and social welfare and the nurses.

In the agreement, Lebowa agreed that nurses were being owed and that the first batch of payments would be effected from April 15. To the dismay of the nurses, no one was paid and even on April 22 when their normal salaries arrived, no one reported an improved bank balance.

According to Groothoek Crisis Committee spokesman Mr Matsubane Bhambo they had no choice except to address the authorities with action because it was the language they understood best.

Assessment tests

Explaining the demands, Bhambo said nurses had written merit-assessment tests as far back as 1986 and were supposed to be promoted if they passed.

However, some nurses did not get their results while others passed and were promoted but their salaries did not improve with their promotion. And others were just not promoted.

He disclosed that 1 033 nurses were affected by that bureaucratic bungling. And now all of them want what is due to them and no amount of persuasion would move them.

When asked why they had embarked on an action now in 1993, Bhambo offered an answer loaded with political uncertainties about homeland governments.

"These people (Lebowa government

WORKERS' DEMANDS Strikers

want promotion and payment of their promised arrear salaries: 112

officials) are not going to last and probably there won't be any Lebowa by the end of this year.

"So we do not want them going away without paying us our monies after promising us that they would pay us. They should pay us now before they leave," he answered.

The strike has now spread to at least five other hospitals — Mokopane (Mahwelereng), HC Boshoff (Maandagshoek), Mankweng (Turfloop), Helen Franz (Bochum) and Kgapanne hospital — where nurses have presented the same grievances as those their Groothoek counterparts.

Doctors who are also affected by the strike as they are unable to perform their duties because of the lack of supportive service by nurses are threatening to leave Groothoek. At least two doctors have resigned.

One doctor, who cannot be named for professional reasons, disclosed that their jobs have changed from admitting patients to turning them away.

"One is not certain that after turning a patient away the patient will make it to Pietersburg Hospital, which is about 80km away.

"We cannot afford to continue with the situation where our hands are tied. The sooner this issue is resolved the better because doctors will be forced to leave."

But the nurses are unmoved they will continue with the strike until their demands are met or, as a compromise, until 690 nurses have been paid.

The chief director of health and social welfare, Professor Moss Bopape, disclosed that authorities were aware of the plight of doctors at Groothoek and added that meetings have been held with the doctors on the situation they are facing.

Bopape said while the department was sympathetic to the doctors, the strike was "snowballing" to other hospitals and that is why it was felt that no

hospital would be treated differently from others.

He indicated that, personnel officers from hospitals have been drafted to Lebowakgomo head office to assist in processing claims for arrear salaries and promotions.

Bopape added that they were expecting to effect payments by the end of June.

However, Bopape's department has been rocked by one strike after the other, starting last November when social workers went on a three-week strike demanding transport and adequate office accommodation.

In May, last month health inspectors embarked on a three-week sit-in, also demanding transport and adequate office accommodation. They called off the sit-in after being promised that the department would deliver.

Hospital clerks have also joined the strike by nurses and they are also demanding promotion, study leave benefits and uniform grading of posts at head office and at hospitals.

While Lebowa government has complained about the lack of doctors prepared to serve in the public sector, they are now forcing the small number of doctors they have to leave.

As the situation at the hospitals degenerates further this winter, the prospects of health services being accessible to people are getting slimmer.

But the nurses are adamant: "Do not point a finger at us; blame people who are responsible for this mess. If they do not pay us, we will not go back to work."

Hopes that exams still on

Sowetan 11/9/93

■ **NO FEARS** Gazankulu may recognise

union even if it has insufficient numbers:

By Don Seokane

THE GAZANKULU AND LEBOWA governments yesterday expressed the hope that Standard 10 examinations will not be affected by the strike as talks with the South African Democratic Teachers' Union might produce a solution.

The Sadtu strike in the Northern Transvaal, which entered its fourth week on Monday, has crippled education in both homelands with schooling virtually brought to a halt.

Despite the suspension of the strike nationwide, Sadtu regional organiser Mr Weston Mkazi said the teachers' strike in the region had different demands from those of other regions. (112)

The teachers' two key demands are union recognition in Gazankulu and the refunding of pay deductions made during the 1991 and 1992 strikes in Lebowa. (11)

The union enjoys recognition in Venda and Lebowa. Gazankulu education spokesman Mr SG Ngobeni said Sadtu had satisfied three requirements for recognition. He added that although the union did not have

a 50-plus majority of membership, sufficient union membership existed for recognition.

Gazankulu has a teaching force of 11 000 and Sadtu's membership was less than half. Ngobeni said there were no fears that the coming pupils' examinations might be affected as the recognition might be granted in two weeks' time.

Memorandum of agreement

He added that a technical committee was busy preparing a memorandum of agreement.

Lebowa education spokesman Mr SF Seroka said although too much teaching time had been lost, the department hoped that the strike could be resolved before examinations start.

Seroka, who refused to comment on the progress of the talks with Sadtu on the refunding of pay deductions, said the strike would obviously have a negative impact on Standard 10 examination results.

He added that there were no fears that the strike might affect the writing of the examinations as negotiations were still continuing.

Lebowa Sadtu strike still on

PIETERSBURG — The strike in Lebowa by members of the South African Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu) entered its sixth week yesterday.

The teachers are demanding the repayment of salaries deducted during strike actions in 1991 and last year, as ordered by a court.

Sadtu Northern Transvaal spokesman Mr. Willie Madisha said here yesterday that the Lebowa Education Department had indicated it would refund only 324 of the more than 10 000 teachers in Lebowa.

He said schooling was reported to have returned to normal in Venda after the strike in GaZankulu was called off. A recognition agreement would be signed there today, he said.

Sapa (12) CT/9/93

NEWS FEATURE *Deductions from salaries during strikes in 1991, 1992* ● *Most kids ran away*

Pupils feel pinch most

Sowetan 17/9/93

By Don Seokane

STRIKE CONTINUES *Dispute over salary refunds for teachers:* (112)

ONLY TEACHERS who are listed on the Supreme Court order will be refunded, says the department of education in Lebowa.

All teachers who had deductions made from their salaries should be refunded, says South African Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu).

This is the crux of the argument and the cause of the stalemate in the sustained teachers' strike in Lebowa.

And where are the pupils? Schoolchildren throughout Lebowa have been out of classes since August 2, a week before the nationwide strike by teachers started on August 9.

The national strike has been called off but in Lebowa the strike continues. With less than 30 school days left before the standard 10 examinations begin, the department and Sadtu are locked in a battle, regardless of who suffers most. Teachers demand that the department of education should refund them the money deducted during their 1991 and 1992 strikes before they will resume duty.

Supreme court

Sadtu, as the first applicant, M P Mdluli and 373 teachers as second and third applicants, brought an action in the Supreme Court against Lebowa's Minister of Education as the first respondent, and the secretary of education being the second respondent.

The court declared all withdrawals and deductions from the teachers' salaries to be unlawful. Sadtu has since the beginning of the year tried to get the department to refund the teachers.

All their efforts were in vain and they decided to go on strike. Even after the strike began, education chief director Dr S Rabothata issued a statement saying that paying teachers who were not on duty was tantamount to corruption.

Rabothata has since changed his stance saying that the department will comply with the court order and pay those teachers whose names are listed in the court judgment.

Court judgement

The education department's lawyer, Mr P J Steytler, has said that the court judgment applied only to those who brought the court action and not to all of Sadtu's members who also had deductions made from their salaries. Steytler said the department of education had obtained permission from the Central Government to refund teachers according to the court order, adding that Sadtu was shifting the goalposts by demanding payment for all teachers.

Sadtu's lawyer, Mr Kgau Mahlase, disputes the department's position and says the application he filed with the names of 374 teachers was a test case and that was to determine the fate of all the union's members. "Had the application failed, all the other teachers would also have lost. It is stupid for the department to say that it will only pay teachers who brought the court application.

"In any case, if they continue with

that argument, I can file papers for the remaining Sadtu members - who number over 6 000 - on the payroll of Lebowa government.

"And flowing from the judgment that we have obtained, there is no way we can lose the case.

"But the problem is that it will be a stupid waste of taxpayers' money because Lebowa will have to pay teachers plus the costs of bringing that application.

"At the moment, they still have to pay the costs of filing the court order that the teachers have won," Mahlase explained.

The PAC claims that parents have decided that teachers should resume teaching immediately and that the Lebowa government and its political wing, the United People's Front, should be expelled from the Patriotic Front if teachers demands are not met.

The student wing of Azapo, Azanian Students Movement (Azasm), has called on pupils to return to classes regardless of whether teachers resume their duties or not.

Azasm said it was imperative that pupils should return to classes if they had to perform well in next month's

examinations.

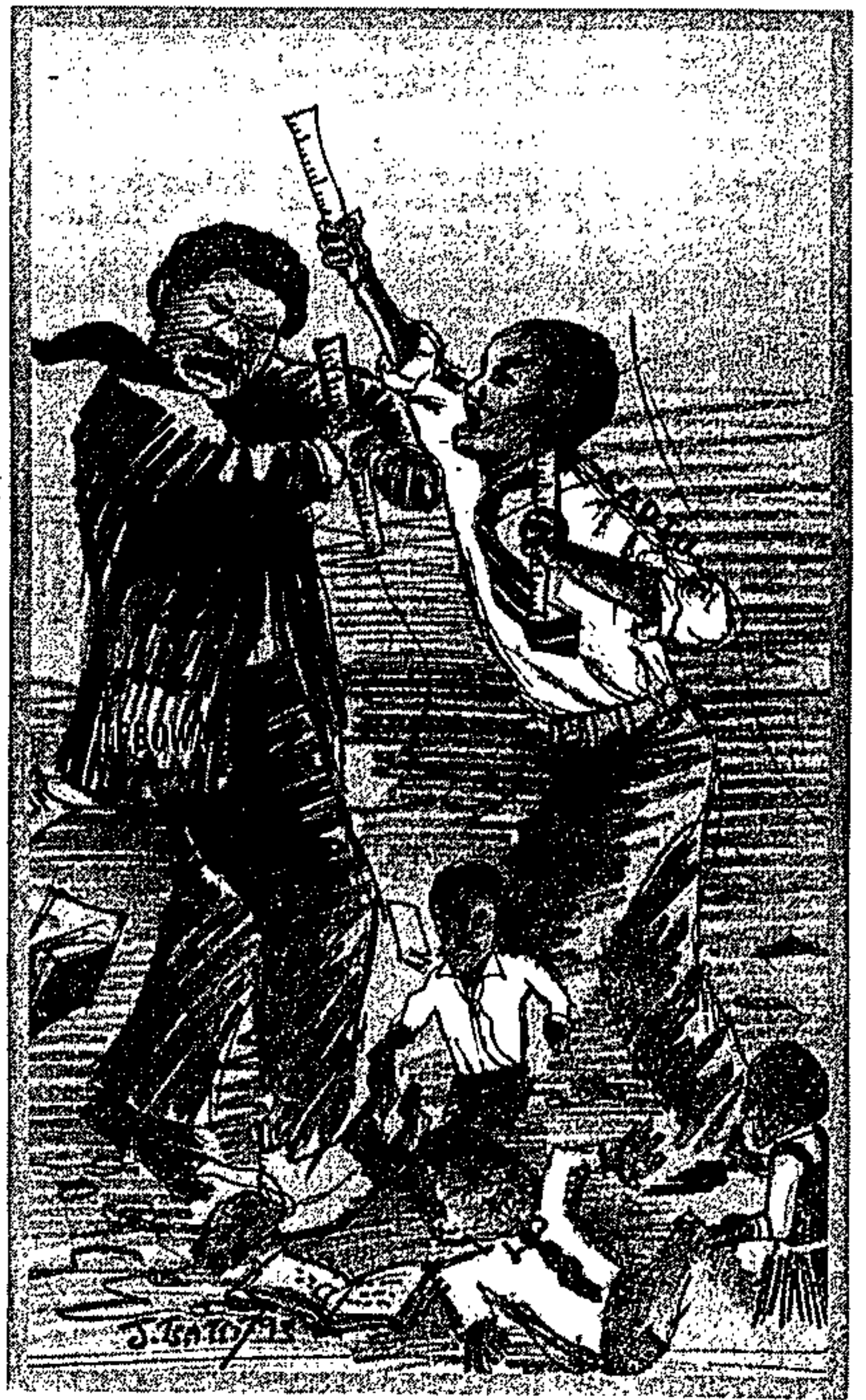
"The 'pass one, pass all' slogan is totally unacceptable as it believes that black pupils are capable of doing well with or without teachers like those in Sadtu," Azasm said.

African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) regional chairman Mr Joe Mathebula, confirming support of the strike, said a programme of action was being discussed by his organisation to ensure that the teachers demands were met.

"We are going to have problems with (Chief Minister) Ramodike's administration if teachers' are not refunded.

"We are going to impose a precondition that Ramodike should meet the teachers' demands before we can work with him," said Mathebula.

Sadtu members are adamant that the strike will continue until the refunds have been made. If the strike is not resolved by the end of September -- there is a strong possibility that it might not be -- then Standard 10 pupils will need a miracle to pass, let alone get matric exemptions.



'PAY US OR THEY FAIL'

C/Press 19/9/93

(112)

~~112~~

Exam panic as Lebowa teachers remain on strike

By KHANGALE MAKHADO

A WEEK before the 10-day Sadu national strike started in August, Sadu's northern Transvaal members were already out on strike.

The strike, which enters its 8th week tomorrow, has brought teaching in troubled Lebowa to a halt.

With a month to go before finals, most matriculants in Lebowa are desperate.

The issues are localised: the striking teachers say schools will not be reopened until the government refunds them the money deducted from their salaries during strikes in 1991 and 1992.

Sadu won a case in the Supreme Court last year when the court ordered the Ramotike government to pay 374 teachers the money it deducted.

Sadu chairman in the region Machike Thobejane said the Lebowa Department of Education was avoiding meeting with the teachers' union.

"Instead, the department continues to communicate with the union through the media."

The department, through its legal representative, accused Sadu of continuing its campaign of terror and intimidation by harassing schools and colleges which did not take part in the strike.

Education Department attorney Piet Steytler told City Press yesterday that the Northern Transvaal Council of Churches, acting as mediators, had drawn up a deed of settlement. The document was drawn up together with Sadu's attorney.

"It is now over five days since the department accepted the settlement and, although Sadu informed us that they had accepted the settlement in principle, they continue with hairsplitting and minor legal wranglings to postpone the signing of the agreement for as long as possible," said Steytler.

According to the agreement all 374 teachers would have to be paid their money deducted during the 1991 strike action. Despite the fact that the court order was made in respect of only a few teachers, the department has agreed to refund the other teachers who were involved in that strike.

Sadu's Thobejane said that his organisation refused to sign the settlement because it only addressed deductions effected during 1991 and that issues around the 1992 strike had still to be negotiated by the lawyers.

"We will only go back to work if and when the 1991 and 1992 illegal and unlawful deductions have been fully refunded to each and every teacher," Thobejane said.

He denied that Sadu intimidated and terrorised staff who were not on strike.

Parents snub talks

Sowetan 27/9/93

By Tsale Makam

■ YEAR WASTED Postponement of exams will not affect the situation:

ONLY TWO PARENTS showed up for a crucial meeting yesterday called by the South African Students' Convention to thrash out the education crisis and the expulsion of school principals in Soweto.

Azasco publicity secretary, Mr Phillip Kepadisa and Azasco general secretary Mr Siviwe Matika said they were disappointed but not deterred by the parents' failure to attend.

The failure of the meeting was partially attributed to lack of publicity.

Siviwe and Matika said they would use every available resource to organise and advertise the next meeting. However, it was not clear whether the suspension of the South African Democratic Teachers Union strike meant that the expelled principals could be temporarily reinstated or not.

Siviwe and Matika said they had

hoped that yesterday's meeting would discuss the formation of a formal parent's body which would liaise with other organisations, including Sadtu, on parental concerns and resolutions.

One of the two parents present, Mr Muzi Xulu, said the postponement of the exams did not mean that there was nothing to be discussed.

"This year has already been wasted. We need to have a parents' body before the end of the year to prepare for next year and ensure it is fruitful for our children," he said.

Meanwhile, the teachers strike in Lebowa which enters its ninth week today is still continuing despite the signing of a settlement agreement between the South African Democratic Teachers

Union and the DET, reports Don Seokane.

The settlement agreement was signed on Thursday and a scheduled 2pm press conference failed to take place as intense negotiations -- brokered by the South African Council of Churches -- continued. The union's strike council, which met on Saturday to review progress and the settlement agreement, resolved to continue with the strike until there was progress on payments of teachers' deducted salaries.

According to the agreement, 374 teachers who brought the court application that ordered Lebowa to refund deductions from teachers' salaries, would be paid within seven days of the signing of the agreement.

112

Outcry over plan to close clinic

Sowetan 6/10/93

112

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

■ DECISION SHELVED 800

workers at orange farm affected:

ZEBEDIELA citrus estate workers are up in arms over the proposed closure of a clinic that has served them for many years.

The closure was ordered by the Lebowa Agricultural Corporation, a parastatal organisation under the Lebowa government, which took over control of the estate on July 1.

The clinic, which serves over 800 workers at the country's largest orange growing farm and villagers in surrounding areas, was to have been shut down on August 1.

The decision was temporarily shelved after the Lebowa government's health department intervened. But the threat of closure still hangs over the clinic.

The LAC claims the clinic is an expensive exercise that cannot be maintained under prevailing economic conditions. "As a result of limited funds the estate had no option but to streamline its operations and unfortunately some divisions, like the clinic, were affected," the LAC said in a response to inquiries by *Sowetan*.

LAC said workers would continue to be served by a TPA clinic situated on the estate.

Workers spoken to, however, reject this saying the clinic referred to by LAC was a family planning centre staffed by white nurses "who cannot understand us".

"We have always used this clinic here because the nurses understand us and help us. Even at night, they wake up to help us.

"We cannot understand why our clinic has to be closed. We were not even consulted about this. When we

inquired about the closure, we were told our nurses would be transferred to the other clinic, but this was not done.

"Now they tell us our nurses must go and we must now be served by white nurses who cannot speak Northern Sotho," shop steward Mr A Sithole said.

The estate clinic is staffed by two qualified nurses, both black. Sister MP Nkambule is very popular, especially with the pensioned expatriates from Malawi who are housed in an old age centre that she organised.

Pensioner

Mr Raison Chisale (78), who started working at Zebediela in 1957, was pensioned in 1990. He said the clinic was important.

"The sister comes here to see us and check on us. If anyone is ill she brings medicines. Do you think those white nurses will come here to check on us?" he asked.

Mr Johnson Mlambo, another pensioner, said that many of them were not able to walk long distances.

"The other clinic they are talking about is far from here. How will we get there, how will we communicate with those white nurses?" he asked.



Pensioner James Nthane is one of the pensioners cared for by nurses from the clinic threatened with closure.

Workers also said the clinic was the last of the health centres that were sited on all sections of the estate. The others were phased out and they feel that the closure of this last outpost was insensitive to their needs.

Sowetan has learnt that a number of other projects on the estate are also going to be axed.

These include training in sewing, carpentry and leather work and a creche. These are to be ended in March next year.

The wife of the managing director of the estate, Mrs A Minnaar, who was in charge of these projects, was

retrenched, given a package, and re-hired on contract, working four hours each day.

Workers spoken to said this showed the racism involved. They said Zebediela, despite promises of improving conditions on the farm three years ago after a marathon strike over wages, was racist.

LAC said they had tried to get the TPA to employ the black staff but this had not been successful.

Workers' denial

They said the TPA clinic provided the same service as that provided by the estate's own clinic.

This was denied by workers who said the white nurses never ventured out, while Nkambule serviced workers even at their homes.

LAC said the decision to halt the closure was taken by the Lebowa health department which would try to secure funding.

Should this fail "the clinic will unfortunately be closed down and the nurses given fair severance packages".

This may answer the labour relations issue for the nurses but will not address the main concern of workers, which is that of a clinic providing them with a good service having to be closed.

Chances of the clinic surviving are slim as the takeover of Lebowa administration by Pretoria means that those in the health department who made the promises are in no position to guarantee them now.

Lebowa school strike settled

Sowetan 12/10/93

Sowetan Reporter

THE South African Democratic Teachers' Union has called off the two-month-old strike by its 10 000 members after reaching agreement with the Lebowa Department of Education.

Sadtu Northern Transvaal regional assistant secretary Mr Rally Sekole said at a Press conference yesterday that all teachers and pupils would report at their respective schools today.

The agreement covered the repayment of the money deducted from teachers' salaries during the 1991-92 strike.

Sadtu and the homeland education authorities agreed on refunding deductions from teachers' salaries during the strike and negotiations on the "no work, no pay rule".

Both parties also resolved that the process of refunding the rest of the teachers had

been set in motion and that the South African Government, which took over the Lebowa government's finances recently, would not renege on implementing this agreement. (112)

Both Sadtu and the Lebowa authorities also agreed that the dispute around the present crisis would be referred to court if no agreement was reached.

Nearly a million pupils in the area have been out of classes since August 2 this year — a week before the nationwide strike by teachers which started on August 9.

Sekole called on all the local teachers to do their best to catch up and make up for the time lost.

"We call on all pupils and parents to support and co-operate so as to prepare the students for the examinations," said Sekole.

Regional deputy chairman of the Azanian People's Organisation Mr Saul Raphaelalani said his organisation welcomed Sadtu's decision to call off the strike.

NEWS Teachers' salary deductions row settled ● Hani murder trial resumes today

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LOOK AT ME NOW ... Miss Jacqui Morgan (16) of Orlando West High won the Miss Soweto High Schools contest at the Eyethu Cinema in Soweto at the weekend. With her are (left) Sibongile Mampame (18) of Senaoane Senior Secondary and Ntombifuthi Dlamini (16) of Aurora Girls High in Zandl
PIC: VELL NHLAPO

Star
13/10/93

Boost for black civil engineers

EDUCATION REPORTER

A Johannesburg engineering company yesterday pledged more than R200 000 to finance the education of aspirant black engineers as part of its programme to empower disadvantaged youths.

The scholarship programme will be run jointly by BKS Engineering and the South African National Civic Organisation. Sanco will identify needy black matric pupils with proficiency in mathematics and science to study for a degree in civil engineering at a South African university.

BKS director Ralph Caterall said the programme would be launched with three students next year and it would be reviewed annually, considering demand and the economy.

Sanco president Moses Mavakiso said civil engineers would play a constructive role in the rebuilding process in the new South Africa, particularly in the general improvement of the standard of living.

Star 13/10/93

Lebowa civil servants on strike after 15 fired

BY JUSTICE MALALA
and OWN CORRESPONDENT

The embattled Lebowa homeland was yesterday paralysed by the second strike by its more than 60 000 civil servants in less than a month after South African officials fired 15 civil servants.

Civil servants decided to down tools in solidarity with the dismissed workers, who were members of the civil servants' organisation, the Interdepartmental Co-ordinating Forum (ICF). The strike has affected all services except health and the police force.

Obstacles

The Department of Regional and Land Affairs, which took over Lebowa's financial administration on September 1, said the 15 had been fired because they were obstacles to the functioning of the taskforce sent by Pretoria.

A spokesman said the 14 Works Department employees had threatened the taskforce members with violence last week and had ordered other clerks not to process payments for contractors until re-

ductions made in salaries last month were reversed.

It was then decided to give the 15 workers indefinite paid leave.

Striking civil servants yesterday camped outside the parliamentary buildings in Lebowakgomo all day demanding to meet Minister of Regional and Land Affairs André Fourie, who was in Cape Town.

Refused

ICF chairman Moseamo Sebola, said the Works Department officials had refused to pay white suppliers of services to Lebowa because thousands of labourers and general assistants on the Lebowa payroll had not been paid their August salaries.

A meeting of civil servants 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," Sebola said last night.

s ● Bophuthatswana assures public servants



za outside

Homeland pensions are safe

THE Bophuthatswana government has assured its public servants that their pensions will be safe after next year's April 27 elections. 15 11 93

It said unlike in Venda, where pensions were paid out to civil servants, Bophuthatswana's pension fund would not advise its members to opt for early pension payouts.

"The assurance that people can have their pensions in cash sounds tempting, especially in the current political uncertainty in South Africa."



70 000 set to strike

DOWN TOOLS Civil

servants want better pay:

By Don Seokane

LEBOWA'S 70 000 civil servants are set to down tools today and have also called for a consumer boycott in a bid to back their demands for salary increases.

Mr Gilbert Mosena, executive member of the Inter-departmental Co-ordinating Forum, said at the weekend that if the boycott was endorsed by the Regional Consultative Development Forum, a body made up of political and community organisations, it would mainly affect banking institutions which were seen as "unprogressive". (112)

The boycott was mooted at a meeting of civil servants last Monday. The meeting also decided that offices of certain heads of departments in the civil service be occupied to coincide with the sit-in that starts today.

"Some heads of departments are highly inefficient and their ineptness have led to salary backlogs. That is why we have to occupy their offices," Mosena said.

The decision to down tools was taken after negotiations between the ICF and Minister of Land Regional Affairs Mr André Fourie broke down two weeks ago.

The talks were aimed at persuading Fourie to withdraw the proclamation that has precluded Lebowa from implementing promotions and salary adjustments.

ment in Lebowa and KwaNdebele

Homelands misspent millions

Sowetan 19/11/93

INEFFICIENT TRAINING

Many officers did not know their jobs:

THE PARSONS and De Meyer commissions of inquiry into financial corruption in KwaNdebele and Lebowa have shown that millions of rands could not be accounted for in both homelands. In reports released yesterday both commissions indicated deficient control and supervision in the various departments investigated.

In KwaNdebele the Parsons Commission made the following findings:

- Thousands of rands of revenue were lost by the department of interior as many users did not pay for electricity;
- Lease and service charges in arrears at Ekangala were not collected;
- Irregularities were found with regard to loan applications for farming units and with regard to the leasing of land;
- Registers for attendance, pensions, stationery and school furniture in the

department of education and culture were not kept up to date; and

- Offices of the department of justice were in a bad state due to lack of regular administrative, financial and audit inspection.

The De Meyer Commission into Lebowa made the following findings:

- Although about R4 million has been found to be missing in 62 cases, the commission believes that the amount could be higher;
- There was a lack of knowledge on the part of a large number of senior officials with regard to administration and management which led to a further lack of proficiency in the lower ranks;
- Lack of effective control and non-compliance with statutory and other directives; and
- Mismanagement of the decentralised financial administration of the government service of Lebowa.

(112)

15 hospitals hit by strikes

Sowetan 4/2/93

AT least 15 hospitals in the Northern Transvaal and Eastern Cape which have been hit by strikes over a variety of demands were yesterday still struggling to maintain medical services.

Seriously ill patients in six hospitals in Gazankulu were being transferred to Transvaal Provincial Administration hospitals in Tzaneen, Pietersburg and other neighbouring towns in the Northern Transvaal. (112) (112)

The institutions affected are Letaba, Nkhensani, Shiluvana, Elim, Tintswalo and Malamulele hospitals.

Nurses are demanding promotions and cash awards.

Workers at Mankweng, Groothoek,

Jane Furse, Seshego, Mokopane and St Rita's hospitals in Lebowa also continued their strike yesterday.

At the Harry Kessler home in Rosettenville, Johannesburg, volunteers came to the aid of 57 cerebral palsied children after 45 non-medical staff went on strike yesterday morning.

Some parents fetched their children to ease the burden facing staff nurses and volunteers. Parents have also taken some handicapped orphans from the home into their care.

The Congress of Satu said it was becoming increasingly alarmed by the hospital crisis caused by the Nehawu strike. — *Sowetan Reporter and Sapa.*

Homeland police 'invade hospital'

BIDOM 23/12/94

KATHRYN STRACHAN

THE Bophuthatswana hospital crisis deepened yesterday when Bophelong Hospital was left deserted after police "invaded", the Mafikeng Anti-Repression Forum said.

Critical cases were referred to nearby Victoria private hospital.

The forum claimed that police had entered the hospital premises after an address by Bophuthatswana Health Minister Nathaniel Khaole failed to convince workers to return to work.

Most of the strike leaders had gone into hiding after they had been threatened by police, the forum alleged.

The forum and the ANC PWV branch urged foreign missions and the TEC to intervene.

The ANC branch said most hospital staff, who worked long hours under difficult conditions, were paid meagre wages. It called on the authorities to address their demands for salary adjustments and increases, pension payouts, maternity and study benefits and night shift allowances.

Because they played a vital role, hospital workers were often held to ransom by authorities who, while re-

fusing to attend to their problems, used the emotional issue of patients to blackmail them, the ANC said.

Authorities should respond timeously to workers' demands to avoid risking patients' lives.

Sapa reports that hopes of ending an 11-day-old strike by nurses and labourers at 13 hospitals in Lebowa diminished yesterday after strikers decided to continue protesting.

Central Action Committee chairman D Tsheola said workers were dissatisfied with unilateral changes made by government to a proposed agreement that clerical staff assist in implementing promotions and payments. He claimed government had excluded clerical staff.

Meanwhile, the SA Nursing Association yesterday asked National Health and Welfare Minister Rina Venter and the National Health Forum to exert pressure to speed up arbitration during hospital strikes as patients' lives were at risk.

It had met Cosatu representatives to express concern about the intimidation of its nurses.

NEWS Workers refuse to

Lebowa cops down tools *Sowetan*

MORE than 2 000 policemen in Lebowa have gone on strike over pay, bringing services at police stations in the homeland to a virtual standstill. 1113194

Lebowa police spokesman Captain Hlomoge Mogane said yesterday policemen of different ranks were promoted and paid accordingly from January last year. However, when the South African Government took over the administration of Lebowa in August last year, the promotions were nullified. (112)

"The policemen have been negotiating gently to get the matter resolved as they wanted to be paid according to their new ranks," he said.

He said the Lebowa government could not address the demands as it did not control the homeland's finances.

Lebowa another Ciskei?

By Khathu Mamaila and
Sapa

THERE are fears that the Ciskei situation could be repeated in Lebowa after striking policemen rebelled against their seniors and forcibly removed them from their offices in Lebowakgomo yesterday.

Sowetan
The non-commissioned officers accused senior police officials of continuing to work while other public servants were on strike. *24/3/94*

The "revolt" could lead to a total breakdown of law and order in the area.

On Monday members of the SA Defence Force were forced to withdraw from Seshego police station after the striking policemen resisted their presence. *(112)*

In a bid to restore law and order in the bantustans, the Transitional Executive Council yesterday resolved that its management committee would establish a task force to convene a meeting of heads of departments in all administrations and civil servants' organisations.

The meeting would discuss the immediate grievances, fears and aspirations of the civil servants and their (civil servants) participation in the process of restructuring and rationalising the civil service.

Urgent call to strikers

THE Transitional Executive Council and the Lebowa government yesterday appealed to striking officials to return to work.

The appeal was made after an executive council task group reported on the disruption of essential services and increasing tension and lawlessness.

The group also reported on the apparent inability of the Lebowa government and the Regional and Land Affairs Department to resolve financial problems.

A spokesman said the council had decided an effective administration had to be established soon.

Meanwhile, nursing staff in Venda have gone on strike, demanding promotions and the creation of new posts. (112)

The only hospital not affected was Siloam hospital.

The joint administrators of Bophuthatswana said yesterday money in government pension funds was safe and mass payouts would be constitutionally illegal. Responding to concerns of fund members about the management of funds, they said steps had been taken to address the issue. — Sapa.

focus on Lebowa crisis

Sowetan 20/12/94

THE long queue of people waiting for water outside Seshego near Pietersburg underscores the collapse of services precipitated by the strike of almost all Lebowa's civil servants.

And as the 70 000-strong civil servants engage the homeland administration, it is the patients in various hospitals, the ordinary citizens, the pensioners and pupils who bear the brunt of the protracted struggle.

Hundreds of patients in virtually all the hospitals in the homeland have either been prematurely discharged or transferred to TPA hospitals in and around Pietersburg.

Thousands of elderly people have not been able to get their pension grants due to the strike. Schooling in various parts of Lebowa has come to a standstill as teachers join the rolling mass action.

But what caused the strike which resulted in the total collapse of services?

Homeland leader Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike gave this explanation:

Following the unbanning of political organisations by the Pretoria Government in 1990, his subjects, who were prejudiced, launched vigorous campaigns demanding promotions and salary adjustments.

In an apparent attempt to improve his popularity among civil servants, Ramodike gave in to their demands.

However, following the revelation by the De Meyer Commission that the Lebowa government was over-staffed and maladministered, a task force led by Land and Regional Affairs Minister Mr André Fourie took over the financial administration of Lebowa in September last year.

The task team reviewed the promotions and quashed them, arguing that they would produce a deficit of more than R1 000 million.

Fourie boasts that his team has been able to cut the deficit to about R340 million.

Following the Fourie takeover, the civil servants embarked on sporadic strikes demanding his withdrawal from Lebowa and their promotions. The main strike lasted for more than two months.

Early this year, the Lebowa government, the central Government and Nehawu, which represents the strikers, reached an agreement in which promotions would be given on merit.

However, this agreement was not well received by most strikers as it meant that most people would not be promoted.

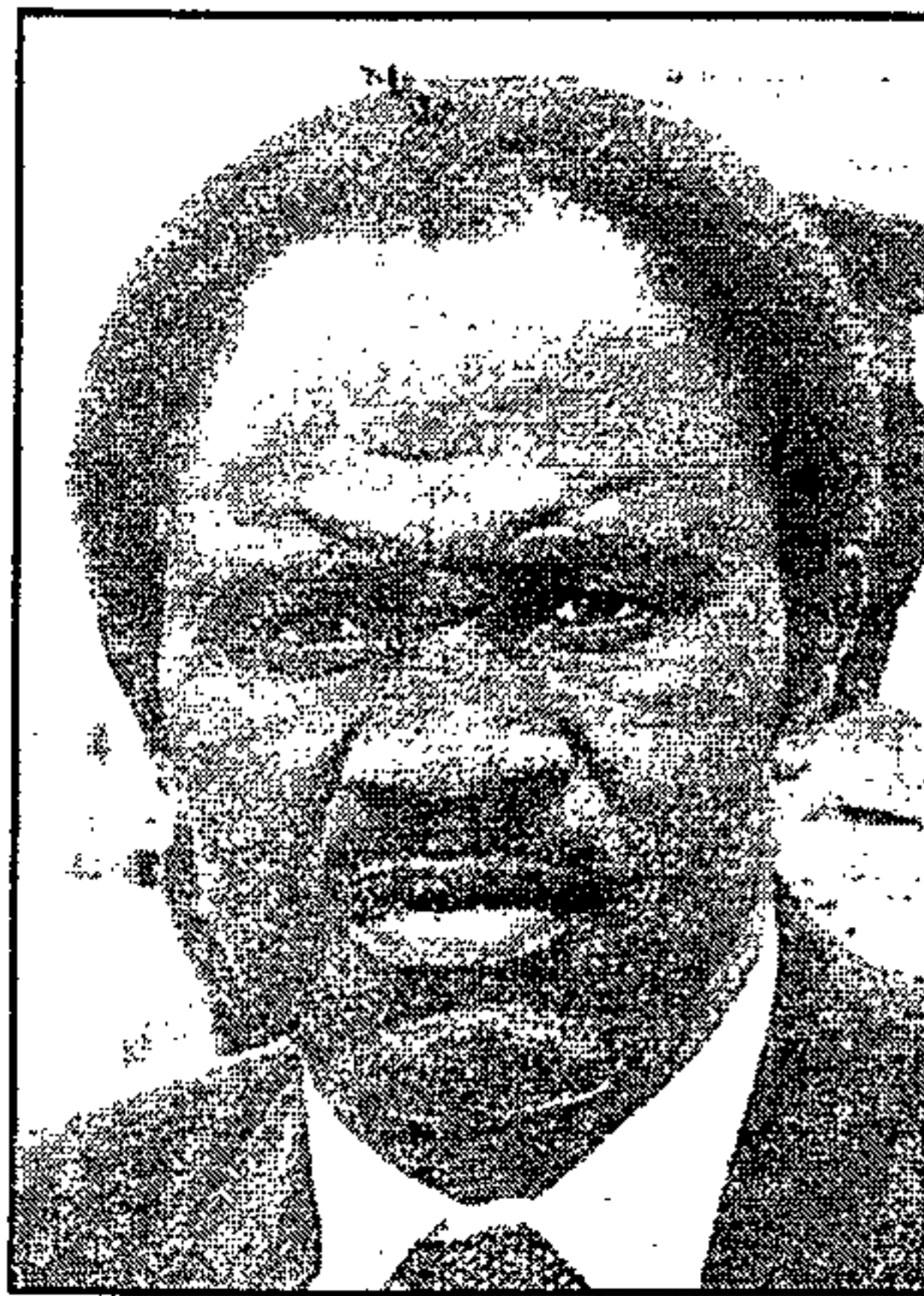
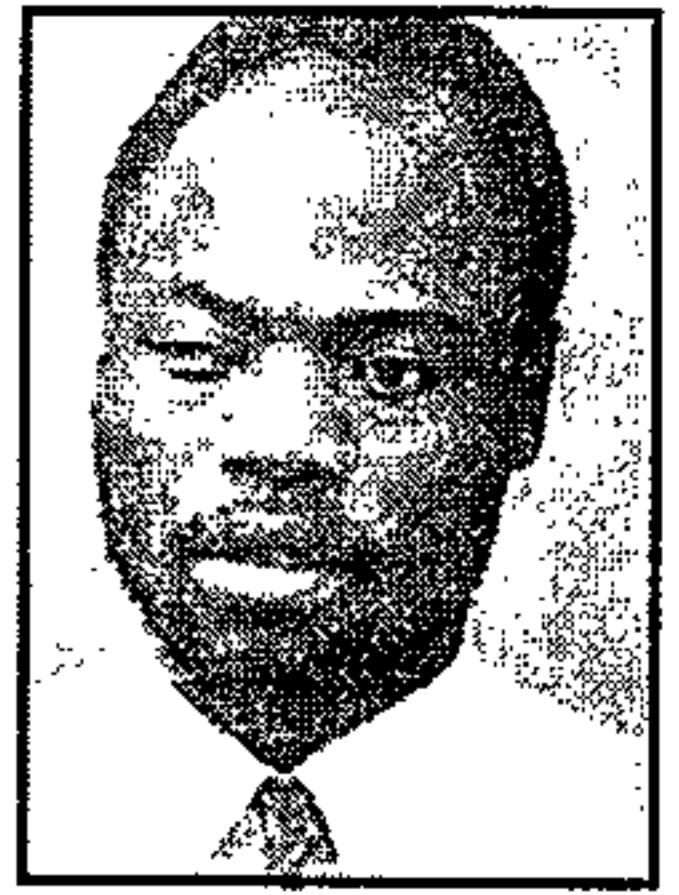
The strikers were adamant that their promotions were non-negotiable.

Realising that "the mass" promotions were not being implemented, government employees in all departments revived their strike in March this year.

The police, who have always been loyal, joined the action, demanding the promotions and salary adjustments.

In an attempt to quell the apparent rebellion by non-commissioned police officers,

While Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike, an ANC election candidate and André Fourie, the N's premier-elect in the Northern Transvaal region, jockey for votes, the ordinary people suffer, reports **Khathu Mamaila:**



Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike.

‘The patients in various hospitals, the ordinary citizens, the pensioners and pupils who bear the brunt of the protracted struggle’

Ramodike called a special sitting of the cabinet, which resolved that an amount of R2 million would be withdrawn from the pension fund of the legislative assembly and channelled to the police force.

However, this plan did not work as Fourie's task team intercepted the cheque and ordered the bank to stop the transaction.

There are about 2 000 striking policemen and they want their salary increase to be back-dated to January last year. But it is doubtful that the R2 million would have been sufficient.

Why then would Ramodike authorise the withdrawal of the R2 million if the money is not enough?

Analysts say Ramodike wanted to buy time by giving the striking policemen some cash while telling them: "I am trying to attend to your problems but the central Government is the stumbling block to the resolution of these problems."

This, observers say, would not only have given Ramodike a chance to remain in power until the homelands close shop in April this year but would have improved his popularity among civil servants, most of whom are ANC supporters.

Ramodike is an ANC candidate and if he could have resolved the crisis, he would have attracted more votes to the ANC.

Observers also argue that this could be the reason Fourie, the National Party premier-elect in the Northern Transvaal region, made it impossible for Ramodike to resolve the crisis as he wanted the votes for the NP.

Analysts say that while Fourie hides behind the rationale that the Lebowa government was corrupt and had misused millions, the crisis in the homeland worked in favour of the NP as people were sick and tired of Ramodike, the ANC candidate.

Perhaps the equation could be summed up as follows: Ramodike might have the will to address the workers' demands but his hands are tied by the task team. The task team might be able to meet some of the demands but they have little to gain, politically.

There have been repeated calls from various organisations, particularly the ANC, for the Transitional Executive Council to take over the financial control of Lebowa.

While this could happen, there is little hope that the TEC could restore law and order unless that body gave in to the main demand: promotions. It has become clear that the workers are not pro-Ramodike, or pro-Fourie or even pro-TEC: they want money.

The duration of the strike, some observers argue, could be prolonged until after the elections as hundreds of strikers have taken jobs with the Independent Electoral Commission.

They maintain that the strikers employed by the IEC could be forced to fill in leave forms should the strike end before the IEC completes its task.

And while politicians continue to exchange accusations, the ordinary citizen in Lebowa is denied basic necessities such as water.

■ COSATU general secretary Sam Shilowa told more than 30 000 public servants in

Lebowakgomo that the Transitional Executive Council should dismiss Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike and Regional and South African Land Affairs Minister André Fourie for failing to resolve the self-governing territory's problems. (12)

He supported their demands because they were legitimate and said that, while they had a right to strike, they also had a responsibility to ensure a free and fair election in the region. ARG 23/4/94

A spokesman for the strikers called on President De Klerk to repeal the proclamation which nullified their promotions late last year.

The strikers have vowed not to return to work until their demands have been met.



Actors carry the coffin of TV actor Mr. Jerry Madonsela at Dobsonville Cemetery in Soweto on Friday. Madonsela, who starred in the *Generators* series, was shot dead hours after his wife Eunice was buried last Thursday. PIC: PAT SEBOKO

Lebowa strike off

By Khathu Mammala

TIRED OUT Some areas have been

without water for more than a month;

MORE THAN 30 000 Lebowa civil servants, who downed tools more than a month ago demanding promotions, have suspended their strike.

The decision was taken at a mass meeting held at Lebowakgomo Stadium on Friday which was attended by thousands of disgruntled workers.

While the leaders of the strikers conceded that the demands of the workers had not been met, they said the Trans-

national Executive Council had made the recommendations to the central government.

The workers resolved that the strike would be reviewed on May 17.

Workers told *Sowetan*, that while it was clear that the authorities did not do anything which warranted the suspension of the strike, people were generally

tired of the action which was more than a month old.

The strike has become self-defeating. Residents in some areas have been without water for more than a month and hospitals have ground to a halt.

Surely the situation could not be allowed to continue any further, one worker said.

Dismissal threat for health workers

By Khathu Mamaila

THE Northern Transvaal government has warned health workers in the former Lebowa homeland, whose strike action has crippled health services in the area, to return to work today or face dismissal.

About 8 000 workers, including nurses and paramedics, embarked on the strike last Friday demanding that they be upgraded.

The strike is reported to have affected all the hospitals in the region.

Addressing a Press conference in Pietersburg, MEC for health and welfare Dr Joe Phaahla said some hospitals in the area could close because of the strike.

Suspension from duty

Phaahla also announced the suspension from duty without pay of nine members of the investigating committee formed to look into promotions and make submissions to the government.

Sowetan 12/12/94
■ OFFICIALS CHARGED 119

posts for 8 000 who want promotion:

The nine, believed to be the leaders of the strike, would be charged with misconduct. They were also prohibited from government premises, said Phaahla.

Visible police presence

Announcing measures to deal with the strikers, Phaahla said: "We have been co-ordinating with the ministry of safety and security to make sure that there is visible police presence in many hospitals.

"All gatherings on the premises of the hospitals will not have the permission of the acting head of the department and will therefore be illegal.

"We are busy preparing notices of an ultimatum to all workers to return to work at the latest Monday, December 12.

(112)
Failure to respond to this will invite punitive action including dismissals."

A spokesman for the committee, Mr Mmopi Mogoboya, said the workers decided to go on strike after they rejected the government's response on promotions at a mass meeting about two weeks ago.

"The workers were not incited to go on strike but they realised that the government was not prepared to address their grievances since it claimed to have only 119 posts for the 8 000 workers who want to be promoted," said Mogoboya.

Meanwhile, the Azanian People's Organisation and the Pan Africanist Congress in the region have condemned the government for failing to meet the demands of the workers.

Deadlock — patients suffer

By Khathu Mamala

PATIENTS, especially those on the lowest strata of the economic pyramid, are again the bargaining counters of the health workers in the former Lebova as 8 000 workers pressurise the Northern Transvaal government to give in to their demands.

Health services in Lebova have virtually come to a standstill since Friday when health workers, including nurses, embarked on an indefinite strike. Five hospitals have already closed down and only those with medical aid facilities got help at private clinics.

The strike is a climax of the behind-the-scenes negotiations between the Health Department and an investigating team appointed with the collusion of the government to explore ways to promote the thousands of workers.

The problem was inherited from the former Lebova administration under

■ MASS PROMOTIONS Inherited from former Lebova government.

former chief minister Nelson Ramodike, who introduced "mass promotions" during the run up to elections allegedly to woo voters.

However, the move was blocked by the central government which stripped Ramodike of all authority on matters relating to finance. The central Government maintained that the unbudgeted promotions would cost the homeland a deficit of over R1 billion.

Since September 1993, civil servants have waged various protracted battles, including strikes, demanding their promotions, arguing that they had been prejudiced prior to the reform process taking root.

Shortly before the April elections, the ANC supported the workers. It appealed

to strikers to suspend their strike to allow the election process to run smoothly. It said their demand was "genuine and justified and that it would receive immediate attention once the ANC assumed office".

After assuming office under the leadership of Mr Ngoko Ramathodi, workers were told to elect a team that would make the necessary submissions.

After several weeks of investigations and meetings, the team and the Department of Health delegation deadlocked. The department maintained that there were only 119 vacant posts but the team had difficulty in accepting the offer as it was supposed to negotiate for the promotions of more than 8 000 workers.

A spokesman for the team, Mr

Mmopi Mogoboya, said the report was presented to workers and they took a decision to go on strike to force the government to upgrade them.

The government argued that the 119 active vacant posts plus three of top management would cost R4 769 312, annually in direct salary value. Before a promotion could be effected, there should be a vacant post, the department maintained.

A further 1 286 posts had been approved by the treasury but had been frozen because of lack of funds. If implemented, this number of posts would cost government an additional R35 million in salaries annually.

About 4 587 posts, which would cost another R115 868 399 annually if implemented, were not approved by the treasury.

The government does not have money to process more than the 119 posts and three of top management.

"If this is the reality, why do health workers reject it and go on a strike at a

time when their services are needed most," Mogoboya was asked? He said: "We are hurr an. We can understand if there are no funds. But how does the government justify buying luxurious cars for top management, including a retired director, while there are no funds?"

"How do they explain spending thousands of rands on dozens of public servants who have been staying at the Holiday Inn for more than seven months?"

"If they were telling us that there was no money while they were using the 'little' that is available to build clinics and buy medicines, I think the majority of workers would give them a chance."

The MEC for Health, Dr Joe Phaahla, has disbanded the team and suspended all its members as he argued the strike was uncalled for but the strikers have vowed to disregard the threats of mass dismissals.

In the meantime, the poorest of the poor suffer, as the two elephants square up for a big fight.

NEWS Strikers will resume work w

Health dept strike in third week

Sowetan

13/12/94

■ HARD TIME Strike has resulted in 50 000 not getting their pensions:

By Khathu Mamaila and Josias Charle

THE STRIKE BY HUNDREDS OF workers at the health department in the former Lebowa homeland entered its third week yesterday.

The workers, attached to the administration section of the justice department, went on strike on November 18 demanding that they be upgraded.

The strike has resulted in more than 50 000 pensioners not getting their pensions. The pensioners have been reporting to pay-points.

Regional head of the department Mr Elijah Rasefate said yesterday the situation had not improved.

He said the strikers had said they would only return to work when they got a favourable response from Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar.

Rasefate said preliminary work regarding the promotion of workers had been done and they only needed the approval of the minister.

Sowetan could not get comment from the Justice Ministry as the spokeswoman, Ms Sue de Villiers, failed to

respond. She had promised to respond after making inquiries into the matter.

Meanwhile, several wards at HF Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria have been closed because of a serious shortage of nurses. The shortage is estimated at 28 percent of nurses in all categories. Three wards have been evacuated since December 1.

The hospital's acting chief superintendent, Dr MJ Smal, said yesterday patients were being accommodated in other wards or referred to other hospitals. She said minor surgery was being handled by the Andrew McColm Hospital, while One Military Hospital in Voortrekkerhoogte was handling coronary surgery.

"At this point we have had no fatalities as a result of the situation and no one has been turned away," said Smal. "Patients who are seriously ill are being transferred to other hospitals after negotiations with those hospitals."

Smal said alterations to the hospital made it necessary to close off some wards from time to time.

Apparently large numbers of nurses have been leaving state hospitals to join private clinics where salaries are higher and working conditions better.

rs 'dismiss themselves' and so lose their sa

Govt fires strikers

Sowetan 22/12/94

By Khathu Mamaila

MORE than 5 000 striking health workers in former Lebowa would not receive their December salaries as they were considered to have dismissed themselves, it was confirmed yesterday. Northern Transvaal government spokesman Mr Jack Mokobi said a total of 5 100 health workers dismissed themselves after failing to meet the deadline to resume duty.

"The workers will have to reapply and be re-employed before they can be paid," he said.

The delivery of health services almost came to a halt for four days when the workers, including nurses, embarked on a strike on December 2. They were demanding to be upgraded. Some workers resumed duty after MEC for health Dr Joe Phaahla threatened to fire them.

"These workers disobeyed the minister's ultimatum that they return to work or give a written explanation why they were not on duty," said Mokobi. He added that 1 400 workers would get their salaries at the end of the month, a week later than the usual time, saying the no work, no pay principle would be applied without exception. Mokobi said the 4 450 workers who ignored the strike would get their full salaries but they would be delayed by a day. He said the delay only affected civil servants attached to the Lebowa health department. (112)

Those who usually have their salaries paid into banks will be given cheques after deductions. "The department regrets the inconvenience this delay might cause to dedicated public servants whose loyal service to the public this office gratefully appreciates."

over payment of salaries • Little Sifiso a great gift for

Confusion over 'firing' of workers

By Khathu Mamaila

Sowetan 27/11/92
■ PROMOTION ROW 'Dismissed'

health workers have resumed duty

MOST OF THE 5 100 health workers in the former Lebowa administration who were warned they would not get their salaries as they were considered to have dismissed themselves have in fact resumed duty, it was revealed at the weekend.

A member of the investigating team appointed by the Northern Transvaal government to investigate the issue of promotions in the former Lebowa health department (who requested to remain anonymous) told *Sowetan* at the weekend that most of the workers only learnt through the Press that they would not be paid as they had been fired.

"Almost all workers have returned to duty. The decision by the health department not to pay the workers their salaries will only revive the strike," said the member of the investigating team.

The investigating team was dissolved by the Northern Transvaal government after it was accused of instigating the strike which lasted for about four days earlier this month.

The workers were demanding to be upgraded.

A government spokesman, Mr Jack Mokobi, could not be reached yesterday to respond to the reports that the majority of the workers who would not be paid were actually working.

Last week Mokobi said the 5 100 workers were considered to have dismissed themselves because they failed to heed the deadline by the health minister, Dr Joe Phaahla, who ordered them to submit a written explanation why they had been away from duty.

He said these workers would only be paid if they re-applied.

Mokobi said those civil servants who went on strike but complied with the minister's order and stated their reasons for not being on duty would receive their salaries at the end of the month.

Meanwhile, members of the investigating team last week held a meeting with community organisations including the Azanian People's Organisation, Pan Africanist Congress and the South African National Civics Organisation in Pietersburg to mobilise the community to rally behind the workers. (112)

Participants at the meeting said action would be taken if the government failed to pay all workers at the end of the month.

HOMELANDS - ~~GENERAL~~ LEBOWA - GENERAL

1994

COMPANIES

Lebowa corporation cuts net loss

LEBOWA Development Corporation (LDC) achieved a 25,3% reduction in its net loss in the past financial year after coping with the worst economic conditions yet experienced, chairman M J Malatji said in his annual report. **BIDON 3/1/94**

In spite of this "dismal backdrop", the corporation achieved a great deal in furthering development in the homeland, he said.

Reserves increased from 21% to 22% as a result of the revaluation of Potgietersrust Platinum which reflected a R13,4m increase in value.

LDC acquired a 99,8% shareholding in Era Life Insurance Company, Malatji said.

CEO M D Lamola said the corporation had increased expenditure on development costs nearly R3m to R12,5m. During the

MADDEN COLE

year 368 projects, amounting to R4,9m were implemented. There were 206 projects involving small business, 40 in small industry and 122 in informal enterprise.

Sixteen factory centres were completed during the year, including a motortown. Lamola said the factory units had an occupancy rate of 91%.

Foreign marketing activities continued despite the poor investment climate, and the corporation maintained its presence in Taiwan and expanded to mainland China.

Approval had been given for several assets to be privatised, including properties valued at R3,2m, but prospective buyers and tenants were finding it difficult to fund the acquisitions. This may delay the privatisation process, Lamola said.

Activities: Operates 11 bakeries in the rural areas of Transvaal.

Control: Sasko (74%).

Chairman: S P Manaka; **MD:** J W B McKenna.

Capital structure: 25m ords. Market capitalisation: R21,3m.

Share market: Price: 85c. Yields: 7,1% on dividend; 20,5% on earnings; p:e ratio, 4,9; cover, 2,9. 12-month high, 140c; low, 80c.

Trading volume last quarter, 36 000 shares.

Year to Sep 30	'90	'91	†'92	'93
ST debt (Rm)	0,9	0,8	1,3	0,8
LT debt (Rm)	4,3	3,1	2,0	1,4
Debt:equity ratio	—	(0,38)	(0,24)	0,04
Shareholders' interest	0,62	0,65	0,68	0,76
Return on cap (%) ..	26,4	27,2	23,2	14,2
Turnover (Rm)	73,6	91,1	102,3	89,3
Pre-int profit (Rm) ...	11,6	10,6	10,8	6,0
Pre-int margin (%) ..	12,1	11,7	10,5	6,7
Earnings (c)	20,9	23,0	24,3	17,4
Dividends (c)	7,8	9,25	10,5	6
Tangible NAV (c)	82	94	116	126

* Year to March 31. † 18 months annualised.

companies), chairman Seth Manaka runs through the usual gamut of economic, social and political disorders. Operating exclusively in the rural community, however, some of these — such as the drought — had a devastating effect on disposable income and, therefore, a disproportionate impact on companies like Lebaka which depend on the economic wellbeing of these communities.

Subsidiary factors stemming from this included a marked swing to consumption of brown bread, from about 60% of total sales to 84%. This reflected price considerations since brown bread, apart from being cheaper, does not attract Vat. But, as unit profit is also lower than on white bread, this trend has further hurt bakers.

Among more unusual factors that contributed to the decline was the intensified school disruptions. The connection may not be obvious to anyone outside the business but, according to Manaka, school pupils form a significant part of the overall bread market in rural areas.

Lebaka has had more than its fair share of problems getting the product to the consumer. While in the circumstances one can probably accept delivery vehicles getting knocked off by people unable to get food any other way, the main motive in this instance appears to have been sheer thuggery with vehicles set alight or shot at, causing Manaka to comment that "besides the cost associated with these forces of evil, the flagrant nonregard for human life is a cause of grave concern."

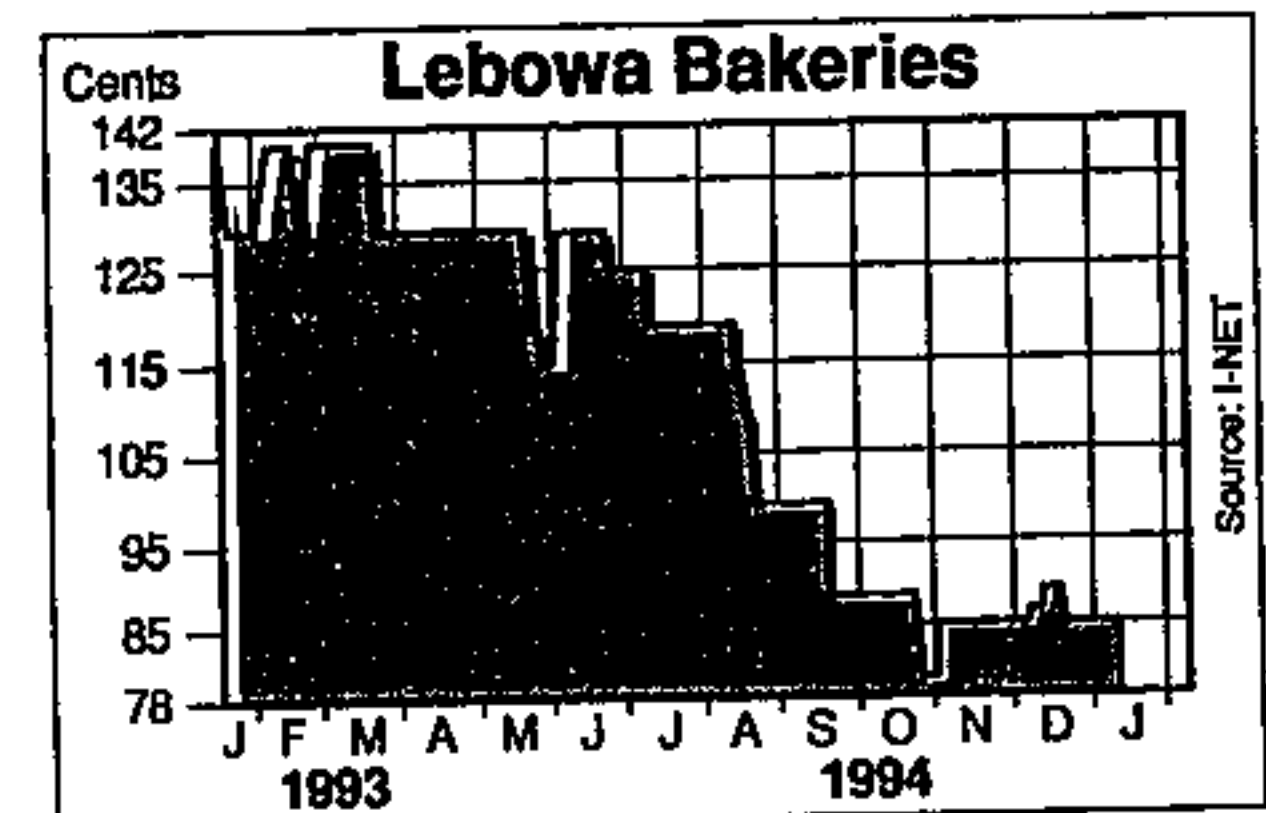
Also, it appears the vehicles that survived this gauntlet were in danger of being shaken to pieces by poor road conditions, thereby adding to delivery costs.

So far, the factors mentioned were beyond Lebaka's control. The same cannot be said for the effect on results of two investment decisions. The first was the formation last February of Ridgeton Bakery, in which Lebaka has a 50% interest. This venture represents the merging of its Bushbuckridge Bakery with Albany's Barberton Bakery, but Lebaka has yet to see any income from it.

Ridgeton incurred a small loss during its initial trading period because of substantial start-up costs. There is some idea of the impact of this in that the reduction in group turnover from R102,3m to R89,3m is attributed to the deconsolidation of the previously wholly owned Bushbuckridge facility. Whatever profit was attributable to that "lost" turnover is also missing from the 1993 results.

The second was the delayed start-up of the new Boyne Bakery in the district of Thabamopo. Production was originally scheduled to start in March but this did not happen until September. Funds invested in this venture, as with the case of Ridgeton, lay dead for much of the year.

These investments were financed mainly through the sale of investments and investment income dropped from R2,8m in 1992 to R1,3m. This R1,5m reduction, assuming a full tax rate, was equivalent to 3,7c per Lebaka share. Considering that lower interest rates would have curbed investment income anyway, about half of last year's earnings fall (as well as the liquidity squeeze during the latter part of the year) may have been due to these developments.



With Ridgeton and Boyne forecast to make substantial contributions to this year's results, it is probably realistic to expect at least a partial recovery in 1994. Against the trend of the JSE, Lebaka's share price over the past year has collapsed from 130c to 85c, where, despite the lower payout, the dividend yield still exceeds 7%. If this is an accurate investment rating for a well-managed company producing something as basic as bread, the outlook for the rest of the new SA hardly bears thinking about.

Brian Thompson

LEBOWA BAKERIES
Profits toasted

If the Lebowa Bakeries (Lebaka) annual report is anything to go by, life in the fast lane of the northern Transvaal faces a number of unusual hazards.

Giving reasons for last year's 28% earnings fall (calculated after secondary tax on

12/2/94

Chief Reporter JOHN PERLMAN considers two surprising ANC choices

Numbers 42 and 78 don't add up

Star 12/2/94

THE march to the Lebowakgomo stadium by striking civil servants had been vigorous and the heat was sapping, but the dazed look on the young man's face owed more to confusion than exhaustion.

"I'm a member of the ANC myself but I don't understand. I can't tell you why they put Ramodike as their candidate," he said. "Maybe the guys at the top know."

Confusion is understandable. The ANC's election manifesto is quite clear on the issue of corruption: "To encourage private citizens to use the independent Public Protector to investigate corruption or violation of rules of conduct on the part of government officials — those found guilty will be dealt with."

The ANC's election politics on the same issue, though, seem decidedly ambivalent. Candidates 42 and 78 on the ANC election list for the National Assembly, for instance — Prince James Mahlangu of KwaNdebele and Nelson Ramodike of Lebowa — are the heads of homeland governments that stand publicly indicted for massive corruption.

Last year the Auditor-General found that unauthorised expenditure and overpayments were so rife in KwaNdebele that he could not vouch for "the reasonableness of the accounts". The De Meyer Commission found that the Lebowa government had spent more than R1 billion without authorisation.

In Lebowa, at least, loyal ANC supporters are wondering just what Ramodike and other Lebowa government officials are doing alongside Nelson Mandela on their party's election lists. "People were confused and very, very angry," said an elderly man who had worked in the homeland's finance department since 1978.

He, like hundreds of other civil servants, were gathered in Lebowakgomo's stadium to discuss negotiations aimed at ending their four-week-long strike. "Ramodike should have



PAPER SUPPORT: Among striking civil servants in Lebowa, there is dismay at the inclusion of Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike on the ANC list, but continued support for the ANC.

been involved in this dispute about our promotions but he kept quiet. And now he is on the ANC list," he said.

His neighbour, a mechanic, was more blunt. "You can't use the whole budget buying Mercedes-Benzes while the community is in this state. He wants to be on the right side, he just wants a seat."

Given that feeling, what does the ANC want from Ramodike?

Ngoako Ramatlhodi, chairman of the northern Transvaal region, picks his words carefully — as you'd expect from a former speechwriter for both Mandela and Oliver Tambo.

"We were persuaded of the correctness of the politics of the Patriotic Front (an ANC-led alliance which includes Ramodike's United People's Front)," Ramatlhodi says. "You then have to accept the consequences. This (Ramodike's candidature) is one of the consequences. It's not difficult to accept," he says. "When people become too much like puritans, too clean, they make mistakes they regret later."

"Look at Mozambique — Afonso Dhlakama (the Renamo leader) was



seen as a non-entity by Frelimo in 1975. I'm sure we can win the elections quite comfortably without these alliances. But the phase post-April requires that we don't unnecessarily create people who will then destabilise the country."

Ramatlhodi stops well short of censuring Lebowa's corruption, which he says was "manifesting under very specific conditions and deliberately encouraged by the central government".

Nor does he believe that candidates under a cloud cast a shadow over the moral high ground that the ANC has staked out as its own. "I don't think that by associating with some individuals,

they are likely to affect our moral position or our ability to deal with that. We have the ability and the will to influence those people positively."

Ramatlhodi is the ANC's candidate for Northern Transvaal premier. Missing millions, if recovered, could go into development but he gives no indication that the ANC sees this as a priority after April.

Support for Ramodike was "not from the province where he comes from", Ramatlhodi says, raising one criticism of the electoral lists system — support within the party machinery can count for more than popularity on the ground.

But one constituency,

at least, is still determined to call Ramodike to account.

Last week the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union was recognised as representing Lebowa's workers. "Ramodike's government has ignored the pains of the people who must now vote them in," a union leader said.

"But we will solve this later. We cannot afford to boycott this election, and the ANC should be judged on its merits. But we will campaign vigorously against Ramodike's placement in the new government."

"He can go somewhere else if they will accept him. We don't want to see corruption in the future, and the people are not prepared to serve under homeland leaders."

The civil servants decided this week to suspend their strike, but not all conflicts in the region are on hold. In the rural community of Mhlaletse, in the heart of Sekhukhuneland, deep traditions of loyalty to the ANC are also being strained by the embracing of Ramodike.

In 1989 Ramodike deposed Chief Kenneth

Sekhukhune as leader in Mhlaletse and installed Rhyne Sekhukhune Thulare in his place. This was overturned by a Supreme Court ruling in 1991, but this month the Lebowa government began making plans to crown Thulare as the paramount chief in Sekhukhuneland — a position traditionally held by the chief at Mhlaletse.

Mandela and others were invited to attend, despite fierce opposition to the coronation from the local ANC branch.

A court interdict to stop the coronation has saved the ANC leadership from trampling on local members' toes, the way they did in 1990 when they invited Thulare and not Kenneth Sekhukhune to sit alongside Mandela at a rally in the north. "They were told to get Chief Sekhukhune and they got the wrong one," said one local ANC official.

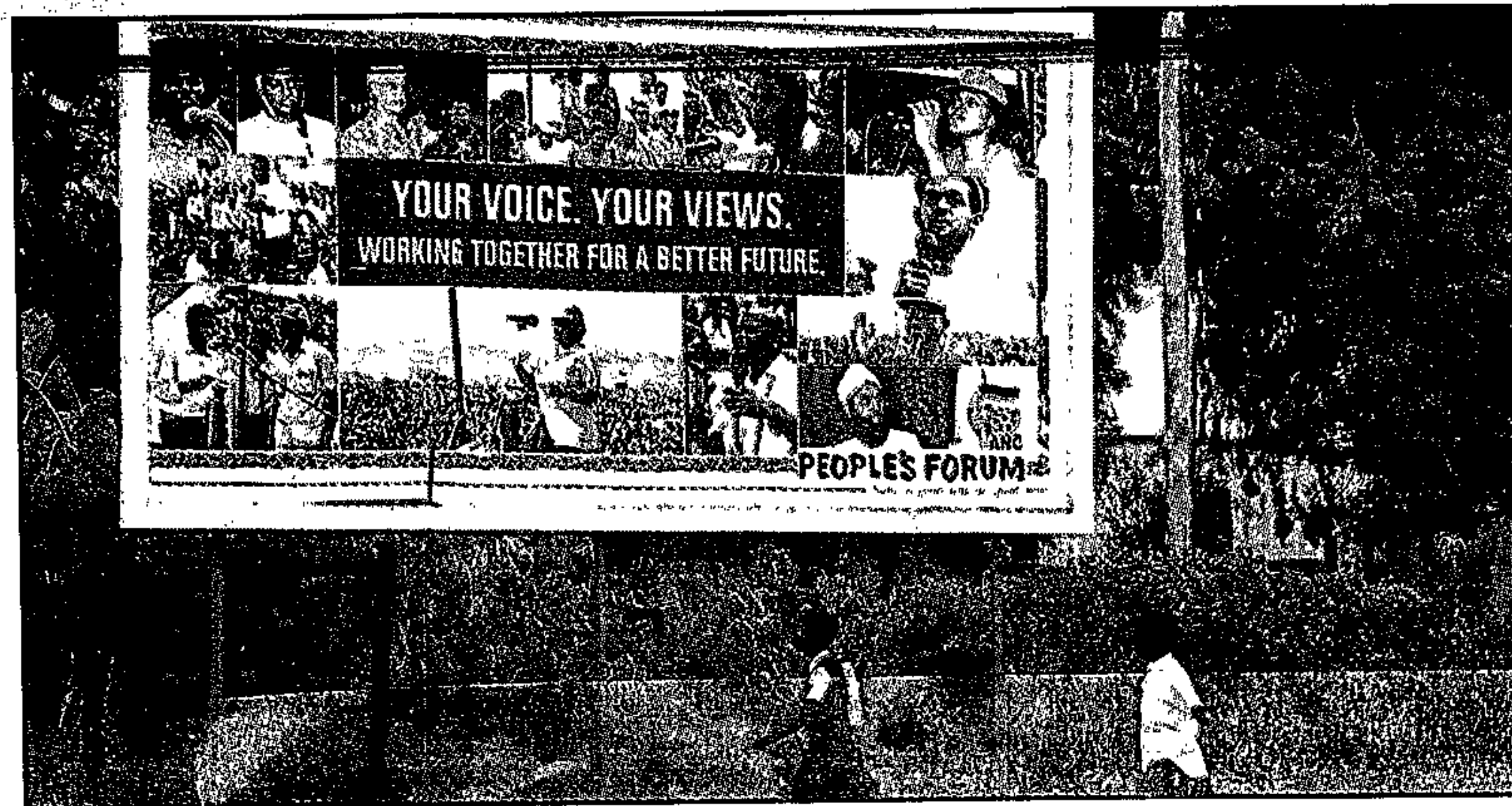
The Lebowa government's attempt to install Thulare as the paramount has opened old wounds. "The Cabinet has no right to install the paramount," said one elder, gathered with the rest of Chief Sekhukhune's councillors. "This is not according to customary law, it is just their way of politics."

Many of the greyheads there were deeply involved in the Sekhukhuneland rebellion of the 1950s, an uprising against the imposition of Bantu authorities and unpopular land schemes. "I was banished to King William's Town for 10 years," said one, banging the floor with the five iron he uses as a walking stick.

Sekhukhuneland will probably return a huge ANC vote. "We like the ANC but we hate Ramodike. He should not be allowed to look after this area again," said another elder. Ironically, ANC leaders in the area expect Ramodike to cost them most votes among the "undecideds".

"They will say we were hoping for a new government, but now here are these guys again who for so many years brought us nothing," said one.

12/2/94



◀ **GRUNDSWELL:** ANC advertising calls on members to express their views in rural Sekhukhune-land, and they are. In fact they have a long history of opposition. There was the Sekhukhune-land rebellion of the '50s, and they have twice sought – and won – court injunctions against political decisions that were contrary to their customary law.

● Photographs: MYKEL NICOLAOU

Lebowa co-op's harvest of hope

Si Tlweo (Buss) 20/2/94

The success of the Phokoane Co-op demonstrates the potential of small-scale agriculture, one of the World Bank's key economic reform strategies, reports KEVIN DAVE.

LEBOWA agricultural officer Johan Adendorff was about to leave the Phokoane Co-operative when a worker took the keys of his bakkie and stopped him.

The worker, who knew what awaited Mr. Adendorff, saved his life — a group of youths was waiting for him with a tyre and a can of petrol.

That was Phokoane, Lebowa's most unstable area in the late 1980s.

Mr Adendorff, of the Lebowa Agricultural Corporation (LAC), could be forgiven for being frustrated.

The LAC had in the early 1980s identified 3 000 to 4 000 hectares of land it believed suitable for maize and had tried to farm it commercially.

Although estimates showed that 80 bags of maize a hectare could be harvested, only six were realised. The rest was stolen by poverty-stricken people living on the edges of

the fields of plenty.

The LAC called in the army, but the threats continued. Other LAC staff were threatened with the neck-lace and tractors had to be kept at a police station because of threats to burn them. Serious consideration was given to closing the co-op formed to manage the programme.

But one thing had been proved: Phokoane was potentially a high-yield maize area. Yet the residents had all but given up regarding their land as having any value. Where maize was planted only 4,5 bags a hectare was realised against 14,5 needed to feed a family.

Mr Adendorff could have walked away from the project, but instead became increasingly passionate in his attempts to make it work.

The top-down approach, where officials decided what was good for the community, was abandoned. Farming methods were studied to find where farmers were going wrong. Co-

op land was cut into plots smaller than 2ha.

Twelve farmers agreed to come in on the new programme in 1989, raising production that year from an average two to three bags a hectare to 26 (some managed 56).

Where the farmers had been growing knee-high maize, plants taller than people sprang up. Where people had to buy maize to feed their families, they now produced a surplus.

The techniques which brought the change were simple. The farmers were encouraged to plough much deeper, to use better fertilizer, to plant when the rains came, to improve weeding and to use more successful seed varieties.

The success of the first

A total of 30 blacks farm on a commercial scale, the largest being co-op chairman Solomon Mduli, who has planted 80ha.

Some farmers own their land, the others receive a tribal allocation.

Bob Moissana was able to lift his production from 31 bags of mealies a hectare in 1988 to 60 in 1991 as a result of the farmer support programme. This compares with the national average of 30 bags a hectare.

He doubled his farm from 20ha to 40ha, only to have the tribal authority take back this land. But he has since secured other land which he farms by arrangement with the owners.

Women, particularly those in their 50s and 60s, have led Phokoane's success. When the project started in 1989, the average age of the farmers was 68, now more and more younger people are joining.

The project has been funded by a R1,1-million loan from the Development Bank, of which about R600 000 has been used. The loan is being repaid.

Co-op members pay in full for the services they receive. Trained farmers may receive 60% of production costs as credit. But they obtain no new credit until debts are paid.

Unpaid debt is about 10%, low by agricultural standards of the total loan book.

The only apparent cost to the taxpayer is the salaries of three FSP officers who work in the region. Given that they have trained 7 000 people and provided food security for more than 50 000 people, this is a very big bang from very small bucks by development standards.

LAC staffers say the training has provided spin-offs for other farmers who have adopted the new methods from their neighbours.

The tractors which had to get police protection have been privatised. About 110 black tractor owners have formed Supportmech, which provides tractor services for the co-op.

A workshop has been hired to a white mechanic on condition that he has four years to train two blacks who will service the machinery in the longer term.

The success has been noticed beyond Phokoane. Similar schemes are under way in four other areas.

But if the World Bank gets its way — and there are indications that ANC policymakers support its approach — small-scale agricultural programmes similar to Phokoane's will underpin a huge land reform programme which will create a million jobs and make up to 30% of arable land available for small-scale farming.

This plan — at an estimated cost of R2,5-billion a year — intends righting the wrongs of the past, providing food security for perhaps 7-million people and a base for development.

As has been shown in the fast-growing economies of Taiwan, Korea and China, economic growth is only possible from a sound agricultural base.

Phokoane can now, for instance, turn its attention to investing the surpluses that are being produced into further productive enterprise.

Sad to say, though, that Johan Adendorff, the man who got the process going, is no longer there to see the fruits of his work.

He has been plagued by ill-health and this week, now in retirement, underwent major heart surgery. But having escaped the neck-lace, he is, his colleagues say, almost defied in Phokoane.



GROWTH MEANS LIFE... Solomon Mduli, commercial farmer and chairman of the Phokoane Co-op
Picture: CEDRIC NUUN

Strike leads
to pay delay

JOHANNESBURG. —
More than 60 000
Lebowa public servants,
including teachers,
policemen and traffic of-
ficers, have not received
their salaries which
were due yesterday.

Mr P Mathee, the
leader of the South Afri-
can team which has tak-
en over the homeland's
administration, said the
delay was a result of a
three-week strike by
government employees.

The salaries would be
paid on Monday.

A spokesman for the
public servants said the
delay was unfair be-
cause it also affected
those who were not on
strike. — Sapa (11)

Breakdown

looms in

Lebowa

Star 24/3/94

■ BY DIRK NEL
NORTHERN TRANSVAAL
BUREAU

Lebowakgomo. — A group of policemen marched senior officers out of Lebowa's police headquarters at gunpoint as striking civil servants in the homeland capital repeatedly stormed the main gates at the government buildings yesterday, carrying scores of placards and chanting demands.

Six troop carriers filled with soldiers stopped marchers entering the government buildings during the uprising, Sapa reports.

(III)
The situation was also tense in other parts of the homeland as some civil servants tried to return to their jobs.

Civil servants, including policemen and hospital staff, have been on strike since last week over a pay dispute.

On Tuesday, Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike appealed to the TEC to take over control of the homeland, which has, in effect, been governed directly from Pretoria for six months.

Policemen among the protesters at the government buildings made no attempt to disperse the crowd, but some senior officers appealed to the crowd not to damage cars or buildings.

By late yesterday there appeared to be no prospect of a settlement of the pay dispute and a complete breakdown of law and order seemed imminent.

SADF occupies Lebowa and Ciskei

DAVID GREYBE

THE SADF yesterday occupied key points in Lebowa and Ciskei as tensions grew.

Thousands of Lebowa public servants, including policemen, continued their strike, toyl-toying outside government offices in Lebowakgomo. 26/3/94

A government spokesman said SADF units already stationed in Lebowa had taken control of certain key points to maintain law and order. However, the strike was making the SADF's task difficult. (105)

Sapa reports that Far North Command Maj-Gen Faan Grobbelaar said the SADF action followed reports that "certain people" were planning to damage key points. Sites being guarded included the Lebowa Police magazine where arms and ammunition were stored, government buildings and a petrol depot. (11)

A contingency plan for Lebowa had been drawn up, Grobbelaar said.

Lebowa was also targeted by the Transitional Executive Council's (TEC) task group that is attempting to resolve the public service crisis in SA's homelands.

In Ciskei, TEC representative Zam Titus met the homeland's new administrators to draft a decree formalising the takeover.

Defence Minister Kobie Coetsee said the decision to deploy the SADF in Ciskei was aimed "at protecting SA citizens and interests and to calm and stabilise the situation". The SADF would take "whatever steps were required to ensure that any mutinous or unlawful activity by any party is brought to an end as urgently and as

□ To Page 2

SADF

early as possible".

A senior SADF officer said the Ciskei army was out of control and the SADF had secured key points, including the military intelligence headquarters. The SADF was also trying to recover "hundreds" of weapons that Ciskei soldiers had seized from Ciskei Defence Force armouries.

However, striking policemen had begun returning to work. (11)

Unrest continued in Ciskei's two prisons with inmates demanding to be released now that Brig Oupa Gqozo and his government had been removed.

In Mdantsane jail about 100 prisoners, some in warders' uniforms, escaped after breaking into the administration block and climbing through the roof. They briefly

held some building workers hostage. But they surrendered after the SAP's internal stability unit intervened.

One prisoner was shot and wounded.

The prison had been left short-staffed after most of the staff went to Bisho to attend a court hearing on a strike in which they participated in February.

WILSON ZWANE reports that Bophuthatswana's administrators yesterday suspended some of the homeland's laws, saying the move would allow free political activity, the holding of elections and the implementation of the interim constitution. Brig ML Sekame was appointed acting police commissioner.

Report by D Greybe and W Zwane, TML, 11 Diagonal St, Jhb; and B MacLennan, Sapa, 141 Commissioner St, Jhb.

□ From Page 1

Anarchy in Lebowa averted

Star 25/3/94

■ BY DIRK NEL

NORTHERN TRANSSVAAL BUREAU

Lebowakgomo — The South African Defence Force acted swiftly yesterday to prevent anarchy in Lebowa, by taking over control of strategic installations, entrances and buildings, while also setting up numerous road-blocks to monitor traffic entering and leaving the homeland.

"Our main function is to protect lives and property, while the politicians sort out ways of resolving the situation in Lebowa," Major-General Faan Grobbelaar of the SADF's Far North Command said.

The main target of strikers in the homeland was the Lebowa government complex, but the SADF was also guarding petrol and firearm depots, he said.

Meanwhile, the two-week strike by civil servants erupted

into violence yesterday when a man accused of being a "sell-out" was burnt to death after being tried by a so-called people's court near the Lebowa capital.

Grobbelaar hinted that similar situations could arise in Venda and Gazankulu. According to intelligence reports, some elements were intent on creating Bophuthatswana-style chaos in the northern homelands, but the SADF would ensure this did not happen, he said.

Prevented

The SADF, which has had two battalions stationed in Lebowa since 1986 at the invitation of the homeland authorities, moved into action late on Wednesday after discussions with senior police staff.

The SADF's intervention had

prevented the destruction of cars and the looting of shops in Lebowakgomo yesterday, Grobbelaar added.

There was resistance in some quarters to the presence of the defence force but many Lebowa residents welcomed the development, saying it would defuse the volatile situation.

A crowd of 1 500 people gathered outside the gates of the government building in Lebowakgomo yesterday, chanting slogans and demanding pay rises.

A memorandum containing a list of demands was handed to a senior defence force officer. The demands included the withdrawal of South African government officials, the handing over of the administration of the homeland to the Transitional Executive Council, and immediate promo-

tions and pay rises for workers. The administration of Lebowa was taken over by Land and Regional Affairs Minister Andre Fourie. It was confirmed yesterday that members of the TEC would visit Lebowa today.

Concern



The ANC has expressed concern about the situation in the homeland, laying the blame at Fourie's feet.

"We regret the fact that the stand-off between civil servants and the Lebowa administration, especially Fourie's task group, has plunged the area into a crisis of serious proportions," said a statement issued in Pietersburg by the ANC's department of information and publicity.

Late yesterday afternoon the situation was still tense in the capital.

TEC may take over in Lebowa

Star 30/3/94

The Transitional Executive Council may appoint administrators to administer Lebowa in the remaining weeks before next month's election, the council decided yesterday.

The TEC was reacting to a report on the civil service by a task force comprising Administration Minister Sam de Beer and trade unionist Philip Dexter.

Their report noted there had been an almost total collapse of service provision in self-governing territories.

The TEC decided that, given mounting tension and lawlessness in Lebowa, "steps should

be taken by the management committee to ensure that an effective administration is established as soon as possible, which could include the appointment of administrators in Lebowa" (11)

A management committee team would visit Lebowa soon to discuss the matter with Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike.

The council called on civil servants to return to work and resume service provision in the territory.

The Department of Regional and Land Affairs took over Lebowa's finances in October 1993.

The TEC also assured civil servants that their jobs and pen-

sions were guaranteed by the Interim Constitution.

The council's move on Ciskei further strengthened its jurisdiction over the homelands and self-governing territories. The TEC and the SA Government have already appointed administrators to run Bophuthatswana and Ciskei.

The TEC noted that the Independent Electoral Commission had set up an office in Bophuthatswana's capital, Mmabatho, and soldiers of the Bophuthatswana Defence Force were to be sent to join the National Peacekeeping Force. — Sapa.

(P Bulger, 141 Commissioner St, Johannesburg)

Lebowa pensions payout

PRETORIA. — The Transvaal Provincial Administration is to help pay pensions to about 150 000 pensioners in Lebowa as they had not been paid due to a civil servants' strike in the territory, TPA director-general Mr Len Dekker said yesterday.

CT 4/4/94

focus on Lebowa crisis

Sowetan 20/7/94

While Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike, an ANC election candidate and André Fourie, the N's premier-elect in the Northern Transvaal region, jockey for votes, the ordinary people suffer, reports **Khathu Mamaila:**



THE long queue of people waiting for water outside Seshego near Pietersburg underscores the collapse of services precipitated by the strike of almost all Lebowa's civil servants.

And as the 70 000-strong civil servants engage the homeland administration, it is the patients in various hospitals, the ordinary citizens, the pensioners and pupils who bear the brunt of the protracted struggle.

Hundreds of patients in virtually all the hospitals in the homeland have either been prematurely discharged or transferred to TPA hospitals in and around Pietersburg.

Thousands of elderly people have not been able to get their pension grants due to the strike. Schooling in various parts of Lebowa has come to a standstill as teachers join the rolling mass action.

But what caused the strike which resulted in the total collapse of services?

Homeland leader Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike gave this explanation:

Following the unbanning of political organisations by the Pretoria Government in 1990, his subjects, who were prejudiced, launched vigorous campaigns demanding promotions and salary adjustments.

In an apparent attempt to improve his popularity among civil servants, Ramodike gave in to their demands.

However, following the revelation by the De Meyer Commission that the Lebowa government was over-staffed and maladministered, a task force led by Land and Regional Affairs Minister Mr André Fourie took over the financial administration of Lebowa in September last year.

The task team reviewed the promotions and quashed them, arguing that they would produce a deficit of more than R1 000 million.

Fourie boasts that his team has been able to cut the deficit to about R340 million.

Following the Fourie takeover, the civil servants embarked on sporadic strikes demanding his withdrawal from Lebowa and their promotions. The main strike lasted for more than two months.

Early this year, the Lebowa government, the central Government and Nehawu, which represents the strikers, reached an agreement in which promotions would be given on merit.

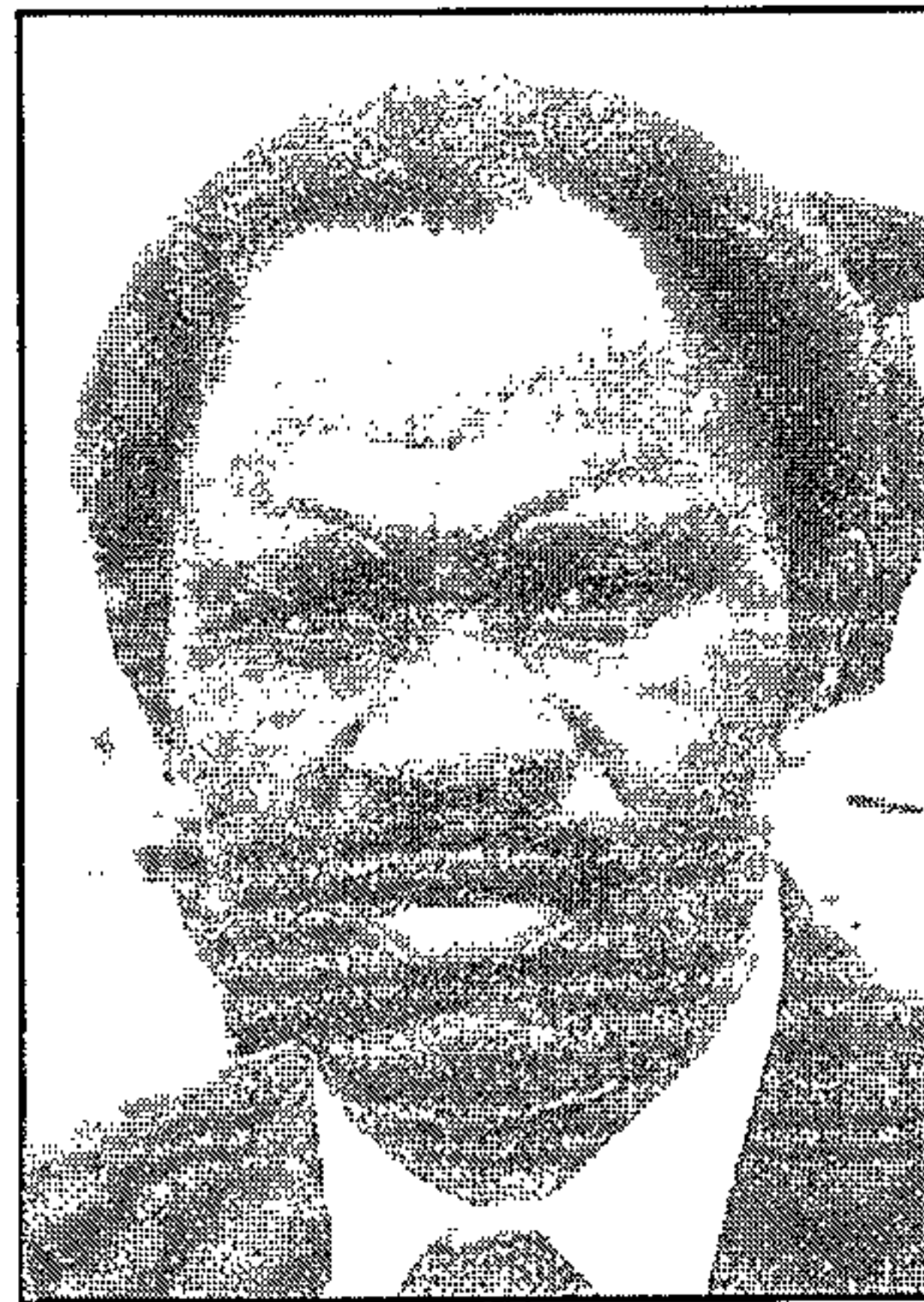
However, this agreement was not well received by most strikers as it meant that most people would not be promoted.

The strikers were adamant that their promotions were non-negotiable.

Realising that "the mass" promotions were not being implemented, government employees in all departments revived their strike in March this year.

The police, who have always been loyal, joined the action, demanding the promotions and salary adjustments.

In an attempt to quell the apparent rebellion by non-commissioned police officers,



Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike.

‘The patients in various hospitals, the ordinary citizens, the pensioners and pupils who bear the brunt of the protracted struggle’

Ramodike called a special sitting of the cabinet, which resolved that an amount of R2 million would be withdrawn from the pension fund of the legislative assembly and channelled to the police force.

However, this plan did not work as Fourie's task team intercepted the cheque and ordered the bank to stop the transaction.

There are about 2 000 striking policemen and they want their salary increase to be back-dated to January last year. But it is doubtful that the R2 million would have been sufficient.

Why then would Ramodike authorise the withdrawal of the R2 million if the money is not enough?

Analysts say Ramodike wanted to buy time by giving the striking policemen some cash while telling them: "I am trying to attend to your problems but the central Government is the stumbling block to the resolution of these problems."

This, observers say, would not only have given Ramodike a chance to remain in power until the homelands close shop in April this year but would have improved his popularity among civil servants, most of whom are ANC supporters.

Ramodike is an ANC candidate and if he could have resolved the crisis, he would have attracted more votes to the ANC.

Observers also argue that this could be the reason Fourie, the National Party premier-elect in the Northern Transvaal region, made it impossible for Ramodike to resolve the crisis as he wanted the votes for the NP.

Analysts say that while Fourie hides behind the rationale that the Lebowa government was corrupt and had misused millions, the crisis in the homeland worked in favour of the NP as people were sick and tired of Ramodike, the ANC candidate.

Perhaps the equation could be summed up as follows: Ramodike might have the will to address the workers' demands but his hands are tied by the task team. The task team might be able to meet some of the demands but they have little to gain, politically.

There have been repeated calls from various organisations, particularly the ANC, for the Transitional Executive Council to take over the financial control of Lebowa.

While this could happen, there is little hope that the TEC could restore law and order unless that body gave in to the main demand: promotions. It has become clear that the workers are not pro-Ramodike, or pro-Fourie or even pro-TEC: they want money.

The duration of the strike, some observers argue, could be prolonged until after the elections as hundreds of strikers have taken jobs with the Independent Electoral Commission.

They maintain that the strikers employed by the IEC could be forced to fill in leave forms should the strike end before the IEC completes its task.

And while politicians continue to exchange accusations, the ordinary citizen in Lebowa is denied basic necessities such as water.

Election fever hits Lebowa

WUM 22-28/4/94

If I vote there will be a better life for everybody," explained Betty Masango. "Some leaders said so on the radio — but I'm not sure which ones." Masango was sitting under a scorching sun in the yard of the home of her Induna in the Lebowa village of Luckau. She was among about 200 villagers who had come with the expectation of being issued with Temporary Voter Cards (TVCS). Negotiations between the IEC's voter-education team in the home-land's Sekhukhune region and her Induna had been concluded, the Induna had sent out word that people needing TVCS should come — and people like Masango had heeded the call.

Despite voter registration problems, Lebowa residents are eager to go to the polls, reports **Paul Stober**

But in a typical smart-up, a lack of co-ordination between the IEC team and the Department of Home Affairs — responsible for issuing TVCS — meant no one in the voter education team was aware of the exact whereabouts of the department's mobile voter registration units they'd heard were in the region.

And so Masango and her fellow villagers were instead given a voter education session.

But despite logistical foul-ups, voter education teams have been remarkably successful in reaching a great many people in the region in a very short time. At least 36 000 people will have been reached by the end of this week.

For the voter education teams, sobering people up from the effects of the heady brew created by a rich mix of wild rumour, mindless optimism, hard fact and local politics is part and parcel of their task.

Election fever has hit Lebowa in a big way: people's perception that it will change their lives and improve their living conditions has fuelled an enormous hunger for information. Voter education sessions are short, sharp and effective. In a batch of 70 sample ballots collected during the mock election Masango and her fellow villagers took part in, there were no spoil votes.

While one vote went to the Keep It Straight and Simple party of Heidelberg housewife, Claire Emery, the ANC expects to get at least 95 per cent of the vote in the region.

Rattle for

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TION

Executive directors appointed

TEC directors to take over Lebowa

Star 22/4/94

■ BY ESTHER WAUGH
and DIRK NEL

Four days before the demise of the self-governing states, the Transitional Executive Council has agreed to send two executive directors to Lebowa.

Although the directors are to work in consultation with the present homeland government, the move effectively means the ousting of Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike.

The decision follows an earlier TEC agreement to monitor the situation in Lebowa after strikes by civil servants in the area.

Moving the resolution at an emergency TEC meeting yesterday, ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa proposed the

THE effective ousting of Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike has been heralded by the latest appointments

appointment of two executive directors.

One director would take charge of the financial administration while the other was to "give leadership and guidance and assist in the process of rationalisation".

Ramaphosa said the directors would act "with immediate effect to form a bridge" between the period during the run-up to the election and the period immediately afterwards.

① The ANC secretary-general said the move was in the interest of people living in Lebowa as well as of stability.

Ramodike, through his delegation at the TEC, thanked the body for intervening in Lebowa but requested that the directors not replace him or his Cabinet.

Meanwhile, as the announcement of the TEC takeover of Lebowa reached Pietersburg late yesterday, Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie vowed to see to it that large amounts owing to Pietersburg businessmen by Lebowa would be paid today.

He said the total amount owing to the Pietersburg business fraternity was almost R100 million.

Govt halts transfer of Lebowa land

GOVERNMENT had withdrawn authorisation for the transfer of former Lebowa government lands to tribal leaders pending an investigation into the matter, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said yesterday. *B. Day*

The withdrawal follows disclosures that the former Lebowa government had "privatised" about 60 000ha of land and given it to chiefs before the April election, in an apparent attempt to disobey a government moratorium on the disposal of state land. *20110194*

Hanekom said a central and provincial government task team had been set up to investigate the transfers and would submit its full report to the Cabinet.

"Due to legal and administrative uncertainties, the process of transferring further land has been stopped by the Public Works Department, at the request of my department and the Northern Transvaal provincial MEC John Dombo," Hanekom said. *(111)*

He added: "The section 230 certificates, which oblige the Registrar of

THEO RAWANA

Deeds to transfer land, have been withdrawn pending the findings of the investigation."

He said the former Lebowa government had apparently set aside state funds without accompanying state accountability — and set up a trust to facilitate, among other things, the transfer of state lands to different tribes.

The Lebowa Farmers Title to Land Trust was formed on April 7 and registered on April 11 with the Pretoria Supreme Court.

After this, a number of transfers had taken place before April 27 and since then there had been attempts to transfer further land.

"It is not clear whether the appropriate resolutions were taken by the concerned tribes as required by law.

"Furthermore, the implementation of the transfer would seem to infringe upon the moratorium on the disposal or allocation of state land," Hanekom said.

S

Expropriation of 400 farms likely

Lebowa deals 'on illegal basis'

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

Minister of Land Affairs Derek Hanekom has been advised to expropriate about 400 farms in the former territory of Lebowa which were transferred from the Government to tribal leaders shortly before the dissolution of the homelands.

The land deals, which involved about 30 percent of the area of former Lebowa, rest on unlawful or irregular acts by the authorities, a technical committee appointed by the minister has concluded.

Furthermore, certain families living on tribal land are likely to suffer discrimination if the deals are allowed to stand, the committee asserts in its report, which was handed to Hanekom this week.

The committee has recommended that the Lebowa Farmers' Title to Land Trust, set up by Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike's government to finance the transfers, should be disbanded.

And, since the trust was financed to about R6 million from the proceeds of drought relief,

the money should be recovered and given to the Northern Transvaal government for drought relief.

According to the report, the transfer of a further 30 percent of the old Lebowa was awaiting clearance in October when Hanekom got wind of it, and put the scheme on ice pending an investigation.

The committee members have concluded that:

■ It was "impermissible" and "out of line" with the Self-Governing Territories Constitution Act for the Lebowa government to establish the Lebowa Farmers' Title to Land Trust to facilitate the land transfers. The trust should be disbanded.

■ It was also wrong to have taken the proceeds of a drought relief scheme to finance the trust. The Lebowa government had failed to comply with its own financial guidelines and the development purposes of the Lebowa Agricultural Association.

■ The Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Act provides for the State Attorney to effect land

transfers without payment of a fee. The report implies that there was no valid reason for creating the trust to pay massive fees to a single law firm in Pietersburg.

■ Andre Fourie, then minister of regional and land affairs in the last National Party government, "had the power to authorise the transfer (of the R6 million to the trust, but) he should not have done so". Fourie was supervising Lebowa's financial affairs on behalf of the central government at the time.

Furthermore, the committee says, the transfer of the land to tribal leaders would lead to discrimination against sections of the tribes. Chiefs are bound to pass on land title to tribesmen with "permission to occupy" certificates, but owe no similar obligation to those who have tribal land rights but lack certificates.

Committee members advise that the land be expropriated, but warn that there should be consultation with tribal leaders so that it is not seen as a denial of tribal rights.