

# HOUSING & HOSTELS - TRANSVAAL

1987

JANUARY — AUGUST — ~~DEC~~

THE back of the 6-month-old Soweto rent boycott has been broken, despite the council having been forced to obtain a R20m loan recently to service its debts, says the township's acting town clerk.

About 80% of residents paid their December rent.

Acting town clerk R E Du Toit said yesterday that about R12m for electricity and water was outstanding since the residents' boycott began in June 1986. This was in addition to the widely reported figure of R59m in outstanding rents.

The R20m loan was needed as bridging finance for the council's running expenses — to cover payments to creditors, such as the Rand Water Board and Escom, and salaries. Du Toit said the amount should be seen against the council's R150m annual budget.

He said 80% of residents had paid their December rents and it appeared that a major part of the battle to restore normality to the rent situation had been won.

He said the council expected the number of people paying rent and other residential bills would continue to be this high.

# Soweto pays the rent again

DIANNA GAMES

"Ultimately the residents are going to have to pay interest on the outstanding money," he said.

A circular to the effect that continuing the boycott would eventually result in financial hardship to residents has been included with the latest accounts, he said.

The initiative to pay appeared to come more from the residents, he said, with people realising that the short-term benefits of the boycott could "backfire" on them in the long term.

The opening of council offices in town and in the civic centre had also contributed to people being able to pay.

"But of course we cannot predict what strategies our 'enemies' will come up with in the future," he said.

Government has said that draft legislation to expedite rent collection and service charges in the face of widespread rent boycotts would be presented to a standing committee of the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning this month.

# Soweto rent <sup>7/11/87</sup> boycott 'ending' <sup>(127)</sup>

JOHANNESBURG —  
The six-month-old Soweto rent boycott is gradually being broken, with the city council collecting 80% of its normal monthly income last month, the acting town clerk, Mr R E du Toit, said yesterday

This did not mean that 80% of Soweto's 75 000 households, of which 50 000 were rented homes and 25 000 99-year-leasehold properties, had paid their rent for December, he said. It was a subjective estimate of the moneys collected for that month.

"The rent boycott has not been broken, but it is improving," he said.

Increased income had been gradual, but he would not provide figures of losses, saying any business reserved the right to keep its books a secret. "We do not have to give our enemies ammunition."

The council had run R12 million into arrears for electricity and water payment to Escom and the Rand Water Board, but this amount constituted service charges and not rents. The overall annual running costs were R150 million.

"The arrears are small," he said.

Mr Du Toit would not confirm the figure of R59 million given by an independent survey and quoted in a Johannesburg newspaper as the arrears for rents since June — Sapa

# SOWETAN

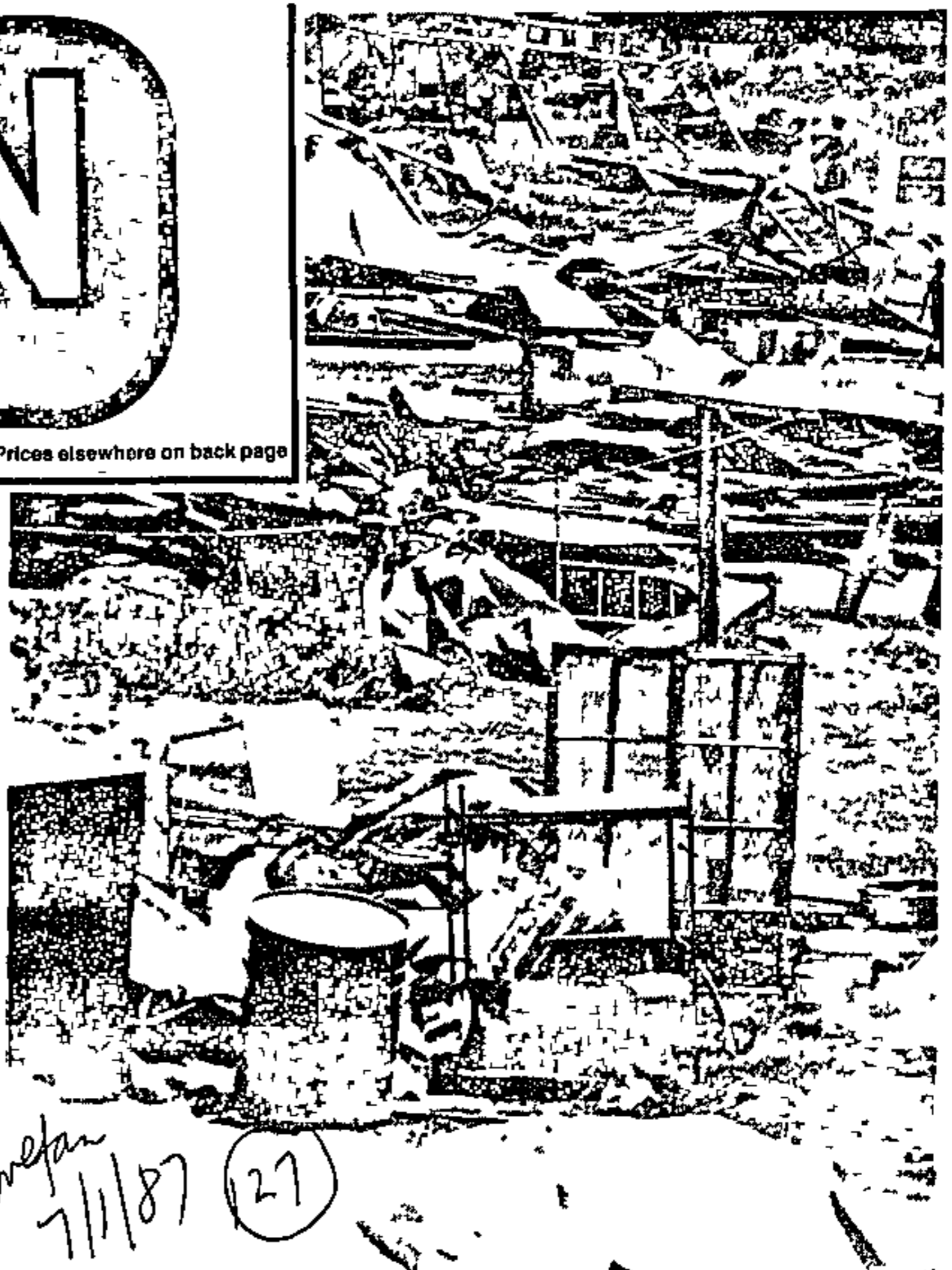
Daily Mirror

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7 1987

27c + 3c GST (PWV) Prices elsewhere on back page

Mshenguville squatters homeless

# COUNCIL WRECKS SHACKS



THE DEVASTATION in this picture was not caused by a tornado, nor is the picture of a war devastated area. This is Mshenguville yesterday after the bulldozers had moved in.

Pic LEN KUMALO

CLOSE to 400 Mshenguville squatter camp families were left homeless yesterday after their shacks in Mofolo were demolished by the Soweto City Council.

The demolition squad used bulldozers to flatten the shacks that had cost owners between R500 and R800 to erect.

Most of the squatters were at work unaware that their homes were being destroyed. Some of their belongings were damaged as the bulldozers twisted and flattened the zinc wood and brick structures.

People from the neighbourhood watched as some of the squatters pleaded in vain with council officials.

By MANDLA NDLAZI

The Bureau for Information said in a telex to the *Sowetan* "The Soweto Town Council started demolishing shacks this morning but discontinued this when security forces arrived and suggested that alternative housing should be provided before continuing the demolishing."

Before the arrival of the security forces the council members were attacked with petrol bombs and the municipal police responded with tearsmoke. No injuries were reported.

Mrs Peggy Magubane said she built her R800 shack on December 16. It was her fourth shack to be destroyed by the council squad in Mshenguville.

Mrs Suzan Nkuna (44) a mother of six said she built her shack on October 22 for R800. She was still paying for the shack that was destroyed yesterday.

Mother of two Mrs Florence Xaba (37) said she erected her shack on December 1 for R700. This was her third shack to be demolished in the squatter camp.

Mr R E du Toit the council's electrical engineer said shacks recently built were being demolished. He would not comment any further.



**Kids' first day at school**

CHILDREN and parents yesterday registering for the re-opening of schools today. Mrs Dorothy Sihlaku (left) and Mrs Cathy Nkomo brought their children — Mpho (6), Malakiya (7) and Mball (5) — to Themballhie Lower Primary in Orlando East, Soweto. On the right is principal, Mrs Sinnah Dikgale.

Pic MOFFAT ZUNGU

- Inside your Sowetan**
- ANC turns 75 — Page 4
  - Treasure Hunt contest winners — Page 5.
  - PAC man on hunger strike — Page 2

R225,00. NOW R139,99.  
ERE R49,99. NOW R35,99.  
WERE R49,99. NOW R24,99.  
R79,99. NOW R20,00.

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NOW R13,49.

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# Sowetans 'paying rent again'

By Rich Mkhondo

Soweto's acting town clerk, Mr R du Toit, yesterday said residents of the township had started paying their rent and service charges after a six-month boycott

"Things have improved markedly, but the rent boycott is not over," Mr du Toit said in reaction to Press reports that the back of the rent boycott had been broken

Mr du Toit said the situation was "very bad" to-

wards the end of the year, but improved in December

"I cannot mention any figures because that will be playing into the hands of our enemies. All I can say is that the situation has improved but the boycott has not been broken"

## HOUSES

He said there were about 75 000 houses in Soweto of which 35 000 are privately owned

"This leaves us with only 40 000 council-owned houses from which we can collect rentals. People from those houses have started paying their dues, but some are being intimidated," he said

He said it was unfortunate that people were paying their arrears only instead of their monthly rentals

"We hope the situation will get back to normal soon," he said

# I SAW SHACKS

127 Soweto  
8/1/87

SOWETAN Reporter

**A PROMINENT Soweto priest is angry after watching council officials flatten about 400 shacks in Mofolo Central, Soweto, on Tuesday.**

The Reverend Tom Mbabane of the Methodist Church, yesterday said "I could not sleep that night when I thought of all those homeless people," he said. He said Soweto's new mayor, Mr Nelson Botile promised 'hope' in his New Year message.

"But six days later that message was completely shattered by his own officials," said Mr Mbabane. "In the meantime some of the squatters whose shacks were destroyed early in 1986 are still staying in church premises.



REV TOM MBABANE

"While no one will approve of a squatter camp in an unhealthy site in Mshenguville, it is a fact that the squatter camp arose from desperation. "It is also a fact that some of the squatters have been on the waiting list for houses for years. What are they expected to do. "What does the demolition of shacks without alternative accommodation solve?" Mr Mbabane asked. He said squatters

should be considered as human beings with a right to life. "I wish to appeal to whoever is responsible for the demolitions to desist. "By all standards, removing a human being's only shelter and abandoning that human being cannot be accepted," Mr Mbabane said. Yesterday some of the homeless squatters were still in the open, huddled next to their belongings.

# RAZED — PRIEST

Last night the homeless squatters huddled together, some seeking shelter in nearby houses as heavy rain fell.

S.M.A.  
1187 127

## Indians call for township development

East Rand Bureau

A report-back meeting of the Labour Party in Benoni Town Hall last night, attended by about 500 people, unanimously passed a resolution calling on the House of Delegates to develop immediately Villa Liza township between Brakpan and Boksburg.

The resolution called for the provision of homes for all income categories in the new township to resolve a "critical housing shortage".

Villa Liza is awaiting Government approval to be developed as an Indian township.

The resolution was proposed by a nominated MP, Mr Salem Abram-Mayet, who said he had no fight with the Transvaal Indian Congress and United Democratic Front and agreed with them that the House of Delegates was "not delivering the goods".

Mr Mayet said residents of Actonville had waited a long time for land to build houses and Villa Liza was the answer.

# Perm drops charges against detained Sisulu

ARK Trip  
17/1/87  
127

By HILARY VENABLES

THE SA Perm has dropped all legal action against detained New Nation editor Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu for failing to make a bond repayment on his home

A Johannesburg court this week ordered Mr Sisulu to make immediate repayment of his outstanding bond commitments of more than R21 500 to the building society when he failed to pay a monthly instalment on the debt

Mr Sisulu had been unable to settle the account because when he was detained several weeks ago, he had his building society deposit book in his possession

The Perm turned down an earlier appeal from Mr Sisulu's lawyers for more time to make the payment and his mother, Mrs Albertina Sisulu, immediately deposited a cheque with the society.

But the cheque, meant for the Perm's bonds and mortgages department, failed to reach its destination after getting "lost in the system", according to the Perm

By the time the society realized what had happened, the court had already ruled against Mr Sisulu

The Perm immediately recalled the summons on Mr Sisulu's house and said in a statement yesterday that it would renounce the judgment.

Perm spokesman Mr Peter von Broembsen said yesterday his company would treat "sympathetically" any case of hardship brought to its attention which prevented a client from making a repayment

"If we lack the knowledge of our client's circumstances, however, we will presume that he is in deliberate default," he said



30/1/87

# Soweto mayor wants rent talks with PW

(127)

NEWLY elected mayor of Soweto Nelson Botile said yesterday he wanted to meet President P W Botha to discuss lower rents and the sale of houses in Orlando East.

Botile's approach follows a meeting in October last year at which residents of Orlando East — the oldest township in Soweto, built in 1932 — submitted a strongly motivated memorandum to the Soweto City Council demanding a 50% drop in rents.

The memorandum also demanded that pensioners pay not more than one-third of their pension for rent.

Botile and town clerk Nico Malan also want to discuss with Botha the sale of houses in the area, which are two- and three-roomed dwellings.

Residents have asked that the houses — which they say are old and not maintained by the council — be

SOPHIE TEMA

sold at R300 for three-roomed dwellings and R200 for two-roomed houses

Councillor Violet Petjalema said although the move was initiated by Orlando East residents the possibility of reducing rents for the entire Soweto should be investigated and looked into.

Replying to Petjalema, Malan said "The matter relating to Orlando East people will be discussed with the State President."

Speaking about the possibility of reducing rent in the entire Soweto, he said "This would be for the government to decide.

"The principle, although it may have been initiated by Soweto, will need government consideration and may take a considerably long time"

# Soweto rent crisis may be a thing of the past

127  
Star  
31/1/87

By Mudini Maivha

The Soweto Council may soon recover much of the R26 million it is owed in outstanding rent because thousands of residents have started paying what they owe.

The council collected R2,5 million in rental and service charges in December, Town Clerk Mr Nico Malan said yesterday, an amount which is more than double that paid in November.

Other residents flocked to offices to pay their rent after the former mayor, Mr Ephraim Tshabalala, told a Sofasonke Party meeting on Sunday that residents should pay R15 rent, and flat dwellers R75.

Mr Malan said the council was aware of the problem that Mr Tshabalala's call to pay R15 has posed for residents. It has defied both the council's demand that residents pay a stipulated rent much higher than R15 and the Soweto Civic Association's demand that rent be scrapped.

"We agree that people should pay rent but they cannot pay one-tenth of it. We have accepted the money as down payment on their accounts. We still hold the residents responsible for the balance," said Mr Malan.

In another attempt to solve

Soweto's rent impasse, the present mayor, Mr Nelson Botile, is seeking a meeting with President Botha. He said he would be discussing a rent reduction.

The council has reportedly cut electricity supply to houses and flats in Mofolo North, Orlando East, Pinville and Tshiwaelo Extension 3, and it is reportedly refusing to sell houses to residents in arrears with rent.

Mr Malan said "Legally we issue a certificate in terms of the 99-year leasehold to people who have paid all their dues and requirements to the council. They must not be in debt to the council if they want to own the land, otherwise it is fraud."

CAPE TIMES 2/2/87  
127  
**Soweto mayor,  
P.W. Botha to  
meet on rents**

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Soweto's town clerk, Mr Nico Malan, and the newly-elected mayor, Mr Nelson Botile, are to meet President P W Botha on February 22, to discuss a possible reduction in rent

Mr Malan said the Soweto management committee had authorized the meeting where the issue of reducing rent, especially in Orlando East — the oldest township in Soweto, would be discussed with Mr Botha

He said submissions by the residents of Orlando East in a memorandum presented to the council in October last year, demand a 50% reduction in rent and that the houses be sold to them at R200 to R400.

They also demand that pensioners pay only a third of their pension for rent.

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# Pay up, Soweto Council appeals

5/2/87 By Montshwa Moroke *Star*

The Soweto Council is owed R29 million by residents who have not paid for services since June last year.

The town clerk, Mr Nico Malan, appealed to residents to pay up when he spoke at a Press conference yesterday.

The council called the conference to make "major announcements" on rent and services charges, but the rent issue was not discussed.

Mr Malan's appeal was echoed by the chairman of the housing committee, Mr Julius Mdlalose.

Mr Malan and Soweto's mayor Mr Nelson Botile are expected to meet the State President, Mr P W Botha, on February 22 to discuss the rent

impasse.

Mr Malan said R35 million, put aside in three reserve funds, was now exhausted. "Unless residents pay their dues there will be a total breakdown of services. People must understand that."

Asked about the rent boycott, Mr Malan said "That is another issue. Let's concern ourselves with services".

He said the supply of electricity in most parts of Soweto might be disrupted over the next few weeks, but the council would not cut water supplies for health reasons.

Mr Mdlalose said no representation from residents had been made to the council to lower the rents. If such a plea were made, it could be considered.

Council urges residents to play ball

# Soweto in red as services bills remain unpaid

127

B/day 5/2/87

THE seven-month-old Soweto rent boycott has rendered the Soweto Council bankrupt.

Its reserves of R35m have run dry and the country's biggest city is surviving on borrowings

This was announced by the council's town clerk Nico Malan at a Press conference yesterday

Malan urged residents to pay for service charges such as electricity and water "even if they are not paying house rentals"

"We are not talking about house rentals at present, but service charges," he said.

Contrary to council statements last year that 80% of Sowetans were paying rent, Malan confessed that few are paying.

"If residents and hostel inmates do not pay the full account for services used by them, the council is obviously unable to pay the bulk supplier's account in full.

SIPHO NGCOBO

We rely on Eskom for the supply of electricity, Rand Water Board for water and Johannesburg City Council for other services, and we must pay for these

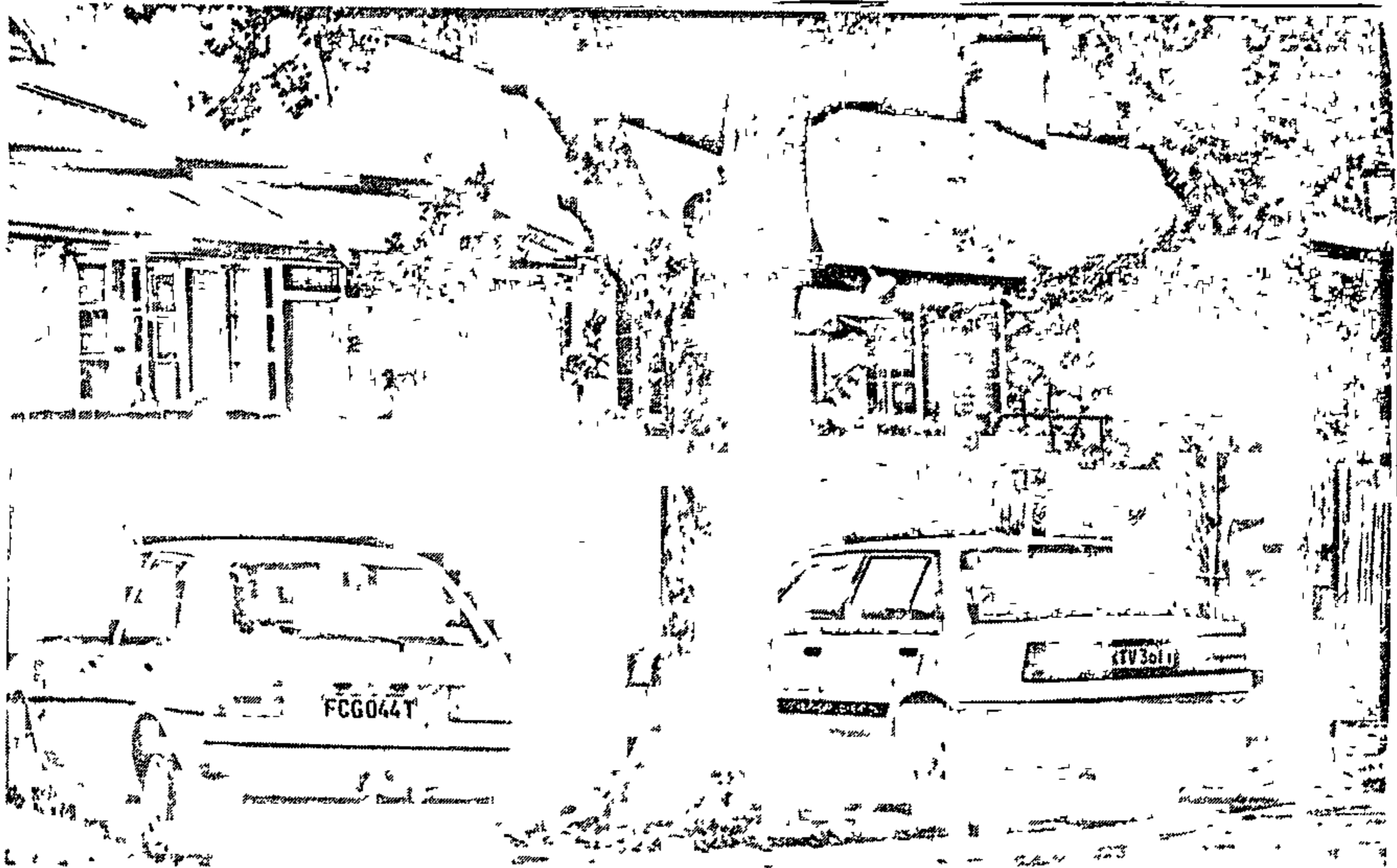
"If residents are unwilling to pay service charges, all this will obviously result in the disruption of some of the services," Malan said.

He revealed that electricity was already being curtailed in some Soweto areas and warned more disruptions were likely to take place over the next few weeks

"We therefore appeal to residents to pay their outstanding arrears or make satisfactory arrangements with the township managers regarding the settlement of charges in order to avoid a disruption of essential services."

SOUTH AFRICA

# Mixed village doomed



SOME of the houses at Laanglaagte Deep (also known as Crown Mines) which are to be closed down this month

## 100 families must quit



Mr DANIEL Monala ... sad to see the village go

A MULTIRACIAL community of about 100 families has been given until the end of the month to vacate a village owned by Rand Mines Properties at Crown Mines, Johannesburg.

Residents living in the village, also known as Langlaagte Deep, were served with eviction notices by the RMP last October and told they had until February 28 to remain in the area.

The village was established in 1902 and is the last remaining original mining village on the Witwatersrand. It was originally built to house miners but since 1977

By NKOPANE MAKOBANE and SONTKO MASEKO

when the mine ceased operations, the property has been rented to the general public.

Current occupants include ordinary citizens, professionals and a number of "squatters".

### Health

Reasons advanced by RMP for closing down the village are that over the years, the cottages have become increasingly dilapidated. It has also said the village poses several health, safety and environmen-

tal risks. Again, the R280 monthly rental is "barely sufficient" to cover services.

The general manager of Rand Mines Properties, Mr Gert Strydom, yesterday issued a statement in relation to the closing down of Langlaagte Deep (Crown Mines) village in Johannesburg.

He said RMP, owners of the 67-house village, have decided to retain some 15 houses and upgrade them for occupa-

tion by some of their employees.

The other houses will remain vacant until the National Monuments Council (NMC), which is considering a provisional proclamation on the village, decides whether or not to proclaim it as a national monument.

He said there were a number of reasons which made it necessary for RMP to close down Langlaagte Deep. The main ones are:

- The village and the services which support it — like sewerage, water, electricity and road facilities — are dilapidated and falling apart and the village had become a health and safety hazard.

- Even if RMP wanted to retain the village, it would require at least R5-million to upgrade it to standards that prevail in Rand Mines Group generally.

RMP is a property development company and is not in the residential letting business. In any case, it does not have that kind of spare cash.

# STORM OVER RENT HIKE

*Sowetan* (27) 6/1/82  
ATTERIDGEVILLE, Pretoria residents are up in arms over what they described as "secret" rent increases which were imposed without their knowledge.

Investigations by the *Sowetan* have revealed that tariffs have increased with effect from last week and a number of residents said they have paid up to R16 more than what they paid last month.

The local mayor, Mr Matthew Mahlangu yesterday confirmed the increases but refuted claims that the public was not notified in advance. "We appealed to residents including traders to come forward with suggestions last year after we proposed a rent increase of five percent to help subsidise pensioners," said Mr Mahlangu.

## Traders

He said that the majority of the residents did not react to this proposal which was published in the council's monthly newsletter. "But traders and a number of church ministers were impressed by the proposal and came forward and approved that we implement the five percent increase to help pensioned householders who had no children to take care of," the mayor said.

A spokesman for the local Chamber of Commerce and industries yesterday rejected Mr Mahlangu's statement and said traders had never approved any increase in the township.

# Eviction threat

8/2/88 By SOL MORATHI

MAMELODI residents who have not paid rent for the last 13 months have been threatened with eviction.

The Mamelodi Town Council told permit holders to pay their arrears as soon as possible or face eviction.

A council spokesman confirmed that notices have been issued to people who did not want to pay their rent.

He said most of them did not pay under the pretext of intimidation. "We do not see why they are still not prepared to pay their rent and service charges as the threat of intimidation is no longer there. If they have problems, they must make arrangements with the council."

This is the second time residents have been given such notices since a rent boycott began in November 1985, after over 20 people were shot by security police after staging a march to the local administration board offices to demand that house rentals and service charges be lowered.

Late last year lawyers for the Mamelodi Civic Association said a case challenging the 1984 rent increase was in process.

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**BOARD** officials have been accused of victimising residents who have not been paying rent in Soweto and neighbouring areas by denying them services like social pensions, disability pensions and graves.

Several residents who claim they have been given a raw deal by some of the officials have sought legal help.

People wanting to build on to their houses have been told to pay their rent in full before permission could be granted.

DiepMeadow town clerk N A Gaum said yesterday: "If this is the case I will have the matter investigated and if it is found to be true then the necessary steps will be taken against those who are responsible."

Two people who applied for pensions and were told to first pay rent arrears have sought legal help.

Berry Magagula, 74, of Meadowlands Hostel, said he had applied for a pension at the Department of Co-operation and

# Defaulters 'victimised'

B/D Day  
11/2/87  
127  
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SOPHIE TEMA

Development. He was given a form to be filled in by the local township manager to confirm that he was a registered tenant and qualified for a pension.

Magagula said the township manager refused to fill in the form when "I told him that I have not been able to pay because of the rent boycott."

Jeremiah Mtshali, 65, who lodges with his brother-in-law in Meadowlands, said he had had to obtain a lodger's permit before he could apply for a disability pension. He was told at the local administration board office: "Your brother-in-law has not been paying rent therefore we cannot give you a permit."

# 'Rent hike was not a secret'

(127)  
Sowetan  
12/2/87



MAYOR Matthew Mahlangu.

ATTERIDGEVILLE City Council's mayor, Mr Matthew Mahlangu has refuted claims that the council increased rent without the knowledge of the community.

In a statement Mr Mahlangu said. "My council had to implement the tariff increase in January, 1987 in order to address the accumulating deficit with the City Council of Pretoria which had threatened to cut off its services to Atteridgeville", he said

The tariffs, Mr Mahlangu said, were widely communicated to the community in May last year through a series of meetings with the various groups in the community.

Mr Mahlangu said the new tariffs came into effect as from February 1

Mr Mahlangu said residents were informed about the tariffs increase

By MONK NKOMO

and were even invited to help in finding a solution to the accumulating deficit to the City Council of Pretoria in respect of service charges. Residents were informed by means of the council's monthly newsletters in January, July and August, 1986 as well as through a letter to all residents in May, 1986 and a Press release dated May 26 last year

"Various groups in the community did not necessarily approve of the tariff increase but they made very meaningful inputs which finally influenced the effective rate of increase," Mr Mahlangu said.

NORWETO

# Heunis thinks again

Government's controversial Norweto township proposal has been put on ice. Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Chris Heunis says further investigation is to be undertaken. Predictably, cynics are saying government is effectively de-politicising the issue ahead of the elections.

The proposals for a new black township north of Johannesburg are contained in the Draft Guide Plan for the Central Witwatersrand. When published last year, it brought heated opposition from affected residents and was clearly going to be the main election issue in surrounding constituencies.

Heunis now says a large number of representations have been received concerning a range of matters referred to in the plan "especially with regard to the identification of land for the residential needs of the various population groups."

He points out that, according to the plan, about 14 000 ha of additional land is needed by the year 2000 to provide for black housing at existing densities. To provide this, the guide plan proposes the "rounding off" of existing townships and the earmarking of 3 500 ha at Diepsloot (Norweto).

But Heunis says he is now convinced that it is necessary to consider the recommendations of the plan "within the wider metropolitan context," and bearing in mind the recommendations of the White Paper on Urbanisation published last year.



**Heunis ... bearing  
in mind the wider context**

"In this process, it is important that all alternatives be thoroughly investigated and considered. I can therefore not at this stage further consider the proposal with regard to a new township for blacks in the vicinity of Diepsloot," he says.

To achieve orderly urbanisation, he adds, the timeous identification of land for township development, especially for blacks, in a wider regional context, is essential.

With this in mind, Heunis says he has approved the appointment of consultants to assist government to evaluate possible sites

for new black townships "in the wider regional context." Related issues such as socio-economic conditions, transport, job opportunities, the environment and development costs will also have to be considered.

After these investigations government will be able to give further consideration to the Norweto plan, as well as the guide plans for the four adjoining regions. Heunis says government appreciates that the identification of land for "the various population groups" is a "sensitive" matter, which will have to be handled "with the greatest circumspection."

The new investigation is being treated as urgent and the findings should be known later this year, according to an official in Heunis's department. ■

# 'Threat' to residents

(127)  
Soweto  
13/2/87

**ORLANDO** East residents in Soweto face evictions and power cuts unless they pay for their services soon.

Shacks in the area may also be demolished

This warning was contained in pamphlets the council issued on Wednesday. They were distributed by armed council guards.

The pamphlets printed in Zulu and Sotho, also encouraged residents to report to the council if they had problems with paying rent.

By SONTI MASEKO

It threatened to evict residents if they did not pay rent and give the houses to "many people who need houses and are willing to pay".

The town clerk, Mr Nico Malan said the pamphlets were "merely a reminder" and people would not be taken to court if they ignored them.

Even though there was no deadline, residents should pay rent within "a reasonable period" or the council would "take further action".

## **Pamphlets**

Mr Malan denied that the pamphlets were eviction threats. He explained that houses, water and electricity were a privilege — if one considered that many people did not have them.

"If people want to continue to enjoy these privileges, they must pay for them. If you do not want to pay for electricity, then you must not switch on the plug," he said.



Pauline Thabane displays the warrant of eviction served on Julia Frans in her absence. Behind her can be seen part of Frans' belongings, which were removed from the council-owned house in the background.

## Now it's pay or get kicked out

By REVELATION NTOULA

SEVERAL families in the East Rand township of Katlehong have been evicted from their council-owned houses because they are in arrears with their rent payments

An unidentified white man, assisted by the local municipal police, this week removed furniture and other belongings from the houses

Residents interviewed were bitter - they claimed that the town council had not informed them beforehand that they

would be evicted if they failed to pay rent within a certain period, and that most of the evictions took place while the occupants were at work

One such victim was Julia Frans, a widow and mother of three, who was evicted from her house in Mofokeng Section

When *City Press* arrived on the scene, her neighbours and relatives were busy gathering her belongings - which had been put outside the house by the municipal police. Some of the furniture had been broken and a warrant of eviction left on the front door

According to the warrant, judgment against Frans was taken at the Alberton Magistrates' Court on August 28 last year. At the time, states the warrant, she owned the Katlehong Town Council R429,70.

When *City Press* reporters arrived at Frans' house - about three hours after the eviction - her mother, Pauline Thabane, and other relatives were looking after the removed property while attempts were being made to contact her at her work in Germiston.

Attempts to reach the Katlehong council authorities were fruitless

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City Press  
19/2/87

(127) DD 17/2/87

## Rise in home buyer's subsidy turned down

JOHANNESBURG — The Government has turned down a submission by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), to have the first-time home buyers' subsidy raised from R40 000

A substantial increase in the R40 000 limit is seen by the NAHB as a means of stabilising the industry in the current weak economic climate

According to the executive director of NAHB, Mr Johan Gro-tius, this has come as a "great disappointment to the building industry and a large section of the public, following many months of waiting for the government's decision."

The subsidy was introduced in June 1983

to promote the provision of houses in the affordable price range for all population groups, and to close a critical gap which was rapidly developing in the country's home building programme

Mr Grotsius says that the building industry "reached great heights in design and construction techniques, to produce practical and aesthetically-pleasing accommodation within the constraints of the scheme.

"The stage has now been reached where the housing gap experienced in past years is re-appearing," he says

"It is a fallacy that the building industry can and should adjust itself to dwindling standards"

"The eroding effect

of rising costs is to demolish a very important sector of the industry with resulting failures of associated businesses, and increased unemployment"

"In addition, the Association believes that if an increase was granted, the state's contribution would be minimal when measured against the increased stability within the building industry, and the potential mobilisation of a substantial amount of private sector capital".

Mr Gro-tius says that the NAHB was heartened by government's assurance that it was fully conscious of the plight of the building industry, and that everything possible would be done to give it a new lease of life — Sapa

127  
18/2/84  
Somerset

# Mamelodi rent hike challenged in court

**RENT** increases implemented by the Mamelodi town council in September, 1984, were unlawfully imposed, a local resident alleged in the Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday.

Mr Marcus Maredi of 14235, Mamelodi East, brought an application before Mr Justice Scharbot seeking an order to

set aside the R6 rent increase that came into effect on September 1, 1984. He submitted that the by-laws relating to the increases be declared null and void.

In his affidavit Mr Maredi submitted that the council did not notify residents about the increases in English and Afrikaans newspapers as is required by law.

The notices were only published in an English daily afternoon newspaper. These notices, Mr Maredi said, did not adequately set out the general purport of the draft by-laws in that it did not mention which tariffs were affected and in what manner they would be affected.

"There has not been

proper compliance with the procedure for the making of by-laws by the respondent and the said by-laws are null and void", Mr Maredi submitted. He cited the Mamelodi town council as the respondent in the matter.

Mr Maredi said he and other residents in his class had been prejudiced by the application

and enforcements of the said by-laws by the council.

Mr Justice Scharbot indefinitely postponed the case after the applicants' advocate, Mr Lawrence Nowosenetz submitted that they would need half the day to argue the matter with the respondent's advocate — a Mr Wessel from Johannesburg.

(127) Sowetan 18/2/87  
**Rent increase**

THE Mamelodi Town Council is likely to up rents, according to a statement by the council's public relations, Mr Veleni Mashumi.

He said that escalating costs in acquiring bulk supplies of electricity, water and sewerage services from the Pretoria City Council and other inflation costs will force them to increase service charges soon.

The council was faced with a deficit and a committee investigating methods to finance expenditure for various services was expected to make recommendations before increases are made, Mr Mashumi said.

The council's intention to increase tariffs has already been published in a Pretoria afternoon newspaper and an Afrikaans daily.



# More houses for Pretoria

**SOWETAN Reporter**

**THE Atteridgeville Town Council has signed a multi-million rand contract with two construction companies to build houses in the area.**

The joint LTA Comiat Homes and AD & CH venture, called Tshepang Homes, will start work on the R12 million development next month. The council has allocated 260 stands to the two companies.

A council spokesman said this would ease the critical shortage of houses in the township. More than 3 000 people are on the official waiting list for housing.

A spokesman for the

two companies said Tshepang Homes was finding out the size, style and price range of homes residents required.

It is expected that selling prices will range from R25 000 to R50 000, including the cost of land.

Buyers will be assisted in obtaining building society approval for loans with a 10 percent deposit.

"In certain cases Tshepang Homes will also allow for part of the deposit to be paid off in instalments," a spokesman for the construction companies said.

REF H1679 (P 1101) 1965 (10ml) contains inf

127

THE general manager of the Urban Foundation's housing utility company, the Family Housing Association, Mr Matthew Nell, said this week that Protea North residents who are dissatisfied with any aspects of their homes must contact the developers responsible.

This was echoed by spokesmen of two leading building societies who financed the residents.

Mr Nell was reacting to an investigation conducted by a Johannesburg firm of architects into the quality of houses in Protea North. This also followed several complaints received from residents of the new township.

Mr Nell said if home owners received no satisfaction from the developers concerned, they may approach the financial institutions which provided the loans.

He said the Family Housing Association (FHA) had stated that it

# An unhealthy situation at Protea North

welcomed any initiative for home buyers to get satisfaction from building contractors.

"It is an important reality that with the Government's prohibition on privately provided housing for so many years, a situation arose where the demand for housing became so enormous as to create an unhealthy and unbalanced situation", he said.

He said there was no clay in Protea North and that all foundations were approved by private professional engineers where ground conditions required it.

Mr Nell said the price at which land was sold was R25,60 per

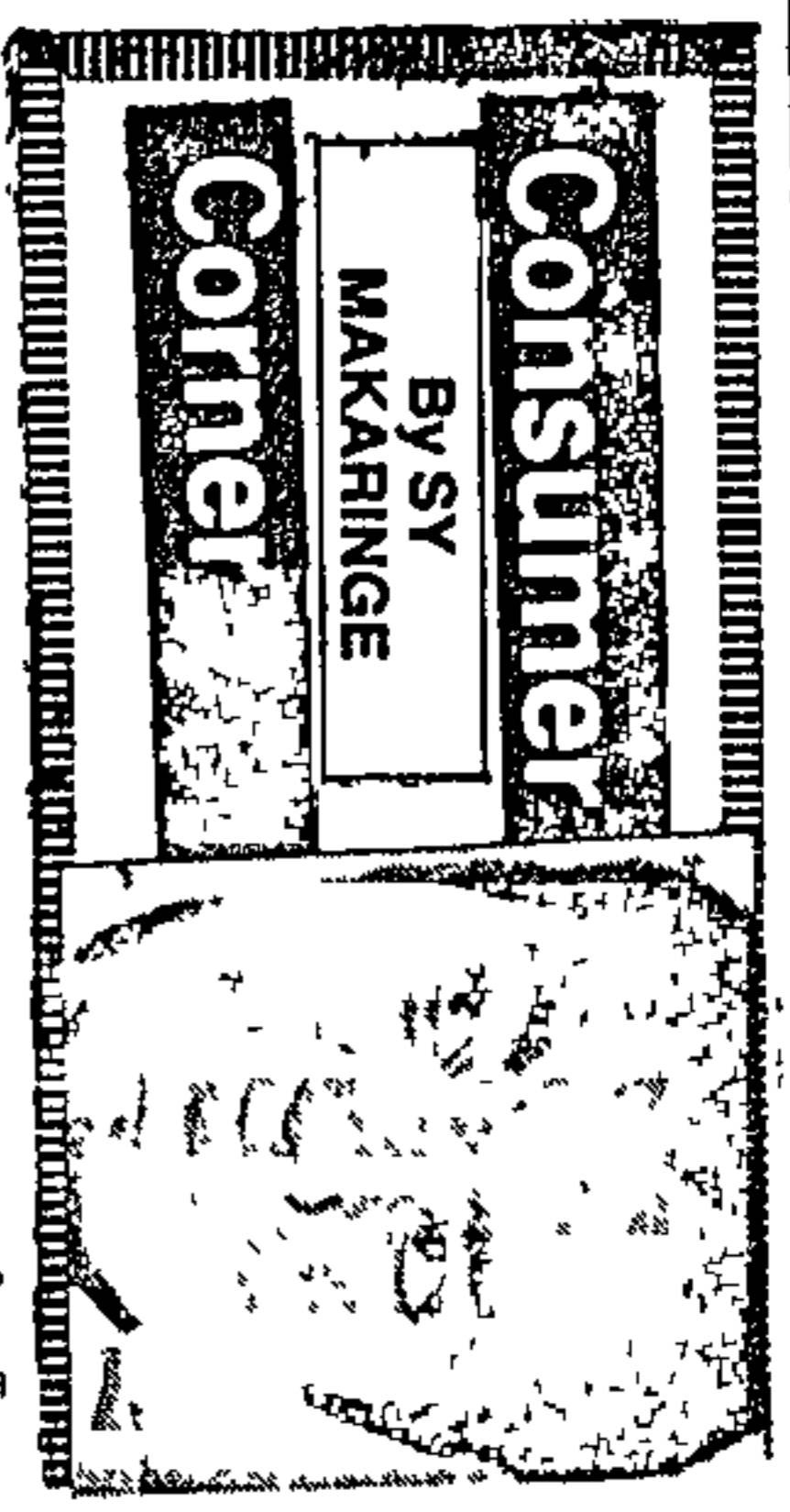
square metre

Mr V A Cousins, assistant general manager of the United Building Society, said he was not aware that there was general unhappiness in Protea North.

He said there was very little the society could do as the contract was between the contractor and the individual.

"We attempt as far as possible to have our own inspection from time to time, but once the house is completed, it is in the hands of the individual," Mr Cousins said.

Home owners whose houses were leaking or had hairline cracks



could go to the society for financial help, he said.

Mr Ray Dale, of the SA Perm, said he could not comment on generalised statements and urged residents to approach the building contractors concerned.

He said if they were not satisfied, they may bring their specific complaints to him.

Mr Dale said the problem lay between the owner of the house and the builder as "we do not conclude the contract".

Meanwhile, several home-owners at the newly-built elite township in Kagiso on the West Rand have

alleged that they were ripped off by a Johannesburg contractor. The residents said they were lured into buying the stands after they were promised that electricity would be provided and all the streets be tarred.

They said they were appalled when they moved in to find that this had not been done, although they had paid for the infrastructure.

"We made inquiries at the office of the town clerk of Kagiso who said there was no immediate plan of providing electricity in the township."

"We approached the contractor, who made several promises. The promises have not been fulfilled as yet," one resident said.

The residents also complained of hairline cracks, roof and door leakages and untidy and poor finishings to their houses.

"Our carpets are stinking because of these roof leaks," another resident said.

# 'Rent notices not correct'

By  
ALINAH DUBE

NOTICES in which the Mamelodi Town Council announced the 1984 rent increases were "misleading and incorrect," a Pretoria Supreme Court judge was told yesterday.

This was said by advocate Lawrence Nowosenetz before Mr Justice J P Roux in an application to nullify the R6,00 increase imposed by the council in September of that year. He was appearing for Mr Marcus Marede of 14235 Mamelodi East, who submitted that the council did not notify Mamelodi residents about the increase in English and Afrikaans newspapers as required by law.

Mr J J Wessels, for the Mamelodi Council, said it was impossible to comply with the regulation as no Afrikaans newspaper circulated in the township.

But Mr Nowosenetz stressed that a local authority was bound by law to publish notices in both official languages. He added that there was also provision to publish notices in the *Government Gazette* in case there was no alternative newspaper.

"The question of circulation is irrelevant to the matter. Newspapers can be brought into a township by commuters," he said.

Judgment was reserved until next week.

After the lifting of rent control . . .

# Hillbrow flats could get face lift

The face of Hillbrow could undergo a dramatic change after the lifting of rent control

Mr Marc Wainer, a director of Incity Real Estate, a company specialising in selling refurbished flats in Hillbrow, believes the easing of controls will encourage landlords to improve old blocks.

"It is in the landlords' own interest to upgrade buildings, but for a long time they just have not had the money to spend on improvements," he said "Rent control limited the landlord's return on his investment and hampered anyone wanting to improve the buildings."

He suggested the authorities now follow through the easing of rent control by offering landlords low-interest loans to improve old

WINNIE GRAHAM

blocks of flats. If the city council were to help in this way, they could give Hillbrow a new lease of life and stop sections degenerating into slums.

He said that of the 20 000 to 30 000 rented flats in South Africa, about half were in Johannesburg Rentals in some blocks in Hillbrow were low but they had been badly neglected and some flats were overcrowded

Before a landlord upgraded a property, Mr Wainer said, he would have to look carefully at the tenant mix. If five percent only were protected by rent control regulations, it would be worthwhile improving the build-

ings. This, in turn, would attract a better type of tenant and would encourage landlords in adjacent buildings to refurbish their properties.

"When a landlord spends money to improve a block he may push up rentals and lose some tenants but he will attract others of a better calibre," Mr Wainer added. "If the rentals are too high, flats will stand empty. It's a question of supply and demand with free market forces coming into play."

He admitted some landlords were greedy but said most realised the need to recycle buildings. Rent control, however, had been unfair to certain landlords whose return on buildings had been restricted and who had been unable to "recycle" the properties.

"There was a time when landlords decided to go the sectional title route rather than try and maintain rented flats," he added. "It was easier to give tenants six months notice, refurbish the block and sell units by sectional title

"However, there will always be a market for rented accommodation

"The new regulations are a step in the right direction"

The executive director of the South African Property Owners' Association, Mr P Erasmus, has congratulated the Government on introducing the new rent control measures

## Aussie sanctions on SA boomerang

SATURDAY STAR FOREIGN SERVICE

MELBOURNE — Some of the sanctions imposed by the Australian Government on South Africa are having little effect, other than to stop ordinary South African citizens visiting Australia, and depriving Australia of considerable tourist revenue.

The sanctions, announced by Prime Minister Bob Hawke last August, include stopping the issue of visas to South Africans from the Australian Embassy in Pretoria.

The move was apparently not intended to stop South Africans from visiting Australia, but to make it as difficult and inconvenient as possible.

They can still obtain visas through Australian diplomatic missions outside South Africa, and many have applied in Harare, but are being told it will take five months to process their applications.

# Council to meet traders

THE Diepmeadow Town Council this week agreed to meet the local Chamber of Commerce and Industries to discuss the rent issue — five months after the chamber's request.

The letter, addressed to the former mayor, Mr Joseph Mahuhushi added "I do hope our request will be treated with the urgency and gravity it deserves"

Councillors/Councils" to be held at a Johannesburg hotel on Saturday.

The convention has been organised by "Think Tank", a body that broke away from the Urban Councils Association of South Africa (UCASA).

In another matter, the council approved taxi licence applications from 62 local residents. The council had noted that due to the additional number of people using taxis, the present number of taxis could not cope

The request, in a letter dated October 23 last year, said that the executive of the Diepmeadow Chamber of Commerce and Industries "request to have a meeting with your executive at your earliest convenience".

At yesterday's meeting, the council recommended that the chamber should be asked to submit a memorandum of items to be discussed, "whereafter a suitable date will be determined".

The council rejected an invitation to a "National Convention for

22/10/87

(1)

(1)

accordance with the standard method for determining water tariffs of Government Water Schemes

**Detainees: allowances**

436 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Law and Order

- (1) Whether he has received any representations for payment of allowances to detainees held under the internal Security Act, No 74 of 1982, in 1986, if so, how many.
- (2) whether any of these persons were granted allowances, if not, why not, if so how many.
- (3) whether any allowances are being paid to detainees, if so, (a) to whom and (b) what total amount had been so paid as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

*Handled*  
 The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- (1) No
- (2) Fall away
- (3) No

(a) and (b) Fall away

437 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Home Affairs

- (1) How many Black workers from (a) Zimbabwe, (b) Lesotho, (c) Swaziland, (d) Botswana and (e) Mozambique were repatriated in 1986,
- (2) how many of these workers in each category had been granted exemption from repatriation on the ground of long service as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

*Handled*  
 The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

- (1) Separate statistics in respect of Black

workers who are removed, are not being kept. The total number of Black persons who were removed during 1986 are as follows

(a) Zimbabwe	2 543
(b) Lesotho	2 599
(c) Swaziland	674
(d) Botswana	7 289
(e) Mozambique	19 083
<b>Total</b>	<b>32 188</b>

**Soweto**

439 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

- (1) How many housing schemes are at present being developed in Soweto by the (a) State and (b) private sector.
- (2) (a) when (i) were such schemes initiated and (ii) is it envisaged that they will be completed and (b) how many housing units are involved in each case.
- (3) whether any housing schemes for lower-income groups are under construction in Soweto, if so, (a) (i) how many and (ii) how many units are involved in each case and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- (1) (a) None
- (b) 4 schemes

- (2) (a) (i) 1985
- (ii) ±1988

(b) Dhlamm	226 units
Pimville	609 units
Orlando West	191 units
Protea	2 000 units

440 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid

- (1) (a) How many family housing units

- (1) (a)

Lebowa	Unknown	Unknown	105
KwaZulu	Unknown	Unknown	1 235
Gazankulu	Unknown	Unknown	524
South African Development Trust Land	Unknown	Unknown	633
(b) Lebowa	Unknown	Unknown	R2 492 000
KwaZulu	Unknown	Unknown	R4 245 000
Gazankulu	Unknown	Unknown	R2 312 000
South African Development Trust Land	Unknown	Unknown	R3 742 000

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID

- (2) Yes It is not possible to give a completely accurate figure as the shortage of housing also depends on the actual demand. It is estimated that the shortage in terms of units is as follows

Lebowa	11 073	(3) (a) Yes
Owagwa	481	(b) Yes
KwaZulu	61 468	(c) No
KaNgwane	12 439	
KwaNdebele	1 314	
Gazankulu	4 255	
<b>Total</b>	<b>70 314</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>161 344</b>	

were built in 1986 in each national state by (i) the national state authority, (ii) private owners and (iii) the South African Government and (b) what was the total amount spent by each in respect of each national state.

- (2) whether there is a shortage of housing units in any national state, if so, how many units are required in respect of each national state,
- (3) whether any family housing units are being built in the national states at present by (a) the national state authority, (b) private owners and (c) the South African Government, if not, why not, if so, (i) how many units are being built by each in each national state and (ii) when are they due to be completed in each case?

(Selfbuild scheme houses erected by Blacks with South African Development Trust funds)

tion 77 or 78 of the Criminal Procedure Act, No 51 of 1977, and (b) did the court find that persons were not capable of understanding the court proceedings or were not criminally responsible for their acts as a result of mental illness or mental defects?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

(a) 1 507

(b) 286

Prisoners in mental institutions

399 Mr A B WIDMAN asked the Minister of Justice

How many sentenced prisoners were transferred to mental institutions in 1986?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Thirty two (32) This figure includes three (3) prisoners who were admitted to the hospital prisons for psychopaths in terms of Section 30 of the Mental Health Act, 1973 (Act No 18 of 1973) as amended

Loss

400 Mr P C CRONJÉ asked the Minister of Transport Affairs

What was the total loss incurred by the South African Transport Services in the 1985-86 financial year in respect of (a) (i) first-class (ii) second-class and (iii) third-class mainline services and (b) (i) first-class and (ii) third-class suburban services?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS

The total estimated loss in respect of each of the categories is as follows

R-million

(a) (i) 35

(ii) 110

(iii) 161  
39 (Catering services)

(b) (i) 246

(ii) 300

Alexandra Township 2/127

401 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

(a) How many persons in Alexandra Township applied in each year for 99-year leases from the inception of the leasehold scheme to 31 December 1986 and (b) how many of these applications had been granted as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

(a) 1985 84 persons

1986 21 persons

Total 105 persons

(b) 105 as at 31 December 1986

Deportations/repatriations

402 Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Home Affairs

(a) How many persons in each population group were deported and/or repatriated from the Republic in 1986 and (b) (i) in terms of what legislation and (ii) to which states were they so (aa) deported and (bb) repatriated?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

The hon member is kindly referred to sections 16, 43, 44 and 45 of the Admission of Persons to the Republic Regulation Act, 1972 (Act 59 of 1972) which empowers an immigration officer in one instance and the Minister of Home Affairs in other instances to order the removal of persons who are not South African citizens by birth from the Republic. It is as-

sumed that the hon member had these removals in mind when he referred to deportations and repatriations in his question

(a) Whites 29  
Blacks 32 242  
Asians 2

(b) (i) Sections 16, 43 and 45 of Act 59 of 1972

(ii) Whites

United Kingdom 15  
USA 3  
Austria 1  
Greece 1  
The Netherlands 1  
Germany 7  
Malawi 1

29

(16 in terms of section 43, 8 in terms of section 45 and 5 in terms of section 16)

Blacks

(aa) and (bb)

Transkei 11  
Zimbabwe 2 543  
Swaziland 674  
Lesotho 2 599  
Mocambique 19 083  
Malawi 7 289  
Botswana 37  
Tanzania 3  
Zambia 1  
Zaire 2

32 242

(24 in terms of section 43, 2 in terms of section 45 and 32 216 in terms of section 16)

Asians

India via Kenya 2  
(both in terms of section 16)

Publications Act

403 Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Home Affairs

(1) Whether, in 1986, any items were submitted in terms of the Publications Act, No 42 of 1974, for a decision on whether such items would be considered to be undesirable on the ground of (a) bringing any section of the inhabitants of the Republic into ridicule or contempt and (b) being harmful to the relations between sections of the inhabitants of the Republic, if so, how many in each case.

(2) whether in that year any of these items were found to be undesirable in terms of section 47 (2) (c) and (d) respectively, if so, how many in each case?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(1) It is not possible to give such an analysis. When the Directorate is requested to examine an item under the Act, it concerns the matter of undesirability or otherwise and seldom if ever there is reference to one of the particular paragraphs of section 47 (2) of the Publications Act. Recording is consequently not done on this basis.

(2) Yes 47 (2) (d) 7 publications

Publications Act

404 Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Home Affairs

Whether the possession of any publications or objects was declared prohibited in 1986 in terms of section 9 (3) of the Publications Act, No 42 of 1974, if so, how many publications or objects in terms of section 47 (2) (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f), respectively?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

Yes Section 47 (2) (a) 12, (b) 1, (c) nil, (d) 1, (e) 40 (f) nil

*Handwritten notes:* 12/1, 1/1, P.

*Handwritten initials:* S.S.V.D.M.

## THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE

On 9 February 1987, the figures were as follows

- (a) 262  
(b) 280

## Curfew regulations

302 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Law and Order

How many persons in the Republic were arrested in 1986 for offences in terms of curfew regulations?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

Because all measures that controlled movement of people in this category, in the Republic, were repealed, I do not consider it of any avail to furnish information that is no longer relevant

## Curfew regulations

303 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Justice

How many persons in the Republic were prosecuted under curfew regulations in 1986?

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE

The information is not readily available in the Department

## 99-year leases

304 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

(a) How many persons in Soweto proper, Dobsonville and Diep Meadow applied in 1986 for (i) 99-year leases and (ii) leave to purchase property under freehold title and (b) how many such applications had been granted in each case as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

HoA

Hayward  
23/2/87

127

## THE MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- (a) (i) 2 522

(ii) nil

- (b) Soweto—1 657 as at 31 December 1986

Diepmeadow—664 as at 31 December 1986

Dobsonville—201 as at 31 December 1986

## Prison warders

305 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Justice

- (1) Whether any charges of assault were laid by prisoners against prison warders in 1986, if so, how many charges,

- (2) whether departmental inquiries were held into these charges, if not, why not, if so, what were the findings,

- (3) whether any persons were convicted, if so, how many?

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE

- (1) Yes, a total of 1 592 complainants of alleged assault was received and registered

- (2) Yes The South African Prisons Service regards every complaint of an alleged assault on a prisoner by a member of the Prisons Service, no matter how petty, in a very serious light. In terms of the Standing Prisons Service Orders, every complaint of alleged assault must be registered in the appropriate register and properly investigated by the Commanding Officer

Likewise, the assault on personnel by prisoners is also not tolerated and offenders are strictly dealt with

In respect of 1 175 of the complainants of alleged assault on prisoners by members, no substance could be found after thorough investigation to institute charges against any member of the Prisons Service. Of the remain-

Hayward 23/2/87

## THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE

ing 417 complainants a total of 82 was referred to the South African Police for further investigation while 335 complainants resulted in departmental hearings in terms of Prison Regulation 71 (1) (hh) read with Section 53 of the Prisons Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959)

- (3) The results of the formal charges were as follows

*Trials in terms of Prison Regulation 71 (1) (hh) read with Section 53 of the Prisons Act*

87 Members were found guilty on 83 charges

197 Members were found not guilty on 179 charges

73 Charges involving 77 members are still in the process of finalisation

*Complainants investigated by the South African Police*

1 Member was found guilty on 1 charge

24 Members were found not guilty on 11 charges

In 2 cases involving 3 members the court cases have not yet been completed

The Attorney-General refused to prosecute in 42 cases involving 64 members

In 26 cases involving 50 members the outcome of the South African Police investigation or the Attorney-General's decision is not yet available

## Prison warders/prisoners

306 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Justice.

- (1) Whether any prison warders were (a) killed and (b) seriously injured by prisoners in 1986, if so, (i) how many and (ii) in which prisons,

- (2) whether any prisoners were (a) killed and (b) seriously injured by fellow prisoners in that year, if so, (i) how many and (ii) in which prisons?

- (1) (a) No, no member of the SA Prisons Service was killed by prisoners during 1986 (i) and (ii) Fall away

- (b) Yes (i) and (ii) Thirty-two (32) members of the SA Prisons Service were seriously injured by prisoners during 1986 at the prisons mentioned below and a further 166 members received medical treatment/consultations for minor injuries sustained as a result of assaults by prisoners

Barberton  
Bethal  
Brandvlei  
De Aar  
Durban  
George  
Groenpunt  
Groovlei  
Knysna  
Leeuwkop  
Leslie  
Nodderbee  
Pietermaritzburg  
Pollsmoor  
Pretoria  
St Albans  
Witbank

(2) (a) Yes (i) and (ii) All deaths in prisons, where a medical practitioner is unable to certify that the prisoner died as a result of natural causes, are dealt with in terms of Section 86 of the Prisons Act, 1959 (No 8 of 1959)

During 1986, 16 prisoners were killed by fellow prisoners at the following prisons

Pretoria  
Witbank  
Barberton Medium B  
Barberton Medium A  
Standerton Medium B  
Pietermaritzburg Medium A  
Mosselbay  
Victor Verster Medium B  
Rawsonville

Hayward 23/2/87



(a) and (b) Since the South African Police is responsible for the administration of the Arms and Ammunition Act, 1969 it is expected of every applicant to have adequate knowledge regarding the safe keeping and handling of arms. It is intended to submit legislation in due course to make provision for the formal testing and demonstration procedures

(3) Falls away

**Farm schools**

333 Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid

(1) Whether any farm schools falling under his Department were subject to unrest or disruption in 1986, if so, how many, 23/2/87

(2) how many farm schools were there in the Republic as at 31 December 1986?

**The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID**

(1) Yes, 2

(2) 5 484 schools on 4 March 1986

**Squatters: shelter**

334 Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

Whether officials of his Department, any Development Board and/or any Office for Community Services took any steps in respect of shelters of squatters in 1986 if so (a) what steps, (b) how many shelters in respect of each specified Development Board and/or Office for Community Services area were affected by these steps and (c) where were these shelters located in each case?

**The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING**

*Cape Province*  
Yes, only in respect of Western Cape

HQA

(a) Squatters were moved on a voluntary basis to Khayelitsha

(b) 153

(c) The shelters were situated outside the borders of the black townships

**Transvaal**

Yes, in respect of the East Rand and Highveld areas

(a) Highveld 25 shelters were demolished after being vacated. Notice was served on a further 15 families to vacate premises before 28/2/87

East Rand 1 481 shelters were demolished after the squatters were accommodated at own free will at the Tsakane site and service scheme

(b) Highveld 40

East Rand 1 481

(c) Highveld Buffer zone of the town Phola (Ogies)

East Rand Buffer zone of the town Tsakane (Brakpan)

**Orange Free State**

No steps were taken during 1986 in the Orange Free State Community Services area in respect of any shelters of squatters

(a), (b) and (c) fall away

**Natal**

No steps were taken during 1986 in the Natal Community Services area in respect of any shelters of squatters

(a), (b) and (c) fall away

**Soweto. family housing units**

342 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

(1) How many family housing units were

*Known 23/2/87 (27)*

built in Soweto by (a) the State and (b) private owners in 1986,

(2) (a) how many such units are being built at present by (i) the State and (ii) private owners and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

**The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING**

**Transvaal (Soweto)**

(1) (a) nil

(b) 2 008

(2) (a) (i) nil

(ii) 964

(b) 31 January 1987

**Magazines/periodicals produced/financed**

346 Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Defence

(a) How many magazines, periodicals or other publications are produced, financed or in any way financially assisted by any section of the South African Defence Force, (b) what are the names of each of these publications and (c) what was the cost to the South African Defence Force of producing, financing or financially assisting each specified publication in the latest specified financial year for which information is available?

**The MINISTER OF DEFENCE**

(a) The 16 publications in List A are directly financed and the 67 in List B are indirectly financed by making use of personnel and facilities

HQA

(b)

(c)

Publication	Cost for the SA Defence Force for the financial year 1986/1987
LIST A	R 432
Alta Pete	1 785
Bospos	8 000
Bulletin for Educational Technology	35 000
Cadet	250 000
Contact	300
Disa	6 500
Indaba	3 500
Liaison Letter for Military Veterans	45 000
Militaria	3 827
Military Academy Yearbook	250
Newsletter Soutpansberg Military Area	20 000
SA Defence Force	300 000
The Warrior	40 000
Ultima Ratio Regum	250
Unit Focus	3 000
Zipfel	

LIST B

2 Engineers Squadron Journal  
47 Scriba  
Ad Astra  
Aegere Victoriam  
Bastion  
Bateleur 44  
Bravo  
Bulletin  
Certa Cito  
Channel 506  
Chiroptera  
Corbadis  
Crescendo  
De Goede Hoop  
Die Mosdop  
Enclaver  
Gerbera  
Indlovu  
In Hoc Signo  
Insizwa  
Kloof News  
Medic

Crown Mines — a 'model for the future'

# Open village gets a welcome stay

By Adele Baleta

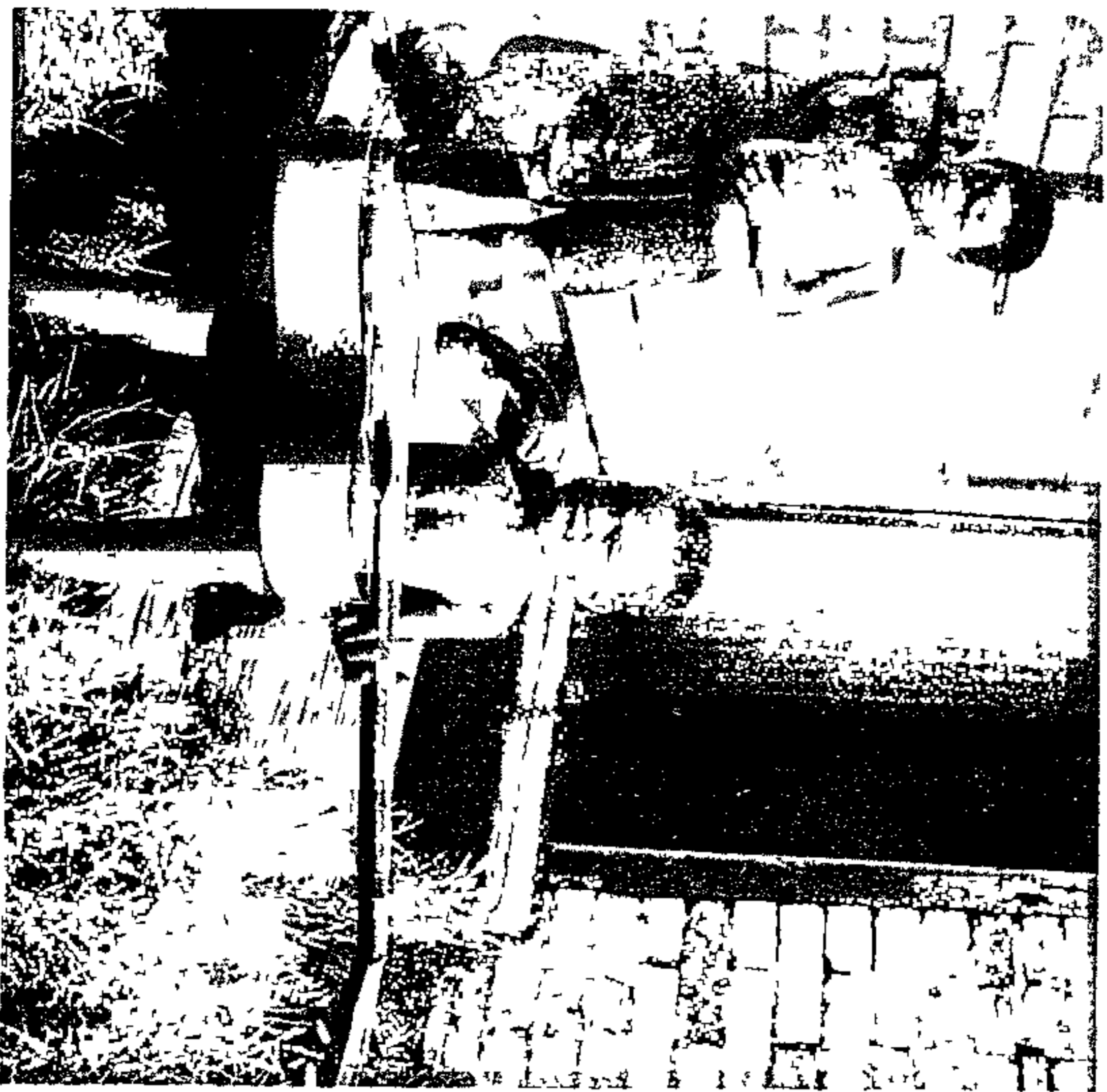
A four-month battle between Crown Mines' residents and Rand Mines Properties (RMP) ended on Monday when about 150 families were told they would not have to leave their homes.

The company which served eviction notices on the 400 residents in October last year has allowed them to stay, but with certain provisos

A Crown Mines committee member, Mr Adriaan Turgel, said that at a meeting held by RMP on Monday it was decided that among other things the residents would have to sign new leases and would have to pay higher rents

"We had to be out by the end of this month and we have now been given an extra month to thrash out details of the settlement and to make final negotiations," he said

The dilapidated cluster of quaint cottages, sheds and out-buildings, situated south of Main Reef Road and east of the mine dumps that separate Soweto from Johannesburg, is an exam-



Four-year-olds Pumlane and Varnsile play outside a friend's house in Crown Mines.



Ms Robyn Aronstam and one of her regular visitors, four-year-old Varnsile.

● Pictures by Etienne Rothbart.

ple of a surviving multiracial community.

It is home to students, professionals, labourers and squatters who have lived side by side without racial tension

Crown Mines, also known as Langlaagte Deep, is also one of the last surviving mining villages in the country and has re-

cently been proclaimed a provincial National Monument

It was established in 1902 to house miners and since 1977 RMP have rented it to the general public. In 1979 RMP threatened to demolish the village, but public pressure forced them to back down

Mr Turgel said in January

this year the residents submitted proposals to preserve the historic village and to ultimately develop South Africa's first "multi-cultural" suburb

The proposals included the creation of a community organisation on the basis of voluntary free association, with its own community centre, open school,

creche, cottage industries and recreation facilities

Mr Turgel said one of the proposals was the establishment of a Crown Mines Community Trust which would begin negotiations for the purchasing of Langlaagte Deep from RMP.

Once acquired the Board of Trustees would immediately

begin making formal plans for the construction of buildings

The Star this week visited the village "which has been described as a model for a future South Africa". Most of the residents spoken to were overjoyed when they heard that they would not be evicted

Ms Audrey Wannright, an actress, and Ms Robyn Aronstam who share a house in the "middle road", said everyone was determined to win the battle to stay

"People talk about change and we have proved we are getting somewhere in changing things," said Ms Aronstam.

"It is the first place I have lived in where I don't have to constantly worry about being robbed," she added

Ms Wannright, who holds informal painting and clay modelling classes for eight children every second afternoon, said "There are plans to renovate a scout hall which will be used as a creche and a recreation centre"

Mr Daniel Monala, who has lived in Crown Mines for the past 19 years, said "This is a model place in which to live. Everyone is treated equally no matter what colour their skin is.

Mrs Jill Brokensha, a teacher at the Johannesburg College of Education, said "Everyone is prepared to help each other out. I never have to worry about my baby son while I'm at work because there are so many people who are willing to look after him"

Mr Patrick Lucey, a sound recorderist, said "There is a rural feeling about the place even though it is so close to the city. People naturally integrate here and everyone gets on well with each other"

# 800 families ordered to leave farm

# SHACKS

# GO

Handwritten notes: (E) 30/10

ABOUT 800 families living on a farm north of Evaton in the Vaal Triangle face removal

They will be relocated at a new township

The 800 families at Wieler's Farm about 20

By **THEMBA MOLEFE**

km from Evaton, live in shacks that have been springing up since the early 1970s

About 2 000 residents heard of their fate at an open-air meeting addressed by Mr V C Milne the director-gen-

eral of the new Department of Community Services. The office falls under the Administrator of Transvaal, Dr Willem Cruywagen

Mr Milne told the residents that black housing and squatter control fell under provincial administration

To Page 2

## 800 must quit farm

From Page 1 with effect from February 1

The Department of Constitutional Development and Planning, headed by Minister Mr Chris Heunis, was formerly in charge of black housing and squatter control

The residents attending the meeting rejected the Government's plan to relocate them to the Evaton cemetery

The residents said among other objections, that they were happy at the farm in spite of the place lacking basic facilities such as water, electricity and a sewerage system

There are no schools in the area save for a creche. There is also no street lighting or proper roads at Wieler's Farm

The Wieler brothers who own the farm stated that they had no objection to the Government's plan to erect shacks on the farm for a fee

The Wieler brothers have since left the farm which the Government has earmarked for agricultural development

(Handwritten marks: a scribble, a circle containing '27', and another scribble)

# A LAST MINUTE PLEA



RITA Tshingilane . . . who has lived at Crown Mines for 14 years.

THE Anglican suffragan-bishop for Johannesburg East, Bishop Simeon Nkoane, has made a last minute plea to Rand Mines Properties to change its decision to close down Crown Mines Village.

The bishop has called on Mr Mike Rosholt, executive director of Barlow Rand of which RMP is a subsidiary to reconsider his role in

## 'Save mixed village campaign'

BY NKOPANE MAKOBANE

creating homelessness in South Africa at a time when thousands of people lack proper housing

The Crown Mines Village, also known as Langlaagte Deep is to close down on Saturday.

In October last year RMP served eviction notices on the 150 families of all races living in the village. They are given four months to vacate their dwellings

Subsequently, residents seeking to establish reasons for their eviction were asked to submit proposals de-

signed too take the village off RMP's hands RMP is no longer willing to provide services and maintenance for the area, which it claims is delapidated and "costing us money"

More than two weeks ago, residents submitted a two-part proposal to preserve the historic vil-

lage and to ultimately develop South Africa's first open, multi-cultural suburb on the surrounding land

RMP promised a reply within a week, but did not meet its commitment. Instead, RMP's Mr Tony Hall told residents it would require another week to eval-

uate the proposals

That pushes the date for a final decision on the future of the village and its inhabitants back to Monday (February 23) — a mere five days before evictions are due to take place

According to the Crown Mines Village Residents Committee some residents see this as a deliberate delaying tactic on RMP's part and feel the company has failed to deal with them in good faith

# Rip-off may leave elderly flat-dwellers destitute

By Dan Side  
 Residents of a Berea, Johannesburg, block of flats — some of whom have put their life savings into the cash purchase of their homes — have lost their money and face eviction.

The 28 residents, mostly pensioners, say they are the victims of a rip-off which has left some destitute.

Two of the elderly occupants involved, Mr George Clothier (71), a retired engineer, and Mrs Patricia Shepherd (66), a former bookkeeper who lives on a war pension granted after her pilot husband was killed in World War 2, told of their plight.

In November 1985, they advanced the bulk of their savings to pay estate agent and property dealer Mr Frederick David Niland R18 000 in cash for each of their share blocks in a company called Vista D'Este. They thus became, they thought, owners of their R18 000 bachelor flats in the building Villa D'Este in Berea.

But yesterday, Mr John Fordham of the Allied Building Society's loan administration centre confirmed foreclosure was proceeding after the passage of a February 7 deadline for a proposed settlement.

Supposed ownership began on November 1 1985. But when the sectional title register was opened on June 24 1986, they learned their names were not included, in spite of having advanced fees to the transferring attorneys.

Instead, they found their flats were included in the 28 that Mr Niland ceded as security for a R550 000 first mortgage bond held by the Allied and a R125 500 second bond owed to a B Kaplan.

It was discovered Mr Niland had left South Africa. He was believed to have gone to be live in America, allegedly leaving more than R3 million in debt.

His sequestrated estate included houses in Northcliff and on the Natal South Coast, his Northcliff office block (Nectarina) and interests in an estimated 50

blocks of flats, Villa D'Este included.

It was learned, too, that Mr Niland's attorney, said to have held the purchase amounts in trust pending the establishment of the sectional title register, had evidently also moved overseas.

The matter was further complicated by Mr Niland pledging 14 of the 28 sections of the building to Finance in Art (Pty) Ltd as security for a loan of R60 000, according to the correspondence.

Said the letter from Allied: "Under normal circumstances, the Society would look to the seller of the shareblocks (Mr Niland) to pay any difference between the purchase price and the amount owed to the Society under its bond."

"In this case the seller has been sequestrated and there is no prospect of the society recovering any monies from his insolvent estate. In the circumstances, the society is compelled to look to its securi-

● To Page 3, Col 4

shareblocks obviates claims on its fidelity fund.

The Institute of Estate Agents, said Mr Clothier, insists that one clause in the offer to purchase of the

with an investigation into such a complaint."

Mr Clothier said all his attempts to seek assistance had been unsuccessful. The Estate Agents Board wrote: "Nilands (Pty) Limited has, in fact, been liquidated and we are led to believe Mr Nilands (sic) is now apparently residing in California, USA. Should he, however, return to the Republic we shall proceed with an investigation into such a complaint."

Mr Clothier replied that they agreed to the terms, but Mrs Shepherd was not hopeful every one of the 28 would act in harmony.

Mrs Shepherd and Mr Clothier replied that they agreed to the terms, but Mrs Shepherd was not hopeful every one of the 28 would act in harmony.

But all 28 purchasers had to conform to the conditions of the properties.

registration of the properties. But all 28 purchasers had to conform to the conditions of the properties.

ty, ie, the 28 sections bonded to it and would normally foreclose under its bond with a view to having the 28 sections sold in execution."

The purchasers, continued the letter, would be left with no more than a claim against the insolvent estate of Mr Niland and would be unlikely to receive more than a "minimal dividend".

The building society, however, did offer an alternative to foreclosure. If all 28 purchasers agreed to pay an additional 18 percent of the purchase price, the two bondholders would absorb a loss on interest payments due and grant release certificates to allow the

registration of the properties. But all 28 purchasers had to conform to the conditions of the properties.

● From Page 1

## Elderly flat-dwellers face eviction

Mr George Clothier (71) and Mrs Patricia Shepherd (66) face eviction from their flats in Berea, Johannesburg. Picture by Garth Lumley.



8/7/87  
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SOWETO RENTS (127) F/M 27/287

## Boycott cracking?

The Soweto Council may be winning the battle against the rent boycott — or so the latest figures suggest

Town Clerk Nico Malan says collections this month are expected to run to R3m, or 50% up on the January inflow. But last June, before the boycott, rental payments reached R7m, suggesting that the boycott, although losing some steam, remains on

FINANCIAL MAIL FEBRUARY 27 1987

As things stand, Malan reckons that if the trend continues Soweto will be able to meet its liabilities. There is concern, however, that the boycott could pick up momentum again and he is not overly optimistic at this stage.

However, Soweto is not bankrupt, he says, even though the R35m in reserves has been drained and Soweto is living on loans.

But, he says Sowetans are gradually realising what the money is used for and the importance of paying rent. There is a growing understanding of the need to finance development projects.

Of the average rent of R54 per month, only about R3 goes to housing. If the money is not paid, he points out, standards fall and services may even have to be discontinued.

Soweto's working expenses run to about R11m a year. But there are other factors contributing to its financial problems. For example, the electricity tariff is fixed at peak-use rates and has to be paid essentially by residents. But in Johannesburg, he points out, businesses subsidise homeowners because they pay higher electricity rates, hence Soweto's drive for business development.

The council also believes that Soweto should receive some of the taxes levied in Johannesburg's CBD, as most of the residents work there and contribute to the city centre income.

The answer as far as Soweto is concerned is not far off — regional services councils (RSC's) are on the way and a percentage of RSC taxes levied from businesses will indirectly go to Soweto.

From that point of view, at least, Malan says RSCs are welcome. ■

# White houses empty; blacks go homeless

By Toni Younghusband

While an estimated 37 000 homes in white areas stood vacant, blacks in urban areas each had an average floor space of four square metres, a meeting of human rights organisations heard this week

According to Mr Charles Simkins of the South African Institute of Race Relations, if each "white" house was 120 sq m, one million people could be accommodated at black housing densities

Mr Simkins was one of the speakers at a special meeting called to address the problem of homeless people in the Witwatersrand. Present at the meeting were representatives from organisations such as the Black Sash, the Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo) and churches

"As this is the United Nations year of shelter for the homeless and as here in the Witwatersrand we have a major housing problem, action is definitely called for," said Mrs Sheena Duncan, former national president of the Black Sash

"Quite how we are going to tackle the problem and how we're going to run our plan has yet to be discussed."

Mrs Duncan said the housing shortage for blacks was a major crisis in South Africa. She said human rights organisations had recognised this crisis situation and would now attempt to establish a joint plan of action

# 5 families evicted in Zola

PANIC gripped Zola township in Soweto yesterday when at least five families were evicted from their homes for being in arrears with rent.

The affected families — all staying in the same street — had their houses locked up after furniture was taken out by Soweto City Council police. Some claimed that household items were damaged in the process.

The Soweto City Council director of housing, Miss E Bester, yesterday referred our enquiries to Mr Nico Malan, the Town Clerk. Mr Malan and Mr Julius Mdlalosi, chairman of the housing committee, said they were not aware of evictions in Zola. However, Mr Malan promised to investigate.

Within minutes after word spread that people were being thrown out of their houses, pupils from neighbouring schools and neighbours converged on the scene.

A Soweto Civic Association official on the spot said they had received information that about 20 families were to be evicted in the area yesterday. He said the presence of a large number of residents at the scene could have been responsible for the municipal police pulling out.

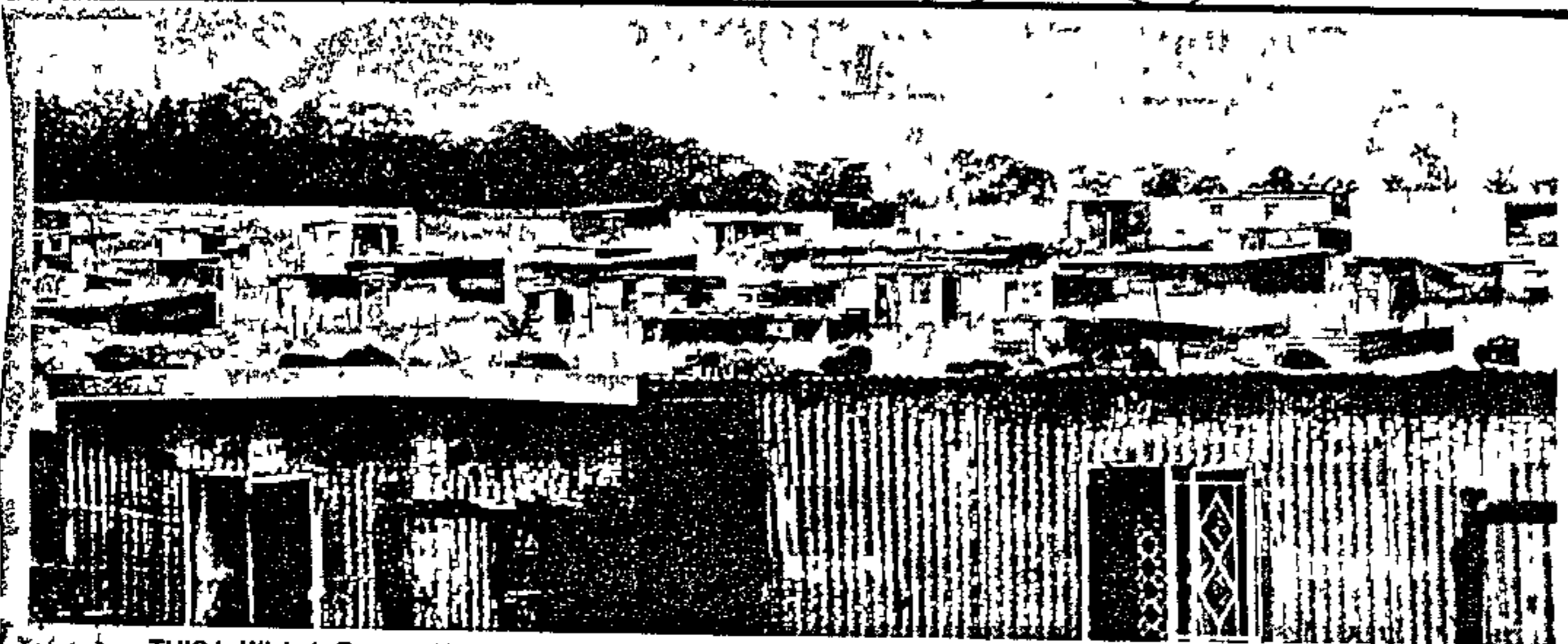
Some few hours after the evictions, Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of the jailed African National Congress leader, Nelson Mandela, and Mr Aubrey Mokoena, publicity secretary of the Release Mandela Campaign, visited the area.

They arrived while some youngsters were helping the families to take in their furniture to the houses. Mrs Mandela gave a hand in putting back furniture in one of the houses.

She heard that council police numbering more than 50 arrived in the area at 9am. Some white council police went into several houses to ask people why they were not paying rent when other residents were doing so. Items were then taken out of their homes and in some cases houses were locked up and keys taken away.

Speaking to the *Sowetan*, Mrs Mandela said they were not going to be spectators and watch people being evicted from their homes. The latest steps were a deliberate move to provoke people who cannot afford the exorbitant rent.





THIS is Wieler's Farm — Kwamajazana — whose 10 000 residents face removal to a new township they do not want.

**M**r SAMSON Mathekga is the head of a family of 11 which lives in a four-roomed corrugated iron shack on Wieler's Farm, where a community of 800 families are facing removal.

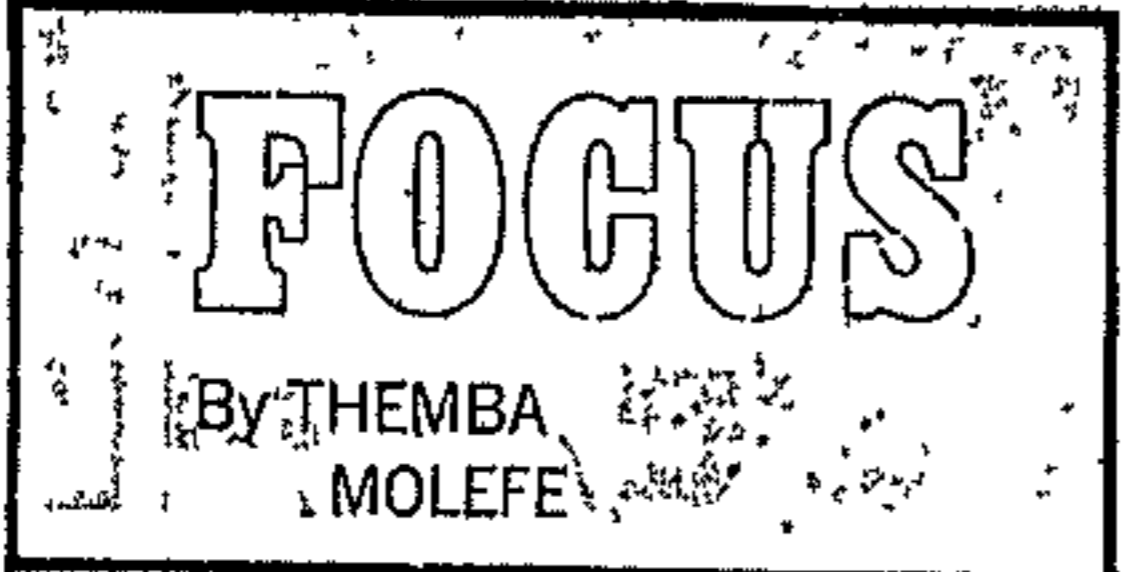
Mr Mathekga his wife and nine children are part of a 10 000 strong community on the farm situated on a hillock between Evaton in the Vaal and Johannesburg.

Were it not a shanty town, the Wieler's Farm Village would have been pleasing to the eyes of motorists travelling on the concrete motorway, below Kwamajazana, as the place is called by its inhabitants is a growing village of shacks and mud houses and its dwellers hope it will one day become a beautiful township they can be proud of.

Instead, the Transvaal Provincial Administration has told the community to move to a new township near the Evaton Cemetery.

Mr Mathekga and the entire community have rejected the move, and

# A community under threat



## Wieler's Farm families don't want to move

insist they want to live under the poor conditions that exist at Wieler's Farm until the Government develops the area.

They say they will endure sharing one water tank the dark that descends after sunset and improper roads and will continue depending on the mobile clinic provided by the Transvaal Provincial Administration twice a week.

Residents say they will continue sending their children to school in Evaton — about 20 km away until the Government builds them a school on the farm. It is

common to see children on the highway hitch hiking to Soweto and Evaton.

Women mostly pensioners are also a common sight on the highway as they trudge to Ennerdale and Lenasia where they work as domestics. The two suburbs are about 30 km away.

Most workers who live at Kwamajazana are employed in the surrounding towns of Vereeniging, Germiston, Meyerton and Johannesburg.

Transport is a problem for the workers who walk long distances to the nearest bus stop at Grasmere or Walkerville.

### Charity

Working mothers were relieved when the community raised money for itself and built a creche on the farm.

Many people are unemployed and depend on charity. A few organisations provide such people with food parcels every week.

Why are communities facing forced removals want to resist the Government's decisions to relocate them?

Mr Mathekga's reasons for staying put are simple: he has had enough of moving from

one squatter camp to another.

His argument and that of the Department of Community Services — new department created within the TPA — bring into sharp focus the usual conflict that arises between the Government and squatters.

Mr Mathekga says: 'I came to the city when I was 15 because of wide spread poverty and unemployment in Pietersburg in the rural northern Transvaal.'

'I finally settled in Evaton where I was on the housing waiting list for many years while my growing family and I moved from shack to shack.'

'We settled on Wieler's Farm in the early 1970s. We are tired of moving, we regard this place as ideal, peaceful and wish to be left alone,' says Mr Mathekga.

He says that the authorities should develop the farm and establish a proper township instead of moving the community to another place.

Mr Mathekga believes he has found a permanent place at last, where he provides a roof for his children. Any other factors put forth against his decision are trivial.

A meeting of Wieler's Farm residents addressed by the director-general of the Department of Community Services, Mr V C Milne, on Sunday probably gave the authorities an insight into the squatting communities.

Some of the points raised by residents at the meeting were:

- The relocation of communities had caused bloodshed in many areas throughout the country in the past. An example was the Crossroads squatters camp in the Cape where many people resisting removal were killed.
- The Wieler's Farm community was closely knit and wished to remain intact.
- The community was prepared to live under the present conditions and urged the authorities to buy the farm and develop it. They were aware that it took a long time to establish a township but they were prepared to wait, and



CHILDREN at Wieler's Farm's only creche learn the basics of drawing under the watchful eye of their teacher.

# Farm under threat

**From Page 6**

- The Government always made decisions from afar without considering the feelings of the affected community.
- Mr Milne had raised the following points:
  - Wieler's Farm was a private property and the people living on it now were doing so illegally.
  - According to the Government's guide plan the farm had been zoned for agricultural development because it was not viable for township development.
  - A new township with 3 000 sites has been established for the squatters near the Evaton Cemetery. Sites would cost R6 000 and those who could not afford it would be helped in putting up structures such as those at the farm and
  - More shacks at Wieler's Farm would not be allowed.
  - Mr Milne had also warned of the dangers of living in an area without proper sanitation and where medical facilities were inadequate.
  - He said a clinic would be established at the new township, the bucket system would be provided temporarily and 30 water tanks would be provided.
  - Wieler's Farm residents presently use the Administrator of the

What is clear though is that the Government has decreed the removal and as in the past the fate of the community at Kwamajazana has been decided.

In spite of Mr Milne's explanation that establishing a township in the area would take many years because it had to be surveyed and properly examined before any decisions were made, residents were not convinced.

There were no promises from Mr Milne who said he would convey the squatters plea to the Administrator of the

# THE TENT PEOPLE

By MANDLA NDLAZI

The recent rains may have been a boon to the country but for families living in tents at the St Angelas Roman Catholic Church in Dobsonville, near Soweto, they were a nightmare

The tent dwellers cry every time it rains. They go down on their knees and pray while comforting their children. They have to cling desperately to their floating belongings which would otherwise be washed away.

They climb onto tables, beds, chairs, wooden boxes or anything to escape the swirling water.

They often spend sleepless nights in that position yearning for the break of a new day.

When the skies clear they hang their wet clothes in the yard.

Living in the tents are some of the 147 families that were evicted in August last year from new houses they had occupied illegally.

They spent cold days and nights in the cold with their hungry children crying and coughing.

The Witwatersrand Council of churches then offered them tents that were pitched in the yard of a local church.

This has however offered them little comfort, let alone privacy, said Mr Johannes

Mathe (50) every one of us desperately needed some kind of shelter. That's why we did not bother to be crowded in some of these tents.

Mr Mathe, his wife and seven children share a tent with two other families.

He lost his job six months ago. It was during the time the Dobsonville Town Council had made an urgent application in the Rand Supreme Court to get them out of the new houses.

I lost that house, lost my job and ended up in the street before getting to this tent, said Mr Mathe.

We shiver, added Mr Mathe, day and night when it rains but hold on to the tent and pray it should not collapse in the storm.

### Money

His family have made several visits to the doctor. Now I don't have the money because I am unemployed as long as we live under such conditions we shall always need the doctor's attention, said Mr Mathe.

Mr Mathe is one of about 25 unemployed family heads living in the tents. They live off piece jobs and donations from friends and relatives.

Mr David Tabane (37) a father of three children said most of his belongings were damaged by the rain. In the past weeks he said



THE Dobsonville tent community nowhere else to go



Mr GOODWIN Sibobi father of seven



ONE of the mothers unhappy about their living conditions in the tents. They often spend sleepless nights.

there was no way we could dry our blankets and mattresses. This is how we found ourselves spending sleepless nights.

He also lost his job because of the court case that left families homeless.

Some of the people living there are pensioners like widowed Mrs Maselele Cunukela (67).

I sometimes feel I'll die in the rain because of my age, Mr Hendson Ngubane (58) said. His 10 children weep throughout the night because they cannot sleep on a flooded floor. It's a nightmare when strong winds blow, he said.

### Retrenched

He was retrenched last October. He has not found a job, let alone a house for his family.

Mr Siphon Somacelle (35) a father of two children said. Perhaps a miracle will save us and only God knows when. He is also unemployed.

Their hopes of getting houses faded when it was rumoured that the mayor, Mr Steve Nkomo, recently told residents they would not be given houses.

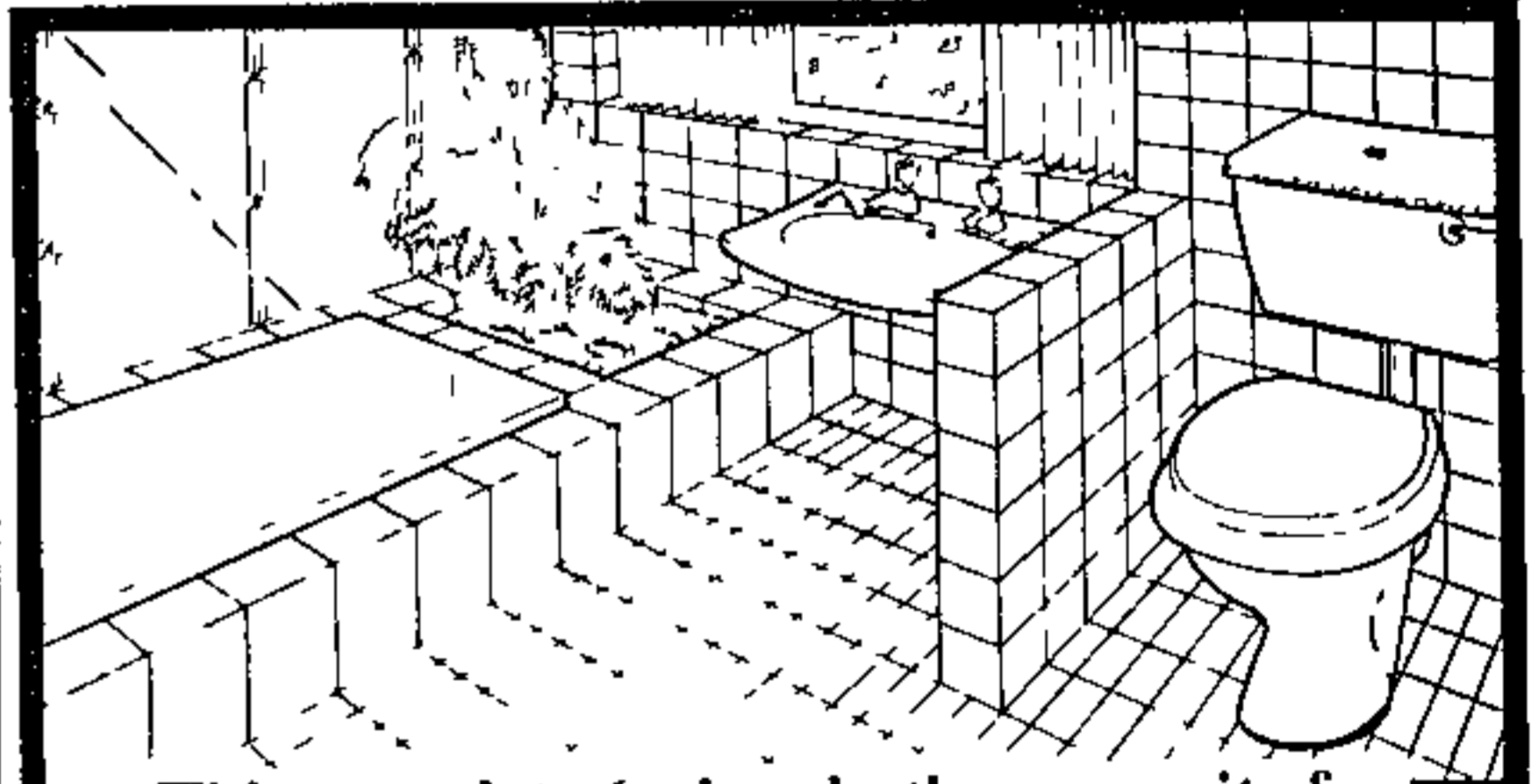
But Mr Nkomo denied this. He told the Sowetan that he told the residents he was negotiating with the government for land to build houses for the homeless families.

**Rain brings no joy for them**



Mr JOHANNES Mathe no job Mrs MASELELE Cunukela pensioner

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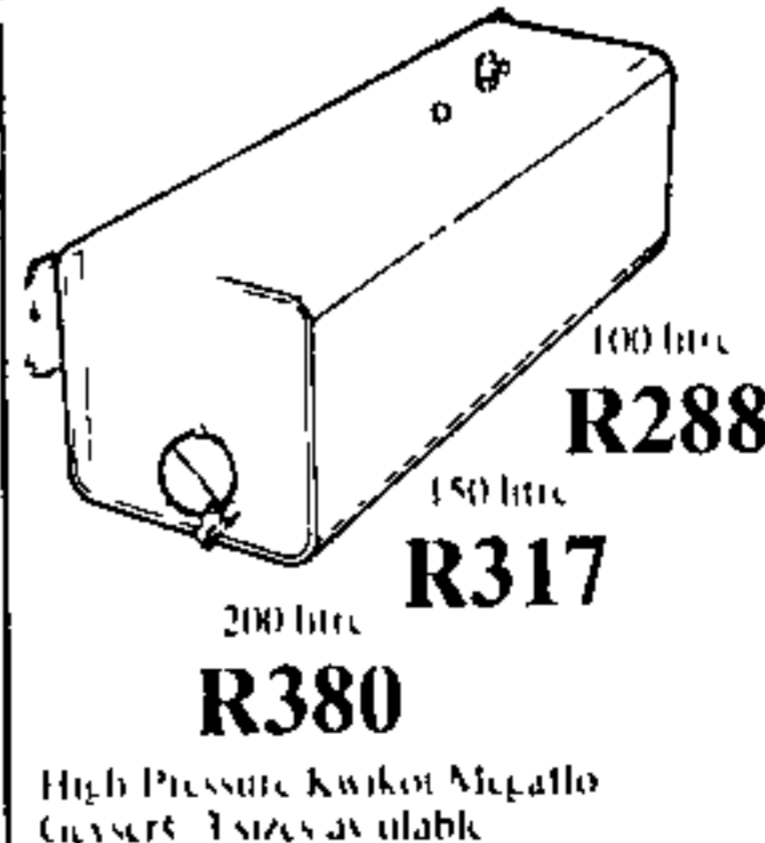
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# Winnie comes to Zola residents' aid

By SANDILE MEMELA and SELLO SERIPE

FAMILIES left homeless in Zola after being evicted were reinstated in the houses by Winnie Mandela yesterday

The incident followed a morning raid by the Soweto Council

Sources told *City Press* that a large contingent of municipal police, helped by members of the SADF, barricaded Bandile Street and evicted about eight families for allegedly being

in arrears with their rent. The families returned to their houses after Winnie Mandela told them to do so

SADF liaison officer Col JCS Rolt said he was not aware that residents in Zola were being evicted, but admitted that SADF members usually helped town council employees to carry out evictions

Victoria Ngubane, 31, told *City Press* that she was breastfeeding her three-day-old baby, Zandile, in bed when council

employees burst into the house

"They did not say anything and just started bundling furniture outside," she said

Her sister, Cecilia Ngubane, said she was at the clinic when she heard her family was being evicted

"I had taken my six-month old baby for treatment at the clinic. However I had to leave all that and rush back home after hearing the bad news," said Cecilia

Another victim, Doris Dlamini, 59, said she was busy sweeping her yard when her home was raided and furniture dragged out

The area was tense but quiet when *City Press* arrived. Many families were seen sitting outside their houses guarding their belongings from being thrown out again

Last year 27 residents were killed in White City when they challenged council policemen after it was rumoured police were coming in to evict them

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# 'NUM's year'

By REVELATION NTOULA

IN her keynote address at the fifth annual general conference of South Africa's largest trade union, the National Union of Mineworkers, Winnie Mandela this week levelled a scathing attack on apartheid and the unequal distribution of wealth among black and white in SA

NUM vice-president Elijah Barayi said 1987 would be a crucial and decisive

year for miners and mine owners

"We need to take control 1987 is the year we shall march in that direction. It is in line with the general march by the oppressed people in this country," he said

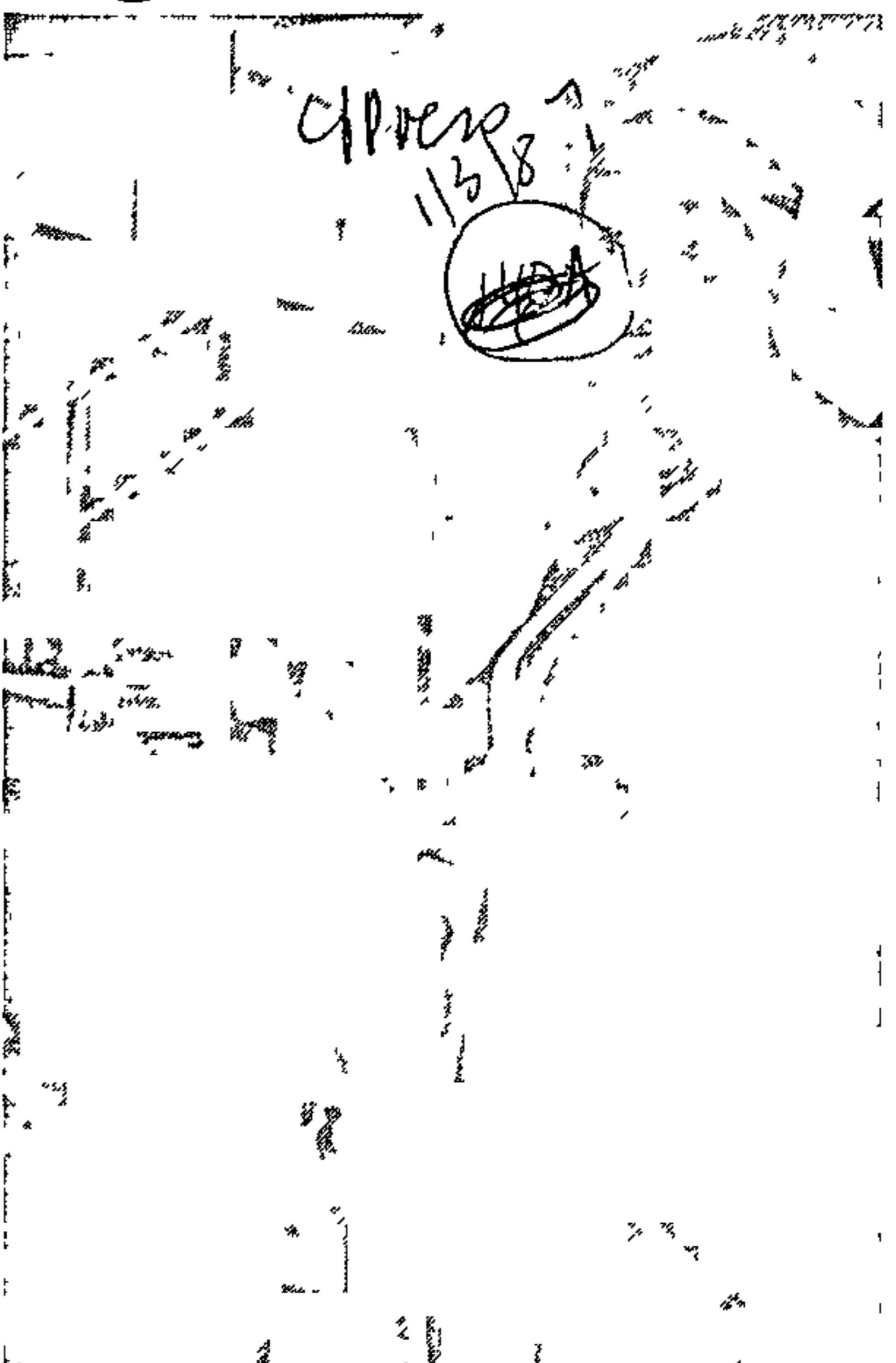
Barayi's opening address was in line with the conference theme, *1987 The year mineworkers take control*

"Gone are the days when miners were despised and kicked like dogs," he said

The four-day conference at the National Exhibition Centre in Crown Mines near Soweto is attended by about 600 NUM delegates and observers from Namibia whose union is not affiliated to NUM - the biggest Congress of SA Trade Unions member, with a paid-up membership of over 360 000

Before declaring the meeting open, Mandela - whose husband, jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, is NUM's honorary life president - recalled that as a migrant labourer her husband had been recruited to Crown Mines in 1941, so that the venue was of great significance to the Mandela family

She said she was speaking "by default" on behalf of the entire "incarcerated leadership"



Winnie Mandela addresses the NUM conference.

Referring to her vision of a future SA, Mandela said it would be a non-racial society based on a person's worth and that everyone would be free to live and work where they wished

"Even AWB members wishing to live in Overwacht (outside Bloemfontein) would be free and wel-

come to do so," she said amid laughter

The conference will give critical attention to faction fighting on the mines - which last year led to the deaths of over 130 mine workers. NUM has blamed the fighting on management and the migrant labour system

## Body held to ransom by Ciskei

CP Correspondent

CISKEI is holding the body of a Transkei soldier, killed during last week's attack on the palace of President Lennox Sebe, to ransom and will only release it if the Transkei admits it was behind the attack.

Transkei has until today to claim the body.

However, Ciskei first wanted Transkei Prime Minister George Matanzima to publicly admit that Transkei had been involved in Thursday's attack, on Sebe's private palace.

# Seven families homeless after massive Soweto fire

By DERRICK LUTHAYI

A FIRE allegedly started by an angry dweller, totally destroyed seven shacks in an Orlando East backyard yesterday, causing damages estimated at R15 000, before being extinguished.

The alleged arsonist, a woman staying in one of the burnt shacks was saved from death by the police who arrived in the nick of time, when angry neighbours were beating her up, and were about to throw her into the fire.

The woman in her mid 20's was quickly removed by the police and taken to the Orlando Police Station, before she was transferred to the Baragwanath Hospital, and has been placed under police guard.

The burnt shacks are all situated in the backyard of Eric Zuma's, Letsatsi Street home.

Only two shacks were not destroyed by the fire saved, the rest of the furniture, bedding and clothes are heaps of ash.

The incident took place at about 7 30am yesterday, when most of the destroyed shack-dwellers had gone to work and their children to school.

It is alleged that the arsonist had a quarrel with one of her neighbours on Wednesday night over the use of the tap in the yard.

Bekinkosi Zuma, said he was attracted to his shack by a large crowd and billowing fire. "When I arrived, I found my wife Fikeleni holding our two-year-old baby on one hand, and throwing out our clothes."

Neighbours help put out the Orlando East fire that cost an estimated R15 000.

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			25 x 1 kg <b>R29,95</b>
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C/press  
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C/Press

1/3/87

# What are the people hoping for?



By SANDILE MEMELA

HUNDREDS of desperate home-seekers from Soweto and surrounding townships queued for over two hours at a house in Zondi in a bid to escape being homeless

This follows a pledge by the SA Housing Trust to build houses for the lower-income group without them having to pay a deposit in advance

However, *City Press* has learnt through well-placed sources that the Trust has not bought any land yet on which to build houses

SA Housing Trust launched a project in Soweto in mid-January to compile the names of people who are homeless in a bid to build them houses

According to the chairman of the Soweto-project, Ronnie Shongwe, the project is aimed at people who cannot afford to pay the interest rates charged by

## Shongwe and Sibeko processing applications.

banks and building societies

Desperate home-seekers are required to state in an application form how much they can afford to pay per month

"Before the building starts the people must tell how many rooms they need and where the house

should be built Applications are even accepted from the unemployed," said Shongwe

He said people will not be required to pay their first instalment until they had stayed in the house for at least six months

However, those who could afford to pay instalments sooner would be wel-

come to do so

On-the-scene observation by *City Press* this week showed hundreds of home-seekers, mostly living in backyards and shacks, who had come to apply for homes

Some said they had been on the Soweto Council's "waiting list" for houses for over 10 years and had not yet obtained housing

The atmosphere turned explosive shortly after 7pm when people were asked to return the following day

Shongwe told *City Press* that the home-seekers started queueing up as early as 5am, and registration sometimes went on until late at night

"We deal with up to 200 cases per day It is worse over weekends when we deal with cases as far afield as Alexandra and Krugersdorp"

He said the project started in January and has three executive members and 15 committee members

"Some of the people who serve on our committee are people who earlier said that we promised a pie in the sky

"However, when I introduced them to the directors of the trust they soon realised that we meant business," said Shongwe

He added that plans are under way to obtain sites next to New Canada and in Diepkloof Extension and the first houses will be ready for occupation by September

# Evicted families' plight brings' cries of outrage

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2/3/57 Day

THE plight of about 60 families whose shacks were dismantled at Olifantsvlei, near Kibler Park, at the weekend has brought cries of outrage from PFP Johannesburg city councillor Tony Leon and the Black Sash

The families said they had lived on the land for the past five years, believing that Kibler Park businessman N J Pieterse was the owner and many of them worked for him

He had given them until February 27 to vacate their dwellings

Pretoria building constructors Bester Homes, owners of the land, said it did not know until early this month that Pieterse had settled people there, claiming the land was his, and had since ordered him out

Pieterse would not talk to the media yesterday

The police gave an assurance last

THEO RAWANA

week the people would not be evicted, but charges would be investigated against the owner

Leon, who is a member of the Johannesburg City Council's housing committee, said it was just a part of a problem facing about 15 000 black people in the area between Johannesburg and Vereeniging

He said "By-laws affecting occupation of areas such as these should be relaxed to facilitate the plan for urbanisation"

A Black Sash spokesman said "These people live and work in Johannesburg Their crime is that there is no black land where they can stay

"The people are being forced to find another place which they must also occupy illegally."

CAPE TOWN 2/3/87

# Miners support Freedom Charter

JOHANNESBURG. — At a celebration of opposition to apartheid on Saturday, more than 15 000 black miners packed into Soweto's tiny Jabulani Stadium.

The miners gave their support for the National Union of Mineworkers endorsement of the Freedom Charter and the NUM's threatened seizure of the mines if the system of migrant labour and single-sex tribally segregated hostels was not ended

The rally was a dramatic finale to the annual congress of the 360 000-strong NUM. It went ahead without interference from the police or army.

The rally signalled the endorsement of a congress decision to put the union into a more explicit anti-apartheid position

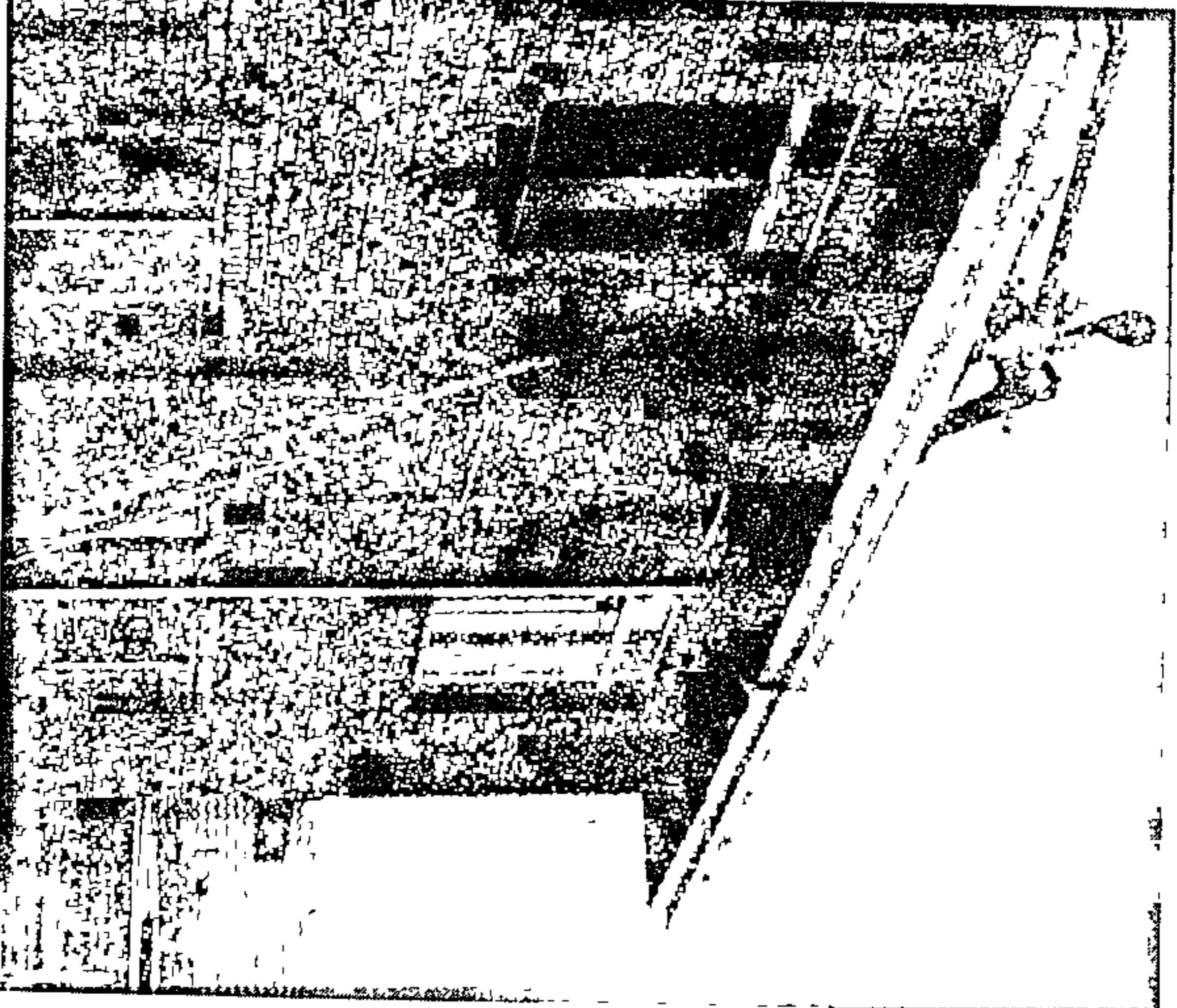
Applause greeted the announcement of the decision to seize control of the mines if mine bosses did not agree immediately to begin negotiating an end to migrant labour.

On Thursday the union voted to begin preparations for a national strike if, as a run-up to these negotiations, mine bosses did not hand over control of single-sex tribally segregated hostels to the union, and elected hostel supervisors.

This vote follow months of mine faction fighting, which the union maintains is encouraged by mine managers to weaken the union's fast-growing support — Sapa

# OWNERS STOP FUMING

Special report SANDILE MEMELA



Although the workmen seem busy, will they finish the house on time?

SOWETO home-owners who have hired the services of black-owned constructors and builders have expressed anger and dissatisfaction at the quality of service rendered.

Most home-owners who wish to turn their matchbox-homes into mansions experience problems with black constructors. Lack of professional service by black constructors has led to many home-seekers and owners flooding to "surburbs" like Protea North, Dobsonville and Mapelle Extension rather than hiring constructors to alter existing matchbox houses.

Some clients have even expressed the idea that though white-owned service charges were exorbitant, the speedy service made the price worthwhile.

A housing-scheme inspector with a building society in Johannesburg - who asked not to be identified - confirmed the allegations.

"Though the construc-



An incomplete house that has been temporarily abandoned by builders.

tors are to blame to a large extent, the problem is not solely theirs. Sometimes the clients have money problems and this results in the slow progress of the building," he said.

On-the-spot observations found houses with incom-

plete walls. Houses are often left in a shambles with pot-holes, cement and working tools lying around.

In other places labourers were seen milling around the working area with nothing to do. Asked to explain their position, some labourers said it was impossible to expect them to work without tools.

A City Press probe has revealed that a number of home-owners have had their houses demolished by black constructors, forcing families to lodge with rela-

tives or friends while construction on the home was in progress.

However, often the affected family is left in the lurch as the constructors disappear.

Allegations levelled against black constructors include:

- Labourers work irregular hours and are undisciplined
- Construction-owners are reluctant to buy the material needed
- Work on site is seldom completed on schedule
- Material used for building is of poor quality
- There is lack of contact between the home-owner and construction company owners. At times this has resulted in the immediate cancellation of contracts or heated confrontation
- Hired labourers are unskilled and often cannot use current methods to measure plans
- After completion newly

built homes have roof leaks and sewerage problems.

As constructors work at several sites at the same time there is insufficient man-power.

Diepkloof resident told City Press that it took a black-owned construction company almost a year to complete his house.

"I learnt that the man was busy with another project in another area. I had to go after him and neighbours were saying that I didn't have the money to complete my house," he said.

Another resident said they had to move into the house before it was completed.

"We now live in a house that has a number of faults and we have notified the man concerned about them. But for the past three weeks nothing has been done," said the resident.



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12/11/77  
E/Play

# Shack people left homeless

ABOUT 60 shack-dwellers — among them children under the age of seven — were left homeless on Friday after their homes at Olifantsvlei, near Walkerville, were demolished.

The shacks were demolished by labourers under the supervision of the owner of the land, the station commander of Mondeor police station and other officials

SOPHIE TEMA

About 20 shacks were demolished, leaving the occupants with no place to go.

Corrugated iron with which the shacks had been built was loaded on a truck and taken away.

It is believed all the shack-dwellers — about 55 or 60 of them — had been taken into custody about 2am on Friday and were not present when their shacks were flattened.

A police spokesman at John Vorster Square said about 36 adults were to be charged with trespassing.

Johannesburg City Council Planning Department spokesman D Diack said "The council had nothing to do with demolishing the shacks. It had informed the owner of the land about the illegal structures."

Asked if alternative accommodation would be provided, Diack said "The city council can only provide housing for White and Coloured people."

He could give no undertaking on the allocation of alternative accommodation for those made homeless by the demolitions.

# Housing row a 'domestic matter'

(127)

SMR

By Rich Mkhondo

9/3/87

The Soweto Council has refused to comment on a clash among its councillors over the allocation of houses at the "fortified" Power Park

Town Clerk Mr Nico Malan said he knew of the incident, "but I cannot comment because I regard it as a domestic affair", he said.

Mr Chairman Lengene and his family were moved from a house they had occupied for only five days because one of his "senior" colleagues, Mr Letsatsi Radebe, reportedly wanted the house for himself

About 15 black council policemen, supervised by 15 of their white seniors, moved Mr Lengene's furniture out of the house while he was away and put it in another house across the road last Thursday

Mr Lengene said he was told his eviction had been decided on by the Soweto Council's executive committee

Mr Radebe, chairman of the executive committee, said he knew nothing about the eviction.

Some councillors have criticised Mr Radebe for acting without full council approval.

have pictures and comment in

# Chosen people

By MANDLA NDLAZI

## Council men and police first to get new houses

Soweto  
127 9/3/87

SOWETO councillors and council police were given first preference in the allocation of the Power Park houses although there are 22 000 families on the waiting list.

The mayor, Mr Nelson Botile, said yesterday it was because of "prevailing circumstances"

He said these were the circumstances that had forced the councillors out of their houses last year. The houses had been extensively damaged when they were petrol-bombed.

These houses were damaged beyond repair and his colleagues had to be given alternative accommodation when they came out from hiding.

Mr Botile said the councillors were given these houses soon after they had been forced out of a block of flats where they had been hiding in Fordsburg for the past five months.

### Apply

His colleagues had not bought these houses because they were still to be evaluated. The amount of rent would be known as soon as the land has been evaluated.

Mr Botile said there were 75 houses in Power Park, and the councillors have occupied 22. Six have been taken over by two families of council police. He said 47 were empty.

Some of the houses could be occupied by the council's senior staff like township managers. Residents not connected with the council could also apply for the houses, said Mr Botile.

He said on January this year, the Johannesburg City Council agreed to the implementation of the recommendation and his colleagues moved into the houses about two weeks ago.



Beauties who know how to cool off

IT WAS too hot yesterday and lovely birds from decided to shed clothes and cool off in swimming costumes under a tree. They are 18. Glaudinah Tsh (left) from Tladi.

## Help for Basotho

THE Matlama a Thesele, hopes to end Russian gangsterism, commonly called "Borashia" the chairman of the new cultural body, Mr Morero Posholi, said yesterday.

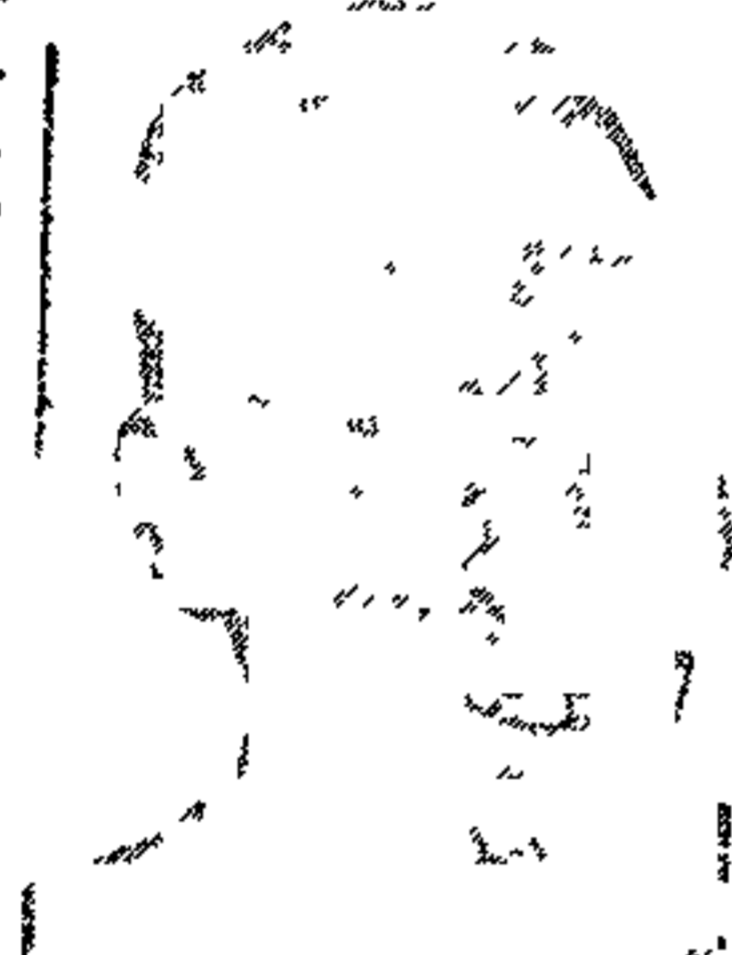
The body for Sotho-speaking people also seeks to improve living and working conditions of all Basotho nationals working in South Africa.

Though the movement operates in South Africa, it is based in Lesotho.

Mr Posholi said the Matlama a Thesele was formed to unify and bring dignity to the Basotho people.

The movement's name means unity of the descendants of Thesele, an ancestor of King Moshoeshoe II.

Asked how the movement intends to end Russian gangsterism, the secretary and Chaplain, Rabbi Vuyisile



Mr MORERO Posholi chairman

Msitshana, said the problem was caused by the frustrations among the Basotho migrant workers who could not find work in South Africa.

The cultural body, he said, would help these workers find employment. They would then try to get migrant workers to join the movement. This, the rabbi believes would solve the problem.

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# Thokoza gets 700 homes

A R20-MILLION housing project involving the building of 700 homes is underway in Thokoza near Alberton.

A Cape-based company, Incorporated Building Construction (IBC), has been awarded the multi-million rand housing contract.

**SOWETAN  
Reporter**

An IBC spokesman, Mr Peter Smith, said construction would begin "within the next few weeks"

"The houses will cost as little as R18 000 for a two-bedroom unit and building societies in-

involved in the project have promised up to 100 percent bonds," Mr. Smith said.

There was a serious housing shortage in Thokoza with more than 40 000 families on the waiting list, Mr Smith said

More sites were earmarked in the devel-

opment area which is situated on the southern side of the East Rand township, Mr Smith said. "The whole project will create employment opportunities for the local people as well as boost local contractors, who will also be involved in the scheme," he added.

(127) Sowetan 10/3/87

**R160m**

**owed**

**in rent**

**arrears**

PRETORIA — Black local authorities in the Transvaal ran up R160 million in arrears in rent and service fees by the end of January

This was said by Transvaal Provincial Administration Executive Committee members Mr John Griffiths and Mr John Mavuso during discussions with officials from black local authorities on the West Rand in Johannesburg today.

The two MECs said that, for reasons of financial viability, it was imperative that conditions be created which would enable black local authorities to "decide on reasonable and justified" increases, which residents could pay without fear of intimidation

"Firmer action will have to be taken in future to exact payment from residents for amounts due to local authorities," the meeting was told. — Sapa

127  
11/3/87  
EPOST

# Rent — Council plan revealed

127

Sowetan  
11/3/87

THE Soweto City Council has approved a plan to deal with rent defaulters in the area.

It has resolved

- That nine firms of attorneys be selected and appointed, each to act, for a specific senior township manager's area,
- That the city secretary and director emergency and protective services be mandated to urgently discuss with the Messenger of the Court for the Johannesburg area, the

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

possible appointment of Messengers on an ad-hoc or temporary basis with a view to facilitating timeous delivery of summons and effecting ejecting orders,

- That in regard to (above), security be arranged for this purpose through council's police, the SADF and SAP,
- That if possible, vehicles and storage space be made available by

council to remove furniture and store it in terms of warrants of execution obtained,

- That special courts be set up in Protea, Orlando East and Klip-town to handle (Section 65) cases on a daily basis,
- That ad-hoc prosecutors be appointed and in this regard, the council utilise existing township staff and that in terms of the Magistrates Courts Act, special approval in terms of Section 2 or 3

be obtained immediately to appoint ad-hoc prosecutors, and

- That the Department of Justice be approached on a very high level to introduce such courts and to make available such staff as may be required for the proper functioning thereof

The minutes of the council (dated 26 01 1987), leaked to the *Sowetan*, do not state when these proposals will be implemented

The president of the Soweto Civic Association, Dr Nthato Motlana, yesterday said

## Council rent plan

From Page 1

"With regard to this statement the community of Soweto would like to warn the councillors who have in mind the carrying out of such a hare-brained scheme to desist forthwith

"The people who decided they would not pay rent must have valid reasons. We advise those in supposed control of the townships to address the problems

that led to the rent boycott. It is not beyond the ingenuity and resourcefulness of these men to come up with the solution that would induce the residents to pay their rental

He added that the other problem was the state of emergency which has made it impossible to "hear the voice of the people, because almost the entire executive (of the civic association) is in deten-

tion or otherwise unavailable"

Meanwhile, it has been revealed that the Soweto Council is planning to dismiss all five of its black township managers and replace them with whites — because they were too lenient with rent defaulters

The officials are stationed at Tladi, Jabulani, Orlando East, Orlando West, and Mofolo

To Page 2

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Sowetan  
11/3/87

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(127)

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# SPOTLIGHT ON RENT CRISIS

Rec  
the

**BLACK organisations are meeting to discuss the rent crisis in Soweto, Dr Nthato Motlana, the president of the Soweto Civic Association, said yesterday.**

The meeting follows the announcement by the Soweto City Council that it had approved a plan to deal with rent defaulters in the area. The minutes of the council meeting (dated 26 02 1987) leaked to the *Sowetan*, do not state when those proposals will be implemented.

The council has resolved among other things

- That nine firms of attorneys be selected and appointed, each to act for a specific senior township manager's area,
- That if possible, vehicles and

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

storage space be made available by council to remove furniture and store it in terms of warrants of execution obtained, and

- That special courts be set up in Protea, Orlando East and Klip-town to handle cases on a daily basis

Dr Motlana said "It is not easy for the officials of the Soweto Civic Association to give a lead in this matter because 90 percent of its executive members are in detention and the rest are unavailable. Although public meetings are not banned, they can lead to instant arrest of people attending them.

"It is therefore difficult to give a lead in this matter," Dr Motlana

said

He added that discussions on the matter were taking place among black organisations and it was hoped that a statement would be issued shortly.

Meanwhile, residents interviewed by the *Sowetan* yesterday demanded that the council should first address their grievances before "thinking of evicting us".

Mr Borias Dumakude of Orlando East said "All houses in Orlando are old and if the council is fair, residents in the area, who are mostly pensioners, should be exempted from paying rent. People are paying high rents for dilapidated houses."

"All councillors should resign because they are doing nothing for us," Miss Mapuleng Majore said.

13/3/87 (27)

# NO RENT CUT

SOWETAN

**THE Lekoa Town Council will NOT reduce house rents to R30 a month for thousands of residents in the Vaal Triangle townships, a spokesman said yesterday.**

The council this week cut down rents of all liquor outlets — several owned by councillors and ex-councillors — by more than half due to a drop in sales

The decision also comes after Councillor V S Tshabalala, recommended to the council that there was a need for tariffs to be reduced

Mr Tshabalala made this appeal after a meeting with over 300 resi-

## Lekoa council decides

(27)

dents in Sebokeng recently.

The council spokesman said residents have in the past made representations to the council regarding the reduction of their rents, but the council has found these demands to be "unrealistic and unreasonable"

He said "The council is presently having financial problems because most residents have not been paying

their tariffs for over three years"

He added that the continued non-payment of these tariffs has caused heavy losses estimated at millions of rands. As a result many projects which the council wanted to implement were frozen

He warned that the council would continue to prosecute defaulters because it could not afford to run the townships without funds

### Evicted

Many residents have been evicted from their homes for not paying rent and that seems to have greatly influenced some of them to pay, he said

He was pleased that some of the rent defaulters were now buying their homes

A spokesman for the Vaal Civic Association yesterday challenged the council for reducing rents of liquor outlets and ignoring the residents' plea.

The Trade Union Coordinating Committee and the Vaal Priests Solidarity Group have also expressed their concern about the reduction of rents at businesses owned by most councillors. "We should all be treated alike," they said yesterday



# Huge public response after Walmer T'ship blaze

EPOST  
13/3/87  
127

By BARBARA ORPEN

**THERE** has been a massive public response to the plight of the 200 people left homeless in Tuesday's devastating Walmer Township blaze.

According to Mrs Cathy Binnell, of the Black Sash, public generosity had been "overwhelming"

Offers of food, clothing, beds and mattresses for the homeless, now housed in 20 tents provided by the Red Cross, had been pouring in

Red Cross workers, under the supervision of Mrs Temperance Kuboni, have been working full-time at the disaster site.

The society has provided 200 blankets.

There is a suspicion that 10 fire extinguishers distributed by the St Vincent de Paul Society five years ago may not have been used when the fire broke out

At the time of their installation the authorities refused permission for them to be erected in a public place.

They were installed in private homes, an advocate of the scheme, Mr John Molyneaux, said today

People were instructed in their use — but their location in private homes was a drawback

"This meant they were inaccessible unless the residents of the particular house were at home," he said.

The African Persons' Civic Association (APCC) has called for the speedy upgrading of shacks, not only in Walmer Location, but also in the other shack areas of Port Elizabeth, such as Soweto and Red Location.

In a statement following this week's Walmer fire, Mr G Mayekiso, a spokesman for the APCC, said the disaster added new impetus to the need for the upgrading process

# Delmas accused denies fears of losing rents

By Sejamothopo Motau,  
Pretoria Bureau

A submission by the State that the Evaton Rate Payers' Association (ERPA) and plot owners in the township were opposed to the replanning of Evaton because they feared losing rents they collected from sub-tenants on their properties, was yesterday denied at the Delmas treason trial

Mr Morake Mokoena (48), one of the 19 accused, also denied under cross-examination that the replanning was supported by an "overwhelming majority" of the residents of the township and that the only exceptions were ERPA and the plot owners

Mr Mokoena, an Evaton plot owner and former secretary of ERPA, said residents had been pressured by the town council and the local development board to accept the replanning. He said most residents were against the project because they saw it as a threat to their land and freehold titles

He denied there were many sub-tenants in Evaton living in shacks and without proper sanitation. He said he had one sub-tenant on his plot. The man lived with his wife and two children in a two-roomed house. The rent was R12 a month

He said he felt some good could come out of the replanning of the township because it would provide better housing and proper sanitation, but he was opposed to the project because it led to the expropriation of land from owners and the loss of their freehold rights. He said that was the feeling of most people in the area

## LEASEHOLD ENCOURAGED

He said the community council was not in favour of retaining the freehold system in Evaton. He said they paid lip service to the principle but their actions indicated the contrary, since they encouraged the implementation of the leasehold system

The former community councillor said he had attended a meeting of the community council where the council had resolved that it stood by the principle that the sale of houses and sites in Evaton should be in terms of the freehold system. He said this was negated by the fact that once the land was subdivided in the replanning, the sites would be acquired only through the leasehold system

He rejected a suggestion that the council was powerless to do anything about the matter because it was a government decision. He said the council was not powerless since it had recommended the replanning and the subdivision of property

Mr Mokoena said he had closed his shop on September 3 1984, the day of the stayaway and the big march in the Sebokeng area. He said he had received a pamphlet urging all traders to shut their businesses that day

He said he had heard about the stayaway about a week before the event from Mr Esau Raditsela, former vice chairman of the Vaal Civic Association, who disappeared shortly after the tragic day

The cross-examination continues today

# Evictions to be challenged in court

# RENT TEST CASES

SOWETO

16/3/87  
127

**THE fate of tens of thousands of township householders who owe rent will be determined tomorrow and Wednesday when the Rand Supreme Court is asked to decide whether black town councils have the right to evict residents in arrears.**

The test case will be brought to the court separately by the Soweto and Vaal civic associations

This was confirmed to the *Sowetan* yesterday by a spokesman for a Johannesburg firm of lawyers who said if the court ruled in favour of residents it would mean that councils would be stopped from evicting residents for not paying their house rents

**BY JOSHUA FAVOROKO**

However, the spokesman has warned that a favourable outcome in the two cases would not mean the end of the battle against local authorities. Residents have also briefed lawyers to challenge the high service charges

Residents in Soweto and the Vaal have not been paying rents and service fees

The non-payment of tariffs, which according to sources has spread to about 55 black townships, started in the Vaal Triangle

in September 1984 when violence broke out in the area

The VCA will challenge the right of the Lekoa Town Council to charge rent on the basis that the council did not build homes in the Vaal townships of Sebokeng, Sharpeville, Bophelong, Boipatong and Zamdela

The association has argued that the council has assumed ownership of houses built by the now defunct Oranje-Vaal Development Board

The spokesman said the Soweto case will seek to prevent the council from taking action under Section 65 of the Housing Act against thousands of residents

In terms of this Act township managers can tell residents how much outstanding money they owe and give them seven days no-

To page 5

## Rent

From page 1  
Failure to settle arrears or make arrangements to do so may result in eviction. "We will be trying to prove that this is illegal," the spokesman said

127 C. M. M. M.



# Court bid on rents

(27)

SOWETO

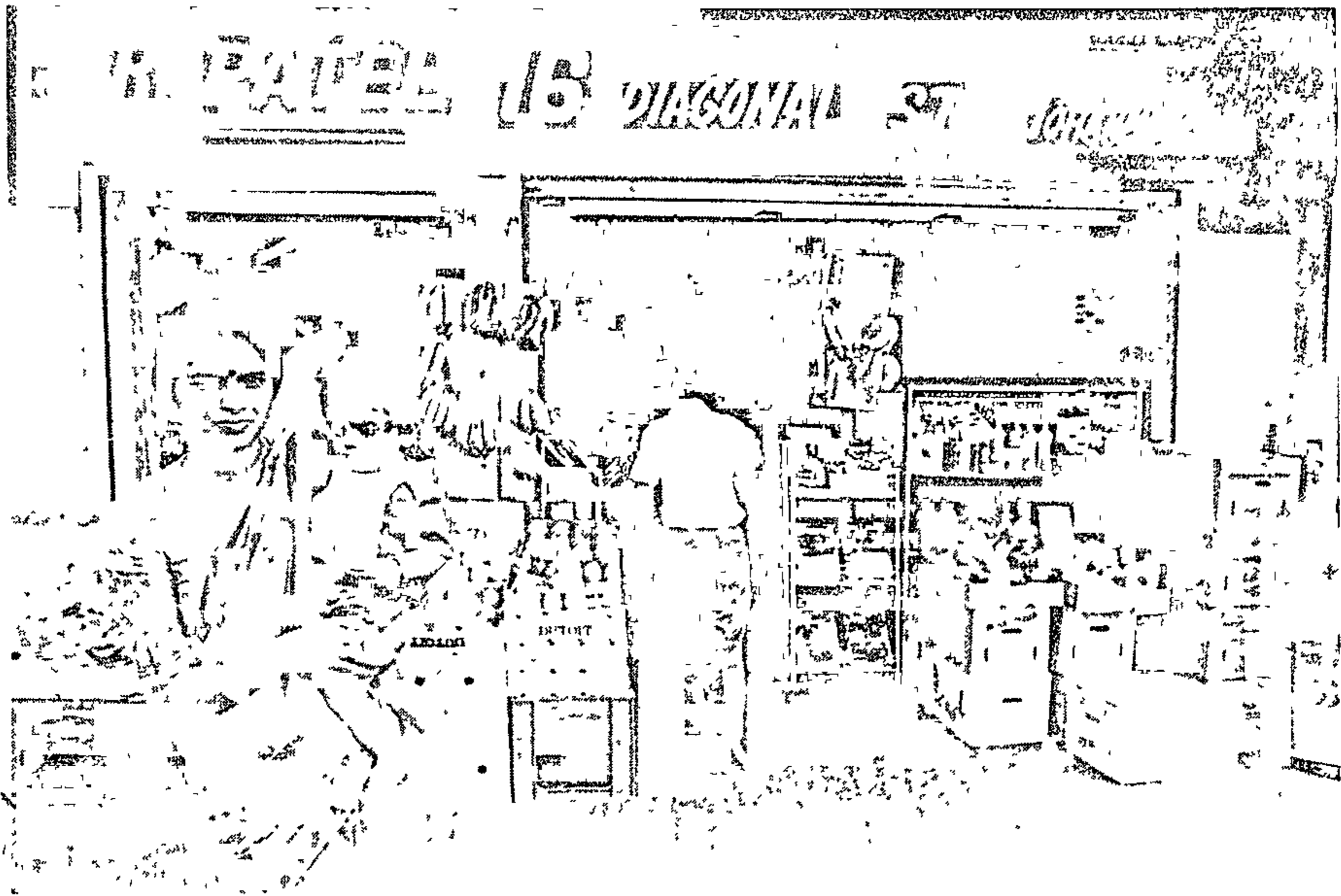
BB/8

THE application challenging the validity of rent evictions in Soweto will be heard in the Rand Supreme Court tomorrow.

The Soweto Civic Association will ask the supreme court to decide whether the Soweto City Council has the right to evict residents who are in arrears with their rent.

Meanwhile another supreme court application contesting rent evictions in the Vaal will be heard at a "future date" after the Minister of Constitutional Development, Mr Chris Heunis, yesterday notified the court that he would defend the action. He has also been joined by the Administrator of the Free State in defending the action.

The Lekoa Town Council, also respondents in the case, has asked to be given time to prepare papers, according to a spokesman for a Johannesburg firm of lawyers representing evicted families in the Vaal.



Mrs Saryu Keshav and her six-month-old son Jeeten stand outside one of the shops in Diagonal Street, Johannesburg, which are to be demolished. ● Picture by Rebecca Hearfield

## JCI plans to demolish Indian shops

A mining house wants to demolish Johannesburg's oldest intact street scene — the Indian shops in Diagonal Street  
Johannesburg Consolidated Investment plans an office block there

### 'Famous street scene' 'Only for the better'

By James Clarke

Johannesburg City Council's planning department is to decide whether to allow the demolition of the city's most famous street scene.

The Victorian shops on Diagonal Street between Pritchard and President Streets, with their balconies, filigree iron work and the colourful Cairo-style fruit market date back to 1896. The street was recently renovated and fitted with Victorian street lamps by Anglo American at a cost of R800 000.

The public is unlikely to take the news sitting down. The shopkeepers, whose shops are a tourist attraction, were appalled when they heard the news yesterday.

The street flanks Newtown which the city council is about to develop into a human-scale, 24-hour-a-day activity area with a strong heritage atmosphere.

The council recently attracted 26 entries in its competition for a design for Newtown and all, including one that advocated the total demolition of Newtown, called for the preservation of Diagonal Street's historic shops.

Mrs Flo Bird, of the National Monuments Council, has asked this organisation's "urgent affairs" committee to freeze the application

By Frank Jeans

The Argus company has sold its Diagonal Street property behind The Star building to Johannesburg Consolidated Investments for R3,7 million.

The block of 28 flats and line of shops opposite the glass tower of Barnib House will be demolished and JCI will build an office block on the site, subject to planning permission being granted.

The sale is subject to vacant occupation within six months with the onus on JCI to meet this deadline.

The company has already earmarked several blocks of flats in which Indian families in the Argus property will be offered alternative accommodation "superior to what they have

now"

Mr Ian McPherson, general manager (property) of JCI, said "We have no intention of getting round any local ordinances and will comply with all requirements laid down by the city council and the Department of Community Development."

Answering critics who believe the building has historical value, Mr McPherson said his company had investigated the possibility of retaining the old facade but consulting engineers had advised that this was not possible.

"Accordingly, in terms of our development proposals, we plan to recreate the facade of the building as it now stands," said Mr McPherson.

"Any new building which takes the place of the old property can only be for the better."

# Rent defaulters warned to pay

By Abel Mabelane

Chairman of the constitutional committee of the Transvaal Provincial Administration Mr John Griffiths yesterday warned drastic action would be taken against defaulters who owe R160 million in unpaid rent.

He was addressing a meeting at the H F Verwoerd Building in Germiston, which was attended by representative of the East Rand United Municipalities and other councillors.

Mr Griffiths said it was necessary that action be taken against rent defaulters to avoid the collapse of services in the black towns.

● The right of the Soweto City Council to evict residents from houses built by the Johannesburg City Council was challenged in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

The urgent action to halt such evictions was brought by Soweto residents Mr Isaac Radebe and Mrs Beauty Mpinga, both of Jabulani.

Their counsel, Mr J. Unterhalter SC, argued before Mr Justice M C Goldblatt that under section 65 of the Housing Act, the Johannesburg City Council built the houses and therefore the Soweto Council had no right to evict people in rent arrears.

The hearing continues.

● See Page 3.

SMK  
29/3/87

# RENT

# WARNING

12/27  
12/28  
12/29  
12/30  
12/31

**against defaulters**  
**coming - official**

# RENT WARNING

**A SENIOR GOVERNMENT official yesterday warned that drastic action will have to be taken against rent defaulters, now R160-million in arrears.**

This warning was issued by Mr John Griffiths, chairman of the constitutional committee of the Transvaal Provincial Administration at a function in Germiston which was attended by more than 50 councillors and officials from town councils on the East Rand. Mr Griffiths said firmer action would have to be taken against rent defaulters to avoid a situation where the supply of services may have to be discontinued as a result of inadequate funds.

**To Page 2**

## Rents warning

**From Page 1**

He said yesterday "As at January 31, 1987, the arrears to black local authorities in the Transvaal amounted to about R160-million

"Town councils are faced with a serious financial problem and a solution will have to be found to provide them with a sound economic basis"

Residents will have to pay for the services "We cannot escape this and something must be done soon to solve this

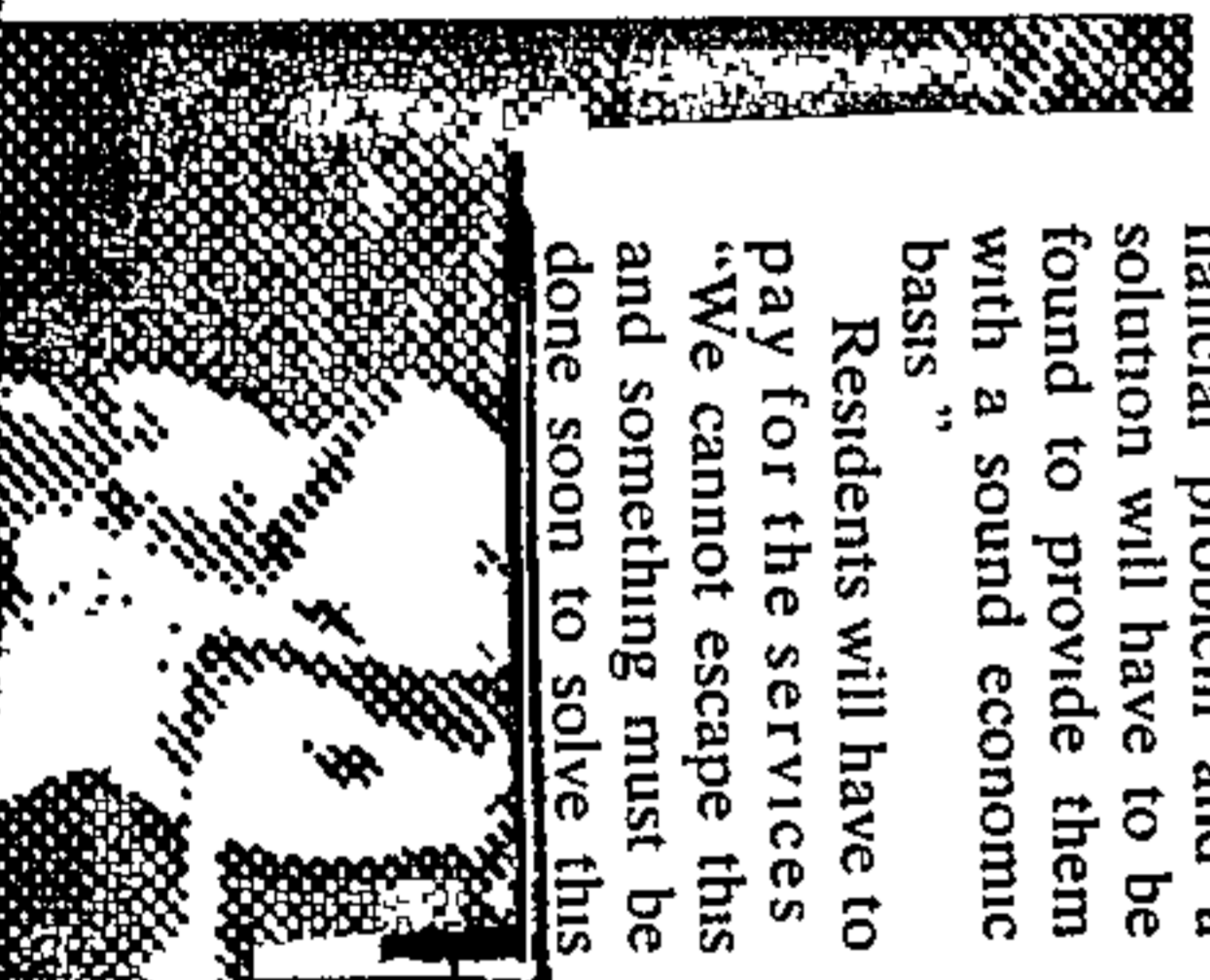
problem," he said

Councillors must realise that bridging finance may not be utilised to supplement shortfalls and that loans will have to be provided which, in the end, will have to be repaid, he said

Mr Griffiths, who was accompanied by his deputy Mr John Mavuso and the acting administrator of the Transvaal, Mr Fanie Schoeman, did not say what kind of action will be taken against rent defaulters. But it is believed that residents failing to pay their rent may be evicted

R10 000, all of which will be donated to Friends of Baragwanath

But they won't be the only...



# Rent test case begins in court

Soweto

20/3/87

(127)

ARGUMENT in an application regarded as a "test case" to decide if the Soweto City Council has the right to evict residents in arrears with rent began yesterday in the Rand Supreme Court.

The application before Mr Justice Goldblatt has been brought by three Jabulani residents, Mr Themba Mngomezulu, Mr Isaac Radebe and Mr Alfred Mphungwa

According to affida-

vits before court, the three argue that their evictions were unlawful in that their former houses were not constructed by the council, but the Johannesburg City Council in 1959

They also submit that the houses were not constructed or acquired by means of advances made or monies borrowed from the National Housing Fund under the Housing Act, Number 4 of 1966

(Proceeding)



# Demolition squads move in on Grassmere

The latest move in the crack down on squatters south of Johannesburg is the destruction of shacks on open land adjoining the Reform Church in Grassmere.

Families had lived in the open since four homes were flattened last week and more were demolished at the weekend, residents of the camp said.

They said there had been 72 shacks in the settlement, established in January after officials had warned people to leave a private property, where they had been paying between R50 to R60 for a single room.

Action against the new Grassmere squatters began early last Wednesday when police went door to door, arresting the household head wherever that person was home, residents said.

These people appeared in court at De Deur later on Wednesday and received sentences of three months suspended for three years, the residents said.

When they returned home they found officials demolishing some of the shelters.

The demolition squad left most of the shacks untouched, but police returned on Saturday and demolished several more structures, residents said.

Police comment was not available at time of going to press.

Should those residents convicted continue to inhabit shacks on the property, they run the risk of having their suspended sentences brought into operation.

The Grassmere raids come in the wake of recent demolitions at Weiler's Farm, a few kilometres away.

# Rent — 400 march

MORE than 400 Jabulani flats residents marched to the Soweto City Council chambers yesterday to protest against the eviction of rent defaulters as the rent crisis continues.

The incident-free protest was against the recent council evictions, which the residents claim had been carried out without any notices or court orders.

According to residents at least five families have been evicted for rent arrears since last

To Page 5

(7)  
Soweto  
7/8/87

# Rent march

From Page 1:

week and their furniture confiscated. In one instance, the family of Mrs Rose Baloyi has been evicted twice, the first time last Tuesday and again on Monday.

On arrival at the chambers, the residents chose a delegation of five women and five men to meet the director for housing, Ms E Bester and her assistant, Mr G van der Merwe. After negotiations lasting more than an hour, the delegation gave a report-back to residents at "Mandela Square" at the flats.

The residents were told that the council had agreed not to apply for new court orders to evict those in arrears. The council had also given an assurance that no new tenants would be put in three of the five flats where tenants had been evicted.

(57)  
Soweto  
7/8/87

Soweto residents are anxious for an end to the rents impasse.

In a survey conducted by The Star last week residents said they were worried about the accumulation of debts and wished the authorities and community organisations would resolve the issue by treating the residents' demands as a matter of utmost urgency.

There are about 75 000 houses in Soweto, of which about 35 000 are privately owned, meaning that the Soweto Council collects rent from 40 000 houses.

Residents have not been paying rent since June last year. Their demands include the removal of soldiers from the townships, the resignation of all councillors, the unbanning of "people's" organisations, the release of detainees and political prisoners and the lifting of the emergency decrees.

None of the residents interviewed wanted to be named.

### The only avenue

A Zondi man said he felt the non-payment of rent and service charges was the only and last means of protest available.

"We know that through our payments, the council is able to run the township properly. Also they know that it is hard for them to survive without our payments. Why is it then difficult for them to address our demands?" he asked.

He said it was not true that residents were making political demands because "politics determine the conditions in Soweto".

Many residents interviewed felt the Soweto Council was not representing them because its members "were not popularly elected".

"They should resign en masse," said a Pinville resident.

A Mofolo resident said he wanted to pay rent but was afraid of being assaulted by the "comrades" and of

# Mounting debts worry Soweto householders

The rents boycott is now 10 months old, but residents want an end to the deadlock, a survey by The Star has disclosed. Rich Mkhondo reports.

being taken to the street committee. "I think our message has been heard. The more we refuse paying, the more we will owe the council. Even if the court action to halt evictions goes in our favour, we still have thousands of rands to pay," he said.

A Dube resident, whose electricity supply has been suspended, condemned the evictions of some residents, saying this action aggravated the problems rather than solving them.

"We all belong here — our children, our grandchildren are here to stay — so why not negotiate with us instead of carrying out evictions?" she asked.

Residents of some areas in Soweto are complaining of the irregular disposal of household rubbish and the frequent waterpipe bursts which they say are health hazards.

They say they are being forced to live under unhygienic conditions. The council is said to be on the "verge of bankruptcy" by some sources within the council.

The Town Clerk, Mr Nico Malan, said although the council was running at a loss, it was not bankrupt.

Last month, Mr Malan said, the council had budgeted for a deficit of R26 million on a budget of almost R156 million. Income was almost



Nico Malan. "Improvement of 50 percent in rent payment".

R130 million

"The figures are alarming, but they are not critical because normally during the course of the year we are able to effect savings on expenditure," he said.

"At the moment, our debtors outnumber our creditors. The people still owe us some money and once they pay, our problems will be over."

Mr Malan said the payment of rent had improved by 50 percent. The council was now collecting R3 million a month instead of the normal R7 million.

Responding to The Star survey, Mr Malan said the council was looking at all reasonable ways of convincing residents to pay their debts. He suggested various options for residents who feared to visit the rent offices.

● House owners can post cheques made payable to the director of housing.

● They can also make their payments at the council's city offices at 80 Albert Street.

● Soweto residents working for one company can make arrangements with their employers to deduct rentals from their salaries and wages and pay them in bulk to the council.

● House owners can pay rent through stop orders.

The chairman of the constitutional committee of the Transvaal Provincial Administration, Mr John Griffiths, last week warned that drastic action would be taken against rent defaulters who owe township councils more than R160 million.

(A paragraph has been omitted from this report to comply with the emergency regulations)

gosuthu

negotiation.

tion Minister F W de Klerk is due to

# Mamelodi to build 3 000 houses

A LARGE portion of the R140m government subsidy given to the Mamelodi City Council will be used on the building of 3 000 low-cost houses to ease the housing shortage in the township.

The building of the houses, and other major projects in Mamelodi, is expected to be completed within the next five years.

Government has also made available R92m to the Alexandra Town Council for the development of housing and educational projects in the area.

Mamelodi mayor Z B Ndlazi recently announced that the country was facing a backlog of about 500 000 houses. He said: "The money given to the Mamelodi City Council will be used to start a number of new development projects and to com-

plete those that are already in progress."

The council is also expecting the following projects, among others, to be completed within the next five years

The paving of all dusty streets in Mamelodi at an estimated cost of R35-million;

Re-construction of one of the main streets — to be converted into a dual carriageway at a cost of R8,8m;

Construction of an ultra-modern stadium at an estimated cost of R30m;

Building of an ultra-modern home for the aged;

Building of the Moretele Park — the picnic-cum-recreational spot at the foot of the Magaliesberg ranges near Mamelodi — at an estimated cost of R5m.

**SHELVING AND RACKING: For more information**

Phone Phil or Nan at (011) 613-2311

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# Increased crime, noise and prostitution claimed

## Grey areas residents are cagey

By Joe Openshaw

Talking to black people about the "grey" areas in Hillbrow, Joubert Park and Berea is like asking Parisians for directions in English. They understand what you want but become suspicious, uncommunicative and unwilling to help.

Security in some buildings is as tight as the lips of flatdwellers and doors do not easily open.

Black people know they live in these areas illegally and, until the promised reform, on sufferance. They fear victimisation and intimidation but, as they point out, if whites do not want them there they must be offered alternative accommodation.

Speaking to white people about the "grey" areas is equally difficult. But those who are prepared to speak make up for the rest: they say these areas have become depressed, crime has rocketed and the quality of life has deteriorated so much that white people are moving out.

Both blacks and whites agree there are more than 35 000 illegal tenants in Hillbrow and blame the landlords for their dilemma and the high rentals charged blacks who have no other place to stay.

Two of the only coloured people prepared to give their names were Miss Gail Phillips (40) and her flatmate, Miss Romina Hartogh (35), both of Lorina Court in Quartz Street, who have been living in Hillbrow and Joubert Park for three years.

They came to Johannesburg from Cape Town to find work and the vast flatland was the only place where they could find somewhere to live.

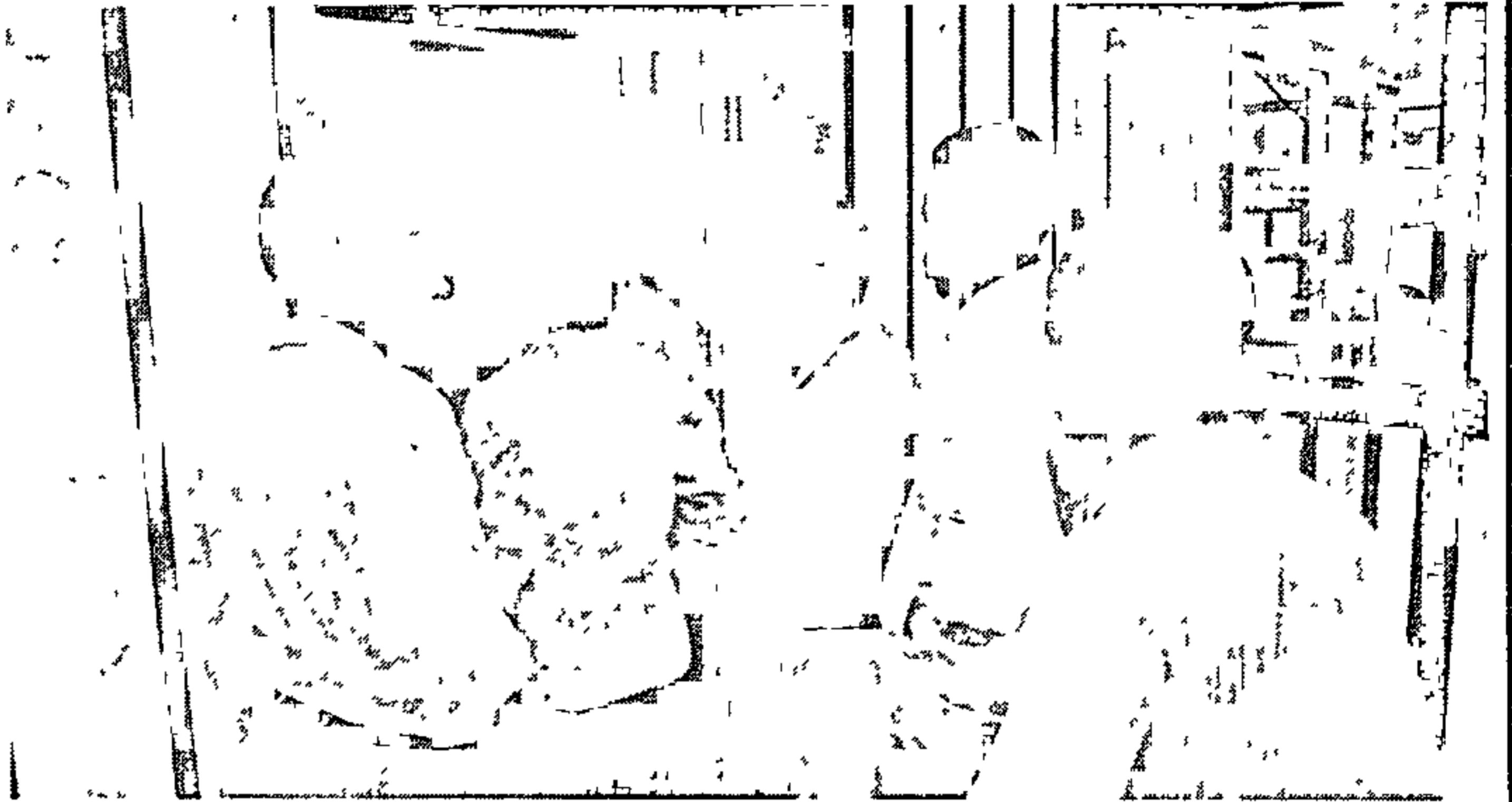
"We are comfortable here and have spent a lot of money on furniture and settling in. We have nowhere to go to if they move us out," said Miss Phillips, a word processor operator.

### 'Safe, comfortable and free'

Two black women from Port Elizabeth who also share a flat in a Quartz Street building said they felt safe, comfortable and free in Hillbrow although they were paying R410 for their two-bedroom apartment.

"We lived in another Hillbrow building before this where the whites were charged R150 for a flat and we were charged R225, but we felt secure."

"In Soweto we would be unable to move at night and would be charged R150 to live in a garage or one room," said one.



The superintendent of a block of flats in Kotze Street told us blacks, coloured and Indians tenanted his building and there had never been any incidents. These people were quiet and respectable, he said, but he was reluctant to allow us to interview his tenants.

At Highpoint, owned by Anglo American Properties, most of the tenants are black and security is strict. We were not allowed in the building, warned about taking photographs and not permitted to speak to tenants.

With some whites it was different. At Basswood Place, once we gained admittance, we spoke to Mr Daniel Smith-Fourie (42) and Mr Boshoff Muller (37), both employees of South African Airways who said colour was not a criterion but what mattered was the lowering of living standard.

"The corporate body at Basswood Place will not allow blacks to live here. The quality of life would be affected. Some of them live 12 to 14 in one flat, the streets are littered and noise intolerable."

"There should be control in Hillbrow and lower income groups dissuaded from living here," said Mr Smith-Fourie.

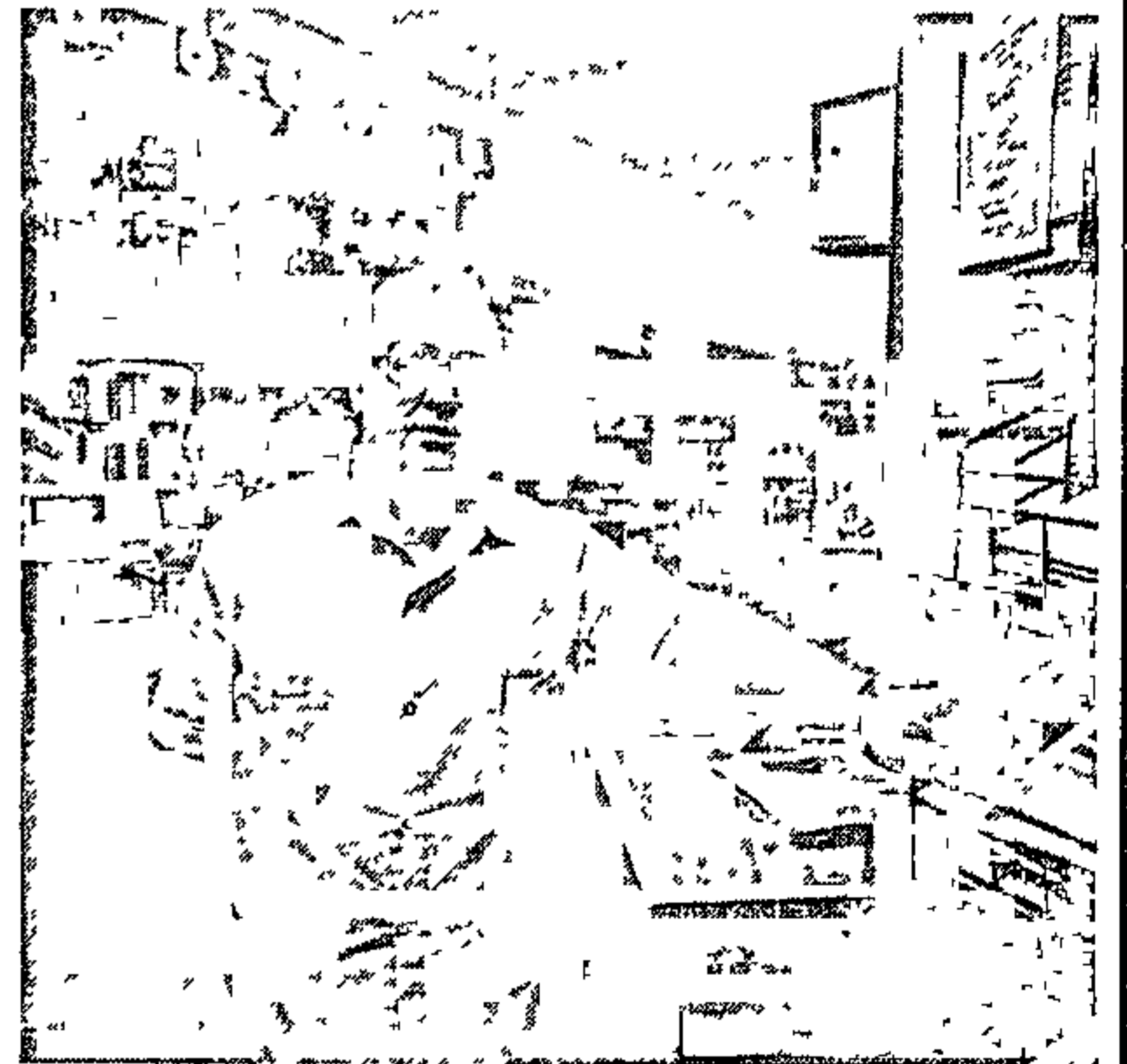
Mr Trevor Kitley (47), owner of a cafe in Twist Street, said the crime rate had gone up 80 percent since blacks had moved in.

"The glue sniffing 'Twilight Children' romanticised by Mr Alf Widman and the PFP commit burglaries, theft and other crimes."

"Women are not safe walking alone in the streets at night. There is black prostitution and sometimes the noise is unbearable. Whites are moving out," said Mr Kitley.

Outwardly Hillbrow seemed vibrant, vital, invitingly cosmopolitan and orderly — but, in our quest, we were indeed strangers in a foreign land.

ABOVE People returning home from work crowd into a lift in Hillbrow's Highpoint owned by Anglo-American Property Services. BELOW Mr Trevor Kitley, a cafe owner in Twist Street, Hillbrow. The 'Twilight Children' have been romanticised by the PFP.



# Winnie pays her rent — mayor

127  
28/1/82  
27/3/82

JOHANNESBURG — Mrs Winnie Mandela — unlike many other township residents who face eviction — has paid her rent, said the Mayor of Soweto, Mr Nelson Botile.

He said the least Mrs Mandela could do was stop telling people not to pay their rentals

Speaking at the Soweto City Council's monthly meeting yesterday, Mr Botile said the council had receipts to prove Mrs Mandela had paid rent up to date for both her houses in Orlando, Soweto

Later in the meeting, councillors said the former mayor, Mr Ephraim Tshabalala, would have his electricity cut off in all his businesses as he owed money for rent and electricity. — Sapa

Case Trip 27/3/82  
Winnie's rent  
127 ~~127~~  
up to date?

JOHANNESBURG —  
The Mayor of Soweto, Mr  
Nelson Botile, said at  
the monthly council  
meeting on Wednesday  
that Mrs Winnie Man-  
dela should stop telling  
people not to pay rent.

He said the council  
had receipts to prove  
Mrs Mandela had paid  
rent up to date.

The councillors said  
the former mayor, Mr  
Ephraim Tshabalala,  
would have his electric-  
ity at his businesses cut  
as he owed money

They decided unani-  
mously that a meeting to  
be held by him should be  
banned — Sapa

127 3/27/87

# Call for new deal in housing subsidies

**WINNIE GRAHAM**

The Government has been asked to overhaul its four-year-old housing subsidy scheme on newly-built accommodation to include second-hand houses and flats as well as "housing packages".

The call by Dr Tobie de Vos, chief economist of the National Building Research Institute, follows pleas for an overall revision of the scheme by the National Association of Home Builders and the Institute of Housing.

Dr de Vos believes subsidies on flats could have a dramatic impact on the relatively dead market in places such as Hillbrow.

A subsidy of 33,3 percent on monthly interest is payable to first-time home buyers only on newly built houses costing a maximum of R40 000. The subsidy fluctuates according to interest rates, but at 16 percent it amounts to R173,76 a month for five years on a R40 000 bond, reducing the homeowner's payment from R556 to R383. The price of the stand is not taken into account.

Dr de Vos said the introduction of a subsidy on "old" houses and flats would result in "better utilisation of existing stock".

Young people buying subsidised homes often preferred to live close to their place of work but, if they wanted to take advantage of the subsidy, they were forced to live "in the sticks".

"The subsidy on newly-built houses should include the stands," he said. "This would encourage developers to contain costs in just the same way builders have been forced to become innovative in building acceptable homes under R40 000. The subsidy could then be limited to, say, R60 000 on a housing package."

Builders want the subsidy ceiling of R40 000 increased because rising costs have made it virtually impossible to build economic houses at that price.

Dr LB Lewis, president of the Institute for Housing of Southern Africa, believes existing subsidy schemes should be expanded to incorporate a "phased interest subsidy scheme providing a greater degree of affordability".

He is supported by Mr CJS "Barney" Barnard, chairman of the National Association of Home Builders, who told a housing seminar this week the industry was in a position to build all the housing needed "to required standards and at affordable cost" if the State subsidised interest rates to bring construction costs and affordable contributions to the same level.

A subsidy on both new and previously occupied houses would restrain the "wasteful production of new housing units" when acceptable stock was available.

"It will also have the economic benefit of balancing demand and supply more realistically and effectively," he added.



# Money drain

29/3/87  
127

THE Dobsonville Town Council - on the brink of bankruptcy as a result of the 10-month non-payment of rents by residents - has put more strain on its financial resources by using residents' funds to pay for the legal defence of its councillors facing bribery charges.

Thousands of rands have been paid to a firm of attorneys and an advocate to defend mayor Steve Nkatlo, management committee chairman Steve Kgame, Isaac Mashao and Jerry Zembe, who face a total of 109 bribery charges.

These startling disclosures are contained in council documents in the possession of *City Press* - though town clerk Alex Conn has categorically denied that residents' funds were being used to pay for councillors' legal expenses.

Deputy-mayor Alex Jaca was three weeks ago sentenced to two years in jail or a R3 000 fine, by Roodepoort magistrate P Muller, after being convicted on 14 counts of bribery. According to inside, but unconfirmed sources Jaca's fine was also paid out of the residents' funds.

# Mystery witness in Stofile trial

CP Correspondent

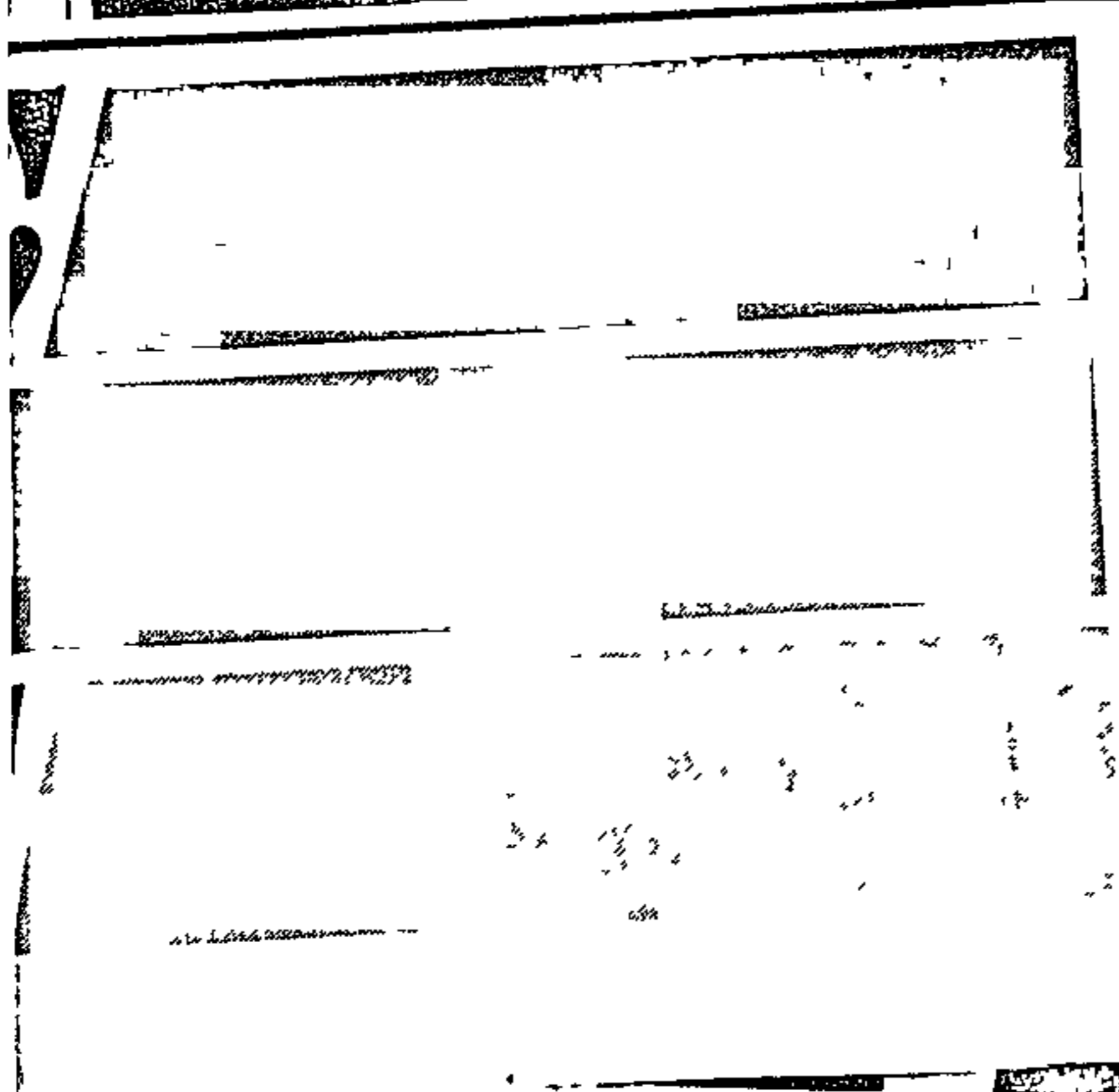
THE identity of a mystery witness in the arms and terrorism trial involving a senior UDI official, Rev Arnold Stofile, and four others, will remain secret after a court ruling this week. "Mr X," an alleged ANC defector, testified that he had seen one of the accused, Mzwakhe Nelson Ndlela, in an ANC training camp in Angola. The judge ruled that the man be

allowed to give evidence in camera and that his identity not be disclosed. However, after his evidence the defence again asked that his identity be revealed. Mockie Friedman, SC, for the accused, said they would argue that Ndlela had never been trained, and never seen Mr X. Accordingly, he would have to test the truthfulness of the witness and needed to be able to cross-examine him fully.

But presiding judge B de V Pickard ruled that Mr X's identity could not be disclosed.

Appearing with Ndlela and Stofile are Linda Michael Stofile, Mveleli Gladwell Gqibithole and Nomvuyiso Stofile.

All have pleaded not guilty to charges of terrorism, harbouring a terrorist and 11 counts of illegal possession of arms.



# 'Legal' evictions

THE Soweto Council, which has lost millions in unpaid rents since last June, is using court orders to evict defaulters. Soweto Land and Housing director Estella Bester said this week.

The council this week acted against defaulters in the Labulani flat complex - and about 450 residents of the area marched on the council offices in protest, claiming no one had received legal notice of eviction.

But Bester insisted that anyone not paying rent had been or would be - served with court orders evicting them. The orders were entirely legal and binding, she said.

The marchers spoke to Bester and Soweto Town Clerk Nico Malan and agreed to appoint a committee of five men and five women to liaise with the council over the evictions.

It was agreed no information about the negotiations would be released until the conflict had been resolved.

TAND

# Churches back to call

THE African Independent Churches Association of Southern Africa has backed Soweto businessmen's plea to black community organisations to end the rent crisis.

Aicasa's president, Archbishop Temba Ntongana of the Apostolic Methodist Church, told the Sowetan yesterday that a meeting to resolve the issue should not only involve political organisations but church bodies as well.

He said Aicasa was concerned about the rent crisis "because it affected thousands of its members".

He said that because of the seriousness of the matter, it should be discussed countrywide with representatives of townships affected.

## Losses

The plea by Soweto traders followed an attack on a local businessmen, Mr Lehlohonolo Motau, who lost about R65 000 when his home was set alight recently.

There was also an attempt to petrol-bomb his supermarket.

The attack on Mr Motau was triggered by the fact that lights at his supermarket had been switched on while those of nearby houses remained cut off.

Soweto traders have said they faced ruin if the rent crisis was not resolved.

Said Archbishop Ntongana it is Aicasa's belief that the councillors have failed dis-

# rent crisis

BY NKOPANE MAKOBANE

...ally to solve the rent and television or radio crisis.

"Evictions are not going to ease matters. Residents are also fed up that councillors have failed to meet them but instead have from time to time made announcements through the Press not allowed to hold

meetings. My association is prepared to seek an urgent meeting with the Government Minister concerned to discuss this problem. We are law-abiding citizens and we do not like being victimised for wrongs which are not of our doing," he said.

...My association is prepared to seek an urgent meeting with the Government Minister concerned to discuss this problem. We are law-abiding citizens and we do not like being victimised for wrongs which are not of our doing," he said.

(127) ~~128~~ S.M. 5/1/87

## Still only room at the Inn for consul's staff

By Dirk Nel,  
Northern Transvaal Bureau

PIETERSBURG — Venda Consulate staff who have been living in a local hotel for eight months still don't know where they will be allowed to set up house permanently.

The matter has fuelled controversy since the possibility of a consulate for Venda first arose three years ago when there was a sharp exchange in Parliament between Pietersburg's Conservative Party MP Dr Willie Snyman and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Pik Botha

When the Venda government raised the issue again last year it provoked lively discussion at a Pietersburg Town Council meeting.

Nationalist councillors felt that, in keeping with accepted practice, diplomats should be permitted to live where they wished but the Conservatives pushed for a diplomatic township

Town planner Mr Andre Lindeque says the township idea is being pursued but NP councillors claim to know nothing of the scheme.

It is not clear whether the proposed township will be for black diplomats only, or whether white officials likely to settle in Pietersburg will also live there.

What is clear is strong opposition to the plan in local circles where it has been called a waste of taxpayers' money.

Meanwhile, the Venda Consulate has been established but the staff still have no permanent homes.

Consul Mr W.T Netshituka and six staff members have been living at the local Holiday Inn for eight months

# Rents verdict today

127

Soweto  
2/4/87

**JUDGMENT** on the application challenging the validity of rent evictions in Soweto will be given in the Rand Supreme Court on Friday.

The application was brought by members of the Soweto Civic Association (SCA), who asked the court to decide whether the Soweto City Council had the right to evict residents who are in arrears with their rent.

The judgment will determine the fate of thousands of township householders who have not been paying their rent since last year June.

A spokesman for a Johannesburg firm of lawyers representing the SCA said if the court ruled in favour of residents it would mean that black town councils would be stopped from evicting residents for not paying their house rents.

## Dr Nthato Motlana says . . .

Soweto Civic Association president Dr Nthato Motlana claims there are immediate remedial steps to be taken against the "unreasonable" position that people "kept out of skilled jobs for years by law — measures such as job reservation, excluded from technicians by law" are expected to pay economic rents for their homes

But the real answers lie in abolishing discrimination, segregation and land laws like the Group Areas Act.

First, "we should start by erasing the word 'rent' from the collective psyche of South Africa", Dr Motlana said. He explained "It is about time that the housing stock should be sold or given to the people. In Orlando East, where houses were built for less than £100 these houses must be given to the people. In Mofolo North and surrounding areas where the cost of building the houses was R450 a unit, the same should happen.

"It is ridiculous to ask people to pay for their homes at the replacement value. They have already paid for their homes several times over in rentals and the houses must now be given over to them."

Services and site rentals, which are the township equivalent of rates, would still have to be paid, Dr Motlana acknowledged, but at reason-

able levels. He quoted studies which had shown Soweto electricity charges to be higher than those in Norwood, refuse collection to be more expensive than in Randburg and property rates/site rentals higher than in Mayfair.

The "creation of ghettos", the division of urban populations by race and the cutting off of working-class residential areas from the business tax-base of the city had created these inequities, Dr Motlana insisted.

The main aim, he said, was ideological — it was to make life so uncomfortable for black people in the cities that they would simply head back to the bush.

Addressing the question of the homeless and squatters vulnerable to raids and removal, Dr Motlana said "It is the Government's undoubted duty to provide housing for the poor." He acknowledged an emergency alternative "In the short term serviced sites should be provided so that people could build (to quote Gavan Maasdorp) 'to their own level'."

But, said Dr Motlana, this did not mean the creation of Norwetos and other segregated townships. "We want to live throughout South Africa. We do not take cognisance of that ridiculous law called the Group Areas Act!"

**The Soweto housing crisis has two distinct parts. First, there are far too few houses — and the thousands left homeless in greater Johannesburg are squatting on open land, living in backyards of others' homes, in scrapyards and disused vehicles. Second, there are those who have homes but, in the face of unemployment and steep inflation, say they can no longer afford to pay the rentals and service charges. What master strokes of administration could be taken to solve Soweto's housing problem? To the Soweto Civic Association the problems have their roots in segregation. To the Soweto Council the answers lie in expanding the system of segregated townships. What do you think? Telephone Speakout! today between 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm on 834-7747.**

## The Soweto town clerk says . . .

Soweto town clerk Mr Nico Malan pinpoints the lack of township land as the fundamental factor in answering Soweto's housing problem and he stakes his hopes on the proclamation of new black areas south of Johannesburg — further out than Ennerdale, some 30 km south of the city.

He says the shortage stands at 26 000 units and, if the present population growth of three percent is maintained, a further 50 000 units will be needed for Soweto by the turn of the century.

Mr Malan disputes that economic considerations are a major barrier to housing Soweto's people.

He says rentals in most of the townships are in the region of R50 — that if electricity costs are added to this the average monthly "rent" bill should be an affordable R90 to R95 a month. The average

wage earner gets R400 monthly, he reckons, so the cost is not outrageous and should not be seen as a factor in the present rent boycott.

Where loans obtained for building mass housing have already been redeemed — as in the case of Orlando East — Mr Malan is not averse to the idea of these simply being given to their occupants.

"I'm all in favour of giving houses away or selling them at the lowest possible prices." But, Mr Malan argues, most parts of Soweto have been built too recently for the loans to have been paid up.

He adds that the council has asked the Government to re-examine the sale price of its homes, with a view to lowering the asking price.

He acknowledges that in recently constructed housing schemes in Chiawelo, Tladi and Naledi Extension where rentals

should have been R300 a month, the council had felt compelled to subsidise tenants to the tune of R150 a month each.

The problem of the homeless — and Soweto already has more than 1 500 families in controlled squatter camps — should be addressed by site and service schemes. Mr Malan proposes the extension of site-and-service schemes, where tapped water and sewerage services are provided from the outset and the homeless erect shacks which in time they must replace with permanent, solidly built structures.

The Soweto Council has such sites at Tladi. The rental/servicing of such sites costs R30 to R35 a month, he says. Residents will be encouraged to buy their sites for about R400, initially on leasehold and eventually on freehold title.

**Soweto Council  
in new move on  
rent defaulters**

# MASS

By LAN:

# EVICTIIONS



SKOSA

Sowetan 3/4/87

# PLAN

Goods  
dumped  
in the  
street  
then  
they're  
moved  
away

**SOWETO** rent evictions are to be stepped up and each councillor will submit the names of 25 people in his area who owe rent. These people will then be evicted.

This means that at any one time about 725 people will be liable for eviction.

And yesterday about 25 families were evicted in Jabulani township in what could be the implementation of the new strategy

Details of the new strategy were uncovered by the *Sowetan* during an interview with a councillor

The councillor, innocently talking about something else said "For instance we have decided at an executive meeting that each one of us must submit 25 names of people who would be evicted for failing to pay rent

"We know that it has been said that no one else would move into a house where the owner is evicted. We also know that the evicted families would attempt to go back into their old homes

## Jail

"If they go back into their homes, they will be arrested and put in jail for contempt of court," said the councillor

He strongly felt that the new action would end the rent boycott.

Soweto Council's Housing Director, Miss Estelle Bester said the council submitted names of people in arrears to their lawyers, who in turn obtained a court order to evict defaulters

She did not want to

## Plan to step up evictions

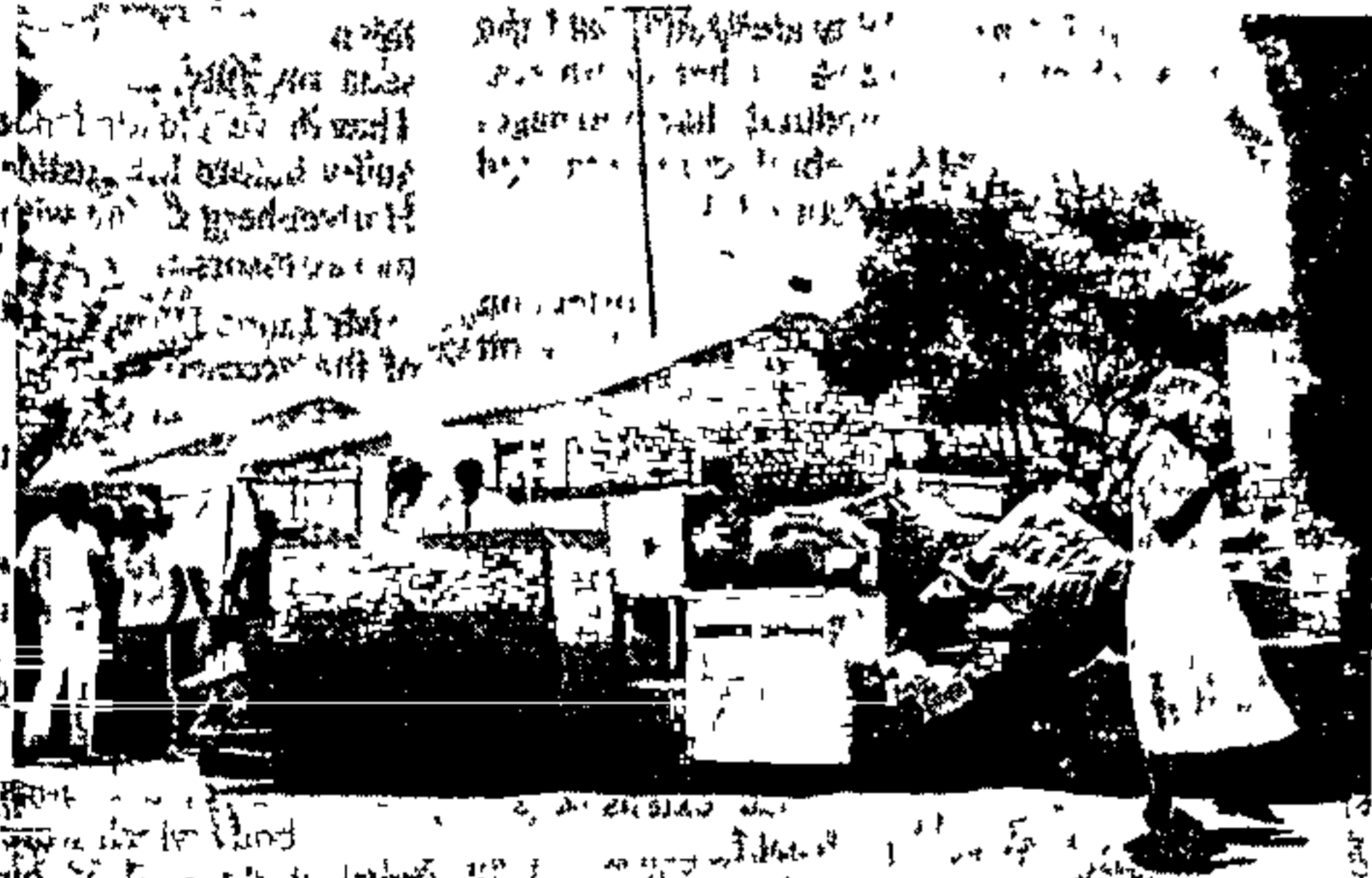
From Page 1

comment on the new strategy mentioned by the councillor because evictions in Soweto had been going on long before she assumed duties as housing director

In yesterday's evictions some of the belongings of those evicted were taken away in council vans. It is not known where they were taken

The chairman of the Dlamini Senaone Residents Committee, Mr Stephen Sangweni felt the whole exercise would fail

He said the councillors were provoking the people and warned them to stop it before a situation similar to the one in White City Jabavu occurred. In that incident 27 people died following evictions from their homes



FURNITURE belonging to some of the evicted families was dumped in the street before it was seized

To Page 4

# Housing eased by more land and lower rents

Soweto's housing problem could be partially solved by reasonable rents and more land for housing, suggested some of the callers to last night's Speakout! on housing. But, they stressed, the system of having to apply for a home through a local councillor was corrupt and inefficient.

One Johannesburg man said suburbs should be curtailed off and good luck if blacks happened to be among the buyers.

A Johannesburg attorney said a reasonable short-term solution would be to encourage as many Sowetans as possible to become leaseholders. This would give them security to obtain capital for housing and business developments.

Here are some of the responses.

**Ernest of Zola, Soweto** "The town council is corrupt. They give all available sites to private building constructors not the people of Soweto. The sites are

# Housing eased by more land and lower rents

bought for R2 000 and they sell them for R16 000. How do they expect people to pay such a price in the current economic conditions. Many squatters could build their own houses if they were allocated sites."

us Soweto houses would be ours. But they then gave it to the Soweto Council, which is now demanding rent amounts for services such as street cleaning and water.

Jabulani resident "Granting more land will only solve the problems if the rent is reasonable. And whose waiting lists are they talking about — the private lists of the councillors or the lists of the civic centre? The housing problem is made worse because you can't go straight to the Civic Centre, but have to contact the councillors. When I asked for one of the houses being built in Chiawelo Ext 3 my councillor told me he had to consider his own married children, who were living in the backyard, before considering outsiders. I had a baby at the time who had to stay with another family because I couldn't find accommodation."

Mr Horace van Rensburg, Northciff "Auction off the suburbs and then let the highest bidders take the then good luck to them."

**Mr Micaela Madi, Pimville** "The West Rand promised

Johannesburg attorney "Housing authorities should promote the acquisition of leasehold to as many people as possible. Leaseholders can then raise finance on a property and build two rooms and a garage on the property to be sublet. Properties will appreciate and residents will be able to upgrade and move elsewhere. Leaseholders can raise finance for housing as well as business purposes. Rents aren't high, but they are appallingly administered."

## SPEAK OUT!



94-7176  
4/4/87  
27

# Court decides council can evict

JOHANNESBURG — A Rand Supreme Court judge yesterday ruled in a test case that Soweto City Council was entitled to evict tenants if they had not paid the rent determined by the council.

Mr Acting Justice L I Goldblatt dismissed an application by three Soweto residents to have an interim order restoring their homes to them made final.

Mr Themba Michael Mngomezulu, Mr Isaac Mzondeki Radebe and Mr Mxolisi Alfred Mphungwa were evicted with their families from their Soweto homes for being in arrears with their rent.

They were informed by letter of their pending eviction seven days before it took place.

In his judgment, Mr Acting Justice Goldblatt said the issue was whether the council was entitled to act in this way.

He said the applicants submitted that the amount of rent payable must be determined by the National Housing Commission or on the commission's recommendation.

However, the judge ruled that the local authority was entitled to charge the rental for the dwellings. The council was, therefore, also entitled to take possession of homes if rent was in arrears. — Sapa

5722  
4/11/87

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# Defiant miners take in families

MIKE SILUMA

In what could be the beginning of a major challenge to the migrant labour system, members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) at seven Eastern Transvaal coal mines have brought their families to live with them in single-sex hostels

The development, which follows a resolution taken at the recent NUM congress to fight for an end to the migrant labour system, was announced by union general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa at a Press briefing in Johannesburg yesterday

Mr Ramaphosa said workers had taken the decision to bring families next to their places of employment because they wanted to "live naturally"

He said about 600 miners' wives and children had moved into hostels at Amcoal mines, including Kriel, Bank, Goedehoop, Arnot and Landau, since last weekend

About 350 had since left for home

Mr Ramaphosa said workers felt that mine management had been given sufficient time to respond fully to the NUM congress call to negotiate with the dismantling of the hostel system by March 31

A spokesman for Amcoal, confirming that "some women have moved into hostel accommodation at some Amcoal collieries", said management had "noted" the NUM's comments

He said the figure given by the NUM was high

"We do not wish to comment any further on the matter," said the spokesman

Mr Ramaphosa said workers believed they should not be separated from their families

So far, managements had not taken "drastic action" to oppose the development. He warned of the possibility of conflict if management evicted the families without providing proper accommodation

**Council to be lenient with some, tough with others**

# EVICTIIONS: NEW TURN

Soweto  
7/4/87

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

THE Soweto City Council is going to be tough on rent defaulters but will be sympathetic to pensioners, the unemployed and those who simply cannot afford to pay, town clerk Nico Malan said yesterday.

The crisis took another turn yesterday when residents interviewed said they were prepared to pay electricity and water bills but believed they had paid off their houses and thus did not have to pay rent.

Mr Malan also hinted that rents would be scrapped in some areas because these houses had been bought on 30 or 40 year schemes.

"All I am prepared to say is that we have made some proposals to the Government and these are being considered," he said.

Reacting to the eviction threat by Mr Malan Azapo secretary-general, George Wauchope said the council should stop evicting people for the sake of peace in the townships.

This follows the judgment handed down last week by Mr Justice Goldblatt in the Rand Supreme Court that the council had the right to evict residents. Three residents had challenged the council's right to do so after it had started with evictions last year.

## Urged

More than R160 million is owed in rents in townships throughout the Transvaal.

After the court ruling, Mr Malan urged residents to pay up their rents to avoid eviction.

Mr Malan yesterday said the council has made certain proposals to the government, concerning the restructuring of rent in Soweto because some homes had been bought under the 30-year and 40-year schemes.

He conceded that they would have to redeem rent in some of the homes, but others would have to continue paying their rent, which he said was minimal in most



Dr ELLEN Khuzwayo  
Leaders should give direction



Mr AMBITION Brown  
Legal action to be taken against the council



Mrs JOYCE Kalaote.  
Homes paid-off



Mr SOKESIMBONE Dlamini  
Pay essential services only

cases. "We have been sympathetic towards residents and never evicted them on a permanent basis because all those whom we took action against have re-occupied their homes."

"The council will be sympathetic to pensioners, the sick people the unemployed and all those who cannot simply afford to pay but each case will be treated on merit," he said.

Dr Ellen Kuzwayo said it was painful that leaders who could be giving direction on the rent impasse were in de-

attention, because people were now confused.

A resident Mrs Joyce Kalaote, urged councillors to negotiate with residents because most of the homes in Soweto have long been paid off.

Mr Sokesimbone Dlamini said Soweto residents should only pay essential services because they have long paid off their homes.

Sofasonke Party's Mr Ambition Brown said his party would take legal action against the council for evicting the people because they were paying high rent als

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(127)

# Rent relief available in Soweto, says Nico Malan

Many Soweto people have been granted relief from paying all their rent arrears, town clerk Mr Nico Malan said today.

Last week Mr Malan told a Press conference that about half the town's tenants were not paying rent and the council had lost about R65 million.

Mr Malan said relief could be sought by the sick, pensioners and the unemployed and in many cases was granted. "People who want the relief should come to us and ask and we will consider their cases."

Mr Malan said the council did not intend to do anything drastic or anything it had not done before. "We have taken action against rent defaulters and we will continue to do so

"There are three options open to us. The first is eviction, carried out when a messenger of the court carries out a decision of the court to evict people who owe us rent. This was done to three families in Zola last week.

"The second is that we cut the supply of water and electricity to households that owe us for these services.

"The third was reaffirmed in the Rand Supreme Court last week. In terms of the Housing Act, the council is authorised to evict without applying for a court order.

"This third option is cheap and quick in that there are no court procedures.

"I do not see these as changes because we had these options open to us in the past and will use them as we have done before against defaulters."

# BEMWAARE CROOKS

RESIDENTS in the Vaal Triangle townships have been warned by police to be on the look-out for people masquerading as Messengers of Court who have confiscated property from several homes for rent arrears.

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The warning follows reports that five residents have laid charges of theft by false pre-

## Property confiscated for 'rent arrears'

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

tences at the Sebokeng police station against an unknown white man who travels in a kombi with six blacks

A Sebokeng police spokesman yesterday said that the police have received complaints and that they were investi-

gating. They appealed to the community to help them arrest the culprits. It is understood that these men go to homes where they know that the adults have gone to work and confront children with false documents. The spokesman said in one instance they

took furniture and other goods valued at thousands of rands after saying that the family was in arrears with their rent. On investigation the family later found that the men were not from the Messenger of Court and had in fact stolen the goods under false pretences.

The spokesman said in other instances goods were removed from homes because families believed the stories they were told by the men, especially because there was a white person.

"We are looking for these people because more harm may be done if we do not combat this crime," the spokesman said.

He appealed to residents to report to the police immediately if there is any person they suspect to be a crook.

**Lock**  
They should also lock their houses if there was nobody at home.

Children must also be advised against such elements because these men take advantage of their ignorance," the police warned.

Sebokeng police can be contacted at (016) 81-3041/4

# Rent case appeal

THE controversy surrounding the rent boycott in Soweto took a new twist when lawyers acting for the residents filed an application for leave to appeal following a Rand Supreme Court ruling that gave the Soweto City Council the green light to evict rent defaulters.

The judgment handed down last Friday by Mr Justice Goldblatt, means that rent defaulters can be given seven days' notice to pay off their arrears or face

eviction *Soweto*

A spokesman for a Johannesburg firm of lawyers said yesterday that the matter was not over yet, as the court did not give any ruling on the validity of rentals that were being levied against the residents.

He said the council still had to prove that residents who faced evictions were in arrears. He said a large proportion of rentals levied by the Soweto Council were unlawful.

The spokesman said

the lawfulness of the rentals that were being charged in Soweto were presently a subject of a separate application.

"People who are evicted in terms of Section 65 of the Housing Act still have the right of challenging those evictions in court," he said.

Mr Nico Malan, the township's Town Clerk, told a Press conference at the weekend that Soweto people owed the council R65-million for

To Page 5

8/4/87

## Rent appeal

From Page 1

rent, water and electricity

Speaking after the Rand Supreme Court had handed down the judgment in the council's favour, Mr Malan said the council would start acting on people who owed the most.

He said if a defaulter failed to pay his arrears after he had been served with a seven day notice, an official of the council could "repossess" the house without a court order.

# COMMENT

Telephone: (011) 673-4160

**S**OWETO town clerk, Mr Nico Malan, has shown a rare spirit of understanding and responsibility in his latest reaction to the rent boycott issue which has been so nettlesome to many other officials.

For perhaps the first time a council official has said things that give us hope that there might be light at the end of the tunnel.

The truth is the non-payment of rates and rent in our townships has caused much insecurity and distress particularly to the elderly, the unemployed and the sick.

Mr Malan should go one step further and encourage discussion about ways in which the whole messy business can be sorted out.

Some people believe they have paid for their homes many times over. There are others who do not think they have to pay so much for the kind of homes they occupy. Still others believe this is the Government's problem, not theirs or the local authority's.

There is no point in trying to get tough about these complex problems.

It is not until these matters are faced courageously without rancour or point-scoring that decisions will be made by residents and the local authorities.

We repeat: township people do not wish to play around with the rented houses they occupy as there is such a long waiting list for homes in all townships.

As long as relief is given to pensioners, the sick and the unemployed the climate for negotiation will have been created.

It is up to residents and the authorities to face the rest.

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SAPS

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# Family lives in fear of eviction for rent arrears

By Mudini Maivha

Five days after the Mavuso family had been evicted from its home for not having paid rent for 12 months, family members have become refugees in their own house in Jabulani, Soweto, following their re-occupation of the house.

The family of 12 is uncertain about the legality of its occupation of the house, and is afraid the council may at any time send police with eviction orders.

The Mavuso family was among several families which were evicted from dwellings in Jabulani last week, following the rent boycott in the township. When the boycott began in June last year, the Mavuso family was already one month in arrears.

Each day the five adults who do casual work and seven children, some of whom are at school, return to their home not knowing whether they will find it locked and guarded by council police. "The police said if they come back and find us back in the house they are going to arrest everybody and we shall be in trouble," said Miss Sbongile Mavuso.

## Threat of arrest

The council police or officials have not been to the house since Thursday last week, but the threat of arrest has instilled so much fear in the family that the head of the household, Mrs Kate Mavuso, has left. Her children said she is wandering around the streets and is afraid to come home.

"We no longer feel free in this house. When she heard any car driving past our yard, our mother would become terribly frightened. She would immediately leave the house and roam the streets."

Mrs Mavuso was not at home when The Star called last night. Her children said she had "run away".

The family's monthly rent, inclusive of water and electricity, is a flat rate of R54,45 a month. As they have not paid rent for 12 months, they are R653,40 in arrears.

Family members said they were willing to pay the rent, but could not afford it. The rent was "too high" and nobody in the house was employed. The five adults got casual jobs in the city and that was the family's only source of income.

Miss Sbongile Mavuso said the police first told them they owed the council R900. Later this was changed to R677,43.

The family has not been threatened or intimidated by either the council or youths enforcing the rent boycott in the townships, according to family member Mr Willie Mbathana.

"It is a question of where must we pay rent and under what circumstances when the situation is so tense? Who can go and pay rent while the community is not paying?" he said.



9/4/85

# Eviction 'crisis' (17) talks held in Soweto

By Mudini Maivha

Soweto residents are holding a series of crisis meetings around the township in an attempt to decide what to do next following large-scale evictions in Jabulani and a Supreme Court judgment last week empowering the council to evict rent defaulters

More families were evicted from their Jabulani houses yesterday

At the same time attorneys who represented three residents in the Supreme Court action challenging the council's right to evict them, have given notice of leave to appeal against Friday's judgment

The meetings, some of which are being held at night after parents have returned from work, started in earnest on Monday night. Residents from other areas are expected to hold similar meetings

One such meeting was held in Pimville Zone 2 on Monday night, and agreement was reached to support the effort to challenge last week's ruling. Pimville has not been affected by evictions yet

In Jabulani, where residents were evicted in larger numbers than elsewhere, street committee members are said to be consulting lawyers over the evictions

## REASONS

The lawyers stated a number of reasons for the application for leave to appeal against Mr Justice Goldblatt's judgment. They said they believed the judge erred in holding that:

- The words "the rental payable" in Section 65 of the Housing Act mean rental which the local authority is entitled to charge and which the tenants are lawfully obliged to pay in spite of the fact that such rental was not one determined by the National Housing Commission or the Administrator on the recommendation of the National Housing Commission.

- The rental determined by the Minister in terms of Section 20 of the Black (Urban Areas) Consolidation Act 25 of 1945 was rental that prevailed at the time their clients were evicted

- Section 20 allowed the Minister to determine the conditions of rental when at the time their clients were evicted the section had been repealed

- Rentals determined for their clients' houses in terms of provisions enacted subsequent to the Housing Act (4) of 1966 fell within the meaning of the "rental" as this is used in Section 65

The lawyers also maintain that Mr Justice Goldblatt erred in failing to find that rentals applicable to their clients' houses were not those as determined by the Minister but those that are recorded by the Soweto Council in its answering affidavit.

# 'HOUSES HAVE LONG BEEN PAID OFF'

HOUSES in Soweto have long been paid off and it is the Soweto Council that is owing the residents. Mr Muntu Myeza, publicity secretary of the Azanian People's Organisation, has said.

Mr Myeza's statement follows a Rand Supreme Court judgment which gave the Soweto Council the right to evict rent defaulters without a court order.

Mr Myeza said the period of repayment of Orlando East houses was 40 years. He said the debt was duly settled in 1972. He said all other houses in Soweto were paid off in 1985 after a repayment period of 30 years.

He challenged the council to disprove these disclosures.

He said the rent dispute had to be resolved.

"However a resolution cannot be a resolution unless the interests of the black people are held paramount. Blacks have never refused to pay for essential services and we believe that they would be prepared to

make the council, albeit reluctantly, an offer to show how much they would consider fair and adequate payment for such services," he said.

He said the trauma of uncertainty and prospects of eviction could not be settled by "sabre rattling" and paternalistic statements of "so-called sympathy by Mr Nico Malan".

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Soweto  
10/4/87

# Soweto Civic calls for rent boycott talks

By MONO BADELA

THE Soweto Civic Association called this week for a negotiated settlement to the rent boycott which it has supported since May last year.

The shift in strategy came in the wake of a Supreme Court judgement empowering the Soweto Town Council to evict rent defaulters.

The SCA has indicated it is willing to negotiate only with the Soweto council's town clerk, Nico Malan, in an effort to resolve the dispute.

A pamphlet distributed by the SCA this week to township residents states:

"All residents of Soweto are hereby informed that the Soweto Civic Association has requested a meeting with Nico Malan (but not with the councillors) to discuss grievances of the people and to demand and end to evictions." The meeting with Malan, the statement continues, has been called for as a response to the failure to resolve the people's grievances.

With the Community Research Group, University of the Witwatersrand academic Mark Swilling has been monitoring the rent boycott that has affected 57 town councils and cost the authorities some R265-million in loss of revenue.

He said this week he saw the move by the SCA as a "a major shift in tactics" and the continuation of a trend

that began in Port Elizabeth before the beginning of the State of Emergency last year, when Eastern Cape civic leaders had decided to negotiate with officials at a local level.

But he expressed doubt whether Malan would agree to negotiate because, he said, "the State Security Council through the Joint Management Committees has instructed all government officials not to

negotiate with radical organisations. "Nevertheless the SCA is demonstrating its willingness to find a solution."

This week the Soweto Town Council evicted 10 families at Jabulani Township, only days after Malan's warning that tough action would be taken against rent defaulters.

A representative of the Messenger of the Court in Johannesburg, J Martin, said more than 300 people were to be evicted following court orders given against them.

# Pay up or else

HUNDREDS of families in Katlehong, near Germiston, have been given seven days to pay their rent arrears or face eviction.

In the past two months more than 50 Katlehong families have been evicted from their homes for not paying rent.

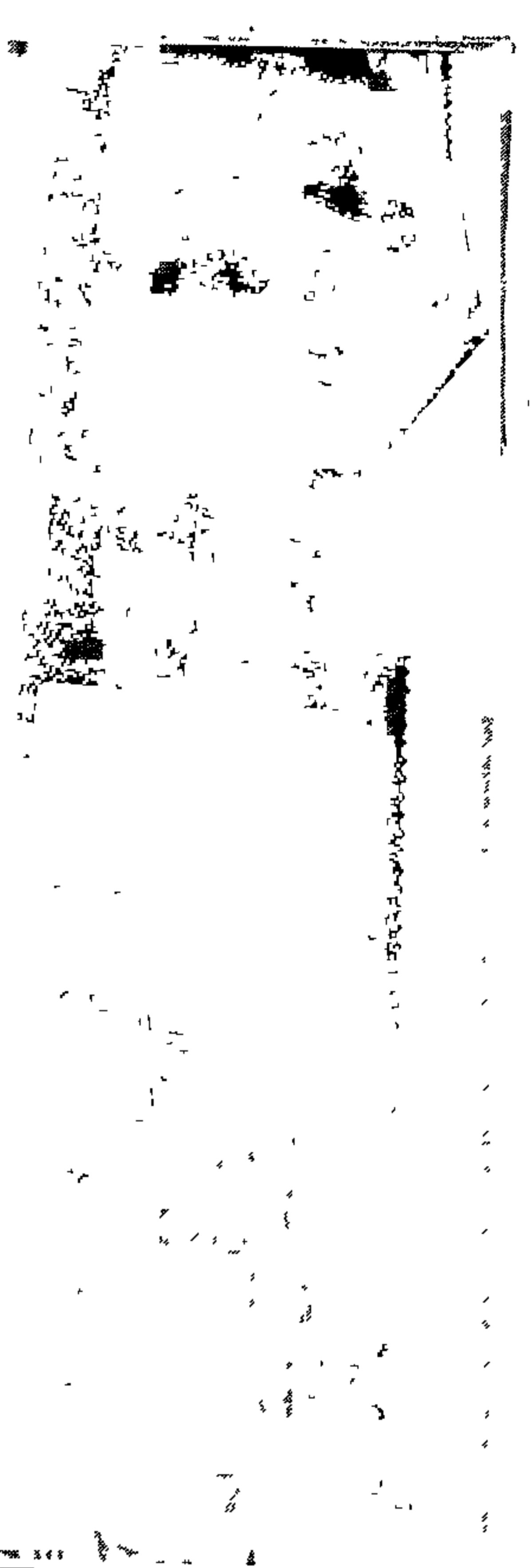
The evicted families said their houses were given to relatives and friends of members of the Katlehong Town Council. Some of the families claim that their houses were given to council employees.

Mr Thami Siluma, the mayor of Katlehong, was yesterday not available for comment. He was said to be out of town for the week.

A number of families told the *Sowetan* they received summonses from the Germiston Messenger of the Court advising them to pay outstanding rents within seven days or face eviction.

Mr Dan Mlangeni, from Shongweni Section, said the council said in a letter to him that he would be evicted because he had hired out his house to a medical practitioner.

Mr Mlangeni said he did not owe any rent for the house which is in another part of the township.



Evicted residents stand helplessly in the streets – with nowhere to go.

# Families on the streets

*C. Mearns 12/14/13*

By SELLO SERIPE

THE Soweto Town Council this week continued its evictions in Jabulani, Soweto, with furniture being removed from five homes in what is seen as the first move in the rent-busting campaign.

The evictions came only days after a Rand Supreme Court ruling in which the Soweto council was granted an order to evict residents whose rent are in arrears.

If evicted residents do not pay up within 60 days, their furniture is to be sold to recover rent.

Soweto Town Council's clerk, Ntsoelike Mafan, said that "we applied for a court interdict and we were empowered to carry out

evictions".

Malan added that the evictions were carried out by a messenger of court on behalf of the council. He added that residents who defiantly reoccupied houses would face contempt of court charges or trespassing charges by the council.

Residents told *City Press* that people who feared the same fate had paid part of the money they owed to the council on the spot and were warned by council officials to bring their accounts up to date.

The five families whose furniture was taken away on Wednesday are Kasline Khumalo, of 1919, Monica Mahlabagole, of 2010, Mary Cindi, of 2013, Mo-

sele Mthimkulu, of 2014 and Enoch Dube of 2019, all of Jabulani.

Neighbours said the council police found nobody at Khumalo's home and broke the lock on the door to get into the house.

All four rooms were completely emptied and a note left on the door listing a fridge, portable television and a dining room suite as having been confiscated.

A notice pasted on the front door stated that Khumalo owed the council R473,93.

At Mahlabagole, a sum of R100 allegedly went missing. Siphon Dube said he had gone to help remove other items left behind and had

noticed R100 on top of the wardrobe.

"When I asked the council cops about the money, they ignored me."

"I complained to a white official who would not listen. He said they were taking away everything, even food," said Dube.

The family owes R604. A grinding machine and a toolbox disappeared at Enoch Dube's home.

"They started by removing the machine and a toolbox before going for the furniture," said Mrs Dube, whose husband was at work at the time.

"When my son asked if they also lifted the machine, they flatly denied that they saw it," she added.

Agony of evicted families

# NO PLACE TO SLEEP

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~~127~~  
 Sowetan  
 13/4/87

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

SOWETO families evicted for rent arrears yesterday told of the agony of being left without a place to sleep or cook their meals and being exposed to hooligans.

The families are some of the 300 people who were evicted for the continued non-payment of rent. More evictions are feared.

The evictions were carried out by the Messenger of the Court on behalf of the Soweto Council which warned last week that it will take tough action against rent defaulters.

**Crisis**

The rent crisis in Soweto, which has entered its eleventh month, has taken a new turn with some residents showing willingness to pay water and electricity bills, while others wait for direction from their leaders in the face of these evictions.

Evicted families, who were found huddled around their empty homes, said they were stranded because they did not have money to pay the high rent arrears.

Mrs Claudia Mthimkulu (59) said she was unemployed and did not know where she would get money to pay R700



Mrs GLAUDIA Mthimkhulu with her 11-month-old grand-child in Jabulani, Soweto, yesterday. They have been evicted from their home.

for her rent arrears. The eviction from her home was a "terrible blow to the family because we have nowhere to sleep and cook."

**Children**

She has four school-going children who would be forced to abandon their studies because "I simply cannot afford to pay the high rent and also support them," she said.

She was evicted from her home on Wednesday morning. Her furniture, kitchen utensils and other household goods were confiscated.

"I appeal to the authorities to give me back my household goods and to negotiate with me about paying arrears. I was not warned to pay and strongly believe that the eviction was unjust," she said.

Another resident, Mrs

Jane Dube (54), who is a mother of eight children, said she was stranded and neighbours had offered some of her children sleeping accommodation.

**Painful**

She said it was painful for her to be without some members of the family because "we always pray together at night before going to sleep."

She could not understand why the authorities evicted people from their homes without first talking to them. She believed that her house had been paid for and she only had to pay for electricity and water.

"I do not know where to sleep during the weekend, especially because thugs usually go on the rampage in our area during weekends."

# Flames billowed from aircraft before crash

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Three of five pilots on a training flight in a twin-engine Beechcraft died when it crashed into a Simmer and Jack Mine hostel in Driehoek. At least 20 miners were injured.

Witnesses said they saw flames billowing from the aircraft shortly before impact at 7pm

Mr Annee van Belkom, 45, of Malherbe Street, Albermarle, Germiston, broke an ankle and was severely shocked

He and another pilot, Mr Anthony Jansen, of Federal Street, Selcourt, Springs, survived the crash. Both were admitted to the Willem Cruywagen Hospital in Germiston. Mr van Belkom was in a satisfactory condition while Mr Jansen was discharged.

## Severe burns

The names of the dead pilots are expected to be released later today

A number of the injured miners were taken to the ERPM Hospital in Boksburg

Two miners are in a critical condition in Johannesburg's Rand Mutual Hospital. They are being treated for severe burns, a hospital spokesman said.

A Germiston Fire Department spokesman said most of the injured miners had burns, lacerations and bruises.

## "Very confused"

Mrs Wendy van Belkom said today "My husband is still in a severe state of shock. He is very confused and doesn't seem to know exactly what happened."

She said her husband would have x-rays today and would be examined by an orthopaedic surgeon.

Mr Tony Jansen said he did not want to say too much because a Department of Civil Aviation investigation was pending.

## "Scrambled for door"

"We scrambled for the door. I tried to knock out a window. But the door must have opened on impact and I heard (Mr van Belkom) at the door."

"There were black fumes, it was like a powder which got into my throat."

He could not remember much more.

Mr Jansen, an attorney and a student pilot, expressed his sadness "for those who didn't make it."

## Cordoned off

Two of them and Mr van Belkom were employed by Barlow Air, owners of the ill-fated aircraft. A spokesman for Barlow Air today declined to comment.

The aircraft is a wreck and only the letters, ZFKMT, part of its registration, were visible on the badly-damaged tail.

The army has cordoned off the area. The cause of the crash is not yet known and civil aviation officials are expected to start their inquiry today.



The scene where the 12-seater Beechcraft King aircraft crashed into a mine hostel minutes after take-off from Rand Airport near Germiston last night. Three people were killed and 22 were injured.

Sowetan 15/4/87 (127)

SOWETAN, Wednesday, April 15, 1987

Page 5

# HOME, SWEET HOME

## Land given to put up shacks

By ALL MPHAKI

**HOMELESS** people are flocking to Mdlaloseville, a new squatter camp in Soweto named after housing chairman Mr Julius Mdlalose.

It is situated in an open space previously a rubbish dump between Dlamini and Tshawelo. Already more than 30 shacks have been erected, and the Soweto City Council has built communal toilets and installed taps and washing basins for the residents.

More shacks are springing up daily. Residents interviewed said they were allocated the land by the council after paying a R23 fee.

The residents said they have been helped by Councillor Julius Mdlalose to obtain land — after struggling for long to obtain houses — having been on the waiting list for houses for several years.

Mrs Elsie Masilela (29), a mother of two, said she paid R23 to Mr Mdlalose after hearing that the council had made available land for squatters.

She said she had no option but to go there as she had been struggling for accommodation for a long time and was also unhappy about hiring a back-room in Soweto.

Another resident, Mrs Dora Sibi (69), said "I was staying in Dlamini and after the death of my husband in 1977, I was kicked out of the house. I then went to stay with a friend until I heard that people were allowed to build shacks here at Mdlaloseville."

Mrs Sibi is sharing her one-roomed shack with her daughter Paulinah and a four-month-old baby.

Another resident, Mrs Eunice Mhlaba, said she has been staying at the camp since the beginning of April.

She said she has been on the waiting list since 1976.

Her husband, Mr Benson Mhlaba, said they were told to stay in the camp temporarily until houses were available.

Mr Julius Mdlalose, chairman of the Soweto City Council management committee, confirmed that people have been given land between Dlamini and Tshawelo to build their shacks.

He said "We have decided that these people should occupy the land temporarily until there are houses available for them. These people feel they cannot afford to stay in backyards because of the high rents they have to pay."

He said anyone who wishes to obtain a site where he can build his shack must pay R23 to the council. "We will house them properly when the time comes," Mr Mdlalose said.



SHACKS are springing up in Mdlaloseville and these men who are erecting them charge R600.



MRS EUNICE MHLABA  
... new resident.



Sowetan  
15/4/87

(127)

# We have orders to evict - mayor

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

THE Government has ordered all town councils in the Transvaal to evict residents who do not pay their rent arrears.

In an exclusive interview with the *Sowetan* yesterday, the mayor of one of the biggest black townships on the Witwatersrand, said the constitutional committee of the Transvaal Provincial Administration had ordered that all rent defaulters should be evicted for failing to meet their "commitments".

The mayor asked not to be named.

## Warned

He said the TPA's order was given last month

He said so far Soweto, the Vaal Triangle and Katlehong, on the East Rand, had started evicting families who owed rent.

The man said more townships, especially on the East Rand and the West Rand, would soon follow the eviction orders

Last month, the Government announced that Transvaal residents owed more than R60 million in rent arrears

Addressing a meeting of East Rand councillors in Germiston last month,

Mr John Griffiths, chairman of the constitutional committee of the TPA warned that "firm action will be taken against all rent defaulters"

Mr Griffiths did not elaborate He was not available for comment yesterday

He was said to be out of town and would only be available some time next week

His deputy, Mr John

Mavuso, was also not available for comment

The councillor told the *Sowetan* that a number of councils were broke and needed money to survive Residents in most townships are boycotting rent.

Scores of rent defaulters have been evicted in Katlehong and Soweto during the past few months

Hundreds of others have been told to pay up or be evicted

# Refugee w



MISS Masetshiro Phetoe.

LONDON — Soweto-born Ma Phetoe raised her arms in disbelieving triumph, when she learned from television personality that the freckle she had drawn was for a R200 two-bedroomed home set in a large development within a drop-in development within a drop-in Wimbledon's famous tennis club

Masetshiro, a political refugee left South Africa with her family years ago, was one of five Londoners who won homes in a competition organised by the *London Evening Standard* had to wait all weekend for a draw, hosted by Leslie Crowther

Sowetan  
15/4/87

72/

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# Govt called on to provide housing

By Adele Baleta

The Minister of the Interior of kaNgwane, Mr P Masilela, yesterday criticised the South African Government for not addressing the drastic housing shortage in the Eastern Transvaal homeland

Speaking to about 120 kaNgwane councillors and MPs at a function at a Johannesburg hotel, Mr Masilela said his people had been home owners through history.

"Legislation that we are not responsible for has deprived us of this right. Most of us belong to resettled communities who originally owned their own homes.

"The South African Government said 'we are moving you to places where there will be better health and social conditions'."

Mr Masilela said the South African Government had an obligation to "redress a situation of its own making"

"The stock of houses of a town serves as its foundation

"Inadequate housing creates frustrated communities which are more likely to subscribe to attempts of rebellion and revolution," the Minister said

Mr Masilela announced a multimillion-rand agreement with the Development Bank of South Africa which would facilitate the construction of a sewage purification works for the area of Matsulu

127

17/4/87/m

## SOWETO RENT BOYCOTT

### Contesting evictions

The eviction of rent defaulters in Soweto, and their subsequent court challenges, is becoming a costly exercise

Until the recent judgment of Acting Justice L I Goldblatt in the case Mngomezulu and two others v the Soweto City Council, evictions had to be carried out in terms of the Magistrates' Court Act

This meant the council had to operate through the court. One eviction, therefore, involved legal costs, a removal vehicle and removal workers' salaries. Soweto Town Clerk Nico Malan claims this ran up a bill of "a few hundred rand" for each eviction.

Housing Deputy Director Ronnie Ferreira says 10 residents were evicted on April 2 — five of whom then paid their arrears and were allowed to move back into their homes. The other five moved back in anyhow, and have been charged with trespassing — which will involve more legal costs. On April 8, eight more people were evicted.

A spokesman for the Soweto applicants' attorneys, Richard Spoor, estimates that the court case — including a possible appeal — will cost each party about R50 000. And Ferreira says more cases are in the offing. Spoor estimates that an undefended case costs around R150, and a more simple case — where some defence is led — from R350

upwards.

However, Judge Goldblatt's judgment leaves the council a cheaper option. According to Section 65B of the Housing Act, upheld by the court, the council may evict any debtor after giving the person seven days' written notice. This method — Malan points out — also favours the lessee, as he is the one who ultimately has to pay the additional costs.

However, this legal precedent has not yet been invoked. An application for leave to appeal has been filed, and the council awaits final judgment. Even so, Malan says, the council will still be able to evict people in terms of the Magistrates' Court Act, whatever the outcome of the appeal.

According to Spoor, Soweto's rents are not determined in terms of the Housing Act alone — other Acts also come into play. He maintains the appeal revolves around Judge Goldblatt's ruling that the rental referred to in Section 65, is *not necessarily* a rental determined in terms of the Housing Act. Spoor believes the rental is *per force* determined by the Act, and that the council therefore does not have the power to collect it.

But even if the appeal is unsuccessful, the question remains whether the R54 Soweto residents pay for rent and services, is lawful. Except for R12 — for electricity — the other charges could be contested.

"In our opinion, the Soweto Council doesn't have the power to charge rental for houses financed by loans which fall within the scope of the Housing Act," Spoor says.

He further claims the site rental component is *ultra vires*, as are charges levied on metered water and electricity. "If we are correct, the residents have a substantial credit," he says. He advises people who are evicted and receive summonses to fight them on this technicality.

Meanwhile, the rent boycott is continuing, and although Malan implies that it has lost momentum (he says 50% of the residents paid rent last month compared to only 10% last year), it has already cost the council about R65m, and remains a serious problem.

Malan believes many people will accept the court's judgment, and pay up. If they don't, the Messenger of the Court has the power to confiscate their most valuable possessions, which are then sold at a public auction to pay their outstanding accounts. Faced with this consequence, tenants invariably pay up.

He adds that the council is lenient towards the sick, pensioners and the unemployed. Any such person can apply to the council for rent relief. His or her case is then referred to a social worker, who investigates and makes recommendations. In some cases, people have been completely exempted from paying rent.

However, Soweto Civic Association (SCA) president Nthato Motlana, feels the only way to break the boycott is through negotiation. "The people demand to be heard," he says.

The SCA wants to meet Malan, but refuses to meet with the whole council, as it does not believe that the council represents the people. "We do not trust Malan more, but we acknowledge his authority," he says. ■

(127) B1 Day  
22/4/87

HOMES in Lekoa in the Vaal Triangle will be sold at reductions of up to 70% to boost government's mass sale of black housing that started in 1983.

The discounts are also aimed at ending the rent boycott, by including rent arrears in the reduced purchase price, which is payable by the residents over five years.

Recommendations have also been made by the National Council of Local Authorities that the 70% discount be introduced in all other black areas.

The prices of all existing houses in the older Lekoa townships — Sharpeville, Boipatong and Bophelong — were reduced by 70% from April 1. In Sebokeng and Zamdela prices of newer houses were reduced by about 40% — with a

# 70% slashed off prices of Lekoa homes

SOPHIE TEMA

small extra discount for people who have electrified their homes.

Lekoa town clerk N P Louw yesterday confirmed the reductions and said the council had decided on the move at the end of March.

Residents will soon be informed how the new plan will work.

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# LEKOA DROPS HOUSE PRICES

(17)

Sametun  
22/4/89

THE Lekoa Town Council will reduce prices of all "matchbox" houses in the Vaal Triangle by 70 percent, Lekoa mayor Mr Esau Mahlatsi said.

Mr Mahlatsi said this after his council took this decision at a monthly meeting in Sebokeng

The council recently took over the sale of homes from the Transvaal Provincial Administration

The recently established National Council of Local Authority asked the Government to reduce the prices of "matchbox" houses in the black townships by 70 percent

The NCLA is a multinational umbrella body whose affiliates include the Urban Councils Association of

**By JOSHUA  
RABOROKO**

South Africa, the white United Municipalities Executive and ad-hoc committee from coloured and Indian communities

Mr Mahlatsi said in a statement that the new prices would apply from April 1

## Meetings

He added "The council has determined the selling prices of 51/9 houses with inside toilets in Boipatong at R1 072 in comparison to the present R4 275 charged by the Transvaal Provincial Administration"

Mr Mahlatsi said councillors would hold public meetings in Sharpeville, Sebokeng, Bophelong, Boipatong, Zamdela and Refengnkgotso to explain the new scheme



MR ESAU Mahlatsi ...  
mayor.

## Putco and taxi services halted

# Thousands in Soweto stay at home

~~SMC~~  
~~22/4/87~~  
127  
SMC  
22/4/87

Thousands of Sowetans stayed home today and many more were stranded on main routes to Johannesburg as the possibility of violence caused buses to be withdrawn and taxi services to halt.

Explosions were heard throughout the town this morning but at the time of going to press it had not been established where they occurred.

The stayaway apparently followed the distribution of thousands of pamphlets yesterday afternoon and evening in White City Jabavu, where the stayaway was largely observed. (Their main demand cannot be published under the emergency regulations)

At least two taxis were reported to have been burned at White City crossroads and heavy security forces patrols were apparent.

There was confusion as some workers flocked to taxi routes and bus stops where little or no transport was available as taxi operators and Putco withdrew services

A spokesman for police headquarters in Pretoria confirmed that Putco buses were not running in

Soweto but said no reports of violence or explosions had been received at Protea headquarters

He said the streets were crowded with people as a result of the Putco pullout

A Bureau for Information spokesman said no reports of the stayaway had been received as the stayaway was not unrest related

Putco spokesman Mr Robin Duff said Putco began withdrawing buses at 7am in the face of the stayaway and expected all buses to have been withdrawn by 9am. By 8am buses had also been withdrawn from Diepkloof

He described the situation as "fairly difficult in Naledi and Emdeni, the two areas where I believe there have been evictions"

The pamphlets called on residents to conduct themselves in "a dignified, disciplined and united" manner

(Paragraph deleted to comply with the emergency regulations.)

### Strong appeal

They also demanded that

- Rent evictions be halted
- Title deeds to homes be handed over to tenants
- The state of emergency be lifted and that troops and vigilantes get out of the townships.
- Town councillors resign
- The right to hold public meetings be restored and that authorities "talk to our leaders"

The pamphlet made a strong appeal to employers to "stand up and be counted (and to) force Heunis through your employer organisations to talk to the civic (the Soweto Civic Association)".

It stated that public meetings on the rent issue would be held in the town tomorrow to "update" residents on developments

They also asked health workers to wear their uniforms while travelling

The Soweto rent boycott was mounted just before the declaration of the state of emergency last year in protest at the level of rents and because of alleged irregularities in service charges.

More recently a clear demand has been made — especially from the older areas of Soweto — that residents be given title to their homes

# Halt evictions call

HUNDREDS of pamphlets calling for a halt to evictions were distributed in Soweto yesterday.

At the time of going to press no political or civic association had claimed the responsibility for the pamphlet whose significant portion cannot be quoted because of the emergency regulations.

The pamphlet states that when the people of

Soweto took the "life and death" decision not to pay rent, it was for legitimate and valid reasons which are not resolved up to date.

It also states that councillors who are being used by the "racist" state started victimising and threatening the people with evictions.

The court, the pamphlet states, further gave councillors a go-ahead to continue with the evictions.

"The court decision does not solve our grievances. The overcharging of rates and services, the doubling of payments for water and electricity, and the fact that we are charged for houses that we paid and paid for until we regard them as our own," the pamphlet stated.

<sup>(127)</sup>  
<sup>Soweto 22/4/87</sup>  
The court decision "will not deter us and shall not be left unchallenged". It goes on to state that Soweto people should act as a dignified, disciplined and united people for as long as their demands are not met.

The demands include:

- That evictions be stopped;
- Councillors resign;
- Lifting of the emergency;
- Release civic leaders, children, students and trade unionists;
- Troops and vigilantes to be out of the townships;
- The right to call public meetings; and
- To hand over title deeds of (our) homes.

The pamphlet also spells it out to the bosses that they should not victimise workers,



CAR TINS 23/4/87

# Stayaway in Soweto

(127)

SOWETO has again come under siege following a massive stayaway from work by thousands of its residents in protest against rent boycott evictions yesterday.

The township exploded into another wave of violence resulting in the stoning of cars and residents marching to the council chambers to demand an end to evictions.

Johannesburg was half-empty and the usual bee-hive activity at some taxi ranks in the city seemed like a thing of the past.

All Putco buses were withdrawn from Soweto by 9am when the extent of the stayaway and unrest became appar-

ent, company spokesman Mr Robin Duff said.

The stay-home was apparently a response to an anonymous pamphlet distributed by the thousands in the township on Tuesday afternoon and evening.

Emergency regulations prohibit reporting on the main call made to residents in the pamphlet, which links yesterday's events to recent evictions of Sowetans for non-payment of rent.

The pamphlet urged that rent evictions be halted, title deeds to homes be handed over to tenants, the state of emergency be lifted, troops and vigilantes be withdrawn. — Sapa

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# R700-m plan for housing in OFS

By Frank Jeans

The biggest single housing project in the history of the Free State, a R700 million development of 33 000 homes, has been launched near Welkom

The massive project, to be spread over five years, underscores the growing involvement of the private sector in the homes business with eight major construction companies sharing the contracts for the new town at Thabong.

Construction men believe this is the start of the trend of the future at the country's mining towns with Witbank, Carletonville and Orkney the key target areas for housing programmes.

The big eight in the Welkom project are LTA-Comat, Murray and Roberts, Time Housing, Goldstein, Besters, Wimpey Homes, Vista Homes and a Free State company, Blomanda.

Black builders will work on the less costly housing range.

Managed by Thabong Town Council, the development is expected to swell the population there by 250 000.

Servicing of the area has begun and 3 000 homes are expected to be built this year, and the bulk finished from 1988.

Mr James Ngake, town clerk of Thabong, says. "There is a critical shortage of housing in the Welkom area and it is estimated that an average of 17 people are crowded into every home in Thabong."

The capital cost will be met through the normal builder-bond arrangement with building societies with the majority of the homeowners subsidised. It is understood that 16 000 homes will be earmarked for employees of Gencor and Anglo American.

House prices will range from low-cost units to the R50 000 bracket.

While the projected value of the venture is R700 million, this could be a conservative figure and it could be nearer R1 billion with inflation taken into account.

# Man is burned, soldiers attacked in day of violence

SMR  
24/4/87

A man was set alight and burned to death, police and soldiers were injured and residents were attacked in a day of violence in Soweto yesterday, the Bureau for Information reported

It was the second Soweto fatality since a work stayaway was launched in the township two days ago

The stayaway protesting at evictions for non-payment of rent entered its third day this morning with long queues of workers trying to reach work for pay-day.

The United Democratic Front has made an urgent appeal to the

Soweto Council and its town clerk, Mr Nico Malan, to "recognise the legitimate people's representatives" to defuse the anger of residents about rent evictions, warning that a refusal would "make strife our harvest"

The UDF call for housing talks came in the wake of the refusal by the council to allow Mr Malan to enter into negotiations with the Soweto Civic Association The SCA, saying that the state of emergency had suppressed expression of popular grievances, had demanded to meet Mr Malan to sort out the housing problem and resolve the rent boycott

The council refused to let Mr Malan conduct talks and said its executive committee should be involved The SCA will not take up this offer as it refuses to acknowledge the community councillors elected in a minuscule poll in 1983

The UDF insisted that real grievances lay behind the Soweto stayaway of this week

"To suggest as some newspapers did that young militants were responsible for the stayaway is utterly ridiculous and misleading," said the UDF acting publicity secretary, Mr Murphy Morobe.



More than a thousand workers and visitors at Baragwanath Hospital queued at the bus and taxi terminus in Soweto yesterday for transport home. There were no buses and few taxis after several were damaged in the stayaway

● Picture by A

## GENUINE

"The people of Soweto as in all other black townships have genuine grievances They will always be prepared to use their collective might to demand the attention of those in authority to address these grievances"

Mr Mandla Xhosa (22) was attacked and burnt about 300 m from his Naledi home, according to the bureau

The first fatality was Mr Patrick Phokojoe (18), who was shot in the head on Tuesday by security forces during a stoning incident in Naledi He died in hospital

A spokesman for the bureau said Mr Xhosa was walking from his home when he was attacked by a large group of youths Paraffin was poured over him as he lay injured He died as a result of the burns

A policeman and members of the SADF were injured in stone-throwing incidents, the spokesman said Their conditions were not known

Police reported more than 30 incidents of violence in Soweto up to midnight last night

Lawyer  
to visit  
Mandela

# Winnie's rent on two houses are up to date, says council

127  
SMR 25/4/87

CAPE TOWN — Mr. Alan Magid SC, leader of the defence team in the Maritzburg terrorism trial, plans to interview jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela in Pollsmoor Prison tomorrow.

The Prisons Service has given Mr Magid permission for the visit.

He said from Durban today he was unable to fly to Cape Town yesterday or today for the interview.

Mr Magid applied to the court this week on behalf of convicted terrorist Sibusiso Rober Ndlanzi for permission to subpoena Mandela to give evidence in mitigation of sentence. — Sapa.

Mrs Winnie Mandela has refused to comment on claims by the Soweto Council that rent payments for her two houses in Soweto, where a rent boycott has been in force for almost a year, were up to date

The Mayor of Soweto, Mr Nelson Botile, told a council meeting last month Mrs Mandela had paid her rent and should therefore stop telling people not to pay rent.

After persistent inquiries by the Saturday Star for her to either confirm or deny the claim, Mrs Mandela this week finally said through a family member she had "no comment to make" on the matter

But Mr Botile told the Saturday Star "I was quoting from the records. The records show she (Mrs Mandela) has paid. I don't know how she paid."

The council's claim, if true, will come as a shock to many because Mrs Mandela, wife of jailed African National Congress leader Mr Nelson Mandela, has become a strong and prominent opponent of the South African Government in her own right, and she would have been expected by many to abide by the boycott.

The Saturday Star had invited Mrs Mandela to comment on the claim by the Soweto Council and to explain why her rent was paid in view of the rent boycott in the townships.

The rent boycott was initiated last year in many townships around the country in an attempt to force

the Government to accede to demands by residents. Township councils, who are said to be owed almost R200 million in unpaid rent, have responded by evicting people from their houses. Most of the evictions have been in Soweto and the Vaal Triangle

Mrs Albertina Sisulu, co-president of the United Democratic Front, had her electricity disconnected this week because the council claims she owes R475 for rent.

The boycott took an ominous turn this week when thousands of people stayed at home in response to anonymous pamphlets distributed in the townships calling for a three-day stayaway from work in protest against the eviction of rent defaulters

The stayaway came after planned talks between the Soweto Civic Association and Soweto Town clerk Mr Nico Malan were aborted, after councillors insisted the SCA hold direct talks with them. The SCA does not recognise the council and refuse to have any dealings with it.

- The anonymous pamphlets called for
- Rent evictions to be halted,
  - Title deeds for homes to be handed to tenants,
  - The state of emergency to be lifted and troops to get out of the townships,
  - Town councillors to resign, and
  - The right to hold public meetings.

# Jail all drunken drivers, say callers

Road accidents over the Easter three alcohol-related accidents,



compensate the dependants of

# Fearful residents wait to be told...

# GET OUT

SOWETO residents are facing a grave dilemma - to pay or not to pay rent arrears

Attempting to answer the question has been agonising. Thousands of householders are worried about the accumulation of debt to the council, but those who wish to pay them off face the wrath of the "comrades".

A Diepkloof spinster, eager to retain ownership of her home and who asked not to be identified for fear of reprisals, told *City Press* how she had sneaked to the council offices to settle her debt after receiving an eviction notice.

Soon after she returned to her house a man visited her and warned her against "betraying the people". "I have since avoided being seen anywhere near the council offices as this could mean the loss of all my belongings - and my life."

"However, I live in fear of eviction as council police can come and kick me out of the house and I am sure nobody will come forward to help me resist the eviction," she said. Recently, families left homeless in Zola after being evicted by the Soweto

## Special report: SANDILE MEMELA

The rent boycott - which has spread to more than 50 townships throughout the country - was a sequel to a rent increase in the Vaal Triangle on September 3, 1984.

Pent-up frustration and discontent burst into violence, leaving at least 80 people dead and scores maimed and jailed, when residents marched in protest against increases in the rents they had to pay.

The following 30 months have witnessed a repetition of the same bloody scene, as the protest against higher rents have caught on in townships throughout the country, culminating in the toppling of a number of local authorities.

Many residents in Soweto, and 53 other townships throughout the country, have not been paying rent since June last year. The massive rent boycott campaign was sparked off by the demand for the resignation of all councillors.

A Diepkloof resident said that, though the threat of assault and attack by the

"comrades" was one factor which led him not to pay rent, he did not feel obliged in any way to settle his account with the council.

The nightmare for all township householders began early this month when the Rand Supreme Court upheld the power of the Soweto council - and by extension, township councils throughout the country - to evict rent defaulters under the Housing Act.

The decision by Judge LI Goldblatt confirmed the right of the Soweto council to take action under the Housing Act, which allows speedy and inexpensive action against tenants refusing to pay rent.

Earlier attempts - such as suspension of electricity and irregular disposal of household rubbish - aimed at forcing people to pay rent were not successful.

Of the 75 000 houses in Soweto, only about 35 000 are privately owned, meaning that the Soweto council collects rent from over

4 3 3

# GOVT 'NO'

Rent: Civic groups must see councillors

# TALKS

**Duel in the air**

**BIRDS' Mike Mangena and Chiefs' Absalom Thindwa battle in the air for the ball. Chiefs won the match 3-1. See page 20.**  
Pic: JOE MOLEFE



**Don't forget Soccerpot**

THE Government will not meet leaders of black political organisations or civic associations to discuss the rent crisis in black townships.

This was said by Mr John Griffiths, chairman of the constitutional committee of the Transvaal Provincial Administration, who added that the Government will only negotiate with councillors.

He said Transvaal residents owed about R160-million in rent arrears. Soweto accounts for R80-million of this figure.

By MZIKAYISE EDMON

He said the decision to evict people was taken by individual councils and not the Government as most people believed.

"The local authorities are autonomous and they take their own decisions. They can come to us for advice but the final decision is theirs," Mr Griffiths added.

Scores of families have been evicted from their homes in Soweto and Katlehong, on the East Rand. The majority of those evicted are from Soweto.

Mr Griffiths said since the evictions started, residents have started paying rent, fearing that they may also be evicted. "The evictions have had an influence and things are getting back to normal, especially in Soweto," he said.

### Discuss

"We will meet anybody to discuss the rent crisis, as long as these people come through the offices of the councillors. We are not prepared to meet any leader from black political organisations or civic associations because councillors were elected by the people to represent them," Mr Griffiths said.

The Soweto council has tried to solve the problem. They have also sent us a memorandum on the rent issue and this has been discussed at a very high level (Government) and there has been some progress," Mr Griffiths said.

## 2 hurt in electric

TWO people from Soweto are in a "serious condition" at the Baragwanath Hospital where they were admitted after an electrical transmitter exploded on them on Friday.

They are Mr Arthur Masiza (28) and Mr Mandla Dlangalala, both of Zondi in Soweto.

A member of Mr Masiza's family said she heard a loud explosion on Friday just after 5am. She rushed from her bedroom and heard Mr Masiza screaming. "I could not stand seeing Arthur Soweto."



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MANAGEMENT

Putting knowledge with

# Bid to solve rent crisis

Sowetan 27/4/87

(127)

By ALI MPHAKI

IN A BID to resolve the rent crisis in Soweto, members of the Soweto Electricity Advice Centre were granted an urgent interview with the Administrator of the Transvaal, Mr Willem Cruywagen, last week.

The Seac presented a memorandum on the problems in Soweto.

As a result of an investigation by the Seac ombudsman, Mr Bernard Moleke, various factors that were causing hardship and distress to many Sowetans were established. These include:

- Very high and often incorrect electricity accounts,
- The provisional electricity overcharge of R45 a month which every household was obliged to pay,
- The levy of R12 a month for the installation of electricity, and
- The question of payment of rent for Sowetan homes.

The Seac has identified confusion among residents with regard to the actual ownership of the houses.

In certain areas of Soweto people bought their houses on the basis of 30 and 40 year leases. These periods have expired but they are still paying the same rent.

The Seac delegation comprises of Mr Moleke, Mr Selma Browde, Mr C Malebo and Mr T Mahlangu.

After the interview, the delegation said the Administrator received the deputation very sympathetically and has agreed to study the memorandum as a matter of urgency.

# Soweto stayaway. Barricades set up

127  
22/4/87  
JOHANNESBURG. — Barricades were set up in Soweto today and the windows of cars and taxis were smashed to stop people going to work.

The action came amid fears among Soweto residents that the Government was planning to evict residents who have failed to pay rent since the imposition of a state of emergency last June.

Tension was high in Soweto today as security forces moved in to dismantle the barricades in streets strewn with broken glass.

Marchers protesting against evictions were dispersed at the Soweto Council chambers in Jabulani this morning. It was reported that all the township's high schools were empty and there were "lots of people in the streets."

Buses were going no farther than Baragwanath Hospital on Soweto's outskirts.

## "MINOR STONINGS"

A spokesman for the Bureau for Information in Pretoria, Mr Deon van Loggenberg, said so far the bureau had received reports of "three minor stonings." He said there were no reports of injuries or arrests and damage "was slight."

In Johannesburg streets were quiet and many shops were closed. Thousands of Soweto workers stayed away from work.

The stay-home was apparently a response to an anonymous pamphlet which was distributed by the thousands in the township yesterday afternoon and evening in White City Jabavu, where the stayaway was strictly enforced by street committees.

## YOUTHS

Groups of youths stood at bus stops and taxi ranks and prevented people from leaving.

Emergency regulations prohibit reporting the main call made to residents in the pamphlet, which links today's events to recent evictions of Sowetans for non-payment of rent. The Argus Correspondent and Sapa-Reuters



*Call: Tom's 28/4/87*  
**70% discount on govt black housing**

*127*  
Own Correspondent

introduced in all other black areas

JOHANNESBURG. — Homes in Lekoa (Vaal Triangle) will be sold at reductions of up to 70% to boost the government's mass sale of black housing that started in 1983.

The discounts are also aimed at ending the rent boycott, by including rent arrears in the reduced purchase price, which is payable by the residents over five years.

Recommendations have also been made by the National Council of Local Authorities that the 70% discount be

The prices of all existing houses in the older Lekoa townships — Sharpeville, Boipatong and Bophelong — were reduced by 70% from April 1. In Sebokeng and Zamdela prices of newer houses were reduced by about 40%, with an extra discount for people who have electrified their homes.

Lekoa town clerk Mr N P Louw yesterday confirmed the reductions and said the council had decided on the reductions at the end of March.

**Q** **UESTION:** For the past 10 months, residents in many black townships have been boycotting rent. How much have the local authorities lost in revenue during this period?

**Answer:** Residents owe a total of R160-million. This affects the whole of the Transvaal only, and of this amount, Soweto owes about R80-million.

**Q:** How much of this money have you recovered?

**A:** I should explain that in the Transvaal we have six regions: the East Rand, West Rand, Eastern Transvaal, Central Transvaal, Western Transvaal and Northern Transvaal. The only region where we are having serious problems at the moment is the West Rand Region. Residents in this region have not been paying their rental and service fees. In the other regions, the payment of rent and service fees is approximately 90 percent which is very close to normal.

### Evict

**Q:** Before you started to evict people, did you first consult them and their leaders to try to solve the problem? Doctor Nthato Motlana, chairman of the Soweto Civic Association, has been trying in the past few weeks to meet the town clerk of Soweto, Mr Nico Malan, to try and break the deadlock?

**A:** I would not like to get into Dr Motlana's problems with the Soweto City Council, because I am not aware of the details.

When you ask me if we have consulted with the people and the leaders, you must take into account that we have to discuss this with the

# FOCUS

THE rent crisis in Soweto and other townships continues. *Sowetan* writer MZIKAYISE EDOM spoke to the chairman of the constitutional committee of the Transvaal Provincial Administration, Mr John Griffiths about the problem. This is the edited version of the transcript of the interview.

# Rent crisis

councillors in charge. Not with anybody, but with the local authorities. On several occasions, we have met with the executive committee of the Soweto Council to discuss the rent crisis. The council has submitted an extensive memorandum to us, setting out all the problems concerning the non-payment of rent.

### Deadlock

They also put forward some proposals to break the deadlock. In my opinion, the Soweto Council has done as much as they can do to try and solve the rent problem. Some of these proposals involve legal action.

**Q:** The problem is that residents have lost confidence in councillors. They feel that they are the mouthpiece of the Government, and that the councils are doing nothing to solve their problems. The councillors have also been accused of having no powers and of being stooges and puppets of the Government. What

are your comments on this?

**A:** Yes, I must admit that extra-parliamentary groups foster that idea and they do everything to discredit councillors. But we have had discussions with the local authorities in the Transvaal and at the moment I must point out that these men are doing their best to help their communities. It is not true that the councillors have no powers and it will be as a result of the elected leaders, councillors, and not as a result of the attacks by other people on councillors, that this conflict will be settled.

I have no doubt in my mind that in the rest of the Transvaal, including the West Rand and the East Rand, the pattern is improving. People are getting back to situations where there is normality and where the payment in some cases is 122 percent of what should be paid monthly. I am not prepared to tell you where, because the moment I do this, there will be action to try and disturb the situation in these areas.

### Willing

**Q:** Some people have stated that they are prepared to pay the outstanding amounts, but they feel that the rent they are presently paying is very high and that the services they get from the councillors are very poor?

**A:** I think that we are now addressing something which is being used as the basis for not paying rent. If people feel that they are paying high rents, why then are they refusing to pay for services like water, electricity, and sewerage because they must realise that it is impossible for any council to continue to find bridging finance



**MR JOHN Griffiths, chairman of the constitutional committee of the Transvaal Provincial Administration.**

to boost their diminishing funds. Can you imagine the situation you would be in if you were without funds but you were expected to provide services to the community? There is nowhere in the world that a Government will accept the principle of supplying services to people for free. This Government will not allow a situation where people will not want to pay for the services they get. It is not possible.

### Evictions

**Q:** Do you think that by evicting people you are solving the problem?

**A:** I think that evicting people will have an influence. I do not say that this method will correct the situation but since some people were evicted, people have started paying. I think that you must take into account that if you are faced with eviction, you are going to have a rethink. This method has worked. Most people fear paying their rent because of intimidation.

**Q:** Is the Government prepared to meet representatives of the residents to solve the problem?

**A:** Under certain conditions we can meet them. We would not do it under normal conditions. We will not impair the credibility of councillors. These representatives will have to come through the offices of councillors. The councillors are elected leaders and they

were elected by the people. People must have confidence in the local authorities.

**Q:** Who ordered the evictions?

**A:** We are not involved in the evictions. Individual councils took the decision to evict people. The Government cannot prescribe to councils how they should recover outstanding amounts. If the councillors approach us for advice, we will discuss their problems but we will not tell them what to do because they are autonomous bodies.

•Tomorrow Mr Griffiths discusses the Regional Services Councils.

# New concessions to encourage home-ownership

The Argus Correspondent

**JOHANNESBURG.** — The Government has announced major concessions on housing prices for whites, coloured people, Indians and blacks.

The concessions are being interpreted as an attempt to break rent boycotts in black areas, but critics say they do not go far enough.

Soweto Civic Association president Dr Nthato Motlana commented "We believe the Government is at last beginning to appreciate what we have been saying for years. This is some kind of progress."

"But they haven't even addressed one of the fundamental demands of the boycott, that the councillors and the community councils themselves must go."

Mrs Helen Suzman, Progressive Federal Party MP for Houghton, said she had no doubt the announcement was

part of an attempt to stabilise South African society two days before the election.

"You cannot do that in two days, and I have always been in favour of home-ownership for blacks. I hope it will take off and be successful."

"This may help solve the crisis brought about by the non-payment of rents. But it will not solve the problem of increasing the existing stock of houses."

The new housing campaign was announced by the Bureau for Information in Pretoria last night.

## Condition of sale

Adjustments and additions made to the conditions of sale applying to existing housing units erected with National Housing Funds include

A discount of up to 65 percent on the calculated purchase price of any house which has structural defects. Previously

the maximum discount was limited to 20 percent.

Any arrears in rent pertaining to the cost of the stand and erection of the dwelling can be included in the loan amount.

A tenant who has paid rent regularly over the past three years can buy without a deposit.

Transfer and other costs are included in the loan in deserving cases.

Further benefits not directly linked to the sales campaign include

The raising of the maximum cost limit of a dwelling and stand from R27 000 to R30 000.

The maximum income limit of persons who qualify for aid is raised from R800 to R1 000 a month.

A 25 percent cash discount.

A five percent discount to buyers who buy before June 30, 1988.

The new benefits are to be implemented on July 1.

Meter-readers did not go to Soweto

127 6/Day  
5/5/87

# Rent boycott leads to hefty electricity bills

THE Soweto City Council says that one-third of Sowetans have been receiving inflated electricity bills since meter-readers stopped entering the township.

Soweto's town clerk Nico Malan said this after scores of residents had complained that their electricity bills had been overstated.

He said the council had been sending out provisional bills since June, when the rent boycott started and water and electricity meter-readers had not been able to enter Soweto

SOPHIE TEMA

Malan said the council also had no records to work from because they had been seized and destroyed by mobs.

He added that the council had been paying Escom R3½m a month for the supply of electricity. One-third of this amount resulted in every registered tenant being charged an estimated R50 to R55 a month for their electricity.

He said the council admitted that one-third of the residents had been getting inflated electricity bills because the council had

been charging them according to estimates.

He said some residents would now receive accurate bills since meter-readers had been able to work in some trouble-free areas in Soweto since February.

"In areas where the meter-readers find it difficult to operate, residents will still receive provisional bills," he said.

He added that if residents felt their electricity readings were overstated, they should at least pay between R45 and R50 of the account and challenge the balance with the council.

# New housing move hailed

THE United Municipalities of South Africa has welcomed the recent announcement about the proposed new housing campaign aimed at the lower-income groups.

The president of Umsa, Mr Tom Boya, said he particularly welcomed the provision that tenants who had paid rent regularly during the past three years could now buy without a deposit, and that discounts of up to 65 percent could be given on houses with structural defects.

This comes into effect on July 1

Mr Boya, however, expressed concern over the government's racial

housing policy.

He said this "distorted" the housing problems in black areas.

"The Government should realise the sale of the existing housing stock did not go far enough in addressing the housing problems. It also does not bring about any relief to the thousands of people currently on the waiting list for houses

"What is needed is the provisions of adequate land and infrastructure for housing development," Mr Boya said

He urged the Gov-

MR TOM BOYA

ernment to scrap the Group Areas Act which he said had brought about disparity in the provision of housing on the basis of colour.

127 5722 14/5/87

# Showdown looming over council housing

By Michael Tissong

Almost a thousand families in Ennerdale, 40 km south of Johannesburg, have confronted the Johannesburg City Council for a drastic price reduction for "badly built" council houses in Extension 5.

Within months of occupation, residents said they found serious defects in each of the 918 houses in the newly developed area and have demanded that prices be dropped from between R20 000 and R30 000 to R9 000.

The Ennerdale Extension 5 Steering Action Committee said they consulted building contractors about the defects and were told that underfloor piling would have to be built into every house and this alone would cost R12 000.

## Repairs Necessary

On top of this expense there were numerous other repairs necessary.

Residents demanded the drastic price reductions because the houses could not be satisfactorily repaired. They said a large price reduction was the only fair alternative to the problem.

Residents handed a list of defects to the council.

The defects included plaster falling off the walls,

inner and outer walls separating because they were not interlinked, leaking roofs, uneven floors, thin foundations, pipe leaks in the cavities of the hollow bricks, doors not fitting the door frames, taps falling apart during use, and light fittings not functioning in many toilets and bathrooms.

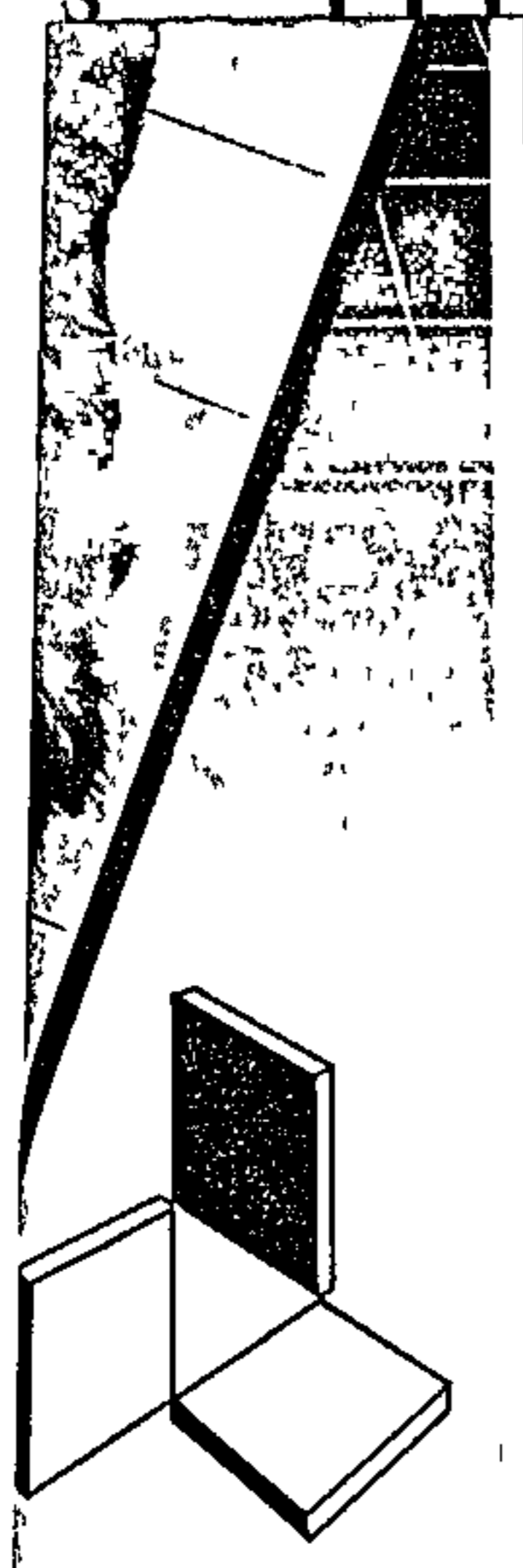
Residents also claimed the builders contravened council by-laws by placing electrical wires in the roofs without sleeve pipes and by installing no lightning protection.

The council's director of housing, Mr Thys Wilsnach, said the houses were completed in February last year and the maintenance period expired three months later.

He added that repairmen sent by the council after some of the complaints were received, were chased out of the township by residents.

Residents said they found it strange that the council allowed only a three-month guarantee and not a five or 10-year guarantee which usually applies to houses.

Residents said they were not allowed to see the houses before they moved in. "It was a case of take it or leave it"



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# Squatter camp 'will devalue property'

A row has broken out between the Ennerdale Ratepayers' Action Group (ERAG) and the management committee over prefabricated structures erected near the shopping centre in 2nd Avenue, Ennerdale, about 40 km south of Johannesburg

ERAG chairman Mr Sidney Leaman said the "shacks", erected with the committee's permission, would affect property values

"The committee is encouraging squatting. When it gave permission, it was for six shacks. Now there are 20. Squatter camps get out of control if they grow at this rate"

Mr Leaman said he was sympathetic to the plight of the families who were moved from Weilers' Farm squatter camp near the township, but could not understand why they were

## MICHAEL TISSONG

moved into central Ennerdale. Committee member Mr Jimmy Oliver said the settlement was temporary

"We reacted to an emergency. These families were moved from Weilers' Farm. We had no conventional housing to offer them and put up the prefabricated houses, only for two months. When houses are built in Extension 6, the families will move

"The settlement cannot be described as a squatter camp. There is a proper water supply and sanitation. The people living there are decent and they are paying rent

"The properties in the area will not be devalued because valuation is not due for several years and by then, this arrangement will be over"

possessed sworn affidavits  
from witnesses to this effect.  
This follows the recent murder of

more expensive premium grade

(127) SPAN

# March over rent hike

BOIPATONG councillors in the Vaal never discussed rent increases with residents, a witness told the Delmas treason trial yesterday.

Mr John Mokoena said the councillors were expected to get resident's views about the increases.

He said the residents decided to march to the Houtkop Administration Board offices to register their protest.

Mr Mokoena is one of the 19 men appearing before Mr Justice K van Dijkhorst and an assessor on high treason charges, alternatively terrorism, subversion and murder.

Mr Mokoena said he chaired the residents' meeting on August 26, 1984 when the rent issue was discussed. The first speaker was a Mr Tsoso who said councillors had promised during their campaign for votes not to increase the rent. They did not keep this promise, Mr Tsoso told the residents.

Mr Mokoena said a suggestion by Mr Tsoso that the rent increases should not be paid was welcomed by the residents. He said Mr Tsoso did not say what would happen to councillors if they did not resign.

(Proceeding)



# Rent demands to Mandela, Sisulu

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — In a new move to end the R74-million Soweto rent boycott, the Soweto City Council has served notice on prominent black anti-apartheid leaders to pay their rent in 30 days or face legal action.

The notices were served on Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of jailed ANC leader Mr Nelson Mandela, UDF president Mrs Albertina Sisulu, wife of Mr Walter Sisulu, who is also jailed with Mr Mandela, Dr

CAPE TOWN 15/5/87  
122

Nthato Mollana, chairman of the Soweto Civic Association, and Mrs Ellen Khuzwayo, a community leader.  
They were served yesterday by a township manager employed by the Soweto City Council.  
According to the council, Mrs Sisulu, who had her electricity disconnected about two months ago, owes R1 033,47 for rent and service charges.  
Mrs Mandela and Mrs Sisulu said they would not pay a cent of rent arrears.

"I have not been paying rent and I will not pay it," Mrs Mandela said yesterday. The last time she paid rent was in May 1977 when she was banished to Brandfort by the government.

Mrs Sisulu yesterday said she would rather contest the matter in court but was not going to pay rent because she was not the only resident who had stopped payments in protest against government policies.  
"I told them that we will meet in court."

# Pay up warnings for Mandela, Sisulu, Motlana

SOWETO Town Council officials yesterday served final orders on some of the township's leading anti-apartheid campaigners to pay rent while at least five families were evicted from their Pimville homes.

During the blitz, conducted by township managers, orders were served on Winnie Mandela and United Democratic Front co-president Albertina Sisulu. Two other prominent Soweto personalities, head of the

Soweto Civic Association Dr Nthato Motlana, and community leader Ellen Kuzwayo were also affected.

Motlana said it is alleged he owes R1 500 for his Dube home. He confirmed that Kuzwayo had been served with a similar order.

Mandela's private secretary said a black township manager arrived at her Orlando West home before 10am and served her with a final order to pay within seven days or face legal

action. She owes the council R652,69.

"In the light of what has been said (that she has been paying rent) I knew the truth would come out one day," Mandela said. "I have always said that I did not pay rent."

Sisulu, 69, said she was also served with a final order and given to the end of the month to settle the

R1 033,45 she owes the council.

"They have got their real match this time. I am not a lightweight. They did a good thing by starting with me instead of terrorising poor pensioners."

Sisulu said she had bought and renovated her Orlando West home and would go to court if necessary.

Meanwhile armed policemen, including *kiskonstrabels*, had to escort a messenger of the court during the swoop on several homes in Zone

Two Pimville. It is alleged they forced their way into locked homes and confiscated furniture.

*Weekly Mail* confirmed that at least five families were evicted in the area and that the court messenger had a warrant of ejection with him.

Arrests of those evicted ranged from R300 to R2 000. In one case, no notice was served on an elderly couple who had their furniture moved outside.

(127)  
15/8/77  
b Day

# Soweto leaders ordered to pay rent arrears

IN ANOTHER move to end the R74m Soweto rent boycott, the Soweto City Council has served notices on prominent black anti-apartheid leaders to pay their rent in 30 days or face legal action.

The notices were served on Winnie Mandela, wife of jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela, UDF president Albertina Sisulu, wife of imprisoned activist Walter Sisulu, Dr Nthato Motlana, chairman of the Soweto Civic Association, and

SOPHIE TEMA  
well-known community leader Ellen Khuzwayo

The notices were served yesterday by a council township manager.

The council says Sisulu, whose electricity was disconnected about two months ago, owes R1 033,47 for rent and service charges

Motlana, whom the council says owes R1 500, had his electricity disconnected

about three weeks ago  
Mandela and Sisulu said yesterday they would not pay a cent of their rent arrears

Mandela said "I have not been paying rent and I will not pay it"

She said the last time she had paid rent was in May 1977, when government banished her to Brandfort

Sisulu said she would rather contest the matter in court than pay rent

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Anti-apartheid leaders warned to pay or face eviction

# Soweto rent showdown nears

By Jo-Anne Collinge and Own Correspondent

The rents crisis in Soweto is approaching a showdown. The Soweto Council has made a dramatic move in its campaign to break the year-long rent boycott in the area by serving warning notices on leaders of anti-apartheid organisations who are believed to be among the thousands of householders withholding rent payments.

Mrs Winnie Mandela, United Democratic Front president Mrs Albertina Sisulu, Soweto Civic Association president Dr Nthato Motlana and author Mrs Ellen Khuzwayo are among those who have received warnings.

According to Mrs Sisulu they have seven days in which to decide whether to pay. If they fail to do so, they face eviction within 30 days.

Mrs Mandela's notice contradicts statements made some weeks ago by the Mayor of Soweto, Mr Nelson Botile, in which he said Mrs Mandela's rent payments had been made.

According to the notice, Mrs Mandela owes R652 which is said to have accumulated over nearly a year. Mrs Sisulu is said to owe the council R1 033.

Mrs Sisulu said she believed the council intended to try to make an example of the leaders of organisations which opposed it. But she welcomed the action.

"I'm happy they have started now with us instead of old people who are helpless and become confused when they face eviction."

Mrs Sisulu said she would defend the action in court.

No authorised council spokesman was available for comment early today.

Scores of rent defaulters have been evicted over the past two months in Soweto under court orders obtained against selected households. In most cases goods such as television sets and stereos have been attached by the messenger of the court.

## Angry residents

The latest evictions took place yesterday in Pinville Zones 1 and 2. Furniture was piled high on the pavements outside the affected homes for some hours after the eviction squads left. Angry residents threatened to break the locks placed on the homes and help evicted families carry their belongings back inside.

The PFP's spokesman on black affairs, Mrs Helen Suzman, said today "This is yet another instance of the Government's determination to show the toughest side it can as part of the mandate it claims to have received in the general election."

She said that, instead of going all out to demonstrate its determination to continue with a reform programme, however minimal, the Government was going in the opposite direction and, it appeared, was seeking confrontation.

"The rents crisis can be resolved only by the Government meeting representative leaders of the community of Soweto," Mrs Suzman said.

● See Page 4.

Dr Nthato Motlana said he wants to congratulate the Soweto City Council for having the courage to do this "In the past they have zeroed in on poor, defenceless widowers and widows"

Among the nine families evicted in Pimville yesterday was a bereaved family whose son died on Monday night

The family is that of Mrs Murrain Mokoena (77), a pensioner of No 2485 Zone 2, Pimville

"We were begging them not to evict us as we are having a death in the family, but they refused," she said with tears in her eyes

### Crying

"I kept on crying but they would not listen I do not know how and what we are going to do because they have locked the house We fear paying rent because they will "necklace" us and now it is even worse because we have to be busy with the funeral preparations for my son-in-law," Mrs Mokoena said

The other families who were evicted belong to Mrs Patricia Ncube of 1424, Zone 1, Pimville, Mr Patrick Shange of 1413 Zone 1, Pimville, Miss Lovedalia Madwabe of 1421 Zone 1, Pimville, Mrs Albertinah

# RENT BUTZ



DR MOTLANA eviction notice

## Pay up or be thrown out, 4 leaders are warned

FOUR prominent leaders who include the wives of jailed ANC leaders, Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu, were served with eviction notices yesterday in a day which saw at least nine families being evicted for rent default in Soweto.

The acclaimed community worker, author and Soweto elder, Dr Ellen Kuzwayo, and the president of the Soweto Civic Association (SCA), Dr Nthato Motlana, were also served with eviction notices stipulating that if they did not pay their rent within seven days they will be evicted

The notice sent to Mrs Winnie Mandela says she owes rent of R652.69 which she has not paid since June 6 last year until May 13 this year

Mrs Albertina Sisulu said to be owing R1033.97 which she must pay within seven days or be evicted from her house

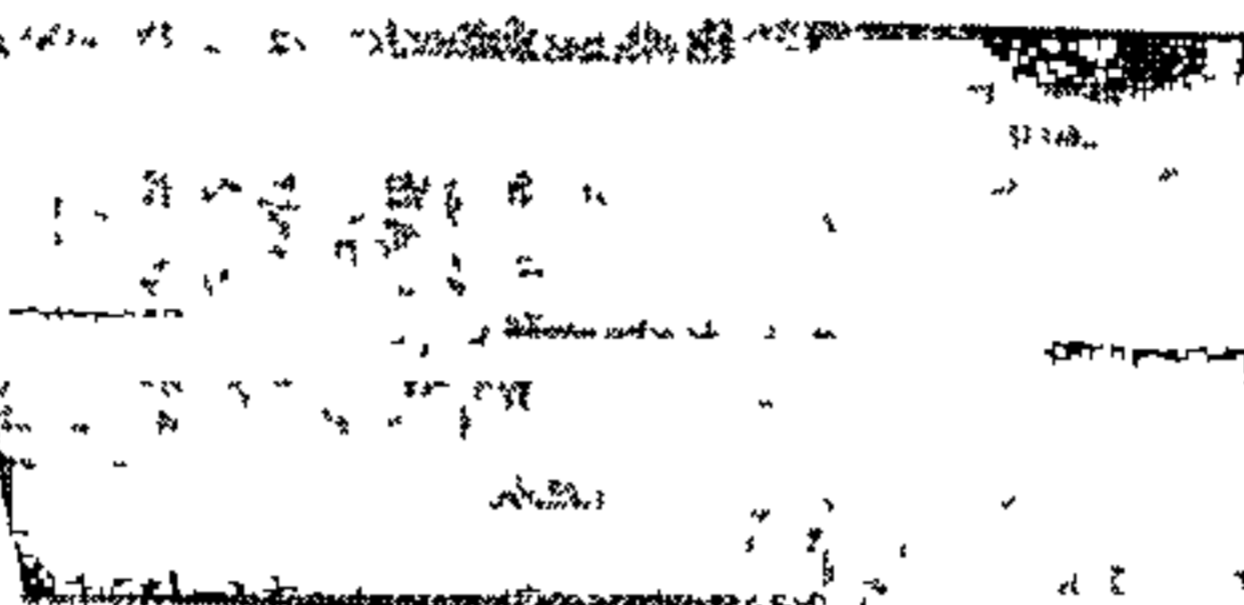
The notice sent to Mrs Mandela quashes rumours that she had paid her rent, which she dismissed as a "dirty game" by the security police to "try and distort the country's problems"

### Riots

She said as in 1976 when her family was accused of starting the riots in Soweto, there was an orchestrated move to discredit her so as to sow further division in the township

Mrs Mandela added that she was going to see her lawyer about the matter

Commenting about the notices, Mrs Sisulu said "All I have to say is that they picked on the people who are going to face up to them It is a good job, instead of picking on old ladies"



Mlambo of 141 Zone 1, Mrs Lena Ngenya of 2203 Zone 2, Mrs Francina Thhomola of Zone 2, Mrs Mavis Motwane of 2572 Zone 2 and Mr Sonai (who was not at home when police took out everything from his No 2385 home in Zone 2)



*severed with eviction notice*



DR KUZWAYO eviction notice

MRS Mandela eviction notice

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# Housing land row 127

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

A MAJOR row has erupted over the allocation of residential sites in Wattville township, near Benoni.

The Wattville Village Council was granted land next to Mamkele Street on the outskirts of the township by the Benoni Town Council on February 26, this year.

The council has not put up a single house so far.

The last house built in the township was in 1953. There are presently 3 446

houses in the area.

The land was sold to the Wattville council for R200 000.

According to sources close to the council, the money for the land has not been paid and the Benoni Town Council has threatened to cancel the deal.

## Bankrupt

Our sources said the council is bankrupt and cannot afford to settle the bill. They added that several private building contractors were pre-

pared to buy land and build houses.

"Some councillors, including the town clerk, Mr Harvey Anderson, are against the proposal. They demand that the land be given to them free of charge," the sources said.

Mr Anderson said. "These allegations are not true. The council will meet on May 25 to discuss the matter." He refused to comment further.

There are about 300 families on the housing waiting list in the area.

# RENT? I haven't paid it

## for 10 years

## says Winnie

ST 17/5/87  
p21

THE LIGHTS burned brightly in Winnie Mandela's home in Soweto this week as the wife of the jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela admitted she hadn't paid rent for a decade.

Mrs Mandela, who is currently building another house in Soweto — a R500 000 construction dubbed "Winnie's Palace" — told the Sunday Times

"I'm not about to panic and run to pay the last time I paid rent was when I was banished to Brandfort in 1977" And she described claims that she had paid her rent as "smears"

Other people who haven't paid their rent have had their electricity cut off and are using candles to light their homes and paraffin stoves for cooking

Mrs Mandela and three other members of the Soweto Civic Association were served with eviction notices this week for failing to meet rent arrears

Mrs Albertina Sisulu, Dr Ellen Kuzwayo and Dr Nthato Motlana — along with Mrs Mandela — are among a number of people accused of not paying rent since last June

### Solution

Both Mrs Sisulu and Dr Motlana indicated they would consider dropping their non-payment stance if they could meet with Soweto town clerk, Mr Nico Malan, to discuss residents' grievances

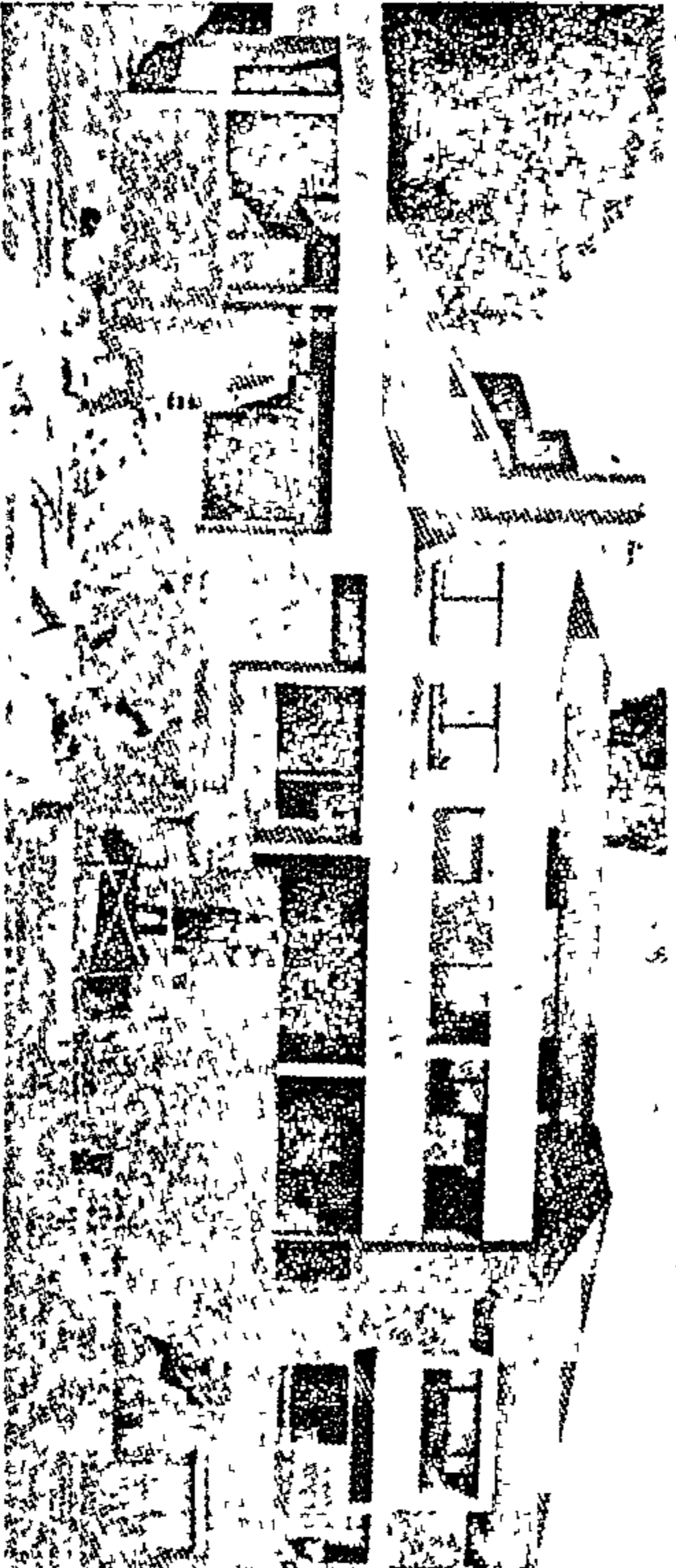
They do not recognise the authority of black Soweto councillors

Said Mrs Sisulu "With him we can reach a solution if he keeps on referring us to the councillors, then nothing will change"

But a council spokesman Mr L.S Geldenhuys, speaking in the absence of Mr Malan who is overseas, ruled out such a meeting

He said only councillors

WINNIE MANDELA



"Winnie's Palace" — the 22-room house being built in the 'Beverly Hills' area of Soweto

BY SAMKELO KUMALO

could discuss the "political issues" of Soweto

Electricity supplies to the homes of Dr Motlana and Mrs Sisulu have been cut off for the past two months as part of the council's attempts to force them to pay

Mrs Sisulu has resorted to using candles, lamps and gas stoves She said 'I have to be an example to the people'

Dr Motlana said they were not seeking confrontation with anyone "We still insist that we must be given an opportunity to meet with Mr Malan to solve the rents issue"

"We also agree with them that people must pay for rent, but there are some problems about it"

Mrs Mandela dismissed as a "smear campaign" earlier claims by Soweto Mayor Nel-

son Bontle and some councillors that she had paid her rent

### Guns

Earlier this week, Mrs Mandela was escorted by unknown gunmen in Soweto while visiting the house she is building in the township area known as "Beverly Hills" She was unhurt

She said "The events of this week are nothing new Now they have come out with

eviction notices and court action"

Meanwhile, Councillor Letatsi Radebe, the Soweto Council's executive committee chairman, has invited the four Soweto leaders to meet them to discuss the rent issue

"If they do not recognise us as councillors, I am extending an invitation to them to meet us in our private capacities as residents of Soweto Perhaps we can solve the problem and avoid further evictions"



MRS ALBERTINA SISULU Candles and gas lamps after power was cut off to her home

# WIVES FROM JAIL

# FROM JAIL

18/5/81

127  
18/5/81

**By ALI MPHAKI and JOSHUA RABOROKO**  
**IMPRISONED** African National Congress leaders, Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu, have sent a message of support to thousands of township residents who are facing rent evictions.

This was told to the Soweto yesterday by Mrs Winnie Mandela who visited her husband, Nelson Mandela, at the Pollsmoor prison on Saturday.

She and Mrs Albertina Sisulu are to be evicted from their homes if they do not pay their house rent.

Speaking from her old Soweto home yesterday, Mrs Mandela said both leaders were concerned about the rent crisis and would be doing some thing from their side.



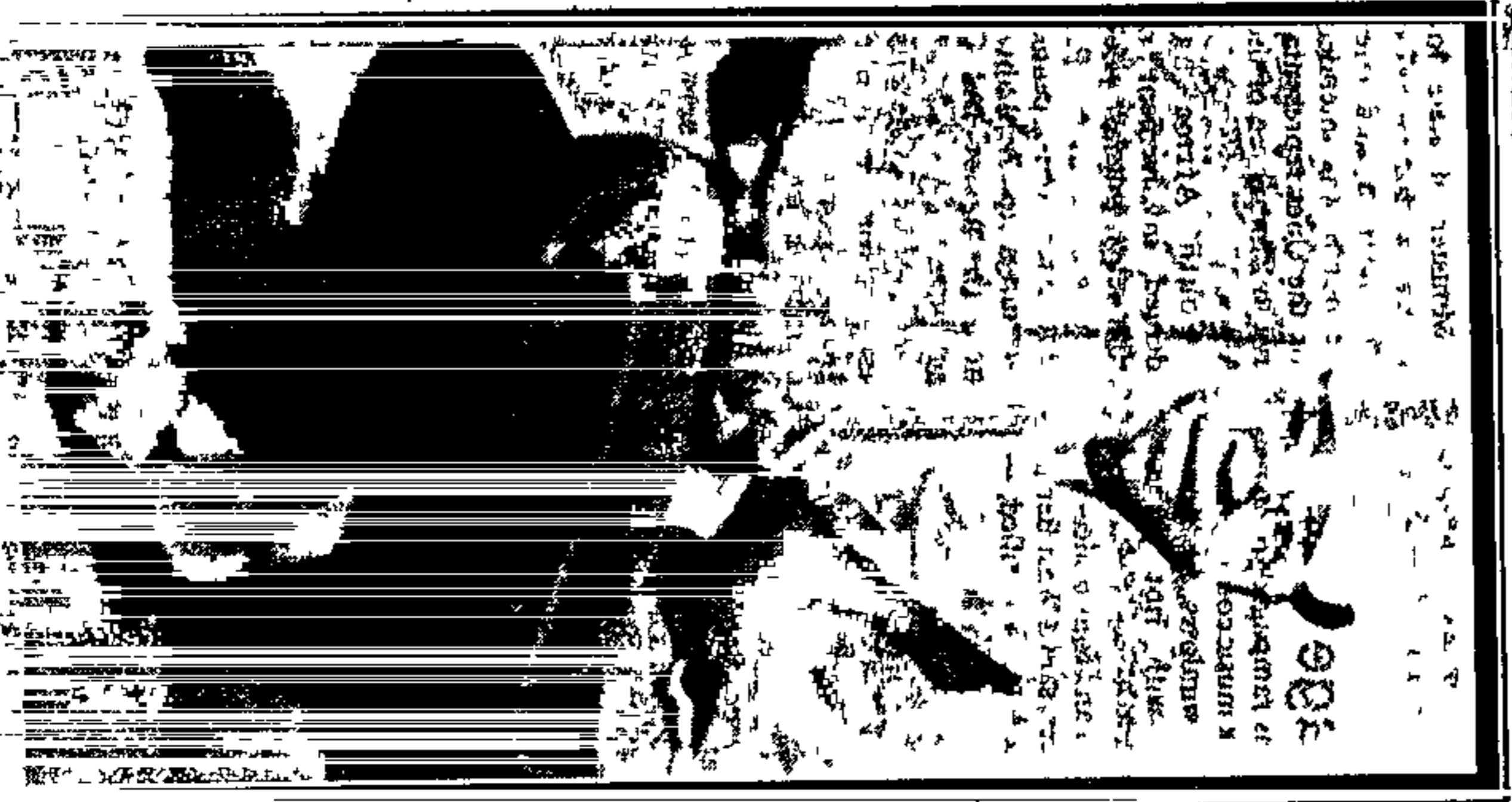
WINNIE... prison visit

Other Soweto leaders including Dr. Nhato Moflana, president of the Soweto Civic Association and Dr. Ellen Khuzwayo, are among hundreds of residents who are faced with eviction.

## LAWYERS

Other Soweto leaders including Dr. Nhato Moflana, president of the Soweto Civic Association and Dr. Ellen Khuzwayo, are among hundreds of residents who are faced with eviction.

To Page 2



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**DIFFERENCE**

They have been threatened by the Soweto City Council with eviction from their homes if they do not pay their rent and service charge within seven days. They were given the notices last week.

Mrs Mandela said her electricity supply was disconnected two weeks ago. However, it was switched on by what she called "professional electricians".

Mrs Sisulu, whose family will be visiting her husband this afternoon said her electricity supply was cut off two months ago. She was not bothered by this action.

For the past 11 months, hundreds of thousands of tenants in about 50 black townships across the country have refused to pay rent to back a long list of demands. Scores of ordinary Sowetians have already been evicted for not paying rent.

Mrs Sisulu said the rent crisis could be resolved only if the Government met representatives of the people to discuss their demands. Some political observers have speculated that a hard line on the rent issue is to be expected after the National Party swept to power in the whites-only election on May 6 which saw a swing to the right.



# OLD FOLKS DEFY COUNCIL

**MORE than 400 desperate families defied the Siyathemba Village Council near Balfour, and put up shacks in an open veld last week.**

The squatter camp is situated at the entrance to the township.

Most of the squatters are pensioners

By yesterday more families were still erecting shacks. The first 100 shacks were put up last Wednesday.

The families told the *Sowetan* that since the township was established in 1931, not a single house has been built by the council or the then Highveld Administration Board.

All the 1 000 houses in the township were built by the individual families. Homeless families number about 600 in the area.

## Proper

One pensioner, who asked not to be named, said she had six children, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

"All of us have no proper accommodation. We used to stay in one shack until last week, when our landlord evicted us. I am appealing to the council to provide me and all the homeless families in the area with proper accommodation," she said.

**By MZIKAYISE EDOM**

Mr Dan Mapohoshe, the mayor of Siyathemba, said the council will be building 200 new houses before the end of the year. He said "We are presently fitting the infrastructure and we hope to start building

the first houses towards the end of the year."

The council was still negotiating for more land. "The negotiations are at an advanced stage. If we get the land, we will put up 800 houses. Our housing problems will be solved," he said.

The council had agreed that only 165

## Shacks rise on the veld

families should put up temporary structures until they were provided with houses. "The rest will be prosecuted if they are found to have erected illegal structures," Mr Mapohoshe said.



**MR DAN Mapohoshe**  
... mayor of Siyathemba.

*6/Day 19/9/87*

# Non-payers' electricity cut off

THE Soweto City Council carried out an electricity switch-off in Orlando East at the weekend

~~PH~~ SOPHIE TEMA ~~TS~~

In one part of the area, about 60 residents had their electricity disconnected by council workers accompanied by members of the security forces

have not been paying their rent and service charges since the boycott which started in June last year.

The workers who carried out the switch-off moved from street to street with lists of all houses where electricity was to be disconnected

Soweto mayor Nelson Botile and town clerk Nico Malan, were not available for comment

The switch-off is seen as part of the crackdown on Soweto residents who

Earlier Malan had warned that if people did not pay their rent the council could evict residents from their homes or suspend services such as water and electricity

127

# Police evict Soweto rent defaulters

CAPE TOWN 20/5/87 (127)

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Soweto Council police, accompanied by a contingent of special constables, invaded Mofolo North, Soweto, yesterday and evicted five out of hundreds of families who have not been paying rent since the rent boycott began last year.

It was the first time council authorities evicted rent defaulters in this part of Soweto.

One of the houses raided belongs to Mr John Nhlapho, 70.

Police served the old and ailing man with a warrant of execution, removed some furniture from the house and locked both the front and back doors.

According to the warrant of execution, Mr Nhlapho owes the Soweto Council a sum of R1 045,37 including legal costs and costs of issuing the warrant.

Mr Nhlapho was given a document to sign, which stated he understands that he retains the right to repossess his property within 60 days, failing which the council will sell the goods at a public auction.

"I do not know where to sleep tonight. They warned me that they would be back to check if anyone was in the house," said Mr Nhlapho.

127  
B  
B/D  
20/5/78

# Families evicted in Mofolo North

FIVE families were evicted from their Mofolo North, Soweto, homes yesterday for not paying their rent by council police and a contingent of Kits Konstabels

Hundreds of families have not been paying rent since the rent boycott began last year and, although similar evictions have been carried out elsewhere, it was the first time people had been evicted in Mofolo North

Transvaal Provincial Administration's (TPA) local government

SIPHO NGCOBO and  
LINDA ENSOR

director Lous Kok said there had always been a co-ordinated strategy to get rents paid. The TPA was working with local authorities to get the money they needed to administer the townships

Kok said the total provincial deficit had been reduced but would not say what it was. He said "There has been a long period of rent boycotts and we are now succeeding in reducing the amount"

The TPA was not subsidising local authorities but where those authorities had a cash-flow problem they were being loaned bridging finance.

Government officials would not comment as they said the matter now fell under the control of the provincial administrations.

In Natal, H D van Wyk, director of housing and settlement for the provincial association, said there was no problem with rent boycotts in Natal outside KwaZulu

But, he said, there had been non-payment of service charges due to unemployment, workers working short-time and the bi-monthly payment of pensions which resulted in pensioners accumulating their dues and paying them every two months rather than every month.

## Life as usual for Firestone

NORMAN SHEPHERD

FEDERALE Volksbeleggings, which has just raised its stake in Firestone SA from 75% to 100%, does not plan to buy other tyre companies or involve Firestone in any merger, says Federale executive director and Firestone SA chairman Tony Barnes.

He says that despite its cutting of ties with the US parent, "there should be no doubt the company will continue to make Firestone tyres and tubes using proven Firestone technology and carrying the Firestone trademark."



MANY squatter families in Bekkersdal, near Westonaria, have been left homeless after the Bekkersdal Town Council demolished scores of shacks at the weekend.

The demolitions were carried out at a huge shantytown called "Spooktown". The place is situated outside the local cemetery.

Since Friday, when the shacks were demolished, homeless shack dwellers

# Squatter families are left homeless

By NAT  
DISEKO

moved in with other squatter families. Some homeless Spooktown residents slept in the open.

They said council

officials told them the shacks were demolished because people squatted without first obtaining official permission.

One of the homeless people is Mr Lennox Nxande (40), who lives with his wife, Eunice, and four children. He said he

has been in Spooktown for two years.

"I work seven days a week as a cleaner for the Westonaria City Council. But I have not been to work since Friday. I have been trying to get a home for my family. We are now crowded in a two-

roomed shack belonging to a friend.

Mr David Mbuqe (27), and his common-law wife, Miss Gladys Mbele (27), also had their shack demolished.

Yesterday, a group of homeless women went to the council offices in an effort to obtain permission to rebuild their shacks.

The superintendent of the town council, Mr Henry Cross, was not available for comment.

(127) Soweto 20/5/87

The rent crisis in Soweto could be approaching a showdown, but an ombudsman of the the Soweto Electricity Advice Centre, Mr Bernard Moleke, believes a solution is already in the hands of the local council.

Mr Moleke says the town clerk, Mr Nico Malan, sent a memorandum to the State President, Mr P W Botha, recommending:

- Houses should be given for free to the people who have been paying rent and that sites be sold for R670 each;
- Rent should be reduced to R15 a month, and
- The electrification upgrading money residents are being charged should be scrapped. This money was R12 initially but another R12 was added.

Mr Moleke is still waiting for the outcome. The memo followed a series of meetings between himself and Mr Malan where there was agreement on two points:

### Paid off

- That houses in Orlando East were paid off by 1972. Residents had paid rent for 40 years.
- That the rest of Soweto has paid off their houses by 1985. The payment period was 30 years, 1954/55 to 1985.

### Questions

But as Mr Moleke is still waiting for the outcome, fresh questions are cropping up. If the Government does relent, what happens to the money that was paid after the houses were paid off? What will happen to the people who bought their houses under the 99-year leasehold system?

# Soweto Council holds key to solving rent crisis

By ALI



MPHAKI

In July last year, a delegation from the SEAC held a meeting with the council about problems concerning rents, houses, electricity and water.

The delegation asked the council to stop evicting people before a solution was found, but they were ignored. Twenty six people have now died in conflicts between residents and the police over the rent boycott.

On April 22 this year, a delegation comprising

Mr Moleke, Mr Albert Mhlungu and Dr Selma Browde met the administrator of the Transvaal, Mr Willem Cruywagen and handed him a memorandum about the problems of the people of Soweto.

According to Mr Moleke, the administrator was very sympathetic and promised to attend to the problem.

The SEAC was formed in 1983 when electricity tariffs were raised in Soweto. This was when a need to know how much power was consumed in each household and how much residents were supposed to pay for it arose.

### Electricity

Some residents had received astronomical electricity accounts which under normal circumstances would have benefitted bakeries or other large business



MR BERNARD Moleke . . . ombudsman.

problem I would get to the rent offices and I would find that the number of units on the computer printout did not tally with the one reflected in his statement.

"I then realised that all the statements were provisionally over-charged," said Mr Moleke in an interview yesterday.

The influx of these problems forced Mr Moleke to get in touch with the authorities in Soweto.

This was the beginning of numerous meetings with the town clerk, Mr Malan.

### Problems

In September 1986, Mr Moleke asked Mr Malan for a general moratorium suspending all electricity payments until all problems relating to it had been solved.

He also asked that no electricity supplies be cut.

The council told Mr Moleke that that was unreasonable, as consumers could not expect to receive a free supply of electricity while the Soweto City Council paid Escom every month.

concerns

It was then that Mr Albert Mhlungu, a former community councillor, decided to get a few heads together to start an electricity monitoring group to help the residents.

This was the birth of the Soweto Electricity Advice Centre whose board of directors includes Mrs Sally Motlana, Dr Selma Browde, Mrs Ellen Mchunu, Mrs Sally Kernick, Mr Columbus Malebo, Mr Timothy Mahlangu and Mr Bernard Moleke.

Mr Moleke was appointed ombudsman for the centre.

Mr Moleke, who studied local government at university, immediately did research on electricity in Soweto.

He said by mid-1984 he had pinpointed almost all the problems affecting electricity.

"Each time a resident came to me with a

# Council's problem with Mandela rent

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The Soweto Council has admitted that rent payments for the Mandela home are several months overdue but says action to recover the money presents problems because the home is held in the name of jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela

Housing Committee chairman Mr Julius Mdlalose said community leaders who had received final warning notices to pay their overdue rent within seven days could expect to be treated like all other rent-boycotting residents of Soweto

"There are no problems with Mrs Albertina Sisulu and Dr Nthato Motlana and others — they can be summonsed," he said

"But in the Mandela case we must be careful because that house belongs to Mandela. We cannot mention what we are going to do because the owner is in jail."

Mr Mdlalose released details drawn from the Mandela housing file which contradicted earlier statements by council spokesmen that rent for the Mandelas' Orlando West home was up to date

He said that R652,69 was owed on the Mandela home. Of this, R117,39 was for rent and the balance for services

The last payment received from the Mandela

family lawyer, Mr Ismail Ayob, was in June last year, Mr Mdlalose said. He could not confirm the exact date of payment

Mr Mdlalose added that, although no cheque had been received during the period of the Soweto rent boycott, the amount received in June was large enough to put Mrs Mandela in credit for several months

Her credit balance expired about four months ago, Mr Mdlalose said, and no further payment had been made

Mr Mdlalose accused Mrs Winnie Mandela of misleading people by saying she had not paid rent since she was banished to Brandfort in 1977

But Mr Ayob said clearly he had paid rent for the Soweto house from about 1978 until June last year

It is understood that Mrs Mandela was referring to the Brandfort house to which she was banished in stating that she not paid rent for many years

Mrs Mandela said "Whatever the council might say now is of no significance to us. We will proceed with whatever action our legal advisers might deem fit"

She said the council would have to explain to the public why they made the claim that rent payments on the Soweto house were up to date

(127) s.m. 21/5/87

B1 Day 21/5/87

ATTORNEYS acting for Soweto leaders Albertina Sisulu and Ellen Kuzwayo asked the Soweto City Council yesterday to undertake

# 'Don't evict us without orders'

(121)

not to take any steps to carry out evictions without court orders.

The two women have replied, through their attorneys, to notices served on them by the council in which their certificates of occupation are threatened with cancellation within 30 days, unless they pay their site rent and electricity bills.

A spokesman at their attorneys' office said they had asked the council to give the undertaking within 10 days.

The attorneys have informed the council of alleged irregularities reported to them by their clients.

One of the attorneys said his firm had dealt with cases relating to 70 people who had received summonses. He had on record a list of 40 people who have already been evicted within the past two weeks.

SOPHIE TEMA

He said none of the people who had been evicted had been served personally with the summonses.

"Worst of all is that even people who have a good case against the council are not given the opportunity to defend themselves, because no summonses were served on them personally.

"In fact, we have eye-witnesses who are prepared to swear in court that they once saw a messenger of court push a whole lot of summonses under the door in one of the Jabulani flats ..."

He said both Sisulu and Kuzwayo indicated they were pleased the council had threatened to bring action against them rather than against the township's pensioners.



5/1/81  
21/5/81

127



## Rand Mines plan to house workers

ONE of South Africa's leading mining houses, Rand Mines, is at an advanced stage in developing a programme to enable more of its black workers to live with their families in their own homes — either on its mines or in nearby towns

The chairman of Rand Mines, Mr Dammy Watt, said a key and novel facet will be home ownership on an increasing scale

"It is in this important aspect that the new programme differs from the previous practice of providing homes on a rental basis. We want our employees, both black and white, to have the opportunity to own their homes," Mr Watt said

### Problems

He said this move is prompted by the group's concern for the problems which the migrant labour system is causing — both for the employers and employees. Efforts to find realistic alternatives to the migrant labour system should be encouraged and speeded up

"The settlement of employees in permanent family housing," Mr Watt said, "is an essential step towards creating a stable community and work for all South Africans

"We are encouraging active participation of employees and their representatives in formulating housing schemes which will assist in achieving the solutions we seek"

### Restrictions

He said Rand Mines has for many years been opposed, and remains opposed, to restrictions which compel an employee to live apart from his family during periods of employment

The disruption of family life, the instability of labour resulting from the migratory labour system, and the requirement that workers live on a single basis in mine hostels, run completely counter to the group's philosophy, to its values and to business interests



24/5/87  
127

# 'Something different'

JOHANNESBURG Consolidated Investment company has opened an ultra-modern R41 million hostel complex which will house 1 600 mineworkers in the Free State.

The hostel complex

was unveiled at a roof-wetting ceremony at the H J Joel Gold Mine near Welkom at the weekend. Miners will live two to a room and each flat complex will house 64 miners.

The hostel complex will also have a shopping complex, a tavern, a community hall and a clinic.

JCI chairman, Mr Gordon Waddell, said the complex had provided the opportunity to create something different from the accommodation "provided in our mines in the past".

Mr Waddell said his company would like to have stable workforces on its mines and to be in the position to offer employees the choice and freedom to live with their families on or near to the mines.

rand  
Raulé Sowetan  
**Mines** 21/5/87  
plan to  
house  
workers

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127 s/ram 21/5/87

# IN ON HOUSING ISSUE

THREE newly elected Soweto councillors yesterday said they joined the council with the aim of providing houses for Soweto residents.

They are Mr Daniel Senioja Khumalo (32), for the Emdeni-South ward; Mr Percy Oupa Ramela (33), for the Zola North ward, and Mr Elias Skippa Kekana (43), for the Mofolo ward.

Mr Ramela and Khumalo are the youngest in the council, according to the chairman of the management committee, Mr Letsatsi Radebe. He welcomed the men during the installation ceremony at the council chambers on Tuesday. The ceremony was conducted by the council's secretary, Mr L S Geldenhuys, who was the electoral officer during nominations.

All the newly elected councillors have experienced serious accommodation problems in the past. Mr Khumalo was a sub-tenant in a shack in Tladi, Mr Kekana had a house which was destroyed by youths during the height of unrest in August last year, while Mr Ramela lived with his in-laws in Zola. Mr Khumalo and Mr Kekana moved to

**By  
MOJALEFA  
MOSEKI**

Octavia Flats in Fordsburg and then to Power Park in Soweto, with other councillors.

Mr Khumalo said the youths attacked him because his wife was employed as a council policewoman and Mr Kekana because he served in a councillor's committee in the Tladi ward.

Mr Ramela and Mr Khumalo, who are members of Reverend Modise's International Pentecostal Church, work in Johannesburg. They are employed as artisan and clerk respectively. Mr Kekana is unemployed and so is his wife.

In his short address, Mr Radebe told the men that "the fact that you are young should inspire you to stand the tough battle and achieve your objectives. We are happy and as long as we have the sympathy of Soweto people we will win because God is on our side," he said.

## 2 more families 127 evicted as council rent blitz goes on

By Mudini Maivha

Two more families were evicted yesterday from their Mofolo North homes by council police as Soweto Town Council continued its drive against rent defaulters.

The evictions follow last Thursday's in Pimville, Zone 2, which resulted in the murder of a court messenger and abductions of several residents by blanketed Basotho tribesmen seeking revenge.

The families kicked out during yesterday's blitz were those of Mrs Regina Sibiya (60) of 1660 Nxumalo Street and a woman in the neighbourhood who cannot be named because she was said to have paid rent after the eviction.

The woman was not at home when The Star called.

The council police reportedly threw clothes, blankets and utensils out of Mrs Sibiya's house. Belongings were strewn over the yard.

They took away a TV, bed and portable radio.

"They told us we will get our furniture back when we settle our arrears," said Mr Boyce Sibiya.

The Sibiyas said they were told they owed R1 300 in rent.

They were in arrears even before the rent boycott started last June.

Mr Sibiya said he, his mother and sisters could not settle the R1 300 debt because all were unemployed.

ARGUS 22/5/87 (127/22)

## Attempt to recover Mandela rent is 'presenting problems'

**The Argus Correspondent**

**JOHANNESBURG.** — The Soweto Council has admitted that rent payments for the Mandela home are several months overdue but says action to recover the money presents problems because the home is held in the name of jailed African National Congress leader Mr Nelson Mandela.

Housing Committee chairman Mr Julius Mdlalose said community leaders who had received final warning notices to pay their overdue rent could expect to be treated like all other rent-boycotting residents.

"Where Mrs (Albertina) Sisulu and Dr (Nthato) Motlana and others are concerned there is no problem — they can be summonsed," he said.

### CONTRADICTED

"But in the Mandela case we must be very careful because that house belongs to Mandela himself. We cannot mention what we are going to do because the owner is in jail."

Mr Mdlalose released details drawn from the Mandela housing file which contradicted earlier statements by council spokesmen who claimed rent for the Mandela's Orlando West home was up to date.

He said that a total amount of R652,69 was owed on the Mandela home. Of this, R117,39 was for rent and the balance for services.

The last payment received from the Mandela family lawyer Mr Ismail Ayob was in June last year.

### 'IN THE BLACK'

Mr Mdlalose added that although no cheque had been received during the period of the Soweto rent boycott, the amount received in June was large enough to put Mrs Mandela into the black for several months.

But her credit balance had expired about four months ago, Mr Mdlalose said, and no further payment had been made by Mr Ayob.

But Mr Ayob said clearly he had paid rent for the Soweto house from about 1978 until June last year. He said the house had been allocated to a policeman shortly after Mrs Mandela's banishment, but he had managed to get it restored to the Mandela family the next year.

It is understood that Mrs Mandela was referring to the Brandfort house to which she was banished in stating that she not paid rent for many years.

<sup>22/10/77</sup> <sup>BIDAY</sup>  
**Winnie Mandela threatened with eviction**

THE Soweto City Council's acting town clerk, Louis Geldehuys, said yesterday the council would seek court orders to evict four prominent residents after the expiry date of rent demand notices.

He said after a council meeting that the four, Winnie Mandela, Albertina Sisulu, Ellen Khuzwayo and Nthato Motlana, had been served with notices last week to bring their rent, services, water and electricity payments up to date or face court action

The four would be treated in the the

same way as other rent-boycotting Sowetans, he said

Under no circumstances would the council evict people unless it had obtained court orders

He said Mandela's last rent payment had been paid by family lawyer, Ishmael Ayob, four months ago

Since the rent boycott started almost a year ago, several evictions have been made under court order and threats made to cancel rights to occupation. — Sapa

(127)

# Winnie, Motlana threatened with eviction

(127) DO  
22/5/78

JOHANNESBURG —

The Soweto City Council's acting town clerk, Mr. Louis Geldenhuys, said yesterday the council would seek court orders to evict four prominent residents after the expiry date of rent demand notices

Speaking after a council meeting, he said that the four, Mrs Winnie Mandela, Mrs Albertina Sisulu, Mrs Ellen Khuzwayo and Dr Nthato Motlana, had been served with notices last week to bring their rents and services and water and electricity payments up to date or face court action.

He said these four would be treated in the same way as other rent-boycotting Sowetans had been treated

Under no circumstances would the coun-

cil evict people unless it had obtained court orders

He also said Mrs Mandela's last rent payment had been received from the family lawyer, Mr Ishmael Ayob, four months ago Mrs Mandela says she has not paid rent since she was banished to Brandfort in 1977.

She says claims that she has paid rent are "smears", a Johannesburg newspaper reports

Electricity has been cut off in the homes of Dr Motlana and Mrs Sisulu for two months.

Since the Soweto residents' rent boycott started almost a year ago several evictions have taken place under court order and threats have been made to cancel people's rights to occupation. — Sapa



# Yet another Soweto eviction note: Pay up or get out. But wait, the recipient is a certain Nelson Mandela

MONO BADELA reports on the rents crisis

IN a bid to break the 11-month-old Soweto rent boycott, the government is facing a bizarre prospect: going to court to evict a man it jailed for life almost 23 years ago.

For among the four anti-apartheid activists targeted for eviction in Soweto last week was Winnie Mandela, whose Orlando West bungalow was rented in the name of her husband, jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela. The house is still registered in his name, according to Julius Mdlalose, chairman of the Soweto Town Council Housing Committee.

A final demand from the Soweto Town Council issued last week was addressed to "NR Mandela". If the four months' worth of rent arrears is not paid this week, the council has threatened to take to the courts for an eviction order.

Others served with final notices were United Democratic Front copresident Albertina Sisulu, Soweto Civic Association president Dr Nthato Motlana and author and community leader, Dr Ellen Kuzwayo.

Mandela owes the council R652,69-R117,39 for four months' rent and R535,30 for electricity and site rent.

"We can't defend the action without the official tenant," Mandela's lawyer, Ismail Ayob, said this week. "If the council issues a summons, Nelson Mandela will have to come from Pollsmoor Prison outside Cape Town to defend."

"We are awaiting for the council to take action. It is going to be a problem."

Asked to comment, Mdlalose said: "We'll have to see." But he also told WM that "Nobody is going to be treated differently. People want homes. There are 26 000 of them on the waiting list. If they do not pay they go to court."

He said more than R80-million was owed by Soweto residents. There are 75 000 houses in Soweto and about 50 had been evicted so far.

Mdlalose said this week the council had "blanketed" the township with final warnings.

## Final notice for Motlana?

Yesterday was the deadline for the four community leaders to pay their arrear rentals.

Civil rights lawyer Priscilla Jana said this week both Sisulu and Kuzwayo had obtained 99-year leasehold on their properties and each had paid the full purchase price.

Jana said the Soweto Council was not competent to cancel the certificates of occupation of any resident, nor was failure to pay site rent or service charges grounds for cancellation. Her clients had occupied the dwellings for decades.

Jana claimed electricity meters have not been read on a regular basis in Soweto generally. In a letter written to the council, she said the council was "not entitled to make charges for electricity on any basis other than regular and proper meter readings to determine the actual consumption".

Jana warned the ejection of her clients would be vigorously opposed in court.

The current spate of rent boycotts began in the Vaal Triangle in September 1984. Late in 1985 it spread to Mamelodi and on November 18, police fired on a crowd of rent-hike protesters, many of them pensioners, killing 18.

By November last year the boycott had spread to at least 57 townships. It began in Soweto in June, mainly as a protest against the State of Emergency and troops in the townships, but demands also included the resig-

## Albertina Sisulu, one of hundreds who have had their electricity cut during the rent boycott, cooks by candlelight

nation of the Soweto Council.

Nationwide, the boycott has cost an estimated R500-million in lost revenue and affected more than 500 000 dwellings.

Although sporadic attempts have been made to break the boycott by evicting dozens of families, it has largely held firm.

Mdlalose confirmed that at least 50 Soweto families had been evicted so far, most of them pensioners.

The mother of Solomon Mahlangu and 29 other Mamelodi families face eviction unless they pay their rent, reports **VUSI GUNENE**.

The threat to evict the Mamelodi families follows a ruling in the Pretoria North Magistrate's Court on Wednesday.

Martha Mahlangu owes R848. A United Democratic Front patron, executive member of the Federation of Transvaal Women and the mother of

the first ANC guerrilla to be executed (he died in 1980), she has been in detention since the declaration of the State of Emergency.

Louis Khumalo, former chairman of the Mamelodi Civic Association, owes R1 348 in back rent. At the height of the unrest, Khumalo's house was petrol-bombed and extensively damaged.

The 30 respondents received eviction orders two months ago and were told the council would cancel their residence permits. Their court challenge failed this week.

The rent boycott "has been one of the most sustained, well organised and most effective anti-apartheid protest weapon in recent years," Wits academic Mark Swilling said this week. "We can expect new legislation in parliament this session to give the town councils absolute powers to bring the rent boycott to an end."

# Police fired on as officials try to cut power

SHOTS were reportedly fired at police in Soweto near the home of Mrs Winnie Mandela as officials tried to disconnect her electricity, according to witnesses and her lawyer.

Mr Ismail Ayob said hundreds of police were near the Mandela home in Orlando West as Soweto council officials were in the process of disconnecting the electricity when someone fired shots at the police from an overlooking hill.

Police said they were aware that there was an "incident" near the Mandela home, but had no further details.

Mrs Mandela has been threatened with eviction from her home in Johannesburg's Soweto township for taking part in a rent strike.

"I heard sounds of gunfire and later ambulances arrived," Mrs Mandela's daughter Zinzi said.

Police said they had clashed with blacks on Thursday in Brandfort where a house owned by Mrs Mandela had been gutted.

In a brief statement yesterday, the police said they had fired teargas and pistols after a group of blacks gathered illegally in Brandfort and taunted security force members. One man was slightly injured, they said.

A police spokesman refused to elaborate on the statement when asked if the clash occurred near the Mandela house.

Elsewhere in Soweto, a battalion of mostly black soldiers held a parade in Jabulani to commemorate the fourth anniversary of their being awarded freedom of the black city. — UPI and Sapa-Reuter

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APR 24/87

# 'Soweto evictions are unlawful'

By SELLO SERAPE

THE recent evictions carried out by the Soweto Council against residents for rent arrears were unlawful and, instead, the council itself owed residents money, a spokesman for the law firm, Priscilla Jana and Associates, said this week.

The spokesman said the council was evicting and confiscating valuable properties of residents without court orders or summonses and was "catching" unsuspecting residents by means of notices from the council.

The lawyer, who did not want his name mentioned for professional reasons, told a Press conference that about 60 summonses had been served on Soweto residents previously, but in recent evictions the council had proceeded only armed with notices of eviction.

"Most residents who had their properties confiscated told me the council officials did not have court orders to evict them and notices from the council warning them of this action."

The council alleges that officials or the messenger evict residents without the order," he said. The finding comes after the council threatened to evict Soweto leaders Winnie Mandela, Albertina Sisulu and Ellen Khuzwayo.

The firm - acting on behalf of Sisulu and Khuzwayo - has also sent a telex to the township manager of Orlando West and the council advising them that actions to be taken against their clients would be unlawful if carried out.

The council alleges that site rent plus R535,50 for electricity Khuzwayo's arrears are alleged to amount to R834 for similar services. The lawyer said that site rent, as laid down in the Soweto Town Council by-laws promulgated in 1985, is ultra vires and of no force.

"The council, therefore, cannot lawfully make provisional charges based on estimates of consumption of our clients could be achieved lawfully only in terms of an appropriate order of court and any proceedings by the council would be vigorously opposed in court."

Ellen Kuzwayo



# Randburg Town Council

## Average household account expected to increase 10,42 pc

23/1/82  
24/1/82  
28/1/82

By Toni Younghusband

Randburg householders can expect to pay at least R20 a month more from July 1 for municipal services, the chairman of the town's management committee, Mr Frans Lourens, announced last night.

This figure includes a 17 percent assessment rate increase (R7,83), an additional 81 c for refuse removal, a R3,57 sewerage tariff increase and an extra R8,42 for electricity. This is a total increase of 10,42 percent on the average household account. If the water tariff increase of April 1 is also taken into consideration, this would push the average account up by 13,45 percent.

### ADJUSTMENT 'ESSENTIAL'

The average household bill will therefore increase from R197,91 to R218,54 a month.

In his annual budget speech, Mr Lourens said a deficit of R2 606 821 had been budgeted for the coming financial year. This indicated that an adjustment of assessment rates and other services was essential as the council could not continue to carry the burden.

Assessment rates would therefore go up by 17 percent which, he pointed out, was lower than the corresponding increase of

the Consumer Price Index over the same period.

"Even if Randburg increases its rates by 17 percent and neighbouring towns do not adjust theirs at all, we will still only be the sixth highest rate-payers among the 14 towns on the Reef," Mr Lourens said.

This was because, for many years, Randburg householders were paying a lot less than their neighbours in other towns and the council was absorbing the costs.

Johannesburg has already informed Randburg of a 32,5 percent increase in sewerage tariffs from July 1. This means additional expenditure of R1 019 892 a year for the council.

In January this year, Eskom increased its tariffs by 10 percent which meant an additional expense of R2,6 million a year for the council. The council decided to absorb this increase but also to revise the electricity tariffs during the budget.

An additional R477 850 for street lights has been included in the budget and debited against the electricity account. Additional income of R3 421 526 is therefore needed.

Mr Lourens said some of these increases had to be passed on to the consumers.

### In brief . . .

An 18 ha picnic and recreation area is being planned for Randburg and in his budget address last night management committee chairman Mr Frans Lourens said R200 000 had been allocated for the first phase.

Floodlights, braais, toilets, a walking trail and playground equipment are some of the amenities planned for Golden Harvest Park, which will eventually cover 92 ha as money becomes available.

The picnic area will be fenced and an entrance fee charged.

★ ★ ★

A R220 000 animal shelter has been built in North Riding, Randburg to help the SPCA cope with strays. The shelter will get an annual subsidy of R20 000.

★ ★ ★

R180 000 has been included in the budget for a clinic, only the first phase of the development. The total cost is estimated at R750 000.

The clinic will be part of a regional community centre in Kelly Avenue, Bush Hill. An extra R72 000 has been provided for planning the rest of the centre.

★ ★ ★

R18 000 has been provided to complete a Garden of Remembrance for residents killed on active service. Last year R25 000 was set aside for the project.

### Municipal bill 'is still cheaper'

Randburg has often been labelled an "expensive" place to live yet the total municipal account of the average household is cheaper than those of homes in at least eight other Reef towns and cities, the chairman of Randburg's Management Committee said yesterday.

Mr Frans Lourens said during his budget speech that Randburg's "youth" was a major contributing factor to the cost of living in the town.

While many other Reef towns, such as Johannesburg and Germiston, were over 100 years old, Randburg was new by comparison, being only 28 years old.

"Randburg is still a young town which is growing at an incredible rate. These expansions mean that infrastructure must be provided on a large scale."

CML Times 27/5/87 (127)

# Eviction notice served on Tutu

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Archbishop Desmond Tutu has been served with an eviction notice by the Soweto City Council (SCC) for failing to pay rent for his Orlando West, Soweto, house.

A member of the archbishop's family said yesterday the eviction notice was delivered to his house last Friday by a council official.

Though she did not have full details of the council warning, she explained that the archbishop has not paid rent since the start of the Soweto rent boycott about a year ago and that electricity, water and rent arrears amounted to thousands of rand.

"We have been given 30 days to pay or face eviction," she said.

She said Archbishop Tutu, who visited his Soweto home at the weekend and is presently overseas, took the eviction notice away.

"I do not know what he is planning to do. We are probably going to be thrown out," she said laughing. She also said the archbishop's house was the first in Orlando West to experience electricity cuts during Easter.

SCC officials were not available for comment.

Several other anti-apartheid community leaders have been served with warnings by the SCC. Among them are Mrs Winnie Mandela, Mrs Albertina Sisulu, president of the UDF and wife of imprisoned ANC leader Mr Walter Sisulu, and Dr Nthato Motlana, president of the Soweto Civic Association.

□ Meanwhile, Barry Streek reports that the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, said in Parliament yesterday that blacks in townships outside the homelands owed R271,6 million in back rents and service charges.

CAPE TOWN Archbishop and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Desmond Tutu, had been served with an eviction notice by the Soweto City Council for failing to pay rent for his Orlando West, Soweto, house, a family member said yesterday.

# Archbishop gets eviction notice

B/day

27/5/87

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SIPHO NGCOBO

She said the eviction notice was delivered to Tutu's house last Friday by a council official.

Although the family member did not have full details of the council action, she said Tutu had not paid rent since the start of the Soweto rent boycott about a year ago and that electricity, water and

rent arrears amounted to thousands of rand.

She said: "We have been given 30 days to pay or face eviction. It all happened last week when this guy from the council delivered the notice on Friday."

Council officials were not available for comment.

WHEN BLACK miners move into their single quarters at the H J Joel gold mine in Welkom they will live two to a room with communal colour television and electric out-door braais.

But they will also be surrounded by two 3m high razor wire fences and they will be without families and they will be without families Johannesburg Consolidated Investment (JCI) chairman Gordon Waddell is proud of the Joel complex. Referring to traditional mining accommodation as "a cross between a barracks and a prisoner of war camp," Waddell says something different has been created.

**Break made**

In the sense that the JCI mining villages — "hostels" is a word frowned on in corporate mining circles nowadays — will have a cycling track, a floodlit soccer pitch and an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a break has been made with the past. JCI has not been alone in committing itself to upgrading miners' facilities and promoting home-ownership schemes that would allow for family



accommodation. In his recent annual report, Amcoval chairman Graham Boustred said it was "increasingly evident that the migratory labour system has become untenable." In view of this, Amcoval's housing policy is being reviewed to determine the best way in which employees can be given the opportunity of living with their families near their place of work. He called for the constraints "limiting the number of black

employees permitted to live with their families on or adjacent to mine property to be removed." The trend towards more humane mining accommodation stems from more than altruism. Mining houses increasingly need a more stable and better-trained workforce than a crude migrant labour system can provide. But increasingly miners themselves are demanding an end to migrant labour. This has occurred on two levels. Unofficially, some coalminers in

# Home-from-home but no families

Report: PATRICK BULGER/Pictures: ROBBIE BOTHA

□ LEFT • clean and bright eating areas are a feature of modern miners' accommodation

the Eastern Transvaal have taken a unilateral decision to move their wives into single quarters with them.

On an official level, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has identified the dismantling of migrant labour as a priority. At its fifth annual congress earlier this year, the NUM called on the mining industry to make a clear statement of intent that it intended to eradicate the migrant labour system. It also called for greater worker control of hos-

NUM's assistant general secretary Marcel Golding says the union has sent letters to mining houses asking them to state clearly their position on migrant labour.

While the NUM welcomes housing schemes, it believes "mining houses are using government policy as an excuse to maintain the migrant labour system."

**'Not enough'**

"Far more can be done. The time for corporate disobedience against the racist policies of this government has become imperative," he said in an interview. By continuing to adhere to govern-

ment policy, mining houses were "clearly identifying with state policies."

"The pass laws have been removed, so what prevents the mining houses from scrapping migrant labour? The upgrading of hostels is not enough. We want to see a move away from migrant labour."

In the interim the larger mining groups are building hostels they maintain can be quite easily converted into family accommodation when government gives the go-ahead. But whether miners will be satisfied with such an arrangement will remain a potential source of conflict in the industry.



□ VIEW from the balcony of one of JCI's miners' flats at Welkom

# Half of Soweto's residents pay rent — survey

ABOUT 50% of Soweto's registered tenants are paying their rent, according to a survey conducted by the Soweto City Council.

Town clerk Nico Malan says there are 75 000 houses in Soweto and, the survey shows, about 38 000 residents have been paying rent.

Malan denies the council has threatened to plunge all of Soweto into darkness if people do

SOPHIE TEMA

not pay electricity bills

He says "This will not be possible, because 50% of the residents are paying their rent and it will be unfair to them if their electricity is disconnected"

However, he says the council has been disconnecting electricity to certain homes in some areas since March this year.

And, he warned, the council

will continue to do so, especially in cases where people owe exorbitant amounts.

In Orlando West, 20 000 warning notices have been served on residents since August last year, he says

So far 64 people have been evicted for not paying rent.

But most of them were allowed to return to their homes after they had paid up their rent and service charges, he says

He warns that people who owe large amounts in rent will be served with notices calling on them to pay, failing which the council will hand the matter over to its legal advisers.

Malan says residents who have not been paying rent will not be evicted from their homes without court orders

"We will ensure that the orders are served personally on the persons concerned," he says.



# Tutu faces eviction in Soweto — homeless?

Cape Times 30/5/87  
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JOHANNESBURG. — Cape Town's Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu might soon not have a place to stay, he said on his return to South Africa after a two-week trip that included stops in Brazil, Trinidad and the United States.

Archbishop Tutu, speaking briefly to reporters on his arrival from Holland yesterday, said: "It looks as if I am going to be without a house."

He was commenting on an eviction notice served on him by the Soweto City Council for not paying rent and talk that he may not be able to stay in his official residence, Bishops court, because of the Group Areas Act.

When the Cape Times asked the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Piet Badenhorst, whether Archbishop Tutu would be prosecuted under the Group Areas Act for living in Bishops court, Mr Badenhorst replied on May 12: "I have got nothing to do with Archbishop Tutu. The house belongs to the church and not to Tutu."

Later, on May 17, Mr Badenhorst said he believed the homes of ministers should be excluded from the act.

He stressed that he was not looking for confrontation with the churches over the issue and would not take action against Archbishop Tutu.

The archbishop said yesterday that he had been well received everywhere he went and said the rest of the world was "concerned" about the situation in South Africa and wanted to see change.

Commenting on the recent advertising campaign of the State President, Mr P W Botha, in which he said he was willing to negotiate with black leaders of goodwill, Archbishop Tutu said: "I am quite ready to speak to him but under some very small conditions."

These included lifting the state of emergency, releasing all detainees and political prisoners and unbanning organizations.

"Let the people choose who will speak," he said. — Sapa

Rents defiance is estimated to have costs authorities more than R190 million . . .

The response switches from a massive poster campaign to eviction notices for black leaders

# township rent 'strike' <sup>127</sup> <sup>11/6/87</sup> ~~11/6/87~~ is looming in

**SOwETO** — One of the most sustained and expensive black protests against white rule in South Africa could be approaching a showdown

For 11 months hundreds of thousands of tenants in some 50 black townships across the country have refused to pay rent to back a long list of demands, including the withdrawal of security forces from the townships and the release of political prisoners

The rent action is not only a massive gesture of defiance to the State, it has cost authorities an estimated R190 million in lost revenue

In Soweto, the grant black township near Johannesburg, 40 000 of the 75 000 dwellings are council-owned. They are let for rents of between R52 and R120 a month

The initial response to the rent "strike" was an expensive poster

campaign. Huge coloured billboards were erected in the townships proclaiming in Zulu, Sotho English that water and electricity services "are a bargain — but even bargains must be paid for"

Recently the Government tried tougher tactics

It served orders on black leaders, including Mrs Winnie Mandela and Mrs Albertina Sisulu, threatening to evict them from their bungalow homes in Soweto if they did not pay rent arrears

Mrs Mandela, wife of jailed black leader Nelson Mandela, and Mrs Sisulu, whose husband Walter, is also behind bars, both say they will not pay

Scores of ordinary Sowetans have already been evicted for refusing to pay rent, leading to large-scale protests which included a three-day strike last

month

Residents say any attempt to evict Mrs Mandela, Mrs Sisulu or other prominent black figures could mean trouble in a township already highly politicised by its long history as a centre of black protest

The Soweto Town Council and Government officials say more and more tenants have resumed paying rent

The Town Clerk, Mr Nico Malan, said "We are now collecting more than R3 million a month, compared with the normal R7 million"

The Soweto Civic Association, which launched the rent action, disputes this, saying most Sowetans are still refusing to pay up

According to research groups monitoring the rents "strike" at least 450 000 households, or four million people nationwide, were

refusing to pay rent at the beginning of the year. More recent figures are not available

The township councils, partly funded by rent revenues, are a key element in the Government's policy of meeting the demands by urban blacks for a political voice

But anti-apartheid organisations (including the UDF, which claims two million members) dismiss the councils as a sop aimed at ensuring the continued exclusion of blacks from politics at the national level

In Soweto in 1978, turn-out for the election of black council members was less than 6%

● The Community Research Group, a human rights monitoring group based at the University of the Witwatersrand, said at least 36 black councils have collapsed because of the financial loss from the rent strikes. — Sapa-Reuter

**Archbishop Desmond Tutu: the Soweto City Council served him with an eviction notice for failing to pay rent for his Soweto house.**



BOTHA

MAHLATSI

# Party for PW Lekoa cash plea

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16/87

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

THE Lekoa Council has appealed to 50 Vaal Triangle companies for donations to finance Mr P W Botha's visit to the area on Thursday.

The council has a R51-million deficit caused by the non-payment of rents since 1984

In a letter to the firms, the town clerk, Mr N P Louw, says the visit by Mr Botha has "unfortunately placed the council in need of an additional R10 000 to finance this auspicious occasion"

"To enable the city council of Lekoa to facilitate the many arrangements pertaining to the visit of the State President, my council humbly applies to your firm for any cash donation you may consider

"This will augment the limited resources of Lekoa to make this occasion a real milestone in the history of the Vaal Triangle

"It is trusted that many of these firms will sponsor this historic occasion financially or in kind which will alleviate the financial burden of the council. Your co-operation is sincerely esteemed," the letter says

The council has resolved at its monthly meeting to invite Mr Botha to address the council and residents as well as to receive the freedom of the Vaal Triangle townships

It has also resolved to inform the State President about the outstanding rental and service charges which amount to R51-million.

It will ask Mr Botha to reintroduce a compulsory stop order system to force rent defaulters to pay their tariffs

There has been tension and anger in the Vaal Triangle townships since it became known that the State President will be given the freedom of the area

Numerous council workers, schoolteachers and pupils claim they have been "blackmailed" into taking part in the ceremony in an "operation clean-up" of the local townships

They have been asked to clean streets and renovate offices

Several organisations, including trade unions, the Vaal Civic Association, the Vaal Students Youth Organisation, and teachers organisations have attacked the proposed visit by the President.

Teachers and pupils who have been invited to entertain guests have indicated their unwillingness to participate

cases in respect of serious crime were reported For the corresponding period during 1987, 1 327 cases in respect of serious crime were reported, which represents a decrease of 33.6%

Langa High School. books

\*15 Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid

Whether any Standard 10 pupils at the Langa High School were not in possession of their own copies of the (a) mathematics text-book and (b) English setwork books at any stage during the current school year, if so, (i) at what stage, (ii) why, (iii) what percentage of these pupils was involved and (iv) what action has been taken in this regard?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION

- (d) Yes
- (b) Yes

*Handwritten signature and date: Howard 26/6/87*

- (i) From date of enrolment
- (ii) Unforeseen increase in the number of pupils
- (iii) Mathematics 13.7%, English 13.7%
- (iv) This matter is being investigated by a departmental committee and relates also to the exposition given in the reply to Question No 13

Mr K M ANDREW Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, may I ask him just to confirm what he said, viz that he is suggesting that 87% of the matric pupils at Langa High School had mathematics and English setwork books—that 87% had them

The DEPUTY MINISTER Yes, Sir, that was what I said That is the information at my disposal at the moment

Seal Island

\*16 Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Environment Affairs

- (1) Whether his Department initiated the

*Handwritten signature and date: Howard 26/6/87*

experiment whereby Cape fur seals were shooed away from Seal Island during October-November 1986, if so, why, if not, on what authority was the experiment approved and conducted.

- (2) whether his Department monitored the effects of this experiment, if not, why not, if so what were the effects,

- (3) whether his Department has carried out any research into the scientific merits of this experiment, if so, what was the nature of the scientific evidence in support of this experiment,

- (4) whether his Department keeps statistics on the size of the Cape fur seal colony on Seal Island if not, why not, if so, what was the size of this colony in 1971 and 1986 respectively?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS

- (1) Yes My predecessor initiated the experiment in consultation with members of the fishing industry The experiment was done as part of the late Minister's stated policy to reduce seal numbers

- (2) Yes The experiment was monitored by means of questionnaire forms completed by industry personnel on the island and by six aerial surveys conducted by the Sea Fisheries Research Institute from 17 December 1986 to 11 February 1987

The effects were that the number of pups born on the island was about 5 000 compared to the usual 10 000-12 000 Also large sections of the island were cleared of seals While some dead pups are washed ashore each year as a normal occurrence, some 4 500 dead pups were washed ashore during the experiment There is no scientific evidence to determine how many pups were washed ashore as a direct result of the experiment

- (3) No The monitoring programme was however designed to reveal the merits or otherwise of the experiment

- (4) Yes Statistics on the size of the colony are kept Total population in 1971 was about 58 000 seals, and in 1986 about 20 000 seals

Crude oil

\*17 Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology

- (1) What was the average rand cost per barrel of crude oil imported into the Republic in 1986,

- (2) what was the rand cost per barrel of such oil imported into the Republic as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY

- (1) R33.41 landed cost (weighted average)
- (2) R35.85 landed cost for cargo in May 1987

\*18 Mr R M BURROWS—National Education [Replv standing over]

Winnie Mandela

\*19 Dr F HARTZENBERG asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

- (1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purposes of his reply, is in arrears with the house rent, service and other charges owing by her to institutions under his control, if so, (a) what total amount is so owing by her, (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished and (c) what is the name of the person concerned

- (2) whether any steps are being taken or are contemplated to collect the amounts in arrears, if not, why not, if so, what steps?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION (for the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning):

- (1) Yes

*Handwritten signature and date: Howard 26/6/87*

- (a) R773.09
- (b) 30 April 1987
- (c) Winnie Mandela
- (2) Yes A notice to pay within 7 days has been issued on 12 May 1987 Electricity supply has been discontinued on 22 May 1987

Klaas de Jonge

\*20 Mr T LANGLEY asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 36 on 17 February 1987, the negotiations between his Department and the Dutch Government about Mr Klaas de Jonge has been concluded, if not, (a) why not and (b) what is the present position, if so with what result,
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- (1) No

- (a) and (b) Discussions between the two Governments are continuing This matter involves the scrutiny of complicated principles of international law and delicate political implications which inevitably take time

- (2) Not at this stage

†Mr F J LEROUX Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I want to ask him the following question I understand that according to Press reports, he said that the detention of Mr De Jonge does not cost the South African Government anything Is it correct that he made such a statement, and if so, does he stand by what he said?

†The MINISTER No, Mr Speaker, I did not make such a statement What I did say, was that, practically speaking, the Dutch Government is paying for the building, the medical costs and for his food That is what I said

*Handwritten initials: PD*

(27)

# Thokoza squatters face eviction - families paid R350 for sites



MRS PAULINE Nkabinde . . . may be evicted.

ABOUT 60 squatter families in Thokoza, near Alberton, who claim they "paid" a councillor between R200 and R350 for sites to build shacks, now face eviction.

The families yesterday told the *Sowetan* that they paid the money to a former councillor.

They said the councillor told them that the land where the shacks were erected belonged to him.

Chairman of the Thokoza administrators, Mr Jacob Sekete, yesterday denied that the land belonged to the councillor

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

The councillor denied that he took monies from the families. Mr Sekete said the administrators would take action against the squatter families because they had no right to erect shacks next to a water reservoir.

The families said they gave the councillor the money between January and March this year. They added that they were not given receipts. A spokesperson for the squatters, Mrs Paulinah Nkabinde, said that last week the councillor told them that from this month the

families would have to pay monthly "rent" of R60 each to him.

There is neither water nor toilets at the squatter camp. Yesterday more families arrived at the camp to erect new shacks.

Mr Sekete said the families would be evicted because they had no right to occupy the area.

The councillor is one of five who were dismissed last Monday by the administrator of the Transvaal who dissolved the Thokoza Council because of its "unsound position."

# Bad soil makes voetstoets home buying dangerous,

4/6/87 B1 Day (127)

THE Consumer Council has called for the abolition of "voetstoets" clauses in house sales because, it says, Transvaal houses are increasingly cracking due to soil problems.

It says 99% of house sales are under "voetstoets" terms and unsuspecting buyers have no legal recourse when their houses, patched up with potato sacks and painted over, begin cracking in a few months.

Two-thirds of SA has soil which can cause building problems, and ignoring this in construction adds an extra R100m a year to the country's

**NORMAN SHEPHERD**

home repair bill

Consumer Council complaints department head Bill Morris said the council had received complaints of about 15 houses cracking in Roodebult (Germiston) and several in Queenswood, Pretoria North, Elandspoor, Rietfontein, Schoemansville, New State (Springs), Dennesig Extension 13 (Middelburg) and Kibler Park (Johannesburg)

He said these complaints represent only 1% of houses which have

long cracks of 2cm or wider.

A Pretoria municipal official who did not want to be named said almost the whole capital was subject to soil problems which were causing the municipality "colossal" problems. Tests found Princess Park, close to the city centre, had poor soil

Laudium had sinkholes and parts of Lynnwood had soft turf but he stressed that "it is advisable to carry out ground investigations before building in Pretoria"

He said he knew of problems in Queenswood, Pretoria North and Rietfontein but had received no complaints of houses cracking from Elandspoor.

A Germiston town planning official said a bank had subdivided a Klipworth agricultural holding into 60 residential stands for sale — township establishment procedure was not required in that area — and houses there cracked.

Middelburg town engineer Theuns Taljaard said Dennesig was proclaimed in 1980 and was now 80% built-up.

"We did geological surveys on parts of it in terms of the ordinance but it is a big area with 1 000 stands. Engineers excavated 20 test pits and from that decided the area was safe. But people were warned and the problem still remains with the owner as soil conditions vary from one stand to another

"It is also sometimes difficult to detect soil problems and in certain cases poor materials or faulty workmanship may be to blame."

# Tutu follows the Sisulus, Mandelas, in eviction saga

By MONO BADELA

FIRST it was Albertina Sisulu, then it was Nelson Mandela — and now it is Desmond Tutu who must "pay up or quit his Soweto home".

The Anglican archbishop this week became the focal point of Pretoria's renewed determination to crush an 11-month rent boycott that has so far cost the authorities more than R500-million in lost revenue.

Tutu is currently on tour in South America and the Caribbean, but a member of his family said a final notice was delivered to his Phefeni, Soweto home. Although he lives at the Cape Town house reserved for the head of the Anglican church, Tutu has retained his home in Soweto.

"Some guy came to the house last Friday and delivered the notice," said the family member. The archbishop has not paid his rent since last June.

Soweto housing director Estelle Bester confirmed that Tutu had been given a final warning to pay his arrears, which amount to "thousands of rands", within 30 days.

"It is not an eviction notice. It is a notice warning him that if he does not pay within a certain period, further steps would be taken," she said.

Tutu is the latest in a list of anti-apartheid activists to be threatened with eviction for failing to pay rent and service charges.

On May 13, Soweto Council officials delivered similar warnings to Winnie Mandela, the wife of jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela (in whose name the house is registered), Albertina Sisulu, co-president of the United Democratic Front; Dr Nthato Motlana, Soweto Civic Association chairman; and author and social worker Dr Ellen Kuzwayo. Their seven-day notice period expired last week.

Although the Soweto Council appears reluctant to move against Mandela — because it could mean evicting her husband from a house he has been unable to live in since beginning a life sentence more than 20 years ago — electricity has been cut off to the other activists.

The rent boycott, which has been joined by the residents of 50 black townships throughout the country, began in earnest when the State of Emergency was declared on June 12 last year. Residents have been refusing to pay rent, water and electricity charges as a form of non-violent protest against the government's black local authorities, contending they are not representative.

According to figures released this week by Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Chris Heunis, at the end of March more than R271-million was owed in rent.

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# Blacks 'new force in home upgrading'

(127) SMC 6/6/87

Black homeowners in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area are becoming a growing force in the home-improvements market with 42 percent now spending money on upgrading their homes

This has emerged from a market-research project by Analytical Marketing, which surveyed 600 randomly selected households in Soweto and in townships on the Reef, in the Vaal area and in Pretoria.

Mr Stewart Krook, head of the multi-client division of Analytical Marketing, said the survey was done because there was a lack of information about black homes.

"Changes in the law governing black housing, as well as the abolition of influx control, has made it easier for urban blacks to own homes," he said. These developments opened up new marketing

## WINNIE GRAHAM

opportunities

The survey showed that homeowners in the "A-income" group were spending R2 200 a year on home improvements.

He said 6 percent listed the installation of ceramic tiles as a priority home improvement. About 42 percent of the households had bathrooms and of these 87 percent had proper baths.

The most popular method of doing home improvements was not do-it-yourself, but the purchasing of materials and the employment of a labourer to do the work.

There tended to be two main groups who did home improvements: people in lower-income brackets living in four-roomed houses and people in high-income brackets who lived in large houses between five and 10 years old

"Home improvements are not needed in the new houses as they still match their owners' living standards," Mr Krook said. "They are also not done on old houses as they are generally small, have a large household size and low income. In the circumstances, home improvements are obviously not a priority."

He said the audit of black township housing had analysed the home-improvement market by detailing such specifics as income categories, size and age of households, priority of improvements, and sources from which materials were bought.

Mr Krook said "It appears the building industry is strongly geared to low-cost housing. This, coupled with the massive housing backlog, presents many opportunities to all establishments dealing in any way with the market."



Thousands of vintage car en- It was a very special occasion

# Ennerdale bodies to fight for house price reduction

By Michael Tissong *SPAL 8/6/87*

An organisation of home owners in Ennerdale Ext 5 has agreed to work with the Ennerdale Management Committee (EMC) to fight for a price reduction totalling hundreds of thousands of rands on defective Johannesburg City Council-built houses.

The agreement was reached after a heated meeting of the EMC and the Ennerdale Ext 5 Steering Action Committee on Saturday.

The latter accused the EMC of being "stooges" of the city council and issued a statement that the EMC, which had a close relationship with the council, did not represent Ext 5.

The committee listed defects such as faulty electrical installations which nearly caused a house to burn down last month, thin foundations, walls which se-

parated because the bricks were not interlinked, cracked walls and low floor levels which led to flooding.

The action committee said it was prepared to work with the EMC if it would help it fight for a price reduction from between R20 000 and R30 000 to about R9 000.

Residents wanted repairs to include underfloor piling and the re-building of the walls on wider and firmer foundations to steady the structures.

The EMC chairman, Mr Micky Abader, said: "I think we are in agreement. We all come from Johannesburg and the benefits of the money generated by the richest city in the country have been going to the white suburbs.

"We will work together. Saying 'Dankie, baas' has come to an end."

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# Rent boycott: A lawyer clarifies some of the issues

WITH the Soweto rent boycott over a year old, many residents have been evicted from their homes for not paying rent and service charges. This week the *Sowetan* examines the boycott and we kick off the series with the first part of MOKONE MOLETE's interview with a lawyer who believes that many of the evictions and the cutting off of electricity are illegal. The lawyer may not be named for professional reasons

## FOCUS

**QUESTION:** What is the legal position of people who have not been paying rent?

**ANSWER:** There is quite a big distinction between people who have bought houses under the 99-year-leasehold system and people who occupy the houses as tenants and people who have the so-called right of occupation

There is a lot of confusion about people who have the right of occupation and people who have 99-year-leasehold. The right of occupation is a very weak right. It has very little security. The first question to be considered is: How much money do individual Soweto residents owe the council?

The council is suing people for rent and service charges as well as for metered water and electricity. The amounts that people have been charged are on average about R54 (a month) for rent and services excluding electricity and water.

We argue that consid-

erable portions of the service charges are in fact invalid.

**QUESTION:** Like what?

**ANSWER:** In particular a component called site rental which is R13,32. We believe that the whole proclamation that set this amount is *ultra vires* (beyond the powers of the Soweto City Council). We believe that this amount is unlawful. In other words, they have no right to charge this amount.

**Q:** Is that for all three types of occupants?

**A:** Yes. Site rental is not an adequate description, it is various charges put together. We believe that people who have been paying this should get a credit for it.

Now, that is the very least. It is possible that other charges are also *ultra vires*. This has still to be tested in court.

Depending on how optimistic a viewpoint we take on the courts interpreting our arguments, we believe that the rent could be as low as R12,50 a month. At the very least we believe that there is a Supreme Court

precedent that the R13,50 is out. The Supreme Court must still decide what kind of credit Soweto residents have.

We believe that it is possible for residents to set off their credit against the amounts that they have not been paying (since the beginning of the boycott).

Thus we argue that residents who have been in their houses for at least five years do not owe the council any money at all.

**Q:** The rent boycott has been on for at least a year. Have you still not found a test case?

**A:** We are preparing one and legal argument but we still do not have a suitable applicant.

**Q:** A number of people have been evicted from their homes and a number have had their electricity cut off. What is the position of such people?

**A:** There are two types of people who have been evicted. Those who have been evicted with court orders and those who have been evicted without. The Supreme Court ruled recently that the Soweto Council is entitled to evict people without a court order in terms of Section 65 of the Housing Act.

We are appealing against that judgment. In any event it does not look as if the council is going to make use of this remedy.

This is a drastic remedy that should not be in our law books in the first place. It has no place in a civilised system of law. There should be no right to evict people without recourse to the court. And this is what Section 65 is doing.

The other way that people are being evicted is through default judgments. People have

been served with summonses by the messenger of court. These people did not answer to the summons to defend the action.

These people are able to have the judgments set aside because they have a *bona fide* defence.

Secondly, because it appears that none of them actually received the summonses, it seems to us that the messenger of the court is not doing his job. He is not serving them.

**Q:** What is actually happening?

**A:** We have affidavits from people at the Jabulani Flats who say that a messenger of the court took a bunch of summonses for the flats and just threw them into one of the buildings. We believe this is happening throughout Soweto.

**Q:** Can you explain the different types of house dwellers in Soweto?

**A:** People who have registered 99-year-leasehold rights have to be distinguished from people who still have to pay off theirs and from those who have paid but whose leases are yet to be registered. Those who have not paid and those whose leases have not been registered yet do not enjoy much security.

The council can issue summonses against the people whose rights have not been registered, assuming that they owe money for service charges.

The council can get a judgment against them but cannot evict them. In terms of the judgment the council must attach their movable property. If the money from the movable property is not enough to pay off for their service arrears, the council can apply for the sale of the property. In other words you can sell the property but you cannot kick the owners out.

People who have not paid off their contracts face the very serious risk that their contracts could be cancelled if it can be shown that they are in arrears with their service charges and their lease. The council can also

retain all the money that these people have paid.

The position of people whose rights have not been registered is not clear.

Then there is the question of the Soweto Council asking for the eviction of the people who are renting their houses. We do not believe that the Council has the right to eject people even if you are in arrears.

We do not believe that they have an automatic right to evict. We believe that they should give notices that they intend to eject the resident and that he should be given time to speak to the council to explain his financial position.

Then the township manager may exercise his discretion to order ejection. And once he has ordered the ejection he may go to a court and ask for a formal ejection.

**Q:** Even then, is the final decision not with the courts?

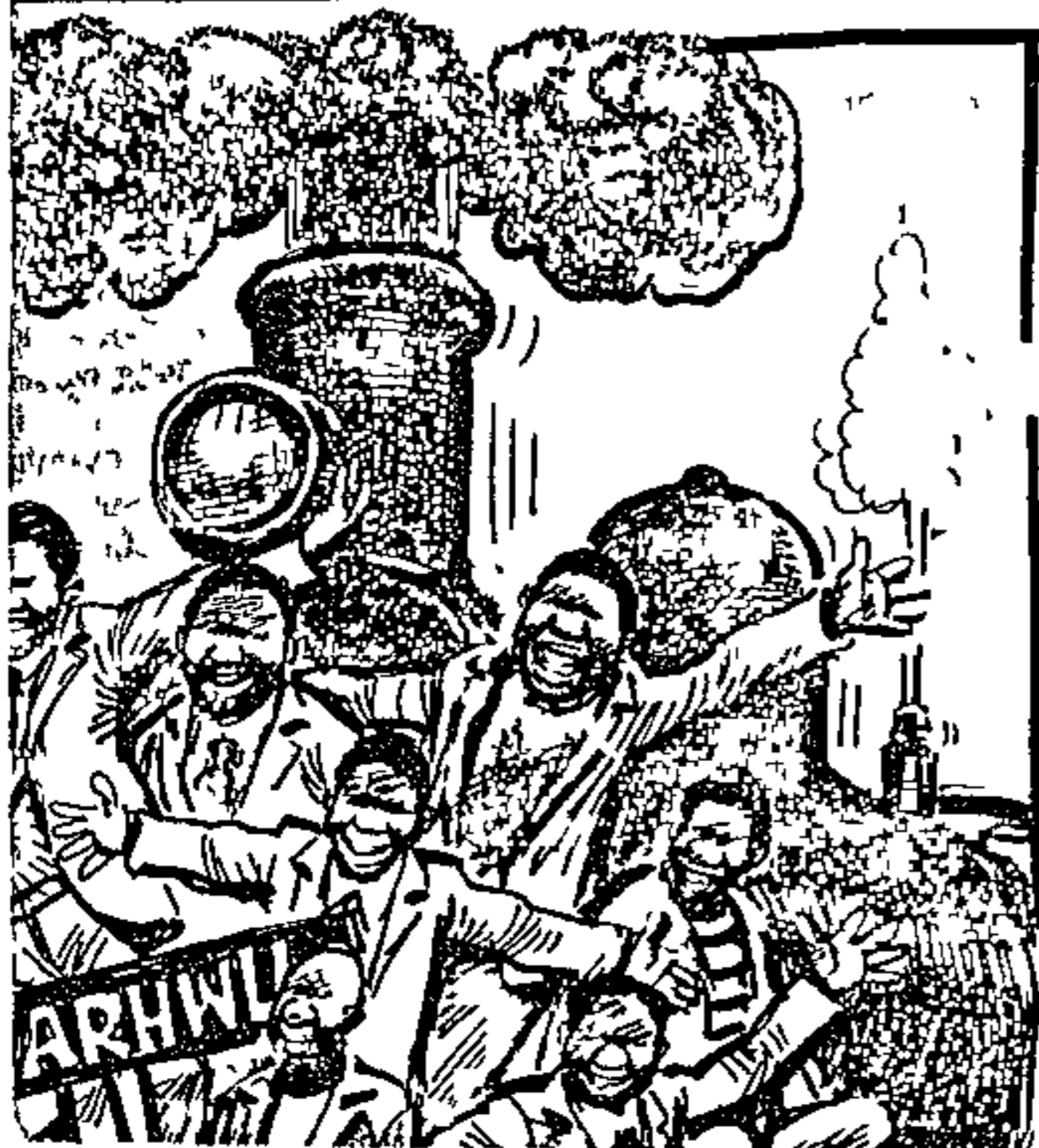
**A:** The court can't eject a resident until the council has ejected him. The council can't eject a resident until he has been given a hearing.

**Q:** So what is the position of a person who has received an eviction order?

**A:** If it is a court ejection, it is a valid order of the court. There are two sides to this issue. I defend my action, I win the case, you do not defend the action, you lose the case. So the people who have been given court orders are being severely prejudiced.

It is understandable that there is a provision in the law that the council is compelled to give residents a hearing.

• Continued tomorrow



THE *Sowetan* today remembers journalists around the country who are in detention.

• Zwelakhe Sisulu, Editor of the *New Nation*, who has been in detention under the emergency regulations for 177 days.

• Mzayifani Hoffman of *Lentswe* in the Western Transvaal, who has been detained under emergency

# 50 houses to be sold

Owners

owe

council

rent

(127)  
Sowetan  
9/6/87

FIFTY houses belonging to "rent defaulters" will be auctioned by the Katlehong Town Council this morning

The houses are in the township's Shongweni, Tsolo, Credit, Ndlazi, Mpeli and Mosikili sections

Mr Fanie Mare, the town clerk of Katlehong, yesterday said the owners

By MZIKAYISE  
EDOM

of the houses owed the council thousands of rands

He refused to comment further about the selling of the houses. He referred the *Sowetan* to the township's mayor, Mr Thami Siluma. Mr Siluma was not available

for comment

Another senior official of the council, who asked not to be named, said the council had decided to sell the houses on auction after their owners had failed to heed warnings to pay their rent

Mr Mare said Katlehong residents owed about R5-million in rent

● To Page 2

## Sale of houses

● From Page 1

arrears.

The Katlehong council is believed to be the first in the country to sell houses of rent defaulters. In Soweto and the Vaal Triangle rent defaulters have been evicted for failing to pay their rent.

The Katlehong council placed advertisements in the *Sowetan* last month stating that the houses shall be sold "voetstoots" (as is)

● The auction will start at 10am at the offices of the Alberton messenger of the court, Johria Court, 4 Du Plessis Road

(127)

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# FOCUS

**QUESTION:** So what is the position of a person who has received an eviction order?

**Answer:** If it is a court ejection, it is a valid order of the court. There are two sides to this issue. I defend my action, I win the case, you do not defend the action, you lose the case. So the people who have been given court orders are being severely prejudiced.

It is understandable that there is a provision in the law that the council is compelled to give residents a hearing.

A lot of the people who have been evicted are pensioners, old people, sick people. The council has ejected people without regard for income or age. It is simply evicting people willy-nilly.

A lot of notices warn people that they intend to cancel their right of occupation. These notices seem to be an attempt by the council to overcome the problem of the court not having the right to evict people.

But most of the notices we have seen so far are bad notices.

**Q** You mean bad in law or in morality?

**A** They are bad in law. They are addressed to people whose positions differ. They purport to cancel a resident's right of occupation without giving him a hearing. They only talk of a right to appeal which is unacceptable.

We believe though that residents should take note of these notices and show them to their lawyers. People must respond to the notices.

**Q** What sort of person has the right of occupation?

**WITH** the Soweto rent boycott more than a year old, many residents have been evicted from their homes for not paying rent and service charges. This is the second part of MOKONE MOLETE's interview with a lawyer who believes that many of the evictions and the cutting of electricity are illegal. The lawyer may not be named for professional reasons.

# What to do about eviction notices

**A** These are people who bought their houses before the 99-year-leasehold system was introduced. They have only bought improvements to their houses.

**Q** What about people whose services have been cut off?

**A** If you are in arrears with electricity, the council can cut it off. If you are not, the council may not cut it off. You are entitled to a court order to have your electricity switched on again.

The big question is: Do residents owe or do they not owe the council for

electricity?

Our experience is that the Soweto Council has been charging residents provisional amounts for water and electricity. In other words, they guess the residents' consumption. They have been charging residents without reading the meters.

Many people have come to us complaining about the high electricity charges that have been levied against them.

Our advice to these people is that they should compare the units on their bills with what is actually registered on their meters.

**Q** How can they do this when their meters are locked by the council?

**A** In that case it is up to the council to prove that so many units have been used. It is unsatisfactory that the council can charge for electricity when the boxes are locked.

In other words they are telling the residents how much they are buying when they are not in a position to check it.

We believe and this has been confirmed by a recent article in the *Sowetan* that people are being over-charged for electricity. Further, we notice that recent electricity bills reflect consumption of zero.

I think that they have realised that they have been making a mistake.

**Q** If the consumption is zero it means the person should not pay anything?

**A** That's right but then they are still charging for arrears. The council realises that they cannot continue charging provisional amounts — because they are way in excess of the real amounts — until they get an opportunity to read the meters.

**Q** What about people who have paid enough rent to pay for their houses?

**A** Legally they are in no better position than the person who took occupation a year ago. There is an enormous moral duty on the council to give them the houses. These houses were built long ago and very cheaply. To charge people rent for these houses is exploitative.

The council's argument is that it is worried about the service charges.

But these service charges are very very high. We should also compare the service charges that the Soweto Council levies against those charged by white municipalities. Soweto Council's charges compare very badly.

The question is why

are the Soweto charges so high?

The first point is that white services are subsidised by rates charged by businesses in their areas. These amount to about 40 percent of the subsidy for the white ratepayer.

The irony is that black workers who work in these businesses are generating the wealth that gets paid to white municipalities to subsidise white ratepayers, while people in Soweto have to pay everything themselves.

Black residents have been subsidising white residents and it is about time that the money is ploughed back to the black areas.

**Q** Can one assume that the envisaged regional services councils (RSCs) will remedy the situation?

**A** Not at all. First of all, the charges that will be levied by the RSCs are nothing compared to the amounts that are being levied by the municipalities.

Secondly, voting is controlled by the contribution of various municipalities.

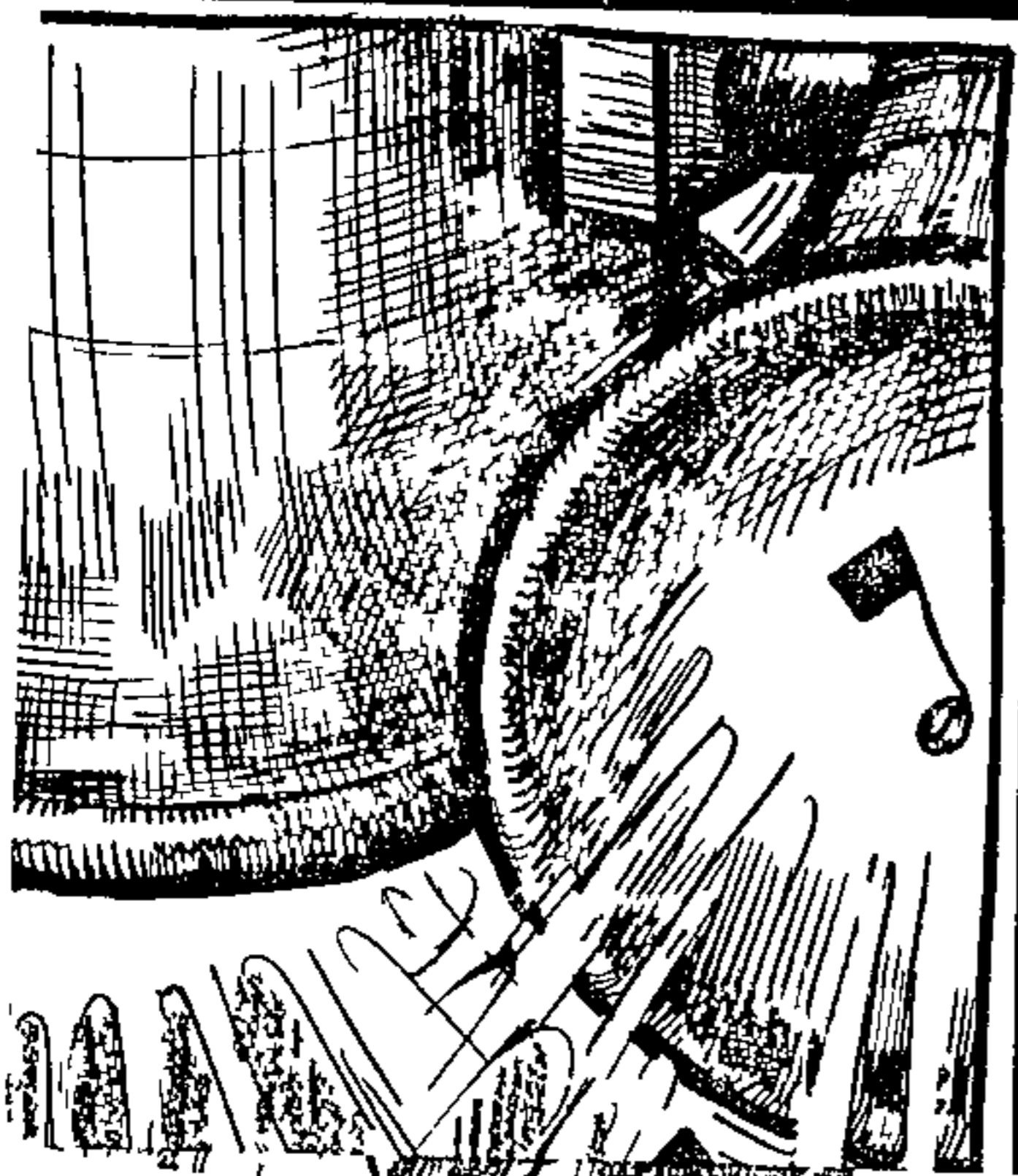
So the white municipalities will have more than 80 percent voting power.

In effect, black representatives on these councils are going to discover that they have no power at all. Appointments to the council are political appointments, and black representatives are going to have to persuade Nationalists to plough money into black areas. I cannot see them succeeding in this.

## Lest we forget...

THE *Sowetan* today remembers journalists around the country who are in detention:

- Zwelakhe Sisulu, Editor of the *New Nation*, who has been in detention under the emergency regulations for 178 days;
- Mzayifani Hoffman of *Lentswe* in the Western Transvaal, who has been detained under emergency



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*[Handwritten scribble]*

*Sonnetin*  
*9/6/87*

# Sabmawu wins case

A TOTAL of 112 members of the South African Black Municipality Workers' Union will return to their East Rand hostel following a Rand Supreme Court ruling which yesterday nullified their eviction by the Katlehong Town Council.

The ruling was granted by Mr Justice H C J Flemming against the mayor of Katlehong, Mr Thami Siluma after an interdict by Sabmawu member Mr Elliot Mahlabane

Sabmawu's counsel, Mr N A Cassim, argued that it was illegal for any town council to evict anyone without an eviction order from the Supreme Court

Mr Justice Flemming said that he agreed with Mr Cassim and ordered the reinstatement of Mr Mahlabane until the matter was fully heard on June 26. The council should reply in papers on June 15. Costs were reserved

# Blacks and big business attack 'rent collector law'

By Michael Tissong

Black political groups and big business today attacked Government plans to force an end to the rent boycott in black townships.

The Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo) and the United Democratic Front (UDF), opposed legislation which would turn employers into rent collectors. Assocom and the American Chamber of Commerce (Amcham) also condemned the legislation.

The proposed law would give local authorities the power to force employers to deduct residents' debts from employees' pay.

UDF president Mrs Albertina Sisulu warned, "From the residents' side, there is no way this thing will work. It now depends on the employers."

Azapo president Mr Nkosi Molala said the legislation was a "cowardly and dangerous evasion of the issues"

Assocom spokesman Mr V Brett said businessmen were "extremely unhappy" about the proposed law.

He added "Debtors should be summoned through the courts. This Bill appears to be by-passing the normal judicial process."

Mr Adrian Botha, executive director of Amcham, said his organisation opposed the Rent Bill and added "We do not believe it is the employer's duty to extract payment from employees for things like outstanding rents."

He said the proposed law would drag foreign, particularly American, companies into the political arena.

# RENT GOVT ACTS

## Coun

THE Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday refused the Mamelodi Town Council leave to appeal against a recent court decision that the R6-a-month rent increase implemented in September 1984, was null and void

The council's bid to appeal followed a successful application by a local resident, Mr Marcus Maredi, who was granted an order on February 25 this year nullifying the R6 increase that was effective from September 1, 1984. Mr Maredi submitted at the time that the council did not notify residents about the increases in English

## Bosses will deduct debt from wages

**THE Government has re-introduced controversial legislation to end the rent boycott in black townships and claim the millions of rands in outstanding debts.**

Mrs Helen Suzman, Progressive Federal Party spokesman said yesterday "The Government is mad. It was forced to withdraw the legislation last year. It will make the problem worse."

In terms of the legislation local authorities will be able to force employers to deduct the debts from salaries of their employees without going through normal legal procedures.

The legislation has been re-introduced by Minister of Constitutional Development, Mr Chris Heunis, who in an accompanying memorandum claims the legislation provides uniformity between all race groups for the recovery of money which was at present controlled by provincial ordinances for white, Indians and coloureds and by regulation for blacks.



MRS HELEN Suzman.

He then added a rider that "there is also a need for a summary procedure for the recovery of amounts due."

Fourteen days after a notice has been issued for outstanding rent or municipal services a local authority can file the notice with a magistrate's court and it would then have "all effects of a civil judgment lawfully given."

Apart from other legal steps the local authority would then be empowered

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ed to ask the clerk of the court for a garnishing order.

Employers will face a maximum fine of R2 000 if they failed to implement the order and employees can be fined a maximum of R1 000 for not disclosing the name of their employer.

The legislation was blocked in a Parliamentary standing committee last year after a widespread outcry and condemnation from the business sector.

Mrs Suzman said the move was "extremely unwise at a time of unrest and poverty caused by widespread unemployment."

The Government should rather attempt to resolve the rent boycott by holding discussions with the real representatives of the community — the civic action committees — instead of the community councils.

She suggested that all homes occupied for more than five years should have ownership transferred and that those people who had already bought their homes should have the money credited to them against services.

• Meanwhile two main black extra-parliament-

ary political groupings, Azapo and the UDF have reacted with consternation towards the new Government legislation.

The legislation, which seems intended to break the year-long rent boycott, will give local authorities the power to force employers to deduct residents' debts from the salaries of their employees without going through normal legal procedures.

UDF president, Mrs Albertina Sisulu said employers should seriously consider their positions in the light of this legislation.

"The people have demands that the councillors do not want to respond to. From the residents' side, there is no way this thing will work. It now depends on the employers."

Azapo president, Mr Nkosi Molala said the legislation was a "cowardly and dangerous evasion of the issues that have led to the rent crisis."

"Far from resolving the rent crisis, the Government can only contribute to the further deepening of the conflict."

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# SALE OF HOUSES IS CALLED OFF

10/6/87  
James M...

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

THE Katlehong Town Council on the East Rand has suspended the sale of 50 houses belonging to "rent defaulters".

The houses were to be sold by auction yesterday morning at the offices of the Alberton Messenger of Court

A spokeswoman for the offices of the Messenger of the Court in Alberton said they were told late on Monday afternoon by the town clerk of Katlehong, Mr Fanie Mare, that the sale was off

The spokeswoman said they were informed that the sale would now be held at their offices on July 21, if the families fail to pay their rent arrears.

If the sale had gone ahead, the Katlehong council would have been the first in the country to sell rent defaulters' houses

## Promise

Mr Mare and the township's mayor, Mr Thami Siluma, were yesterday not available for comment. The *Sowetan* was told by sources close to the council that the sale was called off after the owners had promised to pay their rent arrears

## MAYOR Siluma.

A number of home-seekers yesterday flooded the offices of the Messenger of the Court with the hope of buying the houses. They were turned away

The Katlehong council placed advertisements in the *Sowetan* last month stating that the houses would be sold "voet-stoets" (as is)

Earlier Mr Mare had said residents owed about R5-million in rent arrears



# Sisulu has rent notice withdrawn

The Soweto Council has withdrawn a notice served on the United Democratic Front co-president Mrs Albertina Sisulu to pay her rent or face legal action.

Other anti-apartheid activists Mrs Winnie Mandela, Mrs Ellen Kuzwayo and Dr Nthato Motlana, president of the Soweto Civic Association, were also served with notices threatening them with legal action if they did not pay their rent.

All four were given 30 days' notice, which expired yesterday.

Mrs Mandela has not been notified that her notice has been withdrawn, her daughter Zinzi said today.

It is not known if Mrs Kuzwayo and Dr Motlana had their notices withdrawn as they were not available for comment at the time of going to press.

The council had claimed that Mrs Sisulu owed R1 033,47 in rent and service charges. Her electricity was disconnected in February.

# R10-m housing project

(27)  
Some time  
12/6/87

THE backlog of more than a million homes needed to meet the present housing shortage in black townships could be wiped out "within the next four to five years."

Mr Pat Culligan, a director of Basil Read, a construction company, said this in Ermelo on Tuesday

He was speaking at a ceremony to formalise an agreement between the Wesselton Town Council and Basil Read. The company is to develop a housing project worth more than R10 million in Wesselton.



## MAYOR: Hlatshwayo.

The mayor of Wesselton, Mr S M Z Hlatshwayo, said a house and the ownership of land was one of the best ways to satisfy community aspirations

The Town Clerk of Wesselton, Mr D J Smart, said the housing problem in Wesselton worsened over the last year when the town's population increased alarmingly to about 40 000 residents

# Council rethink on Sisulu

By Mudini Maivha

The legal action notice issued against United Democratic Front (UDF) co-president Mrs Albertina Sisulu last month has been withdrawn for technical reasons, her lawyer said yesterday.

Soweto council may issue another notice.

In a letter to Mrs Sisulu, the council said that it withdrew the notice without prejudicing its rights.

Mrs Sisulu, Mrs Winnie Mandela, Mrs Ellen Kuzwayo and Dr Nthato Motlana were last month given 30 days to pay their rent and service charges, failing which legal action would be taken.

The period of grace expired on Wednesday.

Electricity supply to the homes of Mrs Sisulu, Mrs Mandela and Mrs Kuzwayo has been cut.

Mrs Sisulu's lawyer, Mr Richard Spoor, said his firm had pointed out to the council that failure to pay site rent or electricity charges is not ground to cancel right of occupancy.

# Court won't let council backdate rents

By THAMI MKHWANAZI

THE Pretoria Supreme Court this week refused the Mamelodi Town Council leave to appeal against a court decision nullifying rent increases dating back to September 1 1984.

The decision is a sequel to an attempt by the council to counter a court decision in February in which Mamelodi resident Marcus Mardi was granted an order invalidating a R6 rent increase.

Mardi had argued that the council had failed, as required by legislation, to notify residents about the increase in English and Afrikaans newspapers.

Mr Justice Roux rejected the council's claim that the application had been not made by Mardi because the authenticity of Mardi's signature was in question. He refused the

council leave to appeal and ordered it to pay costs.

Although the increases had been set aside by court order, the council had continued to implement them.

The Mamelodi Civic Association said in a statement yesterday the decision had proved residents had legitimate grievances against the council.

It was these increases which sparked off a rent boycott after November 1985 shootings, in which police fired on a crowd of 50 000 people, many of them elderly women, who had marched to the council offices to put their case. Thirteen people were killed in the incident.

The council had refused to address itself to the residents, the statement

said. Instead the council had issued summonses, threatening residents with eviction.

The civic association called on residents not to respond to summonses but to bring them to the civic.

# More Sowetans evicted

127  
17/6/8  
6/10 Day  
SOPHIE TEMA

FIFTEEN more families were evicted from their Soweto homes yesterday, bringing to 22 the number of families turned out of township houses this week. Soweto town clerk Nico Malan said the evictions would stop once the Bill to enable the collection of rent and service charges from salaries of township residents was passed into law.

He said evictions could also stop if individuals who were in default with their rent would communicate with council officials to "sort out their problems".

Malan said notices were sent out to Soweto residents regularly warning them to pay their rent and threatening action.

If registered tenants did not respond by communicating with the

township manager, the matter was handed to the council's attorney who brought a court action against those in default.

Malan said "If people respond to notices and communicate with the council authorities, then there will be no need for evictions.

"A report of any person who commits himself or who gives an undertaking to pay rent will be submitted to the council for consideration and such a person will not be evicted."

Yesterday's evictions in Zola were monitored by a contingent of heavily armed council police.

By late yesterday afternoon some of the evicted people were still out on the pavements.



any expectation the situation  
tion, and he did not think there was  
assume responsibility



The first showhouse in Katlehong opened recently.

127

# New Katlehong housing era dawns

By SELLO SERIPE

KATLEHONG's high income residents are in for a treat following the completion of a new elite residential complex which is presently being constructed by Israel's Minrav International

The complex has been named after Katlehong mayor Thami Siluma and is known as Siluma View

The first completed house - which Minrav put up as a show house - was officially opened this week

The company's local manager, David Shary, said that the houses would cost between R40 000 and R80 000 each

The completed show house, which comprises a garage, kitchen, sitting-room, three bedrooms and two bathrooms will cost R54 000

"This is the first of 80 houses which are scheduled to be built in Katlehong and 480 in Vosloorus," said Shary

The company has made a firm commitment to the policy of reform and ex-

## 'Alarming' stats

By SOL MORATHI

THE Black housing backlog had reached alarming proportions while white housing is growing

This was said by Dr Tobie de Vos of the National Building Research Institute of the CSIR in Pretoria

New figures indicate that the black housing backlog could be as high as 832 000 - 300 000 more than forecasted This excludes the independent homelands of Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei

The figures are based on the premise that a third of the estimated 1 780 000 people living in non-family housing units require housing for their relatives outside urban areas

The backlog figure of 538 000 units assumes that close on one in six black people living in compounds and similar establishments require separate family homes in urban areas

*others 14/6/87*

pansion of opportunities for the black community

"We have a proven track record to this effect with the completion of 300 houses from projects which are still to yield 2 000 housing units in various parts of the country

"This include projects in Protea North and Orlando West in Soweto, Man-

gaung, Botshabelo, Thabong and Heidedal in the Free State and Galeshewe in the Eastern Cape," he said

Further projects for which negotiations are underway include 1 700 sites for the coloured community near Cape Town and 300 sites for the black community in Port Elizabeth

*(scribble) others 14/6/87*

# Rent - firms warn Govt

127  
Jouelle  
15/6/87

THE Government was warned by business leaders at the weekend to expect a tidal wave of industrial unrest and powerful new sanctions and disinvestment from overseas if it went ahead with moves to compel employers to act as rent-collectors to break the rent boycott.

Mr Bill Hubbard,

• To Page 2

## Unrest warning

senior vice-president of the American Chamber of Commerce in South Africa, warned the Government it was on the brink of feeding still more ammunition to anti-apartheid lobbies seeking to dislodge United States companies from their South African bases

And Mr Vincent Brett, manpower secretary of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, which claims to represent no fewer than 24 000 companies, warned of

### • From Page 1

widespread industrial strife if the Government forced employers into what would be seen as taking sides over a sensitive political issue

They were voicing the growing outrage of private-sector companies over proposals by the Government to push through the controversial rent-collection plan under the umbrella of a new Promotion of Local Government Affairs Amendment Bill

127

SMR

17/6/87

# Slum clearance puts people in street

By Shirley Woodgate,  
Municipal Reporter

Hundreds of people in Newclare, Johannesburg, have been ordered to move in a city council slum clearance operation that has left some "black" families living in the open since Tuesday.

Mrs Lydia Adendorf (34) said she and her 66-year-old mother had been told to quit rooms, at the back of dilapidated shops, which they had rented for R7,50 a month since 1977.

"We have nowhere to go and have to stay on this open lot with all our possessions," she said.

Mr G P Pinto, coloured management committee councillor for Newclare, denied the council had evicted people. He said they had been given ample time to find other accommodation.

He said Mrs Adendorf had a house in Rustenberg.

"They are black people and I am not prepared to give them accommodation in Newclare as my own people are suffering," he said.

"When Soweto put out coloureds, we put up tents to accommodate them."

Johannesburg housing director Mr Thys Wilsnach said "These shops are council prop-



Mrs Lydia Adendorf (left) and her mother, Saartjie, say they have been living in the open since last week.

erty which was rezoned from business to residential land in 1978.

"The tenants were given 10 years' 'use right' to resettle elsewhere. That right expired on April 15, and the coloured management committee decided not

to extend the use right as it wanted to build houses on those sites."

The move was labelled "racist and totally inhuman" by Act-stop (Action Committee to Halt Evictions) spokesman Mr Mohammed Dangor.

## SA expected to dominate

SMR

17/6/87

The Star's Foreign News Service

MUNICH — South African issues are expected to dominate the German Evangelical Church congress that opens in Frankfurt today, and Frankfurt police are bracing themselves for possible clashes on the fringes of the four-day gathering.

South African church representatives, led by Dr Allan Boesak, are attending the congress. Dr Boesak will be delivering the sermon at the closing religious service on Sunday.

Swapo is also represented at the congress, despite the protests of some German churchmen.



# Sisulu eviction notice withdrawn (27)

SOPHIE TEMA

THE Soweto town council has withdrawn a notice served on UDF president Albertina Sisulu to pay her rent or face legal action

Three other apartheid opponents — Winnie Mandela, wife of jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela, Dr Nthato Motlana, chairman of the Soweto Civic Association, and community leader and author Ellen Kuzwayo — were also served with notices in which the council threatened to cancel their certificates of occupation within 30 days. The 30 days' notice expired yesterday.

On Tuesday Sisulu was issued with a new notice withdrawing the original notice — minutes after seven families were evicted from their homes in Zola North, Soweto.

The council had claimed Sisulu owed R1 033,47 for rent and service charges. Her electricity was disconnected in February.

Neither Kuzwayo nor Motlana were available for comment.

Mandela's private secretary said yesterday "As far as I know Mrs Mandela has not received a notice to that effect."

Yesterday members of the families evicted from their Zola North homes appealed against eviction to the council through attorneys.

The families are back in their houses after youths, supported by elderly neighbours, helped carry back what remained of their belongings and ordered them to re-occupy their homes soon after the police had left.

The families were all served with court orders yesterday morning by a clerk of the court, who was accompanied by Soweto council police and members of the SAP.

Furniture and appliances were seized, and police issued families with lists of the items removed.

# 'Govt should pay rent rise'

THE Government and councillors should pay the increased rent because they built apartheid houses, Mr Tom Manthata told an anti-rent meeting held in Sharpeville on August 19, 1984

## Treason

This was said by the Reverend Tebogo Jeff

Moselane under cross-examination in the Delmas treason trial yesterday

Mr Manthata and Mr Moselane are charged together with 16 other

<sup>(127)</sup> *Soweto 19/6/87*  
men with treason, alternatively subversion, terrorism and murder. All the men have pleaded not guilty before a judge sitting with an assessor.

(Proceeding)

1984 AUG 20 10 10 AM  
SOWETO

# Bosses of top firms strongly oppose rents snatch

**BARNEY MTHOMBOHI**

Some of the country's most powerful businessmen have come out strongly against the Government's proposed "surrogate" or "collect the rent" Bill

The Promotion of Local Government Affairs Amendment Bill proposes to force employers to deduct outstanding rents from the salaries of their black workers.

Latest developments are

● Mr Tony Bloom, chairman of the Premier Group, has urged his colleagues to "resist the coercion at all costs" He joins Mr Raymond Ackerman of Pick 'n Pay, and Mr Chris Ball, First National Bank managing director, in criticising the move

● The Government has been warned that the Bill, if passed, would present the disinvestment lobby overseas with powerful ammunition against foreign companies operating in South Africa

● The trade union movement and other extra-parliamentary organisations have voiced strong objections to the Bill.

● The giant Anglo American Corporation said it was "strongly opposed to the proposed Bill and, in concert with employer bodies and other individual firms, will be conveying our views to the standing committee"

127

## Bill resisted

● From Page 1

standing committee on constitutional development, expressing "grave concern about the Bill"

The chamber expressed the hope the proposed legislation would be reconsidered and an alternative solution found

Premier's Mr Bloom said it was ironic that a government which warned business to keep out of politics should now be forcing politics into business

"I am extremely unhappy about the prospect of coercing employers into collecting arrear rents from their employees and strongly urge the Government to reconsider the proposed Bill"

Pick 'n Pay's Mr Ackerman said the proposed legislation would cause "utter chaos" in the workplace, adding

"We are very much opposed to this Bill from a company and a personal point of view and are using all our influence to voice our objection to try to prevent it becoming law, through Government contacts and chambers of commerce"

First National Bank's Mr Ball said both the Association of Chambers of Commerce and Federated Chamber of Industries had objected strongly to the legislation "and we support their objections"

Standard Bank said it was viewing the introduction of the Bill with "grave misgivings"

The Bill has been reintroduced after the Government was forced to drop it last year because of strong opposition

The Government revealed this week that the money owed by township residents, many of whom have been refusing to pay rent for more than a year in protest against the state of emergency and the presence of troops in the townships, had risen to R297 million

The South African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry this week despatched telexes to the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, the Minister of Manpower and Public Works, Mr Pietie du Plessis, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology, Mr Danie Steyn, and to the chairman of the parliamentary

● To Page 2

# 8 Vaal families evicted

(12)

22/6/87  
Sanctum

ABOUT eight Vaal families — including pensioners — were evicted from their homes barely a month after the State President, Mr P W Botha, was given the freedom of the townships.

Late last week, the messenger of the court, accompanied by Lekoa Town Council police, evicted the families after confiscating TV sets, refrigerators and radios at about 10am.

One of the oldest Bophelong residents and former member of the now defunct Urban Councils, Mr Jeremiah Tsolo — who was also evicted — said that after two years the residents were still awaiting a response from the council regarding a memorandum they submitted. The memorandum demanded that rents be reduced.

## Rent defaulters evicted from their homes in township

# No action against the mayor

(27)  
Sowetan  
23/6/87

THE mayor of Mhluzi township, near Middelburg, Mr Phillip Nhlapo, allegedly owes R3 362 for rent and no action has been taken against him while about 30 rent defaulters in the area have been evicted from their homes.

Mr Nhlapo is the deputy president of the Urban Councils Association of South Africa. He is also the chairman of Ucasa's Transvaal region, the Union Councils of the Transvaal.

An investigation conducted by the *Sowetan* last week shows that Mr Nhlapo owes R1 081 for his house rent and another R2 281 for his garage.

The *Sowetan* was told that he last paid his rent 11 months ago.

### Evicted

Information reaching us is that about 30 families have been evicted from their homes for failing to pay their rent since March this year. The families owed between R200 and R600.

We were told that more rent defaulters would be evicted this month. This could not be confirmed by the Mhluzi Town Council.

The *Sowetan* was shown a list of all rent defaulters in the township and Mr Nhlapo was among them. According to the list, Mr Nhlapo owes the highest amount in rent.

Other allegations include

- Mr Nhlapo has recently bought a new mayoral car after he had smashed two previous ones within the past eight months.
- He is alleged to have used council money to attend Ucasa functions, without the approval of the council.
- The council spent thousands of rands

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

to erect a youth camp near Waterval Boven which is only used by members of Mr Nhlapo's youth club, the Mhluzi People's Progressive Youth Club, and

- Mr Nhlapo used building material belonging to the council to build a wall around his church.

Mr Nhlapo yesterday denied he owed rent. "As far as I know, I am up to date with my rent. It is true that I am driving a new mayoral car after the previous one was involved in an accident."

### Insurance

"The council did not buy a new car but our insurance company replaced the old one which was damaged beyond repair," he said.

On the other allegations, Mr Nhlapo said

- The money he used to attend Ucasa's functions was approved by the council and that in most cases, he used his own money to attend these meetings.
- The council did not spend any money to erect the youth camp. He said the council was "offered" a farm near Waterval Boven to use as a youth camp during school holidays and over the festive season.

### Donated

- All youth clubs and youngsters in the township were using the camp and that they paid for their own transport, accommodation and food, and
- The building material used to erect a wall around his church was "donated" by the council.

Youth leaders and youngsters inter-

viewed by the *Sowetan* said they were barred from using the youth camp if they were not members of Mr Nhlapo's youth club.

They said they were told by Mr Nhlapo that they had to join his youth club before they could use the camp. They also said Mr Nhlapo's youth club members were provided with free transport.

MR NHLAPO, mayor of Mhluzi in Middelburg.

# Trade group calls for scrapping of rent collection Bill

By Michael Chester

Extended battlelines were drawn today by big business in its fight to block government moves to compel employers to act as rent collectors to break the black rent boycott.

The South Africa-Britain Trade Association (Sabrita), in Johannesburg, and its twin, the United Kingdom-South Trading Association, in London, have joined the fray.

Urgent appeals to the Government to abandon the proposals have been made since the return of a Sabrita mission that collected evidence that business anxiety over the repercussions was acute in Britain.

Formal submissions have been lodged with the Standing Committee on Constitutional Development and Planning pressing for the withdrawal of the rent collec-

tion proposals in the Promotion of Local Government Affairs Amendment Bill.

This was announced today by Mr Murray Hofmeyr, president of Sabrita and executive director of Anglo American, one of several business giants that have voiced alarm.

Mr Hofmeyr said Sabrita's opposition to the Bill was based on two arguments:

● "If the Bill becomes law, employers will be drawn into disputes to which they are not a party, which could have far-reaching adverse implications for industrial relations and which might result in strikes and other industrial action.

● "The Bill introduces a highly undesirable precedent into our law, namely that a statement by a Government official will enjoy the same force and effect as a judgment by a court of law."

# Many paid-off Sats workers now homeless

By June Bearzi, Star Line

Many casual labourers who eagerly stood in for South African Transport Services (Sats) strikers say they have paid a heavy price after being dismissed when the 12-week dispute ended two weeks ago.

Mr Johnny Geral — who runs Superior Care Centre, a multi-racial, non-profit shelter in Malvern — said several former white occupants were bitter, broken and homeless after Sats paid them off last week.

Their source of income dried up overnight and the men were forced to move out of flats and rooms they rent-

ed when they took on the jobs. Now they are out in the streets as the shelters are full.

Mr Geral explained. "When they left my care centre three months ago after grabbing the R15-a-day jobs with Sats, they were glowing with pride as they were self-supporting and said they could afford to rent their own places and buy their own food and clothes.

"The jobs meant so much to the self-image of these men who had undergone months of therapy here to build up their confidence.

"But now they are totally disillusioned and feel they have been the worst hit in the Sats versus strikers debacle.

"People flock to shelters during the cold winter months so when these desperate men came back here over the weekend, I had to turn them away as others had moved into their rooms," Mr Geral said

He brought their plight to Star Line's attention following a recent article about former Sats worker, Mr James Crouth, who was paid off last Friday and given 12 hours to move out of the railway hostel in Elandsfontein

Since the article, job offers have been pouring in for Mr Crouth who is a French polisher and restorer of antique furniture. However, he has not approached Star Line since Saturday when he left The Star's offices with R50 in his pocket

A spokesman for Sats said the organisation had a responsibility towards its permanent staff



**FURNITURE** of 12 evicted families in Zone 6, Pimville, is left lying in the street by Soweto Council officials yesterday.  
PIC ROBERT MAGWAZA

# RENTS BLITZ

(127)  
Juma  
26/6/87

**12 more  
families.  
evicted**

**MORE** Soweto families were evicted from their homes by the Soweto City Council yesterday in its ongoing campaign against rent defaulters.

At least 12 families in Zone 6 Pimville — along the main road next to Musi High

**By NKOPANE  
MAKOBANE**

School — had their furniture taken out of their homes by council employees who were accompanied by white Court Messengers

During the evictions which started at about 8am and lasted

● **To Page 14**



# Soweto rent blitz 127

## • From Page 1

until before 12 noon, confiscated furniture which included fridges and television sets was loaded on a huge truck

Members of the SAP, including the "kitskonstabels" watched the proceedings as curious onlookers gathered in the nearby streets.

Most families who were evicted claimed that several household items were damaged when they were taken out of their homes. One family, which was not present when the raid took place, said council employees had forced their way into the house by breaking the doors.

No sooner had the police and members of the council left, some families could be seen taking back their possessions inside the houses.

Miss Queen Dubazana of 8001A said the evictions started at her home soon after 8am. Without any explanation, council employees, supervised by a messenger

of the court, started taking out furniture.

"Our television set was loaded into a truck and the officials demanded the house keys which they took away. We were later told we owed R400, but if we paid R300 we could get our television back. We were also warned that should we dare return illegally into the house, we would be raided in the evening," she said.

A 73-year-old pensioner, Mrs Elizabeth Selepe

of 8002A, said she was disgusted by the merciless action of the officials.

She said she was still asleep with her five-month-old grandson when they were rudely woken up. She had also pleaded with the officials to leave one of her sickly daughters who was also asleep, but she was ignored.

"I don't know where my family of eight is going to sleep tonight. What annoys me most is

that some of my valuable items have been damaged and my fridge taken away. I was told to get back into the house, I will have to pay R541 I owe to the council," she said.

According to Mr Petrus Kgasane of 8007B, his family was told to pay the rent debt of R474,35 in three weeks time. They were warned that failure would result in their television set, hi-fi set and a dining-room suite being sold to defray costs.

# Violence threatens in Soweto evictions

By Montshiwa Moroke

At least 18 families were evicted in Zone Six, Pimville, Soweto, yesterday and violence threatened as tempers rose among sympathetic residents

Those evicted had some of their furniture confiscated and loaded on to trucks as Soweto council policemen and officials stood by. Tenants showed reporters furniture which they alleged was broken when it was thrown out of the houses

Doors of houses whose tenants were away from home or at work were allegedly broken and entry gained forcibly

Among the furniture confiscated were television sets, refrigerators, hi-fi sets and lounge suites. Officials left behind documents which reflected that most of those evicted owed an average of R500 in rent

Receipts showing items impounded were also issued to the evicted tenants

Furniture removed from the homes was left in the street while hundreds of people, some of them angry, gathered on the pavements and on street corners

The driver and passengers of a big commercial truck which drove past near the evictions had to dive for cover when angry youths pelted the vehicle with stones, breaking its windows

The evictions were the second batch in the sprawling township to have been reported by The Star this month. The eviction of eight other families took place in Zola South on June 11



At least 18 families were evicted in Zone Six, Pimville, Soweto, yesterday. Hundreds of residents and passers-by watched. ● Picture by Alf Kumalo.

## Back door broken

Other evictions allegedly took place in Mabelia on Tuesday. Soweto council officials could neither confirm nor deny that the evictions did take place.

Mrs Emily Nkosi of 8009b said she had gone visiting in the neighbourhood when the officials arrived and broke the back door to gain entry into her home. They confiscated a television set, a refrigerator and a hi-fi set and speakers. A document left behind by officials said she owed R442 rent.

An unemployed father of three, Mr Joseph Khakaza of 8007b, said he found the front door of his home already broken. Officials had taken a hi-fi set and speakers, a six-piece dining room suite and a television set.

He owed the council R474 for rent.

Mrs Elizabeth Selepe of 8002a, who lives with other seven people in the house, said she had lost a refrigerator during the raid.

Soweto council officials have repeatedly told The Star that the messenger of the court and not the council is responsible for any evictions in the townships.

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# Wish comes true as new hotel opens

NEXT week Mr Stephen Dondolo, 31, of Kwanobuhle, Uitenhage, will be celebrating the realisation of his "second best" childhood dream — opening a hotel of his own

The Spectrum Hotel, the first in an Eastern Cape African township, cost Mr Dondolo R800 000 to build and furnish and has 64 employees

Its official opening is being celebrated next week

The idea of providing Kwanobuhle with a hotel of its own has been Mr Dondolo's dream since he matriculated in 1978

He had first aimed to be an advocate, but his parents could not afford a university education for him

He started a taxi business in 1983 and built his

hotel in 1985

"The unstable conditions in the black townships caused the long delay of the official opening," he said

Since opening its doors in 1985, the hotel in Bucwa Road has become a social centre

The hotel has airconditioning, convention facilities, a public address system and parking facilities for more than 25 cars. It has eight bedrooms with television, radio, telephones and bathrooms. A disco is being planned

Mr Dondolo is keen to maintain a high standard of service, and all his chefs have been trained at Emthonjeng in Port Elizabeth.

Mr Dondolo helped found the Uitenhage Taxi Assoc-

ation and still runs four taxis

The director of the East Cape African Chamber of Commerce (Ecaacoc), Mr Sydney Mshweshwe, said "Mr Dondolo identified a critical need in his community and strived relentlessly to accomplish his goal of building this facility which, by any measure, is no mean achievement"

Black businesspeople, he said, were branching out from shopkeeping into new fields of activity

"We want to see our businessmen owning factories, hotels, car dealerships and wholesale outlets"

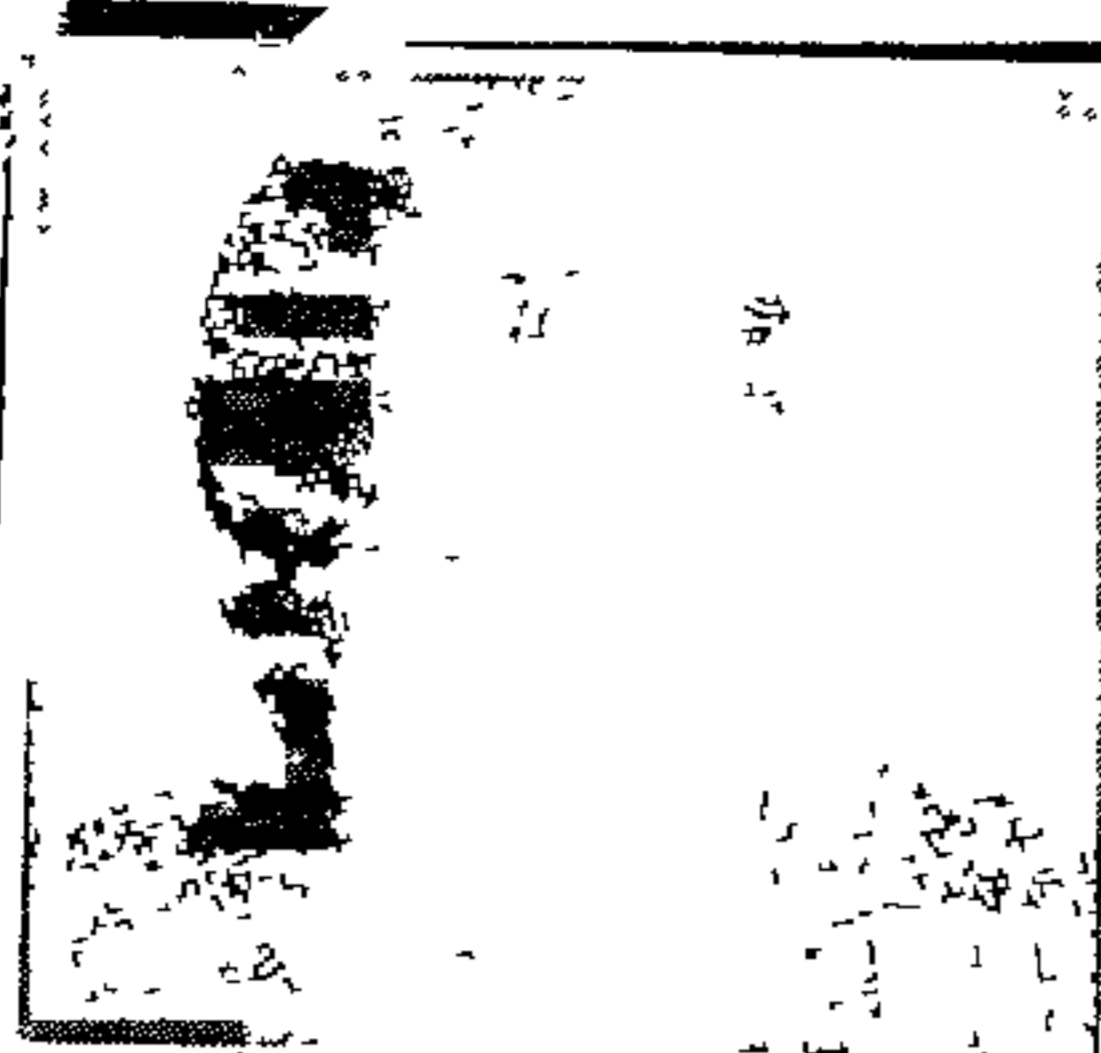
Mr Mshweshwe said the Government could help by providing business and industrial sites at sensible prices and in appropriate areas



Mr STEPHEN DONDOLO in front of his R800 000 hotel in Kwanobuhle, Uitenhage, which he will be opening officially on Sunday next week. The entrance to the hotel is on the right.

## Deon plans to win desert race





**MR EDWARD Kunene.**  
.. former mayor.

**THE Soweto City Council has come up with a grand plan of ridding Soweto of shacks occupied by homeless families — turning unoccupied hostel rooms into family accommodation.**

Plans for turning scores of hostel sections into family accommodation for the Soweto homeless have already been discussed with officials of the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning in Pretoria

This was said by former mayor, Mr Edward Kunene, who represents hostels together with Mr M Ntloko. They said they were only awaiting Pretoria's response for the implementation of the scheme

# Council's plan to get rid of shacks

Mr Kunene raised the issue in defence of a motion to effect a R5 rent increase in hostels in Soweto. Hostel inmates are presently paying R18 a month for a bed

Councillor D Rasmeni said the levy must be effected without delay because the council had recently improved the hostels. The hostels were being maintained at a loss as thousands of beds were vacant, he said.

The motion to effect the R5 rent increases at hostels was suspended at the request of the chairman of the management committee, Mr Letsatsi Radebe, who urged councillors to ask residents in their wards to start paying rent

Soweto  
29/6/82

127 20/6/87

## Soweto rents — only half residents are paying

By Michael Chester

No less than half of all registered tenants of houses in Soweto are still engaged in the rent boycott, according to the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce (JCC).

The chamber estimates that the losses suffered by the Soweto Council alone now stand as high as R80 million.

The nationwide total of rent arrears in black townships has climbed to R294 million.

But the JCC argues in a bulletin that the rent boycott would not be resolved by the Government's controversial proposals to force employers to act as rent collectors by compelling companies to deduct arrears from wage packets.

The chamber has placed on record its rejection of the Government plan.

### PAST POLICIES

The chamber has now volunteered to discuss the issue with the Government "to find ways and means of resolving the problem in some other way".

The JCC bulletin says the issue is rooted in past Government policies on the permanence of black families in urban areas, and has become clouded by misconceptions about what the term "rent" entails.

For years, rentals payable in black townships for State-owned houses included service charges. With the introduction of 99-year leasehold, the first distinction was made between rent and service charges — but many black householders believed that they had already paid for dwellings because of the rent they had paid over so many years. Failure to appreciate the distinction between rent and service charges had been exploited for political ends.

But the new Government plan to compel employers to be rent collectors to break the boycott, rather than resolve the issue, would seriously complicate relations between employers and employees and bedevil industrial relations in the process.

# 72 families evicted, says Malan

Soweto town clerk Mr Nico Malan says the council has evicted 72 families for failing to pay rent and service charges since the rent boycott began in Soweto last year.

He said this figure proved the council treated residents with understanding. Many of the evicted families had moved back into their houses. Some had settled the arrears, while others moved in illegally.

"We have 77 000 households in Soweto and the number of families evicted shows the sympathetic way with which we regard the payment of house rentals," he said.

Mr Malan and Mr Nelson Botile, the Mayor of Soweto, last night discussed aspects of the Soweto council's budget during a talk show on SABC's TV2/3.

They announced a budget of R219 million, an increase of about 40 percent on last year.

(123)

24/5/82

17/82

*copy from 1/7/87*  
**Rent arrears R294m** (127)

JOHANNESBURG — No less than half of all registered tenants of houses in Soweto are still engaged in the rent boycott, according to the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce. The chamber estimates that the losses suffered by the Soweto Council alone now stand as high as R80 million. The nationwide total of rent arrears in black townships has climbed to R294 million.

# Spares racket uncovered

DANIEL SIMON

A POLICE swoop on a Laudium, Pretoria, garage on Tuesday recovered more than R1m worth of brand new motor spares and led to the arrest of two suspects, Silverton detectives said yesterday.

Most of the spares were allegedly stolen from Samcor. Toyota and Nissan parts were also recovered.

The detained men, both in their 30s, are believed have masterminded the racket.

The arrests follow months of intensive investigations and about 20 dockets have now been closed.

Retail outlets, dealers and motor manufacturers in and around Pretoria are believed to have been victims of the rip-off.

A member of the investigating team, Capt D Dreyer, said the latest find was the fifth spares cache found. Further arrests were expected.

Samcor's public affairs spokesman, Reuben Els, said "In these difficult times, the company has experienced thefts totalling thousands of rands but the matter has been reported to the police."

Toyota spokesman Flip Wilken said "Although we had several large incidents of theft in the past we now have a dynamic stock checking system in our parts department."

DEFENCE Minister Magnus Malan's aid offer to movements fighting Marxist governments in Southern Africa was yesterday strongly rebuked by a clutch of senior foreign diplomats in SA.

Significantly, however, neither the US nor Britain would comment on Malan's statement. Holland and Austria were also among the demurres.

Jan Lundvik, envoy to the Swedish Legation in Pretoria, said he regarded Malan's statement with "grave concern".

"It sounded very ominous and we think it will aggravate tensions in Southern Africa."

Lundvik said that similar statements from the SA military leadership were usually followed by security actions.

A senior diplomat from a major European nation, who did not wish to be named, said Malan's statement highlighted the rift between the military's "openly interventionist" approach to SA's regional policy and the "classic diplomacy" of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

# Diplomats reject Magnus's offer

HAMISH McINDOE

ment of Foreign Affairs

He said pre-emptive military strikes were justified if "sovereign rights" were threatened. "But I believe many cross-border security actions have been made without consulting Foreign Affairs," the diplomat said.

Speculation that Foreign Affairs' role in policy decisions on Mozambique is slipping to the military and intelligence services was strongly denied by the department's deputy director-general Glenn Babb earlier this week.

Malan said at the weekend SA would consider pleas for help from pro-Western movements in Southern Africa to check Soviet expansionism.

Britain would not comment directly on Malan's statement. Martin Griffiths, Press attaché at the British Embassy in Pretoria, said the Nkomati Accord with Mozambique contributed towards peace in the region.

"And we welcome Foreign Affairs' statement saying it has no intention of undoing the accord," Griffiths said.

The US Information Services said "We've no comment to make on Malan's statement or its implications."

# Senate approves vote to label food imports

WASHINGTON — The Senate voted yesterday to require labelling of food imports by country of origin as it resumed action on a sweeping trade Bill.

"Let's give consumers an opportunity to make a choice," Republican Alan Simpson said as the measure was approved.

The plan would require the Food and Drug Administration to draw up rules providing for the labelling of virtually every type of food that comes into the US.

Critics had urged a delay in action until more could be learned about the potential impact of such a measure on US agriculture.

Imported food has made major gains against rival US products in the last two years. The country lost mon-

ey in agricultural trade for several months last summer.

The amendment was one of 120 awaiting action as the Senate pushed forward with the 1 013-page Bill, which is the product of nine committees.

Floor managers for the Bill were uncertain about when the Senate would act on four major amendments viewed as key to approval of the complex measure.

The issues are advance notice to workers of plant closings, import relief for threatened industries, an oil import fee, and stepped up retaliation against unfair foreign trade practices.

Legislators continued to express confidence the Senate would eventually resolve the problems.

# Soweto Council gets tough

SOPHIE TEMA

SOWETO Council yesterday announced new moves to break the year-old rent boycott that has cost R294m in unpaid rents so far.

Town clerk Nico Malan said families who moved back into homes after being evicted would be charged with contempt of court and trespassing on council property.

Malan said the council had evicted 72 families since October. Some had paid the arrears, but others had moved back without permission.

Last week 21 families were arrested in Zola North and Chiawelo for having moved back into their houses without the council's permission. They were due to face charges of contempt of court in the Protea Magistrates Court, but the case collapsed as the charge was based only on hearsay evidence from an investigating officer.



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# Council sells houses to boost coffers

By MOJALEFA MOSEKI

THE Kotlehong Town Council has launched a massive sale of Government-built houses, undeveloped business and residential sites under its control in an attempt to meet its 1987/88 budget.

As part of its sale programme to boost its dwindling coffers, the council yesterday agreed that the more staff be transferred to the housing department on a temporary basis to handle the sale.

The town clerk, Mr S H Mare, was also empowered to open the housing section offices on Saturdays and Sundays.

Mr Mare recommended that the opening of council offices on weekends be extended for six months. Mr S Hlahatsi was appointed to interview residents who wanted to buy houses.

A report on the sale of Government houses showed that during a three-month period from March, more than 1800 houses out of 5257 had been sold.

The council last month took an unusual stand in putting rent defaulters' houses up for auction.

The sale was stopped by the mayor of Kotlehong, Mr Thami Siluma, who stepped in just a day before the proposed sale.

But lawyers assigned to advertise the sale of rent defaulters' houses last week advertised a list of 11 houses intended for sale on July 21.

• The houses to be sold in terms of the massive sale earlier in the above story are not houses of people in arrears with rent.

FAMILIES in White City Jabavu yesterday moved back into their homes hours after council police had evicted them in an attempt to break the year-old rent boycott.

Police moved furniture belonging to three families onto the pavement. They sealed the houses and left.

Hours later, neighbours forcibly reopened the doors and helped the evicted families move back in.

The evictions were the first in White City since evictions sparked clashes between council police and

# Soweto evictions spread

*Sunday* 3/7/87 (127)  
SOPHIE TEMA

residents in August last year, in which 22 people were killed

Meanwhile, disagreements are developing between the Soweto City Council and legal representatives of rent-defaulters whose belongings have been confiscated to defray rent arrears

Lawyers claim the council is acting illegally by seizing furniture and other household items of people evicted

for being in default with their rent. Town clerk Nico Malan said the confiscation of certain goods from rent defaulters was "a legal process"

"The messenger of the court, who serves the eviction orders on people who have not been paying rent, take certain articles worth the amount the person is owing to defray his or her rent arrears

"The articles are kept in the messenger's office until the person pays up his arrears.

# More Soweto

## evictions

BY MONO BADELA

MORE Soweto families were evicted from their homes by the Soweto city council in its ongoing campaign against rent defaulters

At least 10 families in White City Jabavu and at Central Western Jabavu were affected. The families had their furniture taken out of their homes by the South African Police and *kitskonstabels* (special constables) and municipal police accompanied a court messenger, according to residents.

During the evictions which started at about 9am yesterday, items such as television sets and fridges were confiscated.

Most of the evicted families claimed that household items were damaged. In some cases doors were kicked open despite residents being absent.

Young comrades immediately took the furniture back inside.

More than 80 Soweto families have been evicted since the rent boycott started last year. Some families owed as much as R800.

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# EVICTIONS again in Jabavu

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3/4/87  
Soweto

AT LEAST eight families were yesterday evicted from their houses in the first evictions in White City Jabavu since the death of 27 people during a similar operation in the area last year.

By **MOJALEFA MOSEKI**

Miss Estelle Lester, the housing director of the Soweto City Council, said the Messenger of the Court had his own staff that assisted him in the evictions. The council police, she said, were present to protect him and his staff.

### Arrears

Miss Bester said the Messenger of Court took the most valuable furniture items to cover costs and the rent defaulters' arrears. When told that homes of the defaulters were broken into, Miss Bester said, "I honestly do not know how the court order is implemented by the messenger."

### Vigilante

The residents alleged that the SAP and council police were accompanied by vigilante groups who were responsible for breaking into the houses.

A heavily-armed contingent of kitskonstables and SAP was in the background during the evictions and patrolled the area after the Messenger of Court had left.

Soweto council "blackjacks" armed with rifles removed furniture and kitchen utensils from houses they visited.

They confiscated TV sets and fridges and left a warrant of eviction. But all families whose goods were confiscated disputed the value stated on the warrant by the Messenger of the Court.

At the Tshabalala home the eldest son, Mr Johannes Tshabalala (20) was given the warrant which valued their Telefunken TV set at R220 and Kelvinator fridge at R180.

Mr Tshabalala said the TV set was worth more than R1900 and the fridge more than R1500.

His parents were not home and he was not asked to sign the warrant. It was stated they owed R949,79.

**THESE** White City Jabavu children decided to carry back furniture into their homes after it was placed on the streets by policemen during evictions in White City Jabavu yesterday.



# SACC slams rent action

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3/7/87  
Soweto

THE South African Council of Churches yesterday expressed concern at the renewed eviction of families, including pensioners, from their homes in black residential areas.

The outgoing president of the SACC, Bishop Manas Buthelezi, appealed to the Government to negotiate the rent boycott with civic associations and other community organisations

He said the eviction of families, including pensioners, was "the most disturbing factor" which needed serious attention by the authorities

An executive member of the Black Sash, Mrs Sheena Duncan, who was also a delegate at the conference, said the eviction of families was the imposition of the Government's constitution on the black majority.

The conference discussed the rent boycott in the wake of more evictions of defaulters in Soweto and Vaal Triangle townships this week

# 1 000 in Soweto protest march

*Cape Times 4/7/87* 127

JOHANNESBURG. — About 1 000 blacks marched through Soweto yesterday to protest at the eviction of council tenants backing a year-old anti-government rent boycott.

A spokesman for the Witwatersrand Council of Churches said the crowd was from White City.

"They marched to protest against the eviction of rent defaulters, to demand a meeting with the town clerk, Mr Nico Malan, and to call for lower rentals," he said.

Black and white council and government officials evicted eight families from houses in White City on Thursday because they had failed to pay rents.

Television sets, furniture and electrical appliances were seized. A council official said they would be sold in an effort to recover money owed.

A reporter on the scene yesterday said about 1 000 people had gathered by the time the march reached the Jabulani offices of the black Soweto town council.

He said a council policeman met leaders of the group and arranged for a delegation to see township administrators on Monday.

"After that, the crowd dispersed peacefully," he said.

# HOMELESS GET HOUSES IN ALEX

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THE Alexandra Town Council is to accommodate about 700 homeless people who have been staying in shacks at a site near the old cemetery on the northern fringe of the township.

This was said by the chief of community services in the council, Mr Albert Mmutlana, yesterday. He announced the plan after a brief meeting with the acting town clerk, Mr L Genis, and senior members of the council's police who had ordered families to demolish their shacks last week.

The families living in shacks next to Nobuhle Hall had converged on the council offices earlier during the day to plead with the council to provide them with houses as they had no other place

By MOJALEFA MOSEKI

they could move to if they demolished their shacks

Mr Mmutlana said the only condition set for families to be accommodated at the new site will be that the head of the family must have stayed for at least five years in Alexandra.

Most of the families moved into the open spaces in Alexandra after the abolition of influx control last year.

They had been living on plots owned by whites in nearby suburbs.

Water and toilets will be provided and the families will build their own houses

# Rent defaulters' houses are sold

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THE Katlehong Town Council yesterday sold eight houses belonging to people who have failed to pay their rent in an auction sale held at the Alberton Magistrate's Court.

The council became the first in South Africa to take such a harsh step against rent defaulters.

The houses are part of 50 which were initially advertised in May for sale on June 9.

When scores of homeseekers assembled on that date at the Alberton Magistrate's Court to take advantage of the sale, they were told that Katlehong mayor, Mr Thami Siluma, had ordered the postponement of the sale

This was to give the families a chance of paying off their rent and service arrears

At least two other houses were reportedly sold, but the town clerk of Katlehong, Mr Fanie Mare said they were sold

by private companies which were owed money. Some were properties of dead people and some of divorced families.

Mr Mare said the families owed the council thousands of rands in service and rental

charges. The Katlehong council has reported that it was owed R5 831 943 by residents for rent and service charges.

Meanwhile, the council has advertised more than 50 other houses during the past two weeks

## Bleak future in metal industry

Sowetan  
9/7/87

ABOUT 20 000 workers in the metal industry lost their jobs in the first quarter of 1986 and employees say the future looks bleak despite the Government's attempt to improve expenditure in the industry.

According to the employer organisation, the Steel Engineering Industries Federation, the employee total in the industry is estimated at 330 000 as compared with an employment peak of 454 000 at the end of 1981.

"Although there was an increase in the production output towards the end of 1986 and the beginning of 1987 there was no significant impact on the increase in employment," says Seifsa.

It says there is a scarcity of skilled artisans in the heavy engineering and construction industries while an oversupply of skilled artisans exists in the basic metal sector.

Seifsa says sanctions, the high inflation rate, instability in the labour relations area, unrest and political instability will hamper the recovery which began in mid-1986.

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## 150 sleep in open after evictions

By Abel Mabelane

About 150 Tembisa residents spent last night in the open after they were evicted from their homes for failing to pay rent.

The eviction of 30 families took place at Makulong, Sethokga and Tsepo sections.

When The Star visited the scene, parents and children were sitting in the open.

They were surrounded by their belongings, which had been dumped in their yards by Tembisa municipal employees.

Mrs Doris Swebelele of 388

Makulong section said two white men, believed to be messengers of the court, came to her house at about noon.

She said the last time her husband paid rent was in May last year.

Another resident, Mrs B Maphanga of 465 Makulong Section, said municipal police started taking their belongings outside yesterday afternoon after two white men had served her with an eviction order.

She said a summons served on the family recently showed they owed the council R1 600 in rent.

Mrs Sinnah Mathibe of 484 Makulong Section said she lost R63 when municipal employees removed her belongings.

She was at work when the evictions took place, but her son Thabo said the R63 had been hidden in a chest of drawers before the eviction.

Last week, Tembisa Town Clerk Mr P L Harmse said the council had given its lawyers the names of people who owed the council substantial amounts of rent so they could take "the necessary action".

## Tembisa defaulters warned

*19/7/87*  
*SDaw* SOPHIE TEMA *(121)*

BECAUSE the Tembisa Town Council owes Escom and the Rand Water Board R700 000, tough measures are to be taken against residents who refuse to pay rent and service charges, Tembisa authorities have warned.

Between June 29 and July 2, the council received R110 000 in arrears after residents were warned action would be taken against them, says Tembisa town council administrator Gert Muller.

Yesterday he reiterated his warning that residents who did not pay rent and service charges would have their electricity and water disconnected.

In Soweto, circulars have been distributed at administration board offices calling on residents to pay rent. The circulars call on people who have not paid to do so or face prosecution.

Political comment in this issue by Ken Owen. Newsbills by Michael Acott. Headlines and sub-editing by Michael Allwright. All of Times Media Ltd. 11 Diagonal Street, Johannesburg.

## Next on the rent evictions list:

### The rents man

By EDYTH BULBRING and CATE TURNER Port Elizabeth

AN ex-rent collector will be evicted this week if he fails to pay his rent arrears of R1 188.

Fezile Mbelekane, 67, a former rent collector and council policeman, was served with an eviction notice on June 26 giving him 10 days to vacate his two-bedroomed house in Zwide township.

"I am not paying rent because of my poverty," said Mbelekane, "I have no job. How must I pay rent of R75 a month?" He has managed to pay a small amount towards the bill in the hope of staving off eviction, but after resigning from the Ibhayi Town Council two years ago Mbelekane has been unable to find work.

"I had to work 12 hour shifts guarding the homes of the councillors. We were given a gun with six bullets and six spares. If a comrade threw stones at the house we had to shoot. My son is a comrade, I didn't want to shoot him or his friends."

Port Elizabeth township residents live under the constant reminder that the Ibhayi Town Council gives nothing away for free. Glossy billboards proclaim that housing, transport and water are "bargains, but even bargains must be paid for." However, the cost of housing is more than they bargained for.

Since February, the Legal Resources Centre has been approached by over 80 families regarding pending and actual evictions. In all the cases, action has been taken in terms of the Housing Act (section 65 B) which stipulates that a warning notice of seven days be given to the tenant. After that, eviction without legal recourse to the law follows.

According to the LRC, 90 percent of their eviction cases arise from "unemployment and desperate poverty."

Ibhayi Town Council's mayor, Jimmy Nako, denied that families were being evicted and said that final notices were issued as a "scare tactic"— East Cape News Agency

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# ivil liberties



## Next on the rent evictions list:

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### The rents man

w/maile

By EDYTH BULBRING and CATE TURNER. Port Elizabeth

10-16/7/87

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# Rent defaulters arrested

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

**SOWETO Council** police arrested scores of rent defaulters in Orlando East, Soweto, in a pre-dawn house to house raid yesterday.

The raid started at 4am. The police were accompanied by white council officials. Those arrested were taken to the Soweto council offices in Orlando.

They were taken from their homes in council police vans and trucks.

## Showdown over health

A **SHOWDOWN** is looming between Soweto health workers and the Soweto City Council following the announcement that the Johannesburg City Council is to transfer all health services to the black local authority.

Many disgruntled health workers from all the clinics in Soweto met at the Orlando Shanty Clinic yesterday where they discussed the implications of their transfer.

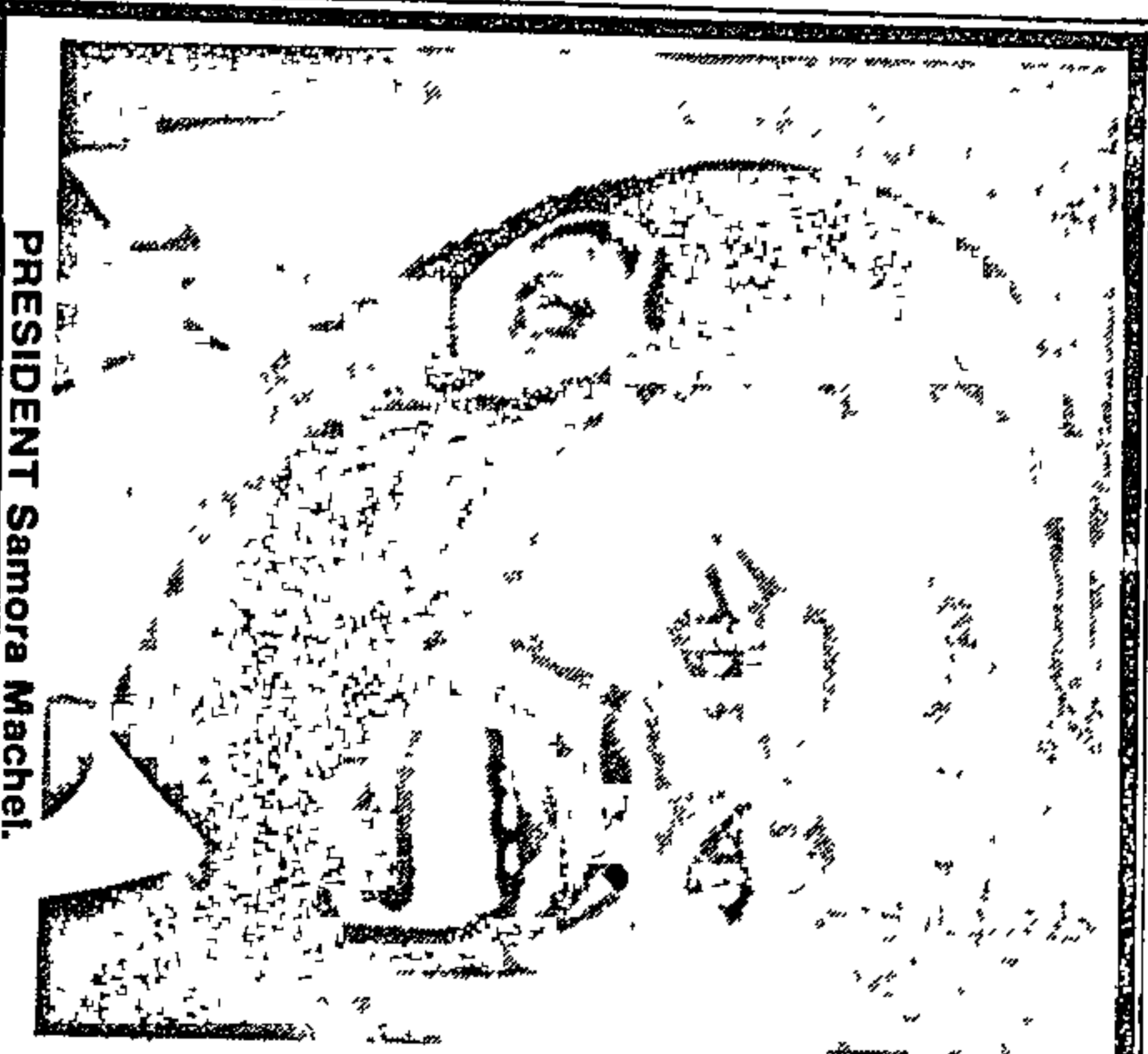
Although reporters from the *Sowetan* were not allowed into the meeting, it was established late yesterday that no decisions were taken as this was the first in a series of meetings the workers will hold to resolve the issue.

They were all released after 7am. By noon yesterday, white council officials, accompanied by armed council police were still looking for more rent defaulters.

Mr Nelson Botle, the mayor of Soweto, said he was not aware of the raid and the arrest of the people in Orlando East.

He said it is the council's procedure to conduct such raids if the residents owed rent.

Some of those who were arrested told the *Sowetan* that they were fetched from their homes about 4am by armed council police. They said they were driven to the Orlando council offices in police vans.



PRESIDENT Samora Machel.

## Maputo rejects crash findings

**MAPUTO** — The Mozambican Government has rejected the main conclusions of the South African board of inquiry into the plane crash in which President Samora Machel died.

President Machel and 34 others died when the presidential aircraft, a Soviet-built Tupolev 134-A, crashed on the night of October 19 at Mbuluzi inside South Africa.

### Error

The South African board of inquiry, headed by Mr Justice Cecil Margo, released its final report at a Johannesburg Press conference yesterday. The report blames the crash on the dead Soviet crew.

An official source yesterday told the Mozambican News Agency Am that Mozambique rejected the board's conclusion that the crash was due to human error. — *African News Organisation*.

## Drama in PAC trial

THE **PAN Africanist Congress** terrorism trial took a dramatic turn yesterday when the magistrate withdrew his own ruling that compelled a State witness to answer questions, including those that incriminated him.

Mr J H Bekker withdrew the warning in a Pretoria Regional Court after the defence counsel, Mr Dikgang Mosenke, submitted that the warning was issued against the law because the witness had already been indemnified in a similar trial a few years ago.

The witness, who may not be identified following a court order yesterday, gave evidence shortly after the end of a lengthy application by the

prosecutor, Mr J P Pretorius, to have his evidence be held in camera.

Mr Bekker ruled that he was satisfied that the witness could be harmed if he was identified.

Mr X gave evidence in the trial of seven alleged members of the banned PAC who have pleaded not guilty to 24 counts of terrorism and defeating the ends of justice.

The accused are Mr Mabatru Enoch Zulu, Mr Syabulela Ndoda Ganga, Mr Vincent Mathungwa, Setisba Mohoho, Reverend Daniel Nkopodi, Mr Achmad Cassien and Mr Yusuf Patel.

(Proceeding)

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# FINES

## and Braiding

*Soweto*  
*10/7/87*

# Hostel plan for homeless

By MOJALEFA  
MOSEKI *(127)*

THE Soweto City Council is to move scores of families living in shacks in transit camps in Soweto into empty single-sex hostel rooms previously used by male migrant workers.

The plan, which has been under discussion by Soweto councillors, was given the green light this week by a member of the executive committee of the Regional Services Council (Rand), Mr John Mavuso.

The council has also asked the Government to include the Devland Industrial area, near Baragwanath Hospital, into its area of control, in a bid to boost its depleted coffers.

(127) *Oppers* 12/7/87

# New housing hopes for the 'not so rich'

By SOL MORATHI

THE housing shortage in Mamelodi might soon be a thing of the past. That is, if the local council, in conjunction with building contractors and the Family Housing Association have their way.

The association this week lodged "a new alternative" to help alleviate the housing backlog in the township.

The new scheme makes it possible for low income families to acquire completed homes constructed by a private building contractor.

Matthew Nel, FHA general manager, said the idea behind the contractor-built homes was that significant cost savings could be effected through the erection of a relatively large number of houses by a larger, highly organised and expertly managed contractor in a relative short space of time.

The contractor-built alternative would provide the following advantages to low income families.

- Speed of construction - families signing a contractor-built housing contract could expect to take occupation of their homes within four months of signing the sale agreement.

- Good value for money - savings gained as a result of using a big building contractor for the development are passed on to the user.

- No personal involvement - families need not become personally involved in the construction of their home.

The houses will be financed by 85 to 90 percent building society loans organised by FHA which will also take the responsibility for the registration of the stand in the buyer's names as well as the building of the house.

Buyers will, however, be required to raise a balance of 10 to 15 percent as a deposit.

"This alternative will be particularly relevant to those families who can obtain assistance from their employers in the raising of the deposit or who may even be able to obtain a 100 percent loan through their employers," said Nel.

The individuality of each house will not be lost in the bulk building process. Each house will be pre-sold to an individual buyer who will choose the design he wants from a range of eight basic plans.

The contractor-built alternative is being introduced to a housing project already under development by FHA in the southern buffer area of Mamelodi.

The first houses in the owner-builder development are reaching completion and stands are being sold at a rate of about 40 a month.

# 'No pay, you don't stay'

**CP Correspondent**

A YOUNG woman was evicted from her Emndeni shack at the weekend in a reverse incident of the Soweto rent boycott saga

Debra Mbuyazwe, 28, alleges that her landlord

demanded payment of R10 for the storage of her belongings and told her to leave.

Mbutazwe's landlord accused her of avoiding paying her monthly rent and asked her to leave the

shack she has been staying in since January

*City Press* could not establish whether the landlord was himself paying rent to the authorities since the Soweto rent boycott

"I was away on duty from Wednesday until Saturday. When I arrived back at the shack I found my padlock sawn open. On inquiry what was going on, I was accused by my landlord of being a crook.

"When I tried to explain the circumstances pertaining to my disappearance, the landlord wouldn't oblige."

"He just said I should pay R10 for the storage of my belongings and leave. When I looked inside the shack I was stunned to find my belongings were no longer there."

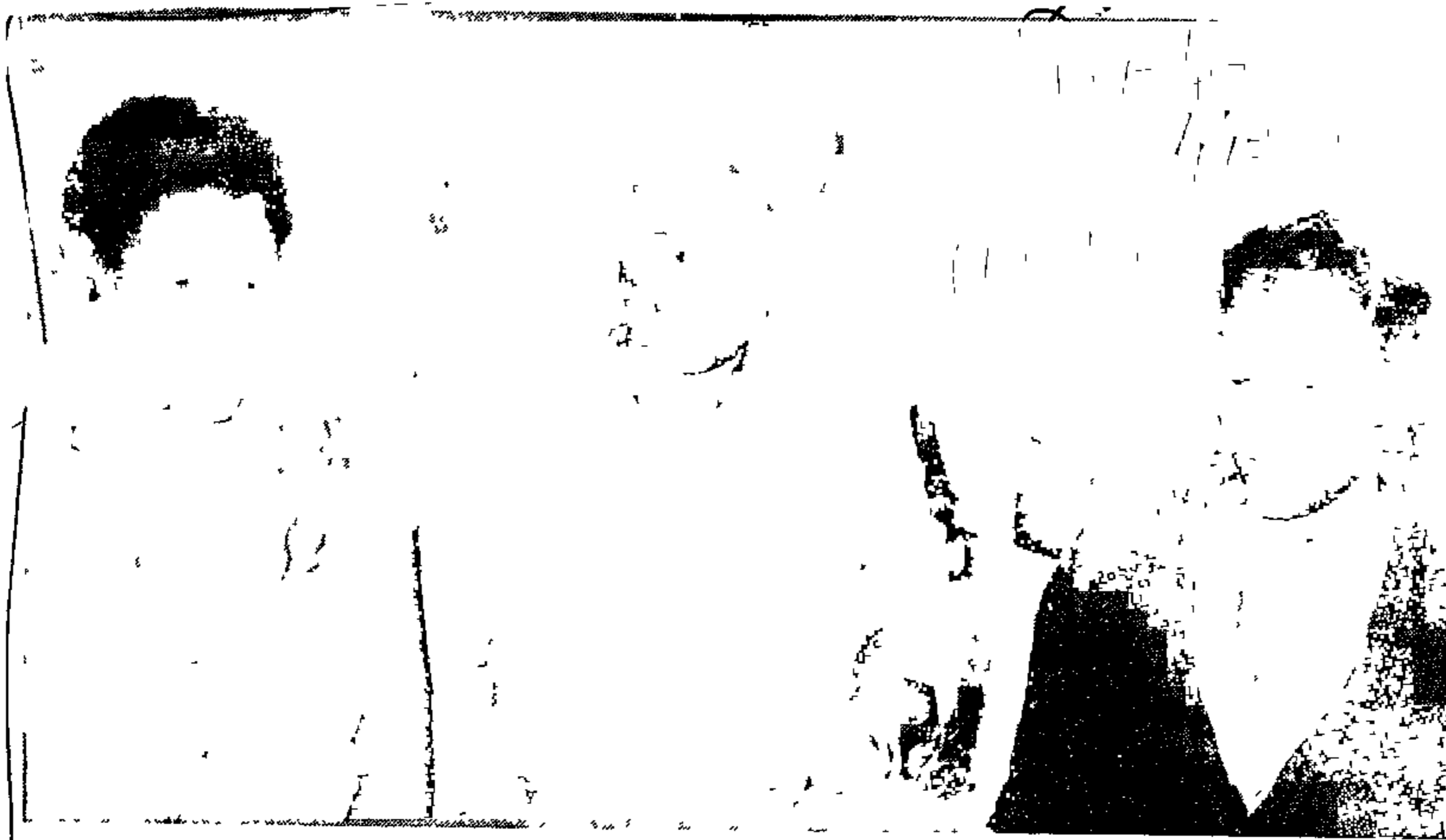
*CP* "I think it was very unfair of my landlord because I paid R50 a month rent plus R5 for electricity, including R10 for a monthly supply of coal."

"I initially wanted to leave the place in August because of the high rent he was asking but could not because of lack of alternative accommodation," she said.

The landlord, Samuel Ndlovu, said Mbuyazwe had the habit of disappearing each month-end whenever she was supposed to pay her rent and he was getting sick and tired of her tactics.

"If a person decides to disappear whenever they must pay their rent, what should I do? This lady disappointed me, so I had to get rid of her," he said.





With the eviction papers which brought all the pain ... Nowimiti Ngowela and her two daughters have moved back into their house after they were evicted by municipal police.

## Administrator 'cares for money'

By SELLO SERIPE

THE recently formed Tembisa Residents' Association has accused the township administrator, PL Harmse, of being interested "in our money instead of resolving the year-long rent boycott".

The accusation follows Harmse's statement in an SABC report last week that his office would cut off electricity in the township if residents continued with the rent boycott.

He warned that electricity supplies would be cut off if residents had not started to pay up by July 13.

The report also quoted Harmse as saying that 20 percent of the residents were up to date with their rent.

The TCA spokesman rejected this. He said residents were united in the rent boycott.

He pointed out that the threat to switch off and evict residents would be challenged in court if necessary.

"TRA views the statement as a clear indication that the administrator is not concerned with the reasons which led to the boycott.

"TRA appeals to him to stop his SABC-promoted propaganda campaign and to pay attention to the demands of the residents," he said.

The demands include the scrapping of rent payment, withdrawal of security forces in the township and the upliftment of the state of emergency.

B/Day 19/7/81

# Shacks saved in last-minute move

PROVINCIAL authorities intervened yesterday to prevent Soweto Council Police demolishing squatters' shacks after four people had been injured and two shacks destroyed

The last-minute intervention followed a telephone conversation between PFP MP Rupert Lorimer and Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Chris Heunis

Heunis's department is ultimately responsible for implementing the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act in terms of which 1 000 squatters were to be sent "back to where they came from".

Heunis referred Lorimer to Provincial Director of Land Use Control J J van der Walt, who contacted Soweto town clerk Nico Malan to urge him to impose a moratorium on the removal

Malan last night confirmed the intervention and said negotiations were un-

PATRICK BULGER  
and THEO RAWANA

der way to provide an alternative squatting site.

"We have stopped demolitions altogether until the outcome of the negotiations is known," he said.

He did not know of any injuries.

Yesterday morning police were confronted by angry squatters who refused

● Picture: Page 2

to move from the site at MacDonald's farm where they have lived since 1982.

Squatter Daniel Masinya, an 18-year-old with a bruised face, said police came into his shack, ordered everybody out and began shooting

"A bullet missed me as I turned a corner but one policeman caught me."

● To Page 2

## Move halts destruction of squatter shacks

"I was repeatedly hit with a rifle butt and bundled into a van together with another badly beaten man. We were taken to the Dube Vocational Training Centre where we were put under running showers fully clothed.

"Then we were forced to lie for a long time in a furrow with dirty running water. After that the policemen allowed us to go but warned they would return," said Masinya

Michael Mbalekwa, a father of eight,

A7/37 ← ● From Page 1

said he had been on the housing waiting list for 13 years

"I came to this place after being retrenched from the West Rand Administration Board in 1985," he said

"Last week we went to the Soweto council and were told to go back where we came from. Where do these people expect us to go?"

Town clerk: Talks frank and to the point

# Meeting breaks ice on Soweto crisis

By Jo-Anne Collinge

A ground-breaking meeting between the Soweto town clerk and a delegation of street committee members from White City, Jabavu, has opened the way for further talks on the housing crisis.

The six-member White City delegation was nominated by a branch of the Soweto Civic Association

Town clerk Mr Nico Malan has previously declined to meet the SCA except in the presence of councillors, a condition unacceptable to the association

Mr Malan, describing the people he saw yesterday as "White City representatives", said the three-hour talks had been "frank and to the point, and conducted in a calm and friendly atmosphere"

The only other council representative present was housing

director Mrs Estelle Bester

Mr W Tobo, spokesman for the delegation, said the talks represented progress for Soweto as a whole

He expressed the hope that issues more closely related to the rent boycott might be discussed at a further meeting.

"We can't say we are happy with the boycott. We would like the matter to be resolved as it's not nice living under suspense," Mr Tobo said

## POSITION UNCHANGED

Residents' grievances regarding electricity charges, water supply and house maintenance had been discussed at the meeting, said Mr Malan. Affordable housing was also discussed.

The talks had not changed the position on the rent boycott and evictions, both parties said

Mr Malan said that evictions would continue as the council

was suffering serious financial effects and had difficulty paying for services used

"We will continue to act with discretion," he said. "Our action will be directed at those who ceased payment (of rent and service charges) before the boycott started"

Mr Malan disclosed that 128 families had been evicted to date and that all except two of them were back in their homes

White City residents claimed that in the last week some of them had been woken as early as 1 am by council police and taken to the local rent office to account for their failure to pay rent

"Without saying this is true or untrue, it is unfair to get people to come to the offices at 1 am," commented Mr Malan. He said the process of calling people in would continue, but at a reasonable hour

EP  
17/7/82

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# DEFAULTERS' HOUSES ARE TO BE AUCTIONED

By MOJALEFI MOSEKI

MORE than 50 houses belonging to residents who owe the Katlehong Town Council rent are to be auctioned at the Alberton Magistrates Court tomorrow.

This will be the second time houses belonging to rent defaulters have been sold by public auction. The first eight houses were sold at the same venue at the order of the Katlehong council on July 7.

The council has assigned a legal company to advertise the sale of the houses. Before the first sale about 50 houses were advertised for June 21.

The mayor of Katlehong, Mr Thami Siluma, suspended the sale hours before it was to start on that date.

But three weeks later eight of the houses were sold. The council has said that residents owed it R5 831 943 in rent arrears.

## Bus fares to rise

BUS operators throughout the country are to increase their fares following changes in the fuel price announced recently by the Government.

This was announced at the weekend by Dr Gerrie Prinsloo, executive director of the South African Bus Operators Association (Saboa).

Dr Prinsloo said the changes in the price of fuel had resulted in a considerable increase in the price of bus diesel.

"It is regrettable that the people who will be affected by this increase are the people from the lower income groups as they are the prime users of bus transport."

Saboa wants to make it clear that this increase is neither the wish nor the creation of the bus industry," Dr Prinsloo said.

At 3pm tomorrow the mayor of Katlehong, Mr Thami Siluma, and officials of his council will perform the official opening of the 2000 Siluma View black elite township located between Katlehong and Vosloorus.

In Soweto officials of the Soweto Council's electricity department, accompanied by armed guards moved into the elite township of Selection Park and cut off the power supply.

This was the first time that the council has taken action against residents living in the posh, smokeless areas since the rent boycott was started more than a year ago.

Mr Nico Malan, Soweto's town clerk, confirmed the blackout in the two elite areas of Pimville yesterday.

Mr Malan said the power supply was cut off in Zone 5 and Zone 7 because residents were not paying their electricity accounts.

Mr Malan has also warned residents to be on the lookout for a white man who masquerades as a council official and reconnects electricity illegally for a fee.



MR GLEN Jarwa is escorted by a group of klerie wielding Basotho men in blankets, after a rent meeting yesterday.

## Russians' save Jwara

By SOWETAN REPORTER

A GROUP of knobkierie-wielding Basotho men yesterday saved the former deputy mayor of Soweto, Mr Glen Jwara, from possible assault at the end of a residents' meeting in Orlando West 2 in Soweto.

The group of about 10 blanket-clad men, known as "The Russians", had mingled with the crowd during the meeting but as soon as people blocked Mr Jwara's way to his car, they pulled the kleries from under their blankets.

They started chanting as they warned people to keep away from Mr Jwara's car.

A group of youths waving a T-shirt enscribed "Unban the ANC" also chanted freedom songs metres away from the "Russians" guarding Mr Jwara.

The meeting had been called by Mr Jwara, who appealed to residents to pay their rent. Residents insisted they would only

pay if their electricity supply was restored.

The meeting ended in chaos as residents shouted at Mr Jwara to bring along the council's town clerk, Mr Nico Malan, to explain the continued rental charges for families who had bought and paid up their houses on the 99-year leasehold.

Mr Jwara had said the charge was for services provided by the council such as sports grounds and street lighting.

## Man dies in blast

ONE person died in the explosion on Friday night near Jericho village in the Odi region of Bophuthatswana. The incident was confirmed by the spokesman of the Bophuthatswana police, Colonel Dave George, in Mmabatho yesterday.

Col George said the explosion may have been caused by a landmine which possibly exploded prematurely and killed the man who was handling it.

He confirmed the dead man was the third person to die in similar circumstances. Three weeks ago two people were killed in an explosion at Mmukubanye village near Makapanstad in the Moretele region.

### ACCOMMODATION

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THE Lekoa Town Council evicted four families in Sharpeville on Friday, bringing to 67 the number of families ejected from their homes in the township since March.

About 10 families a week are being evicted in the township, according to the Sharpeville Civic Association (SCA). The SCA has been at the forefront of an ongoing legal battle between residents and authori-

# Rent: 4 families evicted

By **THEMBA MOLEFE**

ties over rent in the Vaal

Residents in Sharpeville, Sebokeng, Bophelong, Boipatong and Evaton have not been paying rent since September 1984 when the rent boycott — which later spread to

other parts of the country — began

The SCA says Sharpeville residents, who owe the council thousands of rands, are being hoaxed into signing undertakings that they will pay their rent arrears

Residents have received letters asking

them to go to their local council offices in connection with their houses

The notices read. "Please call at this office in connection with updating the office with information relating to your house as tenant. Your failure (to do so) will lead to an

inspection in loco "

SCA spokesman say residents are often made to sign stop-order forms allowing rent to be deducted from their wages

A spokesman said: "The inspection *in loco* also means failure to report to the office will result in an eviction."



NICO MALAN ... confirmation.

# Council 'writes off rent'

THE Soweto City Council has written-off thousands of rent arrears for pensioners and disabled residents over the past eight months, said former deputy mayor, Mr Glenn Jwara at the weekend.

He was addressing about 400 residents, among them pensioners, who braved the chilly weather to hear what he had to say about the rent crisis in Soweto.

Mr Jwara's claim that the council has written-off rent arrears for scores of Soweto pensioners and families with permanently disabled breadwinners was confirmed by the council's town clerk, Mr Nico Malan, yesterday.

Mr Malan said a social worker is sent to investigate cases of people who apply for an exemption from rent payment and the council approved it if genuine and valid reasons were furnished.

Mr Jwara also told residents that the council has written to the Government asking it to repay the R250 million electricity loan owed by the council to overseas financiers.

78/12/12 matamoras (122)

# Red Cross takes in evicted Honeydew homeless

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The 40 families who became homeless after they were evicted last month from a small plot in Honeydew where they lived in rented shacks have been temporarily settled at a tent village in Evaton



TWO of the residents of the tent village, Mrs Constance Kgalane (left) and Mrs Martha Mabena



A CHURCH delegation visited the tent village. On the left is the Rev Daniel S Modisapodi and the Rev Buti P Mthimkhulu, secretary of the Vaal Council of Churches with Mrs Esther Mavumba of the Red Cross. Pic LEN KHUMALO

By NAT DISEKO

The shack dwellers were caught by surprise when they were told to vacate their shacks because their landlord had sold the property they were squatting on

Mrs Jane Mamotho Vilakazi (35) who is chairperson of the tent village committee said the squatters were surprised when front-end loaders arrived at the smallholding on the day after notice to vacate was given

She said 'All our shacks were brought down and we were left homeless with our belongings left on the pavement. The eviction took place early in the morning and we were all stranded

### Rent

"We used to pay rent of R45 a month and were not even refunded the outstanding rent we were owed. The eviction took place in the middle of the month"

The Red Cross was made aware of the plight of the squatters and came to their rescue by providing them with tents. The organisation decided to pitch the tents on a piece of ground in Evaton owned by the organisation

Mrs Esther Mavumba a community organiser of the Red Cross said the ground had been earmarked for the building of a Red Cross centre but that it was decided to settle the squatters there on a temporary basis

It is not yet known what will eventually happen to the tent people

A Red Cross volunteer, Mrs Judith Sedi-nyana said the organisation had also provided the homeless people with food, blankets and toilets

This week, a delegation from the Vaal Council of Churches led by chairman the Rev Daniel S Modisapodi visited the tent village. He said the VCC was concerned about children at the tent village who were of school-going age

He said ministers in the area would try their best to place them at schools nearest to where the child en lived

### Problems

One tent-dweller, who asked that her name not be used said while all the homeless people were grateful to the Red Cross for 'taking them off the street' one of the biggest problems they now had to contend with was travelling long distances to work

She said "My husband who works as a labourer in Randburg spends about R45 on transport a week. There are others who work farther afield"

Another problem was that working mothers who did not have relatives in Evaton had no one to look after their children



MRS JANE Vilakazi, chairperson of the tent village committee

# Wits Central RSC ready to bail out debt-ridden Soweto

SM  
22/7/87

By Shirley Woodgate,  
Municipal Reporter

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2088

The Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council plans to come to the assistance of cash-strapped greater Soweto — which needs about R800 million to meet its debts and to upgrade services.

Mr Gerrit Bornman, chairman of the Wits Central RSC, said in his budget speech this month the council would consider assisting in one way or another with "certain existing loan debts of constituent developing local authorities".

Soweto town clerk Mr Nico Malan said the township's outstanding loans totalled R441 million and at this stage only the interest was being repaid. Interest alone ran into millions of rands, he added.

A further estimated R364 million was needed to develop townships in the Wits Central RSC area.

The bulk would be spent in the three townships which constitute greater Soweto to make up the backlog in providing infrastructure.

A R268 million loan for the electrification of Greater Soweto (including Dobsonville and Diepmeadow) was obtained by former mayor Mr David Thebehah four years ago, and a further R173 million loan to upgrade services was also still outstanding, said Mr Malan.

The interest on the electricity loan was being paid at a rate of 10,2 percent and interest on the services loan started at 2½ percent a year, increasing every five years by a further 2½ percent for the next 20 years, he said.

If the local authority had to repay the loan, the consumer would be forced to pay a levy of R30 a month, apart from his service charges for water, electricity, refuse removal and sewerage.

The Soweto City Council had put forward proposals to the RSC about the loans and how repayment could be honoured, Mr Malan said.



# DISPUTE OVER HOUSING SITES GETTING HOTTER

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Sowetan  
24/7/87

A DISPUTE over the allocation of housing sites in Mangaung township outside Bloemfontein between the local city council and the Ipogeng Builders Association which represents black builders in the area is becoming quiet serious.

The Ipogeng Association has arranged a public meeting at the Kagisanong Hall on Sunday at 9am to inform local residents of their problems in this connection. Among the speakers will be local business tycoon, Mr Petros Molemela who is also boss of Celtic football team.

On Tuesday black builders attended a meeting of the Mangaung council executive committee to be available to give any verbal submission in addition to the letter they submitted.

They were told they had not been invited to the meeting and should leave. The spokesman for the association said they consider this attitude to being treated like enemies.

On April 7, this year, the council, at the request of the mayor, the Rev Lebone Motsoeneng, sent a letter to the builders association asking that they should consider donating a



**PETROS Molemela... speaker.**

vehicle to be used by the mayor for official duties. The letter also specified the type of vehicle wanted.

It is not known whether the association has yet responded to the request or whether it is still under consideration.

Some members of the public who have heard of the request said it should have been sent to white or coloured builders who appear to have the major share of the building activity in the township.

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# R100m development for Mamelodi

**LARGE-SCALE** housing and other developments at Mamelodi, near Pretoria, have been prominently featured by SATV recently. Some residents of the black city have, as reported in the Cape Times, referred to a televised documentary on Mamelodi as "a pack of lies". This week the Cape Times accepted an invitation from Brigadier Leon Mellet, liaison officer for the Minister of Law and Order, to see for itself — with no restrictions — what is happening there.

Chief Reporter Roger Williams spent an entire day touring the sprawling city, accompanied by Brigadier Mellet (in civilian dress and in an unmarked vehicle) and Mamelodi City Council's public relations officer, Mr Veleleli Mashumi, a former reporter on the now-defunct Rand Daily Mail.

This is the first of two reports he has written on his visit.

By ROGER WILLIAMS  
Chief Reporter

MAMELODI, the black city east of Pretoria where the "massacre of November 21, 1985" is still a vivid memory (at least 13 people died in a clash with security forces that day), is bursting with activity again.

But the Casspirs and riot police have made way for builders' lorries, road-making equipment and teams of workmen — whites as well as blacks. They are to be seen all over the place now, in this dusty, bustling metropolis at the foot of the Magaliesberg, with its population of 320 000.

They are all taking part in Mamelodi City Council's R100-million development and upliftment scheme, in what in 1983 was started as a small township — for decades regarded as temporary sojourners in terms of government labour policy — in red-brick matchbox "units".

Critics have questioned the timing and motivation of the upliftment scheme, which has been prominently featured by SATV.

On a visit to Mamelodi ("place of melodies") on Thursday I was allowed complete freedom of access to, and movement around, the sprawling city by the SA Police and the city council. I was also allowed access to whoever and whatever I wished to see, and the photographer accompanying me was allowed complete freedom to take the pictures he wanted.

There was little sign of police or military activity and the only Casspir I saw — parked at the police station — had a flat tyre. At no time, in travelling the length and breadth of Mamelodi, did I see or hear anything that made me fear for my safety.

Laughing, chattering children poured out of classrooms at break time, at some of the many schools we passed, and life in the city appeared as busily normal as one could find it anywhere. The only police I saw in the streets were locally-recruited "katskonstabels", on foot patrol.

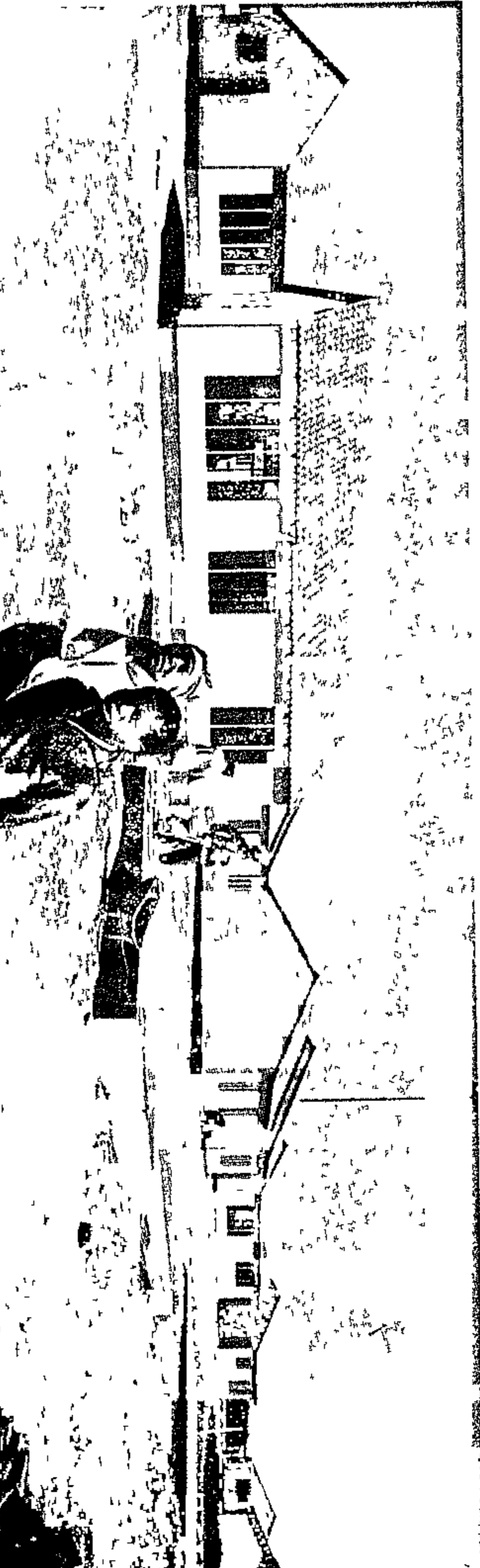
My guides took me to see work in progress at housing schemes designed and developed by private enterprise which will provide for families at all income levels. Two lower-income show houses visited (each has three bedrooms) have price-tags of R11 800 and R13 000.

In Mamelodi Gardens, being developed on high ground as the "Beverly Hills" of the city, luxurious homes are going up, at costs comparable with those in any other city, many with double garages and some with pools.

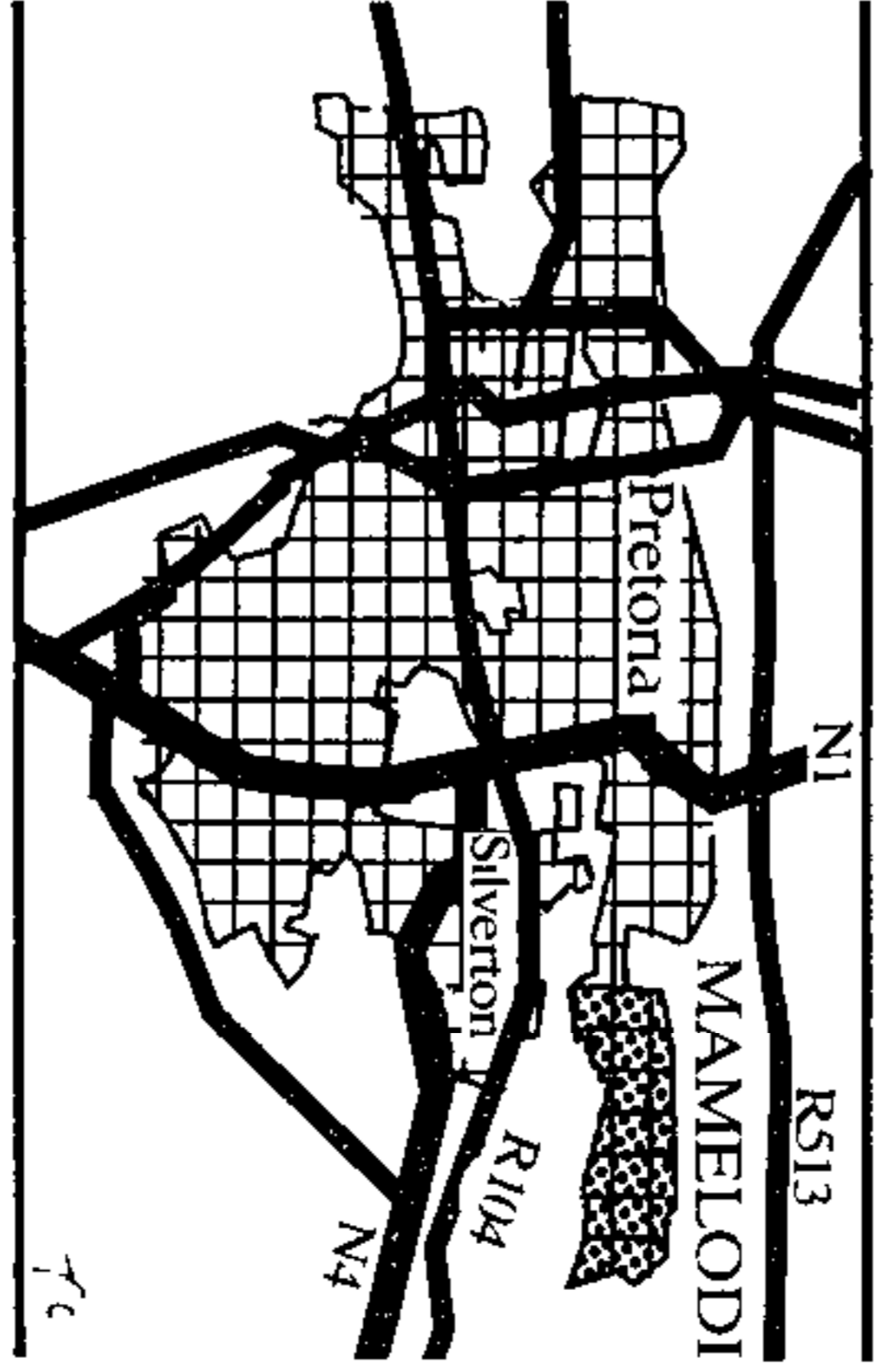
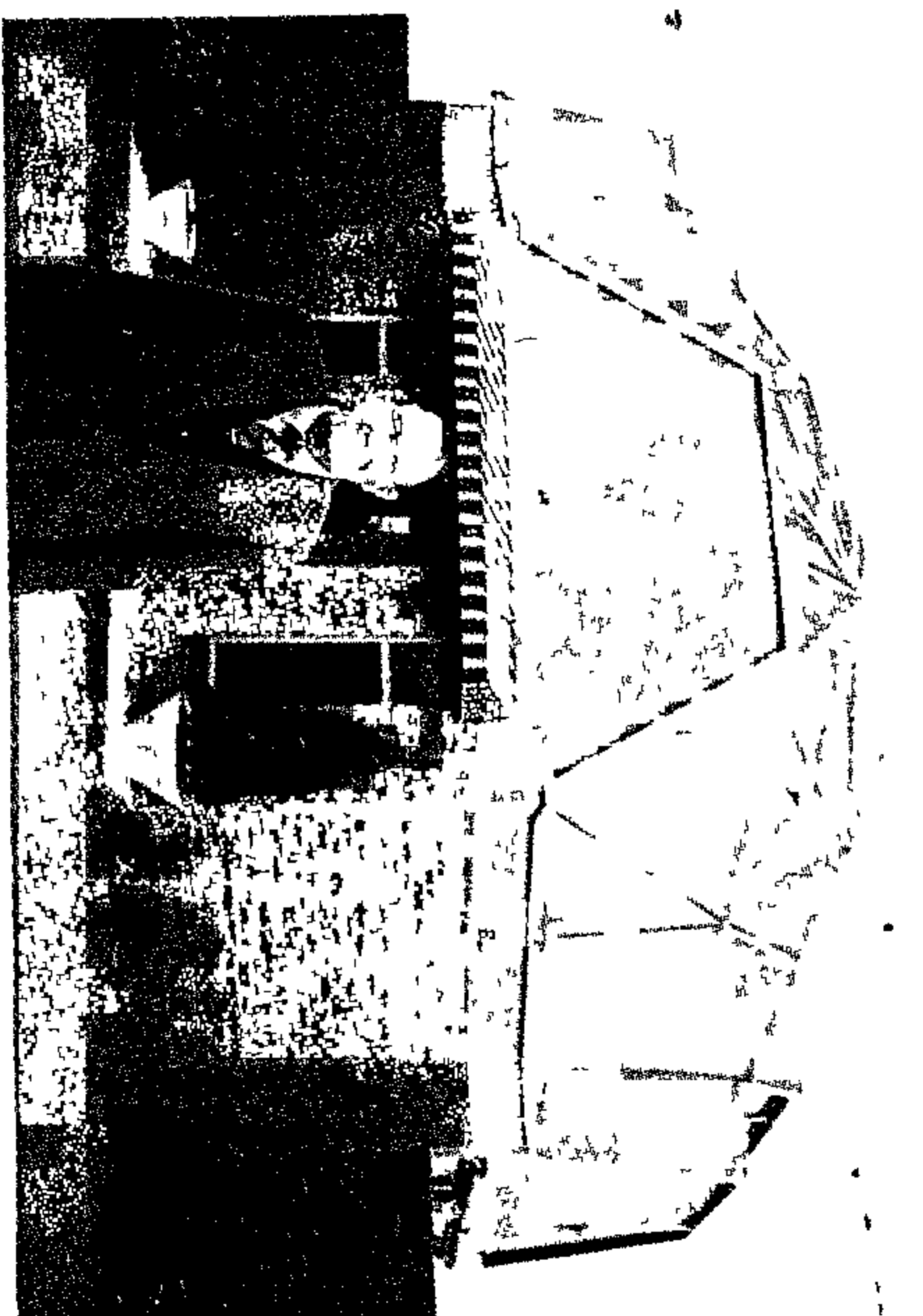
A start has been made to conquer the dust problem, in a five-year,

R42 million programme to pave or tar the long-neglected thoroughfares of the city, with its 160km of dirt roads.

While I was accorded an interview with Mr Bennett Ndazi, 41-year-old mayor of Mamelodi,



**CITY WITH ASPIRATIONS** New houses, erected by private developers, are changing the face of Mamelodi, near Pretoria, as an ambitious R100-million upliftment scheme gets under way. **BELOW** Dr Nico Smith of the Ned Geret Kerk in Afrika outside the domed, hut-like house in which he and his wife, Professor Ellen Faul, live in the heart of the black city of Mamelodi.



Mamelodi, in relation to Pretoria. With no big shopping centres in this black city of 320 000 people, residents do much of their shopping at nearby Silverton. A major business complex is planned in the R100-million upliftment scheme for Mamelodi.

for everyone. "I fear it could lead to violent confrontation between those who accept the system and those — mostly of the younger, 'decolonized' generation — who do not."

Mr Ndazi, when it was put to him that there were many who did not accept him as the true leader of the people, replied:

"How can they say that, when it is on record that in an open, democratic election in 1983 I

was returned with 78 percent of the votes in Ward 7 in a 55% poll, which is high for any municipal election?"

Mr Ndazi, a former SA Breweries representative, was assaulted by opponents in 1984 when he was deputy mayor. Now, his house — which is surrounded by two-metre-high iron railings — is under constant guard by members of the green-uniformed municipal police — known in the township as "green beans".

He told me — speaking with enthusiasm and conviction — he was confident he had the support of the majority of Mamelodians for the upgrading programme he and his council had embarked on.

"Our objective is to improve considerably the quality of life in Mamelodi. And our top priority now is housing for the low-income group."

Interviewed in Pretoria Mr Rowan Haart-

hoff, Northern Transvaal regional chairman of the PFP, accompanied by Mr Chris Gilfillan, chairman of the party's unrest monitoring committee for the area, said: "There is no doubt the government is presently spending quite a lot of money on Mamelodi. Whether it is being spent on the right type of development, and in an average resident now feels that possibly has only lever for further development is more violence."

Although I doubt this is true, the inescapable fact remains that the order of priority that suits the residents, is a moot point. "It is, however, a pity

# LEAVE

## Daggakraal residents tell Govt

# ALONE

THE Government's recent offer to purchase land owned by more than 45 000 people in Daggakraal in the Eastern Transvaal was totally

By SY MAKARINGE

rejected at an emotion-packed meeting in the area at the weekend. The rejection comes in the wake of a recent

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Sowetan 27/1/87

statement made by Mr Chris Heunis, Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, in which he said the Development Trust must acquire the farm and, in co-operation with the local community, develop it into a rural regional town. Mr Heunis said in the statement that all the stands would be sold in freehold to blacks. Existing owners would be given the option to

To Page 10

## Leave us alone, say resident

From Page 1

purchase the first stands at a nominal price, he said. This was one of consolidation proposals for the KaNgwane homeland.

Angry residents, many of whom were born in the area after it was purchased from a white farmer in 1912 — a year before the Land Act was passed — told the meeting that they would sell their land over their dead bodies.

They said Daggakraal was a symbol of harassment suffered by their forefathers and were not prepared to part with it.

"Our parents walked all the way from the Orange Free State to buy this land after they suffered racial harassment from white farmers there. They sweated and shed blood to get this land and no one will get it from us," Mrs Jane Tshabalala (69), told the meeting.

She said the land would be inherited by no one else but their children. Mr Willie Moloi (77),



MR G D TWALA addressing the meeting.

instructed organisers of the meeting — Daggakraal Joint Executive Committee — to go and tell Mr Heunis that he (Mr Heunis), would buy the land "over my dead body".

"I've been living happily ever since my parents bought this land. I'm not prepared to sell my plots," Mr Moloi said.

Mr G D Twala, chairman of the executive committee, said the Daggakraal community was not consulted when

these proposals were made. He said this was contrary to present thinking.

"We do not want to be treated as some pawn in a chess game. We cannot and will not be squashed into tiny pieces of land on which we cannot even build a decent house."

"The Government wants to purchase Daggakraal for us, develop it and re-sell to us. The people of Daggakraal have shown their total rejection of this move and the best

thing the Government must do is to forget all plans," Mr Twala said.

The meeting was nearly disrupted when councillors of a local chief heckled members of the executive committee and threatened journalists from the Sowetan with violence. Speakers also told the meeting that there was no place for chiefs in Daggakraal. They said this was because there were people from different tribes living happily together.

127 STAR 29/9/87

By Dan Side

# Evictions on ministerial order — claim

The order to evict an estimated 55 Honeydew families and demolish their homes — former pigsties —, came from ministerial level, claims the man in possession of the property when the demolishers moved in at dawn on Monday.

Mr Pieter van Niekerk, who is the tenant and not the owner, as reported in The Star yesterday, denied he was the person who had ordered the removal.

He said a Mr Smoekler of A R Bell and Company — agents for the Italian-based owners, Alfa Farms — told him the Honeydew police had ordered him to demolish the shanties immediately. The police had later told an associate of Mr van Niekerk that their instructions had come from ministerial level.

Mr Smoekler told Mr van Niekerk that the residents were originally given a deadline of last Friday afternoon to vacate the premises, but this was later extended to Monday morning.

The residents rushed to salvage their belongings at 5.36 am on Monday when a front-end loader razed the buildings.

Mr van Niekerk rejected the claim of Mrs Monica Zikode, who said the residents were tenants who paid between R45 and R85 a month for their accommodation.

"I had not accepted any money from these people since April 1986," he said. "They were squatters, and living

there at their own risk."

He said he first took over the farm on October 1985 and lived on the property with his family. When the unrest in Soweto was at its height, refugees flooded into the area.

"The authorities tried to control the influx," said Mr van Niekerk, "but the squatters were rebuilding their houses between inspections on Tuesdays and Saturdays."

He started charging rent for the shelters in February last year, but stopped in April when "reprimanded" by the now defunct West Rand Administration Board (Wrab).

"I then gave these people written notice to move, and signed copies of the letters are

still in the hands of the Honeydew police.

"And because I had given notice, I was fined R600 of a possible R6 000 and was thus handed a criminal record."

When Wrab disbanded, the Roodepoort municipality took over and issued summons for health and building ordinance infringements. He was fined three times.

"I was ordered to demolish the houses in June last year," he said. "And when I tried to carry out the order, some of the men threw bricks at me. One piece of brick broke my left arm."

"Since October 1986, the Honeydew police have twice raided my property, and I

charged the people with trespass. The men were arrested, but the women and children could not be removed from the property.

"When the men were released, they moved right back into their homes."

At the end of last November, the raids stopped and it appeared peace had been restored. Still, Mr van Niekerk moved from his property "for fear of repercussions" and used the premises for storage.

But on July 5 this year he was charged by Honeydew police and released on his own recognisances, he said.

"They were the same charges as the year before — housing people and erecting

buildings, but not for accepting money. "I appeared in court the next day and was told by the arresting officer that I could go home and there would be no court case until further notice. "I heard nothing until Monday, when I was told at 11 am by an associate that the blacks had been thrown off the property and the houses were being demolished. "The police told my associate that the matter was out of their hands. The instructions had come from ministerial level and the Minister had been busy with the case for six months. "And Mr Smoekler, of the agents, said it was the police who had given him instructions to demolish the squatters' houses. The decision had nothing at all to do with me."

## Soweto (27) police evict 5 families

Five Zola Two, Soweto, families were evicted from their homes by council police today

Furniture was confiscated

Residents said they were told the furniture would only be released after settlement of rent arrears or acceptance of an arrangement made with the council.

Some pupils, from Zola and Vilakazi Secondary schools did not go to school, as a result of the evictions. Others left school early when they received news of the evictions.

All five families said they did not get notice of the council's intention to evict them or of court orders for their eviction.

An order was issued to the family of Mr Elliot Mfuphi, of 1849A Zola Two, when they were evicted.

All the houses were fitted with locks.

Council police, members of the South African Police and soldiers patrolled the streets to see if any residents had forced their way back into the houses.

Council comment was not available at the time of going to press.



Prompt action by The Star's Operation Snowball in distributing blankets to the 55 homeless Honeydew families yesterday meant they had at least some protection against the elements last night. On Monday a bulldozer razed the converted pigsties they called home and left the families with only their furniture for shelter. Donations may be sent to Operation Snowball, The Star Promotions Department, Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000. See Page 11.

Picture by Karen Sandison.

## Expropriation dashes hopes of refuge

# Govt grabs land from evicted group

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SAPL  
30/7/87

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The Government has stepped in to expropriate a Western Transvaal farm planned as a refuge for about 3 000 victims of forced removals — just weeks before the first group of refugees was due to moved on to the farm.

Leaders of the displaced Mogopa community said the action left them with no choice but to reoccupy the land from which they were forcibly removed in 1984.

The expropriation of Holgat farm on July 7 came only a few weeks before the first refugees, the Machavie community living under threat of eviction at Rooigrond, was due to move on to the farm.

The property was bought for R2,8 million from funds raised through foreign church groups and administered by the especially established Botshabelo Trust.

R2 million had already changed hands, the deed of sale had been signed and all that remained was for registration of title in the name of the trust when the expropriation took place.

Church groups and development agencies believe the Government has bowed to pressure from white farmers in the area, a Conservative Party constituency.

The Mogopa community was to have formed the backbone of a refugee settlement at Holgat. Now that their new home has been expropriated they intend to return to Mogopa, spokesman Mr. Kgatisoe told a Press conference in Johannesburg yesterday.

The people of Mogopa have been living in the Bethanie

Bophuthatswana since they were surrounded by security forces and moved by force in February 1984. The majority fled to Bethanie from the resettlement camp at Pachsdraai, near Zeerust.

"Bethanie proved to be anything but a haven and they have lived there in conditions of extreme privation," commented Black Sash Transvaal president Mrs. Ethel Walt.

Holgat — also known as Botshabelo — meaning "place of refuge" — would have provided a legal and permanent solution.

About 270 Mogopa families were to have shared the farm with 35 Machavie families, uprooted in 1971 from their land near Potchefstroom and left in "temporary" accommodation on the fringes of Bophuthatswana since then, and with 20 families of farmworkers formerly employed at Holgat.

When the Full Bench of the Appeal Court declared that the removal of the people of Mogopa had been unlawful because the provisions of the Black Administration Act had not been complied with the people believed they had won the right to return home, Transvaal Rural Action Committee field worker Miss Aninka Claassens said

Then they found that Mogopa had been expropriated and that the Government would not agree to their demand to return.

Talks followed in the hope that the Government might provide some other acceptable land, she said

However the only land offered was destined for incorporation into Bophuthatswana and could not be held under freehold title

● See Page 11.

# Zola residents evicted

SCORES of Zola residents stood in small groups on street pavements and watched dejectedly as soldiers, police and municipal policemen evicted at least nine families from their homes yesterday.

The families — all rent defaulters — had their furniture and all household belongings taken out of their homes. The furniture was confiscated.

The atmosphere was tense as soldiers on military vehicles with cannons circled the area. Some of the security forces, who were seen taking furniture out of the houses, wore balaclavas

Several cars were stopped and searched

By late yesterday afternoon more evictions had been carried out, but at the time of going to press the number could not be established

A roadblock was also set up about midday on the main road separating Naledi and Zola

The Soweto Civic Association, in a strongly worded statement, condemned the evictions and blamed them on the Soweto City Council

The SCA said "Our people have genuine grievances which the council is fully aware of and evictions will not solve these problems. To us

these evictions clearly demonstrate that the authorities are not prepared to sit down and solve the problems of the people

"We want to assure them that this will only serve to harden the attitudes of the people"

The SCA also said the rent issue could be amicably negotiated and until that happens, "we believe that all evictions should be suspended"

ably negotiated and until that happens, "we believe that all evictions should be suspended"

• The Diepmeadow Town Council yesterday resolved to "eliminate" street committees in the area with the help of the Joint Management Committees in a tough move to collect rent and service charges owed by residents, reports Mojalefa Moseki.

A councillor said the resolution was taken a few months ago after residents had said that they feared paying rent because some of the black clerks were top officials of the street committees



OFFICIALS supervise evictions while furniture is taken out of a house in Zola 2 yesterday.

## More Zola families out in the cold

127  
SME  
31/7/87

By Montshwa Moroke

At least 13 more families have been evicted from their homes in Zola North by officials of the Soweto council

It was the second round of evictions in the Zola area. At least five families are known to have been evicted from their homes in Zola II on Wednesday.

They spent the night out in the cold while the security forces patrolled, apparently to ensure that the families did not move back into their homes as has been the practice recently.

Today, members of the SADF, the SAP and Soweto council police continued to patrol the area.

In a new move, also apparently aimed at preventing the families from re-occupying their homes, the Soweto council police painted red crosses on the roofs of houses from which there had been evictions.

Addresses of the houses were also painted in bold red letters on the front walls of the houses.

Thousands of rands worth of furniture was confiscated and loaded into municipal trucks.

The families were then locked out with what was left of their furniture.

The evictions, said to have started as early as 7 am, were carried out by men clad in overalls, some of whom had their faces covered by balaclavas.



The occupants of this house in Zola North were among the 13 families evicted yesterday



# Del Kevan pops

## back ... to Alex

By MONO BADELA

FORMER Soweto housing director Del Kevan, who quit Soweto last year following a limpet mine blast at her Randburg home, is now working for the Alexandra Town Council.

*Weekly Mail* found Kevan at town council headquarters, occupying an administrative position — but not the post of housing director, which is held by a black official.

Kevan resigned as head of the Soweto housing division last September when a limpet mine exploded at her home.

"By staying in my job I would endanger my neighbours who face the risk of another bomb blast," she said at the time. "I cannot deal with a faceless terrorism."

The blast came soon after at least 27 people were killed in White City, Soweto when residents resisted attempts by municipal police to evict them for non-payment of rent. Rents had been recently raised.

Soweto leaders blamed Kevan for the massacre, quoting her as saying she was determined to crack down on rent defaulters.

Alexandra Town Clerk Piet Genis refused to comment on Kevan's appointment. "I was not here at the time," he said.

Last night Kevan confirmed she was working for the town council but declined to say in what capacity she had been appointed.

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W/Week 3/17-6/8/87

# Evictions: tenants to pay arrears

31/7/1

(21)

SOPHIE TEMA

B/Day

FAMILIES evicted from their Soweto homes for non-payment of rent are expected to pay half of their outstanding arrears plus their current month's rent before they are allowed back into their houses.

A firm of lawyers acting for the Soweto Council said yesterday families evicted for not paying their rent should undertake to sign a document in acknowledgement of debt offering to pay half of their arrears plus R100 a month including the monthly rent.

Town clerk for the Soweto Council Nico Malan was not available for comment but a spokesman for the council said. "This matter is solely in the hands of our lawyers."

"They are dealing with the rent issues and we have no say in as far as rent arrears and the court actions they bring against residents are concerned"

Yesterday several evicted families paid part of their arrears at their local administration offices hoping they would be allowed back into their homes but were disappointed when their township managers told them that they should appeal to the council's lawyers for such permission.

The families went to the lawyers' offices and produced the receipts of the payments they had just made but were told by a representative at the attorneys' offices that she could not help those who had paid less than half of their total arrears because it was an arrangement by their office and that of the council.

Arrears of the families evicted on Wednesday and Thursday ranged from R1 100 to R1 5000

a  
p  
q

127 Sowetan 31/7/87

# More Zola families are left homeless

## the burial

Journalist, Miss Zodwa Mshibe, after falling from the 11th floor in Johannesburg, will be buried

at the death, Miss Mshibe (32) was in *Magazine*. She was a member of the Association of South Africa. She was an executive member of the African

## Uncle Tom's

The service will be held at Uncle Tom's Hall, at 11am. The cortege will depart at 2pm.

The service will be officiated by the Rev. Mphahlele of Mwaza, Mr Mathata will conduct the service.

MORE evictions were carried out in Zola yesterday. At least four families were kicked out of their homes.

This brings to 12 the number of families evicted in Zola since Wednesday

The roofs of the houses were marked with a big red cross and the house numbers written in red paint near the front doors

There was no one in one of the houses, number 1258, when the municipality police took all the furniture and

By ALI MPHAKI

household belongings out of it

A family which returned all their furniture to their home after being evicted on Wednesday were evicted again at 4am yesterday

The house belongs to Mrs Dephney Shange of 802 Zola 2 She is said to owe R1 800 rent

Soldiers and policemen were present when the evictions took place

• In response to an article published in the *Sowetan* yesterday, the SADF and the Divisional Commissioner of the Soweto Police said neither the soldiers nor the SAP evicted the people from their homes

In a statement issued from Pretoria, the SADF said "Soldiers were present in the vicinity when evictions took place on Wednesday But merely in an escort and protection capacity which is a routine task They did not assist or participate in evictions of any kind "

## Azanyu honours leader

By NKOPANE MAKOBANE

THE Azanian National Youth Unity is to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the death of Mr Anthony Muziwakhe Lembede, one of the pioneers of Pan Africanism, this weekend.

Mr Nhlama Lebea, Azanyu's general secretary said they had arranged services

## New job for advocate of eviction

Former Soweto housing director, Mrs Del Kevan, who left her post amid controversy last September, has another job with a black local authority, the Alexandra Town Council.

Mrs Kevan, former chairman of the Progressive Federal Party in the Randburg council, was housing director in Soweto when the nationwide rent boycott was launched last year.

She took a hardline approach to the problem and said the only solution lay in eviction

"There is nothing for nothing and very little for 10 cents," she said at the time.

Her comments raised protests in the township, with certain organisations labelling her a racist, an accusation she denied. Later, 27 residents were killed in White City, Soweto, in a clash with municipal police who were evicting residents in arrears with their rents.

### BARNEY MTHOMBOTHI

The Soweto Civic Association accused Mrs Kevan of making provocative statements. Mrs Kevan said she was being made a scapegoat and resigned her membership of the PFP

After the killing, Mrs Kevan travelled to and from work in Soweto in the company of armed municipal policemen. She, however, decided to resign from her job after a bomb was tossed into her Craighall Park home, blowing out most of the windows

Mrs Kevan yesterday refused to comment on her new job.

The Town Clerk of Alexandra Township, Mr Piet Genis, refused to comment on Mrs Kevan's appointment yesterday. He referred inquiries to the administrator, Mr Steve Burger, who was not available

Park.

Earlier reports indicated

taken to the JG Strijdom Hospital.

injured "The scene was chaotic

proston Eye-witnesses said a few

# 10 Zola families evicted

(127)

CP Press 2/8/87

By SELLO SERIPE

AT LEAST 10 families in Soweto's Zola 2 were this week evicted from their homes and their furniture confiscated by Soweto council policemen, accompanied by the SAP and defence force members, for failing to pay rent.

The evicted families were told that if they failed to pay their debts by today, the council would auction their furniture to recover the money owed to it.

## Strike settled

CP Press 2/8/87  
Strike at Associated Glassworks, by sympathy strike by seven men resolved after negotiations between the Chemical Workers Union (AGW) management whereby benefits, excluding wages lost during the strike would be restored. Cape News Agency.

Zweli Xethwane, 27, of house 1778 in Zola 2, said that a council official told him that if his family failed to pay R1 235,95 by today, they would not be able to recover their confiscated fridge and diningroom suite.

Edward Sikaze, 35, said the council police confiscated his kitchen unit



A family outside their house after eviction.

"An official listed these on paper and gave me a receipt which also stated that I owe R700 in rent money.

"They then locked me outside with a relative, Mbuzeni Sithole," said Sikaze.

Sithole, 27, claimed that after the municipal police had left, he discovered that R380 was missing from his jacket.

A pensioner and widow, Gladys Ncuthe, 63, claimed that her TV set, stereo and fridge were confiscated

Others whose furniture was allegedly confiscated are Letta Mabaso, Angelina Nyoka and Priscilla Shange.

Soweto Council's town secretary, Nico Malan, could not be reached for comment

# Ombudsman gives advice on tenancy

3/8/87

127  
Soweto

By ALI MPHAKI

THE Soweto Electricity Advice Centre has issued out a procedure to be followed by Soweto residents encountering problems regarding their rights of tenancy of the houses they occupy.

The ombudsman Mr Bernard Moleke, said it has come to their attention that a lot of residents were being frustrated by the local township managers regarding the matter

He advised residents to follow this procedure

First obtain a Form N141 which must be filled in at the township manager's office. This form should be taken to the councillor of the area for his comment and signature

The form must be referred to the housing

committee of the Soweto Council which meets regularly and gives a final decision on each case. The would-be tenant, if not satisfied, has the right of appeal to the Appeal Board of the Council

If the case gets a favourable consideration, a new house permit with the tenant and his dependants listed on it will be issued

Mr Moleke said it was important for Soweto residents to be aware of this procedure, and not despair

He said if the attitude of the township manager was discouraging, residents could contact him at 982-5561 or come personally to 11547 Nkadmeng Street, Orlando West Extension



MR BERNARD MOLEKE ... giving advice to residents.

# Soweto probes power bills

6/10/87 (27)  
SOPHIE TEMA

THE Soweto City Council is to appoint a private company with expertise in electricity to investigate billing complaints made by residents.

Hundreds of residents in Soweto have complained about the bills for electricity received from the council.

Cases have been reported of residents billed for up to R1 000 a month.

A special advice office — The Soweto Electricity Advice Office — has been established to deal with complaints.

Town clerk Nico Malan confirmed scores of residents complained they received inflated electricity bills, especially during the unrest period when meter-readers were hindered from entering the townships.

The council decided at a meeting last week to appoint a company with the expertise to investigate the complaints.

Soweto mayor Nelson Botile said last week individual councillors were collecting information from other areas.

Botile said steps would have to be taken to prevent overcharging if the investigation found the complaints valid.

# New line on power accounts

THE Soweto Council yesterday agreed on a standard amount to be paid by residents on their electricity accounts and that people should pay only the current amounts and not arrears at this stage.

This information was given to the Soweto Electricity Advice Centre at a meeting held with the executive committee of the Soweto council yesterday. A statement issued after the meeting said that the council acknowledges that there were genuine grievances with regard to electricity accounts.

"To assist with the immediate situation the Soweto Council has suggested that the people of Soweto should decide how much they should pay for electricity monthly on the following basis:

"A household with no major electrical appliances, but one or two

plugs should pay R20 to R30 per month;

"A household with appliances such as a stove or geyser, should pay R50 per month."

The council said at this stage no one should pay more than R50 per month irrespective of statements they received. The council has also asked an electrical engineer from Anglo American to investigate the metering system as a matter of urgency.

Chairman of the Soweto Civic Association, Dr Nthato Motlana, said it appears as if the council may be beginning to address the fundamental difficulties of the people of Soweto.

The publicity secretary of Azapo, Mr Muntu Myeza, said: "If the figures refer to electricity alone, we foresee difficulties. The question of rent is a different matter and should not be confused with service charges."

Soweto  
127  
4/8/87



8.30pm on Saturday.  
The fare to Motlatla is R12.

wrath of the majority of the people in Lenasia

Ma'am

with a lot of

# Residents in rent march

ABOUT 4000 people marched to the Zola, Soweto rent offices in protest against evictions yesterday morning, writes **ALI MPHAKI.**

The march involved residents from Zola and Emdeni — where families were evicted last week.

A delegation which wanted to meet the town clerk, Mr Nico Malan, was told he was busy. A

meeting has been arranged for today.

Security forces took action against the

marchers but because of the emergency regulations the *Sowetan* cannot give details.

# Detainees were sprayed

A SINGLE spray of teargas used as a warning to 178 state of emergency detainees in the Modderbee prison on December 27 last year who refused to return to their cells after an exercise period, injured nobody and was effective, the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetzee, said yesterday in the House of Assembly.

He was replying in writing to a question by Mr Peter Soal (PFP Johannesburg North), who had

inquired about an alleged incident involving teargas being used against detainees at the prison on December 26.

The minister said no teargas cartridges or grenades were used against detainees at the prison on that day, but provided details of an incident the following day, when detainees had refused to return to their cells and attacked warders "by throwing various objects, like tin mugs, brooms, etcetera, at them." — Sapa.

## COURSES IN

- PERMING
- BRAIDING
- TYPING  
( & Office Routine )
- DRESSMAKING  
( Diploma Course )
- SECURITY



PREPARATION FOR TRADE

# 'Monopoly in the allocation of Soweto business sites'

# Councillors accused of usurping housing committee's powers

(27)

SOME councillors have accused the executive committee of the Soweto City Council of "stripping" the council's housing committee of powers and monopolising the allocation of residential and business sites in Soweto.

The accusation against the executive committee of the council was raised during the monthly meeting of the council at its chambers in Jabulani, Soweto.

A councillor, Mrs Violet Petjaulema, said the executive committee had stripped the housing committee of decision-making power and were monopolising the allocation of sites.

Mr Nelson Botile, who asked her to reserve the matter for debate during a confidential session where Pressmen are barred. She declined. She later raised the issue of Nancefield sites offered councillors to allocate to residents but were "confiscated" by the executive committee and given to Mrs Estelle Bester, the housing director, to allocate to Fred

### BY MOJALEFA MOSEKI

Clark residents Councillors urged that a resolution that they forfeit the sites to Mrs Bester be rescinded, but Mr Botile said they had to submit the motion in writing.

When Mrs Petjaulema raised an item in the agenda which dealt with the allocation of business sites to councillors she was asked to sit down by the mayor while Mr D Rasmeni, a member of the executive committee, objected to the inclusion

of the motion on the agenda. The motion was referred back to the executive committee at the suggestion of Mr Botile.

Chairman of the council's housing committee, Mr Julius Mdlalose, who supported Mrs Petjaulema during the debate, was fired from his position last month. The council has not explained the reason for its action.

127

# Residents Up in Arms

**R**ESIDENTS of the elite Daveyton Extension Township are up in arms over the allegedly deteriorating quality of their houses.

Home owners a full infrastructure.

However most of the streets are not tarred and there are also no street lights

The Ikageng-Zakhem Residents' Committee is now fighting for the rights of people living in the two-year-old township

Mr Abednigo Zikhali, chairman of the committee, said that before the houses were built, developers promised prospective

## Consumer

By SY MAKARINGE

### Corner



They said their houses were built without air-bricks, though these were specified in their plans

Mr Zikhali said "These houses are gradually falling apart

The walls seem to be moving away from each other and the houses are developing cracks I think it will not be safe to live in these houses in the next few months

Residents also com-

## Moaning about posh new area

planned of

- Tiles peeling off,
- Rattling windows caused by crooked window frames,
- Difficulty in opening doors

This, they said, was also caused by crooked door frames, and

- Poor finishing

"When we complained about these things

He said he would investigate the matter

Another spokesman said he was not aware that streets were not tarred in the area. He confirmed the agency had promised to give the residents a full infrastructure

He said "hairline cracks could normally be found in any newly built house. He said this was due to contraction and expansion.

The spokesman also promised to investigate the other complaints

we were shunted from pillar to post. They finally told us our complaints were no longer valid as the six-month maintenance period had already lapsed," Mr Zikhali said

Mr Slavo Bantich, contracts manager of Geo-Renne Eastate Agency, said he was not aware of the complaints

# Protests over Zola evictions

By Mudini Maivha

About 100 residents of Zola and Emdeni went to the Soweto City Council chambers today to protest at ongoing evictions in Zola.

In the past week 18 families have been evicted and their furniture confiscated by council police.

Residents demanded the council talk to the Soweto Civic Association about the rent issue.

They say they view the evictions and damage to their property as "burglary, house breaking and theft".

Their demands were that pensioners should not pay rent, residents should pay reasonable rentals, services should be improved and the South African Defence Force (SADF) should pull out of the township.

# New line on power accounts

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Soweto

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4/8/87

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# Decision by administrator of Tembisa

# POORLY PAID RENT INCREASE

127  
Sawefan  
5/8/79

KLNTS in Tembisa are to be increased by R64,50 from September 1, according to Mr Lazarus More, former administrator of the council.

**BY MZIKAYISE EDOM**

The decision was taken at a special meeting at the council chambers last Monday. The Press and the public were barred from the meeting.

According to minutes in the possession of the Sowetan, the decision to increase rents was taken by the present administrator of Tembisa, Mr G H P Muller, without consulting the six councillors.

Residents are presently paying between R37 and R50 for rent.

## Poorly

Tembisa, the second biggest township on the East Rand, after Katlehong, is poorly developed.

Mr More, a councillor and former chairman of the administrators, yesterday said they were not consulted by Mr Muller when he decided

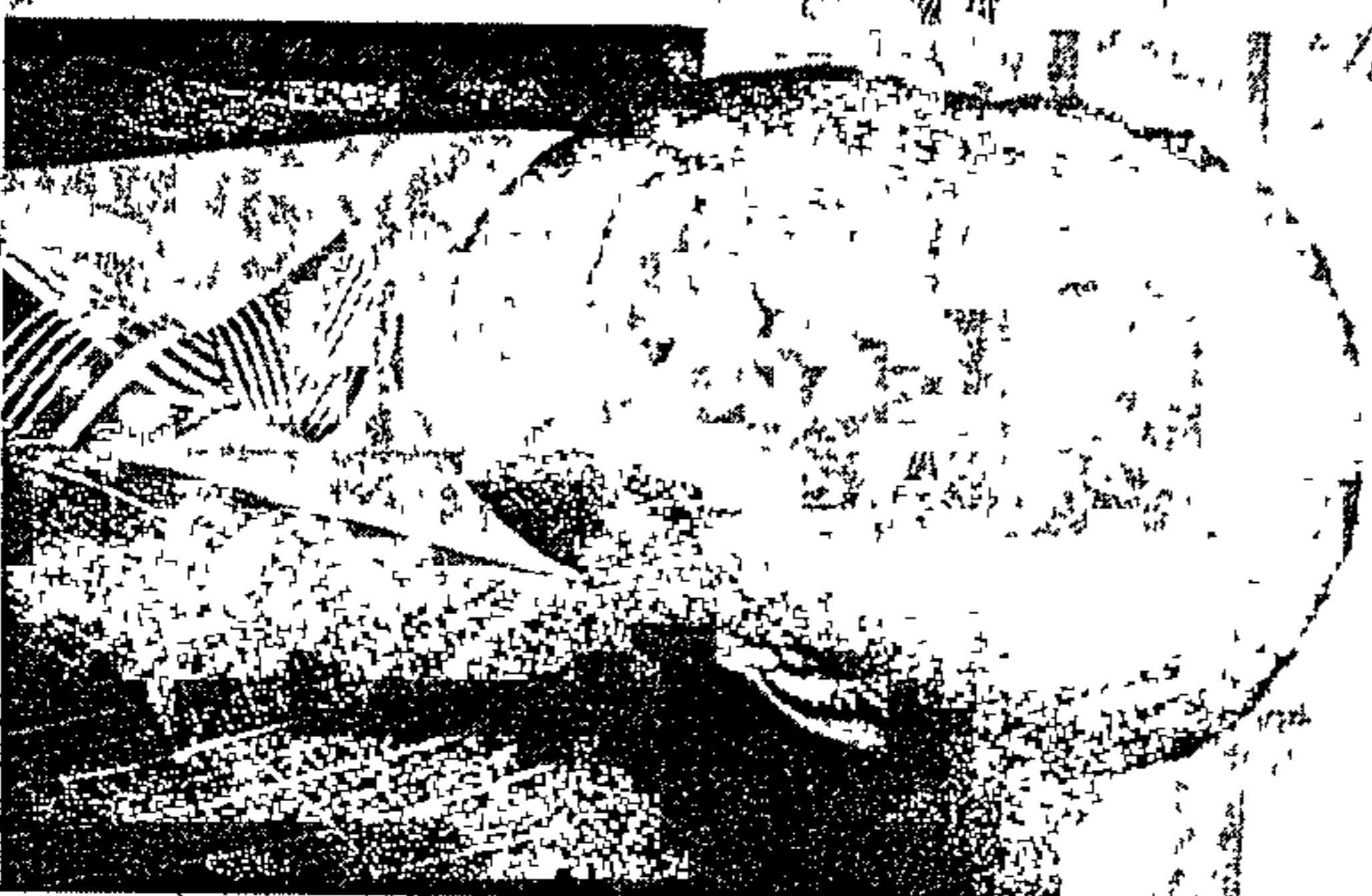
to increase rents. The six councillors do not have voting powers on council matters.

Mr Muller is the only person who makes decisions, Mr More said. The six were stripped of their powers as administrators late last year following "control" decisions they took, according to the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning.

According to the minutes, the increase will help the council to function effectively and will also help the council to have a surplus to make allowance for unforeseen expenses.

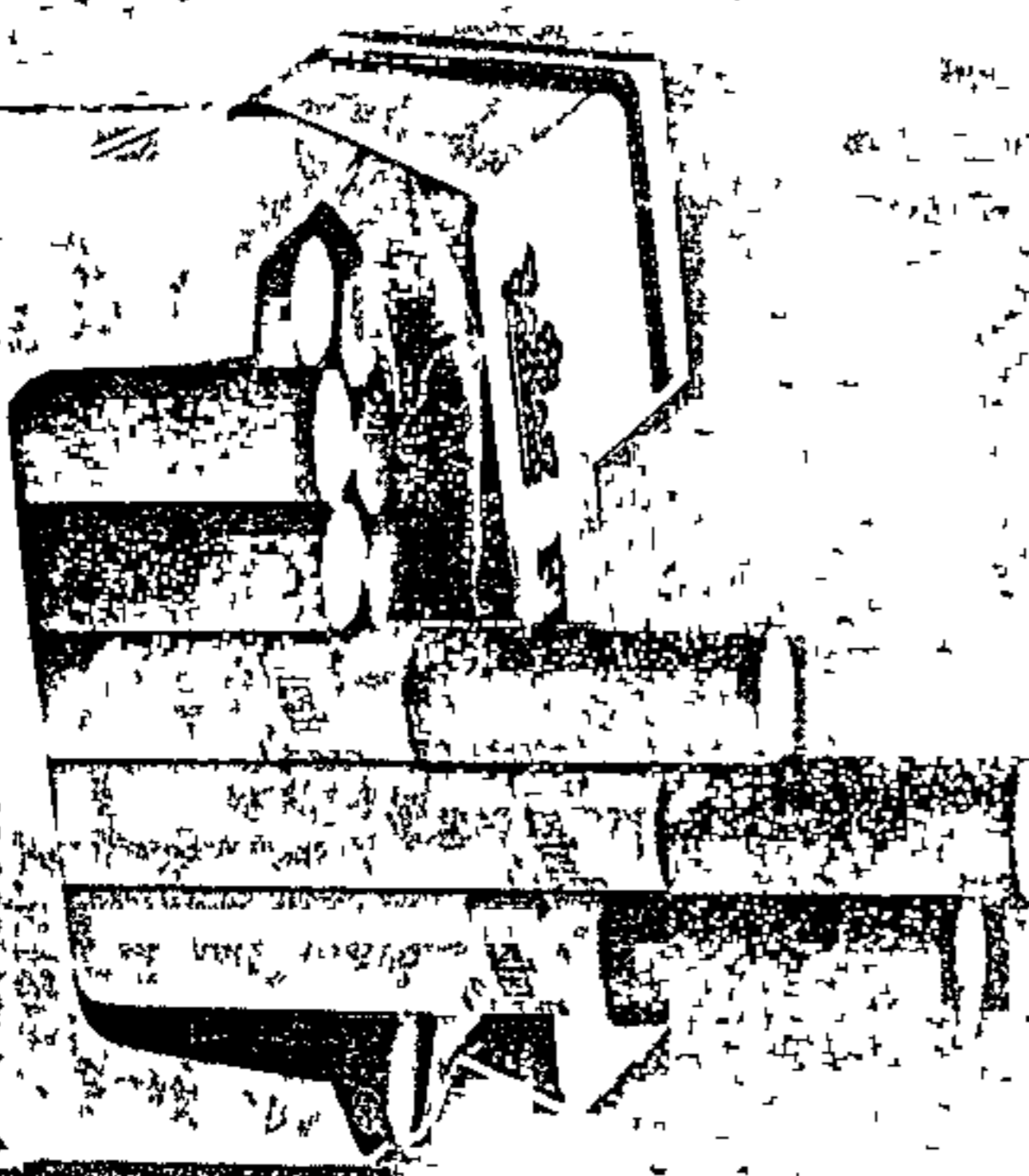
The councillors, according to Mr More, were asked at the meeting to "motivate" the

● To Page 2



MR MORE... against rent increase.

RIDISCOVER  
THE CLASSIC AMERICAN  
TASTE



Ford

## Rent Increase

● From Page 1

residents to accept the increases "gracefully" and also, to settle their rent arrears.

Mr Muller states in the minutes that despite the increase, the council will still be left with a deficit of R5,3 million at the end of the current financial year.

Speaking on behalf of the six councillors, Mr More said they were against the rent increases.

"They should be scrapped," he said.

127  
Sawefan  
5/8/79

## Rent reports shock Tembisa

127  
6/12/89  
Tembisa residents' attitude to the town council would harden if rent rises were implemented before their grievances were attended to, the township's residents' association has warned.

The association, which has 38 branches in the township, said it was shocked and perturbed at the decision to increase rent. It appeared from reports in a morning newspaper that township administrator Mr G H P Muller had taken the decision without consulting the councillors.

The association said failure to meet residents' demands had led to a year-long rent boycott.

Initial reports were that the rent level would rise to about R64. This has since been denied, but no specific figure has been given.

Residents are presently paying between R37 and R50 in rent.

# Relief for Zola residents

RESIDENTS of Zola and Emdeni can now breathe a sigh of relief after an undertaking by the Soweto City Council to indefinitely postpone evictions of rent defaulters in the area

The undertaking was made at a meeting involving a seven-man delegation of residents and four senior officials of the council including the town clerk, Mr Nico Malan and housing director Miss Estelle Bester on Tuesday.

The meeting came after a march on the council chambers by more than 200 people protesting the evictions after about 18 families were evicted in the

area <sup>6/8/87</sup>  
The halt to the evictions means that all families who were affected can re-occupy the houses pending the outcome of the next meeting between the residents and the council

Among the demands which the delegation said they wanted to submit to the council were

- The scrapping of rent payment by pensioners,
- The reduction of rent.
- Electricity cuts should be stopped, and
- The SADF should withdraw from the townships



HOUSING AM 7/8/87  
**Black suburbia** (127)  
 The dreariness of most black townships is reason enough for developers to start looking at more upmarket housing types  
 One of the latest projects to fall into this category is Spruit View, billed as the first black garden suburb and the planned venue for SA's first black home exhibition next

February  
 Its biggest selling point, according to managing developer Mark Guthrie is that it is not attached to any existing black township. Although it will nominally be part of Katlehong, Spruit View is several kilometres away on the Germiston border close to Leondale and 18 minutes from Johannesburg's CBD on the N3 motorway.  
 Guthrie has allocated all but 200 of the township's 1 800 stands to his company, Impact Homes, and 11 other contractors, including Duff Construction and Wimpey Homes. The biggest slice went to Wilson Bayly Holmes.  
 Stands range in size from 400 m<sup>2</sup> to almost 1 000 m<sup>2</sup> and are selling for around R40/m<sup>2</sup>. Building costs are expected to total R108m and houses, including land, will be priced between R80 000 and R150 000.  
 Services will include tarred roads and streetlights as well as electricity, water and sewerage.  
 The infrastructure will be constructed by Basil Read, at an expected cost of R10m. Services for phase one — about 30 ha — should be completed by August 15 and the first residents are expected to move in by October.  
 Guthrie expects that almost all the properties will have been sold by the time the homes show opens.  
 The whole area does look set to take off, with Industrial Consumer Holdings planning

a township adjacent to Spruit View. Known as Willowdale, it will have a golf course and country club ■

Coffers of Sofasonke Party swelling every day

# TAKEN FOR RIDE

(127)  
Soweto  
188

THE coffers of the Sofasonke Party, under former Soweto mayor, Mr Ephraim Tshabalala, are swelling daily as desperate residents pay to join the organisation in the belief that they will not be evicted from their homes for not paying paying rent, writes ALI MPHAKI

Residents, who form long queues at the Tshabalala Dry Cleaners in Mofolo Central, Soweto, take at least R55 in cash, which when broken down, amounts to R15 for water, electricity and refuse removal, R35 for lawyers fees in case of eviction, and a R15 joining fee for the party



MR EPHRAIM Tshabalala Sofasonke party leader

**Residents pay R55 to avoid being evicted**



BASIL "Kaapse Dans" Steenkamp, Orlando Pirates' main hope See Inside

## Iron Lady is confident

By FANYANA SHIBURI

MISS Mopone Mogorosi, Orlando Pirates' "Iron Lady" and number one fan, believes "Mighty Bucs will seize the JPS Knockout Cup at Ellis Park tomorrow to help celebrate its 50th anniversary

Miss Mogorosi believes the two-goal lead Pirates take onto the field against Bush Bucks has virtually sealed the game for Bucs

She boasted yesterday "This trophy means a lot to all of us at Pirates

"Firstly, it marks the 50th anniversary of the team Secondly, our late PRO Mzwandile Malgas predicted that we would win it He'll not only turn in his grave tomorrow He'll smile and join in the celebrations"



MISS Mopone Mogorosi already celebrating

Sources who have been monitoring events at the dry cleaners say an average of 2000 people daily go to Mr Tshabalala's office This means his party has been handling about R110 000 a day R80 000 of which goes into the party's coffers

The R15 is said to be handed over to the Soweto City Council for electricity, water and the collection of refuse

### Warn

Residents are given the party's receipts after paying and subsequently receive receipts from the council

But town clerk Mr Nico Malan could not confirm whether the council has received any money from Mr Tshabalala

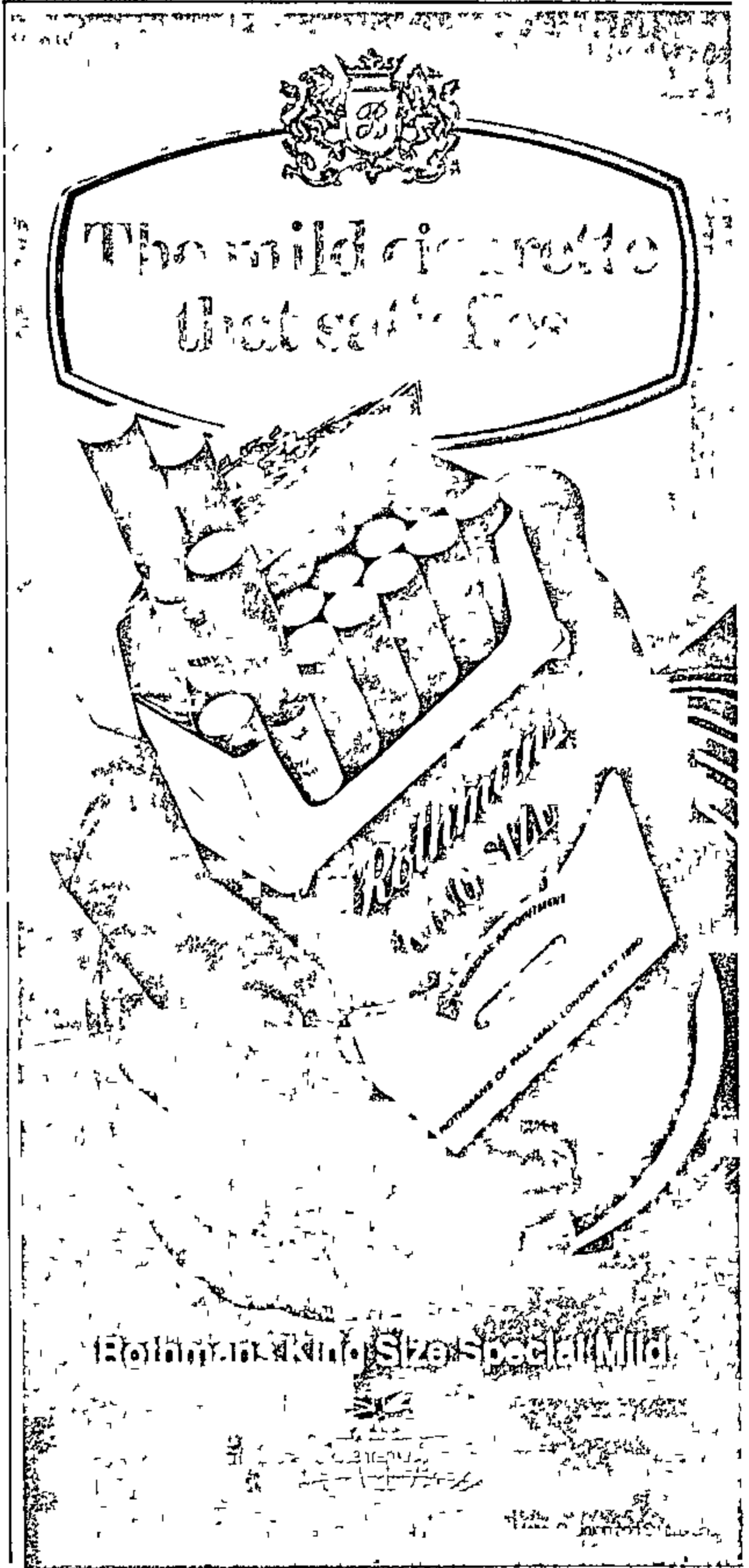
He said "We do not have collection agents and we would like to warn all those paying through Mr Tshabalala that they are doing so at their own risk The R15 for so-called service charges is a pipe dream

Mr Malan added that they would accept any amount of money from residents but that does not mean the council cannot sue for the difference owed to it by the residents

### Denied

He has written a letter to Mr Tshabalala's lawyers advising them to warn Mr Tshabalala to stop collecting money from residents They have not yet received a reply

A spokesman for Sofasonke Mr Ambition Brown said his party has arranged with the council and the residents for services to be paid through the party This was denied by Mr Malan



## Reef rent increases

RESIDENTS of Tembisa, the third biggest township on the Reef, face a R64 a month rent increase — more than doubling current rents

Officials announced this week that the increases would come into effect from the end of August.

The decision to raise rents, after 14 months of rents boycotts, from the current rate of between R37 and R50 was taken at a secret meeting last week by Tembisa administrator G H P Muller, despite claims from the township's six remaining councillors that they strongly opposed any increase

Councillor and former administrator Lazarus More said he and his five colleagues had not been consulted

The rent rise "to make allowances for unforeseen expenses" will still leave the council several millions in the red.

6-12/8/87  
Tembisa has been run by a government-appointed administrator since the six remaining councillors were suspended last year for taking "controversial" decisions

— Agenda Press Services

# 'Rent hike less than R64'

THE administrator of Tembisa, near Kempton Park, Mr G H P Muller, yesterday confirmed that rents in the township will be increased.

However, Mr Muller could not confirm that the rents will be increased by R64,50 as reported in our story which appeared on Wednesday. He said the increases will vary and will be less than R64

"The increases have not been officially promulgated. They will be implemented at the end of October or early in November," he said

He could not give an exact figure as to how much the rents will be increased.

Meanwhile, the Tembisa Residents Association has condemned the proposed increases. In a statement, the organisation said it was shocked and perturbed by the decision to increase rent

"We call on the council not to go ahead with the planned increases. The increases are too high when you take into account the poor services rendered by the council in the township," the statement added.

Residents of the township owe the council about R6-million in rent arrears following a rent boycott which started last July

127  
2/8/85  
G. H. P. Muller

# 300 000

# set to strike

SVEN LUNSCHE and  
MIKE SILUMA

## Mining houses may lose millions

In less than 24 hours South Africa's mining industry will be facing the worst labour disruption in its history, with up to 300 000 workers expected to go on a wage strike tomorrow.

About 200 000 National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) members will go on a legal strike at 28 gold and 18 coal mines, but approximately 100 000 will be joining them at mines where the NUM is not recognised.

And so far, the Chamber of Mines, which represents the country's major mining houses, has produced no concrete evidence of how they will keep up production.

No comment had been received from the chamber by the time of going to Press.

Sources say the mining houses are hopeful of a quick solution to the strike, but the mines are not unprepared for these developments, which could have serious repercussions for sales of bullion in Europe, the United States and the Far East.

### STOCKPILED

Mining analysts point out that most mines have stockpiled the equivalent of a month's coal and gold production as a cushion against any possible large-scale disruption.

A senior mining analyst at a Johannesburg stockbroking firm estimated that not more than a fourth of South Africa's total production of two tons a day would be affected.

He said the strike would be most effective at the labour intensive mines of the Western Transvaal and the Free State, "but even if every single NUM member stayed away, it would cost the mines at the most R15 million a day."

"The industry is in a fairly strong position and has the potential to quickly make up lost profits just by slightly improving the grade of ore produced," he added.

A similar trend is evident at the coal mines. Analysts estimate that the production of at most 15 000 tons a day would be disrupted by the strike — South Africa produces roughly 160 million tons a day.

In a move that could cost the mining industry millions, the NUM has instructed its 200 000 striking members to leave mine premises and go home when the wage strike begins tomorrow.

The dramatic decision was announced by the union at a Press conference yesterday following

the failure of the Chamber of Mines to give undertakings that there would be no interference with the strikers.

The union had given the chamber until 8 pm on Thursday to give the undertakings, a deadline extended to 3 pm yesterday.

Because many of the miners come from areas far from their places of employment, including neighbouring states, it could take the chamber days, even weeks, to return the situation to normal.

Late yesterday the NUM said a chamber response, issued after the Press conference, would not lead to a reversal of the decision.

Union boss Mr Cyril Ramaphosa told the conference that although the union had contingency plans for the miners' transport home, it could take up to three days to ferry all the workers home, adding that workers at mines where the union was not recognised might join in.

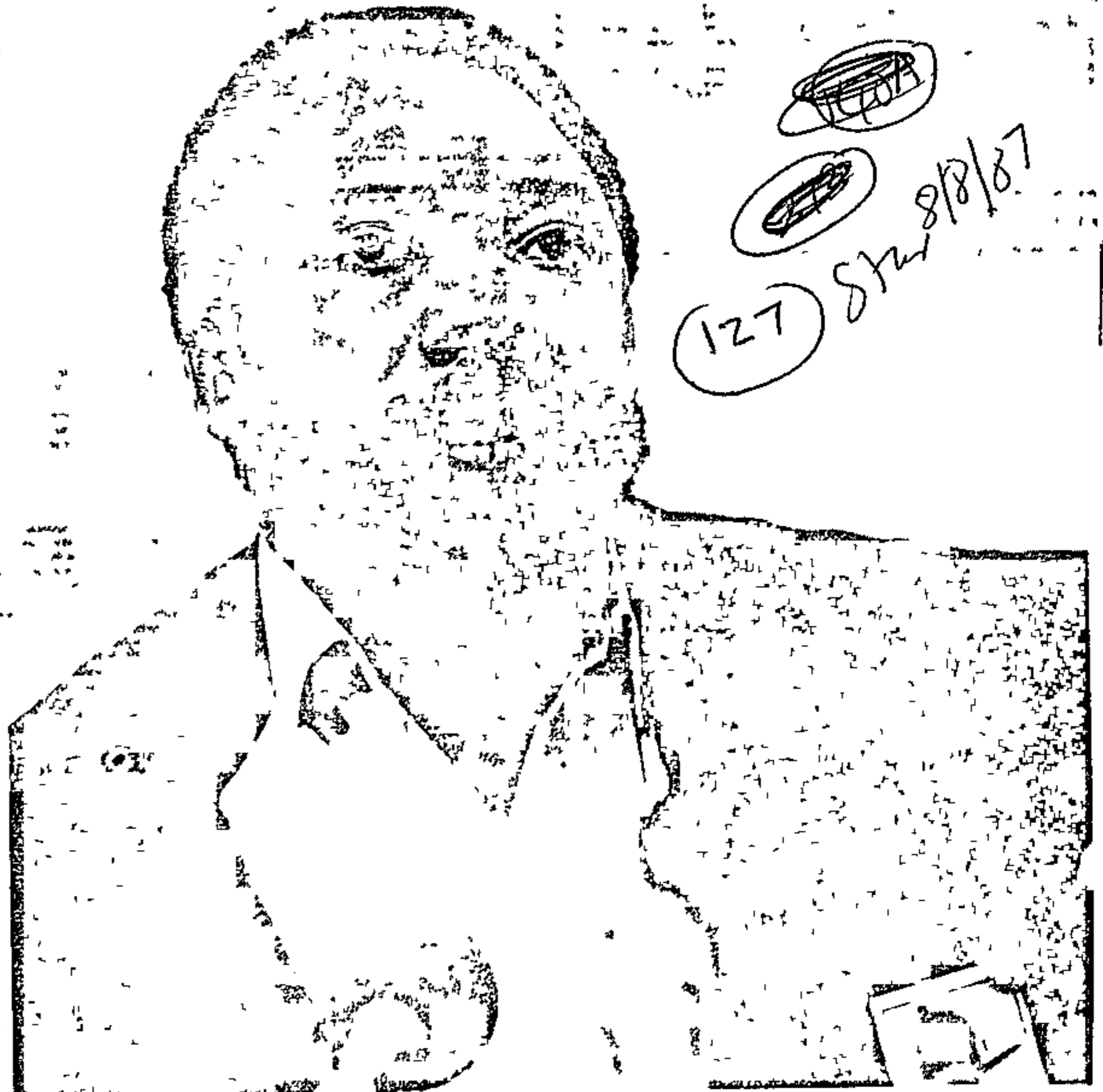
Undertakings sought by the NUM included that members would be provided with free food as usual, that the chamber guarantees freedom of movement for both strikers and NUM officials; that mine security personnel do not enter hostels unless accompanied by union officials; and that the chamber does not invite police and security forces on to mine premises.

"NUM members, for fear of losing their lives, being injured and being starved to death, chose to go home during the duration of the strike. When the strike begins our members will pack their bags and go home," said Mr Ramaphosa.

In reply, the chamber denied that mine management and security personnel initiated violence.

It said experience had shown that NUM officials and members had "been the source of violence on the mines".

"In recent months, this violence has even assumed the form of both murder and kidnapping for which members or officials of the union were held by the courts to be liable.



MR CYRIL RAMAPHOSA Union has plans to ferry workers home to outlying areas once the strike begins

"Managements will not tolerate violence being used to intimidate those who do wish to work and will protect them," said the chamber, again urging the union to call off the strike. A spokesman said workers would not be prevented from going home.

● The NUM decision could force a rethink of the chamber's strategy as it is believed that it was banking on a strike of short duration as has been the case in previous years, and also on stockpiles of both gold and coal ore.

Clearly anticipating a protracted strike, Mr Ramaphosa said he did not believe that stockpiles, where they existed, would "last for long".

● NUM members' demands include a pay increase of 30 percent, against a chamber offer of increases between 16 percent and 23.4 percent.

# TOWNSHIP NEEDS 10 000 NEW HOUSES - MAYOR

ABOUT 10 000 new houses are needed in Daveyton near Benoni to end the housing backlog in the township, the mayor, Mr Tom Boya, has said.

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

Mr Boya was addressing members of the East Rand Regional Services

<sup>127</sup> Council, including chairman Mr Leon Ferrera, who were on a tour to obtain first-hand knowledge of conditions in all black townships in the area. Other townships visited were Watville and Actonville, also in Benoni. The ERRSC members

have already visited Thokoza, Katlehong, Vosloorus, Reiger Park and Tembisa. Today they are due to visit Tsakane, Duduza and KwaThema. *Senelan*

"The present waiting list for houses in the township is 6 500. This figure does not include the thousands of shack dwellers in the area," Mr Boya said.

The provision of serviced stands at Etwatwa (site and service scheme) had been slowed down because of lack of funds.

Other serious problems cited by Mr Boya include the water supply, sewerage system, refuse removal, electricity, storm water drainage, health services, education, transport and

# House prices down!

THE price of "match-box" houses in Soweto has been reduced by about 65 percent and will immediately be available with freehold title rights to registered tenants.

This was said yesterday by the mayor of Soweto, Mr Nelson Botile.

Mr Botile said the

prices of houses would range from R667 for a three-roomed house in Orlando East to R750 for a four-roomed house in Tshiawelo and other areas.

The announcement follows a recent revelation by the Soweto

● To Page 6

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Soweto  
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## House prices down

● From Page 1

Electricity Advice Centre that all houses in Soweto had already been paid off. The council did not dispute this at the time.

Mr Botile, who described the move as a breakthrough, said there would be no strings attached when tenants went to their local township offices to buy their homes.

He said the council would not have pre-conditions such as the paying off of rent arrears when residents bought their homes under the new scheme.

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# Soweto halts evictions

SOPHIE TEMA

SOWETO rent defaulters will no longer be evicted from their homes.

Soweto mayor Nelson Botile told about 3 000 people at Jabulani Amphitheatre at the weekend about the change in policy, which is aimed at promoting government's sale of houses in the township.

Government is expected to announce its approval today of the prices of the first of the discounted houses being offered from September 1, under the recently announced scheme for the mass sale of freehold homes to blacks.

Soweto homes are already being offered at the new discounted prices, and other black townships are expected to follow soon.

Two-roomed houses are to be sold for as little as R667 — including the property.

Tenants who buy their houses will be eligible for discounts of up to 65%.

Discounts will be offered on all houses owned by government's National Housing Commission (NHC).

Botile said the Soweto City Council had also sent a memorandum to government asking that rent be reduced in all black townships to assist those who may



Soweto houses, like this one, are for sale

not immediately be able to buy their houses.

People who had bought their homes under the 99-year-leasehold scheme could now convert to freehold rights.

Botile said: "The council decided that evictions be stopped in Soweto to encourage people to buy their houses, as we believe this will give them a sense of belonging and security."

National Housing Sales Co-ordinator for the Transvaal Provincial Administration Alex Weiss said government intended to kick off with the new prices on September 1, on condition all assessment reports had been submitted to the NHC by the various black local authorities.

Appraisers have been working on evaluations for the past few months.

11/8/87 6/10/87 (127)



# Soweto rent evictions stopped

CAPL Tmp's  
11/18/87  
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Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — People will no longer be evicted from their Soweto houses for non-payment of rent

Soweto mayor Mr Nelson Botile told about 3 000 people at Jabulani Amphitheatre at the weekend about the move, aimed at promoting the government's housing sale

Government is expected to announce its approval today

Two-roomed houses will be sold for as little as R667, including the property

Soweto homes are already being offered at the new discounted prices, and other black townships country-wide are expected to follow. People who buy their houses will be granted a discount of up to 65% for the homes and property

Discounts will be offered on all houses owned by government's National Housing Commission (NHC)

Mr Botile said the Soweto city council had also sent a memorandum to government asking that rent be reduced in all black townships to assist those who may not be able to buy their houses immediately

13/8/84 *Sawyer*  
**Tariff  
increase  
looms** (27)

RENTS in Mamelodi, Pretoria, may be increased.

The Mamelodi Council placed an advertisement in a Pretoria afternoon daily on Tuesday giving notice of an amendment to the by-laws in respect of increased tariffs

Five months ago the Pretoria Supreme Court ruled that a R6 a month increase introduced by the council from September, 1984 was invalid as it was unlawfully imposed.

The council's application for leave to appeal against the ruling was refused by Mr Justice Roux on June 9 this year. The court found that the council had not properly notified residents about the increases.

Residents want to lodge objections to the amendments to the by-laws or to comment on them have been asked to do so in writing within 21 days from August 11. Objections should be sent to the local town clerk



**MAYOR Zikhali Mola-  
zi**

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Flat tenants demand R150 000

# Rent boycott threat in city

By Martin Challenor

Tenants of eight blocks of flats in central Johannesburg, the majority of them black, have threatened to stop paying rent until they learn what has become of an estimated R150 000 in deposits they say they lodged with a letting agency, Group C Ventures, that is to apply for liquidation next week.

Residents of Argyle Court received a letter from Hillcrest Finance and Property Consultants of Randburg on July 24 saying that with immediate effect, "the new owner of the building is Hillcrest Property Management CC

"The previous owners, Group C Ventures, are no longer connected in any way to the building. However, any deposits previously paid to Group C Ventures can only be recovered from that company.

"Hillcrest Property Management CC are in no way connected to that company and therefore are not responsible for any monies held by them."

A group of tenants moving out of Argyle Court at the end of July confronted the woman caretaker of the building and demanded their money. She was hit over the head with a stick by one man who accused her of stealing the money.

Tenants identified these buildings as being run by Group C Ventures Argyle Court, Branksome Towers, Protea Mansions, Claridge Court, Fleming Court, Coniston Court, Margate Court and Ansol Court.

Tenants said they had paid R17 400 in deposits to stay in Argyle Court. On their calculations residents of the eight blocks had lodged R150 000 in deposits.

Tenants said they were under the impression that Argyle Court was owned by Gorfil Bros Investments, and leased to Group C Ventures.

## Referred to an attorney

Tenants of Argyle Court said that in the past few days they had been contacted by Gorfil Bros and referred to an attorney to receive their deposits.

Mr Nick Seward-Jones of Gorfil Bros investment would not confirm or deny that they were the owners of Argyle Court. When read the list of eight buildings, he said "Just seven of them."

Mr Seward-Jones referred inquiries to his attorney, Mrs Diane Unterhalter, who said in a letter her law firm acts "for the owners of various of the buildings mentioned".

The letter said the owners of the buildings had let them to Group C Ventures. The lease agreements had been cancelled and they had subsequently let the buildings to Hillcrest "but it might well be necessary to institute legal proceedings against Group C Ventures".

"Our clients did not receive or hold any deposits paid by the sub-tenants of Group C," the letter said.

Attorney Mrs Blorinda Scalco said Group C Ventures was going into liquidation next week. Meanwhile, people were demanding their deposits at her law office.

Mrs Scalco said she did not hold any money for Group C Ventures.

"When the trustee is appointed, the tenants can take the matter up with him," Mrs Scalco said. The tenants have threatened to stop paying rent until then.

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13/8/87  
SMM



## Heunis puts figure to township defiance

# R267-million owed by rent defaulters

More than R267 million in rents and services fees for black township houses has not been paid.

Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning Mr Chris Heunis gave the figure in Parliament in reply to a question from Mr Jan van der Merwe, Conservative MP for Overvaal

Total arrears in rent and service charges at April 30 was R267 024 170, Mr Heunis said

In Transvaal, arrears were R231 569 523, in Natal R2 822 284, in Free State R10 929 839 and in the Cape R21 703 524

Mr Heunis detailed steps by provincial administrations to collect arrears

In Transvaal, he said, tenants in arrears were called in discuss arrangements to pay off the backlog

Those unemployed as a result of circumstances beyond their control were helped with partial or total remission of rent and service charges

In some areas, residents voluntarily approached their employers to deduct rent from salaries

A manual on the institution of civil action against defaulters has been compiled for the Transvaal Administration and made available to local authorities

Black councils were taking legal action against defaulters

Some services were stopped, some defaulters were threatened with eviction and some evicted

Mr Heunis said in Natal all possible administrative steps were taken to collect rent, including negotiation with large employers to collect arrears voluntarily by stop order

But no legal steps had been taken

In the Free State the effect of arrears was constantly emphasised during the preparation and consideration of budgets

Black local authorities took civil action against tenants in



arrears and some services were suspended, he said

In the Cape, action to collect arrears included personal interviews with defaulters and letters to residents informing them of arrears and asking them to make arrangements for settling

There were also negotiations with employers and employees about voluntary deduction orders, action under the Housing Act and and civil action

## Hulley seeks CEF 'bribe' explanation

Political Staff

Questions arising from Progressive Federal Party allegations that R1,5 billion from the Central Energy Fund had been used for coloured housing as a "bribe", were still to be answered, said PFP Mineral and Energy Affairs spokesman Mr Roger Hulley

Mr Hulley was speaking during the Mineral and Energy Affairs budget debate yesterday

The CEF was created by a levy paid on each litre of fuel bought and was statutorily bound to be applied to energy related development activities, said Mr Hulley

"While housing is not a priority we argue with, it bears no relation to the purpose of the CEF. "Is this not another example of off balance sheet financing which would be a further slide away from the democratic concept of accountability to the public?"

Mr Hulley said in June 1987 there was R3,1 billion in the fund — "R2,9 billion less than in March '86"

"The fund should have grown by approximately R1 billion since March '86 and by the middle of '87 should have contained R7 billion from further levies and interest," said Mr Hulley.

He called for an explanation.

# New R4,5-m residence for women opens in Dube

(127) 14/8/87

A new residence for young single women was opened in Dube, Soweto, yesterday.

The three-storey building was built by the South African Young Women's Christian Association (SAYWCA) at a cost of R4,5 million.

The money was given by the Anglo American and De Beers chairman's fund.

Dr Ellen Kuzwayo, national treasurer

of the SAYWCA, described the residence as a home for every member of the Soweto community.

It accommodates 121 women in single rooms and is suited to tertiary-level students, professional trainees and young working professionals.

The rooms have beds, desks and bookcases, wash basins and cupboards.

Residential rooms overlook one of two landscaped courtyards.

# Appeal on rent issue

A GROUP of church ministers has called on the authorities and Soweto residents to find ways of breaking the rent deadlock in the townships.

The call, by the Ministers' United for Christian Co-Responsibility, came as the Soweto City Council apparently broke its promise to stop rent evictions in the townships this week when several families were threatened.

In a statement — which was read at a number of church services at the weekend — the group said it found it disgraceful and somehow cowardly to evict poor and old people.

Several families in Killarney, Orlando West, were this week served with notices ordering



**MAYOR Botile . . . promise.**

them to settle their outstanding electricity bills and other service charges within seven days or face eviction.

The notices were served by council policemen on Wednesday — hardly a week after Soweto mayor, Mr Nelson Botile, promised more than 3 000 residents at Jabulani Amphitheatre that evictions in Soweto had been stopped

14/8/87

Soweto (127)

# Soweto mayor: No more evictions

Soweto mayor Mr Nelson Botile has given an undertaking that residents in arrears with their rent would no longer be evicted

Mr Botile said the moratorium was indefinite "It will sort itself out," he said yesterday

He appealed to residents to arrange payment of arrears with township managers Personal circumstances, he said, would be taken into consideration

The move is the latest by the Soweto City Council in its attempt to break the rent boycott, launched in June last year in pro-

## BARNEY MTHOMBOTHI

test at the imposition of the current state of emergency and other grievances The boycott spread to many black townships around the country

In Parliament this week, Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning Mr Chris Heunis revealed that more than R267 million was owed in rents and services for black townships More than three-quarters was owed by Transvaal townships.

A hardline approach by the

Soweto City Council, by evicting families and cutting off electricity, seems to have failed to encourage residents to pay. Clashes between residents and police have led to fatalities and a backlash against councillors.

Most Soweto councillors are now protected by security guards.

Mr. Botile said yesterday: "We're not going to force people to pay the whole lump sum" He said his council would consider the plight of the unemployed "These are our people, you see. We cannot be hard on them."



Witbooi Khubeka and his wife, Edda, move some of their possessions into the field where he lived for a week.

## Evicted old man leaves field for temporary shelter

THE evicted 60-year-old Wakkerstroom man, Witbooi Kubheka, this week moved to a temporary shelter in the area after spending a week living in the open veld

Kubheka was evicted last week from the farm St Helena, by owner Pieter Pienaar.

Kubheka said he was born and bred on the farm and that he had worked for the previous owners

Pienaar said he evicted him because he was old and would not work for him

Meanwhile, the Police directorate in Pretoria confirmed that Kubheka was evicted in accordance with a court order.

The police said the court also ordered police to supervise the removal in order to prevent damage to Kubheka's property and, or possible violence against the parties concerned

"In compliance with the court order, Sergeant Buckle and a black constable attended the removal

"Pienaar supplied a truck and employed several farm workers to assist with the loading and removal.

By SELLO SERIPE

"Buckle, though he is the station commander at Dirkiesdorp, is also appointed as the public prosecutor by the office of the Attorney-General

"Such appointments are in terms of the law and common to smaller towns and places with periodical courts such as Dirkiesdorp," said the directorate

The directorate also said Buckle did not act as public prosecutor when Kubheka stood trial for illegal squatting in Wakkerstroom

Earlier, when Kubheka appeared in Dirkiesdorp at a hearing attended by *City Press*, Buckle prosecuted

*City Press*  
12/18/87



# Eviction threat over colour

By Paul Olivier

More than 80 percent of the tenants of a Joubert Park, Johannesburg, block of flats face eviction by their body corporate because they are not white.

In a letter served on all flat-owners, Parkleigh Court's five-member body corporate makes clear its wishes to make the flats an all-white residence again.

The letter warns all unit owners that "the Group Areas Act has not been repealed".

More than 30 families are threatened with eviction.

The superintendent of Parkleigh Court, Mr Denys Fly, said he would be only too happy to see "non-white" families evicted.

"They not only contravene the Group Areas Act but also the health regulations. In some instances up to five families live in a one-bedroomed flat. Many of these people practise vandalism and it is my submission that the good ones must suffer because of the bad ones."

Most "non-white" tenants indicated they were not prepared to accept eviction.

Mrs Sheila Moonsany, a production secretary for the SABC, said: "I live here because it is close to my work. We are not just going to be thrown out."

A body corporate member, Mrs Pat Scott, said her property had been devalued since "non-white" tenants moved into the building

# Huge electricity bills issued as Soweto's council tackles deficit

Soweto residents face huge electricity arrears bills — some in excess of R1 200 — as the city council tries to wipe out a R111-million rent and services deficit.

Residents say they are being overcharged, that the meters run too fast and that these have not been read for some months.

Soweto mayor Mr Nelson Botile confirmed the meters were running too fast and advised residents not to pay more than R50 a month pending an investigation.

He said his council had asked Anglo-American to check the meters, but an Anglo-American spokesman said no formal approach had been made.

Mr Rene du Toit, Soweto city engineer, said as the meters aged, they slowed down.

## RENTALS CHEAP

House rentals in Soweto were so cheap that electricity appeared unreasonably expensive.

Soweto town clerk Mr Nico Malan said meters were not being read because of intimidation, therefore a standard charge of R30 to R50 a month was being imposed.

Chairman of the management committee Mr Letsatsi Radebe said meters were being read. Mr du Toit said that since February meter-readers had been accompanied by armed guards.

A resident said the meters were

not being read and that it was "all guesswork" at the moment.

Soweto's electricity is ostensibly the cheapest on the Reef. Yet residents in three-roomed and four-roomed houses with few appliances pay up to R248 a month.

Soweto's bills include a monthly R12 charge to pay R268,5 million for the electrification of the township and a monthly R4 service levy.

Residents also pay an initial R700 to be connected to the electricity supply.

Mr Malan said residents were meant to pay R30 a month for the electrification but the council had reduced this to R12. It was negotiating with the Government to subsidise the rest, he said.

Residents say the council is trying to force them to pay up.

One resident, who wanted to remain anonymous for fear of victimisation, said: "The council won't even record the birth of a child on a lodger's permit unless you've paid your rent and electricity arrears."

"You are told to pay if you want to apply for a liquor or taxi licence and even if you want to add on to your house."

Housing director Miss Estelle Bester denied that the council refused to register children.

Electricity has allegedly been cut in Orlando East, Orlando West Extension and Dube, where bills have not been paid.

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18/8/87

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# 'Forced to pay rent with pension money'

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Mrs ELIZABETH Martins . . .  
"threatened with eviction."

PENSIONERS in Toekomsrus, near Randfontein, claim they are being forced to pay their rent arrears — or face eviction, writes MZIKAYISE EDOM.

They claim that council officials escort them from the local post office, where they receive their money, to the administration offices where they are forced to pay their rent.

Scores of pensioners have had their electricity supply cut off since last month for not paying rent. Most of them are breadwinners and have no other source of income.

The pensioners receive a monthly allowance of R142 each.

Some pensioners, fearing eviction, used all their pension money to pay their rent arrears and were left with no money to buy food and pay other debts.

A council employee, who asked not to be named, confirmed that the pensioners were ordered to pay their rent arrears soon after receiving their allowances.

He said this was a directive from the Randfontein Town Council and the Toekomsrus Management Council.

Mr Ali Otto, chairman of the Toekomsrus Management Council, yesterday refused to discuss the matter.

The secretary of the Randfontein Town Council, Mr J A du Plessis, confirmed that his council had issued a directive that all pensioners should pay their rent arrears or face eviction.

Mr du Plessis said "It was just a suggestion that they could use part of the pension allowance to pay their outstanding amounts. Nobody has been escorted from the post office, where they receive their money, and taken to the council offices where they are being forced to pay."

The first to have their electricity cut off last month were Mrs Betty Martins and Mrs Elizabeth Martins (not related).

Mrs Elizabeth Martins said: "The money is very little to feed me and my two grandchildren and I cannot even afford to pay my rent. On behalf of the other pensioners, I appeal to the authorities to consider our plight and exempt us from paying rent."

## A new 'view' for Khutsong

BLACK families of middle income will for the first time, have access to suitable housing close to Carletonville as a result of a new housing development launched in nearby Khutsong.

The project, known as Mosiane View, will help to reverse the flow of professionally qualified blacks out of Khutsong.

Opening the new housing development this week, the mayor of Khutsong, Ruebin Mosiane, said the scheme was long overdue.

Land for the development of the new suburb was made available by the Khutsong Town Council.

The 423 serviced stands have been developed by the Family Housing Association, a housing utility company established by the Urban Foundation.

"We sincerely hope to expand our involvement in housing in Khutsong to the lower income Khutsong families, which is where the greatest need now exists," said Matthew Nell, general manager of the FHA.

23/8/87  
C/Pres

# Rent: evictions on way

22/8/87  
127  
SOPHIE TEMA

RENT defaulters, who had not heeded the Soweto City Council's plea to make arrangements to pay off their rent arrears in small instalments, would be evicted, town clerk Nico Malan said yesterday.

A list of names of people in arrears with their rent who failed to respond to the council's appeal had been handed to the council lawyers.

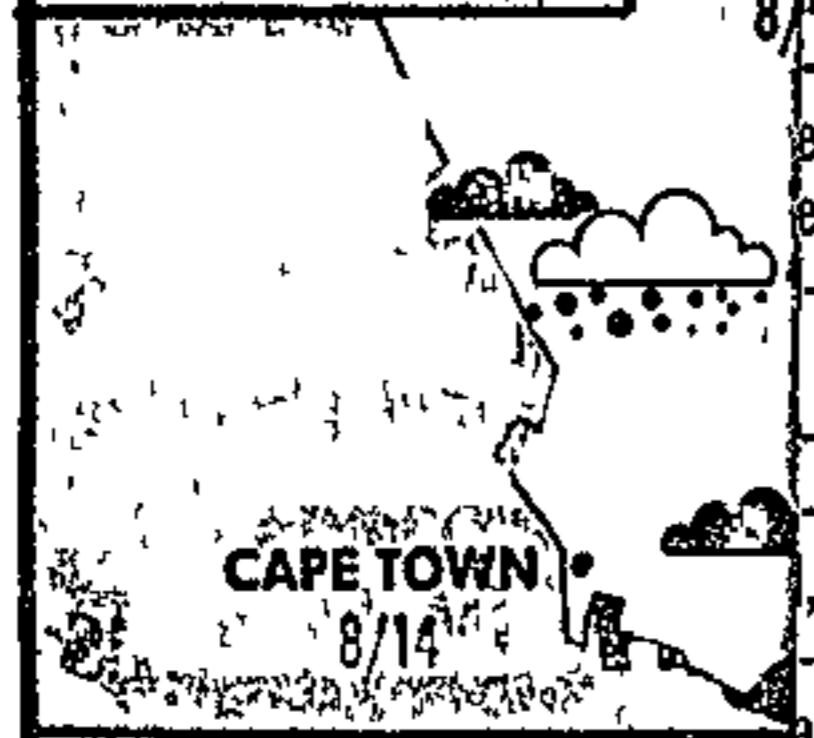
The decision to evict such people was taken by councillors at a meeting last week.

Malan said the council decided to start evicting people to recover arrears which involved millions of

rands. As well, the council could not overlook the settlement of payment for water supplied by the Rand Water Board and electricity by Escom.

Council would address itself, particularly, to people who owed large amounts and who had not responded to its appeal.

Malan said: "Council will use the law courts to get people evicted and will only do so after having served them with the necessary notices."



**TRANSVAAL** - Till 6 p.m.  
 Transvaal, Northern Transvaal  
**JOHANNESBURG CENTRE**  
 C; min: 12 deg. C; rainfall: 555,2 mm; average annual rainfall 769 mm).

Temperatures and rainfall for the  
 Johannesburg Central  
 S Suburbs (Hill Ext)  
 Bryanston  
 Springs  
 Krugersdorp  
 Vereeniging  
 Pretoria  
**SUNSET** today, 5 55 sunrise  
**MOONRISE** today, 10 16 pm  
**ROUND THE WORLD**  
 Amsterdam  
 Athens  
 Bermuda

# Showdown looms over flat rentals in Jo'burg city centre

Star

By Martin Challenor

(27)

31/8/87

Black tenants of five white-owned blocks of flats in central Johannesburg are heading for a showdown with their landlord, Hillcrest Property Management, over the question of rents

The tenants are refusing to pay more than the Rent Board-determined rates for their flats Hillcrest has set rentals above the board's rate

Last night, nearly half of the tenants of Argyle Court, Branksome Towers, Claridge Court, Margate Court and Protea Mansions paid the Rent Board-determined rents to an attorney, who, they said, would pay Hillcrest Tenants said there were about 225 flats in the blocks

## EVICTON ATTEMPT EXPECTED

Hillcrest has not said what its response will be to receiving less rent, but tenants are expecting the company to try to evict people Tenants have said they will resist evictions

At the heart of the conflict is the shortage of housing for black people This has compelled many black families to move into city-centre blocks of flats and live illegally there because the buildings are zoned "white residential" in terms of the Group Areas Act

Initially tenants and Hillcrest directors Mr Dave Cunningham and Mr Dave Malan held meetings to discuss the high rents and other problems

Hillcrest had offered to reduce the rents by R40 a month for two months, tenants said

But negotiations broke down After a series of meetings, the tenants rejected the offer, saying they would pay only the Rent Board-determined rent

HOUSING & HOSTELS - T.V.L.,  
1987

SEPT. — NOV → Dec.

# Black tenants in rent protest

127  
5/19/87

By Martin Challenor

About two thirds of the black tenants of five white-owned blocks of flats in central Johannesburg are protesting against high rents levied by the agents, Hillcrest Property Management.

The tenants have paid the Rent Board-determined rents to an attorney over the past two days. These rents are lower than those Hillcrest Property Management has set for the flats.

The attorney will pay the money to Hillcrest Property Management directors, Mr Dave Cunningham and Mr Dave Malan, today.

Until about two months ago the buildings were administered by Group C Ventures to whom residents paid deposits.

On July 24 the tenants were informed in a letter from Hillcrest Property Management that they had taken over control of the buildings. Tenants are awaiting the outcome of a Supreme Court liquidation application to see what has become of their deposits.

Group C Ventures administered at least eight blocks of flats, whose tenants paid around R150 000 in deposits. Tenants approached Actstop, an organisation committed to fighting the Group Areas Act, to help them on the deposits issue.

The black tenants claim they are protected by the Rent Control Act.

Examples of rents given by tenants are Argyle Court, two bedrooms, determined rent R115, actual rent R470; Branksome Towers, one bedroom, determined rent R127,58, actual rent R227,58, Claridge Court, two bedrooms, determined rent R166,59, actual rent R281,69, Margate Court, one bedroom, determined rent R172,36, actual rent R270, Protea Mansions, two bedrooms, determined rent R278,66, actual rent R405,70.

Tenants said that, if Hillcrest applied to the Rents Board for an increase and it was granted, they would pay the higher rents. But they object to what they see as the agents levying arbitrary rents.

The agents say the higher rents are needed to finance maintenance.



LONDON —  
The SA govern-  
ment and min-  
ing houses were  
yesterday  
sharply criti-  
cised by the  
Conservative  
Daily Tele-

graph for their "poor" safety record.

An editorial said that as a post-  
script to the long and damaging  
strike the tragedy at St Helena mine,  
Welkom, had focused attention on  
"the appalling accident record in  
South African mines"

The Daily Telegraph said that  
while SA had many deep level mines  
the tally of 800 deaths last year and  
8 000 in the decade — most of them  
blacks — "suggest that the govern-  
ment and mining companies have  
little regard for the safety of those  
who dig out South Africa's immense  
underground wealth".

It added "The finger of criticism  
points in particular at Gencor, at  
whose gold mines this week's disaster  
and one last September, in which 177  
people died, occurred."

The newspaper said the govern-  
ment should ensure a tightening of  
safety regulations in mines.

HELENA PATTEN reports that a  
spokesman for the Chamber of Mines  
said last night the SA mining industry  
was obviously concerned about  
deaths and a "tremendous amount"  
was being done to enhance safety.

Of the R57m budget of the cham-

(127) 3/9/87  
**SA mine safety  
record slammed**

IAN HOBBS

ber's research organisation this year,  
R45m was being spent directly on  
safety-related issues, while the whole  
mining industry spent R1,6bn a year  
on safety or safety-related areas, he  
said.

"It is all very well to bandy statis-  
tics about without recognition of the  
depth and number of our mines. Some  
mines are approaching 4km in depth,  
while the hardness of the rock makes  
mechanisation difficult." He said  
death and injury rates had declined  
on both gold and coal mines. Com-  
pared with a 1973 fatality rate of 1,41  
per 1 000 employees in service on gold  
mines, the first six months of this  
year showed an improvement to 1,02.

In coal mines, there had been a  
dramatic decline in the death rate —  
from 1,32 in 1973, to 0,33 in 1986. This  
compared favourably with 1986 rates  
for the US of 0,48, for West Germany  
of 0,24 and for Britain of 0,18.

Reportable injuries in gold mines  
had declined by 55% in the last  
decade, and by 71% in coal mines, he  
said.

Gencor spokesmen could not be  
reached for comment last night.

127 2/1/87 2/9/87

# Discount houses in big demand

SOPHIE TEMA

HUNDREDS of people queued at Lekoa Town Council offices in the Vaal Triangle yesterday as the sale of the first houses under government's discount scheme began

The Lekoa Town Council was the first in the country to receive approval from the National Housing Commission for its list of discount prices. The scheme started officially on September 1

Some of the Vaal Triangle houses are to be sold for as little as R390

Last month the council sold 211 houses and it believes the introduction of the new prices will lead to the sale of about 100 houses a week

House prices are as follows

- Sebokeng four rooms, outside toilets and electricity — R691
- Zamdela five rooms, inside toilet and electricity — R712
- Sharpeville four rooms, outside toilet and electricity R562
- Boipatong four rooms with bathroom, inside toilet and electricity R427.
- Boipatong four rooms, outside toilet and electricity R390

An additional R200 will be added to all purchase prices — R100 for water meters and R100 for the title.

Lekoa town clerk N P Louw said residents could pay a 10% deposit and the balance could be paid off over five years



SAXON DE KOCK receives the good news — she was named National Secretary of the Year in Johannesburg yesterday. Picture ROBERT BOTHA

## AAM directors 'not to blame'

JENNY BOBERG

THERE is no evidence to show the directors of AA Mutual contributed actively or passively to its collapse, the Melamet commission was told yesterday

Clive Cohen SC was arguing in defence of three former non-executive directors of AAM — D Paxton, P Elliot and E Turk.

If former MD Warren Plummer chose to conceal huge reinsurance losses, then it could hardly be expected that the directors should have discovered them, he said.

Regarding Plummer's extensive time overseas — four months a year — he said there were legitimate reasons, known to the directors, for Plummer to spend time overseas in the company's interests.

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# 30 000 homes for sale in Tvl at bargain prices

127  
4/9/87

**JOHANNESBURG** — More than 30 000 houses in the Vaal Triangle are for sale — in some instances for as little as R390

This was announced by the Town Clerk of Lekoa, Mr Nikolaas Louw, who said the homes are being sold under the Government's new discount scheme which came into effect on September 1

The announcement of the sale of houses coincides with the third anniversary of the outbreak of violence in the Vaal Triangle on September 3, 1984

Mr Louw said that the rent arrears caused by the present boycott could be paid without deposit over a period of five years

Houses in the area will be sold as follows:

Sebokeng four rooms, outside toilet and electricity — R691.

Zamdela. five rooms, inside toilet and electricity — R712

Sharpeville. four rooms, outside toilet and electricity — R562

Bophelong four rooms with bathroom, inside toilet and electricity — R427

Boipatong four rooms with bathroom and toilet

inside and electricity — R390

Mr Louw said the council was the first in the country to receive approval from the National Housing Commission for its lists of discount prices

"This new scheme will enable most of the residents to own their own homes which they can later develop into bigger structures," Mr Louw said

Mr Louw said residents could buy these homes by paying a minimum of 10% and the balance can be paid over a period of 10 years

Residents would be expected to pay R100 for water meters and R100 for the title deed. — Sapa

30 000 units for sale in the Vaal Triangle

# FOODSIES AT

# BRARGAIN

5 years to pay on rent arrears

127 September 14/87

# PRICES

By JOSHUA RABOROKO  
**MORE than 30 000 houses in the Vaal Triangle are for sale—in some instances for as little as R390.**

This was announced by the town clerk of the Lekoa Town Council, Mr Nikolaas Louw, who said the homes are being sold under the Government's new discount scheme which came into effect on September 1.

The announcement of the sale of houses coincides with the third anniversary of the outbreak of violence on September 3, 1984.

Mr Louw said that the rent arrears caused by the present boycott could be paid without deposit over a period of five years. A spokesman for the Vaal Triangle Citizens Committee said



MR NIKOLAAS LOUW  
 Lekoa town clerk.

the selling of houses after a long struggle by residents was suspicious. Houses in the area will be sold as follows:

- Sebokeng four rooms, outside toilet and electricity — R691
- Zamdela five rooms, inside toilet and electricity — R712
- Sharpeville four rooms, outside toilet and electricity — R562
- Bophelong four rooms with bathroom, inside toilet and electricity — R427, and Bopatsong four rooms with bathroom and toilet inside and electricity — R390

Mr Louw said the council was the first in the country to receive approval from the National Housing Commission for its lists of discount prices.

"This new scheme will enable most of the residents to own their own homes which they can later develop into bigger structures." **To Page 3**

**BUY HOMES** (127) *September 14/87*  
 From Page 1 paid over a period of 10 years

Mr Louw said residents could buy these homes by paying a minimum of 10 percent and the balance can be

Residents would be expected to pay R100 for water meters and R100 for the title deed

**In case you haven't been getting your post, we would like you to know that you don't need to bring in your statement to pay your account or get the latest fabulous fashions now being unpacked!**

Ethnic fashions for ladies, leather trimmed denim for men, plus the opportunity to earn R100 in

# Soweto houses on sale

SOWETO houses are now on sale, complete with freehold rights, for as little as R553

This follows a government decision to sell township homes at erection cost. Confirming this, Soweto town clerk Nico Malan said yesterday that two-roomed houses were on sale for R153 plus R400 for freehold title.

The council is not insisting that those who choose to buy their homes also buy the freehold. Residents holding 99-year leases will be given the opportunity to convert to freehold.

Government has still to determine the cost of converting.

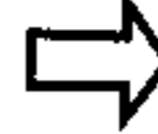
SOPHIE TEMA

Soweto City Council is the second local authority in the country to receive the approval of the National Housing Commission to sell its houses at erection cost

In the Vaal Triangle the sale of houses began last week with some being sold at R390

In Orlando East, Soweto, two-roomed houses will be sold at R153 and three-roomed houses at R201. These houses

● To Page 2



# Soweto homes on offer for R553

were built in 1932

The cost of four-roomed houses in Soweto's old townships will range from R330 to R1 500

Five-roomed houses in Soweto's former elite township, Dube, built in the early 1950s, will cost R566

Four-roomed houses built in Pimville's zones five and six will be sold at R600 while those in the new area will cost about R3 250

A spokesman for the council says "This is indeed a bonanza offer for resi-

dents who now intend buying their houses

"We will, however, negotiate with government to credit those people who bought their homes before the offer was made."

While the sale began officially at the end of last week, sales have not yet actually started as news has yet to reach residents, he says

● From Page 1



*(Handwritten) C/P 27/9/87*

# AG calls for new Kei trial

**CP Correspondent**

THE extraordinary case of 12 people accused of terrorism who escaped from a Transkei court when their case was unexpectedly struck off the roll, comes under the legal spotlight again this week.

There was pandemonium in the Umtata Magistrate's Court when the case was suddenly dismissed. Twelve of the 25 accused managed to escape, but police recaptured the remaining eight.

Today the Transkei Supreme Court is to hear an application by the Transkei Attorney General, Christo Nel, to have the magistrate's ruling which freed the group set aside.

At issue is an incident on August 20, when 20 people made an appearance in an Umtata Magistrate's Court on a charge of treason which was dismissed by the magistrate, Joe Lukwago-Mogwera - El-news.

THE Reverend Stanley Mogoba has been elected unopposed as new president of the South African Institute of Race Relations.

He succeeds Dr Stuart Saunders.

Mogoba, secretary of the Conference of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, was elected during the annual council meeting of the institute in Johannesburg at the weekend.

He said his election came "at an historic or challeng-

# Mogoba is new SAIRR president

ing moment in the life of South Africa". He added that the SAIRR had a vital role to play in providing a platform for groups in South Africa to share their vision of the future.

Mogoba, 54, was appointed as a minister while serving a six-month term in

solitary confinement during a three-year prison sentence of Robben Island.

He has written widely and has travelled extensively. He is also a member of a number of international ecumenical bodies, including the World Methodist Council. He is married, has four children and lives in

Kwa Mashu, Natal.

In keeping with tradition, Saunders was elected as one vice-president. Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu, vice-chancellor of the University of Transkei, Professor Lawrence Schlemmer and Sir Richard Luyt were also elected vice-presidents.

One new member of the executive committee was also elected. He is Professor Elwyn Jenkins, director of the Mamelodi campus of Vista University. - Sapa

# Delegation snubbed

**By SELLO SERIPE**

A DELEGATION of eight, comprising of two lay workers, five Soweto priests and Auxilliary Bishop of Johannesburg, Bishop Patric Mvemve - were this week stunned when Councillor Letsatsi Radebe allegedly staged a walk-out during a meeting at Soweto council chambers

The meeting between the Minister's United for Christian Co-responsibility and Soweto Management Committee was intended to facilitate a meeting between the council and the Soweto Civic Association to resolve the rent crisis

However, the meeting continued despite his absence

*City Press* failed to get comment from Radebe

Town Clerk Nico Malan, however, confirmed that they held a meeting with the priests who presented them with a memorandum

In the memorandum the priests appealed to the councillors to appoint Malan as a negotiator and to start talking to the SCA in an attempt to resolve the rent crisis

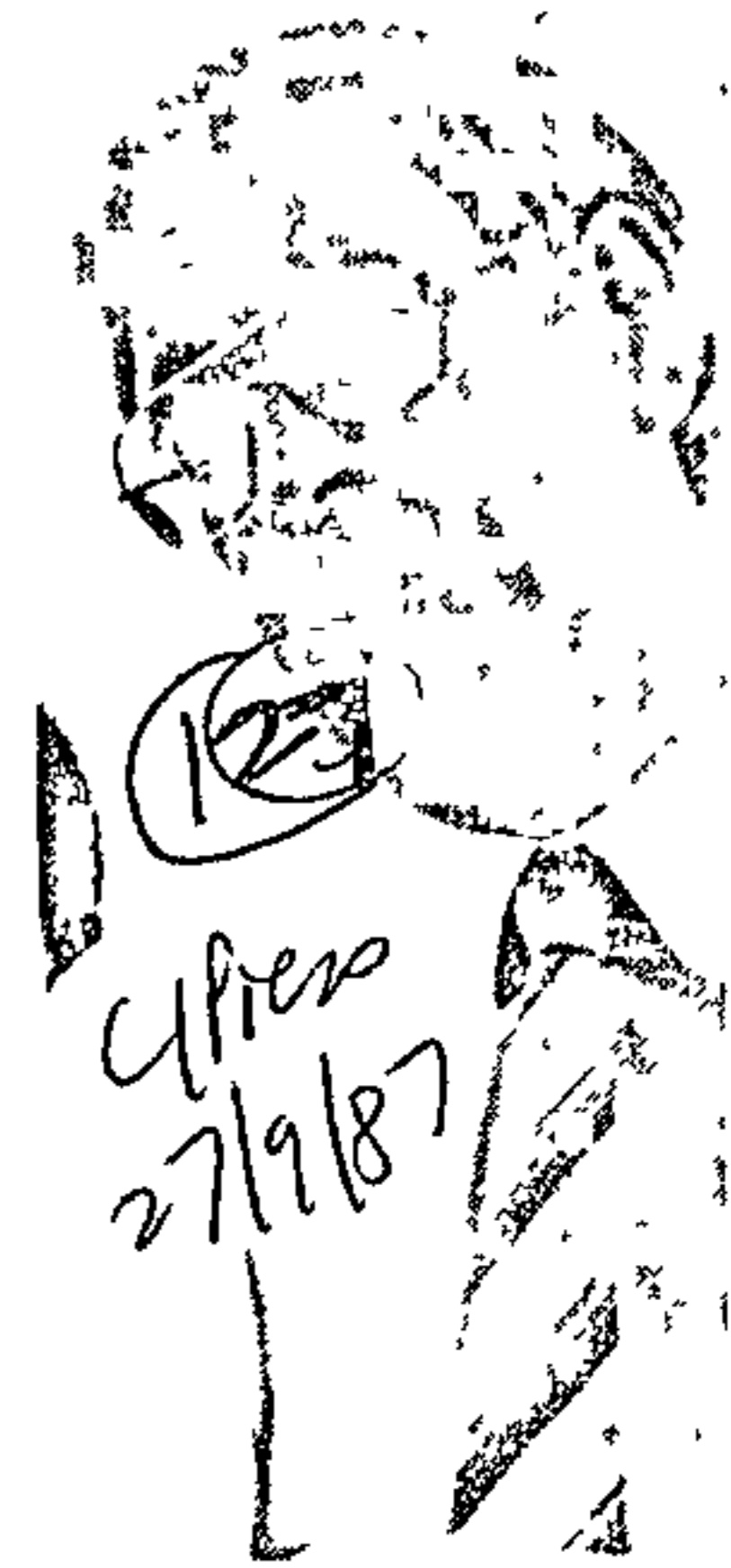
An earlier meeting planned a fortnight ago between the SCA and Town Clerk Nico Malan failed to

take place after the association's office at Ipelegeng Community Centre was allegedly raided by the security police and files and a typewriter seized

Delegation spokesman, Rev Siphon Masemola, said Radebe had accused the group of allowing anti-council meetings to be held in their churches

Radebe allegedly walked out before the churchmen could defend themselves

Meanwhile, the SCA general secretary, Patrick Lephunya, said that the association had no mandate from the community to talk to councillors



**Nico Malan**

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...ordinary adventures ... with Africans ... story at a children's book

Soweto

(7)

7/9/87

# RENT ISSUE UNDER FIRE

**MORE** than 3 000 Soweto residents yesterday resolved at a meeting to take action against the Soweto City Council for evicting rent defaulters in the townships

Addressing the meeting at the Evethu Cinema, the president of the Sotasonke Party Mr Ephraim Tshabalala, said his party would apply for a Supreme Court order or take any other action necessary to restrain the council from evicting further residents from their homes

The aim of the meeting was to report back to residents on recent happenings, including the rent boycott, eviction of rent defaulters, the proposed sale of homes, the demand for freehold rights and newspaper reports about the party

Mr Tshabalala said he was inviting all organisations, including the United Democratic Front, the Azanian People's Organisation and the Soweto Civic Association to take part in the venture to stop evictions

The party has invited these organisations to attend its next meeting to be held at the Diepkloof Hall next Sunday at 9am

"The fight against evictions is on," Mr Tshabalala reiterated

He appealed to the residents to be careful when buying their homes because most Soweto homes had already been paid off

# Council offers freehold purchase option

## Further price cuts for Soweto houses

By Sam Mabe

The Soweto Council has announced further cuts in the prices of houses, some of which will be sold for as little as R153

Director of housing Ms Estelle Bester said the selling price of each house will be calculated on its original cost.

She said residents would have the option of buying their homes under the freehold rights system which would be available in about a month's time.

### Convert to freehold

"People who bought their houses under the 99-year leasehold system and under the 30-year lease scheme, can convert to the freehold rights if they so wish. Freehold costs are between R1,50 and R2,40 a square metre. This means they will own the house and the land," she said.

In Orlando East, two-roomed houses will cost R153 plus R95 survey fee, R7 administration fee, R200 for water meter plus the freehold fee.

Ms Bester said that once people have bought their houses under the freehold scheme, they will no longer pay house rent

"They will continue to pay service charges, site rent (rates and taxes) and for metered water and electricity. What we call site rent is payment for things like sewage purification, cleaning of streets, rubbish disposals and so on," she said.

Ms Bester said rent arrears might be included in the overall price of the house should the prospective buyer so request

"We have not thought about that yet. But if people ask that they be allowed to repay their rent arrears in five years, as is the case in Lekoa, the council will look at that request."

Prices will vary from place to place depending on the size of the house and its age. Four-roomed houses in Jabulani will sell for R360, Dube R468, in Orlando West they will vary from R549 to R1 215 and in Pimville they will be between R1 373 and R3 250.

The prices exclude the R95 survey fee, R7 administration fee, R200 for the water meter and the cost of the site

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'Perception councillors were oppressing blacks'

# CALL TO KILL IS

THE general secretary of Soweto Civic Association, Mr Thomas Manthata, told Vaal-Triangle residents to kill local councillors if they refused to resign, it was alleged in the Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday.

Mr W Hanekom, the prosecutor, said the call was made during a meeting in 1984 to discuss increased rents in Sharpeville and was in line with the policy of the SCA "to get rid of puppets"

Mr Manthata rejected the allegations which he described as lies and also told the court "The SCA has never killed a single man"

Mr Manthata also rejected a suggestion that he called on the Vaal residents not to pay rent. He admitted that he did tell them that the Government should pay the increased amounts and also urged them to negotiate with local councillors.

He denied having told the residents that they had the power but did not know how to use it.

Cross-examined by the prosecutor, Mr Manthata admitted that he told the residents that if they were not satisfied with the councillors, they could re-elect others.

"There was a general perception among blacks that councillors were oppressing them," he said.

By **MONK NKOMO**

Mr Manthata told the court that there was talk in the townships that the houses there had long been paid off through rent and that the Government was now reaping the profits.

A number of houses in Soweto had been paid off in terms of the 30-year leasehold scheme, said Mr Manthata.

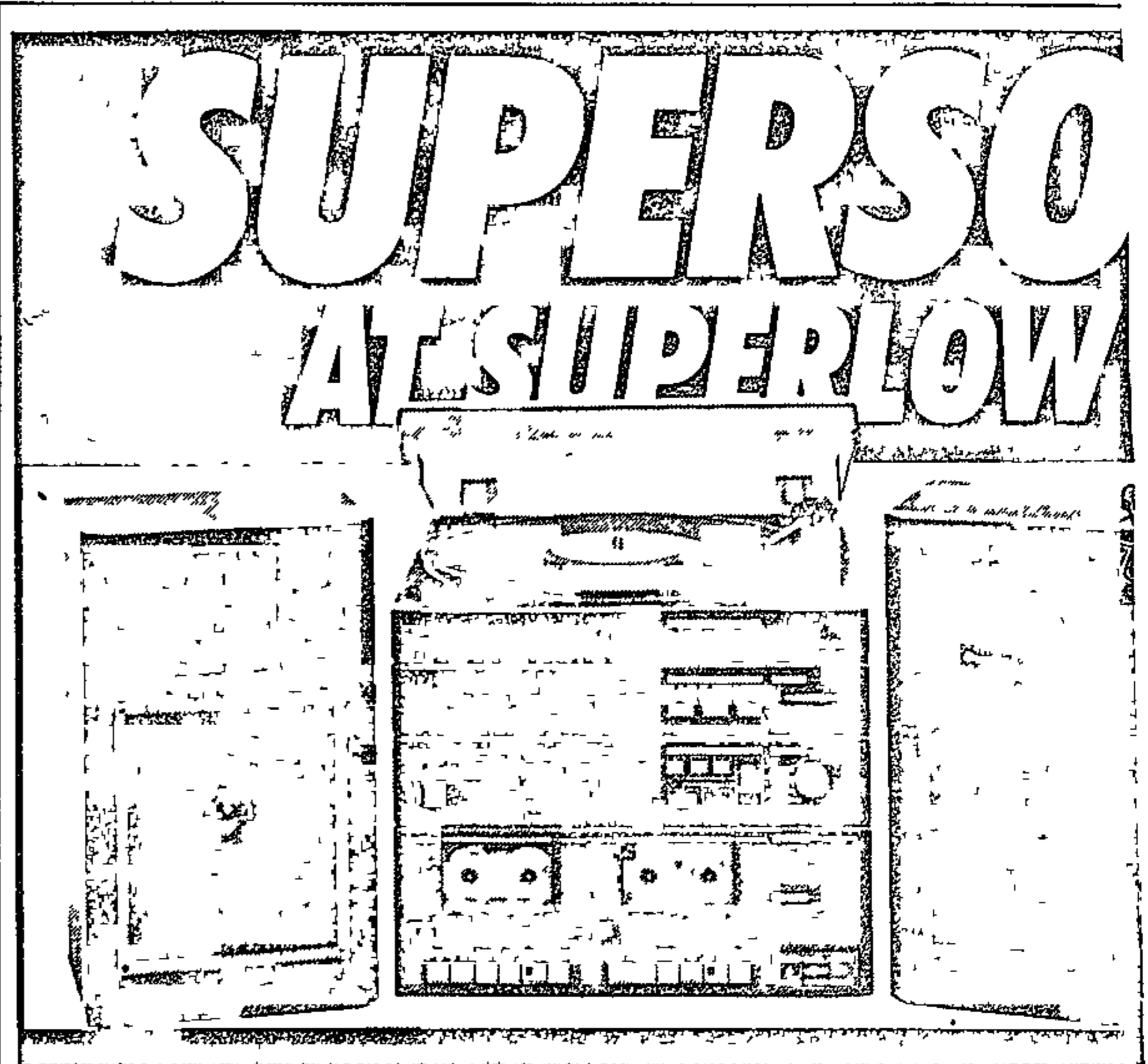
### Toilets

"Houses built for blacks lack some of the basic facilities such as inside toilets and bathrooms. This leaves people with limited chances of remaining clean," he said.

Mr Manthata is one of the 19 accused including senior members of the UDF, Azapo, Azanyo and the Vaal Civic Association who have pleaded not guilty before Mr Justice van Dijkhorst sitting with an assessor, to charges of treason, murder, subversion and terrorism.

(Proceeding)

**Treason hearing**  
**DENIED**  
*127* *Smetham 10/9/87*  
**IN COURT**



**ICIC STA 33 STEREO**  
**RADIO-CASSETTE COMBINATION**

**\* OBLAUPUN**  
**RADIO DOUBLE-C**

# Atteridgeville set to tackle housing problem

ATTERIDGEVILLE, the township in Pretoria which, at one stage, was threatened with forced removal by the Government, is now set to alleviate its acute housing shortage.

The local town council, after years of negotiations and setbacks, have finally been given the go-ahead by the Government to expand westwards where more than 20 000 houses are to be built on 1 500 hectares of land

Mr Solly Rammala, the town clerk, in an interview with the *Sowetan*, this week, said the council will introduce a self-help scheme to aid about 55 percent of the residents who can only afford to build low cost houses

## Backlog

Mr Rammala, who described the country-wide housing backlog as "explosive", called on the Government to subsidise infrastructure for the low income groups "Housing is the most politically explosive situation in this country

By MONK NKOMO



DR PIET Koornhof.

and it needs immediate attention," he said  
The Government, Mr

Rammala added, was "shortsighted" when they declared in the early sixties that the building of houses in Atteridgeville/Saulsville should be frozen following threats of forced removal to Soshanguve near Mabopane in Bophuthatswana

Mr Rammala said the Minister of Plural Relations at the time, Dr Piet Koornhof, informed them in 1979, when they met him to discuss the stoppage of building houses in the area, that the Government had rescinded its decision to resettle local residents

The council led by the former mayor, Mr Z Z Mashoa, then made representations to Dr Koornhof to expand westwards to alleviate the housing shortage. This request was rejected by the Minister in 1984

No reasons were furnished despite the council's motivating submission that a survey conducted by experts had revealed that about 57 000 more residents would have to be accommodated in the township in the year 2000

## Opinion

"The Government must in future listen to public opinion. We were right at the time to seek the Government's approval to develop the western side of the township for residential purposes

"We are irked at the Government's delay in making the area available to us because we cannot immediately alleviate the housing problem. It needs about three more years to develop that area," Mr Rammala said

(12)

Sowetan  
10/9/87

# COMMENT

Telephone: (011) 673-4160

*Sowetan*  
*127*  
*10/9/87*

**T**HE Soweto City Council yesterday resumed the evictions of residents who owe rent, so we are again forced to write the painful story of men, women and children thrown into the streets.

For a while we believed that there was movement towards sanity: the Soweto Council asked experts to investigate why residents' electricity bills were so high; the council asked residents to pay nominal fees for electricity; and the prices of houses were lowered.

We believed that there was progress because the council was at last recognising that perhaps the residents had genuine grievances.

We saw a light flickering in the dark when the mayor, Mr Nelson Botile, announced that the council was halting all evictions.

Now that struggling light has been smothered.

The reason is not far to seek: the council took unilateral decisions and then sat back, hoping that the crisis would disappear.

The tough approach was given a chance over some months — in the Vaal since the rent boycott started on September 3, 1984 — but the soft approach was given only a few days.

And in the few days the men and women in the council did not go out of their way to talk to residents, to find a creative solution to the problem.

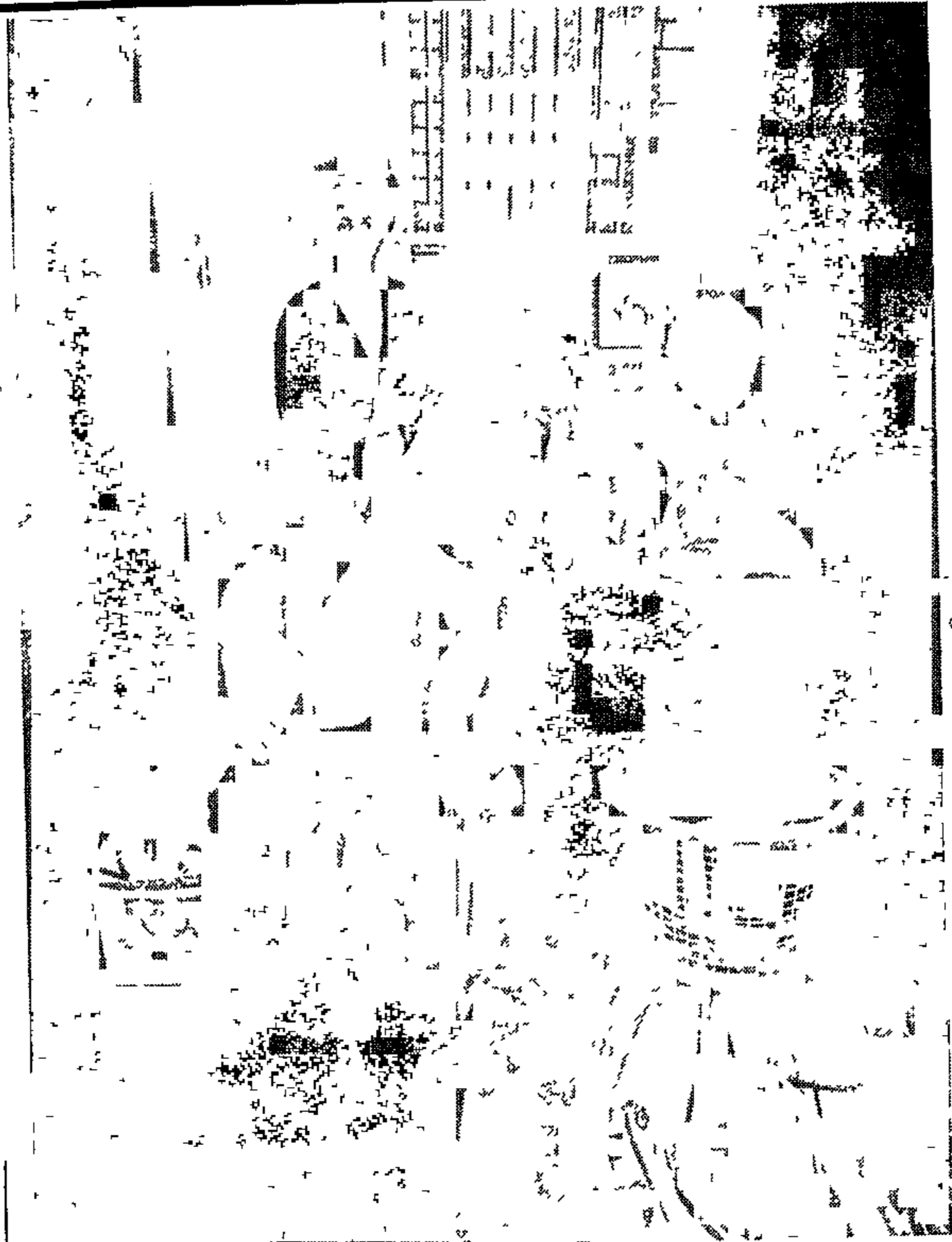
(They probably could not talk to the people because they do not live with them.)

So it is back to evictions, to cuts in electricity, to confrontation, to the road to tragedy.

And it is so unnecessary.

127

SMA 10/9/87



The Mashiane brothers . pondering a bleak future.

## Blacks evicted from city flats

By Martin Challenor

The caretaker of a block of flats in Bree Street, Johannesburg yesterday evicted two black brothers from the building.

Mr Joseph Mashiane and his brother Moses had wanted to move into Queensbury near the corner of Nugget Street

They said yesterday that the "office" controlling the building had told them they could move in if they got a white person

to sign the lease

This they did and paid R380 rent for each of their flats

Mrs Winifred Breedt, caretaker of the building, said yesterday that when she had found black people living in the flats, she told them to leave. On Tuesday called the police

The brothers were given until 10 am yesterday to go. Police returned at that time and watched as they packed

their belongings and left the flat

They had receipts from Queensbury Investments made out to their white nominee

They said Queensbury Investments would not return their money. They contacted Actstop, a group that helps people evicted under the Group Areas Act

They said police and Queensbury Investments had told them their white nominee should be imprisoned

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For three-year-old Sithandle Mabuza and his one-year-old brother, Hleziphi, it was life as usual as they went about their daily routine, seemingly oblivious of what the removal of their furniture meant.

SM 19/9/87

## People owing rent evicted in Jabulani

Soweto Council officials yesterday evicted at least 10 Jabulani families who were owing rent.

No official comment could be obtained, but residents said Soweto Council officials, escorted by council police and SADF members, confiscated goods such as refrigerators, dining-room suites and radios and dumped other goods outside the homes.

Most of the evicted families said they were visited at their homes as early as 4:30 am on Monday and warned by an official that they would be evicted yesterday if they did not pay at least R200 to reduce their arrears.

Mr Johannes Mkhwanazi said his second visit from council officials was early yesterday morning.

"They told me I owed R550 and I told them I would get the money to pay," he said.

"I got a telephone call from my wife at about 10 am saying she was being evicted. She said she gave them R140, but was given a receipt for R100," he said.

Mr Mkhwanazi said his furniture was offloaded from the council truck after a neighbour gave the officials a R674 cheque. Mr M.M. Nkabinde said that, after an early morning warning, he had found his house broken into and his goods lying in the yard.

His refrigerator, sewing machine and radio were missing.

'They are trying to force us to buy the house'

# SOWETO COUNCIL EVICTIONS 19 FAMILIES

EVICTIONS for non-payment of rent have started again. Nineteen families were thrown out of their homes in Jabulani, Soweto, yesterday.

Amounts owed to the council range from about R500 to more than R1 000. This followed a rent boycott which began in June last year.

A large contingent of Soweto council police-

## SOWETAN Reporter

men supported by soldiers and the SAP patrolled the area where the evictions were taking place.

### Forced

Council officials broke the locks and forced their way into some houses. They selected expensive items of furniture and

took them away leaving a receipt behind.

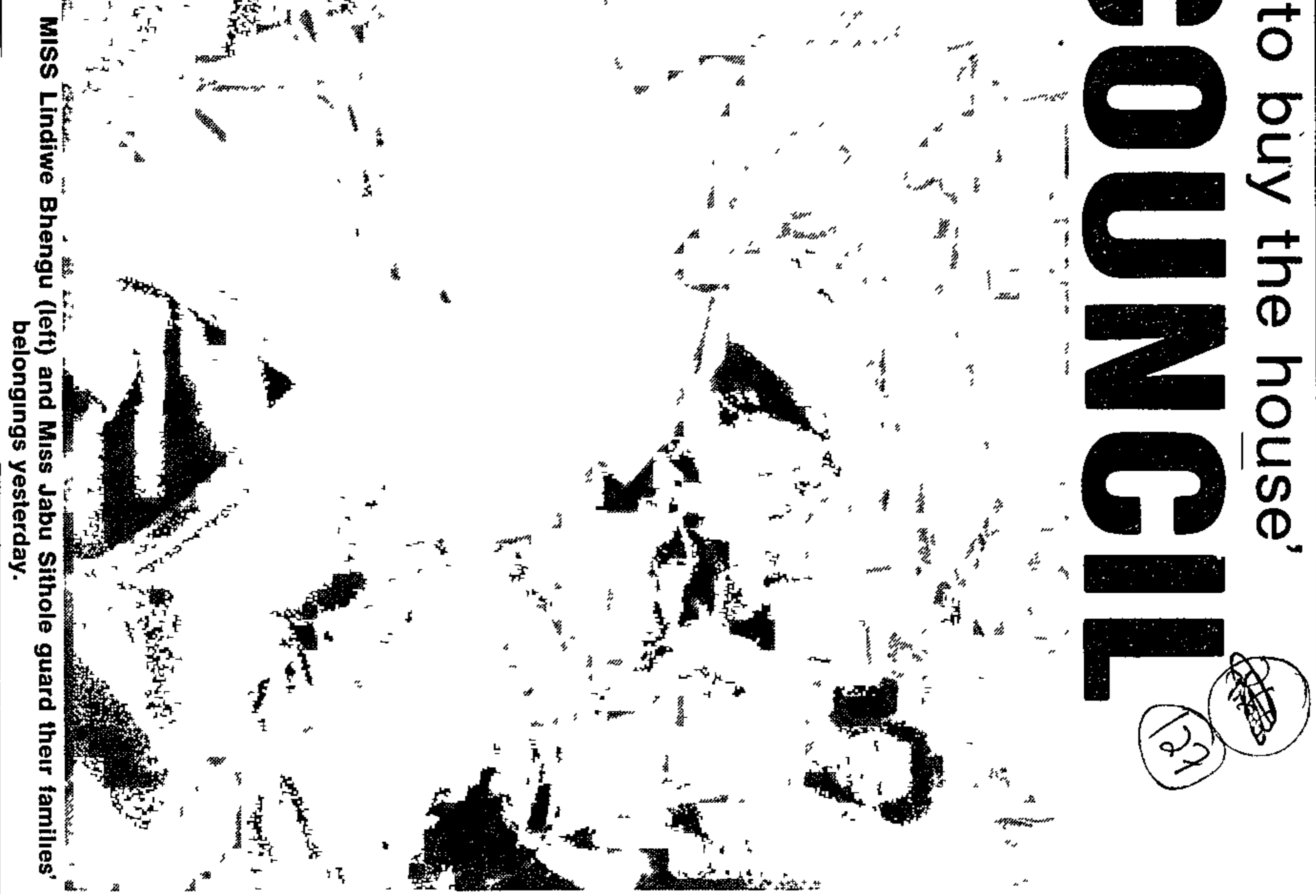
The council's housing director, Miss Estelle Bester, said 19 people have been evicted although many residents who were on the scene estimated the number to be about 100.

Mrs Eunice Nkosi said she was evicted because she owed more than R800.

"When they arrived they asked how much I had with me and when I told them I had R10 they left. On their return they said R10 was too little and started removing our furniture into the yard. They then locked the house and left me standing in the open," said Mrs Nkosi.

She said the officials kept asking her and her husband why they were not buying their house. "They appear to be trying to force us to buy the house," she said.

Pensioner, Mr William Mabuza, who lives with daughter, Doris, and grandchildren, was at a loss as to what he would do last night because his belongings were thrown into the yard and his house locked.



MISS Lindiwe Bhengu (left) and Miss Jabu Sithole guard their families' belongings yesterday.

Buy

## 21 more rent boycotters are evicted

The latest blitz on rent boycotters in Soweto which started again this week continued yesterday when 21 families were raided and locked out of their homes in Jabulani.

This brought to 40 the number of families who have been evicted in the area in two days.

The director of housing in the Soweto Council, Ms Estelle Bester, yesterday confirmed the evictions. However, she said one of the families had been allowed back after making a payment.

The families were each told how much they owed. If they could not pay, some furniture was confiscated, the rest put outside and the houses locked.

Ms Bester said the council had resolved at a meeting that evictions should take place again following a drop in payments since action against rent defaulters was stopped by the mayor, Mr Nelson Botile.

The mayor stopped the evictions because he had been given promises that people would pay their arrears, said Ms Bester.

Class

13/9/87

127

# The long road to freehold rights hindered by rent issue

By KHULU SIBIYA

BLACK housing has always been a political rallying point for black politicians

Even the Soweto uprising of 1976 - although the main issue then was the compulsory introduction of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in black schools - was closely linked to the housing situation in this country

As a result of the acute housing shortage in the urban areas the lack of sense of belonging and exorbitant rent calm has eluded black townships

Many lives have been lost and people have been evicted for one reason or the other There has been constant turmoil especially in areas like Crossroads the Vaal Triangle, Soweto and the East Rand Millions of Rands worth of property have been destroyed and essential services disrupted

Political and civil leaders have pointed out that there would never be peace in the townships until blacks were given freehold rights

were on sale for as little as R153 plus R400 for freehold title deeds

He said all this could not have been achieved had he not been mayor of Soweto

But because of black radicals nobody knew about this scheme which he said was announced by the government on July 1

He dismissed as rubbish claims that councilors were sell-outs and stooges who did the government's dirty job of announcing rent and tariff increases and issuing eviction orders

During the unrest in the Vaal and Soweto townships were the first targets Their houses were petrolbombed and set alight In the Vaal at least four councilors were killed

Botile said those people who said councilors were sell-outs were the very ones who came to him daily for help

1932 were on sale for R153 plus R400 for freehold title deeds and three-roomed houses at R210

Residents presently holding 99-year leases would be given an opportunity to convert their leases to freehold

The cost of four-roomed houses in Soweto's old townships will range between R330 to R1 500

Five-roomed houses in Dube which were built in the early 1950's will cost R566

Four-roomed houses built in Pinville's zones five and six will be sold for R600 while those in the new area will cost R3 250

However Botile said residents who were in arrears with their rent would have the money they owed added to their package deals

He said the council was negotiating with the government to credit those people who had bought their homes before the offer was made

Although the scheme was officially announced at the beginning of July Botile said there had been a poor response

He attributed this to a lack of publicity and radicals

"This is an opportune time for Sowetans to start buying these houses is this not what we have been crying for? Now we will be owning land and the land is an investment today," he said

When asked about the housing backlog and the number of squatters that

have increased almost three-fold Botile said that was a big problem facing the councilors

"There is not enough land to build we are negotiating with the government about this," he said

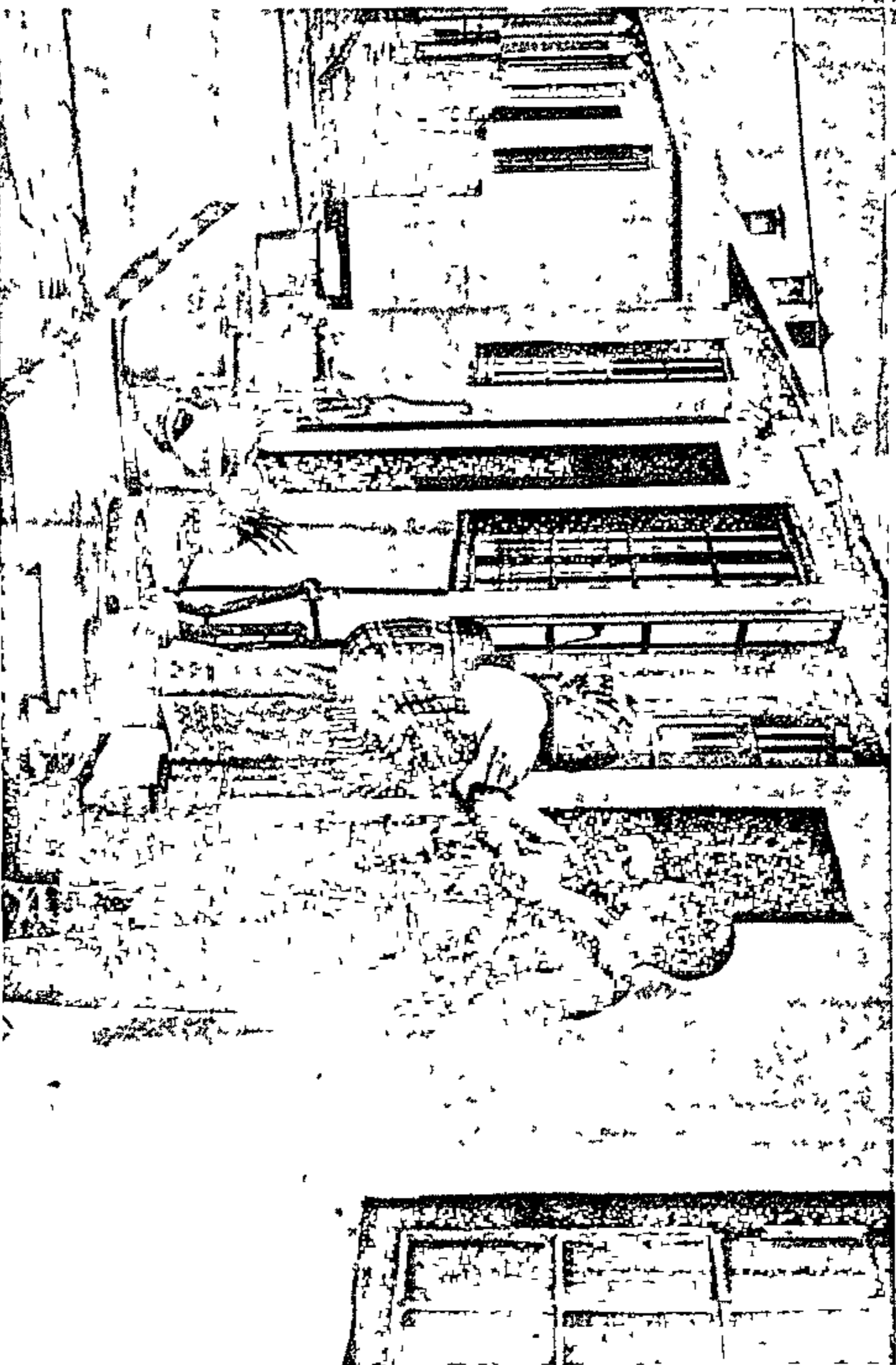
Figures released in Parliament this week by the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development Stoffel van der Merwe revealed that there were 1 310 813 squatters in the country

In the Transvaal alone there are 850 000 squatters nearly 300 000 in the Cape 1 142 in the Free State and 156 715 in Natal including some who live in KwaZulu

About the unrealistic and exorbitant electricity bills in Soweto, Botile said the matter was of great concern to the councilors

As a result a decision had already been taken to brief Anglo American to test all electricity metres in Soweto

He added that the Soweto Council was not affiliated to either the Urban Councils Association of SA or the United Municipalities Association of SA



These people of White City Jabavu, like all black people in SA, have fought for permanent residence in urban areas

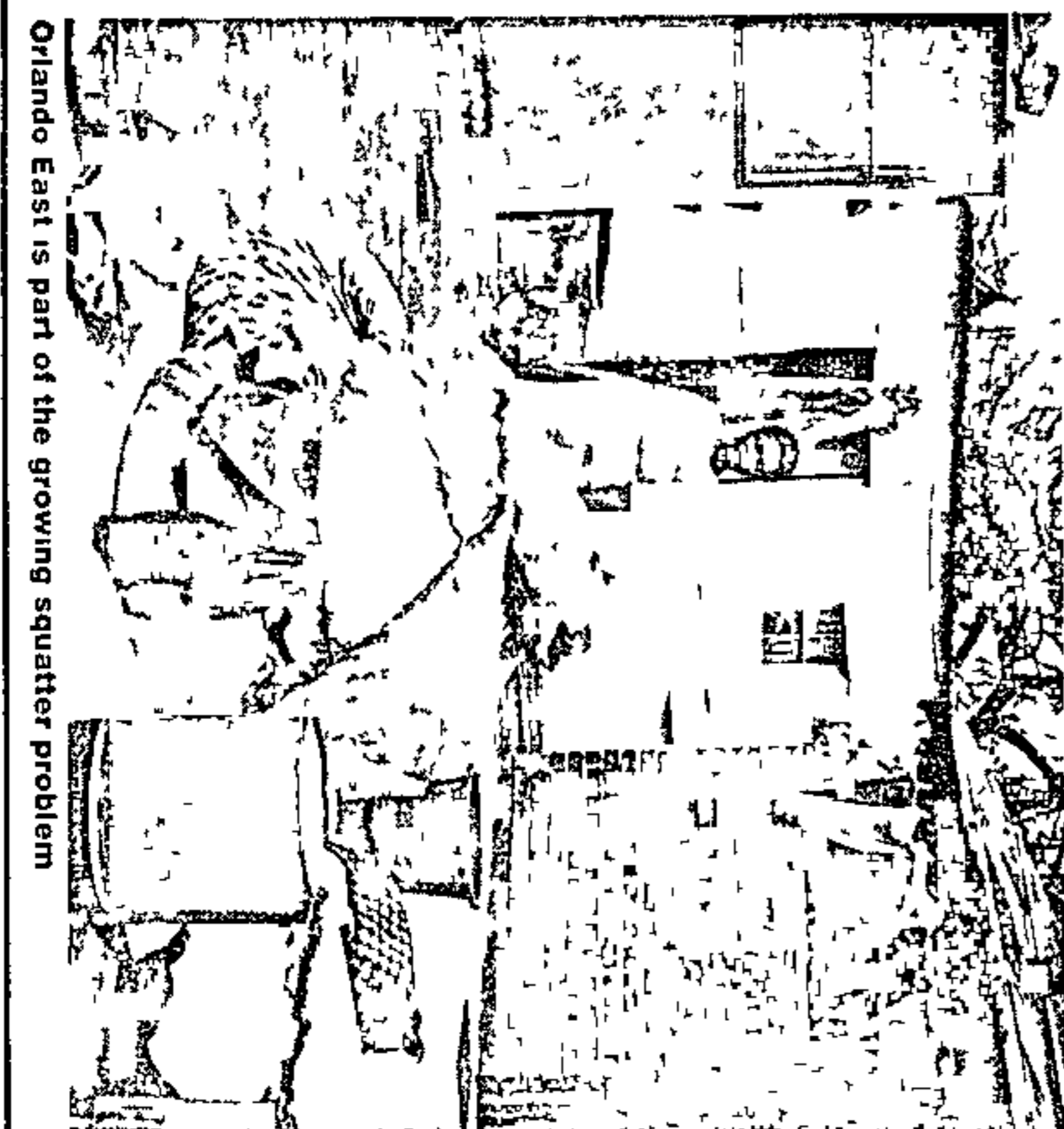
"I fully agree with those who suspect that our metres could be faulty," he said

On the question of rent defaulters Botile said he personally had pleaded with authorities to withhold evictions

"When a person is unable to pay we make arrangements with him on how he should pay. But people who refuse to pay simply victimise themselves," said the man who claimed to be in the hot seat in South Africa

He said that so far 80 percent of the residents had paid their rent "after I had addressed a meeting of Soweto residents at Jabulani Amphitheatre last month

He added that the Soweto Council was not affiliated to either the Urban Councils Association of SA or the United Municipalities Association of SA

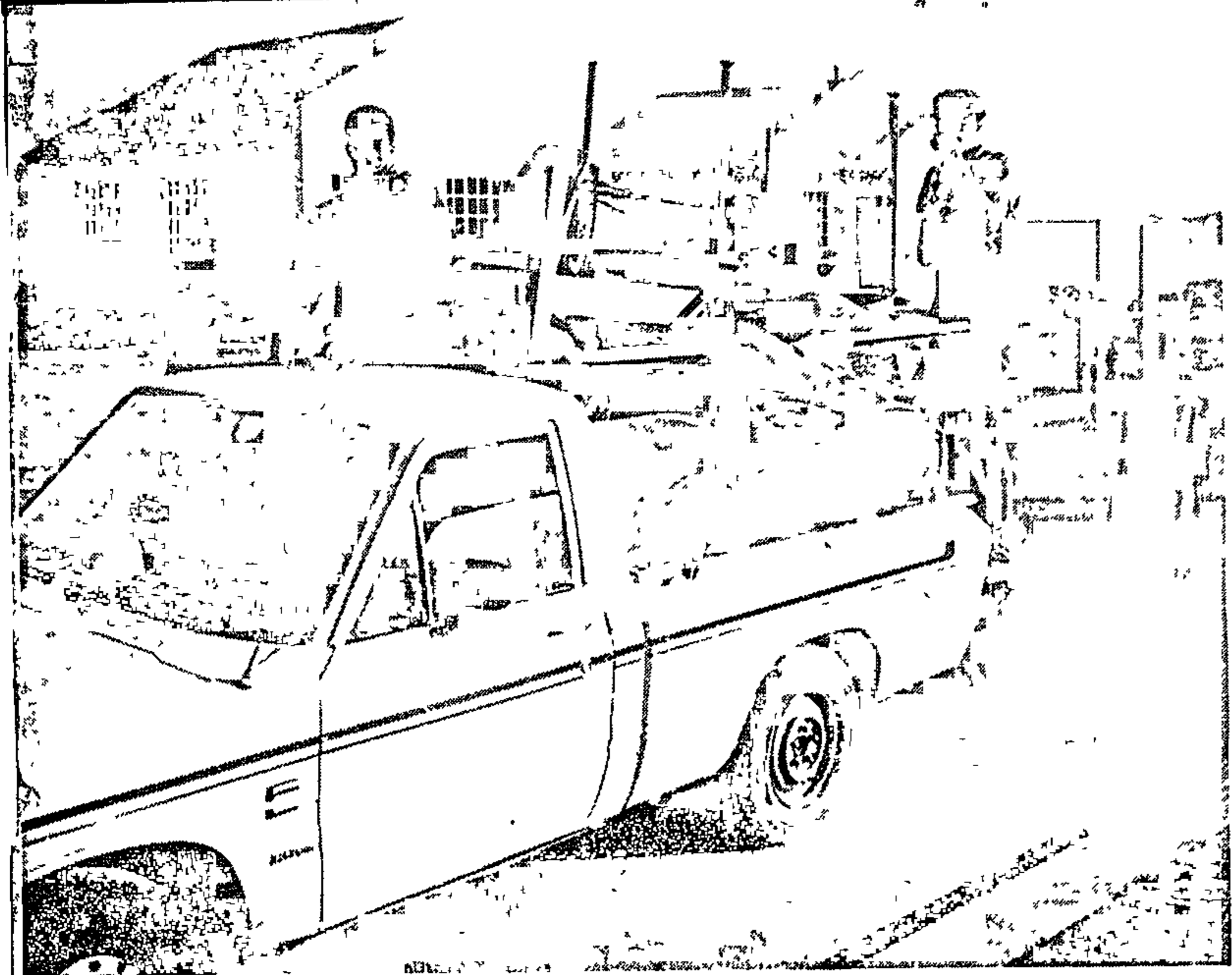


Orlando East is part of the growing squatter problem



127

SPR 74/9/87



With all their household belongings on the back of a truck, this family defiantly moved from their shack into incomplete housing units in Ennerdale Extension 6 about two weeks ago.

# Seventy squatter families evicted after weeks of being shunted around

By Pat Devereaux

About 70 Ennerdale families ended up on the streets again at the weekend after being evicted from their temporary accommodation in the township.

The families have been shunted back and forth since they defiantly moved into the unfinished housing units in Ennerdale Extension 6 about two weeks ago. On Friday morning, the police again moved in and evicted them.

After charges of squatting had been withdrawn in a De Deur Magistrate's Court on September 7, the families agreed to voluntarily vacate the premises when temporary accommodation was found.

According to Mr Sidney Leaman, Chairman of the Ennerdale Ratepayers Action Group (ERAG), about 30 families had remained in the new housing units

after the court appearance and others had moved into about 13 "zozo" houses put up for them by the the Department of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture.

"These are desperate people, whose shacks were destroyed by the peri-urban board," said Mr Leaman.

Asked to comment on the evictions, regional director of the department, Mr L W Oldacre said: "There is a tremendous housing shortage but I cannot condone an illegal situation. When they seized houses allocated to others I got a court order to evict them. We agreed to drop charges if they moved out and since then I have met with these squatters every day."

"We agreed to put up temporary accommodation for the really desperate ones but others moved in and so we had to evict them again."

Roodepoort municipal police demolished 11 squatter shacks at the Big Farm settlement last week, the Black Sash has said

This is the eighth time this year that Roodepoort municipal police have torn down squatters' homes at Big Farm, a field worker for the organisation said

She said when she arrived at Big Farm on Friday morning the people were re-building their homes that had hours before been pulled down by officials

Between 50 and 60 people live in the shacks

The ground is earmarked as an extension to the coloured township of Davidsonville, and part of the new services have already being laid out.

Municipal officials were not available on Friday afternoon to confirm the demolitions. The Black Sash worker said she had spoken to the town secretary about the demolitions.

The organisation pointed out that while there were several hundred thousand people living as squatters on the Witwatersrand, they were in small settlements and did not attract as much attention as major squatter camps like Crossroads in Cape Town.

# 17 200 Soweto houses now sold

**SOPHIE TEMA**

THE Soweto council had sold 17 200 houses by the end of August — 32,03% of the units on offer — and was hoping for an accelerated rate of sales by the end of the year.

And the National Housing Commission (NHC) says it has sold 58 007 of its 334 072 houses in black areas countrywide — 17,3%.

The NHC owns 53 694 houses in Soweto.

On Thursday this week 100 Soweto houses from which rent defaulters have been evicted will be auctioned at the Jabulani administration offices by the messenger of court.

Sales co-ordinator for the NHC Alex Weiss said sales increased after government's announcement that houses would be sold at huge discounts from July 1.

He advised residents to use their annual bonuses at the end of the year to buy their houses. This would be a "worthwhile investment", he said.

The NHC is to launch a programme in black townships to boost government's campaign to sell houses and to teach prospective home buyers the concept of freehold rights.

Weiss said yesterday the campaign would start in October — soon after the prices of all houses in the country have been set.

To assist prospective buyers, the Soweto council has set up a central sales office at its Jabulani chambers.

Residents no longer have to go to their own administration offices to buy

# FOR SALE

(127)  
18/10/15  
Soweto

## Homes of 37 rent defaulters

**THE Soweto Council is to sell 37 houses in Jabulani by public auction on Thursday**

The houses mostly four-roomed belong to rent defaulters. The Soweto town clerk Mr Nico Malan yesterday confirmed that the homes will be sold by auction on Thursday. He said notices have been published in the *Government Gazette*.

He said the houses would be sold in terms of the new dispensation recently announced by the Government. He could not say how much it will cost, but added the highest bidder will be able to purchase the house at a price that is not below the cost of the house.

He will also be expected to pay arrears where the council has not been able to recover expenses. Mr Malan said

### Evicted

The houses will be sold *vacant* meaning an in-tenant occupant will be able to move in as soon as the transaction is completed.

This move by the Soweto council is similar to a recent action by the Kaikhong Town Council which sold several houses of rent defaulters by public auction. The Soweto council

By NAT DISEKO

on Thursday	814	982
986	1069	1132
1197	1204	1275
985	991	1082
1185	1195	1199
1216	1773	1795
1825	1826	1829
1951	1952	1953
1965	1974	1975
2017	2019	and 2042

director of housing Mrs Estelle Bester said last week 21 families had been evicted in Jabulani. This brought to 40 the number of families evicted. She said the decision to place on public auction

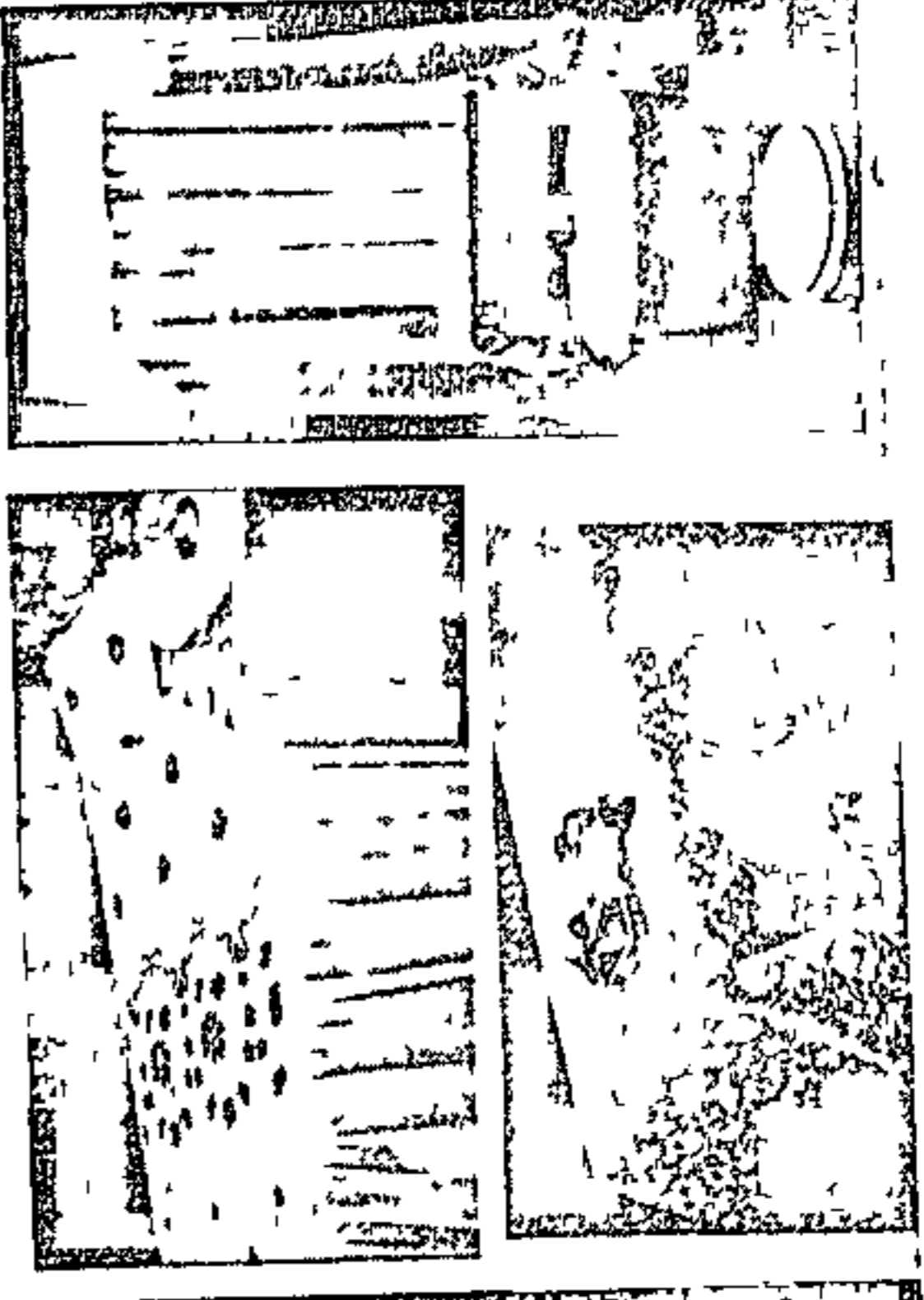


PENSIONER Mrs Julia Dladla (left), of 1829 Jabulani, is one of the tenants whose houses are to be sold. She has appealed for help because she cannot raise the R300 she owes the council.

## ATTENTION HAWKERS & TRADERS

# CASTLE CURTAINS

NEW RANGE OF READY TO HANG CURTAINS  
Kitchens, Toilets and Bathrooms and  
READY TO USE Tablecloths and Bedspreads



# REPRIEVE FOR SOME TENANTS

127  
Sowetan  
16/9/87

By NAT DISEKO



MR SIPHO Gumede . . . surprised.

THE Soweto City Council may not have to sell all of the 37 houses earmarked for auction tomorrow, the council's town clerk, Mr Nico Malan said yesterday.

The council put up a notice at the council chambers this week announcing that a public auction would be held tomorrow to sell 37 houses belonging to tenants in rent arrears.

Mr Malan said yesterday some of the houses might not be sold after all because the tenants had approached the council to try and sort out their problems.

Mr Mandla Mazibuko, an executive member of the Sofasonke Party, said the people would be represented by the party's lawyers.

Meanwhile, the Soweto Civic Association has instructed its lawyers to act for six of the Jabulani tenants whose houses have been earmarked for public auction.

## Lawyers

He said his firm had been in touch with the council's lawyers but that if the council decided to go ahead with the auction, an urgent court application would be made.

One of the 37 tenants whose house might fall under the hammer said the first time he came to know his house was intended for sale was when he read about it in the *Sowetan* yesterday.

Mr Siphon Gumede (36), who stays with his mother, Mrs Emmarentia Memela (55), said: "This whole thing has left us very worried and confused. I also don't understand how the council can sell my house because it is a purchased house and is not the council's property."

## Purchased

Mr Malan said yesterday he was not aware that people with purchased houses had been affected.

He said it was unfortunate that some people had been evicted but that the council had to put some amount of pressure in order to make people pay for services.

# COMMENT

Telephone: (011) 673-4160

127  
Sowetan 16/9/87

**A**LTHOUGH we know their attempts are hopeless, it is becoming clear that the Soweto Council is trying desperately to break the rent boycott.

The deeply offensive way in which this is done — eviction of people, confiscation of their goods and the selling of their homes — will fail.

The Lekoa Town Council, which was perhaps even more hard-headed and hard-hearted than the Soweto Council tried all these weapons in its bureaucratic arsenal to wear down the residents.

The war of attrition by that council against residents failed. Up to this day some people there — and this is almost five years later — are still not paying rent.

If these measures failed in the Vaal how can they work in a large area such as Soweto. More frightfully, legitimate homeowners, who might have to be housed again in the future, are being rendered homeless. A very curious and ironic situation, especially after Mr Chris Heunis said this week that there was a shortage of half a million homes for blacks.

The more the evictions and auctioning of homes, the more resentment and even hatred for the local authorities. We do not think these officials can afford the build-up of so much anger against them. It also makes all the so-called reform measures in the pipeline hopeless.

What is perhaps most upsetting about the situation in Soweto is the mayor, Mr Nelson Botile, had promised there would be no further evictions. Whatever made him change his mind so suddenly, and so dramatically.

We know there is probably pressure from above that the money has to be retrieved. The Government uses the typical authoritarian attitude that the townships have to be run through money forced from a reluctant population. The truth is not that people do not wish to pay. They do.

R200m has already been paid out

# Taxpayers meet huge rent debt

12/9/87  
Bldg

TAXPAYERS are set to pick up a multi-million rand tab — R400m in the Transvaal alone — for township rent boycotts.

Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) officials said yesterday more than R200m had already been provided to financially strapped black local authorities in the form of "bridging finance", but there was little chance of it being repaid.

A TPA finance official said "The chances of us getting the money back are virtually nil."

Another official said "Some are in a position to repay, but there are a few which I doubt will ever be able to repay the money."

Soweto mayor Nelson Botile said service arrears — which are being linked to payments for council houses — would not be enough to repay the loans.

Botile said "We have not paid back any of the money because we do not have it." He said the council was negotiating for more time.

Apparently similar amounts have been made available by the Free State provincial administration for its townships, but this could not be confirmed.

PATRICK BULGER

And Soweto Civic Association (SCA) president Nthato Motlana said the more than one-year-old Soweto rent boycott seemed likely to end soon.

He said: "The boycott has served its purpose and should be called off." It was originally called as a protest against government's declaration of a state of emergency in June last year.

Motlana said the SCA would not negotiate with councillors, but if town clerk Nico Malan agreed to meet the SCA "it would make him an offer he could not refuse."

The boycott is being steadily undermined by government's mass housing sale.

During the past year, black local authorities have been nursed through the boycotts by monthly "loans" from the TPA. They are now strongly resisting pressure to increase service charges to try to recoup the money.

About R200m is owed to the TPA for the 1986/7 financial year. The loan was

● To Page 2



12/9/87

# Taxpayers meet rent debt

taken over by the TPA from the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning in October last year.

Although the TPA was under the impression repayments would begin within six months, 11 months later no money has been received. The loans were to be repaid without interest in six-monthly instalments over five years.

A second sum of R195m for 1987/8 was voted from the TPA's Special Departmental Services budget of R500m.

TPA provincial administration deputy-director Neil Joubert said no written agreement had been entered into for repayment of the funds. The TPA was negotiating the terms of repayment.

Joubert said the TPA was advising

● From Page 1

township authorities to increase rent and service charges in an attempt to recoup the money. But the already unpopular councils were resisting that.

He said "All of them have to take the unpopular decision to increase rates. We have been pleading with them to increase tariffs."

A circular had been sent to township authorities pointing out bridging finance had been made available in the form of a loan.

TPA community services executive director Louis Kok said arrangements were being made to try to recoup the money.

RENT BOYCOTT

AM 18/9/8

### Door to door tactic

The cat and mouse game between authorities and rent defaulters continues. With growing speculation that the Soweto Civic Association (SCA) will call for an end to the boycott (providing certain conditions are



**Motlana . . . pushing for conditions**

met), the year-old boycott may at last enter a phase of negotiation. But the SCA's Nthato Motlana has declined to elaborate on the possible conditions.

So far, the parties have not negotiated. Motlana accuses the council of not being sincere about talking. Recently, the SCA was set to meet Diepmeadow's town clerk,

127

Noel Gaum, but he was branded a racist and fired by his council before the meeting was due.

For his part, Soweto town clerk Nico Malan turned down the SCA's request to meet him *without the councillors* (The SCA does not recognise the Soweto councillors as representative.)

Although Malan claims the rent boycott is declining — he says the council received R1,7m (21%) of rent due in June, and R2,8m (36%) in July — there remains little doubt about who retains the initiative.

The Soweto council's tactics seem to involve wooing defaulters on the one hand, while threatening them with eviction on the other. Malan tells the *FM* that 40 families were evicted in Jabulani last week, with only one moving back after paying arrears. The remaining houses will be sold on public auction this week.

Before the latest evictions, some 150 Sowetans had been thrown out of their homes, but all of them have returned — most after reaching some agreement with the council. A few moved back without paying, and Malan warns that the council will act against them.

Meanwhile, the council implements what Malan calls "deacon action." An official collects rent from door to door, warning defaulters of a possible eviction should they fail to pay. On the first morning of "deacon action," 40 houses, with a total rent deficit of some R24 000, were visited. Malan says the official managed to collect some R8 000, which indicates that most people do have money, but give in to intimidation.

In another gesture of goodwill, the Soweto council in July persuaded the National Housing Commission to sell its houses at erection cost, bringing the price down from about R900 to as little as about R500. Malan says two-roomed houses in Orlando East cost R153, plus R400 for freehold title. And he adds there was an "immediate revival" in sales: from January to June 90 houses were sold, compared to 32 houses in July alone.

But 122 houses sold hardly solves the rent problem. Residents generally feel that they have paid for the houses many times over, and that the dwellings should now be given to the tenants. But Malan points out that the council still owes some R9m on original building loans, and that the council has, through the years, carried expenses such as insurance and maintenance.

Meanwhile, the National Party seems determined to press on with the controversial Promotion of Local Government Affairs Amendment Bill (*Current affairs* September 11). But, following the ruptures in parliament with the forced resignation of Labour Party (LP) leader Allan Hendrickse, the LP is expected to oppose the Bill fervently, and if possible confine it to the committee stage.

Now that it is clear that authorities' attempts to break the boycott with threats and inducements are failing dismally, the only real option seems to be negotiation. ■

# PACKAGE TO ENDS IMPASSE

(72)  
Smetun  
17/10/87

**THE Soweto Civic Association has worked out a package which it thinks could bring the rents impasse in the townships to an end.**

Chairman of the association Dr Nthato Motlana said yesterday the rents boycott could be resolved if only the Soweto Council's town clerk, Mr Nico Malan could agree to discuss a possible settlement with the SCA.

The SCA has certain proposals which it would like to present to the Soweto council.

In the past, the suggestion of a meeting between the SCA and Mr Malan was shot down by the councillors who insist that it is they and not the

## BY NAT DISEKO

town clerk the SCA should speak to

As a result of the rents boycott, which has been on since June last year, the Soweto council has taken the drastic step of putting 37 houses up for sale by public auction.

## Sale

The sale is scheduled to take place at 10am today on the front of the council chamber

But attorneys acting for some of the tenants whose houses are up for grabs, have said they would seek an urgent court interdict to stop the sale if the council indicates it intends to go ahead with the auction.

One of those whose

houses have been earmarked for sale, pensioner, Mrs Julia Djudla, was overcome with joy and gratitude when a good samaritan came to her rescue.

Mrs Djudla's plight, which was published in the *Sowetan* came to the notice of Bifco, a finance company. The company has purchased Mrs Djudla's house on her behalf and wiped out her arrears.

Mrs Djudla's house cost R1052 and the outstanding rent and electricity bills amounted to R1874,12.

Her daughter, Miss Caroline Djudla (28) said "We were about to go insane. I thank God and our ancestors for what has happened."

Mr Warren Levinton of Bifco, who presented two cheques at the council's Zola office said he was surprised that other big finance companies had not responded to the plight of the Jabulani people who face the possibility of being, without shelter

**MRS JULIA Djudla (seated), whose house was saved yesterday. Mr Warren Levinton and Mr Bethuel Gwala handed in cheques to the Soweto Council yesterday and saved Mrs Djudla's house from the auctioneer's hammer. On Mr Warren's right is Miss Caroline Djudla.**





# Sale of defaulters' homes in balance

By Jo-Anne Collinge

(127)

STAR  
17/9/87

The scheduled sale of homes of Soweto rent defaulters was in the balance today as more than half the householders concerned had "come forward and made satisfactory arrangements with the council", said Soweto housing director Mrs Estelle Bester.

She told The Star that by yesterday only 15 or 16 of the original 37 householders had failed to approach the council to forestall the sale of their homes.

The position of these householders was being weighed up to decide whether to go ahead with the auction or whether to give the defaulters a further period of grace.

Soweto Civic Association (SCA) president Dr Nthato Motlana said his organisation would be keeping a watch at the auction due to be held at the council offices in Jabulani.

"We'll be there if it goes ahead. But we are hoping that wise counsel will prevail and that the authorities will not go ahead with the sale."

Dr Motlana made an urgent appeal for Soweto town clerk Mr Nico Malan to consent to talks with the SCA.

All demands of Soweto rent boycotters were negotiable and the key to breaking the deadlock was the setting up of talks between the Soweto Civic Association and the town clerk, said Dr Motlana.

He said that Mr Malan had shown willingness to talk to the

grassroots structures of the civic association when he had met with street committee members from White City, Jabavu.

"Things are hotting up and we are hoping that Mr Malan will relent and talk to us. We believe that he has as great an interest as the civic association in solving the problem," said Dr Motlana.

The SCA refuses to negotiate with elected councillors on the basis that it rejects the system of black of local authorities.

The council, on the other hand, takes the position that Mr Malan is its paid employee — albeit a very senior one — and insists that councillors themselves should participate in negotiations.

Mr Malan was not available for comment on Dr Motlana's renewed bid for talks.

Mrs Bester said that she understood it was still the council's policy that its elected members should conduct talks. But, she added, there was a tremendous desire all round to resolve the rent dispute.

# Rents: Motlana seeks end to impasse

SOWETO Civic Association (SCA) president Nthato Motlana said last night the SCA was considering bypassing the Soweto city council and talking to central government to bring an end to the rent boycott

Motlana poured cold water on a proposal by town clerk Nico Malan that the SCA agree to meet councillors in their capacity as "community representatives"

He repeated the SCA's willingness to negotiate with Malan, saying this already represented a concession on the SCA's part. The SCA was not prepared to meet the councillors whom it

127 18/9/87  
PATRICK BULGER *h/day*

considered unrepresentative

"We are prepared to meet him as an envoy of the council. It seems the only way out of the impasse is to go over Malan's head," Motlana said

Malan had proposed that a "small group of councillors" meet the SCA to negotiate an end to the more than year-old boycott

The SCA called the boycott in June last year in protest against the state of emergency

Malan said yesterday he was opti-

mistic the boycott would end soon. He said the parties should meet halfway to resolve the dispute

While evictions would continue he felt they would not be enough to stop the boycott

Meanwhile Malan disclosed the Soweto city council was currently using R9m a month in "bridging finance" provided by the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA). He said Soweto currently owed the TPA R120m

Business Day reported yesterday that Transvaal black local authorities now owed the TPA more than R200m in "bridging finance"

# Farm workers fight eviction

17  
18/9/87

A CIVIL application launched against the Minister of Law and Order, the Rand Water Board and a South African Police commander by seven farm workers will be heard in the Rand Supreme Court on Tuesday.

The workers are members of the Oranje Vaal General Workers' Union

They are Mr Malven Moeketsi, Mr Joseph Znu, Mr Christopher Gqawa, Mr James Gqawa, Mr John Radebe, Mr Gert Motloun, Mr Willem Nhlapo and Mr Alfred Tsotetsi.

They brought an urgent application on

By THEMBA MOLEFE

Wednesday seeking to restrain the Rand Water Board from evicting them from their accommodation on the board's Zwartkops, near Vereeniging

The workers' argument is that another civil hearing is pending on the matter in the Vereeniging Magistrate's Court following a dispute between them and the board.

Mr Justice R Goldstone postponed the case until Tuesday

The civil case is a sequel to the retrenchment of the workers in January

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# Auction stopped ✓



**NICO Malan . . . letter  
from ministers.**

A COURT interdict granted yesterday stopped the Soweto Council from selling houses belonging to Jabulani rent defaulters.

The court action was brought by two firms of attorneys, Krish Naidoo and Company, who have been instructed by the Soweto Civic Association, and Damant Bostock and Company instructed by the Sofasonke Party

According to the court order, the Soweto Council undertook to stop the auction of the

properties of the Jabulani residents pending the outcome of the application

The atmosphere around the Soweto Council chambers was tense yesterday morning as the action was due to start

A number of desperate home-seekers and some property speculators turned up to take part in the scheduled public auction They waited all morning for the auction to start

In the morning a group of ministers of religion

clad in their official robes marched on the council chambers and presented the council's town clerk, Mr Nico Malan with a letter of protest

In the letter, the ministers warn that the auctioning of defaulters' houses would only create animosity and probably violence between the newcomers and the evicted residents

The letter said in part "We stand with our people We are with them in their suffering, in their anger, in their cry for justice"

(127) Sowetan 18/9/87

127

24 000



COST

22/9/87

# houses to be built for miners

JOHANNESBURG — Anglo American yesterday announced a major reform to the migrant labour system with the proposed construction of 24 000 low-cost homes over the next three years for black workers and their families.

The Transvaal gold and uranium division's managing director, Mr Theo Pretorius, told journalists on a visit to the Western Deep Levels mine the group had purchased land for the purpose near mines or in the black townships adjacent to Carletonville, Orkney, Welkom and Odendaalsrus.

The mine villages would be constructed by developers according to plans supplied by the group. Prospective homeowners would be put in touch with building societies and could choose from a variety of designs, depending on what they could afford.

A number of show houses had already been built.

At present family housing is available only to a small number of senior, skilled black mine employees.

Houses would cost from R20 000 upwards. Bonds would be subsidised by the group and provided at 5% interest — Sapa.

# Family housing plan for black miners announced

Daily Dispatch  
Correspondent

22/7/87  
20  
127

JOHANNESBURG — In a move which will significantly ease the effects of the migrant labour system, Anglo American announced plans yesterday for the construction of 24 000 low-cost homes in the next three years for occupation by black miners and their families.

The managing director of the Transvaal gold and uranium division, Mr Theo Pretorius, told journalists on a visit to the Western Deep Levels mine, that the group had purchased land for the purpose near mines or in the black townships adjacent to Carletonville, Orkney, Welkom and Odendaalsrus.

The mine villages would be constructed by developers according to plans supplied by the group. Prospective homeowners will be put in touch with building societies and will be able to choose from a variety of designs.

A number of "show houses" had already been built.

Houses would cost from R20 000 upwards. Bonds would be subsidised by the group and lent at 5 per cent interest. The group had also arranged through building societies, a graduated annuity system which would set initial monthly bond repayments for the cheapest available home at R94.

He said a serious obstacle to the project

was that the government had flatly refused to permit the families of foreign migrants, who comprise 41 per cent of Anglo's 180 000-strong goldmine workforce, to reside in South Africa.

# Other mine groups plan houses like Anglo

23/9/87

ALAN FINE

B/2003

FOUR more mining groups indicated yesterday they had initiated plans for family housing for black employees.

This follows Monday's announcement by Anglo American that 24 000 homes would be built at four locations.

JCI personnel division GM Barry Louw said the group was negotiating the purchase of land near Randfontein, and had entered into surety agreements with a number of building societies and the Standard Bank.

Rand Mines' initial moves are being made by its coal division, particularly its open cast mines, which employ relatively small numbers of skilled workers.

Employees will have the choice of continuing to rent mine accommodation, but at market-related rates, purchasing accommodation on mine property, or moving into homes in nearby townships.

Gencor said yesterday it is investigating methods of providing family housing on a larger scale, but it was too early to make an announcement.

Anglovaal, too, said it was working on a housing scheme aimed at lower paid employees, but no further details could be made available at this stage.

A Cold Fields spokesman said the group did not have any such project.

The NUM was formulating a response to these developments yesterday.

● See Comment, Page 6

contacted for comment.

# Other mine groups plan houses like Anglo

23/9/87

ALAN FINE

B/duw

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● See Comment, Page 6

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FOR SUBSCRIPTION

# Miners' housing planned

JOHANNESBURG

Four more mining groups yesterday initiated plans for family housing units for black employees.

This follows Monday's announcement by Anglo American that 24 000 homes were planned.

JCI are negotiating for land and have entered into surety agreements with a number of building societies and the Standard Bank.

Rand Mines' employees have the choice of renting mine accommodation at market-related rates, purchasing accommodation on mine property, or moving to nearby townships.

Gencor and Anglovaal said yesterday they are investigating methods of providing family housing. — DDC

127

# MINISTERS IN CALL FOR RENT INDABA

AN eight-man delegation of ministers of religion and lay workers yesterday presented the Soweto Council with a memorandum to initiate talks on the rents boycott.

The delegation was from the Ministers United for Christian Responsibility and was led by the Rev Siphosiso Maseko.

In the memorandum, Muccor said they were opposed to the way the rents issue had been handled up to now and

## Evictions said to be unacceptable

BY NAT DISEKO

that the repeated evictions of people, mainly poor and aged, was unacceptable.

only reasonable way of solving the rents issue as being through negotiation.

A member of the delegation, Mr. Ishmael Mkhabela, of the Witwatersrand Council of Churches said the coun-

sellors were intransigent, without direction and vengeful against the community.

He said the SCA was ready to negotiate in a reasonable compromise. The association was mandated to talk to the council's town clerk and not to the councillors, he said.

### Suffering

"The councillors are more concerned with their status which has

been questioned by the community than with addressing the suffering of the people," Mr Mkhabela said

Mr Patrick Lephunya, secretary of the Soweto Civic Association, said the SCA welcomed any

mediation that could lead to talks between the organisation and the council.

127X

# 'PAY YOUR RENT OR BE EVICTED'

A NUMBER of residents at Emdeni South in Soweto were yesterday given a stern warning by a contingent of armed council police to pay rent or face eviction.

This happened during an eviction operation yesterday morning when at least two families were ejected from their homes and some of their belongings seized.

The families were evicted in terms of a magistrate court's judgment granted in favour of the Soweto Council.

A father of four, Mr Mac Madondo (44), of 1771B is one of the evicted tenants.

## Warning

He said council police removed his lounge suite, a portable TV and a hi-fi set. The rest of the furniture was left standing in the yard. A dressing table for which Mr Madondo is still paying off was broken during the eviction.

Yesterday the Soweto Civic Association accused the council of using "mafia-style" methods in their efforts to get the residents to pay

BY NAT  
DISEKO

rent. The SCA said "We want to warn them that these methods can only add fuel to the fire."

The problem could be solved by mediation, talk and negotiation, the SCA said.

On Tuesday, a delegation from the Ministers United for Christian Co-Responsibility presented the Soweto Council with a memorandum in an attempt to have the council discuss the rents crisis with the Soweto Civic Association.

A spokesman for the council said yesterday no steps had been taken on the ministers' approaches to the council.



A SAD Mr Mac Madondo stands ruefully with his belongings strewn in his former yard after his eviction yesterday.

# Tent folk face bleak future

DOBSONVILLE's 31 homeless families yesterday finished a year living in borrowed tents and celebrated the occasion with hugs and kisses for the five babies born in the tents.

The celebration

By LANGA SKOSANA

was marked by sadness as the men, women and children looked into a gloomy future with no prospects of getting houses of their own in

the near future

The men said they were frustrated each day by the unavailability of houses and the women told of their hardship of living in a

tent where there is no privacy and the danger of sickness hanging over their heads

The "tent babies" are Winnie Hlongwane (five months), Faith Mojatau (eight months), Jimmy Switi (three months), Mantomboza (two months) and Samuel Makute (six months). The tents, some of them leaking, were lent to the people by the Witwatersrand Council of Churches (WCC)

### Evicted

The homeless families have pitched the tents in the Dobsonville township Roman Catholic churchyard which has been their home since they were evicted from homes they hijacked from the council last year

When they were thrown in the street, priests rallied around them and offered the tents as a temporary home. But now it appears their "temporary" abode has become permanent

Yesterday, Mrs Mana Maphephe said some of the families have been split with children as old as 10 years hiring shacks in the township while their parents live with toddlers in the tents

She said living in a tent was like living in hell where there is no peace of mind and happiness

"Every time there is the prospect of rain we expect the worst. Nearly all the tents are leaking and our beds and clothing usually get soaked. Where can one sleep in such conditions?" she asked

About a month ago during the windy season, she said a tent was blown away and the occupants escaped serious injury. They were helped by having to share a tent with another family, adding to the already overcrowded conditions of 31 families sharing 26 tents

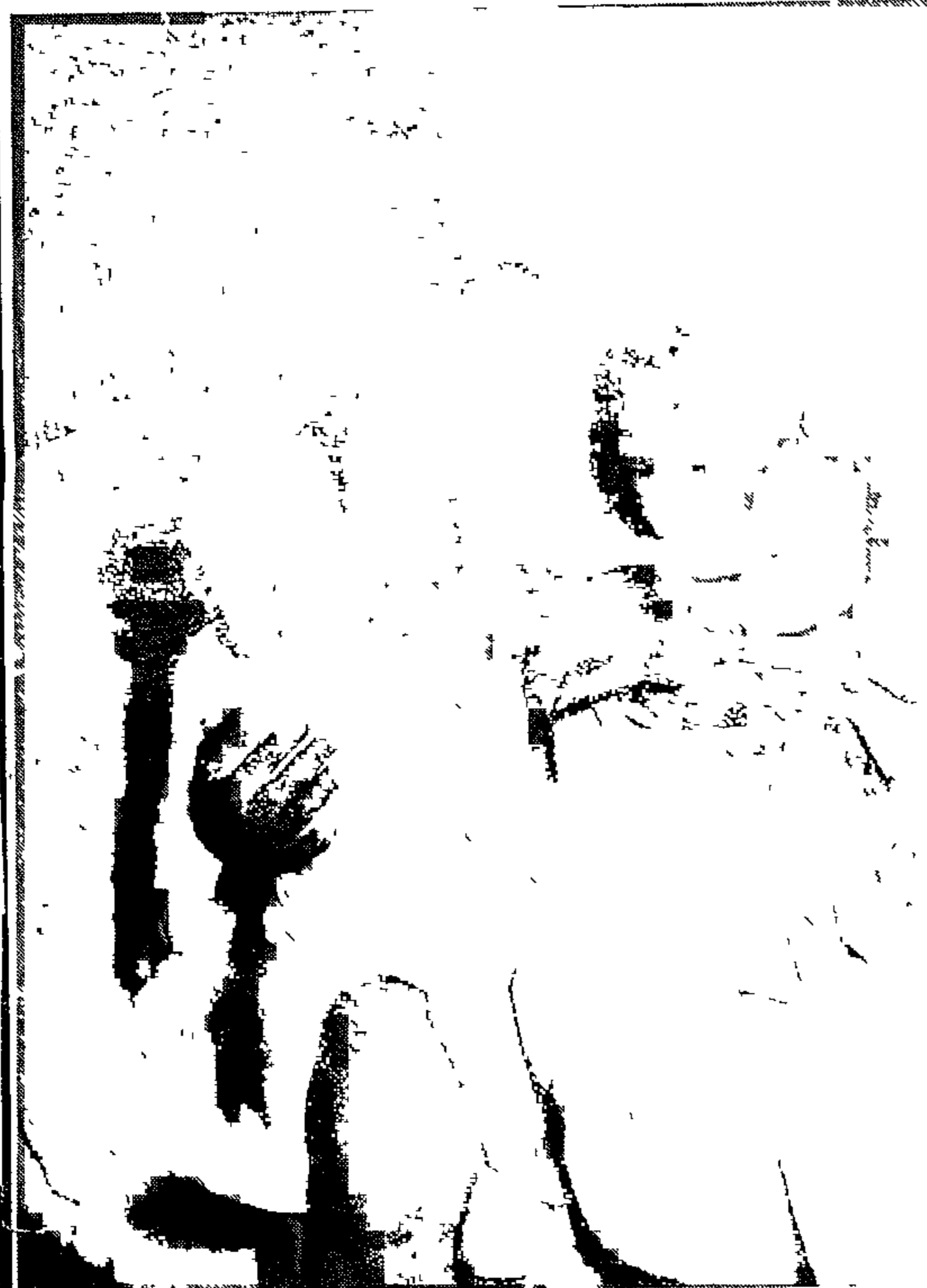
Mr Henry Molefe, a committee member of the tent dwellers said the homeless people hoped to exert pressure on the authorities to build homes for them

"We can't live such a life forever," he said. He hoped that by the end of this year the people would have exerted enough pressure for the authorities to find a solution to their problem

The Dobsonville town council has said it has no homes for the "tent people" as it has a house waiting list of about 3 000



DOBSONVILLE township's tent city residents celebrated occupying the tents for one year at the weekend with no prospects of having houses of their own in sight. Some of the children attend school in Dobsonville and come home to a tent.



TWO of the Dobsonville "tent" babies Jimmy Switi (left three months) and Mantomboza Ntlangulela (two months) whose parents celebrated on Sunday the anniversary of living in a tent. Holding them is Mrs Lindie Switi. Pic. JOE MOLEFE



STANDING on the doorway to his home is two-year-old Alex Zamisa whose parents Dilingubo and Erica have been living in the tent for a year. Mr Dilingubo works at Leratong Hospital, Krugersdorp. He hopes to occupy a house similar to the one in the background.

# COMMENT

Telephone: (011) 673-4160

127  
Sowetan  
24/9/87

**T**HERE seems to be a deliberate move by the Soweto Town Council to harden people's attitudes over the rent issue.

While the matter is sub judice, we strongly believe that the worst thing the council could have done was to put houses of rent defaulters on sale as it did last week.

Reporting the facts on the situation and commenting on it is like walking blindfold through a minefield. On the one hand the Government gets the impression that our intentions may be to stir up the feelings of the people. On the other hand the people themselves believe we are acting against their interests in demanding an immediate resolution to this painful issue.

It is extremely upsetting to hear of widows losing their homes. It is most painful to hear of people being thrown out of homes they have secured through great trouble.

The worst thing is the council's actions will solve nothing.

The whole business is dangerous and also silly. We do not see how the council hopes to get itself back in the black by evicting people and selling their houses.

The worst that will happen is that internecine squabbles may crop up among the people. We do not wish to see the situation deteriorate towards one in which residents will fight other residents. But it can come to that.

It seems to us ridiculous that the council is exposing its flank from various forms of attack on taking on such dangerous action.

What is now about to happen is even those who have tried to resolve the issue will be paralysed in their actions. We find ourselves in just such a situation.

At great risk to their credibility some people have tried to resolve the problem.

We speak from personal experience. We live in the townships. Most of us are not paying rent. The sword that hangs over our heads is like a cancer which silently eats into our consciousness.

25/9/87

# Homes-for-miners scheme slammed

THE National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) yesterday criticised the mining industry for failing to negotiate with the union on the implementation of housing schemes for black workers and their families

Earlier this week Anglo American announced plans for the construction of 24 000 homes, while Rand Mines, Gencor, JCI and Anglovaal said they, too, had embarked on housing projects

The NUM called for the dismantling of the migrant labour and hostel

(157) ALAN FINE (248) P/800  
system at its annual conference last March

NUM assistant general secretary Marcel Golding also criticised the exclusion of foreign migrants from the schemes. Government has turned down a request from Anglo that the families of foreigners be permitted to settle in SA

"Foreign workers have made an important contribution to the mining industry in SA and are entitled to this

benefit. Anglo need not have meekly accepted the government ruling," said Golding

He also said the figure of 24 000 houses was insignificant compared to the 180 000-strong Anglo workforce, and this did not benefit colliery employees

Golding said the provision of site-and-service schemes, together with training in building skills for prospective homeowners, would be a more appropriate approach, given the size of the problem

(27) Sowetan

# COUNCIL EVICTS 4 FAMILIES

FOUR families were evicted from their homes at Emdeni South in Soweto yesterday bringing to six the number of evictions carried out this week.

Two families were evicted on Wednesday.

Last week, lawyers acting for several evicted tenants whose houses were due to be sold by the council succeeded in obtaining a Supreme Court order which halted

**By NAT  
DISEKO**

the planned public auction

The matter will be heard again on October 1

### Crisis

The two families who were evicted on Wednesday re-occupied the houses after putting back goods that the eviction team had thrown out.

Yesterday police raided the houses, removed furniture and put it on the pavement

The Soweto town clerk, Mr Nico Malan, said the council had decided to resume evictions because there had been a drop in revenue in August

The Soweto Civic Association has condemned the evictions and has called on the Soweto Council to negotiate a possible settlement of the rents crisis

The SCA was due to hold a meeting yesterday to discuss the evictions.

# Call for urgent meetings on rent

LAWYERS acting for the Soweto Civic Association yesterday sent a telex to the Soweto City Council asking for an urgent meeting to resolve the rents dispute.

Lawyers have also asked the council to suspend evictions during the period of negotiation as a show of "good faith"

The telex said "This firm will represent the interests of the SCA and its members at the

BY NAT  
DISEKO

meeting We believe these negotiations will prove fruitful and be in the interests of the community of Soweto

## Reply

"Kindly give this matter your urgent attention and furnish us with a date upon which the initial meeting could take place to commence

the process of negotiation and eventual settlement"

Yesterday afternoon, the Soweto council's town clerk, Mr Nico Malan, said he had not yet seen the telex as he had been in a meeting. He said the council would reply "accordingly" after the message had been studied

discuss the rents crisis, especially with the SCA

"The mayor, Mr Nelson Botile, has emphasised that his door is open Although he is out of town at the moment, the chairman of the executive committee is around," Mr Malan said

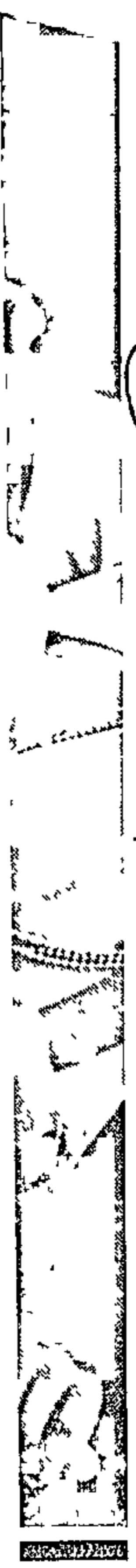
and not with the councillors

But the view of the councilors is that Mr Malan is only their employee and that the SCA must hold talks with the councilors

Yesterday Mr Patrick Lephunya, secretary of the SCA said his organisation's mandate was that it talk to Mr Malan, who the SCA regard as being the representative of the Government

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Sowetan 29/9/87





29/9/87



Fructum

# SADF helping to sell houses

THE SA Defence Force is helping to sell houses to blacks as part of the strategy to contain the total onslaught — and to help beat the rent boycott.

The entry of the Defence Force into the great housing sale of Government owned houses launched two years ago has been confirmed by a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence

The use of SADF soldiers by other Government departments is not new — they help out in black education, in hospitals, game conservation, the police and even in the offices of the receiver of revenue

The spokesman said the soldiers would not be receiving any commission over their normal military pay

He pointed out that Defence Minister, General Magnus Malan, has insisted various areas had to be addressed as a matter of urgency to counter the total onslaught

Housing and particularly black housing was one of the areas.

He said the houses being sold were those owned by the National Housing Commission

Often there were no jobs for these people, however, the selling was being done on a voluntary basis and people had been chosen on the basis of education qualifications, experience and interest

The number involved was "very limited"

The sale of homes would also help break the rent boycott

**HUNDREDS** of Vaal Triangle families have shown "great enthusiasm" in buying their own homes — in some instances for as little as R390 — under the Government's new discount scheme, said Lekoa town clerk Nicholas Louw yesterday.

He said it was hoped that the new scheme of selling homes would finally break the three-year rent boycott in the area.

The scheme, which came into effect from September 1 this year, applies to more than 30 000 homes in Sharpeville, Sebokeng, Bophe-

# Big rush to buy houses

long, Boipatong, and Zamdela

Louw said since the scheme was announced the offices of the council had been inundated with applications by people wishing to buy their homes. He did not have the exact number of those who had already bought them.

He said "We are going to be forced to employ new staff in order to cope with the demand for ser-

vice as scores of people come to our offices daily

"Employing new staff will help create jobs for many people," he added.

He said the new scheme will help most residents own their homes which they can later develop into bigger ones. The homes could be bought by paying 10 percent deposit and the balance over a period of 10 years.

He added that those

residents who were in arrears could make arrangements to pay the money over five years.

Meanwhile the on-and-off evictions for non-payment of rent and electricity bills resumed in the Vaal Triangle townships last week.

Several families were thrown out of their "matchbox" homes in a move residents see as "forcing them to buy their homes".

Amounts owed by residents to the council range from R2 000 to more than R3 000. The evictions were carried out in terms of a court order, according to a council spokesman.

127  
11/10/87  
F. M. M. M.

... than 2,4-million houses must be provided for the black population between now and the year 2000 in order to wipe out the critical housing backlog in the black areas, Mr Brian Kemmey, deputy managing director of the SA Permanent Building Society (Perm), said this week.

Speaking at a seminar on black housing, Mr Kemmey said the crisis could be satisfactorily addressed only if there was a greater involvement from the private sector and the Government

He strongly urged banks to also lend out money to potential black home builders as building societies alone could not cope with the

# Housing crisis causes unrest

demand  
"The banks are saying a lot of nice things at the moment, but they have not done anything. Building societies cannot do it on their own," Mr Kemmey said

## Unrest

He said analysis of political unrest in the black townships always showed that housing was one of the elements

which forced blacks to react violently

"We won't survive in this changing era if we ignore the requirements of black people in this country. Building societies, estate agents, banks, the media as well as the Government have a role to play in the provision of houses to the black population," Mr Kemmey said

He said there was also a strong need to build low cost houses of between R20 000 and R30 000, in the black community.

"Many people spend time arguing about statistics. It's futile. Let's address the critical housing shortage," Mr Kemmey said

FIM  
2/10/87

require the payment of escalating levies. Indeed, there are now many new cluster schemes coming to the market, advertising security combined with the pleasures of individual ownership

However, at least one developer has applied to a town council to have a cluster scheme rezoned sectional title.

Sales of freehold properties in this development will not be invalidated, but if the owners do not wish to participate in the sectional title concept, the shape of the development could alter considerably with roads and walls having to be built around the freehold lots

The reason for the turnaround is quite simple — without the body corporate specified by the Sectional Title Act, it is extremely difficult to ensure that all owners in a group housing scheme contribute to the maintenance of common facilities, or the upkeep of security measures for the benefit of all

It is possible to build such conditions into the original deeds of sale, but problems arise at the time of resale or if the property should be let

This is one of the reasons the developers of Thrushton Place in Melrose, launched this week, have chosen the sectional title route

LTA Building Projects MD Don Goodey is convinced sectional title offers buyers the best deal. Recent changes to the Act mean that sectional title units can now be

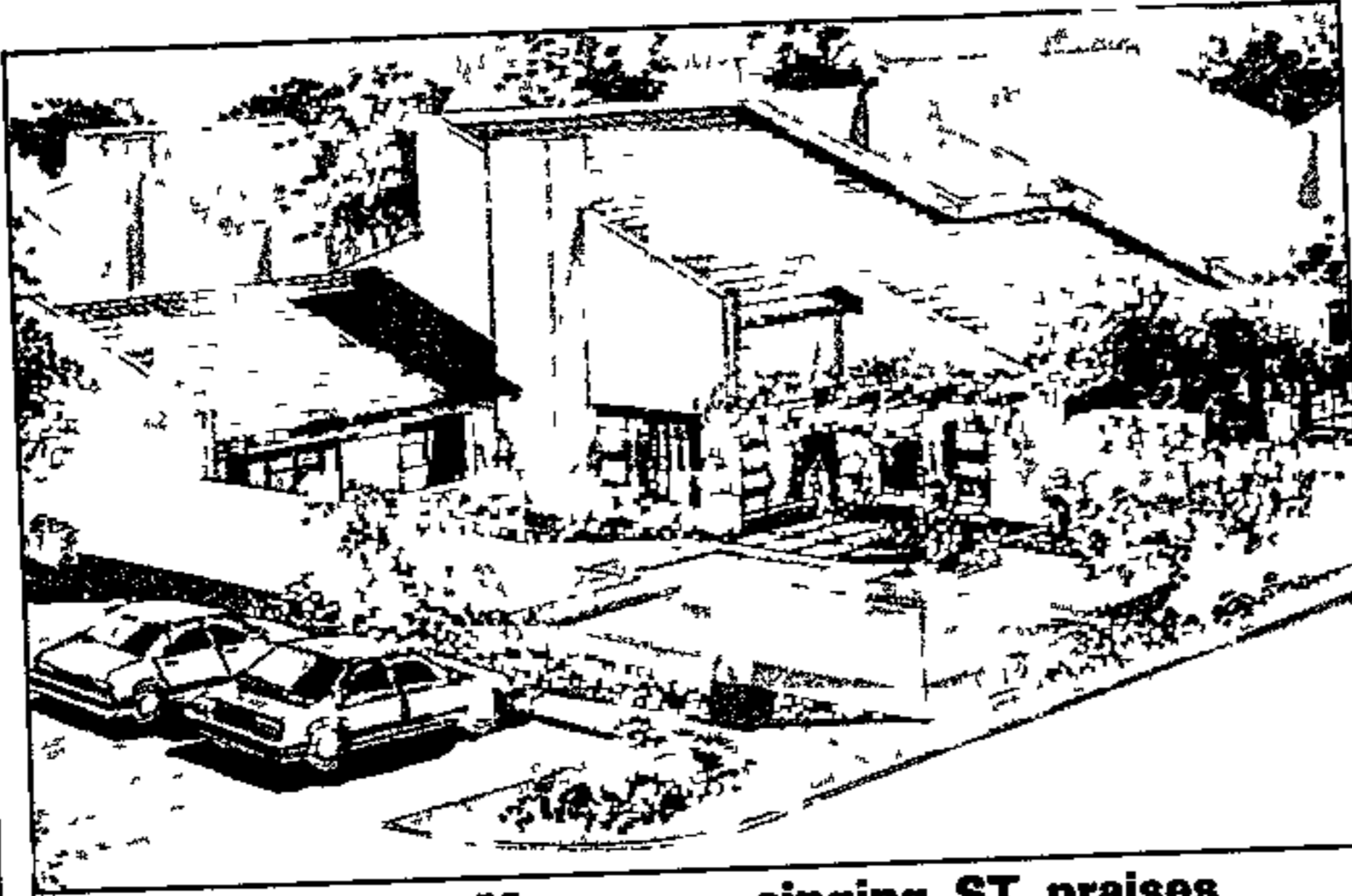
free standing, getting away from the traditional townhouse concept

And, like a cluster scheme, Thrushton will be security walled and have other common facilities. But, more importantly, it will be under the control of the developers — and a body corporate

GROUP HOUSING (127)  
**Flocking together**

The launch of two specialised housing schemes in Johannesburg has prompted another examination of the differences between cluster housing and sectional title developments

The first to be launched was Wimpey Homes' cluster development Meadway



**Thrushton Manor ... singing ST praises**

Mews in Kelvin, Sandton Wimpey MD John Todd says the aim with the "village" home concept is to offer security combined with "all the best in South African living"

As a cluster scheme, the mews has free-standing houses on stands with an average size of 400 m<sup>2</sup>, purchased freehold. The whole village is walled and there are common, paved access roads and bricked pathways

The idea was obviously to capitalise on the popularity of similar schemes such as Boschendal in Lonehill and the Inandas. In both these cases, it was apparent that outright property ownership still rated high with South African buyers.

There has been a distinct move away from sectional title townhouses, which have the advantage of security, but lack privacy and

NEWS

# Blacks hindered by housing obstacles

The average black person who has saved money and wants to build a house for himself faces a number of obstacles before he can join the ranks of homeowners

This is one of the facts which emerged at a one-day seminar organised by the Permanent Building Society for the staff of Argus newspapers this week

During a panel discussion chaired by Mr Ray Dale, the regional assistant general manager of the Perm, reporters were told that unlike the average white person wanting a house, a deposit alone could not guarantee a black person a home

Money is just one of the obstacles he will have to overcome in his search for property

Mr John le Grange, the sales manager of the Simmonds Street Branch of the Perm, said the

shortage of serviced land, coupled with the overwhelming demand for houses and red tape, made it "very difficult" for the ordinary black person to acquire a house — "and the problem is getting worse"

### WINNIE GRAHAM

Because of the complexity of homeownership, with black people having to follow different procedures to acquire a home, he advised would-be black homeowners to get advice from building societies

The discussion panel was told that virtually all houses in the Soweto area were still being sold under the 99-year lease scheme rather than on freehold, despite the fact it was more than a year since the Government announced freehold property rights for black people

It was suggested few people had taken advantage of convert-

ing their property from 99-year leasehold to freehold because freehold rights required the payment of transfer duties which pushed up the cost of land ownership

Mr Dale said he was particularly concerned about the shortage of housing at the lower end of the market (R10 000 to R20 000 properties) where the need was greatest

Hodeco, the Perm's housing development company, was trying to provide housing for black families but was hamstrung by a shortage of serviced stands

Research had shown, he said, that black homeowners wanted much the same sort of houses as white families — and they were prepared to pay

Mr Elliot Mahlangu, the manager of the new loans division, added, "Initially their needs are different and black families will start with smaller houses, build-

ing on as their families grow"

Mr Brian Kemrney, deputy managing director of the Perm, told the seminar corruption was one of the main problems facing developers wanting land for housing. In some instances a bribe of R1 000 a stand was expected before the ground was released for development

"We will not pay bribes," he said "If we did, these increases in the price of the stands would have to be passed on to the purchaser."

"We are not suggesting all local authorities are corrupt, or that the authorities are not aware of the problem, but there is corruption and something must be done and done urgently"

Mr Eddie Rossot, manager new loans, said Johannesburg companies were increasingly becoming conscious of the need to provide housing for their black staff and many were acquiring their own land for this purpose.

## Another day of evictions

More rent defaulters were evicted from their homes in Soweto for the second consecutive day yesterday.

The evictions were carried out after warnings that rent defaulters would be evicted were issued by Soweto council policemen to residents of Mofolo South early on Monday and Tuesday.

The evictions were carried out in terms of court orders issued against rent defaulters

28/10/6

2415

(27)

# Sasol appeals to court to evict 400 from hostels

SMC 9/10/87

Labour Reporter  
Sasol yesterday confirmed applying for a court order to evict from its hostels about 400 workers who were dismissed after ignoring a deadline to end a seven-day wage strike.

The SA Chemical Workers Union (Sacwu) said the evictions were aimed at dividing the 3 000 strikers.

Sasol said those dismissed had been told to leave as accommodation was a condition of employment.

## OWN ACCORD

"Several workers have already left on their own accord, but Sasol was regrettably obliged to apply for a court order to evict approximately 400 dismissed workers," said a spokesman.

More workers had

reported for duty since Monday, he said.

The workers, mostly members of Sacwu, downed tools to back a demand for a R200-a-month pay increase and improvements in benefits.

## UNDERTAKING

Sasol said its wage offer represented a 21 percent increase on the minimum rate.

The union has released copies of an undertaking by the head of Welkom police, Brigadier J Swart, in which police undertook, among other things, not to assault workers involved in the Sasol dispute. Police said the undertaking was without "admission that police had engaged in any unlawful action in respect of (the Sasol) dispute".

# Soweto families out on the street again

By HAPPY ZONDI

THE Soweto Council is continuing with evictions of families - and on Wednesday council police pounced on more than 10 Mofolo South families. The families are all rent defaulters. The evictions come barely three weeks after a row between the Soweto authorities and Jabulani residents in a dispute which ended in the Supreme Court. The Soweto Council had planned to sell several houses in Jabulani whose occupants had been evicted for owing rent. However judgment delivered by Judge Goldstone in the Rand Supreme Court prevented the controversial sale of the Jabulani houses.

Many hoped that evictions would be stopped for some time being but on Wednesday council cops moved up again. We were told to pay whatever we have so that we may not be evicted. Some residents received receipts and some didn't, said a spokesperson for the residents.

No notice was given before the evictions and some of our things have been taken, he added. Most of the people evicted are members of the Sofasonke Party. Others were evicted because they had not paid their rent since July. Although some did produce receipts they were still evicted.

Vice-chairman of the Sofasonke Party Sam Mkhwanazi said We felt that the people should at least pay R15 in order to pay the rates and R5 for the lawyers. Sofasonke members should come to us and we will fix the matter with the lawyers, but only if they have been paying through the Sofasonke Party said Mkhwanazi. Soweto town clerk Nico Malan was unavailable for comment.

# Power struggle in Lebovya pots up in Lebovya

By SOL MORATHI

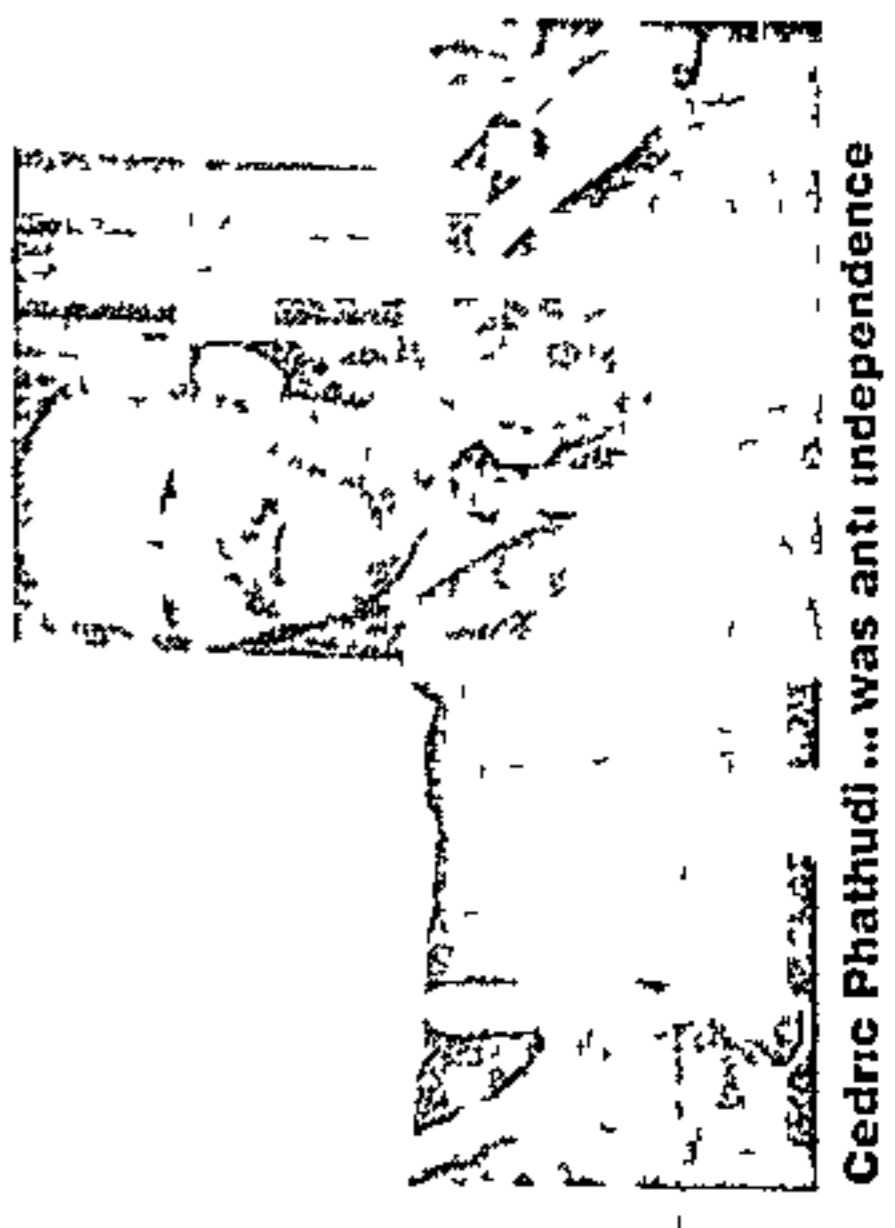
THE power struggle in Lebovya after the death of Chief Minister Dr Cedric Phatudi has begun in earnest. Phatudi 75, died of diabetes and cancer at a Pretoria hospital on Wednesday morning leaving a leadership vacuum in Lebovya. He had been on sick leave since April this year after being admitted to the white section of the Pietersburg Hospital

BY REVELATION NTOULA  
ELEVEN Tembisa families were this week evicted from their homes by the town's administration for failing to keep up with their rent payments - and more evictions are expected next week. Meanwhile residents have reacted angrily to the administration's actions and are planning to stage a mass stayaway in protest against the evictions if these are not halted immediately. Several evicted families have been sleeping in the open and are hoping for a

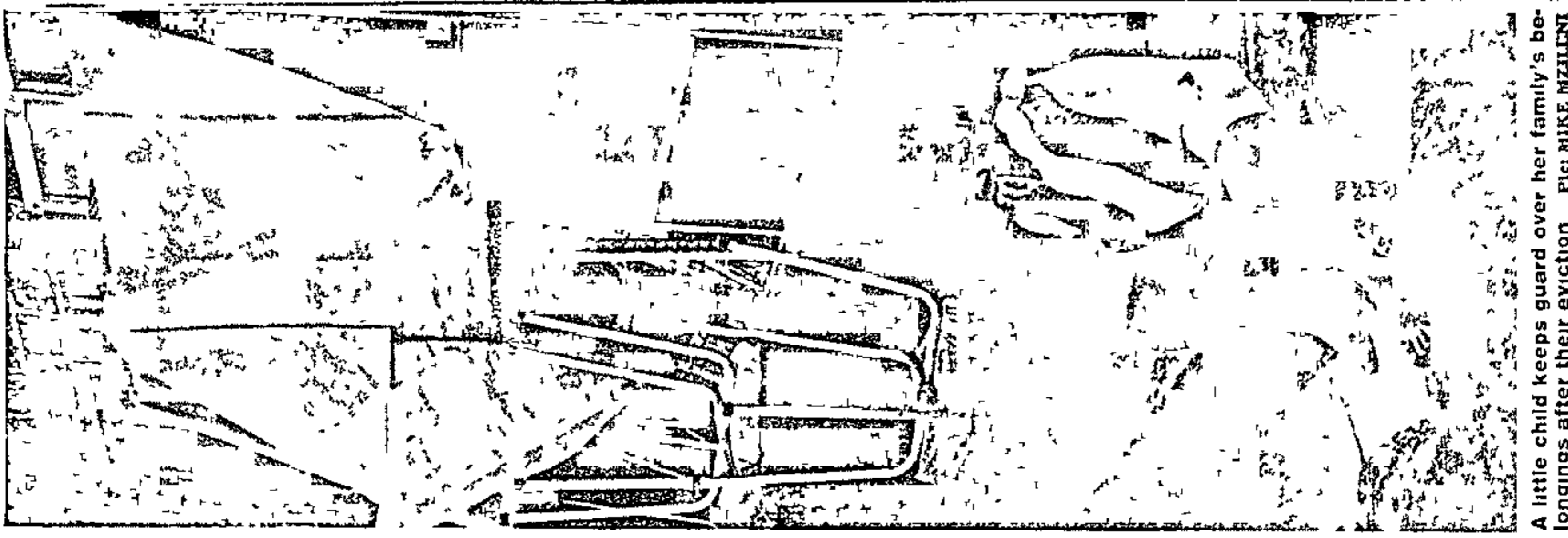
miracle in order to go back to their homes which are under heavy municipal police guard. The evictions follow the non payment of rent by Tembisa residents since May last year. The 16-month boycott has cost the administration millions of rands. Reacting to the tough line now adopted by the administration Town Clerk PL Harmse said Tembisa residents had been given ample time to make representations to the administration but had failed to do so.

We appeal to the people to either come to a specially created office or arrange with our lawyers for payment said Harmse. He said residents had been told that they could pay their rent arrears over six months if they entered into an agreement with the administration. At the same time the Tembisa Residents Association which represents several local bodies has come out strongly against the evictions. We condemn in the strongest terms the barbaric

actions of the administration. On Tuesday alone more than 10 families were evicted in the Mfuneni and Edalemi sections of the townships. The officials are clearly using the eviction method in a show of strength to crush the rent boycott which started last May. The TRA said in a statement. The association said the administration had failed to meet residents demands including those of a general upgrading of the township the removal of



Cedric Phatudi... was anti independence Phatudi was completely



A little child keeps guard over her family's belongings after their eviction. Pic: MIKE MZILINI

Young paraplegic and mentally retarded Vukani Phakathi (foreground) does not understand what has happened as he became one of the weekly victims of evictions in Soweto. Pic: EVANS MBOWENI

# Troubled Tembisa waiting on the door

the outdated bucket system tarring of roads and electrification of the houses. The TRA pointed out that virtually no improvements had been done in the township since it was built some 30 years ago. Residents monies have been used to modernise places like Lebowakgomo in the Lebovya homeland, and Enkangala in KwaNdebele, said the statement. It warned that evictions could provoke another wave of violence in the otherwise calm township. The administration can intimidate residents with evictions detentions and shooting but residents will not bow down to such pressures unless their demands are met, said the TRA.

The association is also blaming the administration for the death of a resident Josephine Moko of house No216 Exuery section who last week died of malaria at Tembisa Hospital. According to the TRA she died on hearing that her family had been evicted and that the family's belongings had been thrown outside.

# Court favours man ass

By EDYTH BULBRING  
A PORT Elizabeth civil court has ruled in favour of a Little Soweto resident who is suing the Ibhayi Town Council for over R4 500 after being assaulted by three municipal policemen on November 8 last year. The court heard last month how after the funeral of four unresist-

ant Michael Tshibi men were forced in Ibhayi Town Council police policemen an assault on the golf course. Here they were held on their stomachs and held down while they were apparently hit with T-shirts that



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will reopen from 7am  
tomorrow.— Sapa.

# 'Fined workers must go'

SASOL was yesterday  
granted a Supreme Court  
order evicting 450  
dismissed workers from  
company-owned hostels in  
Sasolburg.

This follows an urgent  
application by the  
company in the Bloem-  
fontein Supreme Court.

A Sasol spokesman  
said his company had  
given the workers, who  
were among 1300 SA  
Chemical Workers'  
Union (Sacwu) on a wage  
strike, until today to  
vacate the premises.

Sacwu members  
downed tools at Sasol  
plants a fortnight ago,  
demanding a R200  
monthly increase. They  
rejected a management  
offer of R100 a month.

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# Labour Update

# EVICTIION DEADLINE

By THEMBA MOLEFE

THE fate of about 1 000 workers dismissed this week by Highveld Steel and Vanadium Corporation hung in the balance as they waited to be finally evicted from their hostels in Witbank yesterday

The workers, who are members of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (Numsa), are among an estimated 4 000 people dismissed by Anglo American Corporation's Highveld Steel on Wednesday

The dismissals arose from a wage dispute between management and Numsa and resulted in the company locking out the workers after they rejected a wage offer

Police maintained a heavy presence in KwaGugqa Township as the deadline set by the town council for the workers to vacate the hostel expired at 10pm on Wednesday night

Yesterday the workers held a meeting on the hostel grounds where they decided to wait until they were physically ejected

Sapa reports that a management spokesman denied emphatically that Highveld had instructed the Witbank Administration Board to evict Numsa members from their hostels as "alleged" by the union

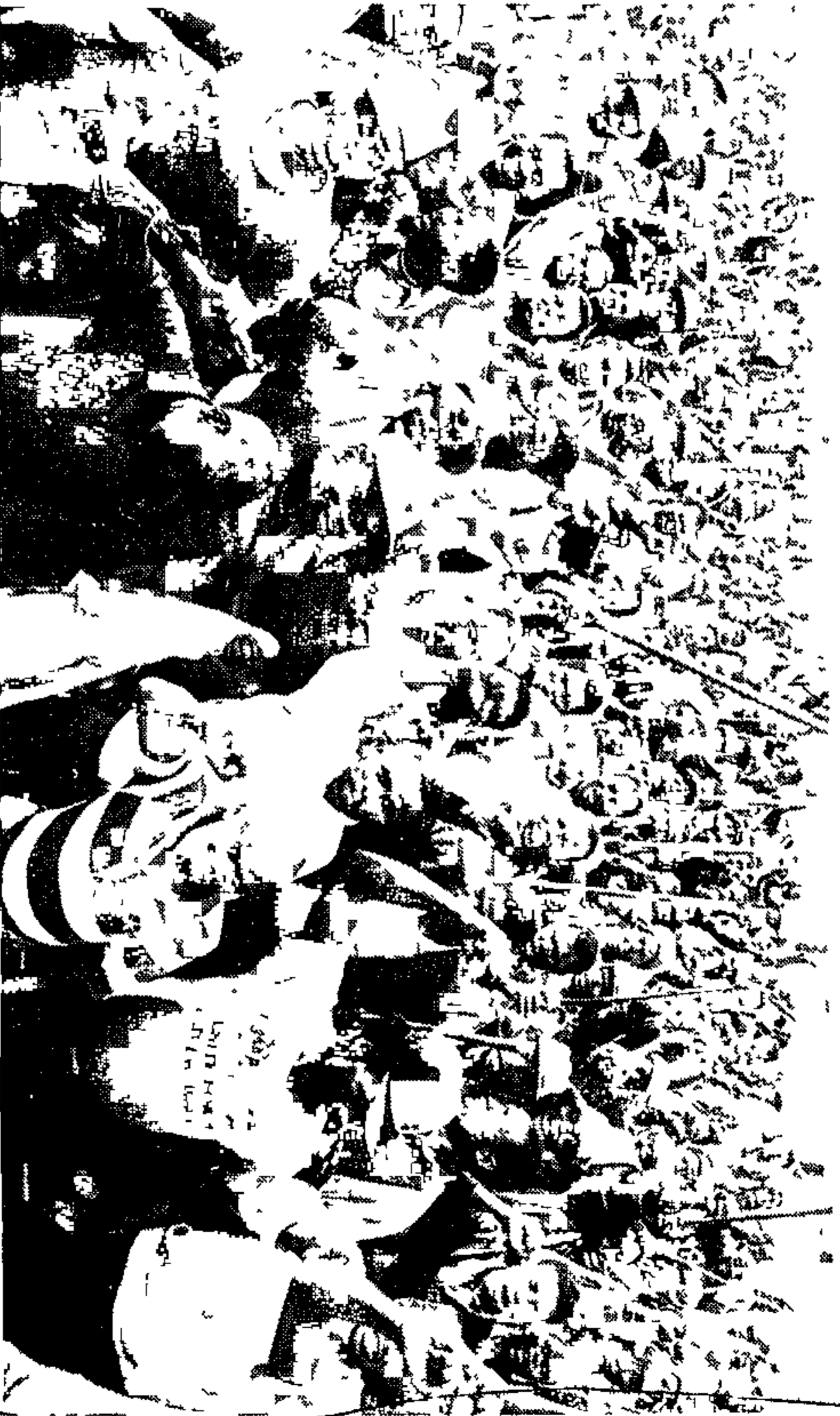
"Hostel accommodation was not provided by the Highveld but by the administration board," management said

The spokesman said Anglo said that the firings came after workers rejected several management offers after several meetings

Management said the lock-out was announced on September 21, "dismissing the employees party to the dispute"

On Wednesday Highveld distributed letters among the workers in which it stated that as an "inducement" to former employees to apply for employment within the next seven days ending 4 30pm on October 21, such persons, if employed, will retain the service benefits they enjoyed prior to the commencement of the lock-out

Numsa demanded a R4,50 hourly minimum and an across-the-board increase of 75 cents an hour



THE 1 000 Numsa members gathered on the hostel grounds in KwaGugqa as the deadline to vacate the premises approached on Wednesday. Pic LEN KUMALU

Handwritten marks at the top of the page: a circled 'M', a circled 'A', a circled 'B', and a circled '12'.

# Tembisa stayaway

THOUSANDS of Tembisa residents yesterday staged a one-day stay-away in protest against evictions.

The township was calm and police kept a low profile.

The police liaison officer for Springs, Colonel Kayter, said while patrols had been mounted and were

127 Sowetan 16/10/87  
By **THABISO LESHQAI**

"prepared for anything, absolutely no incidents had been reported"

Most shops in the township closed at 11am in response to a call issued earlier in the week by the Anti-Eviction Committee. No delivery

trucks entered the township and there was no public transport

# Mamelodi schools face eviction

By Mkeed Kotlolo,  
Pretoria Bureau

Several Mamelodi schools which are behind with their rent or service charges have been given a 30-day ultimatum to pay up or face eviction.

The principals of J Mahlangu Secondary, J Kekana Secondary and Ndima Lower Primary schools, which are in arrears, were handed notices by town council policemen on Friday

A spokesman for the Pretoria East Circuit Inspector's office said the Department of Education

and Training was not aware of any notices issued to schools by the Mamelodi Town Council.

But he confirmed that a number of schools, mostly secondary ones, had not been paying their tariffs in time

## THREE SCHOOLS

The spokesman said arrears were not due to the department's lack of funds but because of schools that "delay to send their accounts to the department after receiving them from the council"

He was aware of at least three schools in such a position.

The notices given to the principals were issued on behalf of the Town Clerk, Mr J P Nel. However, Mr Nel said yesterday he was not aware of such notices

He referred The Star to the Town Treasurer, Mr Conradie Engelbrecht, who said "whether notices were issued or not, I do not have any slightest idea". Mr Engelbrecht then referred The Star to the mayor's office

The Star could confirm the arrears of only two schools, J Mahlangu and Ndima, which owe R1 024 and R639 respectively

127 (127) SML - 20/10/87

(27)

A NEW housing interest subsidy scheme for families earning up to R20 000 a year is expected to be announced by the Government "in due course," outgoing president of the Institute for Housing, Dr Llewellyn Lewis, has disclosed.

Addressing the institute's congress in Cape Town yesterday, Dr Lewis said the availability of affordable land and finance had been identified as the two most important obstacles to providing sufficient housing.

The institute's board had therefore adopted a "primary defensive strategy" for 1986/87. This was to motivate the public and private sectors to establish and provide, according to market related principles

**SOWETAN Reporter**

# NEW HOUSING SCHEME

ing financing system for the lower income market, and

● Land and a sufficient range of serviced sites for the provision of appropriate housing by individuals or groups

Particular attention had been paid to the first strategy and a comprehensive financing strategy for affordable housing had been developed, Dr Lewis said

"It is expected that elements of this proposal will be incorporated into a new interest subsidy scheme by Government, which will provide meaningful financial assistance to the entire spectrum of families carrying

up to R20 000 a year

"An announcement in this regard is expected in due course and, when it happens, one obstacle to the provision of housing — access to affordable mortgage financing — will have been effectively removed"

### Obstacle

Priority would be given to shifting the remaining major obstacle — the provision of sufficient affordable land, Dr Lewis said

cient affordable land, Dr Lewis said

The institute's mission statement read "Healthy families in healthy communities" and the board would be "well advised" to devote priority attention to promoting this concept, Dr Lewis added

The abolition of influx control had been an essential step and the promotion of homeownership was a national priority. The move away from a migratory labour system and the provision

# SOON TO BE

# ANNOUNCED

of family housing was essential

"The recent announcement by the mining houses of the development of 24 000 family houses, within local communities and close to places of employment, is one of the most positive developments in recent years," Dr Lewis said.

All indications were that the economy was slowly recovering and that the country was set for a growth period of two to three years

communities and close to places of employment, is one of the most positive developments in recent years," Dr Lewis said.

All indications were that the economy was slowly recovering and that the country was set for a growth period of two to three years

"The housing industry is at a historical watershed — the problem can be solved through the creative partnership between the public and private sector," Dr Lewis said

The institute's new president is Mr Ken Finlayson

W/mail  
16-22/10/87  
127

W/mail  
16-22/11-12

# Despite the court, Mamelodi keeps up on rents evictions

By THAMI MKHWANAZI

DESPITE a supreme court judgement the Mamelodi town council, allegedly supported by the South African Defence Force, has begun a campaign to break a two-year rent boycott.

The two-year boycott was sparked by a R6 rent increase, invalidated by a court earlier this year, which ordered the refund of unlawful rent increases.

But families living in the Pretoria township are being issued with new eviction notices signed by the town clerk.

In one of the notices shown to the *Weekly Mail* a Section P household was threatened with eviction if her "arrear amount is not paid" within a week.

Residents are also receiving notices marked "Dangerous Electricity Installation", giving inhabitants a day's notice to visit the town council failing which their electricity would be disconnected. According to the Mamelodi Civic Association the notice purported the householder's electricity was faulty and therefore required his or her urgent attention.

The MCA said the notice was a flimsy attempt by the council to "hoodwink" residents into going to the council offices where they would be "coerced" into paying their rents.

Residents said they were being sent four or five letters of demand as well as summonses delivered by court messengers escorted by members of the SADF.

Some notices, which were ignored by the people, called residents to the

council's offices to sort out domestic problems. The MCA said this was laughable as no-one had reported domestic problems to the council.

The boycott followed the council's R6 rent increase in 1984 which was invalidated by Mr Justice Roux in February this year following an application brought by a resident, Marcus Maredi. The council was ordered to refund unlawful rent increases.

Maredi had argued the council had failed, as required by legislation, to notify residents of the increases in English and Afrikaans newspapers.

In June this year the judge refused the council leave to appeal. Although the rent increases had been set aside by a court order, the council had continued to implement them.

According to the MCA, the council has switched off the electricity to boycotters' houses. About two to five houses a street have had their electricity cut off.

A victim of the switch-off, said the MCA, was a blind and unemployed man, Sydney Matlala, of 784 Section C, whose lights were cut off in August.

He was told to pay R500 before the position could be reversed. According to the council he owes R2 060. The court ordered the council to reconnect Maredi's (and others in a similar position) electricity.

The MCA claimed that council officials, accompanied by soldiers, were conducting a house-to-house cam-

campaign to pressurise residents into paying arrear rentals.

But residents said they wouldn't pay until they were refunded the unlawful increases.

The 1984 R6 increase sparked off the township's rent boycott which culminated in bloodshed on November 21 1985. Police fired on about 50 000 people who had marched to the council's offices to present their case. According to the MCA, 23 people died.

People disappeared and a rumour was rife that many were secretly buried by officials as there were unmarked graves in the Mamelodi cemetery, said the MCA.

Residents called for the resignation of Ndhlazi and his councillors, the lowering of rent, the withdrawal of troops from the township and an end to restrictions on funerals.

Mamelodi council PRO Veleleni Mashume admitted residents were being sent notices for arrear rentals and "dangerous electricity installation" — the latter being issued by the City Engineers' Department to protect residents from the danger of unauthorised electrical installations.

He said he did not know of any residents being refunded the unlawful increases in terms of the court order.

Mashume dismissed as irresponsible charges that the SADF was part of a campaign to defuse the rent boycott. It was common knowledge that white messengers of the court were escorted into black townships by security forces irrespective of the nature of the summons, he said.

Regarding notices for domestic problems, Mashume said it was common practice that residents attempted to resolve family problems through respective councillors.

According to Lieutenant Bloomberg of the SA Police Directorate of Public Relations, the SAP would not comment on allegations against the SADF in respect of their activities in the townships. A copy of the allegations would be forwarded to the SADF for their investigations.

The SAP public relations division said since the incident occurred "almost two years ago" the SAP should be given reasonable time in which to investigate the allegations.

## FOR THE RECORD

**FATHER** Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, secretary general of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, appeared briefly in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court yesterday on a charge of illegal possession of a firearm. Mkhathshwa was not asked to plead and the trial was postponed until 16 November. Bail of R1 000 was extended.

**THE** family of detained United Democratic Front Eastern Cape executive member, Mpumelo Odolo, has approached lawyers to apply for his release to enable him to attend his father's funeral.

**His** father, Wawane Thomas Odolo, 66, died of asthma last week and is to be buried this weekend. He served a nine-year prison sentence on Robben Island in the 1960s for ANC activities.

**VIOLENCE** between young activists and alleged vigilantes spread to the township of Phomolong outside Harrismith in the Orange Free State over the weekend.

At least two young activists, including a 14-year-old, were reported seriously injured, and four homes and a bus were fire-bombed during running battles in the township's streets.

A statement by the Orange Free State Youth Congress said the attack on its members was launched by the "Eagle Club", reputed to be a local vigilante group.

**FRIENDS** and family of missing *Star* reporter Mudini Maivha still fear that he may be in police custody — despite denials by the SAP.

Maivha went missing while investigating the disappearance of Media Workers' Association of South Africa official, Maropodi

Mapalakanye. Mapalakanye has himself been missing for more than three weeks.

**A POWERFUL** explosion last week caused serious damage to the Kwanelaagte home of Godfrey Mathebe, a prominent opponent of KwaNdebele "independence", according to the Federation of Moutse Youth Congresses.

Mathebe, who was a Lebowa MP before Moutse was incorporated into KwaNdebele, has since been at the forefront of resistance to "independence". The blast blew off the roof, and flattened some walls.

**THE** long awaited operation on the Klerksdorp Siamese twin girls will be performed at Baragwanath Hospital next Thursday.

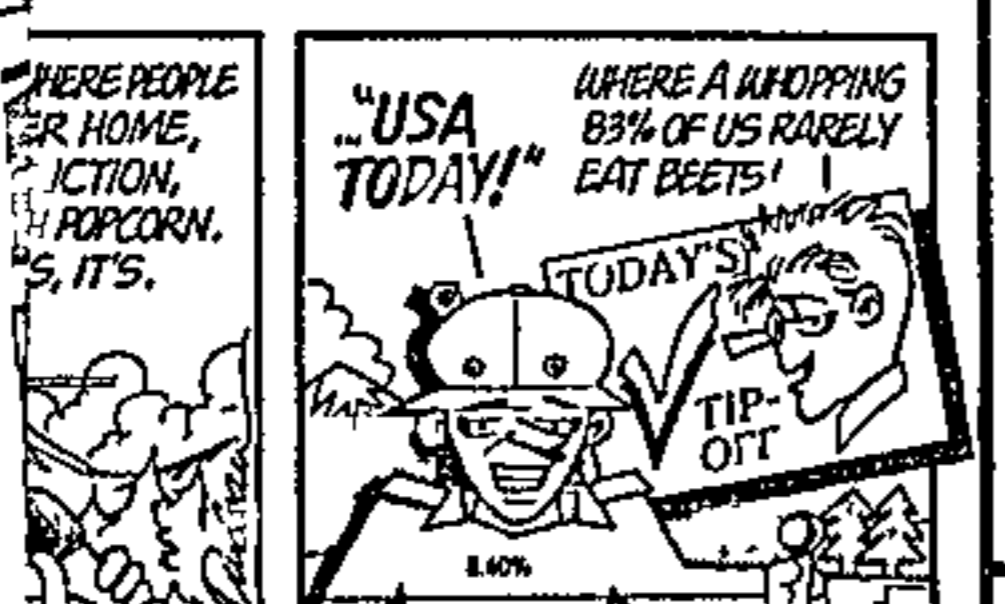
The operation — to be undertaken by Baragwanath and the University of the Witwatersrand — will be headed by Prof Robert Lipschutz. He will supervise some 40 doctors, surgeons and nurses in the complex separation, which involves several stages. The ten month-old twins, Mpho and Mphonyana, are joined at the head and share the same blood draining system, as well as a main artery behind the brain.

**SIXTEEN** Natal University students — arrested on 7 May when police used sjamboks to break up a demonstration at the Durban campus — have been convicted of attending an illegal gathering. Nineteen people, including Durban photographer Billy Paddock, were originally arrested, but charges against some were later dropped. The 16 were fined R300 each, suspended for five years.

**THE** week-old go-slow strike and food boycott by about 1 000 workers at Sebokeng and Vereeniging hospitals is stronger than ever, a spokesman for the National Union of Public Service Workers said yesterday. A hospital spokesperson confirmed the go-slow was continuing but said it was "not so severe that it affects the functioning of the hospital". Cleaners, porters, ward and other workers went on strike to win recognition for their union.

Reports by Weekly Mail Reporters, Pen, Concorde News Agency, Elnw...

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



## Machel remembered

By MONO BADELA  
FORMER Mozambican president Samora Machel, who died a year ago, will be commemorated on Sunday at a service near Nelspruit organised by the United Democratic Front.

Prominent anti-apartheid activists from South Africa are expected to attend the 10am service at Embuzini, at the spot where the plane crash which killed Machel occurred on October 19, 1986.

Machel's widow, Graca, will be guest of honour.

Invitations have been extended to church representatives, foreign governments and the Organisation of African Unity.

Among those scheduled to speak are Albertina Sisulu, UDF co-president, and Inyandza President Enos Mabuza, who is also chief minister of KaNgwane.

The Embuzini service will be followed by a series of services at churches and community halls throughout the country.

127 Smetum  
23/10/87

## Sale of houses on the increase

THERE has been a marked increase in the sale of rented houses to registered tenants countrywide.

A member of the executive council for the Transvaal Provincial Administration Mr. JSA Mavuso described the increase at the launch of an intense marketing drive. The recently announced discount of 65 percent was also a contributing factor, he said.

Figures for September showed that under 20 percent of the houses for sale in the Transvaal had been sold.

Nationwide 17,8 percent of the houses have been sold.

Mr. Mavuso said "Many of the buyers are older people who believe they will never again have an opportunity to buy their houses at such low prices."

# Help is needed for dismissed workers

Handwritten notes: three circles with scribbles, and the text "Structure 23/10/87" written diagonally.

THE Azanian People's Organisation (Zamdela branch) has appealed to the local community to help provide accommodation to Sasol workers who were recently dismissed and kicked out of the company-owned hostels.

An Azapo spokesman said the dismissed workers needed community support in their fight for better wages and re-instatement. He appealed to priests and residents to accommodate these workers.

More than 1 300 Sasol workers, all members of the South African Chemical Workers' Union, downed tools at Sasol's plants early this month, demanding a R200 monthly increase. Management is offering a R100 across-the-board rise.

Last week, Sasol management was granted a Supreme Court order evicting 450 dismissed workers from company-owned hostels in Sasolburg.



127  
Structure  
23/10/87

# Granny evicted

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

TWO East Rand families have been kicked out of their houses by an official who allegedly allocated the houses to his relatives.

A 48-year-old grandmother, Mrs Albertina Nxumalo, was first to be evicted last week Monday. Four days later, Mr Ephraim Mgenge's family was also evicted from their home.

Both families live in Vosloorus, near Boksburg.

Mr Banyana Lucky Mahlangu, mayor of Vosloorus, yesterday said he had received a complaint from Mrs Nxumalo that she was thrown out of her house by an official.

"I am still investigating the circumstances leading to the eviction of the two families. It may be that the families owed rent," Mr Mahlangu said.

Both families are now without accommodation. The unemployed Mrs Nxumalo and her 15-month-old grandson, Mxolisi, slept in the open until Sunday. She is now staying with neighbours.

Both families said they do not know why they were evicted from their homes. They said they were up to date with their rent payments.

Before their eviction, they said, the official had offered them other houses in another part of the township.

"We refused the offer because these houses were small. After this the official sent council police, who removed our furniture and dumped it outside," Mrs Nxumalo and Mr Mgenge said.

## A GROUP of men decapitated a 10-year-old boy in Esibodeni, near Maritzburg, police said yesterday.

Police said that Skumbuzo Shezi and his brother, Bongani (8), were in their home on Wednesday night when a group of four or five men burst through the doors.

Bongani was hit on the head with a cane knife but managed to escape.

The men then took his brother outside and police later found his decapitated body in a ditch near the house.

A police spokesman said the boy was decapitated with an axe.

It was understood that the incident was a revenge killing and that the boy's parents, who have disappeared, were the targets of the attack.

The SAP's regular unrest bulletin said yesterday that at Esikwadeni near Maritzburg, "a small group of blacks attacked four private dwellings with pangas and sticks."

"A black youth was assaulted and

slightly injured and a 10-year-old boy abducted. He was later found beheaded."

Most of the incidents in the bulletin centred and around Maritzburg, the Natal provincial capital.

At Taylors Halt, also near the city, "police found the bodies of two black men after they had allegedly been abducted by a group of blacks on October 18."

Both appeared to have died from multiple stab wounds.

## Building stoned

At Ldendale near Maritzburg, "a delivery vehicle was damaged in a stone-throwing incident."

At Mangaung, near Bloemfontein, "a group of blacks stoned business premises." A man was injured and buildings stoned.

Police said members of the mob alleged their anger was directed at "certain business owners thought to be involved in muti murders in the area."

The mob was dispersed by police using teargas — Sapa



MRS Albertina Nxumalo holding her 15-month-old grandson, Mxolisi. Her furniture is in the background, lying outside what used to be her house.

## We won't pay rent, say residents 22

Meadowlands residents resolved at the weekend to continue a rent boycott begun last year

At a meeting called by councillor, Mrs Sinah "Maditere" Makume, in Zone 1, to get residents' views on payments for rent, electricity, refuse and water, it was agreed only services would be paid for.

Mr China Nthane told the meeting that when they were resettled in Meadowlands by the government, they were told to pay rent for 10 years only. "Now it is over 30 years and the Government still expects us to pay rent," he said. — Sapa.

# Evictions continue

By Michael Tissong

28/10/81

More evictions will take place in Soweto, director of housing Miss Estelle Bester said today.

Residents in various parts of the township have been evicted in terms of a court order for not paying rent.

Miss Bester said she met a delegation of residents from the Dlamini-Senaoane residents' committee yesterday to discuss evictions which are due to take place this week.

She said as an official of the council, she had no authority to stop evictions. She said only councillors could authorise such a step and she would arrange a meeting between the councillors and residents.

Residents of Dlamini and Senaoane were visited by council clerks and policemen on Monday and told to pay their rent or face eviction.

Earlier this month, town clerk Mr Nico Malan said the council sent clerks and policemen to ask people in arrears to pay up. The visits were conducted at 4 am to find the people before they left for work.

127 Somerset 28/10/87

# Watch on evictions

A SPOKESMAN for a Johannesburg firm of attorneys yesterday said he was monitoring the eviction of some families in Tembisa township near Kempton Park.

His watchful eye follows an order by a Rand Supreme Court judge on Monday that the Tembisa Town Council should show cause if any on or before November 16, why an order should not be granted allowing Mr Absolom Ntshangase and his family to return to the house at Number 123 Ethafeni hostel, Tembisa, and that the council should pay costs of the application.

Mr Ntshangase is one of about six families who have been evicted from their houses. He made an urgent application heard in the chambers of Mr Justice Gordon on Monday that his family

should be allowed back into the house.

In his founding affidavit Mr Ntshangase said he had been residing in that house since June last year with his wife and two children. He said they were evicted by council officers on

Monday and their belongings placed in the street. He said he had not been arrested or charged with any offence in connection with the occupation of the house and the council did not have a court order to evict him

# Tembisa Town Council served with orders

THE Tembisa Town Council has been served with court orders restraining it from evicting families from their Ethafeni Hostel dwellings, a spokesman for a Johannesburg firm of attorneys said yesterday.

The orders were made by Mr Justice Gordon in the Rand Supreme Court on Tuesday, following applications made by a lawyer representing the families, said the spokesman

We immediately delivered the court orders to the deputy sheriff in Kempton Park

By MANDLA  
NDLAZI

to serve on the Tembisa council," he said

The spokesman said this was done on Tuesday shortly after the applications were heard and the court orders granted and he hoped the families were allowed back into their houses

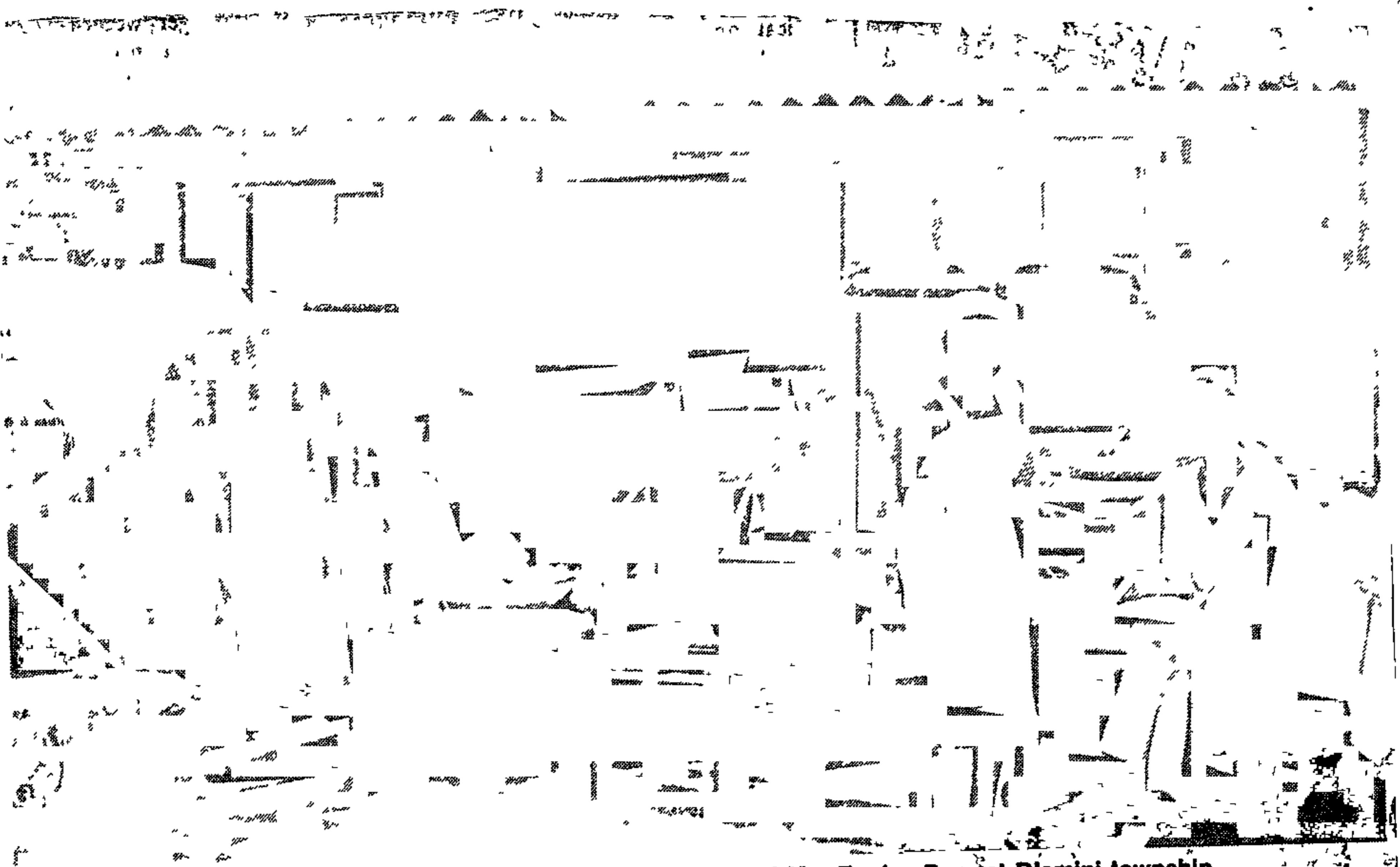
He said about ten families had been affected by evictions since Monday. The firm of attorneys monitored the evictions in Tembisa, and had kept a watchful eye since Monday, after Mr Justice Gordon had

made an order that the council should show cause, if any, on November 16 why Mr Absolom Ntshangase and his wife and two children should not be allowed back into the house at number 123 Ethafeni Hostel and further that the council should pay costs of the application and other relief

One resident, Mr Ntshangase, made an urgent application on Monday. In his founding affidavit, Mr Ntshangase said he had been residing in the house since June last year with his wife and two children

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FURNITURE and clothing were taken out of the house of Mrs Eunice Bara at Dlamini township yesterday but the police could not lock it up as they did not have the key to her home. She stood outside with her son, Patrick.

# Dlamini residents evicted from homes

29/10/87  
127  
structure

By LANGA SKOSANA

AT LEAST 24 people were evicted from their homes in Dlamini township, Soweto, yesterday in the on-going action by the Soweto Council to break the 16-month old rent boycott.

The council's housing director, Miss Estelle Bester, said the evicted families were warned on Monday that they should pay at least half of their rent arrears to avoid eviction.

She said when they did not pay up the messenger of the court acted and threw them out of their homes.

Miss Bester said the council has resolved to continue with evictions until people paid up because their experience showed that when they stop evictions people stopped paying.

She said in August, council mayor, Mr Nelson Botile, promised to stop evictions but as soon as that happened, there was a dramatic drop in payments.

The council rescinded that decision and re-started the evictions, which would continue until people paid up.

Miss Bester said the visits which council police made before any

evictions took place were "friendly" visits to help residents to come forward and make arrangements to pay. If people ignored these visits the council was helpless to do anything because the matter was now in the hands of the courts.

The chairman of the Dlamini/Se-naoane Residents' Association, Mr S P Sangweni, said yesterday that people were angry to be made to pay at the barrel of a gun.

He was upset at the presence of armed municipal and regular policemen who patrolled the area during yesterday's evictions.

He said many people had their furniture confiscated by officials and some of the articles were broken during the action.

He spoke to some of the councillors and told them that they had no sympathy for their own people. That was one reason why residents wanted the resignation of all the councillors, he added.

SOWETO City Council is using a new method — known as "deacon action" — to get residents to pay their rent.

This involves council police, going from house to house, calling on residents to settle their rent arrears or make arrangements with local township managers to pay in instalments

Soweto town clerk Nico Malan said "deacon action" was introduced in the township recently

Council police moved around the township three times a week to warn residents that if they did not start paying their rent arrears, action would be brought against them and they would eventually be evicted by the messenger of the court

Malan said there were people who paid their arrears, or some of them, on the spot.

Those people should demand receipts from the "deacon action" staff.

# Deacon action to collect rents

SOPHIE TEMA

Malan said residents should realise the council was not making empty threats by warning it would evict people who did not pay their rent

He said "In September, 224 people were evicted from their homes in Soweto and last week 24 more families were evicted in Dlamini

"The unfortunate part is that people do not heed warnings by council staff. They wait until they are thrown into the street and only then start paying

"If people heed the call and make the necessary arrangements in good time, they will save themselves that unpleasant experience."

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127

# Hillbrow tenants are evicted

By Sally Sealey  
and Martin Challenor

Black people living illegally in a Hillbrow block of flats were evicted by court officials yesterday because agents administering the block owed R9 000 in rent and electricity to the owner

However, the tenants insisted they had paid their rents to Hillcrest Property Management and said they did not know why the money had not been handed to the owner, Ann van der Merwe Investments

The evictions took place in terms of an order for an outstanding debt secured by Ann van der Merwe Investments. The order was against Hillcrest and the tenants

A senior Government source said the evictions were not Government-inspired. The Government regarded Hillbrow as an inextricably mixed area and would not intervene

The evictions were watched by armed police

Lieutenant Pierre Louw, Witwatersand police liaison officer, said today police did not help to evict the residents

"We do not carry out evictions," Lieutenant Louw said. "We were protecting the court officials in the execution of their duties"

Messenger-of-the-court officials went from flat to flat in Ansol Court, Kotze Street, packing up the tenants' belongings and dumping them in the street. Police prevented people from entering the building

They needed seven hours to empty the building, but left two white-occupied flats untouched as they were not on the eviction order served on residents

Now other blacks living illegally in white areas fear they, too, could fall victim to court action as opposed to open removals under the Group Areas Act because of the conflicting reasons given for the evictions

Tenants were told on October 5 by the agents of the building, Hillcrest Property Management, to leave their homes by last Saturday to make way for renovations. But they did not go as they



Household goods were dumped in the street yesterday when the Messenger of the Court evicted black residents from a Hillbrow block of flats. Picture by Garth Lumley.

could not find other homes

A white cafe owner charged the homeless families R20 to move their furniture. Some made arrangements to move, illegally, into other flats, and others said they would go to the townships and build squatter shacks

People returning from

work in the rain yesterday afternoon were angry to find their household belongings piled up outside

Among the families evicted were Willie and Doreen Groenewald, whose son, Ricardo, was one of the artists featured in the Bureau for Information song "Together

We'll Build a Brighter Future" At one stage they were crying.

Shaking his head, Ricardo said sadly "It is just unbelievable"

Telephone calls to Hillcrest by tenants to inquire about their R300 deposits went unanswered

closed shop : --  
Union member employment first : --  
Stop Order facilities for subs :. --





Friends and neighbours of Mr STEPHEN VICTOR (in the background, with cap) stepped in to help move his furniture into their homes yesterday after he was evicted from his house in Holland Park, Port Elizabeth, because of arrear rentals.

Official name and address

# HOLLAND PARK MAN EVICTED FROM HOME (2)

Post Reporters  
 "UNREASONABLE", is how a Holland Park, Port Elizabeth, man described the action of Municipal Housing Department officials who left him on the pavement alongside his possessions yesterday,

after evicting him from his council house  
 Mr Stephen Victor, of Maple Square, got a shock yesterday when officials told him he was being evicted because he was behind in his rent payments  
 Unemployed for the past

four months, Mr Victor said he owed about R90 in arrear rental, but would only be able to pay after November 20, when he picked up his Unemployment Insurance Fund cheque  
 He said the officials were not prepared to accept this

Workers then took all his furniture and other possessions and deposited them in the garden of the semi-detached house and on the pavement, before locking the house  
 When Evening Post visited the area, friends and neighbours had rallied round and were helping to store his goods

A neighbour had agreed to put him up for tonight, he said. Meantime, he would be looking for a room  
 Mr Victor said he had lived in the house for about the past five years. His wife died in January

PE's Deputy Director of Housing, Mr Natie van Jaarsveld, said the residents of two council houses in the city were evicted for non-payment of rental by officials of the municipal Housing Department yesterday.

One house was in Holland Park and the other in Ken-

sington  
 After many postponements the due date for payment was two weeks ago. Yesterday the officials carried out the furniture from both houses with the help of the residents

There were two other cases where a further period of grace had been granted because there were small children and indisposed people in the houses

The total number of evictions in the city area this year, including yesterday's two was 11. The last evictions took place in August

He said residents were given quite a few months grace in which to pay, or explain why they could not pay

"The period of grace depends on the circumstances of the individuals themselves"

"In some cases rent is not paid for as long as year, we do not evict summarily"

# Black tenants evicted

127  
DD

JOHANNESBURG — In the first major eviction of illegal black tenants living in Hillbrow, 46 black and coloured families were ordered from their flats under police guard yesterday.

Residents of Ansol Court in Kotze Street in Hillbrow, were visited by the deputy sheriff and police yesterday morning and given five minutes to vacate the one-bedroomed flats for which they were being charged R487

White tenants living in three of the flats were allowed to stay

The eviction — which left dozens of people on the pavement with their belongings — has raised fears that Hillbrow property owners will use it as a precedent to evict the estimated 25 000 illegals living in Hillbrow.

It has also raised the prospect of a potential legal battle between the owners of Ansol Court, Ann van der Merwe Investments CC, and lawyers acting for the evicted tenants

The evictions follow a letter sent to residents on October 5 warning them they would have to leave as the owners wished to renovate the building

Tenants protested through Actstop, a group that has been set up to help those living in the Group Areas Act twilight zone — DDC

Govt denies role in Hillbrow swoop

# Police guard as families are evicted

122  
Blow  
4/4/87

IN THE first major eviction of illegal tenants living in Hillbrow, more than 40 black families were ordered from their flats under police guard yesterday.

Government said yesterday it had no role in ordering the evictions and that it had not warned the owners to evict illegal tenants

Residents of Ansol Court in Kotze Street in Hillbrow were visited by the deputy sheriff and police yesterday morning and given five minutes to vacate the one-bedroomed flats for which they were being charged R487

White tenants living in three of the flats were allowed to stay

The eviction — which left dozens of people on the pavement with their belongings — has raised fears among opponents of the Group Areas Act (GAA) that Hillbrow property owners will use it as a precedent to evict the estimated 25 000 illegals living in Hillbrow.

It has also raised the prospect of a potential legal battle between the owners of Ansol Court, Ann van der Merwe Investments CC, and lawyers acting for evicted tenants

The evictions follow a letter sent to residents on October 5 warning them

PATRICK BULGER  
and DANIEL SIMON

they would have to leave as the owners wished to renovate the building. Tenants protested through Actstop, a group that has been set up to help those living in the GAA twilight zone

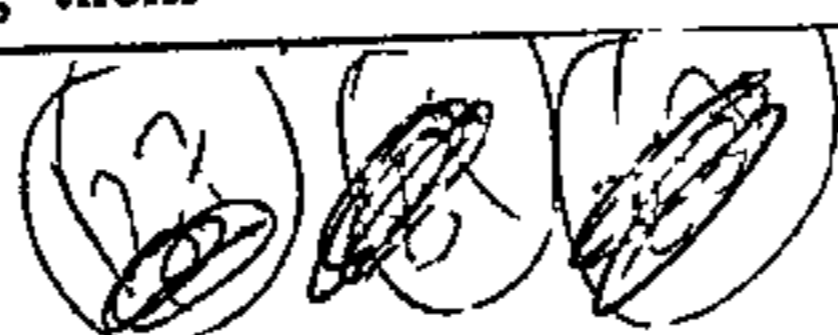
On Monday, however, the owners obtained a judgment against the property managers, Hillcrest Property Management, on the basis that Hillcrest owed R9 000 in rent arrears. Actstop member Cas Coovadia said a verbal agreement was made whereby the owners could evict Hillcrest and the tenants.

He said Actstop's lawyers were looking into the possibility of legal action, claiming the order had gone through the magistrate's court at "unusual speed"

Coovadia was speaking to evicted residents last night to obtain a mandate from them. He said Actstop was also looking at the possibility of arguing that residents had not been given the stipulated one month's notice period.

Coovadia expressed fears that the evictions might lead to a spate of others directed against the estimated 25 000

● To Page 2 →



## Families evicted in Hillbrow

blacks living illegally in Hillbrow

Coovadia said "In flats that are not rent controlled this could set a trend for owners and lessors to evict black people"

A Hillcrest director, D E Malan, said he had no comment to make on "a legal matter"

Yesterday the pavement outside Ansol Court was piled high with possessions such as beds, lounge suites, carpets, clothing and an assortment of boxes. Pots and pans with Monday night's supper were left in the open in the hurry to leave

← ● From Page 1

One of the tenants, restaurant waiter Jabulani Sibisi, 24, said "I was sleeping and suddenly woke up to find myself being dragged out of bed by police. They told me to pack what was mine and move out"

Chef Nelson Mncube said he was sleeping in his 4th-floor flat when police knocked and told him to pack and leave. Mncube said "I do not know where I'm going to go, I have no friends to move in with."

# Dobsonville to get 2 000 new homes

By Frank Jeans

Dobsonville, the sprawling township near Soweto, is to get a massive spread of housing in a R60 million development which will inject millions of rands into the black building industry

The project, which is being partly funded by the Small Business Unit of the First National Bank, will bring on to the market more than 2 000 homes and will increase the size of the township by about 40 percent.

Known as the Dobsonville Triangle, the land which was bought by the Family Housing Association will be developed by a consortium of developers working with the council.

At a function in Johannesburg today at which the housing programme was announced, the mayor of Dobsonville, Mr Steve Nkatlo, said "My council has worked right from the inception with the consortium to ensure that the project meets the needs of the residents of Dobsonville."

Mr Matthew Nell, general manager of the FHA, the housing utility company of the Urban Foundation, says "The project is unique in that it is the first time that members of the black private sector are participating in any significant way in servicing of land for a residential township"

# Cut-price housing

970-1015

8/11/87

127

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Government has slashed black-housing prices for the third time and is now selling houses in Transvaal townships for as little as R249.

In a bid to boost the sale of government housing stock, the National Housing Commission (NHC) is now offering some houses at a 60% discount.

The revised prices follow recommendations from black local authorities to sell houses at far less than the average prices asked when sales began in 1983.

The new prices will be introduced in all black urban areas in the Transvaal with the exception of Soweto, where new prices are expected soon.

Houses will be sold under 99-year leasehold — only to registered tenants — and title will be convertible to freehold should government announce freehold rights for blacks in urban areas.

Mr Alec Weiss, NHC sales co-ordinator, said yesterday: "Houses have already been selling at the new prices in some areas of the Transvaal and the response to the new prices is expected to be great with many people now able to buy their houses for cash at the lower prices."

Mr Weiss said that in the Orangevaal region the sale of houses rocketed to 602 for October.

# FIRM SELLS STANDS IT DOESN'T OWN

By SY MAKARINGE

A JOHANNESBURG home building company is "selling" residential sites it does not possess, an investigation by the *Sowetan* has revealed.

Property Express (the advertisement is on the right) which operates from a building in Jeppe Street, Johannesburg, has been advertising in newspapers that it would soon be building new homes in areas such as Dobsonville, Thokoza and Siluma View.

In a statement the association said that it took strong exception to people selling sites they did not have. It said it was very tragic that certain people took advantage of the plight of the homeless.

Property Express is also selling sites which it says will soon be available at New Canada. The land in that area has not been developed yet. The Diepmeadow Council has also not approved the proposed development.

Mr Andre Wolfaardt, general manager of Property Express, conceded that although he had applied for sites, the Family Housing Association had not allocated them to his company yet.

He said he was confident of acquiring some of the sites he had applied for.

## Sale of stands

From Page 1

"We have applied for 300 sites in Dobsonville and we are hoping to get at least 70. We might get 47 in Siluma View and 50 in Thokoza," Mr Wolfaardt said.

He said if his company failed to secure sites for some of the applicants, the R2000 deposits would be refunded in full.

Mr Wolfaardt said applicants' deposits were currently in a trust fund. He said the money did not accumulate any interest, but if it did, the interest would be payable to the Estates Agency Board.

An official of the board denied that the EAB received interests accumulated by initial deposits.

Another said people with complaints about the alleged misleading advertisements should lodge them with the board so that the matter could be investigated.

**THE STANDS AVAILABLE SOON**

**ADA STATION**  
TEA, THOKOZA and VIEW

Site with a building contract pocket

**FINAL DEPOSIT**

**2/3 OR 27-6435**

206519

VALID 5TH NOVEMBER TO 11TH



To Page 2

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*Sowetan*  
11/5/87

B/day 6/11/87 127

# Evictions: new turn

DIANNA GAMES

THREE of the 40 families evicted from Ansol Court in Hillbrow earlier this week are to move back into the building today after spending two nights in the Drill Hall in Johannesburg.

They are the only remaining families who have not found alternative accommodation after being evicted from the building.

Actstop member Cas Coovadia who is acting for the tenants said yesterday he had asked for — and received — through letting agents Hillcrest Property Management an undertaking from the building's

owners, Ann van der Merwe Investments, that they would not be harassed upon their return.

Hillcrest director Dawie Malan said the black tenants would have to get permission from the Group Areas Board to remain permanently in Hillbrow.

But Coovadia said this had not been mentioned in his discussions with Malan and Actstop did not regard it as a condition for their return.

"As far as Actstop is concerned, we do not recognise the Group Areas Board and say the Act should be repealed," he said.

# R60-m for houses

DOBSONVILLE is to undertake a R60 million housing project that will benefit the black building industry, it was announced at a Press conference in Johannesburg yesterday.

The mayor of Dobsonville, Mr Steve Nkatlo, said more than

2000 homes would be built on land bought by the Family Housing Association, the housing utility company of the Urban Foundation.

He said the development, known as Dobsonville Triangle, would increase the size

of Dobsonville by about 40 percent.

The Small Business Unit of the First National Bank is funding three of the black builders and the Small Business Development Corporation will help the Soweto Building Contractors' Association with the bridging finance needed to build houses.

The land will be developed by a consortium of developers working closely with the Dobsonville Council, said Mr Matthew Nell, general manager of Family Housing Association.

"This is the first time that members of the black private sector are participating in any significant way in servicing of land for residential townships," Mr Nell said.

(127)

*6/11/87 Dobsonville*

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## Italians' R1/2m gift

THE Italian Government this week donated Intensive Care Unit equipment to Lesedi Clinic in Soweto.

A spokesman for the Italian Embassy in the country yesterday said this equipment, worth more than R500 000, was part of her Government's commitment to assist in the country.

The donation had been in the pipeline for sometime after negotiations between the private clinic and the Italian government. The official handover was this Wednesday and present were Dr Motlana, chairman of the board of directors of the clinic and Mr Giagomo Ivanich-Biaggini, Italian Ambassador to South Africa.

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NAME

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# Evicted Hillbrow families due back

JOHANNESBURG — Three of the 40 families evicted from Ansol Court in Hillbrow earlier this week are to move back into the building today after spending two nights in the Drill Hall here

They are the only remaining families who have not found alternative accommodation after being evicted from the building

Actstop member Mr Cas Coovadia, who is acting for the tenants said yesterday he had received an undertaking through letting agents from the building's owners, Ann van der Merwe

Investments, that they would not be harassed upon their return

A spokesman for the letting agents said the black tenants would have to get permission from the Group Areas Board to remain permanently in Hillbrow

But Mr Coovadia said this had not been mentioned in his discussions with and Actstop did not regard it as a condition for their return

"As far as Actstop is concerned, we do not recognise the Group Areas Board and say the Act should be repealed," he said — DDC

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SOWETAN, Friday, November 6, 1987

Page-1

# RUSH TO BUY HOUSES ON VAAL

**MORE than 1 400 Vaal Triangle residents have bought houses under the Government's discount sale during September this year.**

The acting town clerk of the Lekoa Town Council, Mr E Matthyson, yesterday said they had received an overwhelming response to their announcement regarding the sale of homes in the area.

He said they handled an average of more than 300 enquires every day.

The council recently announced that it would sell more than 30 000 houses to local people in an attempt to break the rent boycott that has been in operation since September 3, 1984.

The mayor of Lekoa, Mr Esau Mahlatsi, said all the houses were sold at 40 percent discount. Most of these houses were about 40 years old. He said building was

cheaper during those years compared with the present days. As a result some houses were sold for as little as R390. Mr Mahlatsi said it was after the people in

the area refused to pay rent that the council had to find a solution to the problem. The houses are sold for a deposit of 10 percent. The balance can be paid

over five years. Mr Mahlatsi said they still had the question of arrears rentals and service charges. These were averaging R2 000 per house. These could

be paid off at no deposit over a period of 10 years. The council has appealed to commerce and industry to assist their employees in buying houses, he said.



MAYOR Mahlatsi

# Fear after illegals evicted

**THE newly appointed caretaker of a Hillbrow building from which 40 black and coloured families were evicted this week is living in fear of her life.**

"I've had three bomb threats and I'm petrified for my children's safety," Mrs Susanna Willemse told the Sunday Times.

At least five shebeens and three drug-peddling operations were being run from flats in Ansol Court, Kotze Street, Mrs Willemse said.

Designed to house a maximum of 104 residents, the building was occupied by more than 250 people when messengers of the court moved in on Tuesday to evict them.

"This block has got the better of me," said Mrs Willemse, who moved in as caretaker on October 15.

"I've been a caretaker for the past 10 years and I've never known anything like it."

The owner of the block, Morningside estate agent Miss Anne van der Merwe, was granted a court order on Monday against the agents, Hillcrest Property Management, who owed her R9 000 in arrears for rental and electricity. On Friday, two of the evicted tenants were allowed back in — but only until the end of December.

## SPECIAL REPORT BY MARLENE BURGER

They had been unable to find alternative accommodation and the owner agreed to allow them to stay in the block for another two months.

A third has also been offered accommodation but is unlikely to be allowed back because she insists she be allowed to bring 13 sub-tenants into her flat to help pay the rent.

Mrs Maria Simemlan's sole source of income is the knitted jerseys and shawls she sells on the pavements of

Hillbrow. For Mrs Willemse, the past few weeks have been "a nightmare".

"I couldn't believe what I had walked into. And now, even though I had nothing to do with the evictions, they are threatening to kill me and harm my children."

"I've had a suitcase packed since Tuesday night. I wanted to leave then, but my husband said no. He said we were South Africans and if we had to die

here we'd die bravely."

When Mrs Willemse moved in, the tenants had already been given notice to vacate the premises by the end of the month as the block was to be renovated.

At the owner's request, she drew up a list of occupants and found that as many as 14 people were living in a small bachelor flat.

### Rampage

"At weekends, it wasn't unusual to find as many as 80 people in one flat. There were shebeens in flats 31, 36, 41, 64 and 53

"And the worst of it is that white children, aged between 14 and 17, were buying drugs from flats 51, 53 and 75. One of these flats is just opposite mine and I saw them, day and night."

Mrs Willemse reported the illegal shebeens and drug operations to the police, who made several raids on the flats. "They would arrest them, but the next day they'd be back."

Last weekend, a group of residents went on the rampage in the block, systematically smashing windows, hacking at the wooden lift doors and writing slogans on the walls.

## PFP aims 'witch-hunt' at greedy landlords

GREEDY landlords have come under fire from the Progressive Federal Party and Actstop, an organisation which acts on behalf of "illegal" black tenants.

Following this week's eviction of some 250 people from a Hillbrow flat block, the PFP's Southern Transvaal regional director, Mr Gary Cooney, warned he would lead a "witch-hunt" to seek out those who charged inflated rentals.

On Friday, Actstop made it clear that exploitation would no longer be tolerated. "This week's evictions and their implications must be placed fairly at

the feet of the Nationalist Government and their partners," Actstop spokesman Mr Cas Coovadia said.

"Owners and lessors of buildings in Hillbrow and Joubert Park have been able to exploit black tenants with impunity under the protection of the Group Areas Act."

A spokesman for Hillcrest Property Management, whose lease on Ansol Court, Kotze Street, expired on October 31, said he did not think the rentals charged had been exorbitant. "We inherited the rentals and the tenants from the previous agents, who are now under provisional liquidation," Mr David Malan said.

"But I don't think R350 for a one-bedroomed flat and R250 for a bachelor flat is too high."

Mr Malan's company faces further action by residents of five Joubert Park blocks managed by Hillcrest, where tenants refuse to pay more than the amount laid down by the Rent Board in 1980.

Rentals at Argyle Court, Brank-some Towers, Charlotte Court, Mar-gate Court and Protea Mansions have increased several times since then and now average R300, but for the past three months tenants have paid only R85 a month.

Hillcrest is believed to have lost R75 000 during this time.

Condemning the exploitation of "illegal" tenants, Mr Cooney said: "Landlords charge otherwise homeless black people as much as R400 for a one-bedroomed flat, knowing full well that they can't afford it."

"This compels tenants to take in sub-tenants, causing overcrowding. People tell me that's why you get 10 people living in a flat. The landlords collect the money and turn a blind eye. These people are being ripped off."

### Stench

The courtyard was piled high with abandoned chairs, empty tins and drums, pieces of wood and broken beds.

"This is nothing," she commented. "You should have seen the courtyard two weeks ago. There were thousands of empty beer cans lying around."

"What I can't understand is how some terrible disease didn't break out here. The corridors were used as toilets, the drains were blocked all the time and the stench was terrible. You had to hold your breath when you used the lift

- 422 - PRIVATE HOTEL
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- AREA B: Kuils River.
- AREA C: Alberton, B
- Johannesburg, Kemp
- Pinetown, Pretoria,
- Vanderbijlpark, Vere
- Municipal Area: Port
- AREA D: Paarl. Muni
- and Umhlanga.
- AREA E: Bloemf
- Pietermaritzburg.
- AREA F: Klerksdorp.

### Footnotes

1. Length of the week -



# Hillbrow evictions: Is the worst still coming?

By KHULU SIBIYA

SOUTH Africa's most draconian statutory law, the Group Areas Act, this week reared its ugly head in Johannesburg's cosmopolitan Hillbrow suburb - leaving at least 50 families homeless.

The first major eviction of illegal tenants living in Hillbrow comes barely a month after the President's Council recommendation to the government to repeal SA's most despised laws, the Group Areas Act and the Separate Amenities Acts.

The action this week to evict the Hillbrow families confirmed the belief most people had that the PC report on Group Areas would, if implemented, increase powers of eviction and forced removal and make blacks living in "white" areas agents of their own subjugation.

The government, however, said it was not party to the evictions. A police spokesman said the policemen who were there were simply protecting the messenger of the court.

The reasons given for evictions are that the owners of Ansol Court had warned the tenants on October 5 that they would have to leave to make way for renovations. On Monday, the owners obtained a judg-

ment against the property managers, Hillcrest Property Management, on the basis that Hillcrest owed R9 000 in rent arrears.

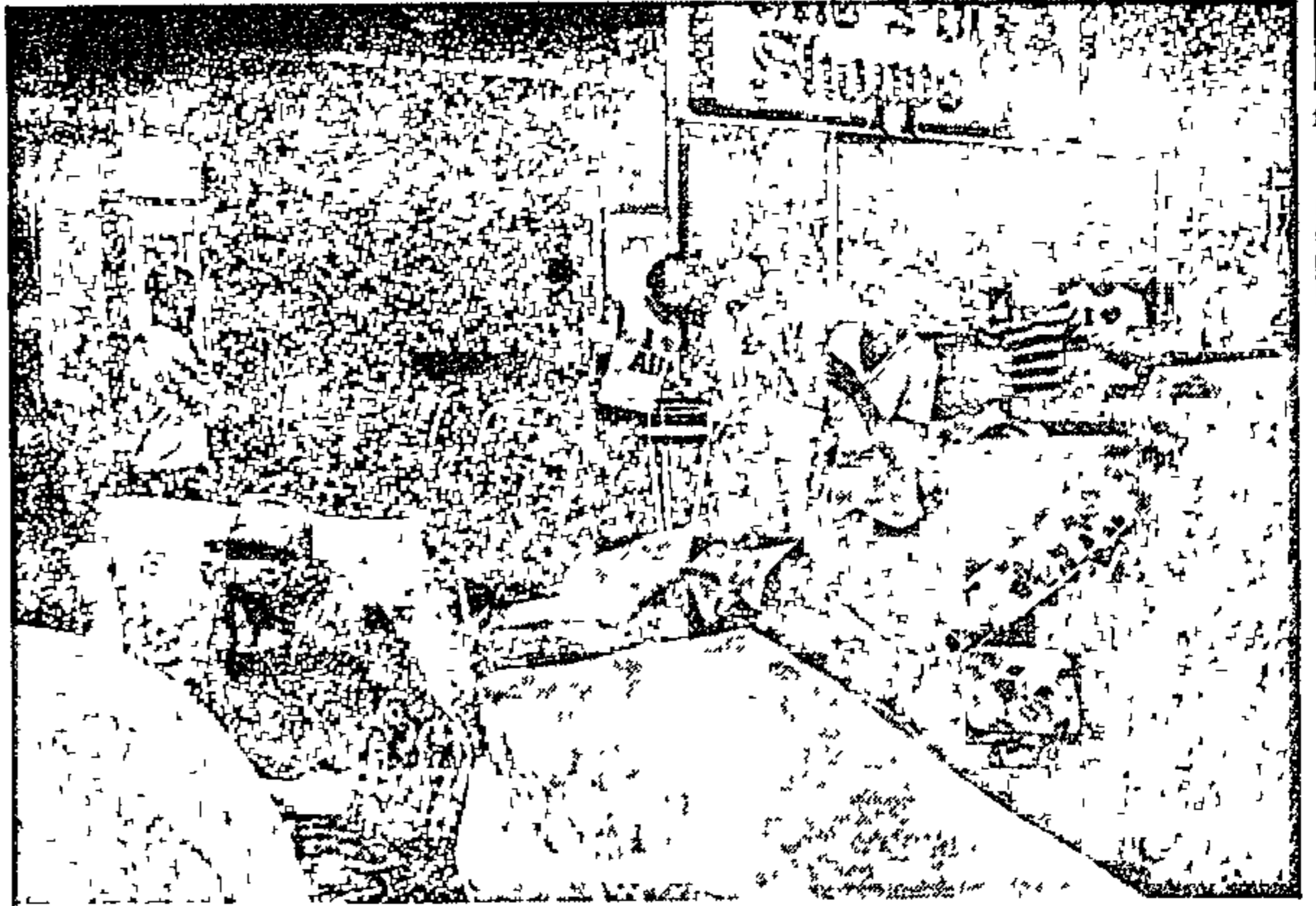
There are now growing fears among the almost 25 000 blacks living in Hillbrow and areas like Mayfair and Berea that this week's action is a sign of worse things to come.

The precision with which the operation was carried out - doors being kicked down and furniture and other belongings dumped on the pavements in the rain - is a clear indication that, as long as the GAA is still on the statutory books, the government's intended reform is a sham.

In the first place, the number of blacks who move to the so-called white areas do so because of the acute housing crisis in black townships - caused incidentally by the same Group Areas Act.

It is also a known fact that most of the residential areas in Hillbrow and Mayfair were becoming white elephants as more sophisticated whites moved to better areas.

Evicted residents at Ansol Court in Kotze Street say they were given only five minutes to vacate their flats. They



Evicted Ansol Court residents sit dejectedly on the pavement among their furniture.

want to know why whites in three flats were allowed to stay behind when the evictions were carried out.

For a one bedroom flat, these residents were paying R487 a month, far above that stipulated by the Rent Control Act and a figure that Cas Coovadia, a member of Act-stop, described as "exploitation".

The National Party believes that the Act was never intended to be discriminatory, but rather to protect certain groups against exploitation and to give them the opportunity of owning their own homes.

Unfortunately the reverse is true.

Blacks were never consulted when they were moved from areas like Sophiatown and Alexan-

dra to Soweto and Diepkloof. Townships like Crossroads to KTC, Madubulaville in Randfontein to Mohlakeng, Charterston in Nigel to Duduza, KwaDukathole to Germiston, Payneville in Springs to KwaThema.

One can go on and on. In an area like Soweto - undoubtedly the biggest black township in the southern hemisphere, with an estimated three-million people - authorities say there is no more land for expansion. What then, happens to people without houses?

Should they resign themselves to areas like Mshenguville even if they are of a high-income group, when there are empty flats just next door to where they work?

For as long as the Group Areas Act is still

on the statutory books, the government must take the blame for people who get evicted in the so-called white areas.

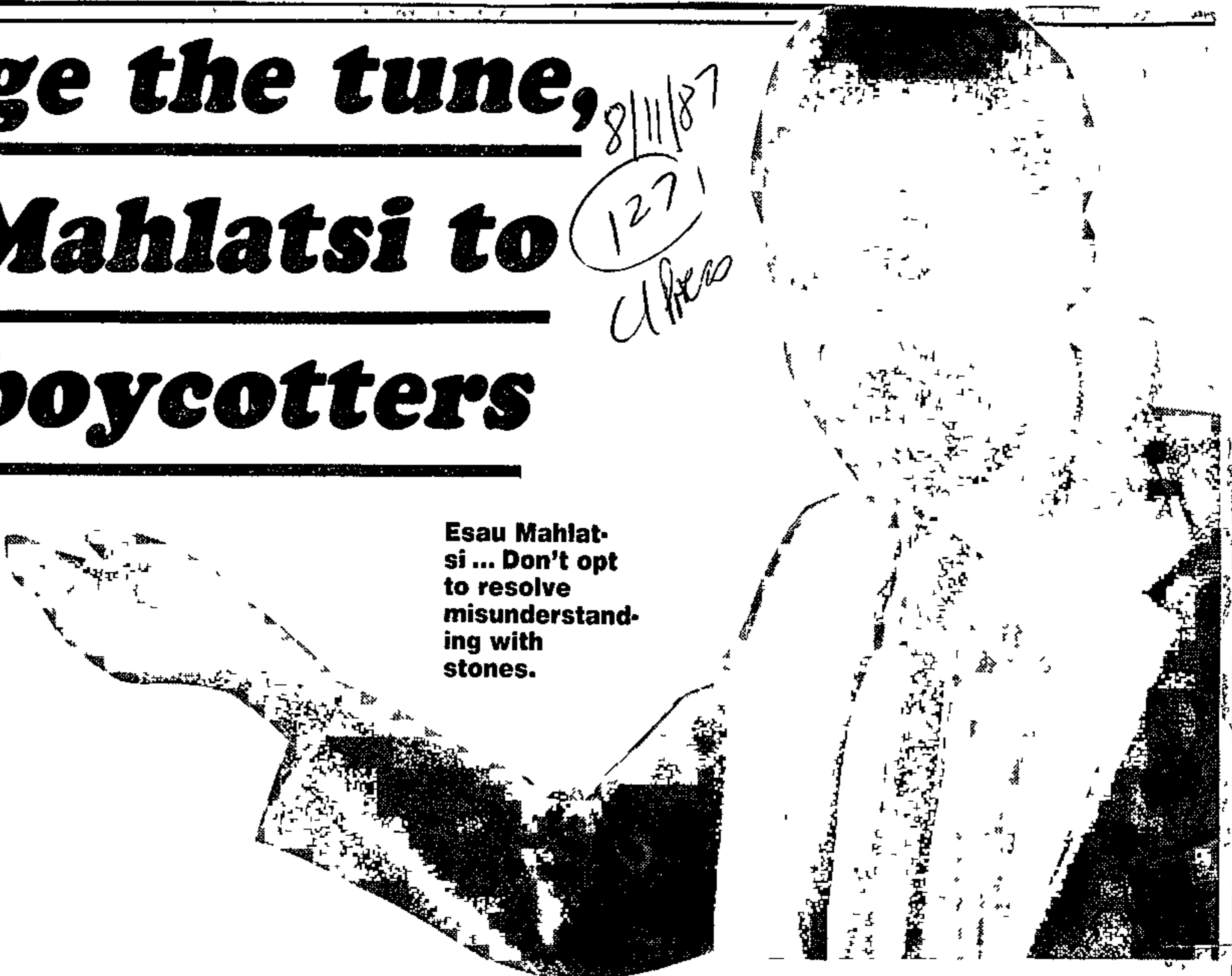
Let us take a country like the United States for instance, where racial discrimination is still very much alive. The difference there is that there is no law that determines where people should live.

People in higher income group (Yuppies), black and white, live further away in the suburbs and those not so lucky occupy not so expensive flats in town.

So, no matter how much the government distances itself from the goings-on in areas declared for segregation, there will always be an outcry against them from within and outside this country.

# **Change the tune, says Mahlatsi to rent boycotters**

8/11/87  
1271  
A Press



**Esau Mahlatsi ... Don't opt to resolve misunderstanding with stones.**

**By STAN MHLONGO**

LEKOA councillors this week addressed residents on the rent boycott in the Vaal in their first big public meeting in many months

Mayor Esau Mahlatsi appealed to the 5 000-strong crowd not to "opt to resolve misunderstanding with the council with stones" as they had done in 1984 when they had hacked and stoned four councillors to death

To prove his point that boycotting rent since September 1984 had been of little benefit, Mahlatsi said residents were still singing "the very song they sang in 1984 'Asinamali' (We have no money).

"1985, 1986 and 1987 you have been boycotting rent payment, yet you still find some people saying 'Asinamali'," said Mahlatsi.

He said blacks should learn to fight their political battles fair and square and stop resorting to telling lies in order to make political gains.

"Lies," cried Mahlatsi, "a pack of lies told about my council in 1984 resulted in some of my colleagues being killed"

"My council won't be intimidated by stone-throwers. We want the outside world to invest their monies and stop the sanctions imposed on SA so that more blacks can get jobs," he said

Mahlatsi has made trips to Canada and the United States recently, where he claimed to have succeeded in making businessmen have second thoughts about continuing imposing sanctions on SA

Cape Times 2/11/87

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# Govt discounts boost rented house sales

Own Correspondent

**JOHANNESBURG.** — About 17,8% of 350 000 rented township houses on offer to registered black tenants country-wide have been bought.

Last week the National Housing Commission (NHC) released new prices of houses approved by the government, offering a 60% discount on some that were built more than 20 years ago.

The government has dropped its prices to bargain level to boost its "massive" housing sale introduced in 1983.

Transvaal Provincial Administration MEC Mr John Mavuso said there had been a marked increase in the sale of rented houses to registered tenants countrywide.

He said the government's huge discounts offered to tenants contributed towards the increase of the sales.

Mr Mavuso said up to September, 17,8% of the houses had been sold countrywide and under 20% of the houses in the Transvaal were bought.

In the Orangevaal region sales rock-

eted in October, with 602 houses being bought.

The prices of houses for all urban townships in the Transvaal have been approved — except for some on the West Rand, including Soweto, which are to be announced shortly.

In Bronkhorstpruit in the Eastern Transvaal, five-roomed houses that were originally priced at R1 554 are now to be sold off for R514.

Other areas where prices have been drastically slashed are:

● Khutsong in Carletonville — four-roomed houses from R1 690 to R690.

● Khutsong in Carletonville — three-roomed houses from R1 442 to R592.

● Mamelodi in Pretoria — four-roomed houses from R1 600 to R536.

● Daveyton in Benoni — four-roomed houses from R1 170 to R490.

● Thembisa in East Rand — four-roomed houses from R1 001 to R378.

● Brakpan in East Rand — four-roomed houses from R1 000 to R353.

● Thokoza in East Rand — four-roomed house from R1 010 to R351.

9/11/87

127

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Sowetan

SOWETAN, Monday, No

# Evictions slammed

THE eviction of about 40 black families in Hillbrow, Johannesburg, last week must be seen within the context of the broader political sphere, a spokesman for Act Stop said

By ALI MPHAKI

yesterday.

"These evictions and the implications must be placed squarely at the feet of the Nationalist

Government and its partners," Mr Cas Coovacia said

In a statement read to the *Sowetan* Mr Coovacia said owners of buildings and the lessors flats have been able to exploit black tenants

with impunity under the protection of the Group Areas Act

"It is this horrendous legislation that puts black tenants, who are citizens of this country contributing to the wealth of South Africa at the mercy of the unscrupulous landlords," he said

## Evicted

On Tuesday morning last week about 40 families were evicted from Ansol Court in Hillbrow. The majority of the families rushed to secure alternative accommodation but 15 who had no accommodation by Wednesday

morning were re-instated in the building after successful negotiations by Act Stop with the landlords

This move was hailed as a victory for Hillbrow tenants and also for those who stay in Joubert Park and central Johannesburg

Mr Coovacia said Act Stop trust that this incident has shown landlords that they can no longer exploit black tenants with impunity

**FIGHTS** broke out yesterday between black residents evicted from a Joubert Park block of flats and members of a removal squad which residents claimed had been recruited from a nearby park

# Fights break out during evictions

177  
Bloody  
12/11/87

A policeman with a dog moved into the crowd to restore control.

The fights broke out after black occupants of 74 flats were evicted from a rent-controlled block after an eviction order was issued against the principal tenant, who had sub-let the flats.

Acting in terms of a court order, deputy sheriff staff started evicting people at 7am. Asked for comment an official said "I've been told to say nothing".

The entire street was blocked by the tenants' possessions after only three floors had been emptied by late afternoon. Further removals were being hindered by lack of space on the pavement.

A pregnant woman and another who had given birth two days ago were

**SOPHIE TEMA and CHARLES PARRY**

among those evicted

Actstop's Firazo Cassim was held briefly on the spot, after a policeman claimed Cassim had been obstructing him in his duties

Residents said they had rented the apartments from Karel Suba, the principal tenant, at rents from R225 to R300 a month until they discovered the rents exceeded those laid down by the Rent Board. They then paid Suba the controlled rent instead.

In terms of a court order brought against Suba by National Trust, Ellet Trust and Joseph Furman, Suba was evicted for defaulting on his lease



127 SM 12/11/87

Eleven hours after possessions dumped on pavement . . .

# Judge allows 74 families to return to their homes

Staff Reporters

A Supreme Court judge last night returned 74 black families to their Worcester Court, Joubert Park, Johannesburg, homes 11 hours after messenger of the court officials evicted them

Mr Justice Strydom said due to the "lateness of the hour" he would not furnish reasons for upholding an urgent application to move back in, brought by five tenants against The National Trust, The Elel Trust, Mr Joseph Furman and Mr Karel Suba.

He said the order did not constitute a declaration that their occupation was lawful in terms of the Group Areas Act. The return date is November 24.

In terms of an agreement between the two legal teams, the application was extended to all 74 families.

The tenants' response to the eviction which began at 10 am was co-ordinated by Actstop.

Messenger of the court officials were acting in terms of a magistrate's court order secured by National Trust, the Elel Trust and Mr Furman against Mr Karel Suba

This order was brought as a result of non-payment of rent by Mr Suba.

During the urgent Supreme Court application it was revealed that Mr Suba owed R3 850. He had entered into a verbal contract with the owners on July 1 1986 to lease the building for three years at R3 500 a month. By consent their contract was cancelled on October 31 1987.

Mr R L Selvan SC, for the tenants, told the judge that the action in the magistrate's court was a sham and a collusion.

"The four of them have put their heads together, pretending to have an action and thereby obtain the machinery of the magistrate's court and messengers to evict from their dwellings the various lessees"

## OBJECTED

In an affidavit a tenant, Mr Samuel Mangang, said tenants objected to paying more than the controlled rent for their flats

An Actstop spokesman said "This court victory is a milestone. Landlords and their agents are going to have to face up to more of these legal actions because tenants are becoming more organised"

Johannesburg city councillor for Joubert Park, Mr David Neppe, has called on the council to establish whether the city's by-laws were broken when tenants' possessions were thrown out on the pavements by

three messengers of the court

"Following the eviction — and subsequent reinstatement — of 74 families living in Worcester Court in Smit Street, I have requested the City Secretary and the Traffic Department to get a legal opinion on the interpretation of the city's bylaws on congestion of pavements and streets," he said

"The tenants' furniture was strewn over the sidewalks causing a massive obstruction for pedestrians

"With eviction becoming commonplace in Hillbrow, we need a clear verdict on this issue. The council must be in a position to take immediate action if landlords and their agents are increasingly resorting to dumping people and their goods on pavements

"They may think twice about evicting if they are compelled to send in trucks to cart the possessions away," he said

At least five PFP councillors monitored the situation at Worcester Court yesterday.

Mr Tony Leon said attempts to have the people temporarily housed in a hall in Westbury were allegedly refused by coloured management committee chairman, Mr Percy Peffer

Mr Peffer was not available for comment today

(127) 12/11/87

# 70 Hillbrow families dumped on pavement

JOHANNESBURG — Evictions at a Hillbrow block of flats were temporarily halted late yesterday afternoon, but not before more than 70 black families were dumped on the pavement with their possessions

Fights broke out between the evicted residents as household goods were removed and dumped by workers, whom residents claimed had been recruited from a nearby park

The entire street was blocked by the tenants' possessions after only three floors had been emptied by late afternoon. Further removals were being hindered by

lack of space on the pavement

The court-ordered evictions halted at the fourth floor at 4.30 pm when it was found that casual labourers employed by the messenger of the court had been paid off by residents to stop moving goods

By rush-hour, thousands of bystanders watched tenants anxiously protecting their goods while traffic snarled up for blocks near Worcester Court in Smit Street

Women and children wrapped in blankets huddled against the chilly wind on the pavement. Around them were heaps of cardboard boxes, household effects, furniture, hi-fi sets, and bundles of clothing

A pregnant woman and another who had given birth two days ago were among those evicted

Actstop, an organisation fighting the Group Areas Act, said the organisation's attorneys had made an urgent court

application to stop the evictions

The owners of Worcester Court, National Trust, the Ellet Trust and Joseph Furman, were granted a court eviction order against the leasee, Mr Karel Suba — who had sub-let the flats — for defaulting on his lease

The application was heard in the Rand Supreme Court last night

Residents said they had rented the apartments from Mr Suba at rents from R225 to R300 a month. Controlled rentals were R57 for a two-bedroom flat and R28 for a bachelor

When they discovered that these rents exceeded those laid down by the Rent Board, they refused to pay Mr Suba the rents he had set. They paid the controlled rent instead

Mr Suba, they claimed, had threatened to have them "thrown out in the streets like dogs" unless they continued paying the higher rent

Tenants interviewed said they were prepared to pay the high rentals as there was a housing shortage in Soweto

"The logical thing would be to move the furniture and people back into the flats until the issue is sorted out in court and with the minister concerned," the PFP member for Joubert Park, Mr David Neppe, said

"We cannot allow this sort of thing to go on. Immediate action is needed from government to stop this practice," he said

Inside, where tenants had already been evicted, doors had been smashed open, litter was piled high in the corridors and odd bits of clothing were strewn around

"They showed us a piece of paper and just started moving our stuff," one resident said

"They can't break in and take our things like this," another angry tenant said — Sapa

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Sunday 12/11/87

## Attack described

A FORMER trade unionist who participated in public meetings to discuss rent increases in the Vaal Triangle yesterday told the Pretoria Supreme Court her home was once attacked and she later found empty teargas canisters in the yard.

Miss Mozipho Mjeza, who is testifying for the defence, said she and members of her family were awakened at her home in Sharpeville by a loud noise and the smashing of window panes during the early hours of September 3, 1984.

"I woke up and started screaming. The whole family started screaming as well. I grabbed the

three children, including my son Bongani (11), and fled to a neighbour's house where we sought refuge," Miss Mjeza said.

Cross-examined by Mr W Hanekom, for the State, Miss Mjeza said she did not hear screams from outside the house. She also did not see the attackers.

Miss Mjeza was testifying for the defence in the trial in which 19 men, who include senior officials of the UDF, Azapo, Azanyu and the Vaal Civic Association, have pleaded not guilty before Mr Justice van Dijkhorst and an assessor to charges of treason, murder, subversion and terrorism

(Proceeding)

# Rent 'test case' today

(127)  
Solomon  
12/11/87

A RAND Supreme Court judge this week postponed a "test case" related to the Vaal rent boycott in which the Lekoa Council and two residents are involved.

The residents, Mr Solomon Tsoari and Mr Jacobus Mothibeli, brought applications against the Lekoa Town Council, the Administrator of the Free State and the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

Mr Tsoari and Mr Mothibeli said in their applications that they are "not presently obliged to pay" their house rentals to the council.

They seek the council to pay costs of the

applications, but only if the council opposes the applications.

The applications were not heard and the presiding judge said the matter would stand down until today.

AST Christmas Joseph and Margaret Molefe painted a flower design on the walls of their brick house on the grassy slopes near Eikenhof

This year's Christmas will be less happy. The Molefes, under threat of eviction, have not even cultivated their vegetable patch. The elderly pensioners have been arrested four times this year and twice charged with trespassing. Their crime is remaining in a house which has been in the Molefe family for three generations.

"My grandfather died here, my mother and father died here," says 67-year-old Joseph Molefe, leaning on the rake he is using to draw patterns in his tiny yard.

As a youth he also worked for the white farmer, a Mr Van der Merwe, who owned the land they live on about 10km from Johannesburg.

About 15 years ago the farm was sold to private developers. It has not been farmed or developed, but the Molefes and about 20 people living in tin shacks behind the brick house have been told they must go.

Margaret Molefe, 62, who raised four children in the Eikenhof home — which served as a church and a school in its time — asks "Where will we go from here? The municipality does not have houses for old pensioners."

The Molefes are among the hundreds of thousands of "beneficiaries" of orderly urbanisation.

On paper the new policy means an end to random police swoops to demand passes and proof of the right to live in the city. The government is quick to point out that since it abolished passes laws and influx control last year, anyone can come to the cities to look for work.

But the snag is that black people cannot remain in urban centres unless they have state-approved homes. With the Group Areas Act and a host of other legislation still in force, that means living in the townships, where state officials say there is a shortage of 342 000 housing units. The Urban Foundation estimates the housing shortage — including the "homelands" — at 825 000 units.

Thus a pattern is developing where more and more people are setting up informal settlements on apparently unoccupied land, only to be arrested for trespassing or squatting.

Even in the townships black people are not free to erect shacks, as the recent demolitions in Thokoza and Alexandra townships have shown.

Shack dwellers in the Witwatersrand region include those, like the Molefes, who are victims of urban expansion.

They include pensioners, evicted farmworkers, people from the rural areas and families who are tired of renting a cramped room from township homeowners.

But the root cause of the squatter problem dates back to the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts which prevented the transfer to black ownership of land outside the ethnic homelands, which comprise 13 percent of the country's land.

According to the Black Sash, it was only after the 1976 unrest that the government reversed its stand and began encouraging black urbanisation in an attempt to create a stable black middle class.

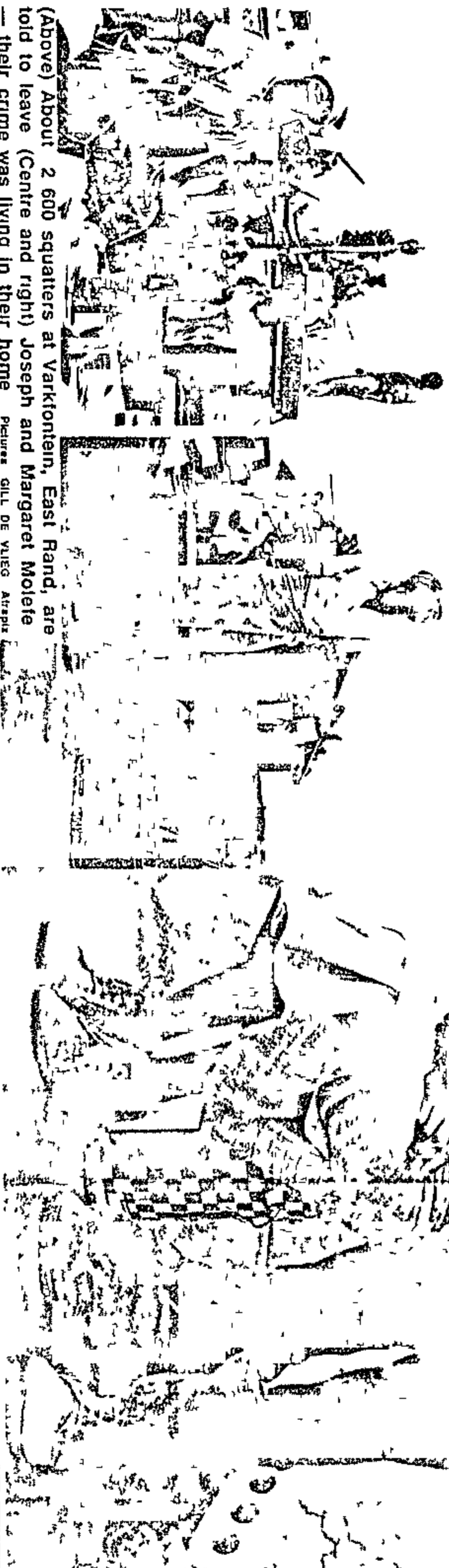
These attempts were stepped up after the 1984 unrest when the National Security Management System moved in to upgrade the squashed townships which had provided so many of the grievances around which the communities were mobilised by activists.

But — as government figures themselves show — the state has failed to address the backlog in urbanisation.

FOCUS ON 'ORDERLY' URBANISATION

# AFTER THREE GENERATIONS IN THIS HOUSE, THE MOLEFES WERE CHARGED WITH TRESPASSING

Ever since influx control was abolished last year, pass raids have become a thing of the past. Any black man or woman may enter any city to look for work. The snag is that they cannot stay unless they live in state-approved homes. And there's a long queue for those. 342 000 people long. JO-ANN BEKKER reports.



(Above) About 2 600 squatters at Varkfontein, East Rand, are told to leave. (Centre and right) Joseph and Margaret Molefe — their crime was living in their home

## Vlok agrees: No more Vlakfontein arrests

SHACK dwellers in the East Rand community of Vlakfontein won a significant victory this week when Minister of Law and Order Adnaam Vlok gave an undertaking not to arrest any resident on charges of trespassing or squatting.

To date, it is the punitive aspect of the new orderly urbanisation policy which has been most in evidence.

In Roodespoort, north of Johannesburg, a group of about 100 people, some born in the area, settled on Big Farm near the municipal rubbish

area, however. Before the application came to court this Tuesday, deputy law and order minister Roelf Meyer told lawyers a detective had been sent to police to halt squatter arrests pending the outcome of the application.

A Johannesburg lawyer acting for homeless communities said he would apply to the deputy minister for Vlok's undertaking to be made applicable to all shack dwellers.

secured legal representation people from Doornkui and Finetown were sentenced to three months' imprisonment suspended for three years. Since then, charges have been withdrawn or cases postponed repeatedly.

Legal counsel's attempts to argue the defence of necessity on behalf of the squatters thus remains untested. And the legal rights of homeless people remain undefined.

Meanwhile the complex web of who is responsible for the squatting problem in the post-influx control era still has to be unravelled.

According to the Johannesburg Council, the minister of constitutional development had delegated his responsibility to create temporary shelter for homeless people to the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

Approached for comment, the province's director of land use, J van der Wall, said the solution to the squatting problem was "extremely sensitive" and he needed to time to prepare answers to the Weekly Mail's questions.

The Black Sash and lawyers acting for squatters are pressing the authorities to declare a moratorium on evicting shack dwellers until suitable alternative site and service schemes have been provided.

But the authorities also face pressure from rightwing whites to curb what they see as vagrancy. The squatter settlements in the Gramercy area between Johannesburg and Vereeniging lie in the heart of Conservative Party country.

A newspaper of the Walkerville Ratepayers Association in the area, *Walkerville News*, last month congratulated the police and army for their combined effort against squatters on August 20, when more than 120 trespassers were arrested.

And when Deputy Minister of Education and Development And Sam de Beer visited squatters at Varkfontein on the East Rand in August, the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging were waiting for him. They demanded he ensure the removal of the 350-odd families living on the white farm.

Ironically, rightwing pressure has so far been most successful in forcing the authorities to take positive action to secure land for shack dwellers.

Varkfontein is the most recent example, where farmer Giel Nieuwoudt's attempts to make money out of hiring stands out to the homeless and charging them between R30 and R60 a month raised the ire of his white neighbours.

Local whites brought two court applications against Nieuwoudt for having illegal structures and squatters on his property.

After collecting money from his tenants to fight the court actions, Nieuwoudt issued eviction notices to the 378 households — totalling about 2 600 people — in August.

When the end of October loomed and the families had still not moved, the Transvaal Provincial Administration enlisted the assistance of Tom Boya, mayor of Daveyton township.

In a move given prime coverage by SABC Boya stepped in to remove the source of rightwing anger and provide rudimentary sites for some of Daveyton's 6 000 squatters at the same time.

He announced he had received a R6-million loan from the TPA to establish an emergency camp at Ewatarwa East on township land five kilometres from Daveyton. The land had been hired to a bean farmer until two weeks before the move.

The 6 000-strong squatter settlement at Weiler's Farm, south of Johannesburg, is another area where rightwing opposition forced the hand of the government.

Early this year the government expropriated the farm after whites in the area complained of vagrancy and thieving. Police and army units manned 24-hour roadblocks, reportedly to prevent more squatters from settling there.

Recently, municipal policemen have been seen stationed at the entrance. However, rightwing resistance is continuing and the Weiler's Farm community is still under threat of removal. Human rights groups and lawyers have had more success in persuading the authorities to stall evictions and arrests.

An application brought by the Vlakfontein community resulted firstly in an order to evict

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But the snag is that black people cannot remain in urban centres unless they have state-approved homes. With the Group Areas Act and a host of other legislation still in force, that means living in the townships, where state officials say there is a shortage of 342 000 housing units. The Urban Foundation estimates the housing shortage — including the "homelands" — at 825 000 units.

Thus a pattern is developing where more and more people are setting up informal settlements on apparently unoccupied land, only to be arrested for trespassing or squatting.

Even in the townships black people are not free to erect shacks, as the recent demolitions in Thokozana and Alexandra townships have shown.

Shack dwellers in the Witwatersrand region include those like the Molefies, who are victims of urban expansion.

They include pensioners, evicted farmworkers, people from the rural areas and families who are tired of renting a cramped room from township homeowners.

But the root cause of the squatter problem dates back to the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts which prevented the transfer to black ownership of land outside the ethnic homelands, which comprise 13 percent of the country's land.

According to the Black Sash, it was only after the 1976 unrest that the government reversed its stand and began encouraging black urbanisation in an attempt to create a stable black middle class.

These attempts were stepped up after the 1984 unrest when the National Security Management System moved in to upgrade the squatted townships which had provided so many of the grievances around which the communities were mobilised by activists.

But — as government figures themselves show — the state has failed to address the backlog in urbanisation.

Government officials quoted by the South African Institute of Race Relations report there are 1 310 813 black squatters in South Africa.

But according to the Black Sash, at least five million people — one in every six South Africans — is homeless.

The new policy of orderly urbanisation has the machinery to help address this, enabling the authorities to create emergency camps to accommodate the flood of people to the cities. But it also makes provision for greater penalties against illegal squatting and trespassing.

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Most successful in forcing the author lies to take positive action to secure land for shack dwellers. Varkfontein is the most recent example, where farmer Giel Neuwoudt's attempts to make money out of hiving stands out to the homeless and charging them between R30 and R60 a month raised the ire of his white neighbours.

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Recently municipal policemen have been stationed at the entrance. However, rightwing resistance is continuing and the Weiler's Farm community is still under threat of removal.

Human rights groups and lawyers have had more success in persuading the authorities to stall evictions and arrests.

An application brought by the Vlakfontein community resulted firstly in an order to stop evictions, secondly in a reprieve for the Vlakfontein community. The police this week undertook not to arrest any permanent resident of the community on charges of trespass or squatting.

But the issue can only be so ved, human rights groups stress, when apartheid controls are abolished.

According to the Agency for Industrial Mission's Shackdwellers Project and the Black Sash, "natural urbanisation" cannot take place until the government abolishes the laws controlling access to land, scraps its policy of decentralising black settlements and abandons legislation to restrict black squatting and trespassing.

Anne Bernstein, head of the Urban Foundation's urbanisation unit, says a new urbanisation strategy for South Africa can only be built on freedom of movement for all South Africans, increased urban concentration in the cities themselves and full and equal participation for all South Africans at all levels of decision-making.

In the meantime, however, several squatter communities are putting down roots despite their uncertain future.

Vlakfontein residents have started a clinic and have numbered their shacks to make postal delivery easier.

In Fintown, many of the neatly-fenced off yards have flourishing vegetable patches, several of the shacks are brightly painted.

And in Ekkerhof, while his wife has abandoned her tomatoes and melons, Joseph Molefe still takes pride in his pot plants. He points to a large pink flower that he says blooms just before the rains. "This is my rain flower, it tells me when it will rain."

## Vlok agrees: No more Vlakfontein arrests

SHACK dwellers in the East Rand community of Vlakfontein won a significant victory this week when Minister of Law and Order Adnan Vlok gave an undertaking not to arrest any resident on charges of trespassing or squatting.

Vlok's undertaking was part of an agreement to postpone indefinitely (since died) a Supreme Court application brought by the Vlakfontein community. The application had sought to restrain the police from re-arresting people on charges of trespassing before cases were completed.

It is uncertain what effects Vlok's undertaking will have on other squatter communities in the area, however.

Before the application came to court this Tuesday, deputy law and order minister Roelf Meyer told lawyers a detective had been sent to police to halt squatter arrests pending the outcome of the application.

A Johannesburg lawyer acting for homeless communities said he would apply to the deputy minister for Vlok's undertaking to be made applicable to all shack dwellers.

This would then prevent trespass arrests taking the place of pass arrests in the post-influx control era.

The ongoing demolitions at Big Farm represent one official response to shack dwellers. A spate of arrests of squatter communities in the Grassmere area south of Johannesburg represents another.

The Sash has records of 670 prosecutions against squatters in the area since mid-September on charges of trespassing and squatting.

After the first arrests, before the shack dwellers could be removed, the police had been given a directive not to arrest any more squatters in the Grassmere area south of Johannesburg.

At first the order was apparently flouted by the local police who arrested the 29 residents from the Fintown squatter community who appeared in the district court when the *Weekly Mail* visited De Dur last week.

What relatives of the squatters crammed into one half of the courtroom, defence lawyer Graham Reid argued that as the De Dur police had reneged on the minister's directive the squatters should be released on "free bail".

The magistrate said there was no evidence to contradict Reid's assertion, and released the 29, and two more Fintown squatters charged separately, on warning. They are to appear in the Vereeniging Magistrate's Court on January 29.

## A TREADMILL OF HOMELESS SQUATTERS MOVES IN AND OUT OF COURT

TS Monday morning in the district court of Deur. The orderly calls out the names of 29 men, who enter the tiny courtroom. Packed tightly in a horseshoe formation around the magistrate's bench they hear the prosecutor read the charge against them.

This scene has been played out week after week in De Dur — midway between Johannesburg and Vereeniging — as the government's post-influx control urbanisation policy is enforced in the area.

Most Fridays since mid-September police have hounded up homeless people who have set up shack settlements close to the industrial centres. They are kept in jail for the weekend, until they are brought to court on Monday.

In every case where the accused were defended by lawyers, the squatters were released on bail and the case was transferred to the Vereeniging

Magistrate's Court.

The procedure costs money as well as time — R30 bail per person and about R250 to hire a bus to take the accused and their relatives to Vereeniging.

It has led to accusations that the procedures of arrest and court appearances are being used as ends in themselves to punish the squatters.

According to the Black Sash, which monitors the squatter court hearings, since mid-September a total of 670 prosecutions have been launched against squatters in the area. Some individuals have had up to four actions launched against them.

While the squatter hearings are not inherently comparable to the pass courts, which convicted and sentenced pass offenders in minutes, the end results are similar.

Pass offenders, driven by starvation to leave the homelands and search for work in the city, broke the law again as soon as they were released, by remaining illegally in the city.

So too squatters, as soon as they leave the courtroom, break the Trespass Act again by returning to their shacks.

The Vlakfontein community recently launched a Supreme Court application to challenge the continual arrest of members of its 115 shack households on charges of trespassing.

While it was pending, according to testimony in court, Deputy Minister of Law and Order Roelf Meyer told a Johannesburg attorney the

...the government is quick to point out that since it abolished pass laws and influx control last year, anyone can come to the cities to look for work.

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# Actstop opens office to help illegal tenants

The Actstop organisation opened a full-time office in the city centre today to help people falling foul of the Group Areas Act. Staff will be appointed later.

Following Johannesburg's two recent mass flat evictions, the Central Methodist Church has provided the facilities as part of its commitment to people living in the city illegally.

Actstop's Mr Mohamed Dangor announced the opening of the office at an Actstop rally in Doornfontein last night attended by 600 illegal tenants and supporters.

At the rally, police kept watch from a darkened street as the tenants celebrated their victory in returning 74 families to Worcester Court after an urgent application in the Rand Supreme Court on Wednesday night, and resolved to unite more closely.

Mrs Albertina Sisulu, UDF leader, said it was encouraging that there were people in the heart of Johannesburg saying: "As black as we are, we have

every right to stay where we like"

Worcester Court's evacuation followed a decision by the tenants to pay Rent Board approved rent, not what the agents wanted. In one case this was R84 instead of R335.

Cosatu publicity secretary Mr Frank Meintjies told the illegals their struggle was the same as Cosatu's struggle "To live as decent human beings in this country"

A tenant, Mr Sandi Mgidlana, said "There comes a time in the life of a nation when the people must say enough is enough of any wrongs that are being done to them"

Landlords were trying to frighten people through the evictions so that they accepted the situation of being exploited and were not going to say anything.

The Group Areas Act was the source of all their problems, Mr Mgidlana said, as landlords kept reminding them they were illegal.

13/11/87  
SMZ

# Council opponents opposed violence, treason case hears

(27)

13-17 NOV 87  
LUMM/C

EVIDENCE led in the Pretoria Supreme Court this week recalled a massive groundswell of popular feeling against proposed rent increases in the Vaal Triangle in 1984.

A former member of the Bafutsane Party, which took part in community council elections in Sharpeville in 1983-84, told the court she had realised that councillors were unpopular with residents. But, she said, opponents of the council had not encouraged violence.

Nozipho Mjeza, 26, was giving evidence in the marathon treason trial moved from Delmas to Pretoria at the beginning of the year. Nineteen men, including members of the United Democratic Front and the Azanian People's Organisation, are facing charges of treason.

Mjeza told the court that at a council meeting in August 1984, there were widespread complaints from the audience about proposed rent increases.

But she denied that one of the accused, Tom Manthata, used a subsequent community protest meeting to incite people to kill councillors or destroy their property. The meeting had been called to discuss a R5,90 rent increase in Sharpeville.

Nor had another of the accused, Anglican priest Rev Tebogo Moselane, incited people to march from Sharpeville to Houtkop, she said.

At a meeting on August 12, 1984, according to Mjeza, residents agreed not to pay rent increases. Moselane was concerned because members of his congregation — most of whom were pensioners — would not be able to afford the increase.

She further denied that accused Oupa Hlomuka called for the use of violence against the councillors and their property.

By VUSI GUNENE

The witness said her house was attacked with stones and teargas on September 4, 1984. She could not identify the assailants and had to flee.

Under cross-examination by defence counsel George Bizos, Mjeza admitted she had helped Moselane to produce anti-increase pamphlets. However, she denied being a member of Azapo or any UDF-affiliated organisation.

She denied allegations that the meetings sought to "mobilise, politicise and conscientise" people in order to build a revolutionary climate, and bring about "violence and revolt".

She also dismissed claims that the meetings were inspired by the African National Congress, the South African Communist Party and the UDF.

The accused are represented by a team of senior counsel headed by advocate George Bizos. W Hanekom appears for the state. Justice K van Dijkhorst is on the bench.

● Meanwhile, a fourth bail application for the release of the three high-ranking UDF leaders in custody since their arrest three years ago was submitted in the Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday. They are national publicity secretary Patrick "Terror" Lekota, general secretary Popo Molefe, and Transvaal regional secretary Moss Chikane.





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# Vaal resident challenges rent payment

By Lesley Cowling

13/11/87 SMM

More than 150 Vaal Triangle residents crowded into the Rand Supreme Court yesterday to hear an application by a Sharpeville pensioner, asking the court to declare that he does not have to pay rent

Mr Solomon Motoli Tsoari, who has lived on his Sharpeville premises for 25 years and built his own house there, has brought the application against the Lekoa Town Council, the Administrator of the Orange Free State and the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

The court heard yesterday that tenants in black areas paid a site rental for the land, a consumption charge for electricity, water and refuse removal and a dwelling charge

The Lekoa Town Council was evicting people from their homes for non-payment after obtaining court orders, the court was told.

Mr J Unterhalter SC yesterday argued that Mr Tsoari did not have to pay any rent because the Lekoa Town Council was not entitled to collect rent

Also, in terms of the law, a rental had to be gazetted. But no such regulation existed, he argued

The hearing continues.

# Tenants set to fight new eviction threat

MARTIN CHALLENGOR

Another eviction battle is looming in the Joubert Park flatlands.

Residents of Argyle Court, in Smit Street, have been given three months to get out by the agents, Hillcrest Property Management.

They have refused to go. The decision was taken when about 70 residents met Actstop officials this week.

Almost all the residents are blacks living illegally in the area in terms of the Group Areas Act.

Hillcrest informed the tenants on October 30 that they had to leave. No reasons were given.

Mr Dave Malan, a director of Hillcrest, said yesterday the building was de-controlled in September and so we can give them three months.

Asked what would become of the empty building, Mr Malan said: "That will be up to the landlord."

But landlord Mr Solly Gorfil, of Gorfil Brothers Investments, said he did not know about the eviction notices. "Let me speak to Mr Malan about it," he said. "I knew there was a dispute about the rentals but I did not know about the notice."

Mr Malan said he was meeting tenant representatives from Argyle Court and other buildings today.

Almost all the 225 tenants in five blocks administered by Hillcrest — Argyle Court, Branksome Towers, Claridge Court, Margate Court and Protea Mansions — have refused to pay the rent stipulated by the agents. Instead, for the past three months, they have paid the

lower Rent Board-determined rate. This has cost Hillcrest R70 000, tenants have calculated.

Tenants said the determined rent for a two bedroomed flat was R115, they were required to pay from R420 to R470.

Tenants said the reason their plight had come into the open was because they were tired of paying exorbitant rents and had decided to stand together. Actstop has been helping the tenants organise themselves into committees in many of the buildings.

Conditions in such buildings were described by a resident, Mr Sandi Mgidlana, at a rally organised this week by Actstop and attended by 600 people.

He claimed landlords and caretakers treated tenants with contempt because they were black.

He criticised the electricity bills tenants had to pay and said some of the flats were falling apart. "The rental keeps going up, up and up, but the condition goes down, down, down."

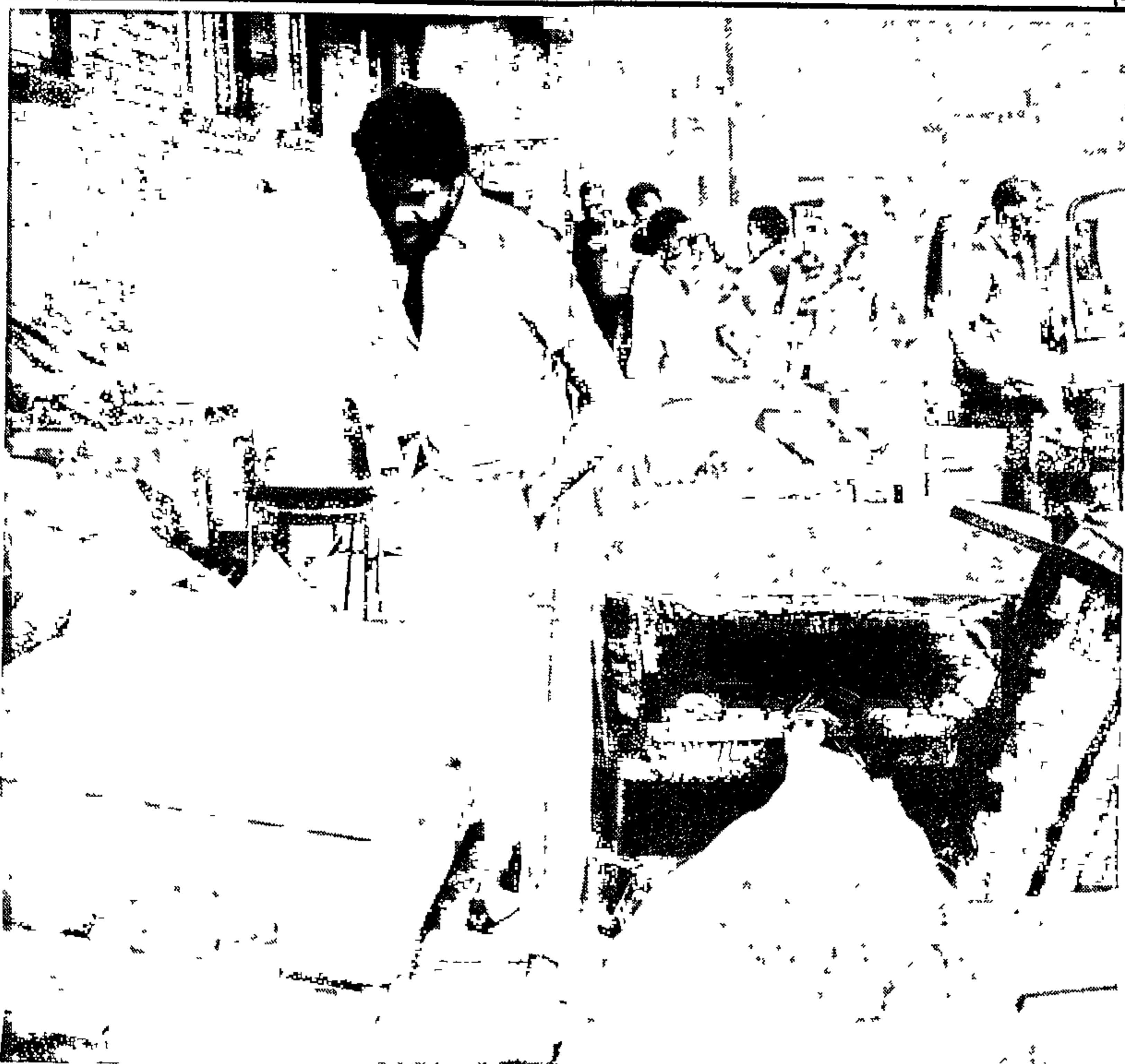
Tenants had to pay large deposits to move in, Mr Mgidlana said, "but when you leave you get all sorts of excuses for not getting your money back".

Agents employed tough bouncers, he said, to knock on doors demanding rent. This, and recent evictions, were intimidation.

Mr Cassim Saloojee, the leader of Actstop, said the motive behind the evictions was to throw out people who challenged the rentals, to make way for other victims.

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A man checks his possessions after the evictions in Joubert Park this week.

# People get new order to stay in flats

By SIMPIWE NCWANA

AT least 74 families who were evicted from a block of flats in Joubert Park on Wednesday morning, spent the night back in their homes after a Supreme Court's decision reversed the eviction order.

Justice MJ Strydom, after an urgent hearing on Wednesday, ruled that the tenants could remain in their homes.

The judge added that his decision was not a ruling that the tenants' occupation of the flats was lawful in terms of the Group Areas Act.

An Action Committee to Stop Evictions spokesman said "The decision proved a victory for the tenants and showed the organised unity of tenants to stop this form of exploitation."

The tenants were evicted at 9 30am after three court messengers served them with eviction notices.

Their furniture was piled on the pavement in Smit Street.

Residents told *City Press* they did not really know why they were evicted, because they had paid their rent.

They said they received papers in October from the Rent Control Board which stipulated the amount they were supposed to pay, and the amount was four times less than their current payments.

They then decided to pay only the Rent Board amount.

The caretaker, Karel Suba, had told them to pay amounts which ranged from R225 to R300 a month.

# Vision of a new SA

16/11/87  
THE way in which the residents of Hillbrow — both black and white — had reacted to the eviction of 76 families from their Worcester Court flat in Hillbrow last Tuesday night, showed a vision of the “new South Africa we

are working for”, UDF leader Albertina Sisulu said recently.

Mrs Sisulu was addressing a 700-strong crowd who gathered to meet at the Catholic Cathedral in Doornfontein to protest against evictions.

The meeting, organised by Actstop — an organisation fighting the Group Areas Act — followed Tuesday’s Hillbrow eviction, when 74 families had their possessions dumped on the pavement because they had paid lower, “controlled” rentals for the first time last month.

Mrs Sisulu said the granting of the interim court order late on Tuesday night, allowing the tenants to return to their flats, was a victory for the people.

Various flat tenants,

including Mr Sandile Ngidlana and the chairman of the Worcester Court Residents Committee, Mr Snowy Rasebotsa, relayed their experiences of intimidation by landlords and exorbitant rentals which, some of them had been forced to pay to landlords, or “middlemen” and agents.

Some of the tenants of

flats in the area had reported having to pay rentals of up to four or six times as much as they should have been paying.

Mr Rasebotsa also thanked the black and white residents in Hillbrow and town who rallied around and helped to put furniture and belongings back into Worcester Court after news of the court order

ARGUS 17/11/87 127

# Inflated rentals for 'illegals'

The Argus Correspondent

Dateline. Johannesburg

A militant mood is taking hold in the grey areas of Johannesburg as black residents fight against exploitative landlords taking advantage of their "illegal" position — in some cases rents have been inflated 400 percent.

Now concerned residents have united under the umbrella of the organisation Actstop and this week they claimed their first victory.

Seventy four families, most of them black, were granted interim relief against eviction from a Joubert Park block of flats

It was hailed as a victory by Actstop for the rightless residents, who had been ordered to pay rents of R355 for flats which in terms of the Rents Act should have been let at R84.

In the Rand Supreme Court

Justice J Strydom temporarily set aside the eviction order and ordered the owners of the building and its lessor to show cause on November 24 why they should not be ordered to finally restore possession to the evicted tenants

He said his order did not constitute a declaration that their occupancy of the building was lawful in terms of the Group Areas Act.

## "Illegals"

The organisation Actstop became active in the Hillbrow, Joubert Park and city centre areas after the May 6 white general election when the Conservative Party called for an end to grey areas.

According to Cas Coovadia of Actstop there is a huge racket in these areas with landlords using the Group Areas Act as an excuse to raise rentals for "illegals".

"They argue that the risk factor entitles them to cover their own backs with high rentals," he said

"Tenants feel insecure and so they sign and pay

"Actstop is active in about 30 blocks of flats and 60 percent of these are rent-controlled. All of these rent-controlled blocks charge in excess of the amounts determined by the Rents Act"

He said when tenants became aware of the correct rentals for the flats and refused to pay more they were often harassed or intimidated

The evictions at Joubert Park were a case in point, he said

The crackdown on exploitation is gaining momentum and at a meeting in Doornfontein this week more than a thousand people packed the Cathedral Hall at an Actstop meeting

# The Star



## Challenge of the housing backlog

BLACK HOUSING presents an awesome challenge with potential to spark serious conflict. But, properly handled, it is a problem that can be turned to advantage.

It has been estimated that one home will have to be built every three minutes if the housing shortage in black areas is to be overcome by the end of the century. The backlog will, according to the National Housing Trust, leap to around 4,5 million units by the year 2000. A tall order.

Because of the homelands policy and influx control laws which condemned black people to "temporary sojourner" status in urban areas, very little housing was provided for several decades. For those who escaped the influx control net, squatting was the only alternative.

Government thinking has changed. Pass laws have been scrapped and township houses are being sold at huge discounts in an effort to encourage home ownership among blacks and to fight rent boycotts. The past 10 years have also seen an increased involvement in black housing by the

private sector. Through bodies such as the Urban Foundation it has channelled vast sums into township housing. So there has been progress — not enough, but movement nevertheless.

However, as the Urban Foundation's Mr Jan Steyn points out, provision for low-income blacks has lagged far behind. The houses built so far have tended to be far beyond the reach of ordinary families.

The problem requires a joint effort between the State and the private sector. The Government should make more land available, cut down on red tape and lower the rigid housing requirements; it can be done without creating slums. The authorities will also have to show more compassion in handling illegal squatting.

Mr Steyn's suggestion for a single ministry of housing deserves serious thought. It will channel resources to areas where there is greatest need and avoid costly duplications. A well co-ordinated housing programme has more than one advantage: it will provide houses and jobs, all at once.

Argus 18/11/82

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## Security forces in Soweto rents raid

The Argus Correspondent  
JOHANNESBURG. — Security forces and municipal police entered Soweto's Orlando West area early today to support efforts by the Soweto Council to break the 17-month rent boycott.

Police confirmed today that some units and SADF elements entered the township "in support of Soweto Council".

Residents said the raids took place from about 4am.

They were told to pay at least half the amounts they owed in outstanding rents to the council if they were unable to pay the arrears in full.

A resident said: "A white official holding a list entered the house after we answered the door. He told us we owed rent and demanded that we pay arrears by Friday, or else we would be evicted at 4am on Friday."

Leading educationist Mr Tamsanqa Kambule said he was forced to open the security gates in front of his house about 4.30am after police banged on them.

"After I opened the gates, council policemen backed by the SAP and members of the SADF entered the yard. They demanded the rent money and threatened to come back," Mr Kambule said.

17645/8/11/87

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18/11/87

## Security forces help in bid to cut Soweto rent boycott

JOHANNESBURG — Security forces moved into Soweto today to back town council officials warning residents of evictions in a bid to break a protracted rent boycott, a Soweto police spokesman said

Maj N Hartwell said the evictions were being carried out in Orlando West and the defence force was there "in a protective capacity"

The rent boycott, which has cost the town council millions of rands, has been in force since the state of emergency was imposed in June, 1986

Residents said scores of police and troops began moving at dawn through the streets in Orlando West, where black nationalist leader Mrs Albertina Sisulu lives, while officials warned defaulters to pay arrears by Friday or face eviction

A police spokesman said security forces moved into the township to maintain law and order while municipal officials were carrying out their duties — Sapa

# GOODMIGHT POOLIGE

## IN SWOOD P

(27)

**SCORES of Soweto Council police backed by security forces in hippos conducted a house-to-house raid in Orlando West (Phomolong) early yesterday morning in an attempt to get residents to pay rent arrears.**

A police spokesman said security forces moved into the township to maintain law and order while municipal officials were carrying out their duties.

One resident, Miss Dorothy Xorile, said her family was woken by the municipal police at 2.45am.

She said that a white council official told her that her family owed R1588 and that they were given until Friday to pay up or to leave the arrears.

She said the council official took out a receipt book and asked her to

**Residents raided for rent arrears**

**BY NAT DISEKO**

pay on the spot

Another resident, Mr Arthur Maghubela, said his family was told they owed R1800 for rent and electricity and had until Friday to meet the arrears or face eviction.

Mr Paul Matsunyane, also of Orlando West, said he was told he owed R1700 and was threaten-

ed with eviction if he did not pay up by Friday.

He said the municipal police said they would be raiding the area again on Friday morning.

Political leader, Mrs Albertina Sisulu, also a resident of Orlando West, yesterday said her house was not in the block that was raided.

She said she went rounds in the area and spoke to many residents who said they had been threatened.

Mrs Sisulu said the council police produced documents which were improper during the raids. She said a resident could be evicted only by a court order.

She said legal action

would be taken to stop the council from carrying out its threat to evict residents.

The last big attempt in August last year to crash the rent boycott in Soweto ended with 21 people dead when residents took to the streets to fight security forces.

The Ministers United for Christian Co-Responsibility, (Mucor) will hold a service at the Regina Mundi Catholic Church on Sunday to pray for a solution to the rents crisis.

Among the guest speakers will be Rev Frank Chikane of the SACC, Dr Beyers Naude and Fr Emule Blazer of the Catholic Church.

**MRS ALBERTINA Sisulu . . . legal action to be taken.**



taken.

### Dogs allergic to men

**STOCKHOLM** — Dogs may be man's best friend, but for some hounds the company of humans causes rashes, itching and other allergic problems, a Swedish study has shown.

The veterinary hospi-

tal in the southern town of Malmo said a survey of 99 dogs suffering from skin problems showed that 70 percent were allergic to skin samples from humans — Sapa-Reuter

## NO



*CAPE TOWN 19/10/87*  
**Soweto**  
**rent raid** *127*

**JOHANNESBURG.** — Scores of Soweto municipal staff — backed by heavily armed Defence Force members and police — yesterday warned Orlando West residents to pay their rent or face eviction.

Residents said police and soldiers moved about 4am into the sprawling township housing some two million people.

One resident said a white official "told us we owed rent and demanded we pay arrears by Friday or be evicted at 4am Friday".

At least 1 750 families have been holding back rent payments to the Soweto Town Council and some 40 families have been evicted from their homes in recent months. — Sapa

127 b/day 19/11/87

# Soldiers and police in Soweto evictions

SCORES of Soweto municipal staff — backed by heavily armed SA Defence Force members and SA Police — yesterday warned Orlando West residents to pay their rent within seven days or face eviction.

Some residents said municipal police had given them until Friday to pay their rent arrears or be evicted.

Yesterday's move by the Soweto municipal police and housing division staff was a continuation of the new method the council calls "deacon action".

The three-month-old strategy involves police going from house to

SOPHIE TEMA

house three times a week warning residents to pay their rent arrears or face being evicted by the messenger of the court

Soweto housing director Estelle Bester said yesterday the army and SAP presence during the operation

was requested because municipal staff needed protection

Spokesmen for the SAP and SADF said their men accompanied the council's eviction squads only if requested to do so and could not say how many of their members were involved

## Botha asked for R200m in flood relief

19/11/87

Own Correspondent

LEADERS of six churches yesterday (WED) called on President PW Botha to provide R200m for the redevelopment of areas devastated by the Natal floods in which people have no access to insurance and other sources of funds.

The leaders of the Methodist, United Congregational, Evangelical Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Anglican Churches and the Durban and District Council of Churches — including Durban's Catholic Archbishop Denis Hurley and Natal's Anglican Bishop Michael Nuttall — made the call in a joint telex message to the President

They called on Botha to face the challenges of alleviating the plight of the tens of thousands of people who had lost their homes and the hundreds of thousands who were living in dire poverty.

They quoted figures which said more than 400 000 people had been severely affected by the floods

WITS university students residence fees could go up by as much as 22% — possibly the biggest of all SA university fee increases this year — a university source says.

Negotiations between the university administration, staff and students on the size of the residence fee increase have dragged on for months and have still to be resolved. Another meeting yesterday ended without agreement being reached

The residence fees are now R3 200, but could jump to about R3 900.

Wits earlier announced tuition fee increases of on average 15%.

High fee increases have also been reported at the University of

## Wits residence fees may up 22%

14/11/87

ROGER SMITH

Port Elizabeth, where residence and tuition fees are to go up by 20%

Rand Afrikaans University announced a tuition fee increase of 20%, but the residence fee increase was among the lowest, at 10%

Other university fee increases announced so far include Rhodes (tuition and residence fees up by about 15%), Natal (tuition fees up by 20%), Unisa (tuition fees up by 15%) and Pretoria (tuition fees up by about 17% and residence fees by between 11% and 15%)

## Govt mum on Group Areas

A SPOKESMAN for the deputy minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Piet Badenhorst, yesterday refused to say what steps would be taken to tighten up the Group Areas Act

At the Transvaal NP congress he said the committee looking at the President's Council report on the Act would investigate ways of closing loopholes and making the Act more effective

ROGER SMITH

He referred to possible circumvention of the Govender judgment, in terms of which people may not be evicted unless there is alternative accommodation

Yesterday, however, a spokesman said Badenhorst would not comment further until the committee made its recommendations

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# Troops, police in rent action

Daily Dispatch  
Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Scores of Soweto municipal staff — backed by armed SADF members and policemen — yesterday warned Orlando West residents to pay their rent within seven days — or face eviction.

Some residents said municipal police had given them until tomorrow to pay their rent arrears or be evicted.

Yesterday's move by the Soweto municipal police and housing division staff was a continuation of the new method the council calls "deacon action".

The three-month-old strategy involves police going from house to house three times a week warning residents to pay their rent arrears or face eviction by the messenger of the court.

The director of Soweto housing, Mrs Estelle Bester, troops and police were used because municipal staff were involved in a "risky business".

"But the army and police do not involve themselves in the action. They stand by for the protection of the council police and staff."

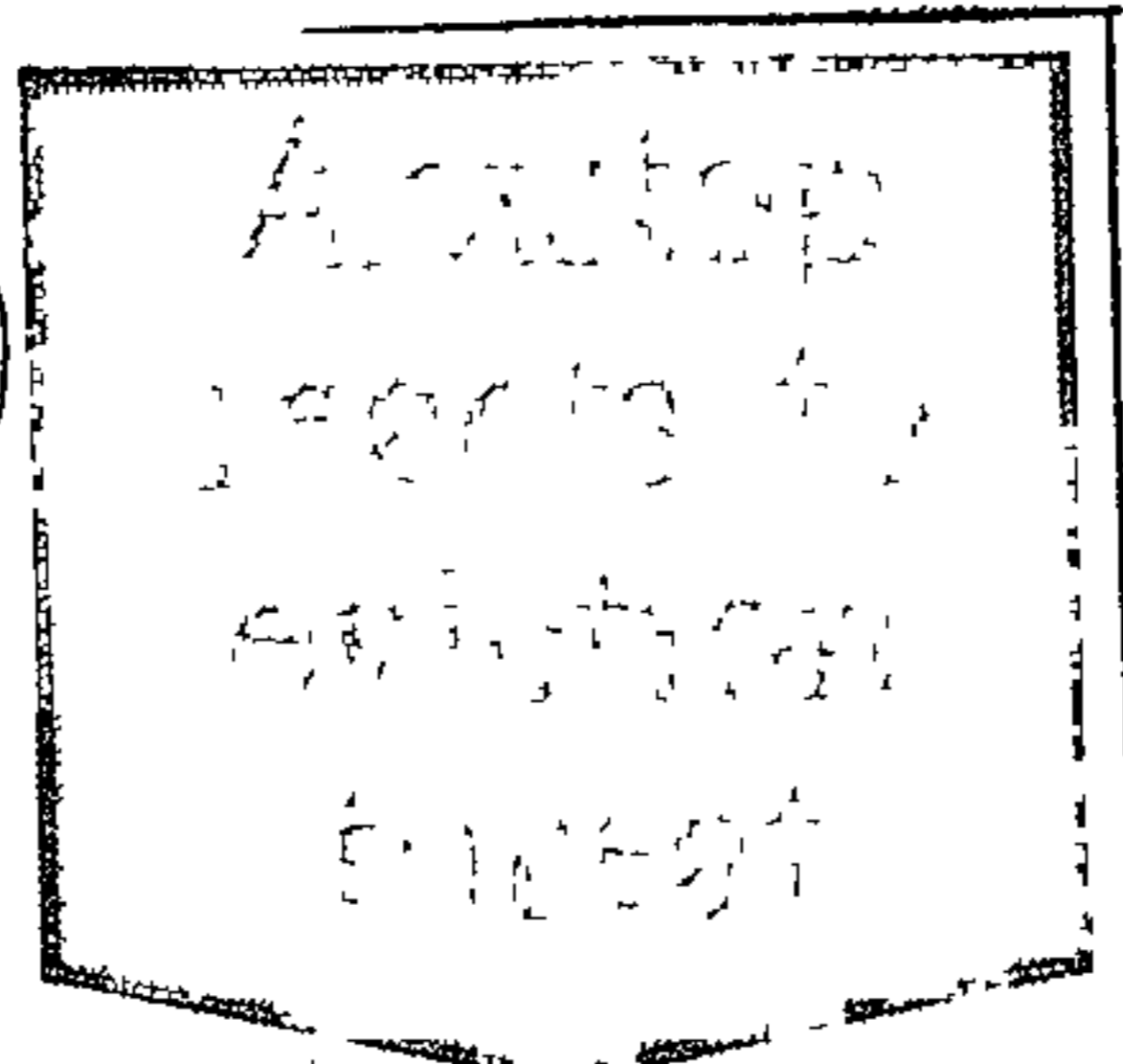
Police and SADF spokesmen said their men accompanied the council's eviction squads only if the council requested their presence.

Mrs Bester said the last evictions took place in Moroka last month when 24 families were evicted.

She said 248 Soweto families had already been evicted for non-payment of rent.

Most of these families had subsequently paid their arrears and moved back into their houses.

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copy of ... 7/8/11/78

**ROGER SMITH**

**BLACK** residents of the Johannesburg suburb of Mayfair could be expected to defend themselves if they were attacked, Cassim Saloojee, a spokesman for Actstop, a group opposed to the Group Areas Act, said yesterday.

He was responding to the threat voiced by Blanke Bevrydingsbeweging (White Liberation Movement) leader Professor Johan Schabort at a BBB rally on Wednesday night that BBB members would evict "illegal" residents of the "white" suburb if government did not enforce the Act by January 31.

Saloojee said he hoped the authorities would deal appropriately with people who took the law into their own hands.

He said the situation could be defused if government repealed the Act, as this would remove the uncertainty which allowed racist groups to exploit the situation.

Schabort himself said at the rally that government should enforce the Act or repeal it, so that people would know where government stood.

"It's still obvious Schabort wants the Act — he mistakenly believes government is committed to repealing it," said Saloojee.

Saloojee said Actstop was launching a campaign to fight for the desegregation of recreational facilities in Mayfair, as all residents had a right to them.

20/11/87 Soweto

# Residents want troops out

SOWETO residents yesterday called for the withdrawal of troops in the township.

Their call follows a house to house raid in Orlando West and at Emdeni conducted by more than 2000 members of the South African Police and Defence Force, on Wednesday night.

Ten people are reported to have been arrested during the operation.

Police said the operation in Emdeni was a "crime prevention action."

The Orlando West operation, involving soldiers and municipal police, was apparently a bid to break the rent boycott in the area.

Veteran civic leader and former Soweto councillor, Mr George "Asinamali" Xorile, said: "The raids are bad. The troops have no right to raid the townships and wake people up in the middle of the night."

"People do not have money to pay high rents. Instead of troops raiding the township, councillors should be trying other means of resolving the problem in the township, said Mr Xorile, who stays

in Orlando West.

Mr Robert Mngadi, also from Orlando West said his house was also raided. He said he was questioned on the rent boycott in the area and why he was not paying his rent.

"They warned me to pay my rent arrears," he said.

Meanwhile, political and human rights organisations have also condemned the raids.

The Transvaal branch of the Black Sash said in a statement that the raids were not necessary

"Do we really need a conscripted army for such purposes?" the organisation asked.

The Five Freedoms Forum said it was disgraceful to "misuse" the army to conduct such raids.

The United Democratic Front also condemned the raids.

## Teachers' cheques

THE 94 Vosloorus primary school teachers whose October cheques went missing en route to their schools, may be paid today.

Mr J H Booysen, the Department of Education and Training Highveld regional director, said yesterday that replacement cheques had been collected from his office by officials from the Boksburg circuit. He said they were due to be hand-delivered to the respective schools

yesterday.

However, a spokesman from the circuit office said they had been unable to deliver the cheques to teachers yesterday. He gave an assurance that the cheque would be handed to their owners today.

Mr Booysen also said so far they had been unable to trace the missing cheques, but they informed their bank to stop payment of such cheques.

~~27~~ Sowetan 20/11/87

# Meeting on rent crisis

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MINISTERS of religion in Soweto, members of the Ministers United for Christian Responsibility, are to hold a prayer service for a solution to the rents crisis at Regina Mundi on Sunday.

By NAT DISEKO

Mucor has called for an end to evictions, the destruction of shacks and "for an answer to the grievances of our people".

ed of evicting poor people, in threatening pensioners and intimidating people.

The main purpose of the meeting, Mucor said, was to show its concern to all the victims of evictions and detentions.

On Wednesday morning, council police accompanied by troops carried out an early morning raid in Orlando West and threatened residents owing rent that they would be evicted today.

The statement said: "The kind of attention we are looking for is negotiations with the people."

Guest speakers at the meeting will be Rev Frank Chikane, secretary-general of the South African Council of Churches, Dr Beyers Naude, former general secretary of the SACC and Father Emil Blazer, episcopal vicar for Justice and Peace division of the Catholic Church.

## Distress

In a statement, Mucor said the rents crisis needed urgent attention but not the kind of attention which consist-

"Mucor sees with distress that every day the authorities show more determination to use force than dialogue. We condemn this practice."

The meeting will start at 2pm.



# Rentals war warnings after Soweto swoops

By MONO BADELA 187

IN the wake of security force swoops this week in Orlando West and Emdeni, Soweto community leaders yesterday predicted a new rent war.

"The authorities are asking for another confrontation," said an angry Albertina Sisulu, co-president of the United Democratic Front. "People died in White City Jabavu last year over the issue of rent. It now seems they are looking for just that again."

She described the raids as "intimidatory" and "an act of provocation". Township police backed by security forces moved into Orlando West in an apparent bid to break a crippling 17-month-old rent boycott.

South African policemen and municipal police swooped on Soweto's toughest township, Emdeni, on Wednesday night in what police said was a "crime prevention" operation.

Police spokesman Brigadier H Meyer told Sapa the Emdeni operation was carried out by about 1 500 personnel.

Sisulu said white homes would never be raided in such "so-called crime prevention" operations. "Why raid Soweto?" she said. "Why not white suburbs and Hillbrow?"

Methodist Church minister, the Reverend Tom Mbabane, agreed: "We

have many white areas where the crime rate is quite high but we have not heard of such kinds of invasions of homes in those areas."

On the rent issue, Sisulu warned any illegal evictions of residents would be challenged in court.

She quoted officials of the local rent office in Orlando West saying they were not aware of instructions for people to pay rents. "Taking money from residents like that is tantamount to theft," she said.

Southern Transvaal UDF chairman Samson Ndou said the "invasion of Soweto" would not intimidate residents into paying rent, nor would they be "intimidated into accepting government created structures".

Ndou said it would be necessary for all progressive forces to hold a meeting in future to discuss the matter "or sooner or later our townships will be turned into another Angola".

The Black Sash Transvaal Branch said: "Now our troops are in Orlando West to help break the rent boycott and in Emdeni on a 'crime prevention exercise'. Do we need a conscripted army for such purposes?"

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23/11/87  
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# Mine to spend R5m on housing

JOHANNESBURG  
About five million rands is being spent on the purchase of houses in Barberton for subsequent sale to staff of the new Barbrook gold mine, which is being established near the town

This was revealed by Mr Hugh Stoyell, the managing director of Barbrook, a joint venture between Rand mines and Anglo American Corporation

He said in a statement that Barbrook has secured 35 houses in the historic lowveld town at an average price of R80 000 and offers are in for a further 17 units "In all, we plan to buy 72 houses to accommodate some Barbrook staff"

Mr Stoyell said many of Barbrook's employees would live in the nearby Kangwane town of Matsulu, where they are being encouraging them to own their own homes

Work on the establishment of the new mine is already well under way and commissioning is expected in the third quarter of 1989 The statement said full production would be reached in 1990

The new mine will have a labour force of over 1 000 — Sapa

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# Zola blast was mine, say police

Crime Reporter

Police say a Soviet-made limpet mine caused the explosion which extensively damaged the Zola municipal offices in Soweto at the weekend, only days after council officials backed by security forces swooped on the township to break the rent boycott.

A Pretoria spokesman said no arrests had yet been made in connection with the 11.15 am blast on Saturday.

Police detonated a second limpet mine at about 12.50 after it was found at the scene.

The first explosion followed an incident in which a hand grenade was flung at a Soweto home, also on Saturday. Police said damage was minimal and no injuries were reported.

The limpet mine explosion shattered windows and damaged walls of the municipal offices.

Two municipal police officers were guarding the building when the mine exploded. It was apparently planted inside the building

The 17-month-old boycott has already cost the council millions of rands.



12/24/87

# Warning of 'grey areas' time-bomb

## Act is potential source of political conflict, says study

Any attempt to evict blacks living in Johannesburg's so-called "grey areas" is now likely to be met with strong resistance which could result in conflict, says a recent study by the South African Institute of Race Relations.

The study, published by Mr Mossa Ebrahim, a research assistant at the institute, examines black opinion and the Group Areas Act.

Its release comes shortly after blacks living illegally in a Hillbrow block of flats and in a block in Joubert Park were evicted by landlords.

These evictions have apparently not taken place in terms of the Group Areas Act, but in terms of court orders.

In recent years, thousands of blacks, Indians and coloured people have moved into certain "white" areas of Johannesburg in defiance of the law. Few have been prosecuted.

Last week, a group called the White Liberation Movement said blacks were moving into white neighbourhoods "at their own risk" and threatened to take action of its own unless the Government moved to evict Group Areas Act violators by the end of January.

The Government plans to introduce legislation next year to give communities the option of becoming multiracial if residents approve. But President Botha has stressed that the Act will be enforced.

The institute's study is based on a series of interviews with black political, business and pressure groups. It confirmed that black organisations unanimously demanded the repeal of

the Act. They also rejected partial changes such as the local option formula recommended by the President's Council in September this year.

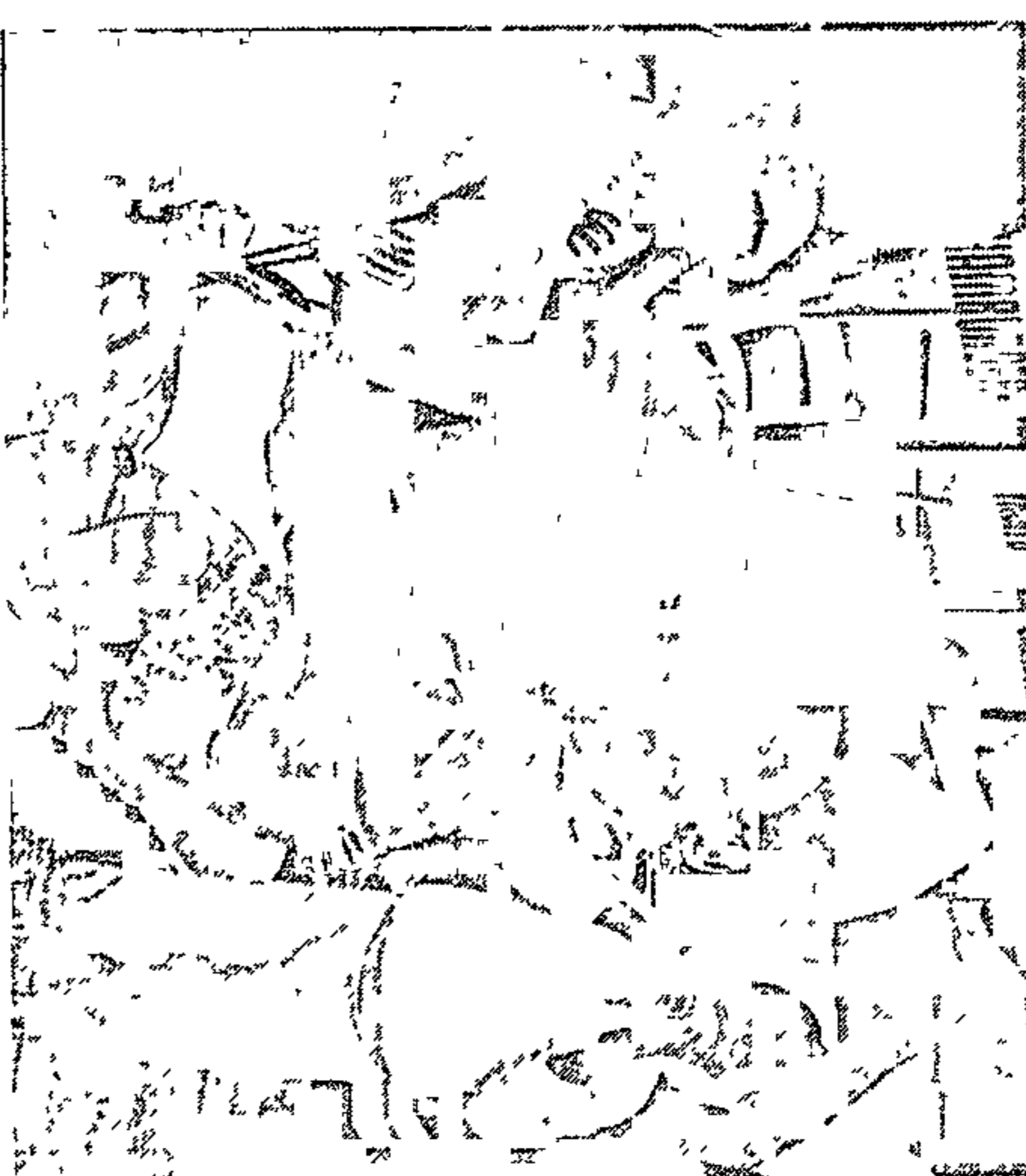
According to the briefing, black groups also insist that the Act's repeal would not be a major reform. Some of those interviewed argued that repeal of the Act, if not accompanied by wider changes, might disadvantage blacks.

A senior official of the predominantly black South African Council of Churches argued that repeal would allow whites, with enormous capital at their disposal, to buy up black-owned land — an argument which is also advanced by some government officials who defend the Act, according to the SAIRR.

"A senior UDF activist suggested that repeal would create new social problems. It would, he said, imply a change in Government strategy in which market forces rather than the law would inhibit black access to land.

"The land which would become available if the Act were scrapped would be bought by entrepreneurs for investment, resulting in a higher price than would normally be the case. This would cause increasing social problems." He added that the market would not be able to meet the housing needs of wage-earners and pensioners.

The study noted that a more general view was that the repeal of the Act would be "quite insignificant when measured



On the street . . . a family evicted from a Joubert Park flat camps on the pavement

against a pressing need to redistribute land to black people."

It would also have little impact while race classification remained and segregated education remained.

"Even if workers could afford to buy into white areas, they would not be able to afford to send their children to distant township schools. Repeal would thus at least have to be accompanied by total integration of education," the study says.

The Natal Indian Congress also emphasised the land issue

The 1913 Black Land Act was another key issue but even repeal of both the Group Areas Act and the Land Act would have to be accompanied by a centrally controlled redistribution of land to redress racial inequalities, the NIC indicated.

The institute also mentioned another point which was raised by other groups — the fear that only a few black people would be able to afford to move into white areas.

It points out that Inkatha which, unlike its rivals, has wel-

comed specific reforms as a sign of movement away from apartheid, takes a similar position on the Group Areas Act. It argues that repeal could have a "snowball" effect which could lead to the eventual abolition of apartheid.

But it also had reservations about focusing resources on winning repeal. It argued that repeal of the Population Registration Act was of greater importance than the abolition of residential segregation and should be the catalyst for this.

"This does not mean that blacks accept segregation but simply that people, whoever they are, are more likely to support campaigns which advance their material interests than those which ask them to sacrifice them."

The study concludes that, in view of the standpoint by major black organisations that the repeal of the Act would not be seen as a major advance in the dismantling of apartheid, it would be misleading to suggest that repeal would contribute directly to relaxing the political climate.

For white decision-makers, the consequences of not repealing the Act may well be increased conflict and growing pressure on business in particular.

"Indirectly, at least, the Act remains a potential source of political conflict and its repeal may well be essential if tensions are to be reduced," the institute says.

24/11/87 (127) Sonnet

# BBB THREAT CONDEMNED

THE Action Committee to Stop Evictions has reacted strongly to recent statements and comments by the Blanke Bevrydingsheid Bewiging and some Nationalist Party MPs on the Group Areas Act and the future of so-called illegal tenants in Johannesburg.

A spokesperson for Actstop said the organisation wanted to emphasise that it is the

**By NKOPANE  
MAKOBANE**

only one in Johannesburg that can legitimately speak for the 50000 black tenants in the city

"The other parties commenting on the issue of tenants have absolutely no mandate from the actual people concerned," the Actstop

representative said.

The spokesperson said Actstop condemns the comments by some NP MPs about coloured people breeding children like leeches on a fence and about faeces found in a Berea flat

"These disparaging and insulting remarks breed racial friction. We warn the Government to take serious note of such utterings

"Black people have a proud and rich cultural history which is manifested in their lives today. Actstop has not come across any squalor caused by black tenants in the city. The squalor is caused by landlords who allow their buildings to degenerate because of the contempt for their tenants, who happen to be black."

The organisation also singled out Mr Sam Bloomberg, Nat MR for Bezuiderhout Valley. It condemned his comments that mixed areas breed crime and that a referendum must be held among legal tenants, property owners and ratepayers in the Hillbrow, Joubert Park and central Johannesburg areas.

## Law

On the BBB, Actstop said this group has blatantly given an ultimatum to the Government to implement the Group Areas Act, failing which the BBB will take the law into its own hands.

"We cannot conceive of a more blatant threat to public safety. Yet the Government is deafening by its silence in the face of such an inciting threat. When blacks express legitimate protest, the Government clamps down with all its draconian might.

"We again demand the total scrapping of the Act. That is the only solution to the problems in the area and no amount of rhetoric can solve the problem", the spokesperson said.

**Staff Reporters**  
Township police continued to evict shack dwellers in the East Rand township of Tokoza yesterday while the SAP used emergency regulations to order a reporter from The Star to leave the area.  
When The Star arrived on the scene early yesterday, a shack on the fringe of the township was being

# Tokoza police press ahead with evictions

torn down and the material loaded onto a truck. Men in bright blue overalls with bullet belts strung across their chests were assisting in the operation.  
East Rand police spokesman Colonel Des-

mond Keyter last night denied police were involved in the evictions. He said the SAP were present only in a supporting role.  
According to sources in the township, about 10 families have been evicted

The acting town clerk of Tokoza, Mr A H Combrink, said council policy was to demolish new shacks erected without permission. He claimed he was not aware of notices issued on Friday giving certain squatters four days to demolish their shacks. The notices, on town council letterhead, are signed by Warrant Officer G M Mello.

Raid staged as 'arrears reach R400m'

# Local bodies pushed to end rent boycott

127  
B/day  
25/11/87

GOVERNMENT has put pressure on black local authorities to break the back of the countrywide rent boycott, with arrears now said to exceed R400m.

This pressure caused the Soweto Town Council to organise a raid last week in which municipal officials were backed by heavily-armed police and troops, reliable government sources said yesterday.

But provincial government authorities and the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning have officially denied any "direct" involvement in the planning of the raid.

The Soweto council was entirely responsible, stressed an official.

However, there is no doubt the local authority was coerced into taking action. And its claimed partial successes in making some tenants pay rents might encourage further demonstrations of force.

There are indications similar raids are being contemplated by other local authorities, where rent-defaulters have been particularly stubborn — as in the Cape

CHRIS CAIRNCROSS

The authorities appear to have taken the view that the lengthy rent boycott can no longer be tolerated or afforded and armed raids are needed to reinforce warnings to defaulters to pay up or face eviction.

The calm in the townships, economic pickup and improvement in the labour market have also encouraged the view that a show of force will not cause a new wave of unrest.

Meanwhile, efforts are continuing to encourage employees to voluntarily approach their employers to act as rent collection agents on behalf of local authorities.

This approach, resisted by the private sector and organised labour, is embodied in the Promotion of Local Government Affairs Amendment Bill, tabled during the last parliamentary session.

It aroused much controversy when announced.

The Bill has been languishing with the Parliamentary Standing Committee. It appears destined to remain there for some time to come.

## Two ANC suspects killed in shoot-out

PRETORIA — Police shot dead two suspected ANC terrorists and a suspected collaborator in Umlazi, near Durban, on Monday night, Police Commissioner General H G de Witt said yesterday.

Acting on information, police raided a house in Umlazi just before midnight on Monday. In an ensuing shoot-out, two policeman were slightly injured. Police found the bodies of three blacks and a number of weapons, including AKM rifles — Sapa.

# 'No rent hike anger'

(27)  
Lame  
29/1/87

LEKOA community councillors were labelled "impimpi" and described as being dishonest at a public meeting to discuss the R5,90 rent increase in Sebokeng, Vereeniging, in 1984, a witness told the Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday.

Mr Fame Mgudlwa, a defence witness, said councillors were also described as untrustworthy. He said the meeting at Small Farms on August 26, 1984, resolved to boycott businesses owned by councillors until they rescinded their decision to increase rent.

## Denial

He denied that residents at the meeting were angry and that councillors were threatened.

Mr Mgudlwa is giving evidence in the trial of 19 men who include senior officials of the UDF, Azapo, Azanyu and the Vaal Civic Association who have pleaded not guilty before Mr Justice van Dijkhorst, who is sitting with an assessor, to charges of murder, subversion, treason and terrorism.

AREA C: Estcourt.

AREA B: Parys.

AREA A: East London.

Superseding w.d. no: 298



Long and costly dispute takes a new turn

# Jo'burg illegals to talk to building owners

(127) STAC 26/4/87

Talks could be held soon between representatives of black people living illegally in Johannesburg's flatlands who are engaged in a costly rents protest and the owners of the buildings.

The rent protest has now lasted three months. Tenants estimate this has cost the agents involved, Hillcrest Property Management, an estimated R70 000.

The protest involves almost all of the 225 flats in Argyle Court, Branksome Towers, Claridge Court, Margate Court and Protea Mansions.

Tenants have refused to pay the rent stipulated by Hillcrest for the flats. Instead, for the past three months have paid the lower Rent Board amount.

Hillcrest informed tenants of Argyle Court at the end of October that they had to be out the flats by the end of January next year.

Now the tenants, who have formed themselves into committees with the help of the anti-Group Areas Act organisation Actstop, plan to set up a meeting with Gorfil Bros Investments, who own the companies that own the five buildings

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By Martin Challenor

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A tenants' representative said on Tuesday "The owners must now bear some responsibility for what is happening in the flats. We are going to put our complaints to the owners themselves."

And Mr David Gorfil said "You do not lose anything by talking to a man. You get closer." Mr Gorfil pointed out though that as yet the tenants had not approached them.

The notice to vacate Argyle Court came days after black fa-

milies were evicted from Ansol Court, Hillbrow, and then from Worcester Court, Joubert Park. There were different landlords and agents involved in the two evictions, although Hillcrest did administer Ansol Court.

The Rent Board has granted the increases in the rents of Protea Mansions and Margate Court that Hillcrest asked for. The tenants' representative said they would appeal against the increases and had consulted attorneys.

# Tenants-row illegals face eviction

BY MARLENE BURGER

A FLAT-LETTING agency is poised to evict hundreds of 'illegal' tenants who refuse to pay almost twice as much for their flats as the amount laid down by the Rent Board.

At the average rentals charged on five blocks in Johannesburg's Hillbrow and Joubert Park, Hillcrest Property Management CC stands to receive R76 529,92 each month.

The average amount it is legally entitled to receive is R40 555,39.

This week, Hillcrest directed Mr David Malan filed an application with the Witwatersrand Supreme Court for a rule nisi which would allow him to put the black and coloured occupants of 180 flats out on the street.

At the same time, the owners of the buildings have ceded all their rights and interests to Hillcrest, including the right to evict the present tenants.

Residents of Argyle Court in Smit Street, Hillbrow, have already been told to vacate the premises by the end of January.

This block was controlled on October 2, but until that date tenants in the 72 bachelor and one-bedroomed flats were paying R330 a month for a flat the Rent Board determined should cost R86 and between R420 and R470 for a flat which carried a controlled rental of R115.

Last month, Hillcrest was involved in the eviction of more than 40 families from Ansol Court in Kotze Street, which is owned by Anne van der Merwe Investments CC.

The four blocks which now face the same fate are owned by Mr Solly Gorfil and his son David, who have offices in the Carlton Centre.

The company register lists only Mr Solly Gorfil as a director of the companies which own the blocks.

However, on the documents filed with the Supreme Court on Wednesday, Mr David Gorfil's name appears as a director.

Hillcrest Property Management, situated in Randburg, holds the "head" leases on all the residential units in the blocks.

The blocks named in the Hillcrest application are:

- Protea Mansions in Wanderers Street, owned by Protea Mansions (Pty) Ltd
- Branksome Towers, corner of Wanderers and Bok Streets, owned by Mana (Pty) Ltd
- Claridge Court, corner King George and Leyds Streets, owned by Budget Buildings (Pty) Ltd
- Margate Court, corner Kaptein and Banket Streets, owned by Sidburn Investments (Pty) Ltd

Approached for comment this week, Mr Solly Gorfil said "I don't really know much about it. You must talk to my son David."

## Ignored

Despite repeated attempts to speak to Mr David Gorfil, who was in East London, the Sunday Times was unable to reach him. Several requests for him to return calls were ignored.

Mr David Malan, managing director of Hillcrest, said he had "inherited" the rentals charged.

"We took over the letting of these flats in August. The previous lessor was Group C Investments, which was placed under provisional liquidation on October 8."

Mr Malan denied tenants were being charged rentals far in excess of those laid down by the Rent Board.

"Tenants have been paying the amounts laid down last year, and in the case of Argyle Court, they've been paying the rental approved in 1980," he claimed.

However, the Sunday Times has in its possession a copy of a letter sent to the Rent Control Board in Braamfontein requesting details of the rentals determined for flats in Margate Court, Claridge Court and Branksome Towers.

The amounts given by the Rent Board on September 1,

## Agency asking double the laid down charge for rent

differ by as much as R128,27 for a one-bedroomed flat in Claridge Court.

According to Mr Malan, the approved rental on such a unit is R233,81. According to the Rent-Board, the figure is R104,54.

At Branksome Towers, Mr Malan claims he is entitled to R113,71 for a bachelor flat. The Rent Board figure is R88,32.

Mr Malan explained the discrepancy by saying the Rent Board had recently approved annual applications for increases at all four blocks — but tenants have receipts issued as far back as August showing they were paying Hillcrest R269 for a one-bedroomed flat at Claridge Court and R230 for a bachelor flat at Branksome Towers.

"We have acted at all times on instructions from tenants' committees in these blocks. It is a downright lie to say Actstop has threatened tenants with eviction if they pay their rental direct."

"We have better things to do with our time than act as collection agents for Hillcrest."

"The only reason we have agreed to pay the rentals, through our attorneys, is because Hillcrest has refused to accept the lower Rent Board amounts from the tenants themselves," he said.

Mr Coovadia said Actstop had been instructed by the tenants' committees to defend Mr Malan's action and had "little doubt" they would be successful once the facts

## Unfounded

Actstop spokesman Mr Cas Coovadia said Mr Malan's allegations were "completely unfounded."

"We have acted at all times on instructions from tenants' committees in these blocks. It is a downright lie to say Actstop has threatened tenants with eviction if they pay their rental direct."

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## Threatened

All the blocks in question are six or seven storeys high. No leases are signed when the flats are let but, said Mr Malan, "tenants are told what their rental will be."

In his Supreme Court application, Mr Malan says he has been "unable to obtain any details relating to any leases that the previous lessor (Group C Investments) may have concluded as sub-

tenants' committees in these blocks. It is a downright lie to say Actstop has threatened tenants with eviction if they pay their rental direct."

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## Sofasonke meets on rents

(127)

THE on-going rent boycott in Soweto will once again come into focus when the Diepkloof branch of the Sofasonke Party holds a residents' meeting at an open space near the Diepkloof Hall on Sunday.

The meeting, called by chairman of the branch, Mr Samuel "Congo" Mchotsi, has been given the go-ahead by the Chief Magistrate of Johannesburg

Mr Mchotsi said the meeting was of utmost importance as residents would try to find solutions to end the boycott

He said there was confusion in the town-ship as there were people who were paying rent while others were boycotting

The meeting starts at 9am and residents have been asked to bring their own chairs

*Sowetan*  
*2/12/87*

# The billion rand boycott

*The rent crisis has flared once more, following a wave of evictions, late-night raids and the cutting off of electricity. The reason, it appears, is a fear that the cost of the boycott has now spiralled right out of control.*

**MONO BADELA reports**

WITHIN the next three months, the township rent boycott will have cost the South African government an estimated R1-billion.

Faced with that possibility, the state appears to have renewed efforts to break the boycott. In Soweto in recent weeks, the government has:

- evicted tenants;

- cut off electricity supplies to parts of the township, with almost all of Orlando West without electric power. Among the homes affected are those of activist Winnie Mandela and Albertina Sisulu, co-president of the United Democratic Front,

- woken residents in the middle of the night to demand they report to various municipal offices — or, in some cases, to issue eviction notices.

Last week municipal police, or "greenflies", accompanied by soldiers, raided residents of Orlando West and Pimville in the early hours of the morning to present eviction notices.

New Soweto housing director Estelle Bester has justified the presence of troops and police when council officials delivered eviction notices last week.

"We are using our council housing officials but, of course, they need protection

"The community promises to come forward to pay. But the moment evictions stopped three months ago, there was a dramatic drop in payments. The council only evicts people on the orders of the court," she claimed.

One resident, Dorothy Xorle, said her family was woken by municipal police and a white council official at 2.45 am. She said the official told her that her family owed R1 688 and had until Friday to pay or to vacate the dwelling.

Xorle said the council official took out a receipt book and asked her to pay on the spot.

Another resident, Arthur Maqhubela, said his family was told they owed R1 800 for rent and electricity and had until Friday to meet the arrears or face eviction.

Rent represents less than half the arrears. About 60 percent of the total represents electricity, water and other service charges.

Soweto Council treasurer, James Veldsman, announced at the weekend the rent boycott has left the municipality bankrupt. Soweto was now in the red to the tune of R122-million, he said. Rent arrears alone amounted to R25-million.

"Soweto has no more resources," he said. "We are completely in the red. The city council now has to rely on bridging finance from the govern-



**Frank Chikane**

ment to keep going."

At a day of prayer at the weekend, Frank Chikane, general secretary of the SA Council of Churches, told worshippers that "There is no way the government can resolve the problem by resorting to brute force."

Chikane told the 1 000-strong audience at the service, called by Ministers United for Christian Responsibility, that people have repeatedly explained why they won't pay rent, and what the state must do to end the boycott.

If the government refused to give redress to the grievances of the people and release detained community leaders, there was no way the problem could be resolved, he said.

"There is only one way open to the government. It should abandon apartheid, release leaders from prison, unban the people's organisations, and let all South Africans, black and white, work together on a new constitution for the establishment of a non-racial, democratic and unitary South Africa.

"The question," he said, "is not



**Angeline Makhunga and her children were locked out of their house in the clampdown on rent defaulters.**

why we refuse to pay rent, but why the government refuses to listen to our reasons."

In a message from the Soweto Civic Association read during the two-and-a-half-hour service, grievances listed included the harassment of Soweto residents by SADF forces, the detention of civic leaders, youths and residents by the security police, high rents, poor services and alleged corruption of councillors.

Earlier this year, Chris Heunis, minister of constitutional affairs, revealed in parliament the boycott had resulted in a loss of nearly R300-million to state coffers.

Witwatersrand University academic Mark Swilling puts the amount far higher. The boycott of rent and ser-

vice fees, he estimated, has cost the authorities closer to R720-million — and if it continues for another three months, the loss could reach R1-billion.

He has calculated that participating in the 18-month-old boycott in Soweto and 54 other black townships are at least four million people, or 650 000 households.

Swilling said some months ago the Soweto Civic Association called on the authorities to negotiate with community leaders to find a peaceful solution to the rent crisis.

"Last week's SADF invasion of Orlando West and Pimville once again shows that this government is totally uninterested in peaceful and negotiated solutions."

Swilling said it was unlikely recent moves to evict rent boycotters would succeed, because "rent boycotts are currently taking place in well organised communities that have made it clear the boycott has been called to express deeply-felt political grievances. The authorities are making a big mistake if they think they can intimidate these communities into paying rent."

When the campaign was launched last year, the UDF said the "parasitical black local authorities have introduced rent increases which residents are unable to afford.

"Residents have also been confronted with a range of other increases in levies, charges and tariffs — many to pay for the functioning of the town councils."

Economic factors are certainly involved in the rent boycott. About four million blacks in South Africa are unemployed, those who have jobs are experiencing a decline in real wages, with an inflation rate running at around 20 percent, while with a shortage of jobs, the number of dependants each employed person must support increases continually.

But according to Swilling the rent boycott is more than simply a result of economic necessity. "It is also intended to strike a blow against the entire system of apartheid and the black puppet bodies designed to prop it up."

Said Chikane: "The rents are used to pay for the exorbitant salaries of the corrupt and unpopular town councillors."

In September the Soweto Council announced its "big sale" of houses promising prices reduced to a bare minimum. Tenants in more than 50 houses intended for sale took the council to court. The big sale has apparently been shelved, according to their legal adviser Krish Naidoo.

Weekly Mail this week talked to some of the residents who were evicted by the Soweto Council from their homes but managed to move back in.

They are still occupying their homes but are not paying rent. Said a resident of White City Jabavu: "Comrades' put our belongings back."

"We are just sitting and not paying any rent. The people have taken a decision. So how can we go against it? Mind you, the 'comrades' are still monitoring the boycott."

"We have heard that the people are prepared to discuss the matter with those in charge but we have heard nothing. In the meantime, we are just not paying. We feel the rents are too high, and that we have already paid the cost of building our homes."

127

Grey areas are friction spots

# Landlords, tenants and Government on collision course

By Martin Challenor

The evictions, court cases, complaints about conditions, claims and counter-claims that have unsettled Johannesburg's flatland in recent months have slowly crystallised into a major confrontation over the Group Areas Act

For years, black people have been moving into the flatlands, paying what they considered high rents. Agents and owners put business before the Group Areas Act and let them in.

This convenient balance between empty flats and the housing shortage in townships and other problems came unstuck over money

The "illegal" tenants are a cross-section of black South Africa white and blue-collar workers, nurses, a sprinkling of doctors and other professionals. Like everybody else, this group is hit by inflation and like any black community, unemployment is real.

In the middle of the year the concern about high rents made contact with a lesson black South Africans learnt in the recent turbulence — to stand united to face their problems.

Tenants began forming themselves into committees and turned to Actstop for help.

## Challenge to Group Areas Act

Actstop exists to challenge the Group Areas Act and to secure better living conditions for black tenants. Their organisers — very capable and articulate people — put in long hours helping tenants help themselves. In turn, tenants have become active workers for the organisation.

Now at least 30 buildings have committees where residents are talking about their rents and living conditions, making plans to talk directly to the owners.

In five blocks, tenants started paying lower rent three months ago. Their example caught on. More and more tenants served notice on their

## Bid to prod owners to halt decline in city 'grey areas'

The National Party has begun a campaign to persuade property owners in the "grey areas" of Joubert Park, Hillbrow and the central business district to initiate moves to halt a rapid decline in health and social standards.

In a joint statement, Mr Hennie Bekker, MP for Jeppe, and Mr Daryl Swanepoel, chairman of the NP in Hillbrow, said the authorities could not be expected to effect improvements on their own.

Property owners' depreciating investments were at stake.

The NP would encourage property owners to initiate steps to halt the decline in standards and would work towards the de-regulation of authority to bodies within the property sector.

A plea was made for better and more stringent health and municipal regulations to stop overcrowding of flats, improve security and remove the "riff-raff", regardless of skin colour.

landlords that they wanted to contest the rents

Observers say that the level of tenants' political awareness was initially low, but their campaign for improved conditions and lower rent is changing this

Individuals in Actstop are closely linked to the Transvaal Indian Congress and other progressive organisations. The TIC is closely aligned with the UDF. The UDF has lent support to the campaign. Cosatu, the large labour federation, has drawn parallels between its living-wage campaign and the tenants' decent living space and fair rental fight

## Deprived of protection

For the tenants then, their fight against high rents and living conditions is also a political fight against the Group Areas Act which deprives them of any protection as tenants.

And landlords and agents are largely ill-equipped to handle a political battle. They also do not readily understand black political dynamics. Their experience is in making profits from property, not contesting the shape of society. Many do not know where to turn for help.

Landlords have discovered there is no ready mechanism for blacks and whites to meet at any level in South Africa to address differences.

In seven buildings, landlords and agents responded with court eviction orders against tenants. These served only to worsen the situation and offer another bond for tenants.

For years happy to take in the rents, the now hard-hit landlords and agents are striking back with accusations and allegations. Again, this serves only to further distance them from tenants.

Landlords say that if you agree to let one person in, the next thing four five or more are living there. Yes, say tenants, but with the high rents we need sub-tenants. And often friends and relatives want to live in the city.

Landlords say some tenants do not pay their rents, while others run shebeens or other illegal businesses.

Actstop and the tenant committees say such generalisations are misleading, and insist they would not defend such tenants.

Tenants would like the authorities to enforce health regulations, particularly against landlords who turn a blind eye to unpleasant conditions. Where one apportion blame depends on where one stands politically.

Faced with this crisis the Government is showing itself ill-equipped to resolve the situation and no willingness to come to the defence of tenants.

# Forced to live with the dead

PEOPLE would never think of living in a graveyard. But this is what about 500 desperate families have done in Port Elizabeth's Zwide township

It was early on Sunday morning when we went to visit the squatter camp known as Ndlovuyangena

Photographer Mofat Zungu and I experienced an eerie feeling as we entered the Vecplaas Cemetery on the outskirts of Zwide township

We parked our car in the middle of the graveyard. Children were playing happily outside the shantytown and sheep and goats were grazing peacefully among the tombstones

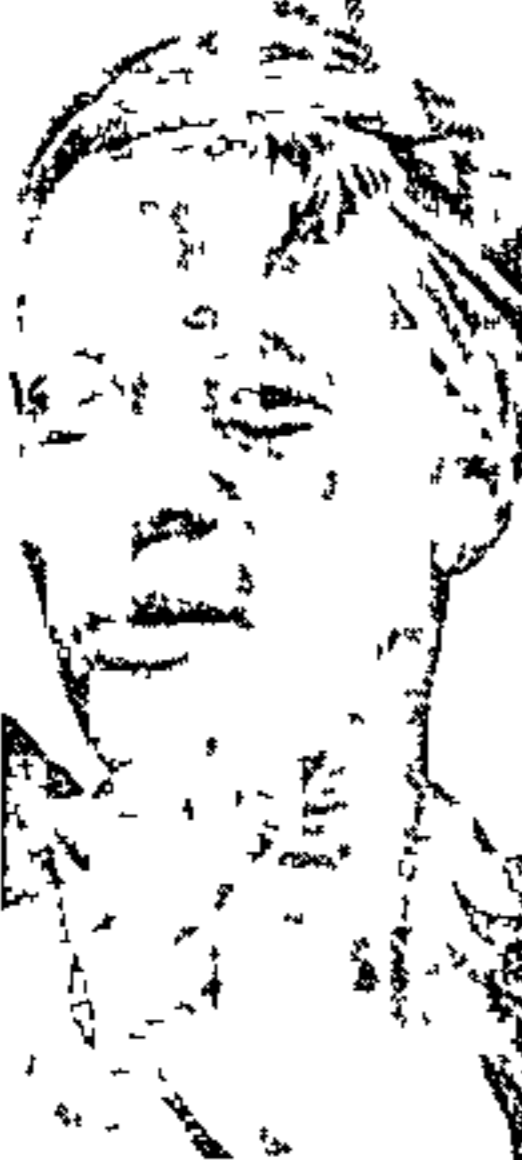
As we were nearing the first shack my hair stood up. I could not believe that people including small children were living in a graveyard

The housing waiting list in the township has grown to 3000 in the past five years according to an Ibhayi Town Council official and chances are very slim that the families will be provided with accommodation in the near future

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

under the circumstances we are forced to do so," he said

Another resident Mrs Andisa Tshosama said at first she could not



MRS Andisa Tshosama

sleep at night when she first arrived at the squatter camp

"In the past I had heard many stories about ghosts and when I arrived here I feared that they would terrorise us at night. I am now used to the place and I do not fear walking in the cemetery at night," she said

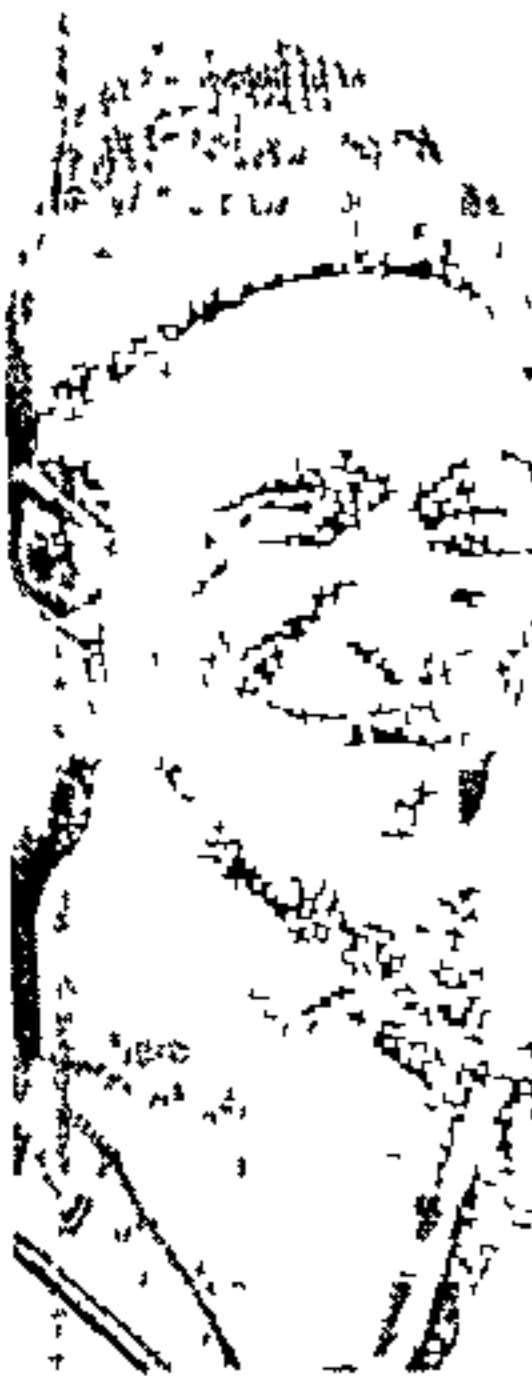
Some residents definitely did not like their unusual neighbourhood but felt they had no choice

"I have lost hope of getting a new house in the township. The graveyard is my home. Living conditions are bad here but there is nothing one can do. There are no water and toilet facilities," Mr Mxolisi Selenia said

Miss Lulama Mwezeni said "I appeal to the authorities to feel for us. We are also human beings and we need decent accommodation. What have we done to deserve such treatment?" she asked

The Ibhayi Town Council said that the squatters would be provided with proper accommodation within the next two years

Meanwhile life goes on in Ndlovuyangena



MR MXOLISI Selenia

The squatter families do not pay any rent for their graveyard shanties. That is just as well because most of the people staying there are unemployed

They were not given permission to build the shacks in the cemetery but they told the *Sowetan* that the graveyard was the only place where they could put up their shacks

"There are no open spaces in the township to accommodate all of us," they said

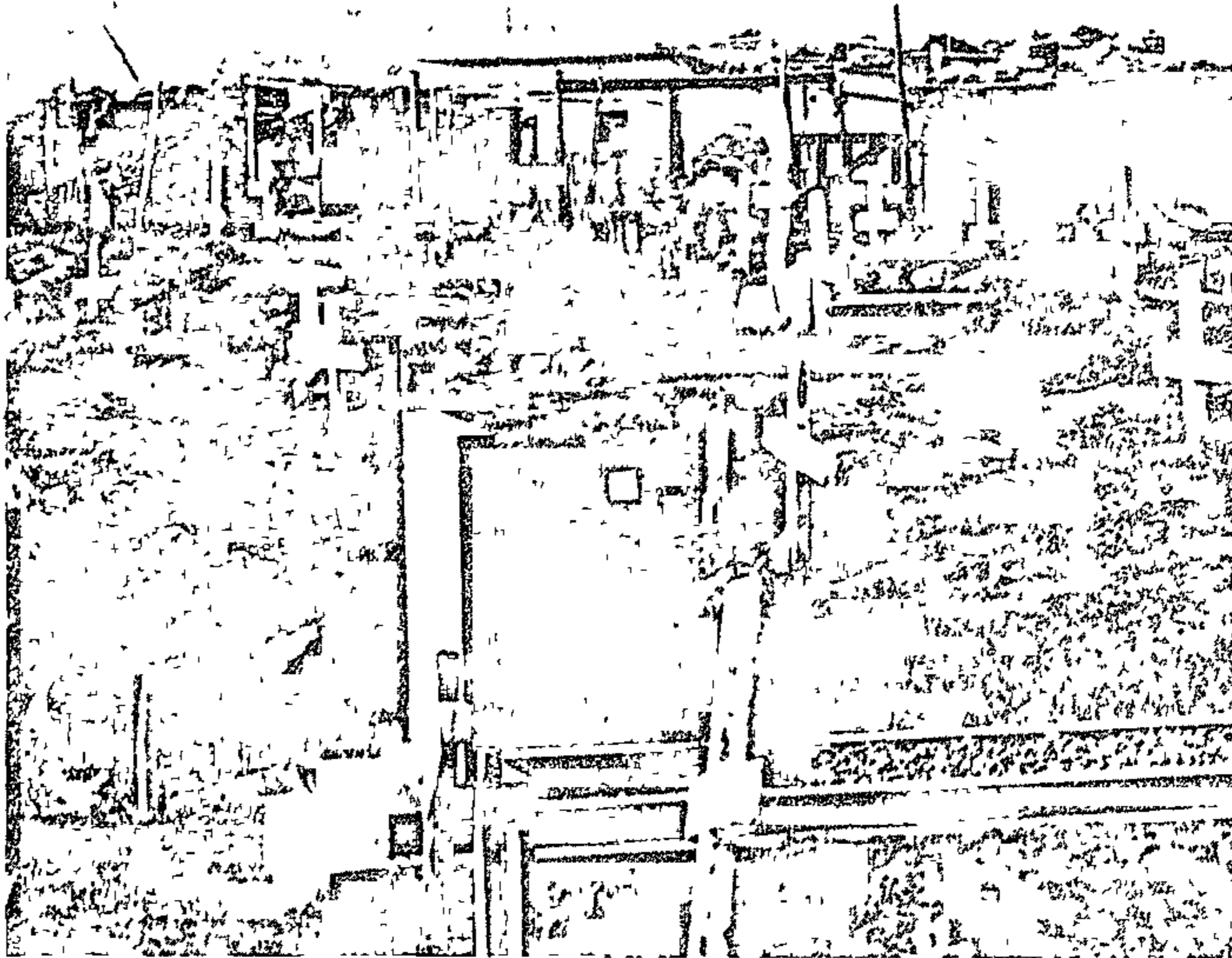
The families live in unhygienic conditions. There are no water and toilet facilities and the place stinks. It is horrible

Mr Phakamile Nobebe, a resident at the camp, said the cemetery was his last hope. "I have been on the housing waiting list for the past six years. I and my family had no accommodation in the township and we decided to come and build a shack here.

"It is not a good thing for one and his family to stay in a cemetery but



MISS Lulama Mwezeni



THE graveyard and squatter camp in the background

**ALLAN EDWARDS** 77 BREE STREET (between Govan Mbeki & Harrison Sts.) Johannesburg  
TELEPHONE 824-2771

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**R19,99**  
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Cols: Red, Navy, White

S 18977

# Rents go up the day court rules against council

*w/ mail*  
*4-10/28*

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By THAMI MKHWANAZI

THE Mamelodi Town Council has increased rent and service tariffs — acting on the day the Appellate Division refused the council leave to appeal against a decision rescinding an earlier rent increase

The Appeal Court ruling appeared to end the lengthy saga which began when increases were imposed in 1984, sparking off a rent boycott in the township, near Pretoria

But the latest tariff increases, promulgated two weeks ago and including site rent, electricity, water, refuse removal and sewerage, have revived the issue.

In 1984 the council increased flat-rate electricity tariffs — for houses without metres, the majority of homes in the township — from R15,56 to R21,66, and hiked charges for other services by amounts ranging from 25 cents to more than R1

The increases were subsequently invalidated by Justice P Roux in February this year following an application brought by a resident, Marcus Maredi. Maredi argued the council had failed, as required by legislation, to notify residents of the increases in English and Afrikaans newspapers. The council was ordered to refund the increases.

In June this year the judge refused the council leave to appeal. The council subsequently petitioned the chief justice for leave to appeal against Justice Roux's decision, that request was rejected on November 18, with costs.

Asked last week if the council would refund residents in the light of the Appeal Court decision, council PRO Veleleni Mashumi said "We cannot act until we have studied the Appeal Court judgement." The Mamelodi Civic Association demanded the council refund residents "their hard-earned money, and resign"

Although the increases had been set aside by a court order, the council not only continued to implement them but, in August, increased them. Flat-rate electricity tariffs went up from R21,66 to R29,35, and tariffs for other services were also increased

The new tariff increases, which took effect this month, included an increase in the electricity tariff, now up to R35 per month, site rent from R20,80 to R24, and an increase in the water tariff

The 1984 increases sparked a rent boycott which culminated in the deaths of 23 people in November 1985 when police fired on protestors

# Rents go up for black tenants who replace whites in city block

S.M.L.  
137  
8/12/87

At least 36 white families have been evicted from Milton Court, a block of flats in Pritchard Street, central Johannesburg. The black tenants who replaced them are paying more than double the previous rent.

One couple, former Johannesburg municipal lorry driver Mr Frederick Johannes Kruger (67) and his crippled wife Clara, spent nine nights in the backyard of Milton Court after they were told to leave. They had nowhere else to go.

They slept huddled together under a blanket. Mrs Kruger was severely injured in a car accident 18 years ago in Alberton and is partly paralysed. Mr Kruger had to give up work for medical reasons after an operation.

Milton Court is partly owned by an Indian businessman, Mr Tony Paboo, who has interests in at least three blocks of flats in Johannesburg.

Mr Kruger said yesterday he wanted to pay two months' rent (R60 a month) for his room on November 17.

"He told me he did not want my money, he only wanted my room,"

Mr Paboo said yesterday that the couple had not paid rent for three months and denied that whites in the 35 other rooms were evicted.

"They were given notice in February and all moved out as accommodation became available."

Mr Paboo said the new tenants, all black, were paying R200, which included electricity.

On Friday evening last week, with all their possessions packed into one suitcase, the Krugers made their way to a hotel for protection.

The owner, Mrs Desiree Simpson, saw them in the ladies bar, but they were not drinking. At 3 am on Saturday morning she went over to find out what was happening, and heard their story.

Mrs Simpson put them up free. She sent two of her black employees to Milton Court asking for rooms. They were told they could get rooms for R200, but would have to share with four other people.

The Star yesterday afternoon approached the new tenants of Milton Court. One man said toilets were broken, the building "looked terrible" inside and there was also no hot water.



(127) smm 9/12/87

## CSIR to draw up report on 'faulty' houses

By Michael Tissong

The Council for Scientific Industrial Research (CSIR) will be asked to draw up a report on the 918 Johannesburg City Council houses in Ennerdale Extension 5 which residents and an MP said started falling apart within a few months of occupation.

The Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture, Mr David Curry, called for the CSIR to examine the houses after meeting members of the city council's housing department, the Ennerdale Extension 5 steering action committee, the Ennerdale management committee and the MP for Klipspruit West, Mr Anthony Reeves

Mr Curry was asked to intervene after a deadlock was reached between Ennerdale residents and the city council. Residents asked for a price reduction from R30 000 to about R12 000 for the houses they said were badly built. The council refused.

At the meeting, the council at first refused to accept the suggestion of a CSIR investigation. Deputy director of housing, Mr Kenneth Cunningham-Scott, said the council's image and the image of the contractors were at stake if any faults were found.

The action committee listed faults such as the walls separating, ill-fitting doors, crooked walls, cracked walls, wet walls because no moisture sealant was built into the foundation, leaking roofs, faulty foundations and electrical faults which nearly caused a house to burn down.

Mr Curry said he would ask the CSIR to examine a random sample of 10 percent of the houses in

the area. The solution to the housing problem, which has been dragging on for almost a year, would be based on the CSIR's report.

Earlier, Mr Reeves insisted that the council should demolish all the houses and rebuild a new township in its place.

"Every time we went to the council with complaints about the houses, the council came up with stupid suggestions and statements. The whole area is rotten and must be demolished."

Members of the action committee said at least 90 percent of the houses in the area would have to be rebuilt.

They refused earlier council suggestions that repairs be undertaken.

The committee said investigations had been carried out on every house and the majority were found to be irreparable.

# Residents want R10 000 off 'shoddy homes'

10/12/87  
By Shirley Woodgate,  
Municipal Reporter

Ennerdale Extension 5 residents are locked in dispute with Johannesburg's housing department over the shoddy building materials which have allegedly been used to construct 918 houses for coloured tenants.

Walls of the two-year-old homes have cracked right through, ceilings are sagging, electricity accounts have soared, floors are sinking and some homes have been flooded because of inadequate stormwater drainage, said Mr Leonard Titus, chairman of the Ennerdale improvement association.

Members have demanded the total demolition of the affected houses or R10 000 off the purchase price of between R25 000 and R30 000. Their demands are backed by a report from the Portland Cement Institute, saying that the mortar used was "much too lean".

## REPAIRS ARE 'LAUGHABLE'

All the houses visited at random this week by Johannesburg city councillor, Mr Tony Leon, showed signs of the shoddy workmanship highlighted by residents.

He labelled the repairs "laughable". Council was urging residents to obtain bonds, but building societies were reluctant to grant loans on poorly constructed homes, he said.

Mr Leon said a problem common to black housing projects is having to deal with four different bodies — including council.

It appears the fixed price contract was completed in eight instead of 16 months.

Mr Leon said that following a meeting convened by Mr David Currie, Minister of Housing in the House of Representatives, it had been decided to obtain an independent report from the CSIR to determine whether the specifications of the contract had been adhered to.

# It's going to be a black Christmas for township dwellers

By Michael Trissong

10/12/87

(57) Spar

Township residents will suffer a double blow this month following threats that more people will be evicted for not paying rent, coupled with a 14 percent increase in Putco bus fares on December 14.

In some instances pupils using Putco buses next year will face increases of up to 450 percent in fares.

Putco public relations officer Mr Robin Duff said the company had decided to drop its subsidy for scholars

Putco tariffs manager, Mr Frank Kruger, gave an example of the tariff increases.

He said a scholar would pay R1,80 instead of 38 cents for a single journey from the West Street terminus in Johannesburg to Naledi in Soweto.

Soweto housing director, Mrs Estelle Bester, said the council had resolved to continue evictions until people paid their arrears

The rent boycott, which started in the Vaal Triangle in September 1984 because of drastic increases in rent, has built up a nation-wide debt of R267 million.

Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, told Parliament recently that residents owed R231 million in the Transvaal,

R2,8 million in Natal, R10,9 million in the Free State and R21,7 million in the Cape.

Councils in the Transvaal were meeting their financial commitments through "bridging finance" borrowed mostly from the Transvaal Provincial Administration. The TPA budgeted R190 million for loans to black local authorities this year

Deputy director, Mr Neil Joubert, said the TPA advised township authorities to increase rent and service charges to recoup the money owed by residents. Councils however, were reluctant to effect the increases.

The rent boycott started on September 3 1984 because of rent increases which residents of Sharpeville, Boipatong, Bophelong, Sebokeng, Evaton and Zamdela considered excessive.

Thousands of people took to the streets to demand that rents be reduced to R30.

The authorities reacted by evicting residents. Violence erupted in many townships and many people were killed

In a clash between residents and security forces involved in evictions in White City, Soweto, 30 people died in one day.

In Meadowlands, Soweto, residents resolved at a

meeting called by councillor Mrs Smah "Madipere" Makume last month to continue the rent boycott.

The meeting was called to get residents' views on payment of rent, electricity, refuse removal and water.

A resident at the meeting, Mr Chuma Ntane, said that when they were resettled from Sophiatown to Meadowlands by the Government, they were told to pay rent for 10 years only.

"Thirty years later," said Mr Ntane, "we are still paying rent."

Security forces accompanied council clerks when they visited Soweto rent defaulters in 4 am raids to get residents to pay or face eviction.

Town clerk Mr Nico Malan said the clerks conducted their pre-dawn visits to contact residents before they went to work.

Clerks were accompanied by policemen for security purposes because money was involved, he said.

Thousands of Tembisa residents staged a one-day stay-away from work and school in protest against evictions last month.

Shops in the biggest township on the East Rand closed at 11 am, no delivery trucks entered the township and there was no public transport available.

Police kept a low profile. The SAP liaison officer for Springs said patrols were mounted and police were "prepared for anything".

Soldiers patrolled Mamelodi during evictions there and residents accused them of complicity in the action

Several schools in the township were given a 30-day ultimatum to pay their arrears or pupils would face eviction.

The principals of J Mahlangu Secondary, J Kekana Secondary and Ndima Lower Primary were handed notices by town council policemen.

A spokesman for the Pretoria East circuit inspector's office said the demands were not issued because the Department of Education and Training was short of funds, but because schools delayed sending their accounts to the department after receiving them from the council.

A group of Soweto clergymen, Ministers United for Christian Co-Responsibility (Mucor) declared November a month of prayer to solve the rent crisis. They called for negotiations with the Soweto Civic Association and a moratorium on evictions.

157

# Row over Wattville police station

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

A MAJOR confrontation is looming between residents and the Wattville Village Council on the East Rand, following the building of a new police station in the township.

The police station is being built in an open area which was apparently earlier earmarked for new houses and a shopping complex.

Construction started three months ago and according to council officials the police station will start operating next month.

Residents this week said they were shocked that the council could decide to build a police station when more than 500 families were homeless in the township.

In the past the council said there was no land in the area to build more houses but I am shocked to see the council building of all things a police station. Mr. Thoko Hlatshway, the publicity secretary of the Wattville Committee of 20 said.

### Clinic

Mrs Hlatshway said the council could have used the land to build a clinic for Wattville residents.

We have a police station at the nearby Actonville township. Patients have to travel to Actonville Clinic or the Boksburg Benoni Hospital for treatment. The councillors have got their priorities wrong," she added.

This is a cock and bull story. This is all sh... Mr Tzekiel Mtshali deputy mayor of Wattville said yesterday.

He said. At no stage did the council take a decision that houses were going to be built where the new police station is situated. The building of the shopping complex is still in the balance.

But a source close to the council who asked not to be named said the area was earlier earmarked for the building of new houses and a shopping complex.

## Reject confession — plea

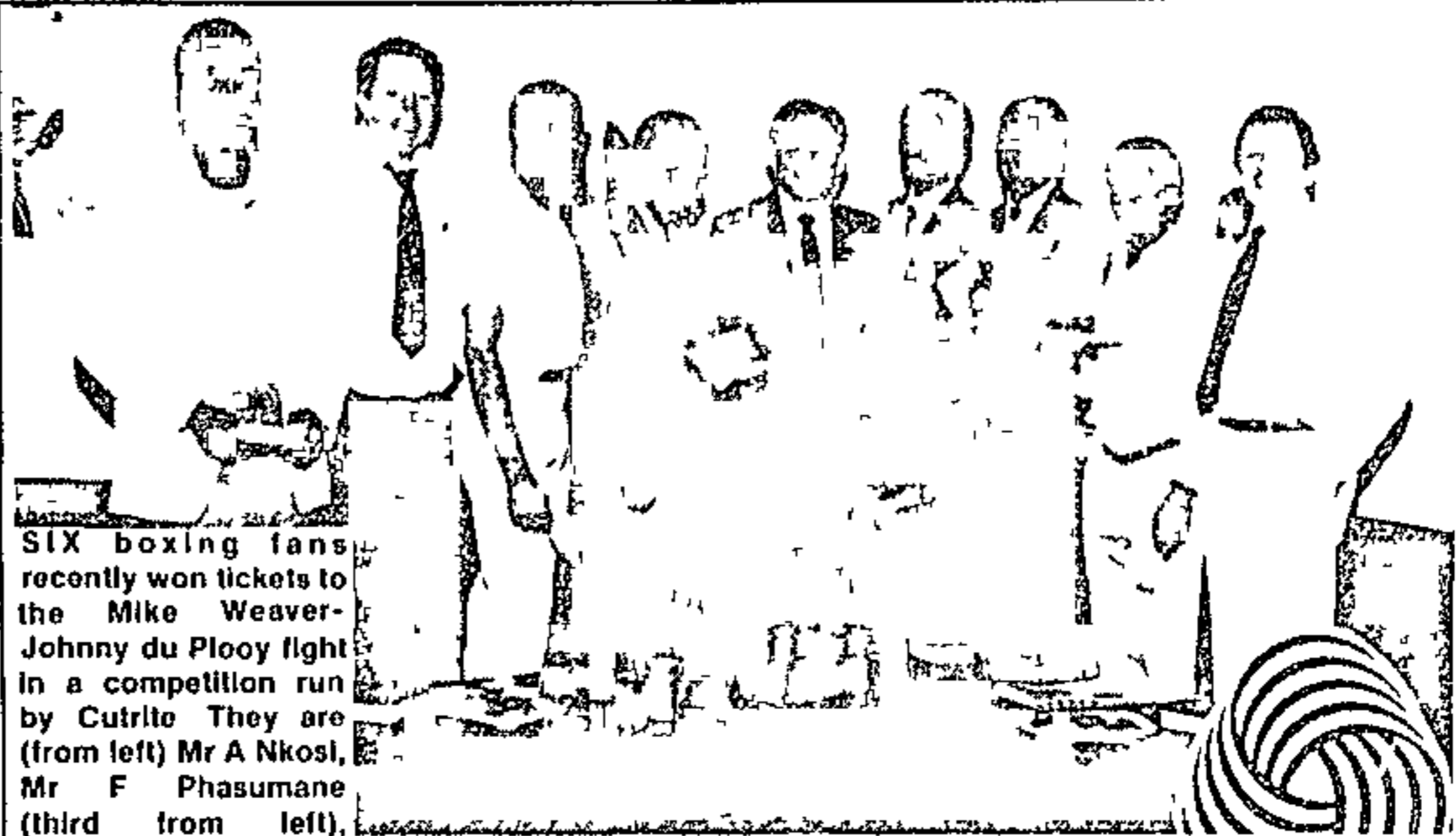
ADVOCATE Dikgang Moseneke, defence counsel in the Pan Africanist Congress trial, yesterday urged a Pretoria magistrate to reject a statement one of the accused made before a magistrate last year, writes Monk Nkomo.

Arguing in a trial-within-a trial to determine the validity of a statement Mr Setsibi Mohohlo made before Mr Petrus Johannes Geldenhuys, Mr Moseneke said the ability to spell went hand in hand with one's efficiency to understand the language used.

"In this case the magistrate's ability to speak English is highly suspect. He gave literal Afrikaans translations and gave meanings to sentences as he saw them fit," Mr Moseneke said.

Mr Geldenhuys, he said, committed a number of spelling mistakes and could not identify the present and past tenses when he took a confession from Mr Mohohlo.

Calling on magistrate Mr J H Bekker to reject the statement, Mr Moseneke told the court that there would be greater risk in admitting it.



SIX boxing fans recently won tickets to the Mike Weaver-Johnny du Plooy fight in a competition run by Cutrite. They are (from left) Mr A Nkosi, Mr F Phasumane (third from left), Mr P Semanya, Mr R Segoe (fourth from right), Mr L Motokeng and Mr Sibinja. Congratulating the winners are company representatives (from left) Mr S Miller, Mr S Cope and Mr H Feinberg.

## Four regain their jobs

FOUR Sebokeng and Vereeniging Hospitals employees who had challenged their October dismissals from work won their case in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

The four are Mrs Augustina Nthabiseng, Isie Mrs Muri Miku, Mrs Lizzie Hlelwa and Mrs Mary Mokoena. They were

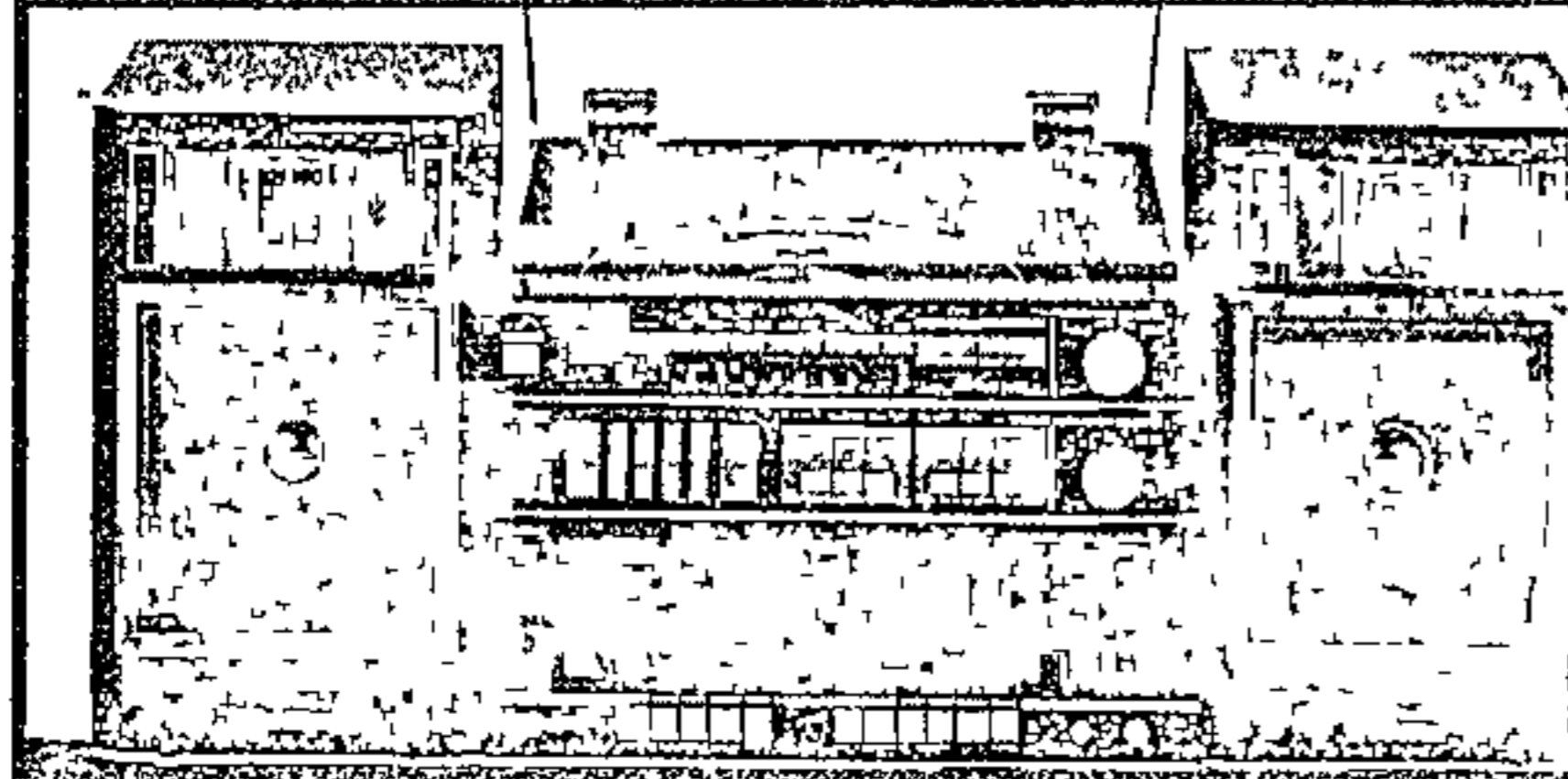
dismissed on October 27 this year.

The case was heard by Mr Justice R Goldstone who said the dismissal of the four by the Senior Administrator of Vereeniging Hospitals acting on behalf of the Administrator of the Transvaal was wrongful and unlawful and had no effect.

The judge ordered that the four be reinstated and that the Administrator of the Transvaal pay costs of the suits including costs suffered by the applicants.

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Cape Town 19/27  
Actstop and department disagree

# Does the Rents Act protect illegal tenants?

B/day 11/12/87

THE focus in the Group Areas Act (GAA) battle in central Johannesburg residential areas has moved to the question of rents paid by "illegal" black tenants

Black tenants living in rent-controlled buildings in "white" central city areas have been campaigning for property-owners to apply rent-board-determined rents, and have appealed to the board in at least 12 recent cases

But in a shock disclosure this week, (white) Local Government and Housing chief director Frank Gerber said rent boards had jurisdiction only in cases concerning "legal" white tenants.

Asked whether this meant owners of rent-controlled buildings were not obliged to charge rent-board-determined rents if their tenants were "illegal" blacks, Gerber said "You can draw your own conclusions"

An Actstop spokesman condemned Gerber's attitude and emphasised that the Rents Act protected any tenant.

He pointed out that the rent

ROGER SMITH

board for central Johannesburg had recently made rulings on applications by "illegal" black tenants on the grounds that rent control applied to certain buildings, regardless of who the tenants were.

The spokesman said this was supported by a reading of the Rents Act, which did not define a lessee in terms of race

"We will test (Gerber's) opinion in court, if necessary"

But it appears government has already placed rent boards in a racial context under its new constitution, by which they fall under the House of Assembly administration as a white "own affair".

A spokesman for the regional representative of Gerber's department said rent boards could examine a submission and determine a rent, but if investigations found "illegal" black tenants, there was nothing they could do for them.

"If you are contravening one Act, you cannot have recourse to law under another Act."

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Case 12/12/87 (127)

# DEFENDING THE RENT BOYCOTT

**R**ent boycott involves refusal to pay both rent and service charges. These are in practice indistinguishable to township residents as they are billed and paid together.

The State, however, attaches great importance to the theoretical distinction. In principle, rents are made up of site and house rent for State housing tenants. Service charges cover the cost of township capital development and provision of services.

Service charges constitute most of the "rent" in many townships and rose markedly in proportion to site and house rents in the early 1980s.

In Sebokeng, for example, service charges comprised 83 percent of the proposed total "rent" for 1984-85. The rents referred to in this article include service charges unless otherwise specified.

The first rent boycott of the current phase of resistance started during September 1984 in the Vaal triangle townships of Sebokeng, Sharpeville, Evaton, Bopape and Bophelong.

In 1985, boycotts began in Northern Free State townships which, like the Vaal triangle, are administered by the Orange Vaal Development Board.

**R**aising revenue from rents was a political problem. Restructuring township local government was, at least in part, designed to resolve it. But this restructuring caused unanticipated political changes in the townships, transforming the relations between councillors and their supposed constituents.

Councillors were increasingly seen as corrupt, unaccountable and irresponsible. Dependent on rents to finance township development, councillors more and more frequently presided over rent hikes and resorted to coercive measures against squatters.

The outbreak of rent boycotts represented a new stage in the ongoing political mobilisation around rents, housing, and local government. The trigger was both economic and political. Many households found it increasingly difficult to pay rents that continued to rise in real terms while incomes were eroded by inflation.

At the same time, residents were less and less motivated to pay rents because of the apparent lack of promised township development, the scale of corruption among councillors, the council's illegitimacy and (later in most cases) rising levels of repression.

A major factor in mass support for boycotts was many households' growing inability to pay rising rents. Surveys of the PWV townships carried out by the Unisa Bureau of Market Research indicate



Rent boycotts in the Northern Free State, the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vaal area and the Eastern Transvaal have been widespread since September 1984. Daily, residents are being evicted from their houses because they are either in arrears with their rent or have simply refused to pay. In the first of a two-part article, MATTHEW CHASKALSON, KAREN JOCHELSON and JEREMY SEEKINGS look at the background to

the development board. Elsewhere in the Northern Free State, rent boycotts pre-dated any significant township organisations. Indeed, activists saw boycotts as a means of stimulating organisation as rent protests had done in Tama-hole.

**E**thandukukhanya served as an epicentre for the rent protests and boycotts in the Eastern Transvaal.

The Paper, Wood and Allied Workers' Union organised the first protests. The presence of the union was crucial. Though PWAWU was only established in the Piet Retief area in 1983 it provided a coherent organisational alternative to the community council.

There were no similar existing structures like the unions in other Eastern Transvaal townships before the rent boycotts. The Ethandukukhanya rent issue was discussed in factories, and shop stewards went from house to house in the township canvassing it.

Residents decided to form a representative committee of 13. Several committee members belonged to PWAWU, and the chairperson was also head of the Mondli factory's shop stewards' committee.

Opposition to rent increases in other Eastern Transvaal townships was encouraged by newspaper and word-of-mouth reports of the apparent success of the Ethandukukhanya boycott. Activists from the different

time when mass meetings were prohibited, and helped strong support to develop throughout Soweto. In both Alexandra and Tembisa, unions and individual unions were centrally involved in the inception of rent boycotts.

The State does not appear to have formulated any overall plan to counter rent boycotts. Emergency Press regulations prohibiting unauthorised reports about rent boycotts indicate that some elements within the central State are concerned about them.

But there is no evidence that this has been translated into directives for dealing with boycotts. For the most part it seems that State responses have been determined by the local State, with central State policy limiting its choice of options.

The joint management committees might well have played an important part in State responses to boycotts, but it seems likely that de facto power within JMCs rests with the board and council of officials and not with the military or police.

Even individual development boards lacked any coherent strategy to counter boycotts for a long time. The first and only known formulation of such a strategy was approved by the Lekoa Town Council in November 1985.

Two contrasting approaches by the local State are identifiable. Discussion or consensus, in the belief that

The first rent boycott of the current phase of resistance started during September 1984 in the Vaal triangle townships of Sebokeng, Sharpeville, Evaton, Bopalong and Bophelong.

In 1985, boycotts began in Northern Free State townships which, like the Vaal triangle, are administered by the Orange Vaal Development Board.

A later wave of boycotts swept townships on the Rand during 1986. In most cases boycotts were already under way in certain areas of each township. By mid-1986 boycotts had spread throughout the townships.

From the mid-1970s, the South African State's response to chronic political and deepening economic crises was to alter the constraints and opportunities affecting black South Africans.

This involved significant changes in many urban policies, including reform of influx control, deregulation of township housing and infrastructure, opening up more business opportunities in townships, and restructuring local government.

The local authorities sought to provide more extensive housing and public services. But the central State remained committed to the principle that township administration and development should continue to be funded through township-raised revenue.

By the early 1980s, most administration boards were accumulating colossal deficits. Their aggregate deficit for 1982-83 was estimated at R32-million.

The State increased rents and service charges rather than increase taxes on capital or central State subsidies. Large increases were required to raise rents to the "economic" levels which would completely pay for the provision of housing and services.

At the same time, residents were less and less motivated to pay rents because of the apparent lack of promised township development.

Scale of corruption among councillors, the council's illegitimacy, and (later in most cases) rising levels of repression.

A major factor in mass support for boycotts was many households' growing inability to pay rising rents. Surveys of the PWV townships carried out by the Unisa Bureau of Market Research indicate that the proportion of households below consistently defined minimum and supplementary living levels and of households earning below R4 000 a year, increased substantially between 1980 and 1985.

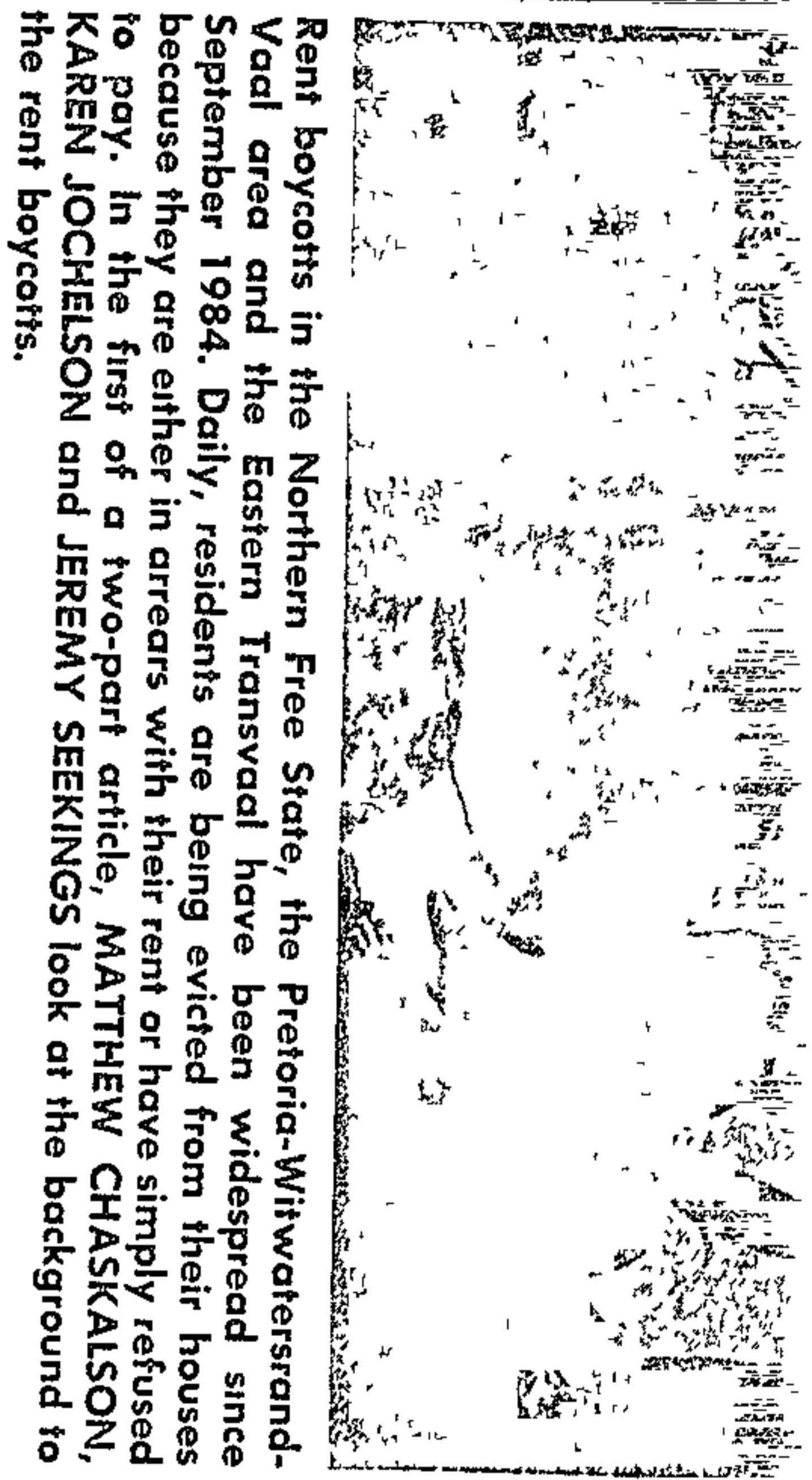
Employment rates also fell dramatically. The BMR data, conservatively interpreted, suggests that at least 25 percent of PWV households had falling real incomes between 1980 and 1985.

The Orange Vaal Development Board's determination to achieve economic rents caused Vaal rents to rise by more than 400 percent between 1977 and 1984.

When the August 1984 rent increase of R5,90 was announced, the average rent of R62,56 was already more than R10 higher than any other township, and more than double the national metropolitan average.

In Tumahole, the community council announced in mid-1984 that rents would be increased from R26,25 to R37 as of July 1. Other Northern Free State townships under the OVD's jurisdiction faced similar increases.

Rents had also increased steadily in the Eastern Transvaal during the early 1980s. In Carolina's Sibobela township, for example, rents increased by 300 percent between 1981 and 1984.



Rent boycotts in the Northern Free State, the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vaal area and the Eastern Transvaal have been widespread since September 1984. Daily, residents are being evicted from their houses because they are either in arrears with their rent or have simply refused to pay. In the first of a two-part article, MATTHEW CHASKALSON, KAREN JOCHELSON and JEREMY SEEKINGS look at the background to the rent boycotts.

In July 1985, the Eastern Transvaal Development Board announced rent increases in all the townships under its jurisdiction.

Inability to pay rent was reflected in growing rental arrears. For example, amounts owed to the Katlehong Council were said to be R2-million in January 1985, and R5-million just over one year later.

But the transition to an actual rent boycott requires additional explanation. In some cases rent boycotts simply evolved out of an unco-ordinated mass non-payment of rent. Elsewhere they began with a definite collective decision. Such decisions were in some cases an expression of popular moral outrage at the local authorities, and in others were adopted as a tactical or strategic weapon.

In Piet Renef's Ethandukhanya township, residents were moved to a newly built area after the destruction of their shacks by Cyclone Denna in January 1984.

The ETDB did not inform residents of their new rent for five months. In June, they were told that rents were to be higher than they had been in the old location and that they would now be determined according to the Pay-As-You-Earn system.

The new rents were backdated to the date of occupation, so households were immediately faced with considerable arrears. Some residents continued not to pay rent. During late 1984 and early 1985, other Ethandukhanya residents became involved, adding their grievances.

A further R5 rent increase in February, together with a deadlock in rent negotiations and the ETDB's resource to evictions, led to a general boycott.

The Ethandukhanya boycott, therefore, came about more by default than design. In the rest of the Eastern Transvaal, rent boycotts evolved in response to the July 1984 increases.

Residents initially did not consider a total boycott of rents. Some continued to pay the old rent, others decided to pay a reduced rent, others paid nothing at all. When the ETDB and the councils insisted on the new rents, a total rent boycott began.

On September 3, residents marched through Sebokeng in protest against the increase. Sixty-six people were killed in clashes with police in the next week. Events in Mamelodi followed a similar pattern. The trigger for the boycott was the "Mamelodi Massacre" of November 21, 1985.

In the first few months of 1986, the UDF convened national meetings of cities that resolved to use rent boycotts as a general weapon of protest.

By June, rent boycotts had broken out in several PWV townships. Most of these boycotts were started by UDF activists and were organised around national demands but they took place in areas where local rent struggles were already being waged.

In the Vaal, opposition to rent increases was led by the Vaal Civic Association and the Sharpeville Anti-Rent Committee.

These organisations had held meetings in Sharpeville, Sebokeng and Bopalong to protest the increases. After September 3, 1984 all meetings were banned.

Most VCA and anti-rent committee leadership went into hiding. Those who did not were arrested by the end of September.

In Tumahole the situation was different. The boycott followed the breakdown of lengthy rent negotiations between the civic association and the council.

The joint management committees might well have played an important part in State responses to boycotts, but it seems likely that de facto power within JMCs rests with the board and not with the officials and not with the military or police.

Even individual development boards lacked any coherent strategy to counter boycotts for a long time. The first and only known formulation of such a strategy was approved by the Lekoa Town Council in November 1985.

Two contrasting approaches by the local State are identifiable. Discussion or concession, in the belief that rent increases are justified and need only to be explained, coupled with a concern to avoid violent conflict.

Coercion, aimed at crushing rent boycotts with evictions and deployment of force. The State displayed an unusual reluctance to adopt the second approach, especially during the 1984-85 period.

The Lekoa Town Council only started to explore repressive responses in November 1985.

In both the Eastern Transvaal and Tumahole, officials waited 15 months before evicting tenants for non-payment of rent. Three factors influenced these responses: Officials misinterpreted boycotts they were concerned to avoid violent confrontation and their legal position was weak.

# Five Joubert Park flat blocks affected Illegal black tenants reach out-of-court rent settlement

STP  
127  
16/12/87

By Martin Challenor

Black people living illegally in Joubert Park, Johannesburg, have won what they see as a major victory in their fight for decent living conditions.

An out-of-court settlement, reached yesterday between legal teams acting for flat agents Hillcrest Property Management and their tenants in 101 flats, has effectively ended a four-month rent protest.

In terms of the settlement, Hillcrest and the tenants have agreed that the Rent Board levies be paid. Tenants said this was still lower than they were initially paying.

Tenants have seven days to make up the arrears on the 1987 determinations.

Tenants will also pay outstanding light and water bills but have asked for formal metered accounts.

From the beginning of September almost all residents of Argyle Court, Branksome Towers, Claridge Court, Margate Court and Protea Mansions refused to pay the rent stipulated by the agents. Instead, they paid what the Rent Board informed them was the levy. This was lower than Hillcrest asked for.

There are about 225 flats in the blocks, most of them occupied by black families. Many took in sub-tenants to meet the rentals. They estimated their protest cost Hillcrest R100 000. Hillcrest took over the buildings on July 20.

The agents moved first against Argyle Court, giving tenants until the end of January to move out.

Then Mr Dave Malan, a director of Hillcrest, was granted an urgent application last month to evict the more than 400 peo-

ple in the 101 flats. Mr Malan said then that he sought the application because of the rent arrears.

The return date was yesterday when the matter stood down to allow the legal teams to consult. A settlement was reached, but only after the court had risen, so the issue will be called in court again tomorrow.

Hillcrest claimed they also wanted occupants to pay Rent Board rates but said the tenants were actually paying below these determinations as the Rent Board granted increases in two of the buildings in October and increased the rents for the other two buildings in November.

Also in terms of the agreement, Gorfil Bros Investments, owners of the buildings, will allow tenants a three-month option to stay on if the agents are changed. This is important to tenants as it means they cannot be evicted by possible new agents.

The settlement has done much to ease the insecurity of black tenants. Soon after their protest began, they were informed by the owners that the South African Police's group areas branch had warned them they might be prosecuted for allowing black people to move into the flats.

Hillcrest was given 14 days to remedy the situation but no action was taken against the tenants.

## ACHIEVED

An Actstop spokesman said "We have achieved what we set out to achieve — rent control-determined rentals and have safeguarded the tenants' position in relation to the owners."

"Tenants will not find themselves in the street as Ansol Court and Worcester Court people did. We definitely consider this a victory for black tenants in central Johannesburg. Hillcrest's acceptance of the Rent Board rents was tacit acceptance that black tenants must be protected under the Rental Control Act."

Tenants of the four buildings involved in yesterday's settlement will not now abandon Argyle Court.

"We will ensure they are not evicted. The five flats started the battle together and intend to carry it through together," Actstop said.

Hillcrest would not comment on Argyle Court last night.

## Car safety restraints vital

By Sally Sealey

At least 314 children below the age of 15 died as passengers in car accidents and more than 3 000 were injured in 1986, said Mrs S Pieterse of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in Pretoria on Monday.

This was 12,7 percent of total passenger fatalities for 1986.

Mrs Pieterse said that the CSIR and the National Road Safety Council (NRSC) were concerned about the lack of safety restraints in cars.

Mrs Pieterse said that at the moment only the front seats of cars have to have safety belts.

However, all new vehicles registered on or after January 1 1987 must be equipped with seatbelts in the back.

Mrs Pieterse said the answer to the high child fatality rate on the roads was for safety restraints approved by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) to be made compulsory.

The advantages of having some form of safety restraint in the car far outweigh the negative aspects, she said.

The CSIR and NRSC have made several recommendations to the traffic authorities.

They include:

- Birth — 1-year-old.

The child should not be kept on the lap in the front of the car because in the event of an accident the mother could crush the

baby. It is recommended that the baby be put in a carry cot on the back seat with special safety belts. If the child is on your lap you should sit on the back seat.

- 1 — 4-years-old.

The child should be kept in a specially designed and SABS-approved child safety seat, together with a child harness.

- Older children should have either a harness or seat belt.

## Nutcracker wins triangular

CAPE TOWN — Light winds again ensured that local sailors continued to dominate this year's Rothmans regatta during the third 22-mile triangular race in Table Bay yesterday.

The eight-knot conditions at the start resulted in the bulk of the fleet breaking prematurely across the line, leading to a general recall.

Once the restart took place scratch boat RCYC entry Anglo Dutch Nutcracker, skippered by Dave Abromowitz and Dieter Miekke, showed the rest of the fleet a clear stern throughout the triangular course.

She was closely followed by the Algoa YC entry Just Tiles, a Farr 38 skippered by Bill Lee, the RCYC van der Stadt entry Bateleur, helmed by Richard Wall, and the RCYC Beneteau Mike's Kitchen, skippered by Springbok Rick Nankin.

The race was marred by a collision between Compass 47 Solitaire, skippered by the Judge President of Namibia Hans Berker, and Dziggetai, the half-tonner skippered by advocate Joe van der Westhuizen.

Presumably settlement will be amicable and out of court.

The Durban entry Gwaap, skippered by M Stevens made her first appearance yesterday, putting in a credible fourth on handicap.

## Cleric won't contest 'ban'

By Anna Louw, East Rand Bureau

A Unisa theologian, barred from preaching at the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk in Germiston Central after a recent sermon apparently offended congregants, says his message was misunderstood but he will not contest the banning.

Mr Adriaan Blom of Pretoria, who yesterday received a letter saying he would not be invited to preach there again, highlighted a passage from the book of Hosea that focuses on the love of God despite man's sins during a sermon last Sunday.

Three weeks ago the NGK in Germiston Central dismissed its minister, the Rev Pieter Dumas, who was instrumental in having the first coloured elder elected to the church council.

Mr Blom said any sermon close to the bone would probably be met with protest from members of that congregation.



# Areas Act tenants claim a victory

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Black people living illegally in Joubert Park have won what they see as a major victory in their fight for decent living conditions.

An out-of-court settlement was reached on Tuesday between legal teams acting for flat agents Hillcrest Property Management and their tenants in 101 flats.

This has effectively ended a four-month tenants' rent protest.

From the beginning of September almost all residents of Argyle Court, Branksome Towers, Claridge Court, Margate Court and Protea Mansions refused to pay the rent stipulated by the agents. Instead they paid what the Rent Board informed them was the levy. This was lower than what Hillcrest asked for.

There are about 225 flats in the blocks, most of them filled by black families. Many took in sub-tenants to meet the rentals. They estimated their protest cost Hillcrest R100 000.

The agents acted first against Argyle Court, giving tenants until the end of January to move out.

## Urgent

Then Mr Dave Malan, a director of Hillcrest, was granted an urgent application last month to evict tenants in the 101 flats — more than 400 black people. Mr Malan said he had sought the application because of the rent arrears.

A settlement has been reached, and it is likely to be made a court order today.

Hillcrest claimed they too wanted occupants to pay Rent Board rates, but said the tenants were actually paying below these determinations as the Rent Board granted increases in two of the buildings in October, and increased the rents for the other two buildings in November.

In terms of the settlement Hillcrest and the tenants have agreed that the new Rent Board levies be paid, and the arrears made up in seven days.

Tenants will also pay outstanding electricity and water bills.

Gorfil Brothers Investment, owners of the buildings, will allow tenants a three-month option to stay on if the agents are

changed. This is important to tenants as it means they cannot be evicted by possible new agents.

The settlement has done much to ease the insecurity of black tenants. Soon after their protest began they were informed by the owners that the South African Police's Group Areas branch had warned them they might be prosecuted for allowing black people to move into the flats. Hillcrest was given 14 days to remedy the situation, but no action was taken against the tenants.

An Actstop spokesman said

"We have achieved what we set out to achieve. Rent Control determined rentals and have safeguarded the tenants position in relation to the owners."

"Tenants will not find themselves in the street as Ansol Court and Worcester Court people did."

"We consider this a victory for black tenants in central Johannesburg. Hillcrest's acceptance of the Rent Board rents was tacit acceptance that black tenants must be protected under the Rental Control Act."

The fight will continue on behalf of the Argyle Court tenants.

NEWS

# Rejected Thebehali rides in on the back of Soweto's rent boycott

Mr David Thebehali, the former Mayor of Soweto and the newly appointed administrator of Diepmeadow, is a man who in the past cast a controversial shadow over Soweto.

He defied popular opinion in the wake of the 1976 student revolt in Soweto by refusing to reject Government-approved institutions and standing for election in the Soweto Community Council when there was a cry to get out of "dummy institutions".

A businessman and a politician, Mr Thebehali was defeated in the last election in Soweto, in 1983.

He was rescued from political obscurity when the Administrator of the Transvaal, Mr Willem Cuywagen, dissolved the Diepmeadow Council and removed its councillors from office.

He has been appointed administrator of Diepmeadow, in greater Soweto, a township which he aspired to but failed to control when he was Mayor of Soweto.

One of the reasons given by Mr Cuywagen for his decision was the council's failure to put its financial records in order.

Another reason cited by Mr Cuywagen was the inability of the council to recover outstanding rent and service charges, an explanation which has given rise to fears that Mr Thebehali has been chosen to break the rent boycott.

Launched 18 months ago, the protracted boycott has survived several attempts to smash it. One of its aims is to force the dissolution of the three town councils in greater Soweto.

Fears that Mr Thebehali will wield an iron fist were expressed by the *Sowetan* in an editorial yesterday.

If a major reason for dissolving the council was that the councillors were "too soft", then the appointment of Mr Thebehali might be the "first step in a tougher policy against people who owe rent in the township", the *Sowetan* said.

The *Sowetan* queried Mr Thebehali's appointment, noting that he had been defeated in the 1983 election. "Appointing a man who has been publicly rejected at the polls to be

### PATRICK LAURENCE

administrator of another township is merely worsening a serious problem."

Aged 49, Mr Thebehali, a former member of the Young Progressives, was a controversial figure during his period of office as Mayor of Soweto from 1978 to 1983.

He was a staunch advocate of participation in Government-approved township councils, in their various forms from the old urban councils through the community councils to the town councils established under the Black Local Authorities Act. He defied calls for a boycott voiced by the Soweto Civic Association which was founded in the wake of the 1976 revolt.

In 1978 Mr Thebehali, a former member of Soweto's Urban Bantu Council (dubbed the "Useless Boys Club" by black activists), stood as a candidate for the Soweto Community Council.

He failed to persuade Sowetans to vote. The poll was only 6 percent. Mr Thebehali won his ward, receiving 97 votes in a

44 percent poll. His foes promptly named him "97-vote Thebehali".

A graduate of St Peters, the now defunct Anglican school for blacks in Johannesburg, Mr Thebehali was elected Mayor of Soweto in 1978. He rapidly became a controversial figure, surviving at least one assassination attempt.

According to Mr David Grinaker, a former secretary to Diepmeadow Council, Mr Thebehali "lived like a prince in a huge house constructed for the Soweto Mayor by the Afrikaans Chamber of Commerce".

His ambition, Mr Grinaker avers in his book "Inside Soweto", was to engineer the absorption of Diepmeadow and Dobsonville, the third autonomous town council in greater Soweto, into the Soweto Council and to become Mayor of greater Soweto.

His hopes received a setback in 1983, when elections were held for the Soweto Council and he was personally defeated.

The elections were again largely boycotted. The poll was marginally higher: 10,7 against 6 percent. Those voters who did go

to the polls rejected Mr Thebehali.

He and his deputy, Mr Tollica Makhaya, were defeated. His All Nations Party was trounced by the Sofasonke (Together-we-die) Party of Mr Ephraim Tshabalala.

Mr Thebehali all but disappeared from public life thereafter, only surfacing occasionally as a religious devotee and a businessman (in 1984 he was reportedly expelled from the executive of the Soweto Chamber of Commerce because he had not paid his R21 membership fee at the time of his election).

His re-emergence as a political figure immediately drew fire from an old foe, the Azanian People's Organisation.

"It speaks volumes that Thebehali, who does not have community support, has been appointed administrator of Diepmeadow," Azapo president, Mr Nkosi Molala, said. "He is a hard man who will approach the rent boycott high-handedly."

Five black town councils have now been dissolved in the Transvaal: Diepmeadow, Embalenhli, Tembisa, Duduza and Tokoza.



ONCE REJECTED: David Thebehali gets another shot at holding the reins of power, this time as administrator of Diepmeadow.

CAPE TOWN 2/12/82

# Thebehali turns rent-collector

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Newly-appointed Diepmeadow administrator Mr David Thebehali will face the mammoth task of having to recover R145 million in unpaid rent from residents in Diepkloof and Meadowlands

The council and the Transvaal Provincial Administration have not put a figure on the local authority's losses in unpaid rents since the start of the rent boycott about 18 months ago, but a source close to the council said it was in the region of R145 million

The Administrator of the Transvaal, Mr Willem Cruywagen, dissolved the Diepmeadow Town Council and removed all 15 councillors from office last week.

His move came in the wake of a tough speech to black local authorities in which he warned that councils would have to make plans to recover rents and service charges, and show their communities they were not wasting money on luxuries.

There has also been speculation of corruption and mismanagement of the council's funds

Announcing the disbanding of the council last week, Mr Cruywagen said one of the reasons was that it had failed to recover outstanding rent and services charges. He said the council had also failed to update its financial records even after it had been given a chance to do so.

Diepmeadow's Town Clerk, Mr Noel Gaum, will be acting administrator until Mr Thebehali's return from a visit to the US. Mr Gaum was fired earlier this year by the Mayor, Mr Maraba Mathala, after council workers accused him of being a racist, but later reinstated after Supreme Court action.

Mr Mathala was one of those axed by Mr Cruywagen.

# TCA set to defuse Tembisa rent crisis

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THE Tembisa Civic Association is to try and resolve the present rent crisis in the township themselves since all the other organisations it has given a chance to handle the issue have failed dismally.

This is contained in a TCA December newsletter, and has been confirmed by its chairman, Mr Goba Ndlovu. The TCA said it was time it intervened because the rent boycott of a year ago has deteriorated into a farce and residents are suffering for no apparent reason. The issue is a civic matter and for this reason the TCA believes it is a problem that lies squarely on its shoulders.

What happened when the boycott started in July 1986 was that all organisations claiming to be 'representative', 'progressive', 'relevant' and others jumped on the rent bandwagon. All wanted to be identified as the initiators and controllers of the boycott. As a result the TCA took a resolution to stand aside and give the others a chance to prove themselves in handling the issue. Sad to say, they have failed dismally," said the TCA newsletter.

The statement goes on to say that today residents are running around seeking help in the face of evictions, and "switch-offs" for those with electricity. Some residents have decided to pay up. Others who fear future victimisation by the local authority have opted to pay in advance. In short, residents are hopelessly divided.

The association said it was the leading opinion informer in Tembisa and had a remarkable track record behind it. The newsletter provides a list of the TCA's achievements, among which are the withdrawal of a R4 rent increase in 1984, the reinstatement of municipal workers who were on strike in May last year after various organisations, including Sabmawu, had tried to show their mettle, the reconstruction of creche committees.

"A boycott — whether rent or consumer — is not an end in itself. Hence it cannot go on *ad infinitum*. If it is a boycott in the normal township way, it must have set goals, a time limit and a period for review. A

## Sowetan Reporter

boycott must never be elevated or raised to a position of principle. We believe that once a boycott is made in principle it is dangerous and self-defeating. At best it is a tactic and as such must be changed or revised," the TCA said.

Residents are said to be hopelessly divided and that it would be deceiving to believe that the boycott is still on and respected. It is an open secret, the TCA said, that more than 60 percent have made part or full payment.

A spokesman for the South African Black Municipal and Allied Workers Union (Sabmawu), Mr Phil Dhlamini, said the trade union had never disappeared from the area. The union still had a majority of signed up members and was the only one to achieve a 100 percent increment for its members this year. The union, Mr Dhlamini said, did not lose its case, as the court had ruled that the dismissals were unlawful. He said the TCA statement was reactionary as it did not consider that leaders of other organisations were in jail under the state of emergency.

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# Fifteen years of rent have paid for your houses

RESIDENTS who have lived in rented township houses and have been paying rent for 15 years and more have in fact paid for their houses over and above the initial cost of building

This came out of the annual general meeting of the Soweto Civic Association held recently at an undisclosed venue

The Annual General Meeting was held behind the backdrop of the most stringent security conditions experienced of late.

## Resolution

The SCA viewed the AGM "as most successful."

One of the resolutions taken was that people who have lived in their houses for less than 15 years be given the opportunity to buy their houses at a reasonable rate

The AGM noted that the money paid as rent over this period be taken into account and considered at part payment. In a statement, the SCA said "This is an important requirement when determining the value of the house"

By NAT DISEKO

The people of Soweto are prepared to pay service charges like all normal communities, but high rates would be questioned

The SCA said it was launching an exhaustive and urgent investigation into the service charges. The organisations said the investigation would not take more than a month to complete.

Other important resolutions were taken

concerning education, but would be dealt with "at an appropriate time" in the future.

The SCA was dissatisfied with the role of the SADF and SAP in the townships. It said security forces should not be used in any attempt to get residents to pay rent

The SCA said that the recent action by the Government to dissolve the Diepmeadow council

for incompetency in dealing with funds was one of the reasons why residents of Soweto had long demanded the resignation of all councillors

The SCA rejected the appointment of Mr David Thebehali as administrator of Diepmeadow council

This man was most controversial in his last years as mayor of Soweto, especially with regard to Soweto's unpaid electricity bill, the SCA said

## Self Help Association with Soweto elect

THE Self Help Association of Paraplegics centre in Mofolo, Soweto, is set to lose a lucrative business contract if their electricity is not restored immediately

Since Sunday, the more than 80 disabled workers who are employed at the centre have been idle due to power failure —

causing the centre's losses to run into thousands of rands

Chairman of the centre, Mr Friday Mavuso, yesterday lamented the bleak prospects faced by the centre if the situation was not addressed promptly, adding that authorities had shown a reluctance to solve the matter

"We have been telephoning the electricity department in Soweto since Sunday and they have been promising that they will have our electricity supply restored but nothing has happened to date," he said

"Some of our order which were supposed to be ready before

# Claim on rent 'untrue'

**THE Tembisa Residents Association yesterday rejected allegations by a rival organisation concerning the present rent crisis in the township.**

The TRA, an affiliate of the United Democratic Front, was reacting to a statement issued by the Tembisa Civic Association in its December newsletter, claiming that more than 60 percent of the residents in the township had paid their outstanding rent in the past few months.

The rent crisis in the township started in July last year.

The TCA also stated in the newsletter that it would be deceiving to believe that the rent boycott in the area was still on.

It also claimed that it was the leading opinion former in the East Rand township and had a "remarkable track record behind it".

The TCA also said that organisations claiming to be "representative", "progressive", "relevant" and others who had "jumped on the rent boycott" had failed dismally to resolve the rent issue.

In a statement, the TRA said it was concerned about the TCA's claims.

"We are not prepared to engage in a mud-slinging match with the TCA. We have been in contact with the people of Tembisa on the rent issue and they have given us their feelings on the matter.

"The claim by the TCA that 60 percent of the people in the township have paid their rent is not true. They received these figures from the town council. It is a well known fact that the council provides a higher percentage in order to make people panic and pay rent. TCA is a voice in the wilderness," the TRA said in a statement.

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# Bid to get rent arrears written off fails

By Abel Mabelane

The Tembisa City Council has rejected a request by the Tembisa Civic Association (TCA) to write off rent arrears in the township.

In its December information sheet, The TCA Newsletter, the TCA said it was part of a group of organisations which held discussions with the Tembisa administrator, Mr Gert Muller.

"Our attempt to have the back rent written-off or some discounts granted were unacceptable to the administrator.

"More important to the administrator was the huge debt of R40 million which is owed to the council. For this reason, he felt that Tembisa could not afford to write off the rent arrears," the newsletter said.

The TCA said it did, however, reach an agreement with the administrator that evictions should be stopped.

"The administrator said he would give the residents two months' grace to see what effect this gesture of 'goodwill' would have."

The TCA said it had agreed that residents would have to pay for electricity and water because they were supplied by Escom and the Rand Water Board respectively.

Mr A Relihan, Tembisa's town secretary, confirmed that a meeting was held between the TCA and Mr Muller. He had no further details.

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# RESIDENTS CHARGED 'EXORBITANT RENT'

THE Mohlakeng Town Council on the West Rand has been charging residents exorbitant monthly rents illegally, an investigation by a firm of Johannesburg lawyers has revealed.

The investigation, carried out at the request of the Mohlakeng Civic Association, found that residents were paying between five and 10 times more than the promulgated rentals.

A spokesman for the firm of lawyers yesterday said the rent increases which were implemented by the council

By SY MAKARINGE

during the past eight years or so were unlawful as they had not been promulgated in the provincial gazette.

He said the R26 a month electricity levy which the residents had to pay for 30 years, was unlawful as it had also not been promulgated.

He said although the council claimed that the electrification project would be of considerable benefit to the residents, the levy was a burden. He said the

money was also being levied on people who have not been connected to electricity.

The spokesman said the last promulgated increase was on October 28, 1977 during which time residents were paying between R7,80 and R11,66.

"In our opinion, this is what residents of Mohlakeng township should be paying. We are considering contesting the matter in court," the spokesman said.

An investigation by the Sowetan

yesterday found that Mohlakeng residents were presently paying between R55 and R100 a month for rent. These tariffs are inclusive of the R26 a month electricity levy.

The spokesman for MCA's lawyers said there was a general discontent in the township regarding the levy as the council borrowed the money for the electrification project without consulting them.

The Mohlakeng Town Council could not be reached for comment yesterday.